

MONKTON NEWS DECEMBER 2020



*More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer, and Vixen!
"On, Comet! On, Cupid! On Donner and Blitzen.*

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	WHAT'S IN YOUR MONKTON NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2020
1	CONTENTS
2	WHO DOES WHAT
3	USEFUL NUMBERS AND CONTACTS
4	VILLAGE HALL DIARY .. for reference
5	HELP PAGE DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS
6	DECEMBER EVENTS AND NEWS
7	OZZIE, A SPECIAL THERAPY DOG
8	METHODIST CHURCH UPDATE
9	REMEMBRANCETIDE – 100TH ANNIVERSARY
10-11	NATURE NOTES, DR. CLIVE NUTTMAN TALKS ABOUT OUR CHANGING WINTERS
12	SURGERY NEWS -including Christmas holiday times
13	WELCOME TO OUR NEW METHODIST MINISTER
14	SARAH'S APPEAL FOR MARGATE INDEPENDENT FOOD BANK
15	CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE, THE ADVENT TRAIL AND CHURCHYARD CHRISTMAS TREE
16	MESSY CHURCH'S ADVENT CALENDAR IDEA -make a giftbox of food.
17	COLOUR IN PAGE FOR CHRISTMAS
18-19	THE PASTORAL LETTER FOR CHRISTMAS. REV. MICHAEL DARKINS
20-22	PARISH COUNCIL NEWS, AND PLANNING UPDATES
23	BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER
24-25	CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS. Including church opening times for visits.
26	THE YEWE TREE. find out why churchyards often have Yews, some over a thousand years old.
27	MAKE YOURSELF A CHRISTINGLE
28=29	LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS SPIDERS. a Christmas story for everyone
30 -31	COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS ... details and map of the ADVENT WINDOW TRAIL.
32 TO END	ADVERTISING SECTION

WHO DOES WHAT IN MONKTON NEWS?

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To advertise in Monkton News, contact the editor

Distribution: Kay and Harry Horne. Tel 01843 823849.

Articles and letters for Monkton News should be sent to the editor as above or 112 Monkton Street, BY THE 19TH OF EACH MONTH.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, MONKTON

We are part of the benefice of the Wantsum Group which comprises the Church of England parishes of **Minster, Monkton, St. Nicholas with Serre and Chislet**. This benefice also belongs to the **SEAMARSH** group of parishes

**TO ARRANGE BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS AT
ST. MARY MAGDALENE PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR**

Vicar of the benefice	Rev. Dr. Richard Braddy	821250 Richard Braddy <arichard.braddy@gmail.com>	Minster And Benefice
Assistant curates	Rev. Vicky Coneys	Vicky Coneys <vickysconeys@hotmail.com>	
	Rev. Michael Darkins	Michael Darkins <revd.michaeldarkins@gmail.com>	
Group administrator	Matthew Hergest	823347 mjhergest@hotmail.com	For the benefice
Ret. clergy	Rev. Canon Peter Gausden	peter.gausden374@btinternet.com 825374	
Methodist minister	Rev Wes Hampton	. Rev. Hampton joined the Methodist circuit in September. <wesley.hampton@methodist.org.uk>	

USEFUL NUMBERS AND CONTACTS

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101	MINSTER DOCTORS' SURGERY 821333. Out of hours call 111
CRIME STOPPERS 0800 555 111	SOCIAL SERVICES 860000
COMMUNITY WARDEN – KARL AYLETT 07811 271 299 Karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk	MONKTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL 821394
PCSO Adrian Butterworth. To contact email 56550@kent.pnn.police.uk PCSO Debbie Forsyth 60457@Kent.pnn.police.uk or call 101	MINSTER LIBRARY 03000 413131
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP 07926 842 183 www.domesticabuseservices.org	SOUTHERN WATER to report a leak 0800820999 Supply or sewage problems 0330 303 0368 Billing 0333 200 3015
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 Free and confidential.	Parish clerk – Sara Archer 821989 clerk@monktonparish.co.uk https://www.hugofox.com/community/monkton-parish-council-18134/home/ . WEBSITE
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL – for all department information https://www.thanet.gov.uk PHONE 577000	RSPCA 0300 1234 999
Recycling and fly tipping 577115	LOCAL RETAILERS offering deliveries. Attwells, Touchwood chemists. Brills DIY, Birchington. And others on enquiry.. .
Planning 577591	NEAREST POST OFFICE Minster 821291
Dog warden and noise control 577580	MONKTON VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS 821439
QEQM HOSPITAL 225544 Outpatients appointments line 01227 868686	MINOR INJURY UNITS Kent and Canterbury Hospital 24 hrs 01227 864244 Estuary View , Whitstable CT5 3SE 8-8 daily 01227 284301

WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL IN DECEMBER 2020

DAY	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT
MONDAYS	9.30-10.30 7.30 pm	Exercise dance with Maggie & co Canine behaviour and obedience training classes	Chris Paris Brown MBIPBT 01227 365381
TUESDAYS	2nd Tuesday 3.15pm-5.15pm 7.30pm except third Tuesday. Monkton WI third Tuesday, 7-30 pm	Messy Church Adults Table Tennis Club	Eileen Brackstone 825390 Gilly Brown Penny 821539
WEDNESDAYS	10-12 2-4 pm (school holidays only) 6.00pm	Social morning for retired villagers Family fun afternoon Line dancing all grades beginners upwards	Due to Covid 19, not meeting at present. Theo Loyla
THURSDAYS			
FRIDAYS	4.00pm – 7 PM	La Dance Academy	Laura 07772173424
SATURDAYS	9.00am TO 3 pm	La Dance Academy	Laura 07772173424
SUNDAYS			

Activities will continue in the hall **when permitted following prescribed Covid 19 rules**. This means numbers in groups are restricted. Please contact your organiser for latest news. No party bookings allowed at current time.

Contact Pete Mitchell, 821439 for availability and bookings

COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS, DECEMBER 2020

At the time of writing the November lockdown was due to come to an end on 2nd December. In the last part of November Covid infections had risen in the Thanet area. For latest information please refer to local media or news. December issue is produced as though planned events will go ahead following Covid regulations.

