**Community Notices**

**The Pilgrim Singers** warmly invite you to their **Christmas Concert** 'JOY TO THE WORLD' (featuring Marta Fontanals Simmons) on **Sunday 3rd December** at **The Church of St Luke and St Theresa**, **Wincanton BA9 9DH**. Entry by ticket suggested donation £10 from Wincanton P.O, choir members or contact 01963 33695. Seasonal refreshments included. Raffle. Proceeds to Julian House for the homeless and Wincanton foodbank.

**Friends of Wincanton Community Hospital** – **Christmas Fayre** at Wincanton Community Hospital **Saturday 25th November 4pm-7pm** Santa’s Grotto, live entertainment, stalls, seasonal drinks, cakes and more! Fun & games for all the family!

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**PRAYER DIARY**

**From the readings:** “Jesus said to his disciples, ‘The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.”

**Prayer Chain:** If you would like immediate prayers for yourself or someone you know please contact the following (requests passed in confidence): Penny Ashton 07733 162342 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: June 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, Brenda Piper, Rosemary Watson, Elroi Manor, Gwen Evans, Oliver Feltham, Mavis Way, Andrew Gardner, Elizabeth Wise, Brian Dicker, Christopher Browne, Sandra Jones, Ken and Ann Madeley, Josie Dukes, Ben White, Sylvie Pattison, Roger Lowe, Ann Beaven, Grace Cox, Bishop Peter & Jane Hancock.

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

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

We pray for our new King at the start of his reign – His Majesty King Charles III and his Queen, Camilla.

We pray for our plans to run Alpha early in the New Year.

*Parish Office: Office hours-Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings 9:15am to 1:15pm. The Parish Office, 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF. Tel: 01963 824503. Any items for inclusion in the Newsletter to Rachel by midday on Wednesday.*

*E:**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*

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 Parish Office: 01963 824503

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

 **19th November 2023 2nd Sunday before Advent**

Dear Friends,

First of all, many, many thanks for all the hard work that went into Remembrance Sunday in both churches. This was a big team effort, but a couple of people had to pick up extra aspects as a result of my inopportune bout of covid, the 1 Regiment Army Air Corps Chaplain the Reverend Andy Barton, and our Penny. I was mightily relieved that the covid was not as bad as last year. I tested negative soon enough, so I could at least be part of things on both Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

This week in Wincanton, we received our much subsidised contactless device for taking donations and payments in church. This is a project being run by the national church, and around three quarters of the cost of the equipment has been met for us. So as well as all the other ways of giving in Church (cash, gift aid envelopes, standing orders, stewardship envelopes, and QR codes), you can now make donations in church via your cards and phones contactless using the device. You can also make contactless payments in the parish office now, with a small transaction levy of 1.9%.

In our services this weekend, I will be talking about our plans to run the Alpha course early in the New Year. Alpha has been running for over 25 years and across many countries of the world. It is a safe, comfortable and welcoming space to explore what Christianity is all about and ask all the questions we have ever wanted to ask and encounter Jesus’s powerful love for us. Each evening involves sharing food and fellowship, watching a video, and then having a discussion about it.

Do you have friends who ask you questions about your faith? This is an ideal opportunity to ask them if they would like to come to Alpha. Even better you could offer to bring them and come too! With a good wind, (and enough people to make a viable group) it will be running from the middle of January through March on a Tuesday evening. Everyone will be given a leaflet on Sunday, to take home to pray with and start thinking about who each of us could ask. Get in touch with me if you want to come, and the friend you will bring.

We will be running Alpha with our friends from the Roman Catholic Church, and this initiative has come from Wincanton Churches Together (rather than running an Advent or Lent course in 2023/2024). Please pray. With love in Christ, Alison.

**Readings for the Week Ahead:**

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| **Day** | **Psalm** | **Reading** |
| Monday 20th November | 47 | Matthew 7: 1-12 |
| Tuesday 21st November | 52 | Matthew 7: 13-end |
| Wednesday 22nd November | 56 | Matthew 8: 1-13 |
| Thursday 23rd November | 62 | Matthew 8: 14-22 |
| Friday 24thNovember | 63 | Matthew 8: 23-end |
| Saturday 25th November | 76 | Matthew 9: 1-17 |

**Readings for 19th November: Zephaniah 1: 7 & 12-end Matthew 25: 14-30**

**Readings for 26th November: Ezekiel 34: 11-16 & 20-24 Matthew 25: 31-end**

#### Church Diary

Sun 19th Nov 9:00am Pen Selwood – Communion Service

 10:45pm Wincanton – Communion Service

 12:30pm Wincanton – Baptism in Church

Thurs 23rd Nov 7:30pm Wincanton – Choir Practice (including Christmas Choir)

Sun 26th Nov 10:45am Wincanton – Communion Service

 4:00pm Pen Selwood – Evensong Service

St Peter & St Paul’s Church Wincanton is open daily from 9am–3pm via the **South Door** from **Sunday 5th November.** *Please take extreme care & caution on the church paths.*

St Michael’s Church in Pen Selwood is open every day 10am – 3pm.

#### Church Notices



**Christmas Hamper –** We have a delicious Christmas Hamper to raffle at our December coffee morning again this year, in Wincanton Church. We would be very grateful for any donations to help fill the hamper. If you can help, please take your donations to the Parish Office, or give them to the Fundraising Team. **Thank you**. Tickets are on sale now for £1 in The Parish Office!

**Bell Ringing Practice** continues on Tuesday evenings at another local tower by arrangement, whilst roof works are ongoing. For details contact Janet on 01963 34965.

**Remembrance Day – Wincanton Church** – The Remembrance Day Service in Wincanton Church raised **£388.78** for the Wincanton Branch of the Royal British Legion.

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

Pen Selwood Village Hall

**10:30am – 12:00noon**

Gift Stall, Raffle, Cakes & Produce

**In aid of St Michael’s Church**

**All**

**Welcome!**

**Saturday**

**25th**

**November**

**DIARY DATES**

**Black Bin Café** Held in Pen Selwood Village Hall every other Friday **10:30am – 12:30pm** a great social event and well worth a visit. Tea, coffee and wonderful cakes. Please check the website [penselwood.ning.com](http://penselwood.ning.com/). Café next open **November 24th**.

**25th Nov 2023 Christmas Coffee Morning** in **Pen Selwood Village Hall** **10:30am – 12:00.** Gift Stall, Raffle, Cakes and Produce.In aid of St Michael’s Church. **Everybody welcome**!

**7th Dec 2023 Mother’s Union Meeting 2:30pm** at **St Peter & St Paul’s Church.**  Come and enjoy our happy Meeting. You do not need to be a member to enjoy our meetings. **All welcome!**

**9th Dec 2023 Christmas Coffee Morning** in **Wincanton Church** **10:00am – 12:00.** Gifts, Books, Raffle, Homemade Cakes, Savouries and Refreshments. **Everybody welcome**!

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**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,

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, (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.**

**Yeovil Street Pastors -** At present there are 26 Street Pastors and 12 Prayer Pastors, but we need more Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors to cover every Saturday in each month. Please may we ask your church congregation to pray for us - for 4 more Street Pastors to bring the total to 30, and 4 more Prayer Pastors to bring the total to 16. I will keep you informed of what God does through your prayers. With thanks and God’s blessings – **Christine and Yeovil Street Pastors Management Team.**

**Pen Selwood's Black Bin Café** on **Friday 24th November in Pen Selwood Village Hall 10:30am-12:30pm** as well as the usual great coffee, cakes and conversation will also be offering beautiful handmade items, crafted by Pen Selwood residents which will make lovely gifts for Christmas. **Everybody warmly welcome.**

**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. **Rev Alison.**