

SPOKES

SPEAKING TO AND FOR ALL OUR CHURCHES

DECEMBER 2022

Hi folks,

Imagine that you are a Ukrainian family living in one of the towns being perpetually bombarded by the Russian army. Because of the attacks, you often end up living in the basement. How is Christmas relevant to you?

Or imagine that you are an Afghan. You do what is required of you by your society and culture, but you yearn for a quiet life. As you tend your small flock of sheep and goats, how is Christmas relevant to you?

Or imagine that you are an Arabic scholar, well versed in the scriptures: not just of the Hebrew Bible, but of other literature, such as the Qur'an. How is Christmas relevant to you?

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem because Israel's Roman oppressors were organising a census. A few decades later, these same oppressors destroyed Jerusalem and its temple. This is a story that could speak to Ukrainians being bombarded by the Russian army.

The news of Jesus' birth was announced to a group of poorly-paid shepherds, on the edge of human society. At the same time, Magi ("wise men") from the east came to search for "the King of the Jews". This is a story that could speak to both Afghan herders and to Arabic scholars.

As we approach Christmas and hear again the story of the birth of the Son of God, do come and join us in our carol services, as we marvel at a story which is relevant across the ages, to all peoples and all generations.

Every blessing,

Rich Tweedy vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk





This year's **Polden Wheel Harvest** charity was the **Trussell Trust Foodbank** in Bridgwater.

A fantastic sum of £459 was donated and a wonderful 312kg of food and other items were collected at our **Harvest Celebrations**. A **big thank you** to everyone who donated and to those who have given up their time to make it happen.

Carol Services in the Polden Wheel

Ashcott:	Friday 16 th	6.30
Burtle:	Sunday 11 th	7.00
Catcott:	Sunday 11 th	4.00
Chilton Polden:	Friday 23 rd	5.00
Edington:	Friday 16 th	6.30
Shapwick:	Wed 14 th	7.30



Christingle

Sunday 27th November 4pm

Ashcott

Sunday 4th December 4pm

Chilton Polden

Church Contacts

Vicar:	Rev Rich Tweedy	01458 210260
	vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk: <i>Day off Friday</i>	
Parish Administrator:	Sue Ball	01458 210260
	admin@poldenwheel.co.uk <i>Office hours: Tues – Thurs 10am – 2pm</i>	
PCC Treasurer:	Brian Tilbury	01278 722208
All Saints, Ashcott:	Margaret Trimm	01458 210448
St. Philip & St James, Burtle:	Alison Everett	01278 723736
St Peter's, Catcott:	Martin Melia	01278 722808
St Edward's, Chilton Polden:	Anne Lush	01278 722408
St George's, Edington:	Rosie Tilbury	01278 722208
St Mary's, Shapwick:	Rosemary Hargreaves	01458 210533

Website: www.poldenwheel.co.uk

Church Services

Sunday 4th December Advent 2 (Purple)

9.30 *Catcott* Holy Communion
4.00 *Chilton Polden* Christingle

Tuesday 6th December

7.00 *Burtle* Young Farmers Carol Service

Sunday 11th December Advent 3 (Purple)

9.30 *Edington* Holy Communion
11.00 *Ashcott* Informal Worship
4.00 *Catcott* Candlelit Carol Service
7.00 *Burtle* Carol Service

Wednesday 14th December

7.30 *Shapwick* Carols by Candlelight

Friday 16th December

6.30 *Edington* Carols by Candlelight
6.30 *Ashcott* Carol Service

Sunday 18th December Advent 4 (Purple)

10.00 *Shapwick* Café Church
10.30 *Chilton Polden* Holy Communion

Friday 23rd December

5.00 *Chilton Polden* Carol Service

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00 *Shapwick* Outdoor Carols at Shapwick Pavilion
5.30 *Edington* Nativity
11.15 *Burtle* Christmas Communion

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

9.00 *Ashcott* Christmas Communion
9.30 *Catcott* Christmas Communion
10.30 *Shapwick* Christmas Informal Worship

Sunday 1st January

11.00 *Catcott* Holy Communion

Midweek Holy Communion

Wed Dec 21st at 10am
in Edington Church.



Service of Quiet

Tuesday
December 20th at
7pm in Catcott
church.

This will be a quiet space
for contemplative
reflection for half an hour.



Readings

4 Dec: Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12

11 Dec: James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

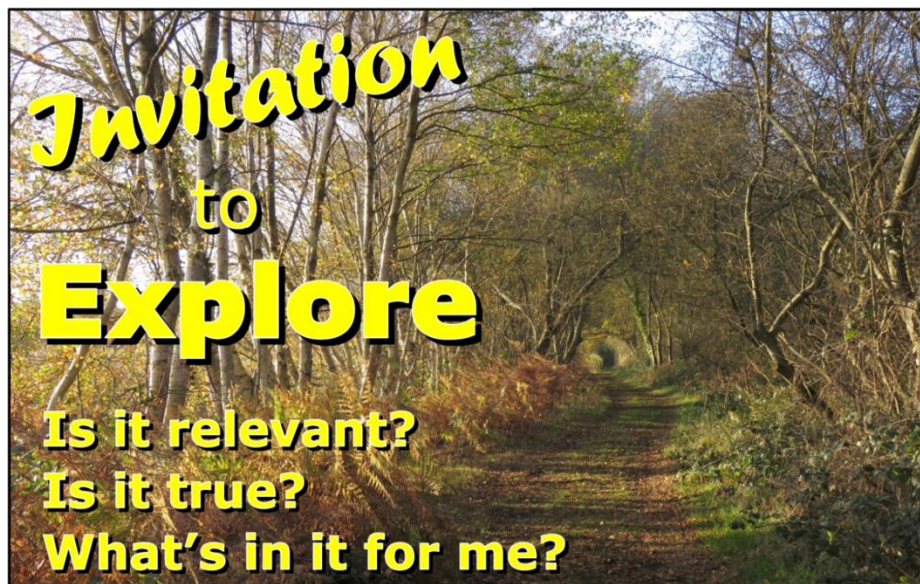
18 Dec: Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

24 Dec: Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 2.1-20

Diary of Church Events

December

- Thurs 1st to Thurs 8th **Edington**: Post box at the church for sending cards to Edington for a donation.
- Sat 3rd **Edington**: Christmas Coffee morning at Holywell House, Holywell Road, TA7 9LB. 10.30 to 12 noon with mince pies and savouries. Bring and Buy and Raffle. Entrance £2.
- Wed 7th **Ashcott**: Coffee morning in All Saints church 10-12. All welcome
- Fri 9th **Chilton Polden**: Christmas Family Bingo in the Church Hall. Eyes down 7.30pm. £1 per book. Raffle and refreshments. Children can play.
- Wed 14th **Ashcott**: Coffee morning in All Saints church 10-12. All welcome
- Fri 16th **Catcott**: Christmas Coffee Morning Woodstock, Weares Lane, TA7 9HS. Christmas Hamper raffle £1 a ticket. £2 entry to include cake and a drink.
- Wed 21st **Ashcott**: Coffee morning in All Saints church 10-12. All welcome.



A three-week journey.

Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 January, Shapwick Church, 7pm with full supper.

Videos with local flavour by Rich, followed by discussion time.

Please book beforehand: email Rich on vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk

Thanks to Valerio Thompson for his help in putting this newsletter together.