

## HINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER December 2021

### **Editor's notes (Peter Edwards)**

Please remember that the deadline for inclusion of items in the Newsletter is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. I need to print 42 copies of the newsletter. If you are willing to receive it by e-mail, send me an e-mail saying so. So far, I've had 92 "e-mailers" (the number is slowly increasing!). Please help by saving postage and printing costs.

### **Hints Garden Guild (Maureen Casson)**

Another enjoyable evening when we met together in the Village Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November which, as I feel sure many of us will remember, was – Remembrance Day. This was a good day for us all to remember those brave souls who died in the World Wars so that we may have so much freedom to enjoy our lives today even though we have, in the last couple of years, seen our world devastated by the Covid pandemic and we are now learning to live together once again in a slightly different way now that so many of us have received the vaccines and some of us have also received the booster jab, life has changed but being together and sharing moments of laughter is often a good tonic, laughter is always good and although the title of our last meeting – Quick and easy composting – did sound to be serious subject matter we did enjoy listening to our speaker who put the fun aspect of making our own compost over as we listened to him occasionally hiding in the shed as he made the latest activator for breaking down the large bins of compost. He also used old carpets, paper and worms to do the work and even black plastic bags full of leaves were turned into useful compost. An excellent evening. Our thanks go to Gillian and Paul for drinks and biscuits and Geoff put out an appeal for volunteers to take this task on for future meetings. Our next meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> December and as we draw closer towards Christmas, we are looking forward to welcoming our next speaker Kevin Reynolds who will be encouraging us to have 'Wild Christmas' as we look at the part that animals, plants and the environment play in our Christmas festivities. Why Holly? Why Robins? and what about Rudolph with his red nose. Visitors will be welcome and I understand that mince pies and mulled wine have been mentioned, why not come along and join us on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 in the Village Hall. See you there?

### **Wagon Wheels Line Dancing (Daphne Neill)**

Tuesday mornings, contact [neilldaphne@yahoo.com](mailto:neilldaphne@yahoo.com).

### **Art Classes (Gill Smith)**

Thursday mornings, contact Gill Smith (see back page)

### **Hints Walking Club (Deb Whittaker)**

Walks in December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

Start at Hints VH 10.00

For more details contact [debjmwhittaker@gmail.com](mailto:debjmwhittaker@gmail.com)

### **Carol Service (John Toogood)**

This year's Carol Service will be at 6.30pm 19<sup>th</sup> December and as in previous years you will be able to "**sponsor a carol**". For a mere £10 you will be able to nominate a carol that you would like the congregation to sing - Phew, what a bargain. Please make your nominations early as the number of carols we will be able to squeeze in will be limited - **call or text Simon 07798740209**.

### **Christmas wreath and table decoration workshop (Deb Whittaker)**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Hall. 2 sessions 10 till 12.30 or 2.00 - 4.30

You will take home a green wreath or table arrangement. Candles and decorations, ribbons available to buy or bring your own. Tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies £20.00 per person. There will be limited places. Please contact Deb Whittaker [debjwhittaker@gmail.com](mailto:debjwhittaker@gmail.com) for more details and booking.

### **Voices Entwined (Nicky Smith)**

A December Christmas Countdown guide to get you in the mood for the 'Voices Entwined Festive Music' concert on December 11<sup>th</sup>,

Picture the following:

On December the 1<sup>st</sup> – A candlelit church

On December the 2<sup>nd</sup> – A rosy glow beckons

On December the 3<sup>rd</sup> – Songs and bells to be heard

On December the 4<sup>th</sup> – Greeted by mulled wine (of course)

On December the 5<sup>th</sup> – The church Christmas tree glitz

On December the 6<sup>th</sup> – A musical festive blitz

On December the 7<sup>th</sup> – A lantern lit procession

On December the 8<sup>th</sup> – Sausage rolls and mince pies await

On December the 9<sup>th</sup> – Refreshment time

On December the 10<sup>th</sup> – Don't sit on the fence

December 11 THE CONCERT IS HERE 7.15pm!

Tickets: £3 only Call: 01543 480030

### **Christmas Appeal for the Pathway Project (Val Edwards)**

Now that the Pathway Project is again accepting physical donations, we would like to be able to send Christmas presents for the children and parents who are clients of the Project – as they often have lost nearly everything in fleeing from domestic violence even small gifts at Christmas can make a lot of difference. We normally collect selection boxes of chocolates etcetera for the children and toiletries for the vulnerable parent– as the church is open every day during daylight hours, donations can be left at the back of the church and will be very gratefully received. We will deliver them to the Project in time for Christmas.

### **Cleanliness is next to Godliness! Church Cleaning (Val Edwards)**

Now that the church is open every day again as well as for Sunday services at least twice a month, we really need volunteers to put the vacuum round and dust: if we had just twelve people on the rota this would only involve each person cleaning on two Sundays during the year. If you can help please contact me on [val.weardrive@btinternet.com](mailto:val.weardrive@btinternet.com) or on 480088.

### **Parish Council (Geoff Kynaston)**

HS2 have notified the Parish Council of two further restrictions in our area in Bangley Lane between Mon 29th Nov and Fri 3rd Dec they will be doing preparatory work. Marshalls will be stationed at either end of Bangley and will be in radio contact with each other. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout the operation. One lane on the west bound A5 bypass will be closed between 8th and 21st Dec for preparatory work on the proposed under bridge. At the last parish council meeting we discussed the painting of "slow" signs on the surface of School Lane. It is proposed to put one as the road levels out by the bungalows and another somewhere near The Villa/Lady Walk junction. The idea is to emphasise to drivers the need for caution in the village narrow lanes. Residents are asked to convey their thoughts to a councillor before we proceed as there has been some negative comments made. The suggestion that we plant a tree to commemorate the Queen's platinum anniversary will be discussed at our next council meeting. The parish field in Canwell would be one suitable place but suggestions are invited for a suitable location in Hints as the parish council do not own any land in Hints.

Next meeting in Hints village Hall on Tuesday 11th January 2022!

## **St Bartholomew's Church Hints (Lloyd Ansermoz)**

Places are being filled quickly so please remember to book your tickets now for the "Voices Entwined" choir night on the 11<sup>th</sup> December and for our Candle Lit Carol Service on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Text or call me on 07900 606070 or Call Nikky on 01543 480030 to book your tickets

Advent is here

December and Christmas time each year for many is a real opportunity for family and friends to be together and last year this was a huge challenge for us all when restrictions were in place. Our Church of St Bartholomew's are making the most of this year and we are really looking forward to enjoying our services in December and hope that you too will be able to join us in our celebrations with some great services including our Voices Entwined Choir Evening with music and songs from all genres and eras on the 11th and also our candle lit Carol Service on the 19<sup>th</sup> both followed up with getting together in our Village Hall. For Christians all over the world Advent is the probably the most important and sacred time in the Christian Calendar. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, His baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist and his first miracle at Cana. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration so originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas. Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent begins on Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year. Advent 2021 begins on Sunday, November 28th, and ends on Friday, December 24th.

### **A Prayer for the start of Advent**

*Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have **hope** in you. You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully. We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again. More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation.*

Amen.

### **Church Flowers (Val Edwards)**

The services in December will be on Sunday 5 and 19 at 6.30 pm, with Revd Canon Steven Mayes (the service on 19 December will be a Carol Service). There is an additional service for the Christmas Eucharist on Friday 24 December at 7.30 pm with Revd Val Hicks. We also welcome the Voices Entwined Concert on Saturday 11 December at 7.15. Traditionally there are no altar flowers during Advent (until Christmas Eve) but to celebrate the Concert, the Carol Service and the Christmas Eucharist we want to have some flower arrangements. We already have an offer of flowers for the Concert on 11 December, but would welcome offers for the Carol Service and the Christmas Eucharist. If you can help, please let me know by contacting me on [val.weardrive@btinternet.com](mailto:val.weardrive@btinternet.com) or on 480088.

### **Art for St Bart's (Val Edwards)**

One session (13 December) to go before Christmas – looking at aspects of art history and incidentally raising money for the church and the Pathway Project in Lichfield. We have had several new members joining the group, and further attendees will always be welcome! We hope to start reconvening fortnightly on 10 January 2022, 2pm to 4pm Monday afternoons in the Village Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available (bring your own mug, if you want!) For further information please contact me on [val.weardrive@btinternet.com](mailto:val.weardrive@btinternet.com) or on 480088.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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**Art History - Val Edwards 480088**  
**Village Hall Bookings Secretary – Deb Whittaker 480090**  
**Art Classes – Gill Smith 0121 308 1776**

### St Bartholomew's Church Services December 2021

Sun 5 December	18:30 Evening Prayer	Rev Canon Stephen Mayes
	Malachi 3: 1-4 Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6	
Sat 11 December	19:15	Voices Entwined Concert
Sun 19 December	18:30 Carol Service	Rev Canon Stephen Mayes
	Micah 5: 2-5a Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)	
Fri 24 December	19:30 Christmas Eucharist	Rev Val Hicks
	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16 Acts 13: 16-26 Luke 1: 67-79	

The Church is open every day for private prayer.