

St Giles and Shipbourne
NEWSLETTER



January 2018

OFFICERS OF ST GILES AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

ST GILES

Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol: 811081
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The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol
TN15 0QG
Email: RectorSwP@gmail.com
Churchwardens: Viv Packer 810035
Paul Britton 365794

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Secretary: Mary Perry 810797
Children's Rep: Glynis Coates 811432
Treasurer: Martyn Williams 833751
Choirmaster: John Young 810289
Flowers: Felicity Ward 810525
Bellringing: Paul Britton 365794

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sarah Huseyin 886402
shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com
Chair: Libby Cohen 07949 591716
Vice Chair: Nick Tyler 811079
Councillors: D Pettengell, V Redman
J Sheldrick, J Bate
A Razaq

VILLAGE WEBSITE www.shipbourne.com

SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Headmistress Mrs K Dodd 810344
www.shipbourne.kent.sch.uk

SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Chairman: Curtis Galbraith 763637
Bookings: Helen Leach 07762 241720

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

Organiser: Bob Taylor 833976

SHIPBOURNE WI

President Margaret Thompson 810789

SHIPBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

Secretary: Mark Fenton 811067

PLAXTOL & SHIPBOURNE TENNIS CLUB

Membership: Cilla Langdon-Down 810338

ST GILES' AND SHIPBOURNE NEWSLETTER

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Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol
 Rev Dr Peter Hayler
 The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol TN15 0QG
 Tel: 01732-811081
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PARISH DIARY – JANUARY 2018

Except where indicated below, the main morning service at ST GILES SHIPBOURNE is at 9.30am.

Every weekday at 8.00am Morning Prayer will be said at Plaxtol Church and every weekday evening (except Friday and Saturday) at 4.30pm Evening Prayer will be said at St Giles Shipbourne.

Thursday	4th		NO Farmers' Market at Shipbourne
SUNDAY	7th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Family Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Genesis 1 vv 1-5 Acts 19 vv 1-7 Mark 1 vv 4-11
Monday Baptism of Christ	8th	8.00am	Morning Prayer at Plaxtol Church
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer at St Giles Shipbourne
		7.30pm	Shipbourne Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall
Thursday	11th		NO Farmers' Market at Shipbourne
SUNDAY	14th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		9.30am	Matins at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	1 Samuel 3 vv 1-10 Revelation 5 vv 1-10 John 1 vv 43-end
Monday	15th	8.00pm	Shipbourne PCC meeting at Village Hall
Thursday	18th	9-11am	Return of Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
SUNDAY	21st	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		12.00pm	Short Communion at Plaxtol Church
		4.00pm	<u>Community@4 at Plaxtol Church</u>
		Readings:	Genesis 14 vv 17-20 Revelation 19 vv 6-10 John 2 vv 1-11
Thursday	25th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
Saturday	27 th	9.30-11.30am	Community Bread Basket at Plaxtol Church (see advert in Newsletter)
SUNDAY	28th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		9.30am	Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Deuteronomy 18 vv 15-20 Revelation 12 vv 1-5a Mark 1 vv 21-28



ERRATUM FROM THE DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE REGISTER

Death: Arthur **Greer** died on 14 October aged 84

Sadly one of Shipbourne's longest residents, Mr Arthur Greer, 84, passed away on 14th October 2017 at The Tunbridge Wells Hospital. He originally came to the area as a foundling child and had lived in Back Lane for many years. Before his ill health, Arthur was a well-known figure with his walking stick and cap, walking round the village with one of his dogs by his side. He was a village character and will be missed by all who knew him. Donations in his memory if so desired, to Thomas Coram School and Shipbourne School, c/o Abbey Funeral Services, Tonbridge.

BULK REFUSE SERVICE (4th Saturday of month)

Upper Green Road (opposite Village Hall) 8am - 9am on

Saturday 27 January 2018

Saturday 24 February 2018

PASTORAL LETTER

LET IN SNOW? NO! LET IT SHOW!

