



WEST KNIGHTON
St Peter

WARMWELL
Holy Trinity

W

Methodist Church
BROADMAYNE
St Martin

E

OWERMOIGNE
St Michael

S

HOLWORTH
St Catherine

COMPASS

**The Community Magazine for
the Watercombe Benefice**

December 2025

Free



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email drjrev@gmail.com, mobile 07341 655530
The Rectory, Main Street, Broadmayne, DT2 8EB Tel 01305 852435
Benefice web site www.watercombe.org.uk

Enquiries about Baptism, Wedding and Funeral arrangements should be made through Rev David Johnson (Sunday to Wednesday) [Anglican]; or Rev Brenda Stephenson [Methodist]. Please contact the relevant Church Warden or Steward for anything else.

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Holy Trinity Church, Warmwell

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For rates and details of advertising in this magazine please contact the Editor



Broadmayne, Holworth, Owermoigne, Warmwell and West Knighton

December Services 2025



Sunday 7th December – Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Communion St Michael, Owermoigne
 11.00am Holy Communion St Martin, Broadmayne
 11.00am Morning Worship Broadmayne Methodist Church

Thursday 11th December

7.00pm Taizé-style Service St Peter, West Knighton

Sunday 14th December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Communion St Peter, West Knighton
 11.00am Holy Communion with Carols Holy Trinity, Warmwell
 4.00pm United Anglican/Methodist Café-style Carols at 4
 Broadmayne Methodist Church

Monday 15th December

3.00pm More Senior Christmas Party Broadmayne Community Hall

Wednesday 17th December

6.00pm Carol Service St Peter, West Knighton

Thursday 18th December

6.15pm Carols around West Knighton please meet at the church
 finish at the New Inn at 7.00pm

Thursday 18th December

6.30pm Carols at the Cricket Club Owermoigne Cricket Club

Friday 19th December

5.00pm Nativity Trail Starts at the school and journeys through
 West Knighton unwrapping the Christmas story as we go; ending at
 St Peter's church for carols and festive treats. Any age welcome

Saturday 20th December

6.00pm Carol Service St Michael, Owermoigne

Sunday 21st December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Communion St Michael, Owermoigne
 11.00am Holy Communion St Martin, Broadmayne
 11.00am Morning Worship Broadmayne Methodist Church

Tuesday 23rd December

4.00pm Carol Service St Catherine, Holworth

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.00pm The First Christmas – Children, come and help us tell the story!
 St Martin, Broadmayne

6.00pm United Anglican-Methodist Carol Service
 St Martin, Broadmayne

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion St Michael, Owermoigne
 9.30am Holy Communion Holy Trinity, Warmwell
 11.00am United Anglican-Methodist Holy Communion
 St Peter, West Knighton
 St Catherine, Holworth

Sunday 28th December – First Sunday of Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) St Martin, Broadmayne
 11.00am **United Holy Communion for all the churches**
 St Martin, Broadmayne



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FROM WEST KNIGHTON

Dear friends,

When (and 'if'!) you're reading this at the beginning of December, cast your mind and ear forward to early morning on Christmas Day. What noises do you hear in your home, or used to hear in times past?

Small children's excited voices: "Father Christmas has been! I didn't hear him, did you?" There's loud snoring from Grandpa's room. Granny's making tea – she's fused the kettle – loud bang and dubious language. Uncle Bob's singing, "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas", and somebody shouts, "But there's no snow!" Lots of laughter. Then Dad shouts even louder, "Twenty minutes before we're off to church!" Mum shrieks in panic, "How long does the turkey take to cook? Will it be ok to leave it?"

Suddenly the house is empty and quiet. Lunch follows church with traditional Christmassy noises – knife sharpening, crackers, hissing, flaming brandy. Everyone has eaten far too much and there's loud applause for Mum, the chef. Grandpa is soon snoring again and Granny's listening to the King's Speech – volume up horribly high. Dad drags over-excited children and dogs out for a walk. Loud wails of "Must we?"

Back for opening presents round the tree. "Please, Dad, can you help me with these chemistry experiments?" "Not today, it will be too noisy inside." Uncle Bob comments, "More socks, again – but at least I can pair them with all my odd ones, so thank you!" Granny suddenly asks, "What did the Vicar say in church? Can anyone remember?"

SILENCE

Quite long, 'til someone offers, "He said, 'Look after Jesus, he's the world's best present. Get to know him. He'll always be there for you – for everyone. God loves all his children.' He said something like that."

So, whatever the level of noise in your house and in your life, I wish you all a truly happy, thankful, and joyous Christmas. May we give God time, our neighbours, anyone who is lonely or needs anything. Let's spread the happiness and the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ.

With love from Jenny

West Knighton Christmas Orchestra

Calling all instrumental players of woodwind and strings

At the Carol Service in St Peter's Church on Wednesday 17th December at 6 pm, our little orchestra will play the carol tunes in four or 5-part harmony from music (provided). We welcome players of all ages and levels. Please contact Nicky on 07474 848514 or email nmonks@ymail.com for more information.

BENEFICE REGISTERS

Funerals

8th November

Jean Whiteley: Burial of ashes at St Catherine, Holworth

10th & 11th November

June Salt: Funeral service at Weymouth Crematorium & Thanksgiving service at St Martin, Broadmayne

13th November

Sarah Goodbody: Burial at St Catherine, Holworth; Thanksgiving service at St Michael, Owermoigne

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BENEFACTIVE / COMMUNITY

By Still Waters Tuesday 9th December, 10am (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month)
Reflective prayer and sharing Broadmayne Methodist Church

Taizé style service

Thursday 11th December 7 - 7.30pm St Peter's Church West Knighton

"Longing for light we wait in darkness"

Readings, music, stillness, comments to help prepare us for Christmas

Methodist Sunday 7th December 11am – Anthony Boyden
& Joint Sunday 14th December 4pm – Rev Brenda Stephenson: Carols at 4 café style at the Methodist Church
Sunday 21st December 11am – Rev Jane Wilson
Sunday 28th December 11am – Revs David Johnson & Brenda Stephenson:

The true meaning of Christmas Journey to the stable...



...is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 - 30 minutes. There are six stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

Open at the United Church, South Street, Dorchester,
Sat 6th & Sat 13th Dec, 11-2pm;
Fri 12th Dec, 11-1.30pm.

In the week before Christmas there will be a **Christmas Family Fun Day on Saturday 20th Dec, 10-12 noon** where there will be refreshments, crafts, biscuit icing and "Getting in the Picture" an opportunity for a photo in a nativity setting. Baby changing and feeding facilities will be available. You can also visit The Stable.

In the busyness of the Christmas shopping, writing the cards and icing the cake
take a few minutes to be still.

Music at St Peter's, Dorchester

There is much music to enjoy at St Peter's Church Dorchester (DT1 1XA) during December! We hope you can join us for some or all of the many fantastic concerts, services and musical events taking place.

Saturday 13th December, 12.30pm – 1.00pm:
The programme for our Christmas lunchtime concert comprises one complete work, Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols', performed by vocal consort and harpist Marni Lai. Admission is free and all are very welcome.

Sunday 14th December, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist with some fantastic seasonal music: Schubert's Mass in G as the setting, Judith Weir's 'Drop down ye heavens' as the introit and Philip Stopford's 'There is no rose' as the motet. The service is free to attend, all are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Saturday 20th December, 4.30pm:
Traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols with glorious choral settings, favourite congregational carols, descants and all the trimmings! The service is free to attend and all are welcome

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December, 11.30pm: Choral Midnight Mass includes Will Todd's beautiful carol 'My Lord has come', the exquisite setting of 'O magnum mysterium' by Morten Lauridsen and Charpentier's 'Messe de minuit', which will be accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble. The service is free to attend and all are very welcome.

Keep up with events via our website: www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, subscribe through the website or drop us a line at: musicatstpeters@mail.com All of our social media and contact details can be found at: linktr.ee/musicatstpeters

COMMUNITY



St Mary's CE Middle School, Puddletown *Inspire today to shape tomorrow*

The opening term of the school year has been as action-packed as ever at St Mary's! These are just a few of the events and activities that have happened during the closing months of 2025.

Year 6 have returned from a four-day stay at New Barn Field Centre, located in the beautiful countryside above Bradford Peverell. The children spent the week enjoying an incredible range of fabulous activities, from sports to working with clay, and from learning about the history and geography of Bradford Peverell to making fire, churning butter, grinding wheat to make flour, making Viking Savlon cream, shelter building, analysing Viking tools and artefacts, orienteering, and, last but not least, they got to meet a wide range of animals from tortoises to turkeys! Needless to say, the children loved every minute of the trip and soon overcame any feelings of homesickness.

Our school community marked Armistice Day with a special remembrance service on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The whole school came together in the hall to remember those who gave their lives in the wars, including the 28 young men from our own Puddletown parish. Each tutor group made poppy wreaths which were laid around the flagpole at the front of the school.

The school has been smelling sweeter than usual this November thanks to visitors from high street chain, Lush. The team from Lush have worked with all our students to give them a fascinating insight into the science that underpins the cosmetics. The students then got the chance to make their own bath bombs to take home!

We have been focussing on the future at St Mary's as we offer prospective new families the opportunity to visit our wonderful school. Our big Open Evening is always a terrific event, and this year was no exception. It was fabulous to see so many families come together to explore all the amazing opportunities and experiences that St Mary's has to offer. The school was buzzing with excited Year 4 children from our local partner schools as well as from schools outside of our immediate area. Parents and children got to meet the staff and participate in a wide range of fun activities across the school. We hope everyone enjoyed their time with us and got a glimpse of the vibrant community we cherish here at St Mary's! A huge thank you to the St Mary's School Association for providing tea, coffee and snacks to keep everyone's energy up! We have also enjoyed showing parents around our school during the school day. We offer several open mornings during the autumn and spring terms that allow families to experience the excitement of a regular school day at St Mary's. Our next open morning takes place on Thursday 8 January at 9:30am. If you are a parent of a child in Year 4, it would be great to see you on 8 January. Please book a place by emailing or phoning the school office (contact details below).

Thank you for your valued support this year and very best wishes for a relaxing Christmas when it arrives.

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THE NEW INN WEST KNIGHTON

Christmas Menu

STARTERS

Creamy leek and potato soup, topped with cheddar cheese, served with crusty baguette and butter (GFOA)

Chicken liver pâté, red onion and orange marmalade, toasted brioche (GFOA)

Crayfish and smoked salmon parcel, cos lettuce, brown bread and butter (GFOA)

Brie and cranberry tartlet, seasonal leaf salad, rich balsamic glaze (GF)

Pan fried gnocchi, bound with Dorset pesto and topped with shaved parmesan (GFOA)

MAINS

Traditional roast turkey, topped with sage and onion stuffing, cranberry sauce, pigs in blankets, turkey gravy (GFOA)

Baked fillet of salmon, prosecco and prawn cream sauce (GFOA)

Roast loin of pork, stuffed with sausage and sage stuffing, apple cider jus, bramley apple compote (GFOA)

Heath Farm slow braised beef Bourguignon (GFOA)

Mushroom, spinach and Blue Vinny wellington, cranberry sauce, vegetable gravy.

All mains are served with a selection of seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes.

Sticky toffee pudding, mince pie ice cream, caramel sauce (GFOA)

The New Inn Christmas pudding, brandy sauce (GFOA)

Trio of Dorset cheese, real ale chutney, selection of biscuits (GFOA)

Baileys and chocolate cheesecake, vanilla ice cream (GFOA)

All finished off with tea, coffee and a mince pie!

2 Courses £29.50 3 Courses £38.50

£10 per person non refundable deposit required when booking.

01305 852349

www.newinnwestknighton.co.uk

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COMMUNITY

Crossways Youth & Community Centre

It was lovely to see some of our regulars and some new faces at our Community Café in November.

Our next event is our **Christmas Fayre** on **Saturday, 6 December** running from **10 am to 1pm**. We will have a variety of stalls and produce and our café will be open for savouries and refreshments. For any stall enquiries, please contact bookings@crosswaysycc.org

Due to other commitments sadly one of our Youth Club leaders, Chris, is leaving us at the end of the year. We are very grateful to Chris for all his help and support with the club sessions. We will miss him, but wish him well for the future. We will have a vacancy for a youth worker in the New Year. If this is something which may be of interest to you, please email: chair@crosswaysycc.org



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ARTISAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

WEST STAFFORD VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 10.30am-1pm

We look forward to welcoming you all to purchase crafted gifts, win on the tombola or just enjoy a breakfast bap or burger lunch. All proceeds of the market fund the running of your village hall. Hope you can make it.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT COMPASS

WARMWELL

Talk on RAF Warmwell

A sell-out crowd assembled in Moreton Village Hall to hear Rockbourne historian John Smith talk about the largest Luffwaffe raid on an English airfield in WW2. This was on RAF Warmwell.

His mesmerising talk, delivered without notes or hesitation, and full of fact after fact, was listened to in awestruck intensity. His delivery was Cameron-esque!

Thank you to those who came from far and wide, and whose support enabled Holy Trinity funds to grow, together with a donation to SSAFA, the military charity whose ethos is the signposting and monetary help for any veteran whose service lasted one day or more.

He has generously offered to return next year to talk on the role of RAF Warmwell in the wider context of the war in the South West.

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**Broadmayne and West Knighton
Women's Institute**

Thursday 11th December at 7pm

Broadmayne Village Hall

**Frayed Strings
Christmas Party**

Ladies interested in the WI please come along and
meet us or for more information contact:

E:mail bandwkwi@gmail.com



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride September 2025

Thank you yet again to Reuben Moss who has achieved another excellent result cycling in the Ride & Stride for St. Peter's Church. He visited 45 churches during the day. The amount raised is £400, which is a wonderful result. A big thank you also to the many very generous sponsors who supported him.

Lesley Stubbing

Coffee & Company
at St Peter's Church
West Knighton



Tuesdays
2nd & 16th December
10.30-11.30am
Do join us, everyone is
welcome

Help Us Upgrade West Knighton Play Park

We're really excited to be giving our village play park a bit of a makeover! The toddler swings and slide set are ready for an upgrade, and we'd love to replace them with something new, safe, and fun for our youngest visitors to enjoy. We've already had a fantastic start - the Parish Council has kindly donated £15,000, and we have £4,000 set aside ourselves. Which means we are just £5,000 short of reaching our goal!

If you'd like to help us reach the finish line, we'd be so grateful for any contributions - big or small. Every bit brings us closer to giving our little ones a brilliant new place to play. Donations, fundraising ideas, or offers of help are all very welcome! Please get in touch with West Knighton Play Park by emailing: wkplaypark@outlook.com if you'd like to get involved.

There is a poster in the notice board next to the play park showing what the new piece of equipment looks like.

Thank you so much for your support -
together we can make this happen!

£3.00pp

West Knighton Play Park

Teams of 2-8

Festive

Pub Quiz

Saturday 13th December

The New Inn

West Knighton

Doors open at 7:15pm

Quiz starts at 7:45pm

Grab a team together and come and join us for our pub quiz. It's always a good fun night out for everyone. We are raising money for some new equipment. Plans will be available to view at the quiz.

To reserve a table please email: wkplaypark@outlook.com

Prize for the winning team

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Knightsford Parish Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 10th December 7.30pm, West Stafford Village Hall

Wednesday 14th January 7.30pm, New Inn, West Knighton





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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE WEATHER REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025 by Ted Byrne

From the weather station situated at 23 Watrgates Lane
I am missing several days of weather data from October, probably because of power cuts that affected my weather station, but was able to obtain full rainfall data from my old fashioned, albeit reliable, manual rain gauge. Other weather stations in the area were also affected.

The edge of storm Amy, which mainly affected Scotland, hit us at the beginning of the month, bringing some strong winds and a bit of rain, and caused a good deal of autumnal leaf drop. October as a whole was rather a dull but mild month with a maximum temperature of 21.1°C on the 1st and a minimum of 3.8°C on the 28th. Interestingly, the highest temperature in the UK of 22.3°C was recorded at Lossiemouth in Scotland on the 6th. We had quite a bit of rainfall, adding up to 101mm. This was however a lot less than the amount we have received in recent years. Last year we had 139mm and the average October rainfall for the previous five years was 165mm. The total rainfall for the year to date now adds up to 682mm.

Maximum temperature: 21.1°C on the 1st	Minimum temperature 3.8°C on the 28th
Wettest day: 25mm on the 3rd & 20th	Days with rainfall (0.5mm or more): 10
Total rainfall for the month: 101mm	Total rainfall for the year to date: 682mm

More details are available in real time on www.watrgatesweather.co.uk. You will see temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit. If you would prefer centigrade click on the settings button at the top right hand corner of the screen and select °C.

BROADMAYNE FIRST SCHOOL

We returned to school this September full of energy and enthusiasm, ready to live out our school values of being kind, safe, and respectful. It's been a joyful and busy start to the academic year, with plenty to celebrate already!

We were delighted to welcome two new teachers to our team – Mrs Sweeney and Miss Alston – who have settled in brilliantly and are already very much part of the Broadmayne Bus. Their positivity and dedication have made a wonderful impact across the school.

Our Reception children and their families have also made a fantastic start. It truly feels like they've been part of our community forever, and we're incredibly proud of how confidently they've embraced school life.

One of the highlights of the first half term was our Harvest Festival at St Martin's Church. It was heart-warming to see our children walking to the church, singing beautifully, sharing poems and artwork, and generously donating dried goods. We're already looking forward to joining together again at Christmas.

After a well-earned half term break, we launched into Safe and Healthy Me Week. This special week included visits from Harold the Giraffe, who taught us how to stay healthy, and inspiring sessions with the RNLI, Fire Service, and Police. These experiences helped our children learn how to keep themselves and others safe in everyday life.

