



**Cobham & Luddesdowne**  
**News** *Christmas 2021*

## PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

### Rev Angela Walker

Church Office (01474) 813495  
The Vicarage, Battle Street, Cobham, DA12 3DB (01474) 814332

### Pastoral Assistant

Janet Weaver, 36 Highview, Vigo Village, DA13 ORR (01732) 823936

SUBMISSIONS *Cobham and Luddesdowne News* is a community magazine that is produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne. We welcome all contributions of local interest.

**Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to [editorialcln@gmail.com](mailto:editorialcln@gmail.com)**

### Church Officers of St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham

#### Churchwardens

Hilary Morgan-Savage, (01634) 723027  
Lauren Julie-Rusz 07545 131953

#### PCC Secretary

Ron Chamberlain (01474) 814250

#### Treasurer

Jeffrey Julie-Rusz 07946 249021

#### Deanery Synod

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#### Organist

### Church Officers St Peter and St. Paul, Luddesdowne

#### Churchwarden

#### Organist

#### Treasurer

Janet Weaver (01732) 823936

#### Deanery Synod

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Ron Chamberlain  
Ann Clarke  
Jeffrey Julie-Rusz  
David Palmer

#### Luddesdowne

Colin Campbell (Lay Chair)  
Sue Campbell  
Rita Hayward  
Janet Weaver

**Cover photograph by Adrian—thank you**

# December



Where has the year gone? I cannot believe that Christmas is just around the corner.

Christmas 2020 saw many of us experience last minute changes to our arrangements, some of us didn't get to share Christmas with our loved ones, many a large turkey order was cancelled and smaller alternatives purchased. For us Christmas morning was spent in front of a computer on Skype, speaking to our family, instead of opening gifts with them around the Christmas tree. I am so sorry for those who were effected, in the worst possible way by the pandemic.

I do hope that this Christmas goes well and that we finally get the beating of the virus in 2022.,

Good health and happiness to you all at this special time of year.

Tina

**THE TUESDAY POP-IN**  
**Takes place every second Tuesday of the**  
**month 10.30 to 12 noon**

The December meeting (on Tuesday 14th) will be a Christmas Lunch. Please contact Mary Palmer (01474 816788) not later than 7th December if you wish to attend.

**CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788**



# Welcome to **Cobham, Luddesdowne** and **Sole Street Churches** Services during December



## Sunday 5th December

3:00pm Christingle Service, Cobham

Including carols, craft activity, and candle lit procession.

Children are welcome to come dressed in Nativity costumes!

## Sunday 12th December

7:00pm Carols by Candlelight, Luddesdowne

## Sunday 19th December

10:30am Nine Lessons and Carols, Cobham

## Friday 24th December Christmas Eve

10:00pm Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne

11:30pm Midnight Communion, Cobham

## Saturday 25th December Christmas Day

9:00am Christmas Day Communion, Luddesdowne

10:30am Christmas Day Communion, Cobham

## Midweek services

9am Holy Communion on the 1st, Sole Street

Morning Prayer 8th, Sole Street

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## **NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS**



Hello Everyone,

This month we welcomed our first 'live' speakers since before lockdown. Judy Balchin and Roz Dace are two sisters – the 'Woolly Felters' [www.woollyfelters.com](http://www.woollyfelters.com) who love to needlefelt and have fun. They say that wool, fibres and fluff make their world go round! They both come from a crafting background in earlier lives and are now combining to use their skills and talents to make people smile with their delightful needle felted creations. From their base in 'Felted Towers' in Kent the ladies create a magical world of stories involving their whimsical woolly creatures. They also run workshops and have written three books on the subject.

During their talk we were introduced to woolly Boris, Her Majesty The Queen and many other delightful characters. Roz and Judy gave us a demonstration of how needle felting is done and explained about the different types of wool to use for best effect.

There were about sixteen of us at the meeting and many of us enjoyed a piece of delicious home made cake provided by Anita.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas meeting so before then we will be busy preparing our gifts and hand crafted cards for the Secret Santa sacks. If you would like to join us or just find out a bit more about us then please look at our website <https://northkentembroiders.co.uk/>

or email us at: [info@northkentembroiders.co.uk](mailto:info@northkentembroiders.co.uk)

or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen

(All links and photographs used with permission)

## SOLE STREET WI



Members were invited to the centennial re-dedication of Cobham's war memorial and at the request of the Parish Council also served refreshments for the occasion in the Meadow Room. It is our tradition to post a memorial message with poppies outside St Mary's Church Room :

Several ladies have been re-organising one of our Book Clubs by meeting for coffee at Millbrook. It has not been possible to order the number of books required from the library for all to study, so our ever keen book-worms have been discussing their individual books.

The Art & Craft Group last month met in the homes of those members who live in Higham. There are also two gatherings to create table decorations for Christmas here in Sole Street.

Weekly walks from Jeskyns woodland park continue apace in most weathers. Carols in the Park with mulled wine will once again take place this year at Camer Park. We attracted keen attention from junior members of the public on the last occasion so hope to perhaps involve family children and grandchildren in a seasonal sing-song.(tbc)

A lovely invitation was received from Chalk WI to join them for lunch on 18th November and we are planning a lunch party of our own to celebrate this Christmastide on 7th December in St Mary's Church Room. For information on all our activities please contact our President, Yvonne tel 01474 813455

In the meantime Sole Street WI wish all in our community and further afield a very safe and **HAPPY CHRISTMAS & WONDERFUL NEW YEAR !**

Molly Isaacs

## **Cobham & Luddesdown W.I.**



At last our W.I. is back in the Meadow Room, holding regular meetings on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. Our first meeting there, in September, was an informal one, with tables resplendent with floral decorations and a few quizzes, with prizes for the winners. It was a bit disappointing, but not really unexpected, that only half of our members felt brave enough to come along but every step had been taken to make sure it was as virus-free as possible, with as much ventilation as we could provide and a lot of effort put into sanitizing chairs, tables etc.

Our AGM took place in October when a new committee was elected and Janet Cherrison became our new president. This followed an enjoyable Ploughman's lunch, which helped to raise some funds for future events. Our November meeting was a splendid one, with five visitors attending, along with twenty five of our members. Our new president presented a bouquet of flowers to Margaret Haig, as a token of our gratitude for her seven and a half years as president and after a few items of business, everyone was invited to take part in making their very own Christmas card, which took the form of a 3D Christmas tree, which they could then decorate with glitter and other sticky bits of gold, including a star to go on top. Many were quite surprised at how good their finished cards looked. There were three tables full of the most beautiful items that had been made over the past year and a half – knitting, crochet, embroidery and art were all there for everyone to look at and admire and there were some really unusual craft items, made whilst on courses and explained by Kaye Wren. Jill Beety had brought along a whole case full of blankets and twiddle-muffs, made by her "Knit-and-Natter" group and some of the ladies from the College. These were spread along the stage, filling the room with brilliant colour, lit up by the sun gleaming through the windows on a beautiful autumn day. They were all available for sale, to fund more yarn so that more items could be made, and those that remained unsold were destined for the dementia ward at Darent Valley hospital – the blankets to go on patients' beds and the twiddle muffs to provide a stimulation activity for their restless hands. They would be taken home as part of a package when they left the hospital.

*Continued on page 9*



Liz Hulf told us how to make peppermint creams, using a simple recipe and the good part about it was that we got to sample them later on, with our cups of tea and cake.

There were also plenty of things for sale on the Trading Stall, which not only raises funds for our WI but also gives our members the opportunity to sell items they have made or are 'excess to requirements'.

Our next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December, will be our "Festive Tea", when we will look forward to a proper Christmas this year. There will be lots of food, kindly donated by our members, together with the usual crackers, paper hats and corny jokes and some quizzes and games, and maybe some singing, to keep everyone entertained.

We are working on a programme of meetings for 2022 and have already lined up a very interesting mix of speakers to take us up to March and beyond.

Most of our 'groups' are now up and running once more. Craft, art, Well-being, "Knit and Natter" (knitting and crochet), and a new Needlework Group have all started but the two book groups ("Read and Rabbit" and "Bookworms") have yet to get going again. New groups for gardening, cinema/theatre, and "ambling" are also in the pipeline.

We currently have thirty five members and if you would like to come along and join in with our friendly and welcoming group, either as a visitor or as a member please contact the Secretary, Jenny Brooker (email: [Cobham-Luddesdown@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:Cobham-Luddesdown@wkwfi.org.uk)) or telephone 01474 362501





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## December

Winter frost

As we approach the shortest day of the year in December you will need work to keep you warm outside, such as digging and tree pruning. Check your winter protection and if you have a greenhouse make sure the heater is working. Hopefully there are not too many jobs left to do this year so you will have time for some fireside garden planning.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place
- 2 Check that greenhouse heaters are working
- 3 Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing
- 4 Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls)
- 5 Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
- 6 Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops
- 7 Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted
- 8 Take hardwood cuttings
- 9 Keep mice away from stored produce
- 10 Reduce watering of houseplants

**2021 draws to a close** – as a difficult year end fast approaches, Cobham Gardeners is back on track with it's plans for 2022. A full programme of expert speaker talks & seasonal shows for our members and guests.

**On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm** the Society will combine it's AGM and Annual Prize Giving, with a Christmas Get-Together, a celebration of the achievements of our worthy cup & trophy winners. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members. Why not be our guest and take the opportunity of finding out what the Society offers over a glass of wine and a mince pie!

**Looking for ideas for the Christmas Stocking?** Why not give 2022 membership of Cobham Gardeners - a year of fun for a very reasonable £8! For a membership application form email [Cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Christmas Rush**

That time again, my trolley's full  
Buying all the Christmas fare,  
A turkey crown, a rib of beef,  
Crisps and nibbles, lots to spare.

Christmas crackers and serviettes,  
Paper for wrapping and cards to send,  
Nuts and oranges, figs and dates  
The list goes on, there seems no end.

In all this rush it's good to pause  
And think about that special Day,  
When shepherds watched and angels sang  
As a Baby lay in a bed of hay.



*By Megan Carter*



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

# **FOREVER ELTON**



**THURSDAY 17th February 2022**

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham KENT

7pm for 7:30 start

Tickets £19.50 in advance, bit more on the door

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## Smile Lines



### Grandfathers

A Sunday school teacher was talking to her young Sunday School class, and a four-year-old boy suddenly asked her: "Miss, do you have a grandfather?"

She replied, "I used to have two, but they both went to Heaven to be with Jesus."

He thought, shook his head sadly, and said, "One of my grandfathers hasn't gone to Heaven."

*(Long pause while she considered how to proceed.)*

"He's gone to Bexhill-on-Sea."

### New bank

Mother decided that ten-year old Cathy should get something 'practical' for Christmas. "Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested. Cathy was delighted. "It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application." Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.' After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.

### Replace

Did you know? By replacing potato chips with grapefruit as a snack, you can lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.

### Miscellaneous observations on modern life

A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.

Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

### Planning

Do you ever have so much planned for the next day, and then you wake up and just say, "Nah."



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## Dates for the Diary

### LFG EVENTS

in aid of St Mary's Church Room renovations.



The Monday Club's sale in the Church Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30 to 4.00pm. .

### Other Events

Toyah—2/12/21

From the Style Council—20/1/22

Forever Elton —17 /2/22

Fil Straughan—17/3/22



### History tours

**Ghosts over North West Kent-true local ghost stories (talk with supper)** On: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6pm for award winning fish & chip supper, talk to follow

Cost: £18 for both talk and supper Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant

01474 533593 Local ghost stories are part of our local history-many will be revealed on this "Ghost Stories for Christmas" session including ones from Chalk, Northfleet, Southfleet and Dartford

**Some Gravesham Characters-famous & forgotten (Illustrated talk & drink)** On: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Somerset Arms public house, Darnley Road, Gravesend Begins: 2pm

Cost: £10 includes talk and a free drink. No need to book, just turn up to discover a plethora of interesting people who lived in various parts of Gravesham.

**Winter Warmer Walk: Chalk to Shorne and back.**

On: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Guide: Christoph Bull

Begins: 11am at junction of Castle Lane/Lower Higham Road, Chalk

The event is free – but donations welcome. Gravesend Historical Society

Footpaths walk. Sensible footwear needed, controlled dogs welcome. His-

torical facts given as we enjoy our countryside. No need to book, just turn up. Information: Christoph Bull 07702287147.



