**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.

** Prayer Diary**

**From the Christmas Day readings:** “But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

**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, 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:** Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk, 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 closed until Tuesday 4th January 2022. Normal office hours are 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)

**24th Dec 2021 – 2nd Jan 2022 Christmas & Epiphany**

Dear Friends,

May I first of all wish you a happy, holy and peace-filled Christmas and a healthy 2022. The good news of Jesus coming at the first Christmas and love of God opened out for us can never be “cancelled” whatever else may be going on!

It is challenging to once again be on a ‘knife-edge’ with COVID as Christmas approaches. We have already had to alter our plans and as I write I am still hoping we will be able to do our Christmas Communion services on 24th and 25th December (times in each church are available further on in this newsletter).

As it stands, the Christmas Eve Crib Service is now going to be online ONLY (a link will be available on Christmas Eve at <http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk/?page_id=2118>) and we have had to cancel our communion for St Stephen’s Day on 26th December at 10am. We may yet have to change again – and we will do our best to keep you informed.

The Church of England has produced some more reflections to use for the 12 days of Christmas called **#AtTheHeartOfChristmas** – signup to get a daily email, or download the app to enrich these days via <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/heart-christmas-our-2021-advent-and-christmas> (If you are on our post out list you will have received a booklet with these in).

Can I also thank you for all the hard work that has gone into our Christmas celebrations – all very much appreciated.

With love in Christ, and Christmas blessings, Alison

**Worship for the Weeks Ahead:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Psalm | Reading |
| 27th Dec JOHN | 21 | 1 John 2:1-11 |
| 28th Dec HOLY INNOCENTS | 36 | Matthew 18:1-10 |
| 29th Dec STEPHEN | 13 | Acts 6 |
| 30th Dec | 111 | Colossians 1:15-23 |
| 31st Dec | 102 | Colossians 1:24-2:7 |
| 1st Jan NAMING OF JESUS | 103 | Romans 2:17-end |
| 3rd Jan | 127 | Ruth 1 |
| 4th Jan | 89:1-37 | Ruth 2 |
| 5th Jan | 48 | Ruth 3 |
| 6th Jan | 18:1-30 | Ruth 4:1-17 |
| 7th Jan  | 99 | Matthew 20:1-16 |
| 8th Jan | 46 | Matthew 20:17-28 |

**Readings for 24th December: Isaiah 9: 2-7, Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 1-14**

**Readings for 25th December: Isaiah 62: 6-end, Luke 2: 8-20**

**Readings for 26th December: 2 Chronicles 24: 20-22, Matthew 10: 17-22**

**Readings for 2nd January: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Readings for 9th January: Amos 9: 11-end, Luke 9: 57-end**

#### Church Diary

Fri 24th Dec Wincanton – Crib Service **ONLINE ONLY**

 6:00pm Pen Selwood – First Communion of Christmas Service

 9:00pm Wincanton – First Communion of Christmas Service

Sat 25th Dec 10:00am Wincanton – Christmas Family Communion Service

Sun 26th Dec 10:00am Wincanton – Said Communion **CANCELLED**

Sun 2nd Jan 9:00am Pen Selwood – Epiphany Communion Service

 10:45am Wincanton – Epiphany Communion Service

Tues 4th Jan 7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice – Wincanton

Thurs 6th Jan 7:30pm **NO** Choir Practice – Wincanton

Sun 9th Jan 9:00am Pen Selwood – Plough Sunday Service

 10:45am Wincanton – Plough Sunday Communion Service

St Peter & St Paul’s Church in Wincanton is currently closed during the day.

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

#### Church Notices

**Contact Pool –** The winners of the November Contact Pool (drawn on 17th Dec) are: 1st £30 Hilary Masters (No.55), 2nd £20 Mark Tucker (No.100) and 3rd £10 M Giles (No. 101). Congratulations and a Happy Christmas & New Year to all the winners! **Joanna Durham-Matthews.**

**DIARY DATES**

**8th January 2022** **10am – 12:00** **Coffee Morning** in **St Peter & St Paul’s** **Church**. Refreshments, cakes, books, raffle. **All Welcome**!

**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.**

**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.**

**THANK YOU** to our friends at **Morrisons** who donate generously to **St Peter & St Paul’s Church** throughout the year. They donate refreshments for our coffee mornings and services, the beautiful flowers to decorate our church and contribute to many other events and services. **Thank you!** Your kind donations and support, is very much appreciated.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year to you all –** Once again it has been my absolute pleasure to support our Churches, Rev Alison and the Church Teams this year from the Parish Office, through another challenging year. I am very much looking forward to doing it all again together next year! I am especially grateful to you all for your love and prayers for Oliver, who is continuing to recover amazingly from his surgery this Summer. Please stay safe and well, have a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. My love and best wishes to you all **Rachel xxx**

**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.**