

SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY NEWSLETTER



Services – DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY WINTER 2017/18

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated

3	December	8.30am	Holy Communion
10	..	11.15am	Matins
17	..	3.00pm	Family Crib Service
25	..	8.30am	Holy Communion
31	..	3.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
7	January	8.30am	Holy Communion
14	..	11.15am	Plough Sunday service
21	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
28	..	3.30pm	Evensong
4	February	8.30am	Holy Communion
11	..	11.15am	Matins
18	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
25	..	3.30pm	Evensong

INGATESTONE & FRYERNING CHURCHES TOGETHER

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

Donations of the following may be left in the church on Sunday 3 and Sunday 10 December; Food (use by date beyond 31 January) tinned soup, baked beans, tinned fruit, tinned fish, ham or chicken, instant coffee (no decaf please) tins of assorted biscuits, chocolate bars, soft drinks (cans or bottles, but no glass) **Toiletries** soap, razors, tooth brushes & small tubes of tooth paste, new or freshly laundered bath and hand towels & Roll on Deodorant (non aerosol) **Arts & crafts** paint brushes, crayons, felt tip pens and sketch books **Sports & Games** chess sets, board games, DVD's Bingo tickets

NEW YEAR'S EVE

On **New Year's Eve** there will be a service in Ingatestone Parish Church at 6pm to which all are welcome. Afterwards, at 7pm, there will be a display of fireworks in the field next the Church.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Priest-in-charge	Rev'd Patrick Sherring	Tel: 352562
Churchwarden	Christopher Hayward	Tel: 356836
Deputy Churchwarden	Trevor Reeves	Tel: 07595826300
Secretary	Vacancy	
Treasurer	Bryan Shedel	Tel: 352213
Flower Rota	Christine Makings	Tel: 840615
Sidesmen	Arline Leaves, Christine Makings	
Pianists	Jean Bourne	Tel: 840466
	Mary Cole	Tel: 840485

HOW TO GET INSIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Like tinsel and wrapping paper, fairy lights and mulled wine, carols are just one of the many accessories that come with Christmas. As familiar as the battered old angel on top of the tree or your mother's Christmas cake recipe, it's hard to remember a time before them, a time when their familiar words and memories weren't stored away in the memory. But have you ever stopped to wonder where they came from? Who wrote them and why? The answers are more surprising than you might think. For a start carols weren't born in church. They may have been dressed up with solemn organ arrangements and pious words by the Victorians but carols actually have their roots in fields and streets, homes and even ale houses. Originally songs of celebration, they were sung all year round, not just at Christmas. And nobody sat down and composed them; they just evolved, passed from father to son.

We're not even sure where the word 'carol' itself comes from, though some see it as evolving from the Old French 'carole' meaning a dance. This is significant: the earliest carols were not songs at all but primarily dances, probably performed outdoors in a big circle. A solo singer might perform the verse but everyone would join in with the chorus - a loud shout of communal joy. Sound familiar? Suddenly it's not so very different from a triumphant verse of "Hark The Herald" bellowed out by an enthusiastic congregation on Christmas Day.

The medieval Franciscans saw this potential. They understood the appeal of catchy carol tunes, especially when compared to their own rather more stern religious chants, and so they borrowed them, writing brand new Christian words to fit popular melodies, bringing folk songs into churches along with the people who sang them.

So from their earliest years carols have always been the music of the people first and the church second. Which begs the question: what are the contemporary carols? Are they just the hymns we sing in church each Christmas or do pop songs count as well? Is White Christmas a carol and what about Slade's merry Christmas Everybody?

If we asked William Wallace Fyfe, a 19th-century carol expert and collector, I think he'd say yes. His own definition of a carol was wonderfully simple. "A song intended to mingle joy with wonder."

That seems to cover most bases, and definitely doesn't discriminate by style or genre.

So this Christmas, as you wrap your presents, stuff the turkey and prepare for the big day, spare a thought for those melodies you hum, for the songs you hear when you turn on the radio or TV. We could all do with a little joy and wonder in our lives, and few things deliver them quite as reliably or as beautifully as Christmas carols.

Alexandra Coghlan

SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

The Crib and Christingle Service for families will be on Sunday 17th December at 3pm; featuring the decoration of the Christmas tree, the presentations to the crib and the special Christingle oranges and candles. All by candlelight. The collection at the service will be given to The Children's Society. There will be no service in the church on Christmas Eve.

Christmas is celebrated at Buttsbury with Holy Communion at 8.30am on 25 December to welcome the Christ child into our hearts and on Sunday 31st December at our Carols by Candlelight service to express our joy at His coming. Shenfield Parish Church choir is joining us and so that they may more easily read their music the service will start at **3.00pm** (not 3.30pm).

ADVENT

On Sunday, 3rd December the United Reformed Church from Ingatestone Billericay and Brentwood will be holding their usual service in Buttsbury Church to mark the beginning of Advent, starting at 5.00pm, to which we are all welcome.

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

Our thanks go to Trevor, Margaret and Bryan who between them raised £178 for the Friends of Essex Churches Ride and Stride on 9th September. Half of the money raised comes to Buttsbury. Thanks too to the sponsors and to those who were there to welcome riders to the church with refreshments.

**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A BLESSED AND JOYFUL
CHRISTMAS**