



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

CHURCHWARDENS

Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston
Mrs Rachel Willcox 07966 873 660

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

Thursday, 11th December at 2:30pm
And

Thursday, 15th January at 2:30pm

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



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Wassail !

West Lydford 10th January 2026
A traditional Somerset Wassail



in support of the Wheathill Benefice churches

5:30 pm meet in the St Peter's Lydford Car Park
for mulled cider or soft drink.

Bring warm clothing, torches and something to make a very loud noise!

Ticket (includes hot soup and snacks) £5 - children free

Contacts:

Ralph Berry; text 07530 296885 or email ralphberry@btinternet.com

Claire Harding; text 07881 592815 or email betweenlanes@live.co.uk

Trevor Ryder; text 07773 397208 or email rydert36@hotmail.co.uk

Rachel Willcox; text 07966 873660 or email r.kaywillcox@gmail.com

Early Deadline for the JANUARY 2026 magazine is **09:00 am FRIDAY 12th December **

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

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St Mary Magdalene, Keinton – Christmas Tree 2025

Once again, Keinton PCC plans to place one lovely tree in the church this Christmas and warmly invites the involvement of everyone in and around the village to help us by decorating it. Whether these are decorations you have made as an individual, or family, or group, please do get in touch with Claire on 07881 592815 or email her at betweenlanes@live.co.uk, or speak to anyone on the PCC. Decorating the tree is likely to take place **on Tuesday, 16th December** and we'd be so pleased if you felt able to take part.

Wheathill Benefice Church Services – December 2025

Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Services
7th Dec Advent 2	Benefice Holy Communion Kingweston		
10th Dec	Wednesday, 3:00pm Lydford House Communion		
14th Dec Advent 3	10:30 am Holy Communion, Keinton Mandeville		
19th Dec, Friday	7:00pm Carol Service, Barton St David		
21st Dec	Holy communion Barton St David	—	4:00pm Carol Service Lydford on fosse
24th Dec Christmas Eve	4:00pm Crib Service Keinton Mandeville		9:30pm Midnight in Bethlehem Keinton Mandeville
25th Dec Christmas Day	10:30am All Age Celebration, Lydford on Fosse		
28th Dec Christmas 1	10:30am Morning Prayer and Baptism Kingweston		

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, 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.*

Transport to Church

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

From the Registers

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Mrs Barbara Ann COX of Keinton Mandeville who passed away on the 19th October aged 87 years. Her funeral service took place at Keinton Mandeville church on the 12th November followed by her cremation on the 16th November at Mendip Crematorium.

Mr David John UPCHURCH of Keinton Mandeville who passed away on the 25th October aged 74. His funeral service took place on the 20th November followed by his burial at Keinton Mandeville church.

Mr John Henry DENNING whose ashes were interred at Barton St David church on the 1st November.



Hello

Mid November, I always struggle to think myself into December, never mind Christmas itself. Yet the Television, advertisements and planning have been going on for weeks already. And that matters, because Christmas is a time when many gather together, others travel to be with family and we appreciate having the time to be together.

Mid November my mind is on the services that are coming up, have I planned the rotas, organised things so we're in the right churches at the right time. Do we have a wide enough range of activities and events on offer?

Mid November what is the budget for this year's Christmas food and gifts.

Mid November and we start (*or some of the more organised finish!*) to think about gifts for people, to plan who is going to be where when, working out the budget, seating, menu and more. The shops are busy selling us more food than we can eat, but we'll enjoy what we can.

Mid November and our churches are collecting for Glastonbury Food Bank, aware that there are those who will not have enough this Christmas.

Mid November and the choir are rehearsing for Carol Services and Christmas Eve. Mid November and Christmas is in the distance but coming.

Christmas with its celebrations in the community, among family and friends and in our churches. For some excitement, for others sorrow over empty places at the table and friends and family who are no longer with us. For some deep joy, for others loneliness, for some celebration, for others fear for most of us a mixture of emotions and experiences.

In many ways the message of Christmas is already here. The message that God is with us, in the person of Jesus, come to live alongside us, to experience and live a human life. One of the names Jesus is given is Emmanuel, God with us, a name that encourages me on those days when it all seems quite overwhelming and life consuming.

So this Christmas we celebrate and appreciate God with us, in each circumstance that we face. *With my best wishes for a very Happy Christmas* Jane

Our Christmas services and events are:

30th November Christingle and Advent Star 4:00pm in Keinton Church
(collect some paper chains to make for 22nd December!)

17th December 7:00pm Carol Service Barton St David

19th December 4:00pm Benefice Carol Service Lydford on Fosse

22nd December 2-4:00pm Christmas Activity Craft afternoon in Keinton Village Hall.
Come along to make things, enjoy some refreshments and meet up with friends.



24th December 4:00pm Crib Service in Keinton Church, *bring your nativity character from the craft event, or dress up as one.* Then **9:30pm, Midnight in Bethlehem**, Holy Communion, Keinton Church

25th December, 10:30am All Age Christmas Celebration at Lydford.



Christmas Activity Afternoon

Keinton Mandeville
Village Hall
Monday 22nd December
2 til 4pm



wheathill.org

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Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

We are planning on more talks in the future – *although dates and details have yet to be confirmed*, the topics might include the work of Somerset Climate Action; Bees (both wild and “domesticated”); Wild Gardening; the importance of dark skies; the work of Somerset Ornithology Group and the health benefits of nature and the environment. If you have any expertise on an environmentally-related topic (or know someone else who has) do let us know; we are always on the look-out for new speakers.

The aim of these events is for KEG to raise funds for environmental projects around the village. Currently, we have plans to undertake maintenance on the Community Copse and local hedgerows, as well as extending our wildflower planting scheme. We would also love to get the community involved in promoting boxes for birds – especially swifts - and hedgehogs. We are delighted that hedgehog numbers seem to be rising in the village – let’s try to maintain the trend.

Other things residents could take part in are our “Adopt a Tree” scheme, still open for anyone wishing to help with their own part of the Community Copse, and we are always keen to hear of anyone who has an area of garden or verge in which they’d like to plant pollinator-friendly wildflowers. As part of this scheme, we are plan to produce wildflower plug plants (which we’ve found grow more successfully than seeds) which we will give away sometime towards the end of winter early in 2026.

If you’d like to help or take part in any of this work do let KEG know using either of the links below and do keep an eye on our Facebook page for details forthcoming events.

Next Meeting

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 Monday 8th December at 6:00pm in the Village Hall*. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME.

Email: info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk

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

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

Future Dates are Wednesdays on December 17th, January 14th, February 11th and March 11th all between 10:00am & 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



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



The Mid Wessex Singers invite you and your family to join us for our Christmas Concert, ‘A Christmas Galaxy’, on the evening of Wednesday 17th December at St Michael’s Church, Somerton at 7:30pm.

Under the Direction of our new Musical Director, Ed Jenkins, we will be performing a varied programme of carols, readings and Christmas songs, including several arrangements of traditional tunes by William Llewellyn and works by Macmillan, L’Estrange and Gritton, Peter Warlock and Gabrieli.

There will also be the usual 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).

Keinton Mandeville Church Openers – December 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 30 th Nov – Sunday 7 th Dec	John Walker	223617
Sunday 7 th Dec – Sunday 14 th	Sue Baker	223519
Sunday 14 th Dec – Sunday 21 st	Sandra & Chris Weigh	224696
Sunday 21 st Dec – Sunday 28 th	Helen & Tony Gosney	224192

Keinton Mandeville Big Breakfast Update

Thank you once again to everyone who supported the Big Breakfast this year and **helped us to raise over £7,300**. 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, outdoor play and learning equipment, a quiet area for the younger children at The Nest and the school horticulture group
- A new cooker/kitchen refurbishment and a donation towards Big Breakfast costs at the Village Hall
- A new mower at Keinton Playing Field
- Ongoing maintenance and wild flower seeds and bulbs at Happy Tracks
- Outdoor games, pioneering equipment, billie cans, frying pan, kettle and steels for Barton Scouts
- Resistance bands for Charltons Fitness and Gymnastics Coaching
- Art materials for local outreach project 'Concertina Landscapes'
- Club hoodies for Keinton Netball Club
- A day of activities at Mendip Activity Centre for Keinton Youth Adventure Group
- The sustainable heating fund at Keinton Church
- The surface repaint of the court at Keinton Tennis Club and
- Tablecloths for community events for The Charlton's Community Trust

Other Donations

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.

