

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Advent is a time of preparation; it is the beginning of a new church year and a time when we look forward, we look forward with hope, to the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. These days there doesn't seem much to look forward to if you believe the newspaper headlines. And for those who are made redundant or at risk of losing their job or even their home, looking forward may not bring much comfort. But that is what Jesus' arrival signaled all those years ago. Hope can come from the most unexpected places. The Old Testament prophets said a King would be born, the Saviour of the world. Everyone expected a great leader but one who would lead an uprising against the oppressive regime that was the Roman Empire. What people didn't expect was for the king to be born in a stable to a lowly carpenter and his wife. It is easy to get downhearted when bad news is all around but the message Jesus taught us was not to put our faith in material things or to be distracted by today's latest trend or fashion but to put our trust in God.

There are some great little sayings that have started to appear at Christmas time that allow us, as Christians, to jog each other's memory as to what Christmas is really all about. I like "Jesus is the reason for the season" and "Christmas starts with Christ". They are simple phrases but they can be a good way of leading to a conversation about the real meaning of Christmas with one another or with friends who may not come to church. We should all take the opportunity to spread the 'Good News' just as Jesus did.

So as we are all running around getting ready for the big day this year I would urge everyone to set aside some time, time for prayer and time to contemplate that wonderful event that happened over two thousand years ago. Think about the hope that Jesus brought to the world, a hope

that is still real and alive today. Thank God for all that he provides for us and thank him for his love for us which is constant and ever present. And if you do get a gift or two to open on Christmas day then remember to say ‘thank you’ both to the giver and to the God who provides for all.

Thank you and God bless, Nick (Miles)



SERVICES AND SEASONAL DATES FOR THE DIARY

6 th December – 10am Holy Communion	2 nd Sunday of Advent (prophets)	Luke 1:68-79
13 th December – 9am Holy Communion	3 rd Sunday of Advent (John the Baptist)	Luke 3:15-18
20 th December 10am All Age Crib Service feel free to come dressed up as a character in the Christmas Story 6pm CAROL SERVICE – A traditional service of readings and carols	4 th Sunday of Advent (Mary)	Luke 1:46-55
Thursday 24 th December 4pm CHRISTINGLE – all ages welcome 11.30pm HOLY COMMUNION	Christmas Eve	
Friday 25 th December 10am – All age Family Communion	Christmas Day	John 1:1-14
27 th December – 10.00am All Age Worship	Sunday after Christmas	Luke 2:41-52

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Thursday 3rd	7pm Singing Group in church
Saturday 5th	2pm – 4pm Christmas Fayre and Wreath Display
Wednesday 16th	3.30pm Messy Church in the Community Centre
Wednesday 16th	Mothers' Union Christmas Party
Friday 25th	12.30pm Christmas Dinner

Prayer group takes place in Church every Tuesday at 9.15am

Children' groups take place on 1st and 3rd Sundays during Holy Communion

Trinity Tots in the Community Centre every Monday during term time at 1pm

Over 50s group in the Community Centre every Wednesday at 1pm – 3pm

Registers in October

Wedding Blessing: October 25th – Elizabeth and Michael – 35th anniversary

Registers in November

Baptisms: November 8th – Freddie Edkins

Funerals: November 2nd – Reg Simmons

Wedding Blessing: November 28th – David & Julie – 10th anniversary



For Hartshill, Galley Common and area

It is great to be able to celebrate special and seasonal services with our other local churches – which is especially true as we approach Advent and Christmas. So here are some dates for your diary....

Churches Together Advent Service

Sunday 29th November 3pm

At St Peter's Galley Common

+

Carol Singing at Oldbury Grange

Wednesday 9th December at 6pm

Do join us if you can...For...

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity...for there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.”
(Psalm 133) **God Bless, Heather <><**

Praying for our Parish in December

1	We pray for hope, the hope in Jesus
2	We pray for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Young Leaders and Guiders in Hartshill.
3	We pray for plants and the beauty of the world.
4	We pray for the schools in Hartshill.
5	We pray for the Christmas Fayre.
6	We pray for peace, in our lives and the whole world especially the Middle East.
7	We pray for those who work at Christmas.
8	We pray for the work of Youth 180
9	We pray for nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, occupational health, speech and language therapists and other professionals.
10	We pray for Hartshill Community Centre.
11	We pray for the armed forces.
12	We pray for the Scouts movement, the Girls Brigade and the Boys Brigade.
13	We pray for love in the world and in our hearts.
14	We pray for carers and those who receive care.
15	We pray for the Churches in Hartshill and the Diocese.
16	We pray for the Messy Church

