



SPECIAL EDITION FRONT COVER!

The new front cover is here! However, this front cover is only here for this edition and then we are reverting back to our old front cover.



WELCOME

Welcome to December's ONLINE edition of the Focal Point magazine. I hope you enjoy reading this issue. Make sure to check in every month for the next edition. **Thank you** for reading online. Please tell your friends, family, neighbours, rabbits or anyone who may be interested in staying up to date with Holme, Winthorpe and Langford.

QUICK UPDATES BEFORE YOU GET READING...

Please see look inside this edition to see the full list of Trustees of the Winthorpe Community Centre Charity.

On the paper copies, ignore "Nov." on the Collingham Ramblers page. The dates are correct but the month is supposed to be DECEMBER!

- Lizzie Wakefield - Editor

FOCAL POINT

ISSUE No. 479



NOTICES

Make sure to check out Winthorpe village's website to keep up with all the latest news, as well as Holme village's website (Not Secure)!

Ed's Comments	1 - 2
Community	4 - 12
Clubs/ Sports	13 - 14
Nature	15
Entertainment	16 - 17
Church	18 - 23
Calendar	24



01636361359 - telephone
(Please leave a voicemail)



07948621408 (Diana - mobile)



winthorpefocalpoint@gmail.com

December 2020 Edition



Hiya!

Well it's December, the word December almost explains itself. Christmas is finally here!!! But December also marks the end of 2020 and I am sure many of you are relieved to hear that. 2020 has been tough. For many of you 2020 has been more than tough but in our own ways we have overcome or still overcoming our challenges. Definitely, 2020 has taught me many things including that we should all show each other more love and kindness. I know it has been extremely hard for some of you to think positively in this unimaginable world we live in now. For me, my biggest positive of 2020 is either becoming editor of the Focal Point or sharing the best 3 months with the most loving and grateful, sick, homeless cat.

You may notice the Home Alone picture in the top left and yes, that officially means I have got my feet up watching classic Christmas films in the lead up for Christmas. If you have any other quirky traditions that you do in the lead up to Christmas, please let me know.

But with Christmas also being in December, it is also the Focal Point's 40th birthday, anniversary, jubilee whatever you want to call it. Therefore, we are celebrating! This edition has a subtle theme of rubies, balloons but as well as Christmas themed goodies to get you all in such a jolly spirit. Here are two great quotes given by Fiona to really conclude this page: **"Christmas is forever, not for just one day. For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away".**

& "Love the giver more than the gift".

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! -
Lizzie Wakefield (Ed)

DEADLINE

FOR JANUARY'S EDITION
DECEMBER 7th 2020



IT'S FINALLY HERE!



This is one big edition, well not much is different apart from a few things... The front cover has been changed to mark the Focal Point's 40th birthday. There is also an article marked with rubies as they are related to our birthday. Make sure to look out for the rubies! - Lizzie W (Ed)



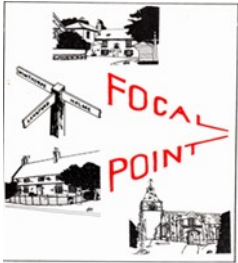
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOCAL POINT



This month, Focal Point celebrates its fortieth birthday. Founded in December 1980 by its then editor Lynne Shapley, this magazine has gone from strength to strength. Lynne was followed by, David Brooks, Jenny Lindley, Peter Roach, Peter Milroy, Cliff Newbold, Annie Purday, Marcia Parkin and now its present editor Lizzie Wakefield.

The days of using a typewriter, cutting and pasting are behind us as we are now into the computer age. The use of photographs and clip art, although in black and white, enhances the pages of this wonderful A5 style magazine. Colour would enhance the pages even more, but the cost may cause a problem. Although the computer has made life a little easier it still has to be edited, sent to the printers, picked up and sorted for the distributors to pop through the letter boxes, all done by volunteers.

Pat Finn.

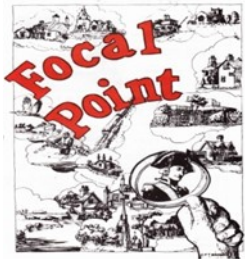


The First Front Cover.
Dec. 1980 - Nov. 1985.

