**Community Notices**

**Black Bin Café -** This is held in Pen Selwood Village Hall on Fridays and is a great social event and well worth a visit. Tea, coffee & wonderful cakes. Please check the Pen Selwood website [penselwood.ning.com](http://penselwood.ning.com/) for which Fridays the café will be open.

**Wincanton Town Festival** – An illuminating trail of light illuminations, based on sustainability, around Wincanton Town Centre, including St Peter & St Paul’s Church. On Saturday **11th and**  **18th December**, from **5pm-9pm**

**Wincanton Silver Band –** will be holding their **Christmas Concert** at **The Memorial Hall** on **Sunday 12th December** at **3pm**. Tickets £6, children free.

** Prayer Diary**

**From the readings:** “ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.”

**Prayer Chain:** If you would like immediate prayers for yourself or someone you know please contact one of the following (requests passed in confidence): Penny Ashton 33990 or Judy Chiplen 33834. If you wish to join the prayer chain, contact Judy 33834. If you wish to be added to our Prayer List, please contact Rev Alison Way 33151.

**Please continue to pray for** those of our fellowship and friends whoare ill or recovering from operations: Derek Ayers, June and Steve Beech, Margaret Brown (Gwen Evans’ Daughter), Irene Rix (Sue Hall’s Mum), Ann & Bryan Phillips, Sam (Gill Oaten’s Great Great Nephew), Joyce Bentley, Mike Gray, Sue Cox, Brenda Piper, Bishop Peter & Jane Hancock, Canon Alan & Rosemary Watson, Elroi Manor, Gwen Evans, Oliver Feltham & family, Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk, Cynthia & Ed Finity, Steven Kendrick (Gill Oaten’s Great Nephew) & Mavis Way.

**Please remember** the long-term sick, the housebound & their carers.

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Jean Elsie Rose,

Marie Lilian Sibbald, Mervyn Willman.

We pray for Wincanton Health Centre & Wincanton Community Hospital, for the staff in their work pressures.

*The Parish Office will be open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings*

*from 9:15am – 1:15pm at 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF. Any items for inclusion the Newsletter to Rachel by midday on Thursday.*

 *Email:* *office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk* *Tel: 01963 824503.*

*The Parish Churches of St. Peter & St. Paul, Wincanton*

*and St. Michael, Pen Selwood*

**

 Parish Office: 01963 824503

Church website: [www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)

**12th December 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Dear Friends,

As our Advent journey continues this week we are thinking about Jesus being the dayspring from on high, giving light, guidance and peace.

Unfortunately, as you will be aware from the Government announcements on Wednesday, face coverings are now legally required in places of worship, unless you have a valid exemption. So please come prepared with a face covering when you enter the building in any circumstance and keep it on unless you are eating or drinking. I have updated the ‘what to expect’ documents for both churches to reflect the latest guidance. Please study these carefully (particularly the approach to singing) before you come to church (or on arrival in the churches near the entrances).

Obviously things are unpredictable with the new Omicron COVID variant, which may mean we have to change our plans if guidance that impacts us is introduced as we draw closer to Christmas or equally it may not! So please watch this space.

We are continuing with Pen Selwood’s Village Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday (without the nativity tableau) and with refreshments in the village hall. We have decided to postpone Wincanton’s Christingle until Sunday 9th January at 4pm. There will be a 10:45am Communion for Advent 3 in St Peter and St Paul’s Church on Sunday.

From Tuesday, please do not visit the parish office unless absolutely essential to enable us to maintain this as a safe working space for our valued parish administrator at a very busy time. Please ring in office hours or email to stay in touch. Please wear a face covering inside the office. When Rachel is working she will be keeping the door locked.

Each Sunday of Advent we will be lighting the candles on our Advent wreath and using special prayers to help us. So you can use this prayer more widely during this week – here is the prayer for the third Sunday of Advent.

**DIARY DATES**

**11th December Christmas Coffee Morning** in St Peter & St Paul’s Church from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Cakes, books and Christmas Hamper Raffle! – All Welcome!

**12th December 4pm** Christingle Service – Wincanton Church **POSTPONED**

 **until Sunday 9th January at 4pm.**

 **4pm** Village Carol Service – Pen Selwood Church

**19th December 6pm** Carol Service – Wincanton Church

**24th December 4pm** Christmas Eve Family Service – Wincanton Church

 **6pm** Christmas Communion – Pen Selwood Church

 **9pm** First Communion of Christmas – Wincanton Church

**25th December 10am** Christmas Family Communion – Wincanton Church

**26th December 10am** Said Communion – Wincanton Church (The Reverend Ken Masters)

**All: Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

With best wishes, Alison

**Worship for the Week:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Psalm | Reading |
| 13th Dec | 40 | Matthew 16:13-end |
| 14th Dec | 60 | Matthew 17:1-13 |
| 15th Dec | 75 | Matthew 17:14-21 |
| 16th Dec | 76 | Matthew 17:22-end |
| 17th Dec | 77 | Matthew 18:1-20 |
| 18th Dec  | 71 | Matthew 18:21-end |

**Readings for 12th December: Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18**

**Readings for 19th December: Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-55**

#### Church Diary

Sun 12th Dec 10:45am Wincanton Communion Service

 4:00pm Wincanton Christingle Service – **POSTPONED**

 4:00pm Pen Selwood Village Carol Service

Tues 14th Dec 7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice – Wincanton

Thurs 16th Dec 7:30pm Choir Practice – Wincanton

Sun 19th Dec 10:00am Pen Selwood Communion Service

 6:00pm Wincanton Christmas Carol Service

St Peter & St Paul’s Church in Wincanton will be closed during the day until the new year. Many apologies. Unfortunately we have experienced some anti-social behaviour.

St Michaels Church in Pen Selwood is open every day between 10am and 3pm

#### Church Notices

**Your Church Needs YOU! – St Peter & St Paul’s Church** require a Church Warden to join the church team. Would you be willing to help with this rewarding job? If you or someone you know would like to take on this role please talk to Sue or Alison for more information. There is an excellent support group to share the duties. Please give this your thoughtful consideration and prayer. **Thank you.**

**WINCANTON HEATING:** We are still investigating the very persistent fault with the heating. Please wrap up warmly if attending our services.

**Contact Details for Rev Alison Way -** Please note my contact details are:

Address: The Parish Office; 38 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF

Landline: 01963 33151, Work mobile: 07515 958988

Email: rector@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk, Twitter: @revalisonway

Facebook Group: Wincanton and Pen Selwood CofE Churches

*Please note my usual day off is on Monday.*

**Home Communion and other visits:** It is possible moving forward to make pastoral visits, preferably in a well-ventilated room at home or in your garden, (and this could include home communion if desired). Please get in touch to arrange, it will be very good to catch up.  **Alison and Penny.**

**TRUST130 helps keep the heating on –** Take out a home insurance policy with **Ecclesiastical** and they will donate **£130** to the church of your choice! The more insurance policies taken out, the more money donated to your church! Telephone: 0800 7830 130 and quote CHMAT21 or visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130) for more information.

**Prayer List –** If you would like to be added to our Prayer List, or feel a friend or relative should be on our Prayer List, please do let me know. If you are wanting someone else to be prayed for you must have their permission. Anybody is welcome to be included in our prayers at any time, and I will also pray for you in my daily prayers. Please use the contact details in this newsletter to contact me. **Alison.**