

# SS PETER & PAUL, HATHERN

## No.506 - DECEMBER 2023



### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023

*Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December*      10:00am until 8:00pm : **FESTIVAL OPEN**

*Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December*      10:00am until 8:00pm : **FESTIVAL OPEN**  
2:00pm Live Christmas Music on the Organ

*Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December*      10:00am until 5:30pm: **FESTIVAL OPEN**  
2:00pm Live Christmas Music on the Organ  
4:30pm Carols played by Hathern Band  
7:30pm Songs of Christmas Praise,  
- come and sing carols old and new

**ADMISSION £3:00, Accompanied children free**

*Admission to our praise service is, of course, entirely free for everyone*

## FROM THE CLERGY

**H**ELLO EVERYONE,

It's winter, Yippee, it's time for outdoor swim!

There is nothing quite like popping on a bobble hat and swimwear, bundling yourself wrapped in towels to the pool side and sliding into barely heated water. Your mind becomes clearer, you have a burning tingle all over and your breath becomes short and sharp and then you are off, up and down the lane, your hands pushing through the silky water knowing that you will feel better when you get out than when you got in. This is what propels me into my local pool when my breath is clearly visible and my feet are turning blue.

I'm hoping that some of you will have run to friend or family member to thrust this statement under their noses and gleefully say, "I told you so" because some of us love it, and some of us won't even try it. There is an element to outdoor swimming that means you are aware that it's slightly bonkers but also aware that is a mood enhancer, somehow good for you, body and soul. There is some science to back this up, but today I am interested in how we ALL look after our mental health in winter and how we can encourage others to do the same.

For some of you it will be 'hygge' the Danish practice of creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying good things in life. For others it will be crafting the perfect blanket, baking sourdough or brisk walks with the dog, whatever helps you to be positive on the dark nights and in colder temperatures is worth noticing. It is also worth taking note of what helps your family and friends, so if they suddenly aren't themselves and they aren't doing what they normally do, you know to enquire, to check in on them.

The Christmas story is about the arrival of a baby who was born to save the world. We will celebrate this with twinkling lights, carol concerts, cake and Christmas events for the whole of December, but January will be quieter, less glamorous and, for some of us, a difficult time. The Christian faith has something to offer in these quiet times because when that child grew older, he told us to prioritise two things, love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Community is something which we build together and a community that keeps an eye on each other can be the thing which helps to keep us all mentally well. So, whether you are bird watching or hedge laying to keep yourself afloat this winter, love your neighbour and love yourself.

I hope you have a very merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. Blessings

*Revd Emily  
Ordained Pioneer Minister*

**Dear God, be good to me. The sea of life is so wide and my boat is so small.**

### HATHERN BAND AT CHRISTMAS

**West Leake Carol Service**

Friday 1 December, 8:00p.m.  
St Helena's Church, West Leake, LE12 5RP

**Melton Mowbray Christmas Tree Festival**

Sunday 3 December, 5:30p.m.  
St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray

**Carols round the streets of Hathern**

Sunday 10 December,  
10:00a.m. – 12 noon

**Hathern Church Christmas Tree Festival**

Sunday 10 December, 4:30p.m.  
Hathern Church

**Carol Concert (Youth & Concert Band)**

Thursday 14 December, 7:30pm  
Shepshed Baptist Church

**Carols at Quorn**

Friday 15 December, 7:30p.m.  
Quorn Village Hall

**Hathern Band Christmas Concert**

Saturday 16 December, 6:00p.m.  
Hodson Hall, LES, Loughborough

**Nine Lessons & Carols**

Sunday 17 December, 6:15p.m.  
Hathern Church

**Carols at the New Inn**

Monday 18 December, 7:30p.m.  
The New Inn, Peggs Green, Griffydham

**Carols at Loughborough Hospital**

Tuesday 19 December, 7:00p.m.  
Epinal Way, Loughborough

**Masonic Hall Carols**

Wednesday 20 December, 9:00p.m.  
Ashby Square, Loughborough

**HATHERN BAND WISH YOU ALL  
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**SUNDAY SERVICES IN HATHERN CHURCH (IN BOLD)  
+ OTHER BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES (STREAMED ON FACEBOOK)**

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10:30am Christingle here</b> 6:15pm Evensong @ Kegworth
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30am Benefice service with Holy Communion @ Kegworth <b>7:30pm Songs of Christmas Praise here</b>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30am Benefice service with Holy Communion here</b> <b>6:15am Nine Lessons and Carols with Hathern Band here</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>6:00pm Crib Service here</b> <b>11:30pm Midnight Communion here</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10:00am Benefice Service with Holy Communion @ Osgathorpe
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	10:30am, Benefice Holy Communion @ tba

**OTHER SERVICES IN HATHERN CHURCH**

**\* HATHERN CHURCH IS OPEN EVERY DAY, 10:00am to 4:00pm, FOR QUIET AND FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

**... AND ONLINE IN THE BENEFICE**

**\* MORNING PRAYER (8:30am daily, except Sundays & Xmas week) IS STREAMED ON FACEBOOK**

*In the cake shop, all the cakes were £3 except one, which was £5.  
"Why?" I wanted to know. The baker said "That's madeira cake!"*

**HOW MANY FOLLOW WHAT FAITH?**

By Bob Peters

**H**AVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE LIVING IN THE WORLD? A precise answer is impossible because it is constantly changing. Every moment there are births and deaths, and because not all of them are registered only approximate figures are ever available. For an up-to-the-moment current estimate visit **WORLDMETER**:

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

and you will see how rapidly the numbers are changing.

At the time of writing, it was estimated that there are over 8 billion (8,000,000,000) people in the world, and the total is growing rapidly.

Of this 8+ billion people it is estimated that about 16% of the number do not identify themselves with any of the best recognised religions. Christianity is the most popular with 31% of the population.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the breakdown of faiths was (in number order):

- 2,173,180,000 Christians (31% of world population), of which 50% are Catholic, 37% Protestant, 12% Orthodox, and 1% other.
- 1,598,510,000 Muslims (23%), of which 87-90% are Sunnis, 10-13% Shia.
- 1,126,500,000 No Religion affiliation (16%): atheists, agnostics and people who do not identify with any particular religion. One-in-five people (20%) in the United States are religiously unaffiliated.
- 1,033,080,000 Hindus (15%), the overwhelming majority (94%) of whom live in India.
- 487,540,000 Buddhists (7%), of whom half live in China.
- 405,120,000 Folk Religionists (6%): faiths that are closely associated with a particular group of people, ethnicity or tribe.
- 58,110,000 Other Religions (1%): Baha'i faith, Taoism, Jainism, Shintoism, Sikhism, Tenrikyo, Wicca, Zoroastrianism and many others.
- 13,850,000 Jews (0.2%), four-fifths of whom live in two countries: United States (41%); Israel (41%).

**JOIN US FOR "SONGS OF CHRISTMAS PRAISE"**

**7:30pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Sit amongst the trees as you sing lots of carols, both old, traditional and new, with a warm mince pie and a glass of sherry to lubricate those vocals.

*Support  
your local  
church*



*Please donate today*



**REMEMBRANCE  
SUNDAY**

**£276**

sent to

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

*What brass instruments sound like Tom Jones?  
Trombones*

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## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. According to the song, what gift was brought on the fourth day of Christmas?
2. When was the first Nativity scene invented?
3. Who invented the Nativity Scene?
4. Which King was on the throne when Father Christmas first appeared in the UK?
5. Who is Santa Claus named after?
6. Why do we have 12 days of Christmas?
7. Who invented the Christmas tree?
8. How many Christmas trees are grown in Europe?
9. Why is Christmas Day on 25 December?
10. What names have been given to the Magi and from where did they come?
11. Where in the Bible is the story of the birth of Christ?
12. Who told Joseph to call their baby 'Jesus'?

Answers on page 5

*I bet that the person who put the first "R" in February also decided how we should spell Wednesday!*

*My wife complained that I always contradict what she says. "No I don't" I said*

## OUR 19<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

**PRICES HELD TO £3, accompanied school-aged children free  
All proceeds go towards Hathern Church Fabric Account**

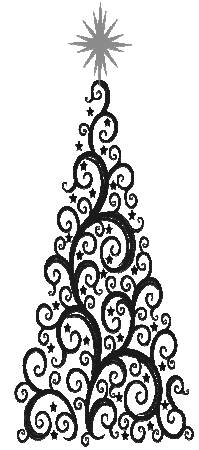
### HELPERS NEEDED FOR THE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Fancy spending a few enjoyable hours as a helper at the Festival this year? You'll meet lots of happy people and excited children, it's a lovely way to enjoy socialising with your fellow villagers.

We're looking for folk to do one or more 2 hour stints from Friday to Sunday on:

The door	The raffle table
The kitchen, serving teas, and	The tombola

If this is for you, please pop your name on the rota inside church, or contact Rosemary directly, 842585.



### TOMBOLA PRIZES WANTED, TOO

Have you got anything that you'd like to donate to our Tombola? We need prizes galore, you can let Rosemary know and we'll collect, otherwise drop them off at 33 Green Hill. Thank you

### WHY NOT DO A TREE? IT'S GREAT FUN! THERE'S STILL TIME TO BOOK!

#### Contact us now!

**John Worsfold, 01509 842 585 [JHW.Hathern@gmail.com](mailto:JHW.Hathern@gmail.com)**

**Terry Cox, 01509 843 107, [TandMCox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:TandMCox@hotmail.co.uk)**

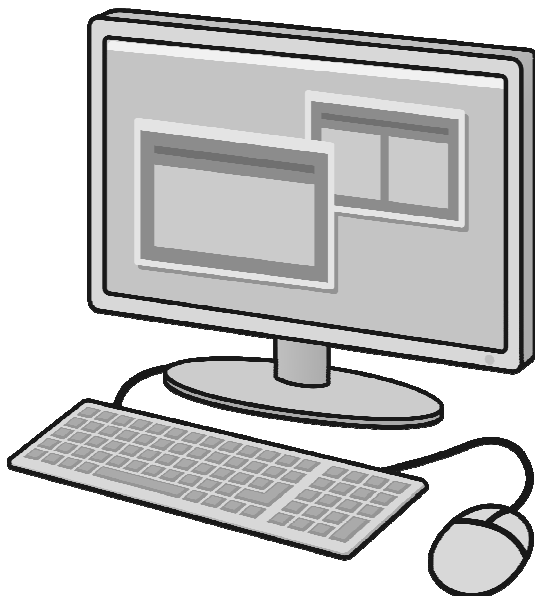
**Tony Croft, 01509 842 364, [The.Croffies.32@gmail.com](mailto:The.Croffies.32@gmail.com)**

*The pilot emerges from the cockpit. "Ladies and gentlemen, we have just had a severe bird strike. Both engines have failed and we're about to do an emergency landing in the sea. Put your life jackets on and then get in the brace position. Does anyone know how to pray?"*

*"I do" shouts a young man, zealously running forward*

*"Good" says the pilot "Start praying then, we're one life jacket short!"*

## TREASURER NEEDED FOR HATHERN VILLAGE HALL CAN YOU HELP?



Hathern Village Hall is owned and run by Hathern Recreation Association, which is a registered charity, on behalf of Hathern residents. The Management Committee is a friendly bunch and meets 4 times a year to set the policies for the hall, look after the hire of the hall and oversee the income and expenditure with the aid of our Treasurer. And that's the vacancy we need to fill at the moment.

Our existing Treasurer needs to stand down, and we're looking to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Can you help? All the accounting, payments and receipts are paperless, we use a Sage accounting package to make life simple. Please consider helping to run the hall.

If you'd like to be an essential part of the team running the hall, please get in touch with

The Chairman, John Worsfold,  
on 01509 842 585 or at [JHW.Hathern@gmail.com](mailto:JHW.Hathern@gmail.com).

*It's my wife's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday next week and she's been leaving jewellery catalogues around the house. I can take a hint – I've ordered her a magazine rack from Amazon.*

## WEATHER REPORT FOR HATHERN

### OCTOBER

Rainfall : 124.0mm (4.9")  
Max temp : 23.3°C, Min temp : 0.5°C

### SEPTEMBER

Rainfall : 73.6mm (2.9")  
Max temp : 31.9°C, Min temp : 6.9°C

### 2023 so far

Rainfall : 630.0mm (24.8")  
Max temp : 31.9°C, Min temp : -5.2°C

### 2022

Rainfall : 559.3mm (22.0")  
Max temp : 39.4°C, Min temp : -8.2°C

October was very wet!! Nearly 5" of rain!! The rainfall for 2023 has already exceeded that for 2022, and there are still 2 months to go. But 2023 was not nearly as hot as 2022.

### MAGAZINE ITEMS FOR JANUARY TO JOHN WORSFOLD BY FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

*You can send details as an attachment by email to  
JHW.Hathern@gmail.com*

## HOCC 200 CLUB

November 2023 Draw

£20 - Nr 88 - Jenny Collin  
£5 - Nr 64 - J Leeson

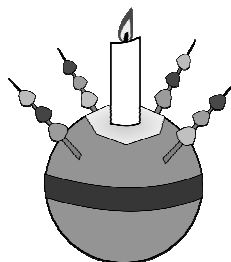
NO COFFEE  
MORNINGS  
IN DECEMBER.

RESUMING  
IN JANUARY



## CHRISTINGLE 2023

Our Christingle Service this year is at 10:30am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Collection Moneyboxes are available in church and from church members for you to fill with your gifts and exchange for a Christingle at our service.



The Children's Society supports young people everywhere in the UK and this is a way that we can help them with their

invaluable work.

Do take a Collection Box and do bring it to church on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Please!

*How wonderful it is that nobody  
need wait a single moment before  
starting to improve the world*

*Anne Frank*

## NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

11:15am for 11:30 start

**Blow away the cobwebs!**

Join us for

- A glass of sherry, then
- a short (about 1 hour) walk round Hathern and the fields, and
- back to church for soup and rolls

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS QUIZ - ANSWERS

1. Four calling birds
2. 1223
3. St Francis of Assisi
4. Henry VIII
5. Saint Nicholas
6. It is 12 days between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Magi.
7. German Lutherans in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, when a tree was placed in the Cathedral of

- Strasbourg in 1539, under the leadership of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Bucer.
8. About 60 million
9. It is 9 months after the traditional date of the conception of Jesus on 25 March.
10. Melchior from Europe, Caspar from Arabia, and Balthazar from Africa
11. Matthew and Luke
12. An angel of the Lord