

Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

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



December 2022

Free

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

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Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Reverend Pauline Nixon revpolly@gmail.com	07511 935860
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Lynch Chapel Pastor/Minister	The Lynch, Winscombe, BS25 1AR Vacancy	01934 844401
Sidcot Quakers Meeting House	Oakridge Lane, Sidcot, BS25 1LT	01934 843065
Roman Catholics	Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar	01458 83593

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 in colour, electronically, please send your email address to
parishmag2@gmail.com

A limited number of black and white printed copies are 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 downloading it or 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 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.

Advent, Come again?



Advent is generally regarded as a time of a preparation for Christmas but for Christians it is also a time to focus on Jesus' promised second coming. When Jesus speaks in Mark's Gospel of 'suffering, the sun being darkened' etc. he is only echoing several OT writers and their predictions about the Day of The Lord. We should also bear in mind that when Mark was writing his Gospel, the world seemed to be in a very dark place. The Romans had overrun Israel and destroyed The Temple. The Parthians were at war with Rome. There were also natural phenomena such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions at the time. No shortage of imagery!

No wonder some early Christians assumed the second coming was imminent. The Christians in Thessalonica even gave up work to wait for what they believed was about to happen – for which they got an earful from St. Paul! Throughout history there has been no shortage of cults predicting the end of the world only to be disappointed.

Speculation

Jesus gave no encouragement to such speculation and on the contrary he warned his hearers off, telling them that no one knows the day or the hour and that it is pointless to speculate. Saying that, He, Jesus, did not know that day or the time. What he did was to remind his disciples that there was much work to be done and they should beware of being caught napping! The parable of the wise and foolish virgins is just one of several instances of warnings by Jesus.

Second or Third Coming?

The twelfth century Abbot, Bernard of Clairvaux suggests there are really three comings: The first when Jesus came in human form, the second when we come to know him through the Holy Spirit and the third when he will come at the end of time.

Death by Culture

Everyone loves Christmas and its associated traditions. It has passed into Western culture. Everyone enjoys the parties, children dressing up as shepherds, the giving of presents, fairy lights, Christmas Trees, singing carols, and so on. For many it is just another fairy story! But the incarnation is about the real, adult Jesus who at the age of 30, (and not as a cuddly baby), came to change the world and usher in the Kingdom of God or the rule of God. A new way of living. The truth is that many have not experienced Christ's coming in any form!

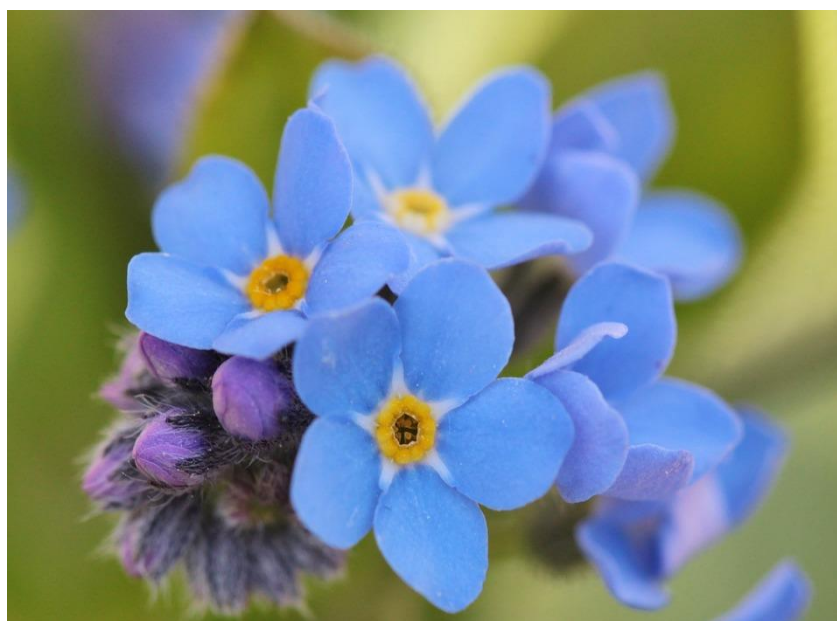
Sleepers Awake

Some years ago I was listening to a Bishop of another diocese talking about his diocesan strategy; a 'Programme for Growth'. He said that he felt much of the church today gives the impression of being sound asleep: asleep to the needs and realities of the world about us. Christian people needed a Wake-up Call! There was a need to rediscover what it means to be a servant church – telling people about Christ, listening to what other people are saying, responding to a community's needs, working in partnership with those who share our values, whilst having respect and integrity for others. We do not have to apologise for being Christian and or for holding Christian values in a multi-cultural society. In short being the church but in new ways. I think we too can do with a Wake -up Call. And let's make a start by trying to make the message and the wonder of the incarnation real for everyone in our villages and communities this Advent.

Shaun Darley

All Souls: Sunday 30th October 2022

We remembered All Souls on the afternoon of 30th October



We remembered those we have loved as we came together at our All Souls' Service. We had a thoughtful time of singing, readings and poems and the opportunity to place a card on the tree as names were read out. Our emblem this year was a forget-me-not flower and everyone was invited to take a packet of wild flower seeds home with them to scatter them in their garden or along the wayside for others to enjoy.

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.

*Let us go into the world, glad that we have loved,
free to mourn for those we have lost,
free to hold each other in our human frailty.*

Signpost - The Parish Magazine

This magazine is created by volunteers from the Anglican Churches in the Benefices of Winscombe, Sandford with 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 Magazine is Sunday 11th December. 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 are 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

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 at 11 am.

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 played peals and chimes giving the congregation time to reflect. Poignant displays of poppies and artefacts were a reminder of the role of the Army, Navy and Air Force in conflicts past and present. There were also white and purple poppies representing peace and the contribution of animals.



St James's was decorated, once again, with knitted poppies. The Royal British Legion paraded their flags together with over 40 young people from the various Girl Guiding and Scout sections in Winscombe. The Last Post was played by a young trumpet player, followed by the two minute silence and then Reveille providing a very special atmosphere in the Church. Scouts and Guides also read the names of the fallen. Wreaths from a number of community organisations were laid on the altar before being placed on the War Memorial at the conclusion of the service. A collection in aid of the Royal British Legion raised £242.95

Reverend Warren Williams led the Remembrance Service at St John the Baptist Church, Churchill. It was a moving and reflective service, reminding us of the horrors and long-term effects of conflict based on thoughts written during and after WWI.

'When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.'



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Familiar to us through Carol Services and immortalised by Handel, these words of promise and prophecy were spoken by Isaiah, hundreds of years before they were fulfilled. They promised hope in bleak times, a future better than the present. It must have seemed to the Israelites - a community of people broken apart by international conflict and longing for a sense of identity - that the fulfilment of these words was always beyond reach, like God had forgotten them. Today, with the COVID Pandemic still with us, war in Ukraine, the effects of global warming and most latterly, the cost of living crisis, many today are also deeply anxious about the future and it is hard to believe in a future better than the present.

