

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Sunday 1st December *(Advent 1)*

09.30 Welsh Newton	Advent Prayer Vigil to 17.30
09.30 Ganarew	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer
10.00 Llangrove	Holy Communion
11.00 Llangarron	Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch	Advent Carol Service
11.00 Wyesham	Advent Carol Service
18.00 Welsh Newton	Advent Service of Light

### Wednesday 4th December

18.00 Whitchurch	Simple, said Night Prayer (Compline)
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### Thursday 5th December

10.30 Whitchurch	Simple, said Holy Communion service
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### Sunday 8th December *(Advent 2)*

08.30 Welsh Newton	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00 Llangrove	Community Service
10.00 Marstow	All Age Praise
11.00 Goodrich	Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00 Wyesham	Sunday Praise
15.00 Bishopswood	Christmas Carol Service with Brass Band
16.00 Dixton	Candlelit Christmas Carol Service
18.00 Welsh Newton	Prayer Service

### Thursday 12th December

10.30 Whitchurch	Simple, said Holy Communion service.
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### Sunday 15th December *(Advent 3)*

09.15 Welsh Newton	Christmas Outdoor Church
09.30 Ganarew	Sunday Praise
10.00 Llangrove	Holy Communion
11.00 Goodrich	All Age Praise
15.00 Whitchurch	Christmas Carol Service
15.00 Wyesham	Christmas Carol Service part of Wyesham Together.
18.00 Llangarron	Evening Prayer

*December Services continued page 43*

# BORDER NEWS

*Wye Reaches and Wye Brooks Parish Magazine*

*Produced by volunteers for the community*



**DECEMBER 2024  
& JANUARY 2025**



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Revd Ben Bentham

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Revd Tim Starling

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revtimstarling@gmail.com

**Associate Minister** - Licensed to Wye Brooks Benefice

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Revd Jill Stephens 01600 890975 jill.stephens1@btinternet.com

**Please submit material for next month's issue NO LATER than 8th of the month to your parish correspondent**

*The email address for each correspondent can be found in the Parish News pages*

*The Editorial Team can be contacted via [bneditor@mail.com](mailto:bneditor@mail.com)*

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## CHURCH SERVICES Cont'd.

### Thursday 19th December

10.30	Whitchurch	Simple, said Holy Communion service.
15.30	Wyesham	Carols on the Green near Morrisons part of Wyesham Together.
19.00	Ganarew	Christmas Carol Service.

### Friday 20th December

18.00 Llangarron Carol Service

### Sunday 22nd December (Advent 4)

11.00	Whitchurch	Sunday Praise.
11.00	Wyesham	Holy Communion.
15.00	Whitchurch	Carols on the Green near Grange Park.
16.00	Goodrich	Carol Service
16.30	Llangrove	Carol Service
18.00	Welsh Newton	Carol Service

### Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

15.00	Llanrothal	Christmas Eve by Candlelight
16.00	Marstow	Carol Service
17.00	Whitchurch	The first Holy Communion of Christmas.
17.00	Wyesham	The first Holy Communion of Christmas.

### Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

09.30	Ganarew	Christmas Day Holy Communion.
09.30	Welsh Newton	Family Friendly Service
10.00	Llangrove	Family Service
11.00	Bishopswood	Christmas Day Holy Communion.
11.00	Dixton	Christmas Day Holy Communion.
11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion
11.00	Llangarron	Holy Communion

### Sunday 29th December (1st Sunday of Christmas)

11.00	Goodrich	Benefice Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Holy Communion.
11.00	Wyesham	Holy Communion

January Services are on centre pages

## Church of England and Methodist Church recommit as Covenant turns 21

Anglicans and Methodists in England have underlined their commitment to forging closer ties as together they recently marked the 21st anniversary of an historic covenant between the two churches.

The Anglican-Methodist Covenant was signed by leaders of the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain in front of Queen Elizabeth II on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2003, with services of celebration at both Methodist Central Hall and its immediate neighbour Westminster Abbey.

The Covenant recognises how much the two churches - which separated in the 1790s, after the death of John Wesley - have in common and commits them to removing further obstacles towards unity.

It has opened the way to new partnerships on the ground between local Church of England and Methodist congregations, ranging from joint worship and sharing church buildings to shared community projects and staff such as youth and family workers.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, said: "The Covenant was both a reflection of the great degree of friendship and agreement in faith and life which the Church of England and the Methodist Church of Great Britain share, and a commitment that we should work ever more closely together in the years to come."

The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, and Carolyn Godfrey, Vice-President, said: "It is good to reaffirm the covenant that was signed 21 years ago, and to celebrate the work and worship that happens between the Church of England and the Methodist Church locally and nationally. We look forward in hope to journeying together in the future."

## WELCOME FROM YOUR CLERGY TEAM

Dear Friends

Someone I respect and work with always signs-off their emails and letters with the words 'in kindness'.

