



Issue 33  
December  
2021



Wishing you a very merry  
Christmas and a happy  
and healthy New Year.

*Round the Green is our community newsletter  
published 3 or 4 times each year.*

**Agnes Bland has collected some Christmas memories of traditions in the village.** Local people's memories of Christmas past often seem to involve the Hurst Green Band, who, until the late 50s / early 60s played carols round the village, visiting the pubs and the nearby farms. Going back beyond living memory, the Stonyhurst Record states that 'On Christmas Day in 1883, the Hurst Green Band marched through the gallery at Stonyhurst in full uniform playing for the entertainment of all. A hat was sent round and £1 collected'. Mary Bailey remembers the band coming to New Lodge at Stonyhurst playing carols on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. She also remembers that on Christmas Day, the postman would have his Christmas dinner with them when he had finished his round. Older residents of the village remember that there was always a dance and whist drive at St Joseph's School on Boxing Day, and that the children's party took place on the afternoon of the following day. The children's party seems to have followed the same format for at least 50 years. The Entertainments Committee put on a tea in the dining room that consisted of sandwiches, jelly and fruit following which, in the school hall, games such as musical chairs and pass-the-parcel were played, before presents were handed out from under the huge Christmas tree by Father Christmas. Mary Cardwell remembers a racing game which involved rolling oranges down the hall. She also remembers well some of the presents she received and still has a money box in the shape of a postbox which she was given one year. The children's party, she says, was eagerly anticipated by most of the pupils. Everyone dressed in their best, and she remembers being bought a special new dress one year to go in. In the 1960s and 70s the party followed almost exactly the same format, still under the watchful eyes of Miss Hall and Miss Cross. I remember as each child reached up for their present, regardless of whether or not their lips moved, Miss Hall's voice would ring out 'Thank you, Father Christmas!' Another change in the village in recent years is the appearance of so many outside decorative lights. After dark in Hurst Green, I can only remember two things that indicated that it was Christmas. One was a small, white, lit-up chapel in the window of Mrs Edith Cross who lived at Southview, by the War Memorial, and the other was a lovely crib in the window of James Wilcock on Avenue Road which was lit up at night, the large figures, which filled the bottom half of the window, being placed to face outwards. The tradition of a Christmas tree at the bottom of the green outside the Club is relatively recent. It was started by the Parish Council, possibly in the late 1990s, and the large tableau of the nativity which stands beside it was painted by John Holden of Winkley approximately two years later.

**Christmas at St. John the Evangelist.**

**19<sup>th</sup> December**

**Carol Service 7.30pm**

**Christmas Eve**

**Christingle 4pm**

**Christmas Day**

**Family Service and Holy**

**Communion at 10am**

**Boxing Day (Sunday)**

**10.30am St Stephen's Day A JOINT BENEFICE  
SERVICE at St Wilfrid's Ribchester**



**The Hobbits parent and toddler group still meets**

every Thursday in term time between 9.30am and 11.30am in the Memorial Hall.

It is extremely well attended and is ideal for preschool children to enjoy safe play and interaction with other children. Equally as important it gives parents and carers some relative down time to chat with other adults.

The group is run by a small team and refreshments are provided by community volunteers on a rota basis. If anyone can give an hour on a Thursday morning every few weeks to provide and serve refreshments please contact Gill or David Jacques for more details (07877 642653).

## **David Kay, whose family home was Greengore, writes a history of St. John's School.**

St John's Church and vicarage were opened in 1838. Initially, classes for about twenty pupils were held in the vicarage, but a subscription list to fund the building of a school was started immediately. Queen Adelaide, widow of the late King William IV, headed the list with the sum of £15. Her name is engraved in the stone now at the entrance door. Parishioners also donated towards their children's education. The land was given by James Fenton of Dutton Manor. Despite the original school room only measuring 40 x 18 feet, it was deemed adequate for as many as 120 children, though it is doubtful that this number ever attended. The school house was built adjoining the school for the Head Teacher to live in.

There were two classrooms, divided by a partition, and the only heating was by open fires at each end of the hall. The playground was divided by a high wall, one side for boys and the other for girls. There were earth closets to provide sanitary needs at the bottom of the yard. Education was not compulsory at that time, so each parent paid ½d to 4d per week to the teacher. In 1870 the Education Act was passed making education free for all children. Little changed until the 1960s when an extension was built at the front of the school to include indoor toilets and a further small classroom. Sadly, due to lack of numbers, in 1982 the school had to close. The school and cottage were then placed in the 'hands' of the Charity Commission and are now run by local Trustees. In 2019, the hall was completely refurbished with a new heating system and disabled facilities. It is a cosy venue for meetings, parties, clubs, exercise classes, social events and film nights. From those early days as a school for local children, it continues to be a useful asset for the whole community.

## **Head Teacher of St. Joseph's Primary School, Laura Orr reflects on what school life has been like for the past year.**

It has been quite a year here at St Joseph's R.C Primary School. As the Covid-19 restrictions began to lift, life became a little more 'normal'. Singing recommenced, groups were reunited and long awaited traditions such as the Year 5/6 residential to the Lake District and Leavers Events took place. In July, we bid a fond farewell to Mr Crabtree, who had dedicated so much of his life to our school. Colin was an inspirational teacher and touched the lives of so many pupils, but with a special song, cards, presents and parties we wished him well as he started a new chapter of his life – cycling his way through retirement.

In September, not only did we welcome our new children, we also welcomed Miss Hall - our Year 5/6 teacher and Mrs Williams our EYFS teaching assistant. The creative curriculum is going from strength to strength with visits from a St Ignatius, a Viking and Paddington Bear, class projects such as castle building, baking and fossil exploration all creating memorable moments in our children's education. As a Jesuit school we are always ready to help and serve others. We have been collecting items for our local foodbank, raising money for the Jesuit missions and making a variety of decorations to sell for the Haiti appeal too. As the year draws to a close, we look forward to the Nativity where our younger children will retell the story of the first Christmas and a blockbuster production of 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. With an array of fabric, tinsel and a chariot of gold sitting in my office, two days are never the same and that is just how we like it! We follow our mission statement 'To grow daily in God's love, blossoming in His will' and here at St Joseph's we see ourselves as a unique little family, with talents to share, gifts to bring and love to give.

*At the end of November villagers were treated to a showcase of local talent as they took their seats in the Memorial Hall for **Hurst Green's Got Talent**.*

## **Niall Macfarlane as chair of the Memorial Hall Committee writes...**

Thank you to all who made the Hurst Green's Got Talent night a great success. Special thanks to Margaret Carrington, Barbara Herd, Adam Hayhurst and Dan Wilkinson and everyone who participated. The feedback was very positive and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We have had a busy couple of years with the refurbishment of the hall including the ground source heating and we are thankful for the financial contributions of the Big Lottery, Lancashire Environmental Fund, BA Carbon Fund, Garfield Weston, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Bernard Sunley, Craven Trust, Duchy of Lancaster Trust *AND the local community for helping to raise the money*. The next parts of the project are the kitchens, Gents toilets and Jubilee room. Watch this space.

I would like to remind everyone to always consider using the hall for family events, to support the activities which are currently taking place, and to suggest ideas to help bring in more business to the hall. Such activities bring in the money (*viability*), make the hall a centre for the community (*visibility*), and build for the future well-being of this village and surrounding area (*vitality*). Thank you for your support, and on behalf of the hall committee, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thanks to Niall and, to pick up a theme from our last edition, thanks to all those people who give their time for our community. *More unsung heroes! See back cover for a write up of the show.*

## ***Sadly since our last edition a number of villagers have passed away.***

### **Martyn Greenhalgh**

Martyn Greenhalgh of Warren Fold died very suddenly in July this year. Martyn moved from Tottington, near Bury to Mill Cottages, Stonyhurst with his parents in the mid-60s when his father came to Stonyhurst as cricket coach. As a young man Martyn was very keen on sport and excelled at cricket, playing for Lancashire and England Schoolboys. On coming to Hurst Green, Martyn joined the Football Club and he continued to play a wide variety of sport throughout his life. At the age of 15, Martyn got an apprenticeship with the building company St Gobain, for whom he worked for the next 50 years, becoming North-West regional manager.

In October 1969 Martyn married Margaret Crotty at St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst and they set up home in Hall Square, where they brought up their two children, John and Amy. Martyn and Margaret moved to Warren Fold in 2001, where Martyn became known and appreciated for his kindness to his neighbours, especially the elderly. He was, above all, a family man, caring for both his own parents and Margaret's as the need arose. He enjoyed many family holidays, especially those spent walking in Scotland and Northumberland. Although he didn't play bowls, Martyn was a very familiar figure at the Bowling Club during Margaret's tenure as President. Martyn's sudden death shocked and saddened many friends and neighbours. He is most missed, of course, by his immediate family and by the large extended family, of which he was such a loved and valued part.

### **Josephine Nicholson**

Josephine Nicholson, known as Jo, died in August this year. She was born in November 1943, at 41 Avenue Road, the fourth child of Cyril and Alice Wilcock, and younger sister to James, John and Jean. She attended school at St Joseph's and then St Michael and St John's, following which she worked as a seamstress at Trutex in Clitheroe.

In 1965 she married Gordon Nicholson at St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst – the church she attended regularly all her life, her faith always being very important to her. Gordon and Jo set up home in Bilsberry Cottages and it was here that they brought up their two children, Ann and Stephen.

Jo worked for some years as a catering assistant at Stonyhurst, but her main focus was bringing up her children and maintaining close links with her wider family. Jo loved her dogs, her garden, family holidays and trips to the seaside, and liked especially to gather her extended family around her for parties and celebrations. She is remembered as a generous and loving person who always put others first. In recent years Jo struggled increasingly with her mobility, eventually becoming housebound. Ann and Stephen, with the help of family and neighbours, cared for their Mum at home where she died peacefully with her family around her.

### **Bill Atkinson**

Bill Atkinson of Shireburn Cottages died in September this year. Bill was born in Darwen in 1933, the youngest of four children. Bill's father was a coalman and Bill remembered that having enough money to feed and clothe the family was a constant worry for his parents when he was a child. Bill left school at the age of 15 and trained as a joiner. At 21 he joined the Army and did 2 years National Service with the Royal Artillery. Bill met his wife Pat at a dance in Darwen and they were married in 1962, and had two sons, Mark and Craig. In 1986 the family moved to Shireburn Cottages, Hurst Green when Bill came to Stonyhurst to work on the maintenance staff.

Bill was a supporter of Blackburn Rovers and of Darwen Cricket Club, where his son Mark played. He used to sell draw tickets around Stonyhurst to help raise money for the Club, and became affectionately known as 'Bill Ticket' both at the College and in the village. Bill soon became involved in village life. For several years he looked after the cenotaph, but he was, perhaps, best known for his long and faithful service to the Bowling Club, the excellent condition of the green being due to the hours of mowing and care that Bill put in. Bill was a very practical man and all his life he used his skills to help others. He was known in his family and among his friends and neighbours as a kind and reliable man who could always be called upon for help. Bill, who died at home, was cared for in the final months of his life by Pat and his sons, with the help and support of friends and neighbours.

### **Natalie Clare pays tribute to her husband Rob, who was sorely missed at this year's Remembrance parade.**

Rob spent his childhood in Lincolnshire with his mum and brother, Vinnie. Rob then joined the Army at 16-years-of-age where he went on to have an outstanding and distinguished 22-year career that led him to travel to many countries, as well as see active combat in Iraq and Kuwait. However, in 2010 Rob retired from the military at the age of 40, and secured a job with Stonyhurst College as the new Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of the Combined Cadet Force. Rob, Natalie, Ashton and Billie-may moved from Telford to start a new life here in the beautiful Ribbles Valley. Rob soon became an important and much loved part of the community and led the Cadets through Hurst Green each November for the Remembrance Parade. Rob took his role as a leader very seriously and could not have been any prouder than he was already of the Stonyhurst Cadets. Rob would do anything for anyone and will be remembered not only as the RSM, but also for the funny, kind hearted gentleman and family man that he was. Rob is and always will be dearly missed by his wife, Natalie, his children, Demi, Ashton and Billie-may and his Grandson Teddy, who happens to celebrate his first birthday on the same day as his Papa Rob on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Nathan Aspin of The Warren sadly passed away on holiday in August. His wife Natalie wrote this tribute.**

Everyone who knew Nathan will know he was a fun, charismatic young man. He was popular, hard working and committed to his family. He always put 110 % effort in to anything he tried. Although his time in Hurst Green was short, we managed to make some wonderful memories as a family.

Nathan's most exciting memory was to visit his son's school for the first time St Joseph's. I will never forget how lucky it was that he was the one parent out of the two of us who was the one to attend in Summer 2021. He was thrilled when he face-timed the teachers in school that day and so was Blake. He is missed by all who knew him and he will never be forgotten.

## **Hurst Green's Got Talent- Yes it has!**

What a night we had on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November in our refurbished Memorial Hall. Hurst Green's Got Talent really brought our community together to enjoy the amazing talents of our friends and neighbours and of course to help raise funds for the next phase of renovation of the hall.

The programme showcased our community from young to old with a bevy of young women, Ella Wilkinson, Heather Cross-Costello, Emma Smith and Tilly Clapham displaying their vocal talents and making their ex-teachers at St. Joseph's very proud! The WI danced and sang two numbers, proving that they've still got it and their keyboard player, Linda entertained us with a rendition of 'Country Roads'.

Richard Wilkinson, always on trend, paired with David Harrison to represent the bowling club with a Sea Shanty or two, personalised for the bowling community. The Janet Sutcliffe Dance School crossed the border from Longridge to perform some accomplished and graceful dances, finishing their set with an eye-watering street dance which left us wondering how anyone can move their arms and legs in two different directions at once. Which leads me to the arrival on stage of four monks and a nun, which left us wondering how anyone can have such knobbly knees! This group, or most of them, reappeared in the second half, wearing dresses as Fantasising Ada singing 'Cheap Flights', well worth the price of a ticket just to see Peter Butterfield in his blond wig! And the laughs continued with the Memorial Hall committee's enactment of The Three Bears and this time that nun (Kath Molyneux) appeared in a blond wig. With the evening drawing to a close we were treated to some accomplished guitar playing with songs by Cat Stevens from Paul Kelly (aka Pablo), and the finale was led by Level 2 featuring Roy Hough, who provided a soundtrack for those who still had the energy to get up and dance.

All this was reliant on Dan Wilkinson's skills as a Sound Engineer, and, as compere Adam Hayhurst mentioned, there were a few 'Technical Issues' but they didn't beat Dan! Adam kept the show rolling forward as daughter Rebecca operated the curtains and worked backstage. The whole performance was oiled by the smooth working bar staff: Nicky, Annie and Michelle, not to mention glass collector Andy, to all of whom, many thanks. Final thanks go to Barbara Herd and Margaret Carrington who organised the whole event.

## **Greetings from Fr Tim Curtis SJ Christmas is coming, the candles are being lit.**

The Catholic community in Hurst Green is getting ready to welcome the Saviour at Christmas. At our Masses during this season of Advent we light the candles on the Advent Wreath as a countdown to Christmas day. Each Sunday an extra candle is lit until we reach Christmas itself. Last year with lockdown restrictions, it was quite extraordinary, so our busiest Mass of Christmas, at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, became a drive-in Mass. People remained in their cars but were able to take part in Mass projected on a giant screen. Children were encouraged to bring their baby Jesus from their crib at home, and these were blessed in their cars. Thanks to the vaccination programme, we are hoping to celebrate Mass in a more normal way this year. The Christmas Eve Masses in St Peter's will be at 5.30pm and at 9pm, each preceded by half an hour of carol singing. We will socially distance by using alternate benches and we will require all adults to wear a face mask. With these precautions, it should be safe for us to sing. Of course all of this could change between now and Christmas, but we hope and pray that we can celebrate this year in the manner in which we have done so for the past 185 years. Villagers of any faith and none are most welcome to join us for any of our Christmas services. Everyone in the village will be in our prayers.

**Party? Wedding? Meeting? Workshop? Fund-raising  
Event? Regular Group? Social? Do?  
Why not book the Memorial Hall? Contact Kath  
Molyneux on 826898**

Keep up to date on our village website  
[www.hurst-green.co.uk](http://www.hurst-green.co.uk) or join our facebook page  
Hurst Green, Ribbles Valley

Congratulations to Harry Wilkinson and  
Janey Duncan on the birth of their  
daughter, Helen Linda, on  
October 10<sup>th</sup> 2021.

If you would like to sponsor an edition of Round The Green or would like to contribute to an article on village life, please contact the editors, Agnes Bland (826559) or Nancy Bailey (826903). Printed by John Barton Printers, Longridge. Published by the editors, Hurst Green BB7 9QR.