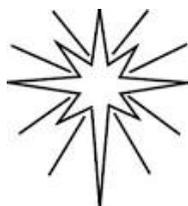
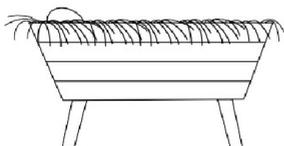


Newsletter



St Matthew, Crifftins ~ St Mary, Dudleston
~ St Andrew, Frankton

**one
benefice**



December 2019

January 2020

Who's Who

Vicar Rev Simon Airey 01691 690212

Criftins Parish

Churchwarden David Davies 01691 690346

Churchwarden James Gordon 01691 690696

PCC Secretary Janet Kelly 01691 622951

PCC Treasurer Jeanne Hughes 01691 690143

Dudleston Parish

Churchwarden Kay Egerton 01691 690250

Churchwarden Richard Clubbe 01978 710727

PCC Secretary Diana Evans 01691 690263

PCC Treasurer Rachel Mottram 01978 710231

Frankton Parish

Churchwarden Edward Bevan 01691 622838

Churchwarden Helen Richardson 01691 690276

PCC Secretary Rosemary Horton 01691 622285

PCC Treasurer Neil Mainwaring 07786 068688

Mothers' Union Rosemary Horton 01691 622285

Magazine

Production Amanda Bevan 01691 622838

Printer Jackson Printing

***Copy to Amanda by 15th January
for February magazine please
or send direct by email to
amanda.bevan7@gmail.com***

Dear Friends

Come to a Carol Service or a Christmas Eve Communion and you'll hear this read '***And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us***'. This is the heart of the Christmas Message; what God needed to tell us (his word to us) was put into a human life and lived out for all to see.

In schools now they commonly teach children to 'be the very best version of yourself you can be'. This phrase captures the Gospel in a nutshell. What you might call '*not* the best version of myself' the Bible calls 'sin' and being the 'best version of yourself' is what Christianity calls being 'Christ-like'. Every day of our lives we are choosing between different possible reactions we could have to whatever situations we find ourselves in. When you see the figure of the baby Jesus in a crib this Christmas, just imagine you can hear God saying, 'Watch this little life, this baby is going to show you the best version of what a human being can be; this is what being truly human means'. The best version of yourself is actually your True Self as God intended you to be: your Christ-like self.

Christmas literally means 'Christ Comes' and I often speak of how Christ comes to life within us. The world seems to be in a bit of a mess this Christmas. Lots of people are failing to be the best version of themselves. What about you? Merry Christmas.

Simon

CRIFTINS CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Once again we will have a stall at the Criftins Christmas Fayre in Criftins Parish Hall on Saturday 7th December, 10am-1pm.

Our stall will feature: Jams, Marmalades, Chutneys, Home made Christmas Fayre Cakes, Christmas Fayre Fun sweets, and something for Fido as well!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 8th December 11am TGI Messy Church

Sunday 15th December 6pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve 2.30pm Crib Service

Christmas Eve 11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 11am Family Communion

DUDLESTON CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 15th December 9.30am Crib Service

Wednesday 18th December 7pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve 9pm Christmas Communion

Christmas Day 9.30am Family Communion

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

St Mary's will be running a stall at the Criftins Community Christmas Fayre where we will be selling homemade wreaths. Please come and support this community event.

WELSH FRANKTON CHURCH NEWS

CHURCHYARD AWARD

We were delighted to be given a Gold Award recently in the Lichfield Diocese Churchyard Award Scheme. Congratulations and grateful thanks to everyone who contributed in any way towards this.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tuesday 17th December 7pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve 4.30pm Crib Service

(Angels and shepherds are especially welcome. So, children, put on your wings and grab your crooks and be part of the story!)

Christmas Day 11.00am Family Communion

WELSH FRANKTON MOTHERS' UNION

Our December meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th December at 2.30pm at the Narrowboat. As is our custom, this will take the form of a Christmas Communion service with seasonal readings and prayers. Our MU member, Rev Karen Davies, has agreed to be the celebrant. Members and non members are welcome to join us for what is always a lovely occasion. Looking ahead to 2020 - our New year's Lunch will take place on Tuesday 21st January at the Black Lion Hotel, Ellesmere. Please meet at 12.30 ready for lunch to be served at 1pm.

MU PRAYER CHAIN

Please continue to pray for our Diocesan President Sue Egerton and for all our members who are unwell at the moment.

With love and best wishes for the festive season - Rosemary

Rosemary Horton 01691 622285

WELSH FRANKTON UNITED REFORM CHURCH

Our Carol Service is on Sunday December 15th at 6.30pm and will be led by Mr Robert Strange.

Other services are at 10.45am and preachers are as follows:

Dec 8th: Rev Chris Burgham

Jan 5th Mr Alan Dawes

Jan 19th Group Service at Preeshenlle at **11am**

Flowers for both months: Mrs Betty Roberts

CHAPEL LANE METHODIST CHURCH

Services are usually on Sunday mornings at 11.00

Dec 1st Ruth Shoreman

Dec 8th Prof Michael Jackson

Dec 15th At Ellesmere, Christmas Tree Festival Service **5pm**

Dec 22nd Anne Threadgold, Carol Service

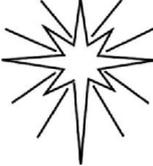
Dec 29th At Welshampton **10am**

Jan 5th Anne Threadgold

Jan 12th Joyce Williams

Jan 19th Ruth Shoreman

Jan 26th At Ellesmere, Covenant Service 11am

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 幸 T G I Messy Church 幸
 幸 Christmas 幸
 幸 St Matthew's Church, Criftins 幸
 幸 8th Dec  11am-1pm 幸
 幸 Create Big Art Together 幸
 幸 Food and Fun! 幸
 幸 For info ring Lynda 623540 幸
 幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸幸

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Come and be inspired by a wonderful display of trees decorated in all sorts of ways at **Ellesmere Methodist Church**, Trimpley. December 13th & 14th: 10am - 4pm, December 15th: 2 - 4pm
 Take a little time out from the pre-Christmas busyness to relax.

CRIFTINS SENIOR CITIZENS

Our meeting on 11th November was a Remembrance Service, when we honoured the dead from the 1st and 2nd World Wars. This included various readings and poems by different members and memories of his time in the Royal Navy shared by our oldest member, Wilf Evison.

The December meeting, on the 9th, will be our Christmas Party, when Criftins School Choir will be singing for us and Kay Egerton will be providing afternoon tea.

In January we will be holding our AGM and Ann Greason will show photos and tell us about her and Colin's Norwegian cruise earlier this year.

All meetings are held on the second Monday in the month from 2-4pm in Criftins Parish Hall.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Andrea Lee 01691 690663

CRIFTINS W I

Our quiz night was much enjoyed with nine teams taking part and a hot-pot supper to follow. Our AGM in November was an opportunity to review another busy year. Margaret and Val who are standing down from our committee were thanked for their many years of service and presentations were made by our President, Alison. Our December meeting will take the form of a social evening, Then we will be ready to start our 2020 programme on Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall with a talk by Tonia Davies about the History of Derwen College. We always welcome new members – why not come and join us?

Catherine Evans 01691 690799

COMMUNITY COFFEE CLUB

In October we raised £428.25 for Ellesmere branch of the British Legion. An amazing total and for those who were not there, Bob McBride made a very special presentation to Alice Williams for 40 years of service to the British Legion selling poppies in the village. Well done, Alice!

The next Coffee Club will be on Thursday 2nd January 2020 raising money for the Parish Hall. Start the New Year by coming along and bringing a new friend.

Kay

WHIST DRIVE

There is a whist drive at Criftins Parish Hall every Monday at 7.15 and new players are very welcome. Price £3, includes refreshments, plus a raffle. If you are not sure how to play come a bit early and we will show you, it's easy to pick up. We are a friendly bunch so give it a go.

Frances 01691 690863

CRIFTINS ART GROUP

Meets every Thursday afternoon, 2pm - 4pm. We are a very sociable painting group who welcome new members.

Beginners welcome.

For further information contact Pam Hillier 01691 690426

CRIFTINS PARISH HALL

Criftins Parish Hall and Playing Field Annual General Meeting.

Everyone is invited to attend the AGM on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30pm. All user groups and organisations are invited to come and give a report on their year's activities. So please come and hear all that has been achieved and the future plans. If you would like to get involved and be a Trustee or a volunteer please come and help your parish hall continue the good work.

The food evenings are going well. A limited menu served every other Wednesday. Lovely food at very reasonable prices, look out for dates on our Facebook site.

Criftins Community Christmas Fayre

Saturday 7th December at 10am.

All the village organisations are represented with stalls plus table top stalls. There will be mince pies, mulled wine, coffee and cake on sale and a children's craft area. Please come and bring the family and make this a day to remember.

ELLESMERE LIBRARY

Books Aloud Free session for adults: Dec 2nd, 2-3.30 pm

Rhymetime for under 4's: Dec 4th, 10.30-11am

The Ellesmere Panto Connection local history talk by Chris Jobson: Dec 7th, 11-1pm, £3

Memory Café with Mere Melodies Dec 16th, 2-4pm

Afternoon Reading Group Dec 19th, 2.30-3.30pm

Scrabble Club - every Wednesday, 2-3.30pm, £2 with coffee and biscuits. A plea for more players please! This is a social group, nothing too serious so come along and enjoy a bit of fun and a chance to make some new acquaintances.

Bridge Club for Improvers - every Wednesday 2-4pm, £5 per person with coffee and biscuits. A chance to improve with a friendly group under the expert tuition of Nat White.

For details/booking ring 01743 258555 and see extra Christmas events on our Facebook page: OurSpace Ellesmere

ELLESMERE RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

FUTURE MEETINGS

Mondays 9th December & 13th January at Ellesmere Town Hall after the Planning Meeting which starts at 7.00pm.

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Melanie Joyce

Email: ellesmereruralpc@outlook.com

Web site: www.ellesmererural-pc.gov.uk

EDITORIAL

This edition of the Newsletter covers both December and January and so all our contributors will have a well earned rest until the middle of January, when I shall be looking for all your news and plans for the February edition.

Meanwhile, thank you for all your contributions over the last year, and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of hope to you all.

Amanda

FROM THE REGISTERS

DUDLESTON

Holy Baptism

17th November Florence Jane Violet Lewis

THIS MONTH'S COVER

For many, at the moment, it is a time of uncertainty if not anxiety. We have no clear idea of what is ahead of us and how our political situation will affect us.

Two thousand years ago it was also a time of uncertainty and anxiety under an occupying regime. But God chose to enter a messy world and to walk alongside the people who lived in it. And he still walks alongside *us* in *our* messy world.

Jesus came at Christmas, not just as a baby, but to bring light into people's lives, to chase away the shadows and to illuminate their path. We all need a friend like that, especially one who will stick with us no matter how uncertain and messy the situation. Happy Christmas.

Amanda

READINGS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

- Dec 1** Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-end
Matthew 24:36-44
- Dec 8** Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12
- Dec 15** Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
- Dec 22** Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-end
- Dec 24** **CHRISTMAS EVE**
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11 & 16; Acts 13:16-26
Luke 1:67-79
- Dec 25** **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14
- Dec 29** Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23
- Jan 5** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12
- Jan 12** Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17
- Jan 19** Isaiah 49:1-7; Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
- Jan 26** Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

SERVICES IN JANUARY

Readings on p.14

Sunday Jan 5th Epiphany White
9.30 am Family Service, Dudleston
11.00 am Holy Communion & Sunday Club, Criftins
11.00 am Morning Worship, Frankton

Sunday Jan 12th Baptism of Christ White
9.30 am Holy Communion, Frankton
11.00 am Holy Communion, Criftins

Sunday Jan 19th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany White
9.30 am Holy Communion, Dudleston
11.00 am Holy Communion & Sunday Club, Criftins
11.00 am Family Service, Frankton

Sunday Jan 26th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany White
11.00 am Morning Worship, Criftins
11.00 am Holy Communion, Frankton

Dec 1: 6-7.30pm, Youth Group, Criftins Church
Dec 5: 10am, Coffee Morning, Frankton Village Hall
Dec 7: 10am, Criftins Christmas Fayre, Criftins Parish Hall (page 8)
Dec 8: 11am, TGI Messy Church, Criftins Church (page 4)
Dec 9: 2pm, Senior Citizens, Criftins Parish Hall (page 6)
Dec 10: 2.30pm, Frankton Mothers' Union, Narrowboat (page 5)
Dec 10: 7.30pm, WI, Criftins Parish Hall (page 7)
Dec 15: 6.30pm, URC Carol Service, Welsh Frankton (page 5)

Jan 2: 10am, Coffee Morning, Frankton Village Hall
Jan 2: 10am, Community Coffee Club, Criftins Parish Hall (page 7)
Jan 5: 6-7.30pm, Youth Group, Criftins Church
Jan 13: 2pm, Senior Citizens, Criftins Parish Hall (page 6)
Jan 14: 7.30pm, WI, Criftins Parish Hall (page 7)
Jan 19: 6-7.30pm, Youth Group, Criftins Church
Jan 30: 10am, Community Coffee Club, Criftins Parish Hall

SERVICES IN DECEMBER *Readings on p.14*

Sunday Dec 1st	1st Sunday of Advent	Purple
9.30 am	Morning Worship, Dudleston	
11.00 am	Holy Communion & Sunday Club, Criftins	
11.00 am	Celebration Service, Frankton	
Sunday Dec 8th	2nd Sunday of Advent	Purple
9.30 am	Holy Communion, Frankton	
11.00 am	TGI Messy Church, Criftins	
6.00 pm	BCP Evensong, Criftins	
Sunday Dec 15th	3rd Sunday of Advent	Purple
9.30 am	Crib Service, Dudleston	
	No morning service at Criftins	
11.00 am	Morning Worship, Frankton	
6.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight, Criftins	
Tuesday Dec 17th		
7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight, Frankton	Purple
Wednesday Dec 18th		
7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight, Dudleston	Purple
Sunday Dec 22nd	4th Sunday of Advent	Purple
11.00 am	Morning Worship, Criftins	
11.00 am	Holy Communion, Frankton	
Tuesday Dec 24th	Christmas Eve	Purple
2.30 pm	Crib Service, Criftins	
4.30 pm	Crib Service, Frankton	
9.00 pm	Christmas Eve Communion, Dudleston	
11.00 pm	Midnight Mass, Criftins	
Wed Dec 25th	Christmas Day	White
9.30 am	Family Communion, Dudleston	
11.00 am	Family Communion, Criftins	
11.00 am	Family Communion, Frankton	
Sunday Dec 29th	1st Sunday of Christmas	White
11.00 am	Joint Special Service, Frankton	