I guess, till I started receiving their emails, I always thought that kindness was a bit insipid; a bit of a 'nice' word. As I have thought about it, over the last year, as the emails come in to my inbox, its a word that has really resonated and I have begun to see something of its depth and significance; showing me something of the true nature of being generous and considerate.

I have decided that much of the world needs a jolly good old dollop of kindness; I think it could be an important antidote for many of the problems going on around about us. I wonder what a kinder world would look like?

Interestingly, one psychologist I was reading about suggests, "*that to be truly alive someone else's loving gaze is needed; otherwise, we can never blossom to our full potential*". So, I think that learning to be kind to ourselves and to others involves us knowing, to some degree, someone else's loving gaze.

To show the true meaning of love and kindness, God gave us Jesus, born as a small helpless baby, to a very young Mary and, perhaps an older Joseph, travelling as refugees, who could only find a stable like building, surrounded by animals, for protection. An interesting start for such an incredible gift of love and kindness from our creator, offered to us all.

Over the Christmas season our church services will be reminding us of the story and gift of Jesus; the joy and peace he brings; how he can, and does, touch our lives in real and meaningful ways today; and how we can receive more of his love for ourselves. In my own experience it is the best present I ever received, and he has changed my life.

Cont'd...



Please do come and join us for any of our services, and I hope that you, and your family, will have your hearts warmed by what you experience. And if I, or any of my colleagues, can help in any way, please do give us a call – I do understand that this season isn't always an easy one for some.

So, in kindness & love to you all over this Christmas and New Year period,



Rev Tim -Vicar – Wye Reaches group of churches



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS  
THIS MONTH**

**As we welcome :**

Elliott whose baptism was on 20<sup>th</sup> October at St James' church, Wyesham.

Peyton & Brody whose baptism was on 20<sup>th</sup> October at St Peter's church, Dixon.

Coutney whose baptism was on 20<sup>th</sup> October at St Peter's church, Dixon.

**Pray for the souls and lives of**

Summer whose private funeral was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Linda May Lewis, of Glewstone, whose funeral service was held at Hereford Crematorium

**Prayer for Advent**

Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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### Mouse Makes

"The child to be born will be called H \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born this day a S \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_" Luke 2:11

"Jesus said, I am the \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_." John 14:6

"She will bear a son, and shall call his name \_\_\_\_\_ for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said, I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life." John 11:25

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**A Seasonal Thought from the  
Dean of Hereford**

I'm not going to wish you a merry Christmas yet even though this is probably my best opportunity to infest the whole diocese with my festive cheer. As I write, the thoughtful season of advent has not even begun so I don't want to sing gloria at you, or bellow ho-ho-ho. Expressions of seasonal enthusiasm have changed, and I wonder how many people today really understand the original language of Christmas anymore. "To us is born a saviour" What does that mean and why should it matter?

Advent is about looking at ourselves and at the world and realising just how much we need that saviour. Christians understand that Christmas would be pointless if we didn't - just a marketing ploy cooked up by sellers of toys and frozen party nibbles to get us all to spend as much money as possible. But what if you have never been told? If a fire engine screeched to a halt outside your house with sirens blaring and blue lights flashing, you might wonder what it was doing there if your house was not on fire. You might be mildly interested but you would hardly celebrate your salvation! In the same way this baby whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day and who we hail as Saviour is presumably similarly underwhelming if you cannot see anything that we need saving from!

Sometimes it feels easier to believe in evil than in God. But if you do believe that evil exists- if you see it in all its brutality in our daily news, if it touches you in grief, loneliness, hatred, jealousy- then you perhaps may dimly begin to understand why we need our Saviour. If you look at the impact of individual and corporate greed or the priorities and conduct of those who run our society you may begin to understand why we need our Saviour. If you look at crime, war, corruption and oppression, then you may perceive our deep need of salvation

Perhaps we all vaguely sense the need for a Saviour because we can

*Cont'd...*

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all see some of what is wrong. It is only a step from that yearning for things to be better to realising that science and virtue-signalling won't deliver and that our only hope of real and change is in God. Whether we recognize Him in the Christmas story repeated every year by those persistent folk in the churches and our tiny children with their tea towels on their heads is another question altogether.

Perhaps this year it might be time to look a bit deeper and see what all the fuss is about. Coming soon to a church near you.

*Dean Sarah*

Dean of Hereford



## **That coin in your Christmas pudding**

There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny. After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding.

We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile telephone. In future, will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? Hope not.

Other coins 'appear' at this time of year. Chocolate coins are traditionally given to children at Christmas time, and in Jewish tradition during Hanukkah. It is said that one night Saint Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw!







### **A Short History of Christmas Greenery**

Decorating our homes with greenery is a Christmas tradition ingrained in our national consciousness. The Christmas tree is, of course, the most well-known, but it is equally hard to imagine Christmas without wreaths, holly and mistletoe. But when and why did such traditions emerge?

