DECEMBER 2021

# KINGSLEY NEWS

THE NEWS AND VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY





#### **Kingsley Community Association – Committee Members**

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*Council Members (Elected)	Vic Wodhams, Carol Rowlands, Anne Kavanagh	

## KINGSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

## **REGULAR FITNESS CLASSES**

GENTLE YOGA	MONDAY	6.15pm - 7.30pm	helenjanetwoodcock@gmail.com	
PILATES	TUESDAY	1pm - 2pm	dickienad@yahoo.co.uk	
KARATE	TUESDAY	6pm - 7pm	Dan@kenshinryu.co.uk	
YOGA	TUESDAY	7.45pm - 8.45pm	will@yogaandhealingcheshire.co.uk	
GENTLE EXERCISE	WEDNESDAY	11pm - 12pm	helenjanetwoodcock@gmail.com	
ZUMBA	SATURDAY	9.45am - 10.45am	rachel_lebreuilly@yahoo.co.uk	

Articles for the newsletter to be sent to the Editor at <a href="mailto:kingsleynewseditor@gmail.com">kingsleynewseditor@gmail.com</a> Tel 07912 280804 Copy deadline 21<sup>st</sup> of the month.

Please note all back copies of the Kingsley News including details of local events and regular groups meeting can be found at www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk

Welcome to the December edition of the Kingsley News,

Frosty mornings are upon us as the village festive activities commence. Firstly, Father Christmas will be paying a visit to Kingsley on Sunday 12thDecember organised by Frodsham & Helsby Rotary. This year you can also track his progress each evening, the details of which can be found at the bottom of the route schedule. All funds collected go direct to local charities - be sure to look out for his red sleigh!

The Twin Elves that also visit the Red Bull Pub every December will be getting up to their usual mischief. You can follow them via the Red Bull Facebook page. Coincidentally, congratulations are in order to Ciaran and Terry (Red Bull) landlords who will be celebrating 5 years at the Pub this December.

In November, The "Allo Allo" night at the Community Centre was a great success and raised an incredible £1,300 for Kingsley Community Association. Thank you to all those that attended and to the supporters who helped make the evening a great success. Thanks to Kingsley Players for providing another sell-out show and for providing their services to us free of charge , it is very much appreciated.

We have a new advertiser this month, AM Beauty. Abby is an experienced beauty therapist who is based locally and is looking forward to welcoming new clients from January. Advertising in the Kingsley News is economic and a great way to raise your local profile. For future editions, if you have an event or activity that you would like to promote then please let me know and we will make sure it is included.

Hoping that you all have a great festive season with family and friends.

With warm wishes for Christmas!

#### Heather

### **Coop Community Fund**

Kingsley Community Centre has been fortunate to be included as one of the local community fund charities. We are the only Kingsley based charity on the site. So if you are a member and would like to support us then go on to your member account and select our option.

If you are not a member then you may wish to become a member as there are also lots of other benefits from joining. You can do so by using this link: www.coop.co.uk/





#### Kingsley Garden Club - December Update 2021

Members and friends enjoyed a presentation by Tracy Snell from RHS Bridgewater at the November meeting. We learned about progress so far and plans for the future. Everyone was interested to hear about the commitment of the RHS to reach out to local communities; this is their only garden to be situated in an urban area, part of which can be classed as deprived. The Community Well-being Garden is designed as a place to nurture both mental and physical health and will be a hub for activities such as music, craft, nature watching, yoga and meditation. The Community Grow Garden aims to inspire a lifelong love of gardening and invites local people to develop food growing skills. There is free entry on Tuesdays for the first year for people living in Salford.

The Garden Club does not meet until February but there is still plenty to do in the garden . The mild damp weather has encouraged the grass to continue to grow and annuals to be still in flower. Leaves have been late to fall but can now be bagged for use next year. They need to be kept damp to encourage quicker decomposition.

We look forward to seeing members and friends on February 14th when David Race will be talking about Garden Moods from January to June.

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## We're Brownie Friends!

Hello everyone! Your local Kingsley (& surrounding areas) Brownie Unit here again with tales of our activities. We meet in Kingsley on Wednesday evenings, during school term time.