17	We pray for the hostages in our world, those in the Middle East, Africa and beyond.
18	We pray that students and teachers have an enjoyable holiday
19	We pray for the lonely at Christmas.
20	We pray for the Carol service.
21	We pray for joy in our lives
22	We pray for others affected by money problems
23	We pray for ourselves to trust in the Lord.
24	We pray for the Christingle Service. We give thanks for the children who will be celebrating tomorrow and pray that your blessings are heaped upon them.
25	On this Christmas Day, thank you for the Baby Jesus who grew up to be the Messiah of the World.
26	We pray for families and friends, those who we see regularly and those less frequently.
27	We pray for forgiveness, in our lives and the wider community.
28	We pray for animals.
29	We pray for the wedding of Matthew and Michelle.
30	We reflect on the anniversaries throughout the year and we give thanks for our memories.
31	We give thanks for the past year and pray for hope for 2016



Holy Trinity Church

Hartshill

Christmas Fayre

And Wreath display

Saturday 5th December

2.00 – 4.00pm

Free Admission



Refreshments

Crafts

Games

Raffle

Tombola

Cake stall

Father Christmas

And more.....





**All are
welcome**

Our dates for the next few sessions are:

**Come along for fun, crafts,
food and a little mess!!!**

Messy Christmas – December 16th

At our usual time of 3.30 – 5.30

+

Some Dates for 2016

20 Jan - Seeing things in a new way

17 Feb - Changes

16 March – Palm Sunday

***** At Hartshill Community Centre ***
(next to Holy Trinity Church, Church Road)**

**All ages Welcome for
Food, fun, crafts and friendship**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost? Free – but donations are welcomed.**

Hope to see you there!



CHRISTIAN CHARITY NEWS

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society was founded in 1881 by Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday School teacher and civil servant in South London. He became concerned when 2 young boys failed to turn up to Sunday School; so he went to look for them and was shocked to find them on the streets, begging for food. Their father had died, leaving their mother struggling to bring up 7 children under the age of 11. He realized that this was not an isolated experience and his heart was moved to act. He approached Archbishop Tait to express his concern for children living on the margins of society in extreme poverty and suggested that the Church of England should be at the forefront of social action for such children. Fortunately, the Archbishop agreed enthusiastically and soon after, the Church of England Central Home for Waifs and Strays was established. He envisioned a charity that would give poor homeless children a loving and secure family environment and prevent children from going to live in workhouses. He set up small family group cottage homes, each with around 10 children with a master and matron to act as parents, enabling the children to live within the community. The Children's Society played a part in laying the foundations of the Welfare State.

By 1919 the charity had 113 homes and cared for 5,000 children as well as arranging for children to be fostered and adopted. Around 1970 the role of the Children's Society changed, along with changing attitudes in social and moral areas and also families having fewer children and many of the homes were closed. In 1969 the Society opened its first day-care centre in South London, offering support to single parent families and those affected by illness, stress or poverty. During the 1980's Family Centres opened, often on large housing estates, offering

play areas, toy libraries, information services, adult education and also organized day trips, and additionally helped people to identify problems in their localities and to find solutions.

During the 1990's, the Society moved into a new area of working for social justice, speaking up for vulnerable or abused children and by lobbying parliament for social justice. Today, the charity still works to tackle child poverty and neglect, supporting young carers and runaway children and tries to stop the exploitation of children. 134 years after the charity was formed, it still aims to give every child the greatest possible chance in life.

The Society raises money from donations and also from over 100 charity shops across the country. For a number of years our church has supported The Children's Society from donations received at our extremely popular Christingle services held on Christmas Eve. Christingle celebrations have been taking place across the country for the last 47 years and around one million people attend a Christingle event each year.

For more information their address is The Children's Society, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street, London WC1X 0JL, telephone number is 020 7841 4400 or look online at

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

Lynda Kelly

Thank you to everyone who has filled an Operation Christmas Child shoebox this year, knitted scarves or donated items. You donated 54 shoe boxes in total. By the time you read this the shoeboxes will be on their way; so please pray for safety of those transporting the boxes and that the boxes will arrive safely into the hands of the child that each box is meant for.

Thank you also to everyone who supports the Leprosy Mission, all those who have a collecting box and to those who ordered cards and gifts from their catalogue. It is all very much appreciated.

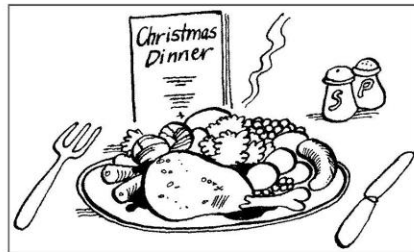
Holy Trinity Church, Hartshill
Warmly invite you to join us on

Christmas Day

For a seasonal Christmas
meal
and entertainment

At Hartshill Community
Centre
(next door to Holy Trinity Church)

Arriving from 12.30pm for a 1pm
start



The meal is free but it would help to know
numbers for catering purposes.
For more information and/or to book a place
Please contact Heather (the vicar) on
02476 392266

Letter from Elizabeth Hollins – 23rd October 2015

I started work in February 1994 as a school crossing patrol at Gun Hill New Arley School. My children Susan and John were aged 8 and 4 and we lived in Daffern Avenue. In October 1999 we moved to Charnwood Drive, Hartshill, and I moved to St Ann's R.C. School for 4 years, subsequently moving to Galley Common School, where I stayed for 7 years.

In November 2010 I received a letter from No.10 Downing Street saying that I was to be awarded an M.B.E. in the New Years Honours List. This was for my work in visiting nurseries and schools to raise children's awareness of road safety, and for my work as a lolly pop person.

At Christmas 2011, I moved to Michael Drayton School, Hartshill, where I have been for 4 years. In 2014, I received a certificate for 20 years service.

Now, on 23rd October 2015, I will retire and take a very good rest after 21 years of doing a job that I have enjoyed every minute of. The children are very good and so are the parents at the schools I have worked at, and I have made many friends.

Life has flown by so fast. I am a Grandma to my daughter's children, Charlotte, age 6, and Hollie, age 3. My son lives in London as a chef and he is to marry Emily, a lovely girl, on 16th July next year. My Mum is 96 on 21st October and living in a nursing home in Keresley, so I am looking forward to seeing more of her.

On 25th October at 1pm, Michael and I are having a Church blessing at Holy Trinity Church, Hartshill, for 35 years of marriage. We married at St Laurence Church, Meriden. We are then going to the Isle of Wight as we did for our honeymoon. What achievements I have in my life so far!

Editor's note: - I have slightly abridged Elizabeth's lovely letter, which she wrote a couple of days before their Church blessing. We all wish Elizabeth a long and happy retirement.

50 Years ago – Hartshill Parish Magazine

Nuneaton Library holds copies of parish magazines for a number of churches in the Nuneaton area, including Holy Trinity. I thought it would be interesting to look back 50 years to December 1965 to see what was hot news?

Parish Notes

The Christmas Fair is to be held on Saturday 4th December

- Cakes – Decorations to Pickles
- Father Christmas will be around
- Tickets for the fair are 6d

The traditional Toy Service will be held on 12th December at 3pm. All children are invited to the service and to bring a toy which will be given to children of Exhall Grange Special School.

Appreciation was expressed to Mrs R. Griffiths for the gift of a clock to the Vestry in memory of her husband, Mr T. Griffiths. As the vicar states, “I have no excuses for a late start now”.

Services

Sunday

- Holy Communion (said) 8.00 am
- Parish Communion 9.30 am
- Sunday School 2.30 pm
- Evensong 6.30 pm
- Young Peoples Confirmation Class during winter months at 10.45 am.

Weekdays

- Holy Communion – Thursdays and Holy Days at 9.30 am
- Matins and Evensong are said daily (except Friday)

Who’s who

- Vicar - Revd J. H. Corke

- Lay Reader - Mr S. Storrie
- Church Warden – Mr F. E. Wincott
- Deputy – Mr E. J. Turney and Mr W. B. Spooner
- Organist – Mr D. Tong
- PCC Secretary - Mr R. W. Brookes
- PCC treasurer - Mr H. Holden

Prayers - Problems in Rhodesia

Following declaration of independence we need to pray for men and women of Rhodesia that they may be effective in working for peace and reconciliation and avoiding violence and bloodshed.

Mothers Union looked forward to a colour slide show (yes the world was no longer black and white) by Mrs Williams on her recent trip to America.

Finally let us look at who advertised 50 years ago. Perhaps those who can remember would like to try to fill in the gaps (answers are on page 17)

Rene Haytree		38 Coleshill Road
	VG Foodmarket	82 Coleshill Road
Don Stanley	Foodmarket	
	Garage	Chapel End
Croydens		100-102 Coleshill Road
J. G. Nicoll	Chemist	
Mays		41 Coleshill Road
Mansfield Brothers	Butcher	
	Car Sales	Camp Hill Road
W. B. Spooner		Chapel End
	Ladies Hair Stylist	32 Oldbury Road
R Kimberley		Chapel End
	Television and Radio Engineer	2 Camp Hill Road
M. E. Webb		Church Road
	Ladies & Gents outfitters	Chapel End

