

*"Keeping  
the Community  
informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

# Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 18 NO. 3 DECEMBER 2022

SEASON'S GREETINGS  
TO ALL OUR READERS

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### St. Peter and St. Paul, Wangford

Join us at 11.15 am on Sunday 18th December for our Carol Service, and at 11.15 am on Christmas Day for our Family Communion Service.

### St. Andrew, Sotherton

Everybody is invited to our Carol Service at 3.00 pm on Sunday 18th December in our beautiful candlelit church.

### St. Mary, Uggeshall

We invite you all to join us on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm for our traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols.

### Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharists

will be celebrated at 11.00 pm at St Margaret, Reydon and at 11.30 pm at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, and St. Edmund, Southwold.



## Wangford Christmas Raffle



Raising funds for the maintenance and ministry of St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Wangford

**WIN A SUMPTUOUS FESTIVE HAMPER**

Tickets £1.00  
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## WANGFORD AT CHRISTMAS



### Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 13th December 12.30 for 1.00pm



Cooked and served by staff and students from the Catering department of East Coast College, this will be a real treat. There is no charge, but we hope you will choose to make a donation to a monetary collection for the Lowestoft Food Bank.

### Carol Concert

Do come along to the Community Centre at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th December for our short informal celebration in words and music by and for members of the community. Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection for the Lowestoft Food Bank. Refreshments will be served at the end of the concert.

### Coffee Morning

The Christmas Coffee Morning is at Wangford Church from 10.30am to noon on Wednesday 21st December.

### Wangford Carols (with Beer!)

Starting from the Village Store at 6.00pm on Wednesday 21st December, we will as usual go round the village playing and singing, with a door-to-door collection for the Children's Society. Non-singers are needed to collect!

At 7.00pm we will arrive in the Churchyard for 'Beer and Carols'. If you are in The Angel, please feel free to bring your beer and come along with a lantern or torch to join in our festivities to mark the beginning of Christmas. Other refreshment includes non-alcoholic drinks, mulled wine and snacks, and a collection will be made for the Children's Society. Please note if the weather is inclement 'Beer and Carols' will go ahead inside the church.



## WangfordHelp

If you need any help,  
simply call or email us.

Email:  
wangfordhelp@gmail.com  
Phone:  
07941 156508  
or 01502 578408

## Wangford Village Store

Monday to Saturday  
8.00am - 6.00pm  
Sunday 8.00am - 4.00pm



## Wangford Post Office

Tuesdays  
from 10.00am - 12 noon  
Thursdays  
from 1.00 - 3.00pm  
Community Centre  
Closed between  
Christmas and New Year  
Re-opens  
Tuesday 3rd January

## Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday  
9.00am - 5.00pm  
Sunday CLOSED

## Community Centre Working Party

The next working party is  
on Sunday 18th  
December from 10.00 am  
to 12 noon. Meet in the  
Community Centre before  
-hand for refreshments.

## Wangford 100 Club 2022

Winners in the November  
Draw were  
1. Jackie Casement  
2. Carolyn Robertson  
3. Clare Hart

## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

### Wangford Parent and Toddler Group

Mondays 9.30 - 11.30am Community Centre

### Body Conditioning

Tuesdays from 9.30 - 10.30am Community Centre

### Wangford Art Group

Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm Community Centre

### Book Club

Thursday 1st December 8.00pm Community Centre

### Community Council

Tuesday 6th December 7.45pm Community Centre

### Uggeshall Cinema

Thursday 8th December 7.00pm Old School Hall

### Uggeshall Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Friday 9th December 7.30pm Old School Hall

### Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 13th December 12.30 for 1.00pm  
Community Centre

### The Arts Society

Tuesday 13th December 2.00pm Southwold Arts Centre

### Wangford with Henham Parish Council

Tuesday 13th December 8.00pm Community Centre

### Community Council Carol Concert

Thursday 15th December 7.00pm Community Centre

### Wangford Men's Breakfast

Saturday 17th December 8.45am The Angel Inn

### Community Garden Working Party

Sunday 18th December 10.00 am Community Garden

### Blyth Valley Labour

Monday 19th December 7.30pm Community Centre

### Mobile Library at Wangford

Wednesday 21st December  
1010 - 1030 am Community Centre  
1035 - 1045am Church

### Wangford Church Coffee Morning

Wednesday 21st December 10.30am - noon

### Wangford Carols

Wednesday 21st December  
Village Store 6.00pm Churchyard 7.00pm

### Wangford Community Council

The Xmas Bazaar on November 12th proved very popular,  
with stall holders doing a brisk trade. In addition, £241.48  
was raised for Community Council funds.

## Food Bank

Items for the Food Bank  
can be left in the basket at  
the foot of the font in  
Wangford Church from  
where they will be  
collected and taken to  
John and Jan Collins at 19  
Lakeside Park Drive on  
Friday morning. If you  
would prefer them to be  
collected from your home,  
please ring Val Beckett on  
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If anyone is aware of some-  
one in need who would  
benefit from a food parcel,  
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## Wangford Vets

### Santa Paws Appeal

Our annual Wangford  
Vets Santa Paws collection  
for local pet rescue homes  
continues through  
December. The items  
most needed are tinned  
and dry foods, warm  
bedding, toys to stimulate  
play, food and water  
bowls, and donations of  
money. Treats for cats and  
dogs are welcome, as well  
as collars and leads and  
warm coats. These items  
don't need to be new.

Items can be dropped off  
at Reception at any time  
from 8.30 - 6.00 pm  
Monday to Friday or on  
Saturday morning before  
noon.

You can also enter the  
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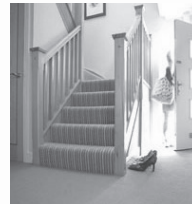
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## DECEMBER'S TEAM LETTER

Dear Friends,

I have recently watched a new film on Netflix, a remake of the film "All Quiet on the Western Front", based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque. This has put me in mind of World War One, the Christmas Truce and our current worldly circumstances.

At Christmas in 1918 the Rev'd Claude Hope-Sutton wrote in the Parish Magazine the following words. He wrote as the war was seemingly dragging on into a fifth year, with no obvious end in sight:

*My dear Parishioners,*

*I find it very difficult to know what to say to you in my letter this month. It is usual to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, but just now the outlook for the next year is anything but happy, and the prospects seem to point to much more suffering and hardship before the victory can be won.*

There is much in what he writes that might have echoes with our situation today. The war in Ukraine, the cost of living crisis, and a growing sense of urgency about climate change have all combined to make life feel harder and less certain. Many families around the country are planning simpler Christmas holidays on tighter budgets than usual.

Back in 1918 Rev'd Hope Sutton encouraged his readers thus;

*If we can go forward in prayer, trusting to God as our leader and seeking earnestly as a nation to keep his commandments, we may be assured that we shall be able to bless Him at the end of the year for the way He has led us.*

We know that by the end of 1918 there had indeed been much more fighting, suffering and loss, but in November the war ended and 1919 began with the exciting prospect of building a lasting peace and a better world.

Echoing Claude Hope Sutton's sentiments we remember that at Christmas Christ was born into the full reality of the human condition, born that God might be with us, that we are not alone, and that the love of God leads us from darkness to light. What Claude Hope Sutton longed for was a renewed society in which people prayed for each other, cared about each other and worked together for a fairer peaceful world. He knew that by turning to God this vision was possible. I think that is still true today.

*Simon*

## News from Wangford Church

As I write these notes, it is Remembrance Sunday and I have just returned from this year's service. Many thanks to Sue for the music, all who laid wreaths and for the stunning floral displays in Church. A beautiful and moving service as ever.

We are now in Advent and looking forward to Christmas. In these trying times with the war in Ukraine still sadly going on and the impact this has had in terms of energy prices and the cost of living we hope that Christmas will still continue to bring some much needed joy.

On Sunday December 18 at 11.15am we will hold our Carol Service with traditional readings and carols to prepare us all for the joy of Christmas; there will also be refreshments after the service. We hope to see many of you there. The raffle for the Christmas hamper will be drawn during the service, and tickets are still available from church or from the Village and Farm shops.

Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> is the date for the Christmas coffee morning in church with the usual raffle and the drawing of the 100 club prizes for December. This starts at 10.30 and all are welcome to come and enjoy tea, coffee and cake with us.

Also on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December some of us will join the Carol Singing around the village between 6-7pm (please do give generously as we raise money for charity whilst singing). At 7pm we will arrive in the Churchyard for 'Beer and Carols'. If you are in The Angel, please feel free to bring your beer and come along with a lantern or torch to join in our festivities to mark the beginning of Christmas. Other refreshments including non-alcoholic drinks, mulled wine and some snacks will be available and any donations for charity will be very welcome. Please note if the weather is inclement 'Beer and Carols' will go ahead but it will be inside the church.

