



BVS Reading Newsletter

Christmas Edition 2023



Listen In!

Poetry: For those who enjoy reading or listening to poems, the poem which we heard in the carol service, 'Christmas' by John Betjeman, is read by the poet here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyZL9_To0_A

and Dick Van Dyke reads the Christmas classic 'T'was the Night Before Christmas' here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLhnh1VOAoM>

Stories: For those of you prefer listening to stories, we have a full audio version of 'The Hobbit' (Dr. Freemantle's favourite book!) here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_OABT6e10w

Our younger pupils and their families will not have had the opportunity to listen to this fantastic tale recorded especially for the school community and introduced by none other than Hollywood star Michael Sheen! During the spring lockdown of 2021, we contacted the actor to ask whether he would consider beginning the narration of this wonderful tale of journeys and adventure as part of some extra-curricular activities we were putting together on the theme of journeys for our pupils, since we were all of course mostly confined to our homes. We were thrilled when he agreed and you can hear his message to Bishop Vaughan and his characterful narration of the tale's opening chapter.

From there, teachers and staff throughout the school take up the story and the book was streamed three times a week throughout the spring term, finishing just before Easter. You can now listen to the whole book over the Christmas holidays on the link above (just type the address into your browser if you are not reading this newsletter electronically). See how many of the staff you can identify from their reading of the story! We hope that you enjoy it!

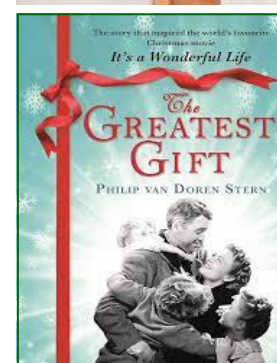


The BVS Book Group, which meets on Wednesday lunchtimes, recommends the following:



'The Dark is Rising' by Susan Cooper

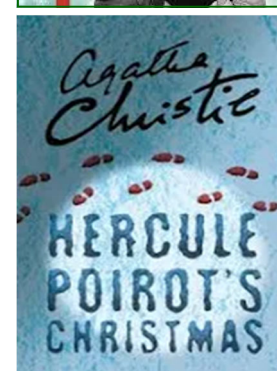
The Book Trust says of this novel: "This is probably one of the greatest fantasy sequences ever written. Darkly magical and intense, Cooper weaves her storytelling wonder over fully realised characters and worlds, drawing in the reader and leading them on a journey that will leave them clambering for the rest of the series."



'The Greatest Gift' by Philip Van Doren Stern

This is the book upon which the iconic film 'It's a Wonderful Life' was based. That is reason enough to read it!

The tale apparently came to the author as a dream one night, and it went on to become a short novel (it would take only a small part of a single afternoon to read it!) and then it inspired the classic film by Frank Capra. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did!



'Hercule Poirot's Christmas' by Agatha Christie

Who doesn't love a Christmas mystery? And what better author than the queen of detective fiction, Agatha Christie?

Christie's famous detective, Poirot, is called to solve a Christmas Eve murder, and finds that there are more suspects to choose from than he might have imagined ...



'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

Lucy wrote of this book: "This is a touching story filled with generosity and change ... the perfect book to fill you with the Christmas spirit! It's a story with a message that everyone can enjoy!"



A range of Christmas short stories can be found free online here: <https://teaandinksociety.com/classic-christmas-short-stories-read-online/> These include Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales.'