

FOREST EDGE NEWS

THE PARISHES OF LEAFIELD WITH WYCHWOOD, FINSTOCK WITH FAWLER,
RAMSDEN AND WILCOTE

Dec 2020 / Jan 21

www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk

Issue 268

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BISHOP



Tuesday 24th November was a Red Letter day for the local church. A new Bishop of Dorchester was appointed to replace the much loved Colin Fletcher who has retired. Downing St made the announcement with the Queen's approval and the Bishop of Oxford organised a Zoom meeting attended by 500 clergy, laity and many civic dignitaries. Many others watched the announcement on Youtube.

The Venerable Gavin Collins comes to us from The Meon district near Portsmouth where he has been Archdeacon for several years. He and his wife Christina have three grown up children

Gavin spoke of his delight and sense of privilege at being appointed Bishop of Dorchester before moving on to describe his priorities in ministry. These include building relationships both with God and with each other. He is concerned with growth, not just in numbers attending church but also in the respect which we all have for each other in our different communities and the unity which that can bring to the church. We have many different church traditions and experiences of faith and worship, all of which are valuable.

Above all he stressed his commitment to joy, a joy which comes from knowing Christ came that we 'may have life and have it more abundantly'.

As well as Bishop Steven who presided over the virtual meeting, Ven. Gavin was welcomed by Judy French, Archdeacon of Dorchester, Sue Scane the laity representative and Tim Stevenson Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

Hundreds of messages of good will and congratulations poured in while we were 'on air'. Among them were greetings from Jewish and Muslim leaders in the area.

It is hoped that Gavin's consecration will take place on January 28th but details have yet to be announced and of course we might still be subject to covid restrictions. He will then take up his ministry fully in March. However he has already made a start and just a few hours after the announcement he and Bishop Steven visited Chipping Norton to see some of the outreach work going on there.

The Venerable Collins, 53, was educated in Law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He then worked as a solicitor in the City of London before training for ministry at Trinity College Bristol. Having grown up in Sussex, he is a life-long and active supporter of Brighton and Hove Albion, which he says, proves he is a person of great faith!

Forest Edge Benefice Church Services

December 2020

Sunday 6th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden

Sunday 13th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield

Sunday 20th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden

Friday 25th December Christmas Day

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield
10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden

Sunday 27th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield

Sunday 3rd January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden

Sunday 10th January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield

Sunday 17th January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden

Sunday 24th January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield

Sunday 31st January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden

Sunday 7th February

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield





Cup and Saucer Candles

Beautiful cup and saucer gift candles are being sold in aid of Leaffield Church. £6.00 each or 2 for £10.00

Email Simon simonsalomebentley@me.com or ring [01993 878000](tel:01993878000)



Leaffield Church Christmas Raffle: Draw date December 20th.

First Prize Christmas Hamper, **2nd Prize** Waitrose vouchers, and many other prizes. A full list will be published.

20p a ticket, book of 5 tickets £1; available for purchase in Leaffield Village Shop.

Proceeds to Leaffield Church.

Raffle donations welcome. Prizes can be left in the Box in the shop. Thank you!

It's a cracker of a Christmas raffle!



We Remembered Them



One of the many problems caused by Lock-Down was our inability to honour the war dead in the way we do every Remembrance Sunday. However we were inventive! In Leaffield people decorated the church lychgate with the poppies made for the hundredth anniversary of the end of WW1. The names of the fallen were read aloud at 4.00pm.



In Ramsden, Shirley and Pauline had decorated the church gates with the traditional symbols of Armistice and although there was no service, wreaths were laid on the War Memorial by various members of the community at 11.00am.

In Finstock too, wreaths were laid around the War Memorial on behalf of the

local Parish Council and the Church. Several smaller and more personal tributes were left for others to read and reflect upon.

