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Mon	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	16:30 – 17:30	18:30
Tues	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	16:30 – 17:30	18:30
Wed	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	No evening surgery	18:30
Thur	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	16:30 – 17:30	18:30
Fri	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	No evening surgery	18:30
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Mon – Fri		08:30 – 12:00	15:00 – 18:30	

We are open for enquiries from 8:00am until 6:30pm Monday to Friday.

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See www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder for Post Office branch details.

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Draycott:	The Stores, Draycott In The Clay, DE6 5GZ

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for the return of
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orders for ‘Order
& Collect’

2021 – 15th January, 29th January, 12th February,
26th February, 12th March, 26th March

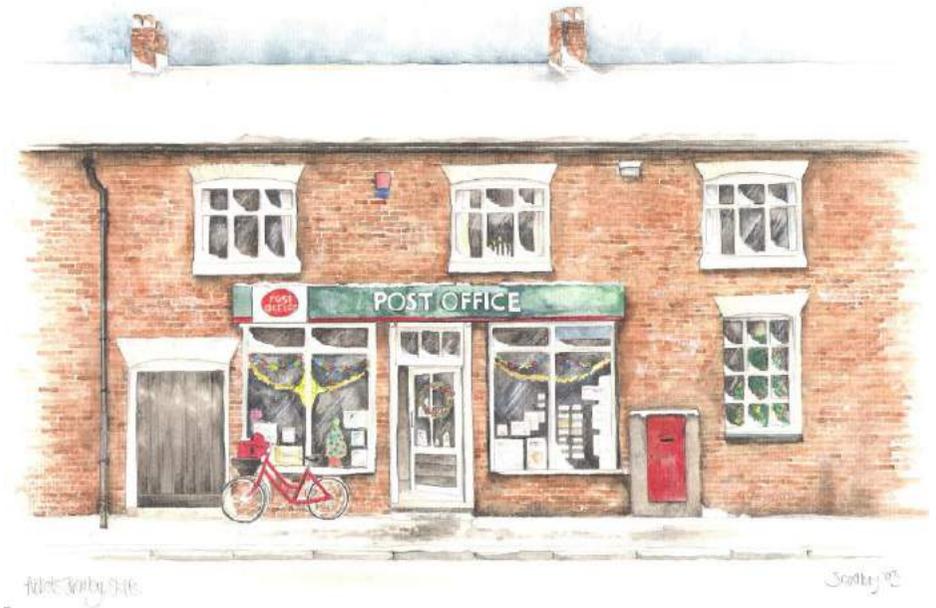
Abbots Bromley Bagot Arms 11:30 - 12:30

Police

Emergency calls (including First Responders) 999
Non emergency calls 101

PARISH NEWS

for Abbots Bromley
and Blithfield



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January 2021

MINISTERIAL LETTER FROM COLWICH

From Advent to Epiphany

*Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 Manifested by the star
 To the sages from afar;
 Branch of royal David's stem
 In Thy birth at Bethlehem ...*

These are the first six lines of an Epiphany hymn, written in the nineteenth century by Bishop Christopher Wordsworth, nephew of the poet, William Wordsworth. In the calendar of the Church of England, the feast of the Epiphany falls on 6th January (13 days after Christmas, the day after 12th night) followed by a season of Epiphany themes until Candlemas at the beginning of February.

I, however, am writing this in December, and Advent: a season characterised by waiting and preparation. In our worship, we anticipate not only the birth of Jesus at Christmas, but also his return, when, in the words of Charles Wesley:

*Every eye shall now behold him
 robed in dreadful majesty.*

In the wider world, the wait this Christmas, focussed less on a day of peace and presents in the last week of December, and more on the potential of vaccines to offer protection from Covid-19 and restore life back to normal.

If Advent is about expectation, Epiphany, around when you will be reading this, is about *manifestation*. What was hoped for has come, has been recognised and has made a difference. That is why we begin our Epiphany celebrations with the kings (or wise men), who recognised Jesus' with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. That is why we celebrate again the event of Jesus' baptism, when the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father in Heaven identified Jesus as his Son. That is why we shall recall again Jesus' first miracle, when he saved a wedding feast by turning water into wine. Good old Jesus, making sure that life can go on as normal! Except, of course, the new wine is far better than anything previously served!

As I pray for the victory of science and common-sense over Covid-19 in the New Year, I also pray that we may recognise Jesus for who he is, so that lives may be restored to something far, far better than the 'old normal'.

*Manifest at Jordan's stream,
 Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
 And at Cana, wedding guest,
 In Thy Godhead manifest;
 Manifest in power divine,
 Changing water into wine;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.*

Mark Davys

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCHYARD

Gifts beyond Price

After 35 years, Georgie and I were going back to Islay, with Simon leading and learning the way. Having ample time before the departure of the ferry from Kennacraig, he left the main road from Lochgilphead that goes south to Kintyre and made a circular tour westward. We were running beside a sea-loch. In the October sun it was heartbreakingly beautiful. Pearly light touched Autumn-clad hills and valleys on the other side. Grey seals basked on the rocks and seabirds floated by. At length the mountains of Jura came into view before our road turned back towards Tarbert and we caught sight of the incoming ferry heading for the West Loch. We were safely in the queue long before it docked.

We landed, as I had done on the first voyage I ever made to Islay, at Port Askaig. Not wasting a moment, Simon drove us deep into mediaeval history in the drizzle. It was such a good opportunity to test out our all-weather gear! In the next two hours, we learned more than I could have imagined about the influence and power of the Lords of the Isles. We taught ourselves, for the wardens of the site were all in isolation. With the light failing and geese calling over Loch Indaal, Georgie took over the driving, following the half-remembered road she had last travelled with her L-plates, and so we arrived at our hired house in Port Ellen.

Because our hostess was “shielding”, it fell to her husband to welcome us. When he learned my father’s name, he gave me my first gift. He remembered him well, for they had shared interests in boats and fishing and in the life of the place. Then I remembered Dad as he had been, before sorrow drove him to seek refuge away from the island.

The following day, after a morning spent exploring and bird-watching on the great headland called The Oa, we lunched at the hotel which dominates the nearby golf-course. Our friendly waitress enabled the others to have access to walk the Big Strand while I relaxed. We were all masked when we met her again in Bowmore and she and Georgie recognised one another. What began as a friendly enquiry became a recognition that Georgie and she shared history. My father’s wife Kate had owned a stables and taught horse-riding. During our holidays, Georgie had been allowed to join the riders and horses. As a girl, this lady, Lorna Macdonald, had been befriended by Kate, taught to ride and had become a prize-winner. She and Georgie had ridden the same horses and now began to recite their names. Lorna’s adult daughter had joined us as her mother looked back on some of the happiest times of her life. What a marvellous co-incidence that was, another gift.

Rain or fine, the days flew by. Every vista seemed to hold a rainbow. The happiness did not stop at Islay for, after returning to the mainland and studying more standing stones, they drove up to Oban where my half-sister and her husband welcomed us whilst trying to observe a social distance. Back in England, they willed me to climb once more up to Aira Force, a famous waterfall in Cumbria.

I thought I would describe three gifts of love as my Christmas presents. But there are more than three in all this and, outside these few days on Islay, there is the love in our community here

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Jean Biggs

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JANUARY PARISH NEWS DISTRIBUTION DISRUPTION

We are still following guidance issued by the Church of England that paper copies of parish magazines should not be hand-delivered as a measure against transmission of Covid-19.

We have been attempting to distribute the *Parish News* since May 2020 as much as possible by electronic means. However, we have been unable to reach a large proportion of our readership, especially those who must self-isolate and who do not have internet access. Many of our distributors are also self-isolating and are unable to help with communications. We are, to some extent, relying on word-of-mouth and your goodwill to help the *Parish News* reach its usual readership. If there is anyone you know who usually receives the *Parish News* and who is likely to miss out, please provide whatever help you feel you can. Thank you for support during this time.

January's *Parish News* can be found online at www.achurchnearyou.com/abbots-bromley-st-nicholas This has had contact information removed in order to allay data privacy concerns.

Visit www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley to see any latest comments from St. Nicholas' Church. You can view this page without a Facebook account.

For those who require the usual hardcopy it will be available for collection from Cash Stores (Top Shop) free to subscribers or 50p per copy. Remember to use virus transmission precautions if handling these. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Ed

PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS

The difficulties mentioned above have hindered the settlement of magazine subscriptions which is a shame because the *Parish News* helps to support St. Nicholas' Church. The volunteers who work each month on the *Parish News* do so on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St. Nicholas' Church for the benefit of it and the village communities of Abbots Bromley and Blithfield. Please help us to retain this valued local asset.

2020 Subscriptions

There are still some £6.00 annual subscriptions for 2020 outstanding. Please would these be brought up to date as soon as possible. See below for payment methods.

2021 Subscriptions

We have decided under the circumstances to leave the cover price of the *Parish News* unchanged for 2021. Subscriptions of £6.00 / year will become due on January 2021.

Payment Methods

You may pay for your *Parish News* annual subscription using one of the following methods.

<u>Bank transfer</u>	Sort code: 20-81-00 Account no: 40102350 Payee: AB PCC Church and Church House Fabric Fund Reference: 'PN subs 2020' or 'PN subs 2021'
<u>Cheque</u>	Payable to: AB PCC On reverse: write 'Parish News Subs' & the year '2020' or '2021' Deliver to: Gill Grundy, Rose House, High Street, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BN or to your <i>Parish News</i> distributor when you can see them
<u>Cash</u>	Place in: an envelope marked with your name and 'Parish News subs' & the year '2020' or '2021' Deliver to: Gill Grundy, Rose House, High Street, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BN or to your <i>Parish News</i> distributor when you can see them

Thank you for your continued and welcome support. Please bear with us; we hope to revert to normal service at the earliest opportunity.

With Best Wishes for 2021, The *Parish News* Team

ABBOTS BROMLEY NEWS AND NOTICES

ABBOTS BROMLEY W.I.

Although, as for other organisations, it has been a difficult year for the W.I., the committee has tried to keep in touch with members. This has been done by 'Zooming' and phoning on occasions. We did manage a garden tea party and some have enjoyed local walks. We have missed the friendship of the monthly meetings and hearing the variety of speakers.

On the usual December meeting night, hopefully a few members will meet by 'Zooming' and seasonal poems etc. will be read. The odd mince pie or glass of something might be visible.

A walk has been planned for the end of December and participants can keep at a safe distance.

In the New Year our website should be launched which, hopefully, will be of interest to those who may wish to join our W.I.

Our chosen charity this Christmas has been the local food bank. Members have left their contributions in St. Nicholas' church since we have been unable to meet and collect them together.

The committee hope that members will enjoy a little surprise gift to be delivered to their homes before Christmas. It is a festive bag with various items suitable for this time of year. Some are edible and others a bit of fun. We will have missed the Christmas party, and hope this may help to make up for it.

President Val and the committee expect that before too many months have passed the W.I. can resume a regular monthly programme of meetings again.

EVERGREENS

On behalf of the Committee of Evergreens we hope that you all had the best Christmas you could have in these very strange times. Certainly, at the beginning of 2020 when we held our A.G.M., our first speaker meeting in February, and our lovely Cream Tea provided by the ladies of the Abbots Bromley Sports Association, we had no idea at all of what was to come. It has been a very difficult year for some of our members and we trust that others have managed to get through.

Now as we move into 2021, unfortunately, there is still much uncertainty. With the hope of a vaccine on the horizon things will improve. Until we are in a position where we know what is happening, all we can say is stay safe, keep well, and let's hope 2021 proves a much better year all round.

Sandra Cottrell, Secretary

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

From August mobile libraries will visit one or two locations per day for the return of books, and to place orders for 'Order and Collect'. The service to Abbots Bromley, "Mobile Library 1" contact number 07773 791131, [presumably at the Bagot Arms] will visit fortnightly from Friday 28th August from 10:00am to 12:30pm [including 15th and 29th January].

Alternatively, Uttoxeter and Rugeley libraries are operating limited services. For further detail and information about Covid-19 precautions see www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries or call 0300 111 8000

A.B.S.A. MOWER

The Abbots Bromley Sports Association are proud to share the news that, in early December, they took receipt of the new Campey tractor and mower to help maintain the new sports grounds on Lichfield Road. It was funded 75% by a grant from Staffordshire F.A. and the Football Foundation and 25% from the local community.

There are many people to thank, in particular: Mike Manners, the Royal British Legion, the A.B. Bingo Committee, as well as many individuals in Abbots Bromley who contributed. Particular thanks also go to their own trustee, Mr. Andy Kirkland, whose idea and initiative this was back in the winter of 2019. Well done Andy, and well done to all for yet another great achievement and another hurdle crossed.



You can donate to A.B.S.A. and follow their progress at www.absasport.co.uk and follow them for their latest updates at www.facebook.com/absportsground

For security, the Campey tractor and mower will be stored off-site.

CHRISTMAS CAROL COMPETITION

A big thank you to all who put pen to paper, finger tips to keyboards, or voice to microphone! We had a modest but excellent span of entries, all worthy of merit.

Lynda Ford penned a delightfully fun and amusing new set of Christmas shopping words to "Ding dong merrily on high", including the verse:

*Ding, dong, sing a song of cheer: I'm going Christmas shopping.
Now, what do I need to fill the family's Christmas stockings?*

Sue Knipe produced a catchy new lyric for the tune "I saw three ships" – that tune has been asking for an additional set of words for a long time! – including the verse:

*The shepherds came to worship him, to worship him, to worship him.
The shepherds came to worship him, on Christmas day in the morning*

Julia Jones took the traditional tune "The Holly and the Ivy" to tell the nativity story afresh:

*Have you heard the great news,
That Jesus Christ is born.
Not in a hotel or palace,
But in a stable, nice and warm.*

From Terence Cooper we had a new tune – very brave – which fits the P.L. Dunbar poem "Ring out ye bells", which ends (poignantly this year – how we longed to sing!):

*No, be not still, but with a will, strike all your harps and set them ringing.
On hill and heath, let every breath, throw all its power into singing!*

Well done all! The full texts are available for you to peruse in the churches.

IN MEMORY OF RON BROWN

Jackie and family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and generous donations at this very sad time.

They would also like to thank all those who were allowed to participate in the funeral. The donations are to be split between St. Nicholas' Church and the British Heart Foundation.

WELCOME TO THE REVD DAVID ANDERTON

In January curate David Anderton, part time self-supporting priest (SSM) is joining our team for an extended period to experience Rural Ministry.

David has lived most of his life in South Staffordshire and the West Midlands. He moved to Fradley in late 2019 so is still learning about the full extent of Staffordshire. David is single and spends time with his friends and family who are scattered across the country. David enjoys singing, playing racket sports and generally being active – whether cycling, running or walking.

David is a non-stipendiary priest and works for, or gives advice to, organisations on managing large scale change and strategy. Pre-CoViD this could involve travelling across the UK and sometimes beyond.

We look forward to getting to know David and his sharing of ministry amongst us.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH JUST GIVING PAGE

Following advice from Lichfield Diocese, Revd Davis has set up a fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abbotsbromleychurch at which you could make a donation. Remember, if you pay income tax you can apply Gift Aid effectively to increase your donation by 25% through tax recovery from HMRC.

FOODBANK

Please keep supporting Rugeley Foodbank. For further information, including how to help and what items to donate, please visit <https://rugeley.foodbank.org.uk/>

The Foodbank have collection points in the front of store at:

Waitrose, Trinity Road, Uttoxeter ST14 8AQ

Tesco, Power Station Road, Rugeley, WS15 2HS

The following items are urgently needed: Long-life milk, Sandwich meat (ham etc.), Jam or marmalade, Long-Life orange or fruit juice, Fruit squash, Rice - pre-cooked or regular, Canned rice pudding, Canned fruit, Custard, Instant mash, Coffee, Ladies and gents toiletries, Loo rolls, and Nappies (size 4-6+ especially). They have plenty of: Beans, Soup, and Tinned fish.

A message from the St. Nicholas Welcome Team

Abbots Bromley is a friendly lively busy village and we would like to help new residents settle in and take part.

Have you a new neighbour recently moved to the Village?

How about dropping in a copy of our *Parish News* magazine to make them feel welcome or please ring Anthea on 840624 or Maureen on 840936 and we would be happy to assist.

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REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

The 2021 refuse collection schedule for your property, showing types of waste collected and on what dates, can be found online at:

www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/collection-dates

For those without internet access, refuse collection dates for **Abbots Bromley village** will be as follows. Details for out-lying properties may vary by day and type (e.g. *Grey* and *paper* on the *Thursday* of the recycling week below).

Waste for Incinerating (to generate electricity)	Waste for Recycling
<i>Grey</i> bin - non-recyclable, food	<i>Blue</i> bin - plastic, tins, glass jars <i>Brown</i> bin - garden waste (no food) <i>Blue bag</i> - paper
Wednesday 23 December	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 06 January	Wednesday 13 January
Wednesday 20 January	Wednesday 27 January

DIARY FOR JANUARY

Sun 3 Jan 9:45am Church Service, St. Nicholas' (quiet prayer from 9:15)
 Sun 10 Jan 9:45am Church Service, St. Nicholas' (quiet prayer from 9:15)
 Sun 17 Jan 9:45am Church Service, St. Nicholas' (quiet prayer from 9:15)
 Sun 24 Jan 9:45am Church Service, St. Nicholas' (quiet prayer from 9:15)
 Sun 31 Jan 9:45am Church Service, St. Nicholas' (quiet prayer from 9:15)

These are nominal entries. Check Church notice boards or visit www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley for the latest information.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For latest arrangements please contact your group’s representative.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

There are numerous events taking place at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. For full details, or to book, please contact the NMA.

Tel: 01283 792333 E-mail: info@thenma.org.uk Web: www.thenma.org.uk

ROTAS FOR JANUARY

Date	3rd January	10th January	17th January	24th January	31st January
Minister	LP		AR		
Deputy Warden	Gill Grundy	Sam Kaife	Liz Lampard	Anthea Blower	Gill Grundy
Reader & Intercessor	Anthea Blower	Gill Grundy	David Roe	Chris Ray	Martin Godfrey
Backup Reader & Intercessor	Martin Godfrey	Liz Lampard	Anthea Blower	Megan Dunnane	David Roe
Epistle Reading	Ephesians 1 v3-14	Acts 19 v1-7	Revelation 5 v1-10	Revelation 19 v6-10	Revelation 12 v1-5a
Gospel Reading	John 1 v(1-9),10-18	Mark 1 v4-11	John 1 v43-end	John 2 v1-11	Mark 1 v21-28

If you are unable to do any of the above duties, then please find someone who can by choosing the Back up person first, and mark your replacement on the notices located in the porch. Please also advise Gill Grundy or Anthea Blower.

Thank you.

These are for services as initially planned. Check Church notice boards or visit www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley for the latest information.

HELPERS NEEDED ON CHURCH ROTAS

St. Nicholas' Church needs helpers, for the smooth running of services, to add their names to the following rotas: sides, ministry, readers, intercessors, chalice, coffee, and flowers. Help and instruction is available for willing volunteers. For further information, please contact Gill Grundy on 840208.

Church Cleaning Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Gill Grundy on 840208 if you can help.

UNITED BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICE PATTERN

Check your **church notice board** and **Facebook page** for up to date information, including the inclusion of holy communion in any of the services. This will be especially relevant in December as extra services may be added.

St. Nicholas'	Abbots Bromley	9:45am (open for quiet prayer from 9:15)
St. Leonard's	Blithfield	11:15am (open for quiet prayer from 10:45)
St. Mary's	Colton	11:00am (open for quiet prayer from 10:30)
St. Stephen's	Great Haywood	10:00am (open for quiet prayer from 9:30)
St. Michael & All Angels'	Colwich	9:45am (open for quiet prayer from 9:15)

All churches will be open half an hour for a time of quiet personal prayer before the start of each service.

There is also a range of services regularly posted on our churches Facebook pages.

Visit www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley to see updates for St. Nicholas' Church including any last minute additions or changes to services. You can view this page without a Facebook account.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Not available

CONTACT PARISH NEWS

Please see earlier printed copies of the *Parish News* for our contact details.

Deadlines / Dates for February's magazine are:

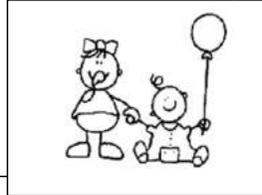
Copy:	Friday 15th January
Print:	Monday 25 th January
Courier by:	Friday 29 th January

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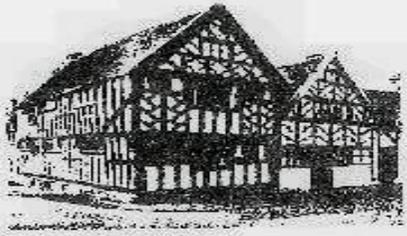

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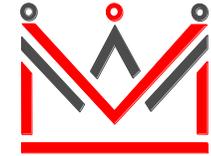
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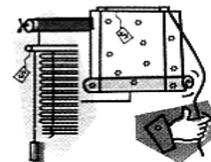
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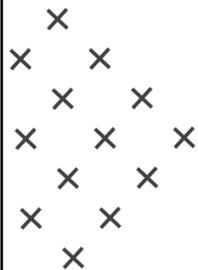


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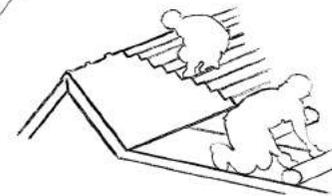
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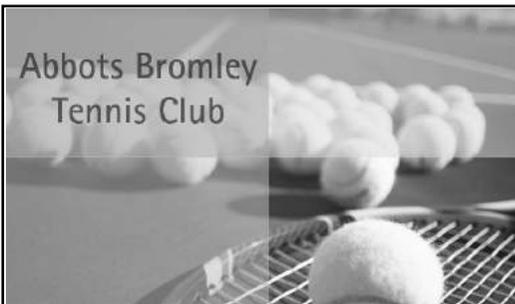
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