**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 readings:** “As they were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’ ”.

**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 01963 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, Andrew Gardner.

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

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Constance Catley, Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk, Jean Elsie Rose, Marie Lilian Sibbald.

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

We pray for *WOW!* and *Rise and Shine*, and all the work being done to bring these initiatives to life in 2022.

*Parish Office: 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 in the Newsletter to Rachel by midday on Thursday. Tel: 01963 824503.*

*Email:**office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk* *Website:* [*www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk*](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)

*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)

**9th January 2022 Plough Sunday**

Dear Friends,

May I start by wishing you a healthy and hope-filled New Year. We don’t know in these early days what 2022 is going to bring – but we do know that our God’s love for us is constant and eternal.

This weekend we continue thinking about times of new beginnings by marking Plough Sunday within the Epiphany season. The origins of this tradition date back to the days of shared ploughs which were often stored in the local church or of having a plough light candle that was kept alight in the local church until the harvest was safely gathered in. If you grow things in your garden, allotment or farm, please bring some seeds you are intending to plant to one of the services on Sunday, so they can be blessed. We will also be praying for God’s blessing on the seeds of growth we are hoping to progress in the worshipping lives of both churches during 2022.

Sadly, the Christingle team in Wincanton have had to make the difficult decision NOT to run our service in the current circumstances. We had thought by postponing it to early January, the situation would be clearer and local levels falling. Neither of these things are currently true! We have also decided not to run Saturday’s coffee morning in Wincanton, and to suspend refreshments after services in both churches until things locally are better than currently. This is disappointing but we need to maintain our safety first stance in the face of a very transmissible variant of the virus and unprecedented local levels of infection.

We are going to stick with our current approach to COVID mitigations whilst the local levels continue to be very high. I am hugely grateful for the care and attention people have been taking to keeping each other safe in our church buildings, and in particular for the wearing of face coverings.

I will keep you posted as the situation changes.

With love in Christ, Alison

PS: In some better news, we will be re-opening Wincanton church for private prayer and contemplation from Monday 10th January on weekdays only (Mon-Fri). Thank you to the locking/unlocking team who enable this and to Gill D’Arcy who organises the rota.

**Worship for the Weeks Ahead:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Psalm | Reading |
| 10th Jan | 2 | Matthew 21:1-17 |
| 11th Jan | 9 | Matthew 21:18-32 |
| 12th Jan | 20 | Matthew 21:33-end |
| 13th Jan | 21 | Matthew 22:1-14 |
| 14th Jan  | 67 | Matthew 22:15-33 |
| 15th Jan  | 33 | Matthew 22:34-end |

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

**Readings for 16th January: Isaiah 62: 1-5, John 2: 1-11**

#### Church Diary

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

 10:45am Wincanton – Plough Sunday Communion Service

Tues 11th Jan 7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice – Wincanton

Thurs 13th Jan 7:30pm Choir Practice – Wincanton

Sun 16th Jan 9:00am Pen Selwood – Communion Service

 10:45am Wincanton – Communion Service

From Monday 10th January: St Peter & St Paul’s Church in Wincanton is going to be open every week day between 9am and 3pm.

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.**

**New Daylight Bible Notes –** Please don’t forget payment is now due, via cheque made payable to Wincanton PCC. Many thanks to those who have already paid. **Elizabeth Vivyan.**

**DIARY DATES**

**12th February 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.**

**God Calls….. everyone, everywhere – 2022 Archdeaconry Days –** This year the Diocese Archdeaconry Days will take place between **Sunday 6th and Saturday 12th February** and it is hoped people from every benefice will get involved:

* **The Calling Podcast – available from Monday 17th January** devised and hosted by young people in the diocese talking to a range of people about their sense of calling.
* **Call to Worship – Sunday 6th February at 3pm** an online worship event featuring Bishop Ruth on the theme of calling.
* **Stories of God’s Call – Monday 7th to Friday 11th February** A short video will be released each day featuring people across the diocese, talking about their experience of calling. There will be written materials for those not able to access the videos.
* **Called Together – Saturday 12th February** Online Archdeaconry gatherings to celebrate and reflect together: 10-11am (hosted by the Archdeacon of Bath) 11:30am-12:30pm (hosted by the Archdeacon of Wells) 2-3pm (hosted by the Archdeacon of Taunton).

For further information on the Archdeaconry Days contact **Rachel: 01963 824503**

**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.**