

Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

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



February 2023

Free

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

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

If you would like to receive future copies in colour, electronically, please send your email address to parishmag2@gmail.com. Alternatively it can be downloaded from the church website: www.winsandchurches.org.uk

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

reachi**n**g
wel**l**coming
ca**r**ing 
se**r**ving
Teach**i**ng

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

Truth

Are we in danger of losing interest in truth? Do we allow mere opinions, chatter and infotainment to marginalise the quest for truth? Does impact matter more than truth? Is the mood of the crowd steering us away from reality and truth? Remember how 'alternative facts' led to riots in America.

Lies repeated often enough may become the *perceived* truth. Expert opinion and historical evidences get dismissed as inconvenient or, worse, as conspiracies against the current views of the tribe. Are we becoming a selfie-stick people apparently holding things at an objective distance, but in reality only reflecting ourselves in the way *we* wish to be known?



Later this month we'll be tossing pancakes as a prelude to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. For centuries the 40-day period of Lent, leading up to Easter, has been used by Christians as a time for reflection and penitence. It recalls Christ's 40 days of fasting and abstinence before he embarked on his demanding ministry. Many adopt Lent as a time to deliberately reduce consumption in the hope of becoming physically and spiritually healthier.

So how will Lent be for us this year? We've all had to tighten our belts under the impact of steeply increased fuel, food and transport costs. This new year is already demanding cutting down on inessentials and more careful use of resources. Although this Lent may of necessity be a time for abstinence for us, it could also open a way to a healthier spirituality. If truth is to be found in more than accumulated or manipulated facts or the doctored image of the photo-shoot, may it also be revealed in art, music, story and myth?

Lent can become a doorway into a new encounter with love, with life, with God himself. This Lent several local groups are meeting to see and reflect on the film "The Way" – chance encounters experienced by a handful of people walking the pilgrims' way to Santiago de Compostela. They're all strangers to each other, gradually facing up to questions of life and love, and moving on from their illusions about truth and error. They gradually discover hope and purpose for themselves as they walk, eat, laugh, and argue together. The film raises questions the Lent groups will seek to address, gently and thoughtfully.

You'll find full details on page 20 of this magazine. The groups are open to all - of any faith, or none.

I pray this Lent will be a time of renewal and rediscovery for each of us.

Reverend Robin Mann

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 March Magazine is Sunday 12th February. 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

The Elizabeth-Ann Charity

What makes a Charity special, when there are so many charities demanding our attention?

In the case of the Elizabeth-Ann charity, at least two things make it special! Firstly, it was born of tragedy. Julie and Michael Davies, of Bradford-on-Avon, lost their only daughter at age 16 to a severe asthma attack and decided, via the charity, 'Save the Children', to provide a water supply in her memory to a mainly Christian village in Andhra Pradesh, India. A year later, when there was a problem with the water pump, they sent money for the repair but were made aware of the poverty in the village and decided to set up a charity in their daughter's name, to provide a range of help-services in the village.

The second thing to make the Charity special, is particularly important; Julie and Michael decided they and other Trustees they appointed, would take no money for administering the charity and would pay their own expenses when they visited India. They would also not spend money on advertising the charity and relied on personally making many contacts with individuals and a few companies in the UK. One company in particular, Utility Warehouse, has provided financial help and encouraged its staff as individuals to help. Our St James's Church, as well as individuals within St James's, have been generous donors for more than ten years.

These two aspects of the charity, mean that all donations made to the charity are used directly to benefit the people of the village, in a variety of ways, some of which are detailed in the following:



There is now an Elizabeth-Ann children's home in the village of Burlavaripalem, to house children from poor families and make certain they get a good education. The picture on the left shows children seated on the floor studying. They study after school, mainly doing homework, from 5.30 pm until 8.00 pm each night as well as in the mornings before breakfast.

At the Benefice Café Church Service on 4th December, the entire service was dedicated to the charity and we were privileged to have co-founder Julie Davies talk to us live by phone link and answer questions put to her by attendees. The service appeal raised the amazing sum of almost £1000 including Gift Aid. Over half of this has been used to buy 40 chairs and 10 desks for the children so they do not have to sit and work on the concrete floor, which gets very cold in Winter. We were thrilled to see this picture of the children at the Home, already using the desks and chairs!



Over the years, many of the children have achieved outstanding results and have gone on to well-paid jobs, helping their own and their wider families. Education is so key to breaking the cycle of poverty which so many struggle to escape from.



The charity has a particular focus on women and girls, who are often denied opportunities to better themselves. There is a Sewing Business class, whereby women are given sewing machines, costing £60 each and are enrolled in a 3 month training programme to develop a business, making clothes and other items, giving them some eagerly sought-after independence, as well as providing precious family income. There is a waiting list for machines and entry to the programme!

Children who live a long way from school are given bicycles so they can attend school. These are treasured possessions and at £65 each are supplied when funds allow.

Local farmers have benefited from a fund to help buy seed, and the money is repaid after the harvest. This has been particularly helpful after a disastrous harvest, when farmers have been unable to fund the purchase of precious seed for the coming year.



A special focus of the charity has been to help the elderly in the village and each month the elderly and infirm are given £5 each, which they usually spend on daily breakfasts for the month, often their only meal of the day. Food is also taken to those unable to come to the Elizabeth-Ann Home at mealtime.

During the time of the Covid pandemic, Vinay, who manages the work of the charity in Burlavaripalem, was going to the local market at 2.00 am to meet stallholders as they arrived so as to get a special price for food, which he later distributed locally, keeping many families with out of work breadwinners, above starvation level.

The charity also supplies 'house cows' to some poor families with children, providing precious milk.

One feature of the charity work is to pay for the visit, every two weeks, of a medical doctor, who manages to see over 50 patients in his three hour session. This is backed up by a weekly visit of a trained nurse and the long queues for both these medical people testify to their value.

As well as providing these benefits to the Christian village, they have also reached out to needy people in the nearby Hindu village, particularly at the height of the pandemic.

Jesus taught that when kindness is shown to the poor and needy, he counts it as kindness shown to himself and we are pleased, that as a Benefice, we have been able to support Julie and her small team as they seek to honour Jesus in their work in far-off Burlavaripalem.

You can learn more about the charity by visiting www.eacharity.org.uk

Peter Thompson

All Saints Church Community Café



The January Cafe raised £345.08 including Gift Aid.
Many thanks to all those who supported us.

Our next cafe will be on
Saturday 4th February
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.



**Save the
Children**

'Save The Children' Lunches

at

Shipham Village Hall



**Save the
Children**

Our lunches will be served at 12.30pm on the second and fourth Fridays
of the month

Fridays 10th and 24th February

Fridays 10th and 24th March

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

£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

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)

February 2nd, 9th and 23rd
March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

at The Church Centre, Winscombe

Contact Enid on 01934 842534 for more information





Supporting Your Local Foodbanks

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



We are pleased to be able to deliver non perishable foods to the Foodbanks, and continue to make a significant contribution.

News from the For All Healthy Living Centre Foodbank

Paul, at the Food Bank, has emailed us to say :-

“Just a quick message to thank you for the very generous cash donation received for our Food Bank today of £60. (9th January 2023.)

As I am sure you are already aware, the parcels really do help local people. I am pleased to tell you that during December up to Christmas Eve we distributed a total of 65 Emergency Food Parcels to families and individuals.

To break this down into individuals the parcels helped 174 people in the area with a 4 day supply of food - that’s about 700 plates of food in total.

In the build up to Christmas we were also able to supplement the Parcels with bags of Christmas food and treats.

Without such kind and generous donations this would not have been possible.

With thanks and warm regards. Paul.” For All Healthy Living Centre

We all know after January, which is a long, cold and cheerless month, February continues similarly so your donations will continue to support this important work of helping the Food Bank .

We don’t know how many people sent money donations direct to the Food Bank, but the total we do know of - both cash and Bank Transfers - up to early January amounted to £420. We also know how much actual food has been donated as several trips a week were made through December delivering your kind donations. Thank you all very much - such a small phrase but truly meant.

Beth and Denys Cutmore

There are collection baskets in each of the villages at the churches and at the Church Centre.

Cash donations can be placed in the postbox at the Church Centre in Winscombe. Please label to show whether your donation is for the Cheddar Foodbank or the For All Healthy Living Centre.

These are some of the items that can be donated and are always gratefully received.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ❖ Soup – packet and tinned | ❖ Tinned vegetables |
| ❖ Instant mashed potato | ❖ Tinned fish |
| ❖ Cereals | ❖ UHT milk |
| ❖ Sauces – tins and jars of pasta sauce | ❖ Main meals in tins (nit Fray Bentos pies please) |
| ❖ Tinned cold meat – corned beef, spam etc | ❖ Squash |
| ❖ Long life fruit juices | ❖ Paper goods – toilet roll, kitchen roll etc. |
| ❖ Desserts – tinned fruit, rice pudding, sponge | ❖ Custard – tinned or instant |
| ❖ Pasta, rice, instant noodles | ❖ Tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate |
| ❖ Sugar | ❖ Biscuits |
| ❖ Personal items – soap, toothbrushes & paste | ❖ Men’s and ladies’ toiletries |
| ❖ Confectionery | ❖ Snack bars and crisps |

**Sandford & Churchill Fellowship
at Churchill Methodist Church 2.30 pm**

Tuesday 7th February - Pauline Hurst

Tuesday 21st February - Jacqui Cobb

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**

Mendip Folk Dance Club

Mondays 13th and 27th February

The Church Centre (St. James' Church Hall), Winscombe BS25 1BA

8.00 pm – 10.00 pm £3 per person

New dancers welcome (first night free of charge)

For further details contact Pat 01934 742853



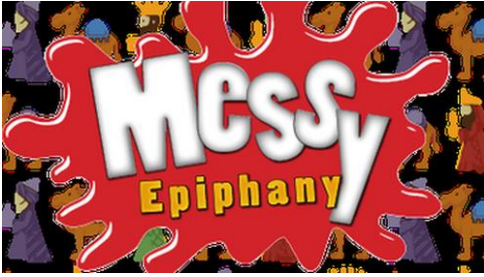
**Winscombe Saturday
Market**

Winscombe Community

Centre

**Every 3rd Saturday
of the month**

0900-1300



Messy Epiphany

January's Messy Church focused on the Epiphany story: We had 3 "star-watchers" with their camels: Tim, with James and Ellie, were kitted out in the chains of office and crowns that they'd just made.

The star they were following Zigg-ed and Zagg-ed across an image of a starlit night on the screen, and King Herod, (Robin Mann) attired in gold robe and the fine crown that he'd just made, was charmingly ingratiating, and then fiercely ruthless, as the Bible Story recounts!



Diana, assisted by her puppet-star-watcher called Anna, then discussed the fact that the "star-watchers" (or Magi, Wise Men or kings) had come from far away, reminding us all that Jesus is important for people not just living near where Jesus was, but for everyone across the world, even though we may be living far away from Him. We, like the Magi or star watchers, may need to make a journey to find Him. Then we too can worship Him, bringing what gifts we have, of time, money or whatever.



What else happened? Enid helped the children make iced biscuits carefully decorated with tiny stars and jewels (jelly tots). Edible craft is always popular! And then there were camels (on lego wheels) to make, which raced down a fairly steep slope to a Lego Bethlehem, whose buildings included a stable and other structures.

We were once again delighted to welcome some new faces, as well as other people we hadn't seen for a while. Several of our other local families had other commitments. So it was interesting to find ourselves with mostly girls at Messy Church this time. There is usually a majority of boys.

Next time we'll have our paints out! It will be time for a new mural to go on the wall. So do spread the word, and join us with your children or grandchildren on Saturday February 11th at 2.30 pm in the Church Centre, Winscombe.



During the spring!



at our Church Centre, Woodborough Rd, Winscombe

***January 7th 2.30-4pm**

***February 11th 2.30-4pm**

***March 11th 2.30-4pm**

***April 8th 2.30-4pm**

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

- **Crafts and games**
- **Songs**
- **Bible story told through drama**
- **Drinks and Snacks**

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

Or find us on [Facebook](#) : search for Winsand Churches Messy Church

Supporting and Respecting Our Natural World.

This month we are pleased to introduce a new regular feature by one of our readers, Di Redfern.

Busy Bees.

The phrase 'Busy Bees' is well known but how busy is a honey bee? Let us see. How much honey can a bee make in its short life? The answer is just one twelfth of a spoonful!

All foraging bees are called worker bees and are female. For 3 to 5 days of their short life of 3 weeks or so they must search for pollen and nectar to take back to the hive to feed themselves and their young. Each trip takes about 25 minutes and they make up to 20 trips depending on weather. Exhausting work!

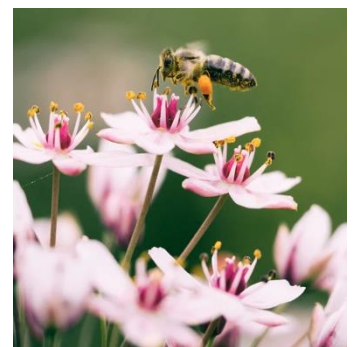


Much of the honey they produce needs to be stored for the winter. However, we 'steal' it so we must make sure that enough is left for the bees to use.

To fill just one 1 lb jar of honey needs 550 bees and the nectar from 2 million flowers. Luckily one hive of bees contains up to 60,000 bees at the height of the flowering season.

Bees and plants have evolved together. Bees search for pollen and nectar, and plants await pollination. When a bee alights on a flower it may brush against the male part of the plant (the anther) and pollen is likely to fall onto the bee. When the bee reaches the next plant some of that pollen may fall onto the sticky female part (the stigma) and so cross pollination occurs.

Plants 'reward' bees by providing nectar which is water containing sugar but the bees have to push deep down into the flower, brushing by the pollen to find the nectaries at the base of the petals. Flowers also have patterns of UV within their petals which attract bees and direct them to the nectar and pollen awaiting them at their centre.



We depend on bees for our welfare. Bees particularly pollinate one or more cultivars of over 66% of the world's crop species and contribute to one third the food we eat. They don't just provide us with fruits, nuts and vegetables. Bees are also an essential element in the production of meat and other animal products.

Next month's article will focus on how we can help bees and other pollinating insects.

THE LYNCH LINK.



Has anyone kept a New Year's Resolution until February? I heard a radio conversation the other day about the idea of not starting your New Year's Resolution until February. Not only does it mean you can eat up all of your Christmas chocolate and biscuits without feeling guilty, but also when talking to others about New Year's Resolutions, they will be amazed that you are still keeping to them in February. Seems like cheating to me!

On February 21st we will have Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday. The idea of eating up all of the good things as we move into Lent is a similar idea to starting your New Year's Resolutions.

Have you thought about whether you will give up something for Lent or alternatively will you do more of something? Some people are really interested in why you have chosen to do something different during Lent. Whatever you do, try to talk to people about why and what you are doing. You never know where your conversation will go.

If you would like to come and hear more about Lent and Easter, the launch of the Churches Together Lent Study will take place at Lynch Chapel on 21st February with two showings of the 2010 film 'The Way' starring Martin Sheen and James Nesbitt travelling the "El Camino de Santiago", the first at 2.00 pm and another at 7.00 pm.

You are welcome to join us to see the film whether you intend to join the study groups or not. More information can be found elsewhere in 'Signpost'.

Please look out for further information about Lent groups or come and join us at Lynch Chapel each Sunday at 10.30 am.

Alison Waite



Winscombe W.I.

You are welcome to join us for our next meeting.

Wednesday 8th February
at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start
at 'The Church Centre', Winscombe

Our guest speaker, Adrian Cobb, will entertain us with his talk on 'Falconry'. Refreshments will be available and we hope to see you will be able to come along and join us.

Carol Hudson (Secretary)

Warm Spaces in Our Villages

Here is a list of Warm Spaces being provided in our villages.



Winscombe

Winscombe Community Centre

The Reading Room

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11.00 am to 1.30 pm

Strawberry Line Tea Rooms

Monday to Saturday 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Winscombe Library

Tuesdays 9.30 am to 12.30 pm & 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm (opens at 10.00 am on first Tuesday in month)

Thursdays 10.00 am to 12.30 pm & 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm

Saturday 9.30 am to 1.00 pm

Extended Access Hours: daily 8.00 am to 8.00 pm

Church Centre

Tuesdays

10.30 am - 12.00 noon (coffee, tea and biscuits)

12.00 noon - 2.00 pm (soup and a roll)

Thursdays

9.30 am - 11.30 am (Scramblers - warm space for those with young children)

Lynch Chapel

Knit and Natter: every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Coffee and Cake Afternoons: every 1st Saturday of the month 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Sandford

Sandford Village Hall

Tuesdays 10.00 pm -12.00 pm

All Saints Community Cafe

First Saturday of each month 10 am to 12.30 pm

Churchill

Mendip Activity Centre - Alpine Lodge

Monday to Thursday 3.00 pm to 10.00 pm

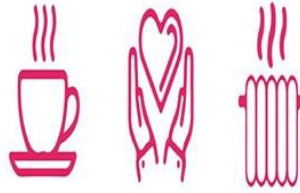
Churchill Methodist Church

Monday 6th, 20th and 27th February 9.00 am to 12.00 noon

Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd 10.30 am to 1.00 pm

We're In!

PROVIDING SPACES WITH
RESPECT, DIGNITY & WARMTH



@Churchill Methodist, Front Street, Churchill

BS25 5NG



Tea & Coffee
provided:

- ✓ Monday 6, 20 & 27 February
09.00- 12.00 in
Oasis room
- ✓ Thursday 2, 9, 16
& 23 February
Hall or Oasis room
10.30 – 13.00

For INFO call : 01934

Mondays **844134** Jacqueline

Thursdays **852197** Janet

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk The Methodist Church



Looking for a Warm Space with a Warm Welcome?

Come to the Church Centre

12 weeks starting Tuesday 10th January 2023

Tuesdays 10:30am - 2:00pm

Community Café: coffee, tea 10:30 - 12pm

Free Lunch (soup and a roll) from 12pm - 2pm

Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am

Scramblers: a warm space for those with young children

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



North Somerset
TOGETHER
North Somerset Growth Programme

Cost of
living advice

February Quiz



Monday 15th February 1971 was decimalisation day when the UK and Ireland changed from the use of pounds, shilling and pence to decimal currency.

This months quiz is all about currency and coins.

1. How many member countries of the European Union use the Euro?
2. Which computer scientist and World War 2 codebreaker features on the Bank of England £50 note?
3. How many official currencies are there in Antarctica?
4. Which way will King Charles III face when new coins and notes are issued?
5. Fort Knox, best known as the site of the United States Bullion Depository, is in which American state?
6. Starting with the letter 'N' what is the study or collection of currency called?
7. How much cash does the British slang term monkey represent?
8. The Royal Mint has its headquarters in which Welsh town?
9. What machine did Scottish inventor John Shepherd-Barron pioneer and develop?
10. In which country was paper money first used as a currency?

Answers can be found on page 30

Winscombe Folk Club

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

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.





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.

Churchill and Langford Ladies Lunch Club

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month

at The Churchill Inn, Churchill at 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm

£15 per head for a 2 course lunch with coffee.

Pre-booking is essential.

Contact Margaret Avery on 07725 056051 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

Need a Venue for Your Event?

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

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

<https://hallbookingonline.com/winscombe>

Making the most of Lent!

Lent will soon be upon us but how shall we make the best use of it? For many it has acquired rather a negative image. When I was growing up it seemed to be all about *giving up things*. Children were encouraged to give up sweets and chocolate and adults talked about giving up fags, beer or going to the cinema. In the church I attended with my parents, everything was draped in purple, even the crosses would be veiled in purple. And of course all flowers were banished for the duration. Some Clergy would even refuse to marry couples in Lent. It seemed to me like 40 days of organized gloom when we sang rather dreary hymns and recited the seemingly interminable 'Litany'. I am glad that things have improved since then!

Liturgically, Lent recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism in the River Jordan. Mark's gospel tells us that Jesus was *driven* into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit and that he was *tested* by the Devil. Only Matthew mentions fasting and clearly fasting is incidental and not the reason for his being in the desert! Jesus' later teaching about fasting is ambiguous. Going back to my childhood I remember that people often talked and even joked about what they were 'giving up for Lent' and how they were going to have a real binge after Easter! It made me wonder if all this self-denial had any value in itself? Should there not be a more serious purpose to our actions which will achieve good and lasting outcomes?

It is believed that the 40 days of Lent originated the 4th century as a period of preparation for those who were to be baptized on Easter Sunday. Today it is sometimes spoken of in the church as a 'penitential season' which for many carries overtones of prisons and punishment. I do not believe that God is a sadist but a God of love. So, whilst it is important to acknowledge our failings and seek forgiveness, why not try to recapture the joy and the hope of those early Christians who had found Christ and were eagerly preparing for their Baptism on Easter day. Let us be creative and allow God to work in us and through us, not just for our own improvement but for that of our fellow beings.

We are never too old to learn more about our faith. Reading, lent groups, home groups, discussion, debate, and whatever; are all ways to help us grow. Making time for prayer and worship is important though quality is more important than quantity! We might consider spending more time with people and helping wherever there is need in our society. It can also be an opportunity to review our giving to trusted charities.

Above all let's be joyful! There is enough misery and suffering in this world without us adding to it. We should not be tempted to turn back the clock in Lent. The resurrection has happened and we live in the knowledge of that amazing event. It is well to remember, however, that every day of the year for someone, somewhere, is their 'Good Friday'! We should be the ones seeking to lift others out of their real pain and misery. Let us do all in our power to make our world a better place both materially and spiritually.

We can do this because we live in knowledge and light of the resurrection and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

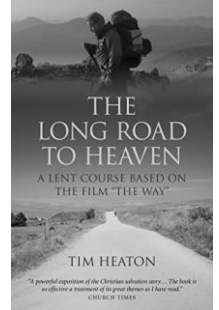
Have a Good Lent!

Shaun Darley



THE LONG ROAD TO HEAVEN

If you haven't done so already do sign up to one of our Lent groups where we will follow a course entitled 'The Long Road to Heaven' based on the film 'The Way' starring Martin Sheen. Sign-up sheets are in the churches and, as customary, people are encouraged to join groups where there can be a mix of members from across the different denominations. These opportunities in the past have been a marvellous way of getting to know each other and growing together in faith. Course booklets & contribution to group DVD £7, for those who are able.



The course will be launched on **Shrove Tuesday, 21st February**, with showings of the film and light refreshment at 2p.m. and 7p.m. at the Lynch Chapel. You are very welcome to come and see the film, even if you don't wish to follow the course, but course participants will need to have seen the film beforehand, as clips from the film will then be used at each weekly session. If you can't make the 21st then arrangements can be made for you to borrow a DVD before the first session.

Further information from Hilary Hagen 01934 842511



LENT LUNCHES

LENT

Please come to our weekly simple soup lunches followed by guest speakers. Donations from the lunches go to the charity concerned. All lunches start at 12.30 and to be held at the Church Centre, Winscombe EXCEPT the last lunch which will be held at Cheddar Catholic Church. All very welcome.

- Friday 10th March hosted by Sidcot Friends – speaker from Cheddar Food Bank
- Friday 17th March hosted by Lynch Chapel – speaker from Mission Aviation Fellowship
- Friday 24th March hosted by All Saints/ Saint James – speaker from Christian Aid
- Friday 31st March hosted by the Roman Catholics – speaker from Free Wheelers

CREATE! Sunday



Sunday
19 February

4-6pm @ Churchill Methodist Hall

Come for lots of

PANCAKE FUN!!



- ✓ **WARM Welcome to ALL**
- ✓ **FAMILY FRIENDLY, INC SENIORS**
- ✓ **FUN activities & CRAFTS**
- ✓ **Storytime & SONGS**
- ✓ **FREE Hotdog tea**



INFO: Jacqueline
01934 844134



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The **Methodist Church**

FEBRUARY 2023 – DIARY

WED 1	7.15pm	Choir Practice
THURS 2	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SAT 4	10.30am	Community Café – All Saints
SUN 5	3rd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
TUES 7	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 8	2.00pm	Knit and Natter – Lynch Chapel
	7.00pm	Winscombe WI – Church Centre
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's
THURS 9	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.00am	Communion in the Community - Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SAT 11	2.30pm	Messy Church – Church Centre
SUN 12	2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
TUES 14	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 15	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's Church
THURS 16	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's Church
SAT 18	9.00am	Winscombe Saturday Market – Community Centre
SUN 19	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
TUES 21	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
	2.00pm	Launch of Lent Course – Lynch Chapel
	7.00pm	Launch of Lent Course – Lynch Chapel
WED 22	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
	2.00pm	Knit and Natter – Lynch Chapel
	2.15pm	Communion in the Community – Sewell House
THURS 23	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
SUN 26	LENT 1	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
TUES 27	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 28	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's

BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

<p>Sunday 5th February Isaiah 58: 1-9 Psalm 112: 1-9 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 Matthew 5: 13-20</p>	<p>Sunday 12th February Genesis 1: 1-23 Psalm 136 Romans 8: 18-25 Matthew 6: 25-end</p>
<p>Sunday 19th February Exodus 24: 12-end Psalm 2 2 Peter 1: 16-end Matthew 7: 1-9</p>	<p>Sunday 26th February Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11</p>

Church Service Times Opportunities to Worship in February

Sunday 5 th February	8.00am 10.00 am	St James's Church Centre	BCP Holy Communion Café Church
Sunday 12 th February	9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	St James's All Saints St John's	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th February	10.00 am 11.00 am	Church Centre St John's	Family Holy Communion Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th February	9.30 am 11.00 am	St James's All Saints	Holy Communion Holy Communion

Midweek Services

Every Tuesday All Saints 10.00 am Holy Communion

Special Services February



Locking Deanery Service of Light: Sunday 5th February 4.00 pm

At All Saints, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 2NL

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

Thursday 9 th February	Dunster Court	10.00 am	Communion in the Community
Wednesday 22 nd February	Sewell House	2.45 pm	Communion in the Community
Wednesday 22 nd February	St James's	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service

We Welcome

Jack Christopher Richard Freeman to our church family in Winscombe. He was baptised at St James's Church, Winscombe on Sunday 29th January 2023.

We Remember

Our love and sympathy go to the families and friends of:

Noel Phillip Smith whose funeral took place at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Monday 23rd January 2023.

Geoffrey Cooling whose funeral took place at St. James's Church followed by cremation at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Wednesday 25rd January 2023.

What is Candlemas? Candlemas and its Traditions.



Candlemas is a Christian holiday occurring annually on 2nd February that commemorates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple when he was a baby. It occurs 40 days after Christmas Day. The term "Candlemas" (meaning Candle Mass) refers to the practice of the blessing of candles by the priest during a church service ("mass") for use during the year in church and in the homes of the faithful.

Candlemas falls halfway between Winter and Spring and the superstitious believe that Candlemas is a day when the weather can be predicted,

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright.

Winter will take another flight;

If Candlemas Day be foul and rain,

Winter is gone and won't come again."

While in many countries Christmas decorations are traditionally removed on Twelfth Night , for other countries it is customary to remove them on Candlemas.

In France, Candlemas is called *la Chandeleur, Fête de la Lumière* or *Jour des crêpes*. Not only do the French eat a lot of crêpes on la Chandeleur, but they also do a bit of fortune-telling while making them. It is traditional to hold a coin in your writing hand and a crêpe pan in the other, then flip the crêpe into the air. If you manage to catch the crêpe in the pan, your family will supposedly be prosperous for the rest of the year.

Candlemas in Mexico(*Día de la Candelaria* in Spanish) is best known as the day that Mexicans finally take down their Nativity scenes. Some people will take dressed figures of the baby Jesus to be blessed at the church. Another common tradition is the gathering of family and friends to feast together on tamales, a type of filled dough. Mexicans also make a special bread called rosca, which is shaped like a wreath and contains a figurine of the baby Jesus baked inside of it. The person who finds this figurine is the one to dress the baby Jesus that will be blessed.

In Puerto Rico, Candlemas also brings Christmas to an end. Festivities include a candlelit procession of the statue of 'Our Lady of the Light' ending in church with the celebration of mass. The festivities may continue with a giant bonfire and singing with some families in the country side burning their Christmas trees.

In Luxembourg, 2nd February is the eve of St. Blaise's day, children celebrate *Liichtmëssdag* (Candlemas). They go from door to door, bearing lanterns, singing in exchange for sweets and coins. On this occasion, they sing a traditional song known by all children that starts with "*Léiwer Härgottsblieschen*" which they literally ask for 'bacon and peas'

Two weeks are spent singing, dancing and feasting in Peru at Puno on Lake Titicaca. It is one of the three largest festivals in South America along with the carnival in Rio and the Carnaval de Ouro in Bolivia.



QUIZ EVENING

**Friday 3rd March
Sandford Village Hall
7.00 for 7.30 pm**

**Teams of
up to 6**

Raffle



**Bring your own
drinks and nibbles**

Tickets: £4.00 per person

***(In aid of All Saints Church
Building Fund)***



Churchill Music! Saturday 11th March
All Saints Church Wrington BS40 5LF 7.30 pm
Classico Latino – An ensemble that puts a fresh perspective on the world of Latin-American music



This very special event celebrates the passion and vitality of authentic Latin American music blended with the smooth sound and virtuosity of the classical tradition, full of warmth, joy and colour.

Classico Latino was born in 1998 following a chance encounter between Colombian pianist Ivan Guevara and English cellist Graham Walker. Ever since, the group has developed its uniquely powerful blend of Classical finesse and Latino flair,

releasing five studio albums and entertaining audiences from Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club in London to the foothills of the Colombian Andes. Classico Latino breathes new life into songs from across the continent with variations on the familiar Bolero and Tango as well as less well-known rhythms such as the Pasillo and Joropo. The ensemble’s music tells the amazingly varied stories and emotions of Latin America. “Come back and bring the sunshine with you any time” BBC Radio 3. Unmissable? We know so!

Tickets

Champions of Churchill Music: £14.50; non-Champions £18.50; Under 18s £1.
 Available online from [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.com) or tickets@churchillmusic.org.uk or contact Holly on 07442 672805



Family Services In February
 (St. James’s, All Saints and St. John’s)
 Join us at the Church Centre
 Sunday 5th February : Cafe Church 10.00 am
 Sunday 19th February Family Holy Communion 10.00 am)
 Children’s activities including lego, colouring and crafts.

New Defibrillator at Sandford Primary School



Sandford School is delighted that its new defibrillator is now operational and is located at the front of the school, to the left of the office entrance. They obviously hope that it will not be needed, but it is reassuring to know that it is there if it is!

Many thanks to Sandford Primary School PTA and the Parish Council for their contributions towards buying the defibrillator.

Other defibrillators in our villages can be found in the following locations:

Winscombe

- Winscombe Cricket Club
- Winscombe Community Association
- Woodborough Grange (Redrow Homes)

Sandford

- Pullman Restaurant (Sandford Station Retirement Village)
- Thatchers Cider (Main Reception and Hive Staff Office)
- Railway Inn
- Sandford Primary School

Churchill

- Memorial Hall, Ladymead Lane
- Pro-Heating, Langford Road

Defibrillators are designed to be as easy as possible to use. They will tell you how to use them so even if you've never been tried you should try your hardest.

SANDFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our Christmas Party was thoroughly enjoyed by the members. There was a superb buffet and we were entertained by the "Fab Twins" who played music from the sixties, which encouraged the members to get up on the dance floor. Many thanks to John and Marjorie for all their hard work. There were some lovely raffle prizes.

Many thanks also to everyone who helped out in the kitchen and the committee who set up the hall. The tables looked very festive.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7.30 pm

Sandford Village Hall

a talk entitled

'Wildlife Gardening' by Colin Higgins

Friday 1st March 2023 at 7.30 pm

A talk entitled

'Hanging Baskets and Containers' by Mike Smith

New members are always most welcome or come as a visitor.

Children to Make Bug Hotels for Wild Escape Project



Local children will be taking part in an exciting project to create work inspired by the wildlife in our urban green spaces and make bug hotels. The learning team at Weston Museum have been awarded funding from the Art Fund through the Wild Escape project to lead sessions exploring the creatures on our doorsteps and how we can help them. The children will take part in some creative sessions and go on to assist with the building of two bug hotels to be placed in Ellenborough Park East and the Milton Road Cemetery.

These bug hotels will be created with the support of the team from Play Wild C.I.C. Forest School, an outdoor education and play provider. The project will also culminate with the creation of a Teacher's Pack that will be sent out to surrounding schools, containing information and activity guides on leading a similar project within a school setting.

Sessions are being offered to local home educating families and to children at Westhaven, a local SEN school, over the coming months.

The final outcomes of the project will then be celebrated with an event in Ellenborough Park East on Earth Day, Saturday 22nd April 2023. This will be a free family friendly event where people can come along to the park to see one of the bug hotels and take part in free hands on activities that explore our urban wildlife and what we can do to support it. Details of this event, including times will be available from Weston Museum in the coming months.

Katherine Bell, Learning and Events Officer, said, 'Whilst we might not think it, we are surrounded by pockets of green space in our town, from back gardens to open parks and woodland. These spaces are home to all sorts of wildlife from butterflies and beetles to badgers and foxes. We're excited to be exploring these creatures and creating some work inspired by them. This will lead to two bug hotels that will hopefully create homes for insects and help support the nature on our doorstep'

The Wild Escape is made possible by lead support from Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants, with additional support from Art Fund.

For more information about this national project for museums and schools inspired by the wildlife found in museum and gallery collections visit the website:

<https://thewildescape.org.uk>

Men Get Cooking!

New Course Dates



Starts:

FRIDAY 24 February

2023

**@Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG**

Oh dear, what can I
cook for supper?

When will it be cooked?
Is it done yet?

How do I avoid
food poisoning?

INFO & BOOKINGS:

Jacqueline

01934 844134

How it works:

- *Build skills over 6 weeks*
- *Friendly group for beginners & all abilities*
- *Experienced tutor*
- *Bring own ingredients*
- *Cook from choice of recipes*
- *Enjoy eating at home*
- *Handbook provided*
- *Special diets are ok*
- *Six sessions 09.30-11.30*
- *Cost only £44*

The **Methodist Church** 

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

Wrighton Vale Rotary Club

Christmas Collections.

Sincere thanks to you all for your generosity! Our Winscombe street collection with music, carol singing in the pubs and individual donations raised an amazing £1400 with Gift Aid. All funds are being donated to local homeless Charities including Somewhere To Go.



Our last call is always to a very busy Brent House where Marvin the Jazzman added to the fun.



For more information about the Rotary Club please contact Angie Biggs on 07790 400718 or Ivor Metherell on 01761 462607

February Quiz Answers

Here are the answers to our currency and coins quiz.



1. 20 out of the 27 member countries of the EU use the Euro
2. Alan Turing
3. There is no official currency in Antarctica as it has no government. There is an unofficial Antarctic Dollar named the 'Emp' in honour of the Emperor Penguins who live there.
4. King Charles will face to the right. It is tradition to switch direction each time the monarch changes.
5. Kentucky
6. Numismatics
7. £500
8. Llantrisant
9. The ATM Machine
10. China

Winscombe Community Singers Support 'Freewheelers'



At their first meeting after the Christmas and New Year break choir members were delighted to present a cheque for £170 to Freewheelers. Freewheelers is an Emergency Voluntary Service that provides a free out-of-hours motorcycle courier service to hospitals in the South West and local Air Ambulances. They transport blood, pathology and microbiology specimens, X-rays, breast milk and other

medical supplies. Freewheelers love to ride and to play a part in saving peoples lives and help the NHS save money that would otherwise be used on taxis or other expensive couriers. Between August 2021 and September 2022 they completed 7216 tasks, travelling 191379 miles at 0 cost to the NHS. The money donated was raised at the choir's Platinum Jubilee Concert earlier in the year.



Poweredtemplate.com

 **If you love singing ...**  **we'd love you to join us.**

Winscombe Community Singers

Have fun, make friends and enjoy singing.

Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Winscombe Community Centre

Musical Director: Joshua Newport

**For further details please contact
Simon Page on 07900 693783**

www.winscombecommunitysingers.co.uk

THURSDAY LUNCHES

2, 9, 16 & 23 February
12.30pm @Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG

Welcome



TASTY ...
only £5



Winter Menu
Soup & Roll
Pudding
Or Dessert
Tea or
Coffee

- ✓ Come for chat & cheer
- ✓ Special diets OK
- ✓ Access ramp
- ✓ Transport available,
inc wheelchairs
- ✓ Booking preferred

To book or find out more,
call Janet
01934 852197

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



The Methodist Church

Things to do in February Half Term in the Local Area (mostly free)

Just a few ideas to get you out and about in February half term. There are plenty more ideas for walks and places to visit on the internet!

Weston Museum

Free entry to the museum for general visits

History Week is back this February Half Term! Come and explore the past from the Ancient World up to the Victorians, with hands on activity sessions and amazing re-enactors.

Tuesday 14th February: Ancient Worlds

Wednesday 15th February: Roman Invasion

Thursday 16th February: The Vikings

Friday 17th February: The Victorians

Workshop times: 10.30 am to 11.15 am ; 11.30 am to 12.15 pm & 1.00 pm to 1.45 pm

Sessions are suitable for children of school age and accompanying adults. Tickets £6 per child from Ticketsource or the museum. No charge for accompanying adults.

Abbots Pool Woodland

Abbots Pool is a hidden gem near Abbots Leigh, North Somerset on the outskirts of Bristol. The woodland with a large pond centrepiece dating back to medieval times offers a free outing with free parking. Children can enjoy natural pursuits here, from racing pooh sticks in the stream to playing hide and seek with a woodland backdrop.



Glastonbury Tor

Climb the Tor to the tower at the top for magnificent views of the Somerset Levels, Dorset, Wiltshire and Wales.



Brean Down

Enjoy time on the beach at the foot of the Down, building sandcastles or flying a kite. Venture to the top of the Down and take the exhilarating 1.5 mile walk along Somerset's greatest natural pier. Discover the site of a Roman temple and explore the Palmerston Fort.



Avalon Marshes Nature Reserves

Covering around 1,500 hectares (3,700 acres), the nature reserves are a home to a broad array of wildlife and offer the chance to see some unusual species, rarely seen elsewhere. There are many habitat types to discover including open water, reed-bed, mire, fen, meadow and wet woodland. Access is provided by numerous tracks, trails and hides. <http://avalonmarshes.org>

The Strawberry Line

And don't forget our own Strawberry Line for walking and cycling!

<https://www.thestrawberrylines.org.uk>



Gardening Notes for February

Using Fertiliser and Mulch

Fertiliser is best used during the growing season – spring or summer for most plants. Very few plants need fertiliser during autumn and winter, and it will only be leached (washed from the soil) by winter rain, or cause plants to produce soft growth during warm spells which is then vulnerable to frost damage.

Some organic fertilisers, such as fish, blood and bone, or pelleted poultry manure release their nutrients slowly, so these can be applied in late winter or early spring as part of your preparation for the new growing season. If your soil is healthy, it is often not necessary to apply fertiliser, and using some in the growing season may only help to produce bigger blooms or higher yields of edible crops.

Applying mulch in the form of well rotted manure, leaf mould or garden compost helps create healthy growing conditions. Mulches help improve soil texture, smother weeds and encourage beneficial soil organisms. It should be applied when the soil is moist during late winter and early spring. Only apply mulches during autumn to plants that may need protection from frost or have been newly planted

Growing Chillies and Peppers.



Chillies and peppers need plenty of heat and light and require a long growing period. Start by sowing seed in February on a window sill or heated propagator at a temperature 18 to 24°C (64 to 75°F). When the seedlings have two to four leaves prick out into 3 to 4 inch pots and maintain this day time temperature. Do not allow it to drop no lower than 16 to 18°C (60 to 64°F) at night. Keep the pots moist but not wet and fertilise with a liquid feed about a month after pricking out.

Plants can be grown in the ground or pots. Growing in soil allows roots to spread so plants can get bigger, if you wish to grow them outside, delay planting out into the garden until June. Pot grown chillies need frequent watering and feeding weekly. To help grow them upright and prevent branches snapping they will need support, to do this stick three canes around each plant, tying them at the top to create a tripod. Wrap the tripods in strong string from bottom to top, leaving space for the branches to grow through.

Onions

Onions can be grown from seed or sets, growing from seed will save money, start now by sowing in trays or modules under glass in a propagator. As soon as the plants are large enough to handle prick out into individual pots.

Make a Difference Award

What do people mean when they say their motivation for doing something is to 'make a difference'? In the world of science fiction, each person's action has unforeseen, as well as intended, consequences which forever echo through the space time continuum. However, in 21st century Britain, to 'make a difference' is generally used to describe action that produces significant, helpful effects on a person, thing or situation. Many, many people aim to make a difference which will improve the common good or leave the world a better place, whether at work, through sport, in public life or in their community.



Indeed, we are very fortunate to live in a country and society that has a long tradition of trying to enrich life and develop a better world. In 2022, we celebrated the life and devoted service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We know she was inspired daily by her Christian faith, as well as the dedication and selfless service of other people. Further, using garden parties, visits, walkabouts and Christmas broadcasts, she encouraged and thanked thousands of unsung heroes, 'ordinary' people who use their time and skills for the common good.



Locally, BBC Somerset regularly broadcasts stories and experiences of people who make a real difference in their community or helped improve the life of others; they are good neighbours and unsung heroes who help strangers as well as regular residents. These stories are heard by people of all ages and walks of life; many listeners are helped or encouraged by these shared experiences.

BBC Somerset's The Volunteer Award 2022 for '*an individual who makes a real difference to the community by giving up their time voluntarily to help a charity or good cause*' has revealed a very modest, unassuming resident

of Winscombe and Sandford Parish who has been selflessly volunteering for many years in support of a variety of charities.

Congratulations and well done to Ann Pursey! Ann was delighted to receive this recognition for a wonderful life of volunteering service. Ann is a young-at-heart, ninety year old, whose volunteering history is extensive and still growing. Her impressive record includes such a wide variety of roles, such as the Royal Observer Corp, organising a savings club, singing in residential homes, trusteeships with responsibility for several charities and feeding stroke patients in hospital.

When asked why she enjoyed volunteering, Ann replied 'As a youngster, my parents moved house and I had to quickly learn to make new friends in a new school, so I grew up happy to meet and greet strangers. Also, I really enjoy helping people because, after all, we all need a helping hand sometimes.' What a marvellous inspiration!

If you would like to nominate someone for a 2023 Make A Difference Award, do check the BBC Somerset website: in 2022 there were eight categories: Volunteer, Community Group, Fundraiser, Carer, Great Neighbour, Key Worker, Environmental, Together.

Ann's Volunteering Roles

- Long service medals: Royal Observer Corps, 22 years; National Savings club 25 years
- 30+ years flower arranging and various roles at Churchill Methodist
- Manor Hospital Bath, 12 years; Weston General Hospital 10 years
- Vine Counselling (Congresbury) receptionist and trustee, 15 years
- Trustee of alms houses, 15 years, at Victoria Jubilee Homes, Langford, plus Cottage Homes, Churchill
- Residential homes: St Monica Trust, Sandford, also St Michael's Cheshire Home, Axbridge

Jacqueline Seel

Community Development Worker for Churchill Methodist Church

Although reported in the January edition that the Branch held a very successful traditional Christmas three-course lunch on Saturday 17th December at Wells Golf Club, the event also turned out to be a second celebration for our Branch Member, Centenarian, Dick Froom with 34 people in attendance. Unfortunately, at our original celebration in September, members of the current 14 Squadron were unable to be present due to Operational commitments. However, on 17th December, the Branch was delighted to welcome Flight Lieutenant Gareth Duffy from 14 Squadron who is a pilot flying the Squadron's Shadow aircraft at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire. On behalf of the Squadron, Gareth presented Dick Froom with a magnificent model of a Mark XIV Wellington engraved with the Squadron crest and Dick's rank badge and aircrew brevet, as a memento of his service as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner on the Squadron from November 1944 to June 1945. In response, Dick read out one of his wartime poems as a thanks to the current squadron.

Our programme for the start of the year is as follows:

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.

Monday 6th March

Branch AGM

11:00 am for 11:15

The Wessex Hotel, 15 High Street, Street, BA16 0EF.

The meeting will be a formal AGM reporting on the activities in 2022, presenting the Branch accounts and outlining the plans for 2023. The meeting will be followed by lunch in the hotel dining room.

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.

Churchill Baby & Toddler Group

@Churchill Methodist Community Hall BS25 5NG

Mondays 9.15-11.30am Term Time

9, 16, 23 & 30 January 2023

Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!

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



Try us for FREE!



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The **Methodist** Church



INFO:

Jacqueline
01934 844134

DECEMBER RESULTS

December was another busy month for Branch activities and financial results. The Branch ran its first ever “Reindeer Run” on Sunday 4th December but the financial results are not available yet while on Tuesday 6th December the Branch Souvenir Sales Team, the “Pudding & Hyacinth Club” and Chris’s Table took part in Winscombe Late Night Shopping and secured £295. The Souvenir Sales Team attended nine venues in 2022 and their end of year figure was £1,076

However, the ‘Piece de Resistance’ occurred on Christmas Eve. The call came in to the ‘Winscombe Branch Launch Authority’ at 8:00 am and the RNLI Winscombe Rescue Vehicle (Kevin’s Red Van) was launched with full crew and ‘Rescue Buckets’ at full speed to Shepton Mallet to rendezvous with the local RNLI Rescuers who were already on the scene at Tesco, Shepton Mallet. Kevin veered down and anchored in Tesco Car Park and distributed the Rescue Buckets to the Joint Winscombe & Shepton Mallet Team including ‘Stormy Stan’ & ‘Stormy Reindeer’ (Shaun & Joe Attwood) while ‘Stormy Sonny Attwood’ took control of the Reindeer Carrot Distribution. The joint team then operated the Rescue Buckets and card machine in shifts until the Rescue ended at 4:00 pm by which time the team had ‘rescued’ £1,188 in cash while the results from the card machine are still to come. Congratulations to the joint team for a magnificent effort.



JANUARY ACTIVITY

The Branch Committee held a Meeting on 12th January to plan a programme for this year starting with the Super Quiz on Saturday 28th January. After three years of Covid, the Branch was able to hold the Quiz in Shipham Village Hall starting at 7:00 pm. A full complement of 21 teams took part and enjoyed Tina's Mega-Ploughman's Supper in the interval, trips to the bar and 'splashed out' on the comprehensive raffle. Full results will be published in next month's edition.

BETTY'S POTS UPDATE

Betty's Pots are small individual jam & marmalade pots with a RNLI label and people are encouraged to fill them with either five pence or twenty pence coins for the RNLI. These can now be obtained from and filled pots returned to Farron's Estate Agents in Winscombe, and locations in Wedmore, Congresbury, and Wrington but Tina (01934 842304) is on the look out for more venues willing to help us in other villages.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

At time of copy submission, the dates are not yet finalised but the Branch will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March, there will be our Annual Plant & Garden Jumble Sale one Saturday in May. James is working on a couple of RNLI Folk Nights for later in the year and Tina is approaching supermarkets and garden centres to hold RNLI Bucket Collections. More details will be available in the March edition.

DECEMBER RESCUES

In December there were just two shouts (Portishead 1, & Weston-super-Mare 1). Portishead volunteers launched at 7.32 am on 10th December to an incident in the River Avon to support the Police, Portishead Coastguard Rescue Team, HART (Hazardous Area Response team), Avon Fire & Rescue Service and the Ambulance Service while Weston-super-Mare launched on New Years' Eve, where a dog had fallen over the cliff edge on Brean Down which was a sad end to the year for everyone involved.

2022 SUMMARY

2022 was a busy year for the RNLI Weston crews with 53 shouts recorded. They launched the D class inshore lifeboat 37 times and the Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat 16 times; they aided 34 people to safety and were credited with 3 lives saved. The crews reported that the main reasons for being called out were to casualties cut off by the tide (mainly on Birnbeck Island), missing people, cliff falls, pleasure craft mechanical failures, and inflatables drifting out to sea. However, the majority of these shouts could have been avoided by following safety guidance or being prepared with the right equipment, checking the tides or keeping dogs on leads.



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