



the **Hurst**

ISSUE 15

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What's going on in Hurst Green • News, views and information

EDITORIAL

There are many positive aspects of living in a rural village such as Hurst Green. However, the A21 is not one of them. For many years, residents and Parish Council have been asking for traffic calming measures. Despite various conversations with Highways England, Sussex Police, MP Huw Merriman and a protest outside the school three years ago, very little has changed. On 11th November there was another incident outside the school involving a speeding car. How hard can it be for average speed cameras to be set up? It seems that no one is listening or taking this seriously. Of course, it doesn't help that so many motorists are completely ignoring the 30mph limit, we are all in such a hurry these days! Read some more comments opposite.

No hurry over breakfast twice a month, the over 75's Breakfast Club is back in full swing! Every second and fourth Friday from 10am, the Village Hall is teeming with activity as Bob and Mandy cook up a full English breakfast for the hungry hordes. If you qualify and would like to join, contact Elaine or Clive, numbers on the right above.

One of the members who enjoyed this club as well as many aspects of village life was Robin Cruse who sadly passed away last month. He and his wife Lilian were integral to the village for many years. He will be greatly missed but well remembered. As we end the year I hope and pray for better times ahead for us all.

Annabelle Blackaby
thehurst.hg@gmail.com

Deadline for next copy is 31st January

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Cover photo: Simon Shaw

USEFUL CONTACTS

Allotment Association 01580 860251

Breakfast Club (75+) 01580 860760/860358

Brownies 01580 860742

Comedy Capers 01580 860221

Cricket Club 07796 976809

First Responders 07837 224905

Holy Trinity Church 01580 880282 (Vicar)
01580 860649

Hurst Green C of E School 01580 860375

Nursery School 01580 860375 x211

Parish Clerk 01580 860111

Rother District Council 01424 787000

Short Mat Bowling 01424 773478

Twinning Association 01580 860977

Village Hall Booking Agent
01580 860111/860425

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Some quotes and correspondence on the subject of speeding...

Part of an email from Juliet Holroyd to Huw Merriman Jan '21

'Huw, you made a very impressive, and positive, speech a couple of years ago about how you would pursue increasing road safety on this stretch of road. This was during our protest on the pavement outside the village school and following the latest accident at the time, where a car with four children was ploughed into, outside my house, at school drop off time. I was heartened by your speech. However, this has recently popped up on my Facebook 'memories'. Sadly, this is all it has become: a distant memory. I believe a couple of minor items were remedied, such as fixing the broken 20/30mph signs after the protest. However, no other road calming or road safety measures are evident.'

Huw Merriman's reply July '21

'Last June, the MPs in the A21 group met with the Roads Minister, Baroness Vere, to press for road safety improvements to be brought forward by Highways England. The Government's Road Investment Strategy, published in March, did not include the much-needed safety upgrades in the current investment period. The works had been pushed back to begin in 2025 for completion by 2030. As a result of our lobbying to the Minister, Highways England have brought forward, by five years, comprehensive plans to upgrade safety along the route. The upgrade will create consistent and standardised conditions

along the single carriageway section together with improved pedestrian and cycling facilities.

Over the last 6 months Highways England have been re-visiting all previous recent scoping studies which have been carried out on the A21 to bring them up to date and to create a comprehensive list of safety measures. As part of this process, I have asked them to place a particular focus on pedestrian safety in the villages of Hurst Green and Whatlington in addition to speed control measures and junction improvements. **CONTINUED...**

"Huw has applied for a debate on school road safety and will be referencing Hurst Green in order to keep this in the spotlight"

The speeding protest outside the school in 2018



Speeding continued...

Last week, Highways England informed me that they had concluded their desktop review of the speed limits along the A21 and will now be commencing formal consultation with Sussex Police on the recommendations from the study. They will also shortly be reaching out to the communities along the A21 to inform them about the work and to seek feedback on any safety issues they might like to bring to their attention.'

From Huw Merriman's Office Manager to Councillor Graham Browne Nov '21

'We are waiting for more information from National Highways (Highways England) on what their safety proposals for the village will look like. How did your meeting with them go, are there specific suggestions that you put forward that you would like Huw to push for? Huw has applied for a debate on school road safety and will be referencing Hurst Green in order to keep this in the spotlight.'

Graham's reply

'I pleaded with them to install a speed camera at the school. I fully accept speeds will probably increase after the camera, but the area surrounding the school frontage desperately needs protection. There have been so many near misses, a serious accident is just waiting to happen.'

Councillor Steve Wright

'As a villager of 50+ years I've seen this problem grow and grow. Each year it becomes more dangerous. Whenever we campaign to Highways England, their response is: not enough fatalities on this section of the A21 to warrant any change.'

Juliet Holroyd

'I just slowed down to 20mph outside the school, the guy behind me hooted and gesticulated and implied I was on his dash cam. He slowed and stared as I drove into my drive and I now feel intimidated that he knows where I live. All for trying to do the right thing.'

It's not just on the A21 – Derek Johnson, another member of the Parish Council writes:

'I was nearly run down on the zebra crossing in Station Road the other day – two cars drove over the crossing while I was walking the dog. We had a meeting with East Sussex Highways the other day to see if we could improve Station Road. It was a positive meeting so hopefully we might get some progress.'



Any Hitches
in your Stitches?

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make good or mend



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on 07592 62 99 96

Letter from the Vicar



Every year the Church of England has a theme for Christmas and this year it is 'The heart of Christmas', highlighting that for Christians, the heart of Christmas is the love of God expressed by the person of Jesus coming into the world. Sadly, even Christians can get caught up in all the hurly burly and commercialism that surrounds the Christmas season. I had a conversation today with some folk about how excessive it all seems – it feels like there is too much of everything and too much choice as well. It can become overwhelming. For many the pressure to provide what is presented to us as a perfect Christmas causes them to get into debt. Others are left feeling that they have failed because they can't buy their children all the things that they want. And how depressing it must seem to those who are already struggling to feed their families and keep them warm. Hopefully those of us who are blessed with more than we need will be moved to share with those in need, not just at Christmas time, but maybe especially at Christmas time.

I wonder what you feel is the heart of Christmas for you. A lot of people would say family, and that is wonderful, but again sad for those whose families are far away, or maybe who don't have any family. I am not meaning to sound negative, just to remind all of us, of any faith or none, that this should be a time for counting our blessings, remembering those less fortunate than ourselves and helping others as much as we are able. If we are willing to do this, I suspect we will get much closer to the real heart of Christmas and much less likely to be overwhelmed by the excesses. Part of me feels that the pleasures of Christmas were much more intense when the season was much shorter. When I was a child, many people

"The heart of Christmas is the love of God expressed by the person of Jesus coming into the world"

did not even put their Christmas tree up until Christmas eve. Now it is not that uncommon to see houses lit up with Christmas decorations in early November and we are all used to seeing Christmas items appear in the supermarkets in September! Personally, I love the anticipation of Advent and I look forward to Advent Sunday, Advent Calendars, Advent hymns and Advent readings, and the end of November is early enough for me! Advent is a time of preparation for Christians, a time to prepare our hearts to remember again the time when God's love entered the world through the birth of a child and changed it forever.

Come and celebrate this joyful event at our **Carol service on Saturday 18th December at 4pm in Holy Trinity Church.** There will also be a short service on **Christmas Day at 9am.**

God bless, **Rev Annette**
annette@jhbd.co.uk
01580 880282 / 07900 332791

We meet at Holy Trinity every Sunday – we have coffee at 9am and the service starts at 9.30.

Advertise in the Hurst!

For a quarter page: £25 for one issue, £90 for a year (4 issues)
For a half page: £50 for one issue, £180 for a year (4 issues)
For a full page: £100 for one issue, £360 for a year (4 issues)
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Facelift for the Cricket Pavilion

An autumnal November day saw cricket club members turn out to give the pavilion a much-needed facelift. The felt covering the front has been gradually ripped away by wind and rain over the past few years, exposing the bare wood beneath to the elements.

Using a grant from the Parish Council and the time of our volunteers, a weatherboarded and waterproofed fascia has been added that will hopefully last a number of years.

Did you know? Although it's boarded over now and the space behind used for storage, the opening in the centre of the pavilion used to be where the scorers would sit to stay out of the sun (or rain).

We're also gearing up for next season, planning to run some taster sessions and recruit new members in early May 2022 – keep an eye on this magazine and our Facebook page [facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub](https://www.facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub) for the latest updates.



Breakfast Club is in full swing!



The Jungle Olympics

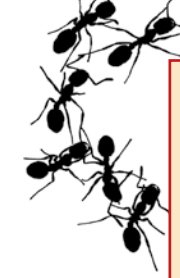
Ray Young

From 1979, I part owned and ran what was known in our industry as a custom pressing record manufacturing plant in South Wimbledon. It was a private company and most of our work came from smaller record labels. We were noted for high quality and therefore attracted BBC Record Enterprises and other broadcast firms. For seven years, we pressed the Queen's Christmas speech, just 350 copies that went to the whole Commonwealth.

In 1982, a man walked in wanting 1000 copies of recordings of his poetry, sponsored by Happy Eater – remember them? It was Richard Digance, the author, composer and poet. The 12 inch LP was called *Animal Alphabet* and the contents were taken from his book of poems of the same name.

A few days later, I heard laughter coming from our quality control section. I went to have a look and found the testers listening to one of Richard's poems. It was the first one, *The Ants at the Olympics*! Later, when Richard came to collect his records, I asked him if I could buy a copy of his book. He obliged and sent me one.

I managed to contact him recently to ask his permission as copyright holder (1980), if I may reprint *The Ants at the Olympics* for our *Hurst Magazine*. He said "of course", wished us all good luck and hoped we would enjoy it. The book starts with A for ants, and finishes with Z for Debra the Zebra, strutting about in her new striped pyjamas! That'll give you an idea. So here it is...



The Ants at the Olympics poor things...

At last year's Jungle Olympics, the Ants were completely outclassed, in fact from an entry of sixty-two teams, the Ants came their usual last!

They didn't win one single medal, not that that's a surprise, the reason was not lack of trying, but more their unfortunate size!

While the Cheetahs won most of the sprinting, and the Hippos won putting the shot, the Ants tried sprinting but couldn't, and tried to put – but could not!

It was sad for the Ants cause they're sloggers, they turn out for every event, with their shorts and bright orange teeshirts, their athletes are proud they are sent.

They came last in the high jump and hurdles, which they say they'd have won, but they fell. They came last in the four hundred metres, and last in the swimming as well!

They came last in the long distance running, though they say they might have come first! And they might, if the other sixty one teams hadn't put in a finishing burst!

But each year they turn up regardless, They're popular in the parade, the other teams whistle and cheer them, aware of the journey they've made.

For the Jungle Olympics in August, they have to set off New Years Day! They didn't arrive the year before last, they set off – but went the wrong way!

So long as they try there's a reason, after all, it's only a sport. They'll be back next year – to take up the rear – and that's an encouraging thought!!!

Richard Digance

the Tobitt Grave

IN
EVER LOVING MEMORY OF
SAMUEL TOBITT
OF HURST GREEN SUSSEX
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
OCTOBER 9TH 1905.
AGED 74 YEARS

"HIS END WAS PEACE".

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY
"COME UNTO ME AND REST
LAY DOWN THOU WEARY ONE LAY DOWN
THY HEAD UPON ME BREST"
I CAME TO JESUS AS I WAS
WEARY, AND WORN, AND SAD
I FOUND IN HIM A RESTING PLACE
AND HE HAS MADE ME GLAD

ALSO EMILY
WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED MAY 22ND 1919
AGED 81 YEARS

PEACE PERFECT PEACE



In the 1881 census Samuel Tobitt (1832 –1905) with his wife Emily Tobitt (nee Croft, 1838-1919)



was the innkeeper of the Woolpack Inn (above), which used to be at the northern end of the village, and they are still there in the 1891 and 1901 censuses. The Woolpack Inn has been a private residence for some years now.

This family has another example of two brothers marrying two sisters, as in 1834 William Tobitt (1801–1869) married Mary Ann Colebrook (1808–1890) and in 1841 William's brother Thomas Tobitt (1805–1864) married Mary Ann's sister Eleanor Colebrook (1809–1891).

One of Samuel's cousins, Robert Tobitt (1840–1907), who married Emily Kate Harrison (1854–1904) in 1872, was petitioned for divorce by his wife in 1898 for his adultery and it was granted. (See the documents at the end. Incidentally one of Robert & Emily's daughters, who married John Sydney Bird in 1909, was later also divorced because of his adultery.

George Tobitt (1829–1888) and his family emigrated to the USA sometime after the 1871 census but before the 1881 census.

Burwash have a day at the coast and bring home some bacon

East Sussex Walking Football League Championship Division

The Burwash over 50's Walking Football team, battered and bruised from their battle with Ringmer, started the game against Atha of Bexhill with renewed optimism and a goalkeeper – well sort of...

Chris, who had to withdraw from the previous game due to Covid, was available but not yet ready to give it 100% whizzing up and down the wing, so we did the next best thing and stuck him in goal. And an inspired decision it was. With his positional awareness and safe hands we looked confident at the back and lively going forward.

Dead-eye Dave was in the right place at the right time to rifle home our opening goal and settle our nerves.

But once again, defensively, the wheels came off. Three quick goals from Atha had them doing cartwheels and us with our heads in our hands!



3-1 down at half time – the same as our opening game at Ringmer.

But this time it was different. We had Manager Ken on the sidelines overseeing things and with a couple of tactical changes and substitutions we regained some of our earlier confidence.

Once again Dave found himself unmarked in front of goal and there was no way he wasn't going to score and sure enough he converted again to rack up his fourth goal in two games – not bad for a bloke in his 70's.

More substitutions to give weary legs a rest saw Stevie G back in midfield before Dave was there again with an assist for Peter Manning (our other 70 year old striker) to send their keeper the wrong way for our equalising goal* and a chance to share the points (or the bacon...).

Happy days in Bexhill!

* Dave disputes it was Peter's goal, claiming it himself, saying that it was going in anyway and as it hit Peter on the chest when he had his back to the goal Peter had no way of knowing what was happening. Let's leave it as a bit of friendly banter that they will sort out between themselves before our next game...

Final score: Atha 3 Burwash 3

Although pretty good at football we may need to practice our posing a bit!

We meet every Thursday at Robertsbridge Community College Sports Hall.

For more info:

www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk



L-R: Lindsay, Peter M, Chris, Stevie G, Dead-eye Dave, Peter H, Graham, Laurence, Ken.

LIGHT RELIEF...

Here are some real-life extracts from church notices and bulletins that didn't come out quite in the way intended!

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

Jumble Sale: The ladies of our church will have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday at 7pm – use the back door. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery.

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be, 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Musings on everyday life

If you can smile when things go wrong, you probably have someone in mind to blame.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

When dog food is 'new and improved tasting', who tastes it?

PARAPROSDOKIANS

(Winston Churchill loved them), are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you but it's still on my list.

3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to behave in public
6. War does not determine who is right – only who is left.
7. They begin the evening news with "Good Evening", then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a workstation.
10. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted the pay cheques.

Robin Cruse

18.7.37 to 2.11.21



Our family moved into Hurst Green in 1965 and my father loved the village from the very first day.

He had a very hard childhood, moving to Hailsham to live with a family named Cruse. As soon as he was old enough, he changed his surname from Squirrel to Cruse. (A change that my brother and I were always grateful for!)

He soon became immersed into the village way of life and made so many friends through the Twinning, bowling, village hall and supported any village events, all throughout his working life and beyond to meeting 'his ladies' regularly for coffee and a chat and attending breakfast club.

The two comments I have heard most have been 'he was such a character' and 'he was a really kind man'. I know he will be greatly missed. A hole has been left in the village, and in my life, but he is now reunited with Mum and Stephen, at peace.

Could you become a 'Friend of Holy Trinity Church'?

Most villages have at least one Parish Church – they range from old unused listed buildings to thriving places of worship. Here in Hurst Green, we have Holy Trinity, a Victorian structure surrounded by a large graveyard, accessed by the lychgate which is also the War Memorial.

Over the past few years much work has been done to make this a welcoming place for church services of all kinds, plus a weekly café and space for other events. You may have heard it said that the church is not the building but the people. That is very true, we could quite easily hold our gatherings anywhere; however there is something special about a place set aside to worship God, it has a peace and tranquillity about, it a sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Of course, there is the cost of maintaining such a building and the upkeep of the churchyard; the bulk of this comes from the small number of regular attendees, currently around 20. Although the Church of England own the buildings, they do not financially support them.

So, here's the rub... Do we as a village want a church building? If so, are we willing to support in various ways to keep this asset alive?

It is not all about financial contribution; we're grateful to the Parish Council for the annual grant towards the maintenance of the churchyard, but also Graham Browne lends out his sheep to keep some of the grass down and there are the amazing folk who give up their time to help trim, mow and hedge cut throughout the summer.

Maybe as you are reading this you can think of ways to get involved. Some of the needs are: gardening in the churchyard, financial help towards the maintenance of the building and restoring the old, abandoned graves. We as the PCC would love to hear your views and thoughts. Contact us via richard@blackaby.force9co.uk or johnh@jhbd.co.uk

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Hurst Green Strategic Masterplan

The assessment of Hurst Green character areas and analysis of potential development sites gave an in depth understanding of potential opportunities for improvements within Hurst Green Parish, and highlighted existing constraints and challenges.

Upon a consultation and analysis of the findings with the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, a Strategic Village Masterplan was developed addressing the key opportunities for the village and aiming to mitigate the key issues. The Strategic Masterplan proposes improvements on three levels:

- connectivity improvements beyond the parish boundary,
- improvements within Hurst Green village,
- and potential improvements around the identified village hub on Station Road.

The key objectives of Hurst Green 2030 Vision, identified following feedback from the resident surveys and from the public engagement events, are as follows:

- 1 Protect against inappropriate and speculative development and provide guidance and greater influence over how Hurst Green should be developed in the future.
- 2 Improve public safety and reduce the harmful impact of road traffic, while providing sufficient parking for the community.
- 3 Develop local planning policies for Hurst Green to which development proposals should adhere.
- 4 Create an environment that encourages residents to live active, social, meaningful lives that promote good health and well-being.
- 5 Bring forward action on facilities and improvements which are needed by the

village of Hurst Green and the hamlets of Silver Hill and Swiftsden.

- 6 Improve the visual appearance and overall perception of Hurst Green as a place where people want to live, work and visit.
- 7 Enhance our existing, and create new, open green spaces and improve access to the countryside.
- 8 Increase business, retail and tourism opportunities to encourage local employment, and grow the local economy.
- 9 Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment and improve the general street scene around the parish.

hurstgreen2030.uk/the-vision/

Hurst Green Village Hall WHAT'S ON

MONDAY	7pm Short Mat Bowls
TUESDAY	8.45am Pilates
	4pm Children's Dance Class (term time)
	7pm Jive & Lindy Hop (07766 881045)
	8pm Parish Council Meeting (4th Tuesday of each month)
WEDNESDAY	10am Upholstery (term time)
	10.30am Breastfeeding class
	5.30pm Brownies (term time)
	7.30pm Pilates
THURSDAY	8.45am Pilates
	1.30pm Short Mat Bowls
	8pm Zumba
FRIDAY	10am Breakfast Club (2nd & 4th Friday each month)
SATURDAY	9am Children's Dance Class (term time)

Booking agent: Sue Endean 01580 860425, 07541 800537, 07718 282605

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Wadhurst Bowls Club – Update

The season finally drew to a close at the end of September, when the bowls green was to put to bed for the winter after two days of hard work by club members who scarified, mowed, seeded and top dressed the grass to give it the best possible chance over the coming months.

Our AGM, held in October, amongst other things discussed and approved a new design for club shirts for next season. We have to get final approval from Sussex County Bowls but we should be able to step onto the green next season looking sartorially elegant and professional even if our bowling hasn't improved.

The new shirts set up a wonderful sponsorship opportunity for local

businesses. We keep the same design for around 10 years so for a small outlay a company can see their name advertised all over East Sussex. With good press coverage and a successful season, this could be the advertising opportunity of a lifetime!

Give me, Laurence Worton, a call on 01435 884331 or 07714 935915 Wadhurst Bowls – your local club since 1934 www.wadhurstbc.com

The final mention of 2021 must go to the Wadhurst B team on collecting their Champions Shield and pennant at the recent Tunbridge Wells League AGM and Presentation Night.



Perhaps we have an opportunity to create a club nickname – how about the Wadhurst Tigers or Wadhurst Wasps...?





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The Dash by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the gravestone from the beginning... to the end. He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth. For it matters not how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So, think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged. To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more. And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before. If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile... Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while. So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, Would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

RENEW CAFÉ will be having a special Christmas morning at Holy Trinity Church on THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER FROM 10AM-12 NOON

Coffee and tea as well as mulled wine and mince pies, plus some festive crafts to make and take home



Renew Café

Some helpful local services

Building and Renovations Mark Roby 07586 702809. Pioneeringcarpentry@yahoo.com

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Dogs Holiday and day care: Lorely Watson 01580 880061 / 07796 392653

Pippin's Pet Sitting and walking: 07717 681972
Sarah.janeheasman@hotmail.co.uk

Eco-friendly products Joanna Girling 07443 411677 girling.joanna@gmail.com

Electricians Gareth Skinner 07929 839309
Tim Russell 07771 687636
trussell.5@btinternet.com

Ian Moore-Rushworth 07703 021767

Leather repairs

Kay Lloyd, Wealden Saddlery 01580 860860

Pest control Paul Messenger 07940 744411
paul@roecallservices.com

Plastering and tiling

Edd Ripley, 07875 494493.

Plumbers Aaron Plumbing & Heating Ltd - Aaron Rowsell 01580 230330

Steve Walker 07564 405702

Private car hire and taxi service Hugo, 01435 883803 Mob. 07931 605057

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SUNDAY: 11:00 - 16:00



Light in the Darkness

St Mary Salehurst, Sunday 5th December 5pm

A quieter contemplative Christmas service with carols for those who are bereaved, lonely, find Christmas difficult or just need some quiet time in the midst of all the busyness.

There will be an opportunity to light a candle for a loved one during the service.

EGGS TO APPLES

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