

FECKENHAM

DECEMBER 2012

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
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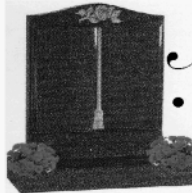
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• MEMORIALS •

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DECEMBER Diary



Sat 1st & Sun 2nd	7pm	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	Village Hall
Tues 4th	12.30am	Lunch Club - booking essential ring 893929	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Thurs 6th	7.30pm	Feckenham W.I.	Village Hall Back Room
Sat 8th	2-5pm	Christmas Fayre	Parish Church
Sat 8th	2.30-5.30pm	Christmas Fayre	Village School
Sat 8th	6pm	Over 60's Party	Village Hall
Sun 9th	11am	Christingle Service	Parish Church
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Wed 12th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Sun 16th	6.30pm	Carol Service	Parish Church
Thur 20th		Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Mon 24th	4pm	Crib Service	Parish Church
Mon 24th	6.30pm	Carols on The Square	
Mon 24th	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	Parish Church
Wed 26th	1.45pm	Boxing Day Walk	The Square
Sat 29th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall

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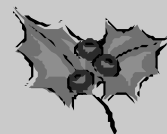
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Front Cover

Detail from embroidered banner in Feckenham Church. Photo Ian Bellion

Production Team

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We wish you
all a very
happy
Christmas

Magazine online at
www.feckenham.com

Church Services DECEMBER

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-Charge: Rev Wyn Beynon

Churchwarden: Ann Matthews 01527 892180

Parish Office: Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com

Mon. Closed: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm: Fri. Closed

at - *The Bowbrook Group, The Parish Office, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY*

Readers and Intercessors

Sunday 2nd
Advent Sunday

11-00am Sung Eucharist
Jeremiah 33 : vs. 14-16
1 Thessalonians 3 : vs. 9-end
Intercessions

Jeff Matthews
Carol Pr
Cyril Warrilow



Sunday 9th
Advent 2

8-00am Holy Communion
Romans 15 : vs. 4-13

Antonia Pulsford

11-00am CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 16th
Advent 3

6-30pm NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 23rd
Advent 4

11-00am Family Communion
Hebrews 10 : vs. 5-10
Intercessions

John Calvert
Gary Crellin

Monday 24th
Christmas Eve

4-00pm CRIB SERVICE

11-30pm Holy Communion
Acts 13 : vs. 16-26
Intercessions

Alistair Mcnaughton
Carol Onions

Tuesday 25th
Christmas Day

11-00am Family Communion
Hebrews 1 : vs. 1-4

Emma Matthews

X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 2nd Dec. All children will be warmly welcomed.

Morning Fellowship

This lay led prayer service continues weekly on Wednesdays for 30 minutes in the Parish church. **All welcome.**

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More



Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

Fr. Edward Clare, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

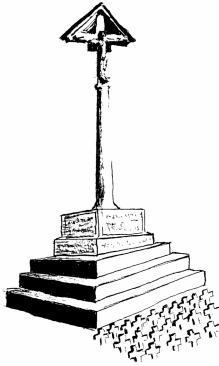
Local contact—Phyllis Mott, Feckenham. Tel. 01527 893898

Who were they?

Can you help?

Jeff Matthews

As I get older, I try and make a point of getting to the Remembrance Sunday Service. This year was no exception, and it seemed particularly poignant. Whether it was just the superb timing of the silence with the chiming of the church clock, the reverend tones of our new vicar Wyn Beynon



or the excellent playing of the bugle and the last post, I found myself stood there, and not for the first time wondering “who were these people?” Each year the names of the fallen are read out... Edgar Badger... Harry Hopcroft... Fred Tuft... and as each year passes we are in danger of feeling more distant and separated from them as people.

Having had that thought, I was enjoying the post service cup of coffee when I was approached by a man wearing a number of campaign medals. On inquiry, he turned out to be Richard Pearce, son of Chris Pearce, who used to live in the High Street. “I’ve been doing this project and I wondered if you would be interested?” In his hand was smart bound document and inside all the names of the people off the War Memorial with researched details as to their war record and where they had fallen and where they were buried. What’s more, Richard has visited nearly all the graves and sites to pay his respects and to take pictures and record them for posterity.

It’s a quite remarkable record. “There’s more” he said, “But I’m not sure you would want all of that and I need more information, so I was wondering if you could ask the villagers if any of them has got information, could they get in touch so I can get as complete a record as

possible?” In his file are clippings from newspapers, family trees, service records, war diaries. Extraordinary piece of research. “Only too happy”, I said.

So, if you know anything about the names or about the people listed on the memorial can you contact Richard Pearce. His e-mail is

jandrpearce@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 01527 465777.

In the meantime, the booklet he has produced will be put at the back of the church for you to have a look at. We are talking with Richard about how we might make some more of his research, perhaps in time for the centenary of the outbreak of WWI which will be August 2014.

I encourage you to come and take a look, if like me you’ve wondered who these people were. It is an extraordinary piece of work, with more to come.

Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60’s Party Fund

Rob Cole

Over 60's Christmas Party - Saturday 8th December 2012

The Over 60's Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday 8th December 2012 in the Village Hall, opening at 6.00pm.

The event is run by the Committee of the Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60's Party Fund and provides a Christmas meal and entertainment, free of charge, to Feckenham residents who are over 60 years of age (and to their partner or a friend) and who live within 1 mile of The Square.

If you have are eligible but have not received your invitation (sent out early in November), please contact our Treasurer, Angela Fletcher, on 01527 893231 so that your name can be added to our list of invitees.

The Children's Society

Jo Warrilow



I am delighted to report another very successful Coffee Morning held on Saturday October 20th when a lovely sunny morning helped to raise £523.00. In spite of early morning fog we were pleased to welcome Susan Price, our Diocesan co-ordinator, who always enjoys her visits to Feckenham. My grateful thanks as always to our faithful helpers, old and new, who make this possible and to all who supported the event.

All House-Boxes are now counted and have produced a total of £946.29. After all these years these figures never cease to amaze me.

On behalf of the Children's Society my sincere thanks to all those concerned. House-Boxes are always available.

Jo Warrilow (local secretary) 892059.

Thanks

Many thanks to the Moors Lane allotment holders and to the Church Land allotment holders for the produce that was left in the church for the Harvest Festival. After the congregation had purchased what they wanted there was still some left. As people were visiting the church to see the flowers on the Scarecrow Sunday we left a notice on the wheelbarrow asking visitors to take the produce and put a donation in the jar. The final total was an amazing £67.60 which has been sent to the Salvation Army to buy goods for their food distribution to needy people in Redditch. *Carol Onions*

Thanks On Saturday 27th October, a cold and frosty but sunny morning a dozen or so volunteers turned out for a Churchyard Working Party. The original idea was to clear up the end of the area where we are burying at present where gravediggers had put a load

of spare soil. However, James Barrett could not come on the Saturday but came on the Friday afternoon with his digger machine and did most of the job very quickly. It being too wet to do any more there we set to and tackled a lot of strimming and other jobs. Thank you team and many apologies for smoking out neighbours when we attempted to fire the hay. *Carol Onions.*

We would like **to thank** Walter & Muriel for the use of their garden in Mill Lane to display our Scarecrow POLLY (put the kettle on), a lovely spot under the tree! Much appreciated by *Ann and Esmee* (Moors Lane)

Big thank you to Bonfire helpers -

On November 3rd we had a superb event at the Feckenham Cricket Club who this year, ran the traditional bonfire event with support from The Wake. A good crowd of local families put their hands in their pockets to support the cost of the fireworks. The fireworks provided by Adam Jackson Fireworks were magnificent, the weather was damp and drizzly but the barbeque from Ragley Meats was of its usual high quality. Thanks are due to the bunch of stalwarts who turned out to build the bonfire and steward the event as well as shake the collection buckets. The Entertainment committee provided the announcer. Well done to the Cricket Club and thanks for a great night
From the Wake Committee



Heating Engineer

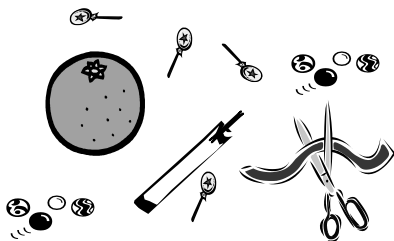
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Feckenham Church Christingle Service



*Sunday
9th
December*



11am

This years Christingle Service will have a Fairtrade theme, there will be crafts ,gifts and cards available to buy and fair-trade items will be used to make the Christingles and also the tea and coffee available after the service.

Square Management Committee



CHRISTMAS CHEER IS FREE

On Christmas Eve at 6.30pm Feckenham will officially begin to celebrate. Leave your everyday worries behind, forget wrapping the presents, stop worrying about the things you forgot and join us for **Carols on The Square**. An hour or so of collective fun to welcome in the festivities.

It's not exactly Carols from Kings - more of a music hall sing song. Forget your minor fifths, wash your tonsils with mulled wine and give it all you've got! Last year we had 300 voices raised in enthusiastic harmony(ish). Steve Dal-loway has again been volunteered to lead the "choir" and would be grateful for some support on the night. If you have a strong voice do please come forward and help to give some body to the singing.

As ever there'll be free mulled wine and free mince pies (and free soft drinks for the kids). The only financial requests will be in the form of a collection in aid of the Count Air Ambulance. Last time we collected £413 for this very worthy cause - and we'd like to top that this year.

This is The Square Management Committee's Christmas gift to the village - a way of saying thank you for all your support and generosity throughout the year. Bring your family, your friends, your Christmas visitors and help us to bring in Christmas with gusto!

Hardwood Logs For Sale

No Delivery Charge

Telephone any time

01905 620934

Local Matters

Antonia Pulsford

The grass triangle

at the junction of Swansbrook Lane and Astwood Lane

I think we all very much enjoyed the wild flowers there this summer and we hope to be able to do the same again next summer, but this is a long time to wait, so with considerable support from the Borough Council we have planted the area with a large quantity of daffodil and crocus bulbs to get some colour there in the spring.

The key players (workers!) were Chris Franklin and three of his officers, but also we had a class from the First School with two teachers, Fiona Hawker from the Parish Council, Cllrs. Brandon Clayton and Mike Chalk, Jen and Jez Burton (my neighbours), Ian Bellion, Judy Hooker and me. It was extremely hard work because the ground had been so compacted by people parking their cars there.

Please will people not park their vehicles on the grass there now we are making every effort to make this part of the village attractive!

Many thanks to all those involved in the planting and to the Parish Council who have paid for the bulbs.

**Rous Lench & Inkberrow
Royal British Legion inc.
Feckenham Roger Hunt**

The branch meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm at The Wheelbarrow & Castle, Radford. This is an open meeting, all interested persons are welcome. The chat is good and the bar is open.

EVENTS FOR 2012

Thurs. 6th Dec. Quiz'n Turkey Evening, at The Wheelbarrow & Castle, Radford.

Contact Roger Hunt 01527 853116 for details and tickets.



The Planting Party Photo Ian Bellion

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Christmas Fayre 2012

Available 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th & 20th December
2 Courses £12.50 3 Courses £14.50

Starters

Spicy Parsnip Soup (V) - Served with warm crusty bread roll
King Prawn Cocktail - Served with a warm crusty bread roll
Chicken Liver Pate - Served with a warm crusty roll

Main Course

Salmon Fillet simply oven baked and topped with
a prawn & chive cream sauce

Roast Turkey Oven roasted turkey served with bread sauce,
chipolata & gravy

Stilton & Vegetable crumble (V) Vegetables bound in a creamy white
sauce and topped with a rich stilton crumble

Braised Beef Bourguignon Slow braised beef in a rich red wine sauce

All mains served with Roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts with bacon,
carrots and braised red cabbage

Desserts

Sloe Gin & Fruit Sponge Pudding With custard

Bailey's chocolate cheesecake With cream

Winter berry pavalova

Please call to reserve your table *Pre orders required five days before*

WHAT'S ON over the Festive Season:

Live Music - THE SOLAR DUO Sun, 3rd December, 3pm to 5pm

CHRISTMAS DAY DRINKS - 12pm until 1.30pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Come and welcome the New Year with us!

Plus - Curry Corner at The Crown - lots of curries to choose from
6pm until 9pm (bookings essential)

Proper Pub Food at Proper Prices
We're in the 2012 GOOD BEER GUIDE!

See centre pages for Christmas opening times

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

What's On in Feckenham

ALL ROUND THEATRE SCHOOL
The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
Sat & Sun, 1st & 2nd December - 7pm
Feckenham Village Hall
Tickets £4.50/£3.50 from Village Shop
Or call 01527 893918



CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Saturday, 8th December 2pm to 5pm
at St John the Baptist Church
COME AND VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS




FECKENHAM FIRST SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAYRE & MARKET
SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER : 2:30PM - 6:30PM
COME AND SKATE ON OUR ICE RINK*,
HUNT FOR FATHER CHRISTMAS IN HIS GROTTO &
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THE HISTORY OF MISTLETOE
With Dr Michael Jones
Wednesday, December 5th - 7.30pm
Bradley Green Village Hall
call 821156 for details

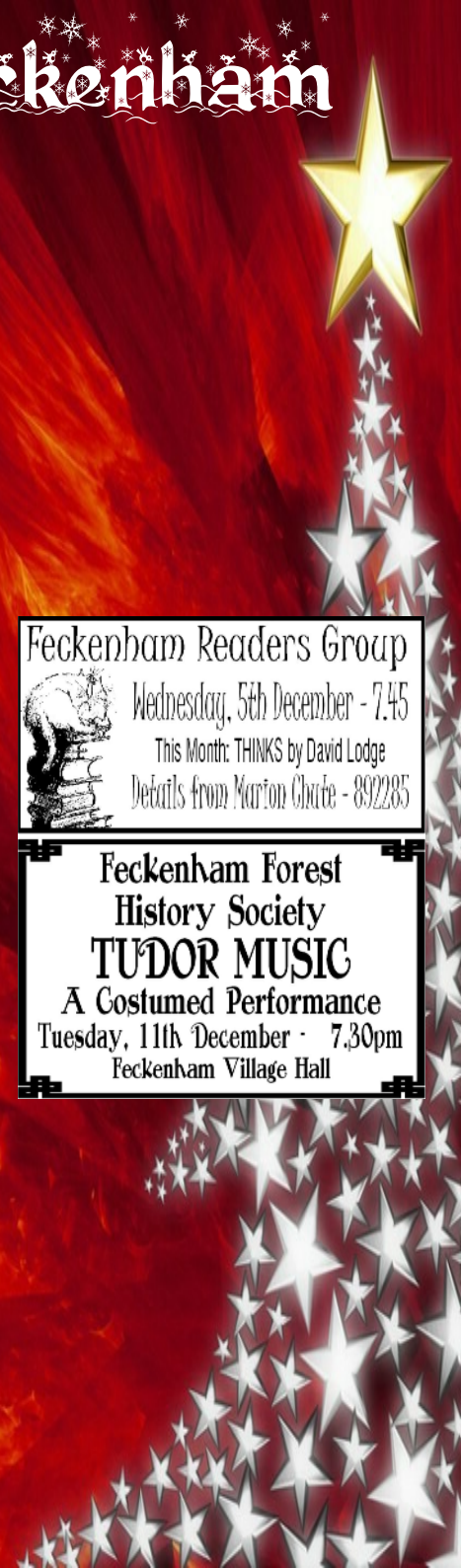


theWI FECKENHAM WI
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY, 6th December - 7.30pm
SONGS of the PEOPLE
And SEASON
with Dick Churchley
Non-members welcome - £3

Feckenham Readers Group
Wednesday, 5th December - 7.45
This Month: THINKS by David Lodge
Details from Marion Clarke - 892285



**Feckenham Forest
History Society**
TUDOR MUSIC
A Costumed Performance
Tuesday, 11th December - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall



What's On in Feckenham Christmas 2012

CAROLS round the CHRISTMAS TREE



On Christmas Eve - Monday 24th December

6.30pm on The Square

Hot Punch - Mince Pies - Everything FREE

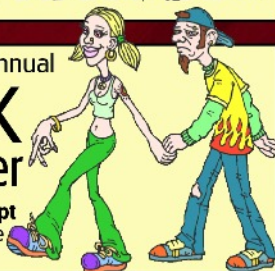
Collection in aid of County Air Ambulance

Fight the Christmas FLAB! - Join us for our 38th Annual

BOXING DAY WALK

Wednesday, 26th December

Meet on The Square at 1.45pm - Walk starts at 2pm prompt
Stout, waterproof footwear essential - Dogs on leads please
Tea stop half way round



THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

CARY GRANT AUDREY HEPBURN

Charade



PLUS
The FeckenOdeon's tribute to Eric Sykes
His original BIG screen version of

THE PLANK

With Tommy Cooper, Roy Castle, Jimmy
Edwards, Hattie Jaques, John Junkin..
And many more!



Saturday, 29th December at 7.30pm

at The FeckenOdeon Cinema at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets £5 including supper from The Rose & Crown and The Village Shop
or phone 0844 8700 887

Online Booking and full information at

www.fecknodeon.co.uk

Christmas Pub Opening Times

The Rose & Crown

Open all day: 21st December to 2nd January

Christmas Day: 12 noon to 1.30pm (Drinks only)

Food available every day (Lunch only on 23rd, 26th & 30th Dec + 1st Jan)

New Year's Eve Party 'til late

The Lygon Arms

Christmas Day 11 to 2.30pm - Boxing Day 12 - 6pm (Closed evening)

Normal hours on other days

New Year's Eve Party 'til late



The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

BEAUTY AND A PLANK

Christmas at The FeckenOdeon has always been about pure, unadulterated, shameless escapism - and this Christmas is no exception. On **Saturday, 29th December** you're invited to doff your paper hat and come to the pictures for a double bill brimming with simple pleasures...



Top of the bill is **"Charade"** starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant. It's a glamorous thriller set in glamorous Paris and Switzerland. Audrey's husband falls (or was he pushed) out of a train -

but it really doesn't matter because she didn't like him very much... but it seems that he knew something that lots of nasty people want to know and that they also think that Audrey might know. It's all beautifully filmed in lovely locations and there's great music by Henry Mancini. Ideal stuff when you're feeling mellow after your FeckenOdeon Cinema Supper (included in the ticket price and served during the interval) and a drop of something from the theatre bar.

Before supper our supporting feature is a tribute to one of Britain's greatest comic actors. Eric Sykes, who died in July,



regarded **"The Plank"** as his greatest achievement. He wrote it, directed it and starred in it. It features Tommy Cooper, Roy Castle, Jimmy Edwards, Jim Dale, Hattie Jaques, Bill Oddie... and every 1960s British character actor you care to remember. It's a

1967 version made for the big cinema screen (Sykes re-made it for television in 1979).

Tickets for this festive feast of fun (£5 including supper) are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. Book by phone on 0844 8700 887 or online at...

www.fecknodeon.co.uk

Letters



Dear Editor,

We've been settling in at the Lygon Arms for about 2 months now and thought we should introduce ourselves. We are Paul, Ann and Linda Curnock and we're delighted to be here. The pub is getting back up to strength and we're now open from noon to 3pm and 5pm to 11pm.

We're keen to restore the Lygon's fine reputation for excellent meals and have a number of special offers and speciality nights. Please pop in to see our full menus. We would particularly like parents to know that children are most welcome - and that between 5pm and 7pm they can enjoy a meal for just £1.

We've already been welcomed by a number of villagers and hope to meet many more soon.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Paul, Ann & Linda

Newshound



Baptism Ben Burgess was baptised on Sunday 7th October, the day after his first birthday, by Michael Goode, during the morning service. Ben lives on the Alcester Road with his parents Zoe and Richard.

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



COMING SOON

The Village Hall Committee very much regrets that there will be no live family show at the Hall again this Christmas. Unfortunately the small regional touring theatre companies have suffered disproportionately in the recent round of funding cuts. Those which haven't gone out of business completely are unable to afford to put on good quality Christmas extravaganzas. It's so bad that we've heard of productions of "Cinderella" featuring only one Ugly Sister and one man versions of "The Snow White & The Seven Dwarves". We're actively looking for a show for Christmas 2013 already - if it's out there, we'll book it!

On a brighter note we can report that there'll be a big, bright and lively show coming to the Hall in **February**.

All Round Theatre (a local professional group) will be presenting the comedy musical

"Nonsense" for two nights. Watch out for more details next month.

On **March 17th** Angus & Ross Theatre Company return with their latest epic production. **"Nights of Golden Cloth"** is a historical comedy that owes a bit to "1066 And All That"



In **April** we'll be welcoming the remarkable **"MUHA"** - a rootsy band with an Eastern European feel.

In **May** it's time for something completely different! If you fancy live



comedy that's a bit different to regular stand-up, and enjoy a show that recalls the spirit of Peter Cook and Beyond the Fringe, the satirical sketch show **From Here to Absurdity** could well be to your taste. More details soon.

Feckenham Bell Ringers

Ron Russ

On 21 October we successfully completed a quarter peal of 1260 Changes, the first one this year.

It was rung for Evensong and to welcome our new Vicar Designate, Rev. Beynon, who was present for his first sung Service in St. John's.

This quarter peal marks the Diamond Jubilee and Olympic year for Feckenham ringers. The band stood Sheila Lawes Treble, Angela Fletcher 2, Ron Russ 3, Josh Taylor 4, Robin Dale 5, with Tim Haslam ringing the tenor bell and conducting it.

Congratulations to young Josh Taylor who rang the full work of the method, Plain Bob Minor, at his first attempt.

Dog Owners

I have been asked by a resident to draw your attention to the recurrent issue of dog fouling in public places, footpaths in particular.

Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

This particular resident is blind and therefore unable to avoid the mess which is not only unpleasant, but could lead to a slip causing broken bones as a worst case scenario. I understand the worst area is the footpath between the churchyard and Dunstal Court drive.

The village is well supplied with special bins for dog waste disposal, please use them. *Editor*

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

December Logs are now available, as trailed last month. We are the proud owners of a large log box, which is outside the shop. So, if you find yourself wanting to set a fire and have either run short, or you just don't light that many, get a supply from us. Enough for a cosy evening in.

We are now saving used stamps for the Alexandra Hospital League of Friends. Just drop them into the shop and we'll do the rest. **New service:** During the winter, if you are unable to get to the shop because of illness or bad weather give us a ring on 894475 and we will deliver your shopping to you. It will be our pleasure.

The other big news is that we now have the go ahead to look at purchasing a new till. The replacement for the existing one, which was the original bought second hand 4 years ago when the shop started, is designed to be more intuitive to use. Many volunteers will be pleased to hear that - buttons where you might expect to find them and a screen with pictures. Even more importantly it is supported by a computer system which allows us to keep the stock record far more accurately, making counting, reordering and analysis of sales all much easier. We have already received generous grants from Worcestershire County Council, courtesy of the good work of Cllr. Philip Gretton and from Feckenham Charity.

Holiday opening times:

The shop will be open at the following times over Christmas and the New Year.

Note, we will be open on New Year's day:

24 Dec.	Christmas Eve	8am – 4pm
25 Dec.	Christmas Day	Closed
26 Dec.	Boxing Day	Closed
27 / 28 / 29 December		9am – 4pm
30 Dec.		10am – 1pm
31 Dec.	New Year's Eve	8am – 4pm
1 Jan. 2013	New Year's Day	10am – 1pm

December treat in the shop is mince pie and a hot drink for £2.25. A growing number of

people are coming to the shop as a “bit of a treat”. “I know, let's get ourselves a good cup of coffee and see who is down there”. We are always pleased to see you and you are guaranteed a welcome.

Apologies: A gremlin crept into last month's article. It's £2.95 for a soup and a roll. Still excellent value, but a little more than I said. Sorry. It is available at that price for another month and I've double checked the drink and mince pie. Look forward to seeing you.

If you've not visited us on Facebook or seen the website www.feckenhamshop.co.uk then its worth a visit. If you've not been you might want to take a look at the positive reviews we have had:

What our customers say

These are the latest customer comments taken from our feedback book in the shop. We love to hear what our customers think so be sure to give us your comments on your next visit!

Very friendly, lovely cookies, yum! AT 29-10-2012

What a lovely shop. Very friendly and welcoming and lovely products. The most relaxing cup of coffee I've had in a long time! MH 26-10-2012

Came for a coffee during scarecrow weekend, made to feel very welcome and coffee was lovely. Lots of very useful items in the shop a very handy place. SH 14-10-2012

I always feel at home when I come into the shop & the staff are so pleasant. Hope the shop will reign for many years. Keep up the good work all of you. Kind regards. G 14-10-2012

Very welcome shop. Good coffee. Always here. NW 14-10-2012

My second visit - came along on my bike - a lovely welcome! Great coffee and scone!! MM 2-10-2012

Something to be proud of.

Price Comparison: We have re-run the price comparison looking at a basket of goods across a range of supermarkets. By the time you have added the cost of the petrol in, we are cheaper

than Tesco's (OK 14p!), £3 less than Sainsbury's and £5 less than Waitrose, on a shop of about £40. And that's before you add anything in for the time of the journey.

On individual items, we are less for potatoes, onions and tea. There aren't many people who do their weekly shop with us. But it just might be worth thinking about doing more than buying the odd bag of sugar.

The full table is on the website,

www.feckenhamshop.co.uk. Makes for interesting reading.

Operation Christmas Child

Lin Preece

Thank you all so very much for supporting , 'OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2012'.

We have collected a total of 129 boxes . Thank you to the children from Feckenham First School for their brilliant contributed of 35 boxes.

I know that a lot of thought and love goes into making up a shoebox, but isn't it wonderful to know that your shoebox gifts, will have such an impact on the lives of so many disadvantaged children this Christmas Time.

Thank you, also for all the knitted items, clothing and donations, all of which are always gratefully received.

I have given Bob James £174-35p proceeds from our stall on Wake Day, £27-00p sale of soft toys in Church and £79-14p donations. Total = £280-49p, Bob was absolutely delighted

On behalf of all of the children, I would like to wish you all a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS, and thank you for bringing so much happiness by showing you care!

This years boxes are destined for Liberia, West Africa.

The official Shoebox send off is on Sunday 9th December at 3-00pm, at unit 4 St, Richards Road (next to Jewsons) Evesham, everyone welcome !

Thought for the month

Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

What's in a name? •As I go around I find myself at a loss as to how to introduce myself. Am I the Vicar or the Rector? Well no, I'm the Priest in Charge. And, legally, not even that in Feckenham and Stock & Bradley Green! As for Bowbrook I'm just the chap next door!

I've been asked many times over the years what the difference between a Vicar and a Rector is. There really isn't any difference these days. In the past, however, Rectors received the income from any rents due to the parish. This meant some were very well off and others very poor. Vicars on the other hand were paid by the Bishop and they got less than the richest Rectors though maybe more than the poor Rectors. I believe it was only in the 1960s that such an unfair system was sorted out. Stipends are, effectively the same across the board with some very small national variation taking local living costs into account. The names remain, however.

At the moment I'm neither Vicar or Rector because I'm simply licensed as the Priest in Charge until all the legalities are sorted out. In practice it makes very little difference. I'm just getting on with the job! "My 5" parishes are interesting and varied communities and our cooperation across Bowbrook means I get to work with yet more delightful people. Jesus had a name that meant something. It's a shortening of "Yahweh-sus". Joshua and Joseph are variations on the same name. So Jesus was named after his human "father". What the name means is: "God saves".

I wish you a good Advent and a joyful Christmas. Together, in our dozen or so churches, let's celebrate the birth of God in a manger. The God who saves. And in the New year let's explore together what that means for all of us.

with best wishes, Wyn

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Gay Bligh



Thursday 6 December at 7.30pm – Get in the festive mood with Richard Churchley who will present a selection of songs of the people and the season. Join in the fun – washed down with mulled wine and Christmas fare!

Please note that this is a change of date and speaker from the original programme.



All meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the back room of Feckenham village hall. There is an annual subscription (currently £33.00) but visitors are welcomed to join us for any meeting at a cost of £3.00 per visit. If you require further information please contact Linda Harris on 01527 892850 or Gay Bligh on 01527 893321.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 5th December 2012 - 7.30pm will have a seasonal flavour. Dr Michael Jones, who is Head of Newman College, Birmingham, will give a fascinating insight into the botany and history of mistletoe, and its association with the festive season.

Please note that the annual subscription became due in October, and can be paid at the meeting. All club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £10.00. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Rob Cole on 01527 821156.

Wednesday 16th January 2013 - 7.15pm for 7.30pm Our Annual Dinner in 2013 will be held at The Flyford Arms, Flyford Flavell. Members will find a booking form in the Information Pack which they received when they paid their annual subscription.

If you wish to join us for this popular event you should complete this form with your requirements, and give it to Jan Bates or Dinny Pynsent.

What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- 5th BREAKAWAY**
Christmas Lunch at Hiller's Garden Cafe
- 8th Gardening Club**
The History of Mistletoe
Stock & Bradley Village Hall
7.30pm
- 8th EXHIBITION of CHRISTMAS CRIBS**
12 - 4pm in The Church
- 12th Drop In**
Christmas Lunch
10 am - 12noon
Bradley Green Village Hall
- 16th CAROL SERVICE 3pm**
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