As surely as December 2017 gives way to January 2018, Christmas gives way to the season of Epiphany. The Church remembers the visit of the wise men, the Baptism of Christ, the wedding at Cana where many guests witnessed the first miraculous sign as Jesus transformed a rather damp squib of a party into a roaring success by change the water into wine, and the visit of Mary of Joseph to the temple in which an elderly man, Simeon, recognised the bay Jesus as the Messiah. In all these stories, something of Jesus shows through, and 'showing through' is the literal sense of the word 'Epiphany'. So what does all that mean for the church and society today. I believe that the glory of God still shows through in the ordinary things of life, and that some of the most powerful tools that the church has are the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. In each of these rites we take ordinary things, water or bread and wine and, through faith, we receive that sense of blessing, a glimpse of the glory of God.

At the end of January, on Saturday 27th, between 9.30 and 11.30, we will begin a new project that we hope will work in the same. Community Bread Basket will be a breakfast café event, held at the back of Plaxtol Church, using the lovely new space and facilities. We hope that in the very ordinariness of sharing a bite to eat and a drink, and meeting face to face within the busyness of our lives, we will glimpse something of the essence of community - which is at the very heart of our understanding of God. Many thanks to all who have offered help to make this new project a possibility.

A similar extra-ordinary community meets week by week at Shipbourne, too, and, this year, the Farmers' Market will be celebrating fifteen years. Whether it's meat, game, vegetables, bread, cake, jam or cheese that you like best, or whether it's the monthly pattern of gin, beer and other local booze, the market is a place where folk meet over the basic business of food shopping in a way that seeks to connect with local producers. Here, too, with eyes ears and hearts open, we can glimpse the glory of God. Watch this space for details of fifteenth anniversary celebrations.

And if you should but catch a glimpse of the glory of God through the ordinary things of life, how do you think you might respond? The stories I mentioned at the beginning give us a range of responses. The wise men travelled a very long way in order to see and worship, bringing expensive and symbolic gifts; the wedding guests saw and believed in Jesus; Simeon was so fulfilled that he declared he was ready to die in peace, words that the church still uses today at the time of death. Peace to all this New Year!

Peter Hayler
Rector

You are invited to a...

Cafe Style Breakfast
at Plaxtol Church

Saturday 27th January 9:30 - 11:30

Community

Bread

Basket



Come along - have some breakfast
and meet new friends

Suggested Donation of £2.50

ROUX TWO

Albert Roux and Michel Roux Jr will return to Shipbourne in June 2018 for another amazing dinner to mark the 15th anniversary of the Shipbourne Farmers' Market. The confirmed date for the dinner is **Tuesday 5 June 2018** and, once again, the venue will be The Chaser Inn. There will be a window for ticket applications in the Spring and further details will follow in the February Newsletter.



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A CHRISTMAS MURDER MYSTERY

The Christmas party season started in earnest in Plaxtol Memorial Hall on 1st December when we were all invited to attend the festivities at Rothersfield Hall. From the moment the curtains opened to reveal a magnificent drawing room (courtesy of Julia Cannon and Peter Leach), we were transported to a bygone age where men thought they wore the trousers and the servants assuredly did not know their place. Our hostess, Lady Dorothy (Gill French), the epitome of calmness among the mayhem, ably fended off the thoroughly unlikeable Lord Charles, played to such good effect by Graham Shewell. It was, thus, no surprise that he it was who met an untimely end. But who, of the many suspects, dunnit? Was it Mr Butler, the eponymous manservant (Steve Klain), whose urbane yet haughty knowingness spoke of things unsaid, or the deliciously tipsy heiress Victoria (Julia Cannon) or even her friend, Florence (Ruth Backhurst), whose attractive naivety concealed a family torment? Was it the less than grieving widow, Lady Elizabeth (Sandy Oram), whose hilariously forthright observations on her late husband's character put her squarely in the frame. And what of the other servants who refused resolutely to remain below stairs – Mrs Cook, the...(yes, you guessed it) cook (Penny Court), whose attractive West Country burr could not conceal a determination more steely than the wicked knife she carried around and the hapless Edie (Sue Lamb), whose tears hinted at highborn, if unacknowledged, parentage? To unravel the mystery Her Majesty's finest were on hand, D.I. Moody (Patrick Thomas) more Manwaring than Morse and his less than gifted assistant D.C. Sullen, played to such bumbling effect by Mike Brewin. Together they contrived to pin the blame on a different person each night.

To the director, Linda Thomas, must go much credit for giving us such an entertaining night and the contributions of the many people behind the scenes - the backstage crew, lighting and sound engineers, the bar staff and, of course, the kitchen crew who served up a delicious meal. After our visit to Rotherfield Hall, our Christmases will seem rather tame.



Shipbourne Village Hall
Registered Charity No 1074519

The Hall can be hired for £12.50 per hour with a minimum of 4 hours (£50.00). It has an attractive secure garden with a good gate that can be closed. Inside there is wheelchair access through the rear door, a well-appointed kitchen, the main hall and an adjoining side room plus all usual facilities.

For Village Hall **enquiries and bookings** please call 07762 241720 or email shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com

Further details can be found on the Shipbourne website
www.shipbourne.com



SCOTTISH DANCING IN SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

In the village hall on alternate Tuesday nights from 7.15 to 9pm, starting again on Tuesday 9 January, please come and give it a go! Just turn up or call Helen on 01732 811144 for more information.

Please note there will be a break for the whole of March whilst works are being carried out to update the hall.

Helen Leach
01732 811144

NEW ROUND OF ENERGY DEAL TO HELP RESIDENTS SAVE MONEY

Tonbridge and Malling residents can find out whether they could save money on their energy bills by registering for the new round of Energy Deal. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is continuing to support Energy Deal, a collective switching scheme which aims to help householders to access cheaper energy tariffs.

Residents have until 12 February 2018 to register to take part in the latest round. Energy suppliers will then be invited to compete with their best offer at an energy auction. Residents registered with Energy Deal will be sent a personalised offer showing the winning tariff. They can then decide whether they wish to accept the tariff or not. It's free to register and residents are not obliged to switch energy supplier.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is working in partnership with Dartford, Gravesham, Dover and Tunbridge Wells councils to operate the Energy Deal scheme. The more households that register, the better the deal that suppliers are able to offer.

Councillor Piers Montague, Cabinet Member for Housing, says: "Registration is quick and easy, and many of our residents have already made savings on their energy bills. We hope that more residents in the borough will register for the latest round of Energy Deal by 12 February 2018 to find out if they can save money on their energy costs. "

Registration is quick and easy, and many of our residents have already made savings on their energy bills. We hope that more residents in the borough will register for the latest round of Energy Deal by 12 February 2018. "

To register, please go to www.energydealswitch.com. Residents without internet access can call Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 01732 876395 to register with the scheme.



If you're **FIT AS A FIDDLE** and want to relive that **GLORIOUS FEELING**, then why not **MAKE 'EM LAUGH** by bringing the whole family to see one of the 'greatest movie musicals' **LIVE ON STAGE!**

Filled with every memorable moment from the film and a downpour of unforgettable songs, **SINGIN' IN THE RAIN** is the perfect entertainment for any fan of the golden age of movie and theatre musicals alike.

This delightful stage adaptation captures the waning days of the Hollywood silent-film era as it gives way to the new-fangled 'talkies'. Set in the roaring '20s, silent movie stars are the biggest names in the world. Don Lockwood has it all, a string of hit films and a studio-engineered romance with the most beautiful actress in town. Don accidentally meets an aspiring young actress Kathy Selden while escaping from his fans and falls in love with her. Lina has troubles with the sharp tone of her voice, and Cosmo and Don decide to dub her, using Kathy's voice, to save their movie. When the jealous Lina finds out the strategy of the studio, she does not want to share the credits with Kathy and tries to force the studio to use Kathy in the background to dub her in other productions. But when Lina decides to speak and sing to the audience, the truth that she can do neither becomes obvious.

This spectacular show is packed full of the charm, romance, comedy and tinsel town glamour of one the world's best loved movies and features all the songs from the glorious MGM score including 'Good Morning', 'Make 'em Laugh', 'Moses Supposes' and the classic 'Singin' in the Rain'.

One thing is for sure, you'll be showered with everything you could wish for in a hit musical this Easter! If you want to know more about Lamps, look us up on our website <https://www.lamps.org.uk/about-us/>

Tuesday 3rd April - Saturday 7th April

Nightly at 7.30pm with Wed & Sat matinee at 2.30pm

Ticket prices: **£15** (£13 concessions available on all performances)

Box Office Telephone: 01732-304241 or book on line at <http://www.boxoffice>. Special early bird booking price - **£11** on all tickets. E M Forster tonbridge-school.co.uk/home/
Book early for the best seats and to avoid disappointment.

SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL NEWS

After a very busy and enjoyable run-up to Christmas, the school term ended on December 20th with a service in the church. The success of the School Council at fund-raising for charitable causes was reflected in over £180 being made from their 'Spotacular Fun Fair'; this will go to Children in Need. Well done everyone, and thanks to those who supported this event.

Christmas was celebrated in the traditional Shipbourne School way, with a performance of the nativity 'It's a Baby' to parents and grandparents, carol singing at the Farmers' Market and a beautifully decorated tree, provided by the Fairlawne Estate. We even managed to fit in a visit to the Stag Theatre to see the pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

After a two week break for pupils and staff to re-charge their batteries, school resumes on January 4th with great plans for 2018.

Brenda Mullinger



POPPY APPEAL

A warm 'thank you' to the generous donors and kind house-to-house collectors who together raised over £1500 in Plaxtol and Shipbourne for this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The RBL provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

From Hadlow, Plaxtol & Shipbourne Poppy Appeal Organisers Sean and Anne Waddingham (tel. 850048)

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Please send any articles and adverts for the February newsletter by **17 January 2018**. Please note any articles received after this date will be held over to the next issue as the Newsletter has a tight deadline for printing. Please email articles to lindsay_miles@btinternet.com or call 01732 810439.

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

The contact details for the Parish Council are:

Shipbourne Parish Council
Clerk – Mrs Sarah Huseyin
Gable Cottage
Ismays Road
Ightham TN15 9BE
e-mail: shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com
Telephone: 01732 886402

Please visit the website for Shipbourne Parish Council Meeting Agenda's, Minutes and News. (<http://www.shipbourne.com/>) If you have any ideas or would like something added, such as a news item, please email web@shipbourne.com.

Highways Matters

If you notice any potholes, broken or missing signs or blocked gullies, please report them to the Parish Clerk so that she can notify Kent Highways.

Shipbourne Parish Council have recently commissioned a radar survey on Stumble Hill with a view to getting another speed indication device near to the school. We have received the results which have been sent to Kent Highways.

Kent Police

To report a non-urgent crime, call 101. Kent Police will be launching a new online reporting service later this year. Look out for details in forthcoming newsletters or on the Shipbourne Parish website.

Planning

TM/17/03117/FL - Grange House, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PL.

Single storey rear extension, first floor side extension, enclosure of utility area, part conversion."No objection."

TM/17/03204/TNCA – The Lee, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PH. T1 Mature Oak – lift lower canopy by approx. 1 m by removal of secondary growth, T2, T3, T4 – remove lowest horizontal branches and T5 self seeded Horse Chestnut – remove secondary branches from Noth Eastern stem to reduce the interference with mature Oak canopy. "No objection."

TM/17/03263/FL - Woodlands Farm, Back Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9PP. Proposed double garage and new vehicular access. Applicant: Kingswood Training Services. "SPC object on the basis that the proposed changes do not address our original objection. Please also note that Back Lane is a classified 'C' road and that the highway safety issue as outlined in our original objection has yet to be investigated."

TM/17/03279/LDP - Kingswood Training Services, Back Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PP. Formation of access to unclassified road and formation of vehicular hard standing between principal elevation of dwelling and highway.

Planning Approvals from TMBC

TM/17/01741/FL School Lane, Cottage School Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9RT. Conversion of existing outbuilding containing garage/residential accommodation to main house to 2 bedroom dwelling, with single storey rear extension.

TM/17/02580/LB Village Hall, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9PL. Listed Building Application: replacement ceiling and internal works.

TM/17/02581/FL 1 Grange Cottages, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PJ. Single storey rear extension.

17/02885/TNCA Butchers Cottage, Stumble Hill, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PE. T1 - Twin stem Eucalyptus to fell to ground level.

17/02166/LDE Ambleside, Reeds Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9RR. Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Non-compliance with agricultural occupancy condition of TM/75/1070.

Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on 5th February 2018. All members of public are welcome to attend.

Please note that building works are due to start at the village hall in February and the March Parish Meeting will be held at an alternative venue. Please check the website for further details.

Mrs Sarah Huseyin, Parish Clerk

E-mail: shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

Telephone: 01732 886402

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Thank you to those of you who took the time to respond to KCC's budget consultation. Most people who took part supported the proposed rise in council tax of just under 4% (1.99% for all services plus a special levy of 2% ringfenced for social care). As explained in this consultation, we still need to make savings to cope with increased costs and rising demand for social care as more of our population reaches frail old age. Our Government grant is also decreasing and will be completely withdrawn by 2020.

All discretionary expenditure is under scrutiny including the £7.5m a year we pay to the bus companies for services which do not cover their costs. 97% of the bus services in Kent run without a direct subsidy although they are indirectly supported through payments by KCC of £17m for travel on concessionary bus passes, as well as a £9m subsidy for travel passes for young people and £7m on home to school transport (these are annual figures). These payments will continue. There will be a specific consultation in early 2018 on the direct £5.7m subsidy for uneconomic bus services with a view to getting the bus companies to pick up more of these services themselves (they have been raising fares above inflation for the last five years) and looking at better ways of providing travel such as community run bus services and car/taxi sharing options.

One of the ways we've been making savings over the last few years is making more of our services available through our website. School admissions are now handled almost entirely this way and we have over 3,000 web pages covering over 300 KCC services. Each month an average of 216,000 people contact the site and view 880,000 pages. There's been an increase in use of the website by 36% over the last 5 years and more people are using their mobile phones to view the website. Please use the website for reporting problems you see on the highways. There's an interactive map which makes it easy to pinpoint a problem such as a pothole and you'll be given a reference number which helps if you need to get me involved. Emergencies such as a tree blocking a road should be reported by phone to 03000 41 91 91 or if you think someone is in immediate danger then call the emergency services on 999.

This is the time of year when we face some of the coldest and wettest weather so please allow yourself more time for your journey and for up to date information on Kent's roads look at Kent Highways' twitterfeed @KentHighways

Harry Rayner

County Member for Malling West

Tel: 03000 421606

Email: Harry.Rayner@kent.gov.uk



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(04/16)

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

MAKE IT LOCAL – A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO KEEP THROUGH THE YEAR

New Year is here and it's time for a few resolutions. How about giving yourself a reward. A regular trip to your local Farmers Market! With some planning and research, you'll eat more healthily, food will taste better and you'll save money by shopping locally with the seasons. Add to your feel-good factor the support you will be giving local businesses and producers and the whole thing makes perfect sense.

After the excesses of the Christmas period, budgets are tight and healthier menus are on everyone's minds. So it's time to go minimal in the kitchen and enjoy simple clean dishes that satisfy the senses. The brassica family neatly fits the bill. Kale, Savoy cabbage, sprouts and spring greens are all full of flavour now and don't need to be boiled to death. Quite the opposite as they work perfectly in stir fries, hearty soups and curries, or just serve them simply shredded and steamed tossed with a little seasoning and a dash of cold pressed rapeseed oil. Mark Twain called cauliflower 'cabbage with a college education' and it certainly is a vegetable that deserves more than just a cheesy sauce. Try it in soups, fritters, or steamed then tossed in pan with olive oil, chopped anchovies and garlic with some chilli for a quick pasta sauce. Main crop potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, celeriac, swede and turnips provide the starch that keeps us going in the cold so mash them together, season well and serve with slow cooked meat dishes.

Fish fits perfectly into a healthier diet. Lemon sole, halibut, skate and turbot are all good now when the seas are cold. – try them simply cooked on a griddle with a little oil to prevent sticking and finish with a squeeze of lemon juice. Venison is plentiful and, with its lean flesh and high mineral content, is marvelous for those watching waistlines. The feathered game season comes to a close around the end of the month so now is a good time to use wild duck or pheasant in a casserole or pie.

COOKERY CORNER

BAKED SEA BASS WITH POTATOES, PEPPERS AND PRESERVED LEMONS

This is one of my favourite methods of cooking any fish as it's incredibly simple and quick. It works with either fillets or whole fish and all you need is a salad or steamed green veg such as broccoli for a healthy meal

Serves 2

Prep 10 minutes

Cook 40 minutes

- 300g waxy potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced
 - 1 Romano red pepper, seeded and sliced
 - 1 preserved lemon, roughly chopped
 - 1 large clove garlic, finely chopped
 - 3 fresh bay leaves, torn in half
 - 2 sea bass fillets (about 150 – 200g each), skin left on
 - 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1. Preheat the oven to 200C gas mark 6. Put the potatoes, pepper, lemon, garlic and bay leaves in a bowl with half the olive oil and seasoning and toss together to combine. Spread over the base of a roasting pan or baking dish that will fit the fish fillets neatly. Bake in the oven for 25 – 30 minutes until nearly tender and starting to brown at the edges.
 2. Remove from the oven and turn the potatoes carefully to bring any unbrowned bits to the surface. Arrange the fish fillets on the top, skin side up. Drizzle with the remaining oil and return to the oven for 10 -12 minutes until the fish is cooked through. Serve on warmed plates with a green salad and a glass of chilled white wine.

Mary Gwynn is a local author and food writer. She writes regularly for Waitrose Weekend newspaper and has published several cookery books, including The WI Cookbook: The First 100 Years and The Busy Mum's Cookbook.



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THE GARDEN SHED

I wish you all a very happy New Year and a very successful and rewarding 2018 in your garden.

In last month's article I wrote about some shrubs that flowered over the winter period, and here are some more. The joy of most of these winter flowerers is that they are very highly scented and a few sprays brought into the house will fill it with perfume. One example is the shrubby honeysuckle (*Lonicera x purpusii* 'Winter Beauty'), this will grow to 120-150cms (4-5ft) but it can be kept compact by being pruned after it has finished flowering; its creamy white flowers will start blooming just before Christmas and carry on until a final flush in late March. The plant itself is semi-evergreen and will flourish in sunshine or partial shade. Two species of *Viburnum*, *V. x bodnantense* and *V. farreri* are winter flowering and highly scented. *V. x bodnantense* needs a lot of space as it can grow to 210-240cms (7-8ft.), it is a deciduous shrub and its pink flowers appear in November and will continue to bloom until mid March, *V. farreri* is a smaller plant and its white scented flower bloom over a shorter period.

Christmas Box or Sweet Box (*Sarcococca confusa*, *S. ruscifolia* and *S. hookeriana* var. *digyna*) are a group of compact evergreen shrubs which will grow 90-120cms (3-4ft.); they are happy to grow in shade and their highly scented flowers open in mid January. *Sarcococca confusa* has the strongest perfume and is the most compact of this group.

Daphne bholua flowers from January onwards and its perfume is one of the strongest of all the winter blooms, it is not as easy to grow as some of the other shrubs, but the flower display and the gorgeous scent make it well worth growing. *Daphne bholua* 'Ghurka' is the hardiest of the group; it is deciduous, and grows to 120-150cs (4-5ft.), its mid-pink flowers bloom from mid January onwards. A slightly more tricky but superb variety is *Daphne. b.* 'Jacqueline Postill', this variety has deeper pink flowers and a wonderful perfume.

There are many more plants that flower at this time of year and a visit to a notable garden - like the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, will show that the winter months are not devoid of any flowering plants outside, and especially scented ones.

This is the last article I will be writing for the St Giles and Shipbourne Newsletter. I have enjoyed sharing my love of gardening

with you and I wish you a happy and rewarding 2018 in your garden.

Tessa Forbes

Editor's Note: Huge thanks to Tessa and Donald for their gardening and weather contributions to the Newsletter!



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These are just a few examples – if your query or issue relates to residential property, we can help!

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Tish Gourmelon

Tel: 07966 035492 / Email: tishgo@hotmail.com

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All revenue raised from Shipbourne Classifieds goes towards the printing costs of the Newsletter.

Disclaimer: Please note that the St Giles and Shipbourne Newsletter cannot be held responsible for the quality of the goods or services advertised in the Newsletter.

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