It's a surprisingly difficult question to answer, as Christmas traditions are generally deep-rooted and undocumented. They have also been adapted and changed over time and are riddled with regional differences and personal interpretations. In this article we delve into the history of Christmas greenery to try to find the origins of some much loved traditions.

There are records of decorations for Saturnalia in ancient descriptions from the 5th century BC. Saturnalia fell in mid-December, around the time of the solstice, which is of course when Christmas falls. Decorating trees is also an ancient Celtic custom. A tree would be decorated at the winter solstice as a symbol of life and the Scandinavians did so to celebrate Yule, also a mid-winter festival.

#### **Evergreens**

Throughout history decorations in the festive season have strongly centred on the use of evergreens. By the late Middle Ages almost all surviving church records include entries for the purchase of holly and ivy in the winter. For Christians evergreens symbolised eternal life and the promise of the return of life in the spring. Ash, apple, hazel alder, elder all have particular importance, with oak, ash and thorn the three primary 'magical' trees. Yew features in many traditions and beliefs, as a symbol of both death and life and yew boughs, along with holly were brought indoors to decorate homes and churches for Christmas, probably because of their evergreen foliage and red berries.

Conf'd...



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## Wreaths

It is believed that Advent wreaths may have been first used by Lutherans in Germany in the 16th century. The first record of this custom, however, is from 1833, when a Lutheran clergyman lit a candle in a wreath every Sunday and told the nativity story. This custom spread to homes and churches and continues today.

During the 19th century wreaths were made to hang on the front door. These wreaths were also known as 'welcome rings' and usually consisted of holly, ivy, pine cones and ribbons.

## Kissing Boughs

Kissing boughs are an old tradition now lost, but which may have led to the custom of kissing beneath the mistletoe. Kissing boughs consisted of a hoop of pliable sticks, probably hazel or willow, made into a sphere on which decorative greenery could be fixed. These would be hung on walls or in doorways to welcome people into the building and could be quite large. Popular in Tudor times, they became more elaborate in Georgian times and included apples, oranges and coloured paper or baubles. Gentlemen could pluck a berry and then kiss a lady on the cheek until the berries ran out and the kissing stopped! This may be where the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe comes from.

## Christmas Trees

Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, is usually credited with having introduced the Christmas tree into England in 1840. However it was actually 'good Queen Charlotte', the German wife of George III, who set up the first known tree at Queen's Lodge, Windsor, in December 1800.

Christmas trees became very popular with the upper classes, especially for children's gatherings. Any handy evergreen tree might be uprooted for the purpose and they were usually candle-lit, decorated with trinkets and surrounded by piles of presents.

Cont'd...

In December 1840, Prince Albert imported several spruce firs from his native Coburg, in Germany, to serve as Christmas trees. But it was not until a few years later, when periodicals such as the *Illustrated London News*, *Cassell's Magazine* and *The Graphic* began to depict and describe the royal Christmas trees every year, that the custom of setting up such trees in homes really caught on amongst the general public in England.

By 1860 Christmas trees were very popular with the middle classes. They would have had a Christmas tree in their parlour or hall, covered with candles, sweets, fruit, homemade decorations and small gifts.

Real Christmas trees were still the norm in the early 20th century, but the first bristle-style artificial tree was made by Addis Housewares Company in 1930.

Since 1947, every year Norway has given a large Christmas tree to Great Britain which is displayed in Trafalgar Square, London. During the Second World War, the Norwegian king and government fled to London when their country was occupied. The tree, therefore, is given as a token of gratitude to the people of London for their assistance. This annual tradition shows the great symbolic importance of Christmas trees in Britain today.

Most of our churchyards and cemeteries contain a ready supply of the greenery traditionally used for decoration; holly, ivy, yew and sometimes mistletoe too. A small contribution towards more sustainable ways could be to increase use of these natural 'decorations'. You will be following in the footsteps of many generations celebrating both Christmas and the solstice, in a dark season, with the hope that both bring.



*Ed*



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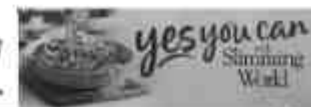
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## Christmas Tree Decorations

*The Revd Dr Jo White*

Over the decades the decorations on my home Christmas tree have come and gone. From an eclectic colourful mix of baubles and home-made items when the children were young, to a radical change to 'contemporary' and 'sophisticated'. It didn't last long, as quite frankly they seemed a bit dull, lifeless and lacking real meaning.

We quite rapidly added mementoes from holiday places to the mix to jazz it up a bit.

In more recent years we've been receiving and proudly displaying creations from the next family generation - so we come back to the start.

How about your tree?

And what about the tree decorations you have in your church? What is the story behind those? Are they identical or very different?

In 1957 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Danville, USA, Frances Kipps Spencer thought that the traditional, brightly coloured Christmas ornaments were not fitting for a worship setting, so she started thinking about a way to reflect the Christian faith through ornaments.

The first ornament was the name of Jesus and His title: Christ. The Greek *Chi* (X) *Rho* (P) is the monogram for the Greek word *Christos* (Christ).

There followed over the years a whole collection symbolising the life of Jesus and His ministry.

These ornaments even have their own name: 'Chrismons,' which comes from the words *Christ* and *monogram*.

Just as wall paintings and stained glass in churches tell the Christian story these Chrismons are a clever way to communicate the same key ideas of the Christian faith particularly to annual church visitors.

Chrismons are white and gold, representing purity and value. When used with an evergreen Christmas tree, symbolising eternal life, and white lights covering the tree, symbolising Jesus as the light of the world the whole gives a story just in its use of colour with no words required.

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## from across our Parishes

### DIXTON

Kate Richards - kate@summerleas.com

Well, that was close! No flood this time but **huge thanks** again to Rev Tim and Sue Morris as well as Monmouth Rowing Club for assisting in flood preparation, as the PCC members were all away overseas when the flood warnings went out!

We had a lovely celebration of **Harvest Festival** with a lunch and raffle; the church looked lovely thanks to the 'flower ladies'.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> we are now looking forward to our wonderful **candle-lit Carol Service** at 4pm. It really is a special occasion, and gets you really in the mood for Christmas, so do please join us if you can, and spread the word.

**Christmas Day** we also have a service at 11.00am, and once again, we hope to see some of you there to celebrate this special day in our calendar.

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Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Cafe** Bishopswood 10.00 am – Midday

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Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> **January Café** Bishopswood 10.00 am – Midday

Books & Jigsaw Swap Delicious cakes and refreshments (Gluten free available)



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## LLANGARRON

Helen Edwards [edwardshelen82@gmail.com](mailto:edwardshelen82@gmail.com)  
[www.llangarron.info](http://www.llangarron.info) & Facebook Llangarron Village Hall

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> **Two Guitars with Lewis and Dav** at 7.30pm. Back by popular demand, Lewis Dickenson and David Libson-Hochenberg will be playing a selection of gypsy jazz, classical guitar and other music arranged for guitar. The pop-up pub will be serving drinks and snacks from the bar. Advance booking is required to confirm numbers attending, to book tickets at £15 each please email [hello@llangarron.info](mailto:hello@llangarron.info).

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> **Carol Service**, St Deinst Church at 6.00pm The Carol Service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine served in the Garron Centre after the service.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January **Llangarron Community Cafe** from 10.30am - 12.30pm Regular slot on the third Saturday of the month. Well behaved dogs and their human companions are very welcome to come along.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February **Pop-up Pub Night and Food Van** 6.00 – 9.00pm Food Van (TBC) and Pop-up pub night starting at 6.00pm.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February **Archenfield evening talk** 6.30 – 9.00pm Talk to be given by Holly Williams from HWT Wye Valley Landscapes Climate Challenge Network.

## GOODRICH

Marlene Corker [marlenecorker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marlenecorker@yahoo.co.uk)

### St. Giles Church

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> **Santa's Soup Kitchen** is returning to the village hall! Not to be missed! Delicious homemade soup, mince pies and mulled wine will be served. There will be stalls selling cakes, homemade biscuits and sweets, Christmas crafts, art and pottery, preserves and pickles, a bottle tombola and wonderful Wye Organic Christmas wreaths! There will also be a Grand Draw and Father Christmas will be there with his Lucky Dip Santa sack. NB. Please bring CASH.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> The very popular **Roaring Megs Christmas** concert will take place in St Giles Church at 3.00pm. Look out for details about this on posters around the village and on Facebook. Any enquiries to Helen Phillips 07508320111



Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> **Carol Service**, with well-loved carols and Lessons at 4.00. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service

### Goodrich Church Of England Primary School

Before we broke up for half-term, we enjoyed another Open the Book story. It required quite a few children to tell the story, so there were lots of costumes to put on. At the end we enjoyed a rejoicing hymn and said a prayer.

### Village Hall Events

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January there will be a **Quiz**, the cost is £12 including lasagna. Doors open at 6pm for the start at 6:30pm. The bar will be open and we will have a charity raffle at half time.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January Rain or Shine have a show, **Murder most Wilde**. The show starts at 7pm and tickets cost £14, children (under 15) £8. The bar will be open

Due to events, there will be **no** Flicks in the Sticks in January.

For booking both events please use the website <https://goodrichvillagehall.co.uk/whats-on/>

## WELSH NEWTON & LLANROTHAL

Glenys Biggs andy\_n\_glen@btinternet.com Tel 01989770540

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> **Advent Prayer Vigil** 9.30am to 5.30pm A day of prayer and peaceful reflection. Sign up via our website, [ourcountrychurch.co.uk/christmas](http://ourcountrychurch.co.uk/christmas) or email [stmaryswelshnewton@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswelshnewton@gmail.com)

Also at 6pm, **Advent Service of Light** An atmospheric service to mark the beginning of Advent, followed by refreshments

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 9.15am, **Christmas Outdoor Church** (after usual indoor meditation) - a special, Christmas-themed time around the firepit, with Christmas activities for the children and discussion for the adults, plus breakfast and hot drinks to keep everyone warm

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm, **Carol Service** A traditional carol service with familiar Christmas carols and Bible readings - a lovely way to get in the Christmas spirit, followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 3pm, **Christmas Eve By Candlelight** at St John's, Llanrothal, with BYO festive refreshments



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**Christmas Day Family Friendly Service** 9.30am. A family-friendly service to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All welcome, however young and excited!

Throughout Advent there will also be a short, lay-led **Morning Prayer** service at St Mary's each morning, Monday to Saturday, at 8.30am. We'd love to see you there.

More information at [ourcountrychurch.co.uk/christmas](http://ourcountrychurch.co.uk/christmas)

**Welsh Newton Village Hall Diary Dates**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> **Wreath Making**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Fair** in aid of St David's Hospice

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March **Big Breakfast** in aid Alzheimers Society

For more information - email : [welshnewtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:welshnewtonvillagehall@gmail.com)

## LLANGROVE

Wendy Price [Wendyllangrove@gmail.com](mailto:Wendyllangrove@gmail.com),  
[www.llangrove.org.uk](http://www.llangrove.org.uk) & [llangrovelinks@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:llangrovelinks@yahoo.co.uk)

A Thoughtful Advent, Happy Christmas and a Hopeful New Year to all from everyone at Christ Church.

Thanks to **Sue and Mervyn** for all the hard work that they do maintaining our churchyard throughout the year. We have recently planted some daffodils named 'Jenny' at the entrances, to remind us of Jenny Bibby's warm welcome!

Thanks to **Pete and pupils of Llangrove Academy** who helped to spruce up the area by the cenotaph for Remembrance Day and many thanks to all those who gave to Christ Church Gift Day last month.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am there will be a service based on the **Open The Book** idea of an interactive bible story.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> is our **Carol Service** at 4.30pm and is open to all ages as we tell the story of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ from the Bible and in carols and songs. The service will be followed by traditional nibbles.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a **Church Holiday Club** and the next **Family Activity Day** will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am our **Advent Coffee Morning** in Llangrove Village Hall and our first **Coffee Morning** for 2025 will be on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am  
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### Llangrove & District Gardening Society:

5<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm is our final meeting of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and is our **AGM and Members Social Evening** at Llangrove Village hall.

Our 2025 series of talks starts on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February with Madi and Arthur from the Crafty Pickle Company who will be giving a talk and demonstration on **Vegetable Fermentation**. Come along, find out what fermentation is, the benefits of it and how to do it using your own veg. Talks start at 7.30pm in Llangrove village hall. Admission for visitors £5 which includes refreshments. More details contact Louisa 07816 542787 **All welcome**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm onwards **Llangrove Village Hall Christmas Fayre** and the Lighting of the Village Hall Christmas Tree by Father Christmas!

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> **Posh Frock and Prosecco Night** at The Royal Arms - tickets from Royal Arms.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Llangrove Village Singers annual **Christmas Friends and Families evening**. All are welcome for Christmas music and refreshments!. Spring Term 2025 starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Our **Food Bank** continues in church porch.

### GANAREW

Sue Harley sueharleymcsp@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01600 890489

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Carols** at St.Swithins 7pm. We are delighted to welcome back ' St. Swithins Jol' to entertain us and get us in the Christmas mood. Lovely songs and music to listen to and carols to sing. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies at the Manor House. All very welcome.

Many thanks to all those who attended our annual **Christmas Market** on 24<sup>th</sup> November, both sellers, buyers and browsers.

### MARSTOW

Sue Rolfe rolfe653@btinternet.com Tel: 07971 411020  
Website: marstowchurch.org

### CHURCH NEWS and EVENTS

Christmas Eve **Carol Service** at 4.00 pm. Our Carol Service is a traditional and wonderful start to the Marstow celebration of the birth of Jesus. Do come along to our popular, family friendly service. Join in with your favourite carols and readings and get into the Christmas spirit with mulled wine and mince

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pies. We hope to welcome the usual large number of local residents and their families as well as families from neighbouring parishes.

**Decorating the Church** It has become a tradition for the community to gather to decorate the church for Christmas. Always a fun event. We will circulate the date later in December. Do come along, the more hands the merrier.

**Bingo Night.** We all had a great time at the Bingo Night organised by St Matthew's PCC in November. The Bingo games and tasty Tapas supper were much enjoyed but best of all was seeing all our friends and neighbours and having a good time together. Special thanks go to Caroline and Nicki who did all the organisation and cooked the supper. Thanks too to our splendid Bingo caller Graham.

