

What Happened in December?

It's February and you may be asking yourself what happened in the run up to Christmas. The answer is quite a lot!

Crib Festival

St Nicholas' hosted an incredible range of nativity scenes from the very tiny to the very big on every windowsill and flat surface available. Children from Halewood CofE visited on the Friday morning. After looking at the cribs visitors were able to pop into the centre for refreshments and a good old natter...it was almost a pre pandemic atmosphere apart from the masks. There were even shopping opportunities from Traidcraft, Richard's lovely woodworked items, candles (remember they visited south Wales on their journey to us), knitted goods and Tracy's artwork.

If you were feeling energetic you could have walked to the Hollies Hall to shop the Christmas Fayre...which I did and there were some good little stocking fillers.





Christmas Food Hampers

We were again given £5000 from the council to put into food hampers to distribute to those who needed a bit of help. The initial target was to put hampers into our local schools as they know where the greatest need exists with their children. After marathon shopping events (Aldi are very trusting) and a few visits for forgotten items (mostly my list) 30 'hampers' were created comprising 3 Christmas shopping bags, which as well as basics did contain some Christmas goodies as well.

Distribution of 'well fed' boxes will take place in the New Year.





Toy Service

The Toy Service was really well planned and executed. There were probably less toys than usual but that's due to less people attending. The toys were



collected on the way in and brought up in black bags. Sadly, not the visual display we normally see, but safety first! Those that were there seemed to really enjoy the service with the unexpected Christmas box of presents being unpacked and explained. The youngsters were involved with readings, holding the presents, giving out play dough and loved the actions and judging by the lack of fidgeting were really paying attention.

Tarbock Carol Service

The couple who took over the pub next door and made it a 'home from home' for people's pet cats while the owners go on holiday are heavily involved with Tarbock Hall. They, and the committee, have been working hard on the building as there are now patio doors leading out onto an Astro turf patio with picnic tables, new flooring, and a grant in place to upgrade the bathroom facilities. There are social events taking place advertised on facebook and twitter such as film nights, and cheese and wine evenings.



The annual carol service went smoothly and singing was good even through the masks. A strong descant to 'O, Come All Ye Faithful' was the icing on the cake, or rather the mince pies. Lovely to see everyone there enjoying one of the favourite events in the run up to Christmas.



The Pillar Box Toppers



These were put out on Thursday 9th December (this is the box ready for distribution and fixing) and were a source of pleasure with positive comments being received. Then, horror, a topper was stolen from the Rutland location. Obviously someone knew who had done it and suggested putting it back, or remorse overcame the perpetrator, but between the announcement at the Toy Service and the start of the Tarbock Carol Service the topper had been returned.



Walking Carol Service



It was a misty and cold afternoon but the turnout was excellent for the walking Carol Service. The singing was accompanied by a brass ensemble from the Salvation Army. As the procession followed the star (beautifully constructed by Jean Critchley) people in the surrounding houses watched through windows. We sang outside the Eagle and Child although not many came out to listen. We then made our way along Church Road to the centre car park where we sang our final carols before enjoying a warm drink and a mince pie. It was a very good alternative to our usual carol service given the restrictions and advice regarding Covid. Thanks should go to all those who turned up and especially to those who organised the event.



The Tractor Parade

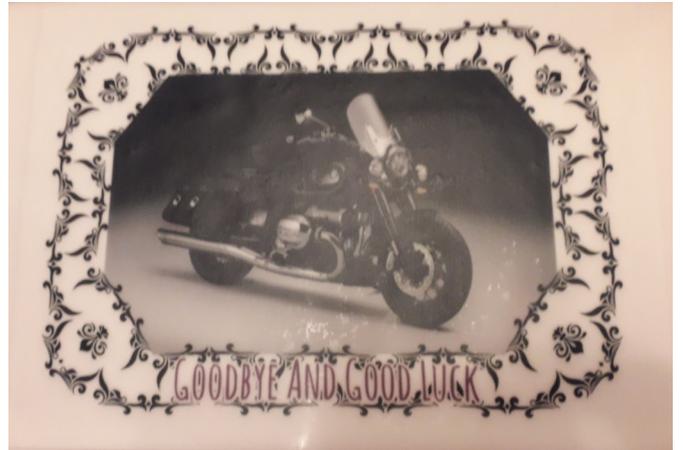
Another fantastic parade took place and gave a great deal of pleasure to those who came to see it.

Olly Harrison is very grateful for all the support and donations from Halewood residents, especially from church members and the Fairtrade group. Olly says 'Donations are still coming in and so we don't yet have the final figure but at the moment (10 January) we have raised over £64,000'



January 2022

A great many people attended the Zoom service on Sunday 16th January to say 'Goodbye' to Martyn, Tracey and Zach. Earlier in the afternoon Gill and Lesley presented the leaving gifts, complete with guard dog. Martyn was instructed to open the packages as part of the service and he did, even tilting the cake so we could see the motorbike.



Upcoming Events

Easter Pillar Box Toppers

Following the great feedback we had on our Christmas pillar box toppers our next project will be an Easter Trail

We have the six toppers which have now been washed and dried and the figures have been removed and stored

We had already made a lot of figures which we planned to use for Easter scenes in our two churches in 2020 but sadly that never happened so all being well this year we will have six scenes as originally planned in St Mary's church and the scenes which would have been in St Nicholas' will now form the basis of the scenes on the pillar box toppers. Gill and I have sorted out the figures and we have most of the figures needed but are just short of a couple of characters and a few props.

The six scenes are:

Palm Sunday x2. We will use the wonky donkey (with his legs rearranged) on the pillar box topper but St Mary's needs a donkey for their scene

We have palm trees for St Mary's but need some palms to be attached to the hands of the figures on the pillar boxes-time

The Last Supper x2. St Mary's has all the props for this. Andy Reynolds is making a smaller table for the pillar box topper

The Garden of Gethsemane x2. We have everything we need for both

The Crucifixion x2. St Mary's has everything it needs for this scene. Andy Reynolds is making three crosses for the figures to carry for the pillar box topper

The Resurrection x2 We have the figures for these but need two caves. We are looking at using plastic pots, bigger than yoghurt pots, cut in half and covered with a piece of knitting so one of them can be attached to the pillar box topper. I'll get back to you on this one

Breakfast on the Beach x2. We have all the figures and props we need for both. We probably won't have a boat for the pillar box topper unless someone can knit a small one big enough for three or four figures

We are planning to put the toppers up and have maps and details for the trail available from about 7 April

There are more figures to be sewn and wired on this time so we may need a bit of extra help with doing this but again I'll get back to you about this nearer the time.

If you think you can help with any aspect please contact Alison Shacklady.

The Owl and the Pussycat

In the Summer during CultureFest we are planning to have Owl and Pussycat pillar box toppers and also some more detailed owl/pussycat/pea green boat knitted scenes. These will hopefully go on display in shop windows, in the library etc where they will be less likely to suffer damage

I have several owl patterns which Gill Dover has passed to me and Lorna has a crochet owl pattern but don't have any cat patterns yet although we could use the ones for the owl and pussycat figures which feature in the larger pattern with the pea green boat etc. I'll do a bit more work on this but if anyone wants to have a go at starting on these let me know and I'll try and sort out and copy patterns for you.



From the photo there probably is a cat pattern available now so contact Alison if this project appeals!

Events at Tarbock Hall

Keeping Fit

There are keep fit exercise classes Tuesday and Thursday 6-7pm

Book via Paul 07712124489 or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/paulhughanPT>

Clubbercise class Wednesday 6:45-7:45pm which needs to be booked via messaging aimee at https://www.instagram.com/clubbercise_withamie/

Reading fairy for parents and babies every Saturday 9:30-1:30pm -places need be booked via Rebecca on 07718 140316 or messaging her page <https://www.facebook.com/Reading-Fairy-Wigan-St-Helens-108901904789389>

Friday 25th Feb 6:30-8:30 yoga class which can be booked with lisa on 07758802602

Quiz Night

You **must** book in advance to secure a place. Teams can be worked out on the night so you don't need to have a big group to participate.

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH

QUIZ NIGHT INCL

HOT BUFFET



MARCH 5TH • 7PM
TARBOCK VILLAGE HALL
NETHERLEY ROAD
TARBOCK GREEN
L351QE



TARBOCK COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENT:
QUIZ WITH PRIZES & HOT BUFFET SELECTION.
£10 PER TICKET. (BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & CASH
FOR THE RAFFLE) TO BOOK & PAY FOR YOUR TICKET
PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE VOLUNTEERS:
TARBOCKVILLAGEHALL1@GMAIL.COM
(TICKETS WILL BE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK & PAY IN ADVANCE)

JUST FOR FUN