

**THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM  
WITH HENSHAW**  
**Parish Newsletter Dec 2019/Jan 2020**



**The nation's favourite Carol**

In on-line polls in recent years, it seems that the carol, O Holy Night has regularly been voted as Britain's favourite carol. The words were written by a French wine merchant and poet, Placide Cappeau in 1843 at the request of his parish priest, to celebrate the renovation of their church organ in Roquemaure, near Avignon. Later that year, Adolphe Adam composed the music. He was a noted teacher, with Delibes among his pupils, and is probably best known today for the ballet music in Giselle and Le Corsaire, as well as the music for O Holy Night. The words of the hymn as we know them today were translated from the French by John Sullivan Dwight, an American pastor.

The previous best loved carol was Silent Night. Its origins go back to 1818 when the words were written by an Austrian parish priest, Joseph Mohr. He took the words to the local schoolmaster and organist, Franz Xaver Gruber, who wrote the tune. It gained much wider recognition because it was adopted by groups of travelling folk singers.

There are a number of opportunities to come and join us to sing Carols, either at our annual Carol Service at Henshaw on Sunday December 15 or at a much more relaxed occasion, our Lighthearted Readings and Carols in Beltingham on 27 December, when we will certainly be including O Holy Night in our programme. You are most welcome at both events, when refreshments (warming grog and mince pies) are served at the end – we look forward to your company.

## **Church news**

**Remembrance Sunday** – On a cold but sunny and calm day, 120 people gathered at the War Memorial in Bardon Mill for our service of remembrance there, following the service at All Hallows' Church, where the church had been appropriately decorated with poppies. This year, the children had painted stones and inscribed them with the names of those local soldiers, and were there to lay them at the foot of the Memorial. The knitted poppies draped along the fence once again reminded those passing of the sacrifice made in two World Wars. The names from the Memorial were read with due solemnity and wreaths laid by local organisations and village children. With grateful thanks to those who set up the display at the Memorial, and to those who participated in the service there.

**Contributions to the Flower Fund** – if you would like to make a donation towards Christmas flowers, please hand it to one of the Wardens, or to Judy Potts.

**Messy Church Christmas Party** – on December 8, followed by carols at the Village Green in Bardon Mill, when the Christmas lights will be switched on, and Father Christmas may find time to call.

**Lighthearted readings and carols** – why not enjoy a bracing winter walk to St Cuthbert's, Beltingham on **Friday, 27 December at 3 pm**, for this annual event, featuring a range of readings and some carols you may not have sung already, with tea and cake afterwards. All are welcome

**Gods Tent** – the December “pitching” will consist of Nativity in a Barn, at Moralee Farm, with carols.

**From the Registers**

### **Puzzle Corner**

**Last month's answers;** Genesis, Matthew, Exodus, Leviticus, Galatians,  
Ephesians, Jeremiah, Deuteronomy, Hebrews, Hosea

**This month's puzzle – all the clues relate to Christmas, answers could be  
one, two or three words**

Be the helm, Congress liar, In the glints, Enjoy mad sharp, Off the sane pest,  
In action slash, Vicars themes, Tiny pay vital, With FT length, Smart Heretics

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**The Parishes by the Wall website – covering Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw <https://parishesbythewall.org.uk>**