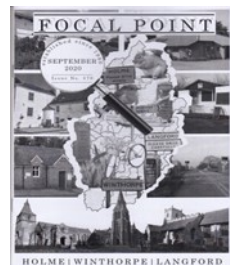
The first cover was designed by Jonathan Spur and Keith Fenwick.

The second cover by Cpt. Chris Brown.

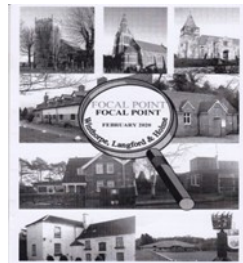
The third cover by Cliff Newbold.



The Second Front Cover
Dec. 1985 - Dec. 2000.



The Present Front Cover.
Sept. 2020 -




The Third Front Cover.
Jan. 2001 - Aug. 2020.

The fourth cover by Lizzie Wakefield. There may be slight changes to this cover in the forthcoming edition.

The name Focal Point was suggested by Peter Milroy. A brilliant name.

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Newark NG23 7LB
Tel: 01636 892156
Email: collingham.medicalcentre@nhs.net


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 Monday – Friday 8.00am - 6.15pm

For Appointments telephone: 8.00am – 6.15pm
For Prescriptions telephone: 10.00am – 12.00pm

CHRISTMAS 2020 - CLINIC TIMES

Monday 21 December – 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Tuesday 22 December – 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Wednesday 23 December – 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Thursday 24 December – 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Friday 25 December – CLOSED	Monday 28 December – CLOSED Tuesday 29 December – 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Wednesday 30 December – 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Thursday 31 December – 8.30 am – 5.30 pm Friday 1 January – CLOSED
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Our communication with patients relies on current information. If your personal details change, including telephone numbers, please let the practice know. Thank you.

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Newark NG23 7LB
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Email: collingham.pharmacy@nhs.net


COLLINGHAM PHARMACY
CHRISTMAS 2020
PHARMACY OPENING HOURS

Monday 21 December – 8.45 am – 6.30 pm Tuesday 22 December – 8.45 am – 6.00 pm Wednesday 23 December – 8.45 am – 6.00 pm Thursday 24 December – 8.45 am – 6.00 pm Friday 25 December – CLOSED Saturday 26 December – CLOSED	Monday 28 December – CLOSED Tuesday 29 December – 8.45 am – 6.00 pm Wednesday 30 December – 8.45 am – 6.00 pm Thursday 31 December – 8.45 am – 6.00 pm Friday 1 January – CLOSED Saturday 2 January – 9.00 am – 12.30 pm
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(Closed between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm every day)

When this Pharmacy is closed, if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation contact NHS 111.

Information can also be accessed at www.nhs.uk

Website: www.collinghammedicalcentre.co.uk



NEWARK FOODBANK



Since writing the article for the last Focal Point, I have made two deliveries of food and toiletries to the Foodbank warehouse. This is truly excellent – I normally go once a month. So, thank you Winthorpe for your wonderful generosity.

The new Foodbank collection point at the Lord Nelson has been very well supported, and has surprised me how well it has taken off. So thank you Suzy and Emma at the Nelson for making it happen.

Just a reminder – the three points where groceries and toiletries may be left are:

The shop at the Lord Nelson, at any time during the shop hours.

The black swing bin outside my front door at 11 Gainsborough Road, Winthorpe, at any time at all. The bin is checked every day.

The church porch when the church is open for services, or for private prayer on Thursday afternoons.

One final thing. As this is the last Focal Point before Christmas, may I please make a plea for us all to remember what a difficult time of year this will be for those relying on the Foodbank. I would love to have to make several more trips to the Foodbank warehouse before Christmas!!!

Jane White

STOP PRESS: Since writing the article about the Foodbank this month, I have now heard that our most recent delivery of groceries and household items weighed in at **39.9 kgs.** Winthorpe's giving just gets better and better! Thank you everybody so much.



FOODBANK SHOPPING LIST

November 2020

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE ITEMS CONTAINING ALCOHOL – THANK YOU

Shortfall Items

Food

- Tea Bags – 40's or 80's NOT 240/260/280's please
- Long Life Fruit Juice (not squash)
- Sponge Puddings (Tinned or Microwaveable)
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Sugar (500g or 1Kg)

Other Items

-

Please do not donate FRESH food items. Also, check that your donation is well inside its use-by date. We cannot distribute out of date food.

Always needed

Food

- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned Meat – serve cold or serve hot
- Tinned Potatoes
- Tinned Carrots
- Tinned Peas
- Instant Mashed Potato
- Instant Pasta Packet Meals
- Pasta Sauce
- All Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Hot Dogs or Meat Balls
- Tinned Sweetcorn
- Tinned Fish
- Vegetarian Alternatives – Tinned Vegetable Curry etc.
- Tinned/Cartron Custard
- Tinned Fruit
- Jam
- Chocolate / Sweets

- Cereal Bars
- Biscuits (eg: digestive/custard cream/ginger nut)
- Chocolate biscuits
- Chocolate Biscuit Bars (eg: KitKat/Penguin)

Additional Items

- Laundry liquitabs/tablets
- Washing Up Liquid
- Deodorant
- Shampoo (but not conditioner)
- Shower Gel
- Hand Wash Gel
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toilet Rolls
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Feminine Deodorant

Items of which we have a plentiful supply:

- Baked Beans
- Coffee
- Feminine hygiene
- Breakfast Cereal
- Pasta
- Tinned/Packet Soup
- Packets of Rice (dried)
- Long-life Milk

- Our warehouse continues to be well stocked. However, we are grateful for all regular donations, especially the shortfall items.
- Please take your donation to one of our many collection points in supermarkets. See our website for a complete list.



<https://newark.foodbank.org.uk/>

WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL



On Thursday 19th November 2020, the Parish Council, again, held its monthly Parish Council meeting remotely meeting using the power of "Zoom".

The Council also discussed proposals put forward by the Cricket Club to fence the cricket ground to prevent public access to the field brought about by the failure of some dog walkers who fail to clear up any mess left by their dogs.

The Council had sympathy with the Cricket Clubs request but having examined the 2006 lease between the Cricket Club and the Parish Council, the Council took the view that the field should remain open to access for all villagers (as stipulated in the lease).

However, the Parish Council were of the view that all dogs should be on a lead when on the cricket club outfield.

The Cricket Club reported a "break in" to the pavilion and have requested permission to install an alarm and possibly security lights around the pavilion. The Council had no objection in principle but requested further details.

The Council have taken on the responsibility for storing the hard copies of the village scrap book. This has been looked after by Pat Finn for many years and the Council would like to thank Pat for his many years of hard work in keeping the books up to date.

The contents of the scrap books can be viewed "on line" via the village website and I recommend that you have a look as it gives a detailed history of all aspects of the village.

The Council also discussed the Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The Council is looking to hold a meeting for all villagers to get their views on how we want the village to look going forward. Unfortunately, this is on hold until Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

Mrs Sally Sillery – Parish Clerk

parishclerkatwinthorpe@outlook.com.



FULL LIST OF COMMUNITY CENTRE CHARITY TRUSTEES

Apologies for last edition's list of trustees. Here is the FULL & COMPLETE list of trustees for the Winthorpe Community Centre Charity.
—Lizzie (Ed)

Peter Bateson (Chairman)	Richard Radford (Vice-Chairman)
Michele Cammack (Secretary)	Nina Adams (Treasurer & Karate club Representative)
Jane Bateson (Booking Secretary)	Jan Warner
Andy Warner	Colin Smith
Helen Bradley	Sue Sharp
Di Rowlands	John Nelson
Viv Jackson (W1 Representative)	Miles Harriman (Allotment Representative)
Steve Lord (Parish Representative)	Phil Farmer (Parish Representative)



OH, A FINAL XMAS QUOTE:

"Christmas is a time when everyone wants their past forgotten and their present remembered".