Brownies as a group, is part of Guiding UK and is a fun leisure activity for girls between 7 – 10 years. Our Unit is full at the moment and we have a small waiting list on the go, but if you want your little girl to be a part of Brownies a little sooner – there are other groups nearby in Frodsham that she would be just as welcome at. Just type 'register my daughter for Brownies' into an internet search engine and it'll take you to the **Guiding UK** registration page, where you can input your child's details and nominate her preferred unit. All very simples!!

Well....we managed to have a little Halloween celebration at our last meeting, before schools broke up for Autumn half term. We were inside playing with the promised apples and using turnips to 'Bowl the Ghost' (ie toilet rolls with scary faces) and 'Pin the Whoo on the Ghoul' (...that one would take too long to explain!) .... and fun was had by all at our gathering. Mind you.... on actual Halloween itself - the weather was the scariest thing, wasn't it?

We came back to Brownies just in time for Remembrance Sunday. On our Wednesday evening meeting before Sunday, we'd gone over some history behind Remembrance, with the Brownies. We've always found Brownies to be quite knowledgeable about the subject – very humbling and pretty impressive too! We had a small, but beautifully behaved, group turn out on Sunday morning for the ceremony in the cemetery at Kingsley.

We're into our Charities badge for the next couple of weeks – starting with a quiz. It'll give the girls the opportunity to properly earn their badge – and mums and dads the opportunity to do some sewing!!

December brings in Christmasy things....but we'll tell you about that in our next bulletin. As always .... thanks for listening....and if you have any queries – especially if you'd like to know more about joining us - please email kingsley\_brownies@hotmail.co.uk. Sue

#### Kingsley Parish Council - December 2021 Update

As the last Kingsley News was going to print, we heard of the mindless desecration of 35 graves in Kingsley Cemetery over one evening. Grave goods were scattered around the cemetery and monument crosses were targeted and toppled with a number broken in half. The Parish Council immediately notified Cheshire Police who attended the cemetery and undertook an investigation. We have advised our insurers, and are in the process of obtaining quotations to rectify the damage, which is likely to run into many thousands of pounds. The Parish Council is now actively considering the installation of CCTV in and around the cemetery, in order to provide greater protection from any such mindless acts in the future.

2022 will see the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. To mark this event, the Parish Council is inviting the Community to come forward with ideas as to how the village of Kingsley, and its residents, can best mark such an historic event. The Parish Council is looking for projects to be Community led, but will provide a funding contribution to the most suitable event. So get your thinking caps on and let's see some ideas. For its part, the Parish Council is looking to install some new benches on the playing field, with plaques to again mark this historic event.

In the last issue of Kingsley News, the Parish Council invited bids from organisations in Kingsley or, with Kingsley connections, providing facilities for the community, to submit bids for a Community Grant. To date, we have only received one application from Kingsley Players Youth Theatre, unless further applications are received before the next Council meeting in December, the award will be made to KPYT.

The Parish Council is looking to undertake a number of small improvement projects around the village in the coming months, primarily around the Co-op. We are looking to tidy and plant up the banking at the end of the car park along side of the footpath next to St John's School. We are also in discussions with the Co-op, who are looking to trim the hedges at the top end of the Car Park and possibly provide a disabled ramp from Smithy Lane down into the car park. These are ongoing discussions and rely on funding from the Co-op before they can be implemented.

Finally, you may have noticed that the raised banking outside Kingsley St John's School has been cleared and tidied up ready for the installation of the village Christmas tree at the end of November / early December.

#### CONTACT DETAILS FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: Luke Trevaskis (Parish Clerk)

Email: parish.clerk@kingsleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Mailing address: The Boardroom, Hollow Lane, Kingsley, WA6 8EF

Mobile: 07431 57679

Website: www.kingsleyparishcouncil.org.uk



## Kingsley WI

Our next meeting will be on

Wednesday 1st December at 7.30pm in The Community Centre

This will be a Craft Evening - we will be making 'sock snowmen'

and discussing the programme for next year For further information ring 01928 788873 or email janetlesleyfletcher@gmail.com

#### WANTED

Norley Church is looking for a Treasurer. If you can help, please contact Ruth Downes, Warden, 01606 624076.

# Red Bull Inn

THE HUB IN THE HEART OF KINGSLEY



Happy Christmas & Best Wishes to everyone for 2022 from Ciaran & Terry



Christmas Bookings now being taken

New Year's Eve Party

Sunday Roasts bookings taken from 2-6pm 01928 787121





This week at Kingsley Community Primary and Nursery, the children are invited to purchase a daffodil bulb which will be planted within the school grounds in support of #HelloYellow, the Young Minds current campaign to highlight and support mental health. The children will each plant a bulb in support of the campaign to raise awareness and to promote the idea of us all growing together.

All monies raised will be donated to the Young Minds charity.



#### Mental Health Survey of Rural Residents

Cheshire Community Action is a local charity carrying out research on the mental health needs of rural communities to help it develop new mental health services in rural areas. Please can you spare 5 minutes to complete this anonymous survey by clicking this link, typing into your internet browser or pointing your smart phone camera at the QR code: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/mentalhealthrural">https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/mentalhealthrural</a>
The survey is open until 7th Jan 2022.



#### What will Cheshire Community Action do with the survey results?

Depending on what we find, this will inform the development of new projects and services in mental health. It could also inform our overall strategy by identifying where resources are most needed. It will give us valuable evidence to influence other service providers and funders within the public and voluntary sectors to help improve service provision in rural areas.

Thank you for your support.

#### KINGSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



#### Wrap Around Care Club Playworker required for Tree House club Grade 2 £10,788 pa (actual salary for 22 hours per week)

We have a fantastic opportunity for an individual with drive and enthusiasm to work with the children attending our wrap around provision Tree House club. The post is for 22 hours each week 50 weeks per year and you would be required to work additional hours in holiday time and times of staff absence.

#### Are you?

- A team Player
- Have recent experience working with children
- · Committed and flexible

If you would like further information, or to have a look around school, please contact the school bursar Wendy Paton on 01244 25969 or via email <a href="wendy.paton@kingsleycp.cheshire.sch.uk">wendy.paton@kingsleycp.cheshire.sch.uk</a>.

Our school community places the highest priority on keeping our children safe. Applicants for the post will be subject to stringent vetting and induction processes.

#### KINGSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



## Site Maintenance Officer required 30 hours per week £19,698 pro-rata, per annum (actual salary £15,971)

We are seeking to appoint a Site Maintenance Officer; to help keep the grounds and buildings of our primary school safe and secure for our school community. We are looking for someone who will be passionate about our school and take pride in keeping it clean and welcoming for our families.

To discuss the position further or arrange a site visit, please contact the school bursar on 01244 259690 or via email at wendy.paton@kingsleycp.cheshire.sch.uk. To apply for this vacancy, please visit Cheshire West and Cheshire council's website. Please apply using the online application form on the Cheshire West and Chester Council jobs page.

Closing Date: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December @ 12 noon. Interview Date: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Our school places the highest priority on keeping pupils safe and applicants for the post will be subject to stringent vetting and induction procedures. Any offer of employment will be conditional on the outcome of a DBS check and upon receipt of satisfactory references.





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#### **REACHING OUT**

The Hurst Methodist Church has always been at the heart of the Community.

It's local outreach was extended, over 30 years ago, to include concerns further afield.

Since 1985 our annual fund-raising projects have raised nearly £90 000. The projects have generally alternated between UK and overseas charities.

Much gratitude to those in the Church and village who have been so inventive and hard working in support of each year's charity.

Peter R



#### **ADVERTISING IN KINGSLEY NEWS**

Kingsley News is delivered each month to around 800 households in Kingsley, so it is an easy way to publicise your business in the village.

We appreciate your support, which enables Kingsley News to be delivered at no cost to readers.

If you don't yet advertise Kingsley News, then give us a go!