Some of our Christmas services will be joint with St Margaret, Reydon. On Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve) at 4pm at St Margaret, Reydon there will be an all-age Crib and Christingle Service with a topical World Cup theme. Do come along with all the family. At 11.00pm at St Margaret, Reydon there will be a Midnight Communion Service. On Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day) at 11.15am we will celebrate Christmas in Wangford with a Family Communion Service.

On Sunday 1 January at 11.00am (New Year's Day) there will be one service for the whole Team to welcome in the New Year at St Edmund's, Southwold and then on Sunday 8th January we return to Wangford to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, when we remember the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child with a Family Communion Service at 11.15am.

A very warm invitation to all our services, and a Happy Christmas to you all from Rev Alan Perry and everybody involved in our church!

*Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)*

## News from Uggheshall

### Uggheshall Coffee Morning

There will be no coffee morning on December 8th. We will return on January 12th. We would like to thank all our regular coffee morning supporters, and wish everybody a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

*Gwen Pat & Denise*

### Uggheshall Cinema

The cinema will be back on Thursday 8th December. The film will be 'Love Actually', the classic Christmas themed romantic comedy drama. Doors open at 7.00 for 7.15 pm.

*Matt Grady*

### Festival of Lessons and Carols

Do come along to St Mary's on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm to our traditional service of Lessons and Carols



**Uggheshall residents ...**  
**We ho-ho-hope you can join us for**  
**Mulled Wine and Mince Pies**  
**on**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm**  
**The Old School Hall**  
**Uggheshall**

A limited number of alternative refreshments will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own!	The evening is free and is generously funded by Uggheshall Parish Council. Non-residents £5. Christmas jumpers optional!
--	--

For catering purposes, please RSVP to Jane at [skip177@btinternet.com](mailto:skip177@btinternet.com) or 07896315052.

## Wangford Community Centre Booking Secretary

Sadly, Rachel Dade, our volunteer Bookings Secretary, will have to relinquish her post from January 2023 due to increased workload in her day job. We are therefore hoping to find someone prepared to step into her shoes.

The job involves answering booking queries, taking bookings for regular users and one-off private hires, maintaining the Centre diary, raising invoices and monitoring payments, and liaising with the Community Council. Communication is mostly electronic via email or text, so a computer, landline and mobile are needed.

If you think you may be able to help us, please contact Sue Taylor on 578408, or at [suethemusic@gmail.com](mailto:suethemusic@gmail.com)

## News from Sotherton

### Quiz Night

Our annual quiz raised £525 for St. Andrews Church funds. The Community Centre was full, and a good time was had by all!

### Carol Service

Everyone is welcome to join us for our candle-lit Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 3.00pm.

### Book Club

At our November meeting we discussed 'Fatal Inheritance' by Rachel Rhys. It was quite timely to read this book after last month's similar theme. Most people agreed that it was well written with good characterisation and imagery, if at times on the point of unbelievability, although some did find the narrative dreary and dull. The story was set in the post-war 1940s and we felt the language and description matched the time period well whereas the previous month's book did not. There were a lot of characters and events which required attention. We followed the main character Eve Forrester in her dull marriage in which she had no power even over herself, through the letter announcing she had an inheritance on the Riviera, and her journey to France. Eve came to see her own strengths and forged her own way of life which suited her. There were episodes of thwarted danger linked to confiscated valuable artworks in the Second World War. There was much questioning as to why Guy Lester included Eve in his Will and jealousy from his wife and children who questioned what right she had to be included. It transpired that it was Guy who had killed her father accidentally.

There was a predictable ending in that the unkind mother who Eve thought was hers was not and she discovered that her own mother was in an asylum following the emotional trauma of having seen her husband killed. Eve did not return to the UK but bought a home on the Riviera with her inheritance and her birth mother came to live with her. Lots of narrative loose ends were tied up in this readable book.

We next meet on Thursday 1st December at 8pm in the Community Centre to discuss Barbara Erskine's 'Sleeper's Castle'.

*Gill Smith 578620*

## The Arts Society, Southwold

The 2022 series continues on Tuesday 13th December when Christopher de Hamel will speak on '**Medieval Illuminated Books of Hours**'

Lectures commence at 2.00pm in Southwold Arts Centre. Visitors and Members' guests are welcome; a small donation would be appreciated.

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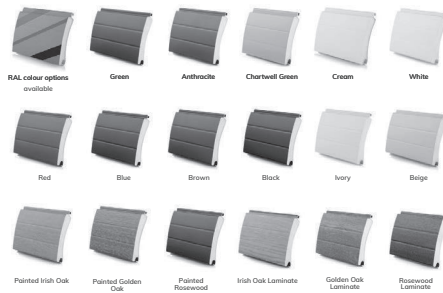
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# ABRAHAM

On we go. Slowly. This is definitely going to take more than a year. *George Mackay Brown* - Not a name familiar to many English folk. Nor, I suspect to many Scots. The Bard of Orkney, born in the second, smaller, of the only two towns on the Islands, Stromness, a beautiful, ancient burgh, from where, apart from three short sojourns, he never left. A terrific poet, he lived with his mum and dad, and after their death, on his own. In later years he found friendship and artistic collaboration with Peter Maxwell Davies, one-time Master of the Queen's Music. I have rested oftentimes on George's memorial bench, overlooking Scapa Flow to Hoy. Try and obtain a copy of George's writings if you can. Worthy reading.

*John Brown* - Queen Victoria's Highland Servant. A fine biography about this controversial relationship. Why was the Queen besotted with him? Saving her from an assassination attempt may have helped. When she died, she was buried holding a photograph of this most loyal servant in her hand.

*Beyond The 39 Steps - A Life of John Buchan* by Ursula Buchan one of John Buchan's grandchildren, who writes fine books about gardening. Noted mostly for *The 39 Steps*, he was much more than that. A scholar, antiquarian, barrister, colonial administrator, journal editor, literary critic, publisher, war correspondent, director of wartime propaganda, member of parliament and Governor-General of Canada. How much can one man cram in? Given a state funeral.

*Robert Burns* - what more to say about this giant? Before I leave the 'Bs' I mention that, on the 6th November, one of the true greats, Ronald Blythe was 100 years old.

The "Moon Under Water" is a 1946 essay by George Orwell, his last contribution to the *Evening Standard*, in which he regales us with a description of his ideal public house, the fictitious "Moon Under Water". He stipulated ten important points that would make the pub ideal for him. He confessed that he knew a few that almost attained his high standards, including one that had eight of his favoured criteria, which may have been the *Compton Arms* in Islington, North London, but more of that later. The criteria are now considered quaint, one being - 'Upstairs, six days a week, you can get a good solid lunch - for example, a cut off the joint, two vegetables and a boiled jam roll - for about three shillings'. The one to which I relate and that is still relevant today is 'The pub is quiet enough to talk with the house possessing neither a radio nor a piano'. Substitute television, muzak, juke box, gambling machines, etc and you have it. A note of caution, however. Being hard of hearing I find the acoustics in some pubs contribute to an uncomfortable noise level. Neither do loudmouthed, leery customers help. On that point the aforementioned *Compton Arms* has been assailed with a complaint about noise pollution, indicating that the sound of people conversing, laughing, telling jokes, enjoying each other's company offends a person's sensibilities. What next? Chimeless church bells, crowless cockerels, odourless pig farms? In the face of rocketing rents and rates, cheap booze from the supermarkets, rising food costs, staffing problems, closures and immense losses due to the pandemic, do pubs need more grief from whingeing neighbours? Pubs are an asset to any community, particularly rural ones. Let them be.

Several Wetherspoons' pubs have used *The Moon Under Water* as their name. The chain has been in the news recently for

having to close 32 of its pubs, due to pandemic caution, rising wages, cost of repairs and 'drink at home' culture acquired during lockdown. For all you 'Spoons' enthusiasts, do not despair. There are still over 800 outlets offering cheap booze and good wholesome food. Despite all the snobbish criticism they will survive and be back to full strength soon for the simple reason that Wetherspoons are too good at what they do. Last orders are a long way off.

Listen, all you wassaillers, the Rev. Alan invites you to meet him outside the Village Shop just before 6.00 p.m. on 21st December to join the usual village carolling party, wandering round the village for an hour belting out carols to your heart's content. You will then continue the warbling in the Churchyard from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. accompanied by, if you like, beer from the pub and mulled wine from the church. Do make this a jolly festive occasion.