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DECEMBER'S RECIPE: - CHRISTMAS -



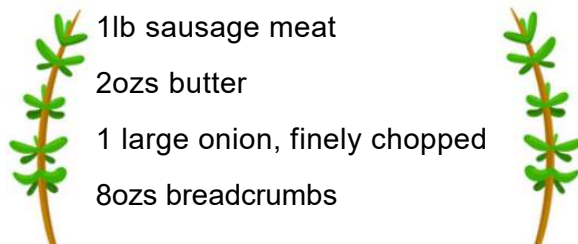
Well, this month it's CHRISTMAS! I absolutely love Christmas and just the warm, cozy feeling it brings but also since it gives time to spend with family. I know this year Christmas is definitely going to be different and some of you won't be able to spend all of it with family. But, hopefully, some of these festive recipes will help you enjoy indulging in Christmas specialties including STUFFING. Oh and finally, I must thank Fiona W for contributing these recipes—so thank you!



**WHAT IT SHOULD LOOK
LIKE**

SAUSAGE MEAT STUFFING:

(makes a change from pigs in blankets)



1lb sausage meat

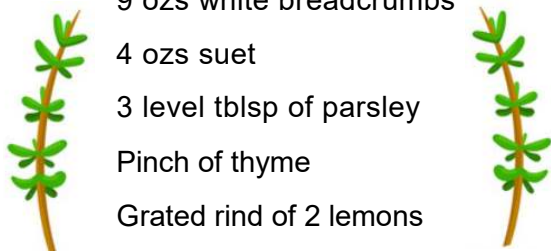
2ozs butter

1 large onion, finely chopped

8ozs breadcrumbs

Saute onion in butter, add all ingredients and put in a dish, cover with foil and cook for one hour on a moderate heat, or at the same time as the meat. Simple and yummy.

HERB & LEMON STUFFING



9 ozs white breadcrumbs

4 ozs suet

3 level tblsp of parsley

Pinch of thyme

Grated rind of 2 lemons



**WHAT IT SHOULD LOOK
LIKE**

Mix together and make into balls and bake in the oven or use some to stuff the turkey.



THE LORD NELSON

01636 707705

TheLordNelsonAtWinthorpe@gmail.com



Along with everyone else, we'd like to say we are ready for Christmas but we can't be until after the Government announcement on Thursday November 26th, so please expect a Lord Nelson newsletter about our December activities to be delivered with this month's Focal Point.

Our pub shop is full of essentials and if you haven't been into the pub for a peep, we'd encourage you to do so, take a look at the work of our local Artisans which would make an ideal gift and could make someone very happy on Christmas morning or perhaps a bespoke hamper full of your family favourites?

If you need an extra hand with getting the laundry done, Baldertons Laundry and Dry cleaning service pick-up from us twice a week - Tuesdays and Thursdays.

As some of you know, we have become an outpost for the Butchers GH Porters, Market Square, Newark - we carry their full range of products and would encourage you to book your Christmas meat orders with us, plenty of parking space and avoid the crowds and queues- especially as our prices are the same as Porters.

If you like your vegetables to be freshly picked and local, why not pre-order your Christmas veggies with us?

At this time of year we give thanks for our family, friends and local community as we've all pulled together to support each other through the pandemic.

Merry Christmas

Susie & Emma x



TAKE THE POOH IN THE POST TEST

In March, this year, I was diagnosed with bowel cancer. Because I was asymptomatic I had displayed none of the usual symptoms that would have prompted me to see my GP. If it was not for the Bowel Cancer Screening (BCS) that comes through the post every two years, I may have been none the wiser. For me and many others the BCS is literally a life saver. I have just been told by the Consultant surgeon that following treatment my cancer has been reduced to such an extent that I no longer need to undergo surgery. As you may imagine this has been an incredible relief to my wife and I.

NHS bowel cancer screening is only offered to people 55 or over, as this is when you are more likely to get bowel cancer:

If you are 55 you will automatically be invited for a one off bowel scope screening test, if it is available in your area

If you are 60 to 74, you will automatically be invited to do a home testing kit every two years

If you are 75 or over, you can ask for a home testing kit every two years by calling the free bowel cancer screening helpline on 0800 707 60 60

If you are too young for screening but are concerned about a family history of bowel cancer, speak to your GP for advice.

Always see your GP if you have symptoms of bowel cancer at any age – do not wait for a screening test. For information regarding the symptoms of bowel cancer go to

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer/symptoms/>

Keith Needham



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THANK YOU!



-CONTINUING OUR VILLAGERS' APPRECIATIONS-

Thanks to our thoughtful and caring neighbours

Recently I have undergone quite aggressive Chemo radiotherapy to treat cancer. This had quite a debilitating effect on me and an emotional impact on my wife. We are in our late 60's and we are a very independent retired couple. We moved to Winthorpe village from Nottingham over eight years ago leaving our immediate family behind. The 30 odd miles between us has not been an issue until Covid 19 reared its head and we have all had to endure the various restrictions that this has brought about. Having cancer brought about a different aspect to the Covid experience which prevented me from being able to do what I have always done. To help those that wanted my help using my stamina and knowledge and experience. Now all of a sudden I was in the position that I needed someone that was prepared to do the same for me. We have always got on well with our neighbours but it is at times like this that the true value of good neighbours is most appreciated. We would therefore like to thank, Richard, Lorraine, Graeme, Jane, Steve and Janet for their thoughtful and caring support along with all those that have wished us well through what has been a very difficult time. I am now fit and well, thank you NHS and thank you again to all our neighbours in this wonderful Winthorpe village.

Keith and Julia Needham



Thanks to Susie & Emma (Lord Nelson):

Just to say a special thank you to Susie and Emma for the shop and takeaway services that they are running. It is lovely to be greeted with a smile and a friendly chat. The shop keeps expanding and they are always willing to order anything to suit your requirements. In these difficult times please continue to support our local shop and join with me in wishing them a great success in their venture.

Ann (M)





CHRISTMAS COMPETITION!



The Lord Nelson would like to launch a best dressed Christmas window or house decoration in the three villages. Use your imagination and get into the Christmas spirit. The judging will take place on Monday evening 21st December. The winner will receive a £25 gift voucher to spend in the pub or the shop.



DIGITAL / E-COPY OF THE MAGAZINE



Did you know there are online versions of the Focal Point? Don't worry if you did not. Just in case your paper copy gets lost, chewed up by the dog, falls down the sideboard or you simply want friends/ family outside of the villages to see it, the Focal Point will always be there! And guess what... it's in COLOUR! Make sure to go to the Winthorpe Village website at <https://www.winthorpe.org.uk> > Media > Village Magazine > Current & Back Issues > Select An Edition > Voila, you are there!

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LUNCH CLUB 2020



The **December Christmas Lunch Club 12.30p.m.** on **Monday, December 14th** at the **Lord Nelson Pub**

We are hoping this event can take place (fingers crossed).

If it is not, I wish everybody a very happy Christmas and will look forward to returning to the Community Centre some time in 2021.



100 CLUB

- November's Winners -



1st	£46.20	Peter Foden
2nd	£23.10	Barbara Finn
3rd	£7.70	Margaret Stewart

Congratulations to our winners in November! You could also be a winner whilst supporting your local community centre by contributing £2 per month. Information available from Duncan Richardson at duncrichardson@sky.com

W. I CLUB

"The Autumn colours have been wonderful. Walking has been uplifting and chatting to people has been wonderful. Hopefully by the time we read December's Focal Point all will be clearer regarding how we can visit and travel around. When we were able, some members of the W.I. enjoyed coffee & cake at the Lord Nelson. We also planned walks – six of us managed one and Lyn and Viv just did one before further restrictions came in. We hope to start the walks again, perhaps in the New Year.. The Post Office is now up and running in the Lord Nelson on a Thursdays – 9.00a.m. to 12.noon, so let's make use of this facility.

Lots to look at in the shop. Let us all look forward to 2021 with new hope. On behalf of Winthorpe & District W.I., I send all residents of Winthorpe, Holme & Langford a Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Virginia R. Seager (President)



COLLINGHAM RAMBLERS WALKS

FOR DECEMBER

- Sun Dec. 13th - Weds Dec. 16th - Sun Dec. 27th -

Unfortunately, due to the National Lockdown our walks in November were cancelled. We hope that these walks planned for December will go ahead. We also have a programme in place for the New Year.

