



The
Magazine of the
Church of England in
Great Ayton with
Easby & Newton
under Roseberry
Parishes

Spire

DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018

THE CHRISTMAS STORY



COMING TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU

Join us for Worship this Christmas

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk

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60p

DECEMBER & JANUARY

- 3 **Sun** **Advent Sunday** 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; 11am Holy Communion; 12.15pm Baptism.
- 5 **Tues** Aladdin begins today. Hope Widow Twankey keeps her wig on!
- 6 **Wed** 1.30pm Marwood Christmas Production in Church Hall
- 7 **Thurs** 6pm Marwood Christmas Production in Church Hall
- FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES SEE PANEL OPPOSITE**
- 9 **Sat** Saltburn Songsters in Concert in Christ Church at 7.15pm
- 10 **Sun** **ADVENT 2** 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; 11am Come & Praise;
- 16 **Sat** 11am Wedding in Christ Church
- 17 **Sun** **ADVENT 3** (Foodbank Sunday) 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; 11am All Age Service.
- 24 **Sun** **ADVENT 4 /CHRISTMAS EVE** 9.30am Parish Communion
- 31 **Sun** **Christmas 1** am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; **No Service at Saint Oswald's**
- JANUARY 2018**
- 2 **Tues** 11am WWI Remembrance - William Cockerill
- 7 **Sun** **EPIPHANY** 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; 11am Holy Communion at Saint Oswald's.
- 8 **Mon** 7.30pm Staff Meeting
- 12 **Fri** 1.45pm Christ Church Visitors meet in Upper Room.
- 14 **Sun** **EPIPHANY 2** 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion 11am Epiphany Come & Praise.
- 20 **Sat** 2pm Charity Auction of Surplus Gifts in Church Hall.
- 21 **Sun** **EPIPHANY 3** (Foodbank Sunday) 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; 11am All Age Service at St Oswald's; 4pm Unity Service at St Margaret's.
- 28 **Sun** **EPIPHANY 4** 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion.
- 31 **Wed** 7.30pm PCC Meeting in Upper Room.

Regular activities on back page

Items in Magenta all take place at St Oswald's Church at Newton.

Christmas Services 2017

Sunday 3rd December - Advent Sunday

4.00pm Christingle



Monday 4th December

2.00pm Coffee Lounge Carol Service - All Welcome **

Monday 11th December

2pm WI Carol Service in Christ Church **

Thursday 14th December

7.30pm *Christmas Carol Service at St Oswald's, Newton***

Sunday 17th December (Morning Services as normal)

11.00am *All Age Christmas Service at St Oswald's, Newton*

6.00pm Christ Church Christmas Carol Service**

Monday 18th December

7.00pm *Christmas Carols on High Green*



Tuesday 19th December

7.30pm *All Saints Carol Service***

Friday 22nd December

10.30am Marwood & Roseberry Schools' Carol Service**

Christmas Eve

2.00pm *Christmas Communion in the Coffee Lounge*

5.00pm Crib Service**

10.00pm *Christmas Communion at St Oswald's, Newton*

11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity without Archbishop Sentamu

Christmas Day

8.30am Christmas Communion (Prayer Book Service)

9.30am Christmas Communion & Carols



All Services are in Christ Church, unless otherwise stated *in italics*

** Denotes that a collection is taken for the Christmas Appeal for School Aid India which runs Roseberry School in Darjeeling, India.



A Christmas Gift

In December 1992 I had my last Christmas at my previous Parish, so come December 2017 it will be my 25th Christmas here, and those years have flown by.

I brought with me from Saint Martin's in Middlesbrough the idea of a Christmas Appeal where the collections from the Carol and Crib Service go to a nominated Charity. Christmas is all about a God who gave to us, and continues giving to us each and every day, so what better way to celebrate the season than by giving to someone else who is very much in need.

Whilst this Parish had many more Carol Services than Saint Martin's, it would be true to say that the attendances and collections were nowhere near as good as they are today. We have a policy of making sure that different people are invited to read the lessons each year, and the response to our Christmas Appeals has been brilliant. Over the years we have sent thousands of pounds away across the world to places like Ghana, South Africa, Middle East, Romania and Stockton. The main principle is that this is a gift - not an exchange.

For the last few years we have supported the wonderful work Helen Jones has inspired and founded at Roseberry School in Darjeeling, and I asked the PCC if we could once again support this worthy cause for our Silver Jubilee Appeal.

There was a programme on TV a few weeks ago when Sue Perkins of Great British Bake Off (BBC Version) was at the river Ganges. She talked to a group of really bright lads on the polluted river, who despite their intelligence had never been taught to read and write. Education is the key to a new life for them, and indeed for the children at Roseberry School in Darjeeling. With an education and learning the English language, the door of opportunity swings wide open, and this effects not just the children but their families too.

We raised just £4638 at our Carol Services last year, with a further donation of £600 going straight to the Charity from someone who attended the service at Saint Oswald's. Can we beat this amount this year? I hope so, for to think that some child escapes poverty and has a chance in life is a brilliant Christmas present. Please read Helen's article later on in Spire, and come along to one of our services - and give generously.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Paul aka Widow Twankey



The Memory Tree

The Memory Tree will appear in Christ Church on Friday 1st December. It is a way of remembering loved ones who have died, but are still in our hearts, especially at this time of year.

Just come into Church and write a message or simply their name on one of the cards and hang it on the tree.

Any donations made will be sent to support Herriott Hospice Homecare who do so much to support the terminally ill in our area.

The tree will come down on Wednesday 3rd January following prayers for our loved ones at the 10am Service of Holy Communion. All welcome.

Charity Auction of Surplus Christmas Gifts

Christ Church Hall, Guisborough Road, Great Ayton.

Saturday 20th January 2018

Viewing from 1.30pm - Auction starts at 2pm

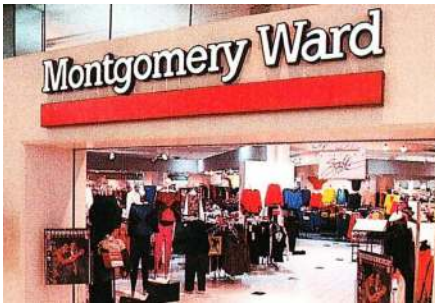
50p admission includes half time cuppa!



The True Story of Rudolph

A man named Bob May, depressed and brokenhearted, stared out his drafty apartment window into the chilling December night.

His 4-year-old daughter Barbara sat on his lap quietly sobbing. Bob's wife, Evelyn, was dying of cancer. Little Barbara couldn't understand why her mommy could never come home. Barbara looked up into her dad's eyes and asked, "Why isn't Mommy just like everybody else's Mummy?" Bob's jaw tightened and his eyes welled with tears. Her question brought waves of grief, but also of anger. It had been the story of Bob's life. Life always had to be different for Bob.



Small when he was a kid, Bob was often bullied by other boys. He was too little at the time to compete in sports. He was often called names he'd rather not remember. From childhood, Bob was different and never seemed to fit in. Bob did complete college, married his loving wife and was grateful to get his job as a copywriter at Montgomery

Ward during the Great Depression in the USA. Then he was blessed with his little girl. But it was all short-lived. Evelyn's bout with cancer stripped them of all their savings and now Bob and his daughter were forced to live in a two-room apartment in the Chicago slums. Evelyn died just days before Christmas in 1938.

Bob struggled to give hope to his child, for whom he couldn't even afford to buy a Christmas gift. But if he couldn't buy a gift, he was determined to make one - a storybook! Bob had created an animal character in his own mind and told the animal's story to little Barbara to give her comfort and hope. Again and again Bob told the story, embellishing it more with each telling. Who was the character? What was the story all about? The story Bob May created was his own



autobiography in fable form. The character he created was a misfit outcast like he was. The name of the character? A little reindeer named Rudolph, with a big shiny nose. Bob finished the book just in time to give it to his little girl on Christmas Day. But the story doesn't end there.

The general manager of Montgomery Ward caught wind of the little storybook and offered Bob May a nominal fee to purchase the rights to print the book. Wards went on to print, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and distribute it to children visiting Santa Claus in their stores. By 1946 Wards had printed and distributed more than six million copies of



Rudolph. That same year, a major publisher wanted to purchase the rights from Wards to print an updated version of the book. In an unprecedented gesture of kindness, the CEO of Wards returned all rights back to Bob May. The book became a best seller. Many toy and marketing deals followed and Bob May, now remarried with a growing family, became wealthy from the story he

created to comfort his grieving daughter. But the story doesn't end there either.

Bob's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, made a song adaptation to Rudolph. Though the song was turned down by such popular vocalists as Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore, it was recorded by the singing cowboy, Gene Autry. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was released in 1949 and became a phenomenal success, selling more records than any other Christmas song, with the exception of "White Christmas."

The gift of love that Bob May created for his daughter so long ago kept on returning back to bless him again and again. And Bob May learned the lesson, just like his dear friend Rudolph, that being different isn't so bad. In fact, being different can be a blessing.



Captain Cook Celebrations

These celebrations often miss Spire with happening at the end of October, so may we note that Captain Cook was remembered in Great Ayton on Wednesday 27th October with a parade of sail down the river Leven and a service in All Saints Church, organised by the Parish Council and Schoolroom Museum and attended by Civic Heads from the area. Great Ayton is still very proud of its former resident, who kindly still brings us a lot of visitors!



Guisborough Choral
Society sing

Handel's **MESSIAH**

**Saturday 9th December
2017 at 7.30pm**

Guisborough Methodist
Church, Westgate

Tickets £10 Adults, £8
Concessions, £1 Under-19s
from Guisborough Bookshop
or Greensleeves Music (both
in Chaloner Street
Guisborough),

www.wegottickets.com

Saturday 2nd December 2017 7.30 pm

Great Ayton Methodist Church

ANGROVE SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Conductor: Jeremy Harbottle

Accompanist: Jenny Hesford

**Tickets: £8 (adult) £4 (child)
from Gt Ayton's Discovery Centre
or Thompson's Hardware or from
Carol Morgan (01642 722 897)**

Donations to Charity from the Proceeds

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Thank you to all who supported this year's Remembrance Sunday Parade. It was good to have so many people turn out on a bitterly cold morning, but with a beautiful clear blue sky.

The Poppy Appeal in Great Ayton raised £3991.95. Many thanks to all the collectors who went door to door or stood in the High Street, and to all businesses and Community Groups who sell them. This support is greatly appreciated.

Next year we hope to do something special for the 100th Anniversary or the end of WWI. Watch this space for details



“I’m sorry you don’t like my Christmas gift”, the aunt said to her nephew, “but I asked whether you preferred large checks or small checks.”

He replied, “I know, but I didn’t think you were talking about ties.”

Roseberry School Darjeeling

Last time I wrote a piece for Spire I was full of the wonderful things I had seen at Roseberry School during my April visit to Darjeeling. Everything was going so well, and our 10th anniversary was a great opportunity to show off what the school has achieved. Imagine my feelings when 6 weeks after returning to the UK I heard that ongoing political unrest had boiled over throughout the region and activists had demanded an all out strike of indefinite duration. For a few days I got terrible news from my friends there. Cars and buildings were being set on fire, extra police and even military had been drafted in to contain the situation. Shops, banks, schools, hotels and all other businesses had been closed down. The leaders of the strike were making impossible demands, but ordinary people felt obliged to go along with them. Then the internet was blocked and I heard nothing more from the town until the strike ended after 104 long days. It was a very worrying time.

Last week I received letters written by the children about their lives during the strike. They described their hunger and their parents desperate search for food. The children had been afraid to leave the house for much of the time. One of our senior teachers offered tutoring in her own home to a few of the pupils but for many it was too far to venture.



At the beginning of October, school was able to re-open, and now there is a big push to catch up. Secondary School entrance tests still have to be sat in spite of work missed or forgotten. The best news came a few days later, when we learnt that work on the new building could start in late autumn. We have high hopes that it will be ready for the new pre-school group in the spring, and have sent money for furniture and equipment. The last 2 years with no indoor base for the little ones have been so difficult. With building work finally complete the school should be well set up to begin the next 10 years. During that time we shall see the first of our ex pupils leave Secondary School as young adults, ready to take their place in the world.

Helen Jones

One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centrepiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

James Francis

Over



My



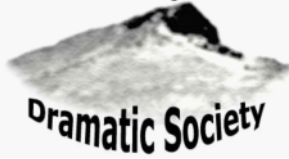
Dead

Body



By Derek Benfield

great Ayton



Present a comedy by one of the masters of this genre.

**Christ Church Church Hall
January 17th to 20th at 7:30 pm**

Tickets £7 & £6 concessions
Tickets available from Thompson's Hardware,
Box office 01642 722096 or on the door.

Theatre & café style seating;
come early, bring a bottle & grab a table

The Bradley School of Dance & Musical Theatre



the traditional family pantomime!

featuring 'Rev Pev' as Dame Widow Twankey
& Dan Matuszak as the evil Abanazar
(production by kind permission of Limelight Scripts)

at the Christ Church Hall, Great Ayton
Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th
& Friday 8th December 2017 at 7pm
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December 2017
at 1:30pm

Adults £7 Under 16's & OAPS £5
available from 01642 724 987 / 07745 559 070



**Don't Miss the Fun
Book Now!**



BELL RINGERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy hearing the sound of Church bells? They are part of the English countryside, and we want our Bells to continue ringing out, but are running short of people to ring them.

Christ Church has a peel of Tubular Bells that are rung for Sundays and weddings. We usually have two people on for weddings to share the ringing and they get paid £10 each. Have we any young people who would like to join our ringing team?

If interested, please contact Tower Captain Elsa Taylor on 01642 722400 for more details.

Great Ayton Remembers

William Cockerill

On **TUESDAY 2nd January 2018**

at 11am

in Christ Church



FOODBANK COLLECTIONS

Thank you to all who respond so generously to the monthly foodbank collections. We are grateful too, to the Friends Meeting House who also drop contributions off each month.

Pictured left are Dorothy Wood and Frauke Ross with the November collection. Why not add a Christmas treat to the December collection.

Yorkshire Cancer Research

Great Ayton and District Committee



Christ Church Hall was packed for the Yorkshire Cancer Coffee Morning, which replaced the Lunch/Not a Lunch, was most enjoyable and raised £2,063 for research.

As usual, tables were filled with a huge selection of Festive Treats to choose from, together with many stalls of cakes and crafts.



Well done to the team who work so hard throughout the year raising huge amounts of funds as well as putting on lots of hugely enjoyable functions enjoyed by a very faithful following. Happy New Year to you all.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The annual CHRISTINGLE SERVICE will be held on SUNDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, at 4.00 pm this year. Collecting candles & envelopes are at the back of Christ Church.



We will be CAROL SINGING near the shops in Great Ayton on SATURDAY, 23rd DECEMBER, from 10.30-11.30 am. Please come along and join us - all are welcome.

Happy Christmas greetings to you all and we wish you a healthy 2018.

Jancie Brown
Tel 01642 723873

the Saltburn Songsters present



Sing a Song of Gladness and Cheer!

Musical Director: Dan Matuszak
Accompanist: Natalie Taylor
Special Guest: Anita Aslin, Harp

at Christ Church, Great Ayton
on Saturday 9th December 2017
at 7:15pm

All tickets £8 including refreshments
available from 07729 332 258
and Thompson's Hardware Store, Great Ayton

Love in a Box

One of the first signs of Christmas in Christ Church are all the colourful gifts that start arriving for our annual Love in a Box Service. This is where Christmas gifts are crammed into a decorated shoebox and sent to a poor child in Romania for Christmas.



The children at the service with our wall of boxes

Not all people in Romania are poor, but generally speaking it has far greater poverty than we can imagine here. The Romanian CEO of Children in Distress said on a visit earlier this year, that most of these children would just receive this one gift at Christmas, so their parents and communities are very grateful. Each year they manage to find yet another small village that may have not received them before, so thank you to all who participated.

This year we collected 375 boxes at the service with a further 190 at Saint Francis Ingleby Barwick. Our thanks to all who support this valuable venture, and to Peter and Sylvia Robinson, once again being Santa's little helpers at the depot at Prestons of Potto.



Loading the van kindly supplied free of charge by Jennings



Every November I look forward to visiting Ingleby Greenhow School who give excellent support

Thanks to: Marwood School, Roseberry Academy, Kirkby & Great Broughton School, Ingleby Greenhow School, GA Methodist Church, Saint Margaret's RC Church, St Oswald's, Christ Church, Yarm Church, Kirklevington Church, St Francis Ingleby Barwick, Royal Oak, Kingsway Medical Centre Billingham ...

PCC JOTTINGS

We have just held the November Meeting of the Great Ayton PCC. So what sort of things occupied our time?

We heard that progress has been made on finding a replacement organist when Michael steps down at Christmas. Watch this space for more details and a photo.

Geoff gave very positive feedback on Bishop John's visit to help us find the real Jesus, and Enid spoke of a most positive experience at the Archdeaconry Day. How do we show that Jesus is Lord in our own lives and the life of our Church?

Ken gave an update on our Financial situation which shows a projected deficit of around £3,000 by the end of the year. We have lost many generous givers and are looking as to how to encourage the next generation. We still have a lot to be thankful for.

The PCC had £10,000 budgeted to give away, on top of collections and appeals. The following causes were each nominated for £1,000 each: **Christians Against Poverty** - which help poor people find strategies out of debt and how to deal with credit companies and courts; **Bible Reading Fellowship** - which in addition to Bible Study Notes is engaged in young people's work and founded things like Who Let The Dad's Out nationally; **UCCF** - the organisation behind the Christian Unions in all our Universities and colleges; **ACTS435** the Archbishop of York's Charity that seeks to help poor people in our area; **TOGETHER MIDDLESBROUGH** - Helping the Churches in Middlesbrough run foodbanks, holiday clubs and many other things in our area; **BRAMBLES FARM** -The Church is seeking to reach out into this area, and so we have sent £500 each to the **Coffee Cart** run by the Vicar of Brambles Farm and also to **BIG KIDZ** a youth charity working in the Middlesbrough Parishes: both the **Church Mission Society** and the **United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG)** who support the world Church overseas got £1000 each. We gave £750 pounds each to the **Children's Society** and **Mission Aviation Fellowship** and £500 to the **Stokesley School Youthworker Project**.

Minor repairs to All Saints Church were agreed, as was work on upgrading the Church Hall toilets, kitchen and storage. The estimate of around £110,000 will have to be found by grants and maybe a Gift Day too, as it was recognised how many people value and use the Hall.

Arrangements have been made for Christmas worship, but we still need someone to organise the mulled wine & mince pies after the Carol Service on 17th December - so much easier now the mulled wine comes ready made in bottles. Any offers?

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

5 November	Lily Emily Lackenby
19 November	Leia Brooke Talintyre
26 November	Tabitha Beatrix Thompson

Christian Burial and Cremation

30 October	Mike Baker
17 November	Ray Huddleston
20 November	Dulcie Jones
24 November	Albert Pearson
1 December	David Blake

Entries in Magenta took place at St Oswald's Church, Newton

MADONNA AND CHILD



Why is he crying, this babe at the breast?
Mary has fed him, and now he should sleep;
There, there, little Jesus! Oh, why so distressed?
So cosy and comforted, why should you weep?

He weeps for the world in its hardness and greed,
For heartbroken mothers whose breasts cannot
feed,
For the pampered abundance that turns a blind eye
To the starved Christmas babies too weak to cry.

Arnold Kellett

Parish website	www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk
Church Office e-mail	gapo1876@outlook.com
Diocese of York	www.dioceseofyork.org.uk
Stokesley Deanery	www.stokesleydeanery.org.uk
A Church Near You	www.acny.org.uk

Trouble at the Inn



The season of school nativity plays is approaching and no doubt many a teacher will be looking to the hidden pitfalls ahead with some apprehension.

Unscripted plays, where the young actors are allowed to provide their own dialogue are particularly vulnerable. In one case, when Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn, the following conversation took place:-

“Have you a room please because my wife is expecting a baby.

“Afraid not,” replied the innkeeper, ”and it’s not my fault you wife is expecting a baby.”

“No, and if you read the Bible story,” retorted Joseph, ”it’s not my fault either.”

A production at a school in Suffolk ended so riotously that the “Bethlehem Brawl,” as it was called, made the local papers. It happened when two four-year-old shepherds traded punches after an argument about who should stand next to the Virgin Mary.

The five-year-old innkeeper at a Wimbledon school caused consternation when, asked by Joseph if there was any room at the inn, he replied: ”Yes.”

And a young shepherd in another play upset the script when he emptied the crib and, after a scuffle with a rather officious Virgin Mary, climbed in himself - to loud applause.

Two small girls were overheard discussing their nativity play, “I’m a virgin in the play,” said one. “That’s nothing,” replied the other proudly, ”I’m an angel.” Declared the first girl indignantly: “It’s much harder being a virgin.”

At a primary school in Wiltshire a member of staff had to crawl on stage to tether an errant child to the leg of a piano. The child’s mother did not object; she was just astonished that he stood still for so long.

One young thoughtful boy declared, off-stage “I blame Joseph; he should have booked ahead.”

Perhaps - but then, where would our nativity play be ?

Editor of Spire

Paul Peverell revpev@btinternet.com

To have a paper copy delivered in Great Ayton,
contact Jean Goat 01642 723274

The Parishes of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry

Services

Christ Church, Great Ayton

- Sunday** 8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion with Sunday School
11.00am Come & Praise (2nd Sunday of month)
Evening Worship - as announced in the Diary
- Tuesday** 9.30am Little Fishes Carer & Toddler Group
- Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion

Baptisms, Banns and Weddings can be arranged in person at Christ Church Vestry on **Fridays from 6pm - 7pm** where the clergy are present. Or make an initial contact by emailing the Vicar, Paul Peverell at revpev@btinternet.com

At St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

- Sunday** 11.00am Services on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month only
1st & 5th Holy Communion; 3rd All Age Worship

Contacts

Vicar	Rev'd Paul Peverell	The Vicarage	01642 722333
	Rev'd Geoff Jaques		01642 722979
	Rev'd Jon Dean		01642 722649
Readers	Mrs Margaret Lewis		01642 722628
	Mr Peter Titchmarsh		01642 724153
Organist	Rev'd Michael Aisbitt	m_aisbitt@hotmail.com	
Pastoral Ass't	Mrs Rosemary Wheway		01642 722451
Churchwardens	Dr Vicki Nath		01642 722501
	Mr Rob Pepper		01642 724939
PCC Secretary	Mrs Anna Wilson	gemstonekerryhills@gmail.com	
PCC Treasurer	Mr Ken Taylor		01642 722400
Safeguarding	Mr David Fox		07595 898844
Gift Aid Sec.	Mrs Ynez Clarke		01642 723181

Church Hall Office

For **Church Hall bookings**, please contact the Church Office **Tel 01642 722 665** on **Monday, Thursday or Friday 9 am - 12 noon, or leave a message.**

Email. gapo1876@outlook.com (For services or pastoral matters, please contact the vicar as this phone isn't manned every day)