Black & White - quarter page £6, Half page £12, Full page £24

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ADVENT Worship..Sunday December 5th at 10am

ADVENT Worship..with Holy Communion Sunday December 12th at 9am

#### 'TOO BUSY TO STOP?'

Saturday December 18th
The chapel will be open for quiet reflection..10am—6pm

## CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT

Sunday December 19th at 6-30pm

**CHRISTINGLE...**for all the family! CHRISTMAS EVE at 2pm

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP at 10am...for all the family Bring a present to show everyone!

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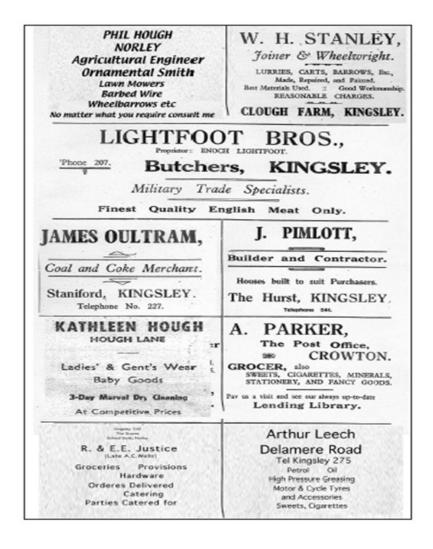


Victoria Hall, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QH 01928 731508



Following the recent article by Cliff Maddocks about his memories of growing up in Kingsley, we have discovered a copy of an old local publication: "Times Past" by Tom Wright and R M Bevan. The adverts below are taken from the publication. It is interesting to see local family names and businesses still in existence today.

The author has very kindly allowed us permission to reproduce some extracts from the publication. It is now out of print but available to purchase a DVD via this link. CC Publishing (Chester) website, www.cc-publishing.co.uk.



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#### Kingsley Walkers - Enjoying walks near and further away

We've had another good month. The long walk was in Rivington, a lovely area to walk in without travelling too far. The short walk was a canal side amble starting at the Big Lock pub in Middlewich. We were delighted to welcome two new couples and we were led by two new leaders. It's good to see that the walking group is going from strength to strength after the lockdown and restrictions.

The Christmas walk and lunch on December 14<sup>th</sup> has been very popular with more than 30 people booking for a walk and lunch. We've managed to track down past members to join us which is great. We are offering two walks around the forest, both ending at the Carriers for lunch at 1. Please get in touch if you'd like to join us for a walk and/or lunch.

Each month we have two walks. The Long Walk is held on the second Tuesday of the month. Generally, it's about 8 to 10 miles and is a full day out with picnic lunch. The Short Walk is held on the fourth Tuesday and is up to 5 miles long, starting and ending at a pub with optional lunch. We meet at the Community Centre in Kingsley at 9.30. Walks are led by volunteers from the group. It is an informal and friendly group.

If you'd like more information about the group, or you'd like to go on our mailing list to receive information about forthcoming walks, please get in touch. Everyone is welcome.

Vony Gwillim

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## Kingsley Players and KPYT back on stage with Peter Pan panto

Fly to Neverland with Kingsley Players and KPYT for a fantastic pantomime based on J.M. Barrie's much-loved, classic fantasy tale Peter Pan – on stage at Kingsley Community Centre at the end of January ( $26^{th} - 29^{th}$ ).



Captain Hook, Tinkerbell, Wendy, the Lost Boys and other familiar characters will be joined by pantomime dame Nanny McSmee for a riotous re-telling of the famous story in a new adaption by Alex Jackson.

Directed by Kingsley Players Youth Theatre's awardwinning director Jake Powell, the Peter Pan panto offers audiences a magical, entertaining show bursting with foot-tapping tunes, dance spectaculars and laughout-loud jokes.

Youth Theatre stalwart, Iona Anstice, takes on the role of Peter Pan, the boy who never grows up, while her dad, Ian Anstice, is transformed into the larger-than-life panto dame, Nanny McSmee.

Jake said: "With a large talented cast of 25 adults and children, we promise to take the audience on an amazing journey from the streets of London to a fantasy tropical island. This pantomime will have something for everyone – even a little magic!"

Peter Pan will play for five performances at Kingsley Community Centre, from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 7.30pm, including a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £10, with £7 tickets available for students/children. These can be booked online at www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or by ringing the box office on 07724 892154.

