

Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in
Seer Green
& Jordans

December 2021/
January 2022



**Holy Trinity
Christmas
celebrations**

**Christmas
books and
games**

Our new rector

**Christmas
cover
competition**



one pound

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From the Editors

Happy Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year to you all. We are very grateful to our contributors who have kept going through these difficult times, our advertisers who keep supporting us, the distributors who drop the magazines through your doors and most of all to you, our readers. We hope that you enjoy this Christmas edition with all the information about Christmas events in the church and in the two villages, Helen Lindsay Clark's

seasonal recipe, Janet Stewart's Christmas books suggestions and Carol Wright's party games all look great fun.

Have you noticed the new cover picture? We had the most wonderful entries for our competition and think we might do it again for the summer double edition. The winner was Lewis French age 6.

Phil Moody, Sue Puttergill and Carol Wright

Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **February** issue to: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** by **7 January**. Diary dates for the next two or three months would be very welcome.

Articles should be **300 words max** and photos should be jpeg format, preferable 300 dpi.

Please note any items submitted may be edited for space, content or style.

Are you a subscriber?

You can buy an annual subscription to this magazine for only £10 a year (for 10 issues) and it will be delivered free of charge to your door. Please email: **editorseergreen@gmail.com** with your name, address and phone number and one of our distributors will contact you.

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 - FC (adults) Art Anderson 07919 027351

Seer Green Village Choirs
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Thought for the Month



This time last year we were just coming out of lockdown 2 with hopes and dreams for Christmas and a more positive and promising time ahead. Little did we know! For many our hopes and dreams for Christmas suddenly disappeared in late December with the move from Tier 2 to Tier 4, banning all household mixing for Christmas. The majority of the things that we look forward to during the festive season were taken away.

Whilst for many it was painful and it involved loss, some found a new wonder to the simplicity surrounding Christmas. There was less pressure, no need to impress, a slower pace to the day. New games were played over the dining table or via zoom, Christmas films were watched curled up on the sofa.

When I was thinking about Christmas last year and Christmas this year I think at the heart of it is Love... doing the things we love with the people we love.

This year, many of the things we love have returned. There will be opportunities to spend time with loved ones, Christmas fairs and parties, carol singing, pantomimes and nativities. The two villages have lots on offer to help us celebrate!

For Christians, Christmas is all about God's love and the baby in the manger, who grew up to give us an example of how we should live and love. Amongst all the festivities you will enjoy this year I hope you find a moment to remember the reason for the season.

May I wish you a Christmas filled with the things you love and the people you love.

Janna Holder - Holy Trinity Church Children's and Family leader



Church Events | News

Church news

Appointment of a new rector for the benefice.

The Wardens of the benefice of Chalfont St Giles with Seer Green and Jordans are delighted to be able to announce that the Revd. Dan Beesley has formally agreed to become the next benefice Rector. Dan is currently Interim Part-Time Priest-in-Charge of Bierton and Hulcott North Aylesbury.

Dan and his wife Paula and their children are very much looking forward to moving to the Rectory.

Dan's licensing service will take place on **Thursday 27 January** at 7.30pm in Chalfont St Giles.

We very much look forward to working with Dan next year and

to starting the process to recruit a 'house for duty' vicar for Seer Green and Jordans.

Services for December and January.

We have made plans for our December and January services, please keep an eye on our Facebook page Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green and Jordans or website seergreenandjordanscofe.org in case it becomes necessary to make changes to the planned schedule. You will also find details of how to obtain a ticket for certain services if becomes necessary.

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jane Sperry & Janine Dunnell



Rev Dan Beesley celebrating during lockdown.

Charities for December

Family Support Group of St Andrew's Church, High Wycombe

We are delighted that our Christingle Service is back this year! It is on **Sunday 5 December** at 10am in Holy Trinity Church. For many years at the Christingle service, we have collected presents and vouchers for the families who visit the St Andrew's, High Wycombe Family Support Group. (standrewshw.co.uk/family-support-group)

We have a list of present requests for children under 10 years old. If you would like to buy a present, with the monetary value of £10, please contact Rachel Gibson on 07957 684109.