Slightly further afield Blenheim Palace hosted a remarkable display to raise money for The Royal British Legion. 200 life sized silhouettes were installed around the Column of Victory which also featured 75 poppy wreaths. The "Standing with Giants" figures were made from recycled building materials by Witney-based artist Dan Barton.



"FOR YOUR TOMORROW, WE GAVE OUR TODAY."



Online Auction 2020



The Friends of Leaffield School are very excited to announce the FOLS Online Auction 2020

We have over sixty lots, including Wilderness Festival camping tickets, vouchers for couples or family days out, books, a photography studio portrait session, four hours of gardening, a homemade Christmas cake, pub and cafe vouchers, a dog-treat hamper, golf/yoga/ kickboxing class vouchers, a tonne skip bag including removal, deluxe Christmas present wrapping, an organic veg box, chocolate hamper, beer, wine, gin, plus many more!

Bids are accepted from Saturday November 21st 2020 at 8:00am and final bids will be accepted on Friday December 4th 2020 at 11:00pm. Your silent bids can be made online in an 'eBay style' by visiting www.jumble-bee.co.uk/FOLS2020.

Thanks to a school parent who is a Barclays employee for applying to their fund matching scheme, meaning that every £1 that you bid for an item is worth £2 to FOLS – even more reason to support this event. Bidding is open to anyone and everyone, so please support us by visiting our auction page and placing a bid. We will still be accepting donations to be auctioned until November 19th so if you could donate your time, services or an item please get in touch by emailing friendsofleaffieldschool@gmail.com or sending us a Facebook message.

Follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/friendsofleaffieldschool to be the first to hear when our auction website goes live



Cogges Christmas Trees



Choose a locally sourced Cogges Christmas tree for a special festive season.

We're delighted to be opening in early December with our annual Christmas Tree sale from 10am-4pm.

- Visit us to pick your tree in person from December or buy online 'Click and Collect'
- Our Grade 1 Nordmann non-drop trees come in various sizes

Local delivery available up to 10 miles - order by the end of November for free delivery

- For more information go to <https://www.cogges.org.uk/home-page> and follow the link to Christmas trees



The now famous *Leaffield Calendar* with your favourite views, taken by Leaffield photographers, available to pre-order from me now; simply email simonsalomebentley@me.com text or ring [07807598507](tel:07807598507) or tel. [01993878000](tel:01993878000). Copies will also be available in Peapells Stores, Leaffield later in November.

The perfect Christmas gift 🎅. Simon Salomé-Bentley

Seasonal Recipe Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Shallots and Caraway Seeds

There are many different ways to 'tart up' Brussel Sprouts. Here is one which works well for 4-6 (depending how popular they are!)

750g Sprouts trimmed
200g small shallots peeled but left whole
3 tbsp Olive Oil
1 tsp caraway seeds.

Flaky sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
Set oven at 180C/350F/gas mark 4. Put all the ingredients into a bowl and stir to coat in the oil. Tip into a roasting tin and cook for 40 minutes, shaking occasionally to cook evenly. Season with a little more salt and serve!



NEW EDITOR NEEDED

I shall be stepping down from my role as Editor next summer when I will have been doing the job for 10 years.

If you are interested in taking up the position please contact me or the vicar. I shall be happy to discuss the work involved.

John Hook



"He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, he gave power to become children of God."



TOWN & COUNTRY
TREES LIMITED

ARB Approved
CONTRACTOR
trees.org.uk

A tree surgery company with
the integrity you can trust.

Tel: 0845 458 2980
Mobile: 07976 261850
Email: tctrees@btinternet.com
www.townandcountrytrees.co.uk

Wychwood Footcare



A professional friendly Foot
Healthcare Practitioner providing
treatment for your feet including:

- Nail cutting • Corn and Calluses
- Verrucas • Hard, cracked skin
- Fungal Nail and Fungal Skin Treatments
- Diabetic foot care

Treatments at my clinic in
Ramsden or in your own home.

Tel: **01993 868250**
e: ian@wychwoodfootcare.co.uk
w: www.wychwoodfootcare.co.uk

D&S Gardening Service

All Types of Garden
Maintenance
including
Grounds Maintenance/Grass cutting
Paddocks/Large Lawns/Small lawns/
Strimming/Garden Clearance/Hedge
Cutting/Power Washing
Commercial and Domestic
Fully Insured

All Jobs Considered

Please phone for further information
or a quote
Darren
07788 104907

Chimney Sweep

Bertie the Sweep

Chimney & Flue Sweeping
Nests Removal
Bird Guards & Cows Fitted
Chimney Pots Supplied and Fitted
Fully Insured



ICS Member 411
Tel: **01993 899143**
Mob: **07954180371**
Email: bertiethersweep@ntlworld.com

LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING

ALL TYPES OF FRAMING UN-
DERTAKEN. DOOR TO DOOR
SERVICE IF REQUIRED

TONY CROFT COTSWOLD
VIEW, ASCOTT ROAD,
LEAFIELD

01993 878357

PETER SMITH & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD

Independent Funeral Directors with family values

Pre-paid funeral plans
Funeral Planner of the Year 2018
Regional Winner

All types of memorial work
including restoration & renovation

Personal 24 hour service
01993 702000

Golden Charter Funeral Plans 

135 Burwell Drive, Witney
Oxon, OX28 5LP
www.petersmithandson.co.uk

PELLMANS

Your Local Solicitors

- **Business and Employment Law** - Contracts, Legal Compliance and Disputes
- **Property** - Buying and Selling Homes, Commercial and Agricultural
- **Wills, Probate and Trusts** - Tax Planning and Lasting Powers of Attorney

01865 884400
www.pellmans.co.uk

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham,
Oxfordshire OX29 4TB

Home Visits and Evening Appointments Available



THE BULL INN
Pack Taverns Ltd

WELCOME HOME
A PLACE TO ENJOY GOOD FOOD
TO RELAX
TO BE AMONGST FRIENDS
A PLACE TO STAY

CALL US TO BOOK ON 01608 810689
OR VISIT WWW.BULLINN-CHARLBURY.COM



DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets
dry within the
hour

Unbeatable
results,
removes
almost all
spots & stains

GRIMEBUSTERS

01993 868924 01865 726983
www.grimebusters.co.uk

ROBERTS GARDEN MACHINERY LTD

Formerly LAWNMOWER SALES & SERVICE



professional servicing and repairs to most leading brands of garden machinery
New and secondhand machinery supplied
Collection and delivery by arrangement

OPEN 8-5 M-F, Sat 8-12
Unit H5 New Yatt Business Centre
OX29 6TJ
01993 881320 / 07583479724
www.robertsgardenmachinery.co.uk



PROFESSIONAL ARBORICULTURE

ALL ASPECTS OF TREE SURGERY UNDERTAKEN

FULLY INSURED

FREE QUOTATIONS

(01993) 868001

office@jagtrees.co.uk

www.jagtrees.co.uk



GABLE COTTAGE



... the perfect Cotswold hideaway.

Located in the beautiful village of Ramsden, Gable Cottage is an ideal holiday home for when family or friends come visiting.

This Victorian cottage sleeps 4 with parking for two cars. Cot, highchair and stairgates available on request. Pets are also welcome.

www.gablecottagecotswolds.co.uk
Facebook @gablecottagecotswolds
info@gablecottagecotswolds.co.uk

Wit and Wisdom

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall." – Larry Wilde

"Christmas, here again. Let us raise a loving cup; Peace on earth, goodwill to men, and make them do the washing up."

– Wendy Cope

"As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same."

– Donald E. Westlake

"There is only one way to avoid criticism: Do nothing, Say nothing, Be nothing." Aristotle

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace." Pope Francis

"I am come that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly." John 10.v10

"Light and Life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings" Charles Wesley

Church On Line

Throughout both of this year's 'lock-downs' the activities of the church have been curtailed and we have been forced to remember that 'the church' is much more than a building, however beautiful or familiar. Across the country many churches have provided 'on line worship' and we are grateful for this opportunity to share many of the benefits of actual church attendance. We can still pray together, learn together and celebrate the great act of worship and communion with Christ in the eucharist.

We are grateful to Paul who has organised these weekly services and to all members of the congregations who have contributed. Everyone is welcome to join us and for some 'the privacy of their own homes' might be an attraction. Should you wish to attend another church and see less familiar faces you will find this is easily done through the internet. You will find details of services organised by Christ Church Oxford for example at www.oxford.anglican.org



Our LLM, Mrs Gail Ward, is one of many in the benefice who have assisted Paul in the On Line acts of worship.



Pete Crapper & Sons Limited

HEATING & PLUMBING

For all of your plumbing and heating requirements.

Tel: 01993 868759

web: www.petecrapperrandsonslimited.co.uk

email: info@petecrapperplumbing.co.uk



The Vicar writes



A few months ago, the Bishop of Oxford gave us some advice about dealing with this pandemic. He told us to look to Easter, as a time when we might finally see an end to much of what we have had to put up with during this year. With very positive recent news, regarding several potential vaccines, it seems the Bishop was spot on. Rollout might begin in December, but the bulk of vaccinations will take place next year.

It was in the middle of last year's Lent Group we had to stop because of the national lockdown. It seemed unthinkable our churches would have to close, because of the virus. But close they did, and it was all very strange as we grappled with the very new science of online services. Although there were some Youtubers out there, producing videos even in the Church, many of us had never been involved in this form of worship. Overall, it was rather exciting and fun but, as the weeks dragged on, an inevitable weariness crept in.

As I write this, the Church has not yet entered the season of Advent, let alone Christmas. What happens in December, when we come out of "Lockdown 2.0" hasn't yet been decided. I am guessing our churches will reopen, but as I never expected them to close once, never mind twice, there seems little point in speculating too much. Advent will certainly be different to last year, with our usual carol services particularly affected. At least St Michael's Church, in Leafield, will accommodate a reasonable number of us, with the Measures in place. Today, there has been some speculation that there will be a general forgoing of the Measures on Christmas Day. Again, nothing has been confirmed.

Christmas is a time of celebration for most people, irrespective of whether they count themselves as Christian.

Many more people attend their local church in the run up to Christmas and on the festive day itself. There may not be anything more important than celebrating the birth of Salvation! It will be disappointing to many that this monumental event cannot be joyfully remembered in the usual way. Christmas, of course, has not been cancelled! Trees will go up in our homes. Cards will be delivered. Presents will be purchased, for the special day. Our primary schools will commemorate the occasion in their usual exuberant manner, with wide-eyed young children overwhelmed with joy. And our churches will again adapt to whatever situation we find ourselves.

Whilst Christmas can inevitably be a rather noisy time, when our freedom remains restricted, there will be an opportunity for quiet. "Silent Night, Holy Night", may take on a new significance. In the stillness of a small town in Galilee, a young woman received an unexpected visitor with some earth-shattering news. The angel Gabriel visits Mary with the opening line, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." St Luke tells us, in his Gospel, that Mary was perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. I bet she did! But Gabriel's next words settled Mary. "Do not be afraid", he tells her.

There has been much to be fearful of over the last year. As we continually hear from medics and others connected with the Health Service, this virus is not like the 'flu. It is much more serious. But fear also exists in other areas of this new existence, we have endured over most of this year. How have the Measures affected our identity, as individuals and as communities? To a large extent, our identity is bound up in our relationships with family, friends, and the wider communities where we live. The coronavirus has affected those relationships in a way we might never have experienced before.

Easter may not be celebrated, these days, as widely as Christmas, but it remains the most important day in the Christian calendar. Next year, it will have a new significance as we celebrate, and give thanks, for our Risen Lord.

It will also be about the rebirth of relationships and therefore our very identities. There is much to look forward to, as we enjoy a different Christmas and look in hope to an extraordinary Easter.

With every blessing

Paul

Rev'd Paul Mansell

Vicar, Forest Edge Benefice

IN OUR FOUR PARISHES

Vicar of the Forest Edge Benefice

Rev. Paul Mansell

01993 868687

email: vicar@forestedgebenefice.co.uk

LLM Mrs Gail Ward

01993 878835

gail.ward@forestedgebenefice.co.uk

Benefice Administrator

Jane Hanson

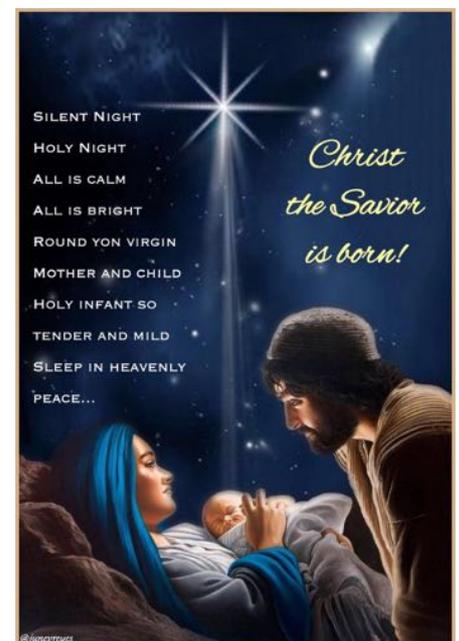
email: admin@forestedgebenefice.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

John Hook

01993 868724

email: johnianrupert@hotmail.com



Please detach this portion, fill in your contact details and return it in an envelope enclosing payment in cash or cheque, (made out to Ramsden Memorial Hall) to: **Julia Hett, Bay Tree Cottage, 2, Wilcote Lane.**

Number of tickets wanted (£1 each):

-

Name:

Email

Contact address:

.....

Phone number:

RAMSDEN 2020 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS PRIZE DRAW



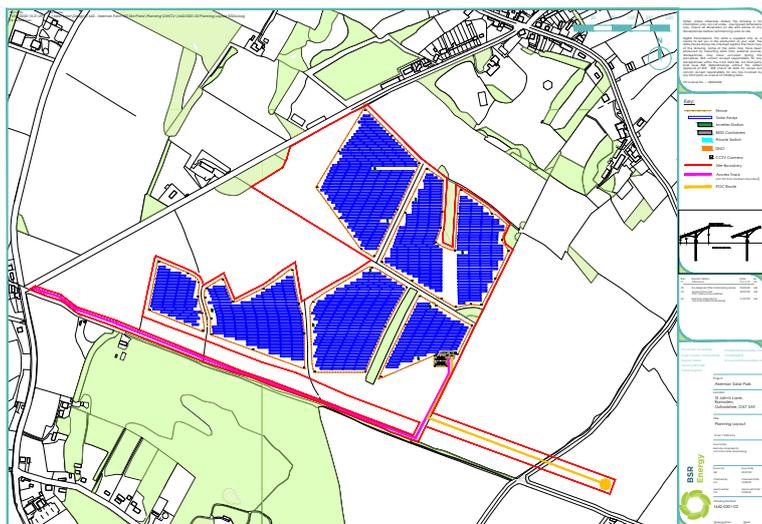
Thanks to the generosity of Ramsden residents, this year's Christmas Hamper Raffle has FOUR fabulous hampers to win! Each is packed with a mixture of food, drink, gifts and treats.

To make sure we are Covid-secure, tickets are being sold remotely – you just need to fill in the form overleaf with your cash or cheque (made out to Ramsden Memorial Hall) and number of tickets required into the envelope provided and return it to:

Julia Hett, Bay Tree Cottage, 2, Wilcote Lane
(She will create the tickets for the draw).



Ramsden: The Big News



Ramsden Village is facing a large scale development of land to the south of Akeman Street, very close to the village centre, covering 104 acres of agricultural land from the playing field to the B4022 near Whiteoak Green. Having learned of the proposal through a small percentage of the villagers receiving a brief synopsis of the plan, a large group of residents have formed the StopAkemansolarpark group to oppose the application.

Though the group are strong believers in Green energy and are fully supportive of the Government's recent announcement to make Britain carbon neutral through the extensive development of offshore wind-farms, it does not believe Ramsden is the right location for a solar park of this 'industrial' scale.

Their objections include the overwhelming impact of the park on the local amenities and the public realm, the loss of agricultural land, miles of very visible 8 foot high fencing all around the site endangering local wildlife, 60 twenty foot high CCTV cameras, genuine threats from noxious weeds, especially ragwort and destruction of some of the best village views across Witney to the downs.

BSR Energy will be applying for planning permission in December. Any concerned residents of the benefice are invited to comment by e-mailing STOPAKEMANSOLARPARK@gmail.com

Your entry must be received by Monday 14 December. Each ticket for the raffle costs £1. All proceeds from this raffle will be shared between the Ramsden Memorial Hall and St James' Church, Ramsden. The draw will be held on Friday 18 December at the 200 Club zoom meeting.

Local Pubs hit by Lockdown

We are all aware of what tough times these are for the hospitality industry. Even before lockdown running a country pub was not an easy way of life. So we are particularly grateful to **The Plough** in Finstock which continues to offer a take-away service with a fantastic choice of dishes on offer. To place a takeaway order, please ring 01993 868333 during opening times 5pm - 7.30pm except Sunday when it is midday - 2pm. Closed Mondays. Collection only and please pay when ordering by phone or with card on collection. For menus see <http://theploUGH-inn.co.uk/takeaway-menu>. **The Plough, The Royal Oak Ramsden and The Fox in Leafield** all hope to reopen in early December. **The Royal Oak is to be congratulated** on the first two of its special Supper Club events. Both the Game and the Fish evenings were a gourmet's delight and a quality of fine dining which you might expect in any of London's top restaurants.

All three pubs say they look forward to welcoming us back. Do support them. They are great village assets.



CROSSWORD CORNER

The winners of last month's crossword puzzle were The Aylmer family from Ramsden. Well done and thanks for taking part! A book token will be with you shortly. The answers were: ACROSS 8. Elope 9. Jerusalem 10. Transpires 11. Edam 12. Oasis 13. Concurred 14. Kent 16. Godot 17. Pier 21. Solitaire 23. Comet 24. Kiwi 25. Monteverdi 26. Eucharist 27. Ghana. DOWN 1. Textbook 2. Mocassin 3. Persist 4. Heart Of Darkness 5. Pussycat 6. Namedrop 7. Beware 15. Twilight 16. Grasmere 18. Immortal 19. Rattigan 20. Scavage 22. Odious

Please get your solutions to me by 20th January, along with anything else you would like to see in the next (February) edition of Forest Edge News. I hope that sometime in the New Year we will be able to go back to printed copies of the newsletter. *Ed*

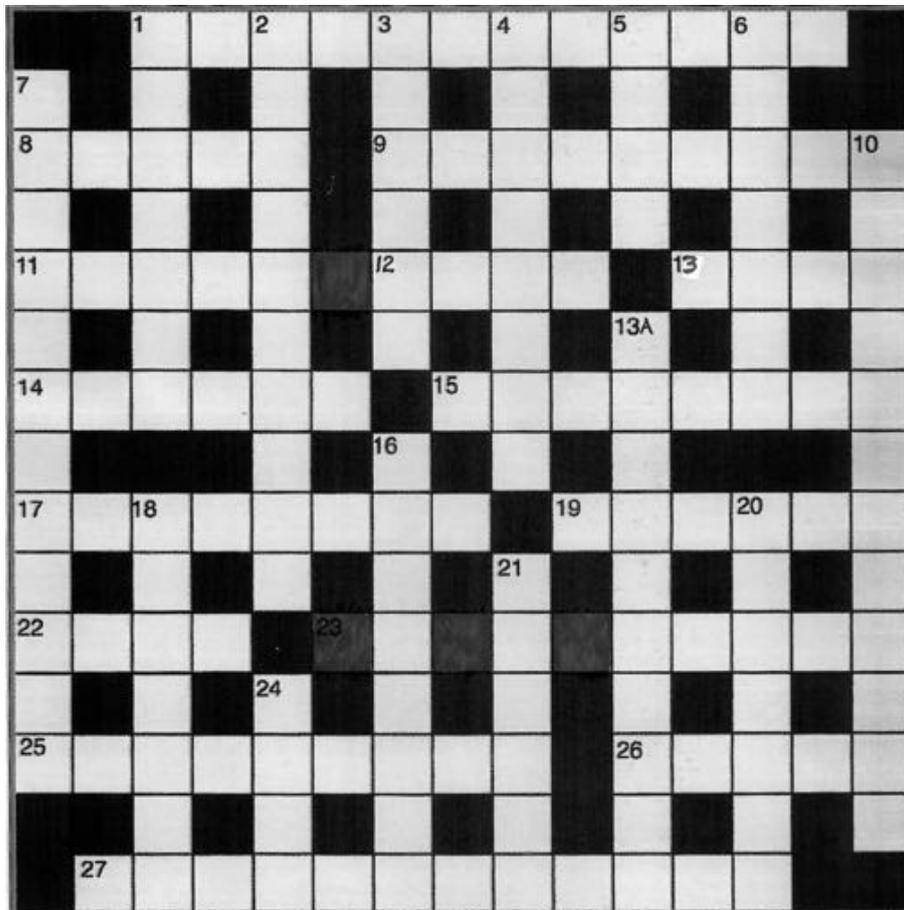
The Old Vicarage, Wilcote Lane, Ramsden, OX7 3BA or johnianrupert@hotmail.com

CLUES ACROSS

- International relations, political or romantic (5.7)
- "So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen," (5)
- The time for punch-ups at Christmas? (6.3)
- Epic poem by Homer (5)
- Praise for the man at the manor we hear (4)
- Mssrs Coward, Edmonds and Gallagher share this seasonal name (4)
- This year , Christmas Day falls on a (6)
- No ordeal for a great artist (8)
- Shoe repairers talk a load of rubbish (8)
- Make people from Warsaw shine (6)
- A small island in the Inner Hebrides (4)
- Huge international charity founded by local Quakers in 1942 (5)
- You have a knife but you still..... (4.1.4)
- ".....to be in America/OK by me in America" (1.4)
- A cry tips this ? Well, he'll sort you out! (12)

DOWN

- Neighbourhood of Honolulu famous for its beach (7)
- Item of furniture associated with King Arthur (5.5)
- Take part in an activity in a casual or superficial way, as ducks do.(6)



- They go with the fittings (8)
- Legend and tradition say that this saint was Jesus' grandmother (4)
- The Rolling Stones saw one of these and wanted it painted black (3.4)
- And the same group couldn't get any of this!(12)
- Identify this bird (below) (12)
- 13A Every year since Christ's birth is this (4.6)
- Green vegetable.(8)
- Supper for Bonfire Night? (7)
- To impose something unpleasant (7)
- Criminal enterprise producing tennis equipment (6)
- Christian name of this artist who painted this picture (below) (4)



Dear Santa,
I've been good all year.
Okay, most of the time.
Once in a while.
Never mind, I'll buy my own stuff.

I visited a monastery and as I walked past the kitchen I saw a man frying chips. I asked him "Are you the friar?" He replied "No, I'm the chip monk..."



Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year!
Wishing you a season of peace, joy, and love!

