



Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

NEWS AND VIEWS

Christmas & New Year Services

Issue No 671 December 2023

Christmas Eve

The Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at St Gerard's will be at 5:30 pm with carols from 5 pm.

The Vigil Mass at St Mary's Brownedge will be at 7 pm.

There will also be a Midnight Mass at St Mary's with Carols by Candlelight from 11:30 pm.

Christmas Day

At St Mary's Brownedge the Christmas Day Mass will be at 9:30 am.

At St Gerard's the Mass on Christmas Day will be at 10:30 am.

There will be no other Masses on Christmas Day at either Church.

Boxing Day (The Feast of St Stephen) Mass at both Churches will be at 10 am



Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

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Father Vincent Naylor



Father Vincent who died peacefully on Sunday 5th November at McAuley Mount Care Home following a long period of illness. Fr Naylor was in his ninety sixth year, the forty seventh year of his Sacred Priesthood. May he rest in peace.

Father Vincent was born on 30th January 1928 in Lostock Hall, Preston and baptised on 12th

February 1928 at English Martyrs, Preston. He was educated at Our Lady and St. Gerard, Lostock Hall and St. Bernadine's College, Buckingham.

Father Vincent was accepted as an Ecclesiastical student for the Diocese of Salford on 20th May 1972 studying at Campion House, Osterley. He transferred to the Beda College, Rome on 30th March 1973.

Father Vincent was ordained to the Priesthood on 16th April 1977 at Our Lady and St. Gerard, Lostock Hall.



Fr Naylor served the Diocese of Salford mainly in the Manchester areas of Whitefield, Ancoats, Pendleton, Flixton, Denton, Davyhulme, Kersal, Kirkholt and Stretford as well as a time in Jersey and as Chaplain to Manchester Royal Hospital

Fr Vincent retired in 2001. In retirement, he continued as chaplain to Little Sisters in Manchester and then Jersey. On his return to the Diocese, he resided in Walkden before moving to Cathedral House in 2014 and then

to McAuley Mount in September 2020.

CAFOD and the Palestine/Israeli conflict:

We cannot fail to be moved by the terrible pictures coming out of Gaza where hundreds of thousands of Palestinian families are undergoing constant bombardment and being forcibly told to leave their homes to escape the Israeli attempt to root out Hamas, a terrorist organisation who, on October 7th, brutally murdered over 1400 Israelis and are holding over 240 Israeli citizens hostage.

It perhaps feels close to home as during the summer thirty five parishioners listened to a moving account delivered by Ann Wilson a former CAFOD worker of her work in the West Bank monitoring human rights abuses as an 'Ecumenical Accompanier' for the United Nations. Ann worked in the Shufat refugee camp and described to us the injustices faced on a daily basis by the Palestinians and how human rights violations had been taking place for many decades in the area.

Perhaps world leaders, by taking their eyes of the ball to these obvious abuses, have played some part in facilitating Hamas, a terrorist organisation, gaining such a foothold in Gaza. It goes without saying that the events of October 7th were unspeakable with over 1400 Israelis being killed in such a horrific way and the taking by Hamas of over 240 hostages.

We cannot however turn a blind eye to the plight of the many Palestinian families caught up in the Israeli government's desire to completely wipe out Hamas. Whether or not it is within international law to inflict such a huge, and constantly increasing, death toll on innocent Palestinians as a means of eliminating the threat to Israeli security, and whether or not Hamas can actually be eliminated, is not yet clear. Whether it is preferable to call for a humanitarian pause or a complete ceasefire is also arguable but what we do know for certain is that at the time of writing, over 13000 Palestinian civilians have been killed as 'collateral damage'.

Whilst world leaders try to find a way forward to eventual peace, as Christians we have to respond ASAP to the 'present moment'. Pope Francis, other faith leaders, CAFOD and many other aid agencies are calling for an immediate ceasefire and, as such, we are being asked to email David Cameron, our new foreign secretary, to call for peace and to urge our government to play its part in putting pressure Prime Minister Netanyahu to uphold international law. It takes just 5 minutes to do this using the CAFOD website.

As we speak, several aid workers from our partner organisation Caritas have been killed in Gaza trying to help their brothers and sisters.

Please also consider donating to CAFOD as they work alongside Caritas in Gaza to provide urgent humanitarian aid supporting families with cash vouchers and essential supplies. You can donate to the present crisis at Cafod.org.uk/ipc Alternatively, At the back of church you will find world gift catalogues and CAFOD are saying that buying a Christmas gift for family and friends will provide them with essential funds to support vulnerable people in the developing world. Particularly useful for Gaza would be their winter survival kit as families made homeless there face the winter ahead.

We must also pray without ceasing for a just and lasting peace in the Lord's homeland.

God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East.
Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division sow seeds of calm and openness.
Where there is destruction help us to rebuild.
Where children are crying bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them.
Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and
breathe whispers of hope. Amen.

Many thanks - **Margaret**



Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need.

Your donation today will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need.

[Donate to the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal](#)

EMERGENCY
Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

CAFOD world gifts catalogues are at the back of the church. Please could parishioners take one home and consider buying a Christmas gift to help the work of CAFOD in the developing world. This is particularly important given the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza where CAFOD are trying to support the overwhelming number of refugees who will soon be facing winter. There is a winter survival kit in the catalogue which would be particularly useful in the area as these desperate refugees face the coming months.

Eulogy – Marion Parkinson



Andrew: Son-in-Law

Many of you will know that the last 3-5 years of Marion's life were not the easiest as Alzheimers took its toll. Whilst we wish to take a moment to acknowledge the support of the NHS and the wonderful care received at Lakeland View Care Centre, our focus is very much on the 75 or so years beforehand where Marion was the active hub of a loving family unit and enjoyed a longstanding network of friends. So let us remember the Marion we know best.

Marion was born in 1943 to Bob and Alice Seed. She had a happy childhood and recounted with pleasure being taken by her dad to Bruccianis in Preston for a knickerbocker glory, always a highlight for her. She was close to her older sister Barbara and part of a large, vibrant family with lots of uncles, aunts and cousins. Marion shared tales of playing out with her childhood and lifelong friend, Ruth, using a cardboard box as a pram for their dollies.

Marion was 17 when she met Bernard at the Blackpool Winter Gardens and the story of how they met was one of the memories she kept the longest. Quite simply, they fell in love and remained in love for over 60 years. They married in 1962 and Marion was just 20 when she had her first daughter Louise. Nothing phased them. They built a happy family life, moving to Lostock Hall where they remained, and going on to have two more daughters, Ann-Marie and Catherine.

Theirs was a life rich in connection and friendship. Both Marion and Bernard were close to their siblings & their partners and many good

times were shared. Marion enjoyed nights out with Barbara and her husband David, sometimes at the Lostock Hall Conservative Club, and went on family hikes with Bernard's family, normally led by Ann and in particular Ted and always with egg sandwiches. Marion had great holidays with them all at different times and different places - Barbara and David and memories of Lake Garda, her cousin Jonny and wife Sue and trips abroad, Neil and Jacqui in Tenerife, Jean and Mike and memories of the British seaside and the Lake District they loved so much. Such lovely and loving families, so much laughter, and so many of these wonderful family figures already gone – she is catching up with them all now.

And alongside these family friendships were others, meals out, long chats and support shared – long standing friendships and neighbours Marion and Bernard got to know over years: Ruth and Colin, Pat and Ivor, work friends Marlene and Pauline – many others.

First and foremost of course Marion was a supportive, loving wife and mum. She loved Bernard dearly and adored her daughters – she was their friend, confidante and cheerleader. She loved seeing her family grow and for me and Pete, as her sons-in-law she was always generous and willing to offer us her time and wisdom.

The American poet and activist Maya Angelou said “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” We in her family will never forget how she made us feel: heard, understood, valued, loved.

There will be a lot of emotion today, because we will miss her, her warmth, her smile, her sense of humour, the support she gave us.

But we also know how lucky we have been to have a Marion in our lives, and for so long.

So today we give praise and express our gratitude and our pride in her.

Laura: Grandchild

I once heard that a grandma loves a grandchild twice over. The love they have for their grandchildren as if they were their own child. And the love and admiration they experience seeing their children as parents.

My grandma was a testimony to this, my grandma was so proud of her 3 amazing daughters and she loved each of her 7 grandchildren Michael, Katie, myself, Ellie, Georgina and Dominic as if they were her own children. Helping raise us, tend to us when sick, ensuring we got the best buttered toast in Preston, stroking our heads until we fell asleep and filling us up on hotpots and rice puddings whilst we sang "grandmas hotpot is the best".

She shone with love for all of her own children, grandchildren and even the 12 great grandchildren she has been blessed with, knitting blankets for each of them until her hands could knit no more and in return she is deeply loved by us all.

She was very knowledgeable and observant, full of great advice, sometimes seeing things that were yet to be seen by others. Her patience and kindness were unrivalled, any situation given to her she would contemplate with a calm and caring approach and always have your best interest at heart and fiercely sticking up for you. She would always put her children and grandchildren first, giving us her time, love and her last pound if she could.

You bestowed so many traits onto us all, from calling my own children little lamb chops, praying to St Anthony when we lose something and telling our children to take their coats off inside so they'll "feel the benefit" when they go back out. We even sing Hallelujah once a job is complete! You taught us how to knit and how to cook some of your signature dishes and it's these traits that we will pass onto our own children who will pass onto their children and in which you will always live on through us.

Grandma was the nucleus. The beating heart of our family. She was home to us and whenever we were near her or thought of her, we always felt encompassed with the love that she radiated. Her legacy lies not only in the practical things she taught us, but in the message she gave to us all: to love others, especially our families, fiercely and unconditionally. Nothing mattered more to our Grandma than her brood.

Gardening Tip of the Month

Leave a wild patch for Butterfly's, Bees and insects. You could also buy a packet of wild flower seeds. The colours are amazing. LW

These Time are a-changin (Bob Dylan 1965)

During one of the many discussions on a BBC1 Sunday morning religious programme, one of the guests asked a fellow guest, what and how many changes had been made in their place of worship in their lifetime. Other guests were also invited to put forward their views. One older lady said that the biggest change she had seen at her Church of England place of worship was women priests or vicars. Asked whether she thought this was a good thing or not, she actually stated that being a traditionalist, in her case, the jury was still out.

My immediate thought was of the plight of women, young women and girls in Afghanistan, where in the name of 'Religion' under the Taliban, they weren't allowed to work, be educated, use most public amenities and most recently, have hair-dressing salons close down!

Another elderly guest, now a proclaimed Atheist completely abhorred what he described as "Happy Clappy" imports from the States and the Caribbean. They even have a 'Pop Group' on stage he continued. One guest simply said "Each to their own" which seemed to quell the situation a little.

Another older participant, one of our own a Roman Catholic asked when did the over 50's rule come in about fasting during Lent, as he was now 81 and had never been aware of it. You could actually see him subconsciously totting up the many meals he had voluntarily foregone over the past 20 odd years! Like in politics, he never got a reply to his question!

Many other questions ensued, some were actually answered believe it or not, and I got to thinking what changes I had seen in my lifetime.

Church Extension and Tower in 1963, Parochial Centre, new School, Dance Centre (Now Boxing Club) women not wearing hats or veils, mantillas etc at Mass, the list goes on.

However, the biggest change I have seen is the number of people allowed on the Altar and Sanctuary. When I was an altar-server during the late 50's and early 60's, the only ones allowed on the places above were the Priest and servers like myself.

Heaven forbid anyone caught on the altar and sanctuary, who wasn't supposed to be there under Father McKenzies tenure (1956-1968)

For a start, pumps or plimsoles had to be worn on the brand new pale green (who's idea was that) fitted carpet on the altar and

sanctuary. Woe betide if you spilt candle wax or incense on it.

I remember the ladies who adorned the altar and sanctuary at certain times of the year had to be 'vetted' by Father Mac. To see if they were 'sinless' and 'worthy'; to enter the 'Hallowed Space'

Fast forward to the present time and with the aid of Church Service CCTV, one can see a 'swarm' on the said Altar and Sanctuary immediately after the Celebrant has left the scene at the end of Sunday Mass.

In my server days, one altar boy 'tidied up' in a couple of minutes. Now there's several different persons at the tabernacle, one putting the candles out, another folds the Altar Cloth, one at the Pulpit, a different one sees to the 'Holy Book' and the offertory cruets etc. One wag said "Well, it is TV!" Times are a-changin'!

Tony Billington

Footnote:- The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have the two as close together as possible. George Burns.

CAFOD, climate change and Cop 28

October's News and Views included extracts from 'Laudate Deum' a papal exhortation, which follows Laudato Si' his previous encyclical on the environment where he expressed deep concern about our care for our common home. Pope Francis outlines how the response of world leaders since then has been grossly inadequate.

We cannot fail to notice recent extreme weather events that are partly a result of climate change caused by human behaviour and, despite the climate change deniers, it is undeniable that there has been marked acceleration of global warming over recent years.

Two years ago, at COP 26 hosted by Britain, world leaders committed to ensuring that by 2050 global warming would not exceed 1.5%. Since then, little has been achieved, which suggests this commitment won't be reached. Indeed our own government has downgraded its targets for 2030, saying we can afford to postpone these until 2035!

COP 28 is taking place in Dubai in December and world leaders will meet again to make decisions and agree targets to control the massive acceleration of global warming which affects us all but especially those in the developing world who are least able to mitigate

CAFOD are sending a delegation and will be joined by the pope who believes that halting the rapid acceleration of global warming is the duty of all people of goodwill. He will be addressing world leaders. Cafod's main message is that there must be a real turning point at Dubai and effective strategies must be agreed to avoid catastrophe!

Cafod outlines five key areas needing urgent action. The details are complicated so I can only offer a brief summary. For a more comprehensive explanation please read the whole document - CAFOD COP 28 position paper- which can be found on the CAFOD website.

1 : **Unlock innovative new sources of climate finance.** At COP 15 in Copenhagen world leaders agreed to provide 100 billion dollars annually to help developing countries achieve their climate goals. This promise has not been kept. The cancellation of debt is central to their achieving these goals.

2 : **Coordinate finance for loss and damage.** This basically involves reparation to climate-vulnerable communities so they can mitigate, adapt and recover from climate change.

3: **Lower Emissions- The global stocktake.** This involves governments limiting global warming by urgently decarbonising the global economic system, developing clear policies to implement current commitments and by having plans for the reporting of milestones.

4: **Accelerate a green energy transition.** Countries must stop funding overseas fossil fuel development whilst helping to fund renewable, energy-powered development, in the global south.

5: **Fix the food system.** Leaders must agree to reform food systems and include financial incentives and policies to support this.

Some parishioners may think that individually we can do little to influence policy but, as Christians, we cannot stand by whilst our common home is ravaged.

Please pray for the success of Cop 28 and email your MP asking him to support Pope Francis' message. It only takes two minutes using Cafod.org.uk

Friday the 10th November

A good night was had by all as we were entertained by The Mercy Brothers at Brownedge Club. Thank you to Fr Mark, Fr Joe, Fr Chris, Fr Nick and Tom the guest drummer for inviting us to your concert and giving up your time to raise money for charity.

Not often you see pensioners at a “gig” but young and old we sang and danced the night away after devouring Julie’s hotpot. I am sure PNE supporters watching Blackburn that night would be able to hear us!

Good food, good music, good atmosphere, what more could you ask for?

We may not have had The Three Tenors, but we got The Mercy Brothers for a tenner....and was it worth it...oh yes!

Grace Robinson

Working Party

The remaining few of the Working Party (moved out of parish, work commitments etc) are still meeting on Saturday mornings to do odd jobs either outside or inside. Recently we decided to tackle the flooding that keeps occurring in the Parochial Centre Car Park. This involved digging a trench and sump. We expected it to take a couple of weekends but the majority of the work was completed in one morning thanks to some back braking digging by Rick and Michael. If you are interested in joining us contact the Office with your details and we will get in touch.



December Kindness 2023



MONDAY



4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

TUESDAY



5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

WEDNESDAY



6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

THURSDAY



7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

FRIDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

SATURDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

SUNDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2024

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

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Walking Route Cards

We usually publish monthly a list of Health Walks & Rambles in and around the Borough, but for the last few months these have not been happening. The walks of course are still there and the Walking route Cards are available via the South Ribble Website at <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/content/walking-route-cards>

Why not put your best foot forward and download one of these free Walking Route Guides?

The walks range in distance from 1.5 miles to almost 8 miles, with starting points to be found all over the borough.

Listed below are the walks you can download and the distances, the first four are very local and you probably know them

- 01. Farington Lodges Walk (1.5 miles)**
- 02. Farington Lodges Walk (3.5 miles)**
- 03. Hope Terrace Walk (5.5 miles)**
- 04. Tardy Gate Walk (1.5 miles)**
05. New Longton & Whitestake Walk (2.5 miles)
06. Longton Coastal Walk (5.0 miles)
07. Longton Brickcroft Walk (1.5 miles)
08. Hutton & Longton Coastal Walk (7.0 miles)
09. Penwortham Heritage Trail 1 (2.0 Miles)
10. Penwortham Heritage Trail 2 (2.5 miles)
11. Penwortham Heritage Trail 3 (4.3 miles)
12. Penwortham Heritage Trail - Howick & Hutton Circular (3 miles)
13. Penwortham & Howick Riverside Walk (4.1 miles)
- 14. Old Tram Road & Walton-le-Dale Walk (5 miles)**
- 15. Bamber Bridge & Walton Park Walk (5.5 miles)**
16. Gregson Lane & Coupe Green Walk (3.6 miles)
17. Nabs Head Samlesbury Walk (5 miles)
- 18. Lostock Hall Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 19. Lostock Hall and Farington Railway Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 20. St Mary's Parish Boundary Walk (7.7 miles)**
21. St Leonard's Parish Boundary Walk (5 miles)

**Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),
Fr Colin Battell OSB.**

The Presbytery
17C Browndedge Road
Lostock Hall
Preston
PR5 5AA

Tel: 01772 335387 **Mobile 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)**

In an Emergency please phone either

St Marys Browndedge 335168

St Mary's Leyland 455955

St Catherine's Farrington 421174

Contacts

The Primary School 335025

The Parochial Centre 339459

Weekly Services

Sundays: Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: **MASS** - Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 am
Services of Word & Holy Communion - Monday 6:30 pm &
Wednesday at 9:15 am

Reconciliation: Confessions - before Weekend Masses.

Baptisms

To arrange a Baptism please call the parish office on 01772 335387 between 9 -11.45 am. (Mon – Fri). Parents are expected to attend 2 Baptism Preparation meetings before a Baptism can take place. If people have not been in the practice of attending church regularly, they are asked to attend Mass for a period of six weeks prior to the Baptism to help them to be spiritually prepared for the sacrament and to get into the habit of practicing the Faith.

No Priest! What do we do?

If there is an Emergency and no Priest is available for the weekend Masses, the Eucharistic Ministers, particularly those who have been trained, will perform a Holy Communion Service and this will replace the Mass. Please note that this is **Only in an Emergency** and there is no time to arrange for another priest or no other is Priest is available.

Marriages

At least six months notification of Marriage is required. Pre-marriage instruction is mandatory and organised by the Diocese. Please telephone 335387 to arrange Notification and Preparation.

Parish Organisations

CONTACT

Advertising	John Corrigan	316295
Altar Servers	David Walker	629701
A.P.F. & Sacristan	Christine Flanagan	334723
CAFOD	Margaret Cronin	336475
Catechists & Sacramental Programme		335387
Children's Liturgy Group	Lee McNulty	07478703414
Eucharistic Ministers & Readers	Michael Quinlan	467306
Flowers	Carole Hesmondhalgh	339700
Football Club	Phil Tinsley	07775890667
Fund Raising Group		335387
Gift Aid	John Robinson	335387
News & Views, Website , Printers	David Walker	629701
Majella Companions		335387
Marriage Registrars	Margaret Cronin	336475
	Ann Quinlan	467306
Parochial Centre		
Piety Shop	Vivian Page	313910
P.T.A.	Ross Free	339691
Sacred Heart Guild		
Safeguarding Officer	email: safeguarding@saintgerards.org.uk	
School (Staff, Ancillaries & Governors)		335025
Senior Citizens Organisers	Linda Walsh	311654
	Gloria Duffell	339966
Youth Representative	Lee McNulty	07478703414

Items for News & Views can be left at the Presbytery or emailed to the editor at newsviews@saintgerards.org.uk The last day for submissions is the 20th of each month.

www.saintgerards.org.uk

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St Mary's, Brownedge
Live Streaming Times
<https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge>

Sunday	Mass	09:30 am & 6:30 pm
Monday to Friday	Mass	9:30 am
Private Prayer	Tuesday Thursday	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Saturday	Mass	7 pm Vigil
Sunday	Mass	09:30 am & 6:30 pm

Parish Diary

3rd Dec	1st Sunday of Advent
6th	St Nicholas
7th	St Ambrose
8th	The Immaculate Conception
9th	St Juan Cuauthlatoatzin
10th	2nd Sunday of Advent
11th	St Damasus I
12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe
13th	St Lucy
14th	St John of the Cross
17th	3rd Sunday of Advent
21st	Commemoration of St Peter Canisius
23rd	Commemoration of St John of Kanty
24th	4th Sunday of Advent
24th	Christmas Eve - Mass at 5:30 pm with Carols from 5pm

25th	Christmas Day - Mass at 10:30 am
26th	St Stephen - Mass 10 am
27th	St John the Evangelist
28th	The Holy Innocents
29th	St Thomas of Canterbury
31st	The Holy Family
1st Jan	Holy Mary, Mother of God
2nd	St Basil the Great
3rd	The Most Holy Name of Jesus

The **PARISH OFFICE** is open at the following new times:

Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Office hours are now shared with St Marys Brownedge.

**AM at St Gerard's
 PM at St Marys Brownedge.
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 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)**

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WHATS ON IN THE PAROCHIAL CENTRE THIS DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Dave Oz

Saturday 8th - Lydia Jordan

Saturday 16th - Phil Richmond

Saturday 23rd - Jill Ellis

Christmas eve - (singing barsteward) Steve Hunter

Saturday 30th - Rick E/A

New Years Eve - Little & Often



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