**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, Beryl Williams.

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

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Trevor George Foot.

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)

 **3rd December 2023 1st Sunday of Advent / Christingle**

Dear Friends,

This Sunday sees the start of Advent, and this is a season of expectation and preparation as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus coming at the first Christmas, and also look ahead to his final advent. It brings to us a sense of expectation and watchfulness, being alert to how God’s hand is shaping out experiences and lives. This Sunday we have a 10am Communion for Advent Sunday in Pen Selwood for both church families, where we will be thinking about what it means that Jesus came.

At 4pm on Sunday, we will be holding our Christingle Service in support of the Children’s Society in Wincanton– which is a worship event for all the family. This will reflect on Jesus being the light that reveals, saves and guides us day by day. For practical reasons the church will not be open in Wincanton on Sunday 3rd December.

Over the next two weekends, we will continue the pattern of keeping Advent in the morning and having Carol Services in the afternoon. The pattern is:-

* Sunday 10th December – 10am Communion in Wincanton
* Sunday 10th December – 4pm Nativity Carol Service in Pen Selwood (We will be starting outside around the greetings tree – please place a bauble on the tree with a Christmas greeting)
* Sunday 17th December – 9am Communion in Pen Selwood
* Sunday 17th December – 6pm Nine lessons and Carols Service in Wincanton

Here is a prayer by Martyn Percy for the Advent Season for personal use. *In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives. In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be the song we sing and the melody of our lives. In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to glimpse eternity. Amen (From An Advent Manifesto – BRF 2023) –* With love in Christ, Alison

**Readings for the Week Ahead:**

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| **Day** | **Psalm** | **Reading** |
| Monday 4th December | 50 | Matthew 12: 1-21 |
| Tuesday 5th December | 80 | Matthew 12: 22-37 |
| Wednesday 6th December | 7 | Matthew 12: 38-end |
| Thursday 7th December | 42 | Matthew 13: 1-23 |
| Friday 8thDecember | 25 | Matthew 13: 24-43 |
| Saturday 9th December | 9 | Matthew 13: 44-end |

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

**Readings for 10th December: 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8**

#### Church Diary

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

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

Tues 5th Dec 7:30pm Wincanton – Bell Ringing Practice

Thurs 7th Dec 2:30pm Wincanton – Mothers’ Union Carol Service

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

Sat 9th Dec 10am – 12:00 Wincanton – Christmas Coffee Morning in Church

Sun 10th Dec **10:00a**m Wincanton – **JOINT** Communion Service

 **4:00pm** Pen Selwood – Nativity Carol 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 - **£1** in The Parish Office!

The **Wincanton Bell Ringers** are very happy that we shall be resuming our Tuesday practice evenings on 5th December, now that the building work on the tower has been completed. We have enjoyed our visits to other local towers but it will be good to be home again. **Janet Lowe, Tower Captain.**

**Wincanton Carol Service** will be held on Sunday 17th December at 6pm and there will be seasonal refreshments afterwards. Could you kindly donate a box of mince pies? It would be very much appreciated. Please either take them to church and give them to **Gill Oaten** or take them to the Parish Office. **Thank you.**

Members of **Wincanton Church Choir** will be singing Christmas carols at **Otter Nursery** on **Saturday 16th December** at **2:30pm.** Would you like to come and join in? All are welcome, if you would like to come and sing, please be at Otter Nursery at **2pm**.

**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**.

**3rd Dec 2023 Christingle Service** in **Wincanton Church** **4pm.** Come and join this special celebration, supporting the Children’s Society. **Everybody welcome**!

**7th Dec 2023 Mother’s Union Carol 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!**

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

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

Wincanton Church

10am – 12:00

**Saturday 9th December**

Gift Stall, Homemade Cakes & Savouries, Books, Raffle

**Includes amazing Christmas Hamper raffle!**

**Featuring**

**music from the Wincantata Handbells!**





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

On **Sunday 10th December** we will raise a toast and enjoy a slice of birthday cake after the service for our dear friend and much-loved Wincanton Church family member, **Gwen Evans**. Do join us! We wish you could join us Gwen, we will miss you. Your friends send you much love and warmest birthday wishes xxxx

**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.**