We're also incredibly grateful to our FABS (Friends at Broadmayne School), who have enriched our playground with a brand-new music panel and activity boards. It's been a joy to hear the children creating music and exploring new ways to play and learn.

Now, our attention turns to the festive season and preparations for our Christmas Nativity: The Fleece Force – a production that promises to be full of sparkle, laughter, and sheep!

As always, visits to our school are warmly welcome. We love sharing our learning and community spirit with others.



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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE PARISH COUNCIL – notes from the November 2025 meeting

Public participation (i) A resident of Martel Close requested a copy of the Council's response to the Dorset Local Plan Options Consultation. The Clerk confirmed that he would supply her with a copy. (ii) A resident of Watergates Lane remarked that a bridge on the footpath from Washponds to West Knighton has been removed. It was confirmed that this bridge is outside of the parish boundary and is a matter for Knightsford Parish Council. The Parish Clerk responded by saying that he would alert the Parish Council's Rights of Way Liaison Officer, Janet Davis, to this matter.

Planning and Tree Matters Decisions and correspondence/updates on previous applications. (i) P/RES/2025/02270 Land Adjacent Broadmead Broadmayne. Amended Plans following the grant of outline planning permission P/OUT/2021/05309. This application has still not yet been determined. Cllr Ellis wondered whether any more detailed information is available about the SANG associated with the development of the land adjacent to Broadmead – in particular the details of trackways to be laid on it. The Parish Clerk indicated that he would make some enquiries. (ii) P/HOU/2025/03102 47 Chalky Road Broadmayne DT2 8PJ. Retain and extend existing annex building. Approved on 28th October 2025. (iii) P/HOU/2025/05332 23 Watergates Lane Broadmayne DT2 8HA. Installation of air source heat pump to rear (north) elevation. approved on 15th October 2025.

Reports Dorset Council Ward Member: Dorset Cllr Roland Tarr commented that a Dorset Council Officer is now looking into the issues arising from the previously reported unauthorised activity on the site adjacent to Knighton Lane. Amongst other checks and enquiries, the Officer concerned will firstly verify whether the activity undertaken is within the occupier's own land boundary. Cllr Tarr suggested that the work of the DC Officer concerned may take several months. The Council Chair responded by requesting that Cllr Tarr seeks to provide a firmer timescale as soon as possible. Cllr Tarr also reported that consideration of the Council's application for a 20mph speed limit in the village is expected to be considered around February 2026. Cllr Tarr also indicated that he is continuing to pursue the matter of a safe cycleway between Broadmayne and Dorchester. **Playing fields:** Cllr Ellis reported that the pitch appears to be standing up quite well so far this Autumn; but she noted that we have yet to experience an extended period of heavy rain. It is understood that there has been some discussion around the possibility of remedial works to improve drainage, plus the use of post-match grooming to help maintain the surface. The next BPFA Committee meeting is scheduled for 27 November 2025. **Village Hall:** Cllr Eason provided a written report in which he had explained that the work on the solar panels is not quite finished. The electricians are to carry out final connection and commission soon. The sound system is getting close to installation. Both are expected to be completed this month. The next Village Hall meeting is on 14th January. **Broadmayne Community Speedwatch:** Cllr Byrne reported on the four Community Speedwatch sessions which had been held during October. Two others had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The four sessions had resulted in a total of 1701 vehicle journeys being observed, of which 47 were seen to be speeding. The top speed noted was a vehicle doing 46mph; and there were 5 vehicles recorded travelling at over 40mph. **PCSO:** The Police Community Support Officer's report for the month included one matter related to Broadmayne; the report of gunshots heard, but upon investigation nothing was found.

Preparation of the Parish Council budget and precept request for 2026-27. The Parish Clerk explained the work done so far. Monthly expenditure data for the 2025-26 year to date (April - Nov 2025) for all of the Council's budgets has been compiled; and that data, plus analysis of payments made in previous years has been used to create a forecast of total expenditure for each cost code for the full 2025-26 year. From this a set of suggested initial budget figures for 2026-27 has been produced for the Council's consideration. A Finance Committee meeting will take place during December to discuss the details of these suggested budget figures, together with cost projections for any projects for 2026-27 which members may wish to propose. This Finance meeting will then produce a set of recommendations to be considered at the January Parish Council meeting for debate and approval.

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HETAS SIA

BROADMAYNE

◀ **Broadmayne Emergency Plan** Cllr Larkin had provided a draft of the updated Broadmayne emergency plan to all Council members. It was noted that names and / or contact details for two members of the community referred to in the plan needed to be updated. It was agreed that Cllr Larkin would update these and re-present the plan for final approval and acceptance by the Council at its December meeting. After this it will be published on the website.

Report of the Dorset Council "Devolving Dorset" event, October 2025 The Parish Clerk commented briefly on the main points which emerged from the meeting he had attended alongside other Clerks and Council members from across the county. The focus of the day was to expand on previous communications from Dorset Council on future opportunities for devolution of responsibility from Dorset Council to Parish and Town Councils for the provision of some services, and the transfer of some DC assets. The day was mostly vision-sharing and communication to the represented Councils present. It was acknowledged by the presenters that this is still at a very early stage. There may be a significant opportunity for Town and largest Parish Councils who have DC-owned assets in their areas for which they may wish to take over responsibility (e.g. parks / large open spaces, leisure centres, car parks, libraries, community centres, youth clubs, public toilets, etc). However, for the smaller Parish Councils, such as Broadmayne, there may be little impact. There will be the chance, as the initiative progresses, to discuss financially supporting or enhancing locally some routine maintenance tasks undertaken by Dorset Council (for example roadside verge cutting) which might otherwise be further reduced due to DC budget constraints.

Other Reports Cllr Evans has gathered information from Wessex Water that they plan to increase the size of the sewage treatment plant off Watergates Lane. It is hoped that this will reduce the risk of spills. Cllr Byrne reported that a resident / volunteer who has assisted with the regular relocations of the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) is moving away from the village. Consequently, it is hoped that a new volunteer can be encouraged to step forward to take over this very important role. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Parish Council or its Clerk.