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

# TOYAH

Thursday 2nd December 2021



Brings her acoustic Up Close and Personal show back to St Mary Magdalene Church in Cobham, Kent!

Tickets £27 in advance, £32 on the door.

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## St Mary's Church Room – fundraising.

As you know many events have been undertaken by the Local Funding Group (LFG) to raise funds for our very own Tin Tabernacle's much needed renovation. The generosity of the local community has meant the fund has grown and the LFG account now holds **£31,589.41** – Brilliant!

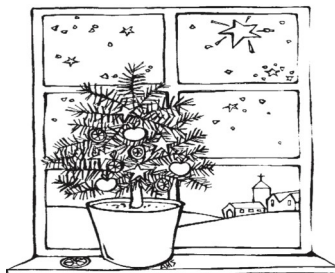
On August 8<sup>th</sup> a village walkabout took place and, despite poor weather, **£800** was raised.

A Garden Safari took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> September raising **£1,092**, well done to everyone that took part.

On October the 9<sup>th</sup> a Jigsaw puzzle competition was held in the Meadow Room. The use of the Meadow Room was donated and the cost of the jigsaw puzzles, featuring photograph of the Church Room, was met by donors. An auction of donated items took place and the princely sum of **£1,736.41** was raised on the day!

There is an ongoing programme of events: The Christmas Wreath workshop is, sadly, already sold out! However, The Monday Club is organising a sale in the Church Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30 to 4.00pm. All welcome!

Additionally, Su Rowe has produced a booklet that accompanied August's village walkabout. It contains Su's memories of Sole Street's houses and their former owners. Copies of the booklet can be purchased from Su at Sole Street House – all monies raised will go to the restoration fund for the Church Room.







## Cobham's Register

### **Funeral**

**Robert Neil DENBY (known as Bob)** was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1930 and died on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 aged 91 years old. Bob's funeral took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at Thames View Crematorium, followed by a service of Thanksgiving in Cobham church which was conducted by Reverend Canon Chris Stone, Clergy with PTO in Cobham Deanery. Our sympathy and prayers go to Bob's wife Heather, their children, other family members and friends.

## Luddesdowne's Register

### **Funeral**

**Margaret Ronaldson MARSHALL** was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 1939 and died on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 aged 82 years old. Margaret's funeral took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021, followed by burial in the churchyard. Our sympathy and prayers go to Margaret's husband Christopher, daughter Anna, son Jamie and other family members and friends.

### **Interment of Ashes**

**Joan Annie Marie DUTTON**, who died on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at the age of 94 years old, had her ashes interred in Luddesdowne's Garden of Remembrance on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### **Service of Committal in Luddesdowne church, followed by Interment of ashes**

**Rex Brian HUSSEY**, who died on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at the age of 88 years old, after a service in Luddesdowne church, then his ashes were interred in Luddesdowne's Garden of Remembrance on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.

## **LUDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL**

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2021-2022

Monday 17th January 2022

Monday 21st March 2022 - APM

Cobham Parish Council

The December Meeting will be the budget discussion.



### **Weekly Mini-Bus Service to Gravesend Timetable**

Cobham Parish Council sponsors a mini-bus service to St George's Shopping Centre in Gravesend. The service operates on Thursdays and the fare is £2.00 single or £4.00 return. The service is free of charge to holders of a valid bus pass.

#### **To Gravesend**

Sallows Shaw – The Beeches	09.34
Sallows Shaw o/s No.73	09.35
Sole Street – Scratton Fields	09.38
Cobham New College	09.45
Cobham Church	09.47
Henhurst	09.50
Gravesend Railway Station	10.02
Gravesend St George's Centre	10.04

#### **From Gravesend**

12.59
13.00
12.54
12.47
12.45
12.42
—
12.30

Further information is available from the Clerk to the Council, Charles Amis E-mail [clerk@cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk)



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

# FROM THE STYLE COUNCIL



**THURSDAY 20th January 2022**

7pm for 7:30 start

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham KENT

Tickets £19.50 in advance, £25 on the door

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Hoorah it is almost Christmas! I am so looking forward to all the special treats I receive, but I mustn't eat chocolate so it is kept out of my reach because Chocolate can make us pooches very poorly. Then when I am dished up my own Christmas dinner the editor makes sure that I do not receive any stuffing in my bowl because it often contains onions and that could lead to me leaving something other than a gift under the tree! Urghhh.



I hope you and your furry friends have a very woofy and safe Christmas. Love and licks Harvey 

# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.

BETHLEHEM

AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.

...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS

ROMAN CENSUS  
GO TO YOUR HOME TOWN TO BE COUNTED

MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL

SORRY... I'VE NO ROOM!

THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.

SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY

AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.

THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...

...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

## 1<sup>st</sup> South Street Boys Brigade & Girls Association Company

The **1<sup>st</sup> South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday evening from 6pm until 7.30pm during term time. Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are very welcome to join in the fun, which includes games, craft and outside activities. The uniform is an inexpensive blue T-shirt and sweatshirt with an embroidered badge. The weekly subscription is £2. The end of term will be on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

In the spring and summer next year there will be opportunities for the older girls and boys to visit the Boys Brigade Camp Site at Honey Hill and the Water Activity Centre, which are both in Maidstone. There is an adventure playground, woods and well equipped facilities for camping at Honey Hill. Young people can enjoy canoeing, kayaking and stand up paddle boards at the Water Activity Centre, which is supervised by fully trained and qualified leaders.

For more information about the Company, please visit the South Street Baptist Church website at: [www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk](http://www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk)

To find out more about the **Boys Brigade**, please visit the Boys Brigade national website at:

**[www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK](http://www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK)**

Meopham Library Writing Group meetings are held on the first Thursday morning of each month. The next meeting will be held in Meopham Library on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 at 10am**. Masks must be worn in the library and people should bring their own drinks, as the kitchen is unavailable just now. The meeting will end at about midday.

Each month, there is a different writing theme and everyone writes a short story, poem or article, using less than 1,000 words. Recent writing themes have included; "Fog", "Harvest Festival", "Journey" and "Celebrations".

There is also a writing challenge, which involves writing sensible sentences containing six words chosen by the group, using less than sixty words.

New members are always welcome and anyone who is interested in writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is invited to join the small, but friendly group.

Many people enjoy writing about their memories, which can be very interesting for their families and friends. Writing can also be very therapeutic in difficult times.

The following writing group meetings will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

For more information, or to join the group, please ring **01474 813379**.

# A new level of home care

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We are dedicated to helping each individual maintain an active and independent lifestyle by focusing on current abilities, interest and needs.

Carers  
required

### Some of our services include;

- Assistance with personal care
- Meal preparation
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- Trips to friends and relatives
- Administration or assistance with medication
- Overnight care
- Companionship
- Leisure activities
- Housework
- Live-in 24hr care
- Holistic Services
- Complimentary GP Lifestyle Assessment.
- Social Prescribing

## Get in touch

### Gravesham & Dartford

50 The Grove, Gravesend, DA12 1DP

T: 01474 240909

T: 01322 537733

E: [hello@vitalityhomehealth.co.uk](mailto:hello@vitalityhomehealth.co.uk)

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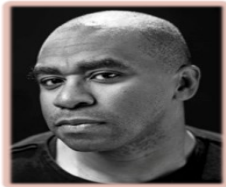


# 2BScene Theatre

presents



## A charity evening in aid of UNHCR



**Performed by local actor and singer Gary Cordice,**  
who brings to life, by candlelight,

the immortal story of Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'

**Friday December 3rd 2021— Shorne Church**

**Doors open at 7.00pm. Performance starts at 7.30pm**

**Tickets cost £10.00**

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Included

For tickets Email [cldwaller@btinternet.com](mailto:cldwaller@btinternet.com)

Or Telephone Clare Waller 01474 822641 after 4<sup>th</sup> Nov



### Wordsearch for December

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah Broken Heart Freedom Darkness Favour Prisoners

Comfort Mourn Bestow Crown Beauty Ashes Son God Jesus

Seen Father Whoever longing thousand

