



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

CHURCHWARDENS

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

Lydford on Fosse
Mr Ralph Berry (01963) 240164
Mrs Jennie Cooper (01963) 240236

Barton St David
Mrs Carolyn Giddings (01458) 851617
Mrs Wendy Eitzen (01458) 850011

Lay Ministers: Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237 Jan Jones (01458) 851608

Acting Benefice Administrator, Sally Buxton – Email: wheathillbenefice@gmail.com

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



Glastonbury Food Bank

Once again Keinton Parish Church will be collecting donations for the Glastonbury Food Bank during **January, February and March in 2024.**

There will be a box in the Church. **The Food Bank does not give out items past their use by date.** They would be particularly grateful for the following Requested Donations of:

Pasta/Pasta Sauce	Tinned Stewed Meat	Tinned Soup / Packet Soup	
Tinned Meat	Meat Pies	Tinned Fish	Porridge
Tinned Puddings	Rice	Custard	Tinned Fruit
Squash	Biscuits	Sponge Puddings	
Marmalade	Jam	Marmite	Peanut Butter
Long-life Juice	Tea	Coffee	Sugar

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

Help the Mid Wessex Singers celebrate

In 2024 the Mid Wessex Singers are celebrating the **25th Anniversary of the choir's formation.**

We would love other singers to come and join us in the new term to prepare for and take part in our celebratory **Concert on Saturday, 4th May** at St Michael's Church in Somerton.

The programme includes some of our favourites - *Vivaldi's Gloria, Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine and the Easter Hymn from Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana.*

For this special occasion we will be joined by Malcolm Archer, the very well known organist and two professional soloists.

We are a friendly group of people who enjoy singing and having fun. We don't hold auditions so why not come along for a free taster session? We rehearse on Tuesday evenings 7:00 - 9:00pm at the West Street Church Hall in Somerton and our new term starts on Tuesday, 9th January.

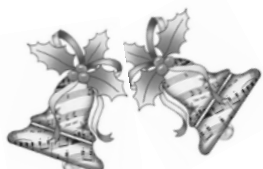
For more information please visit our website: www.midwessexsingers.co.uk, call our Secretary, Sheena on 07768 704883 or e-mail: info@midwessexsingers.co.uk.

We look forward to meeting you!

Charity no 1118167

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Happy New Year to Everyone

Entries for Joint FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024 magazine – By 09:00 am Friday 19th January
Items to the Editor – VIA EMAIL PLEASE: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com

Wills, Probate, Power of Attorney

**Friendly legal advice
at a difficult time**

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

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known as Probate, which is often needed when
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if another solicitor is holding the Will)

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sorting out the legal process for my Mum's estate, you
made a very difficult time very easy for us"*
... Helen, Somerset

Judith Derbyshire

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SOLICITORS

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Lower Farm Offices, West Bradley BA6 8LT

Wheathill Benefice Worship

Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Services
7th Jan Epiphany	Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	Morning Prayer Lydford on Fosse	 <small>Image by studiostock on Freepik</small>
14th Jan Plough Sunday		Holy Communion Kingweston	
21st Jan Epiphany 3		Covenant Service Keinton Methodist	
28th Jan Presentation	Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse	Morning Prayer Barton St David	4:00 pm Faith 'n Fun Keinton Mandeville

Benefice Churches

Churches opening for private prayer

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

Church Car Parks

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

Keinton Mandeville Church Openers – December 2023

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

Sunday 24 th Dec – Sunday 31 st Dec	John Walker	223617
Sunday 31 st Dec – Sunday 7 th JAN	Joanne Wallwork	07757704221
Sunday 14 th Jan – Sunday 21 st	Roger Locke	224287
Sunday 21 st Jan – Sunday 28 th	Niell Thomas	223613
Sunday 28 th Jan - Sunday 4 th FEB	Helen & Tony Gosney	224192

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!*

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

From the Registers

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Elena FRASER of Barton St David - a service of thanksgiving for Elena's life took place at Barton St David Church on Saturday, 16th December.

David Francis FRY of Barton St David, who died at Yeovil District Hospital on Tuesday, 14th November, aged 76 years. A funeral service was held at Mendip Crematorium on Wednesday, 29th November 2023.



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Happy New Year

I'm writing before Christmas, but this will be delivered by New Year, so **Happy New Year**. I hope that as the Christmas Holidays and celebrations come to an end, you're ready for whatever 2024 has to offer? Most of it is, of course, unknown! We may have some hopes, dreams and plans but at this stage it is difficult to know what will happen.

So how do you approach New Year? I'm not a great maker of resolutions, because I usually become disheartened by my inability to keep them!

Last November I went on a retreat centred around using photography as a way of keeping us in the moment, and centred on God, (*it was a Christian retreat, but the leader stressed that photography could be used by anyone to look, notice and take stock*).

This is one of my photos from the retreat, these quinces have grown around the branch, firmly attached.



As I look at this photo I wonder:

- What or who do I shape my life around?
- What external factors shape me?
- What or who am I hanging onto?
- What or who hangs onto me?
- What are my/our household priorities for 2024?

One gift that the Methodist Church has given us is the *Annual Covenant Service*, an opportunity to recommit ourselves to God and one another, we're going to join the Chapel on *Sunday, 21st January* for this service, why not come and join all of us then?

Wishing you a very Happy New Year, however you mark it and whatever decisions you make!

Jane

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Restart a Heart - Training Evening

on Monday, 8th January 2024

at 6:30 pm

in the Cross Keys, Lydford



The British Heart Foundation will be running a free training event in what to do and how to administer Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) if you encounter someone in cardiac arrest.

It will take place at 6:30pm on Monday, 8th January 2024
and will be kindly hosted by the Cross Keys in Lydford.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to save a life.

Please join us and, if you can, please email parkhousea71@gmail.com to let us know that you intend to be there so that we have an idea of the numbers to expect.

We hope to see you there!



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Keinton Knit & Natter

Knit and Natter has been going now for almost 15 years. We meet on Monday afternoons from 2:00pm – 4:00 pm in the Methodist Church rooms. Everyone, including complete beginners, are welcome irrespective of their level of ability.



As well as individual projects we also take part in Community Group Projects for local, national and even international charities.

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Email: donnatucker1107@gmail.com

Examples of group projects are:

Paired squares for premature babies; Twiddle Muffs for dementia sufferers; Hats and Gloves to be sent to war torn areas; dolls for soldiers to give children in Afghanistan; Beanie Hats for the homeless; Decorating the Church at Christmas; Poppies to sell for Remembrance Sunday; joining in with the Cascade of Poppies at Wells Cathedral; Pouches for Marsupials caught up in the devastating Australian bush fires; knitted bunting and decoration for the Queen's Jubilee and the King's Coronation.

Our weekly subs of £1 are regularly passed on to a variety of charities, including some of the smaller lesser well-known ones.

Save the Children, local Food Banks, Campaign against Living Miserably, Keinton Methodist Church, M.U. Relief Fund, Grenfell Disaster fund, St. Margaret's Hospice, Headway, Keinton Village Hall, St. Martins in the Field, CAFOD to name but a few.



We can guarantee lots of interesting discussions, love and support and continuous laughter during the meetings. So, if you would like to come along and join us then contact us on (01458) 223344. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

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Keinton Mandeville Table Top Games Group

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

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

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

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

Dates for January 2024 up to April 2024

These are Wednesday, January 17th, February 21st, March 20th and April 17th all between 10am and 12 noon.

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

Viv Lane and Claire Harding

Women's Institute

Keinton Mandeville and surrounding villages

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

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

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

Meeting Dates: *Thursday, 18th January and on Thursday, 15th February both in Barton St. David Village Hall at 7:15 pm.* Please come a little earlier if you are new so that we can welcome you. For more information or if you would like to join us please email: secretarykmwi@gmail.com

Barton St David Scout Group

The autumn term has seen an increasing range of exciting activities in our Group. We provide top quality Scouting for 6 to 18 year olds.

Due to some of our volunteers moving away, having babies, changing working patterns etc we are currently actively recruiting volunteers to help at any of our age groups

Scout volunteering has been described as a free hobby where adults can try out as many activities as our youngsters do. However, it is mostly about being part of a fun team with like minded people, making new friends, sharing your skills, being proud of the Scout's achievements, laughing / groaning at their jokes and being energised by their enthusiasm.

We do really need support. Maybe once a term, once a month or more. You might like to choose to help only with hikes, craft or with a special interest such as astronomy. Please contact me to find out how easy we make it to volunteer.

After a summer of international (Kenya) and local camps, hikes, outings and exploration we are mainly back in the hall doing indoor activities and learning. Having said that the Cubs had a wonderful weekend at Goodwood doing Boxcar Racing. Our Cub Leader lost her voice shouting encouragement during the races! Since then, they have also been caving on the Mendip.

Our older Scouts have been Letterboxing (a form of orienteering) on Dartmoor and bouldering, caving, hikes and more. Scouting isn't all about campfires as we have a rounded programme. Two groups have recently visited a food bank and others have been part of a local charity raising money for a community in Kenya.

Hopefully you'll see the value we bring to our community and please consider contacting and offering some of your time to help us. Email me on gslbarton@yahoo.com we will welcome you with open arms!

Vega Sturgess

Group Scout Leader, Barton St David Scout Group

Benefice Choir



After the joy of singing at the Christingle and Advent Star Service, Benefice carol services and carol singing at Castle House. The choir's musical year ends in fine style with a *Music and Choral concert in Kingweston Church on the 29th December.*

Choir members take a well-earned rest during January, returning to rehearsals on Thursday, 25th January. That leaves plenty of time for you to think about those New Year's Resolutions – please come and join us – all are welcome! Contact Lynne Kirkman on (01458) 224158.



Choir practice is held in Kingweston Church on a Thursday evening from 7:30pm. Hope to see you there!



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Keinton Mandeville Parish Council

kmpcclerk@gmail.com www.keintonmandevillepc.org.uk
Privacy Notice: <http://www.keintonvh.co.uk/village/PCArchive/KMPCPN.pdf>

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 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.

Planning Application – 20/03613/FUL

Application for the erection of 30 dwellings with associated access off Church Street and land adjoining Primary School at Chistles Lane. The parish council have held an Extra Ordinary Meeting on 11th December and all councillors still object to this application. Comments will be posted on the Somerset Council website.

Keinton Mandeville Village Hall

Thank you to Sue Bolter who has recently retired from the position of secretary at the Village Hall.

Grants made by Parish Council in 2023-24

The parish council enjoys providing grants to local organisations and to date this year have gone slightly over the budget allocation and given out grants totalling £7924.

Precept request by Parish Council 2024-25

In January the parish council set their budget and agree what requests to make in terms of the funding they require for the next financial year which impacts council tax paid by local residents.

This will be challenging this year as Somerset Council are asking parish councils to take on some of their functions e.g. drain and gully clearance, rubbish removal from bins etc. The parish council will be working through some difficult decisions.

Report Commissioned by Parish Council regarding traffic

The first draft of parts of the report have been released and will soon be available for public release. The findings will be useful when reviewing planning applications.

Kaye Elston

Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

Keinton Community Copse

Our "Adopt a Tree" scheme should be available in the Spring; we are in the process of producing a map and catalogue. We hope this will get you involved in looking after your own little part of the copse or just letting us know if you see a problem.

Rewilding/wildflower planting – save the date;

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

We are planning – very provisionally – on the weekend of 16th and 17th March 2024 as a community re-wilding event. Do let us know if you'd like to be involved or if you have a verge or other area you'd like to be re-wilded.

Hedgehogs – and more

Please keep the sightings of hedgehogs - and any other wildlife - coming in. Do contact us (*or come to a meeting*) if you would like advice on feeding and providing shelter for wildlife. Some of our members are skilful at constructing hedgehog, bat and bird boxes and would be delighted to pass their expertise on to you and your family.

Next Meeting

Our meetings are open to anyone to attend and we'd love to get more people involved in what we do. KEG's next meeting is on Wednesday, 10th January at 7:00 pm in the Quarry Inn

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

Volunteer to be an Independent Visitor or Advocate for children in Somerset



Would you like to make a positive difference in 2024?

There's a famous quote from Rev Sydney Smith "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can."



From as little as a couple of hours a fortnight and less than a week's quality training, you could be making purposeful contact with a young person and make a positive difference for them through outings, conversations, activities and more...

Route1 have two volunteering opportunities:

Independent Visitor and Advocate

Independent Visitors are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. We will match your interests and skill set with a young person who will best suit your support. You and the young person have the freedom to decide what you do, how you do it, to build a meaningful friendship.

One young person with an Independent Visitor said: "Things I get from my IV relationship... is space from the world, where I can have an open and honest conversation with, at first a stranger, that becomes a friend. I would be happy to say it is a really good experience!"

An Advocate is an independent person who can offer one-to-one support to children and young people to have their voice heard when meetings are taking place concerning their wellbeing. It's the role of the Advocate to speak up for the young person, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their views, wishes and feelings.



The Chair of a Child Protection Conference said
"I am always amazed by the calibre of the volunteers and how generous they are with their time."

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St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse

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

Christmas Coffee Morning

We would like to thank those who helped beforehand and on the morning. It was very successful, and with some extra donations, **the amount raised was £1,129.25 – amazing.** This money will go towards the upkeep of the church building and maintenance of the churchyard.

Tea and Talk

This will take place on **Sunday, 18th February** when we will have **Chris Thomas coming to Talk on the work of the Street Pastors in our local towns.** All from the Benefice are welcome. There will be tea and cake to enjoy after the Talk.

To one and all we wish you a Very Happy and Healthy 2024.

Welcome & POPin Cafe

A Happy 2024 Everyone!

We're back with our Soup lunches this month. Everyone is welcome to come along and warm up, with good company and a book or two to take home or swap. As usual choice of soups, cheese scone followed by tea and coffee.

We look forward to seeing you all! **Tuesday, 23rd January 2024** open 11:30am for 12 noon Soup at 1:30pm in Lydford Parish Hall.

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

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

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

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

Lydford Forest Gardens Work Day

On 27th January 2024

Lydford Forest Garden is a Community Garden, just across the churchyard footbridge in West Lydford. As it is a registered charity, it needs trustees but it also needs practical help as there are always lots of jobs to be done, such as pruning, weeding and grass cutting.

Some of us are going to be involved in some practical tasks on Saturday January, 27th 2024 from 9:00am to 12 noon (*weather permitting*).

We are hoping to plant up a shaded area of the garden. If you have any shade tolerant plants that you can spare such as ferns or foxgloves then please deliver them to the Cider House, High Street, West Lydford.

Please come and help on the day if you can. If you are interested in finding out more about the charity or you would like to become a 'Friend' please come and visit us on the 27th January or visit our website:

www.lydford-forest-gardens.com Thank you!

Naomi Pauley

on behalf of the Lydford Forest Garden Trustees



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It can be used for, but not necessarily restricted to:

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

Should you find yourself in need of a lift please give us a call – preferably 48hrs in advance – and we will do what we can to help:

contact number is: 07799 487 719

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

Barton History Club

We rounded off our 2023 programme in December with a highly entertaining evening of seasonal music from the Somerset Russets, and equally seasonal mulled drinks and mince pies etc!

We will start the New Year with talks from two eminent Barton residents. First on **Thursday, 11th January at 7.30pm** Professor John Cleland will talk on *“The Global Response to the Population Explosion : Successes and Failures”*

Given the current state of the world, this should be a fascinating and thought-provoking talk, by a leading specialist in the field!

Then on **Thursday, 8th February at 7.30pm** David Odgers will share his thoughts on *“Glastonbury and Lalibela - Contemplations on a Shared History”* David writes *“The sharp-eyed among you may have noticed that Glastonbury is twinned with Lalibela in Ethiopia”*. David has been involved - both professionally and as a visitor - with Glastonbury Abbey and the Rock Churches of Lalibela. His illustrated talk will explore the history of the two sites (particularly with regard to pilgrimage) as well as their current condition and future prospects.

Looking further ahead on **Thursday, 14th March at 7.30pm** we will learn about *The History of the Measurement of Time*, a talk by Barry (Baz) Hamblin, a new speaker for us. All are welcome. Members free, Non-members £2 at the door..

Barton St David Friday Afternoon Table Tennis

We will begin again on January 5th 2024

We play every Friday afternoon in the village hall and run from 2:00pm until 4:00pm with a break in between for refreshments, which are provided

We are not a club, so no annual fee but a charge of £2 per person per session. Bats and balls are provided. Even if you have never played before, come for some exercise, competition, lots of laughter and a chat.

Please contact Elaine on (01458) 850465 or email at: esbalcombe@googlemail.com if you are interested.

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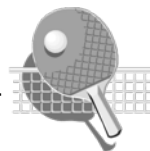
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Lydford and District Gardening Club



The monsoon season for Somerset duly arrived on Monday 4th December, drenching this area in several inches overnight and creating floods where there had never been floods before. Driving on the A37, that fabled road, second only to the A303 in terms of history and romance, as a lorry driving rather rapidly in the opposite direction thrust a tsunami of floodwater onto the windscreen, was a rather worrying experience. If this is a taste of the future then rice might need to be the crop of choice and the water buffalo farm on the way to Yeovil will have a ready market for any spare beasts. However, a few years ago it was suggested that Mediterranean gardening might have to be the way forward. If we do get some cold weather over the next few weeks, in amongst the almost constant damp, then some of the more tender plants from that part of the world may well struggle to see 2024!

Thinking of Christmas presents with a gardening theme brought to mind a version of the carol relating to Twelve Days which would delight any horticulturalist. Anyone with pretensions to green fingers would be very happy to wake early on Christmas morning and find in a very large or even virtual sack something approaching the following:

***One vial of magic potion** which obliterates bindweed but does no harm to other things.*

***Two perfectly matched bay trees** to flank the front door.*

***Three gardening gloves**, two right and one left or the other way round for those of a 'Goweresque' nature, as one glove in a pair always seems to wear out quicker than the other.*

***Four stakes with plant pots on the top** to support anti-butterfly netting.*

***Five trowels**, gold or otherwise, so that one should always be available in whatever part of the garden where work is being done and surely it is impossible to lose 5 trowels at the same time.*

***Six bags of compost**, peat-free obviously.*

***Seven tubs of fertiliser** to use with the aforementioned compost in a desperate attempt to get it to actually grow something.*

***Eight maids a milking**, who, because of the fact that nowadays all milking is computer controlled, would be out of a job and so could put in a shift in the garden.*

***Nine sweetcorn plants** which could be planted in a gloriously square matrix and thus stand a good chance of being pollinated.*

***Ten raised beds** in an attempt to outdo Charles Dowding and become self-sufficient in salads and vegetables.*

***Eleven footballers who can actually play the game** and therefore could be sent up to the north Midlands where they could be used to stave off relegation to the abyss that is Division One.*

***Twelve months of good gardening weather.** Warm enough at the correct times; cold and frosty enough in the winter to deal with a few pests; wet enough all year round but obviously not too wet and preferably with rain falling at nighttime and with a few gentle zephyrs to put the final touches to this gardening idyll.*

Next Meeting

The Gardening Club begins **the New Horticultural Year on Tuesday, 9th January**. Messengers with forked sticks will have been sent out to spread the word that all are welcome to arrive at the *Parish Hall in West Lydford* at 19:00hrs.

Subscriptions will be due but good husbandry has ensured they will be levied at the same level as in 2023 thereby representing a reduction, in real terms, of something approaching 10%! Cash, card (*perhaps not*), BACS, gold bullion and even postal orders will be accepted and in return members will receive a programme of the year's events and a hearty welcome. Old members will be greeted as old friends and new members will soon feel at home.



Continued next Page

Lydford and District Gardening Club – Continued

The speakers will be that well-known double act *Dave and Lizzie Reynolds*. Their presentation topic will be about honey, bees and how to garden in a way that can provide these dynamic little workers with a smorgasbord of nectar producing plants. Such a spread should ensure that Winnie the Pooh, amongst others, has a full and wonderfully sticky hunny pot. It will be almost impossible to move because of the amount of home-made biscuits on offer and some may well contain a magic ingredient!



Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Group

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

The Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Project welcomes people who are keen to get outdoors, learn new skills, share their skills or just have the opportunity to spend some time in a peaceful environment.

Our main emphasis is on horticulture and rural craft activities which take place in our large vegetable, fruit and flower growing area. Maybe you need an excuse to get out of the house or you just want to dip your toe into being around other people again.

Whatever it is you're looking for we can always find gardening related activities to suit your mood and energy levels on the day. We are a Covid secure site and we will be working outdoors in a socially distanced way.

With two covered open sided sheltered areas and a large poly-tunnel we can cater for whatever the British weather throws at us!

If you want to find out more please contact Ursula Casey at: ursula@wilderwoods.org.

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

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

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

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

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

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

lydfordonfosse.co.uk

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Lydford Ladies Third Tuesday Group

In November we held a fun social evening with a Desert Island Discs theme. Our castaways chose a weird and wonderful array of luxury items, books and favourite pieces of music. A comfortable bed seemed to be the most popular choice for a luxury item!

In December, 17 of us met up for a festive afternoon tea at The Cross Keys. The home-made mince pies and cakes were much appreciated! It was lovely to get together with friends - old and new - just before Christmas. Thank you to all at The Cross Keys for making it such an enjoyable event.

Future Meetings

Our January event Lunch at *"The Den"* next to Jon Thorners Farm Shop.

On Tuesday January 16th at 12:30pm.

Further details will be sent to members nearer the time.

Women Visitors welcome to all our events usually held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall, West Lydford (unless otherwise stated). If you would like more information please take a look at our website:

<https://thirdtuesday.wixsite.com/thirdtuesday>
or lydfordthirdtuesday@gmail.com

Lydford Sports Club

AGM and Cricket Meeting

Are you interested in helping maintain a successful sports club within the local community?



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At

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29th January 2024

AGM – 7:00PM
Cricket Meeting – 8:00pm

Follow LSC on social media and reach out if you would like to be a part of these exciting times 📱❤️

📱 @LYDFORD CRICKET CLUB / @LYDFORD FC
📷 @LYDFORD_SPORTS_CLUB / @LYDFORDFC



Lydford Neighbourhood Watch

lydfordnhw@gmail.com

Emergency Call 999

Non Emergency: Report Online www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

To Remain Anonymous Call 0800 555111

Street Contacts

A37 – Jeremy Spencer 07517 771852

Lydford on Fosse - Cary Road – Lali Seehra 07530 121515

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

Church Lane (Castle Cary side) Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092

West Lydford

South of the Brue – Anne Parkhouse 01963 240268/Mike Pauley 01963 240469

North of the Brue – Linda Foote 01963 240336

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

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

Letter from Matthew Reed, Mendip Neighbourhood Policing Inspector

I am delighted to have been invited to write an article for the Parish Newsletter. As the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, I am in charge of delivering Neighbourhood Policing services to the whole Mendip area. I am supported by four very capable supervisors and an experienced team of PC's and PCSO's.

Our main roles include providing a visible, reassuring presence and engaging with our communities and to work with partners to solve problems that cause harm. We also respond to and investigate criminal incidents, such as assaults, thefts and burglaries.

I am pleased to say that Lydford and the surrounding villages are safe places to live and work. They enjoy a low crime rate when compared to other areas. This is not to say we are complacent because sadly, incidents requiring our attention do still occur. In speaking to members of the local community, I feel that the perception of crime is different to the reality of what is reported to us. People often feel like they don't want to report minor matters to the police, in fear of wasting our time. Unfortunately, what we don't know about, we can't deal with! Underreporting of crime and antisocial behaviour is a common problem.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members of the community to report all incidents which they feel may be linked to criminality or anti-social behaviour. You will never be criticised for making a call with good intent if when checked, the circumstances turn out to be innocent. We would prefer to check than risk missing something!

If a crime is in progress, or there is an immediate risk to life & limb or damage to property, please call 999. This may include suspicious incidents where you think drugs are being dealt or suspicious people are knocking door-to-door.

If a crime or incident has happened, but does not require an immediate police response, please either call 101 or report it online at:

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report.

The latter is very effective and will stop you having to wait on hold, which unfortunately happens sometimes. Information about crime can also be reported via Crimestoppers which is an anonymous service, separate to the police: www.crimestoppers-uk.org. The Parish also has a strong Neighbourhood Watch scheme in operation – please contact my team if you would like more information.

My team hold regular beat surgeries which members of the public can attend to ask for advice or report issues of concern. Our social media pages and website have details of when and where these are held:

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area.

The website also has details of your local officers and the priority issues they are working on.

My team and I are here to serve and support you, so please get in touch if we can be of help!



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January 2024 Services - At 10:30 am

Sunday, 7th January Morning Worship Rob Haskins

Sunday, 21st January Covenant Service Rev Collin Moore
And Holy Communion

We wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year !!

Christmas Crafts

Our craft afternoon proved to be a great success...!! Local, talented people showcased their skills and we enjoyed a lovely afternoon with a warm festive atmosphere.

Charities – RSPB and WHY – were also well supported. A big ‘thank you’ to all those who came along, whether buying or selling!

And to all the ladies who helped with the raffle, refreshments and of course the washing up!

Tea@3

Our first event went really well with old(er) and school children getting together. At the time of writing this we are looking forward to a pre-Christmas afternoon when Nikki will be leading a sing-along of carols and popular songs – come and join in!

Dates for the New Year are, Thursday, January 4th and Thursday, February 8th at 3:00pm. Please bring a game you enjoy playing or crafts to share...and a small raffle prize if you would like. Tea, Coffee and cake will be provided.

Memory Tree

We set up a Christmas tree for anyone who would like to add a decoration to remember those who, sadly, are no longer with us.

These decorations will be looked after until next Christmas and placed in the tree again so that the memories continue...

Regular Groups

Knit & Natter

They meet on a Monday afternoon 2 - 4pm. (See more details on Page 4)

A lively and friendly group of ladies who are now teaching young members to knit – and crochet. Please pop along and join in you will be sure of a very warm welcome.

Toddlers

Toddlers get together with Mums, Dads, grandparents and carers on:

Tuesday mornings from 10am – 12noon.

A great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and have fun. You will be very welcomed into the group – please go and see!

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Hope in Deed

I'd love to be writing a sunny New Year's article reflecting a boundless global optimism about the future. Yet the reality is very different. War in Ukraine drags on and tensions in the Middle East remain dangerous. The cost-of-living crisis continues and many are finding things tough. Pessimism rather than optimism is the order of our day.

In such circumstances, where can hope be found? For Christians, confidence and assurance rest in the promise of the future that God has in store for us. In the Bible God says: *'See, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end'* (Revelation 21: 5-6). Christian hope is that whatever may be happening to us now, God has a very different and favourable future in store for us.

Critically, the point of such hope is not just to enable us to say *'Well don't worry about present circumstances. It's all going to be all right eventually.'* Hope's purpose is to shape how we live and what we do now. It's to enable us to live out the words of the old Christian Aid poster that said, *'We believe in life before death'*.

Towards the end of last year, I had the privilege of visiting a number of the deaneries of our diocese. On those visits I heard at first-hand how through the work of our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, Christian hope translates into practical action for good amongst the everyday lives of local communities. We are offering debt counselling and food banks, support for families and care of the lonely and isolated. All these and many more were amazing examples of how we can join with God to *'make all things new'* right here, right now.

So, as we start a new year, please can I encourage us all not to stare into our glasses, lamenting their being half full? Rather, through how we live and what we do, let us fill them with the new wine of God's kingdom – overflowing to the brim. For that is hope in deed.

Bishop Michael



Living the story. Telling the story.

News in brief

The Souls of our Shoes

An exhibition by the Mothers' Union has been on display in Wells Cathedral, and at November's Diocesan Synod, to draw attention to the issue of domestic violence. It features shoes of all different styles, sizes, and colours along with a comment from those who have walked away from abuse and those who have journeyed with them.

Created by the Mothers' Union in Scotland, it is an extension of the Union's initiatives to highlight abuse, and the practical and prayerful support that is offered to families. It is hoped it can

"provide a reminder that with timely help, many can escape from their abusive situations, rebuild their confidence and live in safety."

Sustainable flowers

More than 40 church flower arrangers from 15 churches attended St James' in Taunton to learn how to arrange flowers in a more environmentally-friendly way.

Research suggests that traditional floral foam, also known as oasis, is non-recyclable and contains the same amount of plastic as 10 plastic shopping bags.

Angie Blackwell of Cottage Flowers, Ilminster shared her alternatives and Lyn from St James' said,

"Angie shared lots of hints and tips... I for one certainly came away more confident in moving away from using floral foam and have taken another step toward an eco-friendlier ministry in flowers."

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Plotgate Community Farm

Plotgate enjoys the enthusiastic support of a growing membership. To build on this, we have arranged –

an Open Meeting at Barton St David Village Hall

on Saturday, 20th January 2024

from 3:00 – 5:00pm

With Refreshments

We cordially invite you to attend to discuss and explore the future of Barton's Community Farm including its access from Mill Road. We are delighted that Sarah Dyke MP has agreed to be with us for the occasion.

Our acquisition of an additional 16 acres of land to the North of the existing farm promises to enable an exciting increase in diversification. In outline, these planned developments include –

Much needed water remediation in response to flooding and sewage releases at Tootle Bridge. We also plan to restore the ancient water meadow – now one of the rarest of land types and habitats - and contribute to the reversal of wildlife decline by recreating the conditions in which a rich ecosystem can flourish.

We are in discussion with Wessex Water, the Brue Drainage Board and the Farming Resilience Team and are carrying out weekly sampling and testing of water across our land. Early results consistently show excessive levels of phosphates and nitrates in water courses on the new land (particularly at the sites of the sewage outlet and the rhyme it discharges into) compared to negligible levels in the water that has gone through the Plotgate filtering system.

We looking forward to welcoming you at the open meeting to share and consider the next steps together.

Plotgate Community Farm is co-operatively run by its members. The growers and volunteers produce seasonal vegetables on a 16-acre site in Barton St David. Members can collect, or have delivered, a weekly or fortnightly

share of the produce, each box containing at least 8 different types of vegetable. There are events, activities and opportunities as well as fresh food all through the year.



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



More info at www.plotgatecommunityfarm.org and Facebook.

**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.

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