

Carol Singing 2025



This year carol singing will take place **FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY** on **Tuesday 16th December**, spreading Christmas cheer around the parish and raising money for St. Bertoline's Church.

Please do come and join in the festivities! We will meet at the New Rectory, Barthomley at 18:30. If you are coming by car, please park on the church/village hall car park. We will then move by car and foot about the Parish Including Barthomley, Balterley and Englesea Brook.

Refreshments will be provided at the end of the evening.

Make sure you are dressed for the weather and have or have arranged transport. Bringing a torch would also be advisable.

Singers of all ages and abilities are eagerly welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Happy Christmas



From The Rectory

Through the coming weeks many Christmas Carols will be heard or sung. One of the most popular is "Silent Night, Holy Night" which is a lovely Carol. Yet the night Jesus was born was anything but silent! Bethlehem was packed as people came for the Census. Whatever the licensing laws in those days, there would have been much noise from the Inn – talking, drinking, singing, shouting, all no doubt heard in the stable where Mary and Joseph had sought refuge.

Then, after the birth, shepherds came to visit, bringing their noise and excitement at the message and song of the angels. They, no doubt left the stable singing.

There is only one person who is silent in all this – Mary. She has much to reflect upon. She knew her child was special, and unique, and virgin-born. Yet there he was born in a dirty stable; His first visitors being scruffy shepherds. Mary treasured all these things and kept them in her heart; her silence was not just an empty silence, but a wordless sense of awe and wonder. This tiny baby, looking no different from any other newly born male, is in fact the One who holds the whole world in his hand. He is "God of God, light of lights, very God of very God, begotten not created." This mystery surely reduces us all to silence, not empty silence but the silence that is full of wonder, love and praise.

Before we come to Christmas, we have the Advent season of preparation which, for many like that first Christmas, is a time of much outer noise and considerable activity. This Advent and Christmas try to make time to draw into the heart of God as we focus our gaze on the One who is Emmanuel, God with us. Make space to fall silent before the mystery of God made human.

As we reflect lovingly on the coming of Christ, who brings light to the world, let us also not forget all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. May they, and all of us, be illumined by Christ who is our light. And may God who loved the world so much that He sent His only Son give us hearts ready to welcome Him this coming Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wednesday 10th December
Cheshire Young Farmers Carol Service 7.30pm.

Sunday 21st December
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 7pm

Wednesday 24th December
Christmas Eve
Christingle and Nativity 4pm

Christmas Day
Parish Communion with Carols 10.30 am

With Every Blessing for Advent & Christmas
Peter

National Robin Day in the UK is on 21st Dec

Interesting Robin facts:



• Males

and fe-

males are similar in coloration.

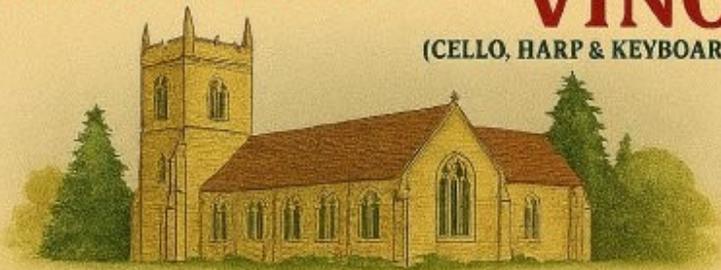
- Nearly 75% of robins will die before they are a year old, but after that their life expectancy increases.
- Male robins exhibit highly aggressive territorial behaviour, many ending in fatalities.
- In the 15th century the bird became known as Robin redbreast, (rather than just redbreast), when it was popular to give human names to familiar species.
 - Some sports organisations are nicknamed 'The Robins', typically teams whose home colours predominantly use red.
 - Due to artificial lighting robins will often sing at night.
- The robin has twice been declared Britain's national bird, the first time in 1960 and the second in 2015, but it's not yet been made official.
 - There is an increase in robin numbers during the winter months with migrants from Scandinavia, Russia and Europe joining resident birds when the winters become too cold and food scarce in those places.

A CHRISTMAS FANFARE

OF MUSIC FOR ALL THE FAMILY
— PRESENTED BY —

**OAKHANGER & TRIO
BRASS ENSEMBLE & VINO**

(CELLO, HARP & KEYBOARD)



**ST. BERTOLINE'S CHURCH, BARTHOMLEY
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025
18:30 – 20:00**

An evening of festive music in the beautiful setting
St. Bertoline's Church.

Festive refreshments included

TICKETS: £10 ADULTS. FREE FOR 16s AND UNDER.

Available in church or by contacting Sally Walsh

07379 866279 or Simon Gresty 07766 655066

All proceeds go to the church