

*Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community*



# ***Signpost***



***Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill  
Parish Magazine***

December 2021

Free

## Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

<b>Priest-in-Charge</b> St James the Great, Winscombe All Saints, Sandford St John the Baptist, Churchill	Reverend Andrew Hiscox The Vicarage, 11 Holstein Avenue, Winscombe, BS25 1EJ <a href="mailto:rev.andrew.hiscox@hotmail.com">rev.andrew.hiscox@hotmail.com</a>	07970 011502
<b>Church Centre Office</b>	52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA	01934 844650
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	William Du Croz <a href="mailto:wducroz@hotmail.co.uk">wducroz@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07960 697874
<b>Churchwardens</b> St James the Great, Winscombe	Derrick Claridge <a href="mailto:winscombechurchwarden@gmail.com">winscombechurchwarden@gmail.com</a>	01934 843014
All Saints, Sandford	Diana Williams <a href="mailto:sandfordchurchwarden@gmail.com">sandfordchurchwarden@gmail.com</a>	01934 852449
St John the Baptist, Churchill	Tricia Avery <a href="mailto:averyfarm@cpsmail.co.uk">averyfarm@cpsmail.co.uk</a>	01934 852360
<b>Churchill Methodist Minister Pastor</b>	Reverend Meg Slingo Ken Young	01934 852314 01934 852686
<b>Lynch Chapel Pastor/Minister</b>	The Lynch, Winscombe, BS25 1AR Reverend Duncan Tuck	01934 733886
<b>Sidcot Quakers Meeting House</b>	Oakridge Lane, Sidcot, BS25 1LT	01934 843065
<b>Roman Catholics</b>	Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar	01458 835931

### We hope you will enjoy this copy of 'Signpost'.

Future copies will be available by email or can be downloaded from the Church Website: [www.winsandchurches.org.uk](http://www.winsandchurches.org.uk)

If you would like to receive future copies electronically, please send your email address to [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com).

A limited number of printed copies will be available from some local shops, each of our churches and the Church Centre (St James's Church Hall).

If you are unable to receive your copy by email please telephone the Church Office (01934 844650) and leave a message including your full name and address.

This magazine is one of the ways we are fulfilling our New Vision



## Telling the Story



In 587 AD, Pope Gregory the Great sent a monk, Augustine, to England as a missionary. Augustine established his seat, or 'Cathedra', and monastery in Canterbury and became England's first Archbishop. In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Beckett was murdered in the Cathedral and, when soon afterwards miracles were said to take place, the Cathedral became one of Europe's most important pilgrimage centres.\*

Well, my 'pilgrimage' to Canterbury Cathedral at the beginning of November was to see the stained glass windows which researchers, with new analysis techniques, have dated back to as early as 1140AD - thirty years before Thomas Beckett was killed.

These windows, along with all the stained glass windows in the Cathedral, were full of story. They told of life over the hundreds of years that many of them had been there. They recorded what people believed and things that were important to them. They illustrated Bible stories and the lives of saints and told of great moments of history, of heroes from the past, and of those who'd brought people closer to God.

But Cathedrals aren't the only buildings retelling visually Bible stories and stories of our Christian heritage. Many of our oldest churches have fascinating stained glass windows, some have wall paintings that survived Cromwell and the Puritans, and others beautiful carvings, all keeping 'the story' alive. We have buildings dating back to Saxon and Norman times where, over the centuries, people have gathered to worship and sing praises to God, if not week by week, then certainly at key Christian festivals. Those unable to read would hear the stories told and the beautiful artwork would remind them of what they had heard and of the Christian faith.

One key festival was Christmas which we're just about to celebrate! The story of a baby, God's Son, born to Mary over 2,000 years ago. His name was Jesus - **Immanuel**, meaning God with us. It's a wonderful story to be told and to be kept alive amid all the tinsel and the festive cheer - after all, Jesus is the reason for the season! But the Jesus story goes on beyond Christmas. Jesus was born to be the Saviour of the world as we can sing:

Christmas greetings, Christmas joy  
 For the new-born baby Boy!  
 And for Jesus now we sing,  
 Born a baby, born a King.



Born to laugh and born to cry,  
 Born to live and born to die;  
 Born to rise up from the grave,  
 Born for sinners, born to save.

\* Text taken from Canterbury Cathedral visitor's leaflet.

Picture of stained glass window by permission of Canterbury Cathedral.

Pauline Hurst, Churchill

\*\*\*\*\*



*Nativity Figures at Wells Cathedral*

**Carols by Candlelight at Wells Cathedral**  
 Sunday 19th, Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st December  
 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Wells Cathedral's highly-acclaimed Carols by Candlelight concerts return for 2021. Enjoy world-class music for Advent and Christmas sung by Wells Cathedral Choir, interspersed with festive readings and poetry read by a special guest. And see the Cathedral lit by over 3,000 candles each night, providing you with the perfect atmosphere to get in the festive mood!

Tickets for these concerts are now available via Eventbrite and proceeds support the charitable work of the cathedral.

Please note: Tickets are banded, and seats will be allocated by the Cathedral accordingly to allow for households/bubbles to be sufficiently socially distanced from each other.

### **Signpost - The Parish Magazine**

This magazine is created by volunteers from the Anglican Churches in the Benefice of Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill. It aims to serve and reach out to the local village communities and in doing so provide opportunities for the residents to become more aware of activities across all Christian denominations and within our villages.

### **Next Month's Magazine**

The deadline for the January 2022 Magazine is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Please submit items as Word documents to [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com) which should be no longer than 400 words. If you are including photographs please ensure that you have the permission of anyone appearing in the photograph for them to be published in this magazine. Please supply high resolution photographs as jpegs.

The Editorial Team reserve the right to amend or reformat submitted articles.

We will be producing limited printed copies of 'Signpost' and encourage as many people as possible to receive their copy electronically.

If you would like to receive future editions of this magazine by email please send your email address to [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com)

### **Our Website**

[www.winsandchurches.org.uk](http://www.winsandchurches.org.uk)

Our website is the 'go to place' for information about our Churches and activities. It is regularly updated with the latest news and information.

- ❖ Home Page: latest news, monthly service plan
- ❖ Our Vision: find out about our plans for the future
- ❖ Church Life: our activities and groups
- ❖ Our Podcasts and Videos: a library of Church services to watch or listen to
- ❖ Parish Magazine: download the latest copy and find out how to contribute
- ❖ Hire A Venue: how to hire our Church Centre, Churches and meeting rooms

### **How To Find Our Churches - If you need directions to:-**

- St James the Great Church, Church Lane, Winscombe, BS25 1DE
- All Saints Church, Hill Road, Sandford, BS25 5NY
- St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane, Churchill, BS25 5QW
- Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA

Please use your Satnav with the postcodes, or visit the website [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## A Vicar at Last!

It was a damp and drizzly Monday evening but it turned into something else entirely when we were inside St James's with welcoming peals of bells, warmth, bright lights and candles for a service to Celebrate the Ministry of Reverend Andrew Hiscox and install him as Vicar of Winscombe and Sandford.

