**Community Notices**

**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, Betty Andrews.

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)

**10th December 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Dear Friends,

We continue our Advent journey in the mornings on Sunday with a 10:00am joint communion in Wincanton. I am looking forward to hearing Reverend Lydia Avery open the word for us for the very first time. At the end of the service we will have a moment, and refreshments to mark Gwen Evan’s 100th birthday in her absence! (there is a lovely article about Gwen in this week’s Blackmore vale magazine) Then in the afternoon at 4pm we have the 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). I am particularly looking forward to the children taking part in this service, as the key players in the Christmas story.

Next Sunday has a similar pattern but the other way round– our Advent journey in the morning with a **9am** joint communion in Pen Selwood. Then our 6pm Nine lessons and carols service in Wincanton, I am particularly looking forward to hearing the music our extended choir has been practicing. Many thanks to John and all those involved for their work on this.

It is good to see the tower unveiled from its scaffolding, but unfortunately in Wincanton, I anticipate the church only being open in the week ahead for all the special activities with Wincanton Primary School and the funeral as the building work continues. Adrian is also ministering to our heating system (which is losing pressure) on a regular basis. So please wrap up warm for our festivities as a precaution. We are very grateful for all Adrian is doing to keep us warm!

I am very grateful for all the kind words that have been said to me about my impending move to pastures new in the Spring. It was announced on Advent Sunday that I have been appointed as the Team Vicar in Warlingham team ministry and the Croydon Episcopal Area Parish Ministry Development Officer in the Southwark Diocese, subject to the completion of necessary procedures. It is not yet clear when I will be moving (but certainly not until Mid-March at the earliest).

With love in Christ, Alison

**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 22nd**.

**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**!

**10th Dec 2023 Pen Selwood Carol Service & Nativity – 4pm St Michaels Church -** Service of Lessons and Carols and a nativity by the children. The first carol will be sung around the bedecked tree in the churchyard. Bring a torch to add to the atmosphere of the candlelit service. Please join us for mulled wine and mince pies after the service in the village hall.

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**Readings for the Week Ahead:**

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| **Day** | **Psalm** | **Reading** |
| Monday 11th December | 44 | Matthew 14: 1-12 |
| Tuesday 12th December | 56 | Matthew 14: 13-end |
| Wednesday 13th December | 62 | Matthew 15: 1-20 |
| Thursday 14th December | 54 | Matthew 15: 21-28 |
| Friday 15thDecember | 86 | Matthew 15: 29-end |
| Saturday 16th December | 145 | Matthew 16: 1-12 |

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

**Readings for 17th December: 1 Thessalonians 5 John 1: 6-8 and 19-28**

#### Church Diary

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

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

**4:00pm** Pen Selwood – Nativity Carol Service

7:30pm Wincanton – Wincanton Choral Society Concert in Church

Tues 12th Dec 11:00am Wincanton – Bereavement Café in Church

2:30pm Wincanton – Funeral in Church

7:30pm Wincanton – Bell Ringing Practice

Thurs 14th Dec 7:30pm Wincanton – Choir Practice (including Christmas Choir)

Sun 17th Dec 9:00am Pen Selwood – JOINT Communion with Revd Ken Masters

**6:00pm** Wincanton – Christmas 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

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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](mailto:rector@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk),

Facebook Group: Wincanton and Pen Selwood CofE Churches

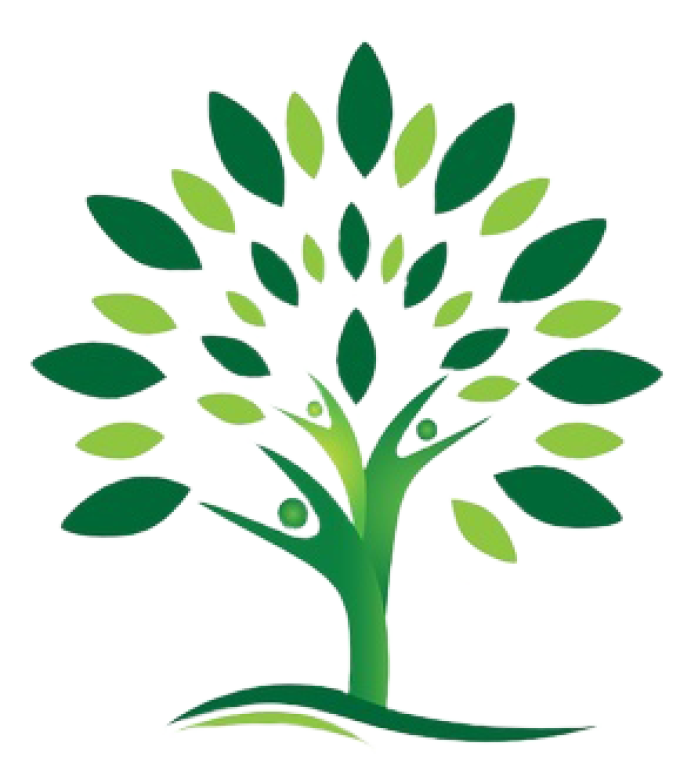
*Please note my usual day off is on Monday.*

**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.**

**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.**

**Used Postage Stamps** are still being collect in Wincanton Church (there is a box on the table by the North door). Please place your used postage stamps in the box (they need to be cut with a centimetre margin where possible) or you can drop them in at 7 Southgate Drive. **Thank you. Sue Hannam.**

**Prayer Tree –** In Wincanton Church there is a Prayer Tree on the table at the back of the Church by the North door, where you can write a prayer for loved ones no longer with us and missed this Christmas, or for those in need of our prayers, and tie your prayers to the Prayer Tree.



**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.**