Even when this prophecy was finally fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ as a baby, people had difficulty accepting it, for it was fulfilled in unexpected ways that disturbed expectations and disrupted familiar patterns - the God of all creation confining himself to the form of a human child, familiar with human frailty and suffering. Instead of royalty and palaces, Christ's birthplace is a mere stable. Instead of dignitaries and diplomatic emissaries, lowly shepherds smelling of their flock and fresh from the field, are the ones invited to gather around and share the joy. But this is the wonder and joy of it – that God doesn't work to human expectations or timescale. He is not swayed by wealth or popularity or status, and knows what it's like to live a life of poverty in a time of international conflict. Finally, Wise Men also arrive to see the Christ-child; travelling from far-away places, following a star. This gives us great encouragement, for we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same God who came as Christ in Bible times is with us today in our community, through his Holy Spirit.

Amazingly, as we look back over the last year, we can trace God's hand of blessing on our church community. We are together as three churches but one church community, one body of Christ, called by God to serve him. Despite the ongoing (and hopefully diminishing) pandemic, our churches continue to grow.

People have joined us from the new housing estates. Refreshment Breakfasts have restarted and continue, as have our Coffee Mornings at the Centre and Community Cafes at All Saints. Scramblers, our group for parents and toddlers, also continues to grow, as do our six home groups. We continue to celebrate an exciting variety of worship including BCP as well as Café Church and Family Holy Communion. Messy Church has re-started, as has the team taking Collective Worship in our primary schools. In many of our sheltered housing and care homes, we take Holy Communion regularly to share with residents. And it has been great this year to see our friends join us from Ukraine and for a time, have our Asylum Seekers with us in our services.

I want to recognise the endeavour of those who volunteer and help keep these important ministries in momentum, or maintain our buildings or help serve in front of or behind the scenes. Thank you for your patience, your perseverance in prayer, and your diligence in serving over the last twelve months. And as many of you will have noticed, we are reaching capacity at our Church Centre, and so we have established a small working group to explore the options for its development and enhancement, so we can continue to help ensure we serve our community.

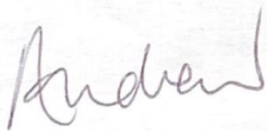
Amidst all of this joy and wonder, we too are invited to take a journey of faith this Christmas; to put our faith and hope afresh in the God who can and will one day restore all things to how they should be. To continue to follow his star as we roll up our sleeves and work to see God's kingdom come and his will be done in our churches and our community.

And I invite you to join me in this prayer of seasonal renewal:

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of Christmas, your Son Jesus Christ. Amid the world's anxiety I chose to place my trust in Him, the Prince of Peace. Be with me, my loved ones and all those in need this Christmas time. Amen.

I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With every blessing,



Reverend Andrew Hiscox



Family Services In December

(St. James's, All Saints and St. John's)

Join us at the Church Centre

Sunday 4th December: Charity Cafe Church 10.00 am

Sunday 18th December: Family Holy Communion 10.00 am

Christmas Eve: Crib Service 4.00 pm (see separate advert)

Join us at St James's

Sunday 11th December: Christingle Service 3.00pm (see page 14)

Children's activities including lego, colouring and crafts.

Christmas and the Food Bank at The For All Healthy Living Centre in Bournville

The Food Bank are so grateful for the food and money donations we send. As you can imagine the need this year is greater than ever

So as we approach Christmas and we all consider giving presents to our loved ones please also remember the people this wonderful organisation supports.

The last time we asked they were giving 126 bags to families, single parents and others such as the homeless who might be 'sofa surfing'. Recently one single mother appeared, had been deserted by her partner and was absolutely desperate - homeless and hungry with a babe in arms. Think what Jesus would do.

This year the Food Bank hope to produce Christmas Hampers for everyone they support. They want to include a £10 Meat Voucher (valid until Feb.) Please consider if you can send some money to support this.

Many of us are feeling the pinch ourselves at present but even a gift of £5 will go a long way to help. Please put your offering in a sealed envelope marked on the outside 'Food Bank Christmas Gift' and give it to one of the Church Wardens, to Beth Cutmore or post it in the letter box at the Church Centre.

They would be very grateful for the usual staple items but also some Christmas things such as packet stuffing, instant gravy granules, little Christmas puddings, mince pies, chocolate biscuits and crackers.

If you want to give money and bank on line you could give direct to them as follows:-

HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

Sort code: 60 - 23 - 32

Account number: 81267320

... **and** please add a reference '**St James F BANK**'.

Or you may wish to create a reverse Advent Calendar (see page 10)

Thank you very much and a Happy Christmas to you all.

Beth and Denys



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.



As reported the food banks have seen an increase in use over recent times 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.

COMFORT FOR THE HOMELESS THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

'Somewhere to Go' is a support centre in Weston-Super-Mare providing day and night services to help rough sleepers and disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

Do you have any of the following for the Charity?



- ❖ bedding
- ❖ sleeping bags
- ❖ blankets
- ❖ warm clothes.



Items, in bags, can be left in the porch at 81 Green Hill Road, Sandford
or personally deliver to 4a Boulevard, BS23 1NA

Angela Morris 01934 852327



Come to ...



Carols by Lantern Light

with Weston Brass Band

Church Centre Car Park

Woodborough Road, Winscombe

Saturday 10th December

Gates open 4.30pm

Santa arrives at 4.45pm

Community Singing 5.30 - 6.15pm

Santa's Grotto

**Hot Dogs, Mulled Wine,
Hot Chocolate, Mince Pies**



Bring a lantern or torch

Free Entry

Donations for the Foodbank at The All Healthy Living Centre
and for St James's Church

Messy Church in November

Jesus Calms the Storm! 'Even the wind and the waves obey Him!'

Don't we all need to remember that? And to put our faith and trust in Jesus, who calmed the storm when he was here on earth, showing his disciples that HE was in control!

We were delighted to welcome 16 children and their parents to our November Messy Church.

We thought about storms, and played a couple of "watery" and "windy" games. Tim and three of the children enacted the story from the Bible, with Ben and Alex making big, and then smaller waves, next to Jesus's boat, with pictures of the Sea of Galilee, and then a big storm behind them.

Reverend Pauline reminded us that we should remember that 'God is in Control' when we're facing something difficult or scary. She told us that it helped to her to remember that, once, when she was just about to jump out of an aircraft. Very scary! But she thought of Jesus being there with her. He'd catch her in His arms! And sure enough -she was OK.

The children have painted a big mural of a stormy sea with little ships on it, so if you go into the Church Centre you'll see it on the large noticeboard in the hall.



Our next Messy Church is on **Saturday December 10th** from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm.

We'll be thinking about LIGHT ☀️ ... and DARKNESS. 🌑

We hope that families with primary school aged children will be able to come and have fun at Messy Church. We will be making lanterns which the children could bring to "Carols by Lantern Light" later that afternoon, when the children will be joining with other children to sing a carol.





During the autumn!



at our Church Centre, Woodborough Rd, Winscombe

FINAL AUTUMN SESSION!

***December 10th 2.30-4pm**

Bring Mum and/or Dad and come and join us!for....

- **Crafts**
- **Songs**
- **Bible story told through drama**
- **Drinks and Snacks** ..and more!

More information?... <https://winsandchurches.org.uk/messy-church/>

Or find us on Facebook : search for Winsand Churches Messy Church



**THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER 3.00 pm
ST. JAMES'S CHURCH**

What is a Christingle Service?

It is a joyful family service that is named after the Christingles that are lit during the celebration.

Christingles are made from an orange (but in cider country here in Winscombe, we use an apple!) decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle.



Christingles began in the Moravian Church in Germany. At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus. He decided to give the children a symbol to do this. And in 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society adapted the Christingle and introduced it to the Church of England.

And as we celebrate Christingle we also have a collection to support The Children's Society and their work with children and young people in the darkest situations imaginable.

Our Christingle Service also looks forward to Christmas and is the first of the many family services that will happen in the Parish during the Christmas season. Please do come and join us at 3.00pm on Sunday 11th December in St James's Church on Winscombe Hill – you can be assured of a warm, candlelit welcome!

Winscombe St James' Children's Society Committee

CRIB SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 PM

AT

*THE CHURCH CENTRE,
WINSCOMBE*



*Everyone is welcome to come and hear the
Christmas Story.*



*All children are invited to come dressed as
shepherds, angels, wise men or as an animal
from the stable.*

The perfect way to begin Christmas.

LYNCH CHAPEL LINK

www.lynchchapel.org.uk

Like many people I am busy planning presents for family and friends, thinking about how much turkey to buy for the number of people coming, checking that I have the addresses of people that I need to send cards to and making sure I have booked the dates of all the grandchildren's Christmas concerts and plays.

The chapel is busy planning the following Christmas events:

- ❖ **3rd December at 2.30 pm:** Christmas Coffee Afternoon
- ❖ **Sunday 18th December at 10.30 am:** Our Nativity Play
- ❖ **Christmas Eve at 6.30pm: Carol Service** (we need an organist!)
- ❖ **Christmas Day at 10.30am:** the deacons are planning our Christmas Day service.

It's very easy to get caught up in the busyness of the Christmas season and we all need to take some time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

A Christmas card I had last year said 'Merry Christ Mas'. Maybe we should try saying this every time we wish someone Merry Christmas. So 'Merry Christ Mas' to everyone from Lynch Chapel.

May you have a wonderful time and feel God's presence and peace during this special time.



Community Carols at Sandford Stores



Thursday 15th December
6.00pm

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
Sandford Handbell Ringers



Do come along with family and friends.

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

All Saints Church Community Café



The November 'Christmas' Cafe raised
£631.50 including Gift Aid.
The raffle raised £175
Many thanks to all those who supported us.



There is no Community Cafe in December
so.....

Our next Cafe will be on
Saturday 7th January 2023
10.30 am to 12.30 am
at All Saints

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

We look forward to seeing you again.

Folk .. Yes but all kinds of music and verse.

Please note that we will not be meeting on 27th December

We will resume on 23rd January 2023 and then continue to meet on

Fourth Tuesday each month 7.30 to 10.30 £2

Upstairs Bar, Winscombe Club, 7 Sandford Road.

A quiet and respectful acoustic space for performers
and audience.

Further information from Nigel Carson, 07551 197 685 or
winscombefolkclub@gmail.com. Also on Facebook.





**Yes! It's True!
We're Back
again!**

Folk at Christmas

BadgerSet are back with a miscellany of Christmas-themed songs, dances, readings and tunes.

St James's Church, Winscombe BS25 1DE

Saturday 3rd December at 7:30pm

Tickets £10.00 available from Winscombe Post Office, The Wine Shop

Martin Hagen - hagen.martin@gmail.com (01934 842511)

Derrick Claridge (01934 843014)

Proceeds in aid of Winscombe and Sandford Church Funds

Winscombe Community Association

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY
3 DECEMBER

9.30 – 12.30

Winscombe Community Centre,
Sandford Rd, Winscombe



Quality crafts and gifts,
Father Christmas, Christmas cards
and much more
Refreshments available

For more information please email: tincakes2020@gmail.com

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 280231

Sandford & Churchill Fellowship

Our Christmas meeting in December is as follows:



Tuesday 13th December

Lessons and Carols



at Churchill Methodist Church 2.30 pm

Do come along for a time of worship, friendship and fellowship together with interesting talks.

For more information contact

Ann Pursey on **01934 823234**

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



'Save The Children' Lunches



Shipham Village Hall
Friday 2nd December at 12.30 pm
Friday 17th December at 12.30 pm

Christmas Special

Join us for homemade soup, bread, cheese, and mince pies

£5.00



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

Dates for 2023

Fridays: 13th January, 27th January, 10th February, 24th February

#FollowTheStar

Sunday 18 DECEMBER

Join the Journey!

Carols & Nativity For ALL Ages

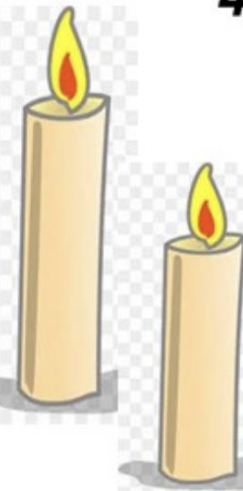
With Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

3.30pm Carols @Cottage
Homes, Front Street



3.45 Follow The Star
along Front Street

4pm Carols & Nativity
by candle light in
Churchill Methodist



**5pm Mince Pies &
Sausage Rolls**



Details

01934 844134

Also tell us any diet or
access requirements

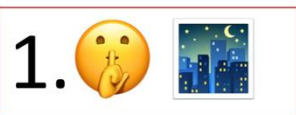
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

Bumper Christmas Quiz (answers on page 36)

Popular Christmas Carols: The vowels have been removed and the rest of the letters squashed together

1. WYNMNGR	2. SMDTHWNTRSSNW	3. JYTHWRLD
4. GDRSTYMRRYGNTLMN	5. GDKNGWNCSL	6. LTTLDNKY
7. NCNRYLDVDSCTY	8. HRKTHHRLSNGLSSNG	9. HLTTLTWNFBTHLHM
10. DNGDNGMRRLYNHGH		

Christmas Songs in Emojis: Can you use the emojis to identify the Christmas songs?



Happy Christmas! Name the European language used for each Christmas Greeting

1. Feliz Navidad	2. Frohe Weihnachten	3. Joyeux Noel
4. Nadolig Llawen	5. Feliz Natal	6. Buon Natale
7. Kala Christouyena	8. Prettige Kerst	9. Veseloho Rizdva
10. God Jul		

Where in the World? Name the festive city.

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

Mendip Christmas Medley

Winscombe Community Singers
and
Cheddar Valley Singers



Friday 16th December 7.30 pm

at the Church Centre

Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA

Christmas songs, Community Carols,
Refreshments, Raffle

Tickets from Farrons and Choir Members

Adults: £10

Secondary age children: £5

Primary and pre-school: Free

Includes Mulled Wine or Soft Drink
and Mince Pie



Friendship Lunch at Sandford Station

Friday 16th December



St Monica Trust and Churchill & Langford Minibus Society are teaming up to offer a 'Friendship Lunch' at Sandford Station Retirement Community to isolated people in our surrounding villages on **Friday 16th December 2022**. We hope that this will become a monthly event.

Can you help to identify isolated people in our villages who would appreciate an invitation?

We are really looking for people who are not connected to their local community through church and/or those who cannot attend local community events due to transport/financial issues.

Do you know of any neighbours who are in this situation?

Our aim is to target those people who very rarely have an opportunity to leave their homes.

We will offer guests transport to and from their homes to Sandford Station (using the Churchill minibus) and lunch in our Pullman Restaurant for an *optional* donation.

The residents of Sandford Station have been raising money to support this initiative.

Donations will go towards supporting future 'Friendship Lunch' events.

We have also invited a pianist to come and play for our guests after lunch in the lounge.

The minibus usually serves people living in Burrington, Churchill, Langford, Winscombe, Sandford, Shipham and Banwell (but Trevor is willing to collect from a little further afield, eg Wrington, Axbridge for this occasion).

Unfortunately we cannot take wheelchairs but walking frames are fine. Guests will need to be able to negotiate with assistance a few steps with a handrail to board the minibus.

To book a place on the minibus and lunch on Friday 16th December, please contact:

Jai Logan Gallen 07946 182338 jai.villageconnect@gmail.com

Community Development Worker (Older Peoples Support Service Project)

Churchill & Langford Minibus Society



FREE ADMISSION

Christmas Fair 10-3

FESTIVE TREATS, SHOPPING AND TREES

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

CHURCH LANE

CHURCHILL

BS25 5QW

Join us

1ST
SUNDAY IN
DECEMBER



Sandford Helpline

Sandford Helpline is a Community Transport Scheme with a pool of volunteer drivers, one of whom may be able to assist any Sandford resident who has a hospital or other medical appointment to attend but does not drive or have a relative or friend who is able to provide transport. Medical appointments include visiting a doctor or nurse, a dentist, a chiropodist or an optician.

SANDFORD HELPLINE **NEEDS** **YOU!**

Would you like to become involved with the Helpline but maybe not as a driver?

We are needing a new coordinator to take phone calls and match up requests with available drivers.

We are also looking for a new secretary to join us on the committee.

If you think you could help, or if you would like to be a driver, please text

Jenny Nicholas 07803 722 878
For further information



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WINSCOMBE AND SANDFORD **THE LONG ROAD TO HEAVEN**

Lent groups will convene again in February 2023 to study 'The Long Road to Heaven' based on the film 'The Way'.

Sign-up sheets will be in churches early in the New Year and, as customary, people will be encouraged to join groups where there can be a mix of members from across the different churches. These opportunities, in the past, have been a marvellous way of getting to know each other, and growing together in faith.

More details of the course will be available in the January edition of 'Signposts' and anyone interested in leading a Lent group should contact Hilary Hagen on 01934 842511



DECEMBER 2022 DIARY

THURS 1	10.00am	Communion in the Community - Dunster Court
	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SAT 3	9.30-12.30	Community Centre Christmas Fair
	7.30pm	BadgerSet Folk at Christmas Concert – St James's Church
SUN 4		2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		See opposite page for details of Services
MON 5	7.30pm	Sandford & District Gardening Club
		Christmas Party at Sandford Village Hall
TUES 6	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Christmas Coffee Morning – Church Centre with children from Winscombe Primary School
WED 7	7.00pm	Winscombe WI – Church Centre
	7.15pm	Choir Practice
THURS 8	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.00am	Christmas Communion in the Community - Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SAT 10	9.00-1.00	Winscombe Saturday Market – Community Centre
	2.30-4.00	Christmas Messy Church – Church Centre
	4.30pm	Carols by Lantern Light – Church Centre Car Park
SUN 11		3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 13	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Christmas Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 14	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's
THURS 15	6.00pm	Carols in the Community – Premier Stores, Sandford
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SUN 18		4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 20	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
WED 21	2.15pm	Christmas Communion in the Community – Sewell House
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's Church
THURS 22	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's Church
SAT 24		CHRISTMAS EVE
		See opposite page for details of Services
SUN 25		CHRISTMAS DAY
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 27	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
SUN 1		2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
		See opposite page for details of Services

BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

<p>Sunday 4th December Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72: 1-7 & 18-19 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12</p>	<p>Sunday 11th December Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146: 4-10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11</p>	
<p>Sunday 18th December Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-8 & 18-20 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18 to end</p>	<p>Sunday 25th December Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2: 1-14</p>	

The Holly



Now the holly bears a berry

The holly is the UK's most common native evergreen found in hedgerows, ancient deer parks, native woodlands and historic gardens. There are in fact more than 400 species found around the world.

Here are a few interesting facts about the holly whose Latin name, *Ilex Aquifolium*, means 'with pointed leaves' although not all of them are prickly!

Superstition, magic and myth surround the holly.

The Druid's, Celts and Romans brought evergreens into their homes in winter believing that their ability to keep their leaves was magical and assured the return of Spring. However, they believed it was bad luck to cut down a holly entirely.

In Christianity, holly leaves represent Christ's crowns of thorns, the berries his blood and the evergreen symbolises life after death.

The original Yule Log burnt at Christmas was holly not a chocolate cake!

Place names which include 'Holm' or 'Hollin' refer to sites where holly grew.

In heraldry, holly is used to symbolise truth.

The prickles on holly are a very successful deterrent to browsing animals. But look high up in a holly tree canopy and you might notice the leaves are less spiny. Unless giraffes are wandering around our countryside, fewer spines are needed high up. Most spines are produced lower down where sheep, goats, cattle, horses and deer are likely to browse the leaves.

Holly berries, leaves and bark are all mildly toxic because they contain theobromine a substance which is similar to caffeine. The Yaupon Holly found in the U.S.A. has the botanical name *Ilex Vomitoria* and was used by Native Indians as a traditional medicine to induce vomiting.

Each individual holly plant is either male or female. Bushes of each type are needed for cross-pollination to guarantee berries, so bushes laden with berries at Christmas are always female, while those without might be male or a female that's growing in isolation. Confusingly, the garden variety Golden King is female, while Golden Queen is male!

In winter thrushes such as Blackbirds, Redwing and Fieldfare gorge themselves on holly berries and spread the seed. Many birds will nest in holly as its spiky leaves protect them from predators, or roost in it in winter.

In the Harry Potter novels holly is used as the wood for Harry's wand.



You can read about Ivy on the next page.

..... and the Ivy.

A plant that has everything including a bad reputation!

After a beautiful summer with a wonderful harvest of flowers, fruit, vegetables and seeds not just for us but for wildlife too, we are now entering a more demanding time for the wildlife we have encouraged.

Have you ever wondered how this myriad of insects and birds particularly survive especially if a tidy garden is desired so that much cutting back has been done?

Where are the birds, insects or their eggs, larvae and pupae to go to find shelter, food and breeding places for the coming spring?

Ivy is one answer!

Ivy begins to come into flower in late October, then November and even into December. It is time to think about any ivy that is growing in your garden and so I have written some of its good points below to help you make a decision as to its value in the garden.

Remember that ivy only flowers on older growth not on the young. Many blame ivy for helping to pull down trees. Others are reluctant to allow it to grow on sheds and walls because the roots can be very clingy. However these unwelcome growths can always be dealt with but here are some great reasons for growing some ivy:

- ❖ It is evergreen so providing shelter for a variety of creatures during winter.
- ❖ It grows in the shade where few other plants grow.
- ❖ It provides shelter for insects especially adult butterflies like the Brimstone when many other trees and shrubs are starkly bare.
- ❖ It flowers very late in the year. Therefore it provides pollen and nectar for pollinating insects especially honey bees and late flying butterflies. Honey bees store some pollen in their hive as protein for their young in the spring.
- ❖ Its berries provide winter food for blackbirds, thrushes and even fieldfares and redwings.
- ❖ The berries, that are black, ripen when most other fruits have been eaten.
- ❖ It's flower buds provide food for the Holly Blue butterfly.



This photo showing bees on Ivy was taken in mid-November 2021.

*'The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown'*

Churchill and Langford Ladies Lunch Club



The Christmas meeting of the Lunch Club is on

Tuesday 6th December

at The Churchill Inn, Churchill

£15 per head for a 2 course meal.

Pre-booking by Tuesday 29th 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 but wish to stay in contact with friends.

Mendip Folk Dance Club

Monday 12th December

Monday 19th December

The Church Centre, Woodborough Road,

Winscombe BS25 1BA

8.00 pm - 10.00 pm £3 per person

New dancers very welcome. No experience necessary.

Saturday 3rd December

Christmas Tea Dance

Ivor Aitkin M.C.

Music provided by 'Patchwork'

At Shipham Village Hall

Entry by ticket only

Bring and share tea.



For further details contact Pat 01934 742853



The Churchill and Langford Minibus Society

The Churchill and Langford Minibus Society runs two minibuses and operates a schedule of trips every month to shops in Wells, Nailsea, Clevedon, Worle and Weston. In addition it also provides transport for members to their healthcare appointments and subject to availability runs non scheduled trips for its members.

In the past these have included Churchill Music, Theatres, Cinema, pub lunches, trips to the coast and social events etc.

To see the current schedule of trips please visit

https://www.churchillpc.org.uk/Minibus_Society_36635.aspx

To become a Society member of the Community transport scheme please contact one of the organisers listed on the schedule of trips who will explain about the trips and how to enrol as a member.

The Society is always looking to recruit new organisers and drivers so if you have some spare time then we would love to hear from you. The Chairman’s details are on the journey schedule.

The Society also provides the opportunity to make new friends and help you reduce your carbon footprint.

Warm Spaces in Our Villages

Warm spaces are being set up in our villages to provide safe, non-judgemental places for people in our communities to stay warm this winter, save on their heating costs, avoid social isolation and even enjoy a hot drink and biscuits. The following pages detail what is available and being planned.



Looking for a Warm Space with a Warm Welcome?

Come to the Church Centre

Tuesdays 10.30am - 12.00pm

**Coffee Morning: Coffee, tea and conversation
6th and 13th December**

Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am

**Scramblers: A warm space for those with young children
1st and 8th December**

[Benefice of Winscombe and Sandford with Churchill](#)





Hopefully coming to this Parish VERY SOON....
 But VOLUNTEERS needed (see below)

The **Winscombe Community Association** are
 planning a **WARM-SPACE** for the **Winter Months:**

- A comfortable heated space for all ages (under 16 accompanied by an adult)
- Open 6 days a week from 10:00 until 18:00.
- Providing free hot drinks and snacks.
- A place to: keep warm, chat, have a drink, do homework or just read.

To make this a reality we urgently need volunteers to support this venture. Can you spare 2 to 3 hours a week to help man the kitchen.

For more information or to sign up, please make contact with:-		
<u>Mandy Turner</u> Email:- treas.wca@gmail.com Phone: 07709 723621	<u>Jen Saunders</u> Email:- jensaunders@live.co.uk Phone 07805 254356	
Or just scan the QR code or click the link and complete the google form to sign up to help (or for more info)		Click Here
	Can YOU make a difference and help your local Community	



More information will be provided shortly once arrangements for the running of the space are finalised.

Watch the WCA notice board for more details and starting date.

We're In!

PROVIDING SPACES WITH
RESPECT, DIGNITY & WARMTH



@Churchill Methodist, Front Street, Churchill

BS25 5NG



Tea & Coffee
provided:

- Monday 5 & 12
December; 9
January 09.00-
12.30 in Oasis
room
- Thursday 1, 8 & 15
December in hall
or Oasis room
10.30 – 13.00

INFO:

01934 844134 Jacqueline
or **852197** Janet

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk The Methodist Church



Bumper Christmas Quiz Answers

Popular Christmas Carols

1. Away In A Manger	2. See Amid the Winter's Snow	3. Joy to the World
4. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	5. Good King Wenceslas	6. Little Donkey
7. Once In Royal David's City	8. Hark The Herald Angels Sing	9. O Little Town of Bethlehem
10. Ding Dong Merrily on High		

Christmas Songs in Emojis

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Silent Night | 2. I Saw Three Ships |
| 3. Walking in A Winter Wonderland | 4. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus |
| 5. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer | 6. We Three Kings |
| 7. Oh Holy Night | 8. Santa Baby |
| 9. O Christmas Tree | 10. Driving Home For Christmas |



Happy Christmas!

1. Spanish	2. German	3. French
4. Welsh	5. Portuguese	6. Italian
7. Greek	8. Dutch	9. Ukrainian
10. Swedish		

Where in the World?

1. Berlin	2. London	3. Paris
4. New York	5. Sydney	6. Rome
7. Athens	8. Venice	9. Rio De Janeiro



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNINGS.

Tuesday 6th December
(With children from Winscombe Primary School)

Tuesday 13th December

CHURCH CENTRE

(St James's Church Hall)

10.30am

Join us for a Coffee Morning
with a Christmas flavour.

Sunday 18th December 9.00 am to 12 noon
Friday 23rd December 9.00 am to 12 noon

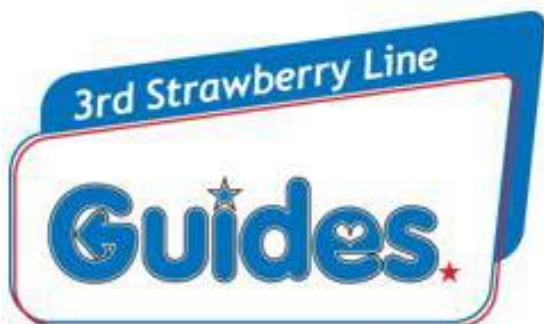


BOOK NOW ON EVENTBRITE

CRAFTS!

CHRISTMAS
STORY!

GIFTS!



Money raised will be used to purchase a permanent site. If this plan is unsuccessful, it will be divided between the units.

HAVE A
Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Churchill Baby
& Toddler Group**
@Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG (by Clock Tower)

Mondays 9.15-11.30am
Term Time: 5, 12 Dec; 9 Jan

Try us for FREE!



Santa's coming!
12 December
Please pre-book to
ensure your little one
receives a Santa gift
01934 844134

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

The Methodist Church



- ✓ Friendly welcome
- ✓ Warm hall
- ✓ Cuppa & cake
- ✓ Children's snack
- ✓ Lots of toys
- ✓ Change station
- ✓ Easy parking

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

Craft Activities

Games

Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am
(term time only)

December 1st and 8th

at The Church Centre, Winscombe

Contact Enid on 01934 842534 for more information





Wrington Vale Rotary Club

Following Covid, we have had some very interesting speakers on Wednesday evenings at Mendip Springs Golf Club.

Rebecca Sheehy is the CEO of “Bristol After Stroke” a charity which, helps victims of strokes to adapt to life with new disabilities. The most common symptoms are loss of mobility on one side, aphasia and some sight problems. She reminded us of the **FAST** acronym; **F**ace (drooping), **A**rms (hard to raise), **S**peech (slurred) and **T**ime to call 999! Get treated fast!

The charity does a fantastic job providing counselling, physiotherapy, social gatherings, and home assessments. They try to reduce the risk of further incidents. Last year the 850 people were registered with them.

David Excel is the Charity’s Treasurer, who, despite his advancing years raised £50,000 for them by his mind blowing athletic efforts. He took part in the Marathon des Sables in the Moroccan Sahara. He described his efforts in which he walked 250 kilometres in 7 days, carrying bedding, food, a stove and clothing in his rucksack in extreme temperatures.

Professor Peter Langley, gave a very interesting illustrated talk about the African Tsetse fly in Zimbabwe and The Ivory Coast. We heard how the Tsetse fly is a blood feeder on domestic animals and humans, in hot and humid areas, but not on wild animals which have immunity. Their “bite” (injecting an anti-coagulant) gives rise to sleeping sickness, in humans, which can be fatal if not treated early enough. Curative drugs are available and a vaccine might be in the pipeline. Lack of awareness, coupled with finances, continues to be a problem.

John Bewick was a Flight Test Engineer for Rolls Royce. His experiences embraced a wide range of flying in fast jets, helicopters, fuel tankers, flying test beds and flights on a wide range of aircraft , among them Concorde.

His role was a pivotal part of the engine testing process in establishing safe operating parameters for the aircraft. His military work began with work on the RB199 engines on the Vulcan aircraft followed by work on fast jets including the Hawk and Jaguar. Flying on these involved specific medical assessment and survival training including ejection from the aircraft and water survival training. He illustrated the causes of surge, engine failure and re-ignition as key phases of the testing process. We then saw a very hair raising film of a plane tumbling from 20,000 ft after engine blowout until the pilot established re-ignition at about 10,000 ft. Fascinating stuff.

If you would like to learn more about what we do, or just to come along for an evening, call Ivor Metherell 077717 12356 or Angie Biggs on 07790 400718



2023 Calendars

*Christmas gifts for your friends
with beautiful local views*

*On sale in Alvis's Farm Shop, Suzi's Salon
Langford, Thatchers Cider Shop and
local shops @ £9.00*

*Produced by the Rotary club of
Wrington Vale*

*In aid of local community activities and
charities supported by Rotary*



Royal Air Forces Mid-Somerset Branch held a General Branch Meeting on 7th November at the Street Inn which was followed by a presentation 'An Ordinary Wartime Airman 1942 to 1945'. The gathering concluded with a Pub Lunch. The future programme will continue as follows:

Saturday 17th December – Branch Christmas Lunch

12:15 pm for 12:45 pm

Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS.

Members will assemble for drinks in the bar prior to a traditional Christmas three-course lunch; full details, menu and costs will be published shortly on the Branch website [website https://branch.rafa.org.uk/mid-somerset/](https://branch.rafa.org.uk/mid-somerset/)

Monday 6th February 2023

11:00 am for 11:15 am

The Street Inn, 1 - 3 Somerton Road, Street, BA16 0DR

The first meeting in 2023 will be a General Branch Meeting in preparation for our AGM in March and then an optional Pub Lunch.

All events are open to Branch Members, RAFA Members from other Branches, Current and Ex-RAF Service Personnel (Including RAF Reserves), and Members of the "RAF Family". Please contact the Branch via email rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or telephone the Secretary 01458 224057 for further information.



Winscombe Saturday

Market

Winscombe Community

Centre

Every 3rd Saturday

of the month

0900-1300

THURSDAY LUNCHEES

12.30pm @Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG

1st & 8th December
Menu

Soup & Roll

Pudding
Or Dessert

Tea or
Coffee

Only
£5

★
We
wish
you a
merry
Christmas

- ✓ Come for cheer and chat
- ✓ Special diets
- ✓ Access ramp
- ✓ Transport available, inc for wheelchairs



Copyright © from Adobystockphoto.com - Keeping Kids Busy

15th December

Christmas Lunch

(Please pre-book)

For details call Janet

01934 852197

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



The Methodist Church

Only
£5





Christmas Events

Christmas Tree Sales

From the 26th November – Following our success from last year we will be opening our Christmas shop at Mendip Activity Centre where we will be selling Christmas Trees and some handmade decorations, each Saturday and Sunday.

Festive Night

Tuesday 6th December - Come and see us at Winscombe's festive night, we will be serving Hot Chocolate and selling Potted Christmas Trees along with some handmade original and beautiful decorations.

Santa Sleigh

Monday 12th December – Wednesday 14th December – Santa will be travelling around Winscombe Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, please see flyers for the routes posted around the village.

Thursday 15th December – New Santa Sleigh route in Sandford. – details will be posted on Facebook.

We would like to thank you all in advance for your kind support, all funds raised are used to provide local children with some amazing experiences throughout the year, which we will look forward to sharing with you in future issues.





Hand pick your own Christmas Tree

26th NOV – 18th DEC
SAT & SUN 11:00 – 16:00
MENDIP ACTIVITY CENTRE
Lyncombe Dr, Churchill BS25 5PQ



1st Winscombe Scouts will be selling **Christmas Trees** again 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 help provide wonderful opportunities and exciting range of activities for our young people.

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

2022 PRICES

1.50m – 1.75m	£39
1.75m – 2.00m	£49
2.00m – 2.40m	£59

SUPPORT YOUR SCOUTS!



CONTACTLESS
PAYMENT ONLY

Gardening Notes for December

House Plants

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 year are Cyclamen, Miniature Roses, Christmas Cacti, Poinsettia and Indoor Azalea.



Cyclamen 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 are also a very popular present. They 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 enjoy a semi shaded warm spot out of direct sunlight. Stand on a tray of wet gravel to replicate the humid jungle-like conditions from which they originate. 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 require a minimum temperature of 14°C, avoiding draughts and direct sources of heat in a bright but not sunny position. Do not saturate the compost but water sparingly when the compost feels dry; mist frequently. Add tomato feed once a month. Cut back hard in April and repot, allowing only 12 hours of light daily from early October to produce good winter colour.

Indoor Azalea need their compost to be moist. 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.

With very best wishes for Christmas and good gardening in 2023



RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH



SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER RESULTS

James Barratini reports that the Branch has received a donation of £2350 from the Bristol Sea Shanty Festival held in September. This includes money raised by the 'High & Dry Shanty Band' at some local events earlier this year. James and Allan, our Chairman, attended a formal Cheque Presentation at Portishead Lifeboat Station on Sunday 20th November. Money is still coming in from the October Bulb, Plant and Garden Jumble Sale but the current profit stands at £1510.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Branch held three major activities during November: RNLI Winscombe Folk returned on Saturday 12th November in the Winscombe Church Centre; on Thursday 17th November there was a 'Fish Supper' at the Queen Victoria Inn, Priddy; and on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November there was a 'Bucket Collection' at Sanders Garden Centre.



RNLI Winscombe Folk hosted a return visit from the popular duo 'Alden & Patterson' from Norwich who provided a full length concert with the Church Centre laid out in an intimate 'Cafe Style'. Once again this was a joyous evening of quality folk music drawn from their repertoire of their own songs and music. Christina Alden was the main vocalist with her fine sweet soprano voice while playing guitar and banjo. Alex Patterson accompanied with some deft fiddle playing and guitar plucking and joined in with some excellent vocal harmonies. Many of their songs were about animals and wildlife including a tale of an Arctic Fox, the companionship of a grey wolf and a brown bear, and a 500-year old Greenland shark. The evening ended with a foot tapping shanty jig!

The Queen Victoria Inn Fish Supper was a late entry in the Branch programme schedule. Mark Walton the landlord at The Queen Victoria Inn provided a 'Fish Supper' in aid of the RNLI that consisted of the 'Pub Grub' favourite 'Fish Chips and Peas' while he allowed the Branch to run a raffle to increase funds. As always the Supper was well attended and the food first class; many thanks to Mark and his staff.

Sanders Garden Centre granted the Branch the opportunity to undertake its second "Bucket Collection" for 2022 when the "Collection Crew" anchored at the entrance and deployed their "Rescue Buckets". Thanks also to Sanders staff and results will be reported in the next issue.

BETTY'S POTS IN CONGRESBURY & WEDMORE

'Betty's Pots' are used small individual jam and marmalade pots, as served in hotels and restaurants, that are recycled with a RNLI label and people are encouraged to fill them with either five pence or twenty pence coins and donate them to the RNLI. These can now be obtained from and filled pots returned to Robin King Estate Agent, Congresbury and Harvey James Hair, The Borough, Wedmore, as well as Farron's Estate Agents, Winscombe; thanks from the Branch to all of them!

RNLI CHRISTMAS CARDS DIARIES & CALENDARS

Mary has confirmed the following dates and venues for purchase of RNLI Christmas items:

Tuesday 6th December - Late Night Shopping, Winscombe from 6pm.

Saturday 17th December - Winscombe Saturday Market 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

FUTURE EVENTS

The Branch is organising its first ever 'Reindeer Run' on Sunday 4th December which will be open to everyone that wishes to run and support the RNLI. There will be two trails, a shorter 2 km trail and a longer 5 km trail, both starting from and ending back at Winscombe Cricket Club Car Park, BS25 1AZ. The 2 km trail will be open to all ages whereas the 5 km trail will be open to anyone aged over 11 years old. Anyone under 15 years for either trail must be accompanied by an adult over 16 years. Details may be found on the RNLI Winscombe Branch Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/831976350849360>, on posters around the area or contact the local organiser e-mail: Tim@moransonline.com.

It is now possible to register for the event on 'Eventbrite' using one of the two links below: <https://bit.ly/RNLI-Fun-Run> or <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winscombe-rnli-festive-fun-run-saunter-tickets-466539491177>

There will be a "Just Giving" page set up for sponsorship giving so look out for updates on the Branch Facebook page.

On Tuesday 6th December the Branch will take part in Winscombe Late Night Shopping from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Our last appearance in 2022 will be at Tesco Supermarket Shepton Mallet on Christmas Eve 24th December.

The first event in 2023 will be on Saturday 29th January at 7:00pm in Shipham Village Hall for the RNLI Quiz.

OCTOBER RESCUES

In October there were eleven shouts between three of our four lifeboat stations (Minehead 5, Portishead 4 & Weston-super-Mare 2). It was not an actual rescue, but on the night of 11th October a multi-agency training exercise was held in the middle of our part of the Bristol Channel. The exercise was planned and managed by HM Maritime and Coastguard, South & West Wales, and involved both lifeboats from Burnham-on-Sea, both lifeboats from Weston-super-Mare (D-Class & Atlantic 85), the Portishead Atlantic 85, the Penarth D-Class and the Barry Dock Trent Class All Weather Lifeboat. These large-scale training operations are critical for building each team's experience in cross-working, rescue Co-ordination and multi-asset searching.

RNLI WINSCOMBE &

DISTRICT BRANCH



Lifeboats

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER

WILL YOU SUPPORT OUR



2 Km Trail – Open to All *

5 Km Trail – Aged over 11 Years *

**Assemble at Winscombe Cricket Club Car
Park from 1:00pm Runs start at 2:00pm**

**Register in advance on the Branch Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/831976350849360>**

*** Stroll/Walk/Run - Off-Road Trails - Fancy Dress
welcome – All Finishers receive a Souvenir Medal
Spectators Welcome - Refreshments available
Organiser Contact E-mail Tim@moransonline.com**

New Bishop's Incredible Journey!

In a special service at Wells Cathedral on Saturday 12th November the Right Reverend Michael Beasley became the 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells, but before the service he had a busy morning, out and about meeting people as he travelled from Bath back to Wells, using different modes of transport along the way.

A phrase that has stuck with Bishop Michael from the service when he became a bishop is 'bishops know their people and their people know them' so, rather than make a conventional car journey from attending Morning Prayer at Bath Abbey, back to Wells, Bishop Michael took a different approach, using different forms of transport and meeting the people of the diocese along the way.



After an early departure from the Bishop's Palace Bishop Michael headed up to Bath Abbey to meet worshippers there.

From Bath he travelled to Odd Down Park & Ride, stopping for a chat with First Bus driver Les and Operations Manager, Thomas who was motivated to join the bus company after his experience of being reliant on bus travel as a child.



At Peasedown St John Bishop Michael donned his bicycle helmet and cycled through the town to The Hive community centre. He then met staff and volunteers at The Hive community centre before being taken away by local PCSO and member of the Christian Police Association, Rob.

Next it was a drive through Chilcompton to the Mulberry Factory with local farmer, George.





In Chilcompton Bishop Michael received a tour of the Mulberry Factory, meeting staff and discovering the workmanship that goes into each bag making them in demand around the world, as well as their long-standing commitment to repairing and up-cycling old bags which dates back over 30 years.

Finally Bishop Michael arrived back in Wells thanks to local haulage firm, Massey Wilcox and their vintage lorry.



In Wells Bishop Michael caught up with Town Crier, Len Swales, who had been sharing the news of the Bishop's Installation in the city's market place and then moved on to the Bishop's Palace.

At the Palace Bishop Michael found time to plant a tree with his son, Charlie who had grown the sapling from an acorn, before getting ready for the afternoon's service.

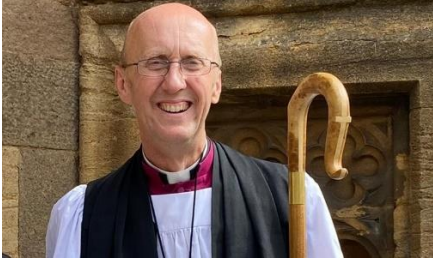
Bishop Michael said in his sermon that his gift of the sapling was an example of just one of the things we can do to bring about the harvest of God's life into God's world and asked all those present "will you plant a sapling as a sign that under God each of us, in every place, can play our part in working for change, for transformation, for life. Small actions that when we undertake them together make a big difference."



As well as the offer of receiving a hazel sapling, attendees received information on where best to plant the sapling as well as updates on the environmental work of churches in Bath and Wells, including their Wilder Churches project with the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Representatives from every parish across Bath and Wells attended the service, young and old. Members of clergy together with parish lay representatives and guests from local schools, businesses, and civic society. All were encouraged by Bishop Michael to ".....be people who long for a harvest - a world transformed into a place of peace, fairness, service, justice, loving-kindness."

His Light is Never Extinguished



As 2022 comes to a close, our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine whose country was invaded by Russia on the 24th February this year. In the months since, we have watched in horror as civilians, cities and infrastructure have been attacked, land occupied and atrocities committed.

The UK has received more than 100,000 people fleeing from the conflict. The gift of their presence among us reminds us that this is no “quarrel in a faraway country, between people of whom we know nothing”.

As we recall once again the coming into the world of Jesus at Christmas, our challenge is to connect our celebration of his birth with the realities and consequences of the conflict that is happening.

Sadly, it’s not hard to see the links. Jesus was born in a land (Palestine) that had been annexed by an expansionist foreign power (Rome) in pursuit of its territorial ambitions. The demands of the Roman occupiers meant that Jesus’ birth happened not at home in Nazareth, but at a counting centre - Bethlehem. He was born in a stable because ‘there was no room at the inn’. While still a baby, Jesus became a refugee when taken to Egypt due to warnings of atrocities to come.

Viewed this way, the Christmas story is no sentimental fable. It is a brutal foreshadowing of the events that Ukraine and our whole world have encountered this year.

At the same time, it is also a story of hope. For it tells us that even in the very worst that can happen the Christ child whose birth we celebrate knows all too well the realities of the human condition. As a result, in any darkness his light is never extinguished. For he is Emmanuel - God with us.

So as we come to the end of 2022 we give thanks that God is always with us in whatever we face. May he be with Ukraine. May he be with Russia. And may he be welcomed by us all.

A very happy Christmas.

+Michael

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Commercial Advertising in Signpost from January 2023
This is where you will find our new advertising section!

Starting with our January 2023 issue we will be re-commencing commercial advertising and already have several local businesses signed up to take advantage of this.

Do you run a business in the local area?

Would you like your business to be advertised in our magazine which is received by at least 400 homes each month?

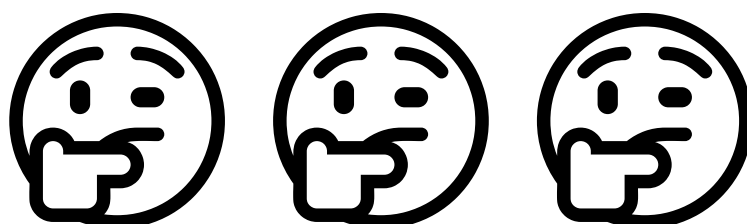
Our rates are as follows for 12 issues:

Full Page £252

One third of a page £84

One sixth of a page £42

For more information please contact the Editorial Team at parishmag2@gmail.com.



Winscombe Christmas Shopping Evening

Tuesday 6th December
6.00 pm - 9.00 pm



Carols From
Winscombe
Community
Singers



Santa
Claus
At
Farrons



Children's
Rides



Stalls and
Late Night
Shopping

Christmas Services December 2022

**St James' in Winscombe
Church Centre in Winscombe
St John's in Churchill
& All Saints in Sandford**



Saturday 10th December

4:30pm Carols by Lantern Light, Church Centre

Sunday 11th December

11am Christmas Carol Service, St John's

3pm Benefice Christingle Service, St James'

Wednesday 14th December

6pm Carols by Candlelight, St John's

Thursday 15th December

6pm Carols in the Community, Premier Stores, Sandford

Sunday 18th December

7pm Christmas Carol Service, St James'

Saturday 24th December

4pm Benefice Crib Service, Church Centre

8pm Christmas Carol Service, All Saints

11pm Benefice Midnight Mass, St James'

Sunday 25th December

9:30am Christmas Day Communion, St James'

10am Christmas Day Praise, All Saints

11:00am Christmas Day Communion, St John's

We look forward to celebrating with you.

To find out more please visit
winsandchurches.org.uk

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 07399 523961
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

***We hope you have enjoyed reading Signpost.
Don't forget to send us your email address to receive next month's Signpost and future
editions.***