

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



# ***Signpost***

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



December 2023

Free

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

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<b>Roman Catholics</b>	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 Benefice website:  
[www.winsandchurches.org.uk](http://www.winsandchurches.org.uk)

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



## Are You the One?



One of my enduring memories as a student is witnessing the traditional Advent Procession in Durham's great Cathedral. It starts with the vast cathedral in complete darkness. Far away at the west end of the cathedral and on a lower level is the magnificent Galilee Chapel where the choir has assembled. It all begins when a solitary voice is heard intoning the opening line of The Matin Responsory; *"I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming....."* to which the choir responds; *"..... Tell us art thou he that should come.....?"* The singing continues as the choir mounts the steps leading up into the vast cathedral repeating the question *"Art thou he that should come?"* As they enter, their candles gradually bring light into the cathedral. Moving down the long nave they light the candles of those in the congregation until the whole cathedral is full of light.

In all the excitement leading up to Christmas (which commercially began in August) it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning behind the festival – the incarnation – and the question it presents to all of us; Is Jesus the one, the Messiah, the Saviour, the light of the world sent by God? To Christians the answer is clear but to many others, probably the great majority, it is a question yet to be seriously considered.

Many people question whether if Jesus is / was the Saviour of the world why is it still such a rotten place? Unlike the fairy in the Christmas advert Christians have no magic wand to change the world. It is only as people come to accept Jesus and his teaching and are willing to put it into practice that the world will begin to change.

Advent is often spoken of as a time of preparation for the 'second coming' when Jesus will return but St John in his gospel makes it clear we don't have to wait for the end of the world, the light is already here. It is just that most people either cannot or refuse to see it! This Christmas let us try to help people discover that light encouraged by the words of St John. *"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it"*. (St John Chapter 1 v 5.)



Canon Shaun Darley

## Signpost - The Parish Magazine

This magazine is created by volunteers from the Anglican Churches in the Benefice 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 10<sup>th</sup> December.** Please submit items as Word documents which should be no longer than 400 words to [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com). 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](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com)

## Our Website

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SIGNPOST - DONATIONS WELCOME

It costs approximately £600 per annum to produce the magazine, based on current prices for materials and ink. Volunteers give their time freely to compile, print and distribute the magazine.

We are always grateful to those who choose to make a donation towards the on-going costs of the magazine and those that place, paid for, advertising in it.

Donations can be placed in an envelope marked 'Signpost Donation' and posted in the letterbox at the Church Centre in Winscombe.

If you wish to place an advert, please contact the Editorial Team: [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com)

Many thanks to all those who have already made a donation. Thank you.

## News from our Benefice

### Celebration of Our Three Church Benefice



On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, members of all three churches, St John's, St James's and All Saints gathered together, to celebrate St John's becoming part of the Benefice, with a joint service of Holy Communion led by Reverend Andrew.

### All Souls Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving



We remembered those we have loved as we came together at our All Souls' Service on the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> October. We had a thoughtful time of singing, readings and poems and the opportunity to place stones bearing loved ones' names on the altar and later place them in the churchyard.

### Remembrance Sunday

Services were held at each of our churches as our villages paid their respects to the fallen with the two-minute silence being kept at 11.00 am.

In Sandford people assembled at the memorial to lay wreaths and listen to the names of those who died. There were poignant displays of poppies and artefacts in the church as a reminder of those who served in conflicts past and present.



St James's was decorated with knitted poppies and filled to capacity for the service including over 40 young people representing Girl Guiding and Scouting in Winscombe. Scouts and guides also read the names of the fallen. Wreaths were laid on the altar before being placed on the churchyard War Memorial at the end of the service.

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

### Safeguarding Sunday



Our Family Holy Communion service on 19<sup>th</sup> November marked 'Safeguarding Sunday'. This is a time when churches think about how they are supporting those who have been hurt or harmed and highlight and celebrate all the good work that is being done behind the scenes to protect vulnerable people and create safer cultures and communities for all both now and in the future. Reverend Jacqui, who is a Safeguarding Trainer for the Diocese, provided the reflection which included a Q&A session with one of our Parish Safeguarding Officers about the role.

# All Saints Church Community Café



The November 'Christmas' Café raised  
£618.22 including Gift Aid for church funds  
The raffle raised £198 and  
The Bric a Brac stall raised £35.50  
For the Building Fund



Many thanks to all those who supported us.

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

Our next Café will be on  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
10.30 am to 12.30 pm  
at All Saints



**Save the  
Children**

## 'Save The Children' Lunches

**Shipham Village Hall**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 12.30 pm**

Soup, bread, cheese, pickle & homemade biscuits  
£5.00

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 pm**

Christmas Special

Join us for homemade soup, bread, cheese and mince pies  
£6.00



**Save the  
Children**

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



# Christmas Fair

• SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER  
10-3

• *Specially selected festive shopping*

• ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH  
• CHURCH LANE, CHURCHILL  
• BS25 5QW

• *Refreshments available*



Please note  
new venue

# Folk at Christmas

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

## **The Church Centre**

52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe BS25 1BA

**Saturday 9th December at 7.30pm**

Tickets £10.00 including seasonal refreshments

Available from: Winscombe Post Office, The Wine Shop and The Church Office

For further details please contact Martin Hagen on 01934 842511 or by email:

hagen.martin@gmail.com

Proceeds in aid of St James's and All Saints Church funds



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

The Food Bank is so grateful for the food and money donations we send. As you can imagine the need this year has been 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.

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

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 online 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**'.

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

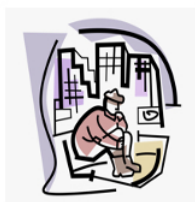
Beth and Deny



### **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.



Please deliver items in bags to Somewhere to Go at 4a Boulevard, BS23 1NA

'Bristol Women's Refuge' supports victims of domestic abuse.

Women's and children's clothing can be left in the porch at

81 Greenhill Road, Sandford

Angela Morris 01934 852327

## Lynch Chapel News

Concerning this time of year, the poet John Keats wrote this phrase, *'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'* and it succinctly sums up this time of year. Yellowing leaves on the ground, that sense of dampness, a feeling of being hemmed in, a time for being at home, being thankful for shelter, warmth and light, hot meals, and company.

As we draw near to the ending of another year, I am reminded that seasons and people come and go, but God remains the same ever faithful, ever true! I am constantly challenged by the words of Jesus to His disciples, *"Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* And in His prayer to the Father, *"I pray that they will be one, just as you and I are one."* Christians are often so obsessed by differences that the great desire of Jesus for unity is forgotten along with that we love each other!

I spend a lot of my time visiting people in their homes and have come to recognise how important hospitality is to the guest. I am always offered tea and, at times, food, or even occasionally, a meal. I have a colleague who has never liked hot drinks who has had to learn to accept the offers from those he visits. A hot cup of tea indicates that there can be more time spent together than a glass of water!

Occasionally I meet someone who absolutely loves to receive people into their home, it is their great gift, and you can easily identify the visible joy they feel when they have someone to stay!

My mother was one such person and I spent much of my childhood trying to remember the names of those who shared my breakfast table! They were invariably young Christian women and often they would stay for months! I cannot remember feeling any animosity towards them, but I now view those with the gift of hospitality like my Mum with awe!

There are some notable examples of hospitality to challenge and inspire us in the Bible: Abraham's words at the visit of the three strangers to his desert tent, *"Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree."* The apostle Peter was welcomed into homes. One example is recorded in the book of Acts in the words of an angel to Cornelius: *"He (Peter) is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea."* Paul's life was one of persecution, but he could write: *"May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains."* Even Jesus, the man who had nowhere He could call home, expressed his love for His friends in such a way: Jesus said to them, *"Come and have breakfast."*

I would like to encourage you to continue to show hospitality to each other, to express our love practically and to be prepared to welcome the person who lands on your doorstep with open arms.

David Jewell



# CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

(USING SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS)



Wednesday 13th December  
Church Centre, Winscombe  
7.00 - 9.00pm

£25 per person  
(Includes all materials and  
seasonal refreshments)

We will provide:

- ❖ wreath base
- ❖ greenery
- ❖ accessories
- ❖ wreath making tips

Please bring:

- ❖ secateurs
- ❖ scissors
- ❖ gardening gloves

Tickets can be purchased from Winscombe Post Office, the Wine Shop and the Church Office

For further information contact Helen: [helenmacpherson@btconnect.com](mailto:helenmacpherson@btconnect.com) 07837 426413  
or the Church Office 01934 844650

Supporting St James's Church Funds

## The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Is there a hidden meaning behind the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song?

According to popular tradition, during a time in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century when Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to worship openly, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song was used to secretly pass on the ideology of Christianity. Each gift on the list symbolises a different aspect of the Christian faith:



**The Partridge in the Pear Tree** is Jesus Christ. A partridge often feigns injury to draw attention to itself and away from her young. Because of its self-sacrifice the partridge was used to represent Christ.

**The 2 Turtle Doves** are The Old and New Testaments. Because they have one mate for life the doves represent enduring relationships such as that between the Old and New Testaments.

**The 3 French Hens** stand for the Holy Trinity of father, Son and Holy Spirit. They can also represent Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues.

**The 4 Calling Birds** are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

**The 5 Golden Rings** are the first five books of the Old Testament.

**The 6 Geese A-laying** are the six days of creation with the eggs representing new life.

**The 7 Swans A- Swimming** are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit – Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouragement, Giving, Leadership and Mercy.

**The 8 Maids A-Milking** are the eight beatitudes which Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount.

**The 9 Ladies Dancing** are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit – Love, Joy, peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self- Control.

**The 10 Lords A-Leaping** stand for the law and leadership of the Ten Commandments.

**The 11 Pipers Piping** are the eleven faithful apostles.

**The 12 Drummers Drumming** are the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.

# Christmas Quiz

As it's Christmas this month's quiz is a bumper one based on 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'

## 1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree

Who played the role of Alan Partridge on television?

## 2. Two Turtle Doves

What are the names of the first two Teenage Mutant Turtles alphabetically?

## 3. Three French Hens

Solve these anagrams to reveal three french poultry dishes

QUIN COVA

CAKES IN CHURCHES

GALA UNCORKED

## 4. Four Calling Birds

Can you name these four British Songbirds?



## 5. Five Gold Rings

What are the colours of the five rings on the Olympic flag?

## 6. Six Geese A Laying

In which language do the following 6 words translate as 'egg'?

a. OEUF

b. HUEVEO

c. YAI

d. HUA MANU

e. WY

f. MUNA

## 7. Seven Swans A Swimming

Can you name these 7 British Olympic Swimmers. The vowels have been removed from their names.

a. \_D\_M P\_\_TY

b. D\_V\_D W\_LK\_\_

c. R\_B\_CC\_ \_DL\_NGT\_N

d. \_LL\_\_ SYM\_NDS

e. D\_NC\_N G\_\_DH\_W

f. J\_ZZ C\_RL\_N

g.. J\_M\_S G\_Y

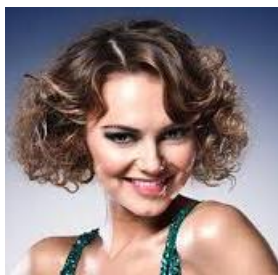
## 8. Eight Maids A Milking

The milk from which animal is used to traditionally make the following cheeses?

- a. CHAIGNOL (France)
- b. JARLSBERG (Norway)
- c. CARAVANE (Mauritania)
- d. DANISH BLUE (Denmark)
- e. ROQUEFORT (France)
- f. STINKING BISHOP (England)
- g. MOZZARELLA (Italy)
- h. PULE (Serbia)

## 9. Nine Ladies Dancing

Can you name these nine female celebrity and professional Strictly Come Dancing winners?



## 10. Ten Lords A Leaping

Can you name the ten works of fiction in which these Lords appear?

- a. Lord Greystoke
- b. Lord Macduff
- c. Lord Peter Wimsey
- d. Lord Farquaad
- e. Lord Voldemort
- f. Lord Asriel
- g. Lord Snooty
- h. Lord Drinian
- i. Lord Emsworth
- j. Lord Celeborn

## 11. Eleven Pipers Piping

Can you name these eleven wind instruments that have had their vowels removed?

- a. FLT
- b. BGPPS
- c. FRNCHHRN
- d. PCCL
- e. HRMNC
- f. TRMPT
- g. B
- h. TB
- i. CRNGLS
- j. RCRDR
- k. TRMBN

## 12. Twelve Drummers Drumming

Can you name the groups most associated with these drummers?

- a. Ringo Starr
- b. Will Champion
- c. Lars Ulrich
- d. Don Henley
- e. Roger Taylor
- f. Charlie Watts
- g. Phil Collins
- h. Stewart Copeland
- i. Jon Bonham
- k. Ginger Baker
- l. Dave Grohl

**Answers can be found on page 37**



**Come to ...**



# **Carols by Lantern Light**

**with Weston Brass Band**

**Church Centre Car Park**

Woodborough Road, Winscombe

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**from 4.30pm**

**Santa arrives at 4.45pm**

**Singing from 5.00pm**

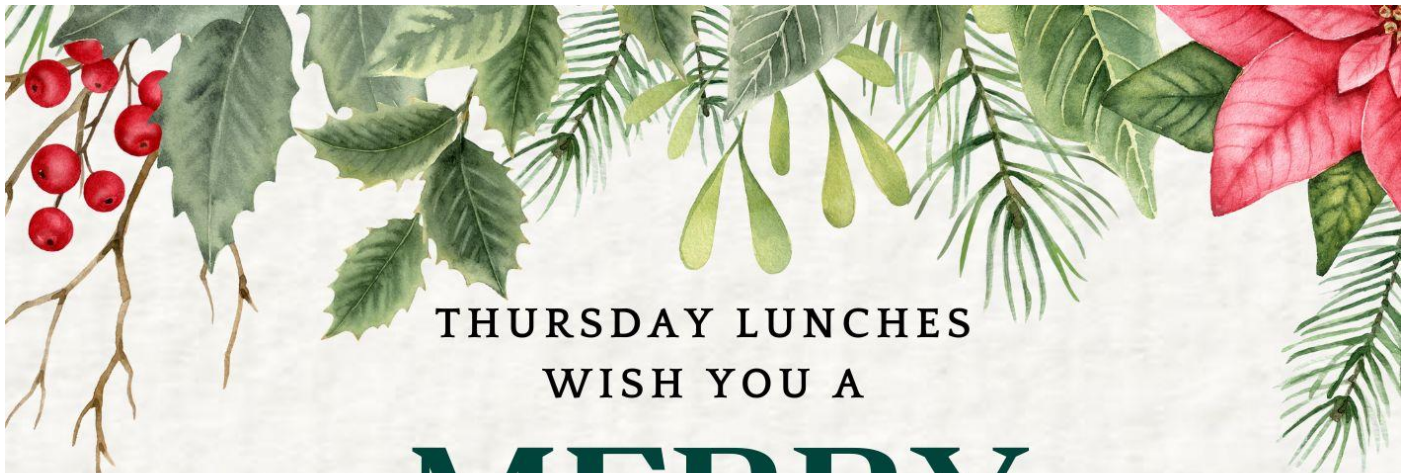
**Santa's Grotto  
Refreshments  
Children's Stalls**



