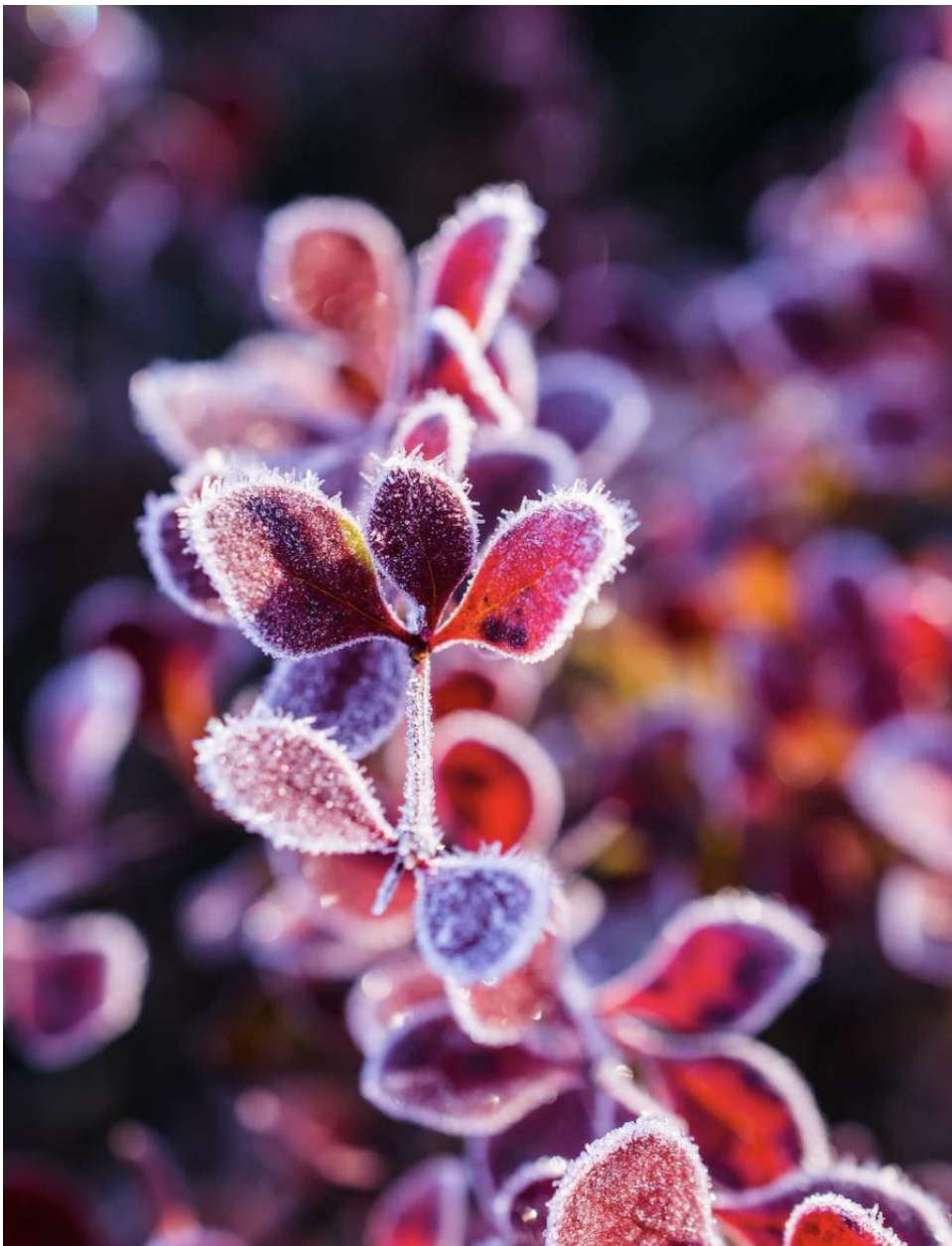


Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

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



January 2024

Free

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

Vicar St James the Great, Winscombe All Saints, Sandford St John the Baptist, Churchill	Reverend Andrew Hiscox The Vicarage, 11 Holstein Avenue, Winscombe, BS25 1EJ rev.andrew.hiscox@hotmail.com	07970 011502
Assistant Curate	Reverend Jacqui Keir-Bucknall rev.jacqui.kb@gmail.com	07990 766647
Benefice Administrator Church Office	Sue Smyth 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA admin@winsandchurches.org.uk	01934 844650
PCC Secretary	Bill Wallace	01934 844650
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Jo Claridge (St James's & All Saints) safeguarding@winsandchurches.org.uk Pauline Hurst (St John's) stjchurchill.safeguarding@outlook.com	01934 843014 01934 852784
Churchwardens St James the Great, Winscombe	Ian Hine winswarden2@outlook.com	01934843961
All Saints, Sandford	Diana Williams sandfordchurchwarden@gmail.com Douglas Ogram douglas@ogram.com	01934 852449 01934 820972
St John the Baptist, Churchill	Tricia Avery averyfarm@cpsmail.co.uk	01934 852360
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Reverend Pauline Nixon revpolly@gmail.com	07511 935860
Churchill Methodist Minister Pastor	Reverend Meg Slingo Ken Young	01934 852314 01934 852686
Lynch Chapel Pastor/Minister	The Lynch, Winscombe, BS25 1AR David Jewell davidjewells@aol.com	07443 907454
Sidcot Quakers Meeting House	Oakridge Lane, Sidcot, BS25 1LT	01934 843065
Roman Catholics	Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar	01458 83593

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

Future copies will be available by email or can be downloaded from the Benefice website:
www.winsandchurches.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

Happy New Year!



Janus – pictured on the left – was the Roman god of time and new beginnings. Usually, he's depicted as having two faces which allow him to look backwards at the old year while, at the same time, looking forward into the new year ahead.

The first month of the year, January, was named after Janus. An apt name as New Year is a time when we look forward to the year ahead with all its promise and opportunity whilst looking back and taking stock of the year gone by. The media remind us of world events both good and bad and, as individuals, we take time to reflect on life as it's affected us. Lessons we've learned to help us on our journey forward. Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher once said: "Life is learnt backwards but lived forwards!" But maybe as we look back on 2023, all we see is a world turned upside down with tragedy and disaster. Even in the world's seemingly settled places, there is less and less certainty. Do humans ever learn!

But what's in a name? Do our names say anything about us? My name 'Pauline' means 'little one' and I'm certainly the smallest person in our extended family but some names are deceptive. About a year ago we visited Alaska and the Hubbard Glacier. An awe-inspiring sight, yet it had been named 'Disenchantment Bay' by Captain Cook on his voyages of discovery because it led to a dead end. He'd hoped that he could sail up the Alaskan coastline right through into the open sea beyond.

But names are important aren't they, deceptive or otherwise? They are how we know a person and they are part of our identity.

We read in the Bible, Psalm 139: 1-18, that God made each one of us who we are, He knew all about us before we were born, and what's more, He loves and cares about us each one. Amid all the grandeur and beauty of his creation – amid all its diversity and complexity, we are special to Him and He calls each one of us by name.

That God knows us better than we know ourselves is both comforting and unnerving! Comforting when days are dark and we're anxious or afraid, but we know He cares and will give us strength. Unnerving when we know that He knows those things in our lives that need facing up to or need to change.

But wherever we are in our relationship with God, staying close to Him in prayer is a good place to be. New Year is all about fresh starts and new beginnings. Try prayer - it can make all the difference!

Pauline Hurst
St John's Churchill

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 February Magazine is Sunday 14th January. Please submit items as Word documents which should be no longer than 400 words to **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

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
- ❖ 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 post codes.

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

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

Badgerset Return

On 9th December, Badgerset returned to Winscombe for their annual Folk at Christmas concert.

A sell-out crowd at the Church Centre were treated to an evening of music, comedy and dance. As usual, there were plenty of opportunities for the audience to join in the singing of some familiar carols.

Badgerset also treated us to songs and tunes drawn from the folk music and Morris tradition including regional carols from Taunton, Bishop Sutton, Oxford, Kent, and Sheffield, some dating back to the 14th century. One song was sung in Latin, and another, Nadal da Luintra, in Galician! Fortunately there were no Galician speakers in the audience to detect any errors in pronunciation!

This was Badgerset's 10th anniversary concert in Winscombe having played here every Christmas since 2013 except for 2020.

The concert raised over £1300 which will be shared between St James's and All Saints churches.

Here's hoping Badgerset will be back for 2024!



The Sustainable Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

A very big thank you to all who came to the Christmas wreath making workshop on Wednesday December 13th and created such a variety of beautiful wreaths with so much enthusiasm and talent!

Thank you, to all those who so kindly, donated greenery from their gardens. The diversity of greenery, the fragrance and abundance of red berries this year, was glorious. Also, thank you, to those who helped with making the accessories, and made it such fun! Those who cooked, served and helped in so many ways.



£550 was raised, for St James's Church funds.

If you spotted a beautiful wreath on a door in Winscombe over the festive season it could have been one of ours!



Carols By Lantern Light

The wonderful Weston Brass Band played, and the crowds sung their hearts out at Carols By Lantern Light on Saturday 16th December at the Church Centre. This was the 2nd Annual community carol event and this year we were blessed once again with dry weather.

Santa, in typically jolly mood, arrived in a white sports car as the reindeer were resting in preparation for Christmas Eve. There was already quite a queue for Santa's Grotto where each child explained their Christmas wishes and received a small gift from Santa and his elves.



The musical programme included traditional carols and a selection of other Christmas music. Little Donkey was accompanied by a splendid band of children providing the clip clapping using coconut shells, and we created a twinkly night sky with torches to provide the atmosphere for the younger children to sing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.

Mulled wine, hot chocolate and hot dogs helped to keep everyone warm during the event.

This year there were also a number of stalls aimed at the younger ones, but equally enjoyed by older members of the 300 or so strong crowd. These included 'Santa's Fun Machine' and 'Everyone a Winner' which sold out very quickly.



Reverend Andrew delivered a short Christmas message before we finished by singing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' to each other.

The bucket collection raised just over £250 to be shared between St James's Church and the Foodbank at the For All Healthy Living Centre in Weston.

Once again everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, so if you were there spread the word. If you weren't you missed a great time so, look out for the date of next year's event!

All Saints Church Community Café

Happy New Year from the All Saints Café Team



Our next café will be on Saturday 6th January 2024
10.30 am to 12.30 am
at All Saints

Please join us for all our usual homemade goodies.

We will be holding a Quiz in February in to raise funds for All Saints Building Fund to provide a kitchen and a toilet upgrade.



**Save the
Children**

'Save The Children' Lunches
Shipham Village Hall



**Save the
Children**

Will resume on Friday 19th January 2024

And on alternate Fridays after that so please make a note in your 2024 diaries.

Join us for soup, bread and cheese with pickle.
Homemade biscuits with tea or coffee.

£5.50 per person

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

Mendip Folk Dance Club

Mondays 8th, 22nd and 29th January

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



Since resuming in May at our new location at the Woodborough Inn, Men's Breakfast has had a very good run with our 6 meetings during the year.

The lower price of £10 for a full English breakfast has been a great attraction as well as our two very interesting speakers in June and November.

We have planned another 9 meetings for the year ahead starting on **Saturday 20th January** at 9.00 am. We look forward to gathering again, sharing our stories and interests, and hoping for more men to join us.

Our next speaker will be the Rev David Jewell, the new minister at the Lynch who will be with us in February.

A choice of breakfasts will be available but *these do need to be pre-booked*.

- Cooked breakfast: 1 x sausage, 1 x bacon, 1 x fried egg, hash brown, mushrooms, grilled tomato, baked beans, black pudding, toast and butter with tea/coffee/fruit juice - £10.00
- Vegetarian Cooked Breakfast including tea/coffee/fruit juice - £9.50
- Bacon Bap including tea/coffee/fruit juice - £7.50
- 2 rounds of toast with butter, jam, marmalade including tea/coffee/fruit juice - £5.00

To book your place for this month's breakfast contact Tim Harland on 01834 843248.

The Season of EPIPHANY

Most of us associate Epiphany with the story of the wise men bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to lay at Jesus' crib in Bethlehem. As well as being 'wise men' they are also the first foreigners to recognize Jesus! Traditionally the celebration of Christmas ends on Twelfth Night (5th January) and the celebration of Epiphany the following day (6th January)



marks the start of a new season. Because of its association with Bethlehem and the Nativity some assume that The Epiphany is just a continuation of Christmas. It is not!

Epiphany literally means 'manifestation' and in this case the making manifest or the revelation of Christ to the world. All the gospel readings during the season of Epiphany have this theme at their heart.

Epiphany 1 7th January

We begin by reading of the 30-year-old Jesus being baptised in the River Jordan (Mark 4 v 1-11) and the voice from heaven "This is my Son, the Beloved..."

Epiphany 2 14th January

The following Sunday we have the account of the calling of the first disciples and their recognition of Jesus (John 1 v 43 -51) "Rabbi you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel!"

Epiphany 3 21st January

On the third Sunday we continue to hear from John (John 2 v1 – 11) how Jesus performs his first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It is a demonstration of his power and love in the service of ordinary people.

Presentation of Christ in the Temple 28th January

In some years there are four Sundays in the season and some of the readings may vary but the season always concludes with Presentation of Christ in the Temple. (Mark 2 v 22 – 40) Jewish law required that Mary, like all new mothers, must present herself in the Temple for the ceremony of ritual purification before she can be readmitted to a synagogue. The really significant part of this story is the meeting with an old man, Simeon, and his prophetic words "my eyes have seen your salvation.....a light for a revelation (or manifestation) to the gentiles....."

This service is sometimes called Candlemas – a name acquired centuries ago although no one knows exactly why.

NB this is not intended as an outline of a future sermon series but simply as an attempt to clear up any confusion and offer a clearer understanding about the meaning and purpose of the Epiphany.

Shaun Darley

The Friends of St James's Church, Winscombe

Invite you to

***BURNS
NIGHT***



On Saturday 27th January

2024

at

*The Church Centre,
Winscombe*

6.45pm

Dancing to "GET REEL"

live band and piper

with

Haggis Supper and Welcome

Drink

(Pre-order for Vegetarian Option)

Cost £25.00 per person

Bring Your Own Wine and Beverages

Tickets Available from Hampden Osteopathic Clinic

24a Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1AD

01934 843617

Lynch Chapel News

Recently, my wife and I experienced the joy of becoming grandparents to a grandson! It has been amazing to see in just the first few weeks our grandson growing and developing, and we look forward to continuing to be part of the babyhood and then childhood of little Otis.

A couple of weeks before Christmas, we met up with our son, his wife, and Otis for lunch in a restaurant near Salisbury. Something we have noticed already is the adulation given mainly by women to the sight of such a young baby. Our waitress gushed over him and talked to us about her children; his appearance is celebrated rather than tolerated! I think part of it is the complete newness, the flawless skin, the tininess of fingers, the growing interest in what is around them.

I take assemblies in local primary schools and often remark to my wife about the excitement and enthusiasm of pupils. I wonder where it all goes as they grow up. Occasionally, I meet adults who have similar excitement about things; for some it is about a hobby, others it is the wonder of having children or grandchildren.

Many people have discovered that there is magic at Christmas time. I look for it as it can appear at obvious events or just out of the blue. Carol services are often when we can experience that feeling of magic in the air, but it can also occur when we are opening presents or gathered with family around the table for a meal.

The brilliant theologian and writer, C S Lewis wrote in his Narnia books in describing the death of the lion Aslan, a picture of Christ and His sacrifice: *'It means that though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still that she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of Time. But if she could have looked a little further back, into the stillness and darkness before Time began, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and death itself would work backwards.'*

The beginning of a New Year is an important time to experience wonder however it appears and to recall the magic of what Jesus did!

God bless you,

David Jewell



To follow



ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM



FRIDAY FILM CLUB

At the Church Centre

Woodborough Road, Winscombe

Friday 5th January

Doors open at 2.00pm

Film starts at 2.15 pm

ALL WELCOME

Free Entry

The beloved story of the March sisters - four young women, each determined to live life on her own terms.

Please note new starting time.

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 6th January from 9.30 a.m. Profits will go towards our NEW Community Centre. For more information please call 07811 292909

Knit & Natter!

Knit, crochet, macramé or simply natter!
Tea and coffee provided.

Second and fourth Wednesday each month
10th and 24th January
2pm - 4pm
at LYNCH CHAPEL



ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM



LEAP INTO 2024 QUIZ

**Saturday 10th February
7.00pm**

**at The Church Centre
Winscombe**

**Come as a team (up to 6)
or join others on the night**

**Tickets £5 each from
the Church Office (01934 844650)
Post Office & Wine Shop**

Bring your own food and drink



**2024
LEAP YEAR**



History Corner: St Antony's Pig

The 15th century stained glass in the left-hand side of the east window of Lady Chapel in St. James's Church shows a pig with a collar and bell standing at the feet of a bearded figure – presumably St Antony, the patron saint of swineherds and lesser animals.

Traditionally the runt of the litter was often kept as a pet and sometimes called the Tantony pig. Tantony is also the name given to a small church service bell and its name is probably derived from this association with St Antony. It was said that the pig would remind Antony of the appropriate times to make his devotions. Antony of Padua was born on 15 August 1195 at Padua. He became a Franciscan monk and preached in S France and N Italy. He died at Padua in 1231. He was canonised by Gregory IX in 1232, a few years before the dedication of our church.

According to legend he preached to fishes when there was nobody to listen to him and consequently became the patron of the lower animals: his image very often shows him accompanied by a pig with a bell on its collar as in this window. Why his image should appear in with Winscombe may never be known.

In the 18th century it was recorded that a cattle and pig market was held annually in Winscombe on the Monday before Whitsun so the market may have been considerably older. Some older properties in the village still had pig pens in their yards until recent times. Could this window be a reference to pig keeping in the area? The window dates from the mid-15th century.

It is said that the glass was assembled from other windows in the church by the Rev. Charles James Copley (Vicar of Winscombe in 1828 to 1859: his memorial tablet can be seen in the N aisle). This would have been in about 1850, as this was clearly not their original intended location. This was at period in history when many churches were being restored after years of neglect.

It is interesting to note that one window has been repeated: The figure of John the Baptist who is shown both in the north window of the Lady Chapel and in the window at the east end of the south aisle. The design is undoubtedly identical although the colouring differs. The reasons for this can only be conjectural but may indicate that more windows were required than were available in the pattern book almost 500 years ago.



John Matthews

St. Antony with his pet pig

References: Collinson, J., 1791. The history and antiquities of Somersetshire
Knight, Francis A., 1915. The heart of Mendip.

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)

January 11th at Lynch Chapel, The Lynch, Winscombe

January 18th & 25th, February 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th
at The Church Centre, Winscombe

Contact Enid on 01934 842534 for more information





Churchill Baby & Toddler Group

8, 15, 22 & 29

January 2024

09.30-11.30

@ Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

Try us for FREE!



Friendly group

Bright hall & plenty of toys

Yummy snacks

Craft & song time

Cuppa & chat



**INFO: Jacqueline
01934 844134**



Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk





January Quiz

Looking forward to 2024, this month's quiz is all about events that will be taking place in 2024

1. On 1st January 2024, which country will adopt the Euro as its official currency?
2. The 'One' will become which country's first skyscraper over 300 metres in height?
3. Nusantara will become the new capital of which country on 17 August?
4. The Eurovision Song Contest 2024 will be held in which city?
5. From 2nd to 18th August, Paris will host the olympics. In which year did Paris last host the Summer Olympic Games?
6. June 6th 2024 will mark the 80th Anniversary of which WW2 operation?
7. The Thirty Metre Telescope is a huge new observatory built on which island?
8. Which former U.S. President will be 100 on October 1, 2024?
9. Which country will be hosting the UEFA Euro 2024 competition starting on June 14th 2024?
10. 2024 is a Leap Year. On what day of the week will 29th February fall?

Answers on page

Come for a Cuppa!

LYNCH CHAPEL

Saturday 6th January

2.30pm - 4pm

Tea/coffee and cake

First Saturday every month!

Come for a Cuppa!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!
CREATE! Sunday

Christingles & Crafts

Sunday 21 January 4-6 pm

@Churchill Methodist, BS25 5NG



♥ **Fun for families**

♥ **FREE Crafts Workshop**

♥ **Bible Storytime**

♥ **Buffet Tea**



**INFO: Jacqueline
01934 844134**

Churchill **Methodist** Church 



churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

CREATE! Sunday

Exploring faith & nature together....



Family friendly fun for all ages



Enjoy nature activities, food & craft



Bible story & song



FREE tea & refreshments



Sundays 4-6 pm

21 January - Christingles & Craft
@Churchill Methodist

18 February - Rainbows & Promises
@Churchill Methodist

17 March - New Life
@Venue TBC

CONTACT US

INFO: *Jacqueline*
01934 844134

Churchill **Methodist** Church

CHURCHILLMETHODISTCHURCH.ORG.UK



Recycling Your Christmas Tree

Twelfth Night, 5th January is the traditional time to take down your Christmas decorations so if you have had a real tree during the festive period what can you do with it?

People in North Somerset are once again being encouraged to donate their real Christmas trees after the festive season to benefit one of three local organisations.

Most of the trees are chipped for land regeneration and some are donated for animal enrichment within their habitat.

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm is accepting trees between Wednesday 3rd and Sunday 21st January. Trees should be left in the main car park during zoo opening times only (10.30 am to 4.00 pm).



Weston Hospicecare's Pines for Pounds will collect trees in return for a donation on Saturday 6th January in our postcode areas. Tree collections must be prebooked online through their website at www.westonhospicecare.org.uk/event/pinesforpounds.

Real Christmas trees can also be taken to recycling centres where they will be treated as garden waste. Check the council's website for advice and opening times www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recyclingcentres.


Residents signed up to the garden waste collection service can also put their trees out for collection when the service resumes from Monday 15th January 2024. Trees can either be chopped up and put in green waste bins or left whole alongside the bin. They can be up to two metres in length and must have the pot and all decorations removed.



JANUARY 2024 – DIARY

TUES 2	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 3	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s
THUR 4	10.00am	Communion in the Community – Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s
FRI 5	3.30pm	Film Club – Church Centre
SAT 6	10.30am	Community Café – All Saints Church, Sandford
	2.00pm	Come for a Cuppa – Lynch Chapel
SUN 7		EPIPHANY 1 – BAPTISM OF JESUS
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 9	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 10	2.00pm	Knit and Natter – Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s
THUR 11	9.30am	Scramblers – Lynch Chapel
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s
SUN 14		EPIPHANY 2
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 16	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 17	2.45pm	Communion in the Community – Sewell House
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s Church
THUR 18	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s
SAT 20	9.30am	Refreshment Men’s Breakfast – Woodborough Inn
SUN 21		EPIPHANY 3
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 23	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 24	2.00pm	Knit and Natter – Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s Church
THURS 25	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.30am	Communion in the Community – Winscombe Hall
SUN 28		EPIPHANY 4 – PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 30	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 31	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s Church

BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY

<p>Sunday 7th January Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17,21-22</p>	<p>Sunday 14th January 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 Revelation 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51</p>	
<p>Sunday 21st January Genesis 14: 17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19: 6-10 John 2: 1-11</p>	<p>Sunday 28th January Malachi 3: 1-5 Psalm 24: [1-6] 7-end Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40</p>	

Church Service Times Opportunities to Worship in January

Sunday 7th January	8.00 am	St James's	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Café Church
Sunday 14th January	9.30 am	St James's	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Morning Worship
Sunday 21st January	10.00 am	Church Centre	Family Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Morning Worship
Saturday 28th January	9.30 am	St James's	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Morning Worship

Midweek Services

Every Tuesday All Saints 10.00 am Holy Communion

Special Services in January

Thursday 4 th January	Dunster Court	10.00 am	Communion in the Community
Sunday 7 th January	Sandford Station	11.00 am	Communion in the Community
Wednesday 17 th January	Sewell House	2.45 pm	Communion in the Community
Thursday 25 th January	Winscombe Hall	10.30 am	Communion in the Community

We Remember

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

Tony Westlake whose funeral service took place at Weston Crematorium on Thursday 7th December.

Betty Willcox whose funeral service took place at St James's Church followed by her cremation on Monday 11th December.

Chris Rampton whose funeral service took place at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Monday 11th December.

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 January Birthday

Michael Bond

Over the Christmas period many of you may have watched the delightful Paddington Bear movies, and you may have read about the bear's adventures as a child or to children and grandchildren. The good news for fans is that Paddington 3 is on its way!

Paddington was created by Thomas Michael Bond, a British author. His first book was published in 1958 and his last in 2017, a span of 59 years. He was born on 13 January 1926 in Newbury, Berkshire and his visits, as a boy, to station to watch the Cornish Riviera Express pass through started a love of trains.

By the time he left school, aged 14, the war was under way and Bond went to work in a solicitor's office for a year, and then as an engineer's assistant for the BBC. In February 1943 he survived an air raid in Reading. Shortly afterwards he volunteered for aircrew service in the Royal Air Force as a 17-year-old, but he was discharged after being found to suffer from acute air sickness. He then served in the Army until 1947.

Bond began writing in 1945, when he was stationed in Cairo. He was paid seven guineas for the first story he sold and thought that he "wouldn't mind being a writer". He became a BBC television cameraman which included working on Blue Peter. His first book, 'A Bear Called Paddington', was published in 1958. This was the start of a series of books recounting the tales of Paddington Bear, a bear from "darkest Peru," whose Aunt Lucy sends him to England, carrying a jar of marmalade. By 1965 Bond was able to give up his BBC job to work full time as a writer.

Paddington's adventures have sold over 35 million books, have been published in nearly twenty countries, in over forty languages, and have inspired pop bands, race horses, plays, hot air balloons, movies and adaptations for television. In the first Paddington film, Bond had a credited cameo as the Kindly Gentleman.

Bond also wrote another series of children's books, about a guinea pig named Olga da Polga, named after the Bond family's pet, as well as the animated BBC television series The Herbs. He wrote mystery stories for adults and his 'Reflection on the Passing of the Years' was read by Sir David Attenborough, at the national service of thanksgiving to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday at St Paul's cathedral in 2016.

On 10 January 2018 GWR named one of their Class 800 trains, "Michael Bond / Paddington Bear" and in 2000 a statue of the bear was erected at Paddington Station.

Bond was married twice and had two children. He lived in London, not far from Paddington Station, the place that inspired many of his books.

Bond died in London on 27 June 2017, at the age of 91. The film Paddington 2 was dedicated to his memory. He is buried in Paddington Old Cemetery close to where he lived. The epitaph on his gravestone reads "Please look after this bear. Thank you."



Supporting and Protecting Our Natural World.

The Night Time Garden.

Gardens are equally busy during the night as in the day - perhaps even more so, as a variety of nocturnal creatures emerge from their daytime hideaways.

Perhaps they have a better time than the daytime inhabitants because there are few interfering humans!

Late autumn and winter are ideal times for watching and listening because it is dark early. Watchers must be still and patient for some time so warm clothes are essential and something waterproof to sit on.

Which creatures inhabit the night? There is a huge range; birds, mammals including bats plus hedgehogs, foxes, badgers, deer and various small mammals like mice, rats and voles. Then there will be amphibians, reptiles and myriads of insects such as beetles.

The nighttime garden can be noisy with wildlife. It is easier to hear since there is little competition from lawnmowers, chainsaws or strimmers. Life for the night shift can proceed untroubled except for battles between predator and prey.

The evocative hoot of tawny owls is often heard in late autumn right through to January or February. Most are familiar with the 'twit-twoo' call but may not realise that two owls are talking to each other, the 'twit' being a female and the 'twoo' the male. Most calling is to establish territories ready for the spring breeding season or to find a mate.

Occasionally there may be harrowing calls from female foxes searching for a mate. Or when sitting quietly a fox, badger or hedgehog may come on the scene searching for food that may have been put out deliberately. Hedgehogs are noisy as they snuffle through dead leaves. At any hint of danger, they roll up into a tight, prickly ball. Unfortunately, badgers can unroll them and find a tasty meal inside.



Moths flit through the night sky. Some never eat but mate, lay eggs and then die. They have fantastic names such as the Pale Tussock, Vapourer, Old Lady, Angle Shade and many more. Moths are excellent pollinators together with beetles, flies and even mosquitoes. Some flowers deliberately produce extra fragrance and nectar at night. They are usually pale coloured to show up in the dark. Favourites are evening primrose, tobacco plant, sweet rocket, honeysuckle, night scented phlox and echinops, If planting more, it is best to plant in blocks for ease of access for pollinators.

Caterpillars eat mostly at night having hidden under leaves during the day, The same applies to snails and slugs. By shining a torch for a while, it you may spot caterpillars as the one here, the mullein caterpillar, that is tucking into a Mullein plant, its main food.



It will not be surprising to find that moths are declining for the usual reasons of climate change, habitat loss and the use of toxic chemicals. There is another - light pollution that disorientates flying creatures because their circadian rhythms are interrupted. Flying, mating and finding food is harder. Birds have disturbed sleep.

It is joyful to light up the garden especially at this time of year but be careful to have the lights pointing downwards and remember to turn the lights off when not in use.

Book recommendation.

My Garden and Other Animals by Mike Dilger a local naturalist living at Chew Stoke



WINSCOMBE W.I.

You are welcome to join us for our next meeting:

Wednesday 10th January 2024

at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

at the Church Centre, Winscombe

Our speaker will be Claire Spicer: *Cruising Holidays*

Refreshments will be available

(find us on Facebook)

**COFFEE
MORNING**



Every Tuesday at 10.30 am

Restarts on Tuesday 9th January

Church Centre, Winscombe

All Welcome

Churchill & Langford Village Fund

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 24th Feb



Churchill Memorial Hall

7pm for 7:30pm

Save The Date

Teams of up to Eight

Tickets will be available from:

www.thevillagefund.org.uk

Community Celebrate Opening of New Traffic-free Path

Over 200 local residents, Strawberry Line users and families with children (and dogs!) dressed as superheroes, walked, biked and wheeled their way to the Strawberry Line in Sandford to celebrate the opening of the new traffic-free section of this popular heritage trail. Along the way, people were welcomed by their favourite superhero characters and enjoyed free refreshments, facepainting, giveaways and a raffle to raise funds for Sandford Primary School.



Built by National Grid as part of the construction of its new Sandford substation, and in partnership with North Somerset Council, the Sandford Link takes users from Station Road, Sandford, past the substation boundary to cross Drove Way and continue on towards Yatton. Users no longer need to travel along the busy and narrow Nye Road. North Somerset Council has worked with the National Grid to ensure the Hinkley Connection Project makes a lasting difference to local people.

Steven Haskayne, Project Director for National Grid, said: *“We’ve been working alongside the community here in Sandford for a number of years on the Hinkley Connection Project and we were delighted to welcome so many local people here to celebrate the opening of the new Sandford Link, which routes the Strawberry Line away from busy Nye Road. I’m proud of our role in making this part of the Strawberry Line safer for everyone and encouraging greener travel options. The Link is a direct result of public consultation and has been made possible thanks to the partnership between National Grid and North Somerset Council, which has worked with us from the very early stages to ensure the Hinkley Connection project could be used to make a lasting difference to local people long after our works are completed.”*

Councillor Mike Solomon, North Somerset Council’s Executive Member for Culture and Leisure, said: *“It’s fantastic to see the new Strawberry Line Sandford Link opening. This will have a positive impact on the experience of thousands of people who visit the Strawberry Line every year. I urge people to visit and use this fantastic asset, whether to enjoy a cycle, walk, run or wheel and just generally enjoy being out in our beautiful countryside. I’d like to take this opportunity to give some thanks – to the National Grid for funding and delivering this quality scheme; to council officers who have worked tirelessly to make this happen and lastly, but by no means least, to the many volunteers who help to maintain the Strawberry Line.”*

Mick Fletcher, Chair of the Strawberry Line Society, whose volunteers help maintain the heritage path and work with landowners to open new sections, added: “On behalf of the society I’d like to say we’re delighted that this section of path has been opened. It’s a real asset to the local community and will mean we don’t have to go along a road with all the associated traffic. It’s also really nice to have a car park built as part of the new section, so folk don’t have to park on the road to use the path. It’s great.”

Sandford substation itself is at the heart of the Hinkley Connection Project and was energised earlier this year along with the first stretch of T-pylons. In August the construction of all T-pylons was completed when the final diamond-shaped insulator was installed.

Since construction began on the Hinkley Connection Project in 2018, £1.4 million has been granted to 85 different local community initiatives through National Grid’s Community Grant Programme – a scheme to support communities in areas where major projects are being developed. The project has also planted more than 2,500 trees, over 75,000 square metres of woodland and more than 20,000 metres of hedgerow along its route, to enhance the environmental landscape and achieve a net gain in biodiversity.



pudding Night



3 February 7.30 pm

@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

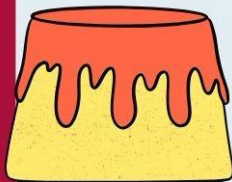
Doors Open 6.45pm

£16

Menu



Welcome Mocktail



1 Small Main

3 Puddings from Selection
Tea or Coffee



*Bookings (Veggie available) & Transport
Jacqueline 01934 844134*

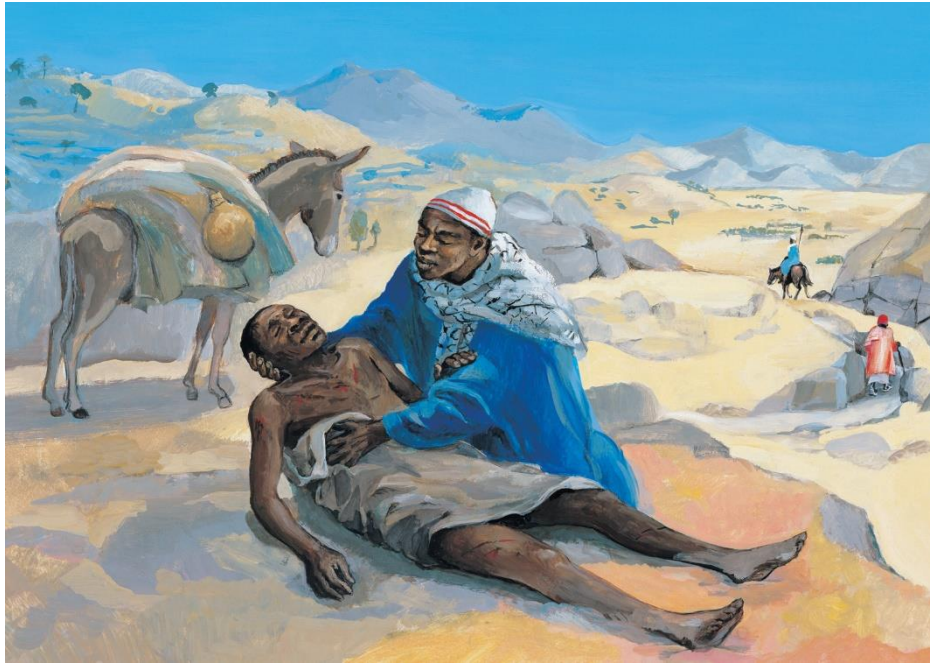


Churchill **Methodist** Church



churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

Go and Do Likewise.



(Reproduced with permission from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2024 comes from the familiar story of the Good Samaritan, as told in the chapter 10 of the Gospel according to Luke.

Churches Together in Winscombe and Sandford would like to encourage as many people as possible to study this story during the Week of Prayer (18 to 25 January).

All of the churches will receive study cards which provide the outline of the theme for each day. There will be enough for everyone to take one home and think about the bible passage for each day.

The study cards are edited from the study booklet for the Week. A copy of the booklet can be downloaded from www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



Winscombe and Sandford Churches Together

At a recent meeting of the Churches Together Committee, it was agreed that we cannot offer a Lent Course this year owing to a lack of time and volunteers to organise.

In the new year we will continue to reflect on the best ways of working and serving together in the future, in continuation of the long and treasured practice of close ecumenical life in our villages. Meanwhile opportunities to come together during Lent are being explored including Lent Lunches and Ecumenical services of reflection.

We hope to have more news in February's magazine.

Gardening Notes for January

Pruning

Pruning can be really helpful for many garden plants, with the start of the rose pruning season and the time to reshape some shrubs for the coming year. If you have a large shrub with sprawling growth, it can be brought back under control by pruning it drastically now. Pruning it this severely will give it a shock and although it can take a while to recover, after this rejuvenation pruning, you should then be able to keep it under control. Fruit trees (but not plums or cherries) can also be pruned now while they are dormant. Herbaceous perennials which have finally succumbed to the cold weather and no longer provide food and shelter for wildlife, can be cut back allowing spring bulbs to manifest themselves.



Shrubs which flower on the current year's wood such as honeysuckle, campsis, brugmansia, sambucus, wisteria and deciduous cotoneaster can all be pruned at this time of year. Any shrub which flowers on the previous year's wood such as chaenomeles, cherries, early flowering clematis (*armandii*, *alpina* and *montana*), philadelphus and deutzia, should be pruned after flowering. Lavender, hydrangeas and caryopteris should be left until April or May before pruning as they may be damaged by hard frosts. Prune most evergreen shrubs just before growth starts in the spring, unless they are still flowering or about to flower, in which case they should be pruned after flowering.

Always use sharp secateurs, loppers or a pruning saw for larger branches and in general cut back to an outward facing bud. If you need to remove a larger bough, make a short vertical cut under the branch first to prevent it snagging when you saw it down from above.

Chillies and Sweet Peppers

Chillies and Sweet Peppers require a long growing season, so they can develop into strong plants by early summer. Start sowing seeds at the end of the month, sprinkle the seed thinly on a seed tray of moist free draining compost and cover lightly with compost or vermiculite. Place the tray in a heated propagator or on a sunny windowsill over a radiator as they require a temperature of 25 degrees centigrade to germinate. When they have developed two true leaves (which may take up to 8 weeks), prick them out into 7cm pots, keep them warm and in as much light as possible.



Seed Potatoes

Start chitting seed potatoes by placing them somewhere protected from frost in good light. Place them in a tray or eggbox with the shrivelled stalk at the base. By chitting, potatoes they will get off to a good start when planting in March.

SANDFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party was a great success! We had a superb buffet which was prepared by Marjorie, John and Claire.

The committee worked hard laying up the tables and they certainly looked really festive! We were entertained by the Fab Twins and their friend on percussion. They were brilliant and everyone enjoyed dancing the night away!

There was a super draw. Many thanks to John for getting all the prizes and to the committee who donated some as well.

We would like to wish all our members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Dates for Your Diary

There is no meeting in January.

Wednesday 7th February 2024

A talk by Terry Porter entitled "Growing and Constructing a Show Garden".

7.30 pm in Sandford Village Hall.

There will be refreshments and a draw.



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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

New term starts on Tuesday 9th January 2024

Try Alpha



STAY CURIOUS
Alpha

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



DECEMBER EVENT

On Saturday 16th December the Branch held its Christmas Lunch in Wells Golf Club. On arrival, 28 members enjoyed a glass of Buck's Fizz or fruit cup before tucking into their lunch followed by coffee and port with a Loyal Toast to the King. The lunch ended with some jolly renditions of Christmas songs and Carols.

EARLY 2024 PROGRAMME

The next Branch Meetings will take place as follows:

Monday 8th January at 11 am

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

The guest speaker is **Dave Willmott**

Presentation entitled: *'The Tudor & the Atom Bomb'*

The meeting will conclude with an optional pub lunch and drinks from the golf club's menu and bar

Monday 5th February at 11 am

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

The guest speaker is the **Reverend Ken Brown**

Presentation entitled: *'Sky Pilot'*

The meeting will conclude with an optional pub lunch from the golf club's 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 either contact the Branch via email at rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or telephone the Secretary on 01458 224057.

.....



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 197685 or winscombefolkclub@gmail.com. Also on Facebook.



RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH



RESULTS UPDATE

The collection at Tesco Supermarket in Nailsea on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October 'rescued' the fantastic sum of £1,014; £730 in cash and £284 by card! Just from standing wearing a RNLI tabard while holding a bucket and smiling at the shoppers! Winscombe Folk Club held a special Folk Night on 14th November and donated £100 to our RNLI Branch. The Pop-Up Sale made £928 while £250 was received from two personal donations in November together with £365 from e-bay sales, Chris's Table and Betty's Pots; this brings the total raised by the end of November to £15,000.

RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH REINDEER RUN - SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

On Sunday 3rd December a total of 75 runners took part in the second RNLI Reindeer Run starting from Winscombe Cricket Club under the watchful eyes of 'The Green Goddess', Diana Moran, 'Stormy Stan' and 'Stormy Reindeer'. Runners, many in fancy dress joined either the 2.5 km Santa Saunter course or the longer 5 km Reindeer Run course; all successful finishers were presented with a commemorative medal by the Green Goddess. Financial results will be reported in next month's edition.



COLLECTION AT TESCO NAILSEA – 15th and 16th DECEMBER

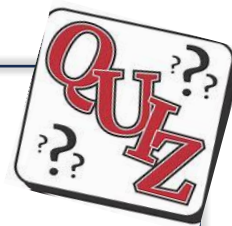
A sterling band of 15 collectors in their jolly RNLI tabards organised by Mary were seen at the 'mouth of Nailsea Tesco' with 'rescue buckets' deployed ready to smile at the shoppers and rescue their cash. Footfall was high and the shoppers responded favourably; financial results will be reported in next month's magazine.

CHRISTMAS EVE – COLLECTION AT TESCO SHEPTON MALLET

At 8:22 am on Sunday 24th December, the call came in that 'severe conditions' were forecast from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the 'estuary at Shepton Mallet Tesco' and RNLI assistance was required. By 8:44 am, RNLI Winscombe Branch 'Fiesta' was launched with Mary at the helm. By 10 am as the doors opened, Mary and Bill were anchored off the estuary and deployed ready to 'save' cash from the distressed last-minute Christmas shoppers. During the day, they were relieved on station by 6 more collectors and joined by 'Stormy Stan' and 'Stormy Sonny' who dropped carrots into the shoppers' baskets ready for Santa's Reindeer outing on their annual Christmas deliveries. The last two collectors returned home as the sun set and the Tesco doors closed. Financial results will be reported in next month's magazine.

RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH BICENTENNIAL

2024 is the Bicentennial of the formation of the RNLI and the Branch will be holding a number of special commemorative events starting with:



Bicentennial Super Quiz

Saturday 27th January 2024 starting at 7 pm

Shipham Village Hall, New Road, Winscombe BS25 1SG

Teams of 6 - (£12 per head / £72 per team) includes Tina's Mega Ploughman's Supper Bar and raffle available

For more details contact Tina Joyce at email meejlfh@gmail.com or call 01934 842304

NOVEMBER SHOUTS

In November there were 8 shouts between three of our four Lifeboat Stations (Minehead – 1, Portishead – 5, W-s-M – 2).

At 4:04 pm on Friday 24th November Portishead RNLI Lifeboat volunteer crew received their 38th shout or the year from the Coastguard saying that two people on board a 34-foot motor cruiser were believed to have suffered engine failure in the River Avon, near to Sea Mills. As the lifeboat crew arrived on scene, they checked to make sure the two people on board the stricken vessel were fit and well. They then set up a tow and towed the cruiser to the safety of the old Wessex Water Pumping station in Shirehampton.

January Quiz Answers

1. Bulgaria
2. Canada
3. Indonesia
4. Malmo in Sweden
5. 1924
6. D Day Landings
7. Hawaii
8. Jimmy Carter
9. Germany
10. Thursday



BECOME A

VOLUNTEER DRIVER



Churchill & Langford Minibus Society runs trips for many local organisations and people in the villages, including weekly shopping or days out.

DRIVERS

We are looking for volunteers to drive our two minibuses, even if only a monthly short local journey for shopping.

We will give you the requisite driver training which takes half a day.

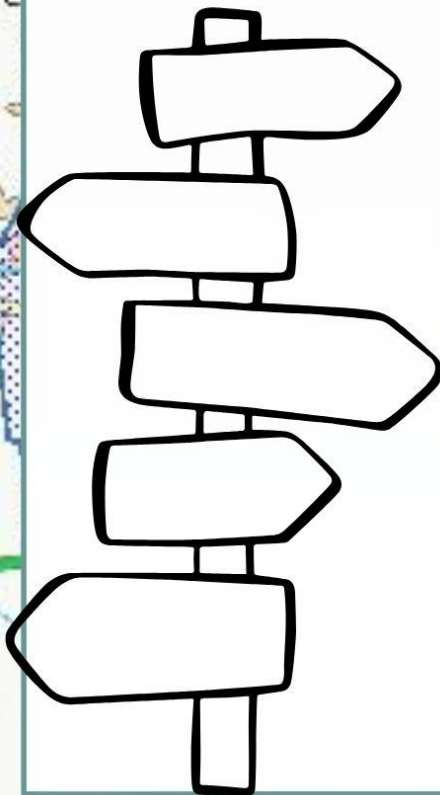
ORGANISERS

Also, we're seeking trip organisers. As the point of contact for people who wish to book a particular trip, you'd probably look after one trip per month.

We would love to hear from you if you can help in either role.

If you'd like to know more, call

TREVOR: 01934 852589



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

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

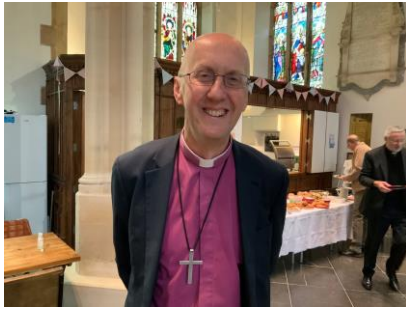
Winscombe Contact Scheme

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

Hope in Deed



I'd love to be writing a sunny New Year's article reflecting a boundless global optimism about the future. Yet the reality is very different. War in Ukraine drags on and tensions in the Middle East remain dangerous. The cost-of-living crisis continues, and many are finding things tough. Pessimism rather than optimism is the order of our day.

In such circumstances, where can hope be found? For Christians, confidence and assurance rest in the promise of the future that God has in store for us. In the Bible God says: 'See, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end' (Revelation 21: 5-6). Christian hope is that whatever may be happening to us now, God has a very different and favourable future in store for us.

Critically, the point of such hope is not just to enable us to say 'Well don't worry about present circumstances. It's all going to be all right eventually.' Hope's purpose is to shape how we live and what we do now. It's to enable us to live out the words of the old Christian Aid poster that said, 'We believe in life before death'.

Towards the end of last year, I had the privilege of visiting a number of the deaneries of our diocese. On those visits I heard at first-hand how through the work of our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, Christian hope translates into practical action for good amongst the everyday lives of local communities. We are offering debt counselling and food banks, support for families and care of the lonely and isolated. All these and many more were amazing examples of how we can join with God to 'make all things new' right here, right now.

So, as we start a new year, please can I encourage us all not to stare into our glasses, lamenting their being half full? Rather, through how we live and what we do, let us fill them with the new wine of God's kingdom – overflowing to the brim. For that is hope in deed.

Bishop Michael



Making a Difference

Reverend David Keen, Vicar at St Peter's, Yeovil shares how the support they offer from their community centre is making a difference.

Tell us about the centre.

We have a new purpose-built building, connected to the church, which replaced an old church hall. We partnered with a local community association and others to build it in 2019, with the vision of making a difference to our community, Westfield in Yeovil, which has high levels of deprivation.

What does the centre offer?



When we reopened after Covid and the cost-of-living crisis hit, the idea of Warm Hubs was being floated and it seemed an obvious use for the centre. We now open four days a week, employ a cook and provide free drinks and lunches. We already had several groups and support services in the centre, including a mental health café, a job club, art for dementia, so it wasn't a massive stretch to build on that. We also set up

a Community Pantry - members pay £3.50 a week to get roughly £35 worth of food. Because members can join for up to six months we can build relationships - get to know the needs and signpost support.

How is the church involved?

The centre is run by a sub-committee of the PCC that includes people from the community association, Abri Housing, and from the church. We talk a lot at St Peters about being hospitable and available, whether that's on the welcome desk, or helping at our weekly Community Coffee. As we get to know folk, we're building lots of links between church and community.

Are you realising your vision?

We are seeing signs of it coming to fruition. We are getting 70-90 people coming in for meals or drinks weekly, and people come for company as much as the food. Even in the summer people valued it as a community centre, so we've kept it running all year and seen no drop off in numbers.

Any advice for others wishing to do this where they are?

Don't do it on your own. Find other groups in your community who have the same care and the same idea and say, 'How can we do this together?'

Are you interested in helping to create a Community Hub here in Winscombe?

This is something we are considering as part of our redevelopment of the Church Centre.

Contact Alison Haynes alisonparmj@aol.com



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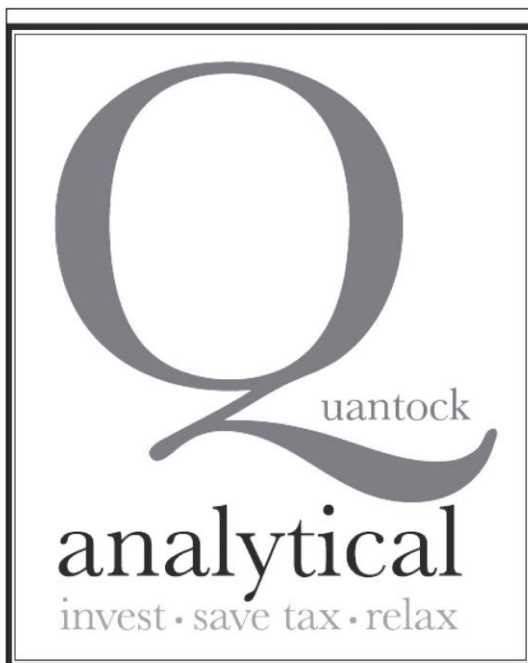
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