

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

Barton St David
Mrs Carolyn Giddings (01458) 851617

Lay Ministers: Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237 Jan Jones (01458) 851608
Benefice Administrator, Jo Oubridge – Email: wheathillbenefice@gmail.com

Web Page : wheathill.org Parish Magazine Editor – Email: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com



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, 13th February at 2:30pm and

Wednesday, 19th March at 2:30pm

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



Content Guide

“Grill a Vicar” date;	Page 1
KM Food Bank Collection;	
KM Snowdrop Extravaganza	
Benefice Services;	Page 2
Benefice Churches open;	
Church Car Parks;	
Henry Livius Trust;	
Transport to Church;	
Knit & Natter	
Rev. Jane’s Letter;	Page 3
Faith ‘n Fun Notices;	
Benefice Register	
Keinton Church Openers;	Page 4
Benefice Choir Notes;	
KM Table Top Games Update;	
KM V. Hall and Playing Field notes	
Plotgate Community Farm	Page 5
KM Carers Meet Up;	
WPCT - Drivers Needed;	
Christian Aid Conference	
KM PC notes;	Page 6
KM Housing Survey	
K.E.G. Update;	
Benefice Quiz Night;	Page 7
Wild Roots Wellbeing Group;	
Mid Wessex Singers	
St Peter’s Church;	Page 8
Welcome & POPin Cafe;	
Lydford Speed Watch	Page 9
Barton History Club;	Page 10
Barton Scouts update	
LDGC Notes	Page 11
Lydford PC notes;	Page 12
Lydford Forest Gardens Work Day	
Lydford NHW	Page 13
KM Methodist Church;	Page 14
KM Playing Field Family Bingo	
Dean of Wells Letter;	Page 15
Lydford 3rd Tuesday Group	
Walters & Pope Trust;	
KM WI 60th B’d day Concert	Page 16



Glastonbury Food Bank

Once again Keinton Parish Church will be collecting donations for the Glastonbury Food Bank during January, February and March in 2025. 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 Meat/Tinned Meat Pies	Tinned Fish	Baked Beans	Ready Meals
Rice	Porridge	Pasta Sauce	Pasta
Marmite	Cereal	Long-life Juice	Sugar
Sponge Puddings	Custard	Tinned Fruit	Biscuits
Marmalade	Jam	Tea/Coffee	UHT Milk

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



Snowdrop Extravaganza!

Snowdrop bulbs At Keinton Churchyard

Saturday, 1st February 2025

from 11:00am - 14:00pm



Please come and collect a clump of gorgeous snowdrops to plant in your garden. Includes a Talk by Micky Little, formerly of Avon Bulbs and an expert on snowdrops. **Donations welcome. Hot soup and cakes available**

Entries for April 2025 magazine By 09:00 am Friday 21st March

Items to the Editor – VIA EMAIL PLEASE: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com

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Wheathill Benefice Worship – February/March 2025

Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Services
2nd Feb Presentation of Christ	Morning Prayer Keinton Mandeville	Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse	—
9th Feb 4 before Lent	Benefice Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville		
16th Feb 3 before Lent	Morning Prayer Barton St David	Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	—
23rd Feb 2 before Lent	Morning Prayer Lydford on Fosse	Holy Communion Barton St David	Faith 'N Fun 4:00pm Keinton
2nd March 1 before Lent	Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	Morning Prayer Lydford on Fosse	—
5th March Ash Wednesday	—	7:00pm Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	—
16th March Lent 2	Holy Communion Barton St David	Morning Prayer Keinton Mandeville	3:30pm Tea & Talk Lydford
23rd March Lent 3	Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse	Morning Prayer Barton St David	Faith 'N Fun 4:00pm Keinton
30th March Lent 4	Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	Mothering Sunday – All age Service Barton St David	

Lent Course – Begins on Wednesday, 12th March at 7:30pm at the Rectory, we are going to be looking at the Psalms.

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

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!

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!

'Consider the birds of the air.... Consider the lilies of the field'

I'm writing this just before the RSPB Garden Birdwatch weekend, and our Snowdrop extravaganza on 1st February from 11:00am - 2:00pm in Keinton Churchyard.

February is not usually a month when we're out looking at flowers or birds, too cold and damp. But giving ourselves the time and space to do so can also help us and bring hope. As February progresses, we see increasing evidence of the arrival of spring. Bulbs grow and begin to flower; we see evidence of leaves returning to trees (*even if there are none yet!*), birdsong becomes louder and clearer, the days get longer and slightly warmer. There is renewed evidence of life and hope.

So do we take the time to 'consider' the birds, the flowers and the world around us, not because we're worshipping nature but because nature can teach us so much:

- Birds have food without planting
- Flowers grow and bloom even if no-one can see them, their beauty is there anyway
- They can be relied upon to be there (even if in fewer numbers than previous years)
- They bring so much variety to life
- We can appreciate them when we take the time to do so, rather than just rushing onto the next event.

Jesus tells his followers to consider the birds and the flowers because they speak of God's love, care and compassion. They do not sow or reap, or have long lives that impact many people and yet they are there.

Sometimes we're not sure that we can see God's love and compassion, things go wrong, we deal with illness or challenge and we can wonder where God is in that. At those times too considering the birds and flowers reminds us that he does still care for us and is still present, even when we're finding it harder to believe.

So as winter progresses, and we start to see signs of life and spring maybe we can all take the time to enjoy our surroundings, consider the birds and the flowers and ask ourselves *'How have I seen the love of God today?'*

With my best wishes
Jane

Wheathill Benefice Faith 'n Fun

Details: 07421 700 242 Rev.jane.durham@gmail.com	26th January 2025 'Look at the birds' Making bird feeders and learning about God's care
All in Keinton Churchyard (<i>or church if wet</i>) at 4:00pm	23rd February 2025 'Seeds' Planting wildflower plugs and for our raised beds
Mothering Sunday 30th March at 10:30 am All Age Worship in Barton St David	23rd March 2025 'Mothers and Carers' Preparing for Mothering Sunday

'Jesus Lives: Follow Him

From the Registers

We offer out condolences to the family and friends of:

Mr Alan Michael Preedy BIGGS, who passed away at Tudor Lodge Care Home on 23rd November 2024, aged 99. His Funeral Service took place at Barton St David Church on the 16th December 2024 followed by his Cremation at Mendip Crematorium.



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Keinton Mandeville Church Openers – February/March 2025

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 th Jan – Sunday 2 nd Feb	Helen & Tony Gosney	224192
Sunday 2 nd Feb – Sunday 9 th	Ean & Freddie Jackson	224475
Sunday 9 th Feb – Sunday 16 th	Larry Henessy	224132
Sunday 16 th Feb – Sunday 23 rd	Jo & Chris Tripp	223684
Sunday 23 rd Feb – Sunday 2 nd Mar	Neil Bain	223314
Sunday 2 nd Mar – Sunday 9 th	Sue Baker	223519
Sunday 9 th Mar – Sunday 16 th	Judith Sherwood	223834
Sunday 16 th Mar – Sunday 23 rd	John Walker	223617
Sunday 23 rd Mar – Sunday 30 th	Alan Lines	223441

Benefice Choir

After the pleasure of singing the Christmas services, the choir is preparing to lead the Benefice Services in February and March and will also start rehearsing music for Easter. The choir normally meets on a Thursday evening at 7:00pm in Kingweston Church, although in preparation for extra events some additional rehearsals will be included. Please don't hesitate to contact Contact Rachel Willcox (r.kaywillcox@gmail.com) Claire Harding (betweenlanes@live.co.uk) or Rev Jane Durham (rev.jane.durham@gmail.com) if you would like to come and sing. We would be very glad to hear from you and new voices are always very welcome.

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 are *Wednesdays, on February 19th, March 19th, April 23rd, May 21st and June 18th 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!

Viv Lane & Claire Harding

Keinton Mandeville Village Hall and Playing Field

Our village hall is well used, and at 27 years old is subject to the inevitable wear and tear. Along with routine maintenance and upgrading, the hall committee are working on improvements to benefit Keinton's growing community. Last year we fixed 45 solar panels to the hall roof, with two storage batteries in the basement. Power from the panels mean using less mains electricity for much of the year, helping control increasing operating costs.

We are often asked if we can let people have the hall free or at a greatly reduced rate but as a charity we do not receive any funding from the council and survive solely on our hire rental fees for our maintenance and operating costs.

This spring we intend adding a glass veranda to the west wall, enhancing the façade and giving more protection from the elements. It is hoped this will encourage more bookings for larger events.

*The veranda has been made possible due to the legacy from **John Light**, which can only be used for major works. John was a member of the hall committee from its inception in 1992, despite multiple health challenges he became the driving force within the committee, working tirelessly as treasurer and much more. John made a major contribution to the building of the hall, notably the design and installation of the electrical and heating systems and the main door entry and locking system. The hall belongs to everyone in the village and we hope that some of you will help to fund raise and think of ways to help keep our hall viable and used. Please contact us with positive ideas at kmvillagehall@gmail.com*

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Plotgate Community Farm

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 07817 608 283, or email: info@plotgatecommunityfarm.org. Other collection points are in Glastonbury and Street on Mondays, Langport on Saturdays.

More info at: www.plotgatecommunityfarm.org and Facebook.



Keinton Mandeville Meet Up

(includes surrounding villages)



The group do not meet in January but **return in February 2025**. 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.

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

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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Saturday 8 March 10am to 1.30pm

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Reflections on 80 years of Christian Aid



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The next Parish Council Meetings are on Tuesday, 4th February and Tuesday, 4th March 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.

Fix My Street – Application for reporting street/highways issues – Somerset Council are no longer subscribing to the application and therefore any reports need to go onto Somerset Council website. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

Gully Clearance – The parish council are currently reviewing the maintenance plan for gullies and the potential to prioritise their clearance sooner than Somerset Council current scheme of work.

Christmas Carols around the tree December 2024

This was a good community event and the parish council would like to thank everyone who came along and also to VJ in the shop for providing refreshments.

Recycling Toothpaste tubes – These can now go out with your recycling collected by Somerset Council

Defibrillator – Keinton has one located in Keinton Mandeville School, Chistles Lane, Keinton Mandeville, TA11 6ES. To access you will need to telephone 999 to be provided with the code to unlock and operate. **Kaye Elston, January 2025**

Please take part in the Keinton Mandeville Housing Needs Survey

We invite you to complete this important survey about housing needs in Keinton Mandeville and its future. This is an official survey funded by the UK government and if you live in Keinton Mandeville you will already have received a leaflet about it through your letter box.

If you find it difficult to afford to buy or rent locally, or if anyone in your household over 18 plans to set up their own home, please complete the survey individually. The online survey is quick and easy to complete, we estimate it should take you about 10 minutes. The survey opens on Monday, 27th January and closes on Monday 19th February.

To access the online survey, scan the QR code or visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/KeintonMandevilleHNS25

If you would prefer not to complete the survey online and would like a paper copy, we can make one available - please contact the Parish Clerk at: kmpcclerk@gmail.com



Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

It won't be long before the window opens for a programme of Spring wildflower planting, so please let us know if you'd like to join the scheme. Because our previous attempts to plant directly with seed have not met with complete success, we are looking at producing "plugs" from seed. Just contact us if you'd like advice or help on how to grow your own plug plants.

If anyone would like to "adopt" any of the trees in the Community Copse 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 one.

Please keep the sightings of hedgehogs - and any other wildlife - coming in. By the time you read this there 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.

We're planning new events for 2025 already, including a Wildlife Open Gardens event (*provisionally on the weekend of 7th – 8th June*) a series of talks 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. Our meetings are open to anyone to attend and we'd love to get more people involved in what we do. *KEG's next meetings are Wednesday, 12th February (and provisionally 12th March) at 7:30pm in the Quarry Inn.* Email: info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk

Facebook: (5) Keinton Environment Group (KEG) Facebook

Quiz Wheathill Benefice Quiz Night Quiz

Barton St David Village Hall

Saturday 29th March 2025, 7:30pm

*Come and test your general and local knowledge
in the company of friends!*

**£10 ticket to include a delicious baked spud
with a variety of fillings.**

Bar available.

Further information and tickets available from
Rachel Willcox 07966873660 [r.kaywillcox[at]gmail.com],
Claire Harding 07881592815 [betweenlanes[at]live.co.uk]
or any of the Benefice churchwardens.

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

Registered Charity Number 1151284

<https://www.facebook.com/wilderwoods.org>

www.wilderwoods.org or landline and press option 4, then option

Mid Wessex Singers

Come and Sing choruses from Haydn's Creation and other works with the theme of Nature.

The Mid-Wessex Singers and their Musical Director, Alice Dicker, invite you to:

A Come and Sing day

On Saturday, 8th February

At Long Sutton Village Hall

TA10 9NT

From 9:30 am until 5:00pm

Cost £20

Bring your own lunch – teas, coffees and light refreshments will be provided. To register interest and for any further information please contact Steph Taylor by e-mail on info@midwessexsingers.co.uk or through the website at www.midwessexsingers.co.uk or on 07502 280596.

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St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse (Services are listed on page 2)

House Communion

This will take place on Wednesday, 12th February in The Parish Hall, West Lydford at 3:00pm. All in the Benefice are welcome to attend this short Service of Holy Communion followed by time to chat with friends and enjoy afternoon tea. Should you have a problem with transport then please contact Ralph Berry on 07530 296885. Looking forward to meeting with friends for the first time in 2025.

Benefice Tea and Talk

Sunday, 16th March in the Parish Hall The Parish Hall, West Lydford at 3:30pm

We will be welcoming *Graham and Sarah from HorseWorld an Equine Charity in Bristol*. This Charity was founded approximately eighty years ago to rescue horses/ponies from the slaughter trade and it has now grown into one of the leading equine Charities in the country. Sarah is Head of Welfare and will be able to inform us of the very important, and sometimes sad, work they carry out either on their own or with other leading charities i.e. WorldHorseWelfare, Blue Cross, RSPCA. Equines are rescued, saved and in many cases re-homed to a good life. *Graham is Head of Discovery which was formed in 2009 to assist with children with either learning difficulties or excluded from education*. This has now grown to be foremost, and known, across the country and includes not just children but whole families. Please come and hear how rescued animals can help children or families in need. Tea and cake will be available after the talk.

Lydford Church Car Park (Please see note* & QR Code below)

Funding Update – St Peter's Car Park Extension and Improvements

The good news is that the fund-raising for the car park improvements has been very successful, we are now within sight of having sufficient funds to engage the contractors. Just over two thirds of the funds required have been raised from donations, fund raising events and we have been successful with the offer of two grants towards the costs.

However, we do need a last push to get the final amount required. We would like to get the work started soon and completed before the summer, so we are having a final fund-raising drive. If you use the car park to visit the church for services, weddings, funerals, if you attend one of the many village clubs, or if you park just to go for a walk and enjoy our beautiful surroundings, please give a thought to the maintenance and upkeep of the car park. There is no fee to use the car park and the extension means that there will be more space available. We also feel the extra space for vehicles to manoeuvre, will protect the war memorial from any further damage in the future.

**Please consider helping us to improve the car park and protect the memorial by making a donation so we can go-head to get this work completed before the summer. To donate you can either use the QR code shown here, or in the car park, leave donations in the church letter box, or at Greystones, Cary Road, East Lydford. Should you need further information please contact Ralph Berry on 07530 296885.*



Welcome & POPin Cafe

Soup Lunches on Tuesday 25th February & Tuesday 25th March. Doors will open at 11:30am for sitting down with soup at 12 noon until 1:30pm. On both dates, there will be a choice of three delicious homemade soups together with cheese scones or rolls - tea and coffee also available. Do come along for a warming meal in friendly company - all are welcome! *On behalf of Walters & Pope Charity*

8

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St Peter's Church - Continued

Church Cleaning – We all like to see our church clean for visitors and church services, helping to make it a pleasant experience, and to keep the building in good order. We have a monthly rota of cleaners through out the year but afraid the number of volunteers is diminishing so some are now doing two months. *If you feel you could cover a month and spend an hour or so to clean and would like to join our rota please contact Ralph Berry on 07530 296885. Hover, polish and dusters are provided.*

Church Opening – Many thanks to those who have offered to join our church opening rota, your involvement with this is a great help.

Easter Garden – We will again be planting our Easter Garden and holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday, 19th April, more details next month

Quiz – The benefice social and fund raising committee are holding a quiz night in Barton St David Hall on the 29th March 7:00pm for 7:30pm (Details Page 7) Bar and food available.

Lydford on Fosse Community SpeedWatch - CSW

The Community SpeedWatch (CSW) team are seeking volunteers to join their active group. All CSW teams operate under the supervision of the Avon and Somerset Police – A&SP. Monitoring involves using a traffic speed gun and recording details of the registration number, make and colour of the speeding vehicle. Details of vehicles are uploaded to the A&SP website and registered keepers receive a letter from A&SP advising them that they have been recorded exceeding the posted speed limit. *For registered keepers who exceed the speed limit by a large margin, or who are multiple offenders, they could receive a visit from the Police.*

As a member of the team, you would be part of the district-wide organisation consisting of 33 schemes with over 200 volunteers. In the Lydfords we have five approved sites in the village, B3153 Cary Road, East and West of the traffic lights, B3153 Toy Farm, A37 opposite the Motorhome site and A37 Bridgefoot. Depending which members of the team are available the sites are not monitored on regular days or regular times. After training you will be supplied by the A&SP with a hi-vis jacket (and winter jacket if required), a beanie hat and other equipment such as the speed gun and a digital voice recorder. The training is provided by the Mendip Coordinator and/or a Police Community Support Officer, PCSO.

The CSW team are backed up by the Avon and Somerset Police Speed Enforcement team, who have six camera vans, two of which are unmarked, and six camera motorbikes whose riders are now not restricted with cables attached to their bikes so they are not always noticeable when monitoring.

The CSW team operate at random times during the daylight hours and in dry weather, and each session lasts for one hour and can be on any day of the week. The more volunteers we have the less often you would be asked to help, now it would be about one hour every two weeks.

Speeding is a big concern in the village. Vehicles have been recorded as travelling at nearly 60mph in both the 30 and 40mph limits. We know from data over many years that the yellow jackets are seen and traffic does slow down, so if you feel you would like to help reduce the incidence of speeding vehicles and have one hour to spare every couple of weeks, your help would be very much welcomed. Alternatively, why not join us at the roadside as an observer to see how it works before committing yourself? Please contact the Parish Clerk using the email – lofpcclerk@gmail.com

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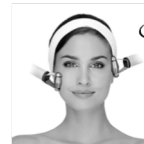
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Barton St David History Club

We began our 2025 programme with an excellent talk by Louis Wheeler entitled *"Unravelling the Wonders of Deep Geological Time"*. A large audience braved the icy conditions to attend and were rewarded with a fascinating lecture in which Louis managed to show how the Earth has developed over the 4.5 billion years since its formation, clearly showing the movement of the British Isles northwards from the South Pole to their present position.

He illustrated, with charts and beautiful photographs of different parts of the islands, how the landscapes had been formed at different stages of this journey by the materials laid down and the forces imposed on them. He emphasised how short a period *Homo Sapiens* has been around illustrating it with a calendar year showing our planet Earth coming into being on 1st January and pointing out that on that scale Man came into existence only a tiny, tiny fraction of a second before midnight on the 31st December!

Forthcoming Events in Barton Village Hall

Thursday February 13th at 7:30pm in a *Change of Programme* Richard Raynsford will talk on *"Somerset Churches and Chapels"* as unfortunately our original speaker Joe King has had to withdraw. We hope Joe will be able to visit us later this year to talk on *"The Mapping of Somerset"*.

Thursday March 13th at 7:30pm – Rob Butt on *"Reading and Understanding Medieval Documents"*.

Thursday April 10th at 7:30pm – Paul Hyland on *"Claver Morris - the Doctor's World at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century"*.

All meetings in Barton St David Village Hall: Members Free, non-members £3 (cash please).



Barton St David Scout Group – Spring Update

Did you know that there is a long-established and successful Scout Group at Barton St David? We run sessions for Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-10.5 years), Scouts (10-14 years) and Explorers (14-18 years).

We mainly meet in Barton St David Village Hall which we use for varied, challenging and fun inside activities. Then at Hornblotton, a wonderful outdoor space, we have access to woods, shelter building, camps, rafting, pond dipping, large fields and footpaths for games and activities and much more.

Looking at this term's programme across all the sections – we have a food bank visit, Canal trip, first aid, sleepovers, London Monopoly Run, space activities, Chinese New Year activities, international food activities, science, Lego Task Master, Animal Care, hikes, Community Impact badge work, building a shanty town (inside!), clown school, navigation, District Hike, making pancakes, survival skills, knife/axe and saw proficiency and a bus trip to Wells!

There is never a dull moment and the fact that we have such high retention from Beavers all the way through to Explorers says all you need to know about how our youngsters value their experience with us. And the feedback from parents is always excellent.

There is more good news! As youngsters have progressed up the sections there is currently a little space in each section. *If we don't have spaces we run a waiting list which usually is a fast moving affair and children are moved into the Group quite speedily.* If your child isn't yet 6 years old, please put them on the waiting list in any case as they will have priority over others when they turn 6.

As the Scout Association is keen to establish *Squirrels (4 to 6 years)*, if we have parents coming forward to help run such a group we would be able to invite those on the waiting list who are the right age immediately. You can find more information on our website at – www.bartonstdavidscout.group.

If you're an adult looking for some fun and challenge in your own life please think about volunteering. There is no better way for people of all ages to meet new friends, build self-confidence and try out activities yourself while helping youngsters to succeed. Please don't hesitate to contact me to find out more.

Vega Sturgess, Group Lead Volunteer

Barton St David Scout Group

gslbarton@yahoo.com



Lydford and District Gardening Club

In an effort to ensure that he does not run out of scarves or canine companions, the BBC have found Monty Don's bus pass and encouraged him to use it. The results of his travels are being shown on Friday evenings on BBC 2. Viewing is not compulsory. Indeed, on Friday January 24th those who are competent with the 'BBC Red Button' can watch instead, live coverage of the World Indoor Bowls Championships from Norfolk. It is probable that this particular event is the only 'World Championship' in any sport or activity that is being held in the County of Norfolk this year. A very notable event. If anyone with East Anglian connections knows of other massive world events taking place in the Far East then I would welcome information in order to give the County the status that it deserves. How does Somerset fare in this regard? Cider drinking? Cheddar cheese eating? Rhyne jumping?

Anyway, Monty is visiting gardens on a north to south peregrination and marvelling at their design and beauty. Apparently he thinks that people fall in love with something, an area, a site or a style and because they then do all the gardening themselves they create gardens that are deeply personal and original. It is this involvement that takes a garden from 'good to great'. As the programme visits Somerset it will no doubt contain footage of the Newt, Hauser and Wirth in Bruton, East Lambrook Manor and perhaps Kilver Court but what would be the reaction if Monty and his camera team visited your own plot?

Have you an area, a site or a style that is notable and have your own efforts taken the garden from the good to the great? Or is the whole thing compromised by lack of funds, chronic indolence, children demanding a football pitch or a rather unattractive garage looming over from next door. An imaginary conversation with the gardening guru during the next occasion when weather encourages a visit to all parts of the estate might be quite amusing or even productive. Just be careful not to tread on his dog!

The Somerset gardens mentioned above all feature in 'Secret Gardens of Somerset' a book with lots of good photographs and a title which must be incorrect after its publication. The author is *Abigail Willis* and she will be making a return visit to the Gardening Club on Tuesday 11th February. On this occasion she will not be talking about gardens which were once secret but instead about 'Gardening Innovations'. Trowels and secateurs which have a microchip implanted into their handles to enable tracking and location may not feature but probably should!

Ms. Willis will have a hard act to follow because at the January meeting, the first of the year when subs. were paid, discount vouchers received, post Christmas and New Year greetings exchanged and the first home-made biscuits of the year eaten, the speaker was on form. In soccer terms his performance was on a par with scoring a hat-trick. If he was a chef then his soufflé had risen perfectly and not collapsed. On that night he was to horticultural speaking what Armand Duplantis is to pole-vaulting. Adam Wallis is a relatively senior Brimsmore elf and he spoke about vegetative propagation. Merely pronouncing those words correctly indicates that someone is on good form. He spoke clearly and informatively and left a good crowd entertained and educated.

As this is the Parish Magazine double issue, mention must also be made about the goings on planned for March. *The speaker on 11th, March is due to be Chris. Smith.* Mr. Smith is a little bit of a local legend. He started the nursery 'Pennard Plants' in 2001 and has been busy since that time producing heritage seeds, growing fruit trees and running seed-potato days. Some might consider him a slightly grumpy, slightly old man yet only in the sense that Richard Attenborough portrayed the character of Kris Kringle whilst creating a Miracle on 34th Street in 1994. Chris has a vast store of knowledge and whilst he is due to talk about vegetables, members might well arm themselves with queries about all areas of horticulture as he will be able to give ideas about most issues and conundrums.

Snowdrops are up and about. The sun has been spotted, albeit briefly and tomato seeds are germinating in East Lydford. Another growing year has begun.



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Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

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The Parish Council usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Lydford Parish Hall at 7:00pm. The next two meetings will be held on *Wednesday, 12th February and Wednesday, 12th March.*

Any correspondence for the Parish Council can be sent to the PC Clerk at clerk@lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk

In December it was decided that the Parish Council would acquire a *gov.uk* domain for the Parish website and for Parish Councillor email accounts. Email addresses have now been updated and the Parish website, which is full of useful information and links, can now be found at, <https://lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk>

Councillor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would like to join our energetic and proactive Parish Council and to help resolve short and long term issues for our community - such as flood risk reduction or shaping the local development plan for the Parish for the next 20+ years - please contact the Clerk for more information.

Dog Fouling

Sadly this still remains an issue. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in dog walkers not picking up after their dogs, in the churchyard and on the footpaths around the village. There has also been an increase in owners bagging their dog's waste, but then leaving the bags on or by the footpaths. **The failure of dog owners to responsibly dispose of their pet's waste is unacceptable and is an environmental crime incurring fixed penalty fines of up to £100.** This is because dog faeces (*and abandoned dog treats, owners who encourage their dogs to forage please note*) can cause severe defects/death in farm-stock.

Hedges and undergrowth

A polite reminder to local residents and landowners who have hedges and undergrowth abutting a foot way, that now is a good time to cut back and trim hedges. Completing this activity before 1st March helps to ensure that it does not disturb nesting birds during the breeding season. Please also remove any resulting trimmings to keep the footways clear and tidy for pedestrian use.

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Lydford Forest Gardens

Workday

Saturday, 8th February

9:30 am - 12:30 pm



The friends & trustees of Lydford Forest Gardens in West Lydford will be holding a workday in the Gardens between 9:30 am - 12:30 pm on Saturday, 8th February.

The aim will be to carry out essential maintenance, including weeding and pruning. Volunteers and casual visitors are cordially invited to join the morning's endeavours.

If you have your own digging & gardening equipment and gloves, please feel free to bring them along. If not, don't worry, there will be spares to borrow.

And if you'd just like to know a bit more about our unique Forest Gardens, please visit our website at www.lydford-forest-gardens.com or pop your head over the fence on 8th February for a chat. We hope to see you there !

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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 – Ann Parkhouse 07977 260110/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

Romance Fraud

The information below is taken from the Action Fraud website.

Romance scams involve people being duped into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship. They use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells. These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to visit the victim if they are overseas. Scammers will often build a relationship with their victims over time.

Signs your friend or family member may be involved in a romance scam:

- They may be very secretive about their relationship or provide excuses for why their online partner has not video called or met them in person. They might become hostile or angry, and withdraw from conversation when you ask any questions about their partner
- They may express very strong emotions and commitment to someone they have only just met
- They have sent, or are planning to send, money to someone they have not met face-to-face. They may take out loans or withdraw from their bank account to send money.

How users can stay safe from romance scams:

- Be suspicious of any requests for money from someone you have never met in person, particularly if you have only recently met online.
- Speak to your family or friends to get advice.
- Profile photos may not be genuine, do your research first. Performing a reverse image on a search engine can find photos that have been taken from somewhere, or someone, else.

It is important that no matter how long you've been speaking to someone online and how much you think you trust them, if you have not met them in person it's important that you do not:

- Send them any money
- Allow them access to your bank account
- Transfer money on their behalf
- Take a loan out for them
- Provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses
- Invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice
- Purchase and send the codes on gift cards from Amazon or iTunes
- Agree to receive and/or send parcels on their behalf (*laptops, mobile phones etc.*)

You can find more resources and advice on the national romance fraud support pack.

How to report it

If you think you have been a victim of a romance scam, do not feel ashamed or embarrassed - you are not alone. Contact your bank immediately and **report it to Action Fraud T: 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk**.



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February 2025 Services - At 10:30 am (unless noted otherwise)

Please Check Notice Board for March Services

Sunday, 2nd February

Local Arrangement

To be Confirmed

Sunday, 16th January

Holy Communion

Rev Collin Moore

Covenant Service – On Sunday January 19th, Rev Collin Moore led our Covenant Service. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our Anglican friends – thank you for being with us for this special service!! Collin spoke about the “*patterns of this world*” and that we need to challenge ourselves more – definitely food for thought.

Somer Singers

On December 12th the Somer singers gave us a very professional but light hearted evening of “*a cappella*” songs. Their music ranged from carols to the Beach Boys and other popular favourites. A wonderful evening! We hope they will come again.

Talk 7

Ben Batley was our speaker on Thursday January 16th and gave an entertaining and enlightening talk about his years in law enforcement and the Coroners Office. We heard about his time in the Metropolitan Police Force, drug enforcement in Hong Kong and as a DI in the Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Ben now works for the Coroners Office. He offered some good advice as well as the history of the coroners dating back to the 12th century. Thank you, Ben, for such an informative evening!

Next Talk: Our next talk will be on Thursday, 13th February. It will be given by Vyv Simpson and he will be telling us about ‘Convoy 64’. Vyv recently drove a lorry from London to Donetsk, laden with many necessities for the Ukrainian people.

During the evening we will be able to sample Ukrainian delicacies made by a family from Kyiv. Tea and coffee will also be available as well as a non alcoholic bar. To reserve tickets please call Alison on (01458) 223656, Celia 224601 or Douglas 223703. We would love to see you!!

Memory Tree

Thank you, again, to everyone who added decorations this Christmas. Sadly, due to the stormy weather, some have been damaged but we have done our best to rescue them and they will ALL be kept safe until Christmas 2025...

February Half-Term – Keep an eye out for a children's film afternoon, that will be arranged for the February half-term – look on facebook for more details!

Family Bingo

Fundraiser for the Keinton Mandeville Playing field

Friday, 28th March

At Keinton Mandeville Village Hall

Doors Open 7pm - Eyes Down 7:30pm

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Reflecting God's Love



Someone once asked the great Anglican monastic theologian Herbert Kelly this questions: 'How do we know what the will of God is?' to which he famously answered, 'We don't. That's the joke.' Kelly is right: we can't know precisely what God's will is in a certain situation. But we can open up opportunities for God to 'come through' our actions, and building community is a key way of doing this.

In any situation we can try and tune our lives a bit more to God. And across our diocese our commitment to our communities is key to this.

So, when we meet people, a simple smile shows the person before us we see them as a friend. This is not to suggest ignorance or naivety. We are not unaware of the limitations and imperfections of a person, but we are prepared to focus more deeply, to the depths of the heart in each person. To seek out the goodness that only love and trust can bring to birth.

As a Cistercian writer recently put it:

'Let us welcome each person as Christ, because in all truth it is Christ whom we welcome. 'You did this to me' (Matthew 25). Let us look for the beloved face of Christ in each person, for each is his true face.'

But why start our focus on community, with those around us, and not God? Good question. Perhaps it is best explained by a lovely saying from the Desert Father, John the Dwarf: *'You don't build a house by starting with the roof and working down. You start with the foundation.'* They said, 'What does that mean?'

He said, *'The foundation is our neighbour whom we must win. The neighbour is where we start. Every commandment of Christ depends on this.'*

Toby Wright, Dean of Wells

Lydford Third Tuesday Group

In December, we donned our Christmas jumpers and twinkly outfits for another festive afternoon tea at The Cross Keys. There were mountains of mince pies and cakes, plus plenty of chat as usual! Thank you to The Cross Keys for making it such an enjoyable event.

Next Events: Saturday, 22nd February – Lunch at The Cross Keys at 12:30pm. A chance to discuss the Third Tuesday events we have planned for the rest of the year and to catch up with friends. Ann E is organizing this lunch and will send out details to members nearer the time.

Tuesday, March 18th at 7:30pm – A Talk: *"Skin Care & Make-up for all ages"*. One of our members, Pauline, will talk to us about the importance of skincare at any age, with tips for looking after different types of skin plus some practical advice about applying make-up. This will be an open meeting – All Welcome to attend. £3 per visitor.

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). For details of this year's programme or more information, please take a look at our website:

<https://thirtuesday.wixsite.com/thirtuesday>

or contact us at: lydfordthirtuesday@gmail.com

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



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**Keinton Mandeville WI would like you to join us
on Saturday, 12th April at Keinton Mandeville Village Hall**

An outstanding opportunity to enjoy music of a quality we doubt has been heard in our villages before. Amanda Floyd is not only a WI member but also an opera singer of international and Royal Opera House acclaim. Amanda will be singing a mixed programme and the evening promises to be a truly unforgettable experience for all who attend.

Our aims are to have an amazing evening, fund-raise for our WI to ensure a long and sound future and truly celebrate our 60 years together. We also hope to raise our profile and bring the local community together.

Please support us. Tickets will be issued in mid-February but please email secretarykmwi@gmail.com or presidentkmwi@gmail.com to reserve a ticket which we will issue in date order of receipt. *Secretary, Keinton Mandeville WI*



Keinton Mandeville Womens Institute



60th Birthday Concert

Join us for an evening of Songs and Arias
from Opera and Musical Theatre with

Amanda Floyd

Mezzo Soprano with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden



Beky Kirkman



Graduate of the Birmingham Royal Conservatoire

Please join us for our 60th birthday celebration.

Tickets £15 to include a cheese platter. Book online.

Bar and soft drinks available from 7pm. Cash preferred.

Sat April 12th at 7.30pm. Keinton Mandeville Village Hall

For tickets or more information please email
secretarykmwi@gmail.com or presidentkmwi@gmail.com

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".