*Abraham*

## Wangford Mens' Breakfast

Mr. David Moss the owner of the Angel Inn entertained a dozen attendees on the 19th November. He gave a resume of how his business has grown from a wine bar to a small chain of local pubs, the difficulties of lockdown and a bright view of future trading. A cold morning saw a welcome 'Bloody Mary' kick off the meeting, all followed by an excellent breakfast.

On 17th December Geoff Pepper will give an illustrated talk about the creation of the Community Garden established next to our Community Centre. All are welcome, 8.45 for 9.00am.

Contact me at [johnscholes@hotmail.com](mailto:johnscholes@hotmail.com).

## CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th December	2nd Sunday of Advent
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggheshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 11th December	3rd Sunday of Advent
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggheshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 18th December	4th Sunday of Advent
11.15 am Wangford	Carol Service
3.00 pm Sotherton	Carol Service
6.00 pm Uggheshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Saturday 24th December	Christmas Eve
6.00 pm Uggheshall	Lessons and Carols
Sunday 25th December	Christmas Day
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)

# DIRECTORY

Team Rector	The Reverend Simon Pitcher	725424
Team Vicar	The Reverend Alan Perry	453624
Team Admin	Tania Birtwistle	724115

## Parochial Church Council Secretaries

Wangford	Vacancy	
Uggheshall	Clare Bailey	578679
Sotherton	Karen Flaxman	01986 873123

## Church Wardens

Wangford	Mark Notton	578691
	Jeff Bridges	578208

Uggheshall	Colin Hill (Churchwarden Emeritus)	
	Colonel Giles Crisp	578251
	Clare Palmer	578679
Sotherton	Gerard Walker	01986 874248
	Stephen Flaxman	01986 873123

## Wangford Community Council

Vice-Chairman	Malcolm Woolnough	578701
Secretary	Sue Hosking	578287

## Wangford Community Centre

Chairman	Malcolm Woolnough	578701
Bookings	Sue Taylor	
	suethemusic@gmail.com	578408
Caretaker	Sue Taylor	578408

## Uggheshall Old School Hall

Bookings	Denise Baker	578190
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## Parish Council Clerks

Wangford	Adrian Smith	07450 000118
Uggheshall	Sandra Anderson	544018
Sotherton	Ann Donnachie	575338

## Henham Steam Rally

Chair	Helen Walker	07557 784927
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Wangford Surgery	578257
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Sole Bay Health Centre	722326
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Wangford Veterinary Clinic	578999
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Police	Urgent 999	Non Urgent 101
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Crimestoppers	0800 555111
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## DECEMBER 2022 CENTRE DIARY

1st Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	6.30-7.30pm
	Book Club	Cttee Room	8.00-9.00pm
3rd Dec	Private Hire		
4th Dec	Private Hire		Ends 12noon
5th Dec	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
6th Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	2.00-4.30pm
	Community Council	Cttee Room	7.45pm
7th Dec	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
8th Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	6.30-7.30pm
12th Dec	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
13th Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Christmas Lunch	Hall	1.00pm
	Parish Council	Cttee Room	8.00pm
14th Dec	Salsa	Hall	7.30 - 11.00pm
	GHSR	Cttee Room	8.00pm
15th Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Carol Concert	Hall	7.00pm
18th Dec	Community Gardeners	Cttee Room	10.00 - 12noon
19th Dec	Blyth Valley Labour	Cttee Room	7.30-10.00pm
20th Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
22nd Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	6.30-7.30pm

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDITOR SUE TAYLOR:

79 High Street, Wangford

Telephone: 01502 578408 Email: suethemusic@gmail.com

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5b Moor Business Park, Ellough Road, Beccles NR34 7TQ

Telephone: 01502 715551 Email: info@angliaprint.co.uk

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OR PUBLISHERS.

*"Keeping the  
Community informed"*

NOW ON THE WEB AT:  
<http://wangfordwithhenham.onesuffolk.net>



Wrentham Chapel

is hosting

**"Caedmon at Christmas"**

on Wednesday December 14th

at 7.00pm.



This is a seasonal celebration with a programme of music, word and song, featuring items contributed by those attending on a 'bring and share' basis.

There will also be time to enjoy wine, fruit juice and a light, festive buffet, with plenty of time to chat.

This is a free event, but we hope appreciation will be shown in donations for Christian Aid.

For further details contact Sue Hardy on 07771 882738