If you would simply like to donate £10 for a voucher for the teenagers and Mums, please contact Katharine Parker on 07880 523811.

Please bring your named presents or money for vouchers to the service on **Sunday 5 December**.



The Children's Society

Also at Christingle, we will be collecting for The Children's Society, the long-established national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect (www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC)

Wycombe Homeless Connection helps homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless. The 'Everyone In' initiative that paid for emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. WHC are asking for donations to provide emergency accommodation and support this winter. £100,000 is needed to ensure vulnerable people across the south of Buckinghamshire have a safe place to stay this winter. (wyhoc.org.uk)

UNICEF

UNICEF provides life-saving aid and long-term assistance for children and families before, during and after emergencies. With the help of its partners in over 190 countries and territories, its programmes and initiatives help defend children's rights, support quality learning, help them fulfil their potential and save lives. (www.unicef.org.uk)

Geoffrey Brand

Holy Trinity Services in December

- 5 Dec 8am BCP Communion Service, in person only
10am Christingle Service, in person only
- 12 Dec 10am Holy Communion Service, in person and You Tube
- 19 Dec 8am BCP Communion Service, in person only
10am Holy Communion, lessons and carols in person and YouTube
- 24 Dec 3pm Nativity Service, YouTube only
11.30pm Communion Service for Christmas Eve, in person only
- 25 Dec 10am All-age Christmas Day Service, in person and YouTube
- 12 Dec 8am BCP Communion Service at Chalfont St Giles
- 26 Dec 10am BCP communion Service at Chalfont St Giles

Weekdays in December

- Tues 9am Morning Prayer on Zoom
- Thurs 9am Morning Prayer on Zoom
11am Discussion group
- Fri 9.15-10.15 Toddlers in the Woods



Our streamed service will be on our YouTube channel.

<https://tinyurl.com/e22n8hzw>

For more information about families' activities contact Janna.

Some services may require you to book a place.

Services may be changed if circumstances dictate.

Please see our Facebook page or website for more information.

The church is open for private prayer on Tuesday, Thursday 9am-4pm and Sunday afternoon. From 13 December it will be open daily 10am-3pm.

Holy Trinity Services in January

- 2 Jan 8am BCP Communion Service, in person only
10am Morning Service
- 9 Jan 10am Holy Communion Service, in person and You Tube
- 16 Jan 8am BCP Communion Service, in person only
10am Morning Praise with baptism, in person and YouTube
12pm Baptism
- 23 Jan 10am Holy Communion Service, in person and You Tube
- 30 Jan 10am Holy Communion Service, in person and You Tube

Our streamed service will be on our YouTube channel.

<https://tinyurl.com/e22n8hzw>

For more information about families' activities contact Janna.

Services may be changed if circumstances dictate. Please see our Facebook page or website for more information.

Baptisms Weddings and Funerals

Baptism

24 October - Joshua John Altria

Banns of Marriage

James Welch and Holly Tinlin

Contact us

Holy Trinity website

www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org

**Church Wardens and
General Enquiries**

Jane Spoerry 01494 677328

Janine Dunnell janine.dunnell@gmail.com

Charity for January - WaterAid

Water Aid say 'Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights.

Water changes everything

For Fatima, Lourdes and Amelia in Timor-Leste, that means being able to drink from the tap without worrying about deadly diseases.



Decent toilets

1.7 billion people, more than one in five do not have a decent toilet of their own. Not having a toilet is dangerous. 'It means there's nowhere to treat or manage human waste properly, so germs get into water sources and food, spreading diseases like diarrhoea and cholera. It means people having to go to the loo outside, which is especially unsafe for women and children. And it means people stop going to work and school if they are poorly, or on their period.'

Good hygiene saves lives

To make the benefits of clean water last for generations, good hygiene is the key. Hygiene covers many behaviours from personal handwashing to clean use of toilets and safe use of water. Some groups of people are more affected by poor hygiene, especially people with disabilities, young girls, women and babies.

