DECEMBER 2022 – JANUARY 2023 60p

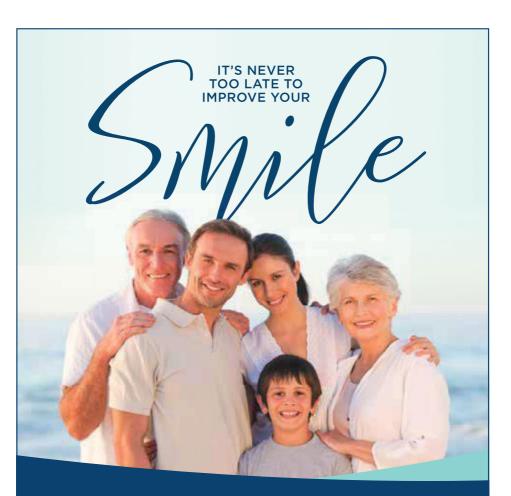
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Lymington Parish News







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Lymington Parish News St Thomas' and All Saints' Churches



St Thomas' Church St Thomas Street Lymington SO41 9ND All Saints' Church All Saints Road Lymington SO41 8FD



Services

For details of Sunday and midweek services, please see the Diary inside.

Enquiries

There is a great deal of information to be found on our website: www.lymingtonchurch.org

To enquire about weddings, baptisms, funerals, church and hall bookings please contact our **Parish Office** which is open at St Thomas' Church, Monday to Friday, 9.30a.m.—11.30a.m.

You can 'Meet the Churchwarden' by appointment on Friday evenings.

Administrator: Mrs Suzie Napleton

office@lymingtonchurch.org 01590 676194

Contacts

Vicar: Vacancy

Churchwarden: Mr Chris Stroud, c.m.stroud@btinternet.com

01590 674677

LLM Emeritus: Mr Malcolm Ward, 01590 679651
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Magazine

Publication date: 1st of each month. Please submit copy to the Editor by the 6th of the previous month; for regular columnists, the date is the 13th.

Editor and Advertising:

Nigel Mussett, nigelmussett@gmail.com 07531 179544 **Subscriptions:** Susan Canter-Visscher 01590 679666

MONTHLY EVENTS

Zoom Details - Prayer [1]

https://us02web.zoom.us/

j/89529902640pwd=QVQxTGxjODdwV3ROT1gxM2NWUjN0dz09

or from a landline phone: 0203 481 5240; Meeting ID: 895 2990 2640:

Passcode: 2020

+ St Thomas' Church is open daily for visitors and private prayer +

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sunday: 8.00am Early Communion

9.15am Choral Communion

11.00am Life & Soul Informal Service

Monday to Friday: 9.00am Zoom Morning Prayer [1]

Monday: 12 noon Monday Lunch - STH
Tuesday: 10.00am Toddler Group - STH

Wednesday: 10.00am Poetry Corner (not 2nd Wednesday of the month)

11.00am Wednesday Communion

Thursday: 10.00am Vistas Café - STH

Friday 6.00pm Meet the Churchwarden - STC (by appointment)

Saturday: 9.00am Prayer for the parish - STC

DECEMBER EVENTS Fri 2 10.00am Christmas Tree Festival opens Sat 3 10.00am Christmas Tree Festival 7.00pm **Encore Choir Concert** Sun 4 ADVENT 2 Services as usual Christmas Tree Festival 1.00pm Mon 5 10.00am Christmas Tree Festival Tue 6 10.00am Christmas Tree Festival 5.00pm WI Carol Service Fri 9 10 00am Friday Fellowship - STC Sat 10 Lymington Choral Society - 'Gloria' and Festive Favourites 4.00pm

Sun 11 Mon 12 Tue 13 Wed 14 Thu 15	3pm and 6pm 1pm and 6pm 2.30pm 1.30pm	
Sun 18		ADVENT 4
Sat 24	4.00pm	Services as usual including Choir Carol Service CHRISTMAS EVE
	5.00pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Midnight Mass
Sun 25		CHRISTMAS DAY
Thu 29	10.30am	Christmas Communion No VISTAS CAFÉ today

		JANUARY EVENTS
Sun 1		CHRISTMAS 1 Services as usual
Sun 8		EPIPHANY Services as usual
Sun 15		EPIPHANY 2 Services as usual
Sun 22		EPIPHANY 3 Services as usual
Sun 29	4.00pm	EPIPHANY 4 Services as usual including Evensong for Candlemas

	FEBRUARY EVENTS	
Sun 5	3rd BEFORE LENT	
	Services as usual	

We should like to wish Happy Birthday...





in December to...

Henry Dore Odette Van der Kreen-Locke Rory Townsend

Charles Tucker

in January to...

Nosh Woodford-Howard

Rosie Lindsay

This month's cover: Christmas Tree Festival and the Blanshard Window, in memory of Emilia Blanshard who died in 1866.

Photo: Nigel Mussett

A very Happy Christmas and big "Thank you" to...

- * Susan Canter-Visscher and the sturdy team of distributors who have continued to deliver the magazine throughout the year;
- * all our contributors without whom there would be no magazine to print;
- * the proof readers who spot the errors before we go to print;
- Suzie Napleton as our Church Administrator who has so quickly grown into her new job and helped in many ways;
- * the production staff at Hampshire Printing Services who have ensured that we receive an attractive magazine on time each month and at very competitive rates;
- * our advertisers for generously supporting LPN. Without them we would not be able to produce such a colourful magazine in its present form! Please continue to support them.
- * our loyal **readers** who support us by purchasing the magazine and offering encouragement. We hope that you will continue to do so throughout 2023.

The price of Lymington Parish News will remain unchanged in 2023!

Churchwardens' Notes

So, we're in a Vacancy Period. What is it?

Once upon a time I lived in Dulwich South East London and the Vicar moved on to pastures new on two occasions. I was on the PCC but wasn't a Churchwarden. We called the period when we didn't have a Vicar in place an Interregnum. Apparently, the preference is to call it a Vacancy now, perhaps Interregnum has rather too regal connotations? A Vacancy period is a period of time when one Vicar has left and another one hasn't arrived: simple!

Peter Salisbury officially retired from being the Vicar of St Thomas' Lymington on 31 July 2022. The run-up to that date required Mo Penrose and me to meet the Area Dean and the Archdeacon to discuss the Vacancy. The meeting was interesting considering I was on holiday in Provence at the time, so a Zoom meeting it was. Mo and I have continued to meet the Area Dean about every six weeks since then and on the most recent occasions the Churchwardens from St Mark's Pennington have been present as an acknowledgement that the two parishes are looking at future collaboration possibilities. A Vacancy Team was formed prior to Peter's departure consisting of Chris Stroud, Maureen Penrose, Mary Hill, Marion Lewis and Andy Clapper.

The Bishop met with the PCC on 20 September and discussed potential ways forward regarding the Vacancy. The Vacancy officially started after that meeting although the Vacancy Team had already begun some initial work on the Parish Profile. What is the Parish Profile? It's essentially our "shop front" to prospective applicants covering all aspects of the Parish and what we require from a new Vicar. There are parts of the Profile written by the Vacancy Team and some are standard items provided by the Diocese.

The Vacancy Team meets roughly fortnightly and by the time you read this we shall hopefully have completed the first draft of the Parish Profile. The PCC will review the document, the Diocese will then review the document and when we are all happy, we'll have a Section 11 meeting, so called because the need for it is found in Section 11 of the legislation that governs appointments. The meeting will be attended by the Bishop or her representative and the contents of our Profile will be adopted. The exercise seems also to be the Diocese satisfying themselves that we understand the gravity of the situation! The PCC elects two lay representatives for the interview process: the representatives don't have to be the Churchwardens.

The post is advertised, applications invited, a shortlist constructed and competitive interviews held. The above describes the first part of the Vacancy and is expected to last about six months. I am saving the rest for my next instalment! What about the Vicarage? The Diocese lets that out but unfortunately whilst the Vicarage is not let, we are responsible for the upkeep of the gardens. Applicants for the post of volunteer gardener will be warmly welcomed!

I was recently asked by a parishioner why a Vacancy period lasts so long? After all, we know when the Vicar is leaving well in advance, why couldn't we do all the "admin" in advance and move things on a bit quicker? I'm afraid I didn't have an immediate answer to that one!

Chris Stroud



THE ORGANIST PIPES UP!

The British composer Samuel Coleridge Taylor was just 37 years old when he died 120 years ago this year.

I must admit to knowing very little about him — other than a vague memory of the mention of his cantata *Hiawatha* while I was studying for my A-level in music in the early 1970s. However, my interest has been sparked by various orchestral pieces of his that have recently been broadcast on Classic FM.

Of mixed race birth, his mother was English and his father was a West African doctor practising in London, who left his wife and daughter to return to Africa shortly after Samuel was born in Holborn in 1875.

His maternal grandfather paid for him to have violin lessons and he first performed in public at a local concert at the age of eight. A benefactor later paid for the young Samuel to study at the Royal College of Music where he switched from the violin to composition and was taught by Charles Villiers Stanford.

Hailed a genius by Edward Elgar's friend and publisher, August Jaeger, he toured America in the early 1900s and there was dubbed 'the African Mahler'. He was even received at the White House by President Theodore Roosevelt, an almost unheard of event in those days for someone of African descent.

His most successful composition was *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* which was premiered in 1898 and sold hundreds of thousands of copies. It even rivalled Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Handel's *Messiah* in popularity during his lifetime.

Sadly, he died of pneumonia in September 1912. He was survived by his wife Jessie, whom he had met at the Royal College of Music, and their son Hiawatha and daughter Avril, who herself became a professional pianist, conductor and composer.

Martin Penrose

Christmas Tree Festival



St Thomas Church,
Lymington

2nd - 6th December

10am - 5pm
(Sunday 1pm - 5pm)



Homemade refreshments: Christmas sales table



Artisan Market - Saturday



Live Music Daily

Festival Concert on Saturday 3rd at 7pm
Tickets £10 from Parish Office, ticketsource.co.uk
or on the door







WOOLLY HAT DAY 27 October



Jan Young, Peta Walmisley, Sister Kathryn Summerfield and James Mosher with teddy bears.

What a lovely surprise! When I arrived at St Thomas' Hall to set up for the Woolly Hat Day there were very few knitted goods to be seen! But soon into the session, the table was well covered with hats, balaclavas, mitts, scarves and, for the first time, teddy bears, a very welcome addition to the collection for the seafarers.

We also had a goodly attendance of visitors, enjoying the usual cups of coffee and tea, with delicious home-made cakes and scones.

Visiting us today was the Revd James Mosher, the new Southampton Port Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers, as well as Sister Kathryn and Jan who do the bulk of the ship visiting. Their visit was especially welcomed and they were able to take all the knitted goods to be donated to the seafarers, who, as Father James pointed out, are still not generally allowed off their ships, especially as the occurrence of Covid-19 has risen again in this location.

On 1 December we shall be holding our 'Wrapathon' to pack gifts at the Mission's office at All Saints' Church, Redbridge, to be taken on board over Christmas. Gifts of small items of toiletries and candies will be included.

Many thanks go to the Vistas Café team for hosting us once again and thanks also to all those who have knitted for the Mission this year or donated to the 'Wrapathon'. Please continue to support us!



A NEW PORT CHAPLAIN IN SOUTHAMPTON

We have received the following letter from Father James following his visit to the Woolly Hat Day on 27 October



It's a real joy to be here as the new Port Chaplain for Southampton with the Mission to Seafarers. I am only a couple of months in post but really enjoying it. I've been meeting seafarers from all over the world, sharing conversations, food and prayer. It's also a gift to be supported by an enthusiastic committee, by ship visitors, bus drivers, knitters and administrative and financial

support, who all contribute to our ministry with the seafaring community.

Before this, I was in school and university chaplaincy, as Assistant Chaplain at St Edward's School ('Teddies') in Oxford, as well as Assistant Chaplain at Pusey House. It was a real privilege to get to know these students and young people and to walk alongside them in their faith and daily lives, in worship, preaching and teaching, and in pastoral conversations. Some highlights include baptisms on Easter Sunday, preparing classes for Confirmation and walking in the Peak District with students doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

I first arrived in Oxford in April 2019. I arrived in time to spend Holy Week with Pusey House, which meant I literally got on a plane after my last day in the Royal Canadian Navy and flew from Ottawa to England to Deacon at High Mass on Palm Sunday in Oxford. I served as a Naval Officer for twelve years, having joined the service as an officer cadet at the age of nineteen.

I grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and as a boy learned to sail, so I have always loved being on or near the sea. My mother was born in Gosport so in its own way moving down here feels like coming home. I am a dual British-Canadian citizen, and I plan to make England my home for the long term. My girlfriend Shanti is a PhD student in Cambridge, where she is researching the notion of holy places in the poetry of William Wordsworth.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. May God bless the Seafarers in Southampton, the local committee, and the MtS around the world.



The Rev'd J.A. Mosher CD Port Chaplain, Southampton

Annual Churchyard Bonfire — 4 November

Four stalwart members of the church spent the morning burning fallen branches and non-compostable material for the annual tidying up session in the churchyard.

We hope that next year many more volunteers will be on hand to help collect and burn the fallen twigs and branches that litter the churchyard during the autumn gales.

It is not too early to begin to collect material for next year's bonfire. Fallen branches should be added to the bonfire pile situated between the first and second of the line of trees part way up the large area of the churchyard. These will be moved to the dedicated bonfire site next November ready for burning.



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The 12 Days of a Green(er) Christmas

On the first day of Christmas

Buy a real Christmas tree from a sustainable source, or keep using your artificial tree.

On the second day of Christmas

If you need some new Christmas lights or electrical goods, don't bin the old ones, donate them or take them to your local recycling centre.

On the third day of Christmas

Buy recycled Christmas cards, send an e-card or make your own.

On the fourth day of Christmas

There's nothing worse than smiling a grateful thanks for a present you don't really want, so give consumable presents, buy a membership or an experience day or go for a special meal and/or to the theatre.

On the fifth day of Christmas

Are you buying presents that use batteries? If so, go for rechargables.

On the sixth day of Christmas

When food shopping, use your LOAF

(Local — Organic – Animal friendly – Fairtrade)

On the seventh day of Christmas

Buy eco-crackers or, in the best Blue Peter tradition, make your own. Use cardboard rolls, paper and some small gifts people might actually want.

On the eighth day of Christmas

Go for a walk, decorate a tree for wildlife (suet balls, etc.), or use twigs to create a 5-pointed star and find other natural things to decorate it with.

On the ninth day of Christmas

Re-use wrapping paper, or buy paper that can be recycled (no plastic), or use brown paper that you can decorate.

On the tenth day of Christmas

Use up or freeze leftovers rather than binning them.

On the eleventh day of Christmas

Had time to read all those magazines you subscribe to over the festive period? Why not pass them on to a friend?

On the twelfth day of Christmas

Make a New Year's Resolution to get in touch with the seasons and/or seek out local adventures. Or simply make your own eco-resolution, and keep it!

Adapted from an original by Jean Burrows, Hutton and Shenfield Union Church

The Ten Commandments

"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the land of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20.2-3

The First of all the Commandments asserts in terse, economical language the mystery of the source of the whole universe. There is to the universe a Maker or Creator who is sovereign above all science and spirits, all material and men, to whom alone obedient worship is due; and who chose first and foremost in this universe to reveal himself to Moses and his Chosen People, Israel.

To represent God in any medium, even precious metal, is idolatrous. "Ye shall not make with me gods of silver; neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold'" (Exodus 20.23). Nevertheless, shortly afterwards God's Chosen People do the very first thing they have twice been commanded not to do – they make, worship, and defile and disgrace themselves before, the Golden Calf! (Exodus 38.7-8)

The same story of God's election and mercy and the Chosen People's rebellion and idolatry winds its way through the rest of the Old Testament. The guilty party is not always the people of Israel. To the king of Babylon, the prophet Daniel says, "Thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified." (Daniel 5.23)

A group of visitors to Lytham St Anne's, to the office where Ernie, the random calculator and distributor of Premium Bond prizes is housed, were being shown around the whole complex, including a visit to Ernie itself. They were surprised to see kneeling in front of the computer in worship, and evidently praying to it, a member from a previous visiting group who had just been there before them.

This devotee may have seen Ernie as a dispenser of silver and gold – but if the three Christmas gifts of the Magi to the Christ child are assumed to being given in ascending order ("gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" – Matthew 2.11), it would appear that gold is the least esteemed!



OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!

Gordon Wynne concludes his Christian essays inspired by the New Forest

12. "Anything Wild or Comical?"

That was the question with which an old countryman always began a conversation with me. He did not see many people from week to week and so he loved to be brought up to date.

Hard pressed though the Forest now is, there are still wild and comical things about it. Take the mushrooms and toadstools as an example. Fungi are immensely important in the natural scheme of things, and few places can have so many of them and in such variety as the Forest. The shapes and sizes of them would fill a book both with words and paintings, and there are such books.

