

Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

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



January 2026

FREE

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

Vicar St James the Great, Winscombe All Saints, Sandford St John the Baptist, Churchill	Reverend Dr Julian Davies will be joining us mid-January	
Assistant Curate	Reverend Jacqui Keir-Bucknall rev.jacqui.kb@gmail.com	07990 766647
Benefice Administrator & Signpost Editor Church Office	Sue Smyth 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA admin@winsandchurches.org.uk	01934 352696
PCCs' Secretaries	Bridget Andrews (St James & All Saints) winsandsec24@gmail.com Emma Stocks (St John's) emma.stocks@hotmail.com	01934 352696 01934 853873
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Churchwardens 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
Pastoral Care Team	Reverend Pauline Nixon revpolly@gmail.com	07511 935860
Churchill Methodist, Minister Pastor	Reverend Andrew Bell Ken Young	01934 852314 01934 852686
Lynch Chapel Pastor/Minister	David Jewell The Lynch, Winscombe, BS25 1AR davidjewells@aol.com	07443 907454
Sidcot Quakers Meeting House	Oakridge Lane, Sidcot, BS25 1LT	01934 843065
Roman Catholics	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

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

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

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



The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, their god of doorways, gates and thresholds, of beginnings and endings. He is usually depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions, one looking forward and one back.

As we begin a new year, we are also in a time of transition. We look back to the celebrations of Christmas and look forward to new beginnings in 2026. In churches throughout the world, people will have remembered, once again, the wondrous birth of the baby Jesus. But this was just the beginning – that baby would grow up to be our Lord and Saviour, the Light of the World.

We can look back with joy to those lovely carol services, but we must also look forward to carrying that light of Christ out into the world around us, a world that is so desperate for good news and signs of hope. We don't have to do this alone because we have the promise of God's Holy Spirit to help us and we have the support of our Christian family around us.

We also look forward to the arrival of new members of our Christian family. We welcome Revd Dr Julian Davies and his family to our benefice and pray that God will bless them richly as they join us here.

As we see the new shoots of the snowdrops pushing through the hard ground into the light, may we see new shoots coming through from the roots of our Christian faith as we move forward into this next year. Things may not be easy, but we should never give up. The prophets, disciples and early Christians that we read about in the Bible, certainly struggled at times, but their faith kept them going.

Jeremiah 33.3 says, *'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know'*. We may not know what lies before us, but we do know we have a loving God who will guide us and show us the way forward. May we continue to come before Him in prayer and praise in the days to come and be willing to listen to His voice.

One of the biggest transitions to have occurred in this last year has been the overwhelming emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI). I must admit that I am very wary of it, but while thinking about this reflection, I came across an AI example prayer for a new year which I think is rather appropriate. *'Lord, as winter's cold gives way to hints of spring, help us to see the buds of hope in our own lives. Teach us to number our days, not with anxiety, but with purpose, using the spiritual gifts you've given to be Your hands and feet in a world that needs Your light and love. May we find glory in your presence, even in the mundane, and live each day as a gift, ready to share the hope of Christ with all we meet. Amen'*

Reverend Pauline Nixon

Signpost - The Parish Magazine

Welcome to January's 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 February's edition is Sunday 18th January. Please submit items, which should be no longer than 400 words, as Word documents to parishmag2@gmail.com . If you include 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 reserves 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 . 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

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 .

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



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 |

A lovely thank you from Paul Howell, Receptionist at the For All Healthy Living Centre:

“I just wanted to send a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful food donations from St James’s Church in Winscombe. Your generosity means a great deal, and it truly makes a difference. Please can you pass our thanks onto the congregation.”



We didn't meet in December, but now we are looking forward to 2026 and potentially 9 breakfast meetings being planned. We are lining up speakers for next year, and 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 programme, *'Desert Island Discs'*. This will be an **open meeting**, so 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 our numbers for the Saturday. That breakfast together will be on **Saturday 10th 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 £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.

The Churchwardens of St James's Church are very grateful to Chew Valley Gas and Oil (based in Winscombe), for all their help, support and advice in recent years, with heating and plumbing provision.

For further information on all the services Chew Valley Gas and Oil provide, please see their advert on page 47.

Derrick Claridge and Beth Cutmore, Churchwardens

All Saints Church Community Café

Our next Café date is:

SATURDAY 3rd JANUARY 2026

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 ~ **EVERYONE WELCOME**



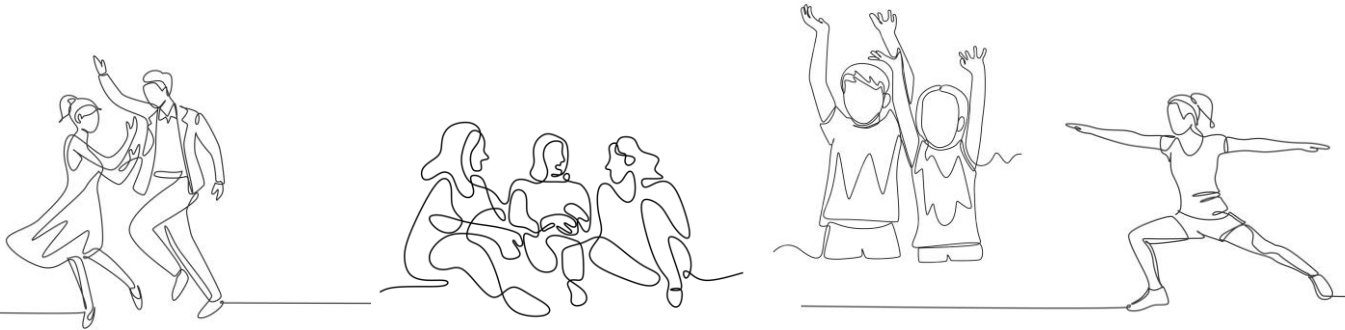
COFFEE MORNING



Every Tuesday at 10.30 am
Church Centre, Winscombe
All Welcome



Looking for a local venue for a
regular class or group?
Church Centre, Winscombe could be just perfect



- ✓ fully accessible – all on ground level
- ✓ spacious facilities
- ✓ free parking
- ✓ kitchen
- ✓ large fully equipped hall
- ✓ central to a thriving, expanding village

Interested in finding out more? Call: 01934 352696 or
Email: admin@winsandchurches.org.uk



Churchill Reading Room

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!*





ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM



MIDWINTER MYSTERY QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 30th January

at

The Church Centre



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



Tickets £5 each from

The Church office or Post Office

Telephone 01934 352696



Bring your own
food & drink



Happy New Year Quiz

As it's the **new** year, all the questions in this month's quiz are linked to the theme of beginnings.