January proposed dates are Sunday 10th, 24th and Wednesday 13th.



NEW WALKERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

Come along and join this friendly group.



If you would like to join us on any of these walks please contact **NINA WARD** on collinghamramblersnottswalks@gmail.com for more information and specific walk details.

We provide an excellent variety of walks in Nottinghamshire and adjacent counties. Walkers should provide snacks, drinks and packed lunches if appropriate. Suitable footwear and waterproofs are necessary.



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RSPB Langford Lowfields

- December News 2020



LESSER REDPOLL

It's been a busy month at Langford Lowfields with some great bird sightings and loads of work by our brilliant volunteers. One of the highlights of the early winter period at Langford is always the starling murmurations. This year they have not disappointed with a maximum count of around 20000 and some wonderful shapes being thrown by them in the skies over the reedbeds. They are still around in small numbers as I write this on the 16th November, but may not be around for too much longer.

Other bird highlights in the last month have included two marsh harriers – a juvenile and a female, peregrine, great white egrets still on site, pintail, curlew, dunlin, grey wagtail, water and rock pipit, red kite, Mediterranean gull, Caspian gull and stonechat. The wild bird seed crop opposite the car park is looking brilliant, with a huge amount of seed available for birds to feed on. So far it has attracted a number of species including chaffinch, reed bunting, lesser redpoll, brambling and tree sparrow. We are particularly pleased with the tree sparrow sightings as these are our first tree sparrows on site for a number of years.

Our volunteers have been busy in the last month removing willow from the reedbeds. We need to do this every autumn as if we didn't, the willow would take over and we would eventually lose our reedbed habitat that is vital for a range of wetland wildlife. We have also been cutting back the paths on the Cromwell Trail to make access easier along the stretch from the Beach Hut to the boardwalk and opening up the view from the bench on the public footpath overlooking the visitor trails.





ODE TO A SECOND LOCKDOWN

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
I'll sanitise the door knob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
There's a green eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland just right now I am not free to go
To see the Keep Out posters or the Cherry hung with snow.



And no, I won't be travelling much within the realms of gold.
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
Nor come within a mile of you until this trial ends.

CANCELLED

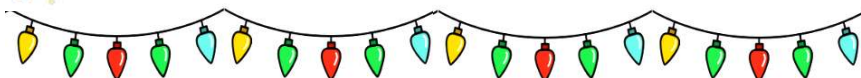
THE TREE IN THE WINDOW



In the little window stands a tinselled Christmas tree
Brightly lit with fairy lights, a lovely thing to see
Lighting up the dark surroundings for the passer-by
With a glow that warms the spirit and delights the eye
To the village Street, there comes the hint of holy things
A flash of glory in the gloom, a rush of angel wings



The heart is touched by something that is strange and mystical
And faith returns, the faith of childhood, new and wonderful.
That is what we need today, so shine out little tree
Give us back what we have lost: faith, hope, simplicity.



FOCAL POINT

December 1980 No 1

EDITORIAL

Dear Fellow Villagers,

Here is the first edition of our new magazine, Focal Point, the monthly news magazine of Winthorpe, Langford and Holme.

The magazine is intended to keep you abreast of current happenings in the parish; to inform you of future events and to provide you with interesting news, views and articles about the parish and its inhabitants. I hope that you will all help by writing articles for future editions.

May I also take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy Christmas.

LYNNE SHAPLEY
EDITOR



Well, firstly, thank you for someone either in Holme, Langford or Winthorpe who sent in the first poem. Next time I would love to see who wrote it because I think it really summarises how some of us are feeling.

And for the second poem, thank you Fiona for sending in a Christmassy poem. Just by reading this poem it gives me the cozy and warm feeling of Christmas and even December in general. I am sure many of us this year are getting our decorations out early.

Finally, a bit above, there is the FIRST EVER Editor's Page! Peter B has kindly suggested over the next year to include snippets of past editions -



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DECEMBER REFLECTIONS



Dear Friends,



December and January are months for dreaming dreams, for sharing stories and letting our imaginations carry us far away, that is why in “normal” years, the Christmas adverts are instantly replaced with tantalising offers of sun, sea and sand.

So, indulge me if you will and imagine this scenario: in a small town a young unmarried girl is pregnant, her parents had sent her off to stay with a cousin for a while, but now she's back home, her condition is hard to hide and tongues are beginning to wag. To his credit, her fiancé has decided to stick by her even though the baby isn't his, but they still aren't married and in their time and place that's really looked down on.

On top of all this, the occupying forces insist on taking a census and in a cruel twist, they don't just call at your door with a form to fill in, but make every man travel back to his ancestral town. The girl's fiancé had to travel about eighty miles, leaving his business behind.

Maybe her parents thought this was too good an opportunity to miss, he could take their daughter with him and she'd be out of sight of prying eyes, and then when she returned home with a baby in her arms, she'd return as part of a new family and no one would question who the father was.

Even though life is different for us now and our expectations around childbirth and family life are not the same all that might not be so hard for us to imagine.

However, try imagining that the girl and her fiancé decide that it's too inconvenient to have a baby far from home and family, so they agree that it just won't be born. After all, a woman needs to have her mother, friends and relatives about her. She needs to be in familiar surroundings with comfort and warmth. Everything needs to be in place for the baby and they both need time to recover from the birth.

This young woman has none of these things, so can you imagine that she just decides to postpone the birth until a more convenient time? Nonsense, you should cry, that's impossible, once a baby is conceived that baby will be born sooner or later and sometimes it's far too soon, but the birth cannot be cancelled.



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DECEMBER REFLECTIONS CONTINUED



Now imagine that Christmas as we know it cannot happen; we can't crowd into shops, no one can travel far, friends and family can't get together and we can't sing carols until we're hoarse. That isn't hard to imagine because at the time of writing we're in a second lockdown and we don't know what we'll be able to do at Christmas.

I've heard talk of Christmas being cancelled but that is totally impossible, we can't imagine that. Just as we can't cancel the birth of a baby, we can't cancel Christmas, because once Jesus was conceived and born, God is with us. Once Jesus was born, God was living a human life and nothing can be the same again. Because of the birth of Jesus, we know that God is with us, right in the middle of mess and muddle, disappointment and fear, loneliness and bitter sadness. That's the world Jesus was born into and our world has been transformed because God is with us and nothing can change that.

We might have to use our imaginations to celebrate his birth in a new way, without everything we think is so vital, but cancelling Christmas is impossible.

I pray that this year, we will all know the truth of Christmas, in new and special ways and we can look forward to a new year with hope.

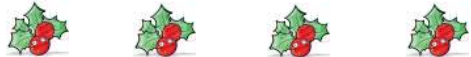
Keep looking out and listening for announcements about what's happening in and around church and village and do phone or say hello when we're out and about..

Have a very joyful and blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

Rev'd Mandy.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



Winthorpe Church will be holding a Christingle Service on Sunday 13th December at 3pm. There will be 15 places available and oranges need to be booked please via Mrs Cobb on 07946783274. Children attending must be accompanied by an adult. Covid restrictions will be adhered to.



CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

There is no better way to come together as a community than to sing as one. With no anticipation of a Carol Service in church this year All Saints are planning to hold an outside singing of carols at various strategic points around the village. It is hoped that many of you will come out into your gardens/front door steps to join us in singing a few of your favourites.

TIMES FOR CAROL SINGING

Woodlands	6p.m.
Gainsborough Rd (School end)	6.25p.m.
Pocklington	6.50p.m.
Branston	7.15p.m.
Gainsborough Rd/Speight Close	7.40p.m.
The Spinney	8.05p.m.

If you would like a favourite of yours to be sung please book it in with tishapplewhite@msn.com /643763 with address details, thank you.



ALL SAINTS WINTHORPE



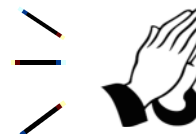
Well, we have nearly managed to get to the end of the year! Back in March in the early Lockdown days I never envisaged we would still be in the same situation nine months later. I always seem to be saying in these notes that whatever we have planned for the month ahead could easily change or even be cancelled. Sadly, last month the church was shut for services and so the Remembrance Sunday event was significantly curtailed with just Private Prayer allowed – I did lay our Remembrance wreath just before 11 a.m. and we observed the two minutes silence and I rang a muffled bell for 5 minutes after that.