Why do WaterAid talk about periods? In many countries periods are still a huge taboo, meaning girls never learn how to manage them properly, and schools lack decent toilets and washing facilities, leading to many girls missing class when they have their period.

Brenda Nduta 13 is a student and senior member of the health club. She teaches her peers about sanitary napkins and handwashing practices at Kangemi primary school, Nairobi.

To find out more go to WaterAid UK

If you wish to donate by cheque or cash, use one of the blue envelopes in church and put it in the green donations box or drop it off at 58 Chalfont Road. Please write WaterAid on the envelope.



Geoffrey Brand

Donations to Holy Trinity

We are very grateful to all the people who have supported the church over this difficult time, but like a lot of churches our income has reduced without the generous donations usually made at services. If you would like to make a donation to the work and upkeep of Holy Trinity Church, there are many quick and easy ways to do so -

Go to our website:
www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org and scroll down the homepage to 'Online Giving' and follow the link.

Or go to In support of Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green and Jordans - Give A Little.

<https://tinyurl.com/5adwwx4e>

Or you can activate our Online Giving page by using the QR code below.



Donations in cash/cheque may be delivered to our treasurer at 58 Chalfont Road. If you can Gift Aid your donation, please add your name and address.

If you would like to join our planned giving scheme, please speak to our treasurer Audrey Hardy on 01494 672592.



SGKIDS & Seer Green Gardeners would like to introduce our Village Advent Calendar 2021.

Throughout December different houses and venues will create Christmas themed display for others to enjoy.
A simple, creative, fun way to get ready for Christmas!

Wednesday 1 Dec	Christmas Tree* & Shops
Thursday 2	Howard Road
Friday 3	Howard Crescent
Saturday 4	Long Grove
Sunday 5	Old Long Grove
Monday 6	Highlands Road & Bottom Lane
Tuesday 7	Gurnells Road
Wednesday 8	Wynnswick Road
Thursday 9	Orchard Court and Raeside Close
Friday 10	Orchard Road & Cherrywood Close
Saturday 11	The Jolly Cricketers & The Three Horseshoes
Sunday 12	Seer Mead, School Lane & Vicarage Close
Monday 13	SG Pre-school & SGCE School
Tuesday 14	Chalfont Road (Old Baptist Chapel - Old PO)
Wednesday 15	Chalfont Road (Old PO - PP) & Park Place (PP)
Thursday 16	Hearn's Meadow & Hearn's Close
Friday 17	Manor Road & Manor Crescent
Saturday 18	Chalfont Road (PP - Perkin Elmer) & New Barn Lane
Sunday 19	Woodpond Close & SG Baptist Church
Monday 20	Drovers Way & Dell Lees
Tuesday 21	Godolphin Road & Pear Tree Close
Wednesday 22	Barrards Way & Stable Lane
Thursday 23	Farmers Way & Coat Wicks
Friday 24	Holy Trinity Church & Church Road

* We will gather outside the shops on Orchard Road from 6pm, with the lights being switched on at 6.15pm. Please do come and mark the start of our festive season.

For further details please contact sgadventcalendar@gmail.com
or Janna Holder on 07764490960.

www.facebook.com/seergreenadventcalendar

Christmas with a difference (again)

Christingle - 10am Sunday 5 December

Our December All Age Service helps us remember the Christmas Story, of Jesus coming to Earth as a Light to the world. We will have fun finding out about the meaning of the Christingle, with families having one to take home at the end. During the service we will also collect wrapped presents for children, to be distributed to families in need around High Wycombe. We request that you wear a mask if attending this service.

Christmas Eve Village Nativity - Take 2

On Christmas Eve Holy Trinity Church would normally welcome

over 400 people to enjoy our Crib Services. Last year this was not possible. This year, whilst a possible option, we did not feel it appropriate to cram hundreds of people of multi generations in a building on Christmas Eve. Whilst this is very sad, following the success of last year we will be offering you our Village Nativity - Take 2! This will premiere at **3pm on Christmas Eve** on Holy Trinity's YouTube channel and Facebook page. But In order for this to be possible I need YOUR help! Please get in contact with Janna if you would like to find out more! jannaholder@talktalk.net 07764 490960.