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### On Stage Near You

Not already enjoying local shows? You really ought to get out more.

On offer in Community Theatre during December....

1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Frodsham Players – *The Lady Vanishes* by adapted by Derek Webb from the original Hitchcock. On a train a wealthy young woman, Iris Carr, befriends elderly Miss Froy who disappears and mysteriously the other passengers deny Miss Froy ever existed. The retelling of a classic mystery story. Box Office: Our Next Show (frodshamplayers.com)

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Harlequin Theatre, Northwich – opening their post lockdown delayed season with a new adaptation, specially written for this theatre, of *A Christmas Carol* from the novel by Charles Dickens with a seasonal approach to appeal to both adults and children. Billed as a beautiful and powerful re-telling of the Christmas classic which will warm the hearts of even the biggest Scrooges in the audience. Includes matinees on both days. Box Office: What's On — The Harlequin Players Club.

4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Chester Little Theatre – *Murder on the Rerun* – a comedy thriller by Fred Carmichael - A chalet in a ski resort; it's evening, the snow's coming down fast. In the dark chalet, a group of friends are playing Sardines. There is a scream, the lights... Box Office: <u>Upcoming Events at Chester Little Theatre</u>

And in professional theatre:

At The Brindley, on 17<sup>th</sup>, Don't Go Into the Cellar Theatre Company are presenting *More Ghost Stories for Christmas*, further details at: Recommended show list: Brindley Ticketing (thebrindley.org.uk)

Storyhouse Chester from 4<sup>th</sup> December to 16<sup>th</sup> January – *Oliver Twist* - The Storyhouse Company present an adaptation of this Dickens' classic by Alex Clifton. Details: Oliver Twist! - Storyhouse

Reviews for November

Kingsley Players for once toured locally with their now famous adaptation of *Allo Allo* to sell out audiences in Kingsley, Crowton and Cuddington. If you missed one of these hilarious nights then see the audience feedback and look out for the next tour in March at 'Allo 'Allo - Kingsley Players.

Sadly a presence of covid in the cast of *Flashdance* by Zodiacs prevented the November performances but we can look forward to them in the New Year. No feedback received of other events listed in last month.

If your production or a play you have seen did not appear here then please email us and do tell us about plays you have seen by emailing cheshire-onstage@btinternet.com. John Doe

## Community Christmas Float



## Route Details - 2021



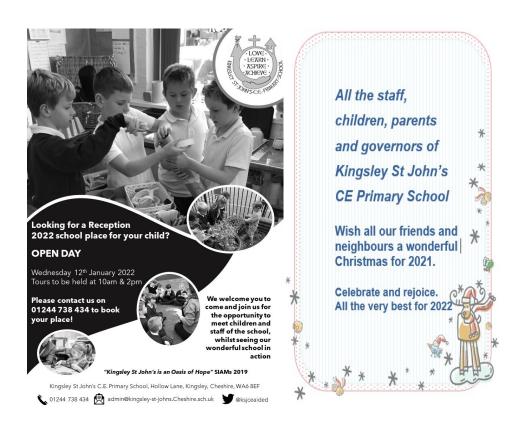
Day	Date	Area	Route Summary / Times		
Sat	27/11	Frodsham	Christmas Festival Parade		
Sun	28/11	Frodsham	Ship St, Waterside, Hawthorn Rd, Salt Works (17.00 start)		
Mon	29/11	Helsby	Primrose Ln, Latham Av, Meliden Gr, Linden Dr, Hillview Av, Rydal Gr (17.30 start)		
Tue	30/11	Frodsham	Howey Ln, Carriage Dr, Howey Rise, Netherton Dr, Hillfield, Church Rd, Fieldway (17.30 start)		
Wed	01/12	Helsby	Queens Dr, Kings Dr, Mountain View, Parkfield Dr, Lower Robin Hood Ln, Freshmeadow Ln (17.30 start)		
Thu	02/12	Frodsham	Townfield Ln, Doric Av, Fairways, Clover Av, Pollard Av, Bickerton Av, Woodside Av, Rosewood, Greenside (17.30 start)		
Fri	03/12	Frodsham	Bradley Ln, Springbourne, Royleene Dr, Vicarage Ln, Bracken Way, Top Rd, Newlands Cl (17.30 start)		
Sat	04/12	Frodsham	Sainsbury's Supermarket (10.00 - 16.00)		
Sat	04/12	Helsby	Ho Ho Helsby Parade		
Sun	05/12	Frodsham	Morrisons Supermarket (10.00 – 16.00)		
Sun	05/12	Frodsham	Marsh Ln, Fountain Ln, Park Ln, Queensway, Kingsway, Princeway, Sandfield London Rd, Churchfield, Red Ln, Ashlands (17.00 start)		
Mon	06/12	Helsby	Plovers In, Bates Ln, Landscape Dene, Foxhill Grove, Old Chester Road, Portland Pl, Hale View Rd (17.30 start)		
Tues	07/12	Helsby	Vicarage Ln, Smithy Ln, Bank House Ln, Hallastone Rd, Rake Ln, Station Av, Crescent Dr. Sandringham Av (17.30 start)		
Wed	08/12	Frodsham	Keswick Dr, Coniston, Grassmere, Ennerdale, Silverdale, Buttermere, Borrowdale (17.30 start)		
Thu	09/12	Frodsham	School Ln, Bellemonte Rd, Hillside Rd, Arran Dr (17.30 start)		
Fri	10/12	Alvanley	The Paddock, Alvanley Rd, Arden Lea (17.30 start)		
Sat	11/12	Helsby	Tesco's Supermarket (09.00 - 16.00)		
Sat	11/12	Frodsham	Ashton Dr, Clifton Crescent, Riversdale, St Hilda's, Heyes Crescent (17.00 start)		
Sun	12/12	Cheshire Oaks	Sainsbury's Supermarket (10.00 - 16.00)		
Sun	12/12	Kingsley	The Hurst, Top Rd, Hunters Hill, Beech View, Westbrook Rd (16.30 start)		
Mon	13/12	Frodsham	Quayside, Bridge Ln, Ellis Ln, Pear Tree Cl, Francis Rd, Weaver Rd/Cres, Coronation Dr (17.30 start)		
Tue	14/12	Frodsham	Fluin Ln, Lime Av, The Willows, Beech Av, Langdale Way, Penrith, Thirlmere (17.30 start)		
Wed	15/12	Helsby	Robin Hood Ln, The Rock, Swireford Rd, Rockfield Dr, Britannia Gardens, Crossland Terr (17.30 start)		
Thu	16/12	Helsby	Irondish CI, School CI, Woodlands CI, Sadler CI, Meres Edge (17.30 start)		
Fri	17/12	Dunham	Dunham on the Hill (17.30 start)		
Sat	18/12	Frodsham	Morrisons Supermarket (09.00 – 16.00)		
Sun	19/12	Helsby	Tesco's Supermarket (10.00 – 16.00)		

See our Facebook Page for any changes / updates and photos of the float out in the community.

To see exactly where Santa is on a route text smslink123456 to 07596 965 437 and Santa's helpers will send you a google map link showing his exact location whilst on a route!

Web: www.fhrotary.org.uk Facebook: @FrodshamHelsbyRotary

XmasFloat2021-Routes-V1



## KINGSLEY YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We would like to re-start Youth Club after closing due to Covid-19.

### So what's stopping us?

We need qualified Youth Workers and volunteers to run the sessions. If you or someone you know are interested please contact Anne Kavanagh on 07935 331982 or annekavanagh1234@gmail.com

Youth club is for young people in school years 4 to 11. We offer a variety of activities on Thursday evenings (including pool, indoor games, computer games, craft and art) and meet at Kingsley Community Centre.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PUB

## THE TRAVELLERS REST FRODSHAM

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED, FRIENDLY WELCOME, HOME COOKED FOOD, EXTENSIVE MENU INCL. PIZZA, PIES, BURGERS, SUNDAY ROASTS. PUB GARDEN WITH GREAT VIEWS. DOG FRIENDLY.