COVID 19 VILLAGE HELP HUB **TO VILLAGERS WHO NEED TO SHIELD OR SELF ISOLATE DUE TO COVID 19**

if you live in Monkton and need to shield or self-isolate you can call the number below if you need emergency help with: -prescriptions, shopping, mail posting.

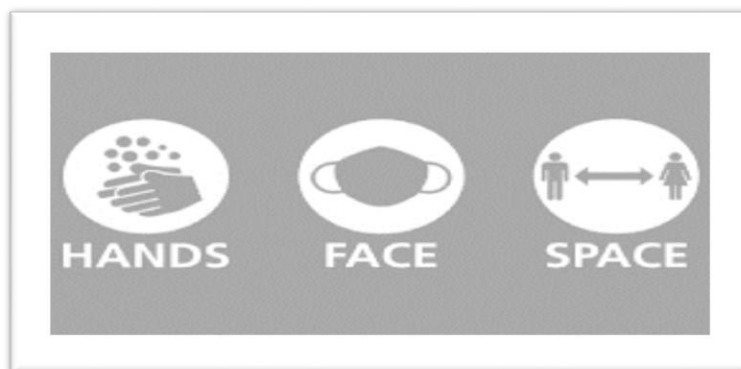
We have local volunteers who are willing to assist you.

Contact Del or Pete on **01843 821439**;

Please only use this number for essential shopping when it cannot be obtained through one of the many home delivery services from local grocery outlets.

Please ring at convenient hours as this service is not available for late night calls

AS THE PANDEMIC GOES ON A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE WHO CONTINUES TO VOLUNTEER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES



- **WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY FOR 20 SECONDS**
- **WEAR FACE COVERING WHERE REQUIRED**
 - **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
 - **HELP YOURSELF AND OTHERS**



DECEMBER IN THE VILLAGE ...seasonal news to cheer us on our way....

THE ADVENT WINDOW TRAIL

www.shutterstock.com 747043939

This uplifting custom has become a tradition in Monkton. In line with an advent calendar 24 village windows you can see from the street will be decorated with a seasonal theme. One for every day of the month until we reach Christmas Eve, when St/Mary Magdalene Church joins with the presentation of the Nativity.

Don't expect to see the windows decorated all at once, the first will be seen on 1st December. What better way to wrap up warm and enjoy the Christmas lights displays around the village at the same time?

See a map of the window trail and Gilly O' Neil's thanks elsewhere in this issue. Details and map on pages 30 and 31



THE BIG MONKTON CHRISTMAS TAKE AWAY.

The organisers of Monkton's annual Christmas meal for retired villagers found the solution to Covid restrictions by turning the gathering on its head and plan to take the meal out to "bubbles" so villagers can enjoy the meal in their homes with close contacts – as a take away meal.

The food will be prepared, packed and then distributed to the pre-arranged dining groups on Saturday, 5th December. If you want to change your dining address or need more info contact Heather, 821585.

If further restrictions are imposed in the meantime meals will still be delivered to everyone at home.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT THE VILLAGE HALL

At the time of writing The Horsburgh family musicians expect to play carols outside the village hall by the Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve from 6 pm when Santa has to go and find his reindeer. Socially distanced villagers will be welcome to come and sing carols if

restrictions permit





SANTA WILL BE HERE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.....

Santa is extra busy this year and wants to keep everyone safe so his elves are keeping a **diary** so village children can come and see him. There will be a special outdoor grotto the elves are making for him outside the village hall. on Christmas Eve

If you would like to make an appointment in Santa's special diary please contact the elves on **821439** and they will make a booking for you – and take note of anything you would like collected from your address on 23rd December.

Many thanks as always to the village hall committee and supporters. Look out for posters giving more details on village notice boards.



OZZIE, a special therapy dog with a story of love, retires at 15 ...

Ozzie became a "Therapy Dog " 5/6 years ago. His first assignment was the Pilgrims Hospice in Margate. This was after he was assessed to see if he would be suitable. He passed with flying colours. Ozzie is a very quiet & calm dog, therefore brilliant for our proposed new job.

Every Thursday we would visit the hospice making so many new friends, he was loved by all. We would wander round the wards visiting the patients. Sometimes they would make such a fuss of him he would sit on their beds, for so many of the patients would be missing their own pets and he loved the attention.

We would then visit the community room where weekly patients would, stay for lunch NS often play ball games or a quiz. Ozzie loved to join in and his name was often on the score board.

In the hallway was a frame of photos of all the staff and of course Ozzie's photo in the middle.

As well as the hospice Ozzie loved to visit Monkton Primary School on Tuesdays partaking in a program by Pets as therapy called Read to Dogs, We helped children to read, Ozzie was in his element he loves children. He would sit on a cushion and listen intently. The read to dogs program gives children confidence, dogs don't judge and this helps in so many ways. The children loved him, he never had so much fuss. Even the teachers thought the world of him We happily carried on after we left the hospice, as Ozzie was getting older

At Christmas Ozzie would get cards sent to him and presents, on his birthday he would wear a badge with his age, all so much fun and hard to believe he was older than most of the children.

By the time of Covid 19, sadly Ozzie developed arthritis in his legs and was a little deaf. A decision was hard to make, we both loved our visit to school, I knew it was time. Ozzie was 15 on 8th October and deserves a rest and enjoy retirement.

We spent the first lockdown in the summer with loads of lovely walks, but since the change in the weather Ozzie's arthritis played up and he was unable to walk very far.. So we invested in a doggy buggy so he can still enjoy short walks.

Ozzie is a wonderful dog and when he wore his special therapy coat, he knew where we were going. He sometimes gets to wear it if we go shopping, he likes to show it off . Anita Adams.



WELCO ME TO NEW METHODIST MINISTER.

The Thanet area has welcomed the Rev. Wes Hampton to its team of ministers. He replaces the Rev. Colin Telfer, who has moved to work in North Norfolk, and became well known to villagers through his challenging articles in Monkton News. Rev. Wes has contributed an introductory feature elsewhere in this issue.



