

Roundabout our communities

DEC/JAN2025/6

Kimbolton, Hamnish, Leysters, Middleton-on-the-Hill, Bockleton



Ding dong merrily on high, hand bells ring at St James' Primary school this Christmas

In this issue...

WI TRIUMPH IN COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM
REV.D MARK

EVENTS FOR CHRISTMAS
AND JANUARY

CHURCH AND PARISH NEWS

AND MUCH MORE...



Bi-monthly magazine free to residents, dependent on donations



From left to right: Rebecca Russell, Cherry-Anne Osborne, Denise Burston, Jo Colville, Diane Murray-Shirreff
(June Edwards was part of the team, but unable to join us for the photo). see page 4



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WELCOME

WELCOME to our bumper Christmas and January edition.

Lots of excitement at St James' Primary school where handbell ringing is proving a very popular new activity, and even more excitement at the Kimbolton WI whose team swept the board at the Herefordshire championships recently. (More of that on page 4.)

And lots of events..... Bockleton and Hampton Charles seem to be particularly busy.

On a more serious note, we have a special Christmas message from our own Reverend Mark... Never more relevant.

But, before we begin, thank you to everyone who responded to our article last time about the new Ryeland doctor's surgery due to open early in the New Year. We will keep you posted on the date.

Now about those handbells.....

YEARS THREE AND FOUR EMBRACE ANCIENT TRADITION FOR CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Handbells became popular in the 1700s when the more musical tower bell ringers discovered that there were far less limitations to ringing handbells than the swinging tower bells. They gradually began ringing carols and hymns then chamber music and eventually popular classics. Handbells reached their most popular in the middle of the 19th century.

A set of handbells was purchased for Kimbolton rather later, in 1980, with the residue of funds from the restoration of the six bells in the tower at Kimbolton by John Taylor and Co. of Loughborough.

The Reverend Andrew Talbot Ponsonby formed the first handbell team and over the years the school rang them under the direction of the church organist Barbara Holme. They practiced at the vicarage and played carols at Christmas round and about the village.

This year a suggestion that years 3&4 of the Primary School should learn to ring, was greeted there with enthusiasm.

According to Charlotte Hyde, Head of School at St. James' Primary, there was a queue when the chance to learn the handbells for Christmas was suggested. The bells have now been allocated and Sarah Bent, Class 3 Teacher, is busy helping the ringers to learn their hymns with help from Burghill and Tillington ringers. Hark the Herald Angels Sing is apparently in the mix, but the final choices are a closely guarded secret.

The Christingle will be in Kimbolton church on Thursday 18th December at 1pm. The School Nativity will be on 11th December and the PTFA Christmas Bazaar will be on the afternoon of 5th December.

Looks like a busy month.

WI TEAM SMASHES HEREFORDSHIRE COMPETITION

Herefordshire Federation WI County Show was held on 25th October, inviting WIs to enter exhibits on a theme of Autumn Bounty.

Kimbolton WI presented exhibits across a range of crafts, including wreaths, floral art, embroidery and preserves showcasing the group's combined talents.

They were delighted, and not a little surprised, to come away with a first, second, third, a highly commended and a trophy given in recognition of the highest points awarded on the day.



Planning is already underway for next year!

If you'd like to be part of this friendly and vibrant WI community group please contact kimbolton_wi@herefordshirewi.org.uk

They meet on every second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at Kimbolton Village Hall, and would be glad to welcome you.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF HOPE | THE LIGHT AMONG US



'As the calendar turns and the days shorten, a profound and unique beauty settles over our corner of Herefordshire. The rolling hills rise softly beneath the often-grey winter skies, the places we call home feel especially cosy and inviting, and our many stone churches, each one a beacon of faith, remain quiet and steadfast markers across our fields and valleys.

This season, rich with the history and rhythm of rural life, calls us to pause and reflect on the profound truth at the heart of Christmas. That truth is the celebration of the Incarnation: the radical and astounding mystery that God chose not to remain distant, but to become fully human. The divine Word was made flesh, born as a vulnerable child named Jesus in the dusty simplicity of a stable in Bethlehem.

This humble scene in a marginal and overlooked place offers a powerful lesson for us. It reminds us that God is revealed not in distant splendour, but in the most ordinary and real corners of human experience. The message that lights up the darkness is simple and powerful: God is Emmanuel, 'God with us.'

This truth compels us to look beyond the outward demands of the season and the sparkle of our Christmas preparations to the people around us. If God truly entered our world, then every neighbour, every farmer, every newcomer, and every isolated person in our communities bears the imprint of the sacred. A Christ-centred Christmas means actively recognizing the presence of God in the faces of the people around us.'

'In the spirit of the Incarnation, our call this season is one of deep compassion and practical welcome. Let the hope that was born in that stable inspire us to tend to our own corner here in Herefordshire. Let the steadfast presence of each stone church guide us in our service to the wider community.

Let us be the light for those isolated by the weather or by loneliness. Let us support the many volunteers who keep our village and farming communities vibrant. And above all, let us extend a welcome that is open and generous to all, knowing that grace is given freely, without precondition. The true strength of our villages lies not just in our beautiful landscape, but in this deep, shared commitment to mutual care and understanding.

As the light of the Nativity shines, may you feel that deep, quiet joy that comes from knowing that Christ's presence resides firmly within our shared humanity and in the very fabric of our beloved rural communities.'

Wishing you peace, hope, and every blessing this Christmas tide.

The Rev'd Mark Long, Team Vicar

St Michael's Church, Bockleton

You are invited to join us at

THE CHRISTMAS CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

at Bockleton Church

on Sunday 14th December 2025 at 4.00pm

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

What a good way to start off your Christmas?

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

A festive, Victorian themed Christmas street market is held annually in Leominster, on the 2nd Saturday of December. Your chance to step back in time and visit Leominster for a truly Dickensian adventure. This year the Leominster Victorian Street Market is on Saturday 13th December 2025.

COFFEE MORNINGS KIMBOLTON VILLAGE HALL

10.30-12pm

December	10th	Raffle	Roundabout our Communities Magazine
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January (2026)	14th	Raffle	Acorns Children's Hospice Hereford and Worcester
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MIDDLETON ON THE HILL PARISH CHARITY

The above charity is managed by a small group of local trustees. It is their duty to manage the charity's assets and to distribute the income from those assets annually. In accordance with the original aims of the charity the income is to be used for three purposes: the Church, Advancement of Education and Relief in Need. This year the trustees will be issuing grants to Middleton Church, students in secondary education, senior citizens over the age of seventy and occasional individual cases of need. If you live in the Middleton on the Hill parish and feel you might qualify and have not received a grant, please contact Mrs C Halls on 01568 750257 or via email leystershalls@aol.com

The charity owns three small parcels of land, two of which are available by tender at the end of each calendar year. If anyone is interested, please enquire details from the secretary.

HAMNISH GARDENING CLUB

We shall not be meeting in December but send Season's greetings to all readers.

Our next meeting is on January 20th when Duncan Coombs will give a talk on ponds, marginals and bog gardens. The competition is 'a winter arrangement from your garden'.

Annual membership of £20 is due in January and new members are made very welcome. We meet in Hamnish Village Hall at 7pm for tea, coffee, socialising. The talk begins at 7.30pm.

Visitors are also welcome (£5 on the door).

HAMNISH VILLAGE HALL BINGO NIGHT 5th of December – 7pm.

Everyone is welcome...and there will be lovely prizes, as well as a raffle, tea coffee, wine and sausage rolls. Something for everyone.

Come along and join us for a good cause raising money for the hall.

More information from Des Hall 01568 760665

BOCKLETON VILLAGE HALL SKITTLES EVENING

Friday 5th December – 7pm for 7:30 start

Soup, crusty bread and warm mince pie

£8.00 Adults – £3.00 Children

Details Call Sue – 01885 410400 / Pam 01568 750216



STOP PRESS

Bockleton Parish Hall

Saturday 24th Jan 7pm

Burns Night Supper

£12.50 a ticket

For bookings please call Pam on 01568 750217 or Sue on 01885 410400

WILDLIFE TO WATCH OUT FOR ON OUR WATERWAYS

'Along the Lugg the most interesting bird I've seen is the elusive dipper, which has also been spotted on the Kenwater in the heart of Leominster. Other birds to look out for on the Lugg are the grey wagtail, goosander, grey heron and little egret. Mallards, coots and moorhen are reasonably common along the Lugg near Leominster.

If you are observant, you are quite likely to see a kingfisher darting along the river and increasingly great white egrets can be seen rising up from the river margins. Large numbers of swans and geese will congregate on the wet fields near the Lugg especially after flooding.'

Rupert Gulley, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust



photo by Margaret Holland Hereford Wildlife Trust

'In the summer you will get large numbers of sand martins around the Lugg on the wilder bits a mile or so south of Leominster, buzzards and red kites are regularly seen soaring near the Lugg above the surrounding fields. Swallows are also here but unfortunately not in large numbers anymore. Otters can be spotted right in the centre of Leominster on the river.

The river Arrow which loops to the south of Leominster and feeds the Lugg supports interesting birds as it winds through less intensively cultivated land and benefits from local farmer Ben Andrew's concern for the environment. One of the highlights is the redstart, which can be seen in the summer. In the winter flooding I've seen snipe, short eared owl and many types of ducks.

A highlight for me was coming face to face with an otter!

Heron, egrets and birds of prey, especially kestrels are also seen regularly and on the approaches to the Arrow are the Skylarks, which trill over the surrounding fields. Corn bunting, very rare in Herefordshire, have been spotted on hedgerow close to the river and warblers of many stripes are all over. I view the Arrow floodplain as a hidden gem, which must be protected especially within the potential Leominster Southern development.'

We would like to encourage you to use the Branch Facebook page to report interesting wildlife sightings, news snippets or relevant events in your area. (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61570482571622>)

Leominster Area Branch of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Next month we hope to give you news about our plans to put up more bird boxes and other initiatives for wildlife friendly habitats. For more information please email our new address.

leominsterbranch@herefordshirewt.co.uk

COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE – IMPORTANT UPDATE

The Community Equipment Service, previously run by NRS Healthcare on behalf of Herefordshire Council, is now provided by Hoople.

If you, or your family members, have assistive equipment such as shower stools, toilet frames, chairs and beds labelled NRS Healthcare that need to be returned or repaired, please contact the Community Equipment Service on 01432 261 818 or email communityequipmentservice@hoopleltd.co.uk

Please note that crutches and zimmer frames should be returned to the hospital or local authority after use.

NEW YEAR, NEW ADVERTISERS

Whilst we are grateful to our faithful advertisers, it is inevitable that there is a turnover as some withdraw and others are keen to join us.

Roundabout relies heavily on advertising now and we love to hear from readers about the local services that they have discovered within our pages.

So, for 2026 we are delighted to welcome no less than five new advertisers.

House Fairies is run by Thea Waite who lives in Kimbolton. She moved here three years ago and has a home care team offering a 'one stop shop' for those needing help to maintain their independence.

John Speke lives in Hamnish and, having taken over the Monkland Mower business is now based in Leominster, offering servicing and maintenance of gardening and small-holding equipment in north Herefordshire and surrounding areas.

Next up we have Gareth Higgs, Tree Surgeon from Kingsland and Tom Dines from Dines Electrical based in Hereford.

So, as winter approaches, we seem to have all the maintenance services covered.

A new venture from Kimbolton resident Adrian Stride is a completely different type of business.

He and his wife have lived in Kimbolton for over 20 years and brought up three children.

Now after eighteen years in teaching, including as a Head Teacher, Adrian has retired and set up Stride Education offering consultancy and tuition.

So, we have a pretty wide range of new services for you to browse.

Thanks to Rachel Evason for all her hard work on our advertising this year. More information about advertising with us from: advertisingkimbolton@gmail.com

Please remember, that Roundabout is not responsible for goods and services offered.

KIMBOLTON WITH HAMNISH PARISH COUNCIL

A reminder that you can report road issues (like potholes) to Herefordshire council: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/travel-and-transport/roads/report-a-road-problem/>

You can also report drainage and other issues (including Public Rights of Way) around the Kimbolton and Hamnish villages to the Parish Council.

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 6th January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 5th May 2026 AGM and Ordinary Council Meeting (Start 7.30pm)

<https://kimboltonhamnish.co.uk/parish>

Herefordshire County Councillor john.stone@herefordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament (Green Party) ellie.chowns.mp@parliament.uk

AND FINALLY.....

Once again thank you all for your news and your views and to all of you who deliver our magazines each time. If you could help to deliver please ring Rachel Palmer on 07968 233387. If you are already delivering and could do with help or if you aren't receiving your copy, please ring her too.

As ever we love to hear from you. Our addresses are:
edteamkimbolton@gmail.com (contributions) Judie Welsh
advertisingkimbolton@gmail.com (advertising) Rachel Evason

Or, if you would like to contribute directly to our costs our bank details are:
Sort code 53-50-41 Account 62513761

Cheques should be made payable to Roundabout our Communities, and can be given to any member of the team.

**To view Roundabout online visit kimboltonhamnish.co.uk
or Middleton & Leysters Parish Website**

www.middletonandleysters.groupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Input your email address on the website to receive news on forthcoming events and local issues



GREETINGS FROM BOCKLETON PCC

I am writing this in November prior to the build up to Christmas to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped out at church during 2025. There are too many of you to mention individually – I am afraid I would miss someone out! Also, to thank everyone who came and supported us at the various events. Without the support of you all the church simply wouldn't be able to function.

It has been very heart-warming for me to see how willing people have been to help out, sometimes at short notice and I very much appreciate that. It has been so good to be able to ask for your assistance.

I hope you will continue to support us during the coming year and look forward to seeing you at the various events we have scheduled.

With best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

Rosemary Coupe



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EASTERN PARISHES CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

Sunday 7 December <i>Advent II</i>	09:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Toy Service	St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Bartholomew, Docklow
Sunday 14 December <i>Advent III</i>	09:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Carol Service 18:00 Evening Prayer	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Mary the Virgin, Humber St Andrew, Leysters
Thursday 18 December	19:00 Carol Service	St Bartholomew, Docklow
Friday 19 December	19:00 Carol Service 19:00 Village Christmas Service	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Luke, Stoke Prior
Saturday 20 December	16:00 Carol Service	St Leonard, Hatfield
Sunday 21 December <i>Advent IV</i>	09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Carol Service 15:00 Carol Service 16:00 Christingle Service	St John of Jerusalem, Ford St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston cum Whyle St Michael, Bockleton
Wednesday 24 December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	15:00 Crib Service 15:00 Carol Service 18:00 Carol Service 23:15 Midnight Mass 23:15 Midnight Mass	St John of Jerusalem, Ford St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore St Andrew, Leysters St Peter, Pudleston The Priory Church, Leominster
Thursday 25 December <i>Christmas Day</i>	09:30 Christmas Eucharist 09:30 Christmas Eucharist	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Mary the Virgin, Humber
Sunday 28 December <i>Holy Innocents</i>	10:00 Holy Communion	St Bartholomew, Docklow
Sunday 4 January <i>Epiphany</i>	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion 18:00 Epiphany Carol Service	St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston cum Whyle St Luke, Stoke Prior The Priory Church, Leominster
Sunday 11 January <i>Plough Sunday</i>	10:00 Morning Service 10:00 Morning Service	St Leonard, Hatfield St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill
Sunday 18 January <i>Epiphany II</i>	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Morning Prayer 11:15 Holy Communion	St Michael, Bockleton St John of Jerusalem, Ford St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston cum Whyle
Sunday 25 January <i>Conversion of Paul</i>	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St James the Great, Kimbolton St Mary the Virgin, Humber St Andrew, Leysters St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore

A midweek Holy Communion Service is hosted at Hennor House every Tuesday at 09:30

*Includes tea/coffee afterwards – all welcome! * Patronal Festival Service*

Website <https://leominsterpriory.org.uk/eastern-parishes.php>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EasternParishes>

Leominster Team Ministry

The Forbury Chapel, Church Street,
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Office 01568 612859
office@leominsterteam.org.uk
Reception is open Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 1pm

Team Vicar | Eastern Parishes

Mark R D Long
New Vicarage, Kimbolton, HR6 OEJ
Home 01568 605054
Mobile 07754 588478
teamvicareast@leominsterteam.org.uk

PARISH DIRECTORY

All telephone numbers are 01568 unless shown otherwise.

Parish Councils

Bockleton	Chair: VACANT	
	Clerk: Carole Hirst	07903 377066
Kimbolton	Chair: Ed Rollings	750476
	Clerk: Annabel Beaumont	kimboltonclerk@gmail.com
Leysters & Middleton on the Hill:		
	Chair: Edward Chandler	750433 chandler.leysters@gmail.com
	Clerk: Clare Halls	750257

Local Councillor (Upton Ward): John Stone 01584 711227

Vicar and Churchwardens

Reverend Mark Long Rural Dean and Team Vicar

Email: teamvicareast@leominsterteam.org.uk 07754 588478

Bockleton	VACANT	
Hamnish	Des Hall	760665
Kimbolton	Joyce Marston	615988
Leysters	Heather Shield	750040
Middleton	Robin Moseley	750226
	Gerlinde Atkins-Child	750674

Village/Parish Hall Bookings

Bockleton	Laura Armishaw	07903 912079
	Email: bockletonparishhall@gmail.com	
Hamnish	David Cornwallis	760243
Kimbolton	Denise Burston	07868 349136
Leysters	Linda Jones	750255
	Email: lindmarg18@googlemail.com	

Schools

St James C of E Primary School Kimbolton	612691
Nursery School:	614743
Bredenbury Primary	01885 483253

Clubs & Societies

Kimbolton WI:	Alison Alderson	07929 179042
		kimbolton_wi@herefordshirewi.org.uk
Hamnish Gardening Club:	Wendy Pridie	611398
Kimbolton Air Rifle Club:	Des Hall	760665
Leysters Reading Group:	Linda Jones	750255
Woolpack Knitters and Dabblers	Heather Shield	750040

Doctors;

Ryland (Leominster)	614141
Bromyard	01885 483253
Tenbury	01584 810343

Roundabout magazine news:

edteamkimbolton@gmail.com

Roundabout advertising:

advertisingkimbolton@gmail.com

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- | | |
|----|---|
| 5 | Hamnish VH Christmas Bingo 7pm |
| 5 | Bockleton VH Skittles evening 7pm |
| 5 | St. James Primary PTFA Bazaar pm |
| 10 | Coffee Morning Kimbolton VH 10.30 – 12pm
raffle in aid of Roundabout |
| 11 | School nativity |
| 13 | Leominster Christmas market |
| 18 | Primary School Christingle in Kimbolton church 1pm. |

JANUARY

- | | |
|----|--|
| 14 | Coffee Morning Kimbolton VH 10.30 – 12pm
raffle in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice |
| 20 | Hamnish Gardening Club Hamnish VH 7pm |
| 24 | Burns Night Supper Bockleton VH 7pm |

**Contact us: edteamkimbolton@gmail.com (contributions) Judie Welsh
advertisingkimbolton@gmail.com (advertising) Rachel Evason**

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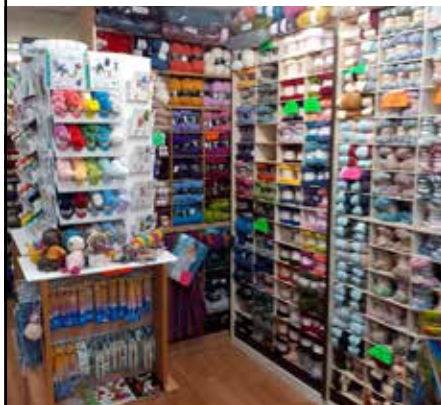
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**Contributions for the next (February/March) edition by Friday 9th January please
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