

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



# ***Signpost***

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



**December 2025**

***FREE***

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

<b>Vicar</b>	<i>Vacant Post</i>	
St James the Great, Winscombe		
All Saints, Sandford		
St John the Baptist, Churchill		
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	Reverend Jacqui Keir-Bucknall rev.jacqui.kb@gmail.com	07990 766647
<b>Benefice Administrator &amp; Signpost Editor</b>	Sue Smyth 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA admin@winsandchurches.org.uk	01934 352696
<b>PCCs' Secretaries</b>	Bridget Andrews (St James & All Saints) winsandsec24@gmail.com Emma Stocks (St John's) emma.stocks@hotmail.com	01934 352696 01934 853873
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officers</b>	Jo Claridge (St James's & All Saints) safeguarding@winsandchurches.org.uk Pauline Hurst (St John's) stjchurchill.safeguarding@outlook.com	07986 665618 01934 852784
<b>Churchwardens</b>		
St James the Great, Winscombe	Derrick Claridge winscombechurchwarden@gmail.com Beth Cutmore bethwayside@gmail.com	07941 202768 07486 549030
All Saints, Sandford	Diana Williams sandfordchurchwarden@gmail.com Simon Crew smg.crew@yahoo.co.uk	01934 852449 07960 151717
St John the Baptist, Churchill	Tricia Avery averyfarm@cpsmail.co.uk <i>One vacant post</i>	01934 852360
<b>Pastoral Care Team</b>	Reverend Pauline Nixon revpolly@gmail.com	07511 935860
<b>Churchill Methodist, Minister</b>	Reverend Andrew Bell	01934 852314
<b>Pastor</b>	Ken Young	01934 852686
<b>Lynch Chapel</b>	David Jewell	07443 907454
<b>Pastor/Minister</b>	The Lynch, Winscombe, BS25 1AR davidjewells@aol.com	
<b>Sidcot Quakers Meeting House</b>	Oakridge Lane, Sidcot, BS25 1LT	01934 843065
<b>Roman Catholics</b>	Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar	01934 709224

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

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

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

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



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

800 years and still counting! ... *the birth of Winscombe Parish*. Advent is the beginning of the church's year and for those of us living in Winscombe, this will be a special year when, as well as welcoming a new vicar, we shall also be marking the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appointment of our very first vicar, **The Revd William de Keynsham**.

The origins of Winscombe are lost in the mists of time. The earliest written record is of the Saxon King Edgar granting the estate of Winscombe (Winescombe) to Aelfswith, a lady of high standing, sometime between 959 and 975 AD. Shortly afterwards, she gifted the estate to Glastonbury Abbey. The Abbey was one of the wealthiest in England, and Winscombe was just one of its many estates. Historians and archaeologists believe that the Abbey would have provided a priest and a chapel for the spiritual needs of those living on their estate. So far, no evidence of such a building has been found. Winscombe remained in the Abbey's possession for 250 years until, in 1192, **Savaric FitzGeldewen** was consecrated as Bishop of Bath. He resented the power and wealth of the monasteries and was determined to take control of Glastonbury and its estates. With the King's approval, he moved his 'bishop's chair' (or base) to Glastonbury. It was not without a fight that he secured his position as both the Abbot as well as the Bishop of Glastonbury. Savaric died in 1205 before achieving all his aims.

He was succeeded by **Bishop Jocelyn** who had a different agenda. He wanted to complete the building of the great church in Wells, begun in 1175, which would become the cathedral. However, his plans were interrupted when the Pope excommunicated King John and placed England under 'interdict' and Jocelyn had to go into exile (1209-13).

Returning to England, work was resumed on the cathedral and various other buildings in and around Wells of which the church in Winscombe was probably just one small project. **In 1226 Jocelyn installed William de Keynsham** as the first vicar of Winscombe. The newly created parish was just a collection of small settlements, and the first vicar would have had to manage with whatever building(s) the monks had left behind. It seems that at least they would have had a font! It has been dated by experts to around 1150 and is still in use today!

In due course, a new church was built and consecrated by Bishop Jocelyn in 1236. It was dedicated to **St James the Great**; a very popular choice of dedication in the middle ages! The great church of St Andrew in Wells was consecrated and finally, in 1244, the Pope granted it the status of the Cathedral of Wells. Jocelyn did not live to see its recognition by the Pope, but before he died, Jocelyn gave the Patronage of Winscombe Church to the newly appointed Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral, a patronage which they have retained to this day!

Much has changed over the centuries, both to the parish of Winscombe and Sandford (and to our partner church in Churchill). Our world is a very different place, but the task remains the same - to preach the Gospel in season and out, with whatever resources we have at our disposal.

**Shaun Darley**

## Signpost - The Parish Magazine

Welcome to December's **BUMPER** edition of Signpost. The magazine aims to serve and reach out to the local village communities of Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill and in doing so, provide opportunities for the residents to become more aware of activities across all Christian denominations and within our villages. We hope you enjoy reading this month's edition.

## Next Month's Magazine

**The deadline for January's edition is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.** Please submit items, which should be no longer than 400 words, as Word documents to [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com) . If you are including photographs, please ensure that you have the permission of anyone appearing in the photograph for them to be published in this magazine. Please supply high resolution photographs as jpegs.

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

## Signpost – paper copy

We produce a limited number of black and white printed copies of Signpost that are available from some local shops, each of our churches and the Church Centre.

## Signpost – via email

We encourage as many people as possible to receive their full colour copy of Signpost via email. If you would like to receive future editions by email, please send your email address to [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com) . If you are unable to receive your copy via email, please contact one of the Churchwardens giving your full name and address.

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

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

- ❖ Home Page: latest news, monthly service plan
- ❖ Our Vision: find out about our plans for the future
- ❖ Church Life: our activities and groups
- ❖ Our Podcasts and Videos: a library of Church services to watch or listen to
- ❖ Signpost Magazine: download the latest copy and find out how to contribute
- ❖ Hire A Venue: how to hire our Church Centre, Churches and meeting rooms

### 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 distribute the magazine.

We are always grateful to supporters who choose to make a donation, and those that place a paid for advert, towards the on-going costs of the magazine. 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 at [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com) .

Many thanks to all those who have already made a donation; your generosity is very much appreciated.



## A Message from the Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council

As many of you already know, the old oil boiler in St James's Church has been condemned.

Having met with the Diocesan Advisor, the PCC has agreed to follow his advice that we hold services at our other two Churches and the Church Centre, whilst we explore alternative methods of heating.

We are very fortunate, as a Benefice, to have three other venues which we can use. However, there will inevitably be a few changes, and we will keep you informed in Signpost, on posters around the village and on our website.

St James's Church will remain open every day and still be available for Funeral Services.

***There is a change of venue for services due to take place in St James's Church, from and including the 30<sup>th</sup> November.*** Details of the December and January Services will be in Signpost, on posters and on the website.

The '***Celebration for a New Ministry***' for The Revd Dr Julian Davies will take place in **St James's Church** on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026** starting at 7:00 pm - more details to follow.

**Beth Cutmore and Derrick Claridge**

# COFFEE MORNING



The last Coffee Morning of 2025 in the Church Centre, Winscombe will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December starting at 10.30 am ~ please join us for Carols by the Hagens. Everyone is very welcome. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Christmas in the Benefice of Winscombe and Sandford with Churchill,  
Lynch Chapel, Cheddar Catholics,  
Sidcot Quakers and Churchill Methodists**



**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

10:00 am Benefice Advent Service of Holy Communion at *Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe*

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

7:00 pm Taizé Service at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

4:00 pm Music and Readings for Christmas at *Meeting House, Sidcot*

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

11:00 am Carol Service at *St John the Baptist Church, Churchill*

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

5:30 pm Carols at the *Reading Room, Front Street, Churchill*

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

11:00 am Nativity Service at *Lynch Chapel, Winscombe*

4:00 pm Candlelit Carols for All at *Churchill Methodist Church, Churchill*

6:30 pm Carol Service at *Church Centre, Winscombe*

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December**

4.00 pm Crib Service at *Church Centre, Winscombe*

6:00 pm Carols by Candlelight at *Lynch Chapel, Winscombe*

6:30 pm Carols followed by ...

7.00 pm Vigil Mass at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles Cheddar*

8:00 pm Carol Service at *All Saints, Sandford*

11.00 pm Midnight Holy Communion at *St John's, Churchill*

11:30 pm Midnight Communion at *Churchill Methodist Church*

**Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December**

9:00 am Christmas Day Mass at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar*

10:00 am Christmas Holy Communion at *Church Centre, Winscombe*

10:30 am Meeting for Worship for half an hour at *Meeting House, Sidcot*

11:00 am Christmas Holy Communion at *St John's, Churchill*

11:00 am Short Christmas Day Service at *Lynch Chapel, Winscombe*

*Jesus said: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."*

**CHURCHES TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS 2025**





## Supporting Your Local Foodbanks

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



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

There are collection baskets for each village in each of the Churches and at the Church Centre.

The foodbanks also appreciate cash donations which can be used to buy items in particular need or provide vouchers that can be spent on food in local supermarkets.

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

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ❖ Soup – packet and tinned                        | ❖ Tinned vegetables                                |
| ❖ Instant mashed potato                           | ❖ Tinned fish                                      |
| ❖ Cereals   | ❖ UHT milk   |
| ❖ Sauces – tins and jars of pasta sauce           | ❖ Main meals in tins (not Fray Bentos pies please) |
| ❖ Custard – tinned or instant                     | ❖ Squash   |
| ❖ Long life fruit juices                          | ❖ Paper goods – toilet roll, kitchen roll etc.     |
| ❖ Desserts – tinned fruit, rice pudding, sponge   | ❖ Tinned cold meats – corned beef, spam            |
| ❖ Pasta, rice, instant noodles                    | ❖ Tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate                  |
| ❖ Sugar   | ❖ Biscuits   |
| ❖ Personal items – soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste | ❖ Men's and ladies' toiletries                     |
| ❖ Confectionery                                   | ❖ Snack bars and crisps                            |



## Remembrance in Winscombe

Remembrance Sunday was marked in each of our churches with a special service including marking the two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths on our village memorials. Each church was decorated for the occasion.

The service at St James the Great in Winscombe, was attended by many members of the village's uniformed groups including Beavers, Scouts and Explorers, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers, with each section parading their flag, behind the Union Flag and the colours of the Royal British Legion. It was wonderful to see so many young people joining in the commemoration.

A number of community groups were also represented and laid their wreaths on the memorial in the churchyard.



On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, Armistice Day, we held a special Remembrance Coffee Morning in the Church Centre. The Union Flag was paraded followed by a short service of remembrance.

We were pleased to welcome Year 6 from Winscombe Primary School who participated in the service by reading a beautiful, and very moving poem, which they had written as a class. The children also shared some wonderful paintings that they had created on the same theme.

We were so impressed by their poem that we felt others may wish to read it.



## **“We Will Remember” – A Remembrance Story**

**By Year 6 Winscombe Primary School**

Long ago, when the world was dark with war,  
Ordinary people were asked to do something  
extraordinary.

They left their homes, their families, their friends  
To stand for peace, and to protect others.

Some were soldiers,  
Some were nurses,  
Some worked in factories,  
Some waited and worried at home

All showed courage –  
Not just in battle,  
But in the strength to keep hoping.

Courage is not the absence of fear,  
It's doing what's right, even when you are afraid.

A young man wrote letters to his mother,  
Promising he'd be home for Christmas.

A nurse whispered kind words to the wounded,  
When pain filled the air around her.

A child collected scraps of metal,  
To help build planes and ships.

A teacher lit a lamp each night,  
And prayed for peace to return.

Each small act of bravery  
Became a light in the darkness.

When the guns fell silent,  
The world began to heal.

Poppies grew where once there was mud,  
Their red petals remembering the fallen.

Each poppy tells a story,  
Of courage, and of love.

We wear them not to glorify war –  
But to honour peace.  
To remember those who stood up,  
So others could live free.

They were young and old,  
Men and women  
From every walk of life.

They dreamed of a future –  
A world without fear.

They dreamed of laughter in quiet streets,  
And children playing in the sun.

We are the children they dreamed of.  
We live the peace they fought for.

We remember their courage.  
We remember their sacrifice.  
We remember the hope they carried.  
And we promise – To keep that hope alive.

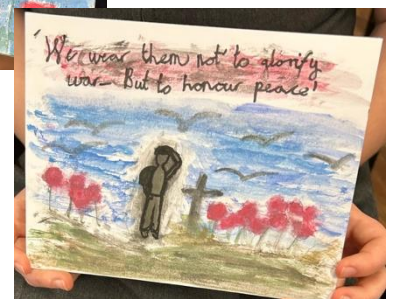
We promise – To be kind, and brave, and fair.  
To stand up for others,  
Just as they did.

To build peace,  
Where there is anger.

To bring friendship,  
Where there is fear.  
To bring light,  
Where there is darkness.

Because remembrance is not only about the past  
It's about how we choose to live today.

We will remember.  
We will be thankful.  
We will be brave.  
We will keep their courage alive.  
We will remember them.







**Highlight  
of the Year!**

# **Folk at Christmas**

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

**St James's Church Centre**

52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe BS25 1BA

**Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm**

Tickets £10.00 including seasonal refreshments  
Available from: Winscombe Post Office, The Wine Shop,  
St James's Church Centre Office

or from Martin Hagen - [hagen.martin@gmail.com](mailto:hagen.martin@gmail.com)  
and 07901 510992



It was pleasing to note that the momentum of attendance for our 9 breakfast meetings of the year had kept up well, so that we had a good attendance for our last breakfast of 2025 together at the Woodborough in November. There was no speaker on this occasion, but we are lining up speakers for next year. First off, in January we will be pleased to welcome Steve Reed, who has agreed to share some of his life story using our recently introduced style of interview, loosely along the lines of the Radio 4 program, Desert Island Discs. This will be an **open meeting**, everyone, men and women, are invited. But please do let me know at least a week in advance if you will be coming as I will need to let the Woodborough Inn know an estimate of numbers for the Saturday. That breakfast together will be on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January**.

As usual, I will send reminders to all on the mailing list. Do consider joining us if you have not been before, or invite friends too, as we have capacity for more at the Woodborough Inn. The price of a small English breakfast is now £11.50. The vegetarian option is £10.50.

Other breakfast options will be available, but *these do need to be pre-booked*.

To book your place for the January breakfast contact Tim Harland on 01934 843248.

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### 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.

# All Saints Church Community Café



The Christmas themed café in November raised an amazing £423.75 including Gift Aid. Also, the raffle and bric-a-brac stall raised a further £188.70 which is going towards the next phase of the building fund.



During 2025 the Café has raised £4,082.80 including Gift Aid towards our Church funds. This is truly amazing and grateful thanks are extended to you all from All Saints Church and the Café Team for helping us to achieve this amount and enable us to keep our church open for the Community.

Our next café date is:

**SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**there is no café in December**

**10.30 am – 12.30 pm**

**All Saints Church, Sandford**



A variety of coffee, teas and soft drinks along with homemade cakes, biscuits and soup is served



We look forward to seeing you in the New Year ~ **EVERYONE WELCOME**





## Churchill Reading Room

**NOW OPEN**

**Saturday mornings 10 am - midday**

Come and join us for a friendly chat over coffee at the  
Reading Room on Front Street  
(just behind the Clock Tower)



We have a lending library and jigsaw exchange plus  
tea, coffee, cake and bacon baps on offer.

*A chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.  
Hope to see you there!*



## Christmas Craft Fair



Churchill Reading Room

(Front Street, Churchill, BS25 5NG - behind the Clock Tower)

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**10am to 4pm**

*Christmas crafts, handmade jewellery, bees wax candles,  
artwork, cards and prints, crafty gifts and plants*



Relax with a cuppa - we'll be serving tea, coffee,  
bacon baps and a variety of cakes and mince pies





## December Quiz

This month's quiz has a Christmas theme, of course!

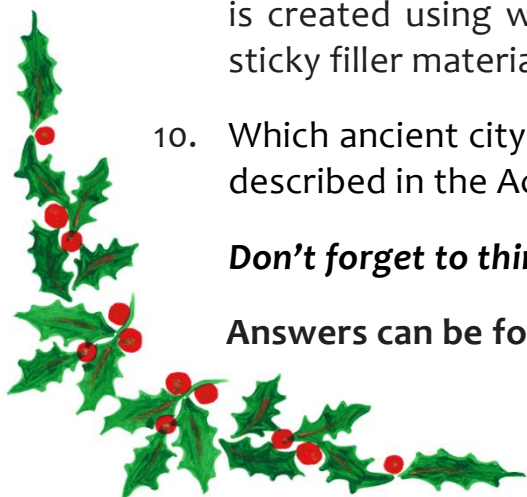
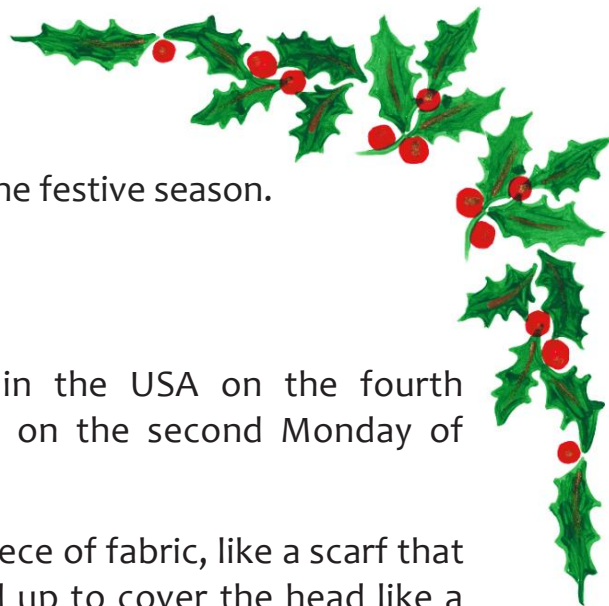
All the answers are linked by something to do with the festive season.

Can you make the link?

1. What national holiday is celebrated in the USA on the fourth Thursday in November and in Canada on the second Monday of October?
2. What name is given to a tube-shaped piece of fabric, like a scarf that can be worn around the neck or pulled up to cover the head like a hood?
3. What is the historic name for the modern city of Istanbul?
4. What six letter word beginning with 'g' means to eat something very quickly and greedily.
5. In many European cities and countries, who is the patron saint of sailors, children, merchants, pawnbrokers, brewers, toy makers, unmarried people and students?
6. What name is given to an upholstered low couch without a back or arms or a smaller cushioned seat that may have hinges and a lid so it can be used for storage?
7. What phase of the moon occurs when only a small, curved sliver is illuminated?
8. Who asks for help in the traditional tale where a number of farm animals refuse to plant, harvest and mill wheat?
9. What is the traditional building technique where a woven framework is created using willow, hazel or reeds? It is then covered with a sticky filler material called 'daub'.
10. Which ancient city was a major centre for St Paul's ministry which is described in the Acts of the Apostles?

***Don't forget to think about the link between all your answers.***

**Answers can be found on page 44**







## **Shipham, Rowberrow & Star History Society**

***Next meeting date:***

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Speaker: John Page**

**Talk entitled: 'The Baby Eating Bishop of Bath'  
at Shipham Village Hall, BS25 1SG**

**Refreshments: 7.15 pm    Members: £2, guests £4**

**For further details contact: Jan Taylor 01934 260784**

## Gardening Notes for December

### Prune Late-Flowering Clematis

Now is the time to prune clematis that flower between late June and October (known as group 3), and include varieties of clematis viticella, x jackmanii, and texensis, which all flower on new stems made each season. Look for where this year's growth started, these are the thickest stems at the base with an angled junction above. Gather the stems and cut them, at the base, one node above last year's growth; this will trigger new growth in the spring and will improve flowering. Not all clematis are pruned in this way, just tidy up spring flowering varieties (montanas for example), in early summer and reduce large flowering hybrids in early spring.

### Plant Bare Root Trees

Bare root trees are available to buy now and should be planted as soon as they are received to prevent the roots drying out. Soak the roots in a bucket of water for an hour or two before planting. Dig a hole that is twice as wide, and a little deeper than the root ball. Loosen the soil in the bottom with a fork and soak with water. Before planting, trim off any roots that are damaged, those that are much longer than the others, or crowded, as this will stimulate growth. Plant to the same depth as it has been grown previously, backfill the hole, firm the soil around the tree and water well. The tree may also need supporting with a stake, driven in at an angle and secured to the tree with a rubber tie, approximately one-third of the way up the trunk.

### Hellebores

Cut back the foliage from hellebores towards the end of this month. This will help to control hellebore leaf spot disease and also show off the flowers to their best advantage; new foliage will soon grow after flowering.

### Indoor Christmas Plants

Christmas and the New Year are favourite periods for houseplants to be given as gifts, it is important that these should be put in the right place. Azaleas, Christmas cactus and cyclamen can go somewhere cool and light. Snip out the flowers as they go over to encourage more blooms. Poinsettias need a bit more warmth but must avoid direct heat, while orchids need warmth and light. Water sparingly from the bottom with water at room temperature and mist orchids if you've had the heating turned up.



### Protect Brassicas

Net brassicas to stop pigeons destroying them, use upturned pots to help stop the supports from piercing the netting.

Finally, very best wishes for Christmas, good health and good gardening in 2026.



Benefice of Winscombe and Sandford with Churchill

# Come to our Crib Service



## Christmas Eve 4.00 pm

at the Church Centre, Winscombe

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

The perfect way to begin Christmas.



## NOVEMBER EVENTS

RAFA-MSB met on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November for a Branch General Meeting at 11:00 am in Wells Golf Club that included a presentation by our new Australian Member, Brian Smith entitled; 'Ged Ay All', covering his life in the RAAF and beyond. This was followed by a General Meeting that discussed continuity planning for the Branch, feedback on recent events, a report on the Association Annual Conference, events for the rest of 2025 and an outline programme for 2026. Brian Smith volunteered to be the next Branch Secretary starting at the AGM in March 2026 and so the Committee Members co-opted him onto the Committee as a 'Member without Portfolio' until the AGM. The meeting ended with an optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Paul and Suzanne Rolfe of the Ad Astra Cider Farm, ran a Quiz Night in aid of the Royal Air Forces Association at the Cider Barn, Stone Allerton. The Branch entered a team of six, but eight members attended so two teams of four were fielded: 'Nimrod the Mighty Hunter' and 'The Victory Victors'. Seventy contestants attended the quiz which turned out to be a fun evening, ably supported by the fully stocked bar including the wonderful Ad Astra Ciders, beers, wines and spirits plus hot beverages, pizzas and packet snacks. Both the RAFA teams scored in the middle of the board while the financial result was a handsome £430 (£350 from the entry fee, £50 donation from the pizza company and the winning team donated their £30 cash prize); the £430 will go straight to the 2025 RAFA Wings Appeal.



On Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Branch members represented the RAFA and laid wreaths at nine War Memorials across our area: Axbridge, Cheddar, Glastonbury, Morlands, Shepton Mallet, Shipham, St Cuthbert's Church in Wells, St Matthew's Church in Wookey, and Street (photos from Axbridge, Cheddar and Wells).



## DECEMBER & FUTURE PROGRAMME

RAFA-MSB will hold its Branch Christmas lunch on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 12:15 pm in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. This will be a formal Christmas lunch when members will be offered a drink on arrival, a choice of a two or three course lunch (four selections for each course chosen in advance by 8<sup>th</sup> December), ending with coffee and port for the Loyal Toast. Between courses, members will be offered some novelty Christmas amusements plus there will be a multi-prize Christmas raffle.

The first RAFA-MSB Event of 2026 will be a Branch Meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. There will be a presentation by a speaker (to be announced), followed by discussion about the Branch's plans for 2026 activities. The meeting will end with an optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

RAFA-MSB covers BS25, BS26, BS27, BS28, BA4, BA5, BA6, BA16, TA10 and TA11 postal areas. The Committee welcomes RAFA Members, current and ex-RAF personnel and reserves, current and ex-Commonwealth Air Forces personnel and reserves, members of the RAF family and members of the public that support RAFA aims and purposes that live in this area, to join us for our Christmas celebration of camaraderie and events in 2026.

For information about any of these events, please contact the Branch via email [rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com) or telephone the Secretary on 01458 224057.

\* \* \* \* \*

### AID FOR UKRAINE

Your help is needed **NOW** more than ever.  
The people of Ukraine are desperately in  
need of the following items:

- Warm winter clothes
- Camping equipment
- Kitchen utensils
- Blankets and bedding
- Mobility aids
- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Crockery and cutlery
- Medical supplies
- Wheelchairs

#### *Can you help?*

Need items collected? Contact Martin Spiller on 01934 852295 or drop off to Angela Morris at 81 Green Hill Road, Sandford, BS25 5PF or call 01934 852327



## *Churchill Music presents:*

Celestia Choir, Directed by David Ogden with Spotlight Sparklers from Yatton and Churchill Primary Choirs.



**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - 3 to 6 pm**, St Mary's Church, Church Road, Yatton, BS49 4HH.

Step into the festive season with an unforgettable afternoon of Christmas music including well-loved traditional carols sung by the professional voices of Celestia directed by David Ogden. David is celebrated for his inspirational programming and use of the performing space, to envelop the audience in beautiful music. This joyful celebration brings together professional singers, and the bright young voices of the Spotlight Sparklers, (from Yatton and Churchill Primary Schools) for a heart-warming concert. Perfect for all the family. A delicious tea will be served during the interval.

See below for further information and ticket details of this and other events.



### *Churchill Music* Programme of Events 2025-2026



Artist	Venue	Date & Time	Price: Champions	Price: Non-Champions
<b>Celestia Choir with Director David Ogden</b>	St Mary's Church, Yatton, BS49 4HH	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
<b>Churchill Young Musician of the Year 2026</b>	St John's Church, Churchill, BS25 5QW	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January at 6pm	£9 Under 18 free	£9 Under 18 free
<b>Aquinas Piano Trio: Martin Cousin, Ruth Rogers &amp; Katherine Jenkinson</b>	St John's Church, Churchill, BS25 5QW	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
<b>London Mozart Players</b>	All Saints Church, Wrington, BS40 5LF	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
<b>Royal Marines Association Concert Band</b>	Churchill Recreation Field, Ladymead Lane, Churchill	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June at 3pm	Free	Free

<https://churchillmusic.org.uk/>

Tickets: [ticketsource.co.uk](https://ticketsource.co.uk) , [holly@churchillmusic.org.uk](mailto:holly@churchillmusic.org.uk)

or call Holly Greenwood-Roger on 07442 672805

# CHURCHILL WAR MEMORIAL HALL

Ladymead Lane, Churchill, BS40 5ED

*Churchill War Memorial Hall is looking for two volunteers to fill these opportunities on the Committee*

1. Committee Secretary - basic admin, correspondence, meetings
2. Treasurer - invoicing hirers, bill payments

The Committee meets four times a year in January, April, July and October

*Could you spare a couple of hours a month to help run and keep this thriving village hall a vital part of our community? If so, we would love to hear from you.*

For further information please contact: Martin Fletcher on 01934 853253 or Mimi Simpson on 01934 853282 / 07814 490370



## December Word Search

In this month's Christmas Word Search, all the words feature in the famous poem, *'The Night Before Christmas'* by Clement C Moore.

There are 25 words hidden in the grid. Circle the words in the word search as you find them, they may be found across, down, diagonally, backwards, and can also overlap with each other. The hidden words are listed beneath the word search.

**Answers can be found on page 45.**



T	H	R	H	I	E	A	V	S	U	G	A	R	P	L	U	M	S
O	A	E	D	A	H	H	T	T	T	N	F	N	L	D	Z	E	I
H	E	H	M	T	I	A	V	A	N	E	N	E	I	R	O	R	R
A	I	S	O	N	D	I	A	N	R	E	S	P	C	T	O	E	S
I	S	A	O	S	X	R	S	I	W	U	U	X	H	O	T	C	V
S	T	D	N	E	N	E	R	H	O	C	T	A	I	E	W	N	X
A	O	N	N	O	E	E	G	M	N	N	R	A	M	I	T	A	S
L	C	M	C	T	Z	D	D	S	S	H	R	E	N	N	O	D	L
O	K	R	R	M	T	N	P	L	W	O	E	D	E	E	C	F	E
H	I	E	G	W	I	I	S	C	E	P	O	L	Y	U	M	C	I
C	N	C	I	D	L	E	D	T	R	W	E	I	F	N	H	H	G
I	G	N	R	R	B	R	I	E	C	E	D	O	E	I	S	R	H
N	S	A	R	N	F	O	S	C	O	Y	A	R	R	G	R	I	T
T	N	R	S	Y	E	E	C	C	N	T	D	T	I	H	E	S	E
N	H	P	E	E	N	E	O	N	S	O	A	I	U	T	S	T	A
I	E	D	E	T	F	M	E	T	O	Y	D	C	U	R	Y	M	U
A	A	R	S	A	E	S	A	S	P	S	A	O	T	O	E	A	N
S	L	E	R	T	E	Z	R	U	F	O	C	M	L	I	N	S	H

BLITZEN

CHIMNEY

CHRISTMAS

COMET

CREATURE

CUPID

DANCER

DASHER

DONNER

ELF

FUR

MOON

MOUSE

NIGHT

PRANCER

PRESENTS

REINDEER

SAINT NICHOLAS

SLEIGH

SNOW

STOCKINGS

SUGARPLUMS

TOYS

VIXEN

WINDOW



**Jesus  
is the  
gift**

Feel the Love & Peace of Christmas

**SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER**

**CAROLS & NATIVITY FOR ALL AGES**

Front Street, Churchill BS25 5NG

**3.30pm Carols @Cottage Homes, Front Street**

**3.45pm Follow the Star on Front Street**

**4pm @Churchill Methodist Nativity & Candles**

**5pm Sausage rolls & mince pies**



**Churchill Methodist Church**



[churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com)

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



## Supporting and Protecting Our Natural World

### An Unexpected Visitor

Occasionally, tiny shrews come to the garden especially in the late summer and early autumn. They like to keep well-hidden but sometimes their high-pitched squeaking is heard. They are very fast and easily recognisable by their long snouts, covered with bristling whiskers.

Though 'my' cat (a stray) enjoys catching shrews, she never eats one as she would a mouse. I found out why. Glands in a shrew's flanks emit a powerful scent that repels mammals such as foxes and cats! Their saliva is also distasteful. Birds do eat shrews as they have a poorer sense of smell. Shrew glands are mainly used to mark their runs and territories.

When a shrew decided to visit my home regularly, I began to take an interest in its life story. In early evening I would sit and wait for the diminutive shrew to emerge. The shrew, all alone (they are solitary animals except during the breeding season), would immediately make for the cat food. A shrew has a strong sense of smell but poor eyesight. Normally they eat insects such as spiders, wood lice and gnats and also invertebrates such as slugs, snails and worms.



Shrews must eat 90% of their body weight daily to survive. They must eat day and night, every few hours, otherwise they will die. If there is not enough food, they are forced to eat their own species. They do have brief rests every hour or so.

To survive times of food scarcity, some shrew species, like the common shrew, can reduce the size of its brain and even its skull and body, by reabsorbing nutrients from non-fat tissues.

*This picture gives an idea of how small a shrew is!*

Shrews are not often seen because they spend time just under the ground, or they scurry along tunnel like runways, through tussocky grass, or through leaf litter or soil. They do not hibernate but spend the winter in hedge bottoms, old nests and holes and amongst leaf litter (yet another reason for being cautious about strimming).

I grew rather fond of the shrew but did not know whether it was always the same one. It was likely because they are very territorial. Their lives are short, perhaps only a year or so, but enough to produce several litters of around 5 babies. The youngsters are able to look after themselves when only a month old.

It seemed to be leaving time. I bought a humane trap and set it with apparently a favourite



food – chocolate! It worked immediately. Instructions stated that the shrew should not be left longer than 4 hours without food. That was not a problem.

Naively, I released the shrew back into the garden. Next day it was back enjoying chocolate and then finding itself released further away this time on the verge along the adjoining lane. Still back! Next it was released across the busy main road into a friend's garden. Back again. Finally, and I should have researched this at the beginning, the shrew was taken, as instructed, at least a mile away. The shrew did not return.

I felt rather sad and hoped that it had found a suitable home in a new territory with other shrews not too far away. But I also wonder whether the shrew found another human home also with chocolate!

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.



### Gift to St John's

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, during the Service of Remembrance at St John's Church, Churchill, a beautiful communion set, owned by their grandfather, was given to the Church by Shaun and Ysanne Taylor, in memory of the Reverend James Taylor who was Parish Priest in Churchill during the Second World War, from 1933 to 1945. In the photograph, Shaun is holding the communion set, with Tricia Avery, Churchwarden and the Reverend Warren Williams who took the service. Ysanne is pointing to their grandfather's name on the Church's list of past Parish Priests.



The family has a further connection with St John's Church; the name of their uncle, Colin Birch, appears on the World War 2 memorial in the Churchyard.

# come to Scramblers

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

Toys

Drinks &  
Snacks

Stories  
Both Bible &  
traditional

Singing

Craft Activities

Games

**Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am**  
(term time only)

**December 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> then January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**all at the Church Centre**

The Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe. BS25 1BA

***ALSO, WHY NOT COME ALONG TO THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES?***  
***Sunday 21st December at 11am - Nativity Service at Lynch Chapel***  
***Christmas Eve at 4pm - Crib Service at The Church Centre***



## The Nicene Creed – 1,300 years old this year

The Nicene Creed - ‘We believe in one God, the Father...’ is a core statement of our beliefs in the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, together with the acceptance of Jesus being born of Mary, his Crucifixion and subsequent events of the Resurrection and Ascension. Among other things, it also commits us to our acceptance of ‘One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church’, together with ONE Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and our own resurrection to the life of the world to come (in Heaven we hope!).

The Creed came out of the First Council of Nicea in 325 attended by many of the Middle Eastern Bishops of early Christianity. It is rooted in Scripture; 1 Corinthians 8:6, Hebrews 1: 2–3, John 1: 14 and Matthew 28:19. At that time, the acceptance of the Trinity was widespread, if not formalised, until then. The 325 version, whilst acknowledging the Holy Spirit, did not expand to what we accept today of the fuller role of an equal part of the Trinity; that came following the Council of Constantinople in 381 which was attended by around 300 Bishops - whether there was any representation of the early Church in our islands, is not clear.



Over the centuries, there have been various additions to the Creed as our understanding has increased, and there have been changes between ‘I believe’ and ‘We believe’ to reflect both the individual and corporate statements. The Apostles Creed, traditionally used at Morning and Evening Prayer, is a shorter derivative of the Nicene Creed which is also permitted to be used in Communion Services, and that is what we now use in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill. The corporate reciting of the Creed is a powerful statement of our beliefs. As well as the Anglican, Roman, and Eastern churches which consider themselves catholic in nature, versions of the Creed are also used in the many of the Presbyterian, Reformed, Free and Orthodox churches, reflecting worldwide cross-denominational Christianity.

The Creed though does not express our other Christian beliefs and practices such as the institution of marriage, care of the sick and needy, and general human kindness with respect for others.

In conclusion I believe expressing the Creed is as relevant today as ever and we should not shy away from it but perhaps it needs some additions to reflect our ways, 1,700 years later. Whether there could be world-wide agreement on that latter point is an entirely different matter!

**John Jenkins**



**TICKETS ON SALE**  
(from End Nov)

# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

## Winspace Opening Event

### 18th to 20th Dec




**BRING THE FAMILY**

**TICKETS**  
Adult £5      Children £3

DOORS OPEN FROM 6:45PM  
(For 7:30pm eve show Thurs-Sat)

SATURDAY MATINEE 1:15 PM  
(2:00pm performance)



**Knit, crochet, macramé,  
sew or simply natter!**  
**Any age and all abilities  
welcome.**  
**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!

Last Knit & Natter before Christmas on  
**DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**  
We will return after the Christmas break on  
**JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>**



*Short*  
*informal*

# Mid-Week

**LYNCH CHAPEL**  
First Wednesday  
every month  
10.30am  
followed by  
tea & coffee

# SERVICE

**ALL AGES WELCOME**      **TOY CORNER AVAILABLE**

**NEXT DATES:**      **3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER**  
                                 **7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**



## Sandford Remembers

Over 60 people gathered at the memorial outside Humphry's Garage in Sandford on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 10.50 am. The Reverend Ann Ogram led the service at which the wreaths were laid and the names of those who died in the first and second world wars, and with the UN Peacekeeping Force in the Balkans in 1997, were read out. The two minutes silence was observed at 11.00 am followed by the singing of '*O God our Help in Ages Past*'.

The service then moved to All Saints Church where the Sandford Guides Flag was paraded by Janet Avery and laid on the Altar. This was done in memory of her mother Pam. The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.



## Sandford Helpline

This is a car scheme offering transport to all Sandford residents who do not have family or friends to take them to health-related appointments including hospitals, dentists or opticians.

**We have a small pool of volunteer drivers  
BUT URGENTLY NEED MORE!!**

Regular commitment is not necessary and mileage allowance is paid - please contact: Chris Noble on 01934 903145 or email: [mrs.noble@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.noble@gmail.com)



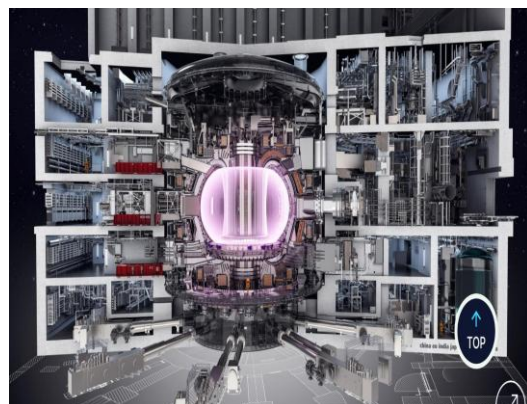
## Wroughton Vale Rotary Club

### Energy for the Future

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November saw Wroughton Vale Rotary holding another one of their monthly Breakfast Meetings with Dr John How holding the assembled audience fascinated with his insights into a potential Energy Source of the future, Nuclear Fusion. This technology, which has been in development for many years, holds the promise of being able to supply unlimited power with none of the issues of raw materials and waste that our current fission based Nuclear Power suffers. John explained that there are many challenges yet to overcome, to make this technology work, with temperatures in excess of the 100 million degrees needed to make it work. This might well take several decades. He has worked on some of the largest experimental Tokamak based machines in the world, with his last endeavours assisting in building the ITER machine in the South of France; the largest experimental Fusion Reactor under construction in the world.

This talk was one of a series of Breakfast Meetings that are focused on bringing interesting speakers and topics to the local community. They are held at 8:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month at Mendip Activity Centre in Sandford. All are welcome and no need to book.

Interested in Rotary and having fun? Call Ivor Metherell 07771 712356.



*Experimental Fusion Reactor concepts*



**Folk ... Yes, but all kinds of music and verse**  
**Fourth Tuesday each month 7.30 to 10.30 – just £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](mailto:winscombefolkclub@gmail.com) - also on Facebook





# Thursday Lunches

MERRY  
Christmas

Welcome!

**4, 11, & 18 December**

**12.30pm Churchill Methodist**

**BS25 5NG**

## Menu

**Soup & Roll  
Hot or Cold Sweet  
Tea or Coffee**



**Only  
£5**

Churchill Methodist Church

Contact us:

[churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com)

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



## DECEMBER 2025 – DIARY

TUES 2	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
WED 3	10.30am	Midweek Informal Service - Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THUR 4	9.30am	Scramblers - Church Centre
	10.00am	Communion in the Community - Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
SAT 6	7.30pm	Folk at Christmas - Badgerset, Church Centre

### **SUN 7                    2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

***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	10.30am	Midweek Informal Service - Lynch Chapel
	2.00pm	Knit & Natter - Lynch Chapel
THUR 11	9.30am	Scramblers - Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's

### **SUN 14                    3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

***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	10.30am	Midweek Informal Service - Lynch Chapel
	2.45pm	Holy Communion - Sewell House
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THUR 18	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's

### **SUN 21                    4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

***See opposite page for details of services***

TUES 23	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
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### **WED 24                    CHRISTMAS EVE**

***See opposite page for details of services***

### **THUR 25                    CHRISTMAS DAY**

***See opposite page for details of services***

### **SUN 28                    1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

***See opposite page for details of services***

TUES 30	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
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## Church Service Times

### Opportunities to Worship in December

*(see page 5 to find out why services are not taking place in St James's Church)*

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.00 am 10.00 am	St John's Church Centre	BCP Holy Communion Benefice Sunday Celebration
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	11.00 am 11.00 am	All Saints St John's	Holy Communion Carol Service
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Church Centre Church Centre	Benefice Holy Communion Carol Service
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4.00 pm 8.00 pm 11.00 pm	Church Centre All Saints St John's	Crib Service Carol Service Benefice Midnight Communion
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.00 am 10.00 am	Church Centre St John's	Holy Communion Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	11.00 am	All Saints	Benefice Holy Communion

#### Midweek Services

Every Tuesday                                      10.00 am                      Holy Communion at All Saints

#### Special Services in December

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December                      10.00 am                      Holy Communion at Dunster Court  
 Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December                      11.00 am                      Holy Communion at Sandford Station  
 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December                      2.45 pm                      Holy Communion at Sewell House

#### ***We remember the families and friends of:***

**Pamela Avery** whose funeral service took place at St John's Church, Churchill on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November followed by her burial in the Churchyard.

**David Gough** whose ashes were interred in St James's Churchyard on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Margaret Aske** whose funeral service took place at St James's Church, Winscombe on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November followed by her cremation at Sedgemoor Crematorium.

**Hazel Dimond** whose cremation took place at Weston Crematorium followed by her memorial service at Sandford Station, Sandford on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

#### BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b> Isaiah 11: 1-10 Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12	<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> Isaiah 35: 1-10 Psalm 146: 4-10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-2 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-end	<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> Number 6: 22-end Psalm 8 Gal 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21



## SANDFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

There was a short AGM at our November meeting. The Officers of the Club are as follows: Chairman, John Dunster; Deputy Chairman, Stephen Threasher; Secretary, Janet Baker and Treasurer, John Dunster. The rest of the Committee were voted en bloc: Tony Callow, Pat Jones, Joy Dodd, Penny Bond, Chris Owens and Claire Milkins. Our President is Marjorie Dunster.

We were then treated to a really interesting talk by Nick King entitled, *'Goats of the Gorge'*. Nick worked as a police officer for 20 years. When he retired, he decided to buy a couple of Anglo Nubian Goats, primarily for their milk, as he was told that it contained more calcium than cow's milk and was really good for osteoporosis. The two goats expanded to twenty-four!

Nick started making goats cheese in his kitchen and then went on to making soaps, skin creams and lotions, bath soaks and gift sets, but to do this they had to move into the garage. Nick and his two sons decided to set up a business and also appeared on Dragons' Den and with his son's experience in marketing, they had over 245,000 visits to their website. Their products are in over 200 outlets.

Dr Ragh Singh endorsed the products in the Healthy Child Magazine. All the products are known to help people with psoriasis and eczema. They were approached by Beauty World in Dubai; they have signed up for their products.

Nick brought along their products for us to try, and we were able to purchase them. We wish Nick and his sons all the best in their endeavours! John thanked Nick for his talk.

A lovely finger buffet and wine followed - it was a really sociable evening!

### ***Our next meeting:***

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Speaker:** George Bethell

**Talk entitled:** *'Our Work at Secret World'*

*Sandford & District Gardening Club meet monthly in Sandford Village Hall at 7.30 pm*





WWW.ZENWOMAN.CO.UK



INVITING YOU TO SOME DEEP  
REST THIS DECEMBER

# Women's Yoga Nidra Sound Bath



WITH ZENWOMAN & ZENDEAVOURS  
SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
WINSCOMBE

6:45 - 8PM  
ST JAMES CHURCH HALL,  
WINSCOMBE

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE  
HEAD TO ZENWOMAN  
WEBSITE TO BOOK

## Winscombe Contact Scheme

Voluntary Transport to Medical Appointments



**We urgently need volunteer drivers.  
Could you help in the Winscombe Community ?**

- ❖ Volunteers are needed to take Winscombe residents to medical appointments.
- ❖ Volunteer drivers use their own vehicle and expenses are reimbursed.
- ❖ No regular commitment necessary.
- ❖ Drivers can choose to drive in the local area only.
- ❖ It is a rewarding and worthwhile way to spend some of your free time.
- ❖ The scheme has been taking Winscombe residents to medical appointments since 1974

### **Interested ?**

For further information contact:-

Transport Secretary – Lottie Enser

Email:- [enser@btinternet.com](mailto:enser@btinternet.com)

Oct 25 MRB

A grateful resident who receives assistance from the Winscombe Contact Scheme, has sent a really lovely *'thank you' note* - see below.

So, if you can help, why not take the time to get in touch to find out more?

I would like to say a very big "thank you" to the lovely, kind people who generously give up their time to take myself and others to hospital appointments, and of course to Mary and Jenny for organising the scheme so efficiently. I don't know what we would do without them all.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Jill Greenway



## **Local History Corner No. 25**

### **The New Year**

The start of the New Year, was always a moment of great significance for the first farmers to settle in the Vale of Winscombe, from the time land first became available for farming over 3,000 years ago. It was essential for survival to know exactly when the days stopped getting shorter, and when the planting of crops for the new season, could begin.

In order to identify when this time would come, our ancestors would have learned how to recognise just where the sun would set when seen from a given point, and from this, know the day when the setting sun would cease from its apparent journey north and begin to move south again. This observation point would have been marked in some way and possibly used for generations. It may even have been enhanced in some way, such as digging a circle and ditch in the ground around it.

Earth circles have been known to archaeologists for very many years, but their use has frequently defied explanation and could be related to dwellings, burials or ritual purposes. In the Vale of Winscombe over the past twenty years, five such circles have now been identified either from aerial views or by using non-invasive geophysical surveying. Archaeological work twenty years ago below Banwell Hill on Broadleaze Farm, with permission from the owner, the late John Vowles, has recorded three circular features. The largest measures 200m in diameter, and the writer has been privileged to be able to stand in the centre of this circle in the evening of the shortest day of the year and see the sunset over Wavering Down following the contour of hill behind the Webbington to the horizon. A similar experience has been encountered looking from a prehistoric vantage point in Old Radnor (Powys) looking across the Vale of Radnor to hills beyond. It is almost certain that these circles must have been constructed to identify the turn of the year.

A fourth circle about 60m in diameter was identified from a satellite photograph showing the area south of Banwell Castle. It is not visible on the ground and may have been lost in recent road improvement working, although a record of it has been sent to the Somerset Heritage Centre. There are no obvious clues as to its purpose.

The fifth circle, a recent discovery south of the village, has been identified from a lidar image which uses radar technology. This seems to have a diameter in the region of 160m. An examination of the landscape suggests that this was located at the crossing point of two pre-historic trackways. The location of this circle, with higher ground on all sides except towards the east, again suggests that it was used to observe midwinter sunsets, but at the moment this can be only speculation, and more work needs to be done.

### **John Matthews**

Correction: Archaeologist Nick Corcos has corrected a mistake in Local History Corner no.24. The origins of the name Oakridge applies to an area of oak trees and does not relate to the local geology.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM**

**\* QUIZ NIGHT \***

**FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

**St James's Church Centre, Winscombe**

Teams of 6 or come along and join others  
£5 per person – details available soon



## Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill

Hello everyone!

Last month, I spoke in Parliamentary debates on several subjects – from Sudan to Business Rates, the ‘Duty of Candour’ in the new ‘Hillsborough Law’, to the Infected Blood scandal, and prison sentences to Powers of Attorney.

I’ve also been busy, criss-crossing the constituency visiting schools and businesses, harvesting organic walnuts (!) attending meetings and events, and speaking with many of you in cafés and pubs at my surgeries.

October marked Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I gladly attended a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Parliament and the Breast Cancer Now’s Wear It Pink! event. It’s good to know progress has been made, awareness raised, and I know that the Prostate Cancer UK campaigns are becoming equally important annual events in Parliament too.

I was delighted to attend the launch of the National Parks & National Landscapes All Party Parliamentary Group. The Group aims to press Government to act to protect these precious places and, along with several colleagues, I’m calling for the Mendip Hills to be designated a National Park. I’ll keep you updated on this in the months ahead.

November is a more sombre month, with remembrance at its core. This year, Parliament marked 75 years since the House of Commons chamber was rebuilt, having been bombed during the Second World War. Our communities honour those who lost their lives, particularly in the Great War and the Second World War. Every year I wear both a red and a white poppy. The red poppy reminds us to “*never forget*” the loss of British military personnel and those allied forces who died alongside them. The white ‘*peace*’ poppy was first worn in 1933. Its plea is “*never again*” and is to remember everyone who died, those who were physically and mentally injured, made homeless or stateless by war. Civilians are victims of war too, as our daily news broadcasts constantly remind us.

It matters to me to hear what matters to you. If you have a concern, question or something you would like to bring to my attention, please do get in touch, or visit me at one of my ‘surgeries’. I’ve listed some local dates below, but please contact my office for the full list. To keep updated on my work as your MP, I can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December** from 10:00 to 11:00 at **The Market Kitchen Café, Churchill**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December** from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Lamb Inn, Axbridge**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December** from 09:30 to 10:30 at **Congresbury Community Café**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December** from 14:00 to 15:00 at **The Coffee Bank, Winscombe**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December** from 18:00 to 19:00 at **The Bell Inn, Banwell**

No appointment is necessary - it’s first come, first served. If you can’t come to meet me, I’ll come to see you.

May I wish you a merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year!

Tessa

**You can contact me:** Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: [tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk) or Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won’t need a stamp!)

You can also contact Patrick Keating, your North Somerset Councillor on 07584 674740 or [patrick.keating@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.keating@n-somerset.gov.uk).



## No crib for a bed... when you're fleeing violence

When Chance escaped armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), her baby wore only a nappy. With your support, she can rebuild her family's future.



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, let's not forget communities affected by conflict. While many of us share a joyful and peaceful Christmas in our homes and churches, we invite you to consider families like Chance's, facing unimaginable hardship after fleeing violence.

Chance lived in a small farming community in the eastern region of DRC. When violence reached her village, Chance had to make an impossible choice, but she knew her family had to escape to survive. Chance isn't alone. She's one of millions forced from their homes in the DRC – one of the largest, and now most urgent, humanitarian crises of our time.

Though Chance is a resourceful mother, she's running out of options, because of a situation that's heartbreakingly beyond her control. Her days are filled with worry about how to feed her children, keep them healthy and hold onto hope for their future.

Exploitation and conflict mean millions of people in the DRC live in extreme poverty. The DRC has vast amounts of natural resources. Conflict between armed groups to gain access to these resources is an issue for us all across the world.

The tragedy of DRC may seem removed and distant to us. But almost all of us will have something from DRC in our homes. The metal cobalt is found in all kinds of technology, especially rechargeable batteries like those in your mobile phone; 70% of the world's cobalt comes from DRC.

### How can you help?

When every essential is out of reach, our partners offer families like Chance's a vital lifeline. Your support funds cash grants that help mothers buy the food and medicine their children need. Please support Christian Aid's Christmas appeal. You can make a donation, and read more about how we're helping mothers like Chance here:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/winscombesandfordchurchill>



## Pastoral Care Team



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

Or perhaps you have a prayer request?

If yes, please get in touch - our Pastoral Care Team is on hand to offer support.

If you do need support or would like further information,  
please contact Reverend Pauline Nixon  
07511 935860 or email [revpolly@gmail.com](mailto:revpolly@gmail.com)



# Traditional Burns Night Ceilidh!



**Saturday 24 January**

**6.30-11 pm St James Church Centre BS25 1BA**

**Live Band & Caller**  
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## RNLI MENDIP CELEBRATED 220<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

RNLI Mendip Branch celebrated its inaugural Trafalgar Night on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at Mendip Spring Golf and Country Club, Congresbury and was attended by 42 guests. The evening followed the traditional *'Trafalgar Dinner format'* with roast beef as the main dish, the *'Three Toasts'* and ended with the Navy and RNLI hymn, *'Eternal Father Strong to Save'*. The Guest Speaker, Mark Dowie CBE, the former CEO of the RNLI (see photo), gave an interesting overview of his involvement with the RNLI starting with his role at Salcombe Lifeboat Station, followed by leading the whole organisation as CEO through the COVID pandemic, the controversy of the Channel migrant rescues and the difficult economic times caused by the Ukraine war and fuel costs. Although the accounts for the event are not yet finalised, it is clear the profit will be in excess of £1,000; a good result for a first effort. The golf club has been booked for a repeat event in 2026.



## RNLI MENDIP BRANCH POP-UP SALE – SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

The Branch held a Pop-Up Sale inside Winscombe Community Centre from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. The sale included larger items that were donated, jigsaws, Christmas stocking fillers, Christmas cakes and puddings, spring bulbs, Chris's tools and domestic items, a multi-prize Christmas raffle and refreshments. Footfall was steady but less than in 2024 but, nevertheless, the sale raised the sum of £958 on the day but there is still more money to come from post-event on-line sales. The Mendip team were joined by two ladies from the Portishead Branch who brought RNLI Christmas cards, calendars and diaries and they made over an additional £300 in sales, so a good day for the RNLI.





### **RNLI MENDIP FOLK CONCERT 'GRANNY'S ATTIC' - SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER**

The RNLI Mendip Branch presented a concert by the folk trio '*Granny's Attic*' in St James's Church Centre, Winscombe. The concert was organised by James Barattini as part of his '*Winscombe Folk*' series and at the time of sending to press, 90 tickets had been sold. The concert was a return visit by Granny's Attic who secured a strong following their previous visit. It was a pleasure to welcome back Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne (melodeon, Anglo concertina, and vocals), George Sansome (guitar and vocals), and Lewis Wood (violin and vocals). Photographs and results will be available in the next edition

### **RNLI MENDIP BRANCH REINDEER RUN - SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

Sadly, the Reindeer Run had to be cancelled due to lack of preparation time and over commitment of the Branch Committee; basically, it was one event too many to organise in a single month.

### **TESCO SUPERMARKETS IN SOMERSET SUPPORT RNLI MENDIP BRANCH**

RNLI Mendip Branch is pleased to announce that three separate TESCO supermarkets in our area are supporting the RNLI by authorising RNLI Bucket Collections in their stores during December. On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December the **TESCO, Wells Store** will host our team between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm together with '*Stormy Stan and Stormy Sonny*' in attendance. On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December the **TESCO Nailsea Store** will host our team over the same time period and, on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, the **TESCO Shepton Mallet Store** will follow their annual tradition and host our team from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm with '*Stormy Stan and Stormy Sonny*' in attendance plus a supply of carrots to give to Santa's reindeers that evening!

### **VOBSTER SANTA DIVE – SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

Once again, the Vobster Quay Activity Centre is hosting their **Charity Santa Scuba Diving** event to raise money for the RNLI and Help for Heroes at the Vobster Quay Activity Centre, Upper Vobster, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 5ZG. Their members will be strapping on fluffy white beards and squeezing into poorly-fitting Santa suits to hit the water en-masse in an effort to raise money for these two very deserving charities. RNLI Mendip members will be in attendance supported by '*Stormy Reindeer and Stormy Sonny*', alongside the Branch stall.

### **RNLI MENDIP BRANCH ANNUAL SUPER QUIZ – SATURDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2026**

The first RNLI Winscombe Branch Event of 2026 will be our Annual Super Quiz at 7:00 pm on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January in Shiphams Village Hall, New Road, Winscombe, BS25 1SG. The quiz will be for teams of six (£12.50 per head or £75 per team) and the ticket price includes the usual mega ploughman's supper, a bar and a multi-prize raffle. Doors will open at 7:00 pm and the quiz will begin at 7:30 pm. Contact Tina Joyce by email [meejlfh@gmail.com](mailto:meejlfh@gmail.com) or telephone 01934 842304 for more details.

### **OCTOBER SHOUTS**

In October there were 7 'shouts' between three of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 1, Portishead – 2, Weston-super-Mare – 6).

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, The Weston D Class lifeboat was launched at 7:34 pm after a police report to conduct a search for a missing person in the Brean Down area while the Burnham crews were tasked at 7:50 pm to assist on the Brean side of Brean Down. Burnham-on-Sea's Atlantic 85 lifeboat was launched, closely followed by the Burnham's D class lifeboat. The launch lasted around 3 hours before low water, and use of the D class, potentially enhanced the ability to search in low water, closer to the shore. All lifeboat crews were stood down after police on shore had located the casualty, safe and well.



# Lifeboats

## December Quiz Answers

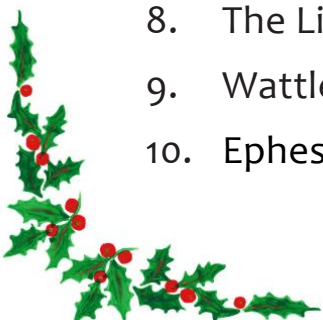
Here are the answers to our Christmas themed quiz.

Did you discover the link? It is the word 'turkey'!



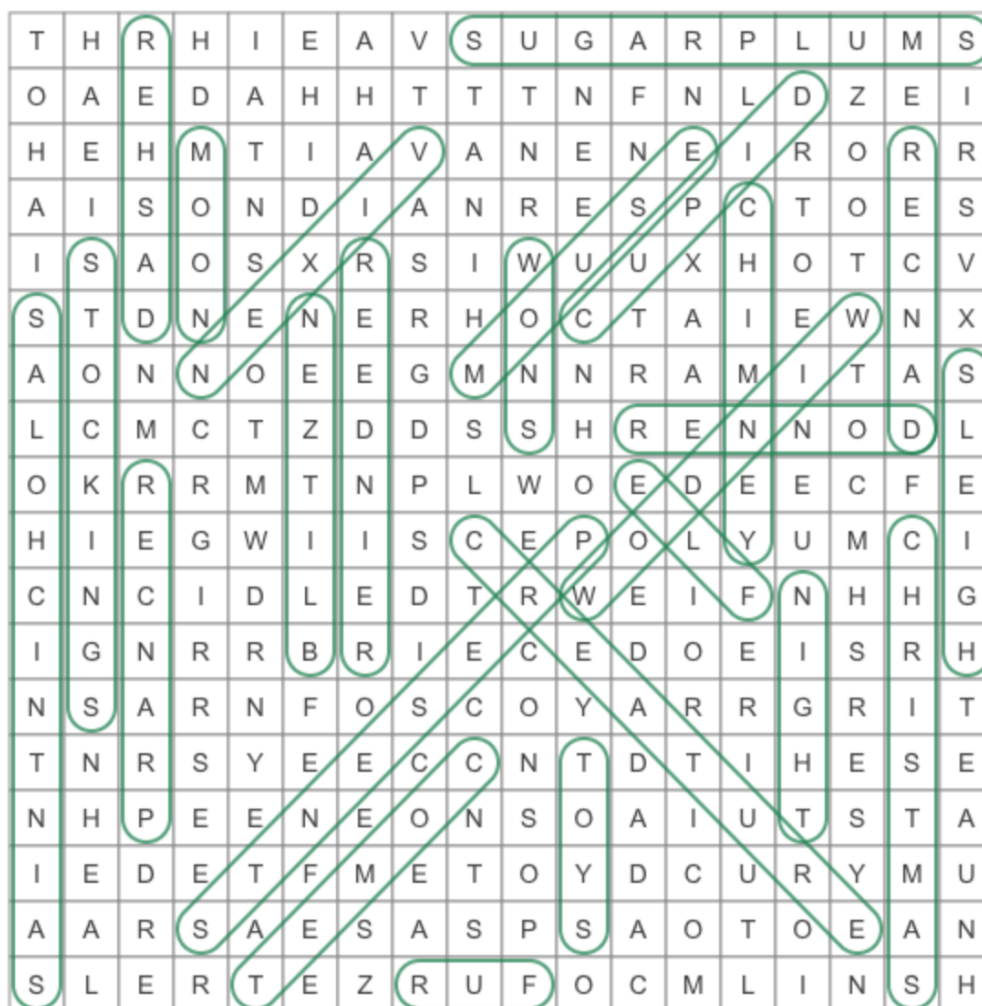
Here are the answers with some explanation.

1. Thanksgiving Day – when turkey is traditionally served.
2. Snood – a fleshy, appendage that hangs over a turkey's beak.
3. Istanbul – a major city in Turkey.
4. Gobble – the noise male turkeys make.
5. St Nicholas – was born in what is now modern-day Turkey.
6. Ottoman – the Ottoman Empire was defeated in WW1 and replaced with the Republic of Turkey.
7. Crescent Moon – appears on the flag of Turkey.
8. The Little Red Hen – hen is the name for a female turkey.
9. Wattle – the fleshy flap of skin hanging from a turkey's throat.
10. Ephesus – situated in modern Turkey



## December Word Search Answers

Did you find all the words from 'The Night Before Christmas'?



### 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

£17 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



## The Christmas Feast

The medieval manor of Winscombe has a number of surviving court and account rolls, the earliest dating from 1277-78. The account rolls describe every last item of income and expenditure relating to the Dean and Chapter Estate in Winscombe. The ancient parish of Winscombe included Sandford and Dinghurst (which is now Churchill).

The farming is described in detail in the account rolls, both the sale of grain and of animals. Under the list of stock, the 1278 roll tells us that; *'18 oxen remain from the previous year, 2 were added from John West's heriot and mortuary (both paid when a tenant died), and 1 was bought for 13s, of which 1 was slaughtered for the Christmas feast and there remain 20'*.

After attendance at church, the height of celebration at Christmas was the feast which the lord of the manor provided for all his tenants in the hall of the court on Christmas Day. All of the tenants would have been present and possibly their families as well. Elsewhere in the county, at East Pennard, each tenant was entitled to 4 places at the feast. The hall, which was sited at Winscombe Court near the church, would have been decorated with evergreen holy and ivy and trestle tables, or boards, would be set out around the hall. The tenants would sit in order of their status with the more important people nearer the top table. There would have been a roaring fire, and candles to light the hall.

Each year, the main item of expenditure for the Christmas feast was the ox which in 1277 had been purchased for 13s. in 1393, a *'fatted ox'* was bought from John Badman, one of the tenant farmers of the parish, for 16s. The estate was able to redeem some of this expense. Nothing was wasted in the Middle Ages, as we can see from the sale of the remains of the ox listed under *'income'*:

*6s from the sale of an ox hide and a cow hide slaughtered for the larder and the Christmas feast.*

*18d from the sale of their entrails*

*12d from the sale of 8lbs of their lard.*

In 1343 we learn that the 2lbs of fat skimming produced by the Christmas feast, was used to grease the axles of the carts which carried the timber from Winscombe to Wells for the new chancel roof of St Cuthbert's Church.

Other meat was provided at the feast. In 1277, a pig and 3 sows were slaughtered (at that time a pig cost 3s), and in 1393, these were also supplied by John Badman at a cost of 8s. An additional expense was the 3 bushels of beans that had been used to fatten the pigs prior to the feast (the exact weight of a bushel of beans is uncertain, but it was probably between 28 and 32lbs). The number of pigs consumed dropped from 4 to 2 in 1305 and continued at that number for most years except in 1336 and 1342, when we were told that 4 *'hoggets'* were used instead. A hogget was a sheep of 1-2 years of age.

So far then at the feast, the tenants have been given roast ox and pigs (or occasionally sheep), for the meat course. There was bread too, perhaps used to mop up the juices. In 1277 a quarter of wheat (about 256 lbs in weight), was used to provide the bread, and a baker was hired *'to measure and bake the bread'*.

What else was on the menu? Well, we mustn't forget the cheese. In 1305-1306, cheese was being sold at 8d a stone. The record of what the manor produced for the year 1277-78 is as follows:

*39 cheeses were made at the rate of one a day from, and including, the Thursday after Michaelmas (30.9.1277) until the Sunday after the feast of St Leonard (7.11.1277).*

*13 cheeses were made at one every two days from, and including, the following Monday until Friday after the feast of St Andrew the Apostle (3.12.1277).*

*From that day, the milk was sold until, and including, the Sunday before the feast of St Scholastica Virgin (6.2.1278).*

*120 cheeses were made at one a day from, and including, the following Monday until the Monday before the feasts of St Barnabas the Apostle (6.6.1278).*

*Total: 172 cheeses of which 8 cheeses weighing 2 stones (a stone was 14lbs or 6.35 kilos), were used for the Christmas feast.*

As you can see from this extract, 8 whole cheeses weighing 28 lbs or 12.7 kilos, were consumed at the feast. Cheese continued to be made by the servants of the manor until sometime between 1336 and 1342, when cheese production ceased to take place on the manorial farm. From this date onwards the 'lactage' was leased out for 74s per annum which made it necessary to purchase cheese for the feast, as in 1342:

*16d for buying 2 stones of cheese for the Christmas feast.*

And, needless to say, it would not have been a feast without the ale to wash it down. The ale was made on the manor at a cost of 4d in 1305-6 using a mixture of malted wheat (a quarter) and oats (2 quarters). In 1382, an additional expense of 6d was noted for hiring a vat with a tripod for brewing the ale.

It seems that the occasion would be well lit, because most years record the purchase of candles costing 2d. There would also be light from the fire.

There is a custom dating back to 1290 that describes the duties of the tenants, mainly how much ploughing, harrowing, harvesting and threshing, they were expected to do on the manor farm (in addition to their own farming). The list of duties includes:

*Carrying a faggot of brushwood to the lord's court for the gestum (Christmas feast).*

An interesting situation is revealed in 1393 when we learn that John Lacy, who held a cottage in Barton and who was the 'berebrett' (grain overseer) for the manor, was accused of stealing one quarter of the beef remaining from the Christmas feast, along with a cask containing 16 gallons (? of ale), for his own use.

So, when you sit down to this year's Christmas dinner you will know that you are following in a long tradition of feasting associated with the Christian festival of the Nativity in the parish of Winscombe.



**Teresa Hall, The Winscombe Project**

## Christmas joy for all people



We fear that we live in a world of increasing polarisation. Conflicts between and within nations play their part. The amplification of division and hostility by social media algorithms doesn't help. Culture wars exacerbate matters further. Sometimes, it feels like common ground is disappearing from underneath our feet like a sandbar being overwhelmed by the tide.

In such a climate, it's good to return to the message that heralded the arrival of Jesus. *'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people'*, says that angel who announces the saviour's birth (Luke 2:10). Jesus' story quickly includes all types and sorts of humanity. From local shepherds to exotic visitors from afar. I wonder what the conversation was like as they all crammed into the stable to see the newborn child?

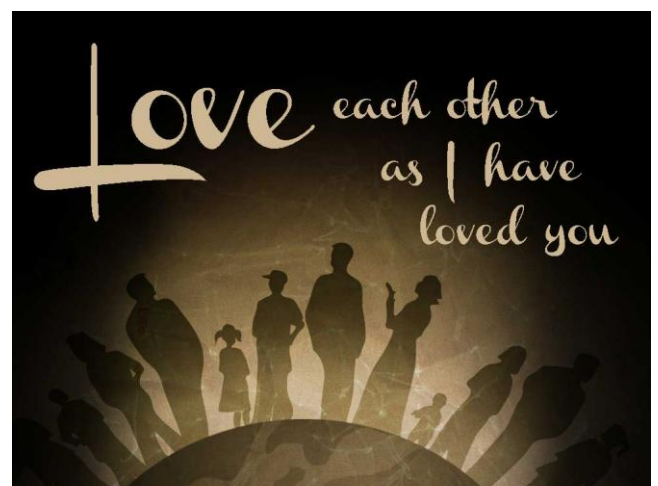
Jesus's story quickly shows that not only is he for all people, but that he needs all people. His family must have needed assistance when they fled as refugees to Egypt. Jesus must have needed help when his parents left him behind on a family outing to Jerusalem aged twelve. Jesus was constantly calling on and engaging with others as he went about his teaching and ministry.

What might counter the polarisation of our day? Amongst our greatest resource is to seek out the emotion that accompanied the news of the saviour's birth – joy. When we encounter joy, from that cup winning goal to the marriage of much-loved friends, such moments are never the time for division and enmity. We're all far too busy shouting and hugging each other! The invitation of Christmas is to experience such joy afresh. Often, we see joy most obviously in children's experience of the season. Might we seek it for ourselves too? For joy breaks down divisions, overcomes barriers, reminds us that we are one.

*'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people'* says the angel.

A very merry and joyful Christmas to you all.

**Michael Beasley**  
**Bishop of Bath and Wells**





## DEFIBRILLATORS

Defibrillators can be found locally 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  
Touts Supermarket and Petrol, A38



*Defibrillators are designed to be as easy as possible to use. The defibrillator will tell you how to use it, so even if you've never had the experience of using one before, you should try your best and give it a go - you could save someone's life.*

## Emergency Bleed Kit Now Available at Churchill Memorial Hall

We're pleased to share that a Bleed Control Kit is now installed at Churchill Memorial Hall, Ladymead Lane, Langford providing lifesaving equipment in case of a serious emergency.



These kits are designed to help control severe bleeding before emergency services arrive and can be the difference between life and death.

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**Location:** Churchill Memorial Hall - available 24/7



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Wednesday evening



### **CHI BALANCE**

Friday morning

### **CHAIR YOGA EXERCISE**

Thursday afternoon



### **COFFEE MORNING**

Tuesday morning



### **MOVEMENT AND DANCE EXERCISE**

Thursday evening

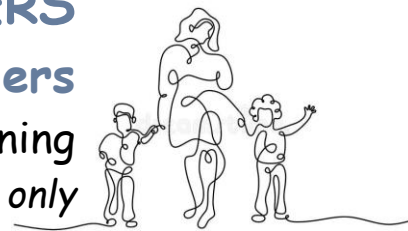


### **SCRAMBLERS**

Parents & Toddlers

Thursday morning

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## Avoiding Court Disputes over your Will

Roughly one in five families have disputes about inheritance, estimates suggest. Each year, approximately 10,000 people dispute Wills across England and Wales.

With court disputes over Wills becoming increasingly common, how can you reduce the risk of legal battles over your Will?

Disputes over Wills typically occur when Executors – the individuals responsible for managing the Estate – fail to fulfil their duties properly. Missteps such as unequal asset distribution, favouring certain beneficiaries, or neglecting the terms of the Will can lead to legal challenges.

Executors play a crucial role in ensuring that the deceased's wishes are carried out. However, when they act improperly or irresponsibly, beneficiaries may feel compelled to pursue legal action. With court cases increasing year on year, it's vital to take steps to mitigate these risks during the Will-writing process.

### Steps to Minimise Will Disputes

**Understand Your Family dynamics** - it is helpful to have a clear picture of the relationships involved. This helps to identify possible areas of contention such as if someone is being excluded.

**Choose the Right Executor(s)** - many court disputes stem from Executors failing to act responsibly. Select the right person for this role to ensure your estate is managed fairly & efficiently. Key considerations include their trustworthiness, capability as well as their location and age.

**Write a Clear, Detailed Will** - Wills that are not specific can cause of disputes. A well-drafted Will leaves no room for misinterpretation. Include specific instructions regarding: distribution of assets, the roles & responsibilities of Executors & provisions for any excluded family members. Clarity is key. By explicitly stating your intentions, you reduce the chances of mistakes that could lead to legal challenges.

If you would like advice about reviewing your Will, please call **01934 442030** to arrange an informal chat.

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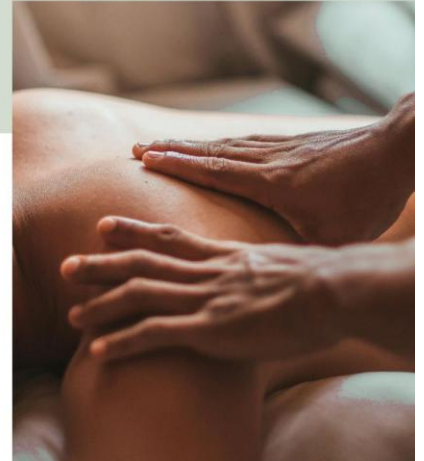
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### *Reminder notes*

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## Useful Telephone Numbers

<b>Police</b>	Non- Emergency	Call 101
	PCSO Kayley Anderson	07802 874658
<b>Fire</b>	non-emergency	01179 262061
<b>Police, Fire, Ambulance</b>		Call 999
<b>Utilities - Emergency</b>	Gas - National Grid Gas	0800 111 999
	Electricity - National Grid	Call 105
	Water - Bristol Water	03457 023797
	Water - Wessex Water (24 hour)	02456 004600
<b>Health</b>	NHS Health Enquiries	Call 111
	Winscombe Surgery	01934 842211
	Banwell Surgery	01934 820113
	Mendip Vale, Langford	01934 852906
<b>Hospitals</b>	Weston General Hospital	01934 636363
	Bristol Royal Infirmary	01179 230000
	Bristol Southmead	01179 505050
	Bristol Children's Hospital	01179 665881
<b>Pharmacy</b>	Boots, Winscombe	01934 843168
<b>Dentists</b>	Honeycomb Dental Clinic	01934 842573
	Winscombe Dental Practice	01934 842230
<b>Veterinary</b>	Alexandra and Hillyfields Vets	01934 843381
	Langford Vets Small Animal Practice	01934 852422
<b>North Somerset Council</b>	Information	01934 888888
	Out of Hours Emergency	01934 622669
	Environmental Problems	01934 888802
	Council Tax and Benefits	01934 888144
	Social Services	01275 888801
<b>Parish Councils</b>	Winscombe and Sandford	01934 844257
	Churchill and Langford	07399 523961
<b>Assistance</b>	Winscombe Contact Scheme	07888 812398
	Sandford Helpline	01934 852426
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	Samaritans (North Somerset)	0330 094 5717
	Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 278 7973
	Churchill and Langford Minibus	01934 852589
<b>Schools</b>	Winscombe Primary School	01934 843407
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	Churchill Academy and Sixth Form	01934 852771
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