

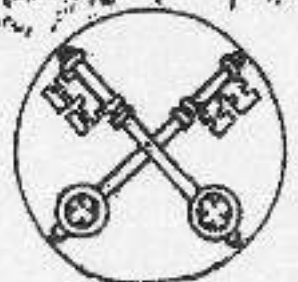
Mayfield Church and Village News

60 Page Double Issue CHRISTMAS IN MAYFIELD YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE



**Dec.2024
&
Jan. 2025**

80p



Messiah

²⁵ The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.' (John 4:25)

I like to watch Science Fiction films and have been waiting for the latest film based on a book called "Dune" by Frank Herbert which I must have read in the 1970's. In my view the book is a "Messiah" story. Where one person is prophesied to be coming to save the people from their plight. The difference between a Messiah and a Hero is that only one person can fulfil the role, rather than any number of superheroes, spies, or detectives.

Obviously, my reason for liking this genre of film is that it is basically a retelling of the Bible story, where the Old Testament sets the scene, the failures and disasters in the world, and the need for the Messiah, and then predicts his coming (300 different prophecies). Then the changeover point comes, and Jesus is born at Bethlehem to a poor family, and the Messiah starts to be recognised. In the Gospel, Jesus doesn't save the world for years, he needs to be known, and start to teach about God and be recognised, before actually doing what he came to do. On Good Friday He gave His life, that we might live. It is such a huge story that we spend all year in Church expanding what it means. If it doesn't resonate with you as the most important thing in the world, dare I suggest you haven't yet worked it out for yourself?

All of us have fallen from God's standards, and most of us have fallen even by our own standards. You need to know the Messiah so that you might feel the forgiveness of God and start the abundant life God wants for you.

Many of our readers have abuse in their past. People have let us down, proved themselves unworthy of our trust, some have gone out of their way to cause us pain. All of us need to know the healing of God, to know he can help us to recover and rebuild, to feel safe and able to belong once again. Some have found themselves causing the hurt, and need God's help in learning to stop, and to find God's way forward. Church is one of the few places where we do not exclude guilty people. But what we have painfully learned is that we can't just forgive and forget. God ensures justice, but also forgives, and we are constrained to protect the vulnerable. This is why safeguarding is so important in Church. To show God's love to all, while protecting the vulnerable and putting restrictions on those who have abused others.

The Archbishop of Canterbury resigned because he didn't do all that he could have done to protect others. Some of our Church members find it hard to have to keep redoing their safeguarding training, but this whole episode shows us just how important this training is. Then we too, can look after the sheep of his sheepfold. Do pray for the Saviour's power in your own life, and ask this Christmas, that the Messiah will visit your life.

¹⁴ 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10)

Brian Leathers (November 2024)

A Warm Welcome to Sunday Services in December & January

Sunday 1st December (1st Sunday of Advent)

10.45am Family Holy Communion Revd. Chamil Fernando
With support from Andy & Marion Brown and Ian McFarlane

Sunday 8th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

10.45am Morning Prayer Revd. David Leese
With support from Margaret Balderson, Caroline Monroe and Paul Flint

Sunday 15th December (3rd Sunday of Advent)

10.45am All Ages Christingle Service led by Catherine Mellor
With support from Keziah Fernando, Carol Akers and Stephen Dunn

A Christingle service for all families and all ages. Everyone is welcome,

Sunday 22nd December (4th Sunday of Advent)

6.30pm A Service of '9 Readings & Carols'

Mayfield's annual 'Carols by Candlelight' service, with all your favourite carols and seasonal readings. Candlelit church with large screen hymns

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

2pm -2.30pm Nativity Play Revd. Chamil Fernando
11.15pm Midnight service of Communion Revd. Chamil Fernando
With support from Penny Chettle Jean Kennedy and Catherine Mellor

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

10.45 Christmas Day family communion, Revd Chamil Fernando
With support from Arnie Rainbow, Denise Roberts and Martin Balderson

Sunday 29th December (1st Sunday after Christmas)

10.45am Morning Prayer led by Lay Team
With support from Doug Greenaway and Charles Wimbush

Sunday 5th January - (2nd Sunday after Christmas)

10.45am Family Holy Communion Revd. Chamil Fernando
With support from Caroline Monroe, Margaret Mansfield, and Catherine Mellor

Sunday 12th January – (1st Sunday after Epiphany)

10.45am Morning Prayer led by Revd. Chamil Fernando
With support from Stephen Dunn, Catherine Mello and Diana Houghton

Sunday 19th January – (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)

10.45am Family Holy Communion led by Revd., Brian Leathers
With support from Paul Flint, Denise Roberts and Arnie Rainbow

Sunday 26th January - (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)

10.45am Morning Prayer Led by Revd. Chamil Fernando
With support from Panny Chettle, Elaine McCulloch and Charles Wimbush.

CHRISTMAS IN MAYFIELD

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH MAYFIELD CHURCH



CHRISTMAS WINDOWS - COME AND SEE

SATURDAY 7TH, FRIDAY THE 13TH & SATURDAY 21ST 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Viewing Mayfield's Christmas Church Windows is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. Villagers, parishioners and local groups will be busy decorating windows, and the church will be open for viewing between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on Saturday the 7th and then Friday the 13th and Saturday 21st as well as all the services listed below.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE SUN 15TH DEC 24TH 10.45AM

Come and bring your family to our Friendly Advent Christingle Service. Christingle is a joyful service that brings together families and our village community to share in the story of Jesus. A Christingle is an orange decorated with a red ribbon, sweets or dried fruit, and a candle on top. Come and receive your free Christingle and learn about the special meanings of each part and what they represent about Jesus at Christmas time. (Plus, there is a sweet treat for each child at the service.)



CHRISTMAS IN MAYFIELD

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH MAYFIELD CHURCH



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY, 22ND DECEMBER AT 6.30 P.M.



A very warm invitation is extended to all to join us at our Annual Carol Service, **Carols by Candlelight on Sunday, 22nd December at 6.30 p.m.** The lanterns will be lit and the church will be bathed in candlelight for this service of your favourite carols and nine lessons. And to help you along there is the traditional big screen with all the words up in front of you, no need to mess with carol sheets in low light. It's a real family occasion for all ages and is a beautiful way to start your Christmas celebrations.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES. TUES 24TH DEC 2pm Nativity Service, hosted by Revd. Chamil

It's the special service at Christmas for families and young ones; a short 30min Nativity service perfect for children and grandchildren hosted by our own minister Revd Chamil Fernando . The wonder of nativity is there for all in a service your children and grandchildren will be happy to come to and will remember all Christmas.

11.15 pm Midnight Communion

Our traditional midnight communion service that ushers in Christmas Day, a peaceful reflective communion on the most important night of the Church year

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE. WED 25TH DEC 10.45 Christmas Day Family Communion

Come and celebrate Christmas on Christmas morning in a short communion service full of Christmas hymns at 10.45am allowing people to return home in good time for family Christmas lunch.



CHRISTMAS IN MAYFIELD

MAYFIELD CHRISTMAS MARKET AND FAIR



It may have been held at the very end of November, but the spirit of Christmas was abroad in Mayfield or to be more precise at Mayfield's Church Christmas Market and Fair on Saturday 30th Nov. This is the event that kicks off our Christmas season and from the number of visitors who came to enjoy the many delights on offer it clearly was a very popular event in the village.

A record number of stall holders had set up shop in the church selling Christmas



items as well as many craft items and even before it officially opened at 10:30am customers were already coming in.

They were clearly delighted with what



they saw and purchased happily, from Christmas wreaths to Christmas crackers, soaps and toiletries through to handmade cards, and homemade Xmas decorations. There were knitted and crafted items of all sorts, art large and small as well as beautiful items carved from wood again both large and small.... And let's not forget the china and even dog treats for our canine friends that brought their owners in from their village walk.

And best of all, as people arrived at the church door the chill of Winter was replaced by the warmth of a delicious cup of Andrew's mulled wine!





Meanwhile all things foodie were on display in the Church Rooms, with delicious homemade cakes to tempt you. This was the place to come and chat whilst you had your coffee and biscuits and purchased your raffle tickets, both for the amazing hamper and other prizes donated by parish members, as well as the chance to win a beautiful fully iced Christmas cake.

And after all that there was Barbara Cole's famous lucky dip where everyone was a winner, and customers of all ages eagerly opened their lucky dip items to see just what they had won.





And then to top it all, and new this year, there was delicious Sri Lankan Street Food on offer in the Church Room car park, courtesy of friends of our minister Chamil Fernando. It added an international flavour to the event and after all that purchasing, satisfied the appetites of happy parishioners.

The Christmas Market and Fair raised much needed funds for our church but also acted as a community event bringing parishioners and villagers together and gave everyone a chance to acquire some real homemade Christmas goodies, both for presents and in terms of those cakes, to be eaten long before Christmas!



Our sincere thanks to everyone who took part in organising and volunteering for the Fair as well as all the people who displayed and sold their homemade craft goods in the church; and of course to everyone who came and spent so generously, As the magazine goes to press funds are still being totted up, so we will let you know in the next issue just exactly how much was raised. S.D

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It's the party of the year - if you are under 10! The Mayfield kids Christmas party. It's in the Memorial Hall on Sunday the 8th of December starting at 11:00 AM.

The cost is just £5 per child and free for the under-twos. If you have a connection to Mayfield and want your children or grandchildren to go email party@marna.org.uk with their names and ages. Limited number of tickets available so book early.

Remembrance in Mayfield - Sunday November 10th

Two Special Services held on Remembrance Sunday

It is a day in the life of our village that holds so much significance for so many people - Remembrance Sunday. People from all areas of village and all walks of life come together on this day to undertake an act of remembrance and this year that act was carried out in two ceremonies by traditional one at the church and in the churchyard and a new ceremony at the Memorial Hall.

After a very dismal period of weather, Remembrance Sunday dawned with a dry if



not misty morning and was a welcome sight to those who assembled at the gates of the MRA to form the parade to walk down to church. This is one of the traditions of the Remembrance Sunday Service with flags and wreaths paraded and carried, including 1st Mayfield Scouts proudly displaying their own flags and banners; all supported by families,

friends and villagers who marched in the parade to church. The Parade was led by the British Legion Banner carried by John Parker and representatives from the Parish Council, Memorial Hall, (Simon Sowter) Heritage Group (Bob Carlisle) and Friends of Mayfield (Mick Edge) all carrying poppy wreathes.





The procession assembled at the church door before joining the congregation and placing the flags and wreaths on the communion table. The first part of the service culminated in the reading out of the roll of honour of the fallen, plus remembering members of Mayfield and Clifton scouts who took part in the two world wars, before the observance of the two minutes silence. The congregation then moved out to the War Memorial for the final act of commitment.



Wreaths were laid; flags and banners were first lowered as trumpeter Tessa Pike, played the Last Post, to be raised again as Rouse was sounded.



And then, as the cold of a November day seeped into the congregation standing in the churchyard, it was off to church rooms for warm refreshments and homemade cakes provided by 1st Mayfield Scouts, with donations for such homemade treats going to scout funds.



Our Remembrance Day service is a beautiful, moving service that is appreciated by all ages, young & old reflecting just how important this service is to our village.

However this year it was not the only service of remembrance that took place within Mayfield.

Earlier in the year people in the village have been busy knitting quilting and crocheting poppies to create a unique display to be hung in the Memorial Hall directly next to the boards that list those in the village who took part in both world wars and of course those who gave their lives during those conflicts.

What started with a single person, Sharon Amy who wanted to do this for Mayfield quickly developed into

groups of people who knitted poppies both at home and in special sessions in the Memorial Hall and on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday a special service took place in the hall to bless those very poppies.



As at the morning service our minister Chamil Fernando lead the blessings in the hall and for the first time every poppy made was displayed, streaming down the wall next to the remembrance boards and spilling out over the floor.



It was a short service, starting with hymn, with the blessing of the poppies at its heart and concluding with prayers and of course the national anthem. In its own quiet way, it was as moving and poignant as the larger more traditional service in the morning. Mayfield remembered and did our soldiers proud. S.D.

OOMPah NIGHT- A GERMAN BEER FESTIVAL IN MAYFIELD

In previous years it's been known as Oktoberfest and indeed that's what it was advertised as this year, but as it was now taking place well into November on Saturday the 9th to be precise, it couldn't really be named after the month of the year so it gave this new title of OOMPah Night, presented by the Mayfield arms at the Memorial Hall.



However not to worry all the key items of a great Oktoberfest were in place, namely

- trestle tables and benches in true German style,
- a real life Oompah band,
- enough German lager and beer to float a small battleship and more
- A sold out audience of 160 people many of whom dressed for the occasion in traditional lederhosen...
-Oh and not forgetting, those all-important German steins for all that beer, a glass large enough for a litre of lager rather than a more measly pint of beer.

It all combined together to make for another great evening of fun and German beer drinking.



As per previous years the atmosphere was perfect and was helped along by the full German costumes worn, the many clinking of all those steins and plenty of audience participation with singalongs that got louder as the night went on plus of course the tradition of audience members coming up on stage to help the Oompah band perform.



Oktoberfest (sorry Oompah Night) was once again one of the busiest nights at the Memorial Hall and you could see why tickets sold out within days of going on sale. All that left to say is Cheers,, no sorry that's PROST!! S.D,

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Mayfield Parish Council

At the meeting on 4th November, The Friends of Mayfield confirmed that they were making an appeal against the decision not to award a Ward Enhancement Grant to Mayfield. We are still awaiting the result.

A group of parish councillors did a walk around part of the village to identify areas in need of attention. As a result of this, several problems have been reported to the County and Borough Councils. The Parish Council is arranging for small trees at the bottom of The Park, which are obstructing the pavement, to be cut back.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 2nd December at 7pm in the meeting room at Mayfield Memorial Hall. No meeting is planned for January but the Council will continue to meet at 7pm on the first Monday of the month until May.

Pamela Boura

Chairman

A personal invite to the Mayfield Christingle Service

At Mayfield Church on Sunday 15th December at 10.45am



A **FREE** christingle for every child in this family focused, child friendly service



Plus a Christmas chocolate for every child.

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Messy Church Unwraps Christmas

As is usual Messy Church met in the Church Rooms on Saturday 23 November, but at our winter time of 11.30.am-1.30.pm, to avoid the dark hours. And a super session it was too, with 9 children & 15 adults – a record attendance!



After a welcoming drink, the children took it in turns to unwrap 7 special presents (above) which reminded all of the magic & mystery of Christmas, with the baby Jesus being the greatest present of all.

Then, we decorated star biscuits, made prayer crackers, pinned the tail on the donkey & played the chocolate game.

After singing 'Little Donkey' & sharing a prayer, we sat down to a yummy lunch of roast turkey & stuffing in a roll, plus salad, prepared & served by Penny & her helpers, June & Janet, followed by a lovely assortment of cakes, lovingly made by our latest recruit Jean.



Careful attention is required to make a prayer cracker whilst a blindfold means a bit of help is required in getting the donkey lined up for its tail. Everyone enjoyed the chocolate game (below) – well with chocolate who wouldn't!



Our next Messy Church session is Saturday **25 January 11.30. -1.30.pm**, in the Church Rooms. (No meeting in December cos we have Christmas!). No charge, but any donations towards food & drink are appreciated.

Please join us for our second anniversary of our easy-going exploration of Christian teaching, celebration & fun. Great for all ages. It's church but not as you know it! You'll be very, very welcome. We guarantee you'll go home happy!

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My Month: Remembrance Day & The Battle of Childhood Poppies.

There has been one big event that has dominated our lives in the last month, both here in the village and across the wider nation and that is Remembrance Day.

It is an event that virtually every one of us has participated in, from attending two services within Mayfield, to watching the king and the royal family on television at the cenotaph in Whitehall (as the vast majority of our population did), through to the purchase and wearing off a poppy as an active remembrance all those that died in two world wars and beyond.

