



1st Pucklechurch Beavers

There is a new leader for the Beaver Scouts as Emma Barclay has agreed to take over the Colony. This is great news for the children, who enjoy Beavers so much. Emma is finding her feet and has been assisted by Sarah Fox Robinson for the initial few weeks.



1st Pucklechurch Cubs

We are now a very full pack with 26 Cubs; boys and girls aged between 8 and 10. 17 of them attended camp in the New Forest for three nights over the summer, coinciding with the end of Hurricane Bertha so it was quite wet! We went to Brownsea Island, the birthplace of Scouting, on a day trip and enjoyed cycling in the New Forest and testing ourselves with the Leap of Faith. We have been working on our Communication Badge since September, working out codes and learning some sign language. Our oldest Cubs camped for 2 nights at Woodhouse for our Sixers and Seconders Camp allowing them to achieve their Outdoor Challenge Badge. Three Chief Scout's Silver Awards have been presented since September, and as the highest award a Cub can earn this prepares the Cubs for the challenges of Scouts which await them when they are 10!

For more information please contact Rachel Smith – 07736 320003



1st Pucklechurch Scouts

After an enjoyable summer camp with the cubs, the scouts started the term at Woodhouse Park, learning how to light fires without matches. Needless to say, they all succeeded, eventually, and got some good fires going. We have followed this with meetings on scouting skills and held a scavenger hunt.

Continued.....



Ten of the scouts also took part in an expedition camp, which required them to get to Bath from Pucklechurch, cook their evening meal, camp overnight, undertake a challenge in Bath, and then travel home again, all unaided by e leaders. Having enjoyed this, we hope they will all be ready for their Duke of Edinburgh's awards once they join Explorer Scouts. Scouts Badminton Club has also restarted on Sunday evenings in the village hall.

For more information please contact Tony Wallis on 07702 096491 or Steve Ball on 07980 290991.



Pucklechurch Twinning Association



We have just returned from another excellent trip to our friends in Pringy which, for some of our members, was their 26th year. We also had three young children with us on this trip who were extremely well behaved. As this year we commemorate 100 years of the First World War, on our way to Pringy we visited Wellington Quarry in Arras, the Ulster Memorial and Theipval Memorial in the Somme where we laid a wreath from both our twinning associations. Many members also placed a cross on a grave of their choice. It was a very moving visit.



During the remainder of our trip we visited Reims and Paris. A meeting was held between the two associations in France to ensure twinning visits still continue in the future and over the coming months both organisations will determine the best options to move forward. Pucklechurch twinning will continue to hold its variety of social events throughout the year. If you would like to find out more about twinning and experience the friendship of the Pucklechurch and Pringy members you would be very welcome to attend our social events in Pucklechurch and with the French on their next visit, prior to becoming a member.

Membership Secretary A. Smith (01179372030).

John Sexton
Chairman

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



CHRISTMAS 2014

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Pucklechurch Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Parish Council Community Grants

By the time you read this all recent applications will have been assessed. Successful applicants are informed as soon as we make our decision but the results will also be reported in this column in the next issue of Pucklechurch News.

Please remember that, as a condition of grant awards, the Council expects to receive reports from all successful recipients of grants on how the money has been spent and the benefit it has provided. Please note we are still awaiting reports from applicants who were successful in the last round and would like to remind those applicants they should be submitted as soon as possible.

Hill View Road

I am glad to say that some progress has been made on the flooding issue. South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) have completed some works to clear the drains and have identified two areas requiring further work; one relates to an issue identified on private property, the other to a gas main cutting through the drain. SGC have both matters in hand but we will continue to communicate with them to make sure progress is made.

Water leak at Policeman's Corner, Shortwood Road:

As many of you will know there have been a number of leaks in this area originating from the piping of a house on the side of the road that was demolished many years ago. Bristol Water is aware and has made temporary repairs. We are aware, however that a long term solution has not been implemented and there is the potential for further risks to road-users over the winter months. We have written to Bristol Water to ask for a permanent solution.

Website information

A reminder that we have our own website:
www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.com

Multi-Use Path

If you have travelled along Shortwood Road to the Ring Road you will have noticed that work has started on the path between Pucklechurch and Shortwood. This is a major

milestone for our community, and something that has been an aspiration for several decades is now under way. The real catalyst for getting this started was the strong public support for a path that was demonstrated by the Community Plan. Equally important were the efforts of local District Councillor, Steve Reade, in getting funding allocated.