Let's look forward though to this month and hope that the planned activities do take place (fingers crossed). Our first activity will be the **Christingle** Service on Sunday, December 13th at 3 p.m. A **booking system** has to be in place for the limited space in church so please contact Sandra Cobb (07946783274) for your seat. Our next event will be outdoors so we are hoping this will not be changed at all and even that restrictions might be lessened for this! Sunday December 20th will be our **Carol Singing** evening. We are hoping to bring a small group to sing in various streets in the village (please see the advert and read the flier coming out). Our hope is that you come out of your house but not from your property to join us in singing some favourite carols. You will be able to hear the accompanied carol music played very well. Normally we have refreshments after our service in church and we are looking at a way to deliver mince pies to everyone who sings! Our last service will be our traditional **Christmas Eve Holy Communion** at 7 p.m. – in a WARM church!! **Booking a seat** for this is also necessary so please contact Tish Applewhite in this instance.

We hope and pray that everyone is able to be with someone over Christmas and that you can forget your troubles for a while, stay healthy, enjoy yourself and look forward to a vaccine in the New Year which hopefully will be a passport to a more normal way of life.

Tish Applewhite, Churchwarden (643763)

Church Services for DECEMBER 2020



Sunday 13th
(3rd of Advent)

3.00p.m.

Christingle
(Booking in is essential)

Winthorpe

Sunday 20th
(4th of Advent)

From 6p.m.

Carol Singing

Winthorpe

Thursday 24th
(Christmas Eve)

7.00p.m.

Holy Communion
(Booking in is essential)

Winthorpe

The Church Bells may be rung for any of the Winthorpe services.

*****Church Flower Ladies***** – the church will be open from **2p.m.** on **Friday Dec. 11th** to **Friday Dec. 18th** receive your Christmas flower arrangements please. With **removal** from **2p.m.** on **Monday January 4th 2021**. **Thank you very much.**

Church Cleaners Mr B and Mrs D McClymont

Brasses Mrs J Aldridge and Mrs D McClymont



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



And... to end this edition of the Focal Point, I would love to wish you all the safest and the merriest Christmas. Enjoy your plans over this festive season and I hope that 2021 will be a far better year than 2020. Talk to you in 2021! (Ahh it's so weird to say).—Lizzie W (Ed)



DECEMBER'S CALENDAR 2020

Please let me know about any events happening in the three villages, I would love to put them in the calendar (Ed)

Tuesday	1st	First Day of Advent & Tree Dressing Day!	
Wednesday	2nd	Green & Brown Bin	
Saturday	5th	International Volunteers Day & World Soil Day	
Monday	7th-13th	Illumination Street Week!	
Monday	7th	Silver Bin	
Thursday	10th	World Human Rights Day!	
Friday	11th	Christmas Jumper Day!	
Monday	14th	Green & Brown Bin	
Monday	21st	Silver Bin - CANCELLED!	
Sunday	20th—5th	Festival of Winter Walks	
Thursday	24th	Christmas Eve!	
Friday	25th	Christmas Day!	See pg. 8
Saturday	26th	Boxing Day!	
Monday	28th	Green - same as NORMAL Brown Bin - CANCELLED!	
Thursday	31st	New Year's Eve!	



Merry Christmas



NB BIN COLLECTIONS IN HOLME VILLAGE ON FRIDAYS

Village organisations and local bodies – if at any time you would like to get in touch with a village contact, why not try the village website

www.winthorpe.org.uk

BYE FOR NOW!

Thanks for stopping by! I hope that you check in online, next month. Let me know (Lizzie, your FP Editor) if you have any suggestions for future editions . And don't forget to tell others about the online copies, especially if they want to see it in COLOUR!

BUT BEFORE YOU GO...

Let your fellow village friends and family know that there is an online edition available on Winthorpe village's website.

- Lizzie Wakefield (Ed)