**Seer Green
Christmas Lights
Switch on
& Advent Calendar Launch**

**Wednesday 1st December 2021
6 pm, lights on 6.15 pm.**

Gather outside Orchard Road shops and start the festive season with our annual Lights Switch On!

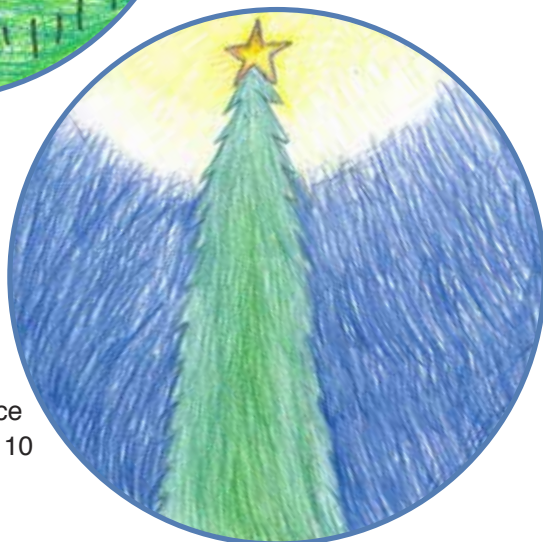
Christmas cover competition

We were thrilled with the wonderful entries we had for the Christmas cover of the Parish magazine. Thank you all and congratulations! It was very difficult to decide which one to choose and we had to shuffle them around on Carol Wright's kitchen table several times before finally coming to a decision.

First place and on the cover of this magazine is Lewis French's picture, Lewis is 6. Lewis will be asked to switch on the Seer Green Christmas lights - we hope he is around that evening and can do it.



Second place
Will Jenkin age 10



Third place
Mally O'Connor age 7



Fourth place
Immy Shakespeare age 9



Runners up Star Belton age 10 and Isla Nimmo age 4

The Editors

Seer Green School PTA



CHRISTMAS
CRACKER FAIR

Seer Green CE School
4th Dec 12.30-2.30pm



Christmas Cracker Fair
Seer Green CE School, School Lane, HP9 2QJ
Saturday 4th Dec 12.30-2.30pm

Come join the village community in a celebration of Christmas!

Raffle, BBQ, cakes, mulled wine, woodland Santa's grotto, bottle & chocolate tombolas, Christmas jumper / fancy dress competition, carols and much more!

Sponsored by

Over 11's £1 entry, under 11's free

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Village Events | News

Christmas Cracker Fair

After a hiatus in 2020, we are hoping (Covid guidelines permitting) to run the Seer Green School Christmas Cracker Fair this year - this will be a great opportunity for the village community to get together again and kick off the festive season.

We hope to have something for all the family - BBQ, veggie samosas and cakes for all your lunch needs; raffle, bottle and chocolate tombolas for those who enjoy winning, and lots of activities for all ages including Santa's

woodland grotto, forest school crafts, silent disco, family photo-booth and a Christmas jumper / fancy dress competition, as well as carols from the school choir.

We are conscious of balancing community connections with safety, so will be aiming to have as many activities as possible outside and lots of ventilation indoors - so wrap up warm and bring your masks for inside!

The fair will run 12.30-2.30pm, and it is £1 entry for over 11s, free entry for under 11s.

We look forward to seeing you there! Seer Green School PTA.

Claire Jenkin - PTA Chair





Seer Green Santa Dash



Sunday 5th December
12 noon @ The Scout Hut

Bring cash for hot refreshments

Info and tickets

<https://bit.ly/3Bd3Aww>



Questions? Contact Jodie Homer - jodiehomer40@gmail.com

Santa Dash!

