PARISH MAGAZINE - December 2023

WHEATHILL PRIORY GROUP OF PARISHES - "Jesus Lives: Follow Him



Rev. Jane Durham tel: 01458 223417 Mobile: 07421 700 242 email: rev.jane.durham@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston Mrs Rachel Willcox (01458) 224644 Mrs Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237 Lydford on Fosse Mr Ralph Berry (01963) 240164 Mrs Jennie Cooper (01963) 240236) Barton St David Mrs Carolyn Giddings (01458) 851617 Mrs Wendy Eitzen (01458) 850011

Lay Ministers: Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237 Jan Jones (01458) 851608
Acting Benefice Administrator, Sally Buxton – Email: wheathillbenefice@gmail.com
Web Page: wheathill.org Parish Magazine Editor – Email: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com

Christmas Services and events

3/12/23 Christingle and Advent Star 4:00pm Keinton Mandeville 20/12/23 Nativity Trail West Lydford

Come and experience the Nativity story, by 'walking' though different scenes, Mary, the Shepherds, the Journey to Bethlehem (wear your wellies!). We will be open from 10:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 3:30pm for journeys to start. Plan to be with us for about an hour, there will be hot drinks etc available as well. It would help us to know who is coming when, so please book on wheathill.org (Nativity trail page) but if you don't book, just turn up. If you'd like to know more then please phone or email Jane Durham.



24/12/23 Crib Service 4:00pm Keinton Mandeville then Holy Communion at 21:30pm 'Midnight in Bethlehem'. We're going to hold our 'Midnight service' at the same time as one in Israel this year! So we're starting at 9:30pm and will conclude by 10:30pm. Please note change of time!!

25/12/23 All Age Christmas Celebration 10:30am West Lydford.

All are welcome to any of these services, come and 'Follow the Star' more details on wheathill.org



* All sorts of stalls for ... homemade biscuits, cakes, preserves, plants, cyclamen, poinsettias, bulbs in pots, satsumas, oranges, apples, etc. etc. * Raffle * Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake * Coffee/tea with biscuits or mince pies.

This event is being held instead of the usual Gift Week. We hope that you will be able to come to this enjoyable event and in doing so any donations will go towards the upkeep of your local Church.

Entrance £3 per person Children – free Thank you , in advance!





Wills, Probate, Power of Attorney

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Has someone close to you died? Wondering what to do next?

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Wheathill Renefice Worshin

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Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Services		
3rd Dec. Advent 1	_	Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse	Advent Star & Christingle 4:00 pm Keinton		
10th Dec. Advent 2	_	Holy Communion Barton St David	_		
16th Dec.		_	2:30 pm Memorial Service Barton St David		
17th Dec. Advent 3	_	Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	4:00pm Carol Service Lydford		
22nd Dec.	7:00 pm Carol Service, Barton St David				
24th Dec. Christmas Eve	4:00pm Crib Service - Keinton Mandeville 9:30pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion "Midnight in Jerusalem" Keinton Mandeville				
25th Dec. Christmas Day	All Age Worship Lydford on Fosse				
31st Dec. Christmas 1		08:30 am Holy Communion	n at Kingweston		

The Henry Livius Trust

The Livius Trust aims to provide items, services or facilities at Keinton Mandeville Primary School to advance religion in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England.

Rev. Jane Durham (01458) 223417

Deborah Whittingham (01458) 224057 Belinda Simson(01458)223470

Report on Harvest Festival Celebrations

This year the church was outstanding for many reasons it was full to the brim with warmth, laughter, and fellowship and the choir resounded throughout the church.

I never knew how many words could be made from the word "HARVEST", it really did have the whole congregation working together.

A big thank you for the ladies who decorated the church, it was spectacular just to sit and take in the display. Rachel

Benefice Table Top Sale Update

We held a tabletop sale at Keinton Village Hall on Saturday, 18th November and raised much-needed funds for the Benefice. The smell of bacon drew people into the hall to look at all the exciting fares on sale. Also, to make a wreath or splat a stocking or two!!! The number of sweets in the jar was 186 – Someone will have a sweet Christmas. Many thanks to all who helped on the day, or baked a cake, and also those with a table it is always a good social. Hope to see you all next year!

Rachel

Keinton Mandeville Knit and Natter Group

Knit and Natter meets on Monday afternoons from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. New members, irrespective of ability are always welcome or even those who have never knitted before.

For further information please phone (01458) 223344.

Christmas is really for the children

Christmas is really for the children. Especially for children who like animals, stables, stars and babies wrapped in swaddling clothes. Then there are wise men, kings in fine robes, humble shepherds and a hint of rich perfume.

Easter is not really for the children unless accompanied by a cream filled egg. It has whips, blood, nails, a spear and allegations of body snatching. It involves politics, God and the sins of the world. It is not good for people of a nervous disposition. They would do better to think on rabbits, chickens and the first snowdrop of spring.

Or they'd do better to wait for a re-run of Christmas without asking too many questions about what Jesus did when he grew up or whether there's any connection.

Dear friends

I'm writing this in mid November, after Remembrance Day, Christmas advertisements and music are just beginning. The Post Office has begun to sell Christmas stamps, silhouetteimages of different parts of the nativity account.

Very simple and yet going to the heart of Christmas, the remembrance that Christ was born, as 'God with us' so that we might be able to know the life that He offers and His presence with us day after day.

At this time of year I find myself reflecting on Steve Turner's poem, produced alongside this letter, and once again considering the place of Children and Adults at Christmas but also in the life of the church and Christian story.

New babies are intrinsically vulnerable, in need of comfort, being held and watched out for. Maybe that is why we associate Christmas and children, along with the excitement in a child's eyes on Christmas morning, their joy and the almost explosion of fun that can emerge from them.

Babies grow up, sometimes they present families and parents with challenges greater than expected, and sometimes things do not go to plan. At that point it may be difficult to remember the joy felt when they were children.

Jesus also grew up, He lived life and changed lives forever, and still does. The story continues from Christmas, to Easter and beyond. As churches and parishes we continue to find new ways to tell the story of Jesus, and of the life of the church. We want to help children and adults not just to see Christmas with wide eves and excitement, but also to Steve Turner Nice and Nasty 1980 ! know that God came as a baby at Christmas that we might know Him with us every day.

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You might like to explore this at our nativity trail, the QR code to book is here. Booking isn't essential, so please do just turn up, but we hope that booking will help us to plan for numbers and should prevent you from needing to queue.

We look forward to seeing you over Christmas, and Happy Christmas to each and every one of you.

With best wishes, Jane

From the Registers

We offer our congratulations to:

Joey Daniel BLISS on the occasion of his Baptism which took place at All Saints Church, Kingweston on Sunday, 29th October 2023.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Beverley Ann GOODALL of Keinton Mandeville, who died on Friday, 6th October 2023 aged 75 years. A thanksgiving service took place at St Peter's Church, West Lydford, on Friday, 3rd November 2023 followed by interment of ashes at St Mary Magdalene Church, Keinton Mandeville.





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Keinton Mandeville

Churches opening for private prayer

The churches of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville and Kingweston are now all open daily. Lydford church will open at the weekends as before once local conditions allow.

Church Car Parks

In Keinton, Kingweston and Lydford it is now possible to give when you visit using the QR codes found on noticeboards or at the door. If you use the churchyards or car park please do consider making occasional or regular donations towards their maintenance and their ongoing place in the lives of our communities.

Beverley Goodall R.I.P.

David, Alex, Fiona, and Alastair, together with the rest of the family, would like to pass on our sincere thanks to all the people in the Wheathill Priory group of parishes for their kind cards, letters and messages of support.

Donations for the Yeovil District Hospital charity have exceeded £3200 for which many thanks. Thanks must go to Adrian Forsey and Emma for all the impeccable arrangements, and to all who made the services so special and in particular to Jane and Collin for leading the service at Lydford. To Lynn for playing the organ, and Alex Walton for playing the keyboard beforehand, and of course to those doing the readings and giving the eulogy at the service.

To squeeze that number of people into the small church would not have been possible without the help of all the church wardens and other helpers. The willow casket and coffin, which Alex, Fiona and Alastair helped to weave, were both beautiful and made more so by the lovely flowers by Lauren.

Thank you too, to all the helpers at the Village Hall following the service. It was a service of which Beverley would have been proud.

With best wishes, David David@dg2k.com



Glastonbury Food Bank

Once again Keinton Parish Church will be collecting donations for the Glastonbury Food Bank during January, February and March in 2024. There will be a box in the Church. The Food Bank does not give out items past their use by date. They would be particularly grateful for the following Requested Donations of:

Tinned Stewed Meat	Tinned Soup / Pac	ket Soup
Meat Pies	Tinned Fish	Porridge
Rice	Custard	Tinned Fruit
Biscuits	Sponge Puddings	
Jam	Marmite	Peanut Butter
Tea	Coffee	Sugar
	Meat Pies Rice Biscuits Jam	Meat Pies Tinned Fish Rice Custard Biscuits Sponge Puddings Jam Marmite

If anyone would like to give a financial donation, please call (01458) 223344

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Newlands Farm, Common Lane, Keinton Mandeville TA11 6EW

This is to let you all know that the **Egg Shed** in Keinton Mandeville is now closed but a New Farm Shop is open (Eggs still available from the shop).

For more information and details of the *Special Events taking place in December*, please call Mobile: 07977 098967.

4

Women's Institute Keinton Mandeville and surrounding villages

Our WI serves Keinton Mandeville and many other local villages. Meetings are in Barton St. David Village Hall at 7:15 pm on the third Thursday of each month. We also meet regularly for a variety of informal events in between.

Our WI has a wide and varied programme of speakers and activities, which are both fun and informative. Some members play Pickleball each week to keep fit and/or to be sociable.

A friendly and supportive group, we look forward to welcoming any new members to our relaxed and enjoyable meetings. We have members of all ages.

Next Meeting Thursday, 14th December will be our *Christmas Party in Barton St. David Village Hall at 7:15 pm.* Please come a little earlier if you are new so that we can welcome you. For more information or if you would like to join us please email: secretarykmvi@gmail.com

Keinton Mandeville Table Top Games Group

If you would like to come along for a drink and a chat or have a coffee/tea while playing table top games like **Scrabble**, **Boggle**, **Rummikub**, **Logo**, **cards**, **chess** etc. then why not come along to the group which meets in KM Village Hall.

We chat, drink tea and coffee and play table top games if we want to! If you would like to come along just for a coffee and a chat without playing any games then you will be made just as welcome.

As the winter approaches *this is a warm space* to come along to. There is no charge as the sessions are funded by Keinton Mandeville Parish Council.

The group is open to anyone who would like to come, you don't need to live in Keinton Mandeville.

Dates for December and the next two months

These are Wednesday, December 20^{th} and in 2024 January 17^{th} , February 21^{st} , March 20^{th} and April 17^{th} all between 10am and 12 noon.

There is no need to book...just come along if you can. We look forward to seeing you and the kettle will be on! **Viv Lane and Claire Harding**

Mid Wessex Singers Christmas Concert

The Somerton based Mid-Wessex Singers are delighted to present our annual festive concert

'A Christmas Journey' on Saturday, 16th December 2023.

We will be sharing the joy of singing together at St Michael's Church, Somerton at 7:30pm.

Advance tickets (£10 each) are available from Cobbs in Somerton or any member of the choir or can be purchased on the door for £12,

Further information if required contact info@midwessexsingers.co.uk





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Keinton Mandeville Parish Council

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The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th December at 7:30pm in the village hall. Public session will take place at 7:30pm immediately before the formal meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Gardens Competition Winners from the summer

Front garden: Stanton House, Church Street. A well placed variety of shrubs, roses and other flowers bordering lawns and the house.

Tubs: 4 Queen Street. A vast range of attractive pots and tubs in a colourful display which is also easy for passers by to enjoy.

Hanging basket: Prospect House, High Street. Eye catching, conical baskets which are very pretty and carefully tended and contrast well with the local stone.

Reporting road and footpath problems – Residents can now report all issues they find on footpaths or highways to Somerset County Council on their website by marking the issue on their maps by location and filling in the details of the problem. You can also input your e-mail address if you would like to be updated on the problem.

For highway problems such as road potholes, blocked roadside drains, an overgrown hedge on a road/pavement, damaged signs on the road, etc. simply follow the steps on their "Report a Problem" page (www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/)

For public right of way problems (eg. footpaths, bridleways & byways) such as obstructions, ploughing, animals, surfaces, broken signposts, stiles & gates, etc. follow the steps on the page at (www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/). If you have issues reporting problems or in the event that no action is taken please contact the Parish Council and we will try to help.

Planning Application - 20/03613/FUL

Application for the erection of 30 dwellings with associated access off Church Street and land adjoining primary school at Chistles Lane. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Kaye Elston

Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

Keinton Community Copse

We always welcome anyone to spend a couple of minutes weeding around the trees or letting us know if they see a problem. Also do please let us know if you would like to add a tree or trees of your own to this area – possibly as a memorial to a friend or relative (contact details below). Individuals can contact some organisations who will make trees available for private planting.

We suggest you try Reimagining the Levels (Contact us | RTL (reimangingingthelevels.org.uk))

Rewilding

We'd still like to hear from anyone who might like to help with this project – we think it would be a great idea for young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh Awards to get involved as a community service project.

Hedgehogs - and more

Please contact us *(details below)* if you see a hedgehog or would like advice on feeding and providing shelter for them. Some of our members are skilful at constructing hedgehog, bat and bird boxes and would be delighted to pass their expertise on to you and your family.

Next Meeting

As always, all our meetings are open to anyone to attend and we'd love to get more people involved in what we do. KEG's next meeting is on Wednesday, 13th December at 6:00pm in the Quarry Inn (please note earlier time).

Facebook: (5) Keinton Environment Group (KEG) Facebook Email: info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk

Benefice Choir



The Benefice Choir is busy rehearsing carols and other music for the Advent and Christmas services across the Benefice. Hopefully there will be something for all! Starting with the very special *Advent Star and Christingle*

service in Keinton at 4:00pm on Sunday 3^{rd} December, the choir will then be singing at the Carers coffee morning in Keinton Village Hall on Wednesday 6^{th} December at 11:00am – it's a real pleasure to support this monthly meeting.

The first of the church carol services will be *in St Peter's, Lydford at 4:00pm on Sunday 17th December.* This is followed by the choir singing carols *at Castle House on the afternoon of Thursday 21st December* and then a *Carol Service given by the Barbershop and Recorder groups in Barton Church on Friday 22nd December at 7:00pm.*

The Christmas Eve service in Keinton will be at 9:30pm this year, Jerusalem time, and it will be led by the small choir. Then the whole choir joins together for a Christmas Concert in Kingweston church at 7:00pm on Friday 29th December, bringing our musical commitments to a rousing close for 2023.

2023 has seen the choir singing for a wide variety of services and other occasions across the Benefice which, it is hoped, have brought joy and delight to everyone. If you, or any members of your family, would like to join the choir this Christmas time or are inspired to come and sing with us in the New Year, please get in touch with Lynne Kirkman on (01458) 224158.

Christmas Concert

Friday 29th December
At 7:00pm
in
Kingweston Church





Wheathill Benefice Choir An evening of seasonal music, readings & refreshments.

Free entry - collection for Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

Keinton Mandeville Church Openers - December 2023

Should you need to swap, please could you let Emma know as well as the person due to hand the key onto you. Meanwhile, if anyone else would like to help with the locking and unlocking of the church, please call 223344.

Sunday 26" Nov–Sunday 3" Dec	Jo & Chris Tripp 223684	
Sunday 3 rd Dec – Sunday 10 th	Neil Bain	223314
Sunday 10 th Dec – Sunday 17 th	Sue Baker	223519
Sunday 17 th Dec – Sunday 24 th	Judith Sherwood	223834
Sunday 24 th Dec – Sunday 31 st	John Walker	223617

S.H.O.C.K.

SHOCK invites you to a public meeting at Keinton Mandeville village hall from 7:00pm on Wednesday, 6th December for an update on LVA's proposed housing estate, what we are doing in relation to these proposals, and how some of us are also supporting concerns in regard to other proposed developments, and what you can do to help.

Please come and join us, ask your questions and voice your concerns.

John Cook, Chair, SHOCK

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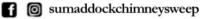


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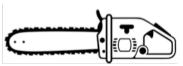
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St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse

The Services for December are on page 2 of the magazine.

Morning Prayer

On every Thursday morning at 9:00am a short Service of Morning Prayer takes place in St. Peter's. It is a chance for quiet prayer, readings and to bring any personal thoughts or concerns you may have.

Tea and Talk - Update

We have received a letter from the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance thanking us very much for the £264 we raised at the Tea and Talk in October. Thank you to all those who attended. We hope to hold another one on the 18th February.

Coffee Morning – 2nd December (See Front Page)

This will be held in the Parish Hall 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. We hope to raise a considerable amount of money as this Coffee Morning replaces Gift Week. There will be a Stall selling items from produce to plants, Raffle and Guess the Weight of the Cake. St. Peter's has experienced major repairs during 2023 and makes it harder for the PCC to maintain the upkeep as the villagers wish, so we do hope you will support this Event.

> Should you be unable to attend then please use the QR code to make your donation.

Christmas House Communion

This will take place on Wednesday, 6th December at 3:00pm in the Parish Hall. Please come and join us for a short Service of Holy Communion followed by a chat with friends, tea and cake. Any problems with transport please contact Ralph on (01963) 240164. All in the Benefice are welcome.

Carol Service - Sunday, 17th December

This will take place in St. Peter's at 4:00pm. All are welcome and following the Service there will be mulled wine and mince pies. The Churchwardens and members of the PCC wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and 2024.

Welcome & POPin Cafe

The soup lunches remain popular, however, with Xmas fast approaching we are having a break in December. We will be busy thinking up some more soup recipes. So for this month Caroline, Ann and Lynne on behalf of Walters and Pope Charity wish all our residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

The Walters and Pope Trust Fund (Lydford-on-Fosse)

- **HELP!** Do you know anyone in Lydford who needs help and/or support?
- It may be help with buying books for university.
- It may be help with buying tools or equipment for a new job.
- It may be support for someone who is ill, or who is caring for someone.

The Walters and Pope Trust Fund has a small annual income - the Trustees would like to spend this money, fairly and discreetly, for the benefit of anyone who lives in Lydford.

If there is anyone who would like assistance, please contact the Trust in confidence: Secretary, Caroline Seehra tel: 07926 488190 or The Treasurer, Ann Parkhouse tel: 01963 240268.

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Barton St David Church Christmas donations to the Lord's Larder Foodbank

Christmas will be especially hard for people who rely on help from the *Lord's Larder Foodbank in Yeovil* and are unable to afford the small luxuries for their families that makes the Festive Season special.

From Monday, 4th until Friday, 15th December there will be boxes placed inside the church and we would appreciate if people could donate food items from the following list: Christmas pudding; Chocolate Yule Logs; Chocolate Coins and Finger Biscuits; Mince Pies; Christmas Cake and Christmas Bars; Tins of Sweets; Tins & Packets of Custard; Jars of Coffee; Drinking Chocolate; Tins of Ham; Tins of Salmon; Tins of Fruit; Trifle Mixes; Peanuts/Nuts and Cheese Biscuits.

Please only give items that are in date for Christmas, unopened and undamaged. No homemade items either as they cannot be given out in food parcels. All items donated will be delivered to the Lord's Larder in time to go out for Christmas alongside the standard emergency food.

Barton St David Church Carol Service Is Back!

Come and join us on *Friday, 22*nd *December at 7:00pm* in the church for our unique carol service that combines traditional carols and readings with some more unusual but relevant readings and music.

To add to the atmosphere, mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. In the past our small church was filled for this event so please come in good time to get a seat.

Barton St David Church

There will be a Memorial Service for Elena Fraser to be held in Barton St David Church at 2:30 pm on Saturday, 16th December.

Barton History Club

In November Dr Francis Burroughes kept us riveted as he described the *Golden Age of Glass (19th and first half of 20th centuries)* when about 97% of glass purchased anywhere in the world originated from England before its decline to virtual cottage industry status after the 1960s. We were privileged to handle *(very carefully!)* many beautiful examples from Dr Burroughes' extensive collection.

Upcoming Events: Thursday, 7th December 7:30pm – Festive Folk, The Somerset Russets. A seasonal musical event with mulled wine, mince pies etc. At this event there will be a cash collection towards food for the Lord's Larder for those in need this Christmas.

Thursday, 11th January 2024 7:30pm Professor John Cleland will talk on *The Global Response to the Population Explosion : Successes and Failures.* Both events will be open to all Members Free, Non-Members £2 cash at the door.

(Drinks and nibbles funded by your kind donations please).

Barton St David Friday Afternoon Table Tennis

Our last session this year will be Friday, December 15th and we will begin again on January 5th 2024. We play every Friday afternoon in the village hall and run from 2:00pm until 4:00pm with a break in between for refreshments, which are provided. We are not a club, so no annual fee but a charge of £2 per person per session. Bats and balls are provided. Even if you have never played before, come for some exercise, competition, lots of laughter and a chat. Please contact Elaine on (01458) 850465 or email at: esbalcombe@googlemail.com if you are interested.

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Lydford and District Gardening Club



Sometimes it is very easy to be anonymous and slide into the background. Unfortunately this can occur when it is exactly the situation that is least desired. Such as when one is at school and the

soccer team is being chosen with the prime position of centre forward being up for grabs. You have the talent, the drive, the physique and you really want that shirt. However, the games teacher (think Brian Glover in the film version - 'Kes' of the book 'A Kestrel for a Knave' by Barry Hines) has other ideas and you become a chameleon. Disappearing into the surroundings, no matter how obvious you try to make the very fact of your existence by jumping up and down, practically creating contact between the nostrils of the selector and the top of your own head. The coveted position is quickly awarded to someone who can actually play the game, even though your appreciation of such talent is distinctly jaundiced.

As an afterthought you might be given the position of second substitute, required to bring on the oranges at half-time and further demoralised by the fact that there are only 12 of these juicy segments on the plate. This selection, for purely menial duties, is only due to the fact that no-one else has put themselves up for the team and the subsequent decision to retire from soccer and take up stamp collecting is ridiculously easy to make. The fact that the chosen golden one goes on to play for Manchester United is undeniably not a consolation.

Obviously, the opposite situation can occur and is guaranteed to do so when it causes most embarrassment. Thinking back to when one was young enough to have the odd facial pimple, why was it always when in possession of such a blemish that the time came to be chosen to read in front of the class. Equally, in a singing situation, the one duff note that you produce in a whole concert is bound to come in a quiet passage when you are the single bass with a group of sopranos. Try explaining that away or laying the blame on a fellow chorister!

As it was the AGM

The November meeting of the Gardening Club contained something relating to the situations suggested above. The serious business had to be done first and therefore the speaker, Louise Burks, one half of the dynamic marital duo that has cornered a large part of the Somerset horticultural market with their ownership of the Gardens Group, had to keep her powder dry whilst minutes and accounts were scrutinised, proposed as accurate and seconded. She blended beautifully into her surroundings. In fact it was suggested that she had led a previous life as a Cold War spy or had made a surreptitious reconnaissance of the Hall and cleverly chosen her clothing for the evening so that it perfectly matched the stage curtain that was her background.

Whilst not being a record-breaker in terms of brevity, the AGM did not go on for too long and much to everyone's lack of amazement, nothing contentious occurred. Consequently, Louise emerged from the shadows, far too polite to make reference to her enforced inactivity, and was soon into her stride talking about the planting of winter containers and hanging baskets. devotee of the concept of multi-tasking, she not only talked about these things but demonstrated them as well. Good tips involved feeding seeds and seedlings right from the start when using new-fangled peat-free compost; planting tubs and baskets from the outside to the middle; adding slow-release fertiliser when doing the planting and obviously planting the containers quite densely so that lots of plants would have to be bought from one or, ideally, more of her Garden Centres. The hanging basket that she created looked really impressive and this was generously donated as a raffle prize. How the winner, Ralph, managed to take it home on his bike is a matter for humorous conjecture!

December 12th is the date for the Club Christmas Dinner

Places are still available and menu choices should be given to Ken as soon as possible. Diners should be at the Cross Keys at 19:00 for 19:30 hrs on that date.

And so we will then move into 2024. It seems only yesterday that the Australians were touring in 1968 and Derek Underwood took 7 for 50 at the Oval on a drying wicket to win the match and draw the series. Just a little matter of 56 years ago next year!

The first meeting of the new year will be on Tuesday, 9th January

There will be lots of lovely biscuits and all will be guaranteed as totally calorie free and carbon neutral!

10

Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Group

Mondays 10:30 am - 1:00pm at Catsham Nr Baltonsborough.

The Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Project welcomes people who are keen to get outdoors, learn new skills, share their skills or just have the opportunity to spend some time in a peaceful environment. Our main emphasis is on horticulture and rural craft activities which take place in our large vegetable, fruit and flower growing area. Maybe you need an excuse to get out of the house or you just want to dip your toe into being around other people again.

Whatever it is you're looking for we can always find gardening related activities to suit your mood and energy levels on the day. We are a Covid secure site and we will be working outdoors in a socially distanced way. With two covered open sided sheltered areas and a large poly-tunnel we can cater for whatever the British weather throws at us! If you want to find out more please contact Ursula Casey at: ursula@wilderwoods.org.

Booking is essential and spaces will be limited to keep the group small.

Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership

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Lydford Moviola

The next Movie screening at Lydford Parish Hall will be held on Friday, December 8th. The doors open at 7:00pm and there is a bar available until 7:30 pm when the film will be screened

The film being shown is - Allelujah (2022, 12A) Starring Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi and Jennifer Saunders. Based on a play by Alan Bennett, Allelujah is a warm deeply moving story about old age. A crowd pleasing film with an A-list cast. To reserve tickets or for more information please contact Linda Foote on 01963 240336.

Lydford Parish Defibrillator Study

A committee on behalf of the Parish Council is currently looking into ways to improve the likely outcome of Sudden Cardiac Arrests (SCAs) which could occur in the Lydfords, including possibly acquiring one or more Defibrillators.



- We are keen to hear from anyone in the Parish that has relevant experience, views or questions on SCA, or on acquiring or using Defibrillators (also known as AEDs).
- If you would like to contact us with your input, please email us at parkhousea71@gmail.com

We'll also be regularly reporting to the Parish Council, so you can also get an update on our progress and offer any input there too.

Please just check the Lydford PC agenda to see when we're scheduled to report (it'll be included under the 'Community Engagement & Support' section).



Starting the 7th January 2024, Super Sunday Sports returns for a new 10 week block at **Keinton Mandeville Village Hall MUGA**. From Preschool all the way up to Year 6. Children will be learning all sorts of new skills, new sports and most importantly having fun with friends.



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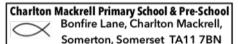
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Lydford Ladies Third Tuesday Group - Next Event: Festive Meet-Up at The Cross Keys On Wednesday, December 13th at 2:45pm Come along for a chat with friends over a mince pie, cake, tea or coffee £9.50 per person (To be paid to Lesley by Dec. 6th) Future Meetings: Our January event will be lunch at "The Den" next to Jon Thorners Farm Shop on Tuesday January 16th at 12:30pm.

Further details will be sent to members nearer the time.

Women Visitors welcome to all our events usually held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall, West Lydford (unless otherwise stated).

If you would like more information please take a look at our website: https://thirdtuesday.wixsite.com/thirdtuesday

or lydfordthirdtuesday@amail.com

Update: Allocation of Big Breakfast Money

Thank you once again to everyone who supported the Big Breakfast this year and helped us to raise £6,400. It was a wonderful community event and it is always nice to put the money we make back into the community as well as supporting our chosen charities who contribute so much to the enjoyment of the day.

Local groups and organisations approach us for support and with an idea of how they would like to use any money donated. This year the money raised is helping to fund;-

- Keinton Mandeville School's Arts Week and the horticulture group,
- Both Keinton Tennis Club and Charlton Tennis Club's court repairs and fencing.
- Keinton Methodist Church's commemorative plaque acknowledging such an important part of Keinton's history,
- Ongoing maintenance at Keinton Playing Field,
- Flower meadow maintenance and painting the fencing at Happy Tracks,
- Plants and the upkeep of the sensory garden in Charlton,
- A sturdy camp kitchen and outdoor games for Barton Scouts,
- A purpose-built sandpit for Barton Pre-school when they move to their new home on the school site,
- Equipment for Keinton Netball Club and
- Equipment and materials to make bat, bird and hedgehog boxes for Keinton Youth Adventure Group

A donation has also been made to Keinton Village Hall for the gas and electricity we used on the day! As well as this we have also made donations to *Blood Cancer* UK, Save the Children (with a request that the money goes towards helping children in the UK) and WHY which has provided and is still providing much needed support to several local families and individuals. And finally, a date for your diaries -- The Big Breakfast will be back on October 19th 2024.

Thank you all once again.

The Big Breakfast Committee

Lvdford Neighbourhood Watch

lydfordnhw@amail.com **Emergency Call 999**

Non Emergency: Report Online www.avonandsomerset.police.uk To Remain Anonymous Call 0800 555111 **Street Contacts**

A37 - Jeremy Spencer 07517 771852

Lydford on Fosse - Cary Road - Lali Seehra 07530 121515 East Lydford - Church Lane (A37 side) - Ian Poynter 01963 240424 Church Lane (Castle Cary side) Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092 West Lydford

South of the Brue - Anne Parkhouse 01963 240268/Mike Pauley 01963 240469 North of the Brue - Linda Foote 01963 240336

B3153 from Lydford traffic lights to boundary with Keinton Mandeville including King o' Mill - Maggi Hollands 07816 445597

Village Contact - Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092 lydfordnhw@gmail.com



Be Prepared



As I'm writing this, we are on the edge of Storm Debi the fourth named storm of the year – so far we have generally got off lightly but I thought it would be useful to put some information together to help readers of the magazine in case of power cuts.

If there is a power cut due obviously to severe weather conditions here are some helpful tips -

- It doesn't matter who you buy your electricity from anyone can call 105 for free and you will be connected to your local network operator for up to date information.
- Leave a light switched on so you know when the power returns.
- Limit the use of your smart phone, tablet or laptop to save the battery power.
- Avoid opening your freezer door.
- Turn off and unplug any sensitive equipment such as TV's and computers.
- Unplug appliances that get hot you may forget they are on when the power returns.
- Keep battery/wind up torches at the ready.
- Many modern telephones won't work during a power cut so use an analogue phone that can be plugged into a telephone socket.
- Protect sensitive electrical equipment with a surge protector plug.
- Make sure you have a charged battery charger handy so you can recharge your smart phone or tablet.
- Check on elderly and vulnerable neighbours.
- When power cuts are threatened fill a flask with hot water so you can make a drink or fill a hot water bottle.

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

The council meet on the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm in the Parish Hall close to St. Peter's church, West Lydford.

Details are published in the Agendas and Minutes posted on the village noticeboards in each settlement.

lydfordonfosse.co.uk



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December 2023 Services - At 10:30 am

Sunday, 3rd December Holy Communion Rev Collin Moore Christingle/Advent Star 4:00pm at Keinton Parish Church Sunday, 17th December Morning Worship Steve Derby

'Thank you'

A big 'thank you' to the Big Breakfast committee who generously made a donation to the Chapel. This has enabled us to erect a commemorative plaque on the left hand side of the door. It includes the date the Chapel was built and is a reminder that the work was carried out by local quarrymen, unpaid and in their own time. Have a look when you are passing!!

Tea@3

By now, we will have held our first "tea@3" afternoon. This is a new venture to bring old(er!!) and young members of our community together. So thank you to everyone who came along and supported this new event.

A jigsaw puzzle proved more complicated than it looked. Scrabble needed a lot of thought, knitting and crochet was enjoyed by the experienced and young learners. The children joined in with some of the games as well as colouring and squash and biscuits!! Many thanks to those who made delicious cakes and helped in anyway.

Our next "tea@3" will be on Tuesday 19th December when Nikki will be with us to lead a sing-along of Christmas music. Please come and join us for a festive afternoon!

Christmas Crafts

Please Remember our Christmas crafts afternoon on Saturday, 9th December from 2:00 pm – 4:00pm. This event will showcase talents from our local area... Floral decorations, felting, pottery and jewellery – to name just a few – will be on sale. Items for all ages will be cluding, RSPB pin badges and a children Christmas tombola. Maybe

available, including, RSPB pin badges and a children Christmas tombola. Maybe you'll find an extra Christmas gift...!!! We will be serving tea, coffee, mince pies and other seasonal goodies...and there will also be a raffle. We would love to see you there!!

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Sophie will be running a workshop at the Community Hall on Saturday, 2nd December from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. The cost is £40 to include equipment, foliage, tea/coffee and cake. Limited availability, so please call/text 07557 946 867 to book a space.



Payments will need to be made, prior to the workshop. Thank you!

Toddlers Group

Our group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings from 10:00am to 12noon. The group is gradually increasing in numbers – all are welcome!!

You will be sure to have a good time with play opportunities for the children and a chance for Mum's, Dad's, Grandparents and Carers to chat.

Christmas Day

Plans for Christmas Day have yet to be finalised. Please look at the noticeboard for an update.

Happy Christmas!!

All that remains is to wish everyone *a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year* from your friends at Keinton Mandeville Methodist Chapel and the Community Hall

God Bless !!

Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells A unique story





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

wearing their WRVS uniforms.

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

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

Just as much as he is with us in our greatest joys and our deepest woes, Jesus is also for us. One of the earliest teachers of the Church said this: 'He became what we are so that we might become what he is.'

The baby born in Bethlehem stands with us not only in all that we experience. This child also comes to offer us the possibility of opening every part of our lives to the transforming power of God's life of love and joy and peace. He comes so that every day we can become a little more like him. This is the good news of Christmas and may it be yours this year.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Bishop Michael

Looking Forward To Christmas

Christmas is coming In fact it's very near But we are just not ready, (It happens every year!)

When Autumn is beginning We make a resolution: -"This year it will be different, Avoiding the confusion".

We'll wrap up all the presents, The one's we've got already, -A nice warm rug for Grandma, For baby Joe a teddy.

That was a good beginning Alas it did not last, Too many things crop up to do, December comes too fast.

The cards wait to be written, We've lots more gifts to buy, There's so much still we ought to do, We could sit down and cry!

Oh dear, we've let the busyness Destroy our sense of Joy! Put care aside, lift up our hearts Welcome the Baby Boy!

The world is sad and Love is lost, For Peace the people long, But still above the sound of war, We hear the Angel's song.

MJP





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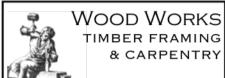
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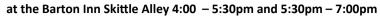
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Plotgate Community Farm Annual Holly Wreath Making

This will be on Friday, 8th December



Also on Saturday, 9th December at Plotgate Community Farm 11:30am – 1:00pm, and 2:00pm – 3:30pm

£25, or £20 for Plotgate members, with concessions available.

Create and take home a fully compostable, walk in the woods style wreaths, based on a willow ring, with an abundance of locally foraged foliage. Please bring secateurs and any special leaves or bright berries you have in your garden. All other materials are provided, along with a hot drink. Booking is essential via <code>amy@plotgatecommunityfarm.org</code> as having enough space and materials is important. Amy will also run wreath-making at the same prices on:

Sunday, 10th December 2:00pm – 3:30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Street book via streetquakersclerks@gmail.com

and on Monday, 11th December at Wells Town Hall, 5:30pm – 7:00pm and 7:15pm – 8:45pm book via *sustwells@gmail.com*

Plotgate Community Farm is co-operatively run by its members. The growers and volunteers produce seasonal vegetables on a 16-acre site in Barton St David. Members can collect, or have delivered, a weekly or fortnightly share of the produce, each box containing at least 8 different types of vegetable. There are events, activities and opportunities as well as fresh food all through the year.

Find out more at the Barton Inn on Friday evenings, 4:00pm – 6.30pm when we're there with the veg boxes. If you would like a share of the harvest, we also deliver on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings - call or text 07817608283, or email: info@plotgatecommunityfarm.org. Our other collection points are in Glastonbury and Street on Mondays, Langport on Saturdays.

More info at www. plotgatecommunityfarm.org and Facebook.

Wheathill Priory Community Transport – WPCT

A volunteer driving service by and for the residents of Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford and Barton St David.

If you reside in any of these villages, do not drive or have your own transport and have difficulty with public transport you may be eligible to use the scheme. It can be used for, but not necessarily restricted to:

- Journeys to the doctor, hospital (if free transport is not available), postoffice, shopping.
- Visits to friends or relatives (including when in hospital)
- journeys to bus stops, bus stations, railway stations for onward journeys.

Should you find yourself in need of a lift please give us a call – preferably 48hrs in advance – and we will do what we can to help: **contact number is: 07799 487 719**

For further information visit the village web site or, alternatively, brochures are available from the coordinator. **Covid Jabs** – If you are a resident of Keinton Mandeville, Lyford-on-Fosse, Barton St David or Kingweston, your local Community Transport is able to provide FREE transport to Local Vaccination Centres. Interested? Please call 07799 487 719.



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The Parish Magazine continues in its printed form but will also be available on the Benefice Website: **wheathill.org** plus linked via **kingweston.net** and via **lydfordonfosse.co.uk** as well as on the village website **bartonstdavid.org.uk** also copies are emailed to contacts on Facebook.

We are continuing to deliver a free copy to every house in the villages of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford on Fosse and Wheathill by our much valued volunteers.

Please tell any business you may use from adverts shown on pages 2 - 16 that you saw their advert in the Wheathill Benefice Parish Magazine