



# NOVEMBER



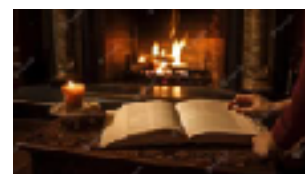
## Now November

Summer was made for the wandering heart,  
The changing beauty and wonderment In the long, grey stretches of open road with  
only the sky for a wayside tent.

Meadowlarks singing beyond the hedge,  
Grass with the shimmer of dew still wet;  
A noon day rest by the water's edge  
Summer was marvellous sweet; and yet...



November days and a bright wood fire - a hearth  
and a home and the Heart's Desire.



Summer was kind to the wayfaring one,  
Luring and beckoning, on and on, through new and untraveled, unwearied ways,  
From dawn till night and from night till dawn.

Orchard and field in a veil of rain,  
Blossoming beauty on every bough;  
What more could the heart of a man contain?  
Summer was wondrously kind; but now...



November nights and the open fire - a hearth  
and a home and the Heart's Desire.



*by Esther M Clark*

## Hospitality and Hope

Near the baptismal font in church you'll see a framed letter from Hospitality and Hope (see below). It's so nice to receive this big thank you to all who donate either food or cash. Our Harvest offerings amounted to 12 bags of groceries and a huge bag of apples!

Please note, as Christmas approaches, I'm sure those in need would be glad of extra 'goodies'!

### “ To all at Whitburn Parish Church

On behalf of Hospitality & Hope I wanted to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks as you continue to generously give to us. Since the 1st November 2023 to the 31st July 2024 you have donated a tremendous sum of £1,489.50. This is of course in addition to the food produce kindly donated also.

Your generosity will absolutely help us to help those in need within our community. Our vision at Hospitality & Hope is for the Community of South Tyneside to live with an increased sense of hope for a positive and self-reliant future and your gifts will undoubtedly help us work further towards achieving this ambition. Thank you once again for making a difference for those who need it most.

Kind regards,

Peter Maloney, Chief Executive, Hospitality & Hope ”

## Marsden School's Harvest

Marsden School planned to hold their Harvest service in church but the weather was too bad for them to walk there, so Michael O'Brien and I went to their school. What a joy it was! Here's a photo of their offerings.



**Lorraine Hood**

## Vernon Cuthbert writes...



This year sees a large number of national elections across the world. We held ours on the US Day of Independence. The United States of America are returning the compliment by holding their Presidential election on Bonfire night, 5th November.

There is little we can do in the UK about this election, except watch and pray, yet the result will impact not just the citizens of the USA but most of the world.

Bonfire night was a celebration required by law for over 250 years following the failed attempt to detonate large quantities of explosives on the occasion of the state opening of Parliament, 5th November 1605. It was marked by special church services, ringing of Church Bells and bonfires. Although now not mandated, it still has a cultural resonance, variously called Firework night, Guy Fawkes night or Gunpowder Plot night.

The desire to destroy the House of Lords had at its root a wish to return England to adherence to the Roman Catholic faith. Following the death of Elizabeth I and with no heir, James VI of Scotland was proclaimed King James I of England as the son of Mary, Queen of Scots. It was hoped that he would return England to Papal oversight yet he sought to consolidate the reforms of the church and steer a middle way, the Via Media that has become the hallmark of the Church of England, between Protestant and Catholic influences.

James I instructed a new translation of the Bible into English, the Authorised or King James Version, and a minor revision of the Book of Common Prayer in 1604. (Originally issued in 1549 with major revision in 1559 both led by Thomas Cranmer, this was then further revised in 1662 to become the BCP we know today). This revision confirmed there was to be no return to the solely Catholic understanding of the Christian faith, so, in the opinion of the plotters, the King and Parliament would have to go!

Although we know of Guy Fawkes, he was merely the explosives expert left in the undercroft beneath the House of Lords to light the fuse to detonate the explosion. There were many other conspirators, not all of whom were punished. His name endures and, for many years, effigies would be created to be representations of Guy and burned on bonfires that evening. These 'Guys' were often used as a means to raise money for fireworks to accompany the bonfire. In time a Guy became synonymous with a badly dressed person, then, later still, any male.

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary ITV broadcast a programme that sought to demonstrate what the explosion would deliver, if the plot had been successful. Anyone within 100m of the explosion would have died and all the stained glass windows of Westminster Abbey would have been blown out. Yet ultimately the plot would have failed

as it is thought there would have been a popular backlash against known Roman Catholics with the majority of the population gathering around the next monarch.

In many ways I am pleased the Observance of 5th November (Thanksgiving) Act 1605 was repealed in 1859 as it indicated a more tolerant attitude to Roman Catholics. There is no longer a sense of them being the enemy within. It marks a nation more at ease with itself. This ease across the denominations has similarly seen the almost complete ending of the use of Guy Fawkes effigies, yet effigies are still used and often reflect disapproval of people, often politicians, in the public eye.

I predict that even bonfires and fireworks will cease as they, arguably needlessly, are a source of considerable air pollution. Air quality in the days following bonfire night is always significantly poorer. Can the climate afford the wanton burning of bonfires and setting off of fireworks purely for the pleasure of some? Pet owners especially will be delighted if the use of loud fireworks ceased.

It is an example of how we use remembering to learn, so that we don't repeat mistakes of the past.



Vernon



## **NEWS FLASHES!**

**~ Another successful night of music at our Annual Prom Concert.**

The 26th Whitburn Prom Concert by Bede Wind and Chorus was a huge success all-round . The music was, as always, of a very high standard and impressed the audience from start to finish. The last few pieces got everyone going and contributed to the wonderful conclusion of what was a most enjoyable evening, as captured in Celia's photos.

Many thanks to those members of our congregation who helped set up, run and clear away for the event - the whole effort raised £688 for church funds.



***Michael O'Brien***

## ~ ....and a successful Macmillan Coffee Morning

Always a well-organised event, this year's Macmillan coffee morning was no exception, with oodles of delicious goodies to eat in or take out, plus raffle and side stalls.

Over £2,000 was raised for Macmillan. Congratulations to all involved with Lynne and Roly Humphries in making it such a huge success.



## ~ Children's Society boxes



Those with a Children's Society box, can you please empty it and send cheques to me and payable to Children's Society by 17th November. In the past some of you have asked me to empty your box for you which I'm still happy to do. If so, please bring your box to church by 17th November.

Anyone who doesn't have a box at home, but would like to make a one-off donation I'd be delighted to forward it on to the Children's Society. Any questions, please catch me for a chat in church or phone me on 0750763112. Thank you very much from me and the Society for your ongoing support!

***Michael Vallance***



~ **Do we need a Parish Hall? We need your opinions - please read on.....**



Whitburn Parish Hall was once a thriving hub of activity for community and parish use. As such, it has been a valued resource and has brought much appreciated income to our church funds. This income has, in turn, contributed to our church's financial health and ability to contribute fully to the diocesan Parish Share scheme and to charitable giving.

Since the COVID pandemic, the passing of many hall supporters and following the passing of Jean Atkinson and the retirement of John Shield, running the hall has become a challenge as usage has dwindled and fewer people are willing to attend the larger social events than before. Despite streamlining hall management and the sterling efforts of the church social committee, we are faced with the challenge of deciding the future of our parish hall.

As the elected Parochial Church Council (PCC) we are required to make decisions on behalf of the members of the parish - which includes most of you reading this newsletter - on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish. There are some serious questions to address in relation to the future of the Parish Hall and we'd greatly appreciate your input.

Please give some thought to the questions below and forward your views to one of our PCC members, preferably in writing or by email.

- Do we continue to use the hall via a manager who accepts responsibility for day to day running and bookings at a cost?
- Do we continue to struggle with advertising and organising social events?
- Do we sub-let the hall to ensure a regular income?
- Do we sell the hall and place funds in the parish reserve account?
- What do we do?
- Are there alternatives to these possibilities?
- We would value your views on a positive, realistic way forward.



Thank you.

**Michael O'Brien, PCC Chair**

## **DATES FOR YOUR NOVEMBER DIARY:**

### **~ Mission Group meeting - Monday 11 November at 7.30pm**

Earlier in the year our Parochial Church Council (PCC) established a Mission Group. Monthly meetings have been held to discuss and seek out ways of becoming more active and engaging with our local community.

It's never too late to become a member of this group. The next meeting will be held on **Monday 11 November at 7.30pm** in the Upper Room in Whitburn Church.

Please come along and share your ideas - new members will be made very welcome!

### **~ Whitburn Parish Church Sunday Family Services - 11am on Sunday 24 November**



We love to give a warm welcome to everyone who visits our church, be they regulars, occasional visitors or newcomers! On the last Sunday of each month we now extend a special welcome to families to join us in our 11am Family Service. This month the date for your diary is **24 November!**

### **~ Charity 60's Night at Grand Hotel at 7.30pm on Friday 29 November**

Organised by Seaburn Rotary Club to raise funds for local charities, come along and dance to 60's band 'Cats' Night Out' at the Grand Hotel this month! Bop till you drop!

In true 60's style, a basket meal is included! All details below.



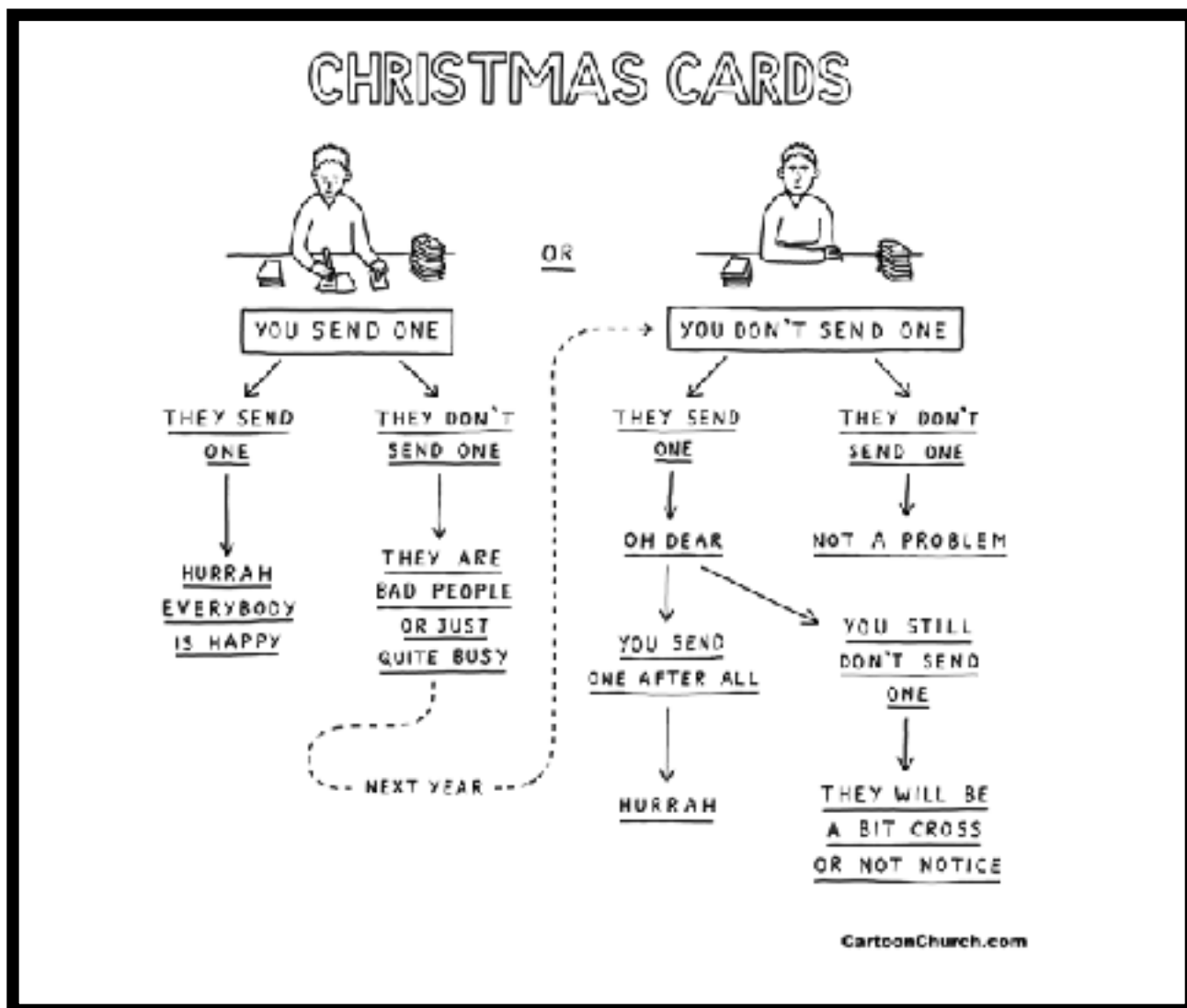


## 100 Club - October draw results

1st prize	£25	Barnes Institute	no. 3
2nd prize	£15	Marjorie Mitchell	no. 39
3rd prize	£10	John Shields	no. 51

## THE LAST WORD.....hope you're ready for a seasonal touch....!

Here's Dave Walker, cartoonist, touching on an annual dilemma. Oh dear, does it look familiar?



**SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!**