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CHURCHWARDENS

Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston
Mrs Rachel Willcox (01458) 224644
Mrs Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237

Lydford on Fosse
Mr Ralph Berry (01963) 240164

Barton St David
Mrs Carolyn Giddings (01458) 851617

Lay Ministers: Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237 Jan Jones (01458) 851608
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Grill a Vicar – Coffee & Chat

Do you have questions for clergy ?

Do you wonder about things: –

faith, baptism, marriage, challenges or something else?

Jane will be in Newlands Farm Shop Cafe,
Keinton Mandeville

on Wednesday, 11th December at 2:30pm

and on Wednesday, 22nd January at 2:30pm

Come and join her there for tea/coffee and a chat



Please make sure you come and see the

Keinton Mandeville Church Christmas Tree

which will be on display in the church

from Tuesday, 17th December



This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome the season of Christmas,
and also to admire the handiwork of our local children, hobby groups,
families and other organisations who have made decorations for the tree.

Please Join us - you are very welcome
at any of the services in our Parish Churches

See page 2 for service dates and times



Entries for January 2025 magazine – By 09:00 am * Friday 13th December *
Items to the Editor – VIA EMAIL PLEASE: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com

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Wheathill Benefice Worship – December 2024

Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Service 
1st Dec	—	Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse	4:00pm at Keinton Christingle/Advent Star
8th Dec	10:30 am Benefice Holy Communion - Barton St David		
15th Dec	10:30 am Benefice Holy Communion - Keinton Mandeville		
Friday 20th Dec	7:00pm Carol Service - Barton St David 		
22nd Dec	Holy Communion Barton St David	4:00pm Carol Service at Lydford on Fosse	
24th Dec Christmas Eve 	4:00pm Crib Service Kenton Mandeville	9:30pm "Midnight in Bethlehem" Keinton Mandeville 	
25th Dec Christmas Day	10:30am All Age Celebration Lydford on Fosse 		
29th Dec Christmas 1	8:30am Morning Prayer at Kingweston		

Safe Spaces

The recent report into past events linked to the Church have been challenging for us all, particularly those who have, in their lives experienced abuse of any kind. If you have felt affected by issues raised in the report you can speak to **Safe Spaces**, a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone impacted by church related abuse :

www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk (Tel: 0300 303 1056).

Alternatively you can contact a member of the Diocese of Bath and Wells Safeguarding Team :

www.bathandwells.org.uk/contact-us/diocesan-contacts-list/safeguarding-team/

or get in touch with Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager Tel: (01749) 588917

Email: ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org

Transport to Church

An understanding has been reached with **Wheathill Priory Community Transport** for those people who need lifts to Church Services. WPCT will try to assist on Sunday mornings, so if this applies to you or someone you know – **Please ring 07799 487 719**, preferably 48 hours in advance.

Thank you WPCT!

From the Registers

We offer out condolences to the family and friends of:

Mrs Lynne Heather KIRKMAN, of Charlton Adam who passed away at home on the 14th October aged 60. Her funeral service took place at St Peter's church, West Lydford on the 28th October followed by a committal at St David's church, Barton St David.

Mrs Jane ADAMS, who passed away at home on the 25th May aged 83, her ashes were interred at St Mary Magdalene Church Keinton Mandeville on the 10th October.

Mrs Rosemary Martha Ann RHYS formerly of West Lydford, passed away at Abbey View Nursing home in Sherborne on the 10th October 2024 aged 92. Her funeral service took place at St Peter's church West Lydford on Thursday 7th November.



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What I wonder is Christmas about for you?

Family, food, remembering, thankfulness, trying to avoid long running disputes, worrying about the finances, juggling competing challenges, loneliness or something else?

Christmas is often challenging. We have the challenge of the 'perfect family' as portrayed in advertisements. The challenge of the ideal meal and table setting in magazine or television programmes. The challenge of our desired time and the reality of the present time.

In *The Message* which is a paraphrase of the Bible speaking old words into contemporary society. Sometimes it is a bit American, sometimes it doesn't work. But sometimes it hits the nail on the head and this verse is one of those times.

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.

*We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one of a kind glory, like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out, true from start to finish' John 1:14 The Message*

The Message of Christmas is that God has 'moved into the neighbourhood.' Or as another translation puts it, *pitched his tent among us*. That means that he understands about competing demands, family tensions, financial worries, the joy of celebrating and the sorrow of parting. It means that the nitty-gritty of every day life is not alien to him. Now admittedly life in 1st Century Israel was different to life today. But he still gets it!

That is something for which I am grateful, he understands, he knows and he invites us to look at the glory of God among us as a helpless baby, and to know that he is with us each and every day.

Events in our world, in our nation and in our homes can often overwhelm us and we feel some of the pain of this world. At other times we're just getting on with life, or enjoying what the day holds. In any and every circumstance the truth of Christmas is there, *Jesus The Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighbourhood*. With us as we celebrate, with us in the struggles and challenges of life. With us in grief, with us in joy. Jesus is here, God with us.

May that truth bring hope and life to you and your family this Christmas.

Please do join us for the celebrations across our churches, particularly:

1st December 4:00pm Christingle and Advent Star in Keinton Manedeville

20th December 7:00pm Carol Service Barton St David

22nd December 4:00pm Carol Service Lydford on Fosse

24th December 4:00pm Crib Service Keinton Mandeville

**24th December 9:30pm Midnight in Bethlehem,
service of Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville**

25th December 10:30am All Age Christmas Celebration Lydford on Fosse

With our best wishes,

Jane

Benefice Churches – Churches open for private prayer

The churches of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville and Kingweston are now all open daily. Lydford church is normally open at weekends *except, due to local conditions, it is not open between mid June and mid September*.

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.

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. The Trustees are open to any proposals to accord with the Trusts aims.

Rev. Jane Durham (01458) 223417

Deborah Whittingham (01458) 224057

Belinda Simson (01458) 223470

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Keinton Mandeville Church Openers – November 2024

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 1 st Dec – Sunday 8 th	Neil Bain	223314
Sunday 8 th Dec. – Sunday 15 th	Sue Baker	223519
Sunday 15 th Dec. – Sunday 22 nd	Judith Sherwood	223834
Sunday 22 nd Dec. – Sunday 29 th	John Walker	223617

Benefice Choir

After singing *at the Harvest service*, which was followed by a delicious Harvest Lunch in Keinton Village Hall, and then for *the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Peter's Lydford*, the Benefice Choir, delighted to be under the direction of Rebecca Kirkman, is now rehearsing for a number of Carol services and sung services in the Benefice churches over the Christmas period.



You can hear the choir at the Carers' social group coffee morning in *Keinton Village Hall at 11:00am on Wednesday, 4th December* and then at *Barton for Carols around the tree on Tuesday, 17th December*.

The choir looks forward to singing at *Castle House in Keinton for the residents' Carol Service on Saturday, 21st December*, followed by the *Benefice Carol Service in Lydford at 4:00pm on Sunday, 22nd December*. On Tuesday, 24th December the *'Midnight in Jerusalem' service is at 9:30pm in Keinton* and on *Christmas Day the family service is at 10:30am in Lydford*.



If you would like to come and sing, especially over the Christmas period, or if you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel Willcox (r.kaywillcox@gmail.com) Claire Harding (betweenlanes@live.co.uk) or Rev Jane Durham (rev.jane.durham@gmail.com). We would be very glad to hear from you.

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. 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 the next four months are Wednesdays, on December 11th, January 15th, February 19th and March 19th all between 10:00am 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!

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Table Top Sale



Huge thanks to everyone involved with the Benefice Table Top sale on the 16th November in Keinton Village Hall. A wide selection of stalls offered Christmas gifts, bric-a-brac, books and much more.

It was a very successful, fun morning, and those that came had a good time chatting, shopping and enjoying the refreshments.

The superb *total of £600* raised included monies from the sale of cakes, delicious bacon butties, teas, coffees and a raffle.

Watch this space for further events planned in the New Year.

Knit and Natter

At our Knit and Natter group we have been incredibly industrious these past few months. In addition to our own personal projects, we have also been involved in supporting local and national organisations.

We meet on Mondays 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the Keinton Methodist Church Room, contact Emma Stevens on 01458 223344. New members are always welcome.

So come along for tea, chat and lots of laughter – oh and a fair bit of knitting too!



Keinton Mandeville Meet Up (includes surrounding villages)



We guarantee a warm welcome for **Carers, the Cared for** and anyone who would benefit from getting together for fun, company, information on hot topics – Fraud, Fire Prevention etc. and availability of local support.

We welcome attendees suggesting ideas for future speakers/topics. Everything is free including refreshments.

Where: Keinton Mandeville Village Hall TA11 6ES.

When: First Wednesday of the Month **Time** - 11:0am to 12:30pm.

(Please Note: December 2024 meeting will start at 11:30am)

For further information contact: jane.carers@outlook.com.

Christmas Giving

By Iris W. Bray

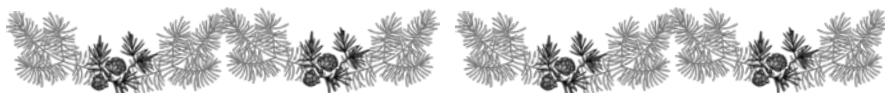
Christmas is for giving
And for showing that we care,
For honouring the Christ Child
With the loving gifts we share

The wise men gave of riches;
The shepherds, faith and love.
Each gift, in its own measure,
Was smiled on from above.

Let every gift be treasured;
Not always size or price
Determines the extent of love
And willing sacrifice.

Handsome gifts with festive trim
Brings smiles of sweet content,
But modest gifts of humble means
Are oftentimes heaven sent.

Whether it be large or small
Each gift will share in part
The message of true Christmas joy
If given from the heart!



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The next Parish Council Meetings are on Tuesday, 3rd December and Tuesday, 7th January 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.

Christmas Carols around the Village Tree

Monday, 16th December at 5:30pm

The annual festive carols around the Christmas tree, by Keinton Village Stores, will be on Monday, 16th December at 5:30pm. Organisations are being contacted to request their favourite carols.



Somerset Council recruitment for foster carers

Somerset are recruiting for more foster carers and if you are interested there will be information on their website.

Parish Council funding for 2025/26

In January the parish council agree the amount of money they will need to function for 12 months. This year is more complicated as it needs to consider additional tasks that they may have to take on from Somerset Council, for example paying for dog poo bins to be emptied.

Planning Application 20/03613/FUL

Erection of 30 dwellings on land off Queen Street

The above application will be presented at the Area South Planning meeting on 26th November. The parish council will make a representation as they objected to the application previously.

Kaye Elston

Date: 16.11.2024

Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

There is still time to add an area to our autumn wildflower planting programme so please let us know if you'd like to join the scheme.

The window for planting before the winter sets in is now very short – so do get in touch quickly.

Community Copse

As we reported last month, we have spaces in the Community Copse to replace trees that sadly have not survived – please let us know if you'd like to sponsor a replacement. Also, if anyone would like to "adopt" any of the trees, do get in touch – adopting a tree will not cost anything other than a little time every now and then to check on your tree and make sure it is healthy and free from weeds.

There is now a plan and list of the trees in the Copse, so do contact us for a plan if you'd like to adopt or replace one.

Hedgehogs

Please keep the sightings of hedgehogs - and any other wildlife - coming in. By the time you read this we hope to have started a wildlife survey of the Village and we hope this will be an ongoing project that will show if and how the wildlife in the village might change in future.

Spring Events

We're planning new events for the spring already, including a *Wildlife Open Gardens event* and *various wildlife or nature walks around the village*; we'd love to hear from you if you have a wildlife garden you'd like to share with others, or if you have any suggestions for other walks or events.

Meetings

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, 11th December at 7:30pm in the Quarry Inn.*

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

Allocation of Big Breakfast Money

Thank you once again to everyone who supported the Big Breakfast this year and *helped us to raise over £6,500*. 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, sensory room and horticulture group
- Charlton Tennis Club's court repairs
- Heating and electrical work at Keinton Playing Field
- Bulbs and plant plugs for planting at Happy Tracks
- Equipment for activities in the woods and for storage for Barton Scouts
- A play house for The Nest Pre School
- Equipment for Charltons Fitness and Gymnastics Coaching
- Art materials for local outreach art projects
- Equipment and new dresses for junior members for Keinton Netball Club and
- Equipment 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 provides much-needed counselling support to anyone affected by cancer or other life threatening conditions.

And finally, a date for your diaries... **The Big Breakfast 2025 will be back on Saturday, October 11th 2025.**

Thank you all once again,
The Big Breakfast Committee

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.

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St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse

(Services including the Carol Service and Christmas Day Service are on page 2)

House Communion

Wednesday, 4th December, 3:00pm in The Parish Hall, West Lydford. All in the Benefice are very welcome to attend this short Service of Holy Communion then sit and chat with friends and enjoy afternoon tea.

Any problems with transport then please contact Ralph Berry on (01963) 240164 or M: 07530 296 885.

Churchyard

Grateful thanks to friends in the Lydfords who kindly arrived with their gardening tools to help with the Churchyard Tidy. With about 15 of us, it made the work much easier with the churchyard looking much better for it. A lot of hard work took place and it was good to make new friends and enjoy the company of the usual group of helpers. We aim to hold another one in February to tidy up the North boundary between the trees.

A request to those who take their dogs for walks through the churchyard – please pick up the dog mess your dog(s) leave and deposit it in the bin provided in the car park. It, not only contaminates the shoes of walkers who unfortunately do not notice the mess until it is too late but it also causes problems with the mowing machines, which in turn makes it a disgusting job to clean.

Car Park Donation

Collecting for the car park enhancement work is going well, with about half the money now raised, through grants, donations from village groups, fund raising events and activities. Very many thanks to all those who have already given. We are still waiting for the result of two more grant applications. If you would like to contribute to the work please contact Ralph Berry on the phone number at the front of the magazine.

Tea and Talk

We had to postpone the Taize service arranged for Sunday, 17th November due to unforeseen circumstances.

Instead, we managed to get *Brian Bastable from the Men's Shed in Street* to come to talk about the work they do and the International Organisation.

They are a great Organisation providing sheds where men and women can meet to do wood and metal crafts, mend items and also make various items for their community.

Not only this but they also provides a place to meet and chat, for men and women who are feeling isolated or need to socialise. They are self funding but *donations from the afternoon were given to Prostate Cancer UK, a Charity they support.*

It was a very worthwhile Talk. Should anyone wish to contact them you can find details on the notice board in Lydford Church porch, *or google Men's Sheds.*

Next Tea and Talk

Details of the next Tea and Talk due for February 16th will be in the January Magazine.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council of Lydford

We wish you a Very Happy, Peaceful and Healthy Christmas and 2025

8

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Welcome & POPin Cafe – Special Christmas Edition

Saturday, 7th December 10:30am - 12 midday in Lydford Parish hall

Although we said last month would be our last cafe for the year, we were wrong! As there is no Christmas village gathering booked for the hall, Walters and Pope Charity would like to invite all the villagers for **A Christmas Special Cafe!**

Along with the usual coffee and tea, there will be spiced apple juice, mince pies, shortbread and Christmas carols. There maybe a woolly Christmas jumper or two and perhaps some tinsel! Do come along, Everyone is very welcome to attend this Christmas Special Cafe! *On behalf of Walters & Pope Charity,*

Caroline, Ann and Lynne wish everyone a wonderful Christmas

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: 07977 260110*

Lydford Third Tuesday Group

Next Event:

Festive Afternoon Tea at The Cross Keys On

Thursday, 12th December at 2:30pm

It's time to dust off your Christmas jumper and come along for a chat with friends over a mince pie, cake, tea or coffee.

(No charge for 3rd Tuesday members).



Women Visitors from Lydford and surrounding villages are 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://thirtuesday.wixsite.com/thirtuesday>

or contact us at: lydfordthirtuesday@gmail.com



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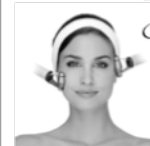
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Barton St David Church

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, 2nd December until Friday 13th December there will be boxes placed inside the church and we would appreciate if people could donate food items from the following list: ****

Christmas puddings, 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, Salmon and 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 History Club

December Meeting

Thursday, 5th December – 7:30pm in Barton Village Hall

The Christmas meeting this year will be a **"Show and Tell"** event. If you can, please bring along any local or historical object which you think might interest or intrigue the rest of us.

Two years ago, when we last did this, we had a great evening seeing and hearing about objects as diverse as pieces of the Berlin Wall, pictures of a lost Barton bridge and carved heads from the South Seas. Nothing is off limits!

Mulled wine and Christmas nibbles will follow and your generous cash donations will be given to **"The Lord's Larder"** food bank.



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Barton St David Mothers' Union

Wednesday, 11th December at 12:00pm

Christmas lunch at the Quarry Inn, Keinton Mandeville. *Meet at the church at 11:45pm to arrange car sharing.*

Barton St David Friday Afternoon Table Tennis



Table Tennis Sessions began again on Friday, 6th September. They are at the village hall and **run from 2:00pm until 4:00pm every Friday until mid December.**

Why not come and join us for a game or two. No experience necessary. We can guarantee exercise, competition and lots of laughter! Bats and balls are supplied, Beverages and biscuits served at half time!

Just £2 per person. If interested please contact Elaine Balcombe on

esbalcombe@googlemail.com or (01458) 850465.



Pilates

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Please support your local Club

Lydford Sports Club AGM

followed by the

Annual Cricket Meeting

Monday 27th January 2025 7:00 pm at CROSS KEYS

All positions are up for re-election.

As a forward looking Club we are eager to welcome some new members on to the Committee with new ideas and skills.





Lydford and District Gardening Club

The surname 'Morgan' is apparently of Welsh or Irish, certainly Celtic, origin and essentially means in some way relating to the sea. 'Sea-born' is probably as good as it gets and the majority of people in this country who enjoy the appellation are to be found in the south-west. Famous 'Morgans' are to be found in a wide variety of roles and occupations. In gardening terms the Morgan in the seed firm 'Thompson and Morgan' was a 19th century businessman who latched on to the horticultural talents of Mr. Thompson and developed the company into a major money-making institution. Willie Morgan was a poor man's George Best. A talented winger who went from Burnley to Manchester United and achieved great things on the field of play and, perhaps more importantly, managed to avoid some of the pubs and clubs which were so tempting to players of his generation. Willie has been awarded the M.B.E for services to charity and also had a song written about him by the group 'Tristar Airbus' which was a band from the 10.C.C. stable in Manchester.

Also from the sporting world is Eoin Morgan, a cricketer who has played for Ireland and England and has proven to be a major force in the world of limited over matches. Born in Dublin, Eoin played a lot of Hurling as a young person and has credited this game with having a major part in the development of his reverse-sweeping ability.

Those with no sporting interest can start reading again at this point as we consider the career of Sir Henry Morgan who lived from 1635 to 1688. He was a privateer, if you are English, or a pirate if you have an Iberian identification. Sailing around the Caribbean during the 17th century, Henry was very busy, made a lot of money and upset a lot of people. However, his lasting fame is mostly due to the fact that the 'Captain Morgan' brand of rum is named after this character. So the next time that a generous slug of such spirit is added to a mug of coffee - 'just to keep out the cold' - think about the derivation of the name which is still on the Diageo bottle.

And finally, before Morgan overload sets in, J.P. Morgan was an American financial wizard who died in 1913 leaving an estate valued in current terms, at \$3 Billion. However, what is really important about this chap is that his uncle, James Pierpoint, has to take responsibility at this time of year for being the composer of 'Jingle Bells'!

November Meeting & AGM



Sally Morgan, a published horticultural author was the speaker at the November meeting of the Gardening Club. She had shown her good manners by sitting through the A.G.M. without so much as a whisper in protest at being forced to listen to such dull fare. Indeed she made reference to the fact that other organisations had such meetings lasting for 2 hours or more! 10 minutes was more than enough for the L.D.G.C. and it would appear that the last year has been good and things look well set for the next one.

Ms. Morgan then took the stage and launched into her presentation on the topic of 'Gardening for Climate Change'. In future years it could be drier. However, it might well be wetter. There is a very good chance that it will be warmer in winter but this might mean that some fruit trees will not get the cold that they need to ensure good blossom formation and fruit set. Peat really is not the way forward and potting compost can be made from a mixture of molehill loam, leaf mould and home-made garden compost. Her message was presented in a forthright fashion and gave many pointers as to how things are likely to change.

December is always associated with the *Club Christmas dinner* and this is to be held on *Monday, 9th December at the Cross Keys Inn*. Timings, in the traditional form, are 7:00pm for 7:30pm and anyone who has not yet booked their place can contact a member of the committee to remedy that deficiency!

And so to 2025 – *The first meeting of the year will be on January 14th* and someone from Brimsmore will be coming to talk about the story of the process whereby plants are grown, nurtured and then offered for sale in garden centres. From seed to shopping trolley and all steps in between! The speaker will probably be grateful to leave the world of Christmas decorations and return to plants! Copies of the programme for 2025 will be available as should seeds from D.T. Brown. And, of course, biscuits!



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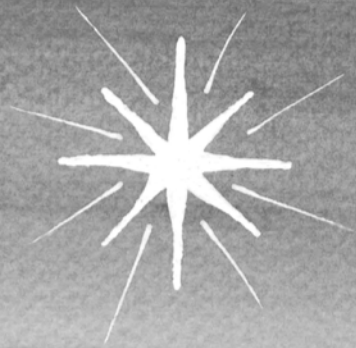


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The Light of Christmas

Wednesday 18th December 2024

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Enjoy a festive evening out with the Mid-Wessex Singers!

As our 25th anniversary celebrations continue, your local choir, the Mid Wessex Singers invite you and your family to join us for our Christmas Concert on the evening of **Wednesday, 18th December at 7:30pm in St Michael's Church, Somerton.**

Our Musical Director, Alice Dicker, has selected a varied programme on this year's theme of *'The Light of Christmas'*. This includes both traditional and modern carols, including works by Lauridsen, Joubert, Chilcott, Rutter and Park.

There will also be the opportunity for audience participation in some of the well-known favourites. Light refreshments will be available.

Early-bird tickets, priced at £12 (free for under £16s), are available from choir members and from Cobbs Wholefoods, Somerton (£15 on the door).

As a registered Charity (No 1118167)

proceeds from this concert

will once again be supporting the Lord's Larder Food Bank.



Lydford Neighbourhood Watch

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Street Contacts

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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 – Ann Parkhouse 07977 260110/Mike Pauley 01963 240469

North of the Brue – Linda Foote 01963 240336

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King o' Mill – Maggi Hollands 07816 445597

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



Christmas Home Security tips



Dispose of Christmas wrapping and boxes carefully. Try not to advertise what you've been buying to any possible onlookers and remove your address from postal labels.



Be mindful of posting your festive plans on social media – don't advertise the fact your home will be empty over Christmas!



Keep presents out of sight of windows and doors.



If you plan to be away over the Christmas period, ask a neighbour to keep an eye in your property.



If you're hosting and cooking for the family over Christmas check that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensors are working correctly.



If you know you're going to be out for some deliveries make sure you specify the 'safe place' for the delivery driver.



Before wrapping presents make a note of models and serial numbers and keep receipts separately.

Happy Christmas From Lydford Neighbourhood watch

Wheathill Priory Community Transport – WPCT

Our Community Transport Scheme needs extra drivers!

Our volunteer driving scheme, by and for the residents of Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford and Barton St. David, has proved so successful that we are struggling to keep up with the demand for our services. As a result, we are seeking drivers who could spare a few hours a month to join our team. *Drivers are paid 45p per mile (the Government approved mileage rate) for each drive undertaken.*

The scheme is available to help out those who do not drive or have their own transport or those for whom public transport (if it is available) is difficult to access. It can be used for, but not necessarily restricted to, journeys up to 25 miles each way to: the doctor; hospital (*if free transport is not available*); the post office; shopping; friends or relatives (*including when in hospital*); bus stops; bus stations or railway stations for onward journeys.

Requests for journeys should be made *at least 48 hours in advance*

Contact number is: 07799 487719.

If any one would like further information or would like to discuss joining us as a volunteer driver then please phone us on the above number and someone will get back to you to discuss it further.



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December 2024 Services - At 10:30 am (unless noted otherwise)

Sunday, 1st December
Also at 4:00pm

Morning Worship Janet Day
Christingle/Advent Star at Keinton Church

Sunday, 22nd December

Holy Communion Rev Collin Moore

Talk 5

Many thanks to Vyv Simson for his talk on Thursday, 14th November, an enlightening and humorous insight into the world of television production.

Vyv spoke about his time at the BBC as well as missions to trouble spots abroad. Very recently, Vyv drove a truck to the Polish border for the charity 'Ukrainian Action'. He delivered a vehicle and items desperately needed by the victims of the Russian invasion.

Those who attended the talk gave very generously to the charity, anyone else who would like to donate can contact Alison, Celia or Douglas – Thank you!

Next "Talk" will be Christmas themed musical evening with entertainment by *Somer Singers* on Thursday, 12th December at 7:00pm for 7:30pm. Tickets, **booked in advance please**, are £10, to include light refreshments during an interval. Tea, coffee and a cash bar will be available.

Stop Press !! Talk number 6 will be on Thursday, 16th January 2025 at 7:00pm. Ben Bentley will be speaking about his career in law enforcement and as a coroner.

"tea@3"

In November "tea@3" celebrated its first Anniversary/Birthday! We all enjoyed a slice of cake and the younger people iced cup cakes. Some of you may be pleased to know that the jigsaw of Venice has been completed – and the missing piece found!!

Our next date is *Thursday, 5th December* when Anna will be helping us to create decorations for one of the windows at the Parish Church during the Christmas season. Please come along and join in – it sounds like fun!! Or just enjoy a cuppa and a chat... EVERYONE is welcome!

Memory Tree

We will be putting up a memory tree again in December. The decorations have been safely stored and will be placed on the new tree, but please add more if you would like too.

Happy Christmas

It seems very early to send this greeting but Christmas will soon be here...

*So, from everyone at Keinton Methodist Chapel
we do indeed wish you a very Happy Christmas
and send our best wishes to you for all the festive season!*



Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath & Wells
'Jesus, the Light of the World'



'All is calm, all is bright' may not be the words that many of us would use to describe our experience of either the run up to Christmas or the feast itself. Presents to buy and wrap, food to order and cook, events and church services to be part of. And that's before we've negotiated the big day itself. I saw one website recently that claimed that Christmas is considered as one of the six most stressful life events, along with divorce, moving house and changing jobs!

In the midst of such chaos, our churches offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time – of stillness, quiet and the opportunity to stand back from all the pressures that the season contains.

This year, the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas is *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright*. The theme draws on some of the lyrics of the famous carol, Silent Night:

"Silent Night! Holy Night!

All is calm, all is bright..."

To be calm and bright is to be invited into the still centre of the Christmas story. It's to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World. It's to open ourselves to the joy of the angels as they tell the shepherds

"Do not be afraid - Fear not!"

It's to encounter the wonder of the wise men as they discover that the gift of this child is for the whole world.

May your Christmas 2024 be '*Calm and Bright*'!
Bishop Michael Beasley

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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.

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Other collection points are in Glastonbury and Street on Mondays, Langport on Saturdays. More info at: www.plotgatecommunityfarm.org and Facebook.

Our Parish Magazine is Produced by the Wheathill Benefice Parochial Church Council and printed by Snell Print

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.

"Whilst the Benefice includes advertisements within the magazine this does not mean their endorsement or otherwise of any of the contractors/advertisers, however please do let any business you may use from the adverts, know that you found them in the Wheathill Benefice Parish Magazine".