**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.

**Wincanton Silver Band** present their **Christmas Concert** on **Sunday 17th December** at **3pm** in **Wincanton Memorial Hall.** Cost **£7.50** per person on the door, children free, cash or card accepted. **Start the Christmas week off with a brass band!**

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**PRAYER DIARY**

**From the readings:** “I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.”

**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*](mailto: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)

**26th November 2023 Christ The King/Safeguarding Sunday**

Dear Friends,

It was good to see the Memorial Hall so full last Friday for our Wincanton Church bingo fundraiser. Our congratulations must go to the fundraising committee, who worked so hard to organise this and to raise the wonderful sum of **£951** for church funds while at the same time providing a good evening out for a great many people, many of whom would not normally attend a church event. There is a lot of work that goes into making events like this run so well, and especially to making it all look easy. Many thanks to all of you and to everyone who supported the evening in any way.

We also need to thank Joanna Durham-Matthews who presented a cheque from the Wincanton Contact Pool at the recent PCC meeting. If you are not a member of the Contact Pool, do think about joining – the cost is small at £1.50 per month (usually paid annually in January, although other ways of paying can be organised), and it is a very painless way of contributing to ensuring that our church continues to be kept in good repair.

I am able to report that the builders intend to start removing the scaffolding on Monday of next week (27th November) and so apart from regular meetings that are already in the diary, the church and sometimes the churchyard will be closed as this is a dangerous job. It will be good when the work is finally completed and we have the access to our church opened again, our tower ‘unwrapped’ and to hear again the sound of our own bells. We do thank you for bearing with the inconvenience caused by getting this work done, and we will all be pleased when it is finally completed.

This week we celebrate the feast of Christ the King and combining it with Safeguarding Sunday. We are also delighted to welcome as our celebrant at Wincanton the Rev Lydia Avery who now has permission to officiate in our Diocese. Lydia and Chris have been worshipping with us in Wincanton since May, and both will be very welcome additions to our ministry team. We will also pray for Lydia’s ministry here at that service. As we are marking Safeguarding Sunday, I will finish with the Safeguarding collect, which you might like to include in your daily devotions. Your friend in Christ, Penny.

*Dear God, help us to be a church that:*

*Loves, welcomes, protects. Listens, learns serves.*

*Repents, restores, transforms. Values, cares, believes.*

*God of Justice and compassion, hear our prayer.*

*Help us, heal us, guide us we pray. In Jesus name. Amen*

**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 **December 8th & 22nd**.

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

**3rd Dec 2023 Christingle Service** in **Wincanton Church** **4pm.** Come and join this special celebration, supporting the Children’s Society. **Everybody 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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**Readings for the Week Ahead:**

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| **Day** | **Psalm** | **Reading** |
| Monday 27th November | 96 | Matthew 9: 18-34 |
| Tuesday 28th November | 97 | Matthew 9: 35-10.15 |
| Wednesday 29th November | 112 | Matthew 10: 16-33 |
| Thursday 30th November | 47 | John 12: 20-32 |
| Friday 1stDecember | 139 | Matthew 11: 2-19 |
| Saturday 2nd December | 145 | Matthew 11: 20-end |

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

**Readings for 3rd December: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-end**

#### Church Diary

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

4:00pm Pen Selwood – Evensong Service

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

Sun 3rd Dec **10:00am** Pen Selwood – **JOINT** Communion Service

**4:00pm** Wincanton – Christingle 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

A basket with a bottle of wine and chocolates

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**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 - **£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.

A close-up of a red ball

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**Christingle Volunteers Required** please to help Nicky and Penny and ice (roll out icing) and decorate (stick jelly tots or similar) on the Christingle cakes, on **Saturday 2nd December** at Orchard Cottage, Moor Lane, Wincanton. Time to be agreed dependant on what works best for people involved. If you can help, please contact **Nicky King** on **01963 33454. Thank you.**

**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](mailto: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.**

A reminder from Sally Bult (MU Diocesan Treasurer & Trustee) of the MU Display in the Cathedral Undercroft from the 25th November - 10th December.  Part of the display will also be exhibited at Diocesan Synod on the 25th November in Bridgwater when Madeline Hellier, the Diocesan President, will be speaking more about its relevance and about the Mothers’ Union in general.



A Very Happy **100th** Birthday **Gwen!**

On Sunday 3rd December our dear friend and much-loved member of our Wincanton Church family, Gwen Evans, will be **100** years old. Love & best wishes to you Gwen.