Sharon's Recipe - 450 g / 1 lb Christmas Pudding

<p>Ingredients</p> <p>Ingredients 2oz / 50 g fresh white breadcrumbs 2oz / 50 g shredded suet* 2oz / 50 g Plain flour 2oz / 50 g castor sugar* 2oz / 50 g soft brown sugar* 2oz / 50 g mixed peel 1 small egg, beaten 3oz / 75g cooking apple, grated 2oz / 50 g currants 3oz / 75g sultanas 1oz / 25g chopped almonds (optional) 2oz / 50 g raisins 1 Small carrot, grated 5fl oz / 150 ml stout* or milk Juice and rind of half a lemon Quarter level tsp of salt Quarter level tsp mix spice Greaseproof paper Foil String 450g / 1 lb / 2 pt pudding basin</p> <p>If microwaving use: Chilled grated butter instead of suet Dark brown sugar 2 tbsp spoon only of stout and rest milk</p>	<p>Method</p> <p>Method Filling</p> <p>If steaming Grease one side of greaseproof paper with melted butter. The paper should be large enough to cover and go a little down the sides of pudding basin. Allowing for a pleat across the top to enable pudding to rise.</p> <p>If Microwaving cut out 2 circles of greaseproof paper and grease one side. Grease the inside of the pudding basin Sieve flour, spices and salt into mixing bowl and mix in dry ingredients Add grated apple, carrot, rinds, juices and egg and enough liquid to make a soft dropping consistency (mix is stiff but falls easily off spoon) Fill basin to half way from top, cover with greaseproof paper (greased side down to mixture) or if microwaving place circles on top of mixture greased side to mixture</p> <p>If steaming: Cover the whole pudding basin in foil again, with a pleat, and securely tie with string. Use extra string to make a handle for easy removal. Place in a steamer over a pan of boiling water and cover. Alternatively place a metal trivet in a large saucepan and add boiling water to come halfway up the sides of basin. Add pudding and cover. Steam steadily for 5 hours replenishing boiling water as it boils away. Remove carefully. Allow to cool before removing foil and greaseproof paper.</p>
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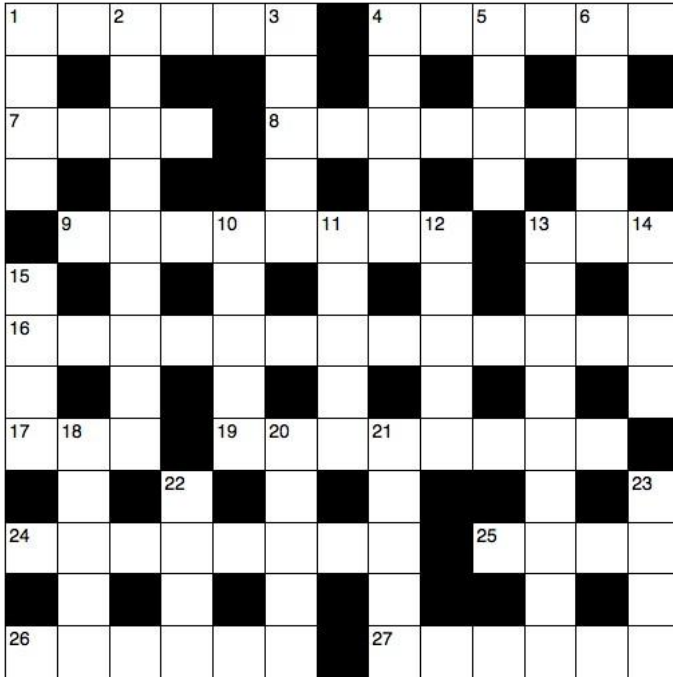
	<p>Store in fresh greaseproof paper and foil. Store in a cool, dry place. Before serving steam for 1 and a half to 2 hours.</p> <p>If microwaving: Stand the pudding basin on a low microwave rack. Cook on MEDIUM-LOW (30%) for 20-30 minutes until top is still slightly moist. Serve immediately</p> <p>Serve with custard or fresh double cream</p>
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Sharon's Recipe - Hot Coronation Turkey – for those Christmas lunch leftovers

<p>Ingredients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 onion, finely chopped • 15g butter • 15 ml / 1 tbsp curry powder • 350g jar mango chutney • 450g Greek-style yogurt • 45ml / 3 tbsp mayonnaise • 10ml/2 tsp tomato puree • 450g cooked turkey meat, diced • Cooked rice or pasta or baked potatoes to serve 	<p>Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook onion in butter until soft • Stir in curry powder and cook, stirring, for 1 minute • Add chutney and heat through • Stir in yogurt, mayonnaise and tomato puree • Heat until almost boiling • Add turkey and cook gently for about 15 minutes or until heated through. • Serve with rice, pasta or baked potatoes
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Crossword



Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 ‘He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in’ (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah’s ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah’s last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 ‘They all — and were satisfied’ (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year’s Eve, Auld — — (4,4)

- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)
 See page 17 for answers.



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Answers to crossword on page 14

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

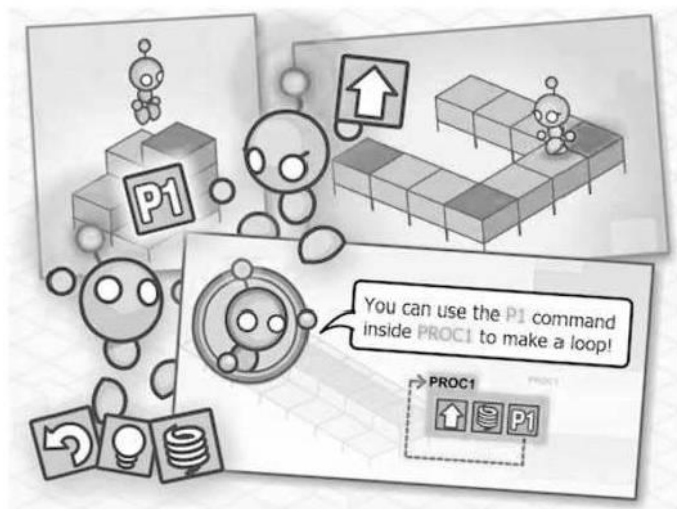
DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

50 years ago answers

Rene Haytree	Florist	38 Coleshill Road
Emery's	VG Foodmarket	82 Coleshill Road
Don Stanley	Foodmarket	15 Coleshill Road
Victoria Garage	Garage	Chapel End
Croydens	MACE Grocer	100-102 Coleshill Road
J. G. Nicoll	Chemist	4 Camp Hill Road
Mays	Wallpaper and Paint Store	41 Coleshill Road
Mansfield Brothers	Butcher	113 Church Road
Stan White	Car Sales	Camp Hill Road
W. B. Spooner	Butcher	Chapel End
Susan Ryder	Ladies Hair Stylist	32 Oldbury Road
R Kimberley	Butcher	Chapel End
A. R. Stringer	Television and Radio Engineer	2 Camp Hill Road
M. E. Webb	General Store	Church Road
W. A. Foster	Ladies & Gents outfitters	Chapel End

Want to learn a new skill through playing games?
Meet other people? Aged between 6 -106?

(All children need to be accompanied by a parent/ guardian)



Come and join us in the library
Hartshill Community Centre
anytime between **10 – 4pm**
on **Tuesday 8th December**
For the
International Hour of Code



Church Flowers



December 6th	for Ben Percival
December 13th	for Ron Taylor
December 20th	for Our Saviour, Jesus Christ

Church Flower Sponsorship

Please do consider sponsoring the altar flowers, perhaps in memory of someone you love. A number of dates are available. For details, see Jan in church or telephone her on 02476 395467

LIBRARY



Hartshill Community Library

Tuesday 10am to 2pm
 Wednesday 2pm to 4pm
 Thursday 2pm to 4pm (new times)
 Friday 10am to Midday
 Saturday 10am to Midday

The following sessions are also held in the library:

Family History Group Mondays 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Book Club first Tuesday of the month 10.30am

IT Support Sessions Tuesdays 2pm to 4pm

Interested? Why not come along to the next session(s) and join in?

Who's Who?

Vicar	Revd. Heather Barnes	02476 392266
Curate	Revd. Michael Brandsma	01827 437292
Church Wardens	Mrs Carol Miles	02476 394339
	Mrs Sally Young	02476 397276
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sheila Hinds	02476 394683
Treasurer	Mrs Wendy Albrighton	02476 397183
Planned Giving	Mrs Wendy Albrighton	02476 397183
Mothers' Union	Mrs Susan Foster	02476 319943
Vergers	Mrs Sylvia Barker	02476 397800
	Mr David Hodson	07773 992270
Weddings	Mr Nick Blamire-Brown/Mrs Jan B Blamire-Brown	02476 395467
Baptism	Revd. Heather Barnes	02476 392266
Community Centre Bookings	Mr John Randle	02476 392856
Sunday School	Mrs Ruth Kinderman	02476 395326
Magazine editor	Mrs Susan Foster	02476 319943

Church website: <http://holytrinity.avexi.co.uk/>