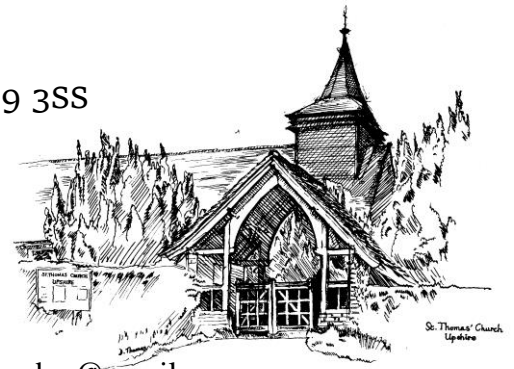


# St Thomas' Church, Upshire EN9 3SS

## Newsletter

### January 2022



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This Newsletter is free: donations to Lyn Wackett. Copy date for February: 14<sup>th</sup> January

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England website and also on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

#### SERVICES AND DIARY FOR JANUARY

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Epiphany  
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION  
Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 3-4pm MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of Christ  
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION  
Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION  
Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 12noon-2pm WINTER WARMER LUNCH in the church – 07899 846711 to book

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION  
Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Upshire Mothers' Union meet in the Village Hall - AGM

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Presentation of Christ at the Temple  
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION  
Readings: Ezekiel 43:27-44:4 1 Corinthians 13 Luke 2:22-40

The church will be open every Monday and Thursday from 11.30am to 12.30pm for private prayer only. Covid-19 restrictions apply.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

You are invited to offer names to be added to our prayer diary to remember those who are unwell or unhappy. First names only are required as God will know who we are praying for.

Contact Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573 or email [lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk)

This month we pray for Glenis, Laura, Alan & Pam, Lesley, Charlie & John, Anne, Pam & John, Barbara, Vernon, Mal, Louise, Sue, Ann & Cyril, Rosalind, Doreen, Barry, Maureen, Carol & George, Beverly, Dave P, Terry, June, Rose, Peggy, Shirley, Mick, Sarah, Sheila, Jackie, Jean, Barbara, Andrea and her Mum and Dad, Nina, Carmel & the Price family, James & Dave.

Revd Jane Begley writes:

Dear Friends

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on the last two very difficult years dominated by the pandemic, how can we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? Sometimes it seems there is no light at the end of the tunnel, no end to this pandemic. As soon as one virus is beaten, another mutation comes along. The apostle Paul writes: ‘But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.’

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Not the people, just things. Many have lost loved ones and been denied the opportunity of grieving properly, of sharing memories at a wake. We cannot turn the clock back, much as some of us would like to. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. We will never forget those who have died but we owe it to God and to them, to look forward. To do positive things. What have we learnt from the pandemic? One thing is that most of us are social animals, we need the stimulation of the company and conversation of others. A second thing is that, much as many of us dislike asking for help, sometimes we need to receive as well as give help. When you have to self-isolate for days, a fresh loaf of bread or a pint of milk appearing on your door-step is manna from heaven. Thirdly, much as we might like to think we are in charge and control our world, the pandemic has shown this is manifestly not true. Planning services, holidays, lives – all continue to be difficult and subject to change at the shortest notice.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Many people throughout the pandemic have lost confidence in themselves and some have lost faith in God. What can we do to help them? Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say ‘well done, good and faithful servant’. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let’s ask ourselves, ‘What can I do this year that will help me show to those around me that God loves each and every one of us?’ The wise men brought their costliest treasures to the baby. All Jesus asks of us is that we bring our heart to him. That we do our very best for him. That we love one another as He loves us. That we love and support all in our community throughout the days ahead.

Every blessing Jane B

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

Our mailing list to receive the electronic version is now in excess of 70 participants so if you are not one of those and wish to be included please send your email address to : [marionne.locke@btinternet.com](mailto:marionne.locke@btinternet.com). We are looking to reduce our ‘paper footprint’ for climate change by printing fewer copies – your contribution will help.

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY** – to ensure continued delivery of our free paper newsletter if there is anyone with free time to deliver to local addresses please contact Lyn Wackett.

**CHURCH FLOWERS**

A big thank you to those who made the church look so beautiful for the December services, well done to all. Each month we can create memorial dedications, wedding, anniversary or special occasion flowers – all can be arranged for any week – contact Marion 07789 643147 or email [marionne.locke@btinternet.com](mailto:marionne.locke@btinternet.com) to discuss. Anyone wishing to practice or create a design of their own are very welcome, do make contact as above to arrange access.



