

SS PETER & PAUL, HATHERN

No.530 - DECEMBER 2025



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025

Friday 12th December 10:00am until 8:00pm : FESTIVAL OPEN
10:30am Hathern School Choir entertain
2:00pm Live Christmas Music on the Organ

Saturday 13th December 10:00am until 8:00pm : FESTIVAL OPEN
2:00pm Live Christmas Music on the Organ
4:30pm Carols played by Hathern Band

Sunday 14th December 10:00am until 5:30pm: FESTIVAL OPEN
2:00pm Live Christmas Music on the Organ
7:30pm SONGS OF CHRISTMAS PRAISE
~ come and sing carols old and new

ADMISSION £4:00, accompanied children free - ASSISTANCE DOGS ONLY
Admission to our Praise Service is, of course, entirely free for everyone

LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

DEAR FRIENDS, as the busy-ness of our preparations for Christmas gathers pace, let us remember the reason at the heart of our celebrations – the wonderful birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Here is a poem that I would like to share with you that seems very apt:

Yorkshire Christmas Nostalgia by Joan Dunn

I'm sittin' 'ere listenin' to t' carollers
There i'nt many singin' this year
Why, I can remember goin' round street
Wi' a choir you really could 'ear!
We'd stop fast at awd Mrs Grundy's
She got quite upset if we di'nt
An on'y put tuppence l't charity box
Though greedy awd cat's worth a mint!
We'd sing 'Ark the 'Erald and then Silent Night
Then she'd come out in 'er coat an 'er 'at
She'd thank us for singin' a' say it were nice
Though as usual "tenors were flat"
To each 'ouse in' village we'd all go an' sing
Till at last we'd reach Farnaby's farm

Where they brought us some mince pies and
'ot cuppa tea
Their welcome were allus real warm.
We'd all stand around and sing for a bit
In't yard wi' all animals near
The sound and the smells, the sky and the stars
It all seem'd the right atmosphere.
I spek it were like that where Jesus were born
Sep' one star were brighter than t'rest
An everyone singin' and praisin' the bairn
To me that were always the best.
Just think, if all t'world would tak the time off
To sing and give praise for 'is birth
There wouldn't be fightin' and killin' no more
There'd be peace and good will ower t' earth.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Sue Hack, Associate Minister at Hathern

*Life is a mirror: if you frown at it, it frowns back;
if you smile, it returns the greeting*

William Makepeace Thackeray

SERVICES IN HATHERN CHURCH (IN BOLD) + OTHER BENEFICE SERVICES

(Sunday morning Communion at 10:30am are streamed on Facebook)

Sunday 7th	10:30am CHRISTINGLE here 9:30am Benefice Holy Communion @ Diseworth 6:15pm Evensong @ Kegworth
Sunday 14th	Benefice Holy Communion @ Kegworth 7:30pm SONGS OF CHRISTMAS PRAISE here
Sunday 21st	10:30am Benefice Holy Communion @ Long Whatton 6:15pm NINE LESSONS & CAROLS with HATHERN BAND
.. CHRISTMAS EVE	6:00pm CRIB SERVICE here 11:30pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION here
.. CHRISTMAS DAY	10:00am Benefice Holy Communion @ Osgathorpe
Sunday 28th	9:30am Benefice Holy Communion @ Osgathorpe 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion @ Belton

OTHER SERVICES IN HATHERN CHURCH

- ★ HATHERN CHURCH IS OPEN EVERY DAY, 10:00am to 4:00pm, FOR QUIET AND FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
- ★ SAID HOLY COMMUNION EVERY 4th WEDNESDAY, 9:30am to 10:00am (except December)

*A gardener rings Garden Question Time on the radio and asks if he can put manure on his rhubarb.
The resident expert tasked to answer: "Yes but, of course, you'll find it's a lot better with custard"*

WEATHER REPORT FOR HATHERN

OCTOBER

Rainfall : **50.3mm (2.0")**

Max temp : 20.3°C, Min temp : 2.5°C

Peter Yorkstone notes that his previous parish in Yorkshire had 11.1" of rain last month!

TOTAL TO DATE FOR 2025

Rainfall : **313.4mm (12.3")**

Max temp : 33.0°C, Min temp : -7.1°C

COMPARE TO SAME DATE FOR 2024

Rainfall : **670.2mm (26.4")**

Max temp : 29.9°C, Min temp : -7.0°C

CHRISTMAS ISLAND x 2

THERE ARE TWO CHRISTMAS ISLANDS IN THE WORLD. The first is a dot in the Indian Ocean and even though it is in Australian territory, its closest neighbour is Java, 360km away. It's the summit of an oceanic mountain, rising to 36m above sea level and predominantly covered by tropical rainforest.

Discovered in the early seventeenth century, Captain William Mynors named the island when he arrived on Christmas Day in 1643. The British Admiralty annexed the island on 6 June 1888, and phosphate extraction became the impetus behind the island's development. Today it's tourism and the population is fewer than 2,000 inhabitants, only one third of whom are female. Almost three quarters of the population are of Chinese origin, but all are Australian citizens and the Australian schooling system prevails. An interesting place indeed.

The other Christmas Island is one of the many islands in the Republic of Kiribati. Part of the Line Island Group, it is the largest coral atoll in the world. Its population is mainly Micronesian and, from the time of the Cold War, this Christmas Island will be remembered for the nuclear bomb tests that took place off its coast. This Christmas Island is at the forefront of the news today as those who served there during those tests are still fighting for compensation for the terrible consequences of the experiments for their health and the health of their offspring.

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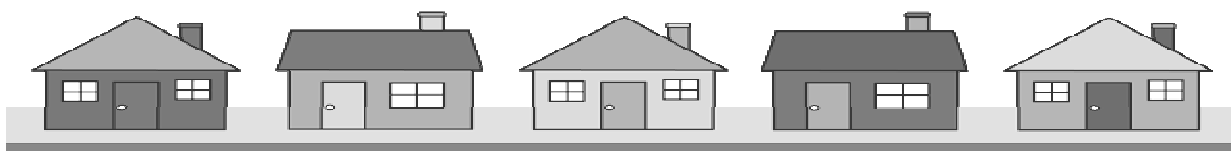
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I went for my first eye test today. Guess who I bumped into on the way? Everybody!!

How do you think the unthinkable? With an itheberg!

"KNIGHTTHORPE DECORATORS

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HATHERN BAND AT CHRISTMAS

- Friday 5th West Leake Church
6:00pm CAROL SERVICE
- Friday 12th Quorn Village Hall
7:30pm CAROLS AT QUORN
- **Saturday 13th Hodson Hall**
6:00pm CHRISTMAS CONCERT (ALL BANDS!)
Tickets £7, £6 concessions & £3 children
- Sunday 14th Hathern
10:30am CAROLS ROUND THE STREETS
- Monday 15th Griffydham
7:30pm CAROLS AT THE NEW INN
- Tuesday 16th Loughborough
8:30pm CAROLS AT THE NEEDLE & PIN
- Friday 19th Shepshed
7:30pm CAROLS AT THE BLACK SWAN
- Saturday 21st Loughborough
10:15am BAXTERGATE BAPTIST CHURCH
- **Sunday 21st Hathern**
6:15pm LESSONS & CAROLS, HATHERN CHURCH
- Monday 22nd Quorn
7:00pm CAROLS AT THE MANOR HOUSE



For more details, contact
Lesley Bentley
Lesley.Bentley@btinternet.com
01509 672029

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POPE FRANCIS' CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

THE LATE POPE FRANCIS' CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS AND HOMILIES often focus on the themes of God's love and light overcoming darkness, the importance of saying no to war and yes to peace, and the call to hope and conversion.

In his 2024 Christmas Eve and Day message and homily he emphasized that Jesus' birth represents God's boundless mercy and an invitation to be reconciled with God and others.

He also highlighted the joy of worship and the need to overcome the "globalization of indifference" by spreading love and hope, especially to the poor and marginalized.

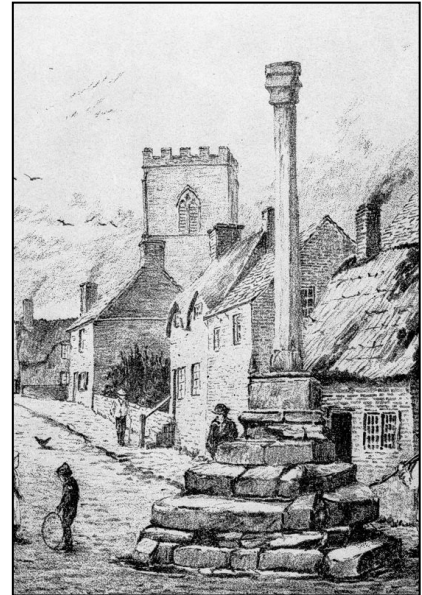
Hathern Local History Society EXHIBITION

This will feature a recently acquired collection of articles and pictures from local newspapers covering many aspects of Hathern life and activities from 1970 to 2024.

**Are you on the photos?
If you lived in the village during that time,
then you probably are.**

The exhibition will also include many items connected with Hathern's past industries, businesses and leisure activities. This is the most comprehensive exhibition ever, showing Hathern old and not so old.

**To be held at Pasture Lane School
Sat 17 and Sun 18 January 2026
11.00am – 4.00pm admission free
Refreshments will be available**



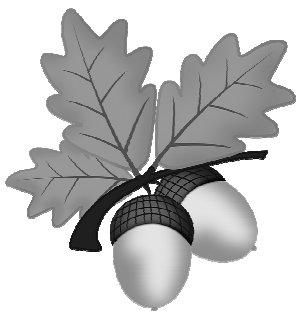
A local gets talking to a stranger in the pub, he's just moved in. They talk about various things and the stranger pulls out a photo and says how lucky he is to be married to such a beautiful lady. The local says "You should see my wife then!" "Why, is she gorgeous too?" "No, she's an optician!"

ARE WE IN A "MAST YEAR"?

WHAT IS A MAST YEAR?

Have you noticed a whole load of acorns under every oak tree this autumn? Are your bushes producing more berries than usual? Are there more conkers than you usually see? Are your apple trees overloaded? We could be in a mast year!

A mast year is when trees and shrubs produce a super abundance of fruits, nuts, and seeds, known as "mast." Instead of a scattering of acorns or the usual crop of berries, mast years bring thick carpets of nuts and seeds, heavy branches of fruit, and a feast for wildlife across our landscapes.



These events usually occur roughly every five years or so, although like all things in nature, this schedule is far from guaranteed! The recent dry year may have exacerbated the results this year! So why do trees produce bumper crops? One of the main theories for this behaviour is 'predator satiation'. Take oak as an example. Animals like squirrels, birds, mice and badgers feed on the acorns. When the trees produce smaller crops for a few consecutive years, they're effectively keeping the populations of these animals in check and also they don't get many of their acorns (their seeds) sown. But during a mast year, the trees produce more food than the animals can possibly eat.

This bounty causes a boom in populations of small mammals like mice. But much more importantly, it guarantees some acorns will be left over to survive and grow into new trees. Mast years have a major evolutionary advantage for the tree. Producing nuts is costly work and slightly stunts the tree's growth, but as it tends to happen every 5-10 years, it's worth the payoff for some of the crop to germinate into new saplings.

And this year, the trees may also be under stress as they haven't had the rainfall they need, and so this may have increased their seed production to counter a perceived threat. Our magnolia has produced berries for the first time since we were bought it, 30 years ago!

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

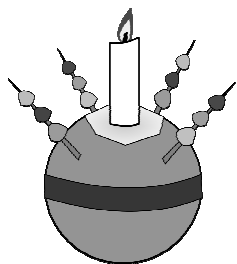
Loving Father,
help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

CHRISTINGLE 2025

Our Christingle Service this year is at
10:30am on Sunday 7th December. We have
Collection Moneyboxes
and Envelopes available in
church and from church
members for you to fill with
your spare change and
exchange for a Christingle
at our service.



The Children's
Society supports young
people everywhere in the UK.
Do take a Collection Box and do bring
it to church on 3rd December.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

£350 sent to Royal British Legion

MAGAZINE ITEMS for **JANUARY** to
JOHN WORSFOLD by **FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER**
You can send details as an attachment by
email to JHW.Hathern@gmail.com

*I'm really disappointed with the watch I bought
from Amazon, it said you can swim to eighty
feet, I nearly drowned! I suppose you have to
be able to swim before you buy the watch?*

OUR 21st CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL WHY NOT DO A TREE? IT'S GREAT FUN!

Contact us now!

John Worsfold, 01509 842 585 JHW.Hathern@gmail.com

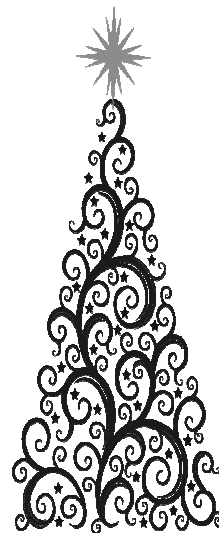
Terry Cox, 01509 843 107, TandMCox@hotmail.co.uk

Tony Croft, 01509 842 364, The.Crofties.32@gmail.com

ENTRY £4, 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.
If you'd like to take part, please pop your name on the rota inside church,
or contact Rosemary directly, 842585.



HATHERN OLD CRICKET CLUB 200 CLUB

November 2025 Draw

£20 - Nr 35 - Helen Lumby
- yes same as last month.
£5 - Nr 55 - Alfie Collin

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th December
from 10:00am until 12noon.
Meet your friends over a cuppa!

*Life's getting me down!. To make matters worse, I just paid a joiner up front to make me a double bed
and he's done a bunk with my money. Just one thing on top of another!*