But a point that seems to escape many is that the toadstools and many others bring a smile to the beholder. Think of the giant puffball or the big scarlet toadstool dotted with white spots or, at the other end of the scale, the tiniest and most delicate of the toadstools that adorn the grass and leaves, not more than an inch high in total and whose stem is as fine as a strand of horsehair. Often these will arrange themselves into a beautiful miniature garden around a mossy tree stump. The view from hands and knees is always worth seeing, no less than a grand prospect like that northwards from Hincheslea.



A selection of New Forest fungi.

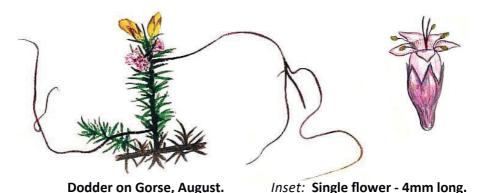








Other wild and comical things will occur to anyone. I would list tadpoles; the way a perched dragonfly turns its head to look at you; dodder, that extraordinary little plant that has no roots and winds around heather or gorse, decking its host with spirals of clustered pink sweet-smelling flowers on a tiny scale.



Things like these show that God not only has boundless creativity but also a

sense of humour. That has vast implications and throws light on so many things we encounter in life.

Epilogue: The Mysterious Forest

The Forest is kind, forbearing and forgiving. That is its nature. It suffers much in these times. It truly gives its back to the smiters. That has long been so, in one form or another. But has it ever been under the pressure that assails it today? Is there still room for mystery? If not, there is something terribly wrong with our stewardship of this treasure of creation.

What might the Little Lizard say? "You are not me and can never know how I feel. I am part of the Other, but a good and just relationship is something we can have. Just listen. Listen to the Forest. I join my voice to that of the Head Agister and I say, "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!"



Gordon Wynne

Plans are afoot to reproduce this whole series in pamphlet form in 2023.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

When love came...

Love came, held safely within a gentle womb;

All the truth, majesty, and creativity of a living God, poured into a tiny heart; making a quiet entrance in a dark and uninviting shack.

Just one star shone anew as a handful of people were brought, led by angelic voices and open hearts.

A young mother, a faith filled father. Men of wisdom who searched for truth, and a group of humble herdsmen.

They came to bow before a new life and acknowledge that the rescuer had arrived; that the word of God had come alive and that the extraordinary transformation of heaven and earth, had begun.

From an original by Julie Palmer

Malcolm Ward





Christmas at The Highstreet Kitchen

<u>Starters</u>

Flame roasted salmon, dill mayonnaise, caper jam <u>GF</u>

Chicken liver parfait, toasted brioche, chutney <u>GF</u>

Crown Prince pumpkin soup, toasted seeds, sourdough VG GF

Main Course

Roaster breast of Norfolk turkey, confit leg, creamed sprouts with bacon, red wine sauce <u>GF</u>

Fillet of south coast plaice, brown shrimps, apple and roasted chestnuts <u>GF</u>
Roasted polenta with Gran Padana, roasted mushrooms, balsamic glazed chicory, roasted walnuts <u>VG GF</u>

Desserts

Traditional Christmas pudding, brandy anglaise, vanilla ice cream <u>GF</u>

Chocolate pistachio brownie, chocolate velouté, blood orange sorbet <u>GF</u>

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Tops Lymington

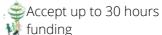




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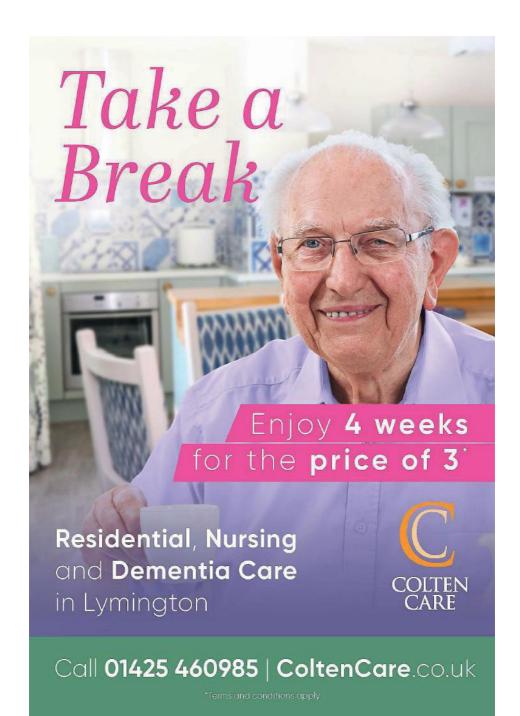








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