It becomes truly personal when you remember your own family and for the majority of people that was the Second World War; either for my age group our parents or uncles and aunts and for most younger adults in the village, a grandparent.

However, when you add in more recent conflicts that Britain has been involved in, in from Afghanistan to Iraq, to the Balkan wars, the chances are all of us know a relative or close friend who has served and put their lives at risk,

Add into that the current conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and Gaza and you can easily see why remembrance is so important to us, whatever age we are.

As you can see from other articles in this magazine our village did Remembrance Day proud. There was the traditional service on Sunday morning on the 10th of November starting with the parade of flags and wreaths from the recreation ground down Church Lane to the church itself, including 1st Mayfield scouts carrying their own banners and accompanied by many parishioners. The church service that followed is always very poignant with the reading of names of those who died in both world wars as those flags, banners and wreaths are displayed and placed on our communion table.

Then the service continued outside with the laying of the wreaths at the War Memorial, the playing of the Last Post and the lowering of the flags. And at that moment it all came home to you, the sacrifice people made, best summed up in Kohima epitaph spoken in the service; *When you go home, Tell them of us and say For your tomorrow, We gave our today.*

However, the clearest indication that remembrance is still an active part of our community is reflected in the current trend for knitting poppies and displaying them in and outside buildings across the country. And that sense of community is strong in Mayfield as people have been knitting poppies in the run up to the date, for display within the Memorial Hall next to the displays of names of those who served and died in the two world wars

For a small community the results were very impressive and to recognise these many selfless acts in our own community, a small service of blessing of the poppies took place on Remembrance Sunday afternoon in the Memorial Hall

where poppy knitters and organisers were thanked, a hymn was sung, the poppies were blessed and the national anthem sung at the conclusion of a touching service

Like many others on the day, I was truly moved by both services and, in particular, seeing young people actively involved both in terms of the scouts who paraded down carrying banners, as well as the children who attended both services, all proudly wearing poppies

And it was, whilst watching these children so intent on taking part in these services that my own childhood memories of previous Remembrance Day activities came back to me - different memories.....very different memories from those of Mayfield and not always one of peace and reconciliation that we associate with Remembrance Sunday.

Growing up as a young boy in the 1950s, Remembrance Sunday was something every single member of the community took part in, because every adult in that community had been through the Second World War either in the forces or at home doing their bit for the war effort.

Every child had a father, mother or aunt or uncle who was in the war, who had memories of it and wanted to march on Remembrance Sunday proudly wearing their medals and regimental caps and badges.

My first ever memory is aged 4 in 1956, when we lived in a 1st floor flat in a small Cotswold town. My father was proudly marching behind the flags to church on a street directly under our window.

My brother and I were considered too young to take part in the service, so we leant out of the window. with our mother holding on to us, ready to find and then wave at our father. With mother's help we spotted him in the crowd and frantically waved, shouting 'daddy. Daddy'. We were not alone, as other children and people were waving from windows and most of the veterans were happily waving back. However, my father, being an active service man still in the RAF and in full uniform kept on marching, eyes front focused on what he had to do and clearly doing it to show all the older veterans how it should be done.

Consequently he didn't look up, he didn't wave, and two little boys were left in tears - not the best start to memories of Remembrance Sunday; made worse by stand up argument my parents had when he returned from church and mother accused him of not understanding the needs of their children. You could say on that Remembrance Sunday another type of warfare was being conducted!

It got no better two years later when we had moved to a council estate very close to the town cemetery, where a separate afternoon parade took place comprising Veterans, servicemen and many local people who all marched up our road to join others and then go into the cemetery to the War Memorial. My brother and I were

up for this and wanted to march in the parade as did our mother. My father is not there, for as an active serviceman in the Cold War he was on the job protecting our nuclear bomber air bases. Not that we worried, he would have only told us how to march correctly and properly if he was there.

Our enthusiasm for the event meant that, like many other children on our estate we had made our own poppies, painting them on thin card, cutting them out and putting them onto our coats. Mother approved of such activity as it kept us busy a full day before Remembrance Sunday and it meant she only have to buy one poppy for her - money was tight in our household. To be honest our poppies were bit slapdash, badly drawn, paint splashed everywhere and not that accurately cut out - not like the poppies made by little Maureen a year younger than us who lived across the road, who has made neat beautifully drawn and painted poppies, better than the real paper poppies the adults had.

It should have been a wonderful day – unfortunately it was not. Firstly as we all waited before the parade - us children from the estate proudly showing off our handmade poppies, we were suddenly and soundly told off by my some old duffer for not buying poppies and donating money to the British Legion. He was in his late 60s dressed in full army uniform with lots of medals and to small children was big and scary and with a large grey moustache that made him look like a villain from a picture book. His telling off became a bit of a rant as the older boys and girls ignored him and eventually, he settled on me, my brother and little Maureen, who he scared so much that she burst into tears and collapsed on the ground sobbing her little heart out.

The reaction of the crowd was immediate; he was soon surrounded by the women of the estate, including my mother. Fighting the Bosch in WW1 was chicken feed compared to what he now had to deal with - the wrath of mothers of all ages including my own mother who showed him her poppy and told him exactly where he could go to for being so rude to children.

Years later, I learned, this old moustache man was a survivor of the First World War and a local poppy seller, but after that incident he was not welcome on our road or even our estate and had to ply his wares elsewhere in the town on future poppy days.

On the day, after the severe telling off from every housewife, he slouched off to another part of the parade, whilst little Maureen is picked up by her mother and cuddled whilst everyone around, including us boys, praised her for having the best poppies in the whole parade. At that point still in mother's arms, Maureen and all us children start to walk in the parade, thinking it can't get any worse - but it does!

As we near the Cemetery the rain starts to fall, first gently and then quite hard and then a veritable downpour. Some adults have umbrellas which they immediately put up, but we children are all OK because we're wearing hats and raincoats.

However, we forget our paper poppies painted in watercolours and stuck onto our coats, were fully exposed to the heavy rain.

By the time we get to the War Memorial the poppies are now sodden white card and the bright red watercolours have run and stained all our coats. This time it was our mothers who were almost crying at the thought of all the washing they had to do and would the colour stains come out of expensive overcoats.

It was a sad day for all the wrong reasons.

It did however get better. I never joined the scouts so I was never part of that parade, but as I got older, I learnt more about the war and my father was moved to an RAF station closer to my home so he could be with us every Remembrance Sunday. We now walked with him and met other veterans and learned about what they did in the war. It was helped enormously by our constant intake of war comics that boys loved and soon we knew of the big events of the war and we actually got to meet people who took part and were there. It was like someone from our comic books had come to life in front of us and added real meaning to the Remembrance Day parades.

Better still my father knew veterans from the First World War and we met one or two of them. They were nothing like the old duffer who told us off years before and they told stories of what they had done at an age not many years older than us. They also showed us mementoes of the trenches including brass shell cases turned into vases, drinking vessels and many other things. It was quite magical, and it was like having your own personal time machine that took you back 50 years to a time that seemed so different to our world.

My father kept up his Remembrance Day parade to the end of his life and for many years I was pleased to meet armed forces personnel who had a tale to tell.

Inevitably as we got older, we boys did not want to join the parade anymore, but we would come out of the house we had moved to in the centre of town, to stand and watch the parade go by and of course at 11:00am on the day itself we, as the nation did, took part in the two minutes silence.

And that brings me right up to date for this year the actual day of remembrance was on a Monday and at exactly 11:00am I was visiting someone in a care home.

The television was on, the BBC announced the two-minute silence and the normal chatter of people talking to relatives and friends ceased. Those who could stand and we all observed the two minutes silence together. It is quite remarkable that over 100 years since Remembrance Day was first started, it is still such an important part of our communal lives.