## JOIN US FOR FOOD OR JUST A DRINK P<u>UB QUIZ EVERY THURSDAY AT 8.30PM</u>

Travellers Rest, Kingsley Road, Frodsham, WA6 6SL, 01928 735125, eat@thetravellers.rest, https://www.thetravellers.rest/



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MAKE THE CHANGE AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT PHARMACY

TEL: 01928 788559 Monday - Friday 9am-6pm (Lunch 1-2pm) Saturday 9am to 12pm

#### **Local Professional Carer**

Specialising in the care of the elderly, in particular those suffering from dementia.

I am CRB checked, fully insured and I can supply references.

My services include:

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### ALLO 'ALLO - HILARIOUS EVENING ENJOYED BY ALL!

A full house of 70 villagers enjoyed a two course meal on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Café Rene (Kingsley Community Centre) followed by Kingsley Players' famous 'Allo 'Allo show. Many in the audience were in 'Allo 'Allo costumes, ready to fully engage in the Café atmosphere and the performance.

Kingsley Players have toured with 'Allo 'Allo each year since 2010 visiting local community centres and other venues in the area.

Some of the audience tour with them!

Many thanks to Kingsley Players' performers for bringing 'Allo 'Allo back to Kingsley this year, and raising £1300 towards Kingsley Community Association – Your village charity!

Thanks also to the volunteers who organised the meal, served on, ran the bar and cleared up afterwards. We welcome new volunteers keen to promote community spirit in the village!

## **Journeying Towards Christmas**

Does Christmas drive you around the bend? All that running around, all those presents to wrap, cards to write, all that happiness, all that eating, all that fatness, all those relatives!! It all drives you bonkers!

The journey to Christmas is a hard one for some, a joyful one for others and an exhausting one for most. Which is it for you? Perhaps all of the above? Just as being driven around the bend is common at Christmas so is journeying. To-ing and fro-ing from house to house trying to keep up the grin and that gets grim.

Some of the Christmas songs pick up on this theme; Home for holidays, Coming Home for Christmas, Driving Home for Christmas, and I'll be Home for Christmas. A common theme and for most, a joyful one. It just depends on who is threatening to be home for Christmas doesn't it? And some are even Home Alone at Christmas.

At the centre of the Bible is this story, this history, this fact, of Immanuel, God becomes a human; God takes on skin. In other words, whether we like it or not we are not alone; and real eternal loneliness is not an option. God is present in joy and justice and avoiding him is not an option.

But you see the 'news of great joy' is simply this: Jesus came to do the driving for you. As a country song says 'Jesus take the wheel' he could drive us home to his Father. And the Father wants his people never to be lonely. Indeed he cares for them so much in his Son that he says 'In my Father house are many rooms and I am going to....prepare a place for you and I will come for you and take you to myself forever.'

## **Revd Canon Ron Iveson**

## St John the Evangelist, Kingsley We are part of the United Benefice of Norley, Crowton and Kingsley with Alvanley and Manley

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December

10.00 am Holy Communion at Norley 6.30 pm Sacred Space at Crowton

### Sunday 12th December

10.00 am Holy Communion at Crowton 4.00 pm Christingle Service at Alvanley

#### Sunday 19th December

10.00 am Family Worship at Kingsley
4.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Norley

#### Friday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at Alvanley 4.00pm Crib Service at Crowton

10.00pm Holy Communion at Alvanley 11.15pm Holy Communion at Kingsley

## Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

10.00am Holy Communion at Crowton

## Thursday Mid-week Holy Communion Services

2<sup>nd</sup> December – Manley 9<sup>th</sup> December – Kingsley 16<sup>th</sup> December – Crowton

We wish everyone a Blessed and Peaceful Christmastide

## KINGSLEY PRAYER DIARY

**Each week of the year** Christians in Kingsley pray specially for people in a different area of the village and its surroundings. During December we think of, and pray for people living in: -

W/c Dec 5th Town Well and The Brow

W/c Dec 12th Waterloo Lane and Finney Lane

W/c Dec 19th Dark Lane

W/c Dec 26th Delamere Road and Crofton

We invite you to add your own prayers