

## **Powell and Welch Almshouse Charity**

**Mrs Elizabeth Holtam**, a retired nurse and the charity's oldest resident, unexpectedly died at her home on Sunday 17th November. One of the generation that lived through World War 2, Elizabeth greatly enjoyed living in the village, participating in village activities and tending her immaculate garden. She will be greatly missed.

The **Christmas lights switch-on** will take place on **Saturday 7th December 2019 at 5.30pm**. The appeal for donations towards the £200 cost has raised nearly £100 so far. Donations can be made on-line through the Powell and Welch website. [www.powellandwelch.wordpress.com](http://www.powellandwelch.wordpress.com). Click on the red Virgin Money Giving logo, to go the donations facility which includes a Gift Aid option.

## **Lutterworth and Villages Foodbank**

The Foodbank's Christmas Appeal is under way. Lots of activity is taking place including food collections at workplaces and fundraising to cover the rent on the small warehouse where the food is sorted and stored. We are still short of: savoury crackers, coffee, hot chocolate, sponge puddings, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, washing up liquid, laundry powder or liquid (Morrisons sell small white boxes of Bio powder for just 80p and these are ideal), and Size 6 Nappies. There are green donation containers at: Bitteswell - St Mary's Primary School, Lutterworth – Morrisons, Waitrose, Sports Centre, Age Concern Charity Shop (Town Square), Linden Drive Co-op, St Marys' Church, Chapel Street Christian Fellowship, Catholic Church, United Reform Church and Bartrams Estate Agency on Church Street.

For information call 01455 558797 or email

[info@lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk)

Want to donate money?

Check: [www.lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money](http://www.lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money)

## **Found**

**Beaded Friendship Bracelet** outside the houses near the Chestnuts, Chestnut Cottage/Ware House

**Please contact Marion Reid on 07810 166420 to claim**

## **The Jim & Amy Deacon Taxi Service**

United Charities runs a taxi service for village residents funded by an endowment from Jim & Amy Deacon, a couple who lived in Bitteswell in 1970s/80s. Their thoughtful generosity provides this useful service for residents who need help to travel to medical appointments and other emergencies when they do not have access to their own transport within their family or friends. This month, the telephone contacts are Mrs S. Carlton (552077) and Mr P. Osborn (553178).

## **St Mary's Primary School**

The children of St Mary's are looking forward to the festive period, not only remembering the important meaning of Christmas but also enjoying all of the festive fun that comes with it. Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2 are busy rehearsing for their nativity – '**The First Christmas**'. It is always an amazing performance and there will not be a dry eye in the audience!

There is fundraising event being led by FOBS, who have arranged a "**Jingle and a Mingle**" evening at the **Olde Royal Oak**. Whilst the children's enjoy a disco, there's a chance for parents to meet and chat: **5:30pm to 8:00pm, Thursday 19th December**.

In **January** the older children in school are attending "**Young Voices**" where multiple schools around the country learn the same songs and perform together as a choir at the **NIA Arena, Birmingham**. Given the importance placed on music in the school, it is a wonderful opportunity for the school to show off their musical talents in public!

The school's **Carol Service** is on **Wednesday 18th December at 9:30** which villagers are welcome to attend – it may well be standing room only as there is always much support from families.

**St Mary's School** wishes all the local residents, children, their families and the staff a **Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year**.

## **Jean Hurd**

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, friends and family attended the memorial service at Bitteswell Church to celebrate the life of Jean Hurd.

Born in 1936, Jean grew up in rural Markfield in Leicestershire, where she enjoyed an idyllic childhood. When war broke out, the family were lucky enough to grow most of their own produce. One of Jean's jobs was to feed the chickens, which she disliked intensely.

When Jean married Trevor, who passed away 7 years ago, they moved to Bitteswell and built Ashgrove. This was after a very tough interview by the landowner to make sure they would be suitable residents for the village. Which we can safely say they were. They had 3 children Richard, Robert and Nina, who all had a very happy family life here.

Jean was interested in many things and had many friends both in Bitteswell and the surrounding villages. She will be remembered by most, however, as a much respected fitness and line dance teacher. Many of us progressed through generations of her classes, from fitness for the over 40's to the over 50's and over 60's and even recently music and movement for the around 70's. We will all miss her tremendously.

**Richard Hurd and Shiela Carlton.**

## **Bitteswell Women's Institute**

Dawn Reynolds advises that the next meeting is on **Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 p.m.** "**Christmas Party**" Members will bring a Christmas gift for the Lutterworth Food Bank.

## **Lutterworth Lions Christmas Post**

The Christmas post box will be out on the 1st December at **St Mary's Primary School**, The box will be taken away on **20th December**, so please post before then. It's 25p per card, at least.

"**Thank you for your support**", roar the Lions.

## Parish Council

The date of the next meeting is **January 16th 2020 at 7pm**, in the Village Hall. All members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

If you would like to raise any issues or concerns, please contact the clerk, before the meeting.

## Children's Society Annual Box

**Charlotte Cowie** reports: I'm pleased to say that the total sum after counting up all the boxes delivered on the 5<sup>th</sup> October was **£628.28**. A massive 'thank you' to the patient volunteers who counted through all the loose change and provided coffee and tea on the day. It's amazing how all those coins add up.

It's a bit less than we've had in previous years as there have been a few people who have left the village or sadly passed away. If anyone else is interested in having a box for the next year, please contact me on **07775704315**

## Church News

Although the Rugby World Cup final, and atrocious weather, conspired against us from the point of view of attendance at the Autumn Fair we were delighted with the amount raised towards the roof fund. Over £530, thanks to the generosity of so many people, for which we are very grateful. Once again many thanks to the 'helpers' without whom none of these fundraising events could happen. Church buildings are very expensive to keep and maintain, but such an important part of our heritage and we have an obligation to look after them for future generations.

Work on the replacement roof has commenced, with the preparatory work on the guttering completed and the roof work starting this week. Weather permitting (!) all should be done well before Christmas and a roof alarm keeping everything safe and secure.

Sunday the 1st of December marks the start of Advent when we build up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The Christmas story is so familiar, the singing of carols, nativity plays, traditional foods and gathering with family and friends all make for a really special time. Along with Easter, Christmas is one of the most important festivals in the church calendar and we would

love you to join us at one of the Services. Do come along and be assured of a very warm welcome!

The members of Bitteswell Parochial Church Council would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2020.

## Church Services

**December 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30 a.m.**  
Benefice Advent Service LUTTERWORTH Church

**December 8<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m.**  
Holy Communion Sidesperson: Mrs A. Hayes

**December 15<sup>th</sup> 6.30 p.m.**  
Carol Service Sidespeople: Children

**December 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 a.m.**  
Morning Service Sidesperson: Mr A Woodhead

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 9 p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Holy Communion  
Sidesperson: Mr G Buxton

**December 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30 a.m.**  
Benefice Christmas Day Holy Communion  
LUTTERWORTH Church

**January 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30 a.m.**  
Benefice Service LUTTERWORTH Church

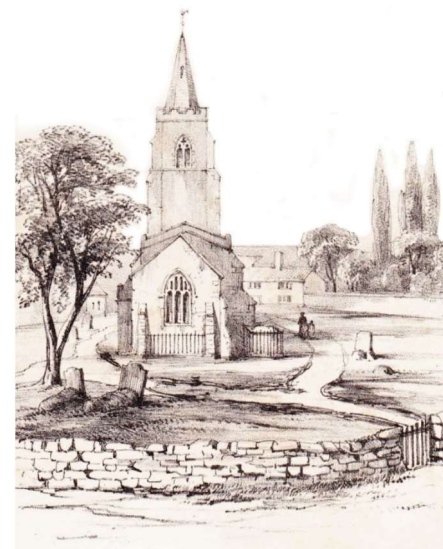
## Flowers in December

December 1 <sup>st</sup>	No Service
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Ring
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Festival Flowers
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Festival Flowers
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Festival Flowers
January 5 <sup>th</sup>	No Service

## Next Issue of the Newsletter

If you have any items for inclusion in the December edition, please contact David Carlton, Town Yard Cottages, Lutterworth Rd, (Tel: 552077 or email: [sndcarlton@sedace.co.uk](mailto:sndcarlton@sedace.co.uk).) before **Friday 27th December 2019.**

# BITTESWELL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



**The Newsletter Team wish you a jolly festive season.**

**Thanks to Tricia and George for delivering in this weather.**

**Funded by the United Charities  
Of Bitteswell**