Until next Time Stephen Dunn

Mayfield Friday Club



The Friday club enjoyed a musical treat at end of November when Ashbourne U3A guitar club, who practise in the Memorial Hall, undertook their first ever concert for us and played and sang beautifully. In two sets, club members were treated to songs going back as far as the 1950s including classics ranging from Bob Dylan and Kris Kristofferson through to the Everly Brothers. It made for a good end to the year for our meetings in the Memorial Hall.

The Friday Club will be enjoying our Christmas Dinner at the Royal Oak on December 5th. 12noon for 12.30pm

Overall we have enjoyed a very good year with many interesting speakers, entertainers and trips out and we have welcomed some new members, but would still love to see more new faces coming through the door.

Thank you to Memorial Hall committee who have made us very welcome and special thanks to Alf who is very patient with us on leaving the hall. The club will commence on Friday February 7th 2025 at 2pm.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and New Year, stay safe.

Carol Akers



MEMORIAL HALL NEWS - COMING EVENTS CHRISTMAS AT MAYFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

It's going to be a great Christmas and New Year with loads of activities going on – check out our forthcoming events page further on in the magazine for full details but here are some highlights.

Sunday 1st Dec. Local Mayfield Band 'STATE OF MIND' are playing at the Memorial Hall from 6pm **FREE ENTRY** plus Sunday Bar. Don't Miss It!

Sunday 8th Dec It's the party of the year - if you are under 10! **The Mayfield Kids Christmas party** starting at 11:00 AM. The cost is just £5 per child and free for the under-twos. There is a magician, a party lunch and best of all Santa says he will come, bringing presents for all. Tickets £5.00 under 2's Free. Places are limited so reserve yours now. Email party@Marna.org.uk

Saturday 14th Dec ROCK NIGHT with Live music from AC/DShethe UKs only Female Fronted AC/DC tribute band doing Bon-era songs. So come along to Rock Night at the Mayfield Memorial Hall on Saturday 14 December. Doors open 7pm AC/DSh on at 8.30pm Just £5 on the door.

Tuesday 24th Dec Christmas Eve Community Bar..... The shopping's done, the turkey is stuffed, and the presents wrapped. Now it's some me time with a drink or two to wish Santa well on his big night. What better place to spend it than at the Memorial Hall where a special Christmas Eve bar opens at **2:00pm - 8:00pm on 24th Dec**. Bring family, bring friends, bring neighbours to wish each other the best of the season.

And then the big one..... Celebrate The New Year in Style with the

NEW YEARS EVE FAMILY PARTY

at the Memorial Hall on **TUESDAY 31st DEC 7.30pm – 1.00am**. There is a raffle, games, fancy dress, (optional), prizes and an entrance ticket draw prize;

Tickets are only £8.00 for adults and £4.00 for children and Sunday Club Members are Free of Charge.

We expect there will be high demand for this party so it will be **TICKETS IN ADVANCE ONLY** and **regretfully there will be No admission on the door**. Tickets ARE available at Memorial Hall Bar to buy and collect in advance or ring Simon 01335 343229 or Graham 07341 335479 to reserve and then collect.

Mayfield Memorial Hall

Forthcoming events

Mayfield Arms Sunday Openings. 2pm -7pm
1st 8th 15th 22nd & 29th Dec. & 5th 12th 19th & 26th Jan.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY DEC 2024/ JAN 2025

**Mondays 2nd 9th 16th Dec. 6th 13th 20th 27th Jan Line Dancing
7pm-9pm.**

**Tuesdays 3rd 10th 17th Dec. 7th 14th 21st 28th Jan Indoor Bowls
10.30am-12.30am**

**Fridays Mayfield Friday Club 2pm - 4pm Next Meeting 7th Feb
Everyone is welcome including non members.**

Sunday 1st Dec. Live music Local Mayfield Band 'STATE OF MIND' 6pm FREE ENTRY plus Sunday Bar. Don't Miss It!

**Sunday 8th Dec - Mayfield Kids Christmas Party – 11am – 1pm.
Magic Show, Santa, Party Tea & more. Tickets £5.00, under 2s
free Tickets: e-mail: party@Marna.org.uk.**

**Saturday 14th Dec ROCK NIGHT with Live music from AC/DShe
Doors open 7pm AC/DShe on at 8.30pm Just £5 on the door.**

**Sat. 21st Dec. Country Music Club Xmas Party with Dave Lesley.
Doors open 7pm artist on 8.30pm £5 admission.**

**Sunday 22nd Dec. Live music Shan Gough 6pm FREE ENTRY plus
Sunday Bar. Don't Miss It!**

Friday 24th Dec Christmas Eve Bar 2pm -8pm

NEW YEARS EVE FAMILY PARTY

**Tuesday 31st Dec . New Years Family Party 7.30pm – 1.00am
TICKETS £8 (Child £4) IN ADVANCE ONLY (No admission on door)
Tickets available at Memorial Hall Bar (Pay and Collect)**

Christmas Comes Early to Mayfield



Christmas suddenly came early to Mayfield when the village had a significant amount of snow falling in just one night in late November. Early forecasts predicted it would only be the High Peak that would have significant snowfall but Mayfield woke up on the morning of Tuesday 19th Nov and it could have been Christmas Morning - the sort you find in Children's books with snow 'Deep and Crisp and Even'. It was then followed by two frosty days that kept the snow firmly in place.



The village was transformed into a winter wonderland for a couple of days and Church Mayfield resident Jean Kennedy was out with a camera photographing the church and its surrounding area with snow draped beautifully on buildings, trees and fields alike.

However, just as quickly as the snow came it went to be replaced once again with more seasonal rain that you get in November along with dull dark days

We can but hope these beautiful snowy scenes will be repeated once again right over the Christmas time. (when we are all safely at home or have reached our Xmas destinations of course!)





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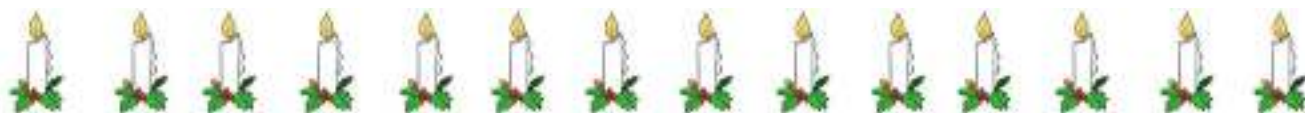
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER AT 6.30P.M.



MAYFIELD'S CHRISTMAS TREAT OUR ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A SPECIAL

A SERVICE OF FAVOURITE CAROLS AND NINE LESSONS

A very warm invitation is extended to all to join us at our Annual Carol Service, **Carols by Candlelight on Sunday, 22nd December at a 6.30p.m.** The lanterns will be lit, and the church will be bathed in just candlelight for this very service of your favourite carols and nine lessons. With the carols displayed on the big screen for easy reading and singing, it is a real family occasion for all ages and a beautiful way to start your Christmas celebrations. Don't miss it!

ALL ARE WELCOME



December Wordsearch!



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS DONKEY JESUS NATIVITY
PRESENTS SPROUTS TREE TURKEY STUFFING
NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS HOGMANAY EPIPHANY
BURNS NIGHT HAGGIS SNOW WINTER

Monthly Sillies

What says 'oh oh oh'? Santa walking backwards!
How do we know Santa is good at karate? Because he has a black belt!
Who beats his chest and swings between Christmas cakes? Tarzipan!
What happens if you eat the Christmas decorations? You get tinsel-itus!
What is green, covered in tinsel and says 'ribbet ribbet'? Mistle-toad!
Who delivers Christmas presents to cats? Santa Claws
What Christmas carol do they sing in the desert? Camel ye faithful
What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve

Colour Me In!



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All Saints Day - Memorial Service Remembering those who have Died



It is one of the most poignant and thoughtful church services of the year. The Memorial Service is the one nearest to All Saints Day, and this year was on Sunday 3rd November, the day where Mayfield held a special memorial service for all those who have died and gone before and where everyone had the chance to remember a loved one and light a candle in their name.

Whether you had come to remember a loved one who had passed in the last year or those who are still held close in your memory, it was a chance to pay your respects and show your love for all those who have meant so much to us all.

