

Littlebury Parish News

Christmas Special Edition

A Merry Littlebury Christmas!

While Christmas is certainly a different affair this year—we have still managed to come together at a community, albeit at a social distance, to spread a bit of the Christmas Spirit in true Littlebury fashion!



Santa Claus came to town!

Father Christmas would like to thank everyone who came out to meet him and all those who helped arrange his transport. He and his elves have now flown back to his workshop and are busy preparing for busy Christmas Eve!



Oh Christmas Tree!

Thanks to Springwells and the Parish Council for providing the beautiful tree, the Laddies for putting it up, Martyn Porter for the lights and Christmas tunes, David and Pamela for caring for the triangle for many years - and remembering Dave Heales, whose brainchild this was.



Alternative Crib Service on Christmas Eve

While it is hugely disappointing that current circumstances prevent us from enjoying the ever-popular crib service in Church on Christmas Eve—Louise has worked extremely hard to ensure that Children and adults alike can still enjoy this traditional village event.

This year, individual families have recorded their scenes at home and Louise has edited them to create an 'Alternative Crib Service', which will be 'broadcast' at 4 pm on Christmas Eve.

Details of how to access Service will be available early afternoon on Christmas Eve on the Littlebury Parish and Littlebury Christmas Facebook groups, the News and Banter WhatsApp group and will also be sent by email out to everyone on the Café Church, Holy Trinity Church and Littlebury Ladies email lists. If you find you don't have the details, please email Louise on lou62johnson@gmail.com—this is definitely not one to miss!

OH Come All Ye Faithfull—a reprise on Christmas Eve!

Following the service, at 4.30 pm, we will be gathering in household groups in front of the nativity scene at The Gatehouse or on our own doorsteps to sing 'Away in a Manger' and other carols that we would normally have sung during the service. It would be lovely to see lots of Littlebury households joining in with the singing—keep an eye out on facebook, WhatsApp and the Littlebury website for details of the chosen carols.

The Littlebury Christmas Windows weekend was a great success, with some wonderfully creative entries. Can you guess the name of the Christmas carol or song each one represents?



Thank you to Isabelle for organizing the display and to everyone who took part. The winners were:
 1st Place: The Lethbridges at Granta House with 'The Holly and the Ivy', 2nd Place: The Dunhams at 22 Peggy's Walk with 'We Three Kings' and 3rd Place: The McNulty's at Tithe Barn with 'In the Bleak Midwinter'.

Littlebury Bake Off is back!

We have received some great entries to the Littlebury Festive Bake off, but we would like some more! If you would like to enter, please send an image of your Christingle Bake, Christmas Cake, Decorated Gingerbread or any other creative masterpiece to joannacl.hancock@gmail.com. The deadline for entering has been extended to 5 pm on Tuesday 22nd Entries will be shared on facebook on the evening of Monday 21st December and the ones with the most likes will be crowned star baker!



Littlebury 2020 Album

Unfortunately delivery of the 2020 Album has been delayed—they should arrive in mid January. Keep an eye on the Littlebury Parish facebook group, Littlebury website and Littlebury Banter WhatsApp group for updates. They will be priced at £15 each. If you'd like to reserve a copy, please email joannacl.hancock@gmail.com

Christmas Day services

Christmas Day Holy Communion will take place at 9.30am at St Peter's Littlebury Green and 11 am at Holy Trinity Church.

The 10am Holy Communion service on Christmas Day in St Mary's Church Saffron Walden will also be livestreamed on YouTube - it can be watched live at 10am or later. The link for this service is <https://youtu.be/wue6kRbl8S8> You will need access to the [Christmas Epiphany Red Book](https://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=272239) for the service if watching from home.

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Peace at Christmas and a safe new year from all at the Cam Village Churches.



New Residents

'Tomte' have moved in to the Littlebury Farmhouse Triangle for Christmas. Tomte are traditionally protectors of farmers and their families. The bus stop has also been decorated with holly and ivy and is looking very festive.

Spirit of Christmas

The annual Spirit of Christmas concert organised by Saffron Walden Choral Society has gone online and is available to view in four parts on You Tube. This wonderfully festive musical extravaganza features ten local schools and the choral society singing a range of carols and Christmas songs.

To view, go to <http://www.swchoral.org.uk/>

Dear Friends,

I love Christmas presents but I have the unfortunate habit of always trying to guess what each gift is. I probably don't need to tell you this, but my wife gets really cross with me! I really enjoy having a feel, examining the shape and guessing what might be held in the wrapping paper. I think I am quite good at it too! Sometimes it is easy to tell what a present is and sometimes it isn't. However, there are times you just can't tell what is inside until you open it.

Who would have thought the previous year would unwrap as it has. This year has been like a present that we didn't want to receive hasn't it? Life has been shaped rather differently due to the pandemic. Since March we have found ourselves in and out of lockdown. We have had to socially distance, wear masks and can't see our friends or family as much as usual. I suppose we've all rather felt like wrapped up presents haven't we? Although our wrapping paper might look like the masks we have to wear.

What message of comfort can I give you this year, I wonder, when many people have died from the virus, have been ill, or are feeling worried, lonely or sad?

One of the Bible's most comforting phrases is "Do not fear." Why do Christians have the freedom to reject fear and live in peace?

Well it is because God is in control of everything. Much of the fear arising from COVID is the perception that God has lost control of the world. However, in reality, Christ has ascended to his throne in heaven, where he rules over all. God remains in control of every single thing in his universe. His goodness means we can celebrate in comfort and joy. Not only does God hold all things under His sovereign control, but He also governs all things in accord with His pure and perfect character. Knowing that He loves us means we can live in peace.

It doesn't mean that we can escape the bad things in life but it means that God will be with us and we can be assured of His love.

And that means whatever lies under the wrapping paper, we can be sure that it is good and worth having.

So this Christmas, just imagine underneath every mask is a smile just waiting to happen and do try not to fear but be hopeful.

Because the smiles we have underneath our masks will be the best Christmas presents we can give to each other.

Let's unwrap them together.

Happy Christmas everyone!

With love, Alex.

Littlebury Support Group

Don't forget the Littlebury Support Group is still active if you need help with shopping, posting of mail, prescription collections, dog walking or anything else, just call one of these numbers and they will put you in touch with a volunteer from our community. If you would like someone to call you to check if you need anything, or just for a chat, please let one of us know.

To join the 'News and Banter' or 'Littlebury 999' group, send a WhatsApp message to Keith Winter .

Paul Fennelly	07970 707978
Laura Webster	07863 204637
Tom Ewart	07810 207901
Lindsey Coyne	07764 301032
Andy Figge	07814 189916
Keith Winter	07980 210463
Jean Cowell	01799 524072 jean.cowell@littlebury.org.uk
Joanna Hancock	01799 520469 joannacl.hancock@gmail.com

The Queen's Head

Now open for dinner, deliveries and takeaways
01799 218553



Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 21st December is Christmas Jumper Day!
Post a photo or selfie of yourself in your Christmas Jumper to the Littlebury Christmas Facebook page—
this one is just for fun...no prizes!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>