



## Christmas 2021



There appears to be some that say Christmas this year will be cold and dry whilst others point to a mild wet time. It is always interesting to speculate but statistically the chances are that it will be "average" - mild and wet.

Some facts for Christmas Day in England:

**Deepest snow:** 43cm at Buxton, Derbyshire and Malham Tarn, N. Yorkshire in 1981 and 2009

**Warmest:** 15.6 °C at Killerton, Devon in 1920

**Wettest:** 103mm at Ennerdale, Cumbria in 2003

**Windiest:** 93mph at the Needles, Isle of Wight in 1997

**Coldest:** -18.3°C at Gainford, Durham in 1878

**Sunniest:** 7.5hrs at Penzance, Cornwall in 1944 and Faversham, Kent in 1979 and Camborne, Cornwall in 2010

Whatever you are doing over the holiday we wish you the very best seasonal greetings. Don't forget our next Bugle will be for February when we will look to collect the annual subscription, if not already paid.

**Your editors  
Steve and Michael**

**Your contributions to the Bugle are very welcome!**

**Email us by the 20th of the month  
at [bickleighbugle@outlook.com](mailto:bickleighbugle@outlook.com)**

# **Christmas services at St Mary's Church**



## **24th December, Christmas Eve**

6.30pm Traditional Parish Service of Carols and Readings

## **25th December Christmas Day**

11am Holy Communion

## **26th December, St Stephen**

9.30am - Holy Communion

at St Mary's Church Silverton (no service in Bickleigh)

# Remembrance day

At the recent Remembrance Day Service at St Mary's Church, a memorial plaque was dedicated in memory of Leonard Vowler who was killed in March 1945 when his plane was shot down. Aged just 21, he was the son of John and Mary Vowler of Church Green, Bickleigh. His nephew Rodney Vowler arranged with the Church authorities for the plaque and was joined at the service by his brother Alan Vowler and Cousin Janet Cox, together with their nephew and niece.

Leonard Vowler was born on 2nd October 1923 and lived with his family in Church Green. Len, having left school, worked initially with his father in the forge which was a reserved occupation. His parents would not give him permission to join up. To cover his interviews for the RAF, he told his parents that as he was in the ATC and the leader was leaving, he was doing courses to take over his job. To join, he said he was a year older than what he was. This rather miffed him as when he was actually 21, he could not celebrate it. When he left to start in the RAF in 1942, he arranged to be picked up in a lorry. He could not use the train as his sister controlled the signal box at the station.

After his initial training, he qualified as an Air Gunner RAF and was posted to 233 Squadron Royal Air Force at Oulton in Lincolnshire with promotion to the rank of Sergeant. The squadron flew the long-range bomber known colloquially as the Liberator.

On the night of the 20th March 1945, Len and the rest of the crew of 10 took off in their Liberator to carry out a special patrol over the German city of Kassel. Due back at base at 06:37 hours the following morning, the

aircraft never returned. Len and his eight comrades were buried in the cemetery of the local town, Buhle in Germany. Len was twenty-one when he died.

I heard someone recently question whether we would still be remembering those who died in WW1 and WW2 in years to come. I believe we will. You only have to see the efforts made by so many to keep the memories of the war years and those involved alive, including the education of children and the sale of poppies which I note this year included football team poppy badges and knitted poppies including covers for post boxes!

The poppy is such a recognisable symbol of remembrance and hope for a peaceful future but of course, there are not many people now alive who were actually involved in the Great Wars but that doesn't mean that remembrance will cease. You don't have to have been there yourself to remember the sacrifices made by those who were there.

There are many examples of remembering events that we weren't actually part of through a symbol of some sort. The greatest example of these is the cross, the Christian symbol of suffering and defeat but also of triumph and salvation. The cross has been a Christian symbol for over 2000 years and is clear evidence that you don't have to have been there to remember.

The poppy has only been going for 100 years so I've no doubt it will be around for many, many years to come.

**Happy Christmas!**  
**Clive**

## Bickleigh Village Hall



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call Jacob for more information.**

## Calling all talented people in the Bickleigh area!

There are so many talented people and innovative small businesses in and around Bickleigh – and Tiverton Pannier Market wants to hear from you!

The historic venue is keen to showcase quality local artists, crafters, makers, producers, start-up businesses and much more, including at the all-new Tiverton Farmers Market on the first Saturday of

every month, as well as Christmas and other events.

The market is also on the lookout for quality local musicians, performers and groups who are keen to share their talents.

**For more details, call market manager Jim Bray on 07815 791191 [jbray@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:jbray@middevon.gov.uk).**

**Alternatively, follow the market on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TivertonMarket](http://www.facebook.com/TivertonMarket).**

# Congratulations to Maria

Before Covid19 Maria Dragan (the Bothy in Bickleigh) was attending Chelsea school of art doing a fine arts degree which she managed to continue on line like many students. The result of which she achieved BA first class honours degree which is wonderful considering she had to use a foreign language.

## Bickleigh Village Hall Christmas films



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# Village Hall News

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Craft Fair- we had a steady stream of visitors all day, who enjoyed a range of craft stalls and our café.

Also many thanks to Wendy Baker who very kindly offered to hem all of our tablecloths!

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## *Fri 10th December - Christmas Film Night*

It's a double header!

### **6.30 ROBIN ROBIN**

*a beautiful seasonal animation for younger viewers*

### **7.15 THE KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (12)**

*a cheesy romantic seasonal tale*

**Come for either, or both! £3 per person or £10 for a family.  
Mince pies, cookies, mulled cider, soft drinks.**

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### **Bickleigh enters the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

No more pesky cash! We now have a card machine which we can use for Village Hall events! No more hassles with change! (You will still be able to pay in cash if you wish)

### **Maintenance morning**

Please help us keep the Village Hall environment looking good. Saturday 4th Dec from 10am (clearing gutters, sweeping leaves, removing moss etc).

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022- be sure to support some of our events!

*Our plans for 2022 include...*

### **Sat 29th Jan The Return of the Fun Casino!**

Poker, roulette, cocktails and more! Dress the part - best evening wear, please!

### **February - Quiz Night**

Get your team sorted out early

### **March - Gig Night**

Keep checking our Facebook page for details of other upcoming events.

***From your Village Hall Committee: Richard, Michelle, Matt, Steve, Katinka.***