**ST MATTHEW'S WEST END EVENTS**

**Marstow Makers Craft Evenings** Dates and plans for 2025 will be published in February Border News.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> next meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm

**WYESHAM**

Jo Townsend & Marguerite Gordon

[jotown223@hotmail.com](mailto:jotown223@hotmail.com) [marguerite.gordon@btinternet.com](mailto:marguerite.gordon@btinternet.com)

1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Wyesham Together Adventure Calendar School Competition and Trail. Households in Wyesham will be leafleted with information.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Ladies Prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 2pm.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Wyedean Embroiderers St James' Community Hall 10.30 - 3pm

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> WI Christmas celebrations with Raglan Bellringers St James' Community Hall 7pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Bingo in St James' Community Hall 7.30pm

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Carols by Candlelight with Wyesham Christian Fellowship in St James' Church 3pm Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Christingle Services for Kymin View School, St James Church 1.30 & 2.30pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Wyesham Together Carols on the Green with Kymin View School and the School Choir 3.30 - 4.30

Christmas Eve Holy Communion St James' Church 5pm



January 2025:

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> No Embroiderers Meeting

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Ladies Prayer Group, Wyesham Christian Fellowship 2pm

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Bingo in St James' Community Hall 7.30pm

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Ladies Prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 2pm

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Bingo in St James' Community Hall 7.30pm

TBC Quiz night in St James Community Hall late January

Every Friday during term time, **Sunbeams Toddlers Play Group**. St James Community Hall 10.30 - 12 midday Parents, Carers Welcome!

## WHITCHURCH

Brigid Hamilton-Jones [brigidhj@aol.com](mailto:brigidhj@aol.com)

We are hoping to revive the **Friends of St Dubricius** scheme. We'd love to share news of events or developments at the church with you. We have started to distribute a leaflet explaining about the scheme, and these are also available at the church. Do come and pick one up and take a minute to remind yourself about the very special place that is our church in Whitchurch. The church is open every day and there is often someone there who can talk to you – or leave you in peace if that is what you want.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> **Family Fun Christmas Morning** at St Dubricius, 10am-12. Come and enjoy games, Christmas crafts and refreshments. All ages welcome. See page 19.

Wednesdays 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> **Community coffee mornings** 10.30-12.00pm

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Community lunch** 12 noon. Please phone Janet Townsend on 07803 798409 to book your place. The next Community Lunch will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Every Thursday **Knit and Natter** 2pm.

Tuesdays **Sticky Little Fingers** 9.30-11am in church. Dates for December: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Dates for January: 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> January Compline

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January **Taize Service**.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December **Whitchurch and Ganarew Local History Society** Talk on 'Christmas and Wassailing' accompanied by mince pies and mulled wine. Memorial Hall, 6.30 for 7pm. £4 members and £6 non-members.

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### Whitchurch and Ganarew Memorial Hall

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December **Jazz Night** on with 'Hot Fingers'. Tom (Spats) Langham and his jazz band with Emily Campbell on vocals playing 1920s and 1930s music. Tickets £15. Licensed bar and snacks available. Doors open 7pm for 7.30/8pm start. Booking in advance essential. Email [wandghall@hotmail.com](mailto:wandghall@hotmail.com) or contact Graham on 07768125452

**Christmas Family Fun Morning**

Crafts Games Refreshments

10-12 Saturday 7th December  
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### Prayer for Christmas and the New Year

Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Lord, as we embark on this new year, we lift up to you, our loved ones, our communities, and the world. May your peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. Bring healing where there is brokenness and reconciliation where there is division. Amen





## What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!



### HEREFORD CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER | 9.30AM - 4PM

Over forty stallholders will be in the cathedral on **Saturday 14 December** for our annual Christmas Fair. The Fair opens at 9.30am and will be featuring homemade produce, handcrafted items and plenty of festive gifts and crafts from local stallholders.

We will be singing carols outside in the cathedral close at midday, all are welcome to join in!

Entry is free for the Christmas Fair and we will be asking for donations on the door which will go to support the work of Hereford Cathedral. We recommend bringing cash on the day as not all stalls will be taking card payment.



# DECEMBER

THE GATEWAY  
ROSS ON WYE

## CLAIRVOYANT EVENING WITH MARILYN & TIA

Thursday 5th December | 7.30PM

ADULT £18.50

### HOME ALONE

Saturday 7th December 11am

CHILD £5.00 | ADULT £5.00

### ROYAL BALLET CINEMA

#### SEASON 2024-

#### 25:CINDERELLA

Tuesday 10th December

7.15PM

Sunday 15th December | 2pm

ADULT £17.00

CONCESSION £14.00

### ROYAL BALLET CINEMA

#### SEASON

#### 2024-25: THE NUTCRACKER

Tuesday 17th December

7.15PM

Sunday 29th December | 2pm

ADULT £17.00

CONCESSION £14.00

### ELF

Friday 20th December

7.00PM

ADULT £5.00 | CHILD £5.00

### THE POLAR EXPRESS

Saturday 21st December

11AM

ADULT £5.00 | CHILD

£5.00

### THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS

#### CAROL

Saturday 21st December

7PM

ADULT £5.00 | CHILD £5.00

### MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Sunday 22nd December

2PM

ADULT £5.00 | CHILD £5.00

Love Film and Events, *Love* labels

BOOK TICKETS AT [WWW.THEGATEWAYCINEMA.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEGATEWAYCINEMA.CO.UK) | 01989 552 166





Church Street,  
Monmouth, NP25 3BU  
www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk  
01600 772467

## SANTA'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Family Show & Meet Santa Sun 1st Dec at 12noon & 3pm

## VAN GOGH: Poets & Lovers (pg)

Exhibition on Screen Sun 1st Dec at 7pm & Tue 3rd at 2pm

## ON SCREEN GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

Bob Dylan's Music & Lyrics Mon 2nd Dec at 4pm & 7.30pm

## PAUL SINAH & FRIENDS

Comedy Night Wed 4th Dec at 7.30pm

## WE THREE KINGS: Rock 'n Roll Spectacular

'Holly', 'Orbison' & 'Elvis' Thur 5th Dec at 7.30pm

## Don't miss the Savoy's Panto

## ROBIN HOOD & THE BABES IN THE WOOD

Family Shows: Fri 13th Dec at 7.30pm, Sat 14th at 2.30pm,

Fri 27th at 7.30pm, Sat 28th at 2pm, Sun 29th at 2pm &

6.30pm, Tue 31st - Thur 2nd Jan at 2pm

Relaxed & BSL Show: Wed 18th Dec at 6.30pm

Adult Shows: Sat 14th, Thurs 19th & Sat 28th Dec at 7.30pm

## ANDRE RIEU: Gold and Silver

ON SCREEN Andre's Christmas Concert Sun 5th Jan at 4pm

## JENNY ECLAIR

Jokes, Jokes, Jokes, Live! Fri 7th Feb at 8pm



The Editor, Editorial Team,  
Parish Representatives and  
Distribution Team wish all  
our readers and our advertisers a  
Happy and Peaceful Christmas and  
a prosperous New Year.



Village Singers  
invite you to our  
Christmas  
Friends & Families  
Evening

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 8.00pm  
Llangrove Village Hall

Please join us for music, mulled wine, mince  
pies and refreshments

New Year New Term  
Rehearsals recommence 6<sup>th</sup>  
January

Come and join us - give it a try!!



Fancy a Wednesday  
morning coffee ?

Community Coffee Mornings

At St Dubricius 10.30

4th and 18th December



Advent Coffee Morning

At Llangrove Village Hall

11th December

10.30 to 12.00



## PARISH EVENTS AT A GLANCE



### December

- 1st Community Christmas Lunch Bishopswood Village Hall 12.30  
Wreath Making Welsh Newton Village Hall
- 1st to 24th Adventure Calendar School Competition & Trail Wyesham
- 2nd 'History of Christmas & Wassailing' W&GLHG Whitchurch & Ganarew  
Memorial Hall 19.00
- 4th Community Coffee Morning St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.30
- 5th Llangrove & District Gardening Society AGM Llangrove Village Hall  
19.30
- 6th Ladies Prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 14.00
- 7th Family Fun Christmas Morning St Dubricius 10.00 - 12.00  
Wyedean Embroiderers St James' Community Hall Wyesham  
10.30 - 15.00
- Santa's Soup Kitchen Goodrich Village Hall  
Christmas Fair Welsh Newton Village Hall  
Llangrove Village Christmas Fair @ The Village Hall 14.30  
Jazz 'Hot Fingers' Whitchurch & Ganarew Memorial Hall 19.00  
Two Guitars with Lewis & Dav The Garron Centre Llangarron 19.30  
Posh Frock & Prosecco Night at Royal Arms Llangrove 19.30
- 9th Christmas Community Lunch St Dubricius Whitchurch 12.00 noon  
WI Christmas Celebrations St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.00  
Village Singers Christmas Friends & Families Evening  
Llangrove Village Hall 20.00
- 11th Advent Coffee Morning Llangrove Village Hall 10.30
- 12th Bingo St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.00
- 14th Christmas Café Bishopswood Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00  
Roaring Megs Christmas Concert St Giles Goodrich 15.00
- 18th Community Coffee Morning St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.30
- 30th Church Holiday Club Llangrove Village Hall



## Llangrove Village Hall Christmas Fayre

Sat 7th Dec 2024 - 2.30 pm

Please join us for

A fun filled festive afternoon

Hall & Refreshments open from 2.30 pm

Father Christmas arrives 3.15 pm

"Big Bang" Christmas Crackers 4 pm

Activities include

Carol Singing, Stalls, Games, Raffles

Refreshments available

Santa's Grotto with Presents (open from 3.30 pm)

(All times are approximate)

## The Last Surviving Pre-Conquest Bishop

As I sit putting BN together, I look out of my office window at St Wulfstan Farm and have often wondered who he was.

Wulfstan, was the Bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095, and I discovered he occupies a unique place in British church history.