**MONKTON METHODIST CHURCH
AT THE TIME OF WRITING THE NEXT SERVICE WILL BE ON
WEDNESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER AT 7 PM ALL WELCOME**



commemoration.

Rev. Peter led the



REMEMBRANCE TIDE IN MONKTON

On the 100th anniversary of the first commemorations at The Cenotaph and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, Monkton held its Act of Remembrance outside before the village War Memorial last month.

Canon Peter Gausden led a short commemoration, and wreaths were laid by Mrs. Gilly Brown on behalf of the village, and Mr. Brian Stephenson on behalf of the British Legion. The citation was said by Mr. Harry Horne. A large group of socially distanced villagers were present. The church bell was tolled by ringers Rachel Hiorsburgh and Heather Gunton. and Eleanor Horsburgh sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Left. Cei (standing). Africa, and Marcus admiring Poppy man.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

We just wanted to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and let you all know that we're still thinking of you... Even though we are not yet able to open the **Wednesday Morning Social Club**, we'll be back as soon as we can!!

If anyone needs anything at all, then please don't hesitate to give us a call, we're still here for you.

Contact Sara 821989 or Gilly 821232.

We look forward to seeing you again very soon but until then, stay safe & keep well.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR WINTERS?



DR. CLIVE NUTTMAN EXPLAINS....



WALKING AROUND MONKTON

Nature Reserve recently, my eye caught a flash of colour on the ground – a violet. Nothing unusual about violets flowering here but we have entered the second half of November; has nobody told the violets? The answer is that nature is responding to the environment and our progressively milder winters have started to play havoc with some of nature's rhythms; the violet in question was either a Sweet or Dog Violet, which usually come into flower in February and May respectively.

Whilst apocalyptic tales abound of the possible damage to our planet – and lives – from the spectre of climate change in centuries to come, things do seem to be happening on a subtle, often local, scale that are signals that the world is changing. The problem for nature, in responding to warming temperatures, is the speed of change; although

Thanet has always seemed to have had its own little microclimate, we still recall that we thought winters were more severe just a few decades ago than at present. A quick look at Met Office figures for November shows that the average temperature for 1961-65 was 9.4°C

compared to 11.6°C for the period 2011-15; a rise of more than 2 degrees may not sound much – and the earlier period contained the severe winter of 1962-3, but go back to 1935-39 and an average of 10.6°C still suggests it was cooler back then.

In a human lifespan, these small differences might not seem significant but in nature there is increasing evidence that other organisms might not be coping so well, although there will always be ‘winners’ as well as ‘losers’. The problem for our lone violet (I discovered 3 more flowering nearby after a more careful search) is that it has a short flowering period; although it’s a perennial – re-growing each year – it needs a pollinator to ensure the next generation. And the butterflies and bees that would normally visit the flowers to provide pollination are now nowhere to be seen.



These mismatches in phenology (the study of seasonal/climate cycles) are potentially damaging for the natural world. A good example can be seen at Samphire Hoe, Dover, where the beautiful and rare Early Spider Orchid has undergone huge fluctuations in population size that probably relate to changes in climate. In an extraordinary relationship, these orchids rely on the males of single bee species to achieve pollination. These ground-nesting bees emerge in March seeking females to mate with and are attracted to the newly-flowering orchids that release a scent that mimics the female bee (which usually emerge later than the males)! A difference of just a couple of weeks in the flowering time of the

orchid and the arrival of the male bees can cause a huge impact on pollination success – and thus seed production for the next season’s flowers.

Although we may not notice – nor care about – these small and seemingly insignificant changes, the world that surrounds us is changing, often imperceptibly, and the ‘loss’ of our winters makes the natural world poorer. Spare a thought for the violet that has no pollinators and the butterflies and bees next spring that have missed the flowering season and the nectar and pollen that is vital for their life cycles.

minster surgery
PATIENT LIAISON GROUP
NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020

A BIG Thank You!

As we approach the end of a very difficult year for everyone, we would like to thank all our patients and friends for their support and understanding, and especially for all the gifts and donations that many of you have given throughout this Pandemic. It really does mean a great deal to everyone at the surgery.

COVID-19

With the ever increasing numbers of new cases and hospital admissions throughout Thanet, it seems highly likely that when the current lockdown ends, Thanet and other areas in Kent will be placed in a high Tier with further strict conditions, and probably by the time you receive this Newsletter, it will have already been made public!

*** So Please Remember: “wash Hands”- “Cover Face” - “Make Space” and stay safe**

*** If you have any of the following symptoms:**

New persistent cough; Loss of taste/smell; High temperature -Call 119 - book a test!

*** If you have symptoms, tested positive or self-isolating, PLEASE DO NOT VISIT THE SURGERY but call 111 if you require further assistance.**

*** Want to check on cases in your area? Download the NHS Covid App**

*** Returning from abroad? Visit gov.uk for the latest advice.**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Please note the surgery's open/closed arrangements over the Christmas period:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December	- AM Normal opening hours - PM Emergencies Only
Christmas Day Friday 25th December	- Closed all day
Boxing Day Saturday 26th December	- Closed all day
Bank Holiday Monday 28th December	- Closed all day
Tuesday 29th December	- Normal opening hours
Wednesday 30th December	- Normal opening hours
New Year's Eve Thursday 31st December	AM - Normal opening hours PM - Emergencies only
New Year's Day Friday 1st January	- Closed all day
Monday 4th January onwards	- Normal opening hours

Please note: Some dates/times may be subject to change dependent on Covid-19 restrictions and NHS England requirements.

Should you need to see a Doctor during times when the surgery is closed, please call the “NHS 111 Service” direct on “111” where you will receive “non urgent” confidential health advice and information for you and your family.

*** For Urgent/Life Threatening cases, please dial 999 as normal.**

*** For Covid-19 symptoms or book a test call 111**

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you throughout the holiday period and that all "Repeat Prescription Requests" are submitted in good time to allow for the increased demand, both at the surgery and at the various pharmacies, and remember to check your local pharmacy's opening times as well. . Also ensure that if your prescription is due during the holiday period or if you are going away, check that it will be available for collection in advance before Christmas.

Obviously, we appreciate that "urgent" prescriptions may still be needed at any time. Also, if your "MEDICATION REVIEW" is due during this period please ensure you make an appointment in good time, to avoid further unnecessary delays.

If you have any concerns please contact the surgery direct on 821333

SURGERY TRAINING DAYS 2021

Please note that the surgery will be closed on the following days from 1.00 pm onwards:

Thursday 28th January and Thursday 25th February.

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our virtual meeting in December, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact:

Ken Self on 821200 or Jeanne Lawrence on 821049
or email : kenself@me.com

AND FINALLY - We would like to wish all our Patients and Friends

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HEALTHY NEW YEAR

"Hello" from Rev Wes Hampton.... our new Methodist minister introduces himself

It is now twelve months since Cherry and I visited Thanet, and I was invited to come to be the minister at Monkton Methodist Church, along with four other churches. None of us could have foreseen what the next year would be like – I think that we have all heard the word "unprecedented" more in 2020 than in any previous year!

All the usual welcomes and regular events have not taken place, so although I have been in post since September, I am still introducing myself and meeting people for the first time: at the moment we are all being encouraged to stay at home, but I do hope that I shall be able to get to know more people in Monkton very soon.

Our manse is in Broadstairs, where we have moved from Hinckley in Leicestershire – about as far from the sea as it is possible to be in England. This is a return to Kent for us, as we spent five years in Folkestone. My ministry has also included appointments in Hampshire, and London and Essex. Our two children are in their twenties, and are currently living in Leeds and Birmingham.

We are more acutely aware than ever that we do not know what the future holds, but I remain confident that God faces all with us, and in him is the source of our strength. I am very pleased to be facing this future with you.

Wes Hampton

A SEASONAL CHANCE TO HELP OTHERS

A Monkton resident is appealing for seasonal donations for Margate Independent Foodbank.

Sarah Munday, who volunteers at the facility, said it is much used and needed: "It's in the middle of the town, one of the UK's most deprived areas, and right on our doorstep.

"Everything villagers donate will be gratefully received and enjoyed, so the next time you shop - either in person or online - please include an extra item."

The foodbank would like to include Christmas goodies in forthcoming collections/deliveries and these can be anything with a festive feel: mince pies, chocolates, crackers (the ones you pull!) etc. Also, men's toiletries are always in short supply.

If you can help, please leave items in the covered box in the garden of 3 Monkton Manor. The box will be regularly checked and nothing will be left in it for long. If you can't deliver, please contact Sarah on 07870 100065 and she will collect from you. The deadline for donating is Monday 14 December.



ALL LIT UP

ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH WILL BE FLOODLIT TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON FROM TUESDAY, 1ST DECEMBER. COME AND SEE THE NATIVITY SCENE ON CHRISTMAS EVE AS PART OF THE VILLAGE ADVENT TRAIL.

Countdown to Christmas



Why did I doubt the lovely residents of Monkton? You kindly came forward and we now have our 24 windows for the Countdown to Christmas. Thank you for bringing some cheer to our fantastic village – we can't wait to see your designs. So, from the evening of 1st December until the 24th, a new window will be unveiled and lit up for all to enjoy. Please look out for the map of the participating windows elsewhere in this edition of Monkton News. Find it on pages 30 and 31.

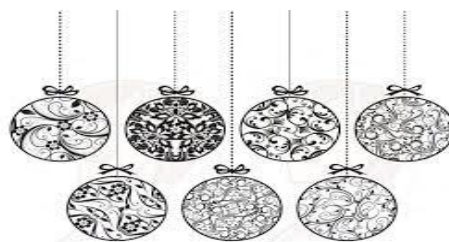
Gilly O'Neill

Thank you, Gilly, for once again organising the Countdown to Christmas window decoration for the village. In these difficult times we need something special to look forward to and I enjoy walking around the village on Christmas Eve seeing all the effort villagers have made and experiencing that Christmas feeling. All we will need is a sprinkling of snow! Kay.

AND WHEN PKLANNING YOUR WALK ABOUT HERE IS
SOMETHING NEW TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Churchyard Christmas tree -

Early in December our church will be floodlit for Christmas and at the same time we will be decorating the yew tree to the right of the church path with fairy lights. We thought it would be a good idea to invite villagers to add their own Christmas tree decorations to those provided. So, rummage through your box of Christmas tree decorations and join us in making our yew tree something really spectacular this year.



An idea for an Advent Calendar. This came from an internet site.



Decorate a cardboard box, then, for each day throughout December place an item of food in the box. This could be a tin of beans, a bag of crisps, packet of biscuits, some sweets and so on. The boxes can then be donated to the Thanet Food Link.

Our Food Bank representative Kay Horne is happy to take the boxes to the food bank for donation. They need to be delivered to her no later than the 20th December. Along with any other food donations they should be left in the small shed at The Old Brewhouse 153a Monkton Street.

This year more than ever families are going to struggle. This idea is simple yet shows that we care about those who might be struggling to feed their families. If every house in Monkton did an Advent box, we could donate a little treat to over 500 families! Wouldn't that be a lovely Christmas gift!

All Messy Church helpers would like to wish all our neighbours and friends a very joyful Christmas even if a little different this year.

God Bless Messy Eileen-----



St. Mary Magdalene Church very much regrets that Covid restrictions mean there will be NO CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE this month. Please visit the church as part of the advent trail, and during the days of Christmas. when the Nativity scene will be on display.

Messy Church News ... LET'S DECORATE

At the beginning of December, the children of Monkton Primary school and Playgroup will have received an advent calendar and Christmas card from all the Messy Church team. The card is for children to self-colour. then if they are given back to Kay Horne or me, we will use them to make a Christmas display in the Church.

If any Monkton News readers, of any age would like to contribute, the picture below is for you to colour. When finished either let Kay or me have your work of art and we will include it in our display.



THE PASTORAL LETTER FOR CHRISTMAS ... our curate, Rev. Michael Darkins talks about a message of hope through the nativity story



This year has, without a doubt, been one of the strangest and hardest years in living memory. It has been a year in which no aspect of our lives has been left unaffected. Words cannot really describe how different our experiences of the world, and the world itself, are from this time last year – how much everything we thought was normal has changed - how much we have changed. Even now as we look ahead to Christmas, we are looking towards a Christmas like no other. A Christmas where we have not been able to celebrate together as a community in the ways we usually would, a Christmas where there will be fewer people around our table, a Christmas where it is not just the cold keeping us inside.

Yet as I consider this bizarre, almost utterly unreal, Christmas, I am reminded of the story of Jesus' birth. As throughout the year we have been obliged to follow the government's directives, so too were Mary and Joseph. Whereas we were forced indoors, Mary and Joseph were forced onto the road by the Roman emperor, Augustus, as they had to register for an imperial census in Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem. Likewise, just as Joseph and Mary were not able to be visited by family and friends to celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus in the manger, so we too have been unable to celebrate life events with those closest to our hearts. And as the holy family, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, were visited by strangers – shepherds and magi from the East; so we too may have been visited by and come to rely upon those we didn't previously know, strangers, as many of our communities have drawn closer together and we have spoken to so many new people this year.

What sustained Mary and Joseph throughout the difficult story of Jesus' birth was hope. The hope in a God who created the universe and sustains it, who humbles himself by being born as the most vulnerable creature there is, a baby. A baby born in a manger, far from home and surrounded by strangers, utterly dependent upon his parents to live. All of this in order that God might experience everything there is to be human to save us from death – to be a light for all in the midst of the darkness. This is the hope of Christians at this time of year, that in Jesus Christ, God has come among us to free us from the darkness of death and bring us to eternal life.

It is this same hope which may sustain you this Christmas, or it may be the hope for a brighter future and a better year than the one this year has proved to be, or it may be both.

Regardless of whatever exactly it is that sustains you throughout this Christmas season, I pray that you have hope to carry you through. For without hope there is only darkness, but with hope there is always a light to dispel the darkness.

Happy Christmas, Michael



images – St. Mary Magdalene Nativity

parish council news

December 2020

Clerk: Sara Archer:

clerk@monktonparish.co.uk

First of all, the Parish Council would like to wish you every possible happiness and peace during the Christmas period, and the very sincere hope that we will all be able to enjoy a less worrying and more normal way of life as we move forward through 2021.

We would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to all who have been affected directly and indirectly by the pandemic, and thank those of you who, as neighbours or part of 'the Monkton volunteers', have been there throughout the year offering help and assistance to other villagers when and where needed.

Grateful thanks are also due to Del, Pete, Heather, Rachael and everybody who spent time and thought in organising both the hugely enjoyable VE Day celebrations earlier in the year, and other socially distanced landmark events throughout in the year. It has all made such a difference - Monkton has indeed pulled together through a tough year!

For all of us, 2020 has presented many challenges with new ways of working and going about our daily lives. The Parish Council has been no exception to this, with the introduction of 'Zoom' meetings over the internet and a heavy reliance on email a

'virtual' communication. Although a totally new experience for many Councillors - and, to be honest, not the easiest way to operate! - we have managed to carry on! Here are some updates on current issues

PLAY AREA

Unfortunately the Play Area is still looking a bit sad and in need of a few repairs and general refurbishment. Progress with this has been hampered both by Covid restrictions, and problems in obtaining parts, some of which are no longer available. We are trying to solve this, and will be completing the repairs as soon as possible. In the spring we plan to have the play equipment repainted, and in the longer term – funds permitting! – we are looking into the possibility of a new play area.

In the meantime, we have had to tape off a couple of pieces of equipment and would ask that you do not use these items. Although regular checks are made, if you notice the tape has been removed or is missing (as happened recently) please do let us know.

We remind all users that guidelines for your and your children's personal safety, as well as that of other users, must be adhered to inside the play area. In view of the sharp recent increase in local coronavirus rates, it is really important to observe the following:

Covid safety guidelines

- Maximum of **10 people** inside Play Area at any one time
- If busy, please wait outside
- Maintain social distancing at all times

- Sanitise before and after use of equipment
- No eating or drinking inside the area
- No dogs permitted
- No litter

Thank you!

TREE PLANTING AT THE RECREATION GROUND

And now ... some good news for the future!

29 trees have recently been planted at the bottom of the Rec and the area temporarily cordoned off. The grass will be allowed to grow wild and the area gradually naturalise. This is the first step in creating a new woodland and wildlife area, which will eventually incorporate a picnic area and a small pathway running through the middle.

The trees, which were supplied as whips, are a mixture of Silver Birch, Wild Cherry and Rowan. They have been generously donated by the Woodland Trust, together with tree guards. To complete this stage of the project, Wickes are also kindly donating a quantity of bark which will be spread around the base of the trees in a week or so.

Originally, this was to have been a community planting project, with interested villagers planting and thereafter looking after their own designated trees. Due to the current restrictions, the community planting plan was not possible .. however, villagers in the project will still have the opportunity to look after a tree and play their vital part in helping to create the new woodland area.

We thank Cllr Davina Ransom for her vision and hard work in coordinating this project, and look forward to watching the area gradually transform.

PLANNING UPDATES

At the time of writing, Thanet District Council Planning Committee meetings are held online. December's meetings are scheduled for 2nd and 16th December. Agendas do not appear until the week before the meeting.

Status of applications already in the pipeline:

BROOKSEND SERVICE STATION F/TH/20/0165

Change of use of part of petrol station to hand car wash and valet centre with waiting room and coffee shop, following removal of petrol pumps ...
Awaiting decision from TDC

HEYHILL, land rear of 96-102 Monkton St OL/TH/19/0409

Awaiting decision of the Appeal.

COLES YARD OL/TH/20/0335

Awaiting decision from TDC.
A Seamark Close resident has been in touch with the Parish Council setting out his and other Seamark Close residents' concerns regarding the height and proximity of the proposed retirement flats and other issues of overlooking, proximity and plot density.

SHIVERING SANDS BREWERY, MANSTON BUSINESS PARK F/TH/20/0559

**Change of use to Micro Brewery
and Drinking Establishment**
Awaiting decision from TDC

6 MONKTON MANOR F/TH/20/0974

**Single storey front and side
extension**

Application approved

21

PLOT 6B, LAND WEST OF INVICTA WAY

F/TH/20/1254

Erection of 9 commercial units

Awaiting decision from TDC

GARDEN COTTAGE, MINSTER ROAD

F/TH/20/1051

Variation to condition attached to outline planning permission for perfumery manufacturing facility

Application approved

76 MONKTON STREET

L/TH/20/1378

Listed building consent for replacement window

Awaiting decision from TDC

STIRLING HOUSE, CLIPPER CLOSE

F/TH/20/1247

2 storey side extension to warehouse

Awaiting decision from TDC

Details on all of the above applications can be found on TDC's website:

www.planning.thanet.gov/online-applications

OR on the Monkton Parish Council website, which has an easy to use 'planning tracker'

www.monktonparish.co.uk

HIGHWAYS

Earlier in November, following a storm, a tree was blown over at the closed end of Monkton Street, almost blocking the road. This left a large branch resting on the BT overhead cable.

Interestingly, this was dealt with in 2 parts .. BT were first on the scene, and removed the branch from their cable.

The branch was left where it fell on the ground, but unfortunately this resulted in the road then being totally blocked,

even to pedestrians! Happily TDC Highways came later in the day and did an excellent job of clearing away the tree and all the residual mess. Both teams were busy with calls that day, so we were grateful to get the job completed so quickly.

KCC Highways were also in action earlier in November with a CCTV surveying team investigating the drains from Parsonage Fields in the direction of Willets Hill. This was carried out because of poor drainage, excess surface water collection and occasional localised flooding in this section of Monkton Street. We have been advised we will be informed of the survey results when they are available.

And for further information

For on-going information about what is happening in the village, keep an eye on our Facebook page @ **Monkton Kent**

The Parish Council website is also a good source of information:

www.monktonparish.co.uk

As well as many other features, the website includes an excellent planning tracker for easy reference to all planning applications in Monkton.

Dates and agendas of forthcoming Parish Council Meetings are posted on the village notice boards.

Until further notice, meetings are held on-line. All are welcome to attend.

At the time of writing, the dates for Parish Council meetings in 2021 have not been arranged



Bible Readings for Sundays & Holy Days

You can also receive the daily services and information from our benefice team through wantsumchurches@gmail.co

DECEMBER 2020

6 th	Advent II	2 Pet. 3, 8-15a Mark 1. 1-8
13 th	Advent III	1 Thess. 5. 16-24 John 1. 6-8, 19-28
20 th	Advent IV	Rom. 16. 25-end Luke 1.26-38
25 th	Christmas Day	Titus 2. 11-14. Titus 3. 4-7. Heb. 1. 1-12 Luke 2. 1- 20 John 1. 1-14
27 th	Christmas I	Galatians 4. 4-7 Luke 2. 15-21

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Christmas – join us online or in church!**

Services of Holy Communion in the Wantsum Benefice
All subject to government restrictions see website for up to date information: www.wantsumchurches.org

<i>Sunday 6 December</i>	<i>Sunday 13 December</i>	<i>Sunday 20 December</i>
9.30 Chislet Chislet	9.30 Monkton	9.30
10.30 St Nicholas Nicholas	10.30 Minster	10.30 St Nicholas

Christmas Eve 24 December (NB Minster services need to be reserved in advance)

9.30pm	Minster	Holy Communion	
(To book: info@wantsumchurches.org)			
11.30pm	Minster	Holy Communion	or ring 07791 351599)
11.30pm	St Nicholas	Holy Communion	(No pre-booking required)

Monkton, Minster & St Nicholas will be open on Christmas Eve between 9.30am-4.00pm *come in, find peace, kneel at the crib and share in the Christmas story.*

Christmas Day 25 December

9.30am	Monkton	Holy Communion
10.30am	St Nicholas	Holy Communion
10.30am	Minster	Holy Communion

Monkton, Minster & St Nicholas will be open on Christmas Day between 9.30am-4.00pm *come in, find peace, kneel at the crib and share in the Christmas story.*

Churches open during Christmas:

Monkton 24-27 December 9.30am-4.00pm

Minster 24-27 December 9.30am-4.00pm

St Nicholas 20-27 December 9.30am-4.00pm

You are welcome to come in, find peace, kneel at the crib and share in the Christmas story with comfort and joy.

Sunday 27 December

9.30 Monkton

10.30 Minster

Sunday 3 January

9.30 Chislet

10.30 St Nicholas

Midweek Service of said Holy Communion (BCP) held at Minster Wednesday 10.30am:

9 December

23 December

6 January

Churches open for prayer and reflection

Minster: Sunday 2-4pm; Tuesday & Thursday 10am-12pm

St Nicholas: Sunday, Tuesday 2-4pm & Thursday 10am-12pm

Monkton: Sunday 2-4pm

Church Online

Church online - informal worship on our YouTube Channel (Wantsum Benefice) – *every Sunday*

Daily Newsletter – with reading & reflection and links to other events –

To receive this email: info@wantsumchurches.org

Monday-Friday Morning Prayer 9.00am & Evening Prayer 5.00pm on Facebook Live

Facebook: St Mary's Church, Minster-in-Thamet or St Nicholas at Wade Church

www.wantsumchurches.org

If you wish to talk to someone, need support or would welcome prayer please contact:

Revd Richard Braddy 01843 821250

info@wantsumchurches.org





THE YEW TREE

Mature yew trees can grow to 20m. The bark is reddish-brown with purple tones, and peeling. The yew is probably the most long-lived tree in northern Europe. Look out for: the needle-like leaves which grow in two rows along a twig. Some trees in the UK are over a thousand years old.

The common or English yew tree (*Taxus baccate*) whilst native to Britain, is also found across much of Europe, western Asia and North Africa, but why does every Churchyard have a yew tree? The answer could be because of druid and pagan belief, cadavers, the longbow or perhaps protectionism. The Druids used yew trees as places of gathering and often planted trees to form groves in which they could worship. Druids were forbidden from worshipping their gods inside an enclosed building, instead they worshiped in the open air, and most of their sacred sites were on elevated ground where the heavenly bodies that they worshiped could be seen most clearly.

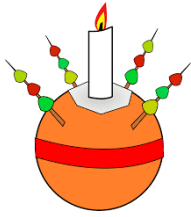
In Medieval and early Tudor England, the Church dominated everybody's life, people believed that God, Heaven and Hell all existed. From the very earliest ages, the people were taught that the only way they could get to Heaven was if the Roman Catholic Church let them.

The Church also did not have to pay taxes. This saved them a lot of money and made the Church far wealthier than any king of England at the time.

The Church had immense wealth and political power and beginning in the mid-11th century the Church also developed the capability to generate military power for its own (religious) purposes.

The longbow (so called because it is 6' in length) was the premier weapon of the middle ages and made from yew. The volume of yew wood needed for war archery from the early 13th to the late 16th century was far too great to be supplied by from trees grown in churchyards. After all of the yew stands in Britain and Ireland had been depleted, the English crown began to import yew wood from all over Europe including Austria, Poland and Russia.

When Elizabeth I decreed on October 26, 1595, to replace the military longbows with firearms, she did so because there was no tradable yew wood left in the whole of Europe! . Protecting livestock The bark, the leaves and the seeds of yew trees are highly poisonous to cattle, horses, sheep and other domestic livestock as well as people, especially children; only the red fleshy seed covering is not poisonous, hence yew trees were planted in churchyards so that common folk did not graze their livestock on Church land.. various sources.



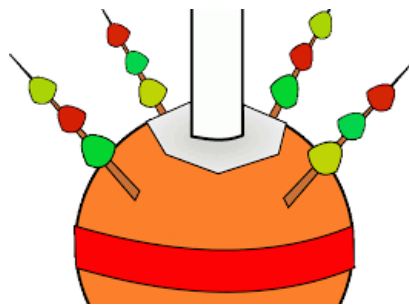
MAKE YOURSELF A CHRISTINGLE

A Christingle is a symbol used in the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany services of many Christian denominations. Christingle, from a word of German origin, Christkindl, meaning 'Little Christ Child', is used to celebrate Jesus as the "Light of the World". The custom, which originated in Moravia in 1747 has been part of Advent in the UK since 1968. Christingle services bring young people and families together, and often support charitable agencies.

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTINGLE.

Collect an orange, a small candle, red ribbon or tape, four cocktail sticks some small sweets or dried fruit, two squares of tin foil.

- Slice a small piece off the base of the orange so it will balance upright.
- secure a piece of red ribbon or tape around its middle. You can use pins to keep it in place
- cut a small cross in the top of the orange, and then make a small ruff of tin foil to stop candle wax dripping.
- take the cocktail sticks and push pieces of dried fruit and little sweets on to the ends of each one.
- Now push your candle in to the top of the orange and insert the loaded cocktail sticks as if north, south, east and west.
- place your Christingle on another piece of smooth foil in a saucer or small plate
- Light the candle when everyone is at home or at a special time when all the family can enjoy it.



A CHRISTMAS STORYfor everyone

THE LEGEND OF CHRISTMAS SPIDERS



origin, Central Europe.

Long, long ago, on one Christmas Eve, the spiders were banished from homes while the houses were cleaned for Christmas and their webs were broken. They just managed to survive and had to move to the farthest corner of the attic for the time being.

However, some of the young spiders longed to see the decorated Christmas trees and the little Christ child that came to bless the homes in the midnight. The elders tried to make them understand that they were not allowed inside the rooms but the young spiders were quite curious and adamant.



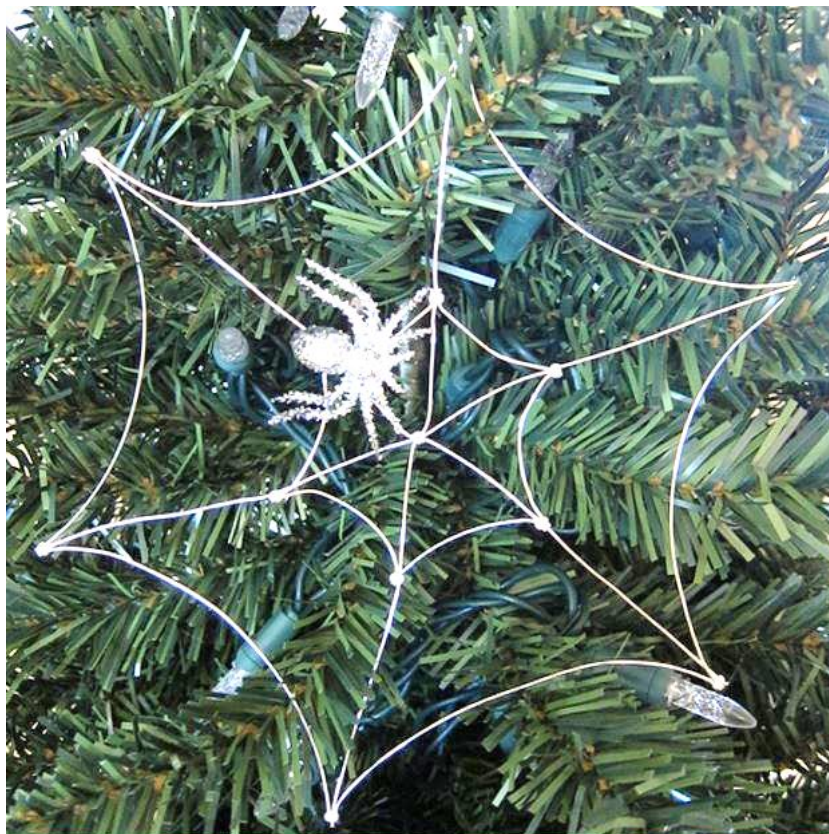
Finally, the oldest and wisest spider came up with a solution and suggested that in the night, when everybody went to bed, perhaps they could creep out of their corners and get a closer look of the magical Christmas tree.

Even the adult spiders felt the thrill of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them and in midnight, when the house of a noble family was dark and silent and everybody was fast asleep, spiders crept out of their hiding place and slowly reached the Christmas tree. They were so captivated by the ethereal beauty that they spent all night in the tree, crawling up and down and examining its beautiful ornaments. They could not curb their urge to weave pretty and delicate spider webs all over the tree as they danced on its branches. In the wee hours of the morning, the little Christ child


came to bless the house. He was surprised to find little spiders and their webs on the tree.

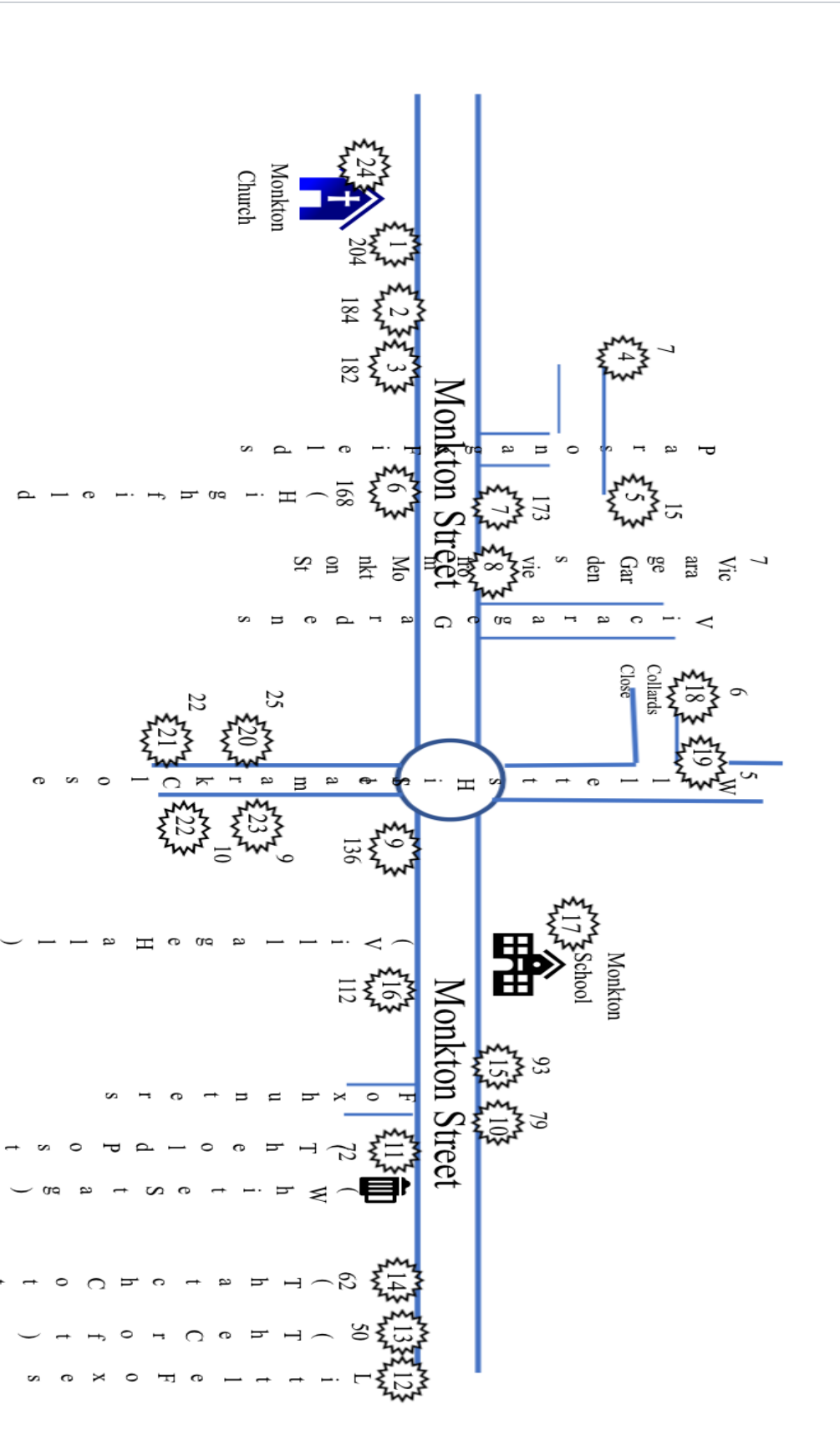
He knew that every creature was made by God and yet he knew how the mother who had worked hard all day to make everything perfect would be dismayed to find the spider webs on its tree.

Thus, with a heart full of love and a lovely bewitching smile on his lips, the Christ child gently touched the spider webs and set them sparkling and shining in silver and golden colours that made the Christmas tree look even more beautiful than before. It is said that this is how tinsel was introduced to decorate Christmas trees. Some people also hang a plastic spider in remembrance of the devoted little spiders who worked hard that Christmas Eve



Countdown to Christmas 2020

From the evening of 1st December, 24 windows will gradually be lit up with a festive display. The trail will start from the church end of Monkton Street (see map), progress down to the roundabout, continue along Monkton Street, then back to the roundabout, up Willetts Hill, down Seamark Close and then end up at the Church. Each evening a new window will be unveiled. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to join in. Hopefully it will be a delight for the eyes and get us all in the Christmas spirit! The number in the  indicates the date & the number beside it is the house number.



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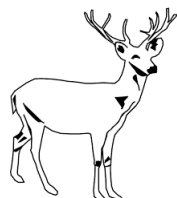
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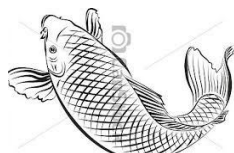
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The business card features a white background with a green and orange geometric design in the top left corner. A white outline of a tree is positioned within the green section. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout. At the bottom, there is a photograph of three small potted plants.

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