



We had a most enjoyable Community Christmas Fayre last week. Despite the cold there was a good turnout and it was a friendly and relaxed event.

There are a loyal group of us that run the church stalls and provide the goods to sell on them. As a church we are immensely grateful to everyone who helps year on year. Everyone pulled together and helped make it what I (& the VH committee) thought was a great afternoon. Despite not having the early rush, people came gradually over the 3 hours making it a much more relaxed event.

The total we made from stallholders, raffle, all the church stalls, was £1,185.62. The Hall will have £60 that was paid in advance by stallholders and will go some way to paying for the energy we used. The church will get £1,125.62.

This year I want to make a special mention of our plant stall. For many years Mark Thursfield in Light Oaks Avenue has provided plants for us on a sale or return basis. This year Mark retired, we would like to send him our best wishes for his retirement and thank him for the many years he has supported our Christmas Fayre.

However we still have a number of local businesses supporting us and who we thank :

Guy and Susan Thursfield have agreed to provide plants on sale or return now.

Roger from Jacksons Nurseries, who generously donated plants for the stall and a gift voucher for the raffle.

The Stafford Arms who donated a voucher for the raffle.

Claire Marchant from CLM Events who donated a voucher and donated the selection boxes for Santa and Gareth to give to the children. If you have never tried Claire's pies you need to treat yourself and order a couple!

*Julia*



That's a fantastic result & makes the hard work worthwhile. Well done everyone.  
*Barbara*

A good social afternoon on Saturday and a good financial result.

*Joan*



That is brilliant news  
 Julia thank you for  
 letting me know.

With best wishes  
 Kath Rosie xxx

Hi everyone,  
 Could I just add my thanks to everyone  
 who made it such a great afternoon  
 and who worked so hard to make it a  
 success.

Brilliant result and many thanks to the  
 Village Hall committee for their  
 generosity in supporting St Chad's.

For myself it was lovely to feel well  
 enough to come out and see everyone  
 and I did spend money !

*Kath xxx*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ It was a great afternoon ★  
 ★ and Marg and I ★  
 ★ thoroughly enjoyed ★  
 ★ ourselves. ★

★ Everyone was so ★  
 ★ friendly and it's a ★  
 ★ terrific outcome. ★

★ I tried to take photos of ★  
 ★ the stalls and, of ★  
 ★ course, my stalls were ★  
 ★ the ones that didn't ★  
 ★ come out! ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



The word "carol" actually means a "ring-dance": dancing in a circle. People used to dance in church as well as sing, often holding hands in a ring of people, sometimes around a pillar.

The person attributed with beginning the first carol was St Francis of Assisi, who was born in the 12th century. Assisi was in what is now Italy and it's from there that the carol spread.

A carol is a hymn which is full of good cheer and merry spirit.

The traditional period to sing carols was from St Thomas's Day (21 December) until the morning of Christmas Day.

Carol singing doesn't just take place in churches or chapels. When carols were banned in churches by the Puritans, some people went from door to door, but this rather died out. We have the Victorians to thank for reviving the tradition and so today this tradition is carried on by groups of children and church choirs.

## Candles:

In the days long before electricity, candles were the main source of light in most homes. In Victorian times, tiny candles were placed on the tree to make them look even more magical. The biggest danger was the candle tipping over and setting fire to the pine needles and decorations. Candle wax also dripped down onto the candle holders and splattered onto the floor. Spiral candles were invented so that the wax would run slowly down the grooves and not drip.

As more and more homes got electricity candles became less and less in demand. As a treat people would buy candles to use in candlesticks on the dinner table on Christmas Day. Often they were red and spiral too. Today, people use candles all year round, not because they need to see by them, but for the pleasure of it.



## Mince pies:

Mince pies have been a part of Christmas fayre for a long time, but have been through 2 major changes. The first is their shape. What originally made mince pies a traditional part of Christmas was that they were baked to look like Christ's crib. By the 1600s, some cooks were even adding little pastry Baby Jesuses! The pies were eventually banned, along with the celebration of Christmas Day itself, by Oliver Cromwell's parliament. People still wanted to eat mince pies, so they simply made them round. Then, came the second change. Mince pies used to contain minced meat as well as the fruit and spices. Gradually, people started leaving the minced meat out until, by Victorian times, they were the fruit pies we know today.

## Christmas Trees:

The idea of chopping down a tree and bringing it into the house and decorating it has its roots in earlier pagan celebrations, but, according to the historian Clement A Miles, the first recorded mention of a Christmas tree was in 1605 in Strasbourg. It was covered in everything from paper roses to sweets and gold foil.

To justify what was, probably, originally part of a pagan festival as the centre of Christian celebrations, the Christmas tree has since been given added Christian symbolism. It was pointed out that the basic shape of a Christmas tree is a triangle, with one point at the top. The three points are said to represent the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost.

According to legend, in eight century Germany, a Christian saint called Boniface stumbled upon a group of pagans worshipping an oak tree. They were just about to sacrifice a baby to the tree when St Boniface dashed to his rescue. He snatched the axe about to be used in the sacrifice, and chopped down the tree instead. Picking up the baby, Boniface saw that there, growing between the roots of the chopped down oak, was a tiny fir tree. To him, this symbolised new life coming from death, as with Christ's resurrection. From then on the Christmas tree became an important part of Christmas celebrations in Germany.

Many people believe that the idea of the Christmas tree was brought over to England by prince Albert, the German husband of Queen Victoria. Albert first ordered a tree from Coburg in Christmas 1841. In fact, there had already been a tree at Windsor Castle in the 1790s. It had been ordered by Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III. However, it was interest in Prince Albert's tree that somehow caught the public imagination and made the Christmas tree such an important part of Christmas in Britain.



# CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Pat Saul has donated to 'Sightsavers' charity, this year, instead of sending Christmas cards.  
God bless you all,  
*Pat*


May you all have a joyous Christmas  
And a happy and peaceful New Year.  
*Muriel F*

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
*Denise*

Wishing All my friends at St Chad's a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2024.  
With love Lynda and Family

As a repeat of last year, may I mention that I will not be sending individual Christmas cards but donating to my usual charities and sending a contribution to the Church.  
Sending warmest Christmas wishes to all my church family and the best of health to everyone for the coming year.  
*With love from Muriel B xxx*

Anne and Brian wish everyone at St. Chad's a very happy Christmas and every blessing for the year ahead.

 Brian and I would like to wish all our friends at St Chad's a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year,  
*Sheila*

Wishing everyone at St Chad's a very happy and peaceful Christmas.  
*With warmest wishes from Esther xxx*

