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The Rev Keith writes...

Do you make New Year's Resolutions?

For many years in our family it's been something of a tradition – setting them on New Year's Eve one year, and then seeing how we did at keeping them a year later. Needless to say, I've usually failed on most of mine!

Although the resolutions I make represent the things I'd like to do, or perhaps even ought to do, they're also often the things I've just not quite got round to actually doing.

One day, perhaps, I'll realise that I probably ought to make the changes I should make to fit things in when I need to, rather than simply engaging in wishful thinking as the clock moves towards midnight on the 31st December each year.

But there is something significant about the start of the New Year that focuses the mind. Although it falls in the middle of winter, with short days and cold nights, as well as being in the middle of the school year, there's still something to mark at the beginning of a new year.

What will 2018 bring?

I'm not one for predictions, but one thing I'd like to encourage us all to do is to take a few moments to think about how we can connect with God in the midst of our business.

Some people take a few minutes each day to pray, perhaps using the well-known words of the Lord's Prayer. Others may

simply find a quiet place to pause in God's presence, to listen and reflect.

Gathering together to Worship God in a more formal way is usually done on a Sunday simply because that's when Christians traditionally mark the Resurrection of Jesus.

At St Elizabeth's our weekly Sunday Services will continue to be at 11.00am, and you'll find details of the Services coming up in this edition of our magazine, as always.

Of course, if you're not sure about God, or Jesus, or have questions about faith or about the world and how it works, then please do get in touch – I'd be happy to call in and visit and have a chat.

Or why not come along on a Sunday morning and talk to us at St Elizabeth's. Sometimes people think you have to be confident of the answers before you come, but you'll soon discover it's not like that: we all have questions, and we're aiming to work them out together.

*Do join us for the journey.
Yours, Keith.*

Revd Keith Addenbrooke
T. 0161-928-4182

Happy New Year

The editor would like to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Review of the Year 2017

This last year has been a very poignant one for the village, with the deaths of residents and friends of Ashley, but on a lighter note the Ashley Centre held it's first ever Christmas Fayre, last December.

In January the parish learned our curate the Rev. Robin Pye was appointed vicar of St. Philip and St. James at Alderley Edge.

February saw Ashley Cricket Club hold an exhibition darts match to raise funds for the Club. At Ashley Showground the second series of the B.B.C serial The Worst Witch was filmed. The Parish Council held its first meeting regarding The Neighbourhood Plan. Sadly a musical evening with composer Bill Connor was cancelled due to a power cut.

In March the date was set for the Rose Queen and free tickets were on offer for the 1st Cheshire Festival for residents at local attractions.

The month of April we heard that Mrs Gladys Watson had passed away at the age of 97 years. Robin Pye left to take up his new post in Alderley Edge and an Easter Egg hunt took place at the Church.

Our Village Rose Queen took place on a cloudy Saturday in May, the Cricket Club started their summer season. Margaret Bell passed away. The Greyhound garden had a refurbishment and at the end of May there was the Steam Engine Rally at the Showground. St. Elizabeth's held its first Ashley Service.

June was a sad month as Nick Turnbull passed away, he was a stalwart of St. Elizabeth's, the Rose Queen and producer of the Ashley News.

Ashley Cricket Club held it's yearly Beer Festival in July and a Gin Weekend. A walk round Ashley took place, this was organised by the Neighbourhood plan group and Eric Warburton was the next

resident to pass away. There was a memorial service held at St. Elizabeth's for Nick Turnbull.

August saw a wedding take place at St. Elizabeth's, but the village saw another resident Geoffrey Chapman pass away, the neighbourhood plan was starting to take shape.

As September began the village had another resident Arthur Sant pass away, the Green was made a dog free zone. The Harvest Festival and Church Open day took place.

We said farewell to Bob and Geraldine King who left the village for pastures new. Trevor Jones passed away and his ashes interred in the Remembrance Garden, two local girls got married, Caroline Ravenscroft and Josie Langley.

Sadly in November Maud Warburton, wife of Eric passed away. A new landlady Laura took over at the Greyhound. The centre held it's First Stitch and Bitch evening and the Cadishead Brass Band gave a concert of seasonal music. The village War dead were remembered. Children came trick or treating. We said farewell to James Ashleigh and Evie Doodson.

December had the usual Christmas Services, including the Toy and Nativity Christingle. The Christmas card Competition took place.

At the Ashley Centre there was various concerts and story-telling evenings over the year.

*Let us hope that 2018
will be a much happier year
for the Village.*

~ THE GREYHOUND INN ~

NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

31st December 12noon until late, food served from 12noon until 9.00pm
1st January 2018 12noon-10.00pm, food served from 12noon until 9.00pm

For events taking place look on the Greyhound web page.

*Laura and the team would like to wish all customers a Happy New Year
and look forward to seeing you in 2018.*

Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to all the following children who took the time to do drawings for the St. Elizabeth's Christmas Card Competition:- Florence, Iris, Freddie, Evie, Jessica, Ella, Millie, Beatrice, Mathilda, Poppy, Henry, Alex, Zara, Rupert, Neneh, Frida, Ayla, Bonnie, George, Bella, Minnie, Connor, Florence, Seth, Bella and Lottie.

Well done to you all. The cards were all displayed in St. Elizabeth's over the Christmas Period.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Prontaprint for the beautiful art work for the December issue of the Ashley News and for all their help in producing the magazine this past year.

Ashley Showground

To everyone who was wondering what has been happening at the showground these past few months, Fox Film Company have been shooting a film about the life of Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit books author J.R. Tolkien.

*The film will hopefully be released
around Christmas time 2018
at the Cinemas.*

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributes articles for the magazine. And to Kevin Gregory, Richard/Peter Jackson, Jeff Warburton. Caroline/Rob Davies, Andy Daniel and Barnshaw Smithy Café, Joanne Sherratt who delivers the Ashley News

BIRTHDAYS ~ JANUARY 2018

Lydia Smith 9th
Henry Berrisford 12th
Cameron Capp 11th
Olivia Johnson 28th
Jessica Johnson 28th

Many Happy Returns to you all hope you have a lovely day.

Christmas Quiz ~ Answers

1. What is the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
Advent.
2. How many wise men brought gifts for Jesus?
More than one, the Bible does not say how many.
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
Deep and Crisp and Even.
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's mother?
Elizabeth.
5. Who brings presents to children in Holland on 5th/6th December?
St. Nicholas.
6. How many letters are in the Angelic Alphabet?
25, Noel.
7. In what town was Jesus born?
Bethlehem.
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 days of Christmas?
364.
9. In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the U.K.?
1840-1843 by Sir Henry Cole.
10. What country did the family escape to?
Egypt.
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions name begins with the letter D?
3, Dasher, Dancer and Donner
12. What country did the Christmas Tree originate from?
Germany, Latvia part of Germany then.
13. Who was King of the Jews who ordered the babies killed?
King Herod.
14. What is the 2nd line of the song I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas?
Just like the ones I used to know
15. What was Joseph's job?
Carpenter.
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
The Anglo-Saxons (it means good health).
17. Who were the 1st people to visit the Baby Jesus?
Shepherds.
18. What is the lucky find in your Christmas Pudding?
A Sixpence.
19. What Angel visited Mary?
Gabriel.
20. Where did the Baby Jesus sleep?
In a Manger.

Hope you enjoyed the Christmas Quiz and if you got all the answers right then give yourself a pat on the back.

The Ashley Centre

In 2017 the Centre held numerous evenings featuring local band's and singers as well as talks and at the end of the year a Christmas Craft Fayre. If you know or would like to come up with idea's for using the centre then please get in touch with Catherine Jones. Contact details on the front of the magazine.

On the 30th November the Cadishead Brass Band were welcomed at St. Elizabeth's. This is the Band who play at the Rose Queen every Summer.

This time there was a much wintery feel, they played lots of festive tunes and a song sheet for all who wanted to sing along. The entertainment was enhanced by the commentary of a member of the band.

The six year old son of the band drummer played a variety of instruments with rhythmic precision and was a delightful attraction.

The mulled wine and beer was going down well as were the mince pies. It was lovely to hear them play in such beautiful surroundings. We hope they will come back again.

There will be the usual book sale on the 1st Saturday in January and every 1st Saturday of the month and when duties allow the local Police Officer will be on hand to answer questions.

There is nothing planned at the moment in January at the Centre.

Ploughman's Lunch

There will be no Ploughman's Lunch in December or January. The next lunch will be on the 3rd of February and will be "For provision of culinary equipment for our mission in Salford".

