



DECEMBER UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEIGH AND BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL

Christmas Greetings from the Trustees

Let me start this month's update with a short seasonal quiz. What do the following words all have in common – *jumper, cracker, post* and *cake*? Need a few more clues? Well, how about these words – *pudding, stocking, present* and *tree*? By now I expect you've got the answer. Yes, if you put *Christmas* in front of each word it now describes eight 'traditions' we associate with the festive season here in the UK.

But not all of our so-called Christmas traditions started at the same time. For example, wearing quirky Christmas Jumpers only really took off about 35 years ago in the 1980's; sending cards began around 180 years ago (allegedly due to an idea in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole – who was looking for ways to encourage ordinary people to use the postal service); but the tradition of putting up a Christmas Tree over 480 years ago, in 1539, when the first one appeared in Strasbourg Cathedral in Germany.

Which brings me neatly round to remind you about a much more recent tradition which began here in our parish just 7 years ago and that we call

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE



Every year since 2017 an outdoor, illuminated tree has been put up next to the Hall – courtesy of Leigh Sinton Christmas Trees; then on the weekend before Christmas we gather close by it at sunset to share in the spirit of Christmas. This is now a much-anticipated annual event that gives everyone living in Leigh, Bransford and our surrounding villages the opportunity to come together in gentle worship and to sing traditional and fun carols outside the Memorial Hall.

Everyone is welcome – so do come along to join in. It's completely free and you don't need a ticket – just turn up, there's plenty of free parking too. But please come

wrapped up warm with head lights or torches as we expect to be singing together outside the Memorial Hall around the lit tree. Fear not, however – if the weather proves to be too wet we'll all gather inside the Hall to sing the roof off!

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

will be held this year at the Hall on

Saturday 23rd December

Singing will start
at around 4.15pm

Song sheets with both traditional and 'children friendly' carols are sung – so we cater for all ages – and Jennie will keep us in time on her electronic keyboard. We're also hopeful that our local Children's Choir, *Animato*, will be there to entertain us with their own selection of seasonal songs too.

Afterwards, to keep us all toasty there will be *warm mulled wine or a blackcurrant drink and mince pies*. And especially for the children we have always been lucky to get a *visit from the Big Man in the Red Suit with his own sack of goodies*. Buckets advertising our chosen charity will also be around where you can make a voluntary donation if you so wish.

Just remember - the shops will be closed and the presents (hopefully) all wrapped – so no excuses! Grab your festive hat, scarf and gloves and come over for a festive sing along. We look forward to seeing you, your family and your neighbours.

**And a final reminder
this year the Hall is the venue for the
Friends of Leigh and Bransford School
CHRISTMAS FAYRE on FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER
From 3.30 – 6.30 pm
Lots of STALLS, including POCKET MONEY STALLS,
RAFFLE, BAR, FOOD, SANTA'S GROTTO
and LIVE MUSIC!**

On behalf of the trustees may I wish each and every one of you a peaceful and happy Christmas and a hopeful and healthy New Year.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees