

Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Parish Magazine



January 2022

Free

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

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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

If you would like to receive future copies electronically, please send your email address to 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

reach**ing**
wel**com**ing
ca**ri**ng 
se**rv**ing
Teach**ing**

Putting the love of Christ in the heart of our community.

New Beginnings.....



I wonder how many garages, bedrooms and lofts up and down the land hold superfluous exercise equipment, the product of well-intentioned New Year resolutions? Apparently, quite a few! A survey in 2020 identified the three most common New Year's resolutions as:

1. Exercise More
2. Spend Less
3. Eat more healthily

Interestingly, only 25% of people said they had managed to keep their resolutions. This doesn't seem to prevent people from making the same resolution the following year – the three listed have been broadly consistent over the last five years, according to the survey. Perhaps one of the reasons for this is because each New Year presents us with a chance to make a fresh start, a new beginning that is different and better than before. Maybe this year we could make a different kind of new beginning – one that didn't involve exercising or weight loss (much to the relief of us chocolate biscuit and chip lovers). Perhaps our New Year's resolution could be to give someone else a new beginning.

At the end of January 2022 is the church festival of Candlemas, which commemorates Christ being presented as a child at the temple in Jerusalem. Traditionally in the UK, it was also when new candles were made ready for use in homes and churches by being blessed. Candlemas illustrates how light can bring hope in dark times, whether that is in our homes, schools or places of work. We are all called to be 'light bearers', people who share a little bit of light, just where they are.

The fact that only 25% of us actually manage to keep our resolutions is a reminder that we aren't perfect, we make mistakes and have to live with the consequences. Some families have relationships which need restoration, fallout from a falling out that perhaps occurred many years ago. Some of us may need to say sorry to someone else, perhaps giving reconciliation a fresh start. Maybe 2022 is the year we choose to forgive someone who in the past who has wronged us, remembering how Christ came to forgive us and give us a new beginning.

Wishing you a blessed New Year,

Reverend Andrew Hiscox.



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 February 2022 Magazine is Sunday 9th January. Please submit items as Word documents to 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

Our Website

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

***All information in the magazine is correct at time of distribution.
Updates re church events can be found on our website.***

Children's Society Christingle Service

On the first Sunday in Advent, 28th November, the Children's Society Committee held the annual Christingle Service which was very well attended. 30 children and their parents/carers joined us in St James's Church and together we made our Christingles. As we live in Cider country we always use local apples (which already had orange tape put round them) to represent the world that Jesus came to save. Then we added four cocktail sticks with sweets, a grape, raisins and a piece of carrot to remind us of the four seasons and the food that our world provides us with. Finally we added the candle which shows us that Jesus is the light of the world and is here to love and support us. We then all made a circle round the inside of the church, we turned out the lights, lit the candles and sang Away in a Manger by candlelight. It was a magical moment and a wonderful start to the Christmas season.



The Committee would like to thank all those who came, particularly the 1st Strawberry Line Rainbows who read so beautifully, the Guide who led us in prayer and Revd. Judith Lee who told us about the work of the Children's Society. And, of course, the person who donated the apples from their Orchard! Thank you also for your generosity - the leaving collection raised £128.73 for the work of the Children's Society.

Folk at Christmas



Badgerset returned to Winscombe for their Folk at Christmas concert on 4th December.

Over 100 concert-goers packed St James's Church and were treated to a mix of traditional and modern carols, folk tunes, some energetic Morris dancing and a touch of humour now and then.

A willing band of volunteers from St James's and All Saints decorated the Church, prepared and served refreshments during the interval, sold raffle tickets and much more. Andrew welcomed everyone with a message about the real meaning of Christmas and the

audience enthusiastically joined in the carols and choruses.

Badgerset have played a Christmas concert in Winscombe or Sandford annually since 2013, except for a COVID-enforced absence in 2020. Many said this was the best yet!

The concert raised £1200 for St James's and All Saints funds.

Badgerset's next concerts are in February in Portishead and Nailsea. Then they return to Winscombe in June for a concert to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Here's hoping they will be back with us next Christmas as well.

Wreath Making Workshop



Another sell out event was the Wreath Making Workshop on 9th December. The Church Centre was full of all sort of greenery, berries and ribbon enabling participants to create beautiful decorations, many of which you may have spotted on doors around the village. The event also raised just over £290 for church funds.



Jumble, Rumble & Upcycle Sale
Saturday, 22nd January 2022
Winscombe Community Centre at 2.00pm

We're looking forward to seeing you at our Jumble Sale in aid of Winscombe Community Centre, Sandford Road on **Saturday 22nd January**. There will be great bargains, refreshments and a raffle too. The Jumble Sale starts at 2.00pm but if you would like to donate jumble please bring it along on the morning of the 22nd January from 9.30am

For more information please call 07811 292909



Save the Children

'Save The Children' Lunches



Save the Children

This month's 'Save the Children' lunch is at
Shipham Village Hall
Friday 7th January at 12.30pm.

Join us for soup, bread, cheese, pickle and homemade biscuits,
tea or coffee
£4.00

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



News from Winscombe Probus

At meeting on 22nd November we enjoyed Tim Lewis & Sheila Furneaux entertaining us with their subtle use of pictures, verse and song to portray the Christmas Story.

Our 2022 programme starts with our AGM on 10 January, and a visiting speaker on 24th January both at the Community Centre at 10.30am.



Supporting Our Local Food Banks

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 the run up to Christmas we asked for seasonal donations to be made to help the Food Banks give some festive cheer to those in need. The response was amazing with an overloaded boot full of goodies collected at St James's and the Church Centre going to the For All Healthy Living Centre. Several boxes of food have also been taken to Cheddar from All Saints.

Reverse Advent Calendar

If you joined in this initiative (see last month's issue for details) and haven't yet delivered your box to one of the churches or the Church Centre please do so as soon as possible, so that we can help the Food Banks to be well stocked for January.





FIRSTLY: The organising team of "Refresh-men-†" wish members past, present and future a Happy and Healthy New Year!

**The first meeting of 2022, will take place on
January 15th
at The Railway Inn, Sandford at 9.30 am.**

Our guest speaker is Reverend Karen Murphy, the Chaplain and Spiritual Lead at Weston Hospicecare and her subject will be "Death and Dying - talking about the subject we try to avoid"

As usual, if you're not already a member, you should contact Richard Noy (Tel 843529 or email busmanto@aol.com) to book a place. He'll need your confirmation of attendance and what you wish to eat; Full English or something lighter, by 8th January 2022 at the latest. All existing members will have had a reminder but please remember... you're not checked in unless you respond to your email!

All Saints Jacket Potato Lunch

This very successful event took place on Saturday 11th December at Sandford Village Hall. 50 ticket holders enjoyed a delicious Jacket potato lunch with a choice of fillings to tantalise the taste buds. This was followed by fruit crumble and ice cream. it was a great occasion with a lovely Christmas atmosphere, good company and great food. The event together with a raffle raised an amazing £546 for the All Saints Building Fund.



Our next event is a quiz planned for Saturday 12th February.

All Saints Church Community Café



Saturday 8th January
from 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

We serve coffee, a variety of teas and soft drinks along with homemade cakes, biscuits and soup.

We look forward to seeing you again.

Sandford & Churchill Fellowship

We have just one meeting for January as we return from the Christmas Break

Tuesday January 25th
at Churchill Methodist Church

Reverend Julie Sims

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**

Who is the Christ?



Churches Together are hoping that Lent groups will convene again in 2022 after two years! We have chosen a course entitled 'Who is the Christ?' which is a 6-session study looking at Christ The Builder, The Humble King, The Holy King, The Harvester, The Risen King and The Commissioner. We hope that enough leaders can be found to lead ecumenical groups where we can share and learn together as different church denominations. These opportunities in the past have been a marvellous way of getting to know each other, and growing together in faith. More information will be available in February. Meanwhile, if anyone would be interested in leading a group please get in touch with Hilary Hagen – 01934 842511 – and we plan to organise a short session with leaders to go through the course material.

A Local Hero Here in Sandford.



During the pandemic many benefited from the effort made by the staff at Sandford Stores, owned and run by Robin and Ruby. They did everything possible to make sure that goods were always available and that the more vulnerable could also have deliveries and other help. This was aided by a great team of volunteers.

The mastermind that implemented this initiative was Aaron Bleach, manager of the store. Aaron with co workers and volunteers set up and ran a Help Line for local residents which included delivering shopping, collecting special medications and most vitally a friendly chat on a

daily basis. The help line was supported by Thatchers who created a dedicated line to provide and receive regular phone calls to people unable to visit the shop or needing other practical help. They not only supported this village but also surrounding villages stretching as far as Locking.

Staff regularly worked 12 hour shifts and Aaron had hardly a day off for the duration of the lockdown.

Aaron's work was recognised nationally. He was a finalist in the BOOST DRINKS Local Hero Award in recognition of his and he would say his co-workers and the volunteers contribution to the local community. He received an invitation to a Platinum Party held in Euston, London, to thank him personally for all the support given throughout this pandemic. He is very modest about this achievement but I am sure that readers of 'Signpost' and the village web site would like to know! Aaron continues to help local villagers with personal issues and help all comers when needed.

Besides the services the shop became a hub for the village with many discussions being held outside in the fresh air. It was the quiet support and consideration that was a key factor in surviving the isolation especially for those who live alone, which was and continues to be, a very real part of the lock down and continuing pandemic. Such support from the shop still goes on for those in need and sincere thanks must go to the shop from the village community it has helped to foster.

St John's Christmas Fair

The St John's Christmas Fair was once again a great success.

We had 19 stalls selling a variety of beautiful gifts, art, food and more. We pride ourselves on the quality of the vendors, some of whom have supported us from our first fair.



It was wonderful to welcome so many visitors into the church. We were so pleased to meet many faces who don't usually attend church.

We look forward to hosting it again next year on the first Sunday in December.

THURSDAY LUNCHES

12.30pm @Churchill Methodist

BS25 5NG

13, 20 & 27 January 2022



New Menu
Same Warm Welcome!

Soup & Roll
Pudding or Dessert
Tea or Coffee

Only
£5

- ✓ **Special diets ok**
- ✓ **Wheelchair access ramp**
- ✓ **Transport may be available, inc wheelchairs**
- ✓ **churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk**

Details and bookings call Janet

01934 852197

Thank you to all our supporters:



Local History Corner.

This month we are starting a series of bi- monthly Local History articles. We hope that whether you have lived here for a long time or are relatively new you will enjoy learning more about the local area. Our thanks go to John Matthews for his research

The Fives Place

Fives was played from the late mediaeval period and until recently in some schools in this country. It is a vigorous game played by the hand and requiring a ball and a flat wall. For this reason church walls became ideal locations for the activity and many churches still bear signs of the game being played against them. In St James's Church, Winscombe, signs of this activity can be still seen on the outside of the west window of the north aisle where indications of hinges for the shutters which were to protect the windows are visible where the game was played against the Tower. The fact that it was a rowdy game, and not unknown for damage to be caused to valuable stained glass, that it was frequently discouraged as unseemly in churchyards. In the mid nineteenth century often obstacles were constructed to make the game unplayable by placing monuments close to the wall, or in the case of Winscombe, an outside stair to the Tower in 1863. In Theodore Compton's book 'Winscombe sketches' it is mentioned that the publican of the Railway Inn constructed a fives wall, probably to replace the lost one, which was then located just north of Woodborough Drive. In fact, Woodborough Drive has been constructed partly over the site of the Inn. The fives wall seems never to have been used but when the Railway Inn was relocated to its present position in the late 20th century and later become the Woodborough Inn, it would appear that the part of the remaining wall of an existing building was utilised as a replacement fives wall. This can still be seen at the west end of the car park behind the Inn. The site has been recorded in North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record.

Reference: Sampson, J., (2005). *Churchyard fives*, Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society. Report 2004/5, 8-20.



The fives wall behind the Woodborough Inn, Winscombe.

John Matthews



Churchill Music: Aquinas Piano Trio

15th January 2022 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

All Saints Church, Station Rd, Wrigton, BS40 5LG



The Aquinas Piano trio have quickly become one of the most sought-after ensembles in the country and have thrilled Churchill Music audiences on many occasions. We are delighted to welcome them back to perform a sublime piano trio by Mozart, a rare and unique set of movements by Elgar as well as a passionate and heart-wrenching work by Smetana. The last work was written after Smetana had lost his beloved four-year-old daughter and his deeply

moving composition reflects that profound outpouring of emotion. This is certainly a concert not to be missed.

Tickets now available from Ticketsource

Champions of Churchill Music £12.50

Non-Champions £16.50

Under 18's £4.50

Alternatively, or for further information, contact Mary Smallwood:

Email: tickets@churchillmusic.org.uk Telephone 01934 852589

Bramble Cottage, Dinghurst Road, Churchill BS25 5PJ



January New Year's Quiz

1. In Roman mythology what is the name of the God of doors and gates after which January is named?
2. On which date in January is the feast of Epiphany?
3. On which date in January are Burn's Suppers traditionally held?
4. Which South American city's name means 'River of January'?
5. On which Scottish island is the festival of Up Helly Aa held to mark the end of the Yule Season on the last Tuesday in January?
6. Which famous diarist started with a first entry on 1st January 1660?
7. What do the Scottish call the last day of the year and its celebration?
8. What do the Spanish eat on each of the 12 chimes of the New Year?
9. What is the common name of *Galanthus Nivalis*, which often starts to flower in January?
10. Which comedian was reputed to have made the first mobile phone call in the UK on January 1st 1985 but was in fact beaten by a namesake?

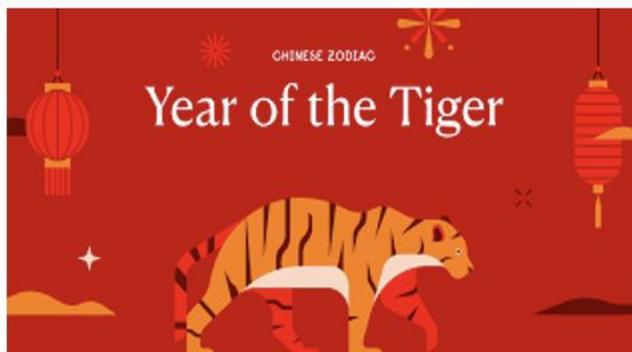
Answers can be found on page 22.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEW YEAR, NEW SKILLS!!!

This half term Rainbows are working on 'Skills for My Future' theme award.

- Working with money and costs of things in the shops
- Mending items
- Using tools for DIY
- Spotting signs of danger when out and about
- Knife skills in the kitchen and making some delicious food
- Changing batteries using a screwdriver
- Learning about different jobs



We are looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year as part of our programme too. This year is the Year of the Tiger, and we will be tasting Chinese food, making lanterns and other related crafts & activities.

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.

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

5-7year-olds meet 4:30 pm-6 pm.

For more details and to enquire contact Victoria Hogg on 07588 652479 or email

strawberrylinerainbows@yahoo.com

JANUARY 2022 DIARY

Please see our website for updates re events.

SUN 2	EPIPHANY
	See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 4	10.00am Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room 10.30am Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 5	7.15pm Choir Practice – St James’s
THURS 6	9.30am Scramblers – Church Centre 10.00am Holy Communion – Dunster Court 7.30pm Bell Ringing – St James’s
SAT 8	10.30am All Saints Community Cafe
SUN 9	EPIPHANY 1
	See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 11	10.00am Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room 10.30am Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 12	7.15pm Choir Practice – St James’s 2.45pm Holy Communion – Sewell House
THURS 13	9.30am Scramblers – Church Centre 7.30pm Bell Ringing – St James’s
SAT 15	9.30am Men’s breakfast (Refresh-men-t) - Railway Inn
SUN 16	EPIPHANY 2
	See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 18	10.00am Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room 10.30am Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 19	7.15pm Choir Practice – St James’s
THURS 20	9.30am Scramblers – Church Centre 7.30pm Bell Ringing – St James’s
SUN 23	EPIPHANY 3 (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
	See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 25	10.00am Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room 10.30am Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 26	7.15pm Choir Practice – St James’s
THURS 27	9.30am Scramblers – Church Centre 7.30pm Bell Ringing – St James’s
SUN 30	EPIPHANY 4/CANDLEMAS
	See opposite page for details of Services

BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY

Sunday 2nd January Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:10-15 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Sunday 9th January Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 79 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15 -17, 21-22	Sunday 16th January Isaiah 62:1-5 Palm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2: 1-11
Sunday 23rd January Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Luke 4:14-21	Sunday 30th January Malachi 3: 1-5 Psalm 24: 7 - end Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40	

Need a Venue for Your Event?

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

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

<https://hallbookingonline.com/winscombe>

Church Service Times
Opportunities to Worship in January
Please see our website for updates re services.

Sunday 2 nd January	8.00 am	St John's	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Café Church
Sunday 9 th January	9.30 am	St James's	Parish Praise
	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th January	10.00 am	Church Centre	Family Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd January	9.30 am	St James's	Parish Praise
	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th January	9.30 am	St James's	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Parish Praise
	11.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion

Regular Midweek Services

Every Tuesday All Saints 10.00 am Holy Communion

Special Services in January

Thursday 6th January Dunster Court 10.00 am Communion in the Community
 Wednesday 12th January Sewell House 2.45 pm Communion in the Community



**Locking Deanery Service of Light: Sunday 30th January 4.00 pm
 at Christchurch, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 2RH**

A time to celebrate the light of Christ. All are welcome to this service
 where churches receive their Deanery candle.

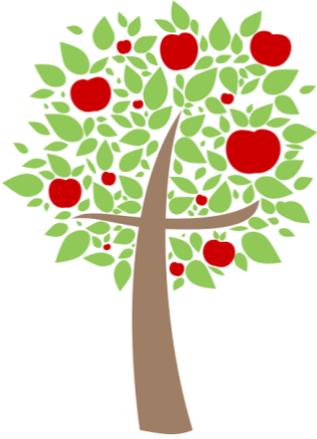
We Remember

Our love and sympathy go to the families and friends of
Harry Glynn whose ashes were buried in Ilex Lane Cemetery on Friday 10th December.
Sonia Harris whose ashes were buried in St James's Churchyard on Tuesday 21st December

Organ Music at St James the Great in January

Date and Time	At the Beginning of the Service	At the End of the Service
Sunday 9th January 9.30 am	Vater unser in Himmelreich D Buxtehude	Prelude and Fugue in G minor D Buxtehude
Sunday 23rd January 9.30 am	Priere Theodore Dubois	Variations de Concert Joseph Bonnet

What is A Wassail?



The annual tradition of Wassail dates from pagan times when people gathered to celebrate and promote the health of the apple trees to ensure a good harvest for the coming year.

The word ‘wassail’ comes from the Anglo Saxon phrase ‘waves hall’ which means ‘good health’.

In parts of England especially where cider apples are grown, such as here in Somerset, wassailing takes place on or around 5th January, the eve of Twelfth Night, or more traditionally on 17th January which is ‘Old Twelvey’.

The celebrations vary from region to region but often involve a wassail king and queen leading the group of revellers in a noisy procession from one orchard to the next. The noise which is often made by banging pots and pans with sticks is intended to ward off evil spirits. In each orchard wassailers gather around the biggest and best tree, and a gift to the tree spirits, a piece of wassail soaked toast, is placed into its branches by the Queen.

“Apple tree, apple tree we all come to wassail thee,
Bear this year and next year to bloom and blow,
Hat fulls, cap fulls, three cornered sacks fills...”

To make your own mulled cider Wassail Cup

Take a bottle of cider and in a pan, add:

- 1/4 sliced orange, lemon and apple
- 1 star anise
- 1 clove
- 1/2 cinnamon stick
- 1 slice ginger
- Soft brown sugar to taste.



Simmer gently for around ½ hour to let the spicy flavours infuse but be careful not to let it boil. Pour into a heat proof mug and enjoy!

Local Wassailing Events

Thatchers Cider: Friday 14th January 2022 7.00 pm to midnight www.thatcherscider.co.uk

Somerset Rural Life Museum: Saturday 15th January 7.30 pm www.swheritage.org.uk

Glastonbury Abbey: Sunday 16th January 2.00 pm www.glastonburyabbey.com

National Trust Tyntesfield: Saturday 22nd January from 1.30 pm www.nationaltrust.org.uk

come to Scramblers

A friendly,
church toddler group for children
from birth to 4 years
and their parents/carers

Toys

Drinks &
Snacks

Stories
Both Bible &
traditional

Singing

Games

Craft Activities

Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am
January 13th, 20th, 27th. February 3rd, 10th, 17th
at The Church Centre, Winscombe
(formerly known as St James's Church Hall)

Contact Enid on 01934 842534 for more information



Churchill Baby & Toddler Group

@Churchill Methodist Hall,
BS25 5NG, by the Clock Tower

Mondays 13, 20, 27 January 2022
Places at 09.00, 10.30 & 13.00

First Visit FREEEE!

- ✓ Friendly welcome
- ✓ Cake & cuppa
- ✓ Children's snack
- ✓ Large hall
- ✓ Lots of toys
- ✓ Change station
- ✓ Easy parking



INFO & Booking
Jacqueline
01934 844134



churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Winscombe and Sandford in 2022

Welcome to 2022 – a year that we will see many anniversaries including:

- The 150th Anniversary of the publication of Middlemarch by George Eliot
- The 140th Anniversary of Great Britain gaining control of Egypt from the Ottoman Empire
- 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the BBC



However, undoubtedly the biggest one will be the 70th Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen acceding to the Throne on 6th February 1952

There will be big celebrations in London. You can find out more here: <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>

However, you do not have to travel to London to join in the celebrations.

You can celebrate this unique event on your doorstep in Winscombe and Sandford. A varied programme of Events is being organised including:

- Tree Planting on 6th February 2022. This is part of the Queen's Green Canopy: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/> Everyone can get involved in this initiative by planting a tree in your garden. It does not have to be an oak tree.
- A 'Bunting Bonanza' starting on 22nd May – good to start making your bunting now. We encourage people to make their own bunting from old clothes, curtains etc rather than going out and buying new plastic bunting.
- A Tea Party for retired residents in Sandford on 28th May
- 2 Concerts on 28th May and 11th June
- Lighting of Beacons on 2nd June
- A Grand Jubilee Festival on 4th June
- Services of Thanksgiving in both our Churches on 5th June



For further information, please contact William Du Croz, Chairman of Steering Group, on 07960 697874



Inner Wheel Club of Wroughton Vale

Nearly the start of the Christmas mayhem but we made time for a practice session! Twenty three members met for lunch at the Mediterranean (that's how they spell it!) in Congresbury and had a rip-roaring time. It was good to see so many there, relaxing, chatting, catching up, getting served, enjoying each other's company - and NO WASHING UP!

A huge 'thank you' to our brilliant social pair Ann and Angela for making all the arrangements. When shall we go again???



Our Christmas meeting was held by Zoom, notorious first choice, but needs must, so we did what we always do and made the best of things! We reprised our Summer Social 6s and held multi Zooms in members homes complete with mulled wine, mince pies and silly hats. We also enjoyed a funny Cinderella story and a Christmas Quiz to finish.



A final visit to the Cheddar Food Bank made our total Christmas collections this year up to a very welcome 66.3 kgs of donations, plus a cheque for £60. Many thanks to all members who have supported the Food Bank through the year and especially now with the accent on Christmas foodstuffs with goodies and chocolates for the children and those in need of cheer.

Our pictures show the FB team who spend so much of their effort and time to ensure that anybody needing food does not go hungry, especially at this time of the year. Many thanks to them all.

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 7.00 pm and our meal at 8.00 pm. New members are always very welcome.

For Further Information : Telephone Yvonne 01934 842976



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

Join us on

Sunday 2nd January: Café Church 10am

Sunday 16th January: Family Holy Communion 10am

Sunday 6th February: Café Church

Children's activities including lego, colouring and crafts.

Cafe Church in December

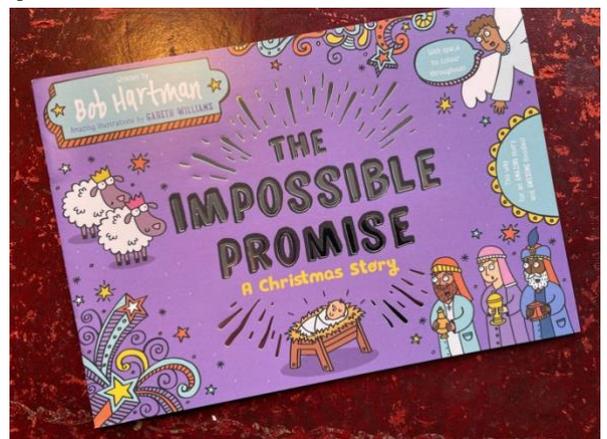


Cafe Church took place without the cafe(!) due to the latest guidelines. Nevertheless it was a real joy to have the full music group back with us. The singing was uplifting even in our masks! Andrew amused us with his usual selection of cracker jokes which preceded a thoughtful sermon.

The children enjoyed making tree decorations which you can see in the picture. There were snowmen, angels and reindeer and they enjoyed showing what they had achieved to the rest of the congregation.

Taking the Christmas Message to our Primary Schools

We were so sad that both our Winscombe and Sandford Primary Schools had to cancel their Carol Concerts at St James's Church in the run up to Christmas. It was good however, to be able to give every child a copy of the Christmas Booklet 'The Impossible Promise' as a gift from our churches.



SHINE LIKE STARS!

Sunday 16 January 2022

4-6pm @ Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

Come, enjoy fun activities & food!



- ✓ **FREE** buffet tea
- ✓ Family friendly, inc seniors
- ✓ Activities & crafts
- ✓ Storytime
- ✓ Warm welcome

FOR INFO CALL:
01934 844134
Jacqueline

CREATE! Sunday

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



Every Tuesday

COFFEE MORNING

Church Centre (St James' Church Hall)

10:30 am



Everyone Welcome

**Coffee Mornings start again
on Tuesday January 4th 2022**



January Quiz Answers

1. Janus
2. January 6th
3. January 25th
4. Rio de Janeiro
5. Shetland
6. Samuel Pepys
7. Hogmanay
8. A grape on each chime
9. Snowdrop
10. Ernie Wise although in fact Michael Harrison the son of Vodaphone's Chairperson beat him to it!



RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH



BEACH HUTS SET THE SCENE FOR A FISH SUPPER

Priddy's Queen Victoria Inn went to the seaside on Wednesday 17th November. The evening was dedicated to raising funds in support of the RNLI by turning the menu over to that firm favourite, after a day at the beach, fish & chips; this was all due to the initiative of landlord Mark.

Battered cod, chips and peas (mushy or garden) formed the main offering along with tasty desserts.

Despite the need for a COVID safe environment constraining the number of diners, the princely sum of £600 was subsequently donated to the RNLI through the Winscombe & District Branch.

A "big thank you" goes to Mark and the team at the "Queen Vic" for a truly magnificent evening and effort.

POP-UP SALE – SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER

RNLI Winscombe sneaked in another very successful Pop-Up Sale at Studley's Forecourt, Winscombe, on the morning of Saturday 20th November. On a bright but chilly morning 12 stall holders, the most ever, contributed selling bulbs, cakes, Christmas trees, Fair Trade, tools, nautical items, books, food, jumble, RNLI Christmas Cards and Souvenirs and much more. The event was attended by "Stormy Stan" in full lifeboat kit and his sidekick "Sonny Stan" who collected cash in RNLI buckets. Throughout the morning there was a steady footfall resulting in £798 from the Sale Tables plus £218 from RNLI Cards & Souvenir sales.



RNLI CHRISTMAS CARDS, DIARIES, CALENDARS & SOUVENIR GIFTS

Throughout 2021 but especially this autumn, RNLI Winscombe Branch's "Sales Executives" Mary Wallace and Albert Thompson have run a programme of sales of RNLI Christmas cards, diaries, calendars and souvenir gifts; these have taken place at private functions, pop-up sales, Wedmore Church, Winscombe Thursday markets and culminated with the Winscombe late night shopping on Tuesday 7th December. On a cold and windy night, this stalwart sales team braved the elements to raise funds for one last time in 2021 with the hope of selling all their stock. The net result of all this effort is a staggering £1,658 raised so far with some private sales still to come. This is the biggest sum ever raised from these sales and, given the difficulties experienced due to Covid restrictions, a praiseworthy achievement so a "big thank you" to Mary and Albert. This will mean that over £1,000 will be credited to the Branch for 2021.

RNLI WESTON-SUPER-MARE ASSISTS PERSON IN WATER BY THE GRAND PIER

Although November was mostly a warm and mild month there were seven shouts between our lifeboat stations (Burnham-on-Sea 1, Minehead 3, Portishead 2 & W-s-M 1). Weston-super-Mare RNLI volunteers were paged by UK Coastguard at 10:50 pm on Monday 29th November to assist a person in distress in the water by the Grand Pier. The crew launched their D class lifeboat using the low water access route around the Marine Lake promenade. Three white parachute flares were fired to illuminate the search area, to aid visibility for the lifeboat, Coastguard Rescue Teams, and the Avon Fire & Rescue Service hovercraft (Firefly), who were also in attendance. Following a coordinated search along the tide-line, the casualty was located and safely brought aboard the hovercraft. He was then returned to a safe area, and transferred into the care of the ambulance service.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The RNLI Winscombe programme is still very dependent on the overall Covid 19 situation and local infection rates that remain high plus the advancing infections from the Omicron variant. Consequently, the 29th January 2022 Quiz is postponed until Spring 2022 when we anticipate lower Covid rates. However, RNLI Winscombe Folk has re-booked MIRANDA SYKES [who sings with Show of Hands] for their next concert on February 12th 2022 and this will most likely be in a Cafe Style format again. 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> .

WINSCOMBE RNLI BRANCH'S FAREWELL TO THEIR PRESIDENT

It is with great sadness that RNLI Winscombe and District Fundraising Branch reports the passing of Anne Hart, President of the Branch for many years.

For almost 50 years Anne gave unstinting service to the RNLI.

In 1974 as Honorary Secretary she was invited to Buckingham Palace for the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the RNLI.

She was awarded a silver medal for service to the RNLI in 1992, followed in 2003 by a gold medal, presented at the Barbican in London

1999 marked the 175th Anniversary of the RNLI and Anne joined the celebration lunch at the Barbican .

A bar was added to her gold award at a ceremony at RNLI HQ at Poole on 19th June 2009 that was attended by several members of her Branch.

She was honoured to be invited to the opening of the new Portishead Lifeboat Station in 2016 and would have been delighted to hear that the plans for a new Lifeboat Station at Weston Super Mare are now progressing .

In recognition of her outstanding service, Anne became an Honorary Life Governor of the RNLI in a ceremony at Worcester in 2016 (See photo)

The Committee of RNLI Winscombe and District Branch offers sincere condolences to her sons. Alex (who provided these details) and Clifford. Her husband Ron, who was always at Anne's side at RNLI events, died in 2020



Winscombe Community Singers Christmas Concert.



Our concert took place at St James's Church on December 14th to an audience made up of family, friends and members of the local community. The programme was a mix of traditional carols and popular Christmas music together with other music from the choir's repertoire. We enjoyed solos from Alexia and Rose and a duet by Kevin and Iris. The concert raised money for the Church with the proceeds of the raffle going to The Samaritans.

If you enjoy singing why not join us at Winscombe Community Centre on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm? The new term starts on Tuesday 11th January.

For further information see our website www.winscombecommunitysingers.co.uk or contact Simon Page on 07900 693783.

SANDFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

All our members were served a wonderful buffet at our Christmas Party prepared by Marjorie and John Dunster. It really was superb!

We were then entertained by the Backwell Duo who played sixties and seventies music. We were invited to name the years the songs were released!

The tables were decorated beautifully and there was a lovely Christmas draw. I'm sure all the members would agree that it was a very festive evening.

The committee would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a healthy new year and a big thank you for supporting the club.

Our next meetings will be on:

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Sandford Village Hall at 7.30 pm

There will be a talk entitled 'Hedgehog Awareness' by Laura Batt.

There will be refreshments and a raffle.

Wednesday March 2nd 2022

Sandford Village Hall 7.30 pm

talk by Sally Leaney entitled 'Garden Design Planting Workshop'.

Spring Show Saturday March 12th

Sandford Village Hall at 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

The show is for members only but we welcome the public to come and view the exhibits and have coffee and cakes with us. It really is a lovely show.



Gardening Notes for January

Pruning

Pruning can be carried out during January and February while plants are dormant. This includes apples and pears but avoid plum and cherry trees to prevent them becoming infected with silver leaf fungus. Only remove up to 20% of the crown, the more you remove the more foliage will grow at the expense of fruit.

Remove any dead or decaying wood and any branches that are crossing, cutting back to a joint. When removing large branches, do this in stages, cutting off all the twigs and branches to reduce the weight. Remove the remaining stump of the branch by first cutting upwards on the underside then sawing down from above with a sharp pruning saw to meet the cut.

On gooseberries and redcurrants remove dead wood and low lying shoots. Shorten branch tips by one quarter, cutting to a suitable outward bud. Prune autumn fruiting raspberry canes, cutting them down to ground level.

Propagation

Propagation does not come to a halt either. Now is the time to propagate from root cuttings. This method is suitable for many herbaceous plants with fleshy roots such as sea holly, cat mint, oriental poppy, acanthus, anemone japonica and phlox.

Lift the plant and wash the roots free of soil. Choose strong roots and sever them close to the crown as possible.

Cut each root into sections 2-4 inches long making the thinner cuttings the longest. Cut the base of each cutting at an angle and the top of each with a straight cut.

Prepare pots of standard cutting compost and water well, leave to drain. Using a dibber make holes as deep as the cuttings, insert them vertically, angled end down. The top of each cutting should be level with the compost. Spread a layer of grit over the surface and place in a greenhouse or cold frame, keep damp but do not overwater.

When new top growth appears pot on into 3 inch pots.

An alternative method is to place the root cuttings horizontally in a tray of standard cutting compost and cover with a quarter of an inch of compost.

Planting Bare Root Shrubs

Unless the ground is frozen or waterlogged now is the time to plant bare root shrubs or trees. Roses, fruit trees, hedging and perennials can be purchased this way. It is important to plant these as soon as possible after arrival soaking the roots in water beforehand.. If this is not possible heel them in somewhere until this can be done.



The Light of a Star to Guide Us.



What will 2022 bring I wonder? Two years ago Covid was just a vague murmur coming from the East. How could we have known it would have such an impact or for so long?

How might this year be different? Well, there is much to look forward to. We expect to have a new diocesan bishop joining us. We will be celebrating 70 years of the Queen's reign. The World Cup is on... and we have a chance! And then there are all the other excitements of anniversaries, milestones and hopes and dreams we all have.

As we begin this new year my mind turns to those Eastern travellers long ago who saw a star in the sky, set out on an uncharted journey which took maybe up to two years, and eventually found a King. Not the sort of king expected but One who opened up new horizons for the whole world. One who offers us love, forgiveness and a way back to God.

At this time when we are asking questions that search for deeper meaning, this seems a story which resonates. What sort of journey will you take this year? At a recent clergy pre-Advent retreat we were reminded that it is not so much us walking with God but rather God walking with us. So, no matter what twists and turns the road takes, or even if we slip from following in God's Way, He will never give up on us and will never let us walk alone.

This year, as last, we shall be seeking to dwell on some words from scripture and allow them to permeate into our being. The following verses from that passage, seem to offer us the light of a star to guide us as we navigate our journey in the year to come.

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' Philipians 4: 4-7

May you know God's presence and grace as He walks with you into this New Year!

Bishop Ruth

Useful Telephone Numbers

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

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