Of course, the big question is why the project has started at the Shortwood end when the problem area is by Police Station Hill in Pucklechurch? The answer is that this stretch of land is not in public-ownership and the process to acquire it will take extra time and money, which could not be completed by the proposed start date. The Parish Council and District Councillors will be working together to apply for additional funding so that work can continue next year.

Defibrillators

The Council are continuing the good work of Heart Start by progressing the installation of a fourth defibrillator in the Eagle Crescent area. Costs have been agreed and we're waiting for works required by Western Power to start. Discussions are also ongoing for a defibrillator to be sited in Shortwood and there has been a suggestion that the old telephone box could be used for this purpose. I would hope this will be complete by the next edition of Pucklechurch News.

New Parish Clerk

We are delighted to welcome Jodie Harvey to the role of Parish Clerk. Jodie started on 3rd November and is currently going through an intensive induction period. I'm sure you will get to meet her over time.

Our contact email address, parish.council@pucklechurch.org, and telephone number will remain the same but the interim postal address will continue to be 67 Birch Drive, Pucklechurch, Bristol, BS16 9RW for the time being.

I would like to express our thanks to Deborah White who took on the role of Locum Clerk at short notice and appreciate the time she spent ensuring that we remain on the legal straight and narrow.

Continued on page 2.....

Parish Council Chairman's Report

continued from page 1.....

Village Orderly

We are pleased to report that Daphne Dunning has taken on the role of Village Orderly. Daphne brings with her a wealth of experience outside of general maintenance and, I'm sure, will make a positive impact on the parish in many ways.

Our thanks to Gavin who has left us for full time employment; he leaves us having moved the parish environment to a better place.

Elections May 2015

I would like to inform you that there are elections planned for May 2015. Have you thought about standing for election to the Parish Council? If you would be interested and would like to find out more please contact any Councillor or the Clerk through email or phone. Contact details on the website.

Finally Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

Bob Symons, Chairman



Revel 2014

This year's Revel Week was blessed by good weather for the first time in many years. Unfortunately the turnout was not as busy as expected, due in part to competition from Kingsgate Park and Chipping Sodbury on Revel day.

The weekly events also saw a lower turnout for events than from previous years. The Revel Beer Festival, which ran Friday and Saturday night, went off well and raised lots of money despite rivalry from England and Italy! It featured real ales and ciders from the south west, giving everyone the chance to try some of the best England has to offer.

The sun finally shone on Revel Day. The parade was smaller and different from previous years, with many colourful marchers walking along Hill View Road and around the Rec. The Cubs won the award for the best children's walking entry and the WI float won the award for the best adult entry. The Royal family who led the parade, and were crowned on the day, were made up of Queen Sommer, King Callum, Princesses Tori and Ava, Prince Archie, and Pixies Autumn and Odette.

This year's Revel field events included lots of dance events from local talent the Pucklechurch Stars, Kingswood-based troupe Pumped, the one and only Bristol samba and a close-down gig from Bombshell. We had a myriad of stalls, crafts, food provided by Pucklechurch Cricket and Football clubs, the fun fair, and much, much more all run by village organisations. There were more than fifty prizes donated for the raffle, with the top prize of a TV donated by HMP Ashfield.

A big thank you goes to the Revel and Beer Festival Committee for making these events possible: Dave Matthews, Mandi Smith, Lori-Anne Button, Brian Champion, Carly Neill, Omie and Kevin Flook, Claire Bristow, Dean and Vicky Freestone, Steve Thomas, Chris Murphy, Jon and Toby Bailey, Eddie Aze, Dave Oakes, Mike Wiltshire, Darren Packer and Gavin Sawford.

Revel planning has already started for 2015. The dates for your diary so far are:

Event	Day
Christmas Sparkle	07.12.14
Family Disco	TBD
Revel Church Service	14.06.15
Quiz	15.06.15
Bingo	TBD
Revel Cup	TBD
Pram Race/Tug of War	18.06.15
Revel Saturday	20.06.15
Beer Festival	27.06.15

The theme for Revel 2015 is ANIMALS. The committee is already hard at work planning for another hopefully sun-filled and successful day.

If you want to keep updated please check out our Revel page on Facebook or www.Pucklechurch.org



Rainbows

Both units made huge colourful red poppies to decorate their notice boards in the Scout Hut. They've also talked about the Great War in a way that 5-7 year olds can understand.

For another meeting, Ruth, Leader of 1st Pucklechurch Rainbows, cut out 40 owls for the girls to find in the Scout Hut. This turned into a most thrilling event when the Rainbows dropped the torches, which broke, and it was very dark!

All these activities are great fun and Ruth would like a few more girls aged 5+ to join. You can contact her on 9373405, or Theresa Lear 9374544, email: t.lear@outlook.com

3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows had fun playing at Wapley Bushes one evening, as well as exploring autumn outside on the Rec before the darker evenings drew in. Since then they've gained their Aim High Badge through fun activities relating to healthy bodies, healthy eating and healthy minds.

Two new Rainbows have joined and made their Promise, bringing numbers up to ten girls. The Leaders are taking them to Pucklechurch Pantomime. You can contact Joanna about 3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows on 9574119 or Joanna@Wallisfamily.plus.com

Brownies

There have been some changes at Brownies recently. Our long standing Leader, Lyn has had to temporarily step back from weekly meetings to look after her husband, Peter, but will return soon. Our best wishes to them both.

On a much brighter note, congratulations go to their daughter Phil, also a Brownie Leader, who has just had a gorgeous little boy, Reuben.

When I visited, the Brownies were having a marvellous time making a variety of cakes, with Michelle and Claire, Brownie Guiders, confidently directing operations. They were ably assisted by Karen, Sara and Syreeta. It's wonderful that we have so many dedicated adults willing to give up their time to make sure the Brownies enjoy all that Guiding can offer.

Guides

The Unit is closed at present but will officially re-open in January 2015 under new leadership. There will be an informal meeting in December to gauge interest and find out what the girls would like included in a programme. All girls aged 10+ are welcome to join. Contact George Wynter 937 3064 member@gwynter.wanadoo.co.uk or Sally Keyter 07773 211 541 sfkeyter@gmail.com Senior Section

This is open to all girls aged 13½ years upwards. At present, Judith Harrison, Leader, would like to encourage a few more girls to join. This is a very transient section of Guiding with girls joining and then moving on to college and university but is a great way to make friends and stay in Guiding. More exciting activities are on offer, like tractor driving, and meetings are often held at Dyrham House, as one of the leaders works there. Please contact Judith for more information - you don't need to have been in Guiding before. Judith 937 4302 judith.louise@hotmail.co.uk

For any information on Guiding, please feel free to contact Ros Abbott too.

Rosalind Abbott
South Cotswold Deputy Division Commissioner
937 2157 or rosabbott@hotmail.com

New Doctors' Surgery Opens in Pucklechurch.

The new surgery was officially opened on the 29th September by Reineke Winbolt (wife of the late Dr. Graham Winbolt). From left (in front row) are Dr. Paula Kenwright, Steve Webb (MP), Dr. John Seddon, Reineke Winbolt, Dr. Richard Greenway, Dr. Caroline Botley, Dr. Jo Seddon and Dr. Caroline Morley.



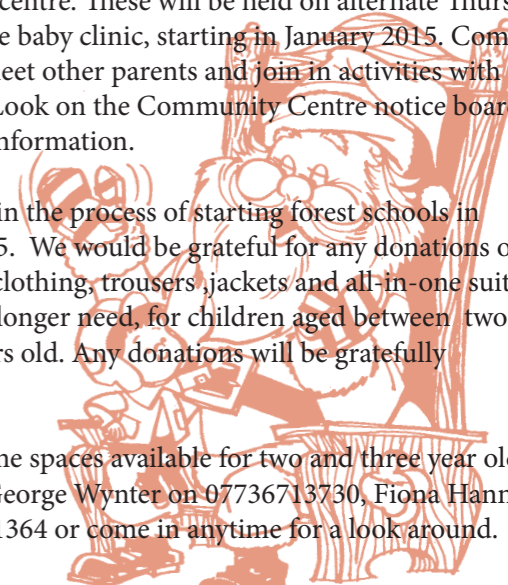
Pucklechurch Surgery is now located at 12 Becket Court, Pucklechurch Bristol. BS16 9QG (on the corner with St. Aldam's Drive). The entrance is at the rear and there is plenty of parking. The telephone and fax numbers remain unchanged: 0117 937 2350. Fax 0117 937 4950