**ST THOMAS’ SEEDLINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays of each month (apart from January)**

A free Stay and Play church group for children and those who care for them  
Join us Saturdays 3-4pm for messy craft, play, songs and stories along with a welcome cuppa  
St Thomas’ Church, Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, EN9 3SS



**ST THOMAS' CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCHESES 2022**

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY : WINTER WARMER

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY : WINTER WARMER

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH : SPRING LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL : EASTER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY : SPRING LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE : SUMMER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 13 JULY : SUMMER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST : SUMMER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER : AUTUMN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER : AUTUMN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER : AUTUMN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER : XMAS LUNCH

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE : 07899 846711

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Thank you to the people who have sent in articles to be included in the Newsletter. Please keep them coming! Anything: maybe a poem you have written, what you have been doing in the garden or indoors to keep occupied during lockdown, etc, it all makes for interesting reading.

**50/50 CLUB**

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Club draw for November, who were:

1 <sup>st</sup> : £35	No. 32	Carmel Price of Chingford
2 <sup>nd</sup> : £25	No. 49	Cathy Ann Abrey of Ilford
3 <sup>rd</sup> : £15	No. 79	Rosalind Edwards of Epping

Our thanks to all our members for their support of St Thomas' Church.

It is now time to begin Draw 9 of St Thomas' 50/50 Club.

There will still be monthly draws and the entry fee is £12.00 every six months (or £2 for every month of membership). Each member is entitled to a maximum of two entries, couples can have four. Please complete the form below and return it to me, along with your cheque or cash to the address stated or alternatively you may pay by bank transfer to the church's account St Thomas Church Uphire PCC, Sort code 404520, Account number 00724505, HSBC Bank. Please let me know if you do this so I can include your number in the Draw (email [lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01992 711573).

Good luck to everyone who enters.

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**St Thomas' Church 50/50 Club Draw 9**

**January to June 2022**

I wish to become a member of St Thomas' new 50/50 Club and enclose cash/cheque for £12 per entry (maximum 2 per person). Please make cheques payable to **St Thomas' Church** and return your entries to Lyn Wackett, 94 Uphire Road, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3PA.

**OR** I have paid by Bank Transfer to HSBC Bank, A/c St Thomas Church Uphire PCC, Sort Code 404520, A/c No: 00724505.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

## CHURCHWARDEN'S CHATTER

It is hoped you all had a happy Christmas and look forward to a healthy New Year whatever it may bring.

We are trying to plan a full programme of events for 2022 but these may have to be changed at the last minute due to circumstances beyond our control so please keep an eye on the church website and Whatsapp group for up to date information.

The new Seedlings group is going from strength to strength, well done all concerned.

The Christmas Lunch was a fantastic meal with a wonderful atmosphere with crackers and paper hats and with raffle prizes to match. I would like to thank all the chefs, servers and additional helpers who made the afternoon go with a whizz that was enjoyed by everybody.

Please note the January lunch is on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a choice of meats with a veggie option plus suitable condiments, a choice of home-made desserts with custard or cream, tea or coffee, £8 all in. Please book with Pauline on 07899 846711 with your dietary requirements, also naming each person who is going to attend. Also please let Pauline know if anyone has to cancel as we had some disappointed people who would have liked to have come to the Christmas lunch but couldn't as we were fully booked, then some people didn't come on the day so we had vacancies that could have been filled. Doors open at 11.30am with service from noon. We will have our produce stall with a selection of jams, pickles, honey & eggs and a raffle with a difference. So come along and have an enjoyable afternoon with no cooking or washing up, just a good chat in the warm.

The conditions of the local roads varies, with a number of repairs having been carried out but watch out for pot holes left after road works due to gas and water leaks. Surface ground water combined with heavy morning frosts leaves the road in a very dangerous condition. Extra care should be taken as roaming deer are still a danger on our roads.

There were two major accidents on Horseshoe Hill last November with one young person fatally injured. Please take care this winter; keep within the local speed limits and double white lines and do not overtake. Safe journeys and less haste, more speed as they say.

The Community Pay Back Team has reduced the front hedge in height and width so that it is easier to trim during the coming season. Likewise the central and rear hedges will, it is hoped, be cut back during the dormant season within the next couple of months.

We will have to wait to see the lost hedgerow spring flowers in the coming months.

The coloured light show with carols and the nativity stories early in December was a welcome addition to our normal services during the festive season. We would like to thank Mr Boyce and his assistant for setting up the display and the use of his equipment to achieve such colourful displays inside and outside the church for the evening. Our thanks must also go to Malcolm, our organist with his Christmas choir, plus our servers of seasonal refreshments after the service enjoyed by all.

Our Christmas Fayre went very well with a marvellous range of items for sale with a good steady stream of buyers throughout. So much so that the cake stall sold out and the refreshments team were busy all day. We would like to thank all those who helped in any way, the stall holders and all the buyers for their support of this event.

We are holding a Table Top Sale on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, open to stall holders from 10am, open to the public from 11am-3pm. Admission free: children must be accompanied by an adult. Having spring-cleaned you may require a stall! To book a table contact 07960 809799.

Hot and cold snacks plus drinks, cakes and slices will be available on the day, plus our produce stall offering free range eggs, honey and a selection of jams and other preserves. Put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there.

Our Spring Craft Fayre will be a Saturday in April – date to be confirmed. To book a stall phone 07960 809799.

Stephen Brown 07960 809799

## **KNITTERS AND WOOL WANTED!**

Knitters wanted to make jumpers for babies and child refugees. Any size, any colour, any style, all will be appreciated. Also to knit hat, scarves and mittens (or gloves if you're so inclined!) ready for shoe boxes for next year.

Wool also needed for all the above items (double knit preferred). Contact Lyn on 01992 711573 or leave wool or garments in the porch at 94 Upshire Road. Thank you.

## ANAGRAM

Unscramble this 10 letter anagram: NOMATTRESS. The answer will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## GROWERS CORNER

Going out into your garden at this time of the year can be difficult with rain, snow and low temperatures but if you wrap up warm you can go into your greenhouse, potting shed or the back of the garage to carry out vital work ready for the coming season.

1. All your hand tools can be cleaned; rust removed with wire wool or similar then engine oil applied, with a coat of linseed oil to the wooden shaft/handle.
2. Tools with a sharp edge can be sharpened with a file/oil stone. If using a water wheel stone make sure you are wearing the correct PPE, i.e. eye protectors, gloves, etc.

Lawnmowers, hedge cutters and chainsaws are best sharpened by experts and as you will not be using them this month book them in for a service and they will be ready in the spring for use when you need them.

Once outside the house with some fresh air in your lungs you could spend a day or two tidying up and spring cleaning the garage, potting shed or greenhouse and you will be surprised at what you might find. Packs of seeds, a can of oil for that squeaky front gate, a vital small handy tool, service manuals of domestic or gardening equipment – the list is endless.

Topping up the bird feeders is another out door task which can be carried out that will give hours of pleasure and is vital for the local bird population at this time of the year. Do not over-fill your containers as the wastage can cause a rodent problem. Little and daily can be the way forward for the best results. Don't forget to put out fresh water for the birds, too.

By the end of this month you may notice the light levels increasing so keep a sharp eye out for the early flowering spring bulbs, snowdrops followed by crocus and narcissi (daffodils).

Next month: propagation – an early start to the 2022 season.

## UPSHIRE MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January when we hold our Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall. Tea Hostesses: Mrs Gill Negus and Mrs Sue McKinley. Raffle: Mrs Joan O'Mullane.

Further information from Ann Smith of 01992 767809.

## FLY TIPPING

If you see anyone fly tipping in the forest, please take a note of the registration number of the vehicle, the make of the vehicle and any other information which might help track the perpetrators and then pass this information to the Corporation of London. If you find any fly tipped rubbish please report it to the Corporation on the number below. The sooner such instances are reported, the better chance there is of finding out who is responsible.

The number to ring is **0208 532 1010** which is a **24** hour number and messages will be passed onto the duty team.

St Thomas Church, Upshire    Bank details

St Thomas Church Upshire PCC

HSBC Bank    Sort Code 40 45 20    Account number 00724505

Any queries regarding setting up a Standing Order or giving a donation to the church, please contact our Treasurer, Ruth Moore on 07852 668633    [Ruth4366@gmail.com](mailto:Ruth4366@gmail.com)

If you are able to Gift Aid donations this increases your gift without any extra cost to yourself.

Ruth would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding Gift Aid or joining the Parish Giving Scheme    Thank you

## STAMPS!

Please continue to save your postage stamps and foreign or out of circulation coins – many charities can use them to raise funds. At the moment we are supporting the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Stamps and coins can be left with Lyn and Dave at 94 Upshire Road and left in the porch. Note: please remember to leave about ½” of envelope around the stamp. Thank you.

## ANAGRAM

The answer to the anagram is ASSORTMENT.

## BODY PHRASES WORDSEARCH

All the words/phrases in the list have body parts in them and are hidden in the diagram below. Words are printed across, up, down or diagonally, but always in straight lines. Letters may be used more than once.

ALL EARS  
 APPLE/OF ONE'S EYE  
 BACK/STROKE  
 BELLY LAUGH  
 BLACK BOTTOM  
 BODY BLOW  
 BRAINSTORM  
 BROAD/SHOULDERED  
 COST AN ARM AND A LEG  
 CUT THROAT  
 CUT TO THE BONE  
 DIP A TOE IN /THE WATER  
 ELBOW/GREASE  
 EYE OPENER  
 FACE/VALUE  
 FINGER IN/EVERY PIE  
 FOOT THE/BILL  
 GUM DROPS  
 HAIR OF THE DOG  
 HALF HEARTED  
 HAND TO MOUTH  
 HIT THE NAIL ON THE/HEAD  
 INTO THE JAWS OF/DEATH  
 LAP IT UP  
 LIP/SERVICE  
 LOSE ONE'S/NERVE

NECK AND NECK  
 POUND OF FLESH  
 RIB TICKLER  
 SHAKE A LEG  
 SPINELESS  
 SWEET TOOTH  
 TAKE IT ON THE CHIN  
 THUMB A/LIFT  
 TONGUE IN CHEEK  
 TREASURE/CHEST  
 WELL HEELED  
 WIN BY A/NOSE

P K C E N D N A K C E N B O D Y B L O W  
 O B S U E E E G R B H N F P T W I I A E  
 U O R A T H C E O T E O I S U F O B L L  
 N G T O T T N I U D N L E E T T M B H L  
 D H E T A E H O V E E H L H O U I T L H  
 O T O L P D M R S R C H E Y H T O P E E  
 F O A O A O F E O P E A T T L O A H A E  
 F I E K T D Y O I A D S O F T A T P C L  
 L Y N D E E N L S R T N T T O N U U I E  
 E M N G V I S A E W G S E R O R T G M D  
 S A O R E R T L M U A E P L E T I R H S  
 H P E T A R K O E R W J I O O A O A H G  
 T N I E T C I I N S A A E T R T S O H E  
 E H L N I O N N E T N N H H S D U U I L  
 S L E T E C B N V E H E A N T L M P R A  
 A T B W H L O K H A B E I T D O Y U P E  
 E I R E A E E T C O L A C E S R T P G K  
 R C E O S T T S N A R U R H E O L N C A  
 G K A O K I E E S B L E E V I E C A I H  
 H A L F H E A R T E D B E W I N B Y A S

**Body parts included:** arm, back, belly, body, bone, bottom, brain, cheek, chest, chin, ears, elbow, eye, face, finger, flesh, foot, gum, hair, hand, head, heart, heel, jaw, lap, leg, lip, mouth, nail, neck, nerve, nose, rib, shoulder, spine, throat, thumb, toe, tongue, tooth.

### Flying bishop

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me is, you're NOT my flight instructor?"

### With Epiphany in mind...

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

### Knock knock

The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the car, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me!" The passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 15 years."

**Visitors**

The minister came home after church one Sunday morning looking very satisfied.

“Many people in church?” asked his wife, bustling around the kitchen.

“Yes, and we had at least three strangers, though I didn’t see them.”

“Then how do you know?”

“Because there were three £10 notes in the collection plate.”

**Inspection**

My husband, a US Coast Guard pilot, was on an exchange tour with the Royal Navy in England. Everyone who drove through the base's gates was required to hold an official ID card up to the windscreen for inspection by the guards. As a friendly competition, my husband's squadron started flashing different forms of ID, such as a driving licence, just to see how far they could go to fool the busy guards. The winner? The fellow who breezed past waving a piece of toast.