Andrew had been our Curate for four years and then installed via Zoom as Priest in Charge but it was wonderful to have a large congregation in Church, including a good number of our friends from St John's, Churchill, to welcome him as our Vicar.

Archdeacon Adrian Youings conducted the service along with Reverend Tom Yacomeni, Locking Area Dean. Andrew confirmed his willingness to serve through the legal requirements and then committed himself to ministering to the Parishes.

The Archdeacon, in his sermon, encouraged Andrew to "be bold", "trust God" and "dream big dreams"! This isn't just Andrew's role but a call to all of us to step up and be part of 'the Vision' for our communities. We all prayed with Andrew.

**We pledge ourselves to pray and care for the communities in this place;**

**to share the Word of God,**

**to celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant,**

**to encourage discipleship.**

**Together, may we make this a place where we are empowered for witness in God's world. Amen.**

Before the blessing gifts were presented to Corinna, Owyn and Carys, as well as Diggory, their dog, in recognition of the love and support they give Andrew.

The music from the choir and organist and the Sandford Handbell Ringers all added to the sense of occasion. Afterwards we enjoyed delicious food and wine and went home looking forward to the future and to discovering where God will take us on the next part of our journey.



## All Souls: Sunday 31st October 2021

*We remembered All Souls on the afternoon of 31<sup>st</sup> October.*



A thoughtful and gentle time of singing, listening to music and poems and being together to remember those we have loved - all the people in our lives who have helped, encouraged and loved us, be they family, friends, neighbours or colleagues. We thank them and remember them.

During a time of commemoration, a poem was read and in between the verses, as names were remembered, people could come forward to hang their cards on the tree with their personal message of love. Everyone took home a narcissus bulb to plant to see the sign of hope and new life in the Spring. The trees will stay in the prayer area in St James's Church until after Christmas so if you wish to add a name you are very welcome.

All our loved ones are saints to us and we were glad to be together to express our gratitude for the days and years we were able to share with them.

*Remember me,  
When you will search the skies in constant wonder,  
Am I gone from you?  
Remember me in all your tears and sighs,  
And hear my promise - I'm still one with you.*



### Remembrance Sunday

Services at each of our churches were well attended on Remembrance Sunday as our villages paid their respects to the fallen and the two minute silence was kept. In Sandford people assembled at the memorial to lay wreaths and listen to the names of those who died. At the church the standard was laid on the altar and Sandford Hand Bell Ringers gave the congregation time to reflect.

St James's was decorated, once again, with knitted poppies. Representatives of the village's uniformed groups and the Royal British Legion were in attendance with their flags. At the conclusion of the service wreaths from many local organisations were placed on the War Memorial.

At St John's a small congregation led by Rev Warren Williams took part in the service of at which a poppy wreath was placed on the two war memorial tablets in church and the two boys who lost their lives on Dolberrow Warren were remembered.

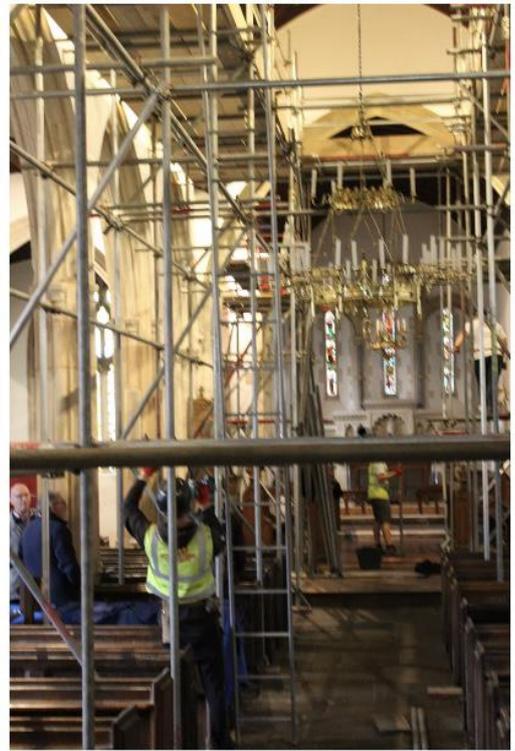
### **Lighting Up St. James' the Great.**

St James's Church has been feeling somewhat dismal for many months, waiting for new lighting to be installed in the nave and choir stalls.

The week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> October saw a huge amount of scaffolding erected so that our electrician, Dan, could safely install new LED light fittings at a high level.

This has now been achieved. The congregation can read their service books and the choir can see the notes on their sheet music.

We are particularly pleased that the job was successfully completed before our annual All Souls Service and Reverend Andrew's licensing as vicar.



### **Angels With Dirty Faces? Not any Longer!**

Whilst the scaffolding was erected an intrepid group of Parishoners took the opportunity to scale the heights and carry out some high level cleaning of the beams and the beautiful carved angels that watch over us from on high. They now have clean faces and are looking more angelic than they have done for some years! So next time you are in St James's look up.

### **Thank you to the Saturday Cleaning Gang.**

Our thanks also go the team who came along once the scaffolding had been removed and cleaned away the significant amount of dust etc. that had been created. The brass was also polished and the cushions put back in place so that the church was ready for Sunday morning.



# CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Thursday 9th December  
7.15pm - 9.15pm  
Church Centre  
Winscombe

£15 per person  
(Includes all materials and  
seasonal refreshments)

We will provide:

- ❖ wreath base
- ❖ fixing wires
- ❖ ribbon, greenery, accessories
- ❖ wreath making tips

Please bring:

- ❖ scissors
- ❖ secateurs
- ❖ any special greenery or  
flowers you wish to use

To reserve and pay for your place contact

Margaret Aske 01934 843592 / 07772 033957  
Barbara Burbidge [barbarajburbidge@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajburbidge@gmail.com)

Supporting St James's Church Funds

## So this is Christmas....

So this is Christmas.....once again, and we've no doubt heard that song in the shops and on the radio many times already. But can you remember the artist and year the song was released? I heard it first in about 1976 and it's been associated with memories of family gatherings, tinsels, mince pies, carols, candles and choirs and of course the compulsory Christmas Day banquet.

Christmases can hold such wonderful memories but it's easy to overlook that, at the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph were effectively homeless, desperately searching for a place to stay for a heavily pregnant wife, on a cold winter's night and in a town that was unfamiliar. Amidst the generosity of our own festive celebrations, the nativity story prompts us to remember and help those less fortunate than ourselves, in particular those who, perhaps through no fault of their own, find themselves homeless.

People are forced into homelessness when they leave prison, care or the army with no home to go to, or have escaped a violent or abusive relationship. Others become homeless because they can simply no longer afford the rent. Giving to food banks can help ensure people remain within their homes and those living with financial pressures made worse by the coronavirus pandemic can cope a little better. Donations of food can help them avoid the brink. According to the Charity, Shelter, there were 219,000 homeless people in the England in 2019; it is likely this has increased due to the pandemic.

Across our churches, this Christmas we continue to collect for the food banks in Weston and Cheddar and you can bring food donations to St James's Church in Winscombe, the Church Centre in Winscombe, or All Saints, Sandford during the Christmas period (please no perishables or tinned pies). St John's gives an annual donation to the 'Somewhere To Go' night shelter in Weston Super Mare, which specifically helps those who find themselves without a home, and if you want to contribute, please contact Tricia Avery, Churchwarden St Johns. Angela Morris from All Saints is collecting bedding, sleeping bags and warm clothing which will be taken to the Salvation Army for the homeless (items in bags can be left at 81 Greenhill Road, Sandford).

And the year of the song and the artist? It was of course John Lennon and the year was 1971.

Reverend Andrew Hiscox.



*For further information about supporting local food banks, the Salvation Army and 'Somewhere To Go' please see pages 11 and 15.*



# Supporting Our Local Food Banks at Christmas



Our churches support the **Cheddar Valley Food Bank** and the Food Bank based at the **For All Healthy Living Centre** in Bournville, Weston-Super-Mare.

There are collection points at each of our churches and at the Church Centre in Winscombe.



In addition to the usual non perishable food and household items please consider putting in a few seasonal treats in November and early December such as:

- |                        |                        |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| ❖ Mince Pies           | ❖ Christmas Cakes      | ❖ Chocolate Biscuits |
| ❖ Small Christmas Puds | ❖ Shortbread           | ❖ Gravy Granules     |
| ❖ Chocolates & Sweets  | ❖ Non perishable gifts | ❖ Crisps & Nibbles   |
| ❖ Ready made custard   | ❖ Packs of Stuffing    | ❖ Paper Napkins      |

Please make sure items for Christmas are donated by **15<sup>th</sup> December** to ensure that they reach the food banks in time to be distributed.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

January is often a time when the food banks are most in need of our help. Why not join in our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative and help to ensure that the Food banks are well stocked for the New Year?

The idea of a reverse Advent Calendar is that instead of (or as well as) eating a piece of chocolate to mark the days that lead up to Christmas, you put aside an item each day to donate to a food bank or charity.

### ***This is what you need to do:***

*Get a large box.*

*Each day of advent put in an item for the Food bank.*

*You might even like to continue to the end of December.*

*When your box is completed please deliver it to one of the churches or the Church Centre and we will take the boxes to the food banks to help ensure that they are well stocked for January.*



The food banks have seen an increase in use over the past few months and in particular they are being used by more single people and couples than before.

*Please don't put Christmas items in these boxes as they will be delivered after Christmas.*

## LYNCH CHAPEL

Turn into The Lynch and, after the railway bridge, there we are - where the excellent Montessori Nursery use our premises. If you've never crossed our threshold, don't be shy. You are very welcome. We promise we won't pressurise you, but simply enjoy your company and offer you tea and biscuits.

It's that season, when we build up to a big celebration over the birth of Jesus, and then try to calmly reflect as we get over the indulgences. But church should be like that - a mixture of joy and reflection as we try to be a church community together, loving each other and following Jesus. Yes, we get it wrong at times, but we try never to make it boring.

Here we go then.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP** is at 10:30am. Tea and coffee will normally be served afterwards. Our **COMMUNION** service, when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus by the symbols of bread and wine, is on the FIRST Sunday each month.

Our services are normally recorded, for those who want to hear, but can't get there (because Johnny's got football practice or something). You can find them on our website: [www.lynchchapel.org.uk](http://www.lynchchapel.org.uk).

We operate **HOME GROUPS** as often as possible. It's a chance to cosy up, in a non-threatening atmosphere, in someone's home (hence the name), drink and eat and talk about things that excite or trouble us as Christians. A good place to learn as well. Come, you're welcome.

**OTHER EVENTS** pop up from time to time. This time round it's these:

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY:** It's cute, and gives you a warm glow. This is instead of our normal service, at 10:30 am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Come and smile.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE:** All your favourites to sing, and perhaps some surprises. It's on Christmas Eve, at 6:30 pm. Bring the family. Enjoy the lights and warm atmosphere.

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE:** As it says on the tin, at 10:30 am. A short celebration to thank God for another Christmas.

Other events may happen in January, if we can get over the over-eating. Keep an eye out for notices.

Any more information, look on [www.lynchchapel.org.uk](http://www.lynchchapel.org.uk).

**Meanwhile, we wish you a very happy Christmas!**

**Duncan Tuck**



## Churchill and Langford Ladies Lunch Club

The Christmas meeting of the Lunch Club is on

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

at The Churchill Inn, Churchill

£15 per head for a 2 course meal.

Pre-booking by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November is essential.

Contact Margaret Avery on 01934 852123 for further details.



Please note that the lunch is limited to residents of the two villages or those that have moved away

## Sandford & Churchill Fellowship

Our meeting for December at Churchill Methodist Church is on



Tuesday 14th December 2.30 pm

Readings and Carols



Do come along for a time of friendship and fellowship.

For more information contact **Ann Pursey** on **01934 823234**

or **Eileen Westlake** on **01934 822433**



Save the  
Children

### 'Save The Children' Lunches

Shipham Village Hall

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 12.30pm.

Join us for soup, bread, cheese, pickle and homemade biscuits, tea or coffee

£4.00

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm

Christmas Special

Join us for homemade soup, bread, cheese, pickle and mince pies, tea or coffee

£4.50



Payments will be taken on the door and all profits go to Save the Children charity.

For further details contact Amanda Firth on 01934 844232

**Please support the lunches or they will be unable to continue in the New Year.**



**Back by  
Popular  
Demand!**

# **Folk at Christmas**

*Eleven-strong folk band BadgerSet  
presents a miscellany of Christmas-themed  
songs, dances, readings and tunes.*

**St James's Church, Winscombe BS25 1DE  
Saturday 4th December at 7.30pm**

Doors open 7.00pm. Tickets £10.00 Available from:  
Winscombe Post Office  
Martin Hagen [hagen.martin@gmail.com](mailto:hagen.martin@gmail.com) (01934842511)  
Derrick Claridge (01934 843014)

*Proceeds in aid of Church Funds*

# All Saints Church Community Café



The next cafe is on Saturday 8th January 2022  
from 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

November's Christmas Café raised £481.20 for the  
All Saints Building Fund

(including £96 from Christmas Hamper raffle + £26.60 from Bric a Brac Stall)  
Thank you to all who came and made it such a successful morning.



A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all  
from the Café team.



## Jacket Potato Lunch



**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**At Sandford Village Hall 12.30pm**  
**In aid of All Saints Church Building Fund**  
**£8 adults / £5 children**



**Please contact Llyn Callow on 01934 823484 for details**

## Helping the Homeless this Christmas and New Year.

This winter people are expected to experience the worst forms of homelessness. The pandemic has left many people struggling.

Do you have any of the following for the Salvation Army and 'Somewhere To Go'?



- ❖ Bedding
- ❖ Sleeping Bags
- ❖ Warm Clothing
- ❖ Towels



Please note: we are not accepting pillows this year due to the pandemic.

Items in bags can be left at 81 Greenhill Road. Sandford.  
Angela Morris 01934 852327

Items can be left in the run up to Christmas or in the New Year.



## Bumper Christmas Quiz

**Pantomimes** – each of these pantomimes is being performed somewhere in the UK this Christmas. Can you identify them from their initials?

- |           |       |         |
|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1. JATB   | 2. SB | 3. A    |
| 4. SWATSD | 5. C  | 6. DW   |
| 7. BITW   | 8. PP | 9. BATB |
| 10. PIB   |       |         |

**Christmas Films.** Can you identify the Christmas films from the stills

 1.	 2.	 3.	
 4.	 5.	 6.	
 7.	 8.	 9.	 10.

### Christmas Number 1s.

Can you identify the 10 Christmas Pop Songs and their artists from their initials?

- |                   |                 |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. MXE by S       | 2. LTC by M     | 3. LC by W     |
| 4. SIC by EJ      | 5. MBC by BM    | 6. FTONY by TP |
| 7. DHFC by CR     | 8. IWICBCE by W | 9. DTKIC by BA |
| 10. AIWFCIY by MC |                 |                |

**Popular Traditional Christmas Carol Anagrams** ( think of a Carol and see if it fits the clues!)

1. AGAIN WEAR MANY (4,2,1,6)	2. IN THE GLINTS (6,5)
3. SWEET GHERKIN (2,5,5)	4. WHO JOLTED TORY (3,2,3,5)
5. HID HEALTHY NOVELTY (3,5,3,3,3)	6. IS TINY CLAIRVOYANCE ODD(4,2,5,6,4)
7. FELLOW HITS TERN (3,5,6)	8. GO ALONG WICKEDNESS (4,4,9)
9. LARGE HANDSHAKING SHELTER (4,3,6,6,4)	10. TOUCHILY HEAL FOAM ELF (2,4,3,2,8)

Answers can be found below Wrigton Vale Inner Wheel on page 28.

## News from 1st Strawberry Line Rainbows

At the start of term, it was Parliament Week. For this we learned about voting and took part in a vote for our favourite science experiment (older group) and games (younger group). We talked about Guy Fawkes and how we remember with Bonfire night, recounting the story of the Gunpowder plot, then we created underwater fireworks, discussing molecules and how oil and water don't mix. We also wrote to our local MP about issues we wanted solving.



Our main theme for the term was Express Myself. We have explored a variety of ways to communicate.

- Art
- Sign language
- Giving instructions to computers
- Making music with different parts of our bodies
- Engineering puppets with moving parts
- Practising miming

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## FROM EVERYONE AT 1<sup>st</sup> STRAWBERRY LINE RAINBOWS



Our Christmas activities this term have included

- Making Christmas art
- Putting on a short Christmas show
- Reading Christmas stories
- Making a wreath with our handprints
- Designing and making Christmas cards
- Making Christmas foods
- Experimenting with hot chocolate
- Making Christmas centrepieces



We have a few spaces left in each group for January. We are still looking for leaders or unit helpers for both sessions.

Both sessions are held in the Annexe at Winscombe Community Centre on Thursdays.

4 to 5 year olds meet 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

5 to 7 year olds meet 4:30 pm - 6.00 pm

For more details and to enquire contact Victoria Hogg on 07588652479 or



# **WINSCOMBE COMMUNITY SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Christmas Songs, Community Carols, Refreshments, Raffle

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**

**St James's Church, Winscombe**

**Tickets £5**

(accompanied children free)

**Available from Choir Members or Farrons, Winscombe**

Profits from ticket sales in aid of St James's Church. Profits from raffle in aid of The Samaritans



# Churches Together In Winscombe and Sandford

## Christmas Services



With every good wish for a peaceful and joyful Christmas  
from Churches Together in Winscombe and Sandford.

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him  
Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

*Matthew 1.23*

### *St James the Great C of E, Winscombe*

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Carol Service	6.00 pm
Christmas Eve	Benefice Midnight Mass	11.00 pm
Christmas Day	Christmas Day Holy Communion	9.30 am

### *All Saints C of E, Sandford*

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Praise	11.00 am
Christmas Eve	Christmas Carol Service	8.00 pm
Christmas Day	Christmas Day Holy Communion	10.00 am

### *The Lynch Chapel URC/Methodist, Winscombe*

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday School Nativity	10.30 am
Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve Carol Service	6.30 pm
Christmas Day	Christmas Day Service	10.30 am

### *Sidcot Quakers*

Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Quaker Meeting for Worship	10.30 am
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### *Catholic Church, Cheddar*

Please see the church website <http://www.ourladychurch.org>

## DECEMBER 2021 DIARY

WED 1	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's
	7.30pm	Sandford & District Gardening Club Christmas Party
THURS 2	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.00am	Holy Communion – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SAT 4	10.30am	Christmas Community Café – All Saints
	7.00pm	BadgerSet Christmas Folk Concert – St James's Church
<b>SUN 5</b>	<b>ADVENT 2</b>	
	<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>	
TUES 7	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 8	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's
THURS 9	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.00am	Holy Communion – Church Centre
	7.15pm	Wreath Making – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SAT 11.	12.30pm	Jacket Potato Lunch – Sandford Village Hall (in aid of All Saints Building Fund)
<b>SUN 12</b>	<b>ADVENT 3</b>	
	<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>	
TUES 14	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.00am	Winscombe Primary School Carol Service – St James's
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Winscombe Community Singers Christmas Concert – St James's
WED 15	10.00am	Sandford Primary School Carol Service – St James's Church
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's
THURS 16	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	6.30pm	Community Carols - Sandford Stores (Premier)
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
<b>SUN 19</b>	<b>ADVENT 4</b>	
	<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>	
TUES 21	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 22	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's
THURS 23	10.00am	Holy Communion – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
<b>FRI 24</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
	<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>	
<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
	<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>	
<b>SUN 26</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>	
	<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>	

### BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> Malachi 3:1- 4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> Zephaniah 3:14-end Psalm 146:4-end Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> Micah 5:2-5 Psalm 80:1-8 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45
<b>Christmas Eve</b> Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14	<b>Christmas Day</b> Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> 1Samuel 2`;18-20,26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-end

## Church Service Times Opportunities to Worship in December

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am 10.00 am	St John's Church Centre	BCP Holy Communion Café Church
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	St James's All Saints St John's	Holy Communion Advent Praise Christmas Carol Service
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00 pm	St John's	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Church Centre St James's	Family Holy Communion Christmas Carol Service
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 pm 11.00 pm	All Saints St James's	Christmas Carol Service Benefice Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am 10.00 am 11.00 am	St James's All Saints St John's	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am	Church Centre	Benefice Holy Communion

### Regular Midweek Services

Every Tuesday	All Saints	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Except 28 <sup>th</sup> December)
Every Thursday	Church Centre	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Except 30 <sup>th</sup> December)

### We Remember

Our love and sympathy go to the families and friends of **Ann Bishop** whose funeral was held at St James's Church, Winscombe, followed by cremation at Weston Crematorium, on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

**Philippa Nutting** whose funeral was held at St James's Church, Winscombe, followed by committal at Ilex Lane Cemetery on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### Organ Music at St James the Great in December

Date and Time	At the Beginning of the Service	At the End of the Service
Sunday 12th December 9.30 am	Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 J S Bach	Watchet Auf BWV 645 J S Bach
Sunday 19th December 6.00 pm Carol Service	Noel Suisse L C D'aquin	In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729 J S Bach
Saturday 25th December 9.30 am Christmas Day	Prelude and Fugue in D major D Buxtehude	In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729 J S Bach

21.

## BBC Children in Need 'Rickshaw Challenge' Comes to Sandford



On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Thatchers Cider welcomed the BBC Children in Need 'Rickshaw Challenge' to The Railway Inn .

Undertaking the first leg of this year's fundraising relay challenge was Tom Walsh, 16, who lives locally in Cheddar. Tom was nominated for the challenge by The Space, the Cheddar-based charity who supported him following the tragic loss of his dad, Rod, in 2018 and in whose memory Tom was riding the Rickshaw.

The 30-mile route took him from the SS Great Britain in Bristol, over the Clifton Suspension Bridge, through Chew Magna, down Cheddar Gorge finishing at Myrtle Farm in Sandford.

Arriving with presenter Matt Baker, Tom was welcomed at the finish line by his Mum Ceri, and sister Carys.

In September 2018, Tom's world was turned upside down. His Mum and Dad, both NHS workers, travelled into work together and were involved in a devastating car accident on the M5. The accident resulted in Dad, Rod tragically losing his life and left Mum, Ceri critically injured and told she may never walk again. To everyone's relief, Ceri recovered but this catastrophic event completely changed Tom's life, as he started to process a mixture of emotions, resulting in receiving support from BBC Children in Need funded project, The Space. The Space has delivered weekly 1:1 counselling sessions to Tom since 2018, who have continued to support and guide throughout lockdown.



Gary Delafield, Thatchers Operations Director, was also at the finish line to welcome Tom and Matt at the end of their challenge. Gary has got to know Tom over the past 12 months, volunteering his time as a support and mentor to Tom during his road to recovery.

Supporting the 2021 Rickshaw Challenge, Martin Thatcher presented a cheque to Matt and Tom during their visit to Myrtle Farm.

A full documentary was broadcast on November 10<sup>th</sup> telling the team's stories, celebrating the history of The Rickshaw Challenge, and at the same time raising money to help change young lives. You can watch it on the BBC iPlayer.





# Hand pick your own Christmas Tree

**28 NOV - 11 DEC**  
**THUR & FRI 17:00 - 20:00**  
**SAT & SUN 11:00 - 18:00**  
**MENDIP ACTIVITY CENTRE**

Lyncombe Dr, Churchill, BS25 5PQ



1st Winscombe Scouts will be selling Christmas Trees this year with the help of Mendip Activity Centre. Come along and see us, and pick your very own from our range of Premium, non-shedding, Nordmann Fir Trees. ALL PROCEEDS will be going to the Scouts group to allow us to continue a wonderful and exciting range of activities.

Why not head up to the Alpine Lounge at Mendip after collecting your tree and relax with a hot chocolate...?

## 2021 PRICES

1.5 - 1.75 Meter	£36.00
1.75 - 2.0 Meter	£48.00
2.0 - 2.4 Meter	£60.00

**SUPPORT YOUR SCOUTS!**



CONTACTLESS  
PAYMENT ONLY



**Christmas Fair**  
**Sunday 5th**  
**December**  
**10-3pm**

**St John the Baptist**  
**Church Lane,**  
**Churchill**



**Family Services at the Church Centre**  
(St. James's, All Saints and St. John's)

**Join us on**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December: Café Church 10.00 am

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December: Family Holy Communion 10.00 am

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January: Café Church 10.00 am

*Children's activities including lego, colouring and crafts.*



**November's Café Church**

November's Café Church was on the theme of 'Caring for Our Planet' to coincide with the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

We explored what the Bible has to say about climate change. The children made super animal masks and were able to share them with the rest of the congregation at the end of the Service.

**Need a venue for your event?**

We have several venues available to hire including our churches, Church Centre (St James's Hall) and smaller meeting rooms.

To find out more or to book please visit our online booking system at:

<https://hallbookingonline.com/winscombe>

# Wroughton Vale Rotary Club

## World Polio Day and Purple for Polio



We celebrated World Polio Day by planting Crocus corms along the verge at Touts, Langford thanks to the co-operation of Touts' management. So, what is this all about? In 1997 there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries throughout the world. This is a crippling disease causing paralysis and death. One person, unable to breathe unaided, lived in an iron lung for more than twenty years.

The purple crocus is used to raise awareness of the campaign. When a child receives their life-saving polio drops on mass polio immunisation days, their little finger is dipped in purple dye to show that they have received their polio vaccine. In India 170 million children were vaccinated in one day.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we've helped to reduce polio cases by more than 99.9 percent. Rotary has contributed \$1.5 billion to this campaign. If you are moved by this, you can find out more, or make a contribution at [www.rotarygbi.org/donatepolio](http://www.rotarygbi.org/donatepolio)



**2022 A4 Calendars.** Thank you for your support. Christmas presents with a difference showing local views. These are selling well in local shops and Alvis's Farm shop. All profits to local charities.

### Recent speakers.

**The Heswall Disabled Children Holiday Fund - South West Group.** Toby Maddocks and Nicola Baird, who are teachers at Churchill School, talked about this small charity. The objective is to give a week's holiday to children with special needs which in parallel provides respite for the parents. Activities include swimming, craft, drama, football and flying. The holidays are assisted by teachers, doctors, nurses and pilots with lots of volunteers providing help and assistance. A working arrangement is being developed with Barton Camp which has similar ethics. The warmth of the questions indicated our empathy with this cause.

**Behind the scenes at the Glastonbury Festival.** Steve Molloy from Clevedon Yeo RC, a retired Police Officer, related his experiences. Steve is the night shift Silver Commander for the festival. For one week, 150,000 punters pay £265 to enjoy a three day fantastic musical experience, with 400 catering outlets and 6,000 WCs! He regaled us with numerous photos of crowds, tents, flooding, dramatic scenes and exciting equipment, in a large temporary town with no street lighting! Also with the occasional death and criminals with guns. Altogether a delightfully humorous talk.

**Albania.** Our own Roger Vincent, gave a very interesting talk demonstrating his extensive knowledge of Albania and its history. There were constant attempts at invasion from the Romans and more recently a country split by politicians at the end of WW1. A country with poor communications, lots of rivers and farmers wives who ploughed the fields with horses. With Norman settlement in the north, the population there is taller and blonder than the rest of the country. Roger also reviewed the dire political scene. Fascinating stuff.

**The Brontes to Broadmoor.** Derek Swift showed us intriguing old photographs and engravings of the Bronte family and Haworth Parsonage. The focus then changed to two of their young servant girls, Nancy and Sarah Garrs; then to those servants' niece, Jane Binns, her murder by her husband in 1878 in Bradford, his trial and subsequent detention in Broadmoor with photographs and maps. So a real insight first into the world of the Bronte family and secondly into life and death in nineteenth century working class Bradford. The final twist - Derek is a descendant of the Garrs family.

If you would like chat about Rotary in this area, please contact Ivor Metherell on 01761 462607 or Angie Biggs on 07790 400718

## Mendip Folk Dance Club

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Dance

Shipham Village Hall

Entry by ticket only. £10 per person.

For further details contact Pat 01934 742853

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Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December

The Church Centre, Woodborough Road,

Winscombe BS25 1BA

8.00 pm - 10.00 pm £3 per person

New dancers very welcome

For further details contact Pat 01934 742853





## Inner Wheel Club of Wroughton Vale

### A fun way to have 5 a day!

Well we couldn't really eat them as they looked too nice! A coffee morning in aid of the Renal Unit at Southmead Hospital provided the perfect excuse for a coffee morning. And what's a coffee morning without silly competitions? This one included 'make an animal out of fruit and veg' and the worthy winner was Sandra's cat. Well .... not her cat exactly but the one she made out of a melon, an orange and some bananas. There was the obligatory raffle (won by Pauline A), guess the number of apples (Clair), and a produce table with jams, honey, pickles, flowers, fruit and even some home-grown chillies! Our pictures show our winners and Kate inspecting the goods. Over £300 was raised with extra donations still to come in from those unable to attend.



We meet on the second Thursday of the month at the White Hart in Wroughton, BS49 5AR starting at 6.30 pm, with a speaker at 7 o'clock and our meal at 8 o'clock. New members are always very welcome.

For Further Information : Telephone Yvonne 01934 842976

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#### Bumper Christmas Quiz Answers

##### Pantomimes

- |                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Jack and the Beanstalk | 2. Sleeping Beauty                   |
| 3. Aladdin                | 4. Puss In Boots                     |
| 5. Cinderella             | 6. Dick Whittington                  |
| 7. Babes In the Wood      | 8. Peter Pan                         |
| 9. Beauty and the Beast   | 10. Snow White and the Seven Dwarves |



##### Christmas Films

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Snowman                        | 2. White Christmas       |
| 3. Polar Express                      | 4. Love Actually         |
| 5. Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> Street | 6. Shrek the Halls       |
| 7. A Muppet Christmas Carol           | 8. It's a Wonderful Life |
| 9. Home Alone                         | 10. The Grinch           |

##### Christmas Number 1s

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Merry Xmas Everybody by Slade                    | 2. Lonely this Christmas by Mud            |
| 3. Last Christmas by Wham                           | 4. Step Into Christmas by Elton John       |
| 5. Mary's Boy Child by Boney M                      | 6. Fairy Tale of New York by The Pogues    |
| 7. Driving Home For Christmas by Chris Rea          | 8. Do They Know Its Christmas? by Band Aid |
| 9. I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday by Wizzard |  |
| 10. All I Want For Christmas Is You by Mariah Carey |  |

##### Christmas Carols

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Away In A Manger            | 2. Silent Night               |
| 3. We Three Kings              | 4. Joy to the World           |
| 5. The Holly and the Ivy       | 6. Once In Royal David's City |
| 7. The First Nowell            | 8. Good King Wenceslas        |
| 9. Hark the Herald Angels Sing | 10. Oh Come All Ye Faithful   |

## Results of the Afghanistan Appeal

In response to humanitarian aid being sought around the globe, the Benefice of Winscombe and Sandford with Churchill decided to launch an appeal. It was decided that three major charities would be supported.



18 million people in Afghanistan need humanitarian help – due to decades of conflict, years of extreme drought, and weeks of heavy fighting. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has been supporting the people of Afghanistan for over 30 years.



There are estimated to be around 1,200 Christian families in Afghanistan, totalling 5,000 to 8,000 individuals. But only the Lord knows the true number. As first-generation converts from Islam and their children, they face almost certain death at the hands of the Taliban, who now control virtually the whole country, and will kill them as apostates...unless they can escape. Barnabas is providing food to Christians in Afghanistan and is providing finance assistance to families who have managed to flee the country but are in neighbouring countries, also hostile to Christians.



Christian Aid has been working in Afghanistan for thirty years and they will not desert the people now; more support will be required for poor and marginalised communities in the coming days. They are doing all they can to continue distributions of food and emergency supplies to the most affected communities. It is hoped that humanitarian access will remain, especially access to women and girls in the communities as they are very concerned about their safety.

**Our Faith in Action group is thrilled to announce that, as a result of the appeal a total of £12,690 has been raised, which increased to £15,852 when Gift Aid (refund of income tax paid) was added to the amount. Being able to donate over £5,000 to each of our nominated charities is far in excess of what we had dreamed of doing and our thanks go out to donors large and small who have made this possible. A further announcement will be made when we're able to report in which ways our money has actually helped.**

# Community Carol Singing in Sandford

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm  
Outside Sandford Stores (Premier)**

Come and join us by the Christmas Tree.

A thank you from the management to all who  
have supported the shop.

Mulled wine and refreshments will be provided.  
Carols by Sandford Handbell Ringers.

Do come along with family and friends.



This event will take place in the village hall  
in the case of bad weather.



WINSCOMBE LATE NIGHT  
SHOPPING EVENING  
TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
6.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Festive shopping and  
entertainment.

# RNLI

## WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH

### RNLI WINSCOMBE FOLK ON SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER FEATURING GRANNY'S ATTIC



RNLI Winscombe held their first Folk Night since Lockdown One on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November in St James's Church Hall featuring "Granny's Attic" who are a bunch of three young guys; Lewis Wood, George Sansome and Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne who presented two one-hour gigs with some excellent instrumental foot-tapping jigs, tuneful solos and brilliant unaccompanied harmonies.. The hall was arranged "Café-Style", and attended by an audience of 88 over the two sessions as numbers were limited to fifty per session due to Covid

precautions. Despite the limited audience and no cash bar to avoid queuing, the evening still raised a profit of **£465 for the RNLI.**

A couple of the highlights of both gigs were two reels composed by Cohen, the first called "Boxing Day" and the second called "The Brickfields" that were based on the guys' early life in their home city of Worcester. Each programme also included some traditional songs like "Death of Nelson", "Ship in Distress" and "Wheels of the World" that proved to be a great sing-along for both audiences while their encore piece was "Away to the South'ard" that had both audiences singing the chorus at full volume!

Both audiences were very appreciative and Lewis, George and Cohen were pleased with how it went and said it was the largest audience (both sessions together) they have had since opening up again.

A note for your diaries – Tentatively, RNLI Winscombe Folk has re-booked **MIRANDA SYKES** (who sings with Show of Hands) for their next concert on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### ANOTHER SATURDAY POP-UP SALE

Weather permitting, by the time you read this, RNLI Winscombe will have sneaked in another Pop-Up Sale at Studley's Forecourt on the morning of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Sadly, this was arranged after the November issue of Signpost went to press. Details will be reported in the next edition of the magazine.

### RNLI CHRISTMAS CARDS, DIARIES, CALENDARS & SOUVENIR GIFTS

RNLI Winscombe Branch is planning a programme of RNLI Sales of Christmas Cards, Diaries, Calendars and Souvenir Gifts; the dates in December are:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Winscombe Late Night Shopping from 6:00 pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Winscombe Thursday Market from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

### "RNLI BURNHAM-ON-SEA ASSISTS A YACHT WITH ENGINE FAILURE

Although October was a fairly warm and mild month with one week of the schools' half term holidays there were just four shouts between our lifeboat stations (Burnham-on-Sea 1, Portishead 2 & W-s-M 1). Burnham-on-Sea. RNLI volunteers were paged by UK Coastguard at 9.08 am on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October to assist a yacht with engine failure in the River Parrett. Burnham's Atlantic 85 lifeboat *Doris Day and Brian* was launched speedily and the volunteer crew intercepted the drifting yacht near the mouth of the River Brue. With the risk of a serious incident, a tow was established and the yacht taken to a safe berth in the River Brue, with assistance from some sailing club members. On completion of service, the lifeboat was recovered at Burnham slipway and returned to the lifeboat station for refuelling, wash down and sanitising. RNLI Helmsman Nick said; "We intercepted the casualty vessel, approximately 30 minutes before high tide. This was an experienced yacht's person, and engine problems can happen at any time. We were happy to assist."

## RNLI WESTON-SUPER-MARE VOLUNTEERS TESTING & TRAINING ON AN ATLANTIC 85 LIFEBOAT

Weston-super-Mare now has an Atlantic 85 lifeboat on trials, with a plan to upgrade from their current Atlantic 75 lifeboat in the near future; the Atlantic 85 is a metre longer with more powerful engines. Part of these trials involves determining what launching method suits the new boat best in the difficult conditions of the Weston beach. The volunteer crews are currently training on the new lifeboat in Weston Bay in preparation for signing-off for their volunteer helms on the new Atlantic 85 lifeboat. All of the assessments have now been completed with the crew, and the new boat became operational during the third week of November. On the weekend 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November, Weston Lifeboat Station launched both the Atlantics, old and new, together with their D Class lifeboat to say goodbye to a type of lifeboat which has served them well. One of the crew afloat was David Ridout who a couple of weeks previously became the last lifeboat crew in the UK and Ireland to gain a pass as a helmsman of the Atlantic 75. He has now passed as a helm for the Atlantic 85 as well.

**FUTURE PROGRAMME** The RNLI Winscombe programme is still very dependent on the overall Covid 19 situation and local infection rates that remain high. Our original plan for the New Year was to hold a Quiz Night at Shipham Village Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 but, due to the high Covid rates and the likelihood of a Covid spike in infections in January following Christmas and the New Year, the branch is postponing the Quiz until Spring 2022 when we anticipate lower Covid rates. However, watch out for future news in this magazine, on local websites and on the RNLI Noticeboard at Brown's Corner. Finally, the branch has set up a Winscombe RNLI Group page on Facebook that will contain all the future plans; anyone local can apply to join as a member; contact: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/831976350849360>

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### SOMERSET CHORAL SOCIETY NEWS

Somerset Choral Society completed their Autumn term with a concert in Axbridge Church on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The programme was “**The Vivaldi Gloria**” and “**The Pergolesi Magnificat**” together with other canticles when the choir was joined by soloists Holly Morgan and Gabrielle Dawson and accompanied by organist Gary Desmond; the whole concert was conducted by their Musical Director Daniel Cushing.

Somerset Choral Society is pleased to announce it will begin Communal Rehearsals on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in preparation for their next concert to be held in St Cuthbert's Church, Wells on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

The first formal rehearsal of the Spring Term will be on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7:30pm in the new Cheddar Catholic Church Community Hall, Tweentown BS27 3HU** and thereafter every Wednesday evening between 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. The music next term will be the much loved “**Rutter Requiem**” and “**Stanford's Songs of the Fleet**” in preparation for the Spring Concert in St Cuthbert's Church, Wells at 7:30 pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022. Membership fees will remain at £55.00 for the term and will include one ticket for the concert. More information may be found on their new website [www.somersetchoralsociety.com](http://www.somersetchoralsociety.com).

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### **Messiah by Daylight !**

If you should happen to stroll into Wells Cathedral at **1.00 pm** on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

you'll find a full performance of Handel's *Messiah* about to begin. Feel free to stay and listen as long as you like - **no** ticket required!

~ Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society in concert ~  
complete with soloists & small instrumental ensemble



(And you'll still be home in time for the *BadgersSet* Christmas Folk gig that evening!)



## The 'NEW' Christmas Workshop

Sunday 12th December 3.30pm – 5pm

@ St Mary's Church (next to Budgens)

Children any age are welcome ...

Fun for all the family!

Hot dogs, mulled wine and Christmas treats!

Free – no entry charge

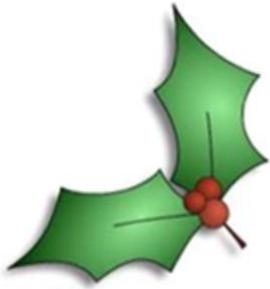
No need to book – just turn up!



Tuesday Gang

Jumbles

CREATE! Sunday



# **Journey to the Stable**



***Sunday 19 December 2021***

***@ Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG***



***Carols & Nativity for All Ages***



***3.30pm Carols @Cottage Homes, Front Street***

***3.45pm Follow The Star, along Front Street***

***4pm Carols by Candlelight indoors***

***5pm Sausage Rolls & Mince Pies***

***Please Dress Christmassy!***



***Info Jacqueline 01934 844134***  
*Please tell us if you have diet or  
access requirements*



**Front Street  
or Church  
Car Park**



**[www.churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk/services](http://www.churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk/services)**



## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
**CHURCH CENTRE**  
(St James's Church Hall)

10.30am

Join us for a Coffee Morning  
with a Christmas flavour.  
Mince Pies and Raffle



## Recycle Your Real Christmas Tree

If you have a real tree and are signed up to the garden waste collection service, you can put your Christmas tree out for garden waste collection when this service resumes in January. The tree must be under 2 metres high and have no decorations on. They will be turned into compost.

Alternatively you can take your tree to **Noah's Ark Zoo and Farm, Wraxall** Drop off your tree in the drive through drop-off area in the car park **between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Donated trees will be reused and recycled at the zoo, as enrichment for animals big and small or recycled by chipping the trees for use around the zoo in enclosures and as mulch for flower beds.



## Winscombe Post Office Wins Award

Congratulations to Sue and Steve Reed on receiving a National Customer Service Award. The award recognises the hard work and commitment of Sue and Steve which they have delivered daily especially over the past eighteen months during the pandemic when they have often been the only point of personal contact for some people.

We are fortunate to have our own Post Office in Winscombe and really value the service delivered by Sue and Steve.

## SANDFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

At our last meeting John welcomed the new members and gave the apologies, then introduced Mrs Ann Brake who gave us a most informative talk about Bristol's New Botanical garden. The old garden was founded in 1882 and moved to its current site in Stoke Bishop, in 2005.

There are four different collections in the garden; Evolution of Plants, Mediterranean Climatic Regions, Local Flora and Rare Native Plants and Useful Plants. The garden is designed to tell a story.

The Evolution Dell is a walk through 500 million years of plant evolution with inspirational and iconic plants set out in a clearly identified evolutionary context.

The Mediterranean Collection is full of plants with grey leaves and furry leaves, and are also aromatic. Some of these flower in Spring and Autumn and come from Australia and Chile.

The Local Flora and Rare Native Plants are collected from the local area. One plant was found to be left over from the ice age. There are white bean trees and mountain ash.

The Useful Plants are the herbs a lot of which are used in traditional herbal medicine.

You can also see the prize winning Chinese Garden from the Chelsea Flower Show.

This year the gardens were awarded the 'Queen's Award for Voluntary Service'. The volunteers raise money to pay for two apprentices each year from Bristol University.

John thanked Ann for her talk.

For further information about the Botanic Gardens visit  
<https://botanic-garden.bristol.ac.uk>

A short AGM was also held. John Dunster is standing as chairman and our new president is Marjorie Dunster. We were sorry to hear that Hazel Clutterbuck has decided to stand down from the committee. We welcome Penny to the committee. The rest of the committee was re-elected en-bloc.

If any one has any trophies from the Spring Show, please could you return them to Tony Callow.



## Gardening Notes for December

Christmas and the New Year are favourite periods for houseplants to be given as presents. Here are a few tips on how to get the best out of them and care for them after they have bloomed.

Some plants prefer warm dry conditions and others prefer to be in a humid environment. The most popular plants at this time of the year are Cyclamen, Miniature Roses, Christmas Cacti, Poinsettia and Indoor Azalea.

### **Cyclamen**

These prefer a cool position in bright but not sunny light. Water from below once the compost dries out and never leave the pot standing in water. Add houseplant fertiliser fortnightly and remove dead flower stalks and leaves. After flowering leave to dry out until new growth begins again in the autumn.

### **Miniature Roses**

Miniature Roses are also a very popular present. These prefer a cool bright windowsill but unlike cyclamen the pot should be stood on wet gravel to maintain a high humidity. Snip off faded flowers and reduce the stems by half, to a bud, when they have finished flowering. These plants have been forced to induce flowering outside their natural period and should be repotted into a larger pot and fed weekly.

### **Christmas Cacti**

These enjoy a semi shaded warm spot out of direct sunlight, stood on a tray of wet gravel. Faded flowers will fall off and when flowering has finished rest the plant in a cool room and reduce watering for a couple of months. Move to a warmer position in spring and increase watering, a second drier period in autumn will encourage new flowers to form..

### **Poinsettia**

These require a minimum temperature of 14 degrees C avoiding draughts and direct sources of heat in a bright but not sunny position. Do not saturate the compost and water sparingly when the compost feels dry, but mist frequently. Add tomato feed once a month. Cut back hard in April and repot, allow only 12 hours of light daily from early October to produce good winter colour.

### **Indoor Azalea**

Keep the compost moist and stand in a saucer of moist gravel using rainwater rather than tap water. After flowering repot into a larger plastic pot using ericaceous compost, reduce watering and feed fortnightly until next winter. Plants prefer bright light in a cool room. Keep outside in summer.

Very best wishes for a happy Christmas and good gardening in 2022.



## The Heart of Christmas



What is at the heart of Christmas for you? Is it the feasting and festivities? The carols and the candles? The stockings and the gifts? Or the presence of those you love?

This Christmas we may find ourselves investing more in our preparations, as last year's plans were curtailed and for some even cancelled. A year ago, we were to have had all our family gather for Christmas at our house and then just before, my husband Howard had a positive Covid test. Everything changed and in fact neither of us felt well enough to enjoy a special meal together let alone welcome others. So, this year I want to pull out all the stops!

The children and grandchildren will be with us, and Howard tells me that Father Christmas will be paying a special visit! However, we are also wanting to make sure that we don't get carried away with all the tinsel and trappings and forget the heart of the story. So, we shall limit our spending on presents, but make sure that we really value the presence of one another and particularly of the Christ child at the heart of it all.

This year as you anticipate Christmas, through the stories told behind Advent windows, or carol services in your church, or Nativities on the move, how might you prepare your heart for the coming Christ child? The wonder of Christmas is that God has never given up on us and in fact loves us so much that he wants to spend time with us. The birth of Jesus, God's Son, into a humble human family, brought God into our very midst, into the heart of our homes. This Christmas let's make space for Him once more and listen to the words of love, hope and joy He wants to share with us. And may that inspire our faith in the future, for ourselves and our world.

Wishing you much joy and peace this Christmas!

**Bishop Ruth**



## Useful Telephone Numbers

<b>Police</b>	Non- Emergency	Call 101
	PCSO Kayley Anderson	07802 874658
<b>Fire</b>	Non-Emergency	01179 262061
<b>Police, Fire, Ambulance</b>		Call 999
<b>Utilities - Emergency</b>	Gas - National Grid Gas	0800 111 999
	Electricity - Western Power Distribution	Call 105
	Water - Bristol Water	03457 023797
	Water - Wessex Water (24 hour)	02456 004600
<b>Health</b>	NHS Health Enquiries	Call 111
	Winscombe Surgery	01934 842211
	Banwell Surgery	01934 820113
	Mendip Vale, Langford	01934 852906
<b>Hospitals</b>	Weston General Hospital	01934 636363
	Bristol Royal Infirmary	01179 230000
	Bristol Southmead	01179 505050
	Bristol Children's Hospital	01179 665881
<b>Pharmacy</b>	Boots, Winscombe	01934 843168
<b>Dentists</b>	Honeycomb Dental Clinic	01934 842573
	Winscombe Dental Practice	01934 842230
<b>Veterinary</b>	Alexandra and Hillyfields Vets	01934 843381
	Langford Vets Small Animal Practice	01934 852422
<b>North Somerset Council</b>	Information	01934 888888
	Out of Hours Emergency	01934 622669
	Environmental Problems	01934 888802
	Council Tax and Benefits	01934 888144
	Social Services	01275 888801
<b>Parish Councils</b>	Winscombe and Sandford	01934 844257
	Churchill and Langford	01934 316333
<b>Assistance</b>	Winscombe Contact Scheme	07888 812398
	Sandford Helpline	01934 822030
	Churchill Churches Volunteer Driver Scheme	01934 852239
	Samaritans (North Somerset)	0330 094 5717
	Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 278 7973
	Churchill and Langford Minibus	01934 852589
<b>Schools</b>	Winscombe Primary School	01934 843407
	Sandford Primary School	01934 852602
	Churchill Academy and Sixth Form	01934 852771
	Sidcot School	01934 843102

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editions.  
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## Festival of the Moon at Wells Cathedral

The Museum of the Moon, a touring art work by Luke Jerram was recently presented in the magnificent setting of Wells Cathedral. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. The installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award winning composer Dan Jones. .