Fun for all the family to join the Seer Green Santa Dash! The route is anything from a dash around the Recreation Ground or, for those wanting a run/walk, there is a 5km loop to Jordans. The entry fee will include a Santa suit and everyone who takes part will receive a small Christmas treat! Please bring cash for hot refreshments. All money raised will go to local charities.

Jodie Homer

Seer Green Allotment Association

Where there's muck there's ...
Allotmentees!



Were it not for deadlines, this could be a report of a happy bonfire allotment gathering, burning up our spent fruit branches and other combustibles, whilst delighting in the splendid cooked delicacies of excellent chefs. However, such a report wouldn't do if we'd had the wettest November on record, so here's what can be reported.

A delivery of splendid manure has seen much activity amongst the fitter of the Allotmentees, with beds cleared and mulched ready for a quiet period. Garlic cloves have been planted, and already there is evidence of broad bean seedlings. Meanwhile, the kale and sprouts are coming into their own, parsnips taste sweeter for the benefit of a frost, and various bugs and beasties will have sorted their winter accommodation either in the purpose-built bug houses - or wherever they see fit on the site - and we will soon be hunkered down perusing seed catalogues and dreaming of spring.

The Little Ducklings Nursery will be growing some vegetation next year on their plot, and introducing the children to the wonders of nature, as it unfurls here.

May your sprouts be fulsome, and hoping for a merrier Christmas than the last one!

Charlotte Bagging - Seer Green Allotment Association

Our Living Village – Counting Down to Lift-off

Our two launch events in Seer Green and Jordans, forming part of this year's Chiltern Society Heritage Festival, were both a great success, with a sell-out audience which included Sarah Green, our new local MP.

We are currently uploading much of the information collected so far onto our new website, which will go live before the end of this year. So, over Christmas and the New Year, please do have a look at the new Seer Green and Jordans local history website at www.ourlivingvillage.org, and let us know what you think.

Several members of the project team have agreed to stay on to support the future development of Our Living Village, but we are always looking for more people to get involved. So, if you are interested in any aspect of our local history please do get in touch.

We also have a specific opportunity for a young person to take on a technical support role, as part of which they will learn about the use of advanced GIS software to integrate local maps, photos, and other historical information. This is a role that could be of considerable interest and value to a student doing any number of 'A' level or degree courses – such as IT, history, or geography – so please do pass this opportunity on.

Alan Kell - Our Living Village - alan.kell@igsystems.co.uk

News From Beaconsfield Library

Is there an activity you enjoy and would like to share with other people or do you need more people to join in something you already do?

We would like to encourage our lovely customers and residents to come and discuss setting up groups (for adults) perhaps knit and natter, scrabble and board games, play reading etc

Our meeting room is available for up to 8 people and can be hired

for a small charge for businesses/ meetings/study /groups and clubs etc.

If the groups are open to anyone then there will be no charge for the room, at present we can accommodate up to 8 adults.

Carolyn Ing - 01296 382415
Library service assistant,
Beaconsfield Library

Seer Green Gardeners

December is usually the time of year when gardeners can hang up their wellies and take a rest, but with such a late autumn, we will be clearing up leaves and preparing our gardens for winter right up until Christmas.

Autumn Fest was another great success in a challenging year. The foraging events in Hodgemoor Woods were a real highlight, and the Bring and Buy Sale attracted a lively crowd! Overall, we raised a stonking £500 for One Can, and £100 for the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust ... so a big Thank You to everyone who brought and bought, with a special Shout Out to all the magnificent cake makers and our helpers in the tearoom.

Our events programme for next year is still being discussed and we would love feedback from you, via our survey, which we are circulating via email and social media.

Things to do in the garden in December:

- Keep clearing fallen leaves from lawns, beds and ponds
- Move pots to more sheltered spots to protect from frost
- Dig over bare areas of ground, adding compost
- Put out fresh water for the bird during frosty weather
- Winter prune roses, fruit trees and wisteria
- Move indoor plants to sunny windowsills.