It was a quiet and peaceful service where the names were read out and family and friends came up to the table in the chancel to light a candle in their name.

It is on occasions like these that the village is proud to have a church at its very heart. S.D.

White Peak Nordic Walking.

If you're planning to get fit in, then I've got a variety of Nordic Walking classes to help you achieve your goals, no matter your age or fitness level. The walks are mostly 1 hour (three miles or less), with varied terrain that will help build your stamina. There are plenty of beautiful views too, which provide the perfect motivation to head outside and get active..



After lockdown we started group sessions again in small groups of 5 clients and 1 instructor. Clients have their own pair of Nordic Walking poles. We carry wipes and hand sanitising gel and ask clients to do the same. While walking we are social distancing with staying Poles Apart.

Power of Poles intro course. Find out how to use fitness walking poles to achieve the results YOU want. So, if you're keen to come out with us, you can be sure we will do our best to make it a safe and rewarding experience. If you have been enjoying your daily walk and are looking to learn about the Power of Poles, please give me a call.

For details contact: **White Peak Nordic Walking:** Janneke Gorzeman 07469895267.

Janneke@nwukwhitepeak.co.uk Or book now: www.nwukwhitepeak.co.uk

Mobile Library Service Dates for Nov, Dec 2024 & Jan, Feb 2025

The library comes to Mayfield on Tuesday 5^h & 19th Nov, 3rd 17th & 31st Dec, 14th & 28th Jan & 11th & 25th Feb at the junction of Mayfield Avenue and The Crescent from 10.30 to 10.45 am

MAYFIELD VILLAGE WEBSITES

Mayfield's Church website

www.mayfieldparishchurch.org

Mayfield Memorial Hall

www.mayfieldmemorialhall.org.uk

Mayfield Heritage Group

www.mayfieldheritage.org.uk

_Mayfield Parish Council

www.mayfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

MARNA. <https://marna.org.uk/>.

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Mayfield Film Review by Tom Crawford

Every publication worth its salt needs a film review and this magazine is no exception. So we present in a new feature, a review of the very latest films by our own film critic Tom Crawford, who is a regular visitor to our village. To kick us off Tom has been to see a much-awaited sequel!

Gladiator II

“Are you not entertained?” screamed Russell Crowe, (Maximus), at the baying mob that made up the audience of the Roman Arena in Gladiator. Yes! was the answer then. Let’s see this time around.

Gladiator II takes up 16 years after Gladiator ends with the death of Maximus in the Colosseum. In fact, the main narrative of this film feels very like a history lesson, (not that kind of history lesson), rather the history that was Gladiator, a movie that won a Best Picture Oscar in 2001, and deservedly so.

This vexes me, I’m terribly vexed. Because who hasn’t seen Gladiator, (at least 10 times), hence why the history lesson?

Paul Mescal, the saviour of Lockdown Television drama Normal People plays the lead role this time around, and is ably supported by Denzel Washington playing his mentor, Macrinus. The great Derek Jacobi is back playing the cagey Roman Senator, Gracchus, and Connie Neilsen is back as Lucilla the Emperors daughter from G1.

Rome has gone to hell in a handcart since a dying Maximus ordered the Senate to give it back to the people, and is now ruled by psychotic twin brother Emperors, Geta & Caracalla, one of whom looks a lot like Ed Sheeran.

Matt Lucas, (Little Britan), and Tim McInnerny, (Captain Darling from Blackadder), add a little unintentional camp humour to the proceedings. In fact my mind kept wandering off to Monty Python-esq scenes and Carry On type panto.

There is a plot of sorts, and the fight scenes and action are all good. At 2hrs 28mins it doesn’t feel overly long either.

Its not a movie that stands on its own two legs, rather the shoulders of its predecessor, and that’s a shame. A lot of flashback scenes to G1 are used throughout. It’s rarely a sequel betters its predecessor, and here is no exception.

So, what have the Romans done for us? Well, entertained us I suppose, but not to the same extent as the first Gladiator film. Still, I’m sure there’s life left in the old dog yet. How about Gladiator The Musical. Maybe Ed Sheeran could write it?

Tom Crawford



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NEW YEARS EVE

FAMILY PARTY



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ADULTS £8.00 CHILDREN £4.00
[Sunday Club Members Free of Charge]

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Pilates Beginners Course Comes to Mayfield.

A new Pilates course for complete beginners comes to Mayfield Memorial Hall this January. We asked Carmela, the course leader, who is a qualified teacher with 23 years' experience, just exactly what Pilates is, why it's so good and how a complete beginner can gain a benefit from it.

'Pilates is a unique and brilliant no impact exercise regime, that is so effective when practiced correctly. The benefits are tremendous and can affect your quality of life. It is suitable for everyone regardless of fitness level, age, size, or any other factors.

It takes its name from Joseph Pilates who devised the Pilates method as a new approach to exercise and body-conditioning in the early decades of the last century. It focuses on improving strength, stability, mobility, flexibility, balance, coordination breathing and posture through a series of simple controlled movements that coordinate and strengthens the deeper muscles of the core, which we are familiar with as abdominal muscles, lower back, hips and buttocks. Pilates aligns your entire body's overall structure and supports its joints. It helps you move and breathe through your daily activities with more freedom and power and less pain.

Benefits of Pilates

- * **Increases Core Strength** - The centre of your body from which all movement stems, that when strengthened and pliable, support and stabilise the body.
- * **Improves Posture** - Improved posture is the difference between weak, imbalanced muscles, headaches, shoulder or back pain, and sitting or standing tall with ease.
- * **Improves Flexibility & Mobility** - Flexibility is the amount of stretch in a muscle. Mobility is the range of motion. Good mobility requires flexibility but also strength.
- * Improves Balance
- * **Boosts your Immunity System**
- * **Decreases Back Pain**

Pilates targets the deeper abdominal muscles, the pelvic floor and the back passage to contract and release simultaneously.— a true sign of strength. These muscles work like a brace to lift and support the organs and protect and stabilise the back. This can

- * Prevent Injury
- * Increase Energy
- * Enhance Body Awareness
- * Decrease Stress
- * Improve Cognitive Functioning
- * Strengthen Bones
- * Boosts your Mood

6 key principles have been drawn out of The Pilates exercise philosophy and are used to continue practicing the 'Pilates Method' all over the world!

These 6 Pilates Principles are

1. Breathing

Pilates believed that breathing is the most important part of exercise and that people should learn the art of deep breathing.

Fill your lungs until they feel full and then exhale all the air back out, and that helps you to focus on the exercise and pushes the blood to your muscles.

2. Concentration

If you focus and become more mindful of each movement, you will get the most out of each exercise.

It improves the connection between your mind and body and gives you a better awareness of your body's movements.

3. Centering

Pilates called the core the 'powerhouse' of your body, from where all energy for exercise comes from.

If you focus on your core, you can not only calm your body and your spirit, but help your muscles work more efficiently.

4. Control

Controlling and pacing your movements will allow you to direct every movement with correct form. Proper, safe and complete muscle control is better for getting good results than speed and high intensity.

5. Precision

Performing an exercise with deliberate accuracy is more important than doing lots of repetitions with sloppier form.

6. Flow

Each movement in Pilates should be smooth and graceful.

Continuous, smooth and elegant movement as you work from one pose, exercise or movement to another helps increase your strength and stamina.

Come and join me for this new beginners course and gain all the benefits that Pilates can offer you .

Camela

Pilates Complete Beginners Course

With Carmela, qualified teacher with 23 years experience in the unique and brilliant method of Pilates, 35 years experience in health and fitness. I will teach and guide you to achieving a strong core, stabilising muscles, improving flexibility, balance, muscular endurance, correct controlled movement throughout the body and improve your posture.

At Mayfield Memorial Hall

Commencing Wednesday 8th January 2025 10am till 11am. An 8 week Course
Price £88 Booking is essential, limited places. For further information please
contact Carmela Email Carmela.dafflitto@gmail.com Mobile 07973921722

MAYFIELD TREASURE HUNT

Back in October we published details of the Great Mayfield Treasure Hunt that was taking place over the October half term inviting children to go around the village working out answers from a special list of Mayfield related questions.

The treasure hunt was undertaken by families as well as children and by even some more mature residents of the village all of whom went around Mayfield to work out exactly the answers to those intriguing questions.



Then on Sunday the 3rd November prizes were handed out, as well as free soup and rolls at Mayfield Memorial Hall. As our picture shows, it was a real family occasion for many people. And if you're wondering just exactly how many eggs you can buy for £1.20 at the Alder Carr farm shop or just exactly how many wooden steps the red slide has at Kinver Close, you can find all the answers to the questions on the next page. Thanks go to MARNA and The Memorial Hall for funding the prizes and food.

MAYFIELD TREASURE HUNT

ANSWERS

1. Alder Carr Farm, Church Lane: How many eggs can you buy for £1.20? **6**
2. Mayfield Church: On the war memorial plaque, whose name is listed third? **Timothy Blood**
3. Mayfield Vicarage: How many windows does the front of the vicarage building have? **12**
4. Conygree Lane: What time on Saturday morning does the post box in Mayfield Yarns wall get collected? **7am**
5. Playing Fields: According to the sign, what year were Mayfield Panthers established? **2001**
6. Playground: What colour is the noughts and crosses board?
Green
7. Pavillion: What 3 letters are printed on the pavilion doors? **MRA**
8. Outdoor Gym: What colour are the seats of the outdoor gym equipment? **Red/burgundy**
9. Sycamore Road: How many trees are on Sycamore Road green? **4**
10. Moorlands Drive: What are these missing letters from the Moorlands Drive sign? **DE6 2LP**
11. Kinver Close: On the playground, how many wooden steps does the red slide have? **6**
12. Henry Prince School: What is the school phone number displayed on the sign? **01335 342613**
13. Memorial Hall: What colour is the clothing bank? **Pink**



Prizes kindly donated by
MARNA & Mayfield Memorial Hall

Residents in Mayfield have received information about changes to the garden waste brown bin collection service. In case anyone has missed this important change we give the information below.



Important Changes to Your Garden Waste Collection Service

East Staffordshire Borough Council is introducing an annual charge for collecting garden waste. This will be introduced on an opt-in subscription basis, so only those households that use the service will be required to pay for it. The annual cost will be £40 per bin reduced to £35 per bin if you subscribe before 31st January 2025. We can also offer a 50% concession for some people on means tested benefits.

Your last free collection will take place during week commencing 9th or 16th December 2024 (for the exact date please refer to your collection calendar at www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/collection-dates).

Thereafter, if you would like to have your brown bin emptied, you must sign up to the new subscription service each year. This service will provide you with a fortnightly collection, commencing in late January and finishing in mid-December each year. To ensure you don't miss out, you can sign up in advance for the garden waste service at www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/garden-bin-subscription

As Xmas approaches, we reprint a tale that many of us can relate to when the festive season and families sometimes don't mix well.

My Month 2 – The Wrong Present

Welcome to December..... and an immediate rant about what's happened to the year; *"It seems only just yesterday it was summer and only the day before that that we were welcoming in New Year at the Memorial hall party and now we are buying Christmas presents all over again, where has the year gone to...etc etc"* That little conversation was overheard in a supermarket queue just days ago and I swear to god I instinctively looked around expecting to find my mother bending the ear of another shopper of similar age and ilk – I guess some things never change whatever the age. Indeed the year has gone fast and we are now at the point of organising Christmas and buying presents and I have to confess as a male of the species, I have not yet bought one single present – typical!

I say I haven't bought any but I have been looking and I am keen to buy presents that I know the recipient will really want – for me to buy a wrong present is well - just wrong. My so called "friends", have little sympathy with my agonising over just what to buy. "Give cash or gift vouchers" are the two most common responses when I tell people of my problem – closely followed by *"Well just buy it from a high street store, include the receipt and let them decide whether to replace it or juts get the money back"* – again in my mind it's a copout.

Now clearly none of us want to get a duff present and let's hope at the end of this month you get good ones but let's be honest there is a fair chance you will get a wrong one and as you can tell from my desire to get the act of gift giving right I am no exception. I have had a few stinkers in my time (and yes I admit, cash, vouchers or a receipt included would have helped). However one wrong present sticks out like no other, a book given to me by my father.

This book was a present apparently given in "error" for the one I specifically asked for, but it was a present that represented an ongoing war between father and son of thoughts, ideas and in my fathers case a fervent belief that remained with him right up to his demise some 30 years later. And this earth shattering book – a heretical religious tract perhaps, a political call to arms and manifesto or, a counter-cultural handbook? No it was an art book, an art book in fact on the painter Rembrandt when an art book on the painter Renoir had been requested.

It was my first year at university in London and my mother had written to me to ask if there was anything special I wanted for Christmas. I had just seen an exhibition of Impressionist paintings at the National Gallery; was indeed "impressed" and wrote back requesting a book on Renoir, one of the leading lights of that late 19th Century art movement. Consequently I was somewhat surprised upon opening the book shaped present on Christmas Day to find not a book on Renoir with bright and light impressionistic paintings of landscape and people all lit

by a golden French sun, but a book of dark, dull portraits and group paintings by a Dutchman, painted some 200 years earlier without, it seemed, a sunbeam in sight.

Recognising my obvious confusion and slight bewilderment as I turned the dark and gloomy pages, mother asked if it was OK and as requested. When the many and multiple differences were explained, she responded with a cheery *“Well its still a book by an artist beginning with R, isn’t it?”* followed by *“Are you sure you didn’t want the other fellow – I gave your letter to your father to go and buy the book”*..... and then it all fell into place. Art was father’s domain of knowledge within the Dunn household and he held firm views on what qualified as art and what did not.

I turned to father to speak and mother got that look of “oh no here we go again” (a lot more common look from Mother now that sons were adult men in a household with my dad). But before I could utter a word my father, cheeks visibly flushed, spoke up, *“I made no mistake, I’ve chosen to give him a book on a real painter, not some Frenchman who can’t even paint people properly let alone a decent landscape, that’s not what I call painting..... its that university I blame.”*

As you can most probably tell no tears or tantrums followed this exchange as I was no longer a child looking up to his father, but a young man of 20, home from university spouting ideas and thoughts that were apparently, as alien to my father as if I came home a member of the communist or Nazi party. I remembered I forced a smile, thanked him for the present and said that was a shame as he unfortunately was not going to enjoy his set of French Impressionist beer glasses complete with Renoir pictures, (not true he had a set of drills) and that I had lost the receipt. Father went out one living room door and me the other, with mother left saying *“oh you two when will you stop arguing!”*

Christmas lunch was a frosty affair that year although by the time of the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special that evening a Christmas truce had broken out between the warring factions and we had climbed out of our trenches, if not to play football, at least to talk and drink a bottler of beer.

Father sort of apologised - well actually that’s not true. My father was one of those men of his generation, (who you still occasionally meet today), who find it simply impossible to say the word sorry. Part of their male ego will not let them utter those simple but powerful words so an excuse has to be found.

Father’s excuse was that he *“simply could not find a book on Renoir so I thought you would enjoy a book on Rembrandt who was after all a proper painter”*. I responded with an element of surprise, *“That’s odd, for I spotted a book on Renoir in the window of Baileys (the local bookshop) when I returned from university last week”* (I hadn’t of course but if he could play with the truth then so could I). I pushed home my advantage; if father liked Rembrandt so much *“would he like to borrow and keep the book after I read it”*, I enquired. *“No thanks”* was his reply *“I have already looked at it, that’s why I know it’s so good.”* This was turning into a

game of verbal tennis with point scoring a priority (now running at 30 all). *“And I thought your favourite artist was Constable,”* I retorted *“has an Englishman now been replaced by a Dutchman?”* (40 love to me) *“Certainly not”* was the instant reply, *“English artists are the best but Rembrandt and the Dutch are certainly better than other European artists such as the French”*. (Deuce)

And at this point the umpire, my mother, steps in *“For pity’s sake stop it you two, I can’t hear Eric and Ernie and they’re about to do Ernie’s play with Glenda Jackson!”* The game was abandoned.