- 1 What are the first three words in the Bible?
- 2 Who wrote the song 'Begin the Beguine'?
- 3 What famous US document begins, 'We the people'?
- 4 Which war began with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary?
- 5 What is the term for the beginning of the universe according to modern cosmology?
- 6 Which book starts with the line, 'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen'?
- 7 What is the title of the first Harry Potter book?
- 8 Which animal makes the first appearance in the Chinese zodiac?
- 9 What was the first feature length animated film ever released?
- 10 In which city did the modern Olympic Games originate?

Answers can be found on page 32

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.

Winscombe to Delhi by Bike

Did you know that we have two intrepid explorers in our midst? Alysun and Tim were inspired by travel writer Dervla Murphy, to enjoy their early retirement by cycling to India in six 1,000-mile stages, each taking about a month. **Come and learn about their adventures, illustrated by Tim's spectacular photographs – see below for details.**



They began their project in 2015, and reached Delhi in 2022, cycling across Europe to the Black Sea, before crossing the Caucasus mountains, and then through Georgia, Armenia and Iran. Finally, they crossed India – from Dwarka in the west and then on through Vrindavan, Gujarat and Rajasthan into Uttar Pradesh and eventually, in 2024, they reached the temple beach town of Puri by the Bay of Bengal in the east.



TUESDAY 13th JANUARY 7:30 pm
Church Centre, Winscombe, BS25 1BA.

Tickets **free** from Farrons Estate Agent, Janet Corry (07415 339172) or David Hart (07778 109769)

Thank you so much to all those who attended our quiz in November - a fantastic £571 was raised to support the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal. We hope to raise more for Christian Aid on the 13th January.

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

Traditional Burns Night Ceilidh!



Saturday 24 January

6.30-11 pm St James Church Centre BS25 1BA

Live Band & Caller
GET REEL

Proceeds to:
Friends of St James



LOTS OF FUN & DANCING

Welcome Drink

Haggis/Veggie, Neeps, Tatties

Delicious Dessert Buffet

BYO Table Drinks/Glasses

£27.50 INFO & Tickets:

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofstja>

mesthegreatwinscombe/1871507

winscombeburnsnight@gmail.com



ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM

St James's Events Team would like to thank everyone who supported their many events during 2025 and helped to raise a magnificent £5,108. Here is just a taste of what we already have planned for the coming year - everyone is very welcome, so come along and join in the fun - we hope to see you in 2026.

Friday 30th January	Midwinter Mystery Quiz Night – <i>test your knowledge in our fun quiz (see page 9 for details)</i>
Saturday 14th March	Bingo and Bangers – <i>a fun evening of bingo and supper for all the family</i>
Saturday 28th March	Easter Crafting Day – <i>activities and crafts for all the family</i>
Saturday 6th June	Somerset Crooner & Cream Tea – <i>enjoy a delicious cream tea while being delightfully entertained</i>
Friday 16th October	Belle Street Duo sing Rat Pack – <i>the extremely popular Belle Street Duo return to Winscombe</i>

For more information, or to host an event of your own, call 01934 352696 or email admin@winsandchurches.org.uk

Shipham, Rowberrow & Star History Society

Next meeting date:

Tuesday 13th January

Speaker: *Professor Richard Coates*

Talk entitled: *The History of Local & National Surnames*
at Shipham Village Hall, BS25 1SG

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

For further details contact: Jan Taylor 01934 260784



**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)



JANUARY 14th & 28th
FEBRUARY 11th & 25th
MARCH 11th & 25th



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: 7TH JANUARY
4TH FEBRUARY

Churchill Music Programme of Events 2026



Artist	Venue	Date & Time	Price: Champions	Price: Non-Champions
Churchill Young Musician of the Year 2026	St John's Church, Churchill, BS25 5QW	Wednesday 28 th January at 6pm	£9 Under 18 free	£9 Under 18 free
Aquinas Piano Trio: Martin Cousin, Ruth Rogers & Katherine Jenkinson	St John's Church, Churchill, BS25 5QW	Sunday 22 nd March at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
London Mozart Players	All Saints Church, Wroughton, BS40 5LF	Sunday 26 th April at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
Royal Marines Association Concert Band	Churchill Recreation Field, Ladymead Lane, Churchill	Saturday 27 th June at 3pm	Free	Free



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

Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk , holly@churchillmusic.org.uk

or call Holly Greenwood-Roger on 07442 672805

Badgerset Concert - December 2025

For many years, we have been privileged to enjoy a wonderful Christmas concert by local folk group Badgerset, and this year was no exception.

On Saturday 6th December, Badgerset performed their 2025 concert to a sell-out audience at the Church Centre in Winscombe. The group is made up of musically talented members of 5 families who each have a connection to Mendip Morris.

We were entertained with an eclectic mix of Christmas music; folk tunes and songs from ancient to modern; dance and humour. The audience was soon singing along with the more familiar tunes and choruses. Instruments played included guitars, bodhran, accordion, violin, flute and penny whistle.

Members of Mendip Morris performed one of their dances and we were treated to a very amusing retelling of the story of David and Goliath. If you are wondering how this particular bible story is related to Christmas, don't forget the words from While Shepherds Watched; *"To you in David's town this day, is born of David's line, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord and this shall be the sign."*

A fantastic evening which raised £1,200 shared between St James's Church in Winscombe and All Saints in Sandford. Over the last twelve years, an amazing £10,000 has been raised by Badgerset for the two churches. Thank you!

Our thanks to all involved in playing, singing and providing the delicious refreshments.



**HAPPY
New
Year**

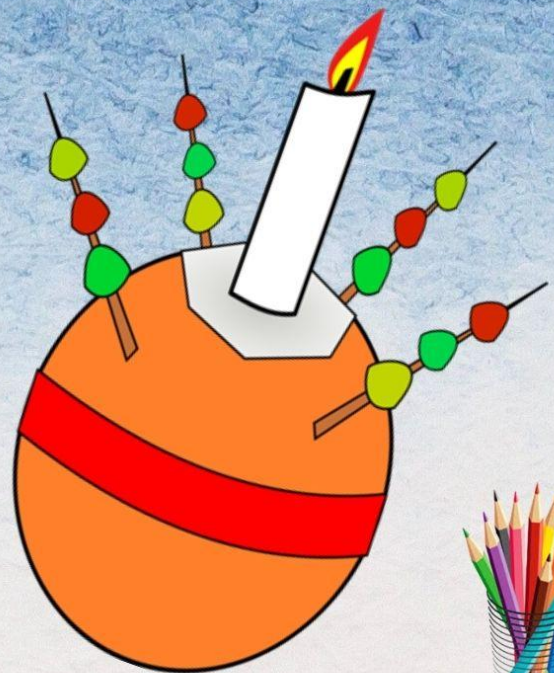
**we ♥
CREATE! Sunday**

CHRISTINGLES & CRAFTS

FREE

Sunday 18 January 4-6 pm

@Churchill Methodist, BS25 5NG



- ♥ **Fun for families**
- ♥ **FREE Crafts Workshop**
- ♥ **Bible Storytime**
- ♥ **Buffet Tea**



Churchill Methodist Church

Contact us:

churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

Children's Society Christingle Celebration



This Christmas we decided to do the Christingle Service in a different way! In order to try to involve as many children as possible, the Children's Society Committee approached Winscombe Primary School and asked if we might hold the Christingle there.

The Head, Mrs Baker, was extremely welcoming and in early December we went to Linden Class (Year 3) and explained to them how Christingle began and what it represents;

they then each made a Christingle.

They used an apple to represent the world, red tape round the apple to show the love of God for the world, four orange sticks with a grape, some sultanas, a piece of carrot and a sweet to represent the four corners of the earth and the four seasons of the year. Finally, a candle was placed on the top of the apple. We then went into the school hall for assembly where the children of Linden Class stood at the front and explained the meaning of the Christingles to the other classes in the school. We sang two songs, said a prayer and then the candles were lit, the lights were dimmed, and we all sang a verse of 'Away in a Manger'. It was a magical occasion and Mrs Baker has very kindly asked us back again at Christmas 2026!



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

January Word Search

In this month's New Year Word Search all the words are the names of places in the world that hold New Year firework displays.

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



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

ACAPULCO
AMSTERDAM
BANGKOK
BEIJING
BERLIN

BRUSSELS
DUBAI
EDINBURGH
GIZA
HONG KONG

LAS VEGAS
LONDON
NEW YORK
PARIS
RIO DE JANEIRO

SAN FRANCISCO
SINGAPORE
SYDNEY
TAIPEI
VALPARISO

Answers can be found on page 36



WINGS APPEAL 2025

The Quiz at the Ad Astra Cider Farm on Thursday 6th November produced a handsome financial result of £430 (£350 from the entry cash, £50 donation from the pizza company and the winning team donated their £30 cash prize), which went straight into the Branch's 2025 RAFA Wings Appeal, bringing the year's total to £1,269.

BRANCH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Saturday 13th December, 33 Branch Members met in Wells Golf Club to enjoy the annual Christmas lunch. On arrival, members were offered a choice between a glass of Prosecco or a fruit cup and the chance to chat before lunch was served. At 12:45 pm they were called to places at the table for the dedication and welcome from the Chairman, after which they were served with their pre-chosen selection of a two or three course lunch. Between courses, the Christmas cracker jokes and RAF Christmas anecdotes were shared, and the Chairman read out a version of the Christmas Story that involved animated humorous audience participation! The meal ended with coffee and port for the Loyal Toast, after which the President and Chairman thanked members for their continuing support and some planned highlights for 2026. The finale was the drawing of the last four winners in the multi-prize Christmas raffle.



PROGRAMME FOR 2026

The first RAFA-MSB Event of 2026 will be a Branch Meeting on Monday 5th January at 11:00 am in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. There will be a presentation entitled; '*History of a Belgian Spitfire Pilot – Part 1*', by our Branch President Group Captain Dick Whittingham, followed by discussion about the Branch's plans for 2026 activities. The meeting will end with optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

The second event of 2026 will be a Branch Meeting on Monday 2nd February (at the same time and venue as above), will include '*Part 2 of the History of a Belgian Spitfire Pilot*', followed by preparations for the Branch AGM on Monday 2nd March.

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 at rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or telephone the Secretary on 01458 224057.

come to Scramblers

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

- Toys
- Drinks & Snacks
- Stories
Both Bible & traditional
- Singing
- Craft Activities
- Games

Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am
(term time only)

January 8th, 15th & 29th
February 5th, 12th & 26th
March 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th
April 2nd
all at the Church Centre

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



Sandford Helpline

This is a not-for-profit community transport scheme run by local volunteers. We offer transport to all Sandford residents who may 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. If you think you can help, or know someone who might be interested, contact: Chris Noble on 01934 903145 or email: mrs.noble@gmail.com



**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 - also on Facebook



**Save the
Children**

*You can help children in distress
all around the world*

**SAVE the CHILDREN
LUNCHES**

Shipham Village Hall

Fridays 9th and 23rd January - 12.30 pm

*Everyone is welcome to join us for soup, locally baked bread,
cheddar cheese, pickle, homemade biscuits, tea or coffee*

£5.50 (pay at the door) - all profits support Save the Children



**Save the
Children**

Supporting and Protecting Our Natural World

Sour Grapes

My home is close by the wooded slopes of Mendip and recently, I have heard the unnerving cries, barks and shrieks of foxes throughout November, now December and usually into January. Though sounding horrific, this is normal behaviour. Foxes are crepuscular and usually around at dawn and twilight. They are searching for a mate, defending their territory, or creating a new territory in which to bring up a family. The gestation time is 52 days so cubs are born in March or April.



There is much folklore about foxes presumably because for hundreds of years they have been a common sight in the countryside. My title began when I wondered what the expression 'sour grapes' actually means. It means disparaging or something that one cannot attain. The expression comes from one of Aesop's fables, 'The Fox and the Grapes', and is about a fox that cannot reach some grapes. Instead of admitting defeat or asking for help, he

announces that they are sour anyway. A lesson to be learned!

Foxes are very territorial and within their territory have several hiding or sleeping places called lairs, but to give birth they build a more substantial den that has several entrances for safety. The cubs stay in the den for about 3 weeks, usually in March, feeding on milk, but in April or May they emerge to explore and play near the den.

Once the cubs are about 2 months old, the mother will leave them at dusk or dawn to hunt for food, but at times they are forced to hunt in daylight, and this is when trouble comes for the fox and poultry keepers. Foxes are completely opportunistic, looking for almost any meal. They can climb a 6-foot-high fence or squirm through pig netting. They are omnivores eating a wide range of foods including small mammals like mice and rats, garden birds and their eggs, invertebrates such as slugs and earthworms, fruit and nuts in season, and carrion. Even with such an availability of food, the fox is still, on occasion, forced to hunt in daylight as my photos show. It is 9.30 am and the fox is looking around. He or she decides it is safe to enter the goose house - it is empty - unlucky this time!



Despite this threat, mainly in May and June, I have respect and a liking for foxes. They have been persecuted relentlessly for hundreds of years so that their numbers are declining in rural areas. This is partly because killing of foxes and their cubs is indiscriminate using legal and unfortunately illegal methods such as poisoning and blocking dens in the cubbing season. Foxes are not highly protected like badgers (that kill more hens in my experience!) or deer (that have a close season). However, they are protected from abuse and cruelty by Act of Parliament 1996, which must be hard to enforce. Meanwhile foxes are finding more food and safety in our towns.



Come for a Cuppa!



**Tea and Cake
in the afternoon**

LAST Saturday every month!
Toy Corner available

LYNCH CHAPEL

2.30pm - 4pm

NEXT: Saturday 31st January



Come for a Cuppa!

**SATURDAY
31 JANUARY 2026,
2 pm at Winscombe Community Centre,
Sandford Rd
BS25 1JA**



**Clothes/Household goods/
bric a brac/toys/and much
more. Raffle &
refreshments available.**

**Donations of jumble may
be brought to the
Community Centre from
9.30 a.m. on
Jan. 31st. Entrance 50p.**

HOLD YOUR CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY PARTIES AT THE CHURCH CENTRE



Large hall

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<https://hallbookingonline.com/winscombe>



SANDFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our Christmas Party was a great success, everyone looked very festive dressed in their Christmas jumpers and thanks to Majorie, the tables were decorated beautifully. We enjoyed a superb buffet and a lovely Christmas raffle. Entertainment followed by the 'Piano Man' who kept us all dancing the night away!

Many thanks to all the Committee for their hard work and to Lyn Callow for her delicious quiches!

The Committee would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. There is no club meeting in January, but we look forward to seeing you in February.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Speaker: George Bethell

Talk entitled: 'Our Work at Secret World'

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Speaker: Gill Hazel

Talk entitled: 'Rare and Unusual Bulbs'



All meetings take place at Sandford Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30 pm. Everyone welcome.

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

WINSCOMBE COMMUNITY SINGERS



Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm

Winscombe Community Centre

Musical Director: Josh Newport



Music, friendship, fun and laughter

For more information please contact
Simon Page 07900 693783



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Mondays 09.00-11.30
5, 12, 19 & 26 January

- ♥ Friendly group, easy parking
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- ♥ Yummy snacks; cuppa & cake



Churchill **Methodist** Church

Contact us:

churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

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DIARY - JANUARY 2026

SAT 3 10.30am All Saints Community Café, All Saints Church Room

SUN 4 EPIPHANY

See opposite page for details of Services

TUES 6 10.00am Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room

10.30am Coffee Morning - Church Centre

WED 7 10.30am Midweek Informal Service - Lynch Chapel

7.15pm Choir Practice - St James's

THURS 8 9.30am Scramblers - Church Centre

10.00am Communion in the Community - Dunster Court

7.30pm Bell Ringing - St James's

SAT 10 9.30am Refreshmen+ Men's Breakfast - Woodborough Inn

SUN 11 BAPTISM OF CHRIST

See opposite page for details of Services

TUES 13 10.00am Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room

10.30am Coffee Morning - Church Centre

WED 14 10.30am Midweek Informal Service - Lynch Chapel

2.00pm Knit & Natter - Lynch Chapel

7.15pm Choir Practice - St James's

THUR 15 9.30am Scramblers - Church Centre

7.00pm Licensing of Revd Dr Julian Davies - St James's Church

SUN 18 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

See opposite page for details of Services

TUES 20 10.00am Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room

10.30am Coffee Morning - Church Centre

WED 21 2.45pm Communion in the Community - Sewell House

7.30pm Bell Ringing - St James's

SAT 24 6.30pm Burns Night Supper & Dancing - Church Centre
(in aid of Friends of St James's Church)

SUN 25 3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

See opposite page for details of Services

TUES 27 10.00am Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room

WED 28 2.00pm Knit & Natter - Lynch Chapel

THUR 29 9.30am Scramblers - Church Centre

11.00am Communion in the Community - Winscombe Hall

7.30pm Bell Ringing - St James's

FRI 30 7.00pm Quiz Night - Church Centre
(by St James's Events Team)

Church Service Times

Opportunities to Worship in January

(only funerals are taking place at St James's Church due to issues with the heating)

Sunday 4th January	8.00 am 10.00 am	St John's Church Centre	BCP Holy Communion Benefice Sunday Celebration
Sunday 11th January	11.00 am 11.00 am	All Saints St John's	Morning Worship Holy Communion
Sunday 18th January	10.00 am	Church Centre	Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 25th January	11.00 am 11.00 am	All Saints St John's	Holy Communion Morning Worship

Midweek Services

Every Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints

Special Services in December

Sunday 4th January 11.00 am Holy Communion at Sandford Station
 Thursday 8th January 10.00 am Holy Communion at Dunster Court
 Wednesday 21st January 2.45 pm Holy Communion at Sewell House
 Thursday 29th January 10.30 am Holy Communion at Winscombe Hall

We remember the family and friends of:

George Berry whose funeral service took place at St James's Church, Winscombe on Monday 8th December followed by his cremation at Weston Crematorium.

BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY

Sunday 4th January Jeremiah 31: 7-14 <i>or</i> Ecclesiastes 1-12 Psalm 147: 13-end Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: (1-9) 10-18	Sunday 11th January Isaiah 42: 1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3: 13-end
Sunday 18th January Isaiah 49: 1-7 Psalm 40: 1-12 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 John 1: 25-42	Sunday 25th January Jeremiah 1: 4-10 <i>or</i> Acts 9: 1-22 Psalm 67 Acts 9: 1-22 <i>or</i> Galatians 1: 11-16a Matthew 19: 27-end



RECENT FINANCIAL RESULTS

As reported in December, on Saturday 8th November, the Branch held a Pop-Up Sale inside Winscombe Community Centre. Footfall was steady but less than in 2024, nevertheless, the sale raised the sum of £958 on the day but there is still some more money to come from post-event online sales. The Mendip team was joined by two ladies from the Portishead Branch who brought RNLI Christmas cards, calendars and diaries; they made additional sales totalling over £300, so a good day for the RNLI.

On Saturday 22nd November RNLI Mendip Branch presented a Folk Concert by the trio 'Granny's Attic' in St James's Church Centre that was attended by 105 folk connoisseurs. The audience was treated to a wonderful blend of Dorset folk songs and foot tapping jigs, delivered in the energetic and showman 'Granny's Attic' style by the three lads from Worcester who complemented the responsive audience at the finale. The concert made a profit of £846 for the RNLI (ticket sales profit £490, raffle £116 and bar £240). In addition, a kind supporter donated four tickets to the Branch for a folk concert in Bristol and these were re-sold on the night for a further £120.



TESCO SUPERMARKET COLLECTIONS IN DECEMBER

During December, Branch members conducted RNLI bucket collections at three TESCO supermarkets. Starting on Saturday 6th December with the TESCO store in Wells when 'Stormy Stan and Stormy Sonny' were in attendance. The TESCO Nailsea store followed on Friday 12th December, and finally on Christmas Eve, at the TESCO Shepton Mallet store when once again 'Stormy Stan and Stormy Sonny' were in attendance, plus carrots (supplied by TESCO) that 'Stormy Sonny' gave to the shoppers to feed the reindeer that evening! The result from TESCO Wells was £747 but full results and some more photos will be available for the February issue.



VOBSTER SANTA DIVE – SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER

Once again, the Vobster Quay Activity Centre near Radstock hosted their charity Santa Scuba Diving event to raise money for the ‘RNLI and Help for Heroes’. A host of divers dressed in Santa suits with fluffy white beards hit the water en masse in an effort to raise money for the two charities. RNLI Mendip members represented the RNLI supported by ‘Stormy Reindeer and Stormy Sonny’ along with the mascot from the local Help for Heroes branch. Full results and photos will be available for the February issue.

RNLI MENDIP BRANCH ANNUAL SUPER QUIZ – SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2026

The first RNLI Winscombe Branch event of 2026 will be our Annual Super Quiz at 7:00 pm on Saturday 31st January in Shipham Village Hall, New Road, Winscombe, BS25 1SG. The quiz will be for teams of six (£12.50 per head or £75 per team) and will include 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. To book tickets contact Tina Joyce by email meejlfh@gmail.com or call 01934 842304 for more details.

RNLI MENDIP FOLK CONCERT BY MARK WAISTELL - SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY

RNLI Mendip Branch intend to present a folk concert by the singer and musician, Mark Waistell starting at 8:00 pm (doors open 7:15 pm) on Saturday 21st February (date TBC) in St James’s Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA. Mark is a singer songwriter based in Devon; his music is folk acoustic based, but draws on many influences including classical, traditional, ragtime and rock. Tickets costing £15 are obtainable from James Barattini – email winscombe.folk@gmail.com or call 07703 538861. There will be a bar selling beers, ciders, wine and soft drinks, plus a raffle in aid of the RNLI.

NOVEMBER SHOUTS

In November there were five ‘shouts’ between three of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 1, Portishead – 2, Weston-super-Mare – 2).



On Saturday 8th November Portishead volunteers were tasked at 11.49 am to assist a barge suffering intermittent engine failure off Avonmouth (very close to Portishead Pier), that had two people on board.

On arrival the Helm Mike, checked that both crew members on board the stricken vessel were fit and well. Once that was confirmed the crew rigged the tow, pulled the barge back to

Portishead Marina lock, and then waited a short time for the vessel, currently in the lock, to be released. The crew then entered safely with the barge in tow.

Happy New Year Quiz Answers

Did you know the answers to this month's quiz? Here they are:

- 1 In the Beginning
- 2 Cole Porter
- 3 The Constitution
- 4 World War 1
- 5 The Big Bang
- 6 1984 by George Orwell
- 7 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
- 8 Rat
- 9 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (Walt Disney)
- 10 Athens



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

Gardening Notes for January

Tool Maintenance

Post-Christmas is a good time for maintaining and organising your garden tools. There are many ways to store tools, but the best solution is a simple line of hooks on a shed or garage wall. Once you have the storage organised, make sure the tools are clean and sharp. Tools should be cleaned with a brush, dipped in water, after every use; a clean spade is much easier to work with. To sharpen blades, drip a few drops of oil on a whetstone and push the blade up the stone away from you, or alternatively, use a diamond tool sharpener or sharpening steel.



Mahonia

Mahonias are dramatically architectural plants that produce long strings of dainty yellow flowers that open from late summer through winter until late March with a fragrance that's said to resemble lily-of-the-valley, followed by blue-black berries that are favoured by blackbirds. Most soils are suitable, and they are happy in full sun or part shade. No regular pruning is necessary but if they do need to be reduced, cut back to a sideshoot after flowering. It's a good idea to cut back a couple of branches each year.

Hellebores

Keep hellebores pristine by cutting back last year's foliage to reveal the blooms to their best advantage. Removing the foliage also helps to control hellebore leaf spot fungus which causes unsightly brown scars on the leaves. New foliage will soon emerge from the base to make a backdrop to the flowers as they continue to bloom.



Chillies

These need a long growing season so now is the time to start sowing seeds. Sprinkle the seeds thinly on a seed tray or small pot using seed compost, water well and place in a heated propagator at 27°C in the greenhouse or, if placed indoors, on a windowsill propagator. Seeds should germinate within 10 days and should be grown on until they have produced at least one pair of true leaves when they can be moved on into individual pots. These will need to be potted on again before being potted up into their final pots. Feed weekly with a high nitrogen feed until the flowers form when you need to change to a high potash feed.

Azaleas

Many indoor azaleas given as presents, will need caring for if they are to bloom again next year. Remove any spent flowers and lightly trim the newest growth. If the roots have filled the pot move into a slightly larger one using ericaceous compost, water regularly with rainwater and apply a liquid feed over the summer.



Monday 19th January 2026 starting at 2.30 pm

Winscome Community Centre, BS25 1JA

Speaker: Historian and Author, Timothy Hopkins-Ball

Talk entitled: "Muchelney Abbey in the 16th Century, a Monks Perspective"

Doors open at 2 pm for refreshments

Members £2 ~ Visitors, very welcome £3.

Visitors are also welcome to join us for coffee mornings which take place at the same venue on the first Monday of the month from 10 am to 12 midday

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

WINSCOMBE W.I.

You are welcome to join us for our next meeting:



Wednesday 14th January 2026

at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

Sewell House, Belmont Road, Winscombe, BS25 1LQ

Speaker: Steve Egginton of the Mendip Times

refreshments available - find us on Facebook

Happy
New Year

Churchill Methodist Church

Thursday Lunches

22 & 29 January

12.30pm @ Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

Only
£5

Bowl of Soup & Roll
Hot pudding or Cold Dessert
Tea or Coffee



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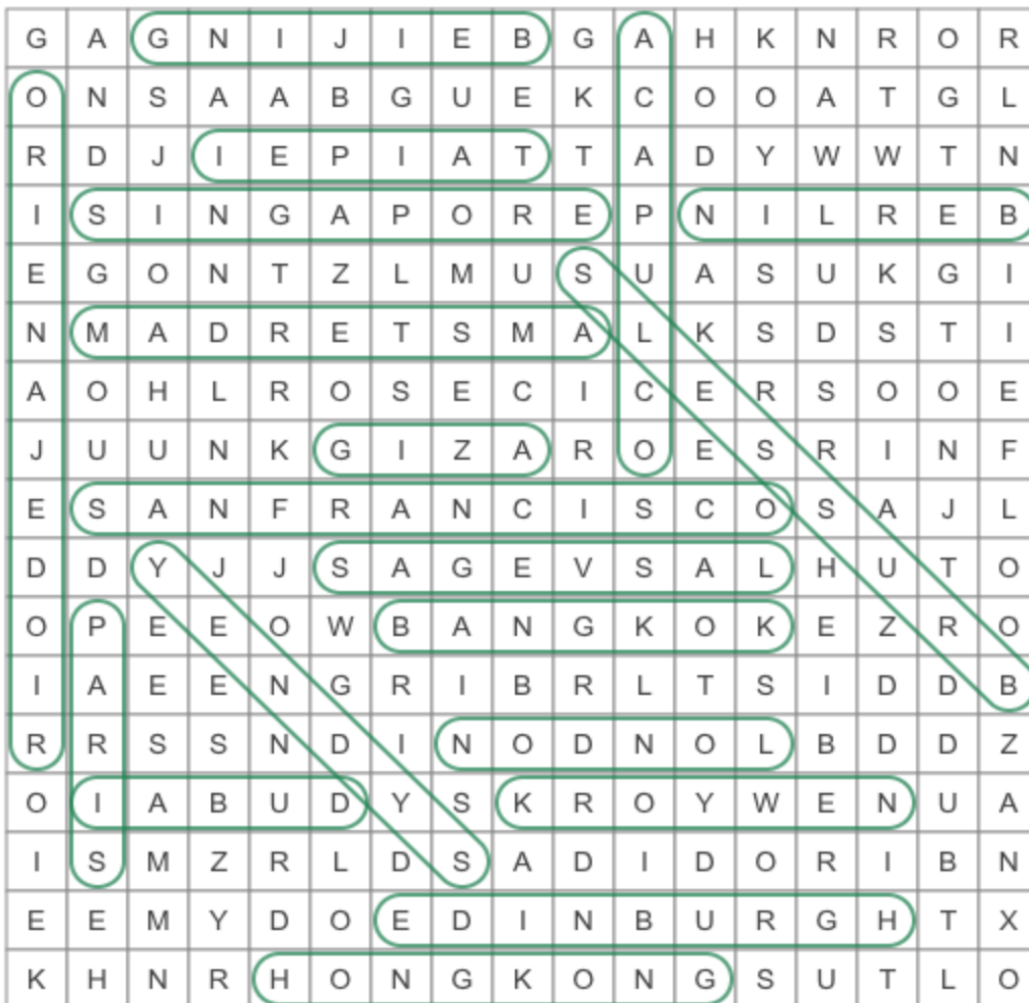


churchillmethodist.org.uk



January Word Search Answers

Hope you enjoyed your New Year's trip around the world. Did you find all the places that were lit up to celebrate the arrival of 2026?



SAVE THE DATE

*** ALL SAINTS CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT ***

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2026

Sandford Village Hall

Come along, join in the fun – details available soon

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



Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to working with you and for you in 2026.

I really enjoyed UK Parliament Week last month, visiting schools and youth groups across the area. I love talking with students, teachers and leaders and taking their questions. I look forward to many more visits in 2026 - both here and when schools and other groups, come on trips to Parliament.

On Budget Day, my colleagues and I joined farmers protesting against the family farm tax and voted against it in Parliament, along with several other proposals which simply won't work for local residents. I'll continue to press government to drop their unfair taxes which will have a devastating impact on residents and businesses in the West Country.

This last month, I've been on committees examining every line of The Public Office (Accountability) Bill (generally known as 'the Hillsborough Bill'); legislation relating to Armed Forces Chaplains; the Church of England's redress scheme for abuse victims and the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations.

I've asked questions about police reform, business rates, prisoner releases, rehabilitation, books in prisons, the 1994 RAF Chinook crash, re-organising local councils, the loss of grant information by the last government, estate agents' checks on homebuyers, and Sudan. I also led a debate on ME, a condition affecting 1,300,000 people in the UK.

As ever, if you have any concerns or anything you'd like to talk to me about, please write, call or come and see me. A full list of my surgeries is available when you call or email me, but these are your most local:

Monday 19th January from 09:30 to 10:30 at **Congresbury Community Café**

Friday 23rd January from 10:00 to 11:00 at **The Market Kitchen Café, Churchill**

Friday 23rd January from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Coffee Bank, Winscombe**

Friday 23rd January from 13:30 to 14:30 at **The Note Warehouse, Yatton**

Friday 23rd January from 18:00 to 19:00 at **The Brewer's Arms, 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.

I know that for many, the transition into a new year can be difficult, and the cold weather and dark evenings linger heavily. However the new year affects you, I wish you peace and happiness for 2026.

Thank you.

Tessa

You can contact me:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

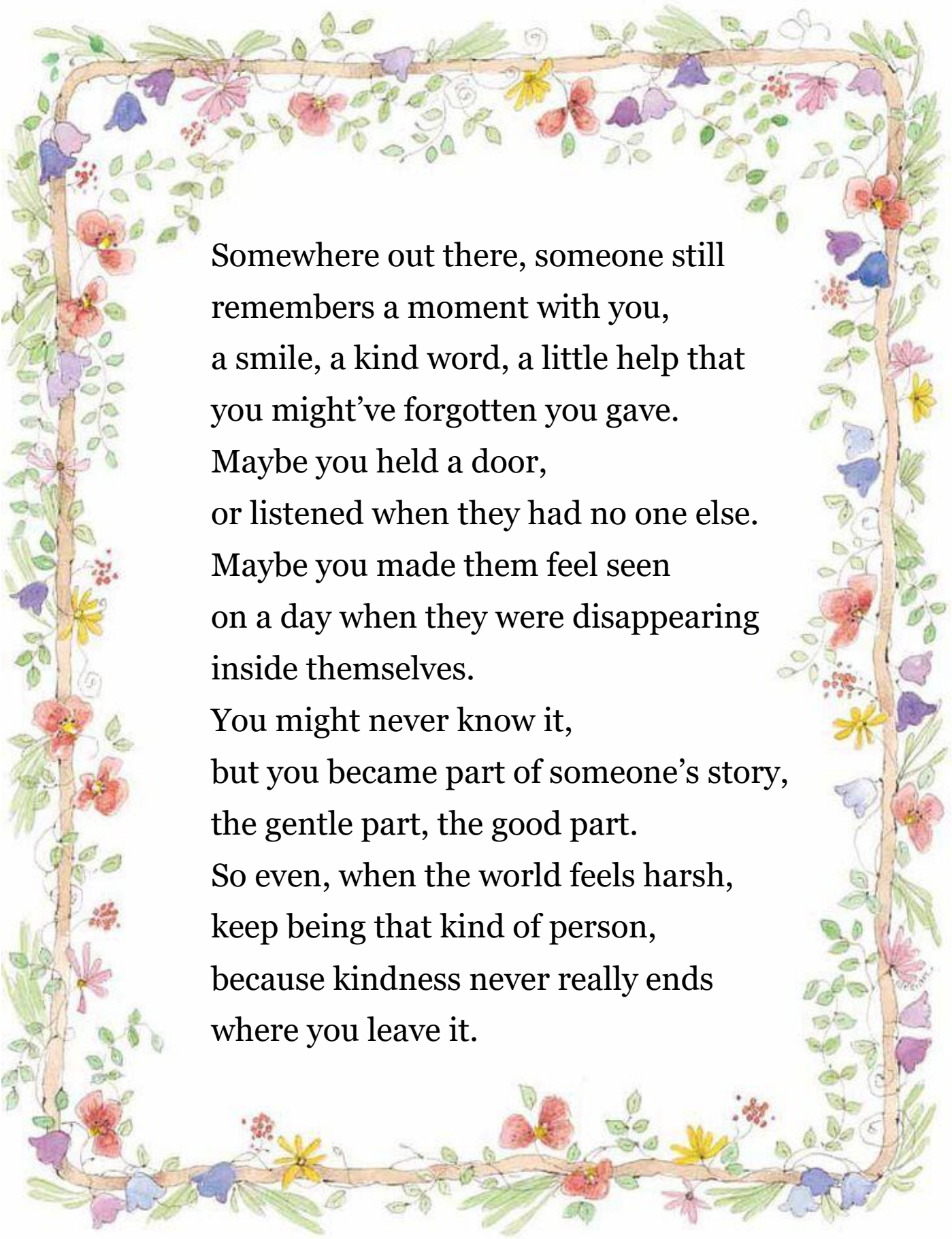
Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won't need a stamp!)

To keep updated on my work as your MP, find me on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and LinkedIn.

You can also contact your North Somerset Councillor, Patrick Keating:

Call: 07584 674740

Email: patrick.keating@n-somerset.gov.uk



Somewhere out there, someone still
remembers a moment with you,
a smile, a kind word, a little help that
you might've forgotten you gave.
Maybe you held a door,
or listened when they had no one else.
Maybe you made them feel seen
on a day when they were disappearing
inside themselves.
You might never know it,
but you became part of someone's story,
the gentle part, the good part.
So even, when the world feels harsh,
keep being that kind of person,
because kindness never really ends
where you leave it.

Time to Learn to Pray



'Lord, teach us to pray.' In Luke's Gospel it's these words, spoken by the disciples, that cause Jesus to give them the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11: 1-4). Jesus says to his friends, *'When you pray say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'*

Many of us think that we should be able to pray automatically, and that if we can't, it's either because 'it's not our thing' or because we're failing. Yet in Luke's Gospel, the disciples still need to ask Jesus how to pray, even after they've been knocking around with him for ages. So maybe we should give ourselves a break and accept that working out how to pray is not obvious and that all of us need to learn.

In 2026, I'm asking all of us across our Diocese of Bath and Wells to make the year one of especial focus on prayer. I'm hoping we'll all be able to say the words *'Lord teach us to pray'* and that together we'll all grow in our experience, understanding, insight and practice.

How can we learn about prayer? We have to make a start. We need to make some mistakes. We need to learn from others. It doesn't happen in the abstract. Prayer is a *'learning by doing thing'* where if we stick at it, we grow and change.

How might you learn to pray more this year? There isn't a master plan designed to get everyone on their knees. Most action will happen locally where we can identify what we need, work out who can help us, and then get underway. Some simple resources, designed to be helpful, are being made available. More importantly, please do talk to your vicar or other church leaders about what might be possible where you are.

Together, let's say these words in the year that is to come, *'Lord, teach us to pray.'*

A very happy New Year to you all.

Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

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Winscombe Community Association
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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.

They are easy to use and accessible to the public in case of a critical situation.

Location: Churchill Memorial Hall - available 24/7



What's going on every week at St James's Church Centre?

52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe



BADMINTON

Monday morning
Wednesday evening

Thinking of setting up a class or club but not sure what you need from the Church Centre? Happy to discuss ~ give Sue a call



CHI BALANCE

Friday morning

CHAIR YOGA EXERCISE

Thursday afternoon



COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday morning



MOVEMENT AND DANCE EXERCISE

Thursday evening

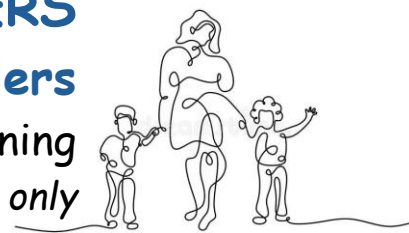


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KFA



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Do you know how much inheritance tax is due on your estate?

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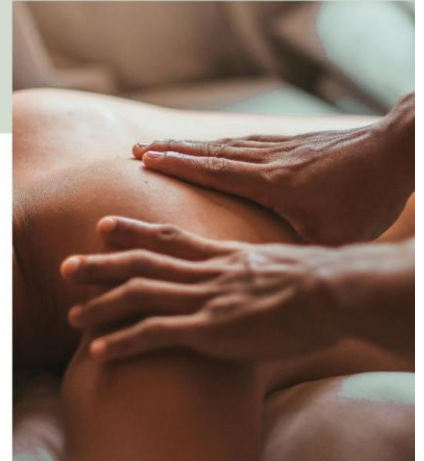
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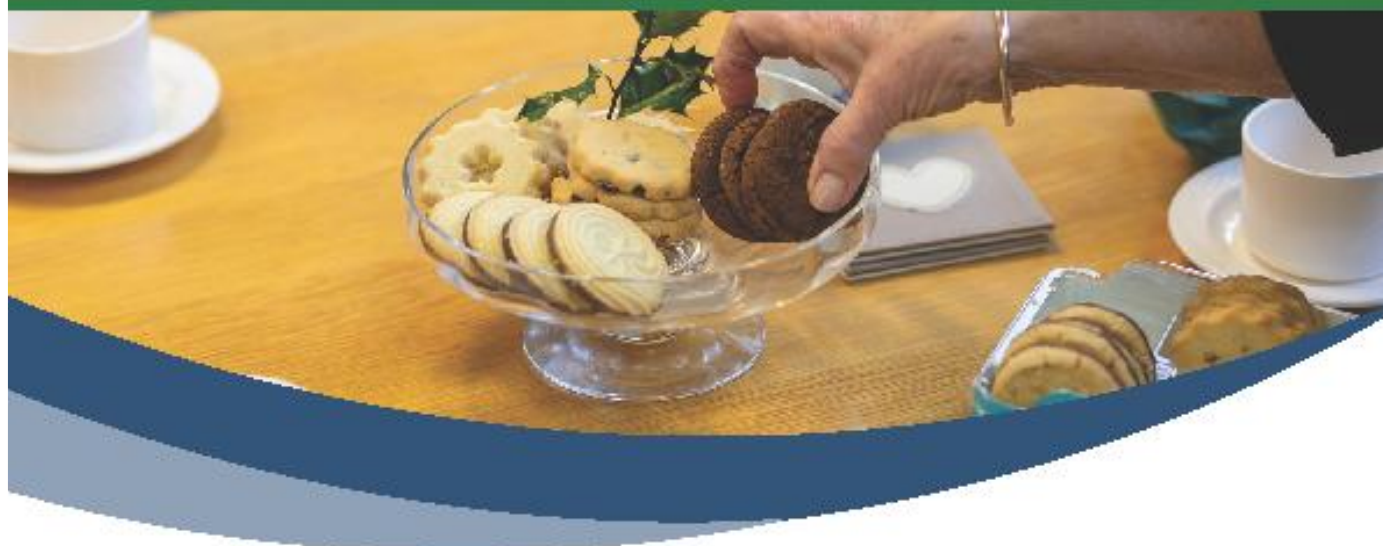
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