



Friends of St Peter & All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Newsletter Issue 6 - Winter 2020/21

Wishing you all a Happy and Safe Christmas

Dear Friends,

We are now approaching the end of a very difficult year and time for us all. It has been particularly poignant because of many organisations like us being unable to arrange activities in the usual way and having to cancel, as you are aware, several events that had already been planned for this year. It does now seem that with the imminent introduction of vaccines against this dreadful coronavirus that in 2021 we will see better things ahead.

You will be pleased to learn that the repairs and refurbishment to the Reginald Wade window are now complete and that the Friends have been able to fund the total cost for which the St. Peter and All Hallows' Churchwardens and P.C.C have given formal thanks in appreciation.

I do sincerely hope that we will be able to meet up again soon sometime in 2021 once it is safe to do so. In the meantime, may I on behalf of the members of the Friends Council and myself wish you all and your families a happy and safe Christmas, albeit in what will be a most unusual and limited form.

David Hill, Chairman.

Payment for the Reginald Wade Window

As David says above, the Friends have been able to meet the total cost of the repair to the Reginald Wade window. In the end, this was more than the original estimate but, thanks to your generosity, the Friends' Council were able to approve a payment to the PCC of £2480.

You can be assured that every penny of your membership fees and donations will always be used to support the maintenance of the fabric of the Church. Additional funds raised from raffles or activities will also go towards the Church building after payment of any running costs of the Friends which we try to keep to the minimum.

At this time, when we are unable to raise funds through activities, your membership fees are vitally important to help us to help preserve the Church building and we would like to thank everyone who has so far renewed their membership for another year.

For those who have decided not to renew for whatever reason, we thank you for your past support and hope to see you again one day. We have taken the decision to send this newsletter to everyone who has been a member, even if you have chosen not to renew your membership, to thank you for your support and to inform you of how your membership fee had contributed to this small step in the huge task of preserving this building.



Christmas Word Jumble



Can you unjumble the following Christmas phrases? (Answers at the bottom of the page.)

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|--------------------------|---|
| 1 LNWTISOTE (3,2,4) | 7 ERDMTIDKAYEBRNNERA (3,5,3,2,5) |
| 2 EOHNTTSISAES (3,3,6) | 8 HHNRDAGFWSATSEMATIIRMEOCIIM (2,8,2,1,5,9) |
| 3 TRENPEHAACOE (5,2,5) | 9 TSSCNSCMTTNWOONAAUGIALOI (5,5,2,6,2,4) |
| 4 LEEJLISBGNL (6,5) | 10 SRHAGUTNNNPRISCNETOEFAOINEOST (9,8,2,2,4,4) |
| 5 SLKLHHECDETA (4,3,5) | 11 TTFDMTMFHRSTIEWNLOETAOHSEIYREOUE (3,3,4,9,4,2,3,4) |
| 6 RENBTHIRMDYGRA (5,3,6) | 12 SWCRWYMRTASIEHAUOEHRYSIM (2,4,3,1,5,9) |



The Sky This Christmas



A wonderful part of the Christmas Story is the star that led the Magi to Bethlehem, but which star was it?

Matthew says that the star moved before stopping over Bethlehem, but stars do not move and their brightness is constant so some have suggested it could have been a comet or a supernova (exploding star). There was a supernova visible for about 2 months in 5 B.C. which would fit in if, as some now think, Jesus was born around 4 B.C. and it is sometimes suggested that this must have been the star of Bethlehem. However, it would not have moved and was in totally the wrong area of the sky so it would have led the Magi in the wrong direction!

Many astronomers now think that the star was not really a star at all, but a planet, Jupiter. Planets were "wandering stars" to the ancients, and to many they held great astrological or mystical significance. Astronomers know that there was a series of conjunctions of Jupiter with two other planets, Saturn and Mars, in 6 and 5 B.C. These close conjunctions would have made the already bright Jupiter seem even more brilliant.

This December, if you look to the heavens on a clear night, soon after darkness falls, you will see the same 3 bright planets - Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn - shining brightly in the southern sky.

On December 21, Jupiter and Saturn will have their once-in-20-years conjunction in our sky, appearing closer than they have for hundreds of years, just 1/5 of a moon-diameter apart.



Christmas puzzle answers

1 Let it snow, 2 'Tis the season, 3 Peace on Earth, 4 Jingle Bells, 5 Deck the Halls, 6 Merry and Bright, 7 Eat, drink and be merry, 8 I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, 9 Santa Claus is coming to town, 10 Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, 11 It's the most wonderful time of the year, 12 We wish you a merry Christmas

WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO, WE WILL ANNOUNCE NEW DATES FOR OUR EVENTS. ANY NEWS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE OR INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED QUARTERLY.

You can e-mail the Friends Council at hello@friendsofspaahc.org or contact the Membership Secretary, Janet Hill on 07840 072351

See our website: <https://friendsofspaahc.org> or follow us on Facebook  for the latest news.