We would like to thank you all for your enthusiasm, generosity and support throughout 2021, and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Seer Green Gardeners - www.seergreengardeners.org



News from over the fields in Jordans

WOW! There is so much to write about in December this year so unlike this time last year! Where to start? Well I will get straight into Christmas time and announce that Carols round the tree on the Green on Christmas Eve is going to be such a really lovely occasion! Music playing, villagers singing, it will be everything that we could wish for to herald the Christmas holiday. Don't hesitate to come along and join in!

Before that even happens we have the Village Christmas Lunch. The delicious fare is for anyone in the village on Thursday the **9 December** at 12.45pm at the very modest price of £8. If you haven't already booked do so right now with Pat Holdsworth on 874565 - there just might be some spaces left.

Now to our brand new venture the aim of which as well as creating a toddler group in Jordans is to bring a presence of our parish church, Holy Trinity, into the village. Toddlers in the Woods happens every Friday come rain or shine, in the Centenary Clearing in Crutches Woods and is for all preschool children living in or having close connections with the villages of Jordans and Seer Green. Just turn up at 9.15 on Friday during term time and The Toddlers in the Woods team will be there to greet you and an hour of fun in the woods awaits! Cost £2.50 in cash on the day.



Jordans Village Community Store will celebrate its centenary in 2022! How many village community shops have achieved this? 40 years ago each of the neighbouring small villages sported a shop but where are they now? Coleshill, Fulmer, Winchmore Hill have long since lost their community shops but here we are in Jordans with a community shop that is still up and running and serving our community. We are planning to celebrate 'in style' during the first week of April. Look out for details.

Lastly simply to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and how great it is to look positively to the year ahead.

Ali Cork

Jordans Picture House

Our Programme for December 2021 - January 2022

Friday December 10 we shall be screening "**Mrs Lowry & Son.**" (PG) Doors and Bar open at 7.15pm for 8pm start.

Friday January 14 we shall be screening "**Official Secrets.**" (15) Doors and Bar open at 7.15pm for 8pm start.

Tuesday January 25 we shall be screening "**Can You Ever Forgive Me.**" (15) Doors and Bar open at 7.15pm for 8pm start.

On Sunday **January 16** we shall be screening "**Luca, a special family film.**" Doors open at 3.15pm and the Programme starts at 4.00pm.



Set in a beautiful seaside town on the Italian Riviera, Disney and Pixar's original feature film "Luca" is a coming-of-age story about one young boy experiencing an unforgettable summer filled with gelato, pasta and endless scooter rides. Luca shares

these adventures with his newfound best friend, Alberto, but all the fun is threatened by a deeply-held secret: they are sea monsters from another world just below the water's surface.

*NB. Please note that we will be "cashless" both at the door for ticket payments and at the bar. **We will be taking card payments only.***

In order to help us through this challenging period we are asking supporters to donate an additional £2 on top of the £8 ticket price. This is a temporary measure. Once the Covid situation calms down and we are able to return audience levels to normal, we should no longer need this additional financial support.

We all look forward to welcoming you to our ongoing programme of films.

You may find it useful to look up these films on either of these websites: www.imdb.com or www.rottentomatoes.com

Book online: www.jordanspicturehouse.co.uk

Email: tickets@jordanspicturehouse.co.uk

Call (Jordans):
Alan Sealy - 01494 873205

Call (Seer Green):
Gill Pettman - 01494 678050

Jordans Picture House Committee

Jordans resident who combined genetic science with a passion for birds



My father, Nowell Stebbing was a resident of Jordans until he passed away last December. During his last years he was writing a book, combining his great professional expertise in genetic science and his personal passion for birds and bird watching. He left behind a well-edited first draft and lots of manuscripts and notes for the final version, which I am proud to say have been lovingly combined and manipulated into the magnificent printed book, available now. Evolution is a tour-de-force by a man who was absolutely a master of his subject. It allows the reader to understand the process and causes of Evolution, from the basic science

of genetics and generation, and uses the magnificent variance of bird life to exemplify the process. At nearly 450 pages its is not for the faint hearted, but for the interested reader I promise that it will be thoroughly rewarding.

Ben Stebbing

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Hazelnut & Orange Biscotti

This Italian classic is perfect at Christmas served with coffee, hot chocolate or even mulled wine. Alternatively, biscotti makes a lovely present placed in a cellophane bag and tied with a festive ribbon. *Makes 40.*

Ingredients

- 250g plain flour
- 150g caster sugar
- ½ tsp baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 50g chilled butter, cubed
- 150g shelled hazelnuts, roughly chopped
- 2 eggs (large)
- Zest of an orange
- Extra caster sugar



Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C Fan. Sieve the flour into a large bowl and add the sugar, baking powder and a pinch salt. Using your fingers, rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add the hazelnuts to the flour mixture together with the eggs and orange zest, then stir to form a stiff dough.

Divide the dough into two portions and shape each half into a log shape approximately 20cm long. Then place on a greaseproof paper lined baking tray and flatten slightly. Dust with extra caster sugar and bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden. Remove from the oven and cool for 20 minutes.

Reduce the oven temperature to 160°C.

Cut each baked log into 5mm-1cm slices and spread over two baking trays.

Return to the oven for a further 20-25 minutes or until they begin to colour.

Cool completely and store in an airtight container.

Helen Lyndsey-Clark

Christmas books



I think that this is the time of year when I miss working in a bookshop most.

Wonderful books coming in daily, working out where and how to display them all, and buying a lot of them!

This year's selection in the Independent Booksellers Christmas brochure is full of delectable, enticing titles.

Why don't you pop into Gerrards Cross Bookshop and pick one up for a browse.

Here are some I found especially tempting – there really is something for everyone within its' pages.

Ottolenghi Test Kitchen - Shelf Love

I am a massive fan of Ottolenghi's flavours, his Middle Eastern influences give delicious, mouth watering results, but often need some very unusual ingredients and are time consuming. This book packs the punch, but offers more flexibility to make them your own using what you've got to hand.

Lockdown has spawned a huge number of autobiographies from 'celebrities' comedians, actors, musicians and sportsmen. It's so difficult to choose, but Spider Woman by Lady Hale, former President of the Supreme Court, would I think, give me an insight into her pioneering career and how law shapes our world.

Europe's 100 Best Cathedrals - Simon Jenkins

A luscious book with gorgeous colour photographs which tells the story of Europe's cathedrals and shows their central role in the European imagination.



Hopefully, travel will be back next year and this book is one I'd very much like to receive.

Outdoor Europe, Epic Adventures, Incredible Experiences and Mindful Escapes – Dorling Kindersley

Bursting with beautiful images, this inspirational book rounds up Europe's most incredible outdoor experiences, covering everything from birdwatching and forest bathing to scuba diving and wild swimming.

As one of the committee of Seer Green Gardeners, Big Veg by Gerald Stratford definitely jumped out at me! Gerald has over 250,000 followers on Twitter, he says "I am very grateful for all the interest my wonderful friends and followers have taken in my gardening. Now, I hope this book gives you the motivation you need to get out in the garden. Cheers "

I can't argue with that!

There are so many books for children of all ages which will live on long after the plastic has been recycled.

Here's a small selection....

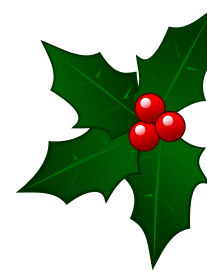
Who's hiding in the Snow? – Katharine McEwan a lift the flap discovery book

The Christmasasaurus and the Naughty List – Tom Fletcher - for fluent readers 7-11

Every Day Amazing Fantastic Facts for every day of the year – Mike Barfield 7-11

Endgame – Malorie Blackman - Conclusion of the Noughts and Crosses series 12+

Janet Stewart



Christmas family games

Dance Pong

You Need:

- 2 rectangular boxes with a large opening like a tissue box
- Some ping pong balls (between 10 and 16)
- Some string or ribbons (enough to be able to tie around a person's waist)
- Dance tunes

Ahead of the game attach ribbons or string either side of the boxes so that they can be tied around a person's waist with the box at the back.

Choose 2 people and tie the boxes onto their waist with the boxes at the back and the opening of the tissue box facing out. The bottom of the tissue box should be directly against the back of the person.

Fill each box with the same amount of ping pong balls, put the dance music on and the players have to shake the ping pong balls out of the tissue box using their amazing Dance moves! The winner is the first to achieve this.

The Malteser Game

a) You Need:

- A metal or plastic tape measure
- A supply of Maltesers

One person holds a tape dispenser with the tape extended (decide

on a length to start and increase the difficulty if needed) and puts a Malteser onto the tape. They give the Malteser a nudge, while someone else holds the end of the tape to their lips and crouches to give the tape a downward tilt – both try to hold the tape steady as the ball of chocolate travels moving towards its target.

Score Points by how many Maltesers reach the end and are eaten!



b) You Need:

- A supply of Maltesers
- An egg box for each player
- A paper straw

Put a handful of Maltesers into one side of each egg box. Give one egg box and one paper straw to each person. When you say go the players have to move each Malteser from one side of the egg box to the other by sucking it up with the straw until they have all been moved. Any Maltesers that are dropped outside of the egg box go back into the original side. The game is won when the first person gets all the Maltesers into the second side of the box.

What Am I Saying Game

You Need:

- A pair of noise cancelling headphones and music.

One person wears the headphones and listens to music whilst another sits facing them and clearly but quietly enunciates a message. The person with the headphones on repeats what they think is being said, usually causing much hilarity!

Swap players when the message has been deciphered or when the player gives up!



Christmas Stocking Game

You Need:

- A large sock or knitted stocking per team or just one if there's not many of you.

Ahead of the game find interesting small objects of different shape and material to fill the sock. Obviously nothing sharp!

Each team member or person feels the sock and writes down what they think the contents are. It's best to restrict the time they have to feel all the objects.

The contents are then revealed and the team or person with the most correct wins the game.

Carol Wright



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Tweet of the Month for December

Christmas gift shortage for Jays

Headlines lately have been full of shortages - fuel, HGV drivers, shipping containers, farm workers, building materials, and - the horror! - Christmas toys. This year, even birds have supply chain problems.

The Eurasian Jay is a member of the corvid family - as clever as its cousins the Crow and Rook, though more glamorous in pink, black and white with a blue wing patch. Its Welsh name, *ysgrech y coed*, means 'shrieker of the woods': it doesn't suffer humans gladly and its harsh alarm call often signals its presence just in time to see a flash of white as it disappears.

Like other corvids, it takes a mixed diet, but the clue to its favourite dish is its Latin name, *Garrulus glandarius*, 'chatty acorn gatherer'. With a memory like a London cabbie, it can recall thousands of acorn burial locations, but those that aren't retrieved over winter sprout into seedlings, and the Jay is a key part of the oak's life cycle.

Readers may recall that in autumn 2020, the ground was so thick with acorns they crunched underfoot like beach shingle. It was a 'mast year', a glorious glut for Jays and squirrels.

This year the opposite is the case. An unusually cold spring, combined with the fourth heaviest May rainfall on record, meant the oaks didn't blossom and set fruit the way they did in 2020.

Short shrift then for the Jays, but the bright side is this shy bird may visit our garden peanut feeders more frequently this winter. The birder who took the accompanying image recommends enlarging a few holes in the mesh to make it easier for it to feed... of course that might also make it easier for squirrels!

Jay calls:

<https://tinyurl.com/m32mf4vh>

Oak and Jay symbiosis:

<https://tinyurl.com/8s5rsfws>

Nora Bennett



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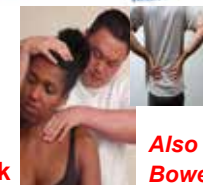
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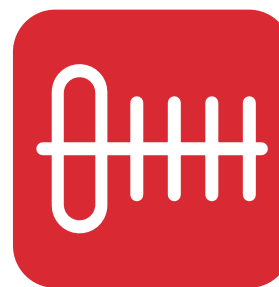
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