

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, KIRTON.

Clergy Contact;

If anybody wishes to talk to a member of Clergy, please contact the Churchwarden, Jonathan Price, on 01623 860249 and he will put you in touch.

CHRISTMAS;

We hope that everybody is in good health and that you have all managed to enjoy a very happy and festive Christmas time, in spite of the Covid restrictions!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE;

There was a Holy Communion Service in Church on Christmas Eve at 6pm, which was conducted by Rev Alistair Littlewood.

At 6pm, the Church bells were rung in order to join the National call to spread some Christmas spirit and joy, and help Santa on his way!

The Church looked very festive, and although it wasn't possible to indulge in hearty Carol-singing as usual, or to enjoy a glass of mulled-wine together after the service, spirits were high! Jonathan sang a lively version of 'Joy to the World' (which was allowed from a distance) and we managed to wish each other a muffled, but joyous 'Merry Christmas' through our masks, before returning home.

CHURCH SERVICES;

The national statistics for infection rates and deaths due to corona virus at present, are very alarming, and we have recently learnt that we will all be in Lockdown until further notice. Although Church services ARE allowed, it is up to individual PCCs to decide whether they open their Churches or not. Our Ministry team has notified us that it is not happy to officiate at present, and therefore we have suspended services for January and February. The situation will be reviewed at the end of February!

Nil Desperandum !

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY;

As most people will know, the money normally collected at Carol-Singing round the village - and given at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve, is all donated to the Children's Society. Unfortunately, this year it was not possible either to carol-sing, or hold a Christingle service. However, in spite of this, we were able to raise £70 from your kind donations and this has been sent to the Society.

We would like to say a very BIG THANK YOU to all those who gave so generously!

NEWSLETTER;

Please note that this newsletter is covering both January and February. Just when we had hoped to print monthly again, we find that news opportunities have diminished somewhat ! With no Church services at present, or the likelihood of Coffee Mornings or other fund-raisers for some time to come, there is obviously a dearth of news ! We now hope to issue one Newsletter every two months until the situation improves - but, who knows what may happen in these very uncertain times - we will just remain positive and optimistic !!!

SNIPPET OF CHURCH/VILLAGE HISTORY;

We know that there has been a church in Kirton for a very long time. The Anglo-Saxons (410 - 1066 AD) called the village 'Chirchetun' - 'Chirch' meaning 'church' and 'tun' 'homestead surrounded by a fence'. Thus, we know that a church existed here sometime after 410 AD and before the Vikings arrived in 793 AD

When the Vikings invaded, they altered place names, and the reason we know they came to this area, was by the change they made to our village name. 'Chirchetun' became the Nordic, harsh sounding, 'Kirtun' - still meaning 'dwelling with a church'.

The Norman invasion in 1066 put an end to Anglo-Saxon and Viking influence in England. Interestingly, there is no mention of a church in 'Kirtun' (or 'Shidrintun as it was referred to) in the 'Domesday Book' of 1086, - although this did not mean there wasn't one, just that it was too insignificant to be taxed - the 'Domesday Book' being a massive tax assessment drawn up by the Normans!

Much of the church as we see it today, dates back to the 13th century, a special Norman feature being the stone seats round the columns in the Nave.

More recently, Kirton was known as 'Kirton-in-the-Clay,' recognising the presence of the 'keuper-marl' clay ridge, situated behind the village houses, between Wellow wood and Egmonton Lane - a clay much prized in the making of bricks - hence the development of Butterley Brickworks (now Forterra) here in 1956 !

Nowadays, the village is simply called 'Kirton,' and it is a fact, that like the village, Holy Trinity Church has lived through many historical changes. The Wars of the Roses - the Reformation - the Civil War - two World Wars - to name but a few - not to mention a couple of plagues, Spanish Flu and presently the current pandemic ! It has certainly stood the test of time - and survived ! It is rather comforting to think of it as a beacon of light and hope, watching over us during these dark days !

HOPE;

One of the key messages of Christmas is HOPE. There are always so many things to hope for - world peace and stability - progress in medical science - help for those who desperately need it to survive - an end to cruelty, intolerance, violence and unkindness - the list is endless - but HOPE is always there ! Now, with two makes of vaccine available, and a third on its way, may we be hopeful that we will soon see the back of this wretched virus, returning to some normality in the not too distant future !

Until then, please keep safe and well, and remember to ask for help should you need it. The village is full of kind people who are only too willing to lend a helping hand !

GOD BLESS !