The lunch is being run by Gillian Stopford, for more information, please ring 0161 929 5621.

Green Bin Collections

The Green Bin collection will stop the week beginning Sunday 3rd of December and will start again on the week beginning Sunday 11th February 2018.

Reminder about Dogs

Please do not exercise your dogs on Hough Green, this is for the children to play on. *Thank You.*

Gate in the Passage from Hough Green to the Station

A gate with a latch has been installed in the passage from Hough Green to the Station. Please, if you use the passage can you make sure that it is closed behind you. It has been installed as a safety issue with so many young children now coming to live on Hough Green.

Ashley Cricket Club

Chairman Dave Rice has announced his intention to stand down at the January AGM after 7 years as Chairman.

If anyone would like to take on the role please get in touch. Dave is still keen to carry on with one or two projects that began under his Chairmanship, but he would be happy to outline the role to anyone who might be interested in volunteering.

Under 9 Manager

The club is seeking a volunteer to manage the Under 9s team in the 2018 season as Andy Murray has moved up with his players to run the Under 11s team. The Under 9's lay 8 a side soft ball pairs cricket, matches are usually on a Friday night or Sunday morning from late April to July/August.

Sportsman's Dinner 16 March 2018 at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

The Guest Speaker for our Sportsman's Dinner is Steve Daley, ex Manchester City footballer, with Jed Stone as our MC.

Tickets remain at £35 each and there will be a three course dinner served at 7:30pm and there will be the usual raffle, auction and stand up bingo. We hope to sell 150 tickets for this event, please get in touch

Happy New Year to everyone and we hope to see you at our Matches and Gin and Beer Festivals, from Ashley Cricket Club.

Ashley Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to wish all the residents of Ashley
A Very Happy New Year.

if you would like a ticket or if you can bring a table of 10.

Indoor nets start in January 2018

Indoor nets for juniors and seniors will be held again at North Cestrian School, more details shortly.

AGM date and venue

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at Altrincham Football Club on Moss Lane on Thursday 18th January 2018 starting at 7:45pm.

New Players Welcomed

As always we are seeking players of all ages to join us, seniors to play in one of 6 senior teams plus juniors, boys and girls from 6 to 18. We will be running All Stars cricket again in 2018, more details will be published once the ECB release details.

Beer Festival

We will be holding our Annual Beer Festival in the Summer, the exact date will be released once we have our senior cricket fixtures.

Gin Festival

We are to run our second Gin Festival this summer, hopefully with local pubs taking part in 6 a side challenge matches.

St. Elizabeth's Sunday Services for January 2018

Sunday	7th	11.00am	The Ashley Community Service
Sunday	14th	11.00am	Matins
Sunday	21st	11.00am	Family Communion with Young Church
Sunday	28th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	28th	12 noon	PCC Meeting

*Next St. Elizabeth's P.C.C. Meeting is on
Sunday 28th January at 12 noon.*

St. Elizabeth's Sunday Services for February 2018

Sunday	4th	11.00am	The Ashley Community Service
Sunday	11th	11.00am	Matins
Sunday	18th	11.00am	Family All-age Communion with Young Church
Sunday	25th	11.00am	Holy Communion

The February Services are provisional

St. Elizabeth's P.C.C.

Would like to wish all the Ashley Residents a Happy New Year

Planning your Journey

For full details of these changes along with revised bus and train times for these days, please refer to the National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner

Beware of Vans Acting Suspiciously

There has been reports of transit vans acting suspiciously in and around the village especially near farms and fields. With some fly tipping happening, so please ring 999 or 101 and give details if you see anything suspicious.

RAIL ENGINEERING WORKS

There will be engineering work on the Mid Cheshire Line during January 2018,
On Sunday 21st January and Sunday 28th January 2018:
Buses will replace trains between Stockport and Northwich.
Trains will run between Northwich and Chester.

Arthur Gresty

FUNERAL HOMES

For all bereavement advice (without obligation) please contact David Gresty or a member of his dedicated team on:

0161 973 1515

Or please visit our informative website:

www.arthurgresty.co.uk

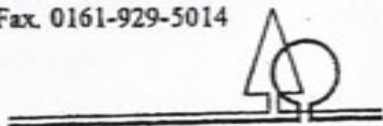
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