Next meeting The next meeting will take place on **Monday 1st December 2025** in the Methodist Church Hall, unless otherwise advised. Parishioners are always welcome to attend and speak at council meetings during 'public participation'. Agendas are posted on the village notice boards and the website approximately a week before the meeting. For the full minutes please see the website www.broadmayne.org

BROADMAYNE, BUMPS, BABIES AND BEYOND!

If you are new to the village or at home with little ones for the first time, here is some information about the group. We meet in St. Martin's Community Hall (next to the Church) at 10am on Monday mornings during term time. The group is for anyone at home looking after the under 5s. We have parents, grandparents and childminders who come along with their little ones. There are toys to play with, snacks for the children, tea/coffee for the adults and most importantly a friendly welcome and a listening ear. All this for just £2 per family.

Monday 15th December will be our last session before Christmas. On this occasion we shall meet at 10.30 and finish at 12.30. This will enable us to have an early shared lunch before going home. The new term will start on Monday 12th January at the usual time of 10am.

If you would like to know more about the group why not come along to one of our sessions or ring one of the numbers below. We look forward to seeing you.
Carol 854385, Leri 07879 405698; Pam 852648

COMPASS ONLINE: Compass can be accessed online as a downloadable pdf file. Either search Watercombe Benefice and then click or tap on the News tab, or type <https://watercombe.org.uk/news> into your browser.

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BROADMAYNE

St Martin's Gift Day

Many thanks to everyone who came along to St Martin's Community Hall on 8th November and donated to the Gift Day. Thank you too to those who were unable to come along but who donated online or in advance. We were raising much needed funds for the upkeep of the Church, the Community Hall and the Churchyard. The total raised so far is around £2,800. We are so grateful to everyone who came along to enjoy the coffee and cake, who made donations, or who helped on the day. If anyone would still like to donate, the details of our bank account are on the inside cover of Compass, or just give any donations to one of us.



**CHAPEL
CAFÉ**
for everybody

Run by the Methodist Church for the benefit of the community

Filter coffee ~ Teas ~ Biscuits ~ Toasted teacakes

Fridays 10 am - 12 noon at the Methodist Church

Christmas cards on sale

Sorry, we are CLOSED on BOXING DAY

Christmas Party!

All 'more senior' members
of our community are invited!
Monday 15th December, 3-5 pm
in St Martin's Community Hall

The churches in Broadmayne
invite you to a Christmas Tea
with puzzles, carols and
Christmas songs

If you would like to come to the
party please contact Margaret
Eaglestone on 854229. Lifts can
be arranged

Warm Welcome Wednesdays

If you didn't come before, you missed out on:

Good company, a free hot drink and biscuits

Do come along and encourage your friends and neighbours to join us

WEDNESDAY mornings
Broadmayne Village Hall
10am - 12 noon



BPFA LOTTERY November 2025

£25 A. Cookson	£15 J. Rogerson
£10 T. Street	£5 S. Diamond
£5 Mr R. Hagon	£5 A.L. Taylor
Broadmayne Playing Fields £65	

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COFFEE SHOP 10.30 - 12

in ST MARTIN'S
COMMUNITY HALL

Tuesday 9th December

Come along for coffee, tea and biscuits while enjoying a friendly chat. Put the dates in your diary or on your calendar and pass the message around to friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome so do join us. We look forward to seeing you.

This will be our last coffee shop before Christmas

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7th April 2026

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OWERMOIGNE

Christmas in Owermoigne

As always the village comes to life at Christmas. All welcome to all events.

Thursday 18th December Meet at 6.00pm – Carols at The Cricket Club. Mulled wine & mince pies! In aid of Julia's House.

Saturday 20th December – Carol Service at St Michael's 6.00pm followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Sunday 21st December – Christmas Tea in the Village Hall. 3.00 to 5.00pm £10pp.

Monday 22nd December 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning at Jill's 9 Moreton Rd – get your mistletoe and holly.

December 25th Christmas Day Service at 9.30am.

We wish all a very Happy Christmas

This month Owermoigne Photography Group had a very successful evening photographing water droplets, guided by Andy Jowett.

Our December meeting will be in Dorchester, practising night photography. Contact neillegg1410@gmail.com for more information.

Alex dementia care specialist and ex pre school with an enhanced DBS is in Owermoigne over the winter offering elder care and childcare all hours for those Christmas parties or events where you may need to leave the children or elders at home. £12.50 childcare £17.50 elder care person/hour. 40 years of references many local, fully dependable and trustworthy.

Phone 07445786606 or email tehannamirvin@yahoo.co.uk

10,000 Miles in a Rainbow Skort – Tracey Hannam
Come Walk With Me for an Afternoon of Stories and Spirit!

Owermoigne Village Hall

Saturday 10th January 2026 3pm – 6pm

£5 Entry – Includes coffee & cake

More details in January's Compass

OWERMOIGNE FLOWER CLUB

On Tuesday 9th December (a week earlier than usual due to Christmas), Carrie will show us how to create a modern Christmas hanging, and we'll have time to

socialise with tea and shared plates of food. Visitors are welcome but please contact our secretary to get the requirements. Cost £7.

20th January it's our AGM. This is the time to join the club. Members receive all the benefits of belonging to NAFAS and our active club, including discount vouchers, of the Gardens Group Gold Club and lots of lovely opportunities to show off our skills with flowers. We've been involved in designs at the Salisbury Flower Festival, Moreton Flower Festival, decorated Max Gate for Spring and Autumn, and created decorative designs at the Dorset Arts and Crafts Association fair. Everyone has the opportunity to be involved.

We meet at Owermoigne Village Hall at 2pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. For further information contact Secretary Chris Davies 01305 789939



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CHRISTMAS MENU

STARTER

Baked Camembert (GFOA)
topped with garlic and rosemary butter served with melba toast, red onion and cranberry chutney and a salad garnish

Wild Mushroom and Chicken Liver Pate
freshly baked mini whole grain loaf, spicy tomato chutney, salad garnish

Smoked Salmon and King Prawn Salad (GF)
with a lemon caper dressing, fresh leaf salad, dill hollandaise

Roasted Fig and Poached Pear (GF)
brie, and crispy prosciutto ham topped with cranberry chutney and fresh leaf salad

Honey, Ginger and Sage Roasted Butternut Squash Soup (GFOA)
topped with cream fraiche and crispy sage leaves

MAIN COURSE

Roast Turkey Breast (GFOA)
and our signature pork, sage, cranberry stuffing wrapped in bacon, pig 'n' blanket, and our homemade turkey gravy

Salmon en croute
served with a lobster and cream sauce

6oz Sirloin Steak (GFOA)
and peppercorn sauce with watercress and Yorkshire pudding

Vegan Cranberry Nut Roast

ALL THE ABOVE ARE SERVED WITH ROAST POTATOES AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES

Roasted Cauliflower Steak, (GF)
wild mushroom sauce, crumbled blue cheese, roasted butternut squash puree and watercress

Chargrilled Pork Loin Steak (GF)
smoked red cheddar mashed potatoes, creamy bacon and savoy cabbage

DESSERT

Christmas pudding served with brandy sauce

Chocolate mousse and raspberry pavlova (GF)

Apple and mince pie strudel served with whippy ice cream

Key lime pie, Chantilly cream and candied lime (GF)

Terrys Chocolate orange sundae (GFOA)

Selection of local cheese and biscuits with chutney and grapes (GFOA)

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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Village Hall

This month's main events are:

• **Friday 5 December is Christmas quizzes and pizza night...**

Come along for a fun-filled, festive shindig! And this time, we present a double bubble of seasonal delight with a children's quiz at 6pm followed by the adult quiz at 7.30pm.

Bring along friends and family - everyone is welcome. Doors open at 5.45pm and the children's quiz is free! The adult quiz starts at 7.30pm and you can either come along as a team of four or make up a team on the night. **Booking is essential** - please contact Derek Woodward on 07976 058158. Pay in advance or on the night - only £2.50 per adult, children free.

The Firehouse Pizzeria will be ready to serve delicious pizzas from about 6pm. You can order in advance (see their Facebook page for the menu) or come along and order on the night.

• **Christmas market, Saturday 13 December**

Our monthly market this December is a razzle dazzle affair. The Grand Christmas raffle will have more than 20 super prizes! And we mean incredible prizes - this is the one raffle you don't want to miss. The hall will be dressed for Christmas, and we'll be serving lovely fresh foodstuffs. As usual there will be plants, gift ideas and delicious tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Please come along to support local makers and growers and Owermoigne's village hall.

• **High tea for Christmas, 3pm Sunday 21 December**

Once again, the VH team is delighted to invite you to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea to celebrate Christmas. Join your friends and neighbours for a seasonal feast, with carols and songs to get in the Christmas mood.

Everyone is welcome, so if you haven't come to this event before, don't miss out this year... **Booking is essential** - please contact Derek Woodward on 07976 058158, only £10 per person

And our regular events are:

Village coffee mornings, 9 December

We'll meet on the second Tuesday only this

time, so come along between 10.30am and 12 noon to receive a warm welcome. We'll be offering freshly cooked bacon baps and delicious coffee. We have shelves full of books for you to borrow and you can also get help with any digital issues you may have. We'll be pleased to see you.

Group guitar lessons

Fortnightly on Wednesdays, 7-8pm.

Contact Nick for more info at nickandjudy@hotmail.com

Owermoigne painters

Our friendly painting group meets every Friday 10am-12 noon, except the last in the month and we welcome new members. If you'd like to take up a new hobby, come along to find out more or contact nigel_baker@icloud.com

Short mat bowls

The Short Mat Bowls Club usually meets twice a month, but in December we'll get together on Saturday 6th only, from 10am till 12 noon. Contact Rob Burgess on 07836 386088 if you're interested in learning a new game.

Table tennis every Thursday

Table tennis at 10am. Come along to join in or call Margo on 07887 685199.

Dog Training Club

Peter Gibbins runs a number of classes on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm. Call him to check availability on 01305 602883.

The Village Hall also hosts a wide variety of clubs and societies and everyone is welcome. Please see the separate adverts for **Owermoigne Flower Club**, **Pilates classes** with Deni and **Yoga classes** with Kaly. **Owermoigne Craft Group** is not meeting in December.

You can see event bookings online at <https://owermoignedorset.com/calendar> Contact Margaret Burgess on 01305 854695 to book the hall or send an e-mail to her at crozlemargaret1950@gmail.com

You can find the village Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/owermoigne/>

PILATES CLASSES with *Denise Bowditch* in **Owermoigne Village Hall**
Mondays 11am Multi Level **Tuesdays 6 pm Multi Level**
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Sunday 930-1130am

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7th, 14th & 21st December 2025
Sunday 12-3pm

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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Cricket and Social Club

The **Annual Treasure Hunt** on 12th October saw this year's champions – Karen and Mark Edwards – claiming victory! Huge congratulations to you both! We can't wait to see what adventurous route you dream up for us next year. And of course, a massive thank you to Tony Holmes, whose delicious winter vegetable soup warmed everyone up perfectly after the hunt.

Next up was the **Annual Pumpkin Weigh-In** on 26th October, and what a showdown it was! This year's crown went to Steve Gale, who stunned us all with a colossal 63kg pumpkin – an absolute whopper! Another big thank you to Tony for treating us to fragrant pumpkin curry and sweet pumpkin pie. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised £131 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance!

And then... another smashing **Meat Raffle**! These events just keep getting bigger and better. The atmosphere was buzzing as locals turned out in force, hoping to snag one of the brilliant meat prizes sourced from the fantastic Brace of Butchers in Poundbury.

A huge shout-out to Phil Scull for organising the raffle, and to Henry Love, our local Brace of Butchers hero, who delivered the prizes in full butcher's gear and gave a brilliant, detailed rundown of each cut during the draw. The quality was top-notch, the variety impressive, and the whole evening was filled with fun and a friendly atmosphere.

Thanks to the incredible support from our members, we're thrilled to announce that the Meat Raffle will now be a monthly event! It's a fantastic way to bring people together, champion local producers, and raise vital funds for the Club.

Thanks to the generosity of a few amazing volunteers, the **Club's pool area** has had a fabulous makeover! With fresh decorations and a brand-new floor, it's looking absolutely lovely.

Forthcoming Events:

- **Thursday, 18th December – Carol Service – 6:30pm** – followed by mulled wine and mince pies, and Col's Festive Quiz
- **Friday, 19th December – The Christmas Raffle – from 8pm** – tickets are 50p each and available to purchase in the Club bar
- **Wednesday, 31st December – New Year's Eve Party – Band and Quiz** – free to Club Members and their guests – remember to add your names to the list at the Club bar, as numbers are limited

Please note: No Fish & Chips this month

No Meat Raffle this month

Club opening times during the festive season will be published soon

Keep your eyes peeled for posters and emails with all the event details!

Caroline Holmes, OC&SC Secretary

Owermoigne craft group There will be no craft group in December or January. *Jenny*



Dorchester www.dorset.police.uk
Neighbourhood Policing Team



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101 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

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Watercombe Benefice website
St Martin's Church Facebook page
A Church Near You
Broadmayne Methodist Church

<http://watercombe.org.uk/>
<https://m.facebook.com/StMartinsBroadmayne/>
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>
<https://www.dsw.church/churches/circuit-churches/broadmayne.html>



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Children's page

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks
out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough,
they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



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PUZZLES — 1

PATHFINDER

Beginning from the square in the top right-hand corner, follow a continuous path to give you the words of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer starting with 'HAD A VERY...' (you know all the words, don't you?) The trail passes through each and every letter once, and may twist up, down or sideways, but never diagonally, and should end at the bottom left-hand corner of the grid.

RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER

E	L	S	Y	U	O	Y	T	U	O	Y	H	R	E	S	R	A	D	A	H
I	G	H	M	G	U	O	N	R	N	I	T	L	V	A	E	V	E	R	Y
N	O	T	E	D	I	W	R	B	O	W	T	E	E	W	V	E	U	O	S
I	G	H	T	?	T	T	I	O	S	H	P	Y	N	I	T	Y	O	Y	H
I	H	D	E	V	H	H	G	S	E	P	O	E	H	U	O	W	U	F	I
M	A	S	T	O	E	N	U	D	O	L	O	R	T	L	A	N	D	I	N
S	Y	E	H	L	O	H	R					R	S	D	E	S	O	N	Y
H	O	U	E	R	W	A	Y					U	E	E	N	S	A	Y	I
D	E	T	E	D	T	S	O					D	M	V	E	T	O	E	T
O	U	T	I	N	H	E	T					O	A	N	M	H	T	H	G
T	I	W	E	R	E	M	A					L	P	H	I	E	F	O	L
H	G	L	E	E	R	U	C	R	H	C	N	I	O	J	H	R	L	L	O
U	O	Y	R	D	N	D	A	I	S	Y	I	N	A	N	L	R	A	S	W
L	L	G	E	E	I	O	T	N	T	G	M	A	G	Y	L	E	I	N	D
N	I	O	D	R	E	L	P	A	M	G	E	S	R	R	A	U	A	L	E
H	N	W	O	D	D	E	H	S	A	O	H	T	E	E	C	G	T	O	E
I	S	T	O	E	N	R	T	E	S	F	E	N	E	I	D	H	D	U	R
I	Y	R	S	O	E	H	V	E	E	N	O	D	N	N	A	E	S		

You will have noticed that the trail passes through some shaded squares – these spell out the names of five of the other reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh. These are in anagram form, but they are grouped so that the first letters you pass through are an anagram of one reindeer's name, the next group when unscrambled spell another reindeer's name, and so on. Don't know the names of the other reindeer? Help is available on page 47.

Easy SUDOKU

9			6					
2	7		8					6
	8	6		4	3	1	9	2
	9			1	6	5		
		5				2		
		3	4	5			7	
7	5	9	1	6		4	8	
3				7			2	5
				5				9

Medium SUDOKU

	5					3	7	
			2	7	6			
7					1			
2		3		1				
		7				6		
				3		4		5
			1					9
			5	9	4			
	6	2					1	



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PUZZLES — 2

A Quiz on the year 2025 – David Pickup

We are going with multiple choice questions this year.

1. Ashley, Bert and Conall were:

- (a) Names of storms
- (b) Names of Eurovision entrants
- (c) Names of footballers

2. There was a re-wilding lynx project this year. Was it:

- (a) A new golf course
- (b) Releasing cats in the wild
- (c) Releasing aftershave

3. Palmerston the former resident cat at the Foreign Office was brought out of retirement for a "purr-fect" diplomatic posting to where:

- (a) Belfast
- (b) Bermuda
- (c) Birmingham

4. What is President Trump's favourite word?

- (a) Tariffs
- (b) Musk
- (c) Sorry

5. We celebrated the 200th anniversary of the start of modern railways. The East-West Rail Link is due to be opened next between Oxford, Milton Keynes and eventually Cambridge. What was the nickname of the original line?

- (a) The Varsity Line
- (b) The Farcical Line
- (c) The Gravy Train

6. Donald Trump called King Charles 'a man'

- (a) Young
- (b) Regal
- (c) Beautiful

7. Restaurants in Pozzuoli Italy cooked up a plan to attract customers who are being put off by 1800 land tremors a month. How long did they have to stay?

- (a) Until paid bill
- (b) Until dessert served
- (c) Until coffee served

8. Birmingham experienced 'Binmageddon'. Was it:

- (a) Shortage of bin bags
- (b) Too many bin bags
- (c) Bin collector strike

9. Six women had a space trip which lasted around 11 minutes and took them more than 100km (62 miles) above Earth, crossing the internationally recognised boundary of space and giving them a few moments of weightlessness. What music accompanied them?

- (a) What a Wonderful World.
- (b) Fly me to the Moon
- (c) Up, up and Away?

10. A big hit at the cinema early this year was the film *Conclave*. What colour is the smoke used to signify the election of a new Pope?

- (a) White
- (b) Black
- (c) Grey

11. What was 'DoGE' that Elon Musk was associated with and then left?

- (a) Department of Government Elasticity
- (b) Department of Government Efficiency
- (c) Department of Government Energy

12. Loretta Swit passed away this year. What long running sitcom is she best known for?

- (a) Friends
- (b) Mash
- (c) Frasier

13. UK proposed a wider ban on destructive bottom trawling. Is it:

- (a) Anti-social behaviour
- (b) Long trousers
- (c) A type of fishing

14. Which composer whose centenary was marked this year invented 'furniture music'? He always kept a

hammer in his pocket for fear of muggers and once even founded his own church

- (a) Frank Sinatra
- (b) Jean Sibelius
- (c) Erik Satie

15. What were the 'mushroom murders' in Australia?

- (a) Killing by adding fungi to dinner guests' meals
- (b) Illegally picking mushrooms from fields
- (c) Killing someone in the vegetable aisle at a supermarket

16. Which of the following was not a 'Prom' this year?

- (a) The Shipping forecast prom
- (b) The Traitors prom
- (c) The Grand Prix prom

17. 'Skibidi', 'delulu' and 'tradwife' among words added to Cambridge Dictionary. What does delulu mean?

- (a) French
- (b) Delusional
- (c) Incontinent

18. Heartthrob Terence Stamp passed away this year, which part did he play in the 1960s film of Far from the Madding Crowd?

- (a) Sgt Troy
- (b) Farmer Boldwood
- (c) Gabriel Oak

19. What month does October Beerfest in Germany start?

- (a) October
- (b) September
- (c) November

20. In October a lady in Kew was given a fine of £150 for pouring what down a drain on a road? The council later withdrew the penalty notice.

- (a) Beer
- (b) Oil
- (c) Coffee

Answers to this quiz are on page 43

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

It was....

250 years ago, on *16th December 1775* that novelist Jane Austen was born: over 30 million copies of her books have been sold, 7,000 of them in her lifetime (*see p37*).

175 years ago, on *4th December 1850* that William Sturgeon, physicist, electrical engineer and inventor died. He created the first electromagnets and invented the first British electric motor.

150 years ago, on *6th December 1875* that Evelyn Underhill, writer and pacifist was born: best known for her books on religion and Christian mysticism.

80 years ago, on *27th December 1945* that The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were founded. They had been created at the Bretton Woods Conference in July 1944.

75 years ago, on *25th December 1950* that the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone of British monarchs, was taken from Westminster Abbey by Scottish students (*see p41*).

70 years ago, on *1st December 1955* that African-American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery Alabama: this violated the city's racial segregation laws, and led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott (5th to 20th December 1956) and the birth of the modern American civil rights movement; and on *20th December 1955* that Cardiff was proclaimed the capital city of Wales.

65 years ago, on *9th December 1960* that the first episode of the TV soap *Coronation Street* was broadcast on ITV (*see p39*).

60 years ago, on *22nd December 1965* that Richard Dimbleby, journalist and radio-television broadcaster, died: the BBC's first war correspondent, he was one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history and is father of the TV presenters David Dimbleby and Jonathan Dimbleby.

40 years ago, on *2nd December 1985* that Philip Larkin, poet, librarian and jazz critic died; and on *7th December 1985* that Robert Graves, poet novelist, critic, translator and classical scholar died: best known for *I, Claudius*, and *Goodbye to All That*.

30 years ago, on *22nd December 1995* that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was jailed for six and a half years in Singapore for fraudulent financial dealings which had led to the fall of Barings Bank; and on *8th December 1995* that Head teacher Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death outside his west London school while trying to protect a student who was being assaulted by a gang of youths; and on *15th December 1995* that the European Council announced that the new European currency would be called the Euro; and on *21st December 1995* that the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control. On 26th December Israel also passed dozens of West Bank villages over to the Palestinian authority.

25 years ago, on *13th December 2000*, that George Bush claimed the US presidency, 36 days after the election was held: the results were delayed by disputed votes in Florida.

20 years ago, on *27th December 2000* that British pharmaceutical companies Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham merged, to create the world's largest pharmaceutical company, GlaxoSmithKline.

15 years ago, on *16th December 2010* that Ireland was granted a 67.5 billion Euro bailout from the European Union to rescue its banks and other financial institutions.

10 years ago, on *19th December 2015* that Jimmy Hill, football player, manager and host of the BBC football TV series *Match of the Day* (1973-88) died.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Of all the awkward people in your house or job there is only one whom you can improve very much.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

25th December – Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to come?

Yes indeed! The Old Testament contains many prophecies about a coming Messiah which were fulfilled by Jesus. Here are just some examples:

He would be born of a virgin. Isaiah foresaw: 'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah wrote: 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.' (Micah 5:2)

His lineage would be of the line of David. Jeremiah prophesied: 'The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

He would bring healing. Isaiah looks forward to: 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6) And the Psalms add that He will be the one who 'forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.' (Psalm 103:3)

He would be betrayed. The Psalms prophesy: 'Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.' (Psalm 41:9) Zechariah even prophesies the price of that betrayal: 'So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.' (Zechariah 11:12)

He would be crucified. Psalm 22 foresees the horror of His crucifixion: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.'

He would rise from the dead. Malachi declares: 'But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.' (Malachi 4:2)

Jane Austen – still loved 250 years later – Tim Lenton

It was 250 years ago, on 16th December 1775, that novelist Jane Austen (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*) was born. Over 30 million copies of her books have since been sold – 7,000 in her lifetime.

She was the second daughter and seventh child of the Revd George Austen, rector of the village of Steventon in Hampshire. Two of her brothers became clergymen, two were Admirals in the Royal Navy and the other inherited substantial estates in Kent and Hampshire from a distant cousin. Neither Jane nor her sister Cassandra, with whom she was very close, ever married.

Jane had a sincere Christian faith which deepened as she got older and is reflected in her novels. She had sympathy with hands-on evangelicalism and a desire to abolish the slave trade, which she refers to particularly in *Mansfield Park*.

She lived at Steