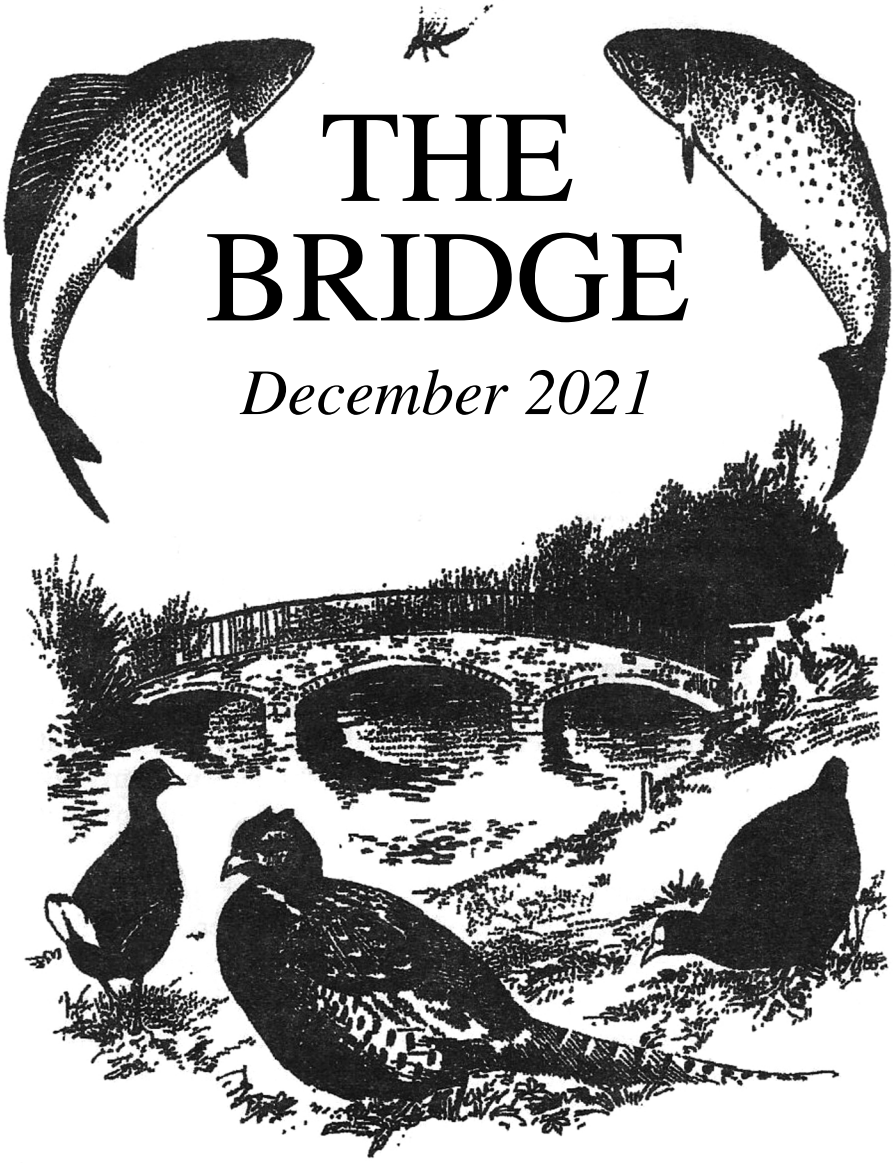
# THE BRIDGE

*December 2021*



**The Newsletter of the Parish of The Woodford Valley with Archers Gate**

# At the heart of Christmas



So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

Luke 2. 16-18

In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us. Here in the Valley, we valiantly adapted and were surprised by the joy and warmth of an open-air Christmas Day service. This year, of course, I hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences, that help Christmas come alive, return to our homes, and our Valley. We have planned the pattern of services we would normally provide for Advent and Christmas and sincerely hope that no last-minute lockdowns or restrictions change our pattern. All we do ask is that for the larger services you hold off coming if you feel unwell, and ideally, even if you feel well, you take a lateral flow test before, just so that we can keep everyone safe.

Whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ. Last year the disruption made us remember what truly is important in the season of Advent preparation

and Christmas celebration, what is at the heart of Christmas. It is this theme *The Heart of Christmas* that churches across England will be exploring this year through the twelve days of Christmas. You will find an online family Advent calendar, daily Christmas prayers, reflections and activities for the full twelve days of Christmas at churchofengland.org/AtTheHeartOfChristmas/ .

May this season be a rich blessing to you

Mike

Reverend Mike Perry
Vicar

## The Parish Registers

**Holy Baptism**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6th November | All Saints' | Nikolai Templer<br>Marcus Templer |

**Funeral**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4th November | Salisbury Crematorium | Ruby(Ruth)Ethel Isaac |

**Interment of Ashes**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24th November | All Saints' | Patricia Ann Barnett |

**Weekly Communion Service**

**Wednesdays at 9.30 am at All Saints' Church Woodford**

*Social distancing and masks remain in place for this particular service to allow for those who prefer this*

## Church Services 5th December2021 to 6th February 2022

| **Sunday 5th December** | | **2nd Sunday of/in Advent** |
|---|---|---|
| 8.30 am | Holy Communion | St Andrew Durnford |
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | All Saints Woodford |
| 6.00 pm | Evensong | St Michael Wilsford |

| **Sunday 12th December** | | **3rd Sunday of/in Advent** |
|---|---|---|
| 8.30 am | Holy Communion | All Saints Woodford |
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | St Andrew Durnford |
| 4.00 pm | Christingle Service | St Andrew Durnford |

| **Sunday 19th December** | | **4th Sunday of/in Advent** |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | All Saints Woodford |
| 6.00 pm | Carol Service | All Saints Woodford |




| **Friday 24th December** | | **Christmas Eve** |
|---|---|---|
| 4.00 pm | Crib Service | All Saints Woodford |
| 11.30 pm | Midnight Service | St Michael Wilsford |

| **Saturday 25th December** | | **Christmas Day** |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 am | Family Communion | All Saints Woodford |
| 10.30 am | Family Communion | St Andrew Durnford |

| **Sunday 26th December** | | **1st Sunday of/after Christmas** |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | St Michael Wilsford |

| **Sunday 2nd January 2022** | | **The Epiphany** |
|---|---|---|
| 8.30 am | Holy Communion | St Andrew Durnford |
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | All Saints Woodford |
| 6.00 pm | Evensong | St Michael Wilsford |

| **Sunday 9th January** | | **The Baptism of Christ**<br>**1st Sunday of/after Epiphany** |
|---|---|---|
| 8.30 am | Holy Communion | All Saints Woodford |
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | St Andrew Durnford |
| 6.00 pm | Second Sunday at 6 | All Saints Woodford |

| **Sunday 16th January** | | **2nd Sunday of/after Epiphany** |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 am | Online ZOOM Service | |
| 6.00 pm | CW Sung Holy Communion | St Andrew Durnford |

| **Sunday 23rd January** | | **3rd Sunday of/after Epiphany** |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | St Michael Wilsford |

| **Sunday 30th January** | | **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**<br>**Candlemas** |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | St Michael Wilsford |

| **Sunday 6th February** | | **4th Sunday before Lent (cw)**<br>**5th Sunday after the Epiphany (bcp)** |
|---|---|---|
| 8.30 am | Holy Communion | St Andrew Durnford |
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist | All Saints Woodford |
| 6.00 pm | Evensong | St Michael Wilsford |

**The next issue of the BRIDGE will be February 2022**

**Deadline will be 19 January 2022**

**Wishing A Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas**

**to all our Readers**

**and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year**

## Advent

***This piece is from the Parish Pump and is from The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham on waiting for Christmas.***

Waiting is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: *'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back'* (Mark 13:34-35).

We live between Jesus' first and second comings and this parable reminds us of the need to watch and wait, as disciples living faithfully for Him. It reminds us of two kinds of waiting: *passive* and *active*. Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep, as he thinks there is plenty of time before the train arrives. He is *passively waiting*. There is also a small boy on the platform who is excited about the train coming. He can't sit still and constantly looks down the track to see if the train is coming. He is *actively waiting*, for he expects the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent gives us a choice: *how will we wait for Jesus' coming?* Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return or simply look to him coming to us today. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. There is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master!

**And then ----------there were Shepherds**

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told – the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to be called 'John', who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census.

When they got there, there was no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds …' – that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message – a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough or manger. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds, in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that.

This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.

**6th December St Nicholas – another look at this much-loved saint**

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third centre in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life,

he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas – on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten – in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

**St Andrew's Durnford Church Cleaning**

**Sunday 5 December 2021 to Sunday 6 February 2022**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sun 5 Dec | Julia Wells |
| Sun 12 Dec | Mary Stevens |
| Sun 19 Dec | Fiona Makin |
| Sun 26 Dec | Jane Phayre |
| Sun 2 Jan 2022 | Suzanne Waters |
| Sun 9 Jan | Susie Vivian & Ness Hawkings |
| Sun 16 Jan | Margaret Snell |
| Sun 23 Jan | Sarah March |
| Sun 30 Jan | Jean Fay |
| Sun 6 Feb | Julia Wells |

## All Saints' Middle Woodford Church Cleaning

**Saturday 4 December 2021 to Saturday 29 January 2022**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sat 4 Dec | Mary Wilson |
| Sat 11 Dec | Susie Hutchison |
| Sat 18 Dec | Team Clean |
| Sat 25 Dec | Christmas Day |
| Sat 1 Jan 22 | Jean Coates |
| Sat 8 Jan | Laura Heitz-Jackson |
| Sat 15 Jan | Tiggy Martin |
| Sat 22 Jan | Caroline Winstanley |
| Sat 29 Jan | Fiona Patterson |

## St Michael's Church – Wilsford Church Cleaning

**Nov 2021-Feb2022**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sat 27 Nov | Elizabeth Keatinge |
| Sat 4 Dec | Sarah Coate |
| Sat 18 Dec* | Mary Reid |
| Sat 1 Jan | Pam Brooking |
| Sat 22 Jan | Julia Folkes |
| Sat 29 Jan | Liz Le Sueur |
| Sat 5 Feb | Victoria Northcott |

**Tel Nos**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pam Brooking | 01980 622711 | Julia Folkes | 01980 622189 |
| Liz Le Sueur | 01722 783084 | Victoria Northcott | 01722 782567 |
| Mary Reid | 01722 782377 | Elizabeth Keatinge | 01980 623463 |
| Sarah Coate | 01722 782365 | | |

## The Mobile Library

The Mobile Library calls at The Wheatsheaf,
Lower Woodford on alternate Wednesdays;
11.40 to 12.00 pm on each occasion

**Dates: ;**

**2021 8 December; 22 December;**

**2022 5 January; 19 January, 2 February, 16 February; 2 March**

## All Saints Middle Woodford Flower Rota
## December 2021 to April 2022 inclusive

| Months | Date | Festival | Arranger |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2021** | | | |
| **Dec** | **5; 12** | **Advent** | **n/a** |
| | **19** | **Advent** | **n/a** |
| | **25** | **Christmas** | **All** |
| **2022** | | | |
| **Jan** | **2, 9** | | **Rae Owen** |
| | **16 ; 23** | | **Wendy Rountree** |
| | **30** | | **Ginny Mustard** |
| **Feb** | **6, 13** | | **Sheila Shepherd** |
| | **20; 27** | | **Mary Stevens** |
| **Mar** | **2** | **Ash Wednesday** | **n/a** |
| | **6; 13; 20; 27.** | **Lent** | **n/a** |
| **Apr** | **3;10.** | **Lent** | **n/a** |
| | **17** | **Easter Sunday** | **All** |

**Queries to Mary Stevens on 782221**

## Events in the Valley

**PILATES CLASS**

**WITH ANGIE SUTTON WEDNESDAYS 2 PM to 3 PM**

***WOODFORD VILLAGE HALL SP4 6NR***

***The Classes have got off to a successful start***

***Anyone interested in joining should contact:***

**07876160706 or email:angie.sutton@hotmail.co.uk**

## Christmas Services



12th December **CHRISTINGLE** – 4.00pm at St Andrew, Durnford
19th December **CAROL SERVICE** – 6.00pm at All Saints Woodford
24th December **CRIB SERVICE** – 4.00pm at All Saints, Woodford
24th December **MIDNIGHT SERVICE** – 11.30pm at St Michael, Wilsford
25th December **FAMILY COMMUNION** – 10.00am at All Saints, Woodford
25th December **FAMILY COMMUNION** – 10.30am at St Andrew, Durnford

**ALL WELCOME**

## Woodford Valley Football: New Year's Day 2022

Take advantage of a wonderful opportunity for some fresh air on Ne'erday by coming along to the pitch (opposite the Village Hall) in Middle Woodford.

There you will see and cheer on the best of the Valley's footballers – young and not so young, girls and boys – playing in the annual match New Year's Day match. Woodfords and Durnfords.

All enthusiastic support welcome.
**Kick-off 2.00 pm**.

## STAR

At a rehearsal for the Sunday school Christmas tableau, the teacher carefully lined up four little 'cherubs'. Each carried a huge cut-out letter. As they stood side by side, the letters would spell out "STAR". A mix-up occurred, and the audience nearly fell out of their pews as the four little cherubs took their places – in reverse

Oh RATS




**Salisbury Food Bank (Trussell Trust) - Christmas donations**

As part of our ongoing support, collection boxes are in each of the church porches. Any donations gratefully received by **first week of December please.**

**Items in demand this Christmas:**

Long life fruit juice. Tinned tomatoes Tinned fruit
Tinned potatoes. Rice. Instant coffee. Instant mash.
Chocolate bars. Boxes of biscuits. Christmas puddings.
Christmas cakes. Minced pies. Custard. Long life milk.
Peanuts.

Financial contributions are also very welcome and can be made directly through their website.

Thank you!

## Fluffy Coffee, Friends and Christian Fellowship

**Wednesdays ( Second Wednesday each month)**
**2021 - 8th December:**
**2022 - 12th January: 9th February**
**Great Durnford**

Fluffy Coffee, Friends and Fellowship has been running along happily on the second Wednesday of each month since June and now, as we enter the darker Winter months, it is with hope, a steaming kettle and, hopefully unburnt, cakes (I have charred them on two "Fluffy Coffee" occasions) anyone who would like to join us at my house in Great Durnford from 11.00-12.30 for a **very** informal and relaxed "coffee & cake" is warmly welcome. Our short morning consists of a chance to meet people, make new friends and have a catch up chat and then towards the end incorporates a 15 minute short Bible study known as a "Lightening Study" by Precept Ministries.

If you would like to know more or think you might like to come along then please do reach out to me, Tina Beard at familybeard@googlemail.com. (Any Covid rules and restrictions at the time will need to apply so please do let me know if you are wanting to come). The idea is to continue to meet once a month and then, come the Spring, maybe meet on alternate weeks but the idea is to keep it running irrespective. If you are interested and have concerns over transport or bringing small children then please do connect with me before thinking it is impossible to come.

## Grandfathers

I was talking to my Sunday School class, and a four-year-old boy piped up: "Miss, do you have a grandfather?" Yes, I said, "I used to have two, but they both went to Heaven to be with Jesus." He shook his head sadly: "One of mine hasn't gone to Heaven." (Long pause while I tried to how to proceed.) "He's gone to Bexhill-on-Sea."

## Woodford Valley Garden Club

### Calling all members and potential members

Having survived a hopefully 'normal' Christmas, do come along to Woodford Village Hall on Wednesday, 15 January 2022 for a sociable evening with wine and nibbles to discuss the way forward for the Garden Club.

Do we wish to continue with the format we have been following for years, ie nine indoor meetings from September to May, garden visits in June and July, and the Produce Show in August? Or do we wish to go down a different garden path? The January evening is to put ideas forward so please put your thinking caps on.

Whilst we are called the 'Garden Club' you do not need to be a gardener to join – we are interested in all aspects of nature – gardens, plants, wildlife, the countryside …

Suggestions pleased to woodfordgardenclub@gmail.com

Very much look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

Happy Christmas!

## Woodford Valley Investment Club.

At our November meeting we ran through our usual agenda: how will global trends affect economies in general, and our portfolio in particular. Which companies will be hit by rising energy prices? Which have pricing power to ride out the challenges of inflation?

Then we review our portfolio and decide what to buy more of, what to hold and what to sell. We generally decide to hold: either because the price is trending up, and we like to ride a winner; or because the price has crashed, and there's no point selling now, better to wait for a recovery. Overall our shares have performed reasonably well this year.

Then we discuss our other investment, in crypto. Investment is a word used loosely in this case, speculation might be more appropriate word. In fact our purchase of crypto-currencies has done better than our

shares so far this year, and while the price is rising, people are happy to call it an investment. When the price crashes, no doubt it will be regarded as a foolish bet.

For our modest subscription of £25 per month, we can happily live with the roller coaster ride. It's worth it, simply for an entertaining evening, in convivial company, with an interesting set of investing opinions exchanged.

The Investment Club meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. It has two vacancies for new members – we set a limit of at 20 members – so seize the opportunity to join us by calling our Chairman, Peter Curtis, on 782 636. You may remain confused about crypto, but at least you may enjoy being confused at a higher level.

**The Mothers' Union**

Our December meeting will be on Monday 13th at 2pm at the home of Trevor and Sheila Shepherd, Avon Cottage, Lower Woodford. As it will be our Christmas meeting, members will be making a festive wreath or table decoration. If you haven't made yours, then do join us. Date for our January meeting has yet to be decided.

Revd. Jo Naish has completed her pilgrimage; cycling from Tisbury to the Isle of Iona in Scotland, she is back home. We congratulate her on this marvellous achievement. Some days she cycled 50+ miles, fortunately, only one puncture! Why did she do it you ask? Well possibly to prove she could/had always wanted to/ and to raise funds for the Mothers' Union in the Salisbury Diocese. Together with our President Rosie Stiven, they decided to 'Go the Extra Mile'. (Rosie's challenge is to walk 1,000 miles during 2021), to date she has walked 967, Rosie will achieve this before the end of the year. Funds raised will be shared between our current projects;- Virtual Baby Project in our local secondary schools, Salisbury Women's Refuge and our Holiday Fund. If you would like more information or make a donation please contact us as below.

Do please join us, you will receive a warm welcome. For further information/directions contact: Jean Coates 782245 or Suzanne Waters 782352

## WOODFORD VALLEY LINK

We were delighted to hear that after a battle of World War Two proportions our Treasurer (Carol) and our Co-ordinator (Stephanie) finally defeated the might of BT and managed to get the Link telephone transferred from what was Margaret Cameron's house to Stephanie's house. Readers may recall that this required a transfer of some 30 yards (whatever that is in metres) apparently via Mars! Anyway, all is now working and in good order.

**The Link contact is Stephanie on 01722 782823**

We had sad news this month hearing of the death of Elizabeth Gabriel on 12th November. A number of us had the pleasure of driving her on LINK tasks and we will miss her cheerful presence.

We continue taking people to medical appointments, shopping or to have your hair done. We collect prescriptions or other essential items for our clients. Our volunteers are all DBS checked and use their own vehicles. The service is free but we do ask for a donation to cover travel costs. The service is confidential.

The situation over Covid is still slightly fluid. Nobody really knows what the Winter holds for us and the committee decided that we are still not yet in a position to hold the annual tea party in Lake Club. We hope to invite the Eukelele band again in the future – they were so good!

## MESSY CHURCH

**Please keep an eye on WhatsApp**

**THE LINK Christmas Closure**

The Link will be closed from Noon 24th December and will reopen on 5th January 2022.

Clients are asked to remember to order prescriptions in plenty of time to cover the holiday period.

If you are in serious need of help during the holiday period, please be sure to contact Stephanie well before 24th December.

Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Christmas

**Nature Notes from Angie of Lake**

There's a stillness to December as nature gradually tucks itself away for the months ahead. Mornings are cold and crisp, and there's more than a nip of frost in the air as we head towards the Winter Solstice. The only movement out on my daily walk seems to be the panicked noisy flight of a meandering pheasant, and the deep raspy croak of a solitary Raven - surely two of the most evocative sounds of our countryside.

In my garden the smaller birds are less vocal at this time of the year as they peck away at the feeders, but it is far from quiet on the river over here at Lake as a pair of Little Grebes make their presence known most days with their distinctive, high-pitched whinnying 'weet-weet-weet' call. About half the size of a moorhen, the Little Grebe or 'Dabchick', as they are sometimes known, are timid creatures, well camouflaged and can be difficult to spot, but from my window I am lucky enough to be able to observe them undisturbed. Persistent divers, they are great fun to watch as they slip below the surface with vigorous jump, leaving one guessing where they will resurface. Now we are approaching the coldest time of the year, it's a certainty that some of our smallest creatures will creep into our homes to keep warm, and although Field Mice are adorable with their large protruding eyes and whiskery noses, AND play an important role in ecology by helping to regenerate woodlands, I'm not so keen on them scurrying around in my cottage. After all, a breeding pair of mice can easily produce 20 or many more babies in a very short time and once those babies start breeding... well, you get the picture!

A more welcome sight in my garden has been a clutch of Red Legged Partridge. Curious little birds, they look a bit like a mixture between a chicken and a quail with their small heads and short beaks. Handsome with red bill, white throat, and black streaked necklace, they seem happy to potter around on my patio, even though Dottie my Dachshund has her eagle eye fixed on them from the kitchen window. Like their Pheasant relatives they have a habit of finding themselves in tight spots, and rather than just flying off, often decide to outrun danger, instead of using their wings until the last minute.

Although December can be bitterly cold, it's still a beautiful month. Here's hoping the winter weather will be kind in next couple of months so we can enjoy the beauty of nature in our wonderful surroundings here in the Woodford Valley.

**Durnford and Woodford Parish Councils**

**Durnford Parish Council**

The next meeting of Durnford Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7.00pm at Woodford Village Hall.

**Woodford Parish Council**

The next meeting of Woodford Parish Council will now be held on **Wednesday 8 December at 6.00pm in Woodford Village Hall. Please note amended date and time**.

These meetings are open to members of the public. If a member of the public wishes a subject raised on either of these dates, please contact the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting.

Rae Owen, Parish Clerk
01722 782910, woodfordparish@gmail.com, durnfordparish@gmail.com

**Silence?**

Christmas is the season when your neighbour's radio keeps you awake playing 'Silent Night'.

# A RIGHT ROYAL VARIETY SHOW

Time gallops on and the pesky pandemic continues to try to upset things...
Here is the the latest update from the Woodford Valley Players.

There will be a Show. It will be live in the Village Hall.
Only the dates have changed - we are moving to.....

17th, 18th & 19th March 2022

Watch this space, our website and Facebook page for more details and see you all in March.

## 200 Club

Promoted by the Woodford Village Hall Management Committee
The winning numbers for November were:

| | |
|---|---|
| £45 | 9 |
| £25 | 83 |
| £15 | 134 |
| £10 | 156 |
| £5 | 38 |

50% of the money raised goes towards maintaining Woodford Village Hall

Thank you all so much, continuing members and the very welcome new members, to the 21/22 year of the 200 Club … and we made the magic 200 numbers sold for the first draw of the year – fantastic.

**21 December Winter Solstice**

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!… You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green…." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: 'Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene.'

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toby@guildercarpentry.co.uk see website www.guildercarpentry.co.uk

**Dwindling wildlife in Britain**

Be kind to the wildlife in your garden – what little of it remains. The UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, and it may not even have enough biodiversity – variety of plant and animal life – to prevent an ecological meltdown.

That is the finding of new data by the Natural History Museum. It says that the UK has an average of only 53 per cent of its natural biodiversity left, well below the global average of 75 per cent.

Worldwide, scientists warn that the variety of plant and animal life of earth is dwindling fast. It will have a serious impact on human life: "those systems have lost enough to mean that we have to be careful about relying on them functioning in the way that we need them to."

**Help a donkey in the Middle East**

Donkeys have two walk-on parts in the story of Jesus' life – from the donkey that took His pregnant mother to Bethlehem, to the donkey which He rode into Jerusalem.

And so Christmas may be a good time to remember the charity Safe Haven for Donkeys, which was set up in 2000 to help the thousands of working donkeys in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Today, its sanctuary in Israel is providing life-long care to around 200 unwanted and abused donkeys of all ages.

The charity also has a mobile clinic which helps around 500 working donkeys, mules and horses across the Palestinian Territories. It also has a permanent clinic in the Palestinian city of Nablus. Common injuries such as those from poor harnessing, overgrown hooves and bad teeth are easily treatable and go a long way in improving the lives of the animals.

Advice and education are key parts of Safe Haven's work with the owners and their children. If you would like to help a donkey, please visit: www.safehaven4donkeys.org

**Lost Balls**

Sign on a Scottish golf course: Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling.

## Gundog Training Classes

Train your pet gundog the way his breeding intended – as a gundog with an Accredited Pet Gundog Instructor.

The skills you gain will build confidence and lead the way to having a well-trained gundog and obedient companion – on the shooting field or living with you and your family.

Training classes for 6 people maximum or one-to-one, are designed so you and your dog can have fun and enjoy becoming a perfect partnership.

**Jane Rasch 01722 782265 / 07973 618285**

www.littledowndogtraining.org.uk info@littledowndogtraining.org.uk


## Voices from the Past

### WOODFORD

CARRIAGE ACCIDENT. – On Thursday morning as Mr. and Miss Lovibond, of Lake House, were driving through Woodford in their American buggy, one of the shafts became detached, and knocking the horse's heels, caused it to take fright and bolt. The occupants jumped out, and the horse running into the roadside bank, was stopped by John Harding of Lower Woodford. The coachman, who was driving, sustained slight injuries to his face.

*Salisbury & Winchester Journal – Saturday 10 December 1904*

The parish Church of Woodford, near this city, is about to be almost wholly taken down and rebuilt on an extended scale, the present edifice being in a dilapidated state, and not sufficiently commodious for the parishioners. During the progress of the work, Divine service will be performed in the National School-room.

*Salisbury & Winchester Journal – Saturday 25 January 1845*

APPOINTMENT. The Postmaster General has nominated Mr. W. G. Dear, sub-postmaster of Middle Woodford, in succession to Mr. G. Dear, who resigns the appointment on December 19th.

**NETTON**

A PRUDENT THIRTY. – The Slate Club at the "Crown Inn" held the first meeting of the new year on Monday when about 30 joined.

*The Salisbury Times - Friday 8 January 1904*

**Salisbury Hospice Charity's Christmas Tree Collection Campaign is back for 2022**

Do you love having a real tree at Christmas but hate the New Year clean up? Salisbury Hospice Charity have the answer as we are once again running our popular tree collection scheme in conjunction with the charity Just Helping. This year we are hoping the initiative will again be well supported, as so many of our key events have been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. We will also make a donation of 10% (after costs) to the local charity Serve On, which is a humanitarian response charity whose dedicated volunteers help communities in their hour of need. The collection also helps the environment as we chip all of the trees and recycle them as animal bedding, or turn them into compost.

All that we ask is for a donation in return for the collection and recycling of your tree by our wonderful volunteers between **8th and 10th January 2022.**

**To have your tree collected and recycled after the festive season, register it at www.charityxmastreecollection.com or call 01722 416353, by 4th January 2022.**

Salisbury Hospice Charity 1982 2021

Celebrating 40 years of care

## Christmas Waste and Recycling arrangements

**Waste and recycling** collection dates will not change over the Christmas and New Year period. Crews will be working as normal on Bank Holidays Monday 27, Tuesday 28 December 2021, and Monday 3 January 2022.

**Garden waste** collections will stop for two weeks as normal. The last collections will take place on Friday 24 December and they will restart on Monday 10 January 2022.

**Household recycling centre** (HRC) opening times and dates will change over the Christmas and New Year period. Please check online before visiting an HRC at wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres. HRCs that normally open on Fridays will be open on Christmas Eve, 24 December from 10am but will close at 1pm. All HRCs will be closed on Saturday 25, Sunday 26 December and Saturday 1 January 2022. Other than on these dates, the centres will open as normal on their specified opening days.

For waste, recycling and garden waste schedules see **wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays**

Christmas recycling messages: At Christmas more waste than usual is generated .Please recycle as much waste as possible.as well as items recycled in blue lidded bin and black box, items including wrapping paper, providing it scrunches into **a ball*;** cardboard packaging, plastic sweet tubs (up to 5 litres), mince pie foil cases, drinks cans, glass bottles, and Christmas cards without glitter. Do not put batteries or electrical items into bins; these can cause fires in collection vehicles and should be disposed of at HRCs. Extra recyclable materials such as cans, cardboard and paper can be placed in containers alongside their bin. Collection of real Christmas trees: People who pay to have their garden waste collected can put their real Christmas tree, alongside their garden waste bin on their first collection in January

*The scrunch test is when you try to squeeze paper into a ball. If it stays in a ball, it is most likely the wrapping paper is made of paper only. If it does not, the paper contains other materials, which means we cannot collect it for recycling

**Salish Sea Stones.**

Pete Shepherd lives in Canada. He has family in Wiltshire and Liverpool. His granddaughter attends the Woodford Valley school. He runs a not for profit charity called Salish Sea Stones which creates stone art to benefit sick children in hospital and created some well received stone art for children in Sarum Ward at Salisbury District Hospital.

"While in UK," Pete writes, "my granddaughter Eliana and I created some stone art for the children in Sarum Ward at Salisbury District Hospital. (It does not reproduce very well in this form in black and white. Editor)




The kids enjoyed them there and I shall bring more when I am next in the UK in the Spring. I have also been invited to teach some sessions at the Woodford Valley Primary School, which Eliana attends, so that I can teach the kids in school to make the stone art and also make the project and charity more sustainable. I have made contact with Lorna at the Bridge Inn and they have expressed an interest in helping the Salish Sea Stones project."

Pete will be back from Vancouver in the Spring to continue his work and if anybody is interested in helping let us know.

The BRIDGE INN

# Christmas Season Celebration Menu

## Starters

Spiced Roast Pumpkin Soup with Crusty Bread & Butter
Baked Camembert with a Chorizo Skewer, Crusty Baguette & Cranberry Sauce
Pan Fried Scallops, Parsnip Puree & Parma Ham Crisps
Chicken Liver Pate, Fig & Onion Chutney, Sourdough Toast & Brandy Jelly

## Mains

Roast Turkey, Pigs in Blankets, Sage, Onion & Apricot Stuffing, Pancetta - Chestnut Sprouts, Seasonal Vegetables, Roast Potatoes, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce
Braised Beef Shortrib, Red Wine Gravy, Wholegrain Mustard Mash & Tenderstem Broccoli
Roast Red Onion Tart Tatin with Pinenuts. Rocket & Balsamic Glaze
Confit Duck Leg, Black Pudding, Rosemary Sauté Potatoes & Red Cabbage
Ovenbaked Cod & Chorizo Romesco on Creamed Potato with Sautéed Spinach
Festive 8oz Beef Burger with Camembert Cheese, Streaky Bacon, Cranberry Sauce & Skin-On Gourmet Fries

## Puddings

Crème Brulée with Caramelised Figs
Christmas Pudding Sundae
Christmas Cake with Brandy & Vanilla Pod Crème Anglaise
Gingerbread Sparkle Cheesecake with Ice Cream
Chocolate Brownie with Salted Caramel Ice Cream
Poached Pears with a Hazelnut Crumb & Vegan Vanilla Ice Cream

**3 Courses: £34  2 Courses: £28**

Cheeseboard with Artisan Crackers, Pickles, Grapes & Red Onion Chutney for £12

**Celebration Menu Available from the 26th of November 2021 to the 8th of January2022**

**Excluding Christmas Day & Boxing Day**

**Please Phone to Book on 01722 783 203**

## Italian Language Tuition

I am an experienced language tutor offering individually tailored Italian language tuition.

Whether your interest in the Italian language is new or a long-time passion, whether you would simply like to learn essential phrases before embarking on an Italian holiday or wish to extend your proficiency in the language, I offer personalised language tuition that will cater for your specific requirements. Please contact Antonella, in Lake, on 07764587797.

## Beginners Line Dance Classes

**at**

## The Bowman Centre, Boscombe Down

Tuesdays 11.15am until 12.45pm Entrance £5.00

Nice friendly classes, come along and learn steps and dances to a variety of music.

If interested, please contact Julie on: 07429 878654 phone or text or jhunt1071@googlemail.com

(Please wear comfortable shoes that will stay firmly on your feet and please bring your own drink)

## South West France

**Farm House near Aurignac, Midi Pyrenees** with private pool set in 45 acres. Sleeps 14 (7 bedrooms). About 45 minutes South of Toulouse in foothills of Pyrenees. (10 minutes from motorway exit and train station) Available all year. Skiing about one hour away in Pyrenees. Medieval town 4 minutes.

**For further details please contact Luke.march@btinternet.com**

**David, The Lawn Ranger**

All aspects of garden work undertaken.

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Call Khris on:
Home: 01980 638820
Mobile:07792886742

## Local Handyman (Middle Woodford)

All jobs considered: painting and decorating, gardening, landscaping, basic construction work, demolition, rubbish removal.

Competitive rates. References on request.
www.facebook.com/smartconstructionandlandscaping
**Call Nick on 07946 700 401**
**or 01722 782 720**

**Forthcoming Events**

**2021**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 Dec | Woodford PC meets at Village Hall 6.00 pm |
| 2 Dec | Durnford PC meets at Village Hall 7.00 pm |
| 11 Dec-8 Jan | Christmas Tree Trail |
| 12 Dec | Christingle Service St Andrew's |
| 19 Dec | Carol Service – All Saints' |
| 24 Dec | **LINK closes noon reopening 5 Jan** |
| 24 Dec | Christmas Eve |
| 24 Dec | Crib Service – All Saints' |
| 25 Dec | Christmas Day |

**2022**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Jan | New Years Day |
| 4 Jan | Register collection of used Christmas Trees |
| 8-10 Jan | Collection of used Christmas Trees |
| 13 Jan | MU Meets at Avon Cottage; 2 pm |
| 15 Jan | Garden Club Social; wine/nibbles; Village Hall |
| 17/18/19 Mar | A Right Royal Variety Show |
| 2-5 June | The Queen's Platinum Jubilee |

**Mobile Library Alternate Wednesdays**

**27 October; 10 November; 24 November; 8 December; 22 December; 5 January 2022; 19 January 2022;**

**Pilates Each Wednesday Village Hall 2 – 3pm**

**Advertising.** BRIDGE advertisements are accepted by the editor on behalf of the Woodford Valley with Archers Gate PCC. **Neither the PCC nor the editor accept any responsibility for the performance of any advertiser**. **The Bridge** is collated, stapled and finished by **Sarum Graphics Ltd (Tel: 01722 324733)** We are grateful to the **web site Parish Pump** to which we subscribe and from which some of our material is gleaned**.**

## PARISH OF THE WOODFORD VALLEY WITH ARCHERS GATE

**All Telephone Codes are 01722 except where shown otherwise)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Vicar:** | Rev. Dr Mike Perry | (782310) |
| | Rev. Patricia Powell | (782546) |
| **Licensed Lay** | Lt Col Hugh Keatinge | (01980 623463) |
| **Ministers:** | Mrs Sylvia Parrett | (782392) |
| **Church Wardens:** | Mr Anthony Edwards | (782215) |
| | Mr Giles Fletcher | (782329) |
| | Mrs Julia Gallop | (782984) |
| | Mrs Elizabeth Keatinge | (01980 623463) |
| | Col Ian Stevens | (782221) |
| **Lay Pastoral Assistants:** | Gp Capt Michael Lee | (782358) |
| | Mrs Suzanne Waters | (782352) |
| **Lay Worship Leaders:** | Mrs Suzanne Waters | |
| | Mrs Donna Young | |
| **Parish Administrator and PCC Sec)** | Mrs Jocelyn Egan | **Parish office** |
| **Stewardship and Freewill Offerings)** | | **email below** |
| **PCC Hon Treasurer:** | Mr Giles Fletcher | (782329) |
| **Director of Music** | Vacant | |
| **Parish Clerk Durnford/Woodford** | Mrs Rae Owen | (782910) |
| **Bellringers:** | Mrs Margaret Mauchline | (782416) |
| **Mothers' Union:** | Mrs Suzanne Waters | (782352) |
| **Woodford Valley Link Scheme:** | **Coordinator** | (782823) |
| **Editor, The Bridge:** | Hugh Keatinge | (01980 623463) |
| **Hon Treasurer, The Bridge:** | Mrs Jean Coates | (782245) |
| **Bridge Advertising:** | Mrs Fiona Patterson | (782269) |

**Advertisements:** Small adverts are accepted at the following rates: **Full Width** - £1.50 per cm in depth; **Half Width** - £1 per cm in depth. **Adverts will be boxed & measured from top to bottom of boxing.**
**Personal:** Minimum £1.00 at 20p per line or part line.
**ALL ENQUIRIES TO: Mrs Fiona Patterson, Duke's Place, Church Lane, Middle Woodford, SP4 6NP, 01722 782269**
**Please make cheques payable to "*WOODFORD PARISH MAGAZINE*"**

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