

ASHOVER VILLAGE FILMTIME

is taking a break in December, back in January with

2018 Season

Thursday 18th January	Hidden Figures (PG)
Thursday 15th February	Viceroy's House (12A)
Thursday 15th March	A United Kingdom (12A)
Thursday 19th April	Victoria and Abdul (PG)
Thursday 17th May	Paddington 2 (PG)

FOREIGN FILMTIME

showing foreign films with English sub-titles

Thursday 1st February	O'Horten (15) Norwegian
Thursday 1st March	Le Havre (PG) French

Bassett Rooms Update

Hurray - The refurbishment project will be completed by the end of January 2018! It is looking great; the extension fits well with this historic and well-loved building and there is no doubt that the matching stone and detailed stone masonry, specified by English Heritage, is fantastic.

A few extra weeks are needed for essential floor-strengthening work, only revealed as necessary as work progressed, so bookings for the Bassett Rooms can only be taken from 1st February 2018.

Activities transferred to Ashover Church and other venues over recent months will continue in those places through January but we all look forward to returning to the Bassett Rooms soon after.

Heartfelt thanks go to the leader and team who have so effectively guided this project through difficult times.

Samaritan's Purse

Shoebbox Christmas Gift Appeal



A big **THANK YOU** to all those who have contributed by filling over 40 shoe boxes with fun and useful items and also to all those who contributed money to the organisation towards the cost of delivering the boxes to children around the world.

The Village Coffee Shop

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 am - noon

Now being held in **Ashover Church** due to renovation work in the Bassett Rooms



On 5th December all donations received will be given to the charity **Crisis at Christmas**

Uppertown Social Centre

Irish Country Music with Finian's Rainbow

On Saturday 2nd December arguably the best Irish Country band, based in Manchester, will be playing at Uppertown, Ashover. Pat Jordan and Finian's Rainbow perform a wide range of songs from Irish rock and roll and Irish traditional music.

Call Eddie for tickets - £13 including supper
01246 590502 or 07966 154798

You can view this **amber news** on the **amber churches** website and there are free printed copies in churches and local shops. If you would like a copy delivered, please let us know and we will try to oblige. Send news for inclusion in next month's issue to info@amberchurches.org.



amber news

For the amber churches of
Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington
working and playing together, with God, for people

December 2017

Church Services in December

Sunday 3rd December - Advent Sunday

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion (+ children's activities)
10.45 am	Handley Church	Morning Worship

5.00 pm Ashover Christmas Tree light-Up

Sunday 10th December

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Morning Prayer
9.15 am	Wessington Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Christingle Service
10.45 am	Handley Church	Holy Communion

Sunday 17th December

10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion (+ children's activities)
3.00 pm	Brackenfield Church	Candlelit Carol Service
4.30 pm	Handley Church	Candlelit Carol Service
6.00 pm	Ashover Church	Candlelit Carol Service

24th December - Christmas Eve

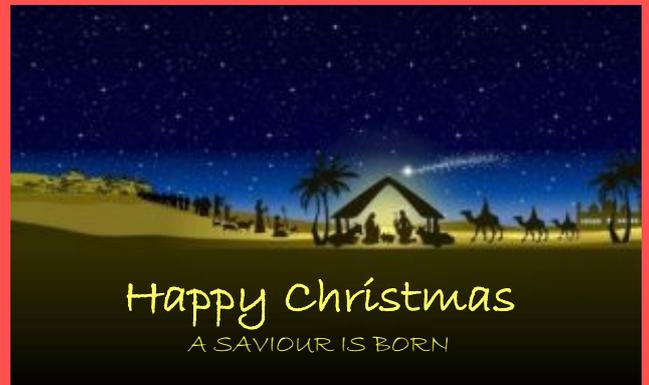
5.00 pm	Ashover Church	Family Carol Service
6.30 pm	Wessington Church	Carol Service with Holy Communion
11.00 pm	Ashover Church	Midnight Communion

25th December - Christmas Day

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Christmas Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Family Service

Sunday 31st December - New Year's Eve

10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion
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Contact Information

Rector: The Revd Ralph Lawrence 01246 590246
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Holy Trinity Brackenfield Warden: Nigel Rogers 01773 836137
St Mark's Church Handley Warden: Kath Mosely 01246 590720
Christ Church Wessington Warden: Rita Buckley 01773 835 633

www.amberchurches.org

The Rector Writes ...

Dear Friends,

Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, as the word suggests is about preparing, patience and anticipation. Schools up and down the land will be using some of the time preparing with care and patience nativity tableaux and Christmas shows, while perhaps nervously anticipating a successful outcome, to the delight of parents and extended family members.

In Advent civil authorities and communities will adorn our cities, towns and villages with festive decorations in preparation for the time to be jolly and not just to encourage us to spend our money, but to remind us that Christmas is a unique time of year, the season to ponder that nothing that is human is alien to God.

In Advent shops and internet sites will entice us with a harvest of good things from gizmos to geese and hopefully we will enjoy a veritable feast of delights. However, in the celebration let us remember the economic migrant and the refugee who also want to enjoy a share of this world's bounty.

In Advent, hidden almost from view, is one of the season's more sobering themes – judgement. In many churches the famous story in Matthew chapter twenty-five will be read. The parable of the sheep and goats which many people know tells how humankind will be divided into two groups. The first are told; 'Come, O blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'. The members of this group are very surprised and wondered when they did such things, and the king replies; 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' The same criteria of judgement is used with the other group - in so far as they failed to help someone in need, they failed to help Christ. The story is a powerful one, and has inspired people in every generation.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was one such person who was inspired by this parable. She wrote, 'In holy communion we have Christ under the appearance of bread. In our work we find him under the appearance of flesh and blood. It is the same Christ. "I was hungry, I was naked, I was sick, I was homeless".' It isn't always easy to see Christ in people we don't like, even if they are in need as Mother Teresa found out. But her fervent prayer was to be able to recognise Christ 'behind the unattractive disguise of the irritable, the exacting and the unreasonable' and for such people to be prepared to serve Christ, by serving them. Christmas might be all the more rewarding for having done so.

Yours sincerely, Ralph



From the Registers

Funerals: ASHOVER

Brian Juridch. Aged 53. Service held 25th Oct 2017

Tony Baskill. Aged 80 Service held 2nd Nov 2017

Judi Baxter. Aged 71 Service held 2nd Nov 2017

BRACKENFIELD

Audrey Keeton. Aged 86 Service held 17th Nov 2017

HANDLEY

Leslie Drake. Aged 87. Service held 26th Oct 2017



Wessington Church
Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday 2nd December 10 am - 12
with Grand Prize Draw
many prizes including a television

Ashover Parish Council

invite all to the

Christmas Tree Light-Up

followed by carols and
refreshments in Ashover Church

Sunday 3rd December
5.00 pm

Also featuring
The Ashover Band, Father Christmas
and Maude the Donkey



Advent Meditations

6th, 13th, 20th December
Ashover Church - 7.00 pm

Each Wednesday evening during Advent there will be a short service (3/4 – 1 hr) offering the opportunity to reflect on some aspects of Advent.

It will include Bible readings, meditative readings from different perspectives, 'thinking time' and prayer.

All welcome

A Quaint Ashover Christmas

Saturday 16 December, 7.30 pm

Ashover Parish Hall



Join the Ashover Band for an evening celebrating Christmas traditionally with brass band music, Christmas carols and seasonal fun and games. A warming winter drink and yuletide yummys are available during the interval

Adults £5, Concessions £3, under 12s free

Tickets available on the door and from

01246 233767 or 07511 540192

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASHOVER

VILLAGE PANTOMIME

**ALADDIN
AND HIS
WONDERFUL
LAMP**



THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.15PM

FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.15PM

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2018 AT 5.30PM

(Parish Party/Family Night followed by Pantomime)

All held in Ashover Parish Hall

FREE TICKET ENTRY
from Ashover Post Office from
Monday 11 December 2017