**Bring a lantern or torch**

**Free Entry**

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



THURSDAY LUNCHES  
WISH YOU A

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

12.30pm Thursdays, Churchill Methodist  
Front Street, BS25 5NG



Only  
£5

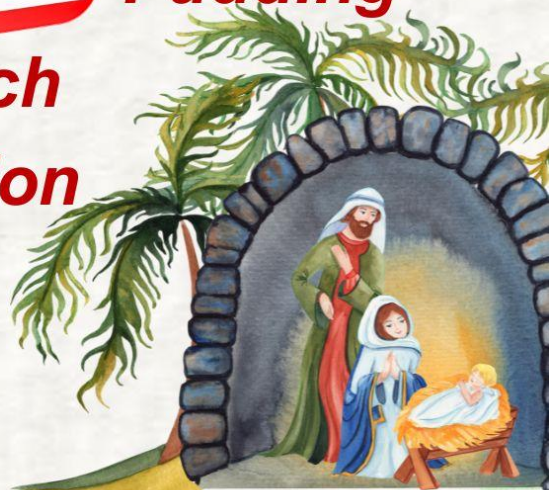


**Soup &  
Pudding**



**Christmas Lunch  
inc Veggie option**

For bookings & transport:  
**01934 832606 Queenie**  
**or 852197 Janet**



Churchill Methodist Church  
[churchillmethodist.org.uk](http://churchillmethodist.org.uk)







Tis the season to be jolly

# **CAROLS BY LAMP LIGHT**

**Wednesday**

**13th**

**December**

**6pm**

**THE READING ROOM,  
FRONT STREET,  
CHURCHILL**



# THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 3.00 pm

## 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 3.00 pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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

# COFFEE MORNING



Tuesdays 5th and 12th December at 10.30am  
Church Centre, Winscombe  
All Welcome



Join us on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December for  
our special  
Christmas Coffee Morning

Winscombe  
Christmas Shopping  
Evening  
Tuesday 5th December  
6.00 pm - 9.00 pm



**Good News.  
Great Joy.**



**BUILD A  
SHOEBOX  
ONLINE**

Bless a Child  
in Need in Just a  
Few Easy Clicks

SHOEBOXONLINE.ORG.UK

**Samaritan's Purse**  
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

***There's still time ...***

***show a child in real need that you care.***

***Just a few easy clicks.***

*Thank you!*



***Huge thank you to all who so  
generously donated gifts,  
funds and time for packing  
Operation Christmas Child  
shoeboxes. Our Packing  
Party filled an amazing 78  
boxes.***

Churchill Methodist Church



[churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk)

## Have a Greener Christmas

### Buy local

Buying locally produced items minimises emissions and reduces your carbon footprint. Supporting local independent business also means that more of your money stays in the local economy and supports your community.

Use the shops in our villages, visit one of the many local Christmas markets or look at <https://made.innorthsomerset.co.uk> for local businesses and creatives.

### Cut the carbon footprint of presents

You could do this by trying online pre-loved shops for second hand clothing, gifts, decorations and more.

Look in local charity shops for stocking fillers and items such as books, dvds, board games and puzzles.

### Buy an experience or make a charitable donation

Consider buying vouchers for an activity or day out at a local attraction.

A charitable donation can also make a unique gift such as planting trees, sponsoring an animal or providing clean water. Several charities sell gift cards which support a particular cause.

### Buy Less

Consider joining forces with other family members to buy one bigger, more meaningful gift for each person rather than individual ones.

### Choose sustainable alternatives to wrapping paper

Wrapping paper cannot go in your recycling because most is mixed with unrecyclable items such as foil, glitter, ribbon and tape.

Consider an eco-friendly alternative such as plain brown paper which can be decorated with stamps, simple prints, drawing or just embellished with a label.

Your labels could be made by recycling last year's Christmas Cards.





## Messy Church in November

This time we enacted the story of Jesus calling the fishermen to be his disciples, and we thought about ourselves being followers of Jesus too. We had a fishy game and a couple of songs on that theme, as well as four different craft activities: making 3-d boats, potato print footprints, fish in a net and edible feet with bright (jelly-tot) toes.

The families that came in November had fun and enjoyed the session. Here are some pictures of our crafts.



## Messy Church Next Year

You might ask: How can young families with school-age children learn about acknowledging and worshipping their loving Creator God, and about the Christian faith that their parents learnt?

We are blessed that in our villages the primary schools regularly welcome teams from our churches to provide Christian teaching and reflection in their weekly assemblies. There are good materials available for lay volunteers to use. If you want to hear more about the "Open the Book" materials used do contact Reverend Andrew or a member of the teams.

Messy Church has provided a local opportunity for families to engage together in child-friendly, fun worship activities. However, the event does need enough families to commit to coming. Without that, the format is ineffective.

In our beautiful villages there are many activities for 21<sup>st</sup> century families to choose from, and the number of families attending Messy Church has been lower for our last 2 sessions. So, we've decided not to continue a regular monthly session. In the spring we may consider a further "pop-up" Messy Church, possibly on the Saturday preceding Mothering Sunday. Prior to arranging this we'll take a poll of families who've attended Messy Church in the past to see if they would hope to come. Unless we get positive responses from 4 or 5 families the session won't run. We shall be happy to run future Messy Churches if there is feedback that the format seems valuable.

Our thanks to the faithful team of volunteers who have committed themselves to regularly facilitating the Messy Church Sessions for the past few years!



# *CRIB SERVICE*



*SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER*

*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.*





## 1st Winscombe Scouts - Christmas Events



**From Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - HAND PICK YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE**

Our Christmas Tree shop at Mendip Activity Centre will be opening again at 11am on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Please come and see us and hand pick your own Christmas Tree, prices start at £45.00. We will also have some handmade gifts for sale, and whilst you are there why not pop to Mendip's café and enjoy a cuppa and their beautiful decorations.



### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Winscombe Village Festive night - Santa has a new Sleigh this year!! Our Leaders have been working hard all year on the new design and building it themselves! It's nearly ready, we are all very excited, and we are hoping it will be a magical sight for many years to come.

We are also having a stall at the top end of the village selling potted Christmas Trees, Handmade gifts along with a Tombola, please come and see us.



### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Santa is Coming to Winscombe this week. The new Sleigh will be travelling around most of the streets in Winscombe for 4 nights this week.

The routes have changed slightly this year and will be advertised around the Village and on Facebook. We look forward to saying hello when we come up your street!

Thank you in advance for your support, all profits go to help provide our young people with some amazing and exciting opportunities throughout their scouting journey.





## Hand pick your own Christmas Tree!



### Opening Times:

From 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Every Sat & Sun  
11:00 – 16:00  
(until sold out)

MENDIP ACTIVITY CENTRE  
Lyncombe Dr, Churchill BS25 5PQ

1<sup>st</sup> 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 tree from our range of Premium, non-shedding Nordmann Fir Trees.

All proceeds will go towards **1<sup>st</sup> Winscombe Scout Group** to help provide wonderful opportunities and an exciting range of activities for our young people.

Check out our fantastic range of Christmas Crafts (hand crafted by our Scouts, Cubs & Leaders) that will also be on sale!

### 2023 PRICES

1.50m – 1.75m	£45
1.75m – 2.00m	£55
2.00m – 2.40m	£65



Contactless payment preferred



SCAN ME

**Support your local Scout Group!**

<https://www.facebook.com/1stWinscombe/>

Join our Journey  
to Bethlehem!



**SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER**

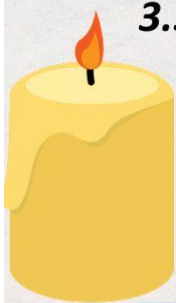
**CAROLS & NATIVITY FOR ALL AGES**

*3.30pm Carols @Cottage Homes, Front Street*

*3.45pm Follow the star on Front Street*

*4pm @Churchill Methodist Nativity & Candles*

*5pm Sausage rolls & mince pies*



**Churchill Methodist Church** [churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk)

## Winscombe Community Singers' Winter Warmer Concert



Winscombe Community Singers staged a concert of seasonal and heart-warming music at the Church Centre in Winscombe on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

The choir led by their enthusiastic Musical Director, Josh Newport, performed for a very appreciative audience who really enjoyed the variety of music, poetry and prose that was performed.

Musical numbers were selected from a range of genre including gospel, big band, pop, barber shop and ballads many of which were introduced by choir members who told the audience a little of the background to the pieces and why they had been chosen.

The audience even got to see how the choir warm up each week which was demonstrated with a bit of comedy and followed by getting the audience to participate in a round of familiar gospel songs such as 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' and 'When the Saints Go Marching In'.

The feedback from the audience was overwhelmingly positive and the choir was delighted with comments such as, 'It was the best concert yet, very professional and you sounded great. We were blown away!' and 'A great evening's entertainment. Such a strong sound with wonderful harmonies'.

For this concert the choir chose to support a local charity, Fees Fund which is dedicated to the memory of local teenager, Fiona, and provides funds to ensure that all children have the opportunity to take part in enrichment activities that are so important to their development. <https://www.feesfund.org>



A huge thank you to everyone who came to the concert to support the choir and so generously bought raffle tickets which enabled us to raise over £400 for this brilliant local charity.



## Fresh Foundations News

### Great News!

Our application for Outline Planning Permission has been granted.

Although the decision from North Somerset Council was somewhat delayed, we are delighted to have been given the go ahead for our new Church Centre.

Outline Planning Permission is accompanied by a number of conditions, which we are required to satisfy, all of which are normal for such an application.



### What Next?

The next stage is to plan our detailed design so that we are creating a visually appealing building with an internal layout that meets our vision for how the centre will be used. We will be working with local architects to achieve this.

Alongside this we will be fundraising, submitting a number of grant applications together with our own fundraising activities which includes pledges of money from individuals.

### Could you be a prayer warrior?



All of our work is thoroughly 'wrapped' in prayer, and we are asking for individuals who can support us through prayer and be part of a prayer group that receives information from us about areas of the project that can be prayed for each month. Please let a project team member know if you could help us.

If you would like further details about Fresh Foundations, please email Alison [alisonparmj@aol.com](mailto:alisonparmj@aol.com)

**DECEMBER 2023 – DIARY**

FRI 1	2.30pm	Film Club – Church Centre
SAT 2	2.30-4.00pm	Come for a Cuppa – Lynch Chapel
<b>SUN 3</b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>See page 32 for details of Services</b>
TUES 5	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.00am	Christmas Communion in the Community – Dunster Court
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 6	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s
	7.30pm	Sandford & District Gardening Club Members Christmas Party
THUR 7	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s
SAT 9	9.00am	Winscombe Saturday Market – Community Centre
	7.30pm	‘Folk at Christmas’ - BadgerSet Concert – Church Centre
<b>SUN 10</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>See page 32 for details of Services</b>
TUES 12	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 13	2.00pm	Knit and Natter – Lynch Chapel
	6.00pm	Carols by Lamp Light – St John’s Reading Room, Churchill
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s
	7.30pm	Christmas Wreath Workshop – Church Centre
THUR 14	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	6.00pm	Carols in the Community – Premier Stores, Sandford
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s
SAT 16	4.30pm	Carols by Lantern Light – Church Centre
<b>SUN 17</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>See page 32 for details of Services</b>
TUES 19	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
WED 20	2.45pm	Christmas Communion in the Community – Sewell House
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s Church
THUR 21	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s
SAT 23	4.00pm	Crib Service – Church Centre
<b>SUN 24</b>		<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
		<b>See page 32 for details of Services</b>
<b>MON 25</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
		<b>See page 32 for details of Services</b>
<b>SUN 31</b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>
		<b>See page 32 for details of Services</b>

**See also centre pages for details of all Christmas Services and events in our villages.**

**BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER**

<p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>                  Isaiah 64: 1-9                  Psalm 80: 1-8, 17-19                  1 Corinthians 1: 3-9                  Mark 13: 24-37</p>	<p><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>                  Isaiah 40: 1-11                  Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13                  2 Peter 3: 8-15a                  Mark 1: 1-8</p>	<p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>                  Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11                  Psalm 126                  1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24                  John 1: 6-8, 19-28</p>
<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve</b>                  2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16                  Psalm 89: 2, 19-27                  Acts 13: 16-26                  Luke 1: 67-79</p>	<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Midnight Mass</b>                  Isaiah 52: 7-10                  Psalm 98                  Hebrew 1: 1-4 [5-12]                  John 1: 1-14</p>	
<p><b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day</b>                  Isaiah 9: 2-7                  Psalm 96                  Titus 2: 11-14                  Luke 2: 1-14</p>	<p><b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>                  Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3                  Psalm 148                  Galatians 4: 4-7                  Luke 2: 22-40</p>	

*Christmas Services and Events  
in our Village Churches  
December 2023*



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

11.00am: Christmas Carol Service at St John's, Churchill

3.00pm: Christingle Service at St James's Church, Winscombe

4.00pm: Music and Readings for Christmas at the Small Meeting House, Sidcot

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm: Carols by Lamp Light at the Reading Room, Churchill

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm: Carols in the Community at the Premier Stores, Sandford

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

4.30pm: Carols by Lantern Light, at the Church Centre, Winscombe.

Sing along to Christmas favourites accompanied by Weston Brass.

Enjoy refreshments, stalls and visit Santa's Grotto

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am: Walking the Labyrinth - all ages in the Large Meeting House, Sidcot

10.30am: All-age Nativity Service at Lynch Chapel, Winscombe

4.00pm: Carol Service at Churchill Methodist Church

7.00pm: Carol Service at St James's Church, Winscombe

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

4.00pm: Crib Service at the Church Centre, Winscombe

5.00pm: Vigil Mass for Sunday morning at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar

## **Christmas Eve**

11.00am: Morning Worship with Holy Communion at Churchill Methodist

6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight at Lynch Chapel, Winscombe

7.00pm: Christmas Night Mass with carols from 6.30pm at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar (No Sunday morning Mass)

8.00pm: Carol Service at All Saints, Sandford

11.00pm: Midnight Mass at St James's Church, Winscombe

11.30pm: Holy Communion at Churchill Methodist Church

## **Christmas Day**

9.00am: Christmas Day Mass at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar

10.00am: Christmas Day Holy Communion at St James's Church, Winscombe

10.00am: Christmas Day Holy Communion at All Saints, Sandford

10.00am: Christmas Day Holy Communion at St John's Churchill

10.30am: Christmas Day Service at Lynch Chapel, Winscombe

10.30am: Meeting for Worship in the Small Meeting House, Sidcot

**See page 32 for details of other services in December**



*We look forward to celebrating with you.*

## Church Service Times

### Opportunities to Worship in December

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	8.00 am	St John's	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Charity Café Church
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30 am	St James's	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Morning Worship
	11.00 am	St John's	Christmas Carol Service
	3.00 pm	St James's	Benefice Christingle Service
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.00 am	Church Centre	Family Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	7.00 pm	St James's	Christmas Carol Service
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	4.00 pm	Church Centre	Benefice Crib Service
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve</b>	9.30 am	St James's	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
	8.00 pm	All Saints	Christmas Carol Service
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day</b>	11.00 pm	St James's	Benefice Midnight Mass
	10.00 am	St James's	Christmas Day Holy Communion
	10.00 am	All Saints	Christmas Day Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	10.00 am	St John's	Christmas Day Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Benefice Holy Communion

### Midweek Services

Every Tuesday                      All Saints                      10.00 am                      Holy Communion

### Special Services in December

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Sandford Station	11.00 am	Advent Sunday Communion in the Community
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Dunster Court	10.00 am	Christmas Communion in the Community
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Sewell House	2.45 pm	Christmas Communion in the Community

### We Remember

*Our love and sympathy go to the family and friends of:*

**Joan Minnitt** whose funeral service took place at St James's Church on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November followed by her cremation at Weston Crematorium.

### Safeguarding

Our churches are committed to promoting a safe environment and culture. The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a priority. Further information about our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures can be found on our website <https://winsandchurches.org.uk/safeguarding/>. Details of how to contact one of our Parish Safeguarding Officers can be found on page 2 of this magazine.



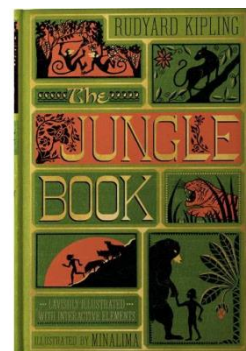
## A December Birthday Rudyard Kipling



Kipling was born in Bombay, India on December 30<sup>th</sup> 1865. He moved to England when he was 5 years old, living with a couple who boarded children of British nationals who were serving in India. Sadly, this was not a happy experience for him. He was later educated at a private boys' public boarding school a period he captured in his novel 'Stalky and Co'

He is probably best known as the author of 'The Jungle Book' 'Kim' the 'Just So Stories' and the poem 'If'.

By 1897, Rudyard Kipling was not only among the most acclaimed authors but also the highest paid writer in the world. In 1907 he won the prestigious Nobel Prize for Literature. He was the first English language writer to do so and also the youngest to do so to date.



Kipling's first name wasn't Rudyard. It was Joseph. The name Rudyard was taken from Rudyard Lake in Staffordshire, where his parents courted each other, and was his middle name. However, he was known by the name Rudyard and it was the altogether more distinctive.

Rudyard Kipling used the word 'grinch' over 60 years before Dr Seuss. The word 'grinch' was used by Rudyard Kipling in one of his poems. Dr Seuss would take up the word for his classic 1957 children's book, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'.

He also used the idea of the 'daemon' over half a century before Philip Pullman. Kipling claimed that a 'Daemon' helped him to write 'The Jungle Book', and in his final book, an autobiography, he wrote: 'When your Daemon is in charge, do not try to think consciously. Drift, wait, and obey.'

Kipling married Caroline Starr Balestier, an American, in January 1862 and the couple moved to her property in Vermont. They had three children, Josephine, Elsie and John but two of them died at an early age. In the winter of 1899, both Rudyard and Josephine fell gravely ill with pneumonia. While Rudyard was able to recover, his young daughter lost her life. During World War I, Kipling's son John wanted to join the British military but was rejected due to poor eyesight. However, Rudyard used his connections to get him enlisted with the Irish Guard as second lieutenant. John Kipling was killed in action in the First World War at the Battle of Loos in September 1915 at the age of 18 and Rudyard was left mourning the loss of another child.

Rudyard Kipling died on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1936, at the age of 70. His obituary appeared in the newspaper two days before he died. He read it and responded to the publisher, 'I've just read that I am dead. Don't forget to delete me from your list of subscribers'!



### **Winscombe Folk Club donates to the Poppy Appeal.**

Club founder Nigel Carson gave a poignant concert to the residents of St Monica Trust's Sandford Station village. Illustrated by photographs taken on visits to the "Western Front" including the Menin Gate, the concert was a mixture of songs, poetry and monologue. The evening was at times hard-hitting yet fast moving. Ending the concert with "songs of the time" and quite a bit of audience participation. A collection was made as the hat was passed round and so the Folk Club was able to make a donation of £60 to the RBL Poppy Appeal.



This concert is the first of what is hoped will become a regular monthly event at the retirement village. All are welcome to come to our regular evenings at the Winscombe Club, on the fourth Tuesday each month - doors open at 7.30 pm.

## **Mendip Folk Dance Club**

**Mondays 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December**

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

### **Trees for Free!**



Winscombe and Sandford Tree Wardens have a number of small trees in pots and they need to be in the ground before next spring is over. They are between 40 and 100 cm high. We would like to see them out of their pots and growing around the parish.

However, they are trees that need space so would not be suitable for small gardens. We have English Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Walnut (*Juglans regia*), Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Sallow/Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*).

If you can give a home to one of these native trees then please contact Colin Williams on 07732335178. We will be pleased to deliver anywhere in Winscombe and Sandford.

## Supporting and Protecting our Natural World

### Presents for Pollinators?

It is impossible to understand the individual life cycle of the myriad seen and unseen creatures that live in our gardens, but they all need to survive the darker days of winter by various strategies. So really, it's best to leave well alone on the grounds that they instinctively know best.

Assuming that some pollinators have survived the winter and have not been the victims of cutting back, or even been thrown on a bonfire or stranded in a green bag, they will now start to emerge from wherever they have been hiding and begin their desperate search for food that is both pollen for protein and nectar (sugar and water) for energy.

Here we can help for although few plants flower in late winter or early spring, we can add to those that do, especially by planting in groups so that less energy is lost by flying long distances from flower to flower and even to find the flowers at all.

We also spend more time indoors now. Various catalogues arrive and now is the time to plan for the coming year and choose plants that might be Christmas presents for us *and* pollinators. Such live presents are likely to give years of pleasure as well as providing sustenance for insects, birds, small mammals and indirectly to amphibians.

Noticeably our climate is changing with milder winters so that pollinators may well venture out in December, January and February in search of food. The energy involved in the search may well lead to death. Therefore, let us look at some early flowering perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees. Trees provide the most nectar and pollen because of their size.

My favourite early flowering plant is Hellebore orientalis. This picture was taken on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2022. The flowers are single with easy access to pollen and nectar. They withstand frost, even snow and flower over several months. They are virtually disease free and grow well in shade. Their large leaves suppress weeds. They also self-seed freely.



Spring bulbs are always an asset to the garden and to pollinators particularly snowdrops, crocus and aconites. Some varieties of snowdrop may flower for Christmas.

A honeybee is enjoying food. Again, the single flowers are easily accessible with visible pollen.



If possible, a tree is a welcome pollinator plant. The earliest are willows. There is a huge variety and individuals are available to flower from January until June. This one (left) was in flower and providing food in mid-January.

Lastly an evergreen early flowering shrub is Mahonia. It has a delicate fragrance from racemes of yellow flowers. They tolerate shade so light up a dull corner just when it is most needed! There are many varieties.

I wish everybody a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year and hope some plant presents arrive!

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### Shipham, Rowberrow & Star History Society Talks

#### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Lois Brenchley will be telling us all about *The Strawberry Line*.

#### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Members' Artefacts: 'Show & Tell' - a chance for members to bring their own historical item and explain its significance and importance to the others.

**Meetings take place at Shipham Village Hall, BS25 1SG**

**Start: 7.30 pm with refreshments**

**Cost: members £2, guests £4**

**Further details contact: Jan Taylor 01934 260784**

# Christmas Quiz Answers

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

1	Steve Coogan	8a	Goat	11a	Flute
2a	Donatello	8b	Cow	11b	Bagpipes
2b	Leonardo	8c	Camel	11c	French Horn
3a	Coq au Vin	8d	Cow	11d	Piccolo
3b	Chicken Chasseur	8e	Sheep	11e	Harmonica
3c	Duck a L'orange	8f	Cow	11f	Trumpet
4a	Blackbird	8g	Buffalo	11g	Oboe
4b	Robin	8h	Donkey	11h	Tuba
4c	Nightingale	9a	Alesha Dixon	11i	Cor Anglais
4d	Thrush	9b	Stacey Dooley	11j	Recorder
5a	Blue	9c	Kara Tointon	11k	Trombone
5b	Yellow	9d	Natasha Kiplinski	12a	The Beatles
5c	Black	9e	Rose Ayling-Ellis	12b	Coldplay
5d	Green	9f	Jowita Przystal	12c	Metalllica
5e	Red	9g	Joanne Clifton	12d	The Eagles
6a	French	9h	Oti Mabuse	12e	Queen
6b	Spanish	9i	Katya Jones	12f	The Rolling Stones
6c	Swahili	10a	Tarzan	12g	Genesis
6d	Maori	10b	Macbeth	12h	The Police
6e	Welsh	10c	Dorothy L Sayers Books	12i	Led Zeppelin
6f	Finnish	10d	Shrek	12j	The Who
7a	Adam Peaty	10e	Harry Potter	12k	Cream
7b	David Wilkie	10f	His Dark Materials	12l	Nirvana
7c	Rebecca Adlington	10g	The Beano		
7d	Ellie Symonds	10h	Game of Thrones		
7e	Duncan Goodhew	10i	Blanding's Castle		
7f	Jazz Carlin	10j	Lord of the Rings		
7g	James Guy				





## **NOVEMBER EVENTS**

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November the Branch Meeting was held in the Bell Inn, Evercreech. Members met for coffee followed by an excellent and interesting presentation on *'The Hungarian Army Air Corps'* by Captain Tibor Erdesz who spoke with authority from his experience. Tibor joined the Hungarian Military College in 1988 and graduated 3 years later in the rank of Lieutenant as a helicopter engineer. He joined the MH 87th Combat Helicopter Regiment as a helicopter structure and engine technician. His regiment operated a range of helicopters but most famously the Mi-24 'Hind' helicopter.

Tibor gave an excellent brief on the design, weapons, role and maintenance of the Mi-24 'Hind' including deployment in Afghanistan while participating in NATO's Afghan mission since 2003, but this activity reached a new level in 2010. During the Afghan Air Force's acquisition of Mi-24 helicopters, Hungarian (pilots and technical) personnel assisted the Afghans in their training. Tibor left the military in 1995 but continued his association with Hungarian military helicopters.



Members then took part in an open discussion about the role and function of the RAFA Mid-Somerset Branch for the future before they enjoyed a lunch and drink chosen from the Bell Inn menu and bar.

## **DECEMBER PROGRAMME**

The next event will be the Branch Christmas Lunch on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December assembling at 12:15 pm in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. There will be Buck's Fizz or Fruit Cup on arrival, followed by either a 3-course lunch costing £30 (3 choices each course) or a 2-course lunch at £25 (main and dessert with 3 choices of each), coffee and port for the *'Loyal Toast'*; wines and drinks may be purchased from the bar. All members and their guests will be welcome to join us.

Advance notice that the first 2024 Meeting will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. This will be a Branch Meeting including a Presentation by Dave Willmott 'The Tudor & the Atom Bomb'; the meeting will conclude with an option for a pub lunch and drinks from the golf club menu and bar.

The Branch covers BS25, BS26, BS27, BS28, BA4, BA5, BA16, TA10 & TA11 postal areas. This event is open to Members from any RAFA Branch, Current and Ex-RAF Personnel and Reserves, Current and Ex-Commonwealth Air Forces Personnel, Members of the RAF Family and Members of the public that support the aims and purpose of RAFA. For further information please contact the Branch via email [rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com) or telephone the Secretary on 01458 224057.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Free Printer Cartridges

Canon Pixma Printer: TS8300 series.

Available: -

All Genuine Canon CL 571 cartridges: -

1 Multi Pack of 4 cartridges C M Y BK

5 individual cartridges BK

1 individual cartridge Y

2 individual cartridges Grey



Free but a donation to church funds that would be appreciated!

Estimated the value circa £100 in total.

If you are interested, please contact [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com)

# Brownies

## 1st Strawberry Line

1<sup>st</sup> Strawberry Line Brownies (Tuesday) needs new leaders to remain open next year.

Could you be the next Brown Owl? Or another member of the team?



<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-to-volunteer/>



APPROVED  
ACTIVITY  
PROVIDER

The Duke of  
Edinburgh's  
Award

Youth without limits



Girlguiding  
Lyncombe Wood

Rainbows



Brownies



Guides



Rangers



Vacancies for Duke of Edinburgh volunteers in local villages. Get in touch for more information.

[lyncombewooddistrict@girlguidingyeovale.org.uk](mailto:lyncombewooddistrict@girlguidingyeovale.org.uk)





**Knit, crochet, macramé,  
sew or simply natter!**

**Tea and coffee  
provided.**

# Knit & Natter



**Second and fourth  
Wednesday each  
month**

**2pm - 4pm**

**at LYNCH CHAPEL**

**(Just over the bridge on The Lynch)**

**FREE**  
**No need to book -  
just turn up!**



**DECEMBER 13th**

# Come for a Cuppa!

**LYNCH CHAPEL**

**First Saturday each month**

**2.30pm - 4pm**

**Tea/coffee and cake**



# Come for a Cuppa!

## Gardening Notes for December

### Cornus (Dogwoods)



Wild dogwoods are revealed in our hedgerows when the leaves fall providing a colourful display. Those growing in hedgerows are our native species *Cornus Sanguinea* but others, with more impressive colours, are forms of its North American cousin *Cornus Sericea* and *Cornus Alba*. All *Cornus* are happiest in lime rich soil (chalk or clay), so are ideal for growing in this area.

*Cornus* are grown for their colourful stems in winter and to get the best results it is all about pruning. They need to be pruned hard in spring just as the leaf buds are showing green, as the most colourful stems are produced in the current year, although I prefer to leave about 20% of the current year's growth which produces a taller plant. By pruning these hard each year, the plants use up the nutrients in the soil, so apply a general fertiliser in the spring and mulch in the autumn every couple of years. December is an ideal time for planting *Cornus* - as with any shrub dig a hole wider than the pot and make sure any compaction at the sides and the base of the hole is broken up. Do not add any compost as this only encourages the roots to stay in the planting hole rather than grow out into the soil. Firm in well and give a good soak before applying a mulch.

*Cornus* come in red, orange, yellow, green and almost black colourings, here are some examples:

- **Cornus Bailey** - unusually vigorous with reddish brown winter twigs and among the best autumn leaf colour
- **Cornus Eleganlissima** - one of the most popular varieties with white edged leaves, bright red winter stems and white fruit
- **Cornus Flaviramea** - often slender stems of yellowish green, happy in wet soil
- **Cornus Kisselringii** - one of the darkest, the stems are almost black, red young shoots and purplish autumn colour
- **Cornus Magic Flame** - fiery orange twigs tipped with red, are revealed when the equally fiery autumn leaves fall

### Some Jobs to do this month:-

1. Cut all last season's hellebore foliage back to ground level to reveal the new flower stems and to keep the blotchy fungal disease hellebore leaf spot at bay.
2. Use secateurs to cut back autumn fruiting raspberry canes.
3. Clean your lawnmower. Remove any debris that has built up under the hood, soak packed on grass clippings and after drying spray on a film of oil.

## SANDFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



John Dunster welcomed the members and introduced speaker Rob Handy who gave us a most humorous talk and showed us photos of his garden.

Rob bought a two-and-a-half-hectare piece of land in Chew Magna for £10,000. His dream was to be self-sufficient and grow all his own food. He set about clearing some land and build himself a yurt to live in. He then started planting a forest garden, where he grows large fruit trees, nut trees, dwarf fruit trees. He then built a few ponds. Rob grows a wide variety of edible perennial vegetables, a lot of which we hadn't even heard of, but he told us they are delicious! The perennial beds are surrounded by meadow land. He keeps chickens and ducks and also geese to keep away the foxes. In his greenhouse he grows grapes, peaches, lemons, avocados and apricots he said he has a high yield from a small space.



John asked Rob to judge this month's competition and he chose a vase of beautiful autumn foliage which was created by Bridget Andrews.

The Annual General Meeting followed. President Marjorie reminded everyone that next year the Club will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and thanked the committee for all their hard work throughout the year.

Secretary, Janet reported on the years events: The Spring Show, May Plant Sale, the outing in June to Dewstow and Dyfren, The Summer Show and the Christmas Party which is always enjoyed with a lovely buffet and entertainment.

John gave his Treasurer's report and shared a copy of the annual accounts. Members were told that the Club will be hosting the Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs A.G.M in May in Shipham Village Hall.

The election of Officers are as follows: Chairman: John Dunster, Deputy Chair: Stephen Thresher, Secretary: Janet Baker. Tony Callow, Penny Bond, Pat Jones and Claire Milkins were voted en-bloc; proposed by Janet Roberts and seconded by Pat Wells. Joy Dodd was co-opted onto the committee.

On behalf of the Committee, all the members were thanked for their continued support; without which the Club would not be thriving as it is now.

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December 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Contact Enid on 01934 842534 for more information





## Wrighton Vale Rotary Club

### Winter Coats for the Needy - Wrap Up UK

There are now more than twenty areas of the country involved in this Charity. Not only does it give people much needed coats, it also introduces them to the Charities involved, who then will be able to help them in other ways. This autumn Wrighton Vale Rotary have taken part in **Wrap Up UK**, which has involved collecting good quality warm winter coats from local people who no longer need them.



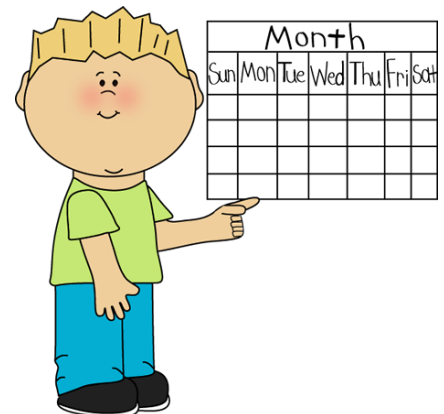
Thank you so much to those who were so generous.

We've donated nearly one hundred coats to *Somewhere to Go* and the *YMCA Outreach* in Weston. And what good coats they were! The best part of it all was seeing how much the recipients enjoyed choosing a coat to keep them warm and dry through a cold, wet winter.

The rest of the coats are being sent to Ukraine by truck from Sandford!

**Allie Lloyd from the YMCA receives the coats from President Angie Biggs (L)**

**Calendars** Once again we have produced a Calendar featuring local scenes. These proved very popular last year – possibly a nice present for a special friend? These are on sale in local shops, Alvis's Farm Shop, Thatchers Cider and Suzi's at Langford.



Further information from Angie Biggs 07790 400718

## PRESS RELEASE

### Trinity Singers invite singers to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In 2024 Trinity Singers celebrate 25 years of making music in and around the North Somerset area.

To mark the occasion we will be performing an exciting programme of French and Czech sacred music of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, including works by Franck, Dvořák, Janáček, and Saint-Saëns (Messe de Requiem) at All Saints Church, Weston Super Mare, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The choir will be supported by the excellent Lochrian Ensemble, David Bednall (organ), and Julia Hammersley (harp), and conducted by our Musical Director Andrew Tyrrell.

Have you sung with us previously, or with another choir? We're looking for people with some choral experience, and ability to sight-read, to join us for this programme with its big helpings of French Romanticism coupled with Czech folk-inflected lyricism!

Another opportunity for experienced singers is our Sunday afternoon concert at St Mary's Church, Yatton on 17<sup>th</sup> March next year. From early January we will be working on this in parallel with rehearsals for the May concert – and of course, new singers can commit to either or both.

As with many choirs, sopranos and tenors (male or female!) would be most welcome.

We rehearse at Churchill Primary School, Pudding Pie Lane, Langford, BS40 5EL from 7.30-9.30 every Tuesday.

If you would like to be part of this exciting programme, or would just like to know more about the choir and these events, please email [trinitysingers1999@gmail.com](mailto:trinitysingers1999@gmail.com) with a brief description of your previous experience and voice type.

Bob Shapland

Chairman

Trinity Singers

07769 813489

[bob.shapland@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.shapland@btinternet.com)

Website [www.trinitysingers.org.uk](http://www.trinitysingers.org.uk)





**Jumble, Rumble & Upcycle Sale – Saturday, 6 January 2024**  
**In aid of Winscombe Community Centre**

Our next very popular Jumble Sale will be held  
at Winscombe Community Centre, Sandford Road on  
**Saturday 6 January.**

There will be great bargains, refreshments and a raffle too. The Jumble Sale starts  
at 2 p.m. but if you would like to donate jumble please bring it along on the morning of  
6<sup>th</sup> January from 9.30 a.m. Profits will go towards our NEW Community Centre.

For more information please call 07811 292909



RNLI

## WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH



### RESULTS UPDATE

The Bristol Sea Shanty Festival on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September has presented RNLI Winscombe with a cheque for £1,150, this being the RNLI's one-third share of the total profit; a great result! In addition, £50 was received from the sale of a shredder; £800 was received from the Queen Victoria Inn, Priddy and £1,014 was collected at Tesco, Nailsea.

### QUEEN VICTORIA INN PRIDDY – RNLI FISH SUPPER THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

Once again, Mark and Debs Walton and their team at the Queen Victoria Inn, Priddy had the Inn decked out in RNLI colours with flags and bunting in preparation for this year's RNLI Fish Supper. Around 50 patrons attended the Supper and the fish and chips arrived promptly and were voted superb by all who attended. The team of staff worked very hard and provided a brilliant enjoyable evening. As a result of their efforts, the fantastic sum of £800 was donated to the RNLI Winscombe & District Branch! The Branch Committee sends their thanks to Mark and Debs and the team at the Queen Vic for putting on another very successful event and, of course, to their patrons who supported the Supper.

### COLLECTION AT TESCO SUPERMARKET NAILSEA – 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER

A sterling band of RNLI Winscombe Members complete with 'Rescue Buckets' stood at the doors at the 'mouth' of Tesco Supermarket, Nailsea and received a favourable response from the shoppers. The result was a fantastic sum 'rescued' of £1,014; £730 in cash and £284 by card! Just from standing wearing a RNLI tabard, holding a bucket and smiling at the shoppers!

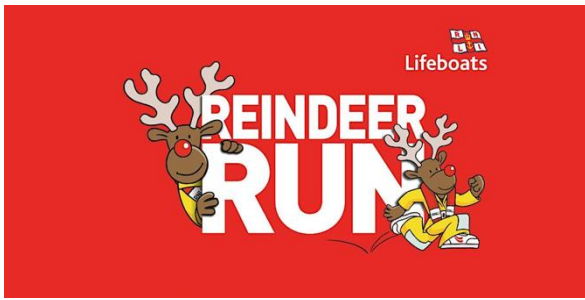
### RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT - PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE – SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER



The Branch held a pre-Christmas Pop-Up Sale inside Winscombe Community Centre. There were 12 stalls including: flags and banners, jigsaws, children's Christmas stocking fillers, spring bulbs, Christmas puds and food, Chris's tools and domestic items, RNLI cards and calendars, a raffle and refreshments. There was a steady flow of buyers resulting in a cheerful, fun atmosphere. At 11:00 am, the Centre became quiet as the ensemble stood in dignified stillness to observe the National Silence to commemorate all those who died serving their country from The Great War until the present day. The RNLI Committee turned out in force and footfall was good so the Branch thanks both the helpers and the shoppers; results will be reported in a future issue.



## RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH REINDEER RUN – SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER



This is a final reminder that our second Reindeer Run will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December starting at 2 pm at Winscombe Cricket Club, 31 The Lynch, Winscombe BS25 1AP. Runners of all standards are welcome.

The following trails are both off-road and fancy dress is welcome:

- ❖ Santa Trail: 2.5 km (open to all) – adults £12, juniors (under 18) £6, family £32 (2 adults and 2 juniors)
- ❖ Reindeer Trail: 5 km (minimum age 11) – adults £16, juniors (under 18) £8, family £42 (2 adults and 2 juniors)

Runners are encouraged to get sponsorship and bring supporters as drinks and refreshments will be available. More information may be found at [RNLI.org/WinscombeReindeer](http://RNLI.org/WinscombeReindeer) or on RNLI Winscombe facebook site [bit.ly/WinscombeRNLI](http://bit.ly/WinscombeRNLI) or by contacting Tim Moran at [Tim@moransonline.com](mailto:Tim@moransonline.com) or telephone 07801 678432.

### 2024 – RNLI BICENTENNIAL YEAR

2024 is the Bicentennial of the formation of the RNLI and the Branch will hold a Bicentennial Super Quiz at 7:00 pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Shipham Village Hall, New Road, Winscombe BS25 1SG. The Quiz will be for teams of six and will include Tina's Mega Ploughman's Supper, a bar and a raffle.

### OCTOBER SHOUTS

In October there were 15 'Shouts' between our four Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 4, Minehead – 3, Portishead – 3, W-s-M – 5).

At 17:40 on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, the Coastguard paged a request to launch both Weston lifeboats to assist the Burnham Lifeboat team (that had already launched both their lifeboats), in a search for a missing adult male near Burnham Pier. Both lifeboats joined Burnham's two lifeboats as well as two rescue helicopters. The Atlantic crew were at sea for a staggering 7 hours and on the smaller D-class, the crews were swapped at Burnham-on-Sea mid-way through the operation.

An extensive search was undertaken of the shoreline, estuaries of the Rivers Brue and Parret and surrounding riverbanks, but nothing was found. This was a great example of a multi-agency operation involving two of our lifeboat stations, four of our lifeboats, several crews, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency Shore Team and two of their helicopters.

After mooring the Atlantic B class, the Weston crew returned to station at 00:30 with the D class rehoused and readied again for service by 01:45.

**Try Alpha**



**STAY CURIOUS**

An Alpha group will meet locally, weekly at 7.30pm, starting Wednesday 17th January 2024 . Starting with coffee and cake, then watching an episode of the Alpha video together on a different question of faith, followed by a group conversation exploring the basics of the Christian faith in an open friendly environment.

It's your chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

For more information contact Rev Andrew Hiscox [Rev.andrew.hiscox@hotmail.com](mailto:Rev.andrew.hiscox@hotmail.com)

## Christmas News from the Diocese of Bath and Wells

### Let's Make it an Eco Advent

This year across Bath and Wells, church and school communities, as well as families, are being encouraged to have an Eco Advent. You can join in and combine the spirit of Advent with a commitment to the environment as you enjoy an eco-friendly journey to the manger... from the comfort of your own home.



Every day, as the countdown to Christmas continues, you can explore ways to reflect on and appreciate God's creation and share simple actions to take care of it better. Through Eco Advent, each day leading up to Christmas can be meaningful, both spiritually and environmentally.

Ruth Slade, Growing Faith and Everyday Faith Adviser says, "More and more people are aware of the environmental impact of Christmas and as Christians, of course, we are committed to caring for creation. We wanted to offer a fun resource to both celebrate our journey to Christmas and at the same time reflect on our duty to care for this beautiful world that God has gifted us.

"As well as offering daily Bible verses, prayers and reflections, everyone can join us in our Advent journey by first setting up a starry spiral path to a manger, and follow the daily tasks we are sharing on our website and social media channels. In true eco-fashion, there's no need to buy any special resources, just use what you have to hand to craft what you need to create your starry spiral and manger."

A helpful guide to joining in with Eco Advent is available to download from [bathandwells.org.uk/eco-advent](http://bathandwells.org.uk/eco-advent), where you will also find the daily Advent tasks. They will also be shared on our diocesan [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) feeds



## A Unique Story



When I speak to my Mum on my birthday, she often recalls to me the events that surrounded my arrival in the world. These include nearly being born in the hospital lift, my older brother being smuggled in to see me under my dad's overcoat and of various aunts sneaking onto the maternity ward out of visiting hours by wearing their WRVS uniforms.

Each of us has a unique story about our birth. At Christmas we'll be recounting once again the story that we share about another birth - the birth of Jesus. Across the world we'll be re-telling and re-enacting what happened in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. We'll recall the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth in the stable, the arrival of the shepherds, the song of the angels, the visit of the Magi.

Our own birth stories are unique to each of us. The birth story of Jesus is common to us all. And not just because we all know about it. For in our recollection of Jesus' birth, we will also be remembering that that, in him, God came to be at one with us. In Jesus God arrived to share fully in our humanity, experiencing complete solidarity with every aspect of our human condition. Jesus is 'God with us' – in trenches in Ukraine, bomb shelters in Israel and Gaza, in hospital wards where loved ones die, in relationships where there is conflict and distress.

Just as much as he is with us in our greatest joys and our deepest woes, Jesus is also for us. One of the earliest teachers of the Church said this: 'He became what we are so that we might become what he is.' The baby born in Bethlehem stands with us not only in all that we experience. This child also comes to offer us the possibility of opening every part of our lives to the transforming power of God's life of love and joy and peace. He comes so that every day we can become a little more like him.

This is the good news of Christmas and may it be yours this year.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Bishop Michael

## Community Transport in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill

We are fortunate to have a number of community transport schemes operating in our villages.



### 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](https://www.churchillpc.org.uk/Minibus_Society_36635.aspx)

The schedule is also advertised on various noticeboards around the villages.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sandford Helpline



If you are a resident of Sandford and require help with transport to medical appointments, please contact any of the following numbers

01934 820300

01934 852426

01934 822174

01934 822030

Please do not leave messages but keep trying until you get an answer.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Churchill Volunteer Driver Scheme

This is a self help scheme to assist those without transport to get to the optician, dentist, medical appointments or hospital visits.

Contact Kate on 01934853081 or Trevor on 01934 852589

\*\*\*\*\*

### Winscombe Contact Scheme

Transport available for medical and other health related appointments for all residents of Winscombe.



To make arrangements please contact the transport co-ordinator on 07888 812398

## Need a Venue for Your Event?

We have several venues available to hire for parties, meetings, classes, concerts and other events.

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For further information or to make a booking visit our online booking system

<https://hallbookingonline.com>

### In Churchill



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Contact Emma Stocks 07972 585406

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## Useful Telephone Numbers

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<b>Fire</b>	Non-Emergency	01179 262061
<b>Police, Fire, Ambulance</b>		Call 999
<b>Utilities - Emergency</b>	Gas - National Grid Gas Electricity - National Grid Water - Bristol Water Water - Wessex Water (24 hour)	0800 111 999 Call 105 03457 023797 02456 004600
<b>Health</b>	NHS Health Enquiries Winscombe Surgery Banwell Surgery Mendip Vale, Langford	Call 111 01934 842211 01934 820113 01934 852906
<b>Hospitals</b>	Weston General Hospital Bristol Royal Infirmary Bristol Southmead Bristol Children's Hospital	01934 636363 01179 230000 01179 505050 01179 665881
<b>Pharmacy</b>	Boots, Winscombe	01934 843168
<b>Dentists</b>	Honeycomb Dental Clinic Winscombe Dental Practice	01934 842573 01934 842230
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<b>North Somerset Council</b>	Information Out of Hours Emergency Environmental Problems Council Tax and Benefits Social Services	01934 888888 01934 622669 01934 888802 01934 888144 01275 888801
<b>Parish Councils</b>	Winscombe and Sandford Churchill and Langford	01934 844257 07399 523961
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<b>Schools</b>	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.***