None of these donations, organisations would be possible without the support of our community. Thank you all once again.

Finally, a date for your diaries – **The Big Breakfast 2026 will be back on Saturday, October 17th** – we look forward to seeing you there!

The Big Breakfast Committee



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.

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

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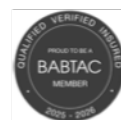
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Lydford on Fosse Parish Hall

**Christmas Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall on
Saturday, 29th November between 10:00am and 12 noon**

A Very Merry Morning at Lydford Parish Hall

As the festive season begins, Lydford Parish Hall is throwing open its doors for a heartwarming *Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday, 28th November from 10am to midday*. Neighbours and friends are invited to gather for a cheerful blend of mince pies, music and merriment—all in support of a practical cause: raising funds for new audio-visual equipment to enhance future community events.

The hall will be decked with seasonal touches, and the scent of fresh coffee and homemade bakes will fill the air. A raffle table with tempting prizes and a stall of handmade Christmas wreaths offer festive fun and a chance to take a little magic home.

Entry is free, with donations for drinks and baked goods warmly welcomed. Every pound raised will help improve sound and visuals for future talks, gatherings, and celebrations.

Parish Hall Events – December 2025

Mon 1st	Fosseway Entertainers Rehearsal	6 - 8pm	Rehearsal Who Killed the Headmaster?
Thu 4th	Fosseway Entertainers Performance	7:00pm doors 7:30pm Start	'Who Killed the Headmaster?'
Fri 5th	Fosseway Entertainers Performance	7:00pm doors 7:30pm Start	'Who Killed the Headmaster?'
Sat 6th	Fosseway Entertainers Performance	7:00pm doors 7:30pm Start	'Who Killed the Headmaster?'
Mon 8th	KM Primary School Royal Enfield Owners Club	5:30pm 7:30pm	Christmas Carol Service Members and guests of Club
Wed 10th	House Communion	?? pm	Quiet Reflection & Fellowship
Thu 11th	Yoga	7:00pm	Local Yoga group with Jill
Thu 18th	Scrapbags Yoga	2 - 4pm 7:00pm	Sociable Fabric/Wool Crafts Local Yoga group with Jill
Tues 23rd	Welcome and POPin Cafe	12 - 1:30pm	All welcome - delicious hot soup, a roll & catch up

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 9

Wheathill Benefice Choir



The Benefice Choir 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 entertaining guests *at the Carers' social group* coffee morning in *Keinton Village Hall* at 11:00am on Wednesday, 3rd December;

and after that when singing *at Castle House in Keinton for the residents' Carol Service*. Carol Services will also be held on *Friday, 19th December in Barton St David* and on *Friday, 21st December at Lydford*.

On *Wednesday, 24th December the 'Midnight in Jerusalem' service* is at 21:30pm 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 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.

The Henry Livius Trust

The Livius Trust has two distinct aims: providing items, services and facilities at Keinton Mandeville Primary School; and advancing religion in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the Parish of Keinton Mandeville. The Trustees are open to any proposals that accord with the Trust's aims.

Rev. Jane Durham (01458) 223417

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



Save the Date:

Saturday 14 February

For a Valentine's Day Barn Dance
Keinton Village Hall, 7:30pm - 10:30pm

Dancing to The Four Foot Four
Light refreshments and cash bar

Further information in January 2026 Magazine and on the events page of the Wheathill Benefice website: <https://wheathill.org>

Tickets available in the New Year.

Keinton Mandeville Parish Council

kmpcclerk@gmail.com www.keintonmandevillepc.org.uk

Privacy Notice: <http://www.keintonvh.co.uk/village/PCArchice/KMPCPN.pdf>

The next Parish Council Meeting –

Will be on Tuesday, 2nd December in the village hall at 7:30pm.

Public session will take place at 7:30pm immediately before the formal meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Kaye Elston,

Clerk to Keinton Mandeville Parish Council



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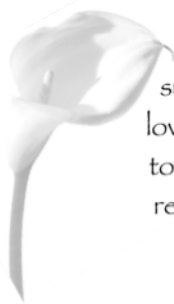
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St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse (Services listed on page 2)

Remembrance Sunday

Again this Service was very well attended by people from the Benefice. A grateful thanks must be extended to the Scout Movement for their attendance and also taking an important part in the proceedings. The money raised was ??? which has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion. Thank you to one and all.

House Communion

Wednesday 10th December at 3.00pm in the Parish Hall, West Lydford

This short Service is open to all in the Benefice and beyond. Do come along and after the Service enjoy afternoon tea and chatting to friends old and new. Should you have a problem with transport please contact Ralph Berry (01963) 240164.

Sunday 21st December

4:00pm Carols with Readings and Poems

This Service is open to all in the Benefice and beyond. Do come and sing carols, listen to readings and poems.

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served after the Service.

Christmas Day at 10:30am an All Age Celebration

Do come to this Benefice Service on Christmas Day and celebrate that Jesus entered the world.



Wassail – 10th January 2026

The Benefice is holding a *Traditional Wassail evening on January 10th* singing to apple trees and banging saucepans to discourage evil spirits and to encourage a good harvest in the Autumn.

This is being held in Lydford, at the hall and in the orchard of Mike and Naomi Pauley for which we are very grateful.

Tickets will be £5 to include soup and a roll, mulled cider and soft drinks will also be available. For more details see See front Page of the magazine, or phone me 07530 296885.

Food Bank Donations

The benefice is now supporting Glastonbury Food Bank as they have extended their area to cover our villages. Christmas donations can be made at Barton Church until 10th December. Keinton is collecting/receiving donations January February and March and Lydford will be collecting in April and May. You will find boxes in the appropriate church to put your donations.

The Churchwarden and PCC, wish you all A Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful 2026.

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

Welcome and POPin Cafe

Apologies from the Editor for missing out the notice in the November issue for the Soup Lunch which is being held on: - Tuesday, 25th November in the Parish Hall from 12 midday to 1:30pm.

December 2025 – Sorry, not this month – Because people are quite busy at this time of year, we decided not to have a soup lunch this month - but we will return on **Tuesday 27th January**. More details to follow. We look forward to welcoming you there next year!

On behalf of Walters & Pope Charity

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

(clerk@lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk)

The Parish Council usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Lydford Parish Hall at 7:00pm. There will be **NO** Parish Council meeting in December.

The next one will be held on *Wednesday, 14th January in the Parish Hall, starting at 7:00pm.* Most meetings last for around an hour-and-a-half. :

At the last PC meeting on 12th November among the matters discussed were:

- **Vacancy for a new councillor** - if you would like to be involved in making a positive difference to your community, to have a voice in the decisions made on your behalf and have a greater opportunity to hold Somerset Council to account, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk for more details.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** - Lydford-on-Fosse no longer falls under Street's Community Policing Team and now comes under **Shepton Mallet's Team** instead. The Neighbourhood Watch Team are hoping to build as good a relationship with the team from Shepton as we have enjoyed with Tim, our PCSO from Street, prior to this change.
- **The Theft of a 'Tommy' figure from East Lydford** - this was recently purchased with funds raised by Lydford on Fosse residents during the VE80 Commemoration in May this year. It appears to have been taken in broad daylight from its post next to the East Lydford War Memorial on the A37. The matter has been reported to the Police, and a suitable replacement was found in time for Remembrance Sunday.
- **Bleed Kits** - The Parish now has 2 new Bleed Kits held in containers by the bridge in West Lydford and near to Lydford Crossroads. These will be monitored and maintained by the team that installed the Parish's defibrillators last year.
- **Playground** - The Parish Council are currently looking for a suitable site for a new Playground as the one on the Sports Ground is nearing the end of its life. Once a location for this has been agreed, fund-raising for the new equipment will commence in earnest.
- **Parish Council Budget** - The budget for the coming year, which is collected through Council Tax, was discussed and a recommendation was made to hold this at £14,000 for the third year in a row (*representing a cost of £63.09 for a Band D Council Taxpayer*). It was noted that this was well below the average Town/Parish Council Tax for Somerset of £111.00 a year. Councillors will have the opportunity to consider the Budget proposal in detail before voting on it at January's meeting.
- **Correspondence** - A report was received from our local Somerset Council representative, Cllr. Claire Sully, and a summary of articles of interest ('*SC Snippets*') was also outlined at the meeting. These reports can be viewed in full on the Parish website lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk **Festive Greetings to all our parishioners!**

Quiet Fireworks event, Keinton Mandeville

Thank you to everyone who came to our Quiet Fireworks event on 1st November in aid of Keinton Mandeville church's sustainable heating fund. We do hope everyone had a good time. We are delighted to tell you that we **raised £900 in donations** for the hot drinks and food on the day. Thank you for being so generous. *An enormous thank you to AJ at The Quarry Inn who sponsored the fireworks.*

Our next event

This will be a *Talk on Honey Bees* with coffee, cake and a soup lunch at Keinton Church on

Saturday, 7th February 2026 between 11:00am – 2:00pm.

More details in the January Parish Magazine. Contrary to popular opinion, the church receives no money from the government and has to raise all its funds from our community and grant funders where possible. Thank you for supporting your local church – we've been serving the Parish of Keinton since 1317!



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01458 250509



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Lydford Moviola

The next Moviola screening at Lydford Parish Hall

Will be on Friday, January 16th 2026 at 7:30pm

The tickets are £8.00 each

Doors open at 7:00 pm with a bar available until 7:30pm

The film to be shown is **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (2025) PG**,
featuring Hugh Bonneville and Dominic West.

"When Lady Mary finds herself in a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future."

To reserve tickets or for more information please contact:

Linda Foote 01963 240336

Wheathill Priory Community Transport – WPCT

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

Due to a kind donation from the Keinton Mandeville Parochial Church Council: *We are again able to offer **Free** transport for Covid and Flu vaccination appointments.*

If you reside in our villages, do not have your own transport and would like us to take and return you from your vaccination appointment, please call our scheme coordinator on **07799 487719** to make arrangements. We will provide free transport to one of the local vaccination centres (*within 10 miles*) or to your GP.

We would like to remind everyone that if you are a resident of our villages, do not drive or have your own transport, or you find public transport (if it is available) difficult to access, you may be eligible to use the scheme.

Our Community Transport Scheme can be used for, but not necessarily restricted to, journeys up to 25 miles each way to:

- the doctor, dentist, hospital (if free transport is not available), post office, shopping
- friends or relatives (including when in hospital)
- local bus stops, bus stations or railway stations for onward journey

If you would like to use our Community Transport scheme please call us –
48 hours in advance – and we will do what we can to help:

Contact : 07799 487719.

We are always interested in drivers who can 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. If you would like to help, please call our coordinator on the above number.

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Contact **Mo** for details on:

07815748518

mospilates@yahoo.com

Lydford Scrapbags

Are you interested in joining a group for: ...

Sewing, quilting, dressmaking or embroidery; also you could do knitting crochet macramé bobbin lace etc.?

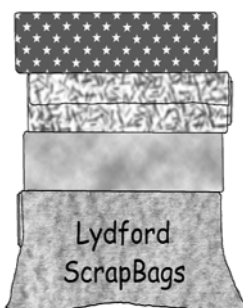
*We meet in the Parish Hall, West Lydford,
on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month
between 2:00pm – 4:00pm*

For which we all pay a small fee.

My contact details are:

Phone: 01963 240435 or 07484 612828 Email: annefleming1@btinternet.com

Anne Fleming





Lydford and District Gardening Club

It may be difficult to believe, but there are those who look down upon the Lydfords in general and West Lydford in particular. Geographically this might be understandable with the bridge over the Brue being only 20 metres above sea level - roughly. The alpine-esque pastures of Keinton Mandeville sit 30 metres higher whilst the peaks of Kingweston soar to the dizzy extremes of 75 metres and more above sea level. The air must be thin up in those parts. So, being 'on the bayou', West Lydfordians might be thought of as being sluggish, lacking sparkle, backward chawbacons whose idea of civilised entertainment is repeated screenings of the film 'Deliverance' accompanied by industrial quantities of moonshine with zydeco music and Tony Jo White albums being played on repeat.

Nothing could be further from the truth. West Lydford is a centre for cultural activities which expand the mind and, with some fairly serious biscuits, the waistline. This was evidenced *at the November meeting of the Gardening Club when the speaker was Arthur Cole and he was talking about 'The Newt'* with reference to its present form being the latest step on a journey which has lasted several millennia in broad terms and three centuries with specific reference to the gardens within the estate.

In the eighteenth century the original farmhouse at Hadspen was moulded into the 'perfect gentleman's seat' by a succession of prosperous Bristol merchants and lawyers and its grounds acquired fountains, tree-lined avenues and a ha-ha. From 1785 the estate was owned by the Hobhouse family and in the 1880s Margaret Hobhouse began to develop the garden in a naturalistic style. After a later period of neglect the famous garden designer, Penelope Hobhouse made her first garden here in the 1960s. Subsequently, in the 1980s and 1990s, Nori and Sandra Pope created their famous 'Colour Gardens' in the parabola-shaped walled garden. The most recent and most dramatic change occurred in 2013 when the 800 acre estate was purchased by a South African couple who spent a shed-load of money and created something unique. Many amazing features at 'The Newt' include a Roman villa, acres of finely trained apple trees, glorious ice-creams and, last but not least, a gathering of spitting toads or, as they are known to some younger people, squirty frogs!

Mr Cole spoke well and after a few technical teething problems showed some lovely photographs of white cattle and expensive cyder. He also managed to make reference to one of P.G. Wodehouse's more memorable character creations, the ardent newt-lover, Gussie Fink-Nottle. What Gussie did not know about the mating habits of these salamanders was simply not worth knowing!

But, to return to the popular fallacy that Lydford is a cultural desert, Mr.Cole also asked the audience to consider a few aspects of Roman and Greek mythology. No T.V. Soap operas, reality show celebrities or computer games referenced here but proper, solid and upstanding classical learning. Amongst the pantheon of Greek deities was a fairly rustic and minor god of fertility named Priapus. He developed such a following that the Romans adopted him and he became especially noted for his popularity amongst gardeners. Further details of this chap can be accessed from the well-thumbed multi-volume copy of the Encyclopaedia Britannica that sits on the shelves of the front room or alternatively any informative website might be consulted.

Christmas Dinner – Tuesday, 9th December

Erudite and learned conversation will undoubtedly be on the menu for the *Club Christmas dinner at the Cross Keys on Tuesday December 9th*. Diners should arrive at the traditionally confusing time of '7 for 7:30pm'. Anyone who has D.T. Brown seed orders outstanding should ensure that they get to a responsible adult or Simon Wynn *by 8th December* so that they can be sent off to get the full 50% discount.

And finally, 13th January 2026 is when it all starts again

Membership fees, a snip at £20, will be payable at the first meeting of the year and the speaker will be Katherine Crouch. She will have as her topic 'Growing the food you can't buy'. So members can expect to hear about skirret, tree-onions, ciboule and Good King Henry. There will definitely be biscuits, although there will be those who might eschew such ambrosia due to a hint of over-indulgence during the festive season.





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

Please Check Notice Board for other Service Details

Sunday, 7th December Morning Worship Rob Haskins

Sunday, 21st December 3:00pm Holy Communion Rev Collin Moore

Talks and Suppers

We are now looking forward to November's talk by Trevor Ryder – "*Bent Fingers and Banjos*". A musical evening featuring banjo, ukulele and guitar.

On Thursday December 18th Neill Thomas will be speaking about his experience as a Harrier pilot during the Falklands War, tickets are selling fast, so book soon...!

Knit & Natter Group

Mondays afternoons from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. All are welcome to join this friendly, fun and talented group!

Toddlers Group

Tuesday morning, 10:00am – 12noon. You will be made very welcome!

Happy Christmas

Its hard to believe that its time to wish you all a HAPPY CHRISTMAS...

We will again have a 'memory tree' outside the Chapel. Baubles have been safely stored and will be replaced on the new tree, but EVERYONE is very welcome to add a new decoration,

And so, from everyone at Keinton Methodist Chapel, we wish you

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS and send our best wishes for the festive season!

Lydford Third Tuesday Group

In **October** a group of us met at the Somerset Rural Life Museum for a guided tour and talk about the history of the buildings and the people that lived there when it was a working farm.

We met in the café for coffee and a chat to begin with, then gathered in the old farmyard for the start of our tour. Here we were introduced to "*Punch*", a life-size sculpture of a horse by artist Harriet Mead made entirely from reclaimed metal. We then toured the various buildings on the site, starting with the oldest – the beautiful 14th century barn which was built to store produce from the Glastonbury Abbey estates. We then moved on to the modest red-brick Georgian farmhouse, finishing our tour in the much grander stone farmhouse built in 1894.

Afterwards there was time to explore the permanent galleries at the museum which tell the story of rural life in Somerset, as well as a fascinating exhibition about the life and work of artist and writer Hope Bourn. Known as "*The Lady of Exmoor*", she spent sixty years on Exmoor recording the wildlife and natural landscape.

Next Event

We don't have an official Third Tuesday meeting in December, but we thought this would be a nice festive event for those that would like to meet up near to Christmas:



Christmas Late Night Opening at the



Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury on Friday, 12th December at 5:00pm

Carol singing, marshmallow toasting, mulled cider & apple juice!



No need to book. See email to members for further details



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 for more information, please take a look at our website: <https://thirdtuesday.wixsite.com/thirdtuesday>

Barton St David Scout Group – Skills for Life

<https://bartonstdavid.scoutgroup>

Do More, Share More, Be More

Our youngsters are flying high. Our Explorer Unit succeed at all levels of D of E. Most recent is a Silver, a huge achievement which will contribute this Scout's future life and career.

More **Explorers** qualified as Young Leaders and another walked 23 miles on Dartmoor with a Ten Tors team. **Scouts** have been on a backwoods camp (catch and prepare your own food and sleep under a tarp!) and are preparing for a Ski trip in February. **Cubs and Beavers** have been doing cycling proficiency and sessions crammed with the physics of flying and aviation. We include traditional scouting such as knots and playing team games. *However, for me*, the standout session was that **we took the 6-10 year olds caving last month**. Wearing the full kit and adhering to all the safety and insurance requirements they had a full caving experience deep under the Mendips. They loved it and parents loved the fact that their children were offered an affordable challenge that is almost impossible to get elsewhere. (All members are fully insured and all Leaders have safety, safeguarding and first aid training as standard thank goodness!)

This term we have had a focus on *being a force for good in our community*. From doing the **Barton Carnival** teas in July, we supported the wonderful **Keinton Big Breakfast** by collecting many bottles for the tombola. We were also at the **Newlands Farm Winter Market**, a super event at a place that is a big asset to our community. Explorers help out each month at **Glastonbury Food Bank**. Lastly, we make a real effort to help our youngsters to understand the significance of **Remembrance**. All attended sessions that focused on the courage and sacrifice of others along with respect, gratitude and kindness. Importantly they were reminded to carry those values forward into their own lives and communities.

Many of us attended the Benefice Remembrance at Lydford Church and we got a multitude of compliments. Others of our group painted stones and placed them at Barton and Butleigh war memorials, attended services at Butleigh and Compton Dundon. A reflective moment in our active term as we look forward to 2026. **Explorers meet on Mondays, younger sections on Tuesdays**. If you would like to join our friendly Scout Group please contact:

Vega Sturgess,
Group Lead Volunteer on :
glbarton@yahoo.com



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Barton St David History Club

In October at the Robinson Memorial Lecture we paid tribute to our founders Peter and Penny Robinson and Dennis Powell.

A large audience enjoyed an excellent and highly entertaining talk by Sally Smith on the exciting and daring but rarely told exploits of *British women in the history of aviation*.

This ranged from the balloonists of the late 18th century right through to Helen Sharman's adventures in space.

Future Meetings

Thursday 6th November at 7.30pm: Susie Simmons

"The Southwest Heritage Trust and its Museums of Somerset"

Thursday 4th December at 7.30pm: Jill Lawson *"Making Faces at the BBC"*

Jill, one of our members, was a make-up artist at the BBC and will share some of her experiences of making up some well-known figures!

We will celebrate the festive season with mulled wine and mince pies after the talk (*cash donations please*).

Admission for both meetings : Members Free, Non-Members £3.

Barton St David Church

View-from-the-Pew

"Candles, Carols & Calendar Curiosities"

Did-U-Know?

Late November/December brings **Advent, the Season for Hope and the start of the Christian Church's New Year.**

This year it starts on Sunday, 30th November, which is four Sundays before Christmas Day! Did you know that you can attend any of the planned events over the Advent and Christmas period. Why not explore and venture out of your village?

We are Four Churches and One Benefice!

Inspiration – *'One who has hope lives differently.'* **Pope Benedict XVI**

Fun Fact - In Medieval England, Advent was a fasting season — no meat, dairy or festive puddings!

Look out for next month's 'View-from-the-Pew' and why not submit your inspirational quote or fun church-related fact to be included in future publications; to the bartonchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

Wanted – Organist/Pianist

Wheathill Benefice is made up of 4 churches –

Barton St David

Keinton Mandeville

Kingweston

Lydford on Fosse

We hold a Service every Sunday and alternate our services across our Benefice churches.

We are in need of an Organist or Pianist to support our service's so that we can continue to fill the churches with joy and fellowship.

If you think you might be able to help us even if it is infrequently, please contact Jo on email address enclosed:

wheathillbenefice@gmail.com

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Christmas joy for all people

We fear that we live in a world of increasing polarisation. Conflicts between and within nations play their part. The amplification of division and hostility by social media algorithms doesn't help.

Culture wars exacerbate matters further. Sometimes it feels like common ground is disappearing from underneath our feet like a sandbar being overwhelmed by the tide.

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

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

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

A very merry and joyful Christmas to you all.

Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells



Lydford Neighbourhood Watch

lydfordnhw@gmail.com

Emergency Call 999

Non Emergency 101 or Report Online www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

To Remain Anonymous Call 0800 555111

Street Contacts

A37 – Jeremy Spencer 07517 771852

Lydford on Fosse - Cary Road – Lali Seehra 07530 121515

East Lydford - Church Lane (A37 side) – Ian Poynter 01963 240424

Church Lane (Castle Cary side) Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092

West Lydford

South of the Brue – 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

Police Boundary Changes

From the 4th. November East and West Lydford and Lydford on Fosse are covered by the Shepton Mallet Neighbourhood Policing Team.

(Previously our contacts were in Street.)

We will no longer have our own PCSO - all the team from Shepton Mallet will cover our area including PCSO's and Beat Constables.

If you go to the Avon and Somerset Police website and type in your postcode in the section that says *'in your area'* it should then bring up the names and photographs of the beat team in Shepton Mallet.

Happy Christmas from Lydford NHW

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The Return of the Fosseway Entertainers

In

Who Killed the Headmaster ?

On

Thursday, 4th, Friday 5th & Saturday 6th December

Doors open at 7:00pm

with performances starting at 07:30pm

and lasting around 2 hours.

There are still a few tickets left for this family-friendly play where
you get to be the detective, and to try to work out 'Whodunnit ?' -
there are even prizes for the best sleuths !

To buy tickets, please contact

**Jane F (West Lydford), Neil M (East Lydford) and Lali S (by the crossroads),
or by calling Rachel on 01458 274101**

Keinton Mandeville WI

At our 20th November meeting, we were delighted to welcome *Matthew Hall*,
consultant orthopaedic knee and hip surgeon, to speak about his varied and
specialist work. This was followed by a chance to chat and catch up with fellow
ladies, whilst enjoying delicious refreshments.

Christmas Party

A week earlier than our usual meetings (which are held on the third Thursday of
each month) **we will be having our Christmas party on 11th December**
where there will be festive activities, food and drink- and plenty of laughter!

We have been delighted to welcome new members and visitors to our recent
meetings. You are very welcome to come along too- we look forward to seeing you!

Please contact Sarah at my NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: commskmwi@gmail.com

Knit & Natter, Keinton Mandeville

At Knit and Natter, we are always happy to receive donations of wool which are
used for community projects.

New members are always welcome to come along and join us

We meet Monday afternoons 2:00 – 4:00 p.m in the Methodist Church rooms.

For further details please contact Emma Stevens 01458 223344.

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".*