He was the last surviving pre-Conquest bishop, the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign.

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. He studied at the monasteries of Evesham and in Peterborough and, as a result of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. He was ordained in 1038 and joined a Benedictine monastery at Worcester.

Wulfstan was appointed prior of the monastery and from 1034 also served as the parish priest of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire, being made bishop of Worcester in 1062. He had a passion for pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his diocese.

He was highly influential in monastic reform, overseeing laws and canons to reform the role of the clergy. He was a powerful preacher, with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land.

He had a strong social conscience, and soon became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester diocese and Ireland.

He had a passion for buildings, and founded Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing the large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey. Wulfstan died apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners in 1095. We celebrate his life on 19th January.

## January 2025

- 3rd Family Activity Day Llangrove Village Hall 09.00 - 16.00
- 6th New Year New Term Village Singers Llangrove Village Hall 19.30
- 7th Ladies Prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 14.00
- 9th Bingo St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.30
- 11th Café Bishopswood @ Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00  
Quiz Night Goodrich Village Hall 18.30
- 15th Coffee Morning Llangrove Village Hall 10.30
- 17th Llangarron Community Café The Garron Centre 10.30 - 12.30  
Ladies Prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 14.00
- 23rd Bingo St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.30
- 25th Rain and Shine Murder Most Wilde Goodrich Village Hall 19.00
- 27th Community Lunch St Dubricius Whitchurch 12.00 noon



**REPAIR  
CAFE**   
Archenfield

### Archenfield Community Environment Group

**Sat 14th Dec**

2.00-4.00pm

Llangrove Village Hall

**Archenfield Repair Cafe**

Mince pies, mulled apple juice

Pop in and enjoy the warm atmosphere while we do our best to mend your Christmas decorations.

*Repair. Reuse. Recycle. Refreshments.*

**Thurs 23rd Jan**

7.00 - 8.30pm

Llangrove Village Hall

**A walk across Herefordshire**

From Arthur's Stone, passed ice age ponds and iron age forts: history, nature and people by Joe Emmett.

To receive more information about ACEG and its activities sign up for our monthly newsletter or if you would like to become a volunteer or a committee member, please email [archenfieldceg@gmail.com](mailto:archenfieldceg@gmail.com)



## CHURCH SERVICES—January

### Sunday 5th January

08.30 Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study
09.30 Ganarew	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00 Llangrove	Holy Communion
11.00 Llangarron	Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch	Holy Communion.
11.00 Wyesham	Sunday Praise.

### Wednesday 8th January

18.00 Whitchurch	Simple, said Night Prayer (Compline).
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### Thursday 9th January

10.30 Whitchurch	Simple, said Holy Communion service.
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### Sunday 12th January *(The Baptism of Jesus)*

08.30 Welsh Newton	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00 Llangrove	Community Service
10.00 Marstow	All Age Praise
11.00 Bishopswood	Holy Communion at the Village Hall
11.00 Goodrich	Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch	Sunday Praise.
18.00 Welsh Newton	Prayer Service

### Thursday 16th January

10.30 Whitchurch	Simple, said Holy Communion service.
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### Sunday 19th January

08.30 Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study
09.30 Ganarew	Sunday Praise
10.00 Llangrove	Holy Communion
11.00 Goodrich	Lay Led Service
11.00 Whitchurch	Holy Communion.
11.00 Wyesham	Holy Communion.
18.00 Llangarron	Evening Prayer

### Thursday 23rd January

10.30 Whitchurch	Simple, said Holy Communion service.
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### Friday 24th January

18.00 Whitchurch	Taizé Prayer.
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### Sunday 26th January

08.30 Welsh Newton	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00 Llangrove	Community Service
10.00 Marstow	All Age Praise
11.00 Dixon	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer).
11.00 Goodrich	Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch	Sunday Praise.
11.00 Wyesham	Holy Communion.
18.00 Welsh Newton	Prayer Service

### Thursday 30th January

10.30 Whitchurch	Simple, said Holy Communion service.
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### CAROL SERVICES

Sunday 8th	15.00 Bishopswood Christmas Carol Service with Brass Band
	16.00 Dixon Candlelit Carol Service
Sunday 15th	15.00 Whitchurch Christmas Carol Service
	15.00 Wyesham Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 19th	15.30 Wyesham Carols on the Green near Morrisons
	19.00 Ganarew Christmas Carol Service with St Swithins Jol
Friday 20th	18.00 Llangarron Carol Service
Sunday 22nd	16.00 Goodrich Carol Service
	15.00 Whitchurch Carols on the Green at Grange Park
	16.30 Llangrove Carol Service
	18.00 Welsh Newton Carol Service
Tuesday 24th	15.00 Llanrothal Christmas Eve by Candlelight
	16.00 Marstow Carol Service

Please join one of our churches for carols and mulled wine, mince pies etc as we enter this very special festive period.

**All our churches wish you a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas**