

Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Parish Magazine



March 2024

Free

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

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

Future copies will be available by email or can be downloaded from the 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

reacHing
wElcoming
cARing
seRving
Teaching



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

A Gift of Flowers



Spring has come early this year! Gardens are full of flowers all blooming at the same time, snowdrops, daffodils, crocuses, camellias, and so on. Writing at the beginning of February, I am wondering what will be left when you read this or indeed for Easter!

One particular plant in my garden which is looking absolutely wonderful at the moment is a Camellia called 'Donation' and there is an interesting story behind the name.

When Camellias were first discovered by plant hunters and brought back to Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries these plants were considered too tender to live outside. They were confined to greenhouses except in Cornwall and milder parts of Devon.



There were two main varieties, 'Japonica' and 'Saluensis'. The Japonicas had an abundance of large flowers and lush green foliage but did not flower well, if at all, in Northern districts. The Saluensis were much hardier but produced comparatively small flowers and small unremarkable leaves.

A wealthy plant breeder, J. C. Williams, who lived on his estate, Caerhays in Cornwall had sponsored many plant hunters. He decided to try and produce a hybrid from the two varieties and create a plant which combined the best features of both. After several attempts he finally succeeded in the 1930s, propagating a Camellia which produced an abundance of large flowers, attractive foliage and, importantly, was really hardy.



He named the new plant 'Donation', a real gift to the horticultural world. Now at last anyone in Britain can enjoy the pleasure of these beautiful plants. He and his successors went on to produce many more varieties of his hybrid known as *Camellia Williamsii*. J.C. Williams died in 1939. Donation, the gift, is a fitting memorial to one who has given so much pleasure to so many

people in this country and around the world.

Canon Shaun Darley

Are you sparing or abundant?

We are called to give generously of what we have - not of what we *might* have - in response to what we have received from God.

And so, we are called to give regularly, and to give generously. Proportionate giving enables us to assess our generosity - it is a 'yardstick' or measure, rather than law. The Church of England suggests that we should give 5% of our **disposable** income, and as we know Scripture calls us to tithe - to give some of what we have. Either way, if our yardstick shows that our giving is just one or two per cent of our disposable income, it is difficult to believe we are being truly generous. St Paul understood this, and he encouraged the Corinthian Christians, in his second letter, to understand it too: -

*The point is this: **the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.** Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always **having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.***

Our giving brings blessing and life to others, you only have to have watched a few minutes of Comic Relief to totally understand that the transformative power of our giving is in the lives of those receiving. We are challenged to give in response to God's generosity to us rather than in expectation of what we might receive in return.

These things seem tough to write and still tougher to hear, but if we get the balance of what we give wrong, then we are not listening to what Jesus says again and again and again about the money we have. It's not even just about giving to support overseas work - it is about seeing the hand of God at work wherever - internationally, nationally or even locally - right here - and generously joining in for the flourishing and life of people and God's church.

As Mother Theresa said: "Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace."

Denys Cutmore

Signpost - The Parish Magazine

This magazine is created by volunteers from the Anglican Churches in the Benefices of Winscombe and 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 April Magazine is Sunday 10th March. Please submit items as Word documents to parishmag2@gmail.com which should be no longer than 400 words. If you are including photographs, please ensure that you have the permission of anyone appearing in the photograph for them to be published in this magazine. Please supply high resolution photographs as jpegs.

The Editorial Team reserve the right to amend or reformat submitted articles.

We are producing limited black and white printed copies of 'Signpost' and encourage as many people as possible to receive their full colour 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 postcodes, or visit the website 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

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

'I BEG YOU, BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE'

**You are invited to join us
at All Saints Church, Sandford
Friday 1st March at 10.30 am**

This year's World Day of Prayer Service has been prepared by the women of Palestine and is being hosted by All Saints Church, Sandford.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. During the service the women of Taiwan will share the issues they face geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future.



This painting 'Praying Palestinian Women' created by artist, Halima Aziz, shows three women praying together in a peaceful, outdoor space.

Halima has used motifs and symbols which indicate the origin and cohesiveness of these women.

Olive trees are a sign of everlasting and abundant life because they can live for thousands of years. The Palestinian people are deeply rooted in their country and this is underlined by the golden roots of the tree. Poppy flowers are abundant and meaningful as they are a reminder of loved ones who have given their lives for their country. Traditional Palestinian dress such as the tatreez (embroidery), thobe (dress) or the white scarf symbolise the people's creativity and their country's rich heritage.

Let us join with the women of Palestine as they reflect on continuing challenging times, encouraging them to keep searching for a deeper understanding among all people who share the land, trusting and hoping in the humanity of one another.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

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



Churches Together

LENT 2024

Lent Reflections

In lieu of a Lent Course this year you are invited to the following Services, a different one each week hosted by different churches:

Thursday 29th February

Sidcot Meeting House 6.00 pm

Coffee and chat followed by Meeting for Worship 6.30 pm to 7.15 pm

Wednesday 6th March

Lynch Chapel 2.00 pm

Thursday 14th March

All Saints Church, Sandford at 3.00 pm

Thursday 21st March

Lynch Chapel 2.00 pm

Film: the true story of a reporter who tries to disprove the claims of Christianity and surprises himself with the results.

Monday 25th March

Cheddar Catholic Church, Tweentown, Cheddar

Stations of the Cross at 7.00 pm

Walks of Witness

Good Friday: Friday 29th March

10.00 am Ecumenical Walk of Witness starting at The Church Centre, Winscombe and ending with a short service at Lynch Chapel.

2.30 pm Churchill Walk of Witness. Starting at St John's with a short service

Lent Lunches

All starting at 12.30 pm

Friday 23rd February at The Church Centre, Winscombe

Speaker from Key Steps

Hosted by St James, All Saints and St John's

Friday 8th March at The Church Centre, Winscombe

Speaker Lisa Cooper from Somewhere to Go

Hosted by Sidcot Friends

Friday 15th March at The Church Centre, Winscombe

Speakers Bernice and Phil Jevons: Kathmandu Bible Church

Hosted by Lynch Chapel

Friday 22nd March at Cheddar Catholic Church, Cheddar

Speaker Vicki Caldwell from FEES Fund

Hosted by Cheddar Roman Catholics



ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM



FRIDAY FILM CLUB

At the Church Centre

Woodborough Road, Winscombe

Friday 1st March

Doors open at 2.00pm

Film starts at 2.15 pm

ALL WELCOME

Free Entry

A classic musical comedy starring Gene Kelly & Debbie Reynolds. A silent film star falls for a chorus girl just as he and his screen partner are trying to make the difficult transition to talking pictures in 1920s Hollywood.

All Saints Church Community Café



The February Café raised
£370.73 including Gift Aid for church funds
Many thanks to all those who supported us.

Our next Café will be on
Saturday 2nd March 2023
10.30 am to 12.30 am
at All Saints



**Save the
Children**

'Save The Children' Lunches

at

Shipham Village Hall



**Save the
Children**

Our lunches will be served on

Friday 1st and 15th March at 12.30 pm

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

£5.50 per person

GOOD FRIDAY LUNCH – 29th March

Homemade soup and hot cross buns

£6.00 per person

Payments will be taken on the door and all profits go to
Save the Children charity.



At our open meeting in February, we were pleased to welcome Reverend David Jewell, the new Pastor of the Lynch Chapel. Apart from ministering at the Lynch, he shares his time with the URC chapel in Wroughton, and with Nailsea URC. Although he was appointed in the Autumn, he was formally inducted at the Lynch Chapel in January. Having lived in Wroughton for some time with his wife, Fiona, he is well known in the community.

Lately our numbers have been close to 20, so we do have space for many more to join us. Our next meeting, for men only this time, will be at the Woodborough Inn at 9.00 am on **Saturday 16th March**.

All men are welcome and as usual I will send reminders to all on the mailing list but do join us if you have not been before or invite friends as we have capacity for more at the Woodborough Inn.

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

Leap Into 2024 Quiz



On Saturday 10th February, the St James's Events team held a 'Leap Into 2024' Quiz celebrating 2024 as a Leap Year and other notable February dates.

The themes for rounds included: Leap Day Events, Leap Day Top of the Pops (music round), Its Not Easy Being Green (frogs and toads), Valentines Day word and food rounds, and a What's the Connection? round on the theme of Chinese New Year.

All the questions were illustrated and projected onto the big screen and each round had a starter question based on a sound clip on the same theme as the round.

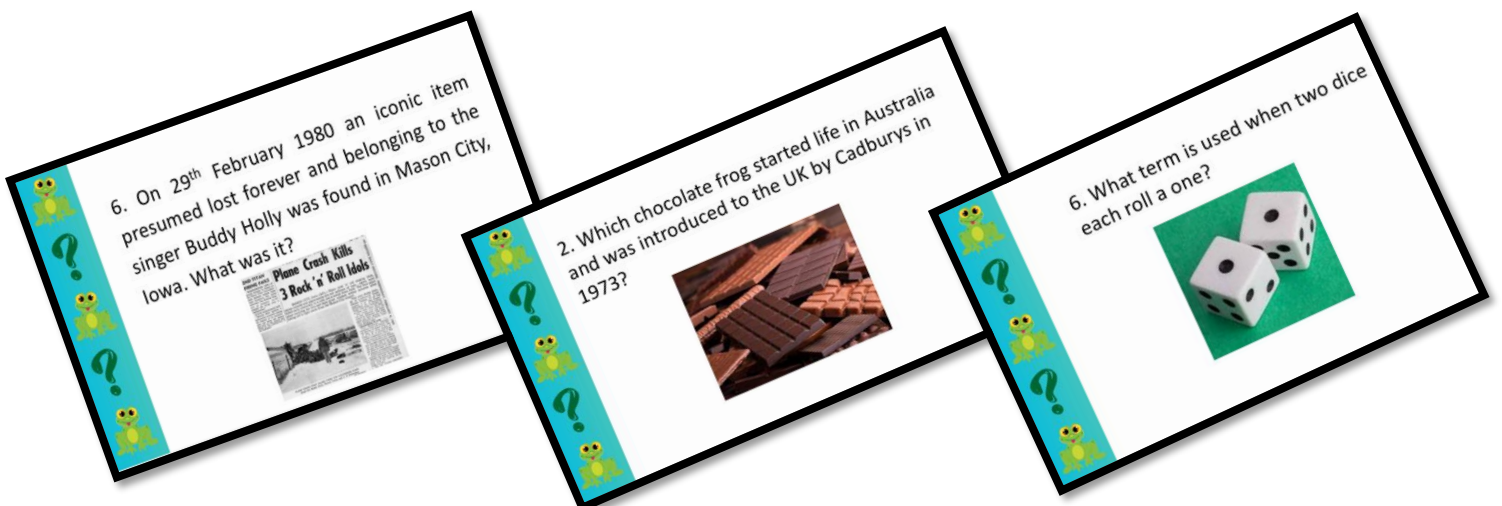
Teams were encouraged to swap papers after each round by the time the 'Countdown' style timer had finished!

Nine teams completed hotly for the victor's crown which was eventually won by the 'Wandering Minstrels' from Winscombe Community Singers. They were awarded some suitably themed goodies including a chocolate 'Freddo' bar and 'Love Hearts' which had featured as answers in the quiz.

The table top picture quiz challenged teams to match the TV couples who were 'romantically, not so romantically or not even at all romantically linked'! The winners of this were the 'Holstein Hustlers', one of four teams from the Woodborough Grange development.

Everyone seemed to agree that the quiz was good fun with a mix of easier and slightly more challenging questions and enjoyed the different format used.

As well as being a most enjoyable evening the Events team raised about £400 for Church Funds.




ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM


Programme 2024

Our aim is to provide a range of activities which bring people in the local community together to enjoy fun and friendship.

February 24	10th: Leap into 2024 Quiz Night
April 24	27th: Games Night with Supper
June 24	80th Anniversary of D Day 4th: D Day Coffee Morning 6th: Local History Talk followed by Beacon Lighting 7th: Special D Day Film Club 8th: Themed Band with 'Rations' supper
July 24	20th Winscombe Village Market Mini Festival
September 24	Harvest Lunch
October 24	18th: Autumn Supper with the Fab Twins
December 24	7th: Badgerset Christmas Folk 11th: Wreath Making 14th: Carols by Lantern Light
Monthly	Friday Film Afternoons

All events are planned to take place at the Church Centre, Woodborough Road.

Look out for further information about each event on noticeboards around the village, on our church website or on social media.
www.winsandchurches.org.uk

We would welcome your ideas for future events.

For more information contact Alison Haynes
alisonparmj@aol.com
 07776 235435

Burns Night Celebration



In January, the **Friends of St James** celebrated the anniversary of Robbie Burns' birthday in traditional fashion. It was a sell out! Welcoming everyone as they arrived at the doors, was Siobhan Mullan with the skirl of the pipes while inside Hugh Gunn was dispensing good cheer and generous drams of whiskey (or sherry for dedicated sassenachs).

When all were seated the haggis was brought in on a silver platter this year by Alison Haynes led by the piper. Torquil Macinnes followed close behind with knife in hand ready to dispatch the haggis which he did with many fearsome incantations!

After that it was down to the serious business of supper which Sally Hansford had prepared. There were fewer speeches this year but Simon Heggarty was in great form as he proposed the toast to *The Immortal Memory*. With the completion of the traditional formalities, it was time for dancing and fun and games. Torquil and his band **Get Reel**, soon had everyone on their feet promenading, swinging their partners and dancing the evening away. But all good things have to come to an end and all too soon it was time for everyone to join in Auld Lang Syne.

And they all lived happily after... and the Friends of St James were certainly happy for, after all the hard work they raised over £787 for the preservation of our beautiful and ancient church.



Shaun Darley



FRESH FOUNDATIONS NEWS

UPDATE WITH PROGRESS

Recently a structural engineer has surveyed the Church Centre building and confirmed the most likely cause of the cracks. The extent of the damage and remedial work to put this right are not as serious as initially thought and it can be repaired. He also discussed the condition of the roof which is approaching the end of its useful life.



He has advised the work required to restore the centre to a satisfactory state of repair in a report. If you would like to see a copy of the report, please email Alison alisonparmj@aol.com.

This report is being sent to our solicitors to use as evidence for our claim from the insurance policy of the owner of the neighbouring property concerned.

We now have a retired architect on our Fresh Foundations Project Team who is creating drawings of possible options for extending the hall as an alternative to rebuilding. We have instructed a Quantity Surveyor to cost these options and provide timescales. This report is essential to be able to obtain quotes from building companies to accurately cost the work necessary.

Winspace

Talks and communication are still open with both sides establishing the essential position they require in any possible future partnerships.

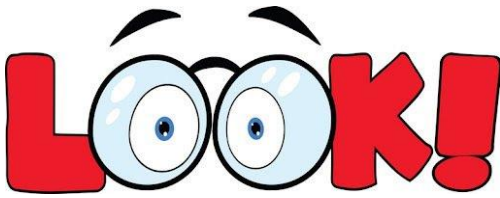
OPTIONS

The project team are busy researching and developing 'options' for the type of building that best meets the needs of our Church in the future. This ranges from 'just repair' or 'repair and extend' through to 'demolish and rebuild' or partner with WinSpace by building off site. The PCC will consider the range of options. Consultation with the congregation and wider community will take place and inform the final decisions.

COMMUNITY HUB

We are starting to assess the need for providing free space within the Church Centre, or possibly Birch Cottage, for a variety of community groups / charities to run support groups, drop-in services etc. This will further inform the decisions to be made.





LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEW BANNERS!

New banners should be on display outside the Church Centre this month.

Small interchangeable banners will advertise upcoming events such as services, coffee morning and film club.



 **CAFE CHURCH FOR ALL AGES** 
HERE NEXT SUNDAY 10.00am
ALL WELCOME



 **FRIDAY FILM CLUB**  
NEXT FRIDAY 2.00pm
ALL WELCOME

A larger banner will be displayed below as a reminder that our Church Centre is available for hire and makes a great venue for meetings, parties, concerts and other local events.



 **BENEFICE OF WINSCOMBE & SANDFORD WITH CHURCHILL**
HIRE OUR COMMUNITY VENUE
Private hire from £9.50 per hour
Commercial hire from £15.00 per hour
LARGE HALL WITH SEATING AND TABLES FOR UP TO 120
WELL EQUIPPED KITCHEN
Telephone 01934 844650
Email admin@winsandchurches.org.uk

come to Scramblers

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

Toys

Drinks &
Snacks

Stories
Both Bible &
traditional

Singing

Craft Activities

Games

Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am
(term time only)

March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

April 18th & 25th

at The Church Centre, Winscombe

Contact Enid on 01934 842534 for more information



Lynch Chapel News

Thirty Reasons to Say Thank You to God

1. Thank God for knitting you together in your mother's womb.
2. If you were born to parents who loved you and provided for you, thank God.
3. If you enjoyed growing up with siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents, thank God
4. If someone cared for you when you were sick, thank God.
5. If someone read to you and played with you, thank God.
6. If you've ever been kept from an addiction, thank God.
7. Thank God for all the times he has protected you when you were unaware.
8. For diseases, disorders or cancers you've had and overcome, thank God.
9. If you've never had a mental/emotional disorder, thank God.
- 10.If you enjoy each of the five senses, thank God.
- 11.For every automatic bodily process keeping you alive at this very moment, thank God.
- 12.If you enjoy three meals a day, thank God.
- 13.If you can't remember the last time you went to bed hungry, thank God.
- 14.If you have access to a variety of foods, thank God.
- 15.If you have a love of reading, thank God.
- 16.If you've ever enjoyed times of fellowship with good friends, thank God.
- 17.If other people regularly pray for you, thank God.
- 18.If you've never woken up in a war zone, thank God.
- 19.If you have running water in your home, thank God.
- 20.If you can take a hot shower whenever you want, thank God.
- 21.Thank God for electricity.
- 22.If you breathe fresh air, thank God.
- 23.If you can heat your home in the winter and cool it in the summer, thank God.
- 24.If people regularly come to your house and take away your litter, thank God.
- 25.If you had or have the talent or ability to participate in a sport, choir, band, club, etc., thank God.
- 26.If you've ever enjoyed laughing with a friend, thank God.
- 27.If you've ever had someone hold you while you cried, thank God.
- 28.If you've ever had a friend unexpectedly meet a need, thank God.
- 29.If you've ever had someone, tell you they love you, thank God.
- 30.If God has blessed you with children, thank God.

Bless you,

Pastor David Winscombe Lynch URC

Come for a Cuppa!

LYNCH CHAPEL

Saturday 2nd March

2.30pm - 4pm

Tea/coffee and cake

First Saturday every month!

Come for a Cuppa!



**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!**



MARCH 13th and 27th

APRIL 10th and 24th



Family Film Club

**On the Big Screen
at Lynch Chapel, Winscombe**

**Saturday 23rd March
Saturday 27th April**

Doors open at 2.45pm

Film starts at 3pm

Admission FREE

**Come and collect your 2024 Family Film Club membership card
Membership FREE**

Films are usually 'U' rated and sometimes 'PG'
so suitable for the whole family to enjoy

**Children of all ages welcome
- but must be accompanied by an adult**
Tea/Coffee - Sweets - Popcorn - Soft Drinks
available to buy



Hot Cross Buns



Easter wouldn't be the same without hot cross buns traditionally eaten on Good Friday. Although you can now buy them in supermarkets for much of the year, in an assortment of flavours, they used to be a one day a year treat, ordered and collected on Good Friday morning fresh from the local bakers.

If medieval monk Thomas Rocliffe, who is widely credited with making the very first hot cross bun, were alive today, he might stop and say a prayer for forgiveness when he reached the hot-cross-bun aisle and flee back to the safety of St Albans Abbey! Given the simplicity of his medieval recipe, he may well have disapproved of later embellishments to his original creation.

The Ancient Greeks, Romans and Saxons all baked a type of bun to mark the changing seasons. Some were marked with a cross to mark the seasons or the four quarters of the moon. But it was Brother Rocliffe who made the Alban Bun in 1361. The sweet, fruity buns bearing a cross on top were given to the local poor on Good Friday. This Easter treat so pleased the recipients that word soon spread, and efforts were made across the country to imitate these cakes.

In the late 16th century Queen Elizabeth I forbade the sale of hot cross buns as any time other than burials, Good Friday and Christmas, perhaps because they were considered to be so holy. If you were caught baking buns at the wrong time you were forced to give them to the poor.

Some mythology grew around them: if hung from the rafters on Good Friday they would resist decay and had restorative powers; the buns could rid a house of bad spirits, protect it from fire and safeguard ships against being wrecked.

By the 19th century, hot cross buns were commonly eaten on Good Friday to mark the end of Lent and the cross became piped on with flour paste rather than cut into the top with a knife.

***'Hot-cross-buns; one-a-penny, two-a-penny buns;
one- a-penny, two-a-penny, hot-cross-buns!'***

These words were the cries of the street sellers in Georgian London who competed to win customers. The buns were carried in wicker baskets and kept warm with a cloth.

HAPPY
EASTER

Churchill Baby & Toddler Group

4, 11, 18 & 25 March 9-11.30am

@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

Try us for FREE!



- ♥ Friendly group, easy parking
- ♥ Bright hall, lots of toys
- ♥ Yummy snacks; cuppa & chat

INFO: Jacqueline
01934 844134



Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



Local History Corner

Dovecotes or Pigeon Houses.



The availability of food was of overriding concern to most of the inhabitants of our Valley for many centuries. The ready supply of meat and eggs from dovecotes would have provided access to protein especially during the winter months. Sadly, such luxury was open only to very few privileged people. Keeping pigeons was regarded as a feudal right and was originally the preserve of lords of the manor and abbots. This was because of the vast amount of grain the birds

consumed. Sources indicate there were at one time about 26,000 dovecotes in the country, each holding between 500 and 1000 pairs of birds. Although there are no visible remains of any dovecotes in Winscombe, they are recorded in some place names.

The mediaeval lord of the Manor of Winscombe probably constructed a dovecote adjacent to what is now Winscombe Court in a field once known as Cutthayes. This is almost certainly a corruption or misreading of the name which would have been Culverhayes, 'culver' is a name probably derived from the Old English word for woodpigeon 'culfre'. The precise location of the dovecote is not known although a ground resistance survey by a local archaeological geophysics team, ALERT, has identified possible structures alongside a track or path leading from Church Lane (where there is a very large stone once possibly used as a mounting block) to what was once the courtyard of the mediaeval manor house (Church Road did not exist at this time).

A second dovecote, this time in the mediaeval manor now called Woodborough, is to be found named as Pigeon House Farm on the 1st edition 25" Ordnance Survey map 1844-1898, but is not named on later maps. The building had disappeared by the nearly 1900's and replaced by other structures and a builder's yard. It was located SE of the present entrance to Knapps Drive on the south side of the A370. The farm buildings were shown on the tithe map (c.1840), White's map of 1792 shows a building about here. At this time the land was farmed by Edward Clarke of Christon and owned by the Dean and Chapter of Wells. The fact the land was owned by the Dean and Chapter is interesting as it could imply that the early name of this field, 'Gilly Wiches', could relate to a religious structure, possibly a hospital named for St.Giles, the patron saint of the disabled, where access to a dovecot would have been vital source of food. We know that there was a mediaeval oratory in the area (see reference below).

John Matthews

I am indebted to Mr Ian Hine for unknowingly suggesting an idea for this article. JM

Reference: **Signpost** November 2022: Local History Corner



QUIZ NIGHT

Winscombe Community Association

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 16 March 2024

£10 per person to include buffet supper,
doors open 7 p.m., first question at 7.30
pm.

Max team size 6, bar available

To book your table please telephone
01934 844357

March Quiz

March is the month in which Alexander Graham Bell was born (see A March Birthday on pages 30 & 31). This month's quiz is all about the telephone.



1. What is the international dialling code for the UK?
2. What was the name of Sybil's friend who she was always on the phone to in Fawlty Towers?
3. In 1958 who made the first ever long distance phone call without the help of an operator from the Central Telephone Exchange in Bristol?
4. What is the name given to a model of phone that appeared in the mid 1960s which had an innovative electronic ringer (warble) instead of the traditional bell?
5. In July 1969 who made a call saying, "Hello Neil and Buzz, I am talking to you by telephone from the Oval Room at the White House, and this certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made from the White House."?
6. Who wrote the book 'Dial M For Murder'?
7. Who was forever trying to phone home in a 1982 Steven Spielberg movie and what did he say?
8. What obsolete type of telephone kiosk, once commonly seen on the streets of Britain, features as the TARDIS in the Television series Dr Who?
9. Which company produced the first commercially available hand-held cellular mobile phone?
10. Which 1973 ABBA song tells of a lover waiting alone by the telephone for the object of her desire to call?

Answers are on page 40.

.....

Churchill and Langford Ladies Lunch Club

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month

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

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

Pre-booking is essential.

Contact Margaret Avery on 07725 056051 for further details.

*Please note that the lunch is limited to residents of the two villages or those that have moved away
but wish to stay in contact with friends*

Happy Easter!

Thursday Lunches

7, 14, 21 & 28 March

12.30pm @ Churchill Methodist, BS25 5NG



Easy access
Easy parking



For booking & transport:

01934 852197 Janet

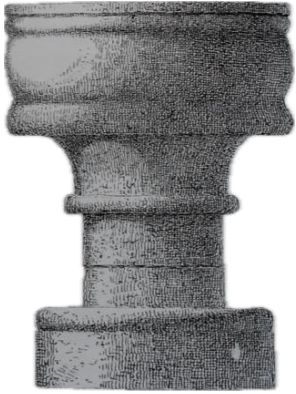


Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



The Story of St. James Church Font

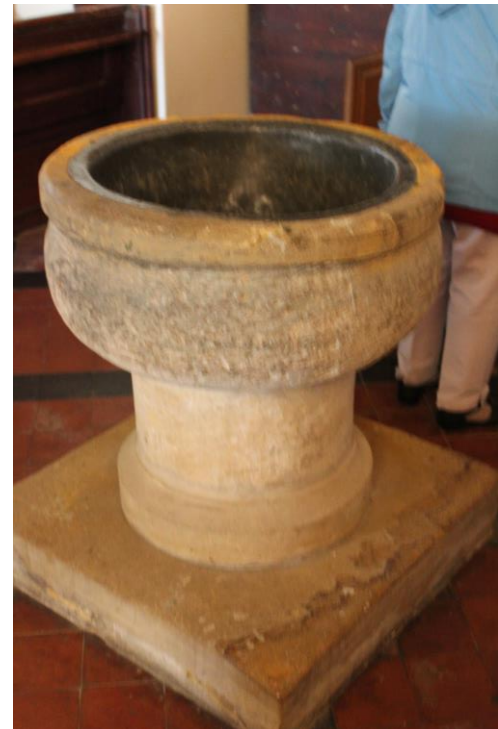
Have you ever wondered how many babies have been baptised in St James's Church Font? The font is the oldest artefact in the church. How old no one can be sure.



In 1898, Harvey Pridham compiled a survey of all the church fonts in Somerset with very accurate drawings of each one. In his findings which he later published, he dated the Winscombe font to between 1135 – 1154, based on its simple design. He also described it as being very rare, as one of only three of its design in the West Country. Pridham's book was published in 1907 but in 2018 it was thoroughly revised by two historians from the Somerset Archeological & Historical Society. Whilst they made many additions and amendments, they saw no reason to doubt Pridham's conclusions as far as Winscombe was concerned.

Our font is very similar to one in St Andrews Church, Aller in Somerset (pictured right) which was recovered from the vicarage pond where it had been dumped presumably to make way for a newer model! It is regarded as Anglo Saxon and believed to date from Alfred the Great's time. Allegedly, Alfred the Great used the font at Aller to baptise the Dane, Guthrum.

Geologists have identified the bowl of the Winscombe font as of oolitic limestone from Dundry where stone has been worked from Roman times. The lead lining is presumably from one of the many ancient workings on the Mendips. The column supporting the font is not thought to be so old and it may have



been increased in height over time. The original location of the font in the church is unknown.



More recently it was situated at the west end of the South aisle in front of a blocked- up doorway. It was the reopening of the doorway to provide a level access to the church for those with disabilities that necessitated its re-location to its present position near the head of the north aisle. In the process of re-location, it acquired a further 7" (18 cm) in Height. The vicar at that time was very tall, over 6' 3". May this have had something to do with the increase?

In past centuries the demand for infant baptism must have been very great. A belief that baptism was essential for salvation coupled with a high birth rate and nearly as high infant mortality rate must have kept the clergy very busy in earlier centuries!

In the first decades of the present century baptisms at St James's averaged 11 a year. Since the Pandemic the number has declined. A reason often given by parents for not having their children baptised is that they do not want to commit their children to the Christian faith but prefer to let them decide for themselves when they are older.

But Baptism does not tie their children's hands in any way. It may, however, provide them with spiritual support in various unseen ways.

Canon Shaun Darley

Who was Guthrum?

Guthrum was the leader of a major Danish invasion of Anglo Saxon England who waged war against the West Saxon King Alfred the Great, who reigned from 871 to 899 and later made himself king of East Anglia.

Guthrum came to England in the great Danish invasion of 865, and in mid-January 878 he attacked Alfred's kingdom of Wessex.

Alfred confronted him on the south coast. Guthrum sailed his army around Poole Harbour and met with another Viking force which was attacking the area between the Frome and Trent rivers. Guthrum appears to have defeated Alfred in this first battle. Although all Wessex was overrun, Alfred eventually led a successful counterattack.

While negotiations were in progress, Guthrum allowed himself to be baptised under the name Aethelstan, with Alfred as his godfather.



The treaty was signed at Aller, near Langport, in Somerset, and in accordance with its terms Guthrum withdrew to East Anglia, where in 880 he founded a partly Christian state and issued coinage under his baptismal name. A copy of a peace treaty that he made with Alfred the Great in 886 is still in existence. He died in 890.

MARCH 2024 – DIARY

FRI 1	10.30am	World Day of Prayer – All Saints, Sandford
	2.00pm	Film Club – Church Centre
SAT 2	10.30am	Community Café – All Saints Church, Sandford
	2.00pm	Come for a Cuppa – Lynch Chapel
SUN 3	LENT 3	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
MON 4	9.30am	Churchill Baby & Toddler Group – Churchill Methodist Church
TUES 5	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 6	2.00pm	Churches Together Lent Reflection – Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's
	7.30pm	Sandford & District Gardening Club – Sandford Village Hall
THUR 7	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.00am	Communion in the Community – Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
FRI 8	12.30pm	Lent Lunch – in aid of Somewhere to Go – Church Centre
SUN 10	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
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
THUR 14	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	3.00pm	Churches Together Lent Reflection – All Saints, Sandford
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
FRI 15	12.30pm	Lent Lunch – for Kathmandu Bible Church – Church Centre
SAT 16	9.30am	Refreshmen+@ Woodborough Inn
	7.00pm	Quiz Night – Winscombe Community Association
SUN 17	LENT 5	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
	3.30pm	Sunday Afternoon Concert – Trinity Singers, St Mary's, Yatton
MON 18	9.30am	Churchill Baby & Toddler Group – Churchill Methodist Church
TUES 19	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 20	2.45pm	Communion in the Community – Sewell House
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James's Church
THURS 21	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.30am	Communion in the Community – Winscombe Hall
FRI 22	12.30pm	Lent Lunch – for FEES Fund – Cheddar Catholic Church
SAT 23	2.45pm	Family Film Club – Lynch Chapel
SUN 24	PALM SUNDAY	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
MON 25	9.30am	Churchill Baby & Toddler Group – Churchill Methodist Church
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross – Cheddar Catholic Church
TUES 26	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
	7.00pm	Compline – St James's Church
WED 27	2.00pm	Knit and Natter – Lynch Chapel
	7.00pm	Compline – St James's Church
THUR 28	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.30am	Communion in the Community – Winscombe Hall
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James's
FRI 29	GOOD FRIDAY	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
SUN 31	EASTER DAY	
	See opposite page for details of Services	

This month's bible readings are on page 49.

Church Service Times

Opportunities to Worship in March

Sunday 3rd March	8.00 am	St James's	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Café Church
	11.00 am	Sandford Station	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday	9.30 am	St James's	Morning Worship
	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th March	10.00 am	Church Centre	Family Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Morning Worship
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday	9.30 am	St James's	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
Tuesday 26th March	7.00 pm	St James's	Compline
Wednesday 27th March	7.00 pm	St James's	Compline
Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday	7.00 pm	St John's	Stripping of the Altars
Friday 29th March Good Friday	10.00 am	Church Centre	Walk of Witness – Churches Together
	2.00 pm	St James's	Good Friday Reflection
	2.30 pm	St John's	Walk of Witness – Churches Together
Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday	9.30 am	St James's	Easter Day Holy Communion
	11.00 am	All Saints	Easter Day Holy Communion
	11.00 am	St John's	Easter Day Holy Communion

Midweek Services

Every Tuesday All Saints 10.00 am Holy Communion

Special Services in March

Thursday 7th March Dunster Court 10.00 am Communion in the Community
 Wednesday 20th March Sewell House 2.45 pm Communion in the Community
 Thursday 28th March Winscombe Hall 10.30 am Communion in the Community

We Welcome

Grace Duch to our church family. She was Christened at St James's Church on Saturday 3rd February 2024.

We Remember

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

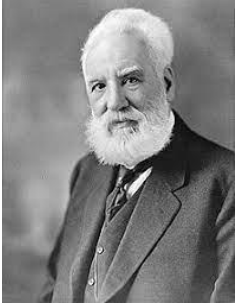
Georgina Binding whose funeral service took place at St James's Church on Monday 5th February followed by her burial at Compton Bishop Cemetery.

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 March Birthday

Alexander Graham Bell



Alexander Graham Bell, best known for his invention of the telephone, revolutionised communication as we know it. Whilst there's some controversy over whether Bell was the true pioneer of the telephone, he secured exclusive rights to the technology and launched the Bell Telephone Company in 1877. Ultimately, the talented scientist held more than 18 patents for his inventions and work in communications.

Here are some interesting facts about Bell.

He was an immigrant: Bell was born on March 3, 1847, in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1870, aged 23, he emigrated to Canada with his parents. The following year, Bell moved to the United States to teach at the Boston School for the Deaf. After gaining fame for developing the telephone, he became a naturalised citizen of the United States in 1882.

Bell's middle name was a birthday present: Baptised Alexander Bell, the inventor longed for a middle name as a child. On his 11th birthday, Bell's father allowed him to adopt the middle name 'Graham'.

His mother and wife were both hearing impaired: A childhood illness left Bell's mother mostly deaf and reliant on an ear trumpet to hear anything. Young Alexander would speak close to his mother's forehead so she could feel the vibrations of his voice. Bell became a voice teacher and worked with his father, who developed Visible Speech, a written system of symbols that instructed the deaf to pronounce sounds. In 1873 he became a professor of vocal physiology at Boston University where he met his future wife, Mabel Hubbard, a student 10 years his junior who had completely lost her hearing from a bout of scarlet fever. Living and working with the hearing-impaired sparked Bell's interest in the principles of acoustics and his experiments in transmitting sound waves over wires.

He faced more than 600 lawsuits over his telephone patent: On 7th March 1876, Bell was awarded the first U.S. patent for the telephone, and three days later Bell's assistant, Thomas Watson, clearly heard the inventor's voice crackle across a wire in their Boston laboratory in the first successful telephone transmission. Five of the legal challenges reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which ultimately upheld Bell's claims in one of the longest patent battles in American history.

Bell developed a wireless telephone: More than a century before cell phones, Bell invented a wireless telephone that transmitted conversations and sounds by beams of light. Bell proclaimed this to be "the greatest invention I have ever made; greater than the telephone." Given the technology of the time, however, its usefulness proved limited.

He invented a rudimentary metal detector to attempt to save the life of the president: In 1881, following the shooting of President James Garfield, Bell was twice summoned to the White House bed with his machine designed to locate bullets in bodies, but failed to locate the bullet. This was partly due to interference caused by steel wires in the bed mattress and also because the president's chief physician only allowed a search of the right side of the president's body as he was convinced that this was where the bullet was lodged. After Garfield's death, the bullet was found to be on his left side.

Bell connected Helen Keller with Annie Sullivan: Having gained fame as the inventor of the telephone, Bell continued his lifelong work to help the hearing impaired. In 1887, Captain Arthur Keller met with Bell to seek help for his 6-year-old daughter, Helen, who had become blind and mute at the age of 19 months. Bell directed them to Boston's, Perkins School for the Blind, where they met recent graduate, Anne Sullivan, who taught Helen to write, speak and read Braille. Keller dedicated her autobiography to Bell, whom she credited with opening the "door through which I should pass from darkness into light," and the two remained lifelong friends.

A Bell-designed speedboat set a world record: Bell began experimenting in aviation in the 1890s, even developing giant manned kites. His dreams of airplanes that could take off from water led him to work on the designs of winged hydrofoil boats that skipped across the water surface at high speeds. The HD-4 model on which he collaborated reached a speed of more than 70 miles per hour during a 1919 test on a lake in Nova Scotia, a world water-speed record that stood for more than a decade.

North American telephones were silenced in Bell's honour following his death: Bell died at his summer home in Nova Scotia on August 2nd 1922. Two days later all telephone services in the United States and Canada were suspended for a full minute at the precise moment when Bell was lowered into his grave. An army of 60,000 telephone operators stood silently at attention and did not connect any new calls as the continent's 13 million telephones went quiet.

Decibels are named after him: To honour the inventor's contributions to acoustical science, the standard unit for the intensity of sound waves was named the "bel" in the 1920s. The decibel, one-tenth of a bel, is the most commonly used metric for measuring the magnitude of noise.





Supporting the Food Bank at Easter

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



As Easter approaches the food bank would be grateful for donations of Easter Eggs, hot cross buns, and other seasonal treats that can be added to parcels for Easter weekend.



Also, as it is a school holiday time, those most in need do not have access to free school meals and breakfast clubs etc. For the Easter holidays donations of small packs of crisps and other snacks, cereal and chocolate bars, squash and sandwich fillings are always appreciated.

All the usual items can also be donated via the collection baskets in each of the churches and the Church Centre.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ❖ Soup – packet and tinned | ❖ Tinned vegetables |
| ❖ Instant mashed potato | ❖ Tinned fish |
| ❖ Cereals | ❖ UHT milk |
| ❖ Sauces – tins and jars of pasta sauce | ❖ Main meals in tins (no Fray Bentos pies please) |
| ❖ Tinned cold meat – corned beef, spam etc | ❖ Squash |
| ❖ Long life fruit juices | ❖ Paper goods – toilet roll, kitchen roll etc. |
| ❖ Desserts – tinned fruit, rice pudding, sponge | ❖ Custard – tinned or instant |
| ❖ Pasta, rice, instant noodles | ❖ Tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate |
| ❖ Sugar | ❖ Biscuits |
| ❖ Personal items – soap, toothbrushes & paste | ❖ Men’s and ladies’ toiletries |
| ❖ Confectionery | ❖ Snack bars and crisps |





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



Winscombe Community Singers

Have fun, make friends and enjoy singing.

**Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Winscombe Community Centre**

Musical Director: Joshua Newport

For further details please contact
Simon Page on 07900 693783

www.winscombecommunitysingers.co.uk

CREATIVE EVENING

relax me breath
time

@Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG



TUESDAY 19 MARCH 7-9 PM
Paint-your-own-Pots

with Elaine (Fire to Create)



MOCKTAILS

INFO: Jacqueline
01934 844134

£5

- Ticket £5 inc mocktail & nibbles
- Pay as you paint- cash, card or mobile banking
- Option to pre-order blanks from £4 per item
- Glazed pots returned Mon 25 March

Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



CHURCHILL SKITTLE AND SOCIAL CLUB

1

41

22

90

11

82

53

13



EASTER BINGO

COME AND JOIN US
at
CHURCHILL SKITTLE CLUB
Ladymead Lane
CHURCHILL

On Wednesday 27th March 2024

Doors open 7.00pm - Eyes Down 7.45pm

To reserve a table contact: Sue on 01934 852178

Supporting and Protecting our Natural World

Love Your Soil!

Soil is taken for granted, referred to even as dirt. That is changing as we learn more from research. We misuse soil at our peril for our very lives depend on it.

Some possibly surprising facts:

- Soil is home to 59% of all life on earth from insects feeding on the surface to tiny microbes nestling in soil pores. So far only about a third of organisms have been named. Apparently, more is known about the outer regions of the universe than about soil.
- It takes about 1000 years to make one inch of soil, but it is being eroded constantly particularly by poor farming practices but also by climate change when bare soil is exposed to unusually wet, windy or hot weather.
- One teaspoon of topsoil contains around 1 billion individual microscopic cells and around 10,000 different species. There are more living things in that teaspoon than there are people living on the planet.

Soil is thus a major ecosystem – an interdependent life support unit consisting of air, water, minerals (sand, silt and clay), organic matter plus micro and macro-organisms all working together. Many life forms make soil their home including bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, earthworms and arthropods e.g. insects, millipedes, centipedes. In turn most other life forms, including us, depend on this staggering amount of life for food.

Recent realisation of the complexity of soils was discovered in the early 1990s. Plant roots and soil mycorrhizal fungi live in a symbiotic relationship. Fungi anchor themselves to plant roots and send out huge numbers of 'threads' (hyphae) thus effectively extending the plant's root system and so its ability to find nutrients. The relationship is mutually beneficial. The fungi provide plants with nutrients and water whilst the plant provides carbohydrates from photosynthesis to the fungi. Much more evidence is being gathered. The nickname for this relationship is 'The Wood Wide Web.' Maybe 90% of plants live this way.

Soil is finite but can constantly regenerate itself so long as we protect and conserve it. However, it is constantly being destroyed by intensive farming (plus gardening?) when we don't need to add poisons, plough deeply or add artificial fertilisers many of which destroy the organisms that give the soil fertility.

I have always gardened organically. Its major principle is to feed the soil, not the plant. That way nutrients are always available when needed by plants. If the soil has fertiliser added directly plants may not, then be in need. The fertiliser is leached from the soil possibly into drinking water which is then expensive to clean.

To me it is always upsetting to dig soil causing upheaval to the delicate balance beneath.

Worms can actually do the digging job very well. Their tunnels drain and aerate the soil too. No dig gardening is an increasingly popular gardening method espoused by Charles Dowding in his books such as No Dig Gardening (charlesdowding.co.uk) It also saves the back!



The Annual Toad Migration in Winscombe

The annual toad migration in Winscombe began in early February. The toads are marching on an ancestral route that has since been intersected by roads and houses, that takes them from their Winscombe Hill hibernation grounds to the breeding ponds in lower lying ground towards Banwell.

They are born pre-programmed to make the perilous migration and now they have traffic to contend with. Hundreds get killed every year in Winscombe alone and the UK toad population has declined by 68% since 1990.

Winscombe Toad patrollers, wearing high viz clothing, scan the roads with torches, collect the toads in buckets and carry them to safety.

Local residents are requested to avoid using Winscombe Hill, Church Road and Barton Road after dark if at all possible. If you have to use these roads, please drive very slowly and look out for the patrol members who are trying to help our local wildlife.

Here are a couple of posts from the Winscombe Toad Patrol Facebook page:

7th February: 52 toads were killed on the road in Winscombe last night. 206 were saved by our fabulous team of volunteers who braved the rain and the traffic to save lives! Thank you! The rain was so heavy our volunteers will have to check the drains and the stream with high walled sides for any that are stuck. They will drown if we don't fish them out.

17th February: Busy week ...

Tues- 66 toads rescued, 8 killed.

Weds- 40 toads rescued, 13 killed.

Thurs- 87 toads rescued, 20 killed.

Thank you, patrollers, for all your efforts.



Did you know that the toad patrollers themselves paid for the yellow signs that mark the toad's route, as these are not supplied by the council?

Sadly, 4 of these large yellow road signs were stolen within a day of being put out. Two at the junction of the A38 with Winscombe Hill were removed from their frames and stolen, plus a further two at the junction of the A371 and Church Road.

Gardening Notes for March

Plant Summer Flowering Bulbs



Summer flowering bulbs are not plants that you use instead of other perennials, they are an added extra that lifts a garden to new heights. As the majority of summer flowering bulbs (this includes tubers, rhizomes and corms), come from subtropical climes they need sun, warmth and well-drained soil. They can also be planted in containers using loamy compost with added grit to improve drainage; apply a high potash feed when buds begin to form. The following bulbs can be planted now: galtonias, ixias, crocosmias, lilies of all types including pineapple and gladioli. Dahlias can be planted in containers and brought on in the greenhouse for planting out when the threat of frost has passed.

Daffodil: to make sure daffodils flower well year after year they need to have a good supply of water and nutrients. Next year's flowering buds are already developing in the bulb now, so prevent the soil drying out for at least six weeks after flowering. Apply a high potash feed such as tomato fertiliser to bulbs in containers and blood, fish and bone to those in borders. Remove flower heads as they fade and allow the foliage to die down naturally. If daffodils are growing in grass delay mowing until the leaves die away sometime in June.



Dogwoods: are grown for their colourful stems in winter, the brightest colours are produced on the current year's wood, so if you prune them every year after winter you will get the best colours. Either coppice by cutting the stems down to ground level and keeping the annual growth low, or thin out to encourage higher shrubs. Give the growth a boost by applying a mulch or top dressing with a general fertiliser.

Plant Supports: should be provided for border perennials (although they may not need them yet), but if twiggy pea sticks or wire hoops are put into position now around peonies etc. the stems will grow through and mask them, as well as preventing the plants from flopping over.

Lawns: the first cut can be made this month when the grass is dry, raising the blades of the mower and gradually lowering on subsequent cuts. Neaten up and trim the edges to show off spring flowers to their best advantage.



Divide Border Perennials: to keep your perennials vigorous and flowering well, divide clumps every few years. With fleshy rooted hostas, day-lilies and red-hot poker this is best done in the spring to avoid rot. Other plants that can be divided at this time of year are: hemerocallis, helianthus, agapanthus, rudbeckia and delphiniums.

Sandford & District Gardening Club

At our last meeting John Dunster welcomed the members and introduced our speaker, Terry Porter, who gave us a most interesting talk on 'Growing for and Constructing a Show Garden.'

It was really fascinating to hear about all the work that goes into creating a Gold Winning Garden! The growing of all the plants is an art in itself and to keep them all in tip-top condition in time for the show is an amazing feat!

Terry and his friends were asked to do a garden for the Daily Mail entitled 'The Darling Buds of May' at Hampton Court Show. It was to be set in the 1950s. They had to draw up plans and submit them to be approved.

When the time came for the garden to be planted up a large marquee was erected so they could plant it up in the dry. The paths were created first.

The garage and the village store came from Elstree Studios.

Terry said it was amazing that the layout of the ground before was just grass (nothing else at all). Then as soon as the garden was planted up with flowers and vegetables, butterflies, bees and birds soon appeared.

We were shown photos of all the gardens that were created they were absolutely stunning.

John thanked Terry for his talk. He also thanked the volunteers in the kitchen.

John gave the members some tips for our Spring Show.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 6th March 2024

Sandford Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Speaker is John Addison who is giving a talk on 'Water Gardens'

Spring Show

Saturday 16th March 2024

Sandford Village Hall 11.00 am to 12.30 pm.

Entry is free and there will be Coffee, tea and homemade cakes on sale

Wednesday 3rd April

Sandford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Speaker is Dr George Hargreaves who is giving a talk on 'Magnolias'





Spring Begins

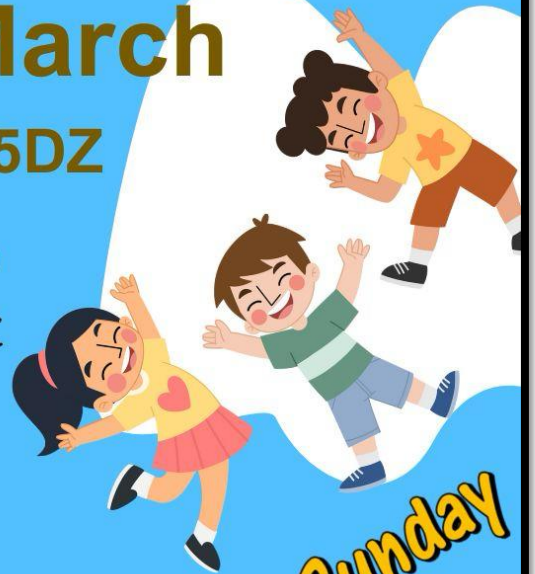


@Fenswood Farm

Sunday 17 March

4-6 pm BS40 5DZ

Fun for families
& Young at Heart
Feed lambs
Meet piglets
Scavenger Hunt
Craft & Story
FREE entry &
Picnic Tea



CREATE! Sunday



Churchill **Methodist** Church
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

**INFO: Jacqueline
01934 844134**





Beginners /Improvers Art Class

Have you always wanted to paint or draw but don't know where to start,

Or want to rekindle an old interest?

I am hoping to start a new class

In The Stable. St John's Church Churchill

With sufficient interest it will start on 3rd April, initially for a six-week period

10 am @till 12 noon. All abilities welcome.

Cost will be £7.00 subject to numbers. Materials can be provided at an additional cost.

Contact Margaret Avery on 01934 852123. or margaretavery3@gmail.com

March Quiz Answers

1.+44

3. The Trimphone (Tone Ring Illuminator Model)

5. President Richard Nixon

7. E.T. "E.T. Phone home"

9. Motorola

2. Audrey

4. Queen Elizabeth II

6. Agatha Christie

8. A police telephone box

10. Ring, Ring





Sat 2 March 7.30pm
All Saints Church, Wroughton

Atéa Wind Quintet



Brimming with energy and inspiration, the internationally acclaimed Atéa Wind Quintet wow audiences throughout the world, with their fascinating programme ranging from Mozart, Strauss and Gershwin to Giulio Briccialdi whose works convey the 'song art' of the Italian opera world highlighting the influences of Bellini and Rossini.

Tickets: £15.50, £19.50, U 18's £1.

To book: Scan QR code **OR**

email holly@churchillmusic.org.uk **OR**

07442 672805 **OR** 'pot luck' at the door

More info: Jan 01934 853518

Churchill & Langford minibus -book a seat 01934 852589



churchillmusic.org.uk Charity No 1121866

West Mendip Orchestra

John Johnson Director of Music

Helen Grey Leader



CONCERT

Franz von Suppé **Light Cavalry Overture**
Edward Elgar **Three Bavarian Dances**
Johann Strauss Jr **Emperor Waltz, Op 437**
Robert Volkmann **Symphony No 1, Op 44**

Friday 22nd March 2024, 7:45pm
St Nicholas Church, Uphill Road South, Uphill
Weston-super-Mare BS23 4SD

Tickets £12 (concessions £10, students £2)

Available at the door - cash or card accepted



www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk

Charity no. 1041826

Supported by The Mortlock Memorial Fund



Wrigton Vale Rotary Club

A Defibrillator for Langford

Following a request from Churchill Parish Council, Wrigton Vale Rotary Club and Tout's Local Supermarket agreed to jointly fund a Defibrillator on the Tout's site. This was a natural development, the Club having funded a Defibrillator in the Churchill Community Centre some ten years ago. Also, a Club member recently saved the life of a close relative through the rapid application of a defibrillator when he collapsed and stopped breathing with no heartbeat.

The Tout's site was chosen because of the large footfall, traffic on the A38 and the essential cooperation of Tout's staff, many of whom have been trained in the use of the device. Rotary has provided funds of £1250, being half of the cost. This project has only been achieved by the efforts and determination of Past President Bob Preedy.

Emergency instructions

The device is located on Tout's wall adjacent to the A38. In emergency call dial 999, ask for the Ambulance Service and they will issue the Defibrillator access code as appropriate. Also call the Tout's staff for assistance. The device gives voice instructions on its proper deployment.



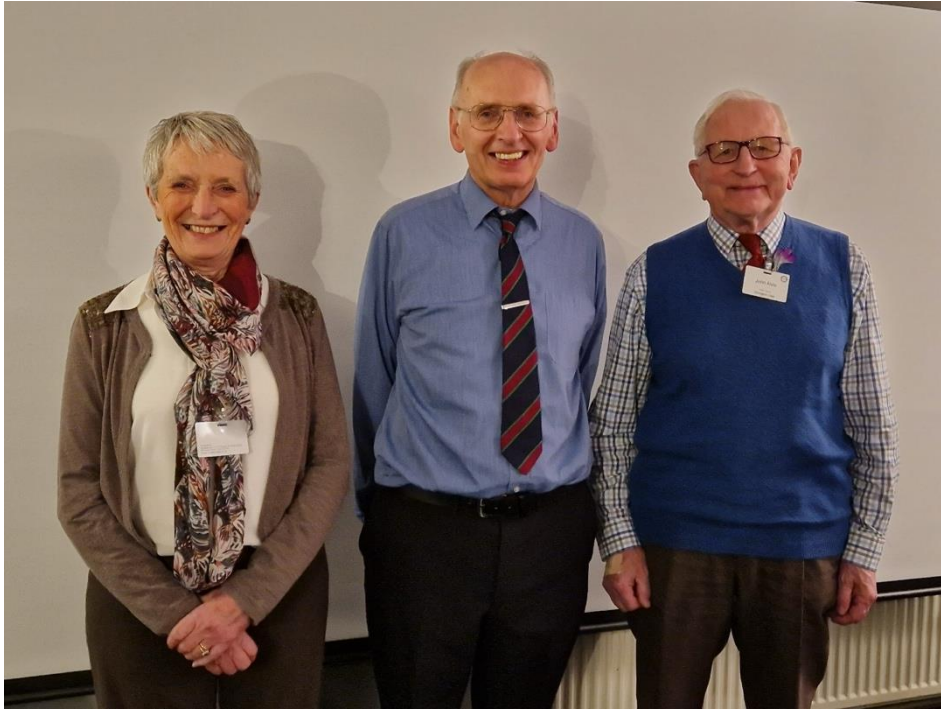
Past President Bob Preedy, with Gemma Dakin from Tout's and President Angie Biggs.

Working with Environmental Issues

Our keynote speaker **Dr David Dickerson** gave a brilliant talk about the deteriorating climate situation around the World. Citing many early examples such as the 1952 London Smog when 4000 people died, mercury in the sea and DDT. Rising levels of CO2 causing global warming and the increasing world population need to be urgently addressed.

His research, analysing pollutants from vehicle tyres, especially from electric cars due to heavier batteries and increased acceleration is a major cause of concern. These pollutants, not yet very well understood, eventually finish up in the sea causing severe damage to eco systems.

This was an excellent evening covering the science of so many issues giving much food for thought.



President Angie Biggs with guest speaker David Dickerson and John Alvis

If you are interested in what we do call Angie Biggs 07790 400718

Defibrillators Locally

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

Winscombe

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

Sandford

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

Churchill

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



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



RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH



RESULTS UPDATE

The Branch is pleased to report that the total funds raised in 2023 was £20,188 due to the large amount of £5,000 collected in December. This is £3,700 more than was raised in 2022 but is still less than the pre-COVID peak years of 2018 and 2019; nevertheless, it demonstrates that the post-COVID programme continues to recover the Branch's fortunes. Results for January 2024 are not yet available and will be reported next month.

RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT BRANCH BICENTENNIAL SUPER QUIZ

The Branch's Bicentennial Year started with their Super Quiz on Saturday 27th January in Shipham Village Hall; from 6 pm the crew were busy setting up tables, erecting the bar and raffle, plating up the ploughman's and sorting out the cutlery so by 6:45 pm all was complete. There were 19 teams of 6 that took part in 14 rounds of 6 questions covering a wide range of topics. Players generously supported the raffle that made over £400 while the bar went into overdrive as the beer, wine, cider and soft drinks flowed freely ahead of the quiz. At half time, the questions stopped so that everyone could enjoy *Tina's Mega Ploughman's Supper* and grab a few more drinks. By 10 pm 114 'befuzzled' brains were stood down as the Quizmaster counted the scores. Prizes were awarded to the top 3 teams; the winners were 'Quizzy Rascals' (last year's runners up) who managed to get their bow just ahead of runners-up 'Redland Raiders' (last year's winners) and in third place was 'We thought this was Speed Dating'. This left the crew with the clear up task that was achieved efficiently in record time. It was a splendid evening and the final figure raised was £1,904 so thank you all so much for your generous support for this event.



RNLI SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY – COLLECTION AT TESCO NAILSEA

Once again, the Branch launched to Tesco Shepton Mallet at 09:30 and 8 of our crew were on station from 10:00 to 16:00 ready to rescue funds from the Sunday shoppers. This venue proved to be a good 'shout' in December 2023 so the Branch hoped for a good haul this time; results will be reported next month.

RNLI WINSCOMBE & DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Thursday 29th February

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting starting at 3 pm at the President's house. The AGM included a presentation on 2023 activities; a review of 2023 accounts; election of the Branch Committee and discussion of the proposed 2024 Bicentennial Programme. Photographs and further details of the reports will appear in a future edition and on the Branch Facebook.

RINGING THE BELL FOR BARRY DOCK'S NEW SHANNON ALL WEATHER LIFEBOAT

Barry Dock Lifeboat Station across the Bristol Channel in the Vale of Glamorgan is the station that houses the All-Weather Lifeboat (AWLB) that covers the east part of the Bristol Channel and the Somerset coastline. On Tuesday 9th January, the RNLI celebrated the completion of the Shannon class lifeboat ON 1358 and were joined by representatives from Barry Dock Lifeboat Station when the bell was rung. RNLB Richard and Caroline Colton II, as she will be known, will be heading to her home at Barry Dock once remaining sea trials and commissioning have been completed. This will mean that the most modern RNLI AWLB will be available to *save lives at sea* in Somerset.



The majority of this all-weather lifeboat has been funded by the generous legacy of Richard Colton who died in 2015 leaving two rare classic Ferraris to be sold at auction with proceeds of £8.5million coming to the RNLI. Richard's significant gift has already made a huge difference to the RNLI. This is the second Shannon class lifeboat funded by his legacy, along with a Shannon launch and recovery system, and support for the build of two lifeboat stations. This generous and kind act leaves a remarkable legacy which will go on to save many lives.

JANUARY SHOUTS

In January there were 8 'shouts' between 3 of our 4 lifeboat stations (Minehead – 1, Portishead – 2, W-s-M - 5). On the night of Friday 26th January 2024, Weston-super-Mare lifeboat crew were tasked by HM Coastguard to a vehicle that had left the toll road towards Kewstoke. Both lifeboats were launched to support a multi-agency response (Avon and Somerset Police, Weston-super-Mare Coastguard Rescue Team, Burnham Coastguard Rescue Team, Avon Fire & Rescue Service and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust).

The casualties were able to extract themselves from the vehicle and make their way to the rocks. On arrival, RNLI volunteer crew assisted them up the cliff to safety with support from the Fire Service where medical services were waiting.

COFFEE MORNING



Every Tuesday at 10.30 am
Church Centre, Winscombe
All Welcome

QUIZ NIGHT



Churchill Methodist Church, Front Street, Churchill, BS25 5NG

Saturday 9th March 2024 5:00pm

Only £10.00 per person!
to include a Light Supper

Teams of up to 6 people

Quiz Master – John James

What was.....?



Who is.....?

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To book a place or for more information, please contact
Paul on 01934 514363 or Jackie on 01934 842422



churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk 
Churchill Methodist Church



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



WINSCOMBE W.I. – NEW VENUE

You are welcome to join us for our next meeting:

Wednesday 13th March 2024

at 7.30 pm

at Sewell House, Belmont Road, Winscombe BS25 1LQ

Our speaker will be:

Hazel Ballantine: *How Nutritional Therapy Can Help You*

Refreshments will be available

Pastoral Care Team



Do you know someone who is feeling lonely, isolated or in need for any reason?

Our Pastoral Care Team is on hand to offer support.

If you would like any further information, please contact

Reverend Pauline Nixon

07511 935860 revpolly@gmail.com

New Life for all the World



Sowing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter’s orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There’s a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades. For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself. In John’s Gospel (John 20:1-18) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus’s appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first, she can’t believe it’s really him. So, she mistakes the man she meets ‘supposing him to be the gardener’ (John 20:15).

In John’s account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:4- 3:24). In that story, Adam is the gardener (Genesis 2:15), only for things to go wrong. In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam – come to bring new life that has no end.

What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners – like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we’d sow for, tend and then reap?

For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus’s resurrection opens us to being part of God’s new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

Happy gardening and a very Happy Easter to you all.

Bishop Michael

BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

<p>Sunday 3rd March Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 [or 19:7- end] 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22</p>	<p>Mothering Sunday 10th March Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20 -end Psalm 34:11-20 or Psalm 127:1-4 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or 2 Corinthians 3:12-17 Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25b-27</p>	<p>Sunday 17th March Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-13 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33</p>
<p>Palm Sunday 24th March Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 [or 31:9-18] Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-end of 15 or Mark 15:1-39 [or end]</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday 28th March Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1,10-end [or 116:9-end] 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</p>	<p>Easter Sunday 31st March Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 [or 118:14-24] 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8</p>



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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The Church Centre (with kitchen)
St James's Church



In Sandford

All Saints Church (flexible seating)
Meeting Room (with small refreshment area)



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

<https://hallbookingonline.com>

In Churchill



The Reading Room
(3m x 9m) with small kitchen and toilet
facilities

Contact Emma Stocks 07972 585406

The Stable

Seating for 25 to 30 people, sink unit
and limited crockery, cutlery
Contact Tricia Avery 01934 852360



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

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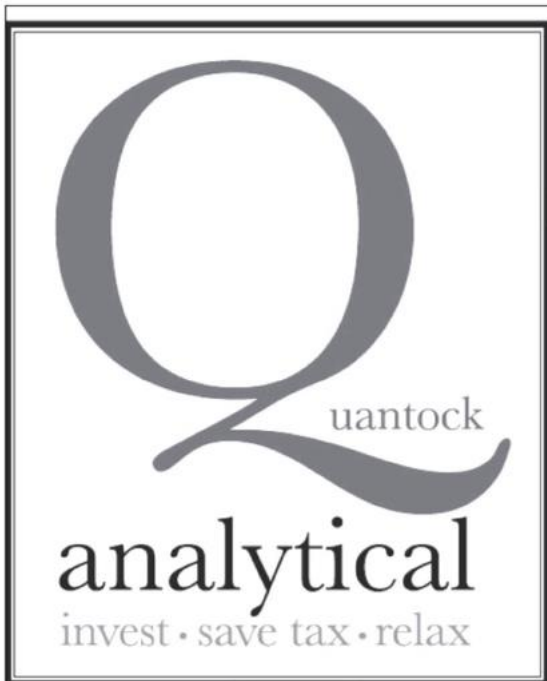
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Health	NHS Health Enquiries Winscombe Surgery Banwell Surgery Mendip Vale, Langford	Call 111 01934 842211 01934 820113 01934 852906
Hospitals	Weston General Hospital Bristol Royal Infirmary Bristol Southmead Bristol Children's Hospital	01934 636363 01179 230000 01179 505050 01179 665881
Pharmacy	Boots, Winscombe	01934 843168
Dentists	Honeycomb Dental Clinic Winscombe Dental Practice	01934 842573 01934 842230
Veterinary	Alexandra and Hillyfields Vets Langford Vets Small Animal Practice	01934 843381 01934 852422
North Somerset Council	Information Out of Hours Emergency Environmental Problems Council Tax and Benefits Social Services	01934 888888 01934 622669 01934 888802 01934 888144 01275 888801
Parish Councils	Winscombe and Sandford Churchill and Langford	01934 844257 07399 523961
Assistance	Winscombe Contact Scheme Sandford Helpline Churchill Churches Volunteer Driver Scheme Samaritans (North Somerset) Citizens Advice Bureau Churchill and Langford Minibus	07888 812398 01934 852426 01934 852239 0330 094 5717 0808 278 7973 01934 852589
Schools	Winscombe Primary School Sandford Primary School Churchill Academy and Sixth Form Sidcot School	01934 843407 01934 852602 01934 852771 01934 843102

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