Pucklechurch Playgroup is planning to open 'stay and play' sessions on Thursday mornings in the meeting room in the community centre. These will be held on alternate Thursdays with the baby clinic, starting in January 2015. Come along and meet other parents and join in activities with your child. Look on the Community Centre notice board for further information.

We are also in the process of starting forest schools in January 2015. We would be grateful for any donations of waterproof clothing, trousers, jackets and all-in-one suits that you no longer need, for children aged between two and five years old. Any donations will be gratefully received.

We have some spaces available for two and three year olds. Please call George Wynter on 07736713730, Fiona Hanney on 07545351364 or come in anytime for a look around.



Pucklechurch Youth Club

The youth club relaunched this academic year with a younger age group and we now have over 25 members from Year 7+

Every week we offer cookery, games, computer consoles, arts and crafts, quizzes and activities. We also run specialist projects in media, art, health and wellbeing and organise group trips.

If you are aged 11+ and would like to join youth club, it is held at Pucklechurch Community Centre on Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm.

If you would like a bit more information, please contact Reehana at :-

mim@makeitmentoring.co.uk
Tel: 07722 911902

Make it Mentoring

Make it Mentoring or MiM as they are often referred to, run Pucklechurch Youth Club and their staff have been supporting young people in the village for the past 6 years.

MiM offer mentoring, positive activities and group work across Bristol and beyond.

To find out about their mentoring service and current projects and groups, please visit:-

www.makeitmentoring.co.uk or please contact Reehana at mim@makeitmentoring.co.uk

Tel: 07722 911902



St. Thomas- á-Becket Scarecrow Trail and Competition 2015

Following a splendid and successful Scarecrow Trail and Competition this year, we are proud to announce the theme for 2015 is **Heroes – fact or fiction**

Save the date –
Sunday 3rd May and Monday 4th May 2015

Helping Trading Standards spread the message

South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards have gained another ally in the fight against rogue traders and scammers, which continue to be a problem in South Gloucestershire and across the region.

People living in the Thornbury and Alveston areas will find a Scamwise door sticker in their latest edition of the Trust Local directory, along with advice and guidance from Trading Standards about how to keep yourself safe from uninvited doorstep traders. The directory is being delivered throughout November and December.

The outward facing side of the door sticker states 'No Doorstep Traders' whilst the inward facing side gives some safety messages to follow.

The door stickers were purchased using money awarded to Trading Standards by the courts after a successful prosecution, so in essence the criminals have paid for an effective tool to protect the public from criminals.

If you do not live in the Thornbury or Alveston area, you can request a Scamwise door sticker and an advice booklet from Trading Standards by telephoning 03454 04 05 06.

If you think you, a friend or family member may have been the victim of a scam or rogue trader, please contact Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06 (Mon-Fri, 9-5).



ST. THOMAS a BECKET PUCKLECHURCH

Christmas Services

Sunday 21st December

10a.m. Family Communion
6p.m. Handbells
6.30p.m. Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

3.30p.m. Handbells
4p.m. Christingle & Nativity
11.30a.m. Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10a.m. Family Communion

ST. JAMES THE GREAT

ABSON

Sunday 21st December

2.30p.m. Handbells 3p.m. Carols

Christmas Day

8.30a.m. Holy Communion

The Church will be Floodlit this year over the Christmas Period.

Church open doors

The Church will be open next on March 18th 2015. This gives you the opportunity of coming into Church, having a look around; a time of quiet; sales table, coffee and tea available.

This is suitable for all ages from 0-100 years. We look forward to seeing you

Jumble Sale

We are holding a Jumble Sale, hopefully in February – date to be confirmed. Keep your eyes open for Posters.

Pucklechurch Handbell Ringers need you!

Pucklechurch Handbell Ringers are looking for new ringers. You can learn to ring faster than you think - it is great fun and you do not need to be able to read music.

Anyone can learn and expert tuition is available. Practice is on Tuesday evenings between 7 - 8.15pm. Give it a try - contact Marion Thorn on 0117 937 3528 for more details.

Fishing Club News



Our September match took place at Todber Manor, Shaftsbury and was won by Martin Rayet with 101lbs of Carp. Jeff Agius was second with 90lbs of Carp and my 25lbs was in last place! The guys were pulling my leg about it in the pub afterwards. However, what comes around goes around and on our October match on the Gloucester Canal, I had the joint highest weight with Jeff Agius. I was soon back down to earth with a thump at our November match on the Kennet and Avon Canal, near Melksham. I once again had the lowest weight, with the match being won by Pete Humphris with 13lbs of Bream, narrowly beating Kevin Boltz by just 2 ounces. Pete won the Club cup overall.

Anyone interested in joining Pucklechurch Fishing Club should contact Mike Snudden on 07742 925276

Pucklechurch Gardening Club

At the first meeting of the Autumn/Winter Programme in October, fellow member Martin Hall was our guest speaker for the evening. Martin drew on his thespian skills to give an entertaining account of his experiences in his own garden in Shortwood and his involvement at Bristol Zoological Gardens.

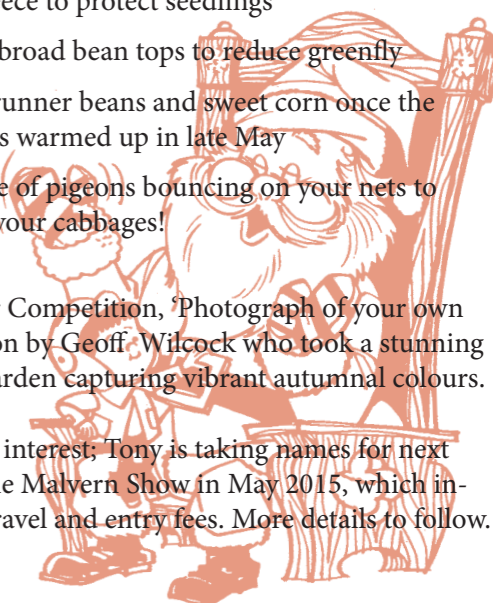
October's Frank Bradley Trophy Competition of 'Humorous Vegetable' was won by John Sexton with an unusual carrot!

Unfortunately the speaker for November was unavailable, so George Alway stepped into the breach, giving an impromptu talk about his experiences of starting and maintaining vegetable gardens. Top tips included:

- Use fleece to protect seedlings
- Pinch broad bean tops to reduce greenfly
- Plant runner beans and sweet corn once the soil has warmed up in late May
- Beware of pigeons bouncing on your nets to get at your cabbages!

The November Competition, 'Photograph of your own garden' was won by Geoff Wilcock who took a stunning photo of the garden capturing vibrant autumnal colours.

Other items of interest; Tony is taking names for next year's trip to the Malvern Show in May 2015, which includes coach travel and entry fees. More details to follow.



November 2014

The Community Centre has been well maintained over the past few years due to the sterling effort of John James and Alan Holder. As a result the committee has been able to explore various ways of modernizing the building to make it more efficient, sustainable and consequently cheaper. We are considering various options.

Unfortunately at the end of the summer both boilers stopped working. It was imperative that the committee resolved the situation as it is essential that there is heating and hot water in the building. It was decided that the best option was to replace the boilers and water tank as the current ones are old and repairing them would be very expensive and difficult. So now there is a new and modern heating system in the Community Centre. It is hoped it will not only be more efficient but also more economical.

The committee would like to thank all those who used the hall during this period for their understanding and co-operation.

This unexpected expense means the committee has had to review other plans. The PCA has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Churngold Environment Fund Grant Programme towards replacing the lighting in the building with energy efficient lighting. This is the next major project. Hopefully it will not be long before the committee can arrange for this work to be carried out.

Please do look at our website www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk for information about all the activities that take place in the building. You may be surprised at what is available. The site also has the current monthly calendar. If you wish to hire the hall or the meeting room please contact the booking secretary for availability and booking forms.

The members of the PCA are all hardworking volunteers, some of whom have been on the committee for a considerable time. Several members are going to stand down and some key positions need to be filled including the post of Chairman and Booking Secretary. Anyone wishing to know more about the PCA please contact Alan Holder on 0117 937 2818 or email alan.holder@hotmail.co.uk



Good Neighbours

Calls to the Pucklechurch & Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme have continued steadily over the summer and autumn months. As it has been so sunny and warm, we have helped several callers with light gardening tasks such as mowing grass and pruning. Although we cannot make the commitment to be regular gardeners, we can help a few times each year when there is more to be done other than regular maintenance.

We have also helped with other household tasks such as changing light bulbs, and continue with some regular tasks of putting bins out and spending time with people for company.

We're available to help residents of Pucklechurch and Shortwood who may need our help. We can help with a range of things and don't have a set list of things we definitely will or won't do so if you would like help with something you can't manage yourself, please give us a ring. That said, our insurance doesn't cover transport or working at heights, but we will be able to help find businesses or organisations who can help in such instances.

It may be that with the cold winter months approaching, people will need help dealing with ice and snow; for example clearing snow, or if ice or snow is stopping them from their day-to-day activities. Please call us if you need help.

A couple of volunteers have left the scheme as a result of moving away. We have had a number of new volunteers join so our ability to help people in our community stays the same. However, we also welcome anyone who would like to become a volunteer. You can give as little or as much time as you like. Most volunteers are only called upon a few times in the year, although some volunteers provide weekly or fortnightly help to their neighbours.



Letter to the Editor.....



Where does the name 'Three Shires' come from? Les Whittock has contacted us to say that it's a spot not far from Marshfield where three large stones are grouped together, each one facing outwards towards the counties of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset.

Mary Whittock

Les and the family wish to thank everyone who sent cards or who telephoned with condolences on the loss of Mary, and for the tribute paid to her on her contribution to village life.

VOTO

(Villagers on their own)

This group is for single people over the age of 50. If you would like to join us or would like more information contact Elaine on 01179373105 or email elainerudge@aol.com.

We have enjoyed a full programme of events this year which included meals out and visits to Oakham Treasures, Thornbury Castle, Berkeley Castle, Tyntesfield and Stourhead. We have done a local walk – the one at Arlingham followed by a pub lunch was lovely. There was a trip to Swanage including a train ride which was very enjoyable, as was the American lunch in Elaine's garden when once again we had lovely weather.

At the beginning of October, eight of us travelled to Marakech and had a brilliant time visiting the Medina, the beautiful Jardin Majorelle and other places of interest. We also travelled to Imlil in the Atlas mountains and after a climb enjoyed a meal at a hotel which had wonderful views of the surrounding area. Another day was spent by the coast at the walled city of Essaouira which also has a beautiful beach.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be in Pucklechurch on the following Fridays over the Xmas / New Year period at the usual times and stops at the Village Hall and twice along Homefield Road:-

**5th & 19th December
16th & 30th January – please note we will not be out on 2nd January**

**Community Centre 2.30 – 2.45pm
Homefield Road Bungalows 2.55 – 3.15pm
Homefield Road 3.20 – 3.35pm**

25 years of supporting the NSPCC in Pucklechurch

A quarter of a century after we in Pucklechurch starting raising money for the NSPCC, the need for funds is as great as ever. The charity, which started 130 years ago, has changed its emphasis a number of times over the decades, although the welfare of children remains paramount.

The Pucklechurch NSPCC support group has raised about £150,000 since 1989. It is one of three groups in the Bristol area and currently raises money mainly through coffee mornings and collections at supermarkets.

Pucklechurch News

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Please email articles to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop them off any one of us at the addresses above. Please include your name and telephone number in case we have questions about your article. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We cannot be responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication.

Copy Deadlines:

**10th February for March edition (Spring)
10th May for June edition (Summer)
10th August for September edition (Autumn)
10th November for December edition (Winter)**

SHORTWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Main Road, Shortwood

We are planning to introduce 'Messy Church' and would like to invite families to join us for the launch of our first event:-

A 'Christmas Cracker' with painting, craft, card making and food etc. The Church will be open between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 20th December, so why not come along to see what's happening. It's a drop-in event and all are welcome.

On 21st December at 6pm, there will be Carols by candlelight. All are welcome and after the service we will be serving coffee and mince pies.

