

THE LINK

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR THE
SEVEN PARISHES IN THE SOUTH
WARWICKSHIRE 7 BENEFICE

DECEMBER 2023

£1.20



*Season's
Greetings*

■ BARCHESTON with WILLINGTON ■ BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH
■ BURMINGTON ■ CHERINGTON with STOURTON ■ LONG COMPTON
■ WHICHFORD and ASCOTT ■ THE WOLFORDS



The Cotswold Choir

Christmas Concert

Join us for beautiful traditional and
contemporary Christmas Music.
Christmassy Cakes and Hot Drinks.
Christmas Raffle.

£8 for over 16's
£5 for concessions

At Shipston
Methodist Church,
CV36 4EN

Saturday 9th December 6.30 Doors, 7pm Start

EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor:

editorswlink@gmail.com

December Events Update (VH = Village Hall; Ch = Church)

Fri 1	Christmas Market	Wolford VH	16.00-21.00
Fri 1	Jazz in the Village	Long Compton VH	20.00
Sat 2	Village breakfast	Burmington VH	09.00
Sun 3	Christmas market	The Hall, Storton	11.00-16.00
Sun 3	Charity pub quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19.30
Fri 8	Carers4Carers	Kineton VH	10.30
Fri 8	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Fri 8	Pop Up pub	Cherington	18.00
Sat 9	Coffee shop	The Hall, Stourton	10.30
Sat 9	Cotswold Choir	Shipston Methodist Ch	18.00
Sat 9	Santa trail and dec comp	Long Compton	All day
Sun 10	Santa Trail and dec comp	Long Compton	All day
Sun 10	Christmas tea party	Long Compton VH	15.00
Tues 12	Cameo club Xmas lunch	Burmington VH	12.00
Thurs 14	Christmas meditation	House of Bread	20.00
Fri 15	Christmas party	Wolford VH	18.00
Sat 16	Fish and chips takeaway	Wolford	18.00
Sun 17	Charity pub quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19.30

		Carol Service Round Up Sunday Dec 17	
	Barcheston Church	10.30	
	Burmington Church	15.00	
	Cherington Church	17.00	
	Long Compton Church	17.00	
	Wolford Church	18.00	

Thurs 21	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
Sun 24	Nativity service	Cherington Ch	15.30
Sun 24	Midnight Mass	Barcheston Ch	23.30

The LINK TEAM

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Whichford & Ascott	Carol Moore	684961
Great Wolford	Sue Rew	674380
Little Wolford	Emily Majzub	emilymajzub@gmail.com



Link Talk

Welcome to the Christmas edition of The Link which, if you are not already busy enough, should provide you with lots of ideas for things to do and places to go in the run up to the big day! This is also the final edition for Keith Murphy who has been my editorial guide over the last year and instrumental in ensuring that The Link continues with all posts filled. Many thanks to all those who have stepped up to help and, in particular, to our village editors and our dedicated band of village distributors who make sure your copy arrives on your doormat each month.

You will notice we are pushing subscriptions again this month so please consider buying a gift subscription for a friend or relative, it's a great value little mag and securing our readership through subscriptions will ensure we can keep going.

Stay warm, enjoy the Christmas and New Year festivities and thank you again for your support and encouragement over 2023.

Sara Billins



Cover photograph: Cherington Lane by Tony Wells

The LINK welcomes contributions for the front cover or elsewhere. Portrait orientation and good quality photographs or artwork preferred. Please send items to editor@swlink.org.uk

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton

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December 11

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Time to go...

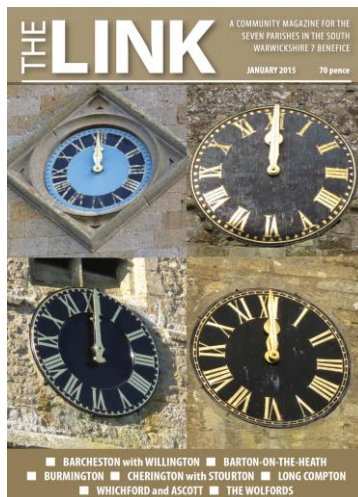
I find it's time to finally part with The LINK after an association with the magazine over the last 10 years. I well remember discussing with Maggie Pettifer how I could do the distribution job - collecting the magazines from the printers and dropping them off for collection by the distributors in Long Compton church. Little did I realise how my initial small involvement with this magazine would develop and grow.

I took over the editor's role, in partnership with my daughter Caroline, in 2015 for a 'trial' six months that turned into an editorship of eight enjoyable years. But now, with changes afoot, I will relinquish all my jobs with the magazine at the end of this month and leave the magazine in the capable hands of Sara, our editor with now a year at the helm, Cathryn keeping the advertising in order, Simon producing the website and David looking after the BACS subscriptions.

I should not forget the assistance I had from our treasurer Martin, who stepped forward at the right time and took over the treasurer's job. All these volunteers, plus the village editors and distributors make The LINK 'come alive' each month and their commitment and dedication should not be underestimated. Without them volunteering their services for free, this magazine would not come through your door each month.

I hope I have left the magazine in a fit state to continue into the future and many thanks to you all for making The LINK such a pleasure to be associated with over the years. The photograph shows my first cover as editor from 2015 – a reminder of how time flies when you're enjoying yourself and how it really is possible to be in four different places at the same time!

Keith Murphy



The LINK has been kindly supported during 2023 by The National Lottery Fund (Awards for All).

Pet of the Month



Our December pet of the month is labrador Cody who belongs to Jeremy Clark of Cherington who also provides us with a dog related ‘Joke of the Month’!

A doggy story (Not my own)

A man returned home from work and took his dog out for a walk. His mind was on other things and he absentmindedly picked up a stick and threw it into the pond. He suddenly registered that his dog was coming

back to him with the stick BUT walking on the water. He couldn't believe what he was seeing so he threw the stick again. The dog came back walking on the water!

So, the next night he asked his mate to come with him without explaining why. At the same spot he once again threw the stick into the water and once again the dog returned having retrieved the stick and walking on the water again.

‘Did you see that?’ he asked his mate, His mate said that he had,

‘What do you think?’ he asked his mate.

‘ Your dog can't swim!!’ was the reply.

Jeremy Clark

Do you have a pet you would like to see featured in Pet of the Month? Send a photo and short bio to editor@swlink.org.uk



Happy Birthday!
December 2023



Rosabella Stock	Little Wolford	6
Roxanne Stephens	Long Compton	3

Carers4Carers

Monthly meeting on Friday 8 December 10:30am -12 noon at Kinton Village Hall,

We'd love to see you at our festive meeting. There will be music and maybe a mince pie or two! Anita will be offering hand massages for some well-earned TLC. Your loved one will be welcome to join our Companionship Group while you attend the meetings.



For more information about our support group for carers, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or see www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

For everything homemade, home grown, home cooked and home crafted.
Every Thursday, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, WI Hall, New Road, Moreton in Marsh

The last Christmas Market will be held on:

Thursday 21st December 2023

In addition to our normal produce, December is all about Christmas food, mince pies, Christmas cakes and puddings, sweets and food gifts.

PRE ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS – PICK UP AN ORDER FORM AT THE MARKET

And we have a great selection of unique Christmas craft items.

07933 141410 / mimcountrymarket@gmail.com or find us on Facebook

A big thank you to all our customers for your continued support.



Give the Gift of a LINK subscription this Christmas

The perfect gift for that friend or relative who is always pinching your copy of The LINK!

Support your local community magazine and always stay up to date with what's on locally.

Annual subscription only £12.00 or £6.00 for online only

Gift card provided.

Contact: David Cleave, Subscriptions Manager

editorswlink@gmail.com

The Post Office van is in the car park by the village shop in Long Compton from 9.30 -11.30 am Monday and Wednesday, and from 12.30 to 2.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday.

Shipston 'tip' is open - to book <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>.

Local Catholic Church Services

Chipping Norton

Holy Trinity, London Road. Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 11.00 am Tel: 01608 642703

Stow-on-the-Wold

Our Lady and St. Kenelm, 5 Back Walls. Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 9.15 am Tel: 01608 674354

Shipston and Brailes

Shipston, Our Lady and St. Michael, Darlingscote Road. Sunday 9.15 am.

Brailes, SS Peter and Paul, Friars Lane. Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm (for Shipston and Brailes Tel: 01608 685259)

Chipping Campden

St Catharine's Lower High St. Sunday masses: – Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 10.30 am Tel: 01386 84026

Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

Broad Campden, Quaker Meeting House, GL556US - Sundays at 10.30 am.

Ettington, Quaker Meeting Hse, Old Halford Rd, CV377TH -Sundays at 11.00 am.

Sibford, Quaker Meeting House, Sibford Gower, OX155RX - Sundays at 10.30 am.

Shipston on Stour, in St Edmund's Church - last Thursdays (not Dec) at 2.30 pm

Local Congregational Services

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton every third Sunday at 3.30 pm.

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

	<i>Barcheston St Martin</i>	<i>Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence</i>
Churchwardens	David Hodges 07767840857	Walter Sawyer 684755
Secretary	Alice and Tom Murray 238755	Gillian Cathie 674303
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002	Mandy McPherson 674734
	<i>Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Cherington St John the Baptist</i>
Churchwardens	Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary	Graham French 239032	Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer	Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425	Sherry Gasson-Barker 686420
	<i>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</i>	<i>Whichford St Michael</i>
Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923	Sophia Corlett 684369
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Mandy James 684479
Treasurer	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i>Wolford St Michael and All Angels</i>	
Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009	

Parish Councils

Parish	Chair	Clerk
Barcheston	David Sutton	Lindsey Walker (663567)
Barton-on-the-Heath	James Coker (674601)	Julia Hicks
Burmington	Robert Hutchings (661496)	
Cherington	Philip Townsend (686529)	Sara Cole (686250)
Long Compton	Simon Bing (684827)	Sam Weller (684897)
Whichford	Peter O'Kane (684888)	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends

During the Christmas season I'm sure we'll all lose count of the number of times we wish people a 'Merry Christmas'. The phrase conjures up warm images of community, friendship and Christmas cheer. Which is why the original Christmas story, the one contained in the bible, still retains its capacity to shock; because it's about as far from a 'Merry Christmas' as one could imagine.



The story starts mired in scandal; a young woman gets pregnant but not by her fiancé. You can imagine the village gossip in Nazareth. Not many would have believed the couple's story of angels visiting them. The couple get married but before the birth their world is turned upside down. The oppressive Roman authorities decree that a census needs to be taken and that everyone must go to their hometown to register. Joseph's family is from Bethlehem and so the couple are forced to make an 80 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem across dangerous country. When they get to Bethlehem there's no room for them in the family house, so when the child is born, Mary has to lay him in a feeding trough. Imagine how hard this birth would have been for Mary. No hospital, no doctors or nurses, no painkillers; the surroundings dirty and damp. My guess is that this first-time mother probably wasn't as serene as many of our images depict her.

Then, the small family gets caught up in the paranoia of a vicious and brutal ruler. Hearing that a baby has been born who will one day become king of the Jews, Herod, the local Roman puppet King gets nervous. In an effort to protect his power he orders that every baby boy under two years old is to be killed. It's nothing short of genocide. Mary, Joseph and the young Jesus are forced to flee from Israel. They become refugees in Egypt only returning home to Nazareth once Herod is dead. I fairly sure Mary and Joseph would not have used the word 'merry' to describe their first Christmas.

But why does any of this matter? What difference does it make to us, whether that first Christmas was merry or not. It matters because for many of us this year, Christmas might not be merry and joyful and warm and might instead be tough, sorrowful and lonely. For those who have lost a loved one, for those who are struggling to heat their homes this winter, for those with health challenges mental or physical, for those who have tricky family relationships, Christmas may well not be merry. To those of us who know that Christmas this year won't be all

joy and goodwill, the tough story of that first Christmas offers hope, because it tells of a God who is not aloof and distant from the suffering of human life. It tells us of a God who is acquainted with the suffering and grief and brokenness of our world and our lives. It tells of a God who loves us and enters into the mess of this world – as a tiny and helpless baby. Even one of the names that is given to this child reflects this. 'Emmanuel', God with us. God with us in our pain, our brokenness and our mess.

God with us, but not just with us. Jesus came into our messed-up world not just to sympathize with us in our suffering, but to fix the mess; the mess that exists both in the world and in our hearts. The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins; that is what Jesus came to do, to save us from our sin and the mess our sin makes of this world. For when this child grows up he will exchange his wooden crib for a wooden cross, dying for the sins of the world, so that we might know forgiveness and be reconciled to God. No longer his enemies but his beloved children. That friends is the real Christmas story. Not some sanitized version where everything is merry and wonderful and nice; but a story of the gritty and humble love of God, who did not stand aloof but entered into our mess, to sympathize and to save.

Rev. Ben Dyson



Happy Christmas from us...
Thank you all for your stories, reports, adverts and
the little items that all add up to make
The LINK possible each month.



The team extend Seasons Greetings to all our
readers and our very best wishes for 2024.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – SW 7 – Seven Parishes ~ One Church

December 2023 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford
3 rd December 1 st Sunday of Advent	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD/LM)				GAP Service 4pm (BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD/LM)
10 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent			9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)			10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)
17 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	10:30am Carol Service (BD)	3pm Carol Service (EH)	3pm Carol Service (BD)	5pm Carol Service (BD)	5pm Carol Service (AW)	6:30pm Carol Service (BD)
24 th December Christmas Eve	11:30pm Midnight Communion (BD)			3:30pm Nativity service (BD)		6pm Nine lessons and Carols (BD)
25 th December Christmas Day		8:30am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	9:45am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		11:00am CW All Age Holy Communion (BD)	
31 st December 1 st Sunday of Christmas						10:30 Benefice CW Morning Prayer (RSt/LM)

South Warwickshire Benefice

Reverend Ben Dyson Tel: 01608 628229 email: vicarsw7@gmail.com (off duty Friday)
 Benefice Administrator: Liz Clarke Tel: 07425868855 email: officesw7@gmail.com
www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk facebook.com/sw7churches

Circulatory System

At Acorns, to conclude the science topic on the human circulatory system, class 3 children dissected a sheep heart. This memorable moment was approached



with maturity and a good scientific knowledge of parts of the heart from our previous learning. Whilst some children found the practical task itself a little too squeamish, labelling a photo of a dissected heart was completed by almost all children. To begin with, children explored the hearts and observed and measured features, before cutting open the heart to reveal the different chambers, veins, arteries,

valves, and heart strings; it was a truly fascinating experience and one which I'm sure they will remember for many years to come.

Food for Life



The culmination of Class 3's 'Food for Life' project would put the contestants on MasterChef to shame! The design technology project required the children to design their own healthy meal, using as many whole foods (non-processed) as possible. All that was left in the final lesson was for the children to prepare and make their chosen dish. It was fantastic to see all the children collaborating, persevering, problem-solving and using a huge range of food-preparation techniques, including peeling, chopping, frying, mixing and supervising 'popping' popcorn. The final creations included fruit ice-lollies, pesto pasta, leek and potato soup, granola and fruity popcorn, to name a few.

James Rizzi

Rabbits class at Brailes school have been working very hard on their James Rizzi paintings, which are amazingly colourful and really brighten up the classroom. They practised using oil pastels, paints and marker pens, and some children even went on to make their paintings 3D.



An Archaeologist Visits

Owls class at Brailes School have loved finding out more about the Stone Age and were visited by Jeremy Moore, an experimental archaeologist from America, who has worked on a range of ancient sites around the world. He spoke to the Year 3 and Year 4 children about a fascinating experiment that he has been part of at Stonehenge, investigating how the stones could have been moved to their current position.

Jeremy has worked with ancient pottery and instructed the class as they made bell beakers. These pots announced the coming of the 'Beaker Folk' to the UK and thus the arrival of bronze technology.

St. Briavels

In October, Badgers class from Brailles School set off on their residential visit to St Briavels Castle in the Forest of Dean. They had an action-packed three days full of fun and adventure. The children were excellent ambassadors for the school with our three school values: courage, curiosity and compassion, regularly on display.



Below are just a few extracts from the first day of the castle diaries that children wrote to recount their experiences:

Leah: *On the way to the castle, the coach was warm and full of children chatting excitedly. After a while, some children started singing funny songs and after a couple of minutes, I joined in too. It took a long time to get to the castle and when we arrived, I was very excited.*

Bea: *By this time, we were all really hungry and ready for lunch. We had brought our own lunch and were all excited to eat it. We went outside to the grounds, sat down on picnic benches and tucked into our meals. Everyone loved running up and down the big hill, called a motte, and looking over the wall with a steep drop to the moat below. The castle was full of happy children with big smiles on their faces.*

Phoebe: After lunch, it was time for our first activity: fencing! The masks were very hot and sticky in the glorious sunshine. The competition was fierce with everyone wanting to be the reigning champion! We learnt some fencing words such as, 'Allez,' which means go, and 'En Garde,' which means get ready or strike a pose! Fencing was a big hit with our class. Everyone enjoyed it so much and I have to admit that whacking people was great fun.

Iris: After a busy afternoon of activities, we were all shown to our dormitories. As I walked up the wooden carpeted stairs, I was super excited to see our dorms. I found out that all the Year 6 girls had been put together in the grandest of rooms... The State Apartment! All of the boys were put in the Guard Room up on the top floor and the Year 5 girls had been given two different rooms, Queen Isabella and King John. The teachers had to sleep in the prison!

Megan: Finally, it was time for supper. We had been so busy that we were all quite starving and impatient for our tea. Most of us had macaroni cheese followed by a gooey chocolate brownie with whipped cream. It was a very delicious meal and we all really enjoyed it. The other choice was a jacket potato with cheese and beans. You could also have fruit or a cooling choc ice. The food was very popular with all members of Badgers class.

Alex: After dinner on the first night, we had a campfire. There were loads of bats swooping in and out of the castle walls while we were toasting marshmallows on the blazing fire. My friends and I were falling off the log because we were laughing so much. As the night drew in, people were yawning, and the owls were hooting so we called it a day. We all sang, 'Goodnight campers,' and then headed off to bed.

Open Mornings

We have held very well attended Open Mornings for our schools throughout November. If parents were unable to attend but would still like to visit the school for a September 2024 Reception place or an in-year move, please contact the school office and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Acorns

01608 684654

admin2639@we-learn.com

Brailles

01608 685253

admin3014@we-learn.com



Hamish Cathie 1941 – 2023

An appreciation by Johnny Rickett

Hamish died peacefully at home, as he would have wished and I know that his family would like to thank the district nurses, Shipston Home Nursing and the Shipston Medical Centre for all their wonderful support at this time.

He was born in Guildford and after completing his education, went to University in Switzerland, where he

seized the opportunity to study many languages and to travel extensively, not only to see the world, but to put his languages into practice.

After their marriage in 1969, he and Gillian moved to Edinburgh for him to take a position in a travel company, Travel Scotland. After a short time, he was able to take over the business and expanded its scope to take advantage of the many assets Scotland has to offer. With charm and diligence, he persuaded many large landowners to welcome groups of tourists into their castles and lovely houses, which of course provided them not only with outside interest but more importantly with a steady income. The tourists came initially from Europe, but eventually from all over the world and thanks to his linguistic knowledge and the wonderful support of his office staff (multi-lingual too) and expert guides, the business grew enormously, so much so that his company, Travel Scotland won the Queen's Award for Exports (for incoming tourism) twice. On each occasion he and members of his staff were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive the awards.

After the death of his father, Hamish felt he should retire from his business and move to Barton. On arrival, he and Gillian threw themselves into restoring the house and improving the garden. His passion, like his mother's was trees and when he was asked to provide a tree for Rutland Square in Edinburgh, to be ceremonially planted in honour of the Queen's Awards, he mischievously chose one the Lord Provost would find difficulty in pronouncing, metasequoia



glyptostroboïdes, a beautiful tree, the name of which is still engraved in the memories of his children, James and Helen.

His many interests included collecting oriental rugs, books, buying and making his own wine, country sports and much more travel. He was very committed to the church of St. Lawrence and for many years was its sole churchwarden. The lovely stained-glass window which he presented in memory of his parents is a wonderful tribute to his work there. He and Gillian have raised money for many local charities by hosting activities both in the house and garden. The annual Garden Opening for the National Garden Scheme was always much appreciated by those who came to visit.

Hamish was a great character and he will be remembered with affection for his kindness, generosity and sense of humour. A friend of ours once said *"I would love to live in Barton, as it is full of eccentric people"*. Hamish was one of them and in short, in our eyes he portrayed Barton itself.

Bryn The Champion



Andy and Emma moved to the Barton-on-the-Heath in 2020 with their Border Collie dogs who compete in the Kennel Club Working Trials. This is the oldest dog sport in the UK and is like a three-day event for horses. The dogs are tested in a variety of disciplines, tracking, scenting ability, retrieval, temperament test, obedience and agility over a number of days.

The trials are held throughout the UK and dogs must qualify through eight different levels with each level being more challenging than the last. Two wins at the top level gives the dog the title of Working Trials Champion.

Any dog that has a win at top level is invited by the Kennel Club to compete at the Kennel Club Championships held yearly. This is a major event in the calendar and attracts spectators from all over the UK keen to watch the best trials dogs in the UK compete.

Andy's current dog, five-year-old Bryn, was rescued from the point of being put to sleep due to behaviour issues and the current owner unable to deal with him. But Andy is proud to say that through training and the bond created, Bryn has

had the two top level wins and gained the title of Champion and on top of that he won the Kennel Club Championships in October 2023.

Andy would like to say a massive thank you to Johnny and Fanny Rickett and Edward and Julia Hicks for allowing him to train in their fields, without their extreme generosity he would have nowhere to train and would never have achieved his current success. Well done to Andy and Bryn.

VILLAGE NEWS

Contact the Editor

Barcheston with Willington

A photograph of the interior of a church, likely St Martin's in Barcheston, during a Christmas service. The image shows the wooden pews, the altar area, and the high, vaulted ceiling with exposed wooden beams. People are seated in the pews, and the atmosphere is warm and festive. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

**ST MARTIN'S
BARCHESTON
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES**

**CAROL SERVICE
SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER
10.30 AM**

**COME ALONG AND SING TRADITIONAL
CAROLS AND LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS
MUSIC SUNG BY OUR VILLAGE CHOIR.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**HOLY COMMUNION BY
CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER
11.30 PM**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TRADITIONAL SERVICE AND
SEE IN CHRISTMAS IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH LIT
ONLY BY CANDLE LIGHT.**

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
IN THE BENEFICE, SO BRAVE THE COLD AND
DARK TO SHARE IN A VERY MOVING AND
ATMOSPHERIC SERVICE.**

Pat Woolley



Heartfelt thanks from Pat Woolley and her family to all the people of Willington for their kindness and neighbourliness over the many years she has lived in the village.

Mum and Dad (Monty) moved into the village in 1987

and were instantly welcomed and made to feel at home. This picture was taken at a garden party in Maki Sutton's garden, organised by Maki and Bev Webb. Thanks to both of these great people. If Pat leaves the area she will be sorely missed by the people of Willington. Many thanks again to them all.

Jennifer Woolley

VILLAGE NEWS

Editor: Graham French

Burmington



Remembrance Day

Burmington and Barcheston churches held a joint Remembrance Day service at Burmington church on 12 November.

The very moving service to remember those of both parishes who gave up their lives in the service of their country was led by Reverend Richard Smith, a former Rector here. Names of the dead from two World Wars were solemnly read out by Dennis Cummings.

Wonderful poppy displays were kindly provided by Mrs Neville Twickel.



Stir Up Sunday

On Sunday 8 November, Burmington Church held its annual Stir Up Sunday service. Villagers and visitors of all ages gathered to sing hymns, listen to a Bible reading by Matilda Payne and help to prepare the Christmas pudding.



Children came up to add ingredients and discussed animatedly how much of each ingredient should be added to the mixture!

Everyone in church was invited to stir the pudding and make a wish after which the pudding was whisked away, only to appear about 15 minutes later, beautifully

cooked, steaming and flaming with brandy. The children then took the bowl around the church for everyone to sample the delicious pudding.

Thanks to everyone who came along, to those who helped, especially the children, and not least to Michael Macdonald who led us in singing and prayer (but spared us a sermon), for a wonderful, fun-filled service.

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

At The House of Bread, The Mill, Burmington
No booking required – all are welcome.



An invitation to come to a special
candle lit evening of stillness
and reflection, in the midst of the
Christmas season. We will be listening to
scriptures and reflections that lead us to
the birth of Jesus Christ.

THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER

8pm – 9pm (coffee from 7.30pm)

VILLAGE BREAKFAST

BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 2 December



9.00am – 11.00am

To book call / text Robyn 07966 849 149

Special dietary requirements catered for.

Please state when booking.



Village Lottery October Draw

1st Sally Clubley £80 2nd Anne Harper £45 3rd Octavia Lewis £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining, please contact me on 07984 003675 or aap.kingston@gmail.com

Averell Kingston

Coffee Shop

Saturday December 9 10.30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cakes.
Come along and have a cuppa in our lovely hall,
meet new friends or catch up with old ones.

There will be a bring and buy stall in aid of the
village playing field funds and a Christmas raffle.



Christine Dudfield and Tricia Wilson



'Cotswold Winter' Watercolour by Colin Beckett

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

Our last event for 2023 is a Christmas themed tea party from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Friday 8 December at The Hall. For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320.

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year



Vanessa Compton

Stour Valley Stitchers



We are a friendly local sewing group, mixed ages & abilities. Bring along anything you have, be it a new project, something you'd like a little advice/help with or even a UFO (unfinished object) and enjoy a cuppa and chat while you sew!

We meet at The Hall Cherington, Stourton and Sutton under Brailles

I remember the sunshine in July!

One evening in late July I took my dog for a walk along the ridge at Green Hill by the Spinney. I was intrigued to see the harvesting in the big fields overlooking the Stour.

In the first field, which had been combined, were two tractors racing around field and collecting the large bales into small stacks.

Meanwhile, in the second field were two combines each attended by their own tractor and trailer to collect the grain. Also, in the field was yet another tractor bailing the straw and yes, another tractor collected the bales into groups for an even larger tractor to lift at least eight bales onto a flatbed trailer.

When full the trailer and tractor left the field to be replaced by yet another unit

To complete the picture of this intense operation was a dedicated service van parked in the corner of the field. How many tractors is that? I was most impressed!

Jeremy Clark

In aid of Cherington playing field and North Cotswold Community Awareness

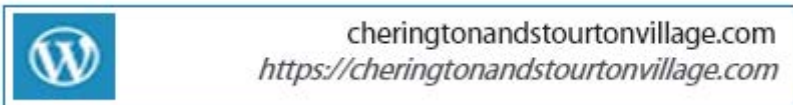


There will be lots of stalls plus a Wreath Making Workshop with Elaine's Bespoke Flowers booking is essential.

Soup lunches plus coffee teas cakes etc will be served.

Pop up Pub

Tony and Tricia Wilson would like to invite you to their home for the December pop up pub night on the 8 December from 6.00pm onwards. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Everyone is welcome.





Christmas Carols at St John's

17 December at 5.00pm



Everyone is warmly welcomed to our Carol Service
at 5.00pm on 17 December, and afterwards to stay on for
mulled wine and mince pies

Nativity Service Sunday 24 December 3.30pm

Our traditional Nativity service at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve is a lovely occasion when we come together - both young and not so young - as the children of our villages dress up and perform a simple Nativity play. The service lasts about 30mins.

Every child is welcome to join in, either for the performance, or simply to dress up and sit with their parents - the more angels, shepherds and sheep the better!

Ben will be leading the service, and Ellie and Milly Blake will be helping the children during the dress rehearsal at 3.00pm and the performance.

Anyone wishing to come along please do.

There will be costumes to spare so we can dress any last minute performers.

If you have any queries please phone me - 07984 892431

Sarah Scotter

Christmas Greetings Donations in support of St John the Baptist Church

We are in the process of collecting donations and would be grateful if we could have all contributions by the end of this month. You can do so by contacting Pam on 686367, Sherry on 686420 or Sarah on 686303. Thank you to all who have already donated.

On behalf of the PCC

Averell Kingston, Pam Brookes and Sherry Barke

VILLAGE NEWS

Editor: longcompton@swlink.org.uk

Long Compton


Goodness me, Long Compton! You came out in force for our November Social Saturday! We had to get out extra tables and chairs (not a problem, I hasten to add!) and welcomed over 50 villagers and visitors to sample the yummy refreshments and catch up on all the news. The table was laden with deliciousness and I believe it may have been the smell of it wafting through the lanes and alleyways that attracted folks to come along. Or perhaps they came to look at the newly refurbished floor....or maybe because it's the nearest thing we have to a café so it's the place to congregate on a Saturday morning where you can guarantee to meet someone for a conversation and to 'put the world to rights' (and we all love a bit of that, don't we?!).



Jazz in the Village

"Very cool music played in a magical atmosphere - this will appeal to jazz novices as well as hardcore enthusiasts." - New States Magazine

from Scotland



Ian Millar
saxophone

Dominic Spencer
piano

"Beautiful soaring magic! I was blown away by your show, just breathtaking!"

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Don't say it too loud, but the festive period is now upon us. Although we've found Christmas fairs are not as popular as they once were (lots of stalls but no customers doesn't really work) we do have our Annual Tea Party which is for anyone and everyone. Places are limited, though, as we can only crush so many into the hall and still have space to roam around with teapots and cake stands! The list is filling up as I submit this article, so please do get in touch if you'd like to join us.

Coming up in the New Year, we have the return of our popular Film Night on 19th January and this time we're going all out with The Rocky Horror Picture Show so get your outfits out (or not, it's up to you!)

and book your ticket (see poster). Then we have Three's A Crowd on Saturday 3rd February. They were fantastic at the village fete and we thought we'd get

them back to entertain us for the evening. Contact Mo on 07814 802814 for tickets.

Finally, a HUGE thank you from us all on the committee for using your hall and supporting our fundraising events this year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year!

Mo Read Chair, Long Compton Village Hall



Join us for festivities at our
Christmas Tea Party

3pm - 5.30pm, Sunday 10th December
Long Compton Village Hall

Sandwiches, cake, scones and mulled wine

Carols and entertainment

Christmas raffle

Tickets £12—Hurry as places are limited

To book call Mo Read on 07814 802814



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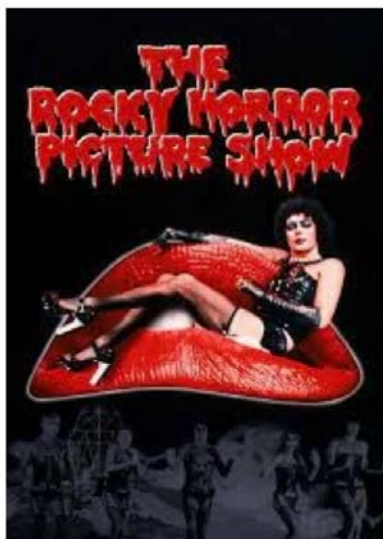
**The Rocky Horror
Picture Show**

7.30pm, Friday, 19th January 2024
Long Compton Village Hall

Tickets £7 per seat and licenced bar

Fancy dress optional but encouraged!

To book call Mo Read on 07814 802814



100 Club

The November Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 11 November, and the winners were:

1st: 176	The Red Lion	2nd: 191	Claire Hicks
3rd: 11	Sue Hereford	4th: 33	J E Price

The next draw will be done during the December Social Saturday.

We need one or two more collectors for the 100 Club, to go round in late Jan/early February to collect subscriptions. Any volunteers to me please.

Chris Galloway 684234

Long Compton Walkers

I fear this entry is out of sync and the fault is mine. I totally forgot to submit in time for the November issue and am writing this knowing our next walk falls on the day of the next deadline.

October's walk led by Chris and Jane Burras took place in glorious Autumn sunshine with surprisingly dry conditions underfoot. Just short of five miles and an excellent lunch at Vegetable Matters (a safe choice when so many pubs are not open Tuesday lunches). November will see us based at Ilmington and the Howard Arms.

We would always welcome new faces -we meet on the second Tuesday of each month. We never (knowingly!) exceed 5 miles and seek to avoid steep climbs and mud. Most walkers stay on for a convivial lunch. If you are interested, please contact Stuart Brown on 01608 684042 or scbqc1@gmail.com



QUIZ
2023-24
SEASON

THE RED LION

CHARITY PUB QUIZ SEASON 2023-24

Sunday Dec 3rd Cotswold Cats and Dogs Home

Sunday Dec 17th BYHP (Banbury Young Homelessness Project)

£2 entry fee per person (cash only please) ✦ Teams of up to 6

Cash prize for snowball question ✦ Bring extra £ for the raffle

The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Long Compton



Christmas Carol Service



**Sunday 17th December at 5pm
led by Canon Anthony Wells**

**Festive lessons and carols
Mulled wine and mince pies
All welcome**

Chair and Hon Secretary

Two key, voluntary vacancies have come up for the Friends of Long Compton Church.

This registered charity raises funds for the maintenance of the building, grounds and lychgate of the beautiful 15th century church of St Peter and St Paul in Long Compton. The Chair provides leadership to an effective, experienced committee while the Hon Secretary takes minutes with follow up where appropriate.

Experience in a similar position is preferred and a desire to maintain our beautiful village church is essential.

Please drop an email to the Hon Sec Liz Clarke
at fccsec@gmail.com

Long Compton Chapel

Sadly, November saw flood water being pushed into the chapel by an inconsiderate 4 x 4 driver, the flood board was up but wasn't reinforced with sandbags when the bow wave pushed water into the chapel...sadly reaching rather far in and necessitated much drying out. Many thanks to all who responded to plea for dehumidifiers and turned out to help Sally install more sandbags. We are pleased that due to lavish expenditure on dehumidifier hire and electricity we did manage to get back in use for the Whist Drive on 28 October.

Fortunately, no water entered the Manse and we very much hope to have news of a new tenant by December to make all the hard work (and expense) worthwhile and hopefully provide another family with a lovely home.

We are looking forward to the collaboration with Acorns PTA on December 9 combining their Christmas Santa Trail with our Christmas decorations competition – time for all ages to get creative and into the Christmas spirit; for the less creative there will be craft stalls and refreshments available.

Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

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COMPETITION**

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TABLE



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TREE


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Santa Trail 2023
SATURDAY 9 December
OPEN: 10AM—3.00PM
MULLED WINE ~ CAKES 'n BAKES ~ TEA & COFFEE
CRAFT STALLS
Details: Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 or Sally Franklin 07870 545431
longcomchapel@hotmail.com

Long Compton and District Garden Club

	<p>Long Compton and District Garden Club</p> <p>2023 /24 Programme</p> <p>Long Compton Village Hall - 7.30pm</p>	
February 28	Propagation (cuttings, plant division, sowing, composts) Robert Longstaff , trained by MAFF, TV and radio talks, practicing 'no dig' since 1981	
March 27	The Healing Power of Plants - why plant-derived treatments are not an alternative but the real thing Timothy Walker ex-Director Oxford Botanic Gardens and lecturer in botany and plant conservation	
April 24	Foraging in gardens, hedgerows, riverbanks and forests Fred Gillingham lectures to many institutions and gives workshops on foraging	
<p>Contact Lesley Roberts 01608 684545 or lesleyroberts46@gmail.com or Anthony Wells 01608 684337</p>		

Our October speaker was Tom Tame and the title of his talk was “Walnuts for Life – not just for Christmas”. Tom and his brother have a walnut farm just a few miles away in Burmington and he fascinated us with the story behind the enterprise.

The farm was taken on by the family in 1959, Tom and brother David’s father had spent 50 years grafting fruit trees and had planted many seedling walnuts. David decided that better nuts should be planted in order to improve the quality. Tom has always had a passion for trees and set about sourcing likely cultivars which would suit the cold conditions here in Warwickshire and in 2013 the first few English walnuts *Juglans regia* ‘Broadview’ were planted, this cultivar is smaller, more compact and crops well when the tree is still young.

Nothing is wasted, the husks produce a black dye which is sold for fabric dying. The shells have a variety of uses, some are used for fueling their wood burner, some ground up and used for sandblasting and some are sold for jewellery. Any kernel left after pressing for oil is fed to the sheep. Walnut oil is popular and is now produced with other added flavours, the one with chili was a striking red colour.

They now sell cold pressed oils, nuts, hand and face creams and trees too.

Tom brought nuts and oils with him and most of us bought some – they are quite delicious and very superior to the nuts you buy in the shops. We were also treated to delicious walnut pate and walnut biscuits, made by two kind committee members.

He also told us about an arboretum in Churchill, which he has been involved with, it was first planted in 2009 by owner Tom Heywood-Lonsdale. Now containing roughly 500 trees and he is particularly passionate about oaks. It is open under the NGS scheme and sounds well worth a visit next year.

Celia Sawyer

VILLAGE NEWS

Editor: Melanie Arnold

Whichford and Ascott



St Michael's Church Organ Repair



During a recent inspection by Hawkins Organ Builders woodworm was unfortunately discovered in the organ, necessitating complete dismantlement with every inch of the wood needing to be sprayed and treated. The parts are all currently laid out in the Reading Room and it is a remarkable sight.

The work will take approximately 3 weeks and cost £5,500. Luckily there is an Organ fund but it will be completely depleted by this work. We are hoping to have a concert in the Spring to start to replenish the fund.

Andy Birtwell has very kindly lent us a keyboard to tide us over while the repairs take place.

Sophie Corlett

Christmas Fair

Another very enjoyable Christmas Fair, this year most generously hosted by Colin and Sophie Corlett at Berry's Orchard.

Our grateful thanks to all who supported the event by coming to shop for gifts, treats for themselves or home accessories. Stalls offered a wide selection of products from homemade jams and jellies, Christmas decorations, jewellery, fragrances, fashion, and many more lovely things. Coffee and a delicious homemade mince pies refreshed shoppers and a beautiful sunny day encouraged sipping a glass of champagne by the fire pit in the garden. Thank you to Sheldon's Wine Cellars for providing the event with a sparkle.

Enormous thanks to all our volunteers who helped in so many ways to make the event such a success. Also, to those who kindly donated prizes for the very popular tombola.



We are indebted to Colin and Sophie for the loan of their lovely home, which made possible this fundraiser in support of St Michael's Church.

Jan Knight, Chair of The Friends of St Michael's Church, Whichford, on behalf of the Fundraising Committee

The WASP Collective



The WASP Collective is delighted to have received a grant from The National Lottery Communities Fund to help us employ ecologically sensitive techniques in the management of the new meadow being created at Pecketts Piece. The grant, amongst other things will allow us to avoid using mechanical mowing to cut the hay.



The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Geoff Bromage who was the winner of the November Reading Room draw.
Jenny Scrivener



Mary Manville-Hale



Wolfords WI

Hello, the last few days have been bitterly cold but dry and sunny, which is lovely, and makes me, for one, keen to get out in the garden and clear the leaves, and there are a lot of leaves. It seems we are a little quieter at the moment but that is usual for this time of year, especially as November was our AGM. The water issues in the village hall were still outstanding, so we de-camped to Roz's barn – wood burner luxury and a fabulous tea with a particularly gooey chocolate cake. We did not have a speaker or activity as it was the AGM, but it did mean we had time to catch up with each other ... a good gossip.

Dates for supper, walking, book and craft clubs will be out soon. If you are not keen on joining the WI, you can still join these clubs on an ad hoc basis. If so, then please let Gilly know – details at the end of the article.



Although the shops have been decorated for what seems like weeks, we will be getting into our Christmas spirit in December: decorating snowmen (see the picture) and making cards to the sound of

Christmas carols - listening to some, singing others though I suspect most will be begging me to shut up and, of course, eating mince pies, yummy! Traditionally, we do not have a meeting in January as that is when we have our Christmas dinner – members and partners. I will be looking forward to that, an opportunity to dress up and make merry. Clubs will be running as usual.

We are a small and friendly group and would welcome any new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month 7.30pm Little Wolford Village Hall. If you would like to know more about us, come for a look-see, or if you would just simply like to join us, please contact Gilly on 07812 344 596 or gillyhd@hotmail.com



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

November 2023 Winners

The November winners were as follows;

1st Jane Hobbs 2nd Murphy family 3rd Henry Warriner

Many congratulations to the above. Please let me know if you would like to have more shares as the club is still short of 100 shares. Of course, multiple shares do increase the chance of winning! All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

James van Helden

Decorating St Michael and All Angels for Christmas

The church flower arrangers have done a super job throughout 2023 for all the services and also ensuring our church gives a warm welcome for all who visit.

We will be decorating the church with flowers for Christmas on Saturday 26 December. Greenery is always appreciated as we can use quite a lot! If you would like to join in you would be most welcome.

Please contact Sarah Franklin, 01608 674615

St Michael and All Angels Carol Service



Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight

Sunday 17 December 6.30pm



Come and join us for our carol service with traditional carols sung by candlelight.

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Everyone welcome.

Collection to go to Shipston Home Nursing

The Save the Fox and Hounds Campaign

CHRISTMAS

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FROM 6PM, FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

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SCAN ME

First Class Fish and Chips-Takeaway Offer

On Saturday 16 December you are invited to come and collect your pre-ordered fish and chips in a specified time-slot direct from the van we've always used at the Hall. Regulars have said it's the best fish and chips around. The van will be parked by the crossroads in Great Wolford from 6.00pm. This will be our last takeaway before the Autumn. We need a minimum of 50 orders to go ahead so the cutoff date for ordering is Saturday 9 May



To keep the delivery on the night quick and efficient we are asking for payment to be made in advance

when we confirm your order.

Of course, you don't need to be a Wolford resident to join in – if you can come and collect then you are very welcome to place an order. £11.00 per serving

We will also be running our raffle with lots of prizes - tickets £1.00 per strip or 6 for £5.00

To order please contact: Ann McKenna (email: annmckenna3@sky.com) (Tel: 01608 674009). *In aid of Wolford church upkeep. Please help us to maintain the church and churchyard at the centre of our village.*

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A festive evening with food, drink and
luxury Christmas Shopping!
SAVE THE DATE!!!

December 1st, 2023
4:00PM - 9:00PM
The Wolfords Village Hall

Follow us @the_wolfords_village_hall



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SAVE THE DATE

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