

A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPHER:

Journeys or lockdown this Christmas?

Christmas is a busy time for travel, as many of us venture a great distance to see family or friends again. But this year coronavirus put an end to all that. Seeing all our loved



ones this Christmas will be difficult, if not impossible. Have you noticed that the Christmas story is about journeys? It begins with Mary and Joseph travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then, some shepherds receive news from an angel about a special birth. They travel through the night, across dark fields and down unlit streets to search for the baby Jesus. After this, in an eastern country some wise men see a new star, one that heralds a new king. They leave home and set out with only the star to guide them, and their faith to reassure them that someone special is waiting at the end of their journey. All these travellers must have wondered what really lay ahead. Nothing was fully understood, carefully planned for, or safe. They all travelled with questions and uncertainties. But God had come unexpectedly into their lives, and suddenly they were given new roles to serve Him. Despite worldly circumstances that could have crushed them, they stood firm and trusted God all the way. These travellers' tales tell us that God may suddenly enter into our familiar, or this year, unfamiliar circumstances. He may come in surprising ways, to prompt us into new avenues of service. At first His call on us may be uncomfortable and challenging. If our response is anything like Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and wise men – to be obedient to His call in serving, witnessing and worshipping, we shall be greatly blessed and rewarded. We are all on life's journey. If we travel with God, He will be faithful and lead us to His heavenly Home. Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Christopher

Christopher Deakin Vicar 01829 781378 Malcolm Smart Church Warden 01829 781563 Mike Whittingham Church Warden 01829 770842

SUNDAY SCHOOL - ST PETER'S HARGRAVE

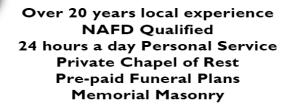
The Sunday School normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. We enjoy learning through story telling, arts and craft, games and outdoor activities. On third Sundays we will meet at 9.30am and take an active part in the Family Service, for example handing out the order of service books and the hymn books. Parents, carers and their families are always welcome to join us either in the Hall or in the service in Church or leave your children with our Sunday School team. The Church service finishes at approximately 11am when the children will be walked back to the Hall for collection.

There will be no Sunday school in December and January, we will be attending the Family Service each month and look forward to seeing you there.

The Sunday School team and children wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for a happy and healthy New Year. Stay safe everyone. Lots of love to you all.



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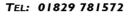
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HUXLEY & HARGRAVE WI

Huxley and Hargrave W.I. along with government guidelines and also restrictions from N.F.W.I, have not recommenced any monthly meetings this year. We hope things will change sometime in 2021.

As 2020 has been our Centenary, and our festivities to celebrate having to be on hold, we now hopefully will continue with our plans in 2021. New members will be most welcome so come and join us and look forward to enjoying our future plans. **River trip** with music and buffet and a **Birthday cake evening** with, yes Ladies, a **Gin tasting**!! Not to be missed.



Very Best Christmas Wishes and also for a safer, healthier and more normal 2021 to everyone. From all at Huxley and Hargrave W.I.

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Learning at school is thriving and we continue to have lots of fun. We enjoyed Bonfire Day having a fire in the fire pit that we built, finding out about the story of the Gunpowder Plot, using sparklers and of course savouring toasted marshmallows!

During Parliament Week, we explored how our country is governed, and wrote to our MP to share our views on keeping school open. This culminated in a virtual visit from our MP – Edward Timpson – who was shown around school by a very proud Year 6 child. Mr Timpson was very impressed by our excellent facilities.

For Children in Need, we took part in their '5 to thrive' wellbeing activities which complemented our own ongoing positive mental health activities. This involved the infamous Joe Wicks and joining in with his 24 hour exercise challenge (we just did 20 minutes!) We also 'took notice' of our world and connected with nature by completing a 'Welly and Onesie' walk where we also completed our own 'Act your age' challenges such as 'sprinting 10m' and 'splashing in 21 puddles'. The final Children in Need activity was the annual Duck Race which was won by Quackman and Bobbin! The children even had a go at being a commentator, coming up with some very entertaining phrases.

World Kindness Day also led to further wellbeing work: when you do something kind, it makes you feel good as well as the recipient so it is win, win. The children are exceptionally good at spotting small acts of kindness that they can do throughout each day, which makes it a joy to come to school for everyone, every day.

On Remembrance Day, we looked at the origins of this day and why poppies are used, focusing our reflections and prayers by joining in with the Chester Virtual Parade.

We have been studying Europe too, learning about countries, cities, time zones, languages and flags.

We created a Europe quiz and here are a few of our quiz questions to test your knowledge:

Question 1 (DE):

Where is St. Basil's Cathedral?

- a) Moscow
- b) Berlin
- c) Tokyo

Question 2 (NL):

True or False?

Ukraine is larger than Spain

Question 3 (JW):

What does Privet mean in Russian?

Answers:

- a) Moscow
- b) True
- c) Hi/ Hello

Make sure you look out for our **Living Advent calendar** entry on the **1st December** as we begin to celebrate the good in our world as we look forward to Christmas.

On Thursday the **3**rd **December** we will again be planting crocuses supplied by the local Rotary club. We are very thankful for this lovely addition to our environment and the positive effect it will have on us as we watch them grow. As such, we would like to pass the positivity on, and will be holding a non-school uniform day on the day of planting to raise funds to send a life changing tree to a community in Africa through the charity Send a Cow. Any donations would be gratefully received through the school post box. Thank you for your support.

Have a healthy, happy and peaceful Christmas season.

Stay safe, stay well,

Cathy Davies

HEADTEACHER



Update: Huxley C.E. Primary School Affiliated with Hollinsclough CE Academy.

Quotation from Edward Timpson CBE MP, Member of Parliament for Eddisbury

"I'm pleased to be working with the Huxley School Action Group and School Senior Leadership team to help them secure a positive outcome for the School and local community".

Huxley C E Primary School Pre Publication Consultation ended on November 30th 2020. A report summarizing the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the Director of Education and Inclusion and we are awaiting their decision.

Thank You For The Support

Thanks to the people of Hargrave and Huxley, thanks to the Church, Hargrave & Huxley Parish Council and support coming from the surrounding villages including Tattenhall, Clotton Hoofield.

Thanks to the active support of our Ward Councillor, Mike Jones and to the active help from our MP, Edward Timpson.

If you require any further information please contact:-

Tom Hobbs, Chair, 01829 781 250

Anne and Malcolm Smart 01829 781563, 07803 897 689 / 07538 440 694

Jo Copping, 07789 401 777 or email: grahamlee455@btinternet.com

The Action Group (Board of Governors, Head Teacher, Local Councillor, PTA & Community Members)

Applying for a school place - Huxley CE Primary School Reception 2021

School admissions: Apply for school place online by visiting www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ admission Closing date **15 Jan 2021**.

Exciting opportunities available at Huxley CE Primary School, affiliated with Hollinsclough CE Academy. Quality teaching in core subjects, specialist teaching in languages, music and art. Sports, forest school, flexi schooling, trim trail, music & water walls, mud kitchen & much more.

Ofsted Good Oct 2019

SIAMS Outstanding

Exciting After School & Evening Activities starting Tuesday 5 January 2021



Term Time Only

FRENCH MUSIC BOXING DODGEBALL FITNESS (TBC)

Monday (Starts 11 January) 4-5 pm Music Lessons- Primary school children, all abilities welcome, £12 per lesson Brittany Howard University of Chester & Andrew Starmer.

Tuesday (Starts 5 January) 4-5pm Boxing 5-16 year old boys & girls, all abilities welcome £3 per session with Chris Aldcroft AW Coaching 4-5pm French Conversation primary school children, all abilities welcome £8 per lesson with Dr Ann Williams. Evening Fitness TBC

Wednesday (Starts 6 January) 6-7.30pm French Conversation, all ages & abilities welcome £8 per lesson with Dr Ann Williams.

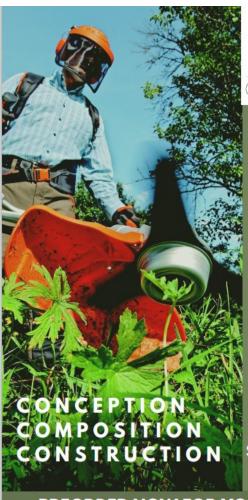
Thursday (Starts 6 January) 4-5pm Dodgeball 6-12 year old boys & girls, all abilities welcome, £3 per session with Chris Aldcroft, AW Coaching.

Contact Details For Activities

French & Music- Dr Ann Williams ann.williams1789@gmail.com Boxing & Dodgeball - Chris Aldcroft aw_coaching1@hotmail.com 07504816986

For further information contact Jo PTA Chair 07789401777 Evening Fitness TBC

BABY, TODDLER & PRE SCHOOL SESSIONS - term time only
Little Beats every Thursday morning with Amanda Wrigley 07515721754
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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The cookie boxes are £4 which includes delivery. Each box will include two chocolate and cinnamon cookies, and a personalised letter from Santa.







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Select either the regular, or gluten free cookies box, and then select Huxley CE Primary School. Simply enter the name and address of the recipient into the information box, and your cookies will be sent out by first class post.

The cookie store will be open 24 hours a day from 9am December 1st to 12pm December 21st.



A Message from the Churchwardens

As most of you are aware Christopher and Diana will be retiring from the Parish on January 31st. Six years have gone by since Christopher was instituted in 2014 and was subsequently inducted as our vicar in 2018.

Throughout his time here Christopher carried out his duties with reverence and expertise and Diana has been a tower of strength not just to Christopher but to the church in general, also taking on the role of steward in the church hall. Christopher has been highly respected in the Malpas Deanery and the Diocese and his musical talents have been sought after on many occasions. He has served as Foundation Governor at Huxley School for all his time with us and has shown his talents at involving and exciting the children in the Bible stories both in School and in Sunday School/Family Services in Church. He has even shown his talents as an actor, making an excellent King Herod in the School's Nativity play!

A presentation will be made to them both after the service on January 31st, (Covid permitting) and if anyone would like to contribute please send your contribution to the churchwardens. It will be gratefully received and faithfully applied. We are sure you will join us in wishing them both health and happiness in the new chapter of their lives together. We all hope they will remember the six happy years they enjoyed in Hargrave.

Please make any cheques payable to "Hargrave PCC"

Mike Whittingham 01829 770842 Malcolm Smart 01829 781563 Church Wardens





Winners of the Pumpkin Festival:







Max Lee's family of pumpkins.

Detailed carving work from the Ratledges.



Harry Potter characters by Leah Martin.

There were so many fantastic entries, thank you to all that took part!

If you would like to make sure you hear about future events, please follow us on facebook: Look for Hargrave & Huxley Happy Days.

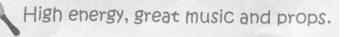
Happy Days Website

Please take a look at our brand new website!

https://hargravehuxleyhappydays.co.uk/



The pay-as-you-go music group for all ages.



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Thursday	Friday
Huxley Primary School	Tattenhall Primary School Community Room
9:10- 9:45am — Baby Session	9:35-10:10 — Baby Session
10:00-10:35am—Mixed Session (early class)	10:25-11:00- Mixed Session (early class)
10:50-11:25am — Mixed Session (later class)	11:15-11:50am—Mixed Session (later class)

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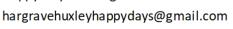




Happy Days at Christmas

Look out for our Christmas Newsletter coming very soon.

To be sure you get a copy email us to be added to the Happy Days mailing list:



Coming up in the Happy Days newsletter:

- The winners of our Poetry competition will be revealed!
- The Happy Days Living Advent Calendar
- Twelve days of Christmas Quiz
- Photos from the Hargrave, Huxley & Surroundings 2021 Calendar

Hargrave, Huxley & Surroundings Calendar

The Happy Days team have created a beautiful calendar of scenes from the local area, ready for Christmas. If you are interested in ordering a calendar at £10, please email us for an order form hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com



Happy Helpers The Happy Days team are always looking for helpers, please get in touch if you would like to get involved. We'd love to hear from you, please contact one of us: •Bridget 07748597042 •Carolyn 07730523553 •Kay 07941326256 or email: hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com We look forward to hearing from you!

YOUR CHURCH and VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU

Somebody said to me "it's difficult to be vibrant in the middle of a pandemic" - well perhaps I shouldn't have first said "we're looking for a vibrant person to take on the booking/administration of the Church/Village Hall in Hargrave". We've been so well served in recent years by Diana Deakin in this role but sadly she and Christopher are retiring at the end of January and moving away. Could you give a little of your time to help the community to retain this village asset? — the centre for so many happy occasions over the years and the gift of Sir Thomas Moulson. No need to be "vibrant" then but just an ordinary person living in this wonderful rural retreat — there would be a whole group of locals always willing to lend you a hand, so I do hope to hear from you.

More information from Edward Thornton-Firkin 01829 781423 or 07929 735294

Season's Greetings from Historical Group

Many people have the idea that destruction of stained glass windows and ancient crosses was a consequence of our Civil War. Not so. Here is an extract from Chester's Court Records which shows the truer picture.

Examination at a special Sessions at Tarvin (26 May 1603) of Wm.Lowe, Ric.Jackeson, John Platt, Robt.Loid, Ralfe Darington, Jas.Harte, and John Bones (servants to John Bryan of Stapleford, Esquire) before the Bishop of Chester, about the demolition of a stone cross in Waverton Churchyard, breaking of glass in the great window of Tarvin parish church, dismantling of maypoles in Oscroft and a wooden cross called Pypers Crosse or post between Stapleford and Tarvin, and another wooden cross by Rowton heath, not far from Waverton town.

This showed militant Puritanism here, some 40 years before the Civil War. Nor did "Cromwell abolish Christmas"! Parliament voted to make it an ordinary day, devoid of old Catholic rituals and drunkenness and disorder, particularly with so many armed, unpaid soldiers everywhere. In modern terms - it was Health and Safety gone mad. So do enjoy your Christmas, but in moderation because it takes ages to get home on your hands and knees. Compliments of the Season to you all!

THE JOSHUA TREE

No coffee mornings, none of Pauline's delicious cake and coffee of which to partake, but a very Happy Christmas and New Year to all. A heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who has attended our gatherings and supported the Joshua Tree work in the few opening months of the year. The support centre is up and running. Please follow the Tree's website for all the activities.

What a strange Christmas Season this will be. At the time of writing, the exact arrangements for Christmas family time have not been settled. Christmas shopping is odd — Gifts you want to give must either be posted or given to Father Christmas to be sanitized and left on doorsteps! Although vaccination holds out a little ray of hope, will this be enough to calm the 'storm'?

Past generations had their own way of dealing with bodily ills... Coughs and colds: Warm whiskey to relieve head and chest congestion, good idea! Ginger Tea, OK! Breathe in Eucalyptus fumes, maybe! A boiled onion wrapped in a sock worn around the neck for sore throats, Uck! Pork grease rubbed on the chest and stomach, definitely not! Garlic Soup, good thing we are in isolation! Put feet in stone cold water then put on socks that are soaked in boiling hot water, then retire to bed (?) danger of pneumonia I should think. I am sure many can remember Grandma's or Mum's remedy that was outside the norm.



Best wishes and thank you to **The Plough** for all their generosity to The
Joshua Tree - see you soon. In spite
of all the regulations I hope you all
have a healthy, safe and satisfying
Christmas and may New Year see you
Happy and Healthy.

The Genie of the Bottle by Ol' Buzz

The bar at the Muscat Intercontinental Hotel occasionally hosts craggy, sunburned young men, apparently drinking milk. They are, in fact, SAS on R&R from the nearby Yemeni border, drinking 'Big Boy's Milkshakes': 4cl Tequila, 2cl Kahlua, in ice cold milk. If it's good enough for them ...

Mr. Justice Swift enjoyed a glass or two. He once presided over the trial of a defendant charged with drunk driving on New Year's Morning. The man admitted having had a Scotch and soda at the party, and one more "for the road" before leaving for home. The Judge summed up, "What are the facts of this case? Why, this defendant had one drink in 1933, and didn't have another until 1934." The jury found the defendant "Not Guilty."

In 1954, Telegraph wine writer, Rupert Denny, took a holiday at a small Galway hotel, where a waiter produced a faded handwritten wine list. It contained some of the finest pre-war vintages, still at the original prices. He ordered a Hospice de Beaune 1935, at 14s 6d! When he approved the label, the waiter gave it a vigorous shake saying, "Sure all the goodness has gone to the bottom."

The Compliments of the Season to you all – and do pace yourselves!

Ol' Buzz

Ladies Who Lunch

To all those who eat, drink and be merry once a month with this group, we will all have so much to chat about when we do get together again! In the meantime stay safe and store up those stories for later.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a hopeful start to the New Year.

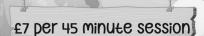
Christine Hunt 01829 781112





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Thank you for your support

Jo PTA Chair

ELECTRONIC DOWN OUR WAY

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CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you visited the Church Website? Please have a look and keep up to date with what's happening.

www.stpetershargrave.org.uk

EDITOR'S NOTE

Can all submissions for the February 2021 edition be in by **Thursday 21st January**. All submissions need to be submitted in a document as an attachment and **not typed** directly into an email.



Please note this email is **only checked** at submission time. Many thanks. Beverley Stubbs 781505 **HandHDOW@gmail.com**

DECEMEBER 2020 SERVICES AT ST PETERS, HARGRAVE

I have planned the services at St Peter's for December 2020 and January 2021. However – at the time of going to print – we are still in lockdown and waiting to receive guidance from the Church of England, the Diocese and the Government about what we might be allowed to offer after December 2nd and during the Christmas period.

Every care will be taken to keep the church Covid free and with this is mind we cannot hold a service both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as it is not possible to have a deep clean of the building between services less than 72 hours apart.

The seating in the church is quite limited as we must ensure that we adhere to the correct social distancing guidelines. It will therefore be necessary to implement a 'booking in' system for services at busy times. The plan below outlines the service pattern for the next 2 months.

6th Gift Service	09:45 Eucharist CW Intercessions: J Wilson M Whittingham (R&S) C Houlbrooke (S)
13th 3rd Sunday Advent	09:45 Eucharist CW Intercessions: B Burgess J Burgess (R&S) B Burgess (S)
20th 4th Sunday Advent	18:30 9 Lessons Intercessions: N/A M Smart (R&S) D Houlbrooke (S)
24th Christmas Eve	Living Advent Calendar Church Lychgate
24th Christmas Eve	23:30 Midnight Eucharist Intercessions: Revd Deakin M Whittingham (R) M Smart (S)
25th Christmas Day	NO SERVICE
27th 1st Sunday Xmas	NO SERVICE

JANUARY 2021 SERVICES AT ST PETERS, HARGRAVE

3rd 09:45 Eucharist CW **Epiphany Intercessions: D Roberts** A Roberts (R) D Roberts and J Roberts (S) 10th 09:45 Eucharist CW Intercessions: E Thornton-Firkin M Whittingham (R&S) E Thornton-Firkin (S) Plough Sunday 17th 09:45 Eucharist CW 2nd Epiphany **Intercessions: Sunday School** A Smart (R&S) M Smart (S) 24th 09:45 Eucharist CW 3rd Ephiphany **Intercessions: J Burgess**

B Burgess (R&S) J Burgess (S)

31st 09:45 Eucharist CW
Candlemas Intercessions: H Johnson

E Thornton-Firkin (R&S) C Houlbrooke (S)

DECEMBER 2020 DATES FOR DIARY

1st - 24th
Pg 17

Living Advent Calendar

Hargrave and
Huxley Villages

Pg 16 PTA Christmas Raffle Online

JANUARY 2021 DATES FOR DIARY

5.00pm Hargrave and Huxley **Zoom Meeting** 3rd **Parish Council Meeting Huxley School Activities** 5th **Huxley School Term Time** Pg 10 **Hargrave Church** 10th **PCC Meeting** Hall 21st **Parish News Deadline** Pg 22