It was not always like this and in fact as a child art, paintings and drawing brought me closer to my father, not further apart. Art had always attracted me from my youngest years, when children draw all the time. I was actively encouraged in this interest by my father who still drew and painted watercolours as an adult. He saw my child like interest in drawing as a sign that here was a son that would follow his natural interest in drawing, painting and the finer arts.

As with any child I was naturally attracted to bright colours and scenes of people and objects I recognised. We had such bright fun art on the walls at school and I had lots of bright colourful artwork in the many Ladybird books I read and collected. My father, noticing I liked to look at pictures and recognising an interest he thought I might share with him, endeavoured to undertake to educate me as to what art was. Unfortunately my father’s taste in art was the opposite of mine and he was no natural teacher. His aim was to introduce me to what he called “proper art”, old oil paintings by old masters., Unfortunately his main introduction was by showing me grainy black and white photos in our family encyclopaedias, where only a few pictures were in colour (colour plates, they called them inserted into the book often pages away from the article they were meant to illustrate.

After a weekend meal, when normally I would have to help wash and dry up, mother would suddenly beam at me, saying, *“No chores for you today our Steve, you go and sit with you father instead and learn all about that art that you two like so much”*. (I now suspect this was after she had read one of those “extra home schooling – how to make learning fun and help your child get on” articles found in her Woman’s Realm magazine. I was then shown dreary pictures of olden times together with a meaningless lecture on a particular point it illustrated in history - it meant nothing to a young boy. I sat patiently as long as I could, before father let me go and play and so his teaching fell on fallow ground.

My interest in art continued however and blossomed when I discovered Pop Art and psychedelic posters when a young teenager and then crucially discovered impressionist painters when in art classes at grammar school. These bright, colourful, out of focus and not quite real paintings by Monet, Renoir and my then streets ahead favourite, Van Gogh burst into life for me. The fact that this was the swinging sixties and Van Gogh paintings of swirly stars, so well captured in singer Don McLean’s song “starry, starry night,” made you think old Vincent was on drugs when he painted it, certainly added to its overall coolness for me and my fellow pupils.

I willingly shared my discovery with my father by bringing home a full colour art book on the Impressionists from the School Library. Unlike the Jimi Hendrix and Beatles psychedelic posters I had, these were by real artists, exhibited in museums and art galleries and not just on teenage boy's bedroom walls.

You already know what my father's reaction was to be but at the time it rather shocked me that he could be so dismissive about so much of art. In simple terms my father knew what he liked and liked what he knew. Paintings had to look like what they were, a landscape must be an accurate reflection of what you could see, and people, well people unless royalty or military figures did not really count. Painters to be acceptable had to be A. Dead and B. British. John Constable was his favourite painter and landscapes and seascapes his favourite type of picture and everyone and everything else paled into insignificance.

No argument, rational or otherwise, would change his views and despite a teenage boy's natural delight in arguing and winding up their father, by the time I reached the sixth form at school I eventually gave up and a shared interest disappeared. How far we had drifted in the three years between sixth form and first year at university became only visible that Christmas.

I went back to college in the January – minus the book purposely left at home, feeling I needed to patch up the relationship somehow. The opportunity came four months later when father who, unlike my mother, had not visited me in London since I started university announced he was coming up for a day on a Saturday to go out with me and do the sights. The sights for father were the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace etc, etc and surprisingly for him, feeding the pigeons in Trafalgar Square.

I knew what I had to do. I arranged a bus and tube tour ending up in Trafalgar Square mid-afternoon. At the top of the square is the National Gallery home of the nation's painting collection, including many of those impressionist paintings he did not like but also home to his favourite painter John Constable. I suggested we climb the stairs to the gallery doors to get a birds eye view of Trafalgar Square and then suggested as it was mid-afternoon we get a cup of tea in the cafe. We go into the café next to the gift shop where postcards are on display. *"Would you look at that"*. I point out, *"there are postcards of Constable paintings they have here. Dad have you been to the National before, have you seen the Constable paintings?"* Of course he had was the reply (although he was decidedly vague on the details), *"Had I seen them?"* Yes of course I had, as a student in London with no money, the National Gallery was free, dry and warm – it was full of students like me and I had been all over it discovering art and keeping dry and warm in a wet London winter. However I did NOT say this to father but indicated I hadn't discovered the Constables yet. *"Should we go now?"* I say. And so after a pot of tea that's just what we did. I walked father to the appropriate gallery via paintings he might know or would at least not put him off. The National Gallery have only 6 paintings by Constable but amongst them are his very best including the nations

all-time favourite painting “The Hay Wain”. By a miracle of luck when we got to the painting no crowds were in front of it and seats opposite were available.

My father was transfixed, saying nothing; first walking up to the painting and then coming to sit down in the seat I saved for him. I honestly believe it was the first time he had seen this big six foot painting in the flesh. We stayed over an hour in that one gallery looking at all of Constables paintings and then another of fathers favourites Turner's “Fighting Temeraire”. My father's taste in art may have been limited by tradition and country but boy did he love it. “Bonding” might be too strong a word to describe what happened as we quietly sat and looked at those paintings but we did find mutual respect in that gallery on that day – father even had a kind word to say about the Renoirs as we walked past them on the way out to the tube, the railway station and his trip home to Gloucestershire.

My mother however had no kind words to say to me when I rang her a week or so later. “*What have you done to him?*”? Father had not stopped talking for a week about his trip to London, the National Gallery and Constables paintings. “*Isn't that's a good thing mother,*” “*No it is not when he's gone and ordered a flipping Constable painting for the living room.*” My father in a fit of artistic appreciation had gone and bought Constable's Hay Wain! Not having the surname Rockefeller he had avoided the original he so carefully admired in the gallery, but had bought a framed print he had seen in the back of the Daily Express, “overlaid with artistic varnished brushstrokes to recreate the majesty of the original...Made in China”

Two months later upon returning from university for the summer I beheld his acquisition. It was truly and magnificently awful. The print itself of the Hay Wain was not bad but over it an unnamed Chinese “artist” had painted big swirls of brushstrokes in clear varnish to imitate the original oil paints. However as he had, unlike my father, never seen the original it bore no resemblance to Constables work. Ironically the big swirls of varnish looked remarkably like a copy of a Renoir, Monet or especially a Van Gogh painting. It was as if someone had merged The Hay Wain with Van Gogh's Starry, Starry Night.

The painting was above our small cottage fireplace in the dining room – it was so big, almost as big as the original, that this was the only space large enough to take it. You felt you had to knock down the wall behind you to get enough space to view it! Still father could see no wrong in his personal masterpiece – the fact that mother could see wrong, every time she eat a meal was by the by. Me, playing the diplomatic role, said nothing. Father and I had now come to our peace settlement and I was not going to break it for a dodgy print of a painting.

So this year may you only receive presents you want and presents that make you happy. Should you however get a book on Rembrandt that you don't want or don't like, don't look at me to take it off your hands, for although I have come to appreciate the Dutchman's style over the years, I still have that wrong present and frankly want no more!

Until next time. Stephen Dunn

Carols Recipes for December/ January

Cheesy Lentil Bake

This is lovely served either hot or cold and a good way of using the lentils lurking at the back of the cupboards.

INGREDIENTS

2 carrots, peeled and coarsely grated
1 onion finely chopped
2 cloves of garlic finely chopped
200gms dried red lentils
600ml vegetable stock
100gms grated cheddar cheese (plus extra for topping)
2 slices of bread roughly grated into breadcrumbs
Salt and Pepper

METHOD

Heat a drizzle of oil into a large non stick pan, add carrot and onion, stir and fry on medium heat for about 5mins, add garlic for the final minute

Stir in the red lentils before adding a little boiled stock. Bring to the boil. Keep adding stock a little at a time. Only add more when the stock has been absorbed. Stir regularly so it doesn't stick.

It should take around 15 -20 minutes for lentils to be cooked and the stock absorbed.

Heat oven to 180/170 Gas reg 3/4

Add grated cheese and breadcrumbs.

Season with salt and pepper and stir until the cheese has melted and the breadcrumbs have disappeared

Line an ovenproof dish with greaseproof paper.

Place the mixture in the dish and gently press it down.

Sprinkle the extra grated cheese over the top.

Bake in the oven about 30mins

Leave to firm up a little before lifting with the paper out of the dish and cutting it into pieces

Mincemeat Cake

This is a new recipe I have tried and it has been well received and it also freezes well. If you have some old mincemeat it can soon come to life with a drop of brandy or orange juice mixed in.

It fits a 16 x26cms tray or an 8in square tray.

INGREDIENTS

200gms SR Flour
159gms Castor or Icing Sugar
1 tsp. Mixed Spice

1 tsp. Ginger Spice
150gms very soft Butter or baking spread
3 lge eggs
250gms mincemeat

METHOD

Preheat Oven to 170/fan160 gas 3

Add all ingredients to your bowl and mix well. This will be quite a sloppy mix. Pour into your parchment lined tin and bake for 30-35 minutes. Enjoy.

Let it go completely cold before you cut into desired pieces and if you don't care for pastry you will get your mincemeat kick.

Carol Akers

USED CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Please save your postage stamps, I am still collecting them for the Royal
Blind Association.

Give them to your Church Magazine Distributor.

Thank you so much

Carol Akers

Mayfield Book Club

The October book was Trio by William Boyd, when I see the name William Boyd I straight away think of the actor who played the cowboy Hopalong Cassidy in the TV series back in the Fifties, yes I am that old but I loved it.

Back to the book, which is set in Brighton in the 1960s. It follows the lives of a once famous writer, Elfrida Wing, who has writers block but relies on alcohol and is married to a director of a film being shot, who is having an affair. The producer, Talbot Kydd is a married genial man who is unsure about his own sexuality after the recent law reform decriminalizing homosexuality. The star of the film, Anny Viklund, is a beautiful American up and coming star.

All the characters are entwined in the story and there are many twists and turns along with some lighthearted moments

The group enjoyed the story although there were many names to remember, I enjoyed the book but compared to my Hopalong Cassidy days I wouldn't like to say.

Carol Akers

A Christmas Message

This is a favourite poem of mine, a message that tells us how to behave to one another and ourselves. To have faith that the universe has our back and a set of principals by which to live a good life. Legend has it that it was written by an anonymous author in 1692 and was found in Old St Paul's Church in Baltimore.

I like to think this is true, but if so it has been updated since, but I'm sure the true essence of the original remains.

Some of you may remember that it was a big hit, part set to music by Les Crane in 1971. Perhaps some of the lines still resonate with you to this day as they have always done with me.

Wishing you a beautiful Christmas and everything you wish for in the New Year

Fran Carlisle

Desiderata - Words for Life

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.
As far as possible without surrender
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons,
they are vexations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.
Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.
Especially, do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love;
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.
Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful.
Strive to be happy.

Articles for the February 2025 Issue of the Magazine.

We always welcome articles for the magazine, both from Mayfield itself and the surrounding villages. However, due to holiday and work commitments to ensure your article is published in our next joint issue,

February 2025

it must be submitted at the earlier date of Monday 20th January AT THE LATEST.
Articles and information submitted beyond that date may not be published.

You can submit articles by email to our editors. Stephen Dunn Email:
s.w.dunn@btconnect.com Tel. 342188 or contact me to deliver them by hand.

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The Mayfield Recreational Association (MRA)

Lotto for November 2024

...and the winner is No. 84 who

wins £100!

If you would like 12 chances a year to win £100 please join the Lotto and help support the MRA

It costs just £25 to join the Lotto for a year, and you have twelve chances to win around £100. Please consider joining – without you and others like you, the MRA would struggle to keep going.

- When you join you are allotted a number for the year (or two numbers if you pay £50).
- The Lotto draw is held every month.
- If, for example, 100 people join the Lotto, each paying £25 for a year, then each month the winning number will amount to half the total subs for that month, i.e. half of $100 \times £25$ divided by 12 = £104. In other words, the winner gets half and the real winner, the MRA, gets the other half – a very good local cause.

To pay online or to set up a standing order, please use: sort code: 30 90 25, account no: 00198474, account name: Mayfield Recreational Association. Please let the MRA know that you have joined and your address – email treasurer@mramayfield.org.uk.

To send a cheque make it payable to Mayfield Recreational Association and send to: Andrew Reay-Robinson, The Cliff, Leek Road, Upper Mayfield, DE6 2HR.

Thank you!



About the MRA

The Mayfield Recreational Association is a registered charity, number 700004. It provides sporting and social amenities to the people and clubs of Mayfield.

**For more information see our website
mramayfield.org.uk**



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Christmas Reflections 2024

In the shops you hear the familiar Christmas tunes and see the food and gift ranges growing.

In the streets you start to see bright lights and decorations in houses and gardens.

In homes the excitement amongst smaller people is palpable as lists get longer and longer.

All this can only mean one thing – yes, the stress of the perfect Christmas is just around the corner.

However much we enjoy Christmas we know the stress it can bring physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually and financially.

The good news of the season is that Christmas can be simple – the first one was. In a stable in a small town the baby Jesus was born.

The first visitors were shepherds who had been working on the nearby hillside and then later on some wise men travelled from the East bringing gifts of gold, silver and myrrh.

In the middle of the night Jesus was born into the world. One of the many titles he was given was Prince of Peace. He came that we might know that peace in our lives and particularly at this time of year that gift of peace is crucial.

I hope this Christmas you will know peace in your home and your heart.

However you are celebrating this year, with lots of people or with a few, with lots of noise or more reflectively, with complexity or simplicity we pray that you may know the Prince of Peace has been born again for you.

With my love and prayers

Rev Nicola Briggs

MAYFIELD CHURCH (St. John the Baptist)

Web Site www.mayfieldparishchurch.org

Vicar of Weaver Benefice	Rev. Brian Leathers	(Tel: 01538 702469)
Assistant Minister for Mayfield	Rev. Chamil Fernando	(07511 117822)
Churchwardens:	Mr Charles Wimbush	(Tel: 324083)
	Mrs Maggie Cook	(Tel: 345691)
Deputy Church warden	Mr Philip Cook	
PCC Secretary	Amy Hawksworth	
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Catherine Mellor	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Catherine Mellor	
Organist	Mrs Janet Knox	(Tel: 346487)
Verger:	Mr Doug Greenway	(Tel: 344932)
Magazine Editor	Mr Stephen Dunn	(Tel: 342188)
Rota for Readers/Intercessions	Martin Balderson	(07515 385662)
Church Room Bookings and Key Holder	Mrs Charlotte Heathcote	(07772 360472)
Bell Captain	Mrs Margaret Wimbush	(Tel: 324083)

MESSY CHURCH

Details of Messy Church are available from Hilary Dowson (01335 324350)
and Mrs Catherine Mellor (07752 772715)

ECUMENICAL CONTACTS

Ashbourne Methodist Minister: Rev. Nicola Briggs
16, Booth Drive Ashbourne (Tel: 01335 702174.)

SUNDAY SERVICES

All Morning Services at 10.45am.
1st Sunday: Church Family Communion
2nd Sunday: Church Family Worship
3rd Sunday: Morning Prayer
4th Sunday: Morning Prayer
(5th Sunday: See magazine for details)

For Baptisms and Marriages please contact Rev. Brian Leathers (Tel: 01538 702469)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ashbourne Medical Practises.
Clifton Road 216885. The Surgery, Clifton Rd 300588
St Oswald's Hospital 230000. Ashbourne Community Transport 300670
Police emergency 999 . Police non emergency 101
Gas emergency service 0800 111 999 . Electricity emergency service 0800 056 8090
Ryecroft Middle School 01889 590394. Thomas Alleyne High School 01889 561820

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