



St Michael & All Angels Church
Pirbright Parish Council

Peri News



No 639

December 2023

PEACE TO THE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS



HALLELUJAH!

PIRBRIGHT SINGERS IN CONCERT Saturday 2nd December 7.30pm.

Pirbright Singers and friends present their Christmas Concert in St. Michael's Church. Everything from Handel's Messiah to John Rutter and all your favourites.

Tickets at the door £10 for all over 18 yrs - Come and enjoy, listen and sing along!



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Just a thought.....



The Gift of God

The build up to Christmas is one of my favourite times of the year; the look of excitement on my children's faces, the day when we go to choose our tree and decorations, the Christmas lights on our annual trip to central London, the John Lewis Christmas ad. Christmas, however, can bring with it moments of sadness; the loss of loved ones, the cold, the cost of living crisis.



In churches all over the world, we celebrate the truly good news of God's gift of himself to us in Jesus. Born in Bethlehem. Known as Emmanuel, or God with us. The cost of giving for Jesus was great. Born in a stable, far from his home, finally rejected, misunderstood and put to death on a cross. The cost of giving for Jesus was total. This is who we celebrate at Christmas. Not a far-off God, but God with us, God in our midst. In church or at work, at school or wherever we are. Jesus brings God's love. Costing nothing, but worth everything. The greatest gift of all.

In our services at St Michael's this year we will be celebrating this God with us. Why not come and see for yourself by choosing a service from the flier.

Rev George Watkinson

CONTACTS

Vicar: Rev George Watkinson georgealbionwatkinson@gmail.com 07711944327

Churchwardens: Helen Whitworth helen-churchwarden@pirbrightchurch.org.uk 07777 659138 and Julia Douetil julia-churchwarden@pirbrightchurch.org.uk

07718 610494 **Church Administrators:** Tina Roberts and Heidi Gower

admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk 07984323709 **Website:** www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk

WHAT'S NEW IN CHURCH FOR 2024?

ALPHA COURSE

Who is Jesus, what is the evidence that he really lived, and why did he die? What is faith and why do we pray? The Alpha Course is your chance to ask these and many more questions. Through weekly sessions in a non-judgemental setting it creates a space people to talk about life, faith, and God together. Starting on Wednesday 17th January, at St Mark's Church Hall in Wyke. Find out more at pirbrightchurch.org.uk



CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Coming soon, a whole new way of worship, with up-tempo worship songs, family friendly activities and a shared breakfast, all happening in Lord Pirbright's Hall.

This is worship for the 21st century, lively and creative but every bit as meaningful and heartfelt. Put some spiritual meaning back into your life, and a spring into your step. Put Sunday 28th January into your diary– more details on the website and in January's PeriNews.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATION!

Children (and their Grown Ups) are all invited to celebrate the birthday of baby Jesus at our fun packed Christmas Eve crib services. Join in with the choir of angels, the shepherds and their adorable lambs, the animals in the stable and the kings with their golden crowns, and be a part of the most important birthday ever. In the great Pirbright tradition, everyone gets to join in at these very interactive children's services on **Christmas Eve, 3:30 and 5pm at St Michael's.**



NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 17th Dec 6:00pm, St Michael's

Nothing creates spirit of Christmas more than the classic service of nine lessons and carols by candlelight (unless it is the classic service of nine lessons and carols by candlelight with the scent of mulled wine and mince pies gently wafting through the church!). In all the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, this is one event not to be missed.



Community Carol Singing

WEDNESDAY 20TH DEC 6PM

PIRBRIGHT CHURCHYARD

MULLED WINE

HOT CHOCOLATE

FESTIVE GOODIES FOR SALE

WIRH A VISIT FROM

SOMEONE SPECIAL



*All proceeds to Crisis at Christmas and
St Michael And All Angels church*

CHURCH FLOWERS COFFEE MORNING Saturday 2nd Dec 10:00 am

The official start of Christmas in Pirbright! With coffee and mince pies, raffle, a home-made Christmas cake to be won and gifts for sale, all to raise funds for the flowers and decorations in the church at Christmas and throughout the year.



LOVED ONES SERVICE AND TEA Saturday 16th Dec 3:00 pm

Christmas can be an especially difficult time for those who have lost a loved one. This gentle service is an opportunity to reflect, give thanks and remember those we have loved, who can no longer share Christmas with us. Followed by a sociable tea.

BABY LOSS AWARENESS

Christmas is all about a baby, so for parents who have lost a baby it can be especially hard. Pirbright resident Sarah Holloman is fundraising to provide care packages for families at the Royal Surrey County Hospital who have lost a baby. To find out more, or to support this worthwhile cause, go to

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sj-holloman?utm_id=2&utm_term=kre7p6dXK



Baby Loss Matters

PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Pirbright Parish Council

Councillors would like to wish everyone in the Parish of Pirbright a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This is a time for coming together and reflection and the Council is committed to continuing its support for the wide range of activities in the village over the festive season and into 2024. What a year 2023 has been, with the Green looking as picturesque this year as it has ever done thanks to our caretaker, groundsman and local residents. With the completion of the new community sports pavilion and the success of all the new sports teams, the Green is now busier than ever even through this winter period. The Parish Christmas Tree will again adorn the Village Hall roof this December to act as a beacon to those who enter the village during the dark hours of winter and the railings will hang with Christmas lights, bringing cheer as they have done in recent



Pirbright Parish Council

Chair: Steve Fidgett, sfidgett@pirbright-pc.gov.uk 07785 978817

Parish Clerk: Helen Myers, clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk 07485 411214

Parish website www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk

Lord Pirbright's Hall Catherine Loots lph@pirbright-pc.gov.uk 07494 485056

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE PERINEWS DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS

Spare a thought for our wonderful delivery volunteers, especially at this time of the year as they walk the length and breadth of our community, in all weathers, delivering our community newsletter. They are stars. Thank you to them all!

applause!



years.

We look forward to seeing in a New Year with all our residents. Merry Christmas !

Community Sports Pavilion

Have you encountered a last-minute change to your Christmas plans and are in need of a venue for your family/work gathering? The Pavilion, with a fully functional kitchen and separate entertaining space seems like a great option. Hiring this venue can be a convenient solution, especially if you need to accommodate a large family or are looking for a venue for your Staff Christmas party. Please contact Catherine Loots on 0749 448 05056.

Lord Pirbright's Hall

The Trustees of Lord Pirbright's Hall will be pressing forward with improvements to the Hall starting with a kitchen renovation in the first half of 2024, together with new doors and other projects to help support ongoing activities. 2024 will be an exciting year for LPH.

Christmas Tree Recycling Point at LPH

The Hall will once again act as a recycling point for your Christmas tree once you are ready to reclaim your living room ! More details to follow in the January edition.



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR AND SPECTACULAR LIGHT SHOW

For the WOW factor, it would be hard to beat the amazing Christmas Fair and Light Show at Pirbright Primary School, complete with snow shower, stall and games and lots of hot food and drinks. Friday 1st December at 3:30pm with the spectacular light show at 6pm. Proceeds will help to give the children of our community the best possible start in their education. All welcome, tickets at the gate £8 per adult, £6 per child.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our AGM and Social evening is on Tuesday 12th Dec at 7:30pm in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall.

Membership subscriptions are due by 1st January 2024 and are £20 for an individual or £25 for a family. We have 9 meetings a year with possibly one or two visits. All our meetings are free and we stage an Annual Show on the last Saturday in July.

To become a member please contact our Treasurer, Julian Didyk on 07799 207059 or Secretary Lucy Baker on 07815 847941.

Subscriptions can be paid by BACS, cheque or cash. We look forward to a good year in 2024. *Philip Barralet, Chairman*

PIRBRIGHT WI

Are you interested in Family History? Pirbright WI are visiting The National Archives at Kew, on Wednesday 28th February 2024. Cost £18. You/partner/friends are more than welcome to join us.

Please contact Irene Dredge

iredredge@outlook.com or phone 01483 233279 asap for further details and form.

RAWLINS CLUB

Our Christmas Lunch is on Friday 8th December, 12.30 - 3.30pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. *Denise Granger 472070*

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As Christmas approaches, we must think about all our members who might struggle with the festive season. If you think the Legion can help, please join us at our monthly meeting at the Fox Inn, Fox Corner at 8pm on Monday, 11th December when Christmas jumpers will be worn.

Anne Hawkins 01252 404276

PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET

Lord Pirbright's Hall Thursdays 10.00 – 11. Whether it's mince pies or Christmas cake, savouries or preserves, that special gift or a Festive planted basket, we have it all. And remember the ladies of the Pirbright WI will be serving coffee as usual.

To help our producers please pre-order your eggs, meat and Christmas food for collection on December 21st which is our final Market before Christmas. We open again on January 18th. *Rosemary Richmond*

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION, CRAFT MARKET AND SANTA'S GROTTO

The Annual Exhibition and Sale of Paintings by Pirbright Art Club is on Saturday 2nd December 10am - 7pm & Sunday 3rd December 10am - 1pm at Lord Pirbright's Hall. Come and see the wide range of painting styles and subjects on display - framed & unframed originals; prints & cards. An original painting, signed by the artist, makes a very special Xmas gift! Visit our Craft Market in the Clubroom, selling hand-made jewellery; children's knitwear; Xmas wreaths; cakes etc and our visitors' café.

From 5 - 7pm on Saturday 2nd visit Santa's Grotto and join the countdown to the switch on of the LPH Xmas lights at 5pm! In the car park, food vans will serve waffles; pizzas; burgers and festive drinks. Contact Maggie Read for more details - 07977 552780 or email pirbrightartclub@btconnect.com

PIRBRIGHT ART CLUB

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

Many charities and churches pay particular attention to helping alleviate loneliness at Christmas. The very ethos of Cunningham House is to alleviate loneliness in older people, not just at Christmas but all year round. Whilst discussing loneliness with the residents, we concluded that loneliness is usually subjective, but an older person who has been bereaved, has given up driving due to their age, is less mobile so not confident to go out on their own and has no family support, is in a more objective state of



loneliness due to isolation. Cunningham House isn't holding an open house Christmas lunch this year, but instead we will be focussing on inviting isolated older people to join us for lunch throughout the year.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please get in touch. Phone 488751 or email cunninghamhousepirbright@gmail.com

PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

Another exciting find! Discovered by Parish Clerk, Helen, cuttings of parish history written in 24 instalments for the Parish Magazine, with handwritten additions. Cue for some delving, as we'd not come across the author in Pirbright. William Maurice Adams was born in Wiltshire in 1848, became a schoolmaster, and came to live at Victoria Villas, Connaught Road with wife Georgiana & two daughters c1908-11. Luckily, we have some Magazine copies for 1910 to confirm these were indeed his articles, though they weren't signed. We knew from Miss Cawthorn's book that Rev. Owston (Vicar 1851-88) had

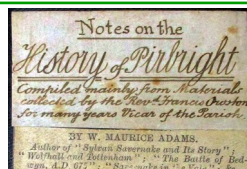


Rev. Owston

compiled History Notes, which are now missing, so we've found many new insights into village history. Adams also added some verse of his own, a touch flowery to modern ears. An excerpt -

*'Oh! Reader, if thou art inclined
To make perchance an easy search.
A mystic meaning thou may'st find
In this my Tale of Pirbright Church!'*

jonathan@pirbright.info



I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.



PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PirbrightTennisClub>

www.facebook.com/pirbrighttennisclub

See the *Club Activities* page on our web-site. Join our WhatsApp group:

info@pirbrighttennisclub.com to know who's playing on Tuesday evening.

Contact Michael Jefferies for adults and junior coaching on 07748 767339 or email: jefferiesmichael@hotmail.com.



We hope you enjoy tennis through the winter.

David Greenland

PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket club enjoyed our first annual dinner in the lovely new pavilion



CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

Mary was exhausted. Tomorrow they would have to flee to Egypt, and she and Joseph had been busy getting ready for the journey. But they seemed to have so much more stuff than when they had arrived in Bethlehem. In the weeks since Jesus was born there had been a constant stream of visitors wanting to see him and bringing gifts. Packing had been a nightmare, and like all babies, Jesus sensed their anxiety and couldn't settle. Suddenly there was a rustle in the corner of the stable, and a mouse scurried across the floor. Mary smiled, that mouse had been here the whole time, always busy, always in a hurry. It must be as tired as she was! Suddenly the mouse stopped and looked at Mary. Then it turned and scrambled up the leg of the manger and looked at the baby, who stopped mithering, and looked with interest at the mouse. The mouse bobbed a little greeting. Jesus gurgled and the mouse squeaked in reply. The baby's eyes opened wide in surprise, his little fingers waved, and the mouse waved her tail. He laughed as she stood on her haunches and delicately washed her face and whiskers with her paws. Soon his little thumb had found his mouth and, as the mouse gently crooned to him, he fell asleep. As Mary drifted off too, it occurred to her that mouse had also brought a gift, the most important gift that any of us can give to a child – our time and our attention.

Merry Christmas to all,

Yellow Rabbit



Bus: *a vehicle that goes twice as fast when you are running after it, as it does when you are on it.*

DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

Keep raking up those leaves from the lawn and borders. From now until the end of March is the time to plant any bare rooted trees, shrubs and roses. For fresh herbs, pot up mint and chives to 'force' on the kitchen windowsill. Earth up tall Brussel sprout stems to support them against winter winds. Cut back your asparagus ferns when they have turned yellow, and put a layer of well rotted compost on top of the crowns. Clear paths of moss and lichen so that they are not a slip hazard (elf 'n' safety!) Check that there isn't any fuel left in your garden machinery before storing over winter, as stale fuel is often the reason why a mower will not start at the beginning of the following season, and book it in for a service, all ready for next Spring. Clean, oil and sharpen your tools, and sharpen your hoe hoe hoe. Wash and disinfect bird feeders and tables, clean out bird baths. Hang fat balls and make sure feeders are kept topped up. Make a pile of old logs in a corner of your garden to provide shelter for wildlife.

*What's small, red and whispers?
....A hoarse radish!*





PIRBRIGHT COMMUNITY CALENDAR DECEMBER 2022



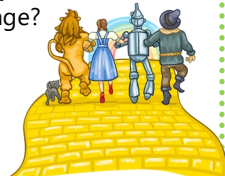
1	Fri	3:30pm	School Christmas Fair and Light Show (finale 6pm)	
2	Sat	10:00am 10:00am 5:00pm 7:30pm	Church Flower Fund Coffee Morning, Church Room Art Club Exhibition, LPH Switching on Christmas lights, LPH Pirbright Singers Concert, St Michael's Church	
3	Sun	9:30am 10:00am	Family Christingle Service, St Michael's Art Club Exhibition, LPH	
8	Fri	12:30pm	Rawlins Club Christmas Lunch, LPH	
10	Sun	9:30am	Holy Communion, St Michael's	
11	Mon	8:00pm	Royal British Legion Meeting at Fox Inn, Fox Corner	
12	Tues	7:30pm	Horticultural Society AGM and social, LPH	
16	Sat	3:00pm	Remembering Loved Ones Service and tea, St Michael's	
17	Sun	6:00pm	<i>NB No morning service today</i> Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols, St Michael's	
19	Tues	10:15	Mid week communion with café club, St Michael's	
20	Wed	6:00pm	Community Christmas Carols in the Churchyard	
21	Thurs	10:00am	Last Country Market of the year, LPH	
24	Sun	3:30pm 5:00pm 11:30pm	<i>NB no morning service today</i> Children's Crib Service, St Michael's Children's Crib Service, St Michael's Joint Midnight Communion at St Michael's	
25	Sun	9:30am	Christmas Day Family Communion, St Michael's	
31	Sun	10:00am	Joint service at St Mark's Church, Wyke	

PIRBRIGHT PLAYERS

Getting closer, nearer and nearer, get ready to book your tickets..... yes The Wizard of Oz is on it way, tickets available immediately. Be quick they go in the blink of an eye! You don't want to be the only one the other side of the rainbow! Follow the yellow brick road and make your way to the village hall for 20th or 21st January, matinee or evening on Saturday and matinee only on Sunday. Will the tin man get his heart? The scarecrow his brain? Or the cowardly lion his courage? Will Dorothy get home again? All will be revealed.

Tickets: <https://pirbrightplayers.spanglefish.org>.
Enquiries: David Greenland: david@davidgreenland.plus.com
or 07583 768139

Carole Gailer



Editor: Julia Douetil, julia.douetil@gmail.com Church Cottage, Church Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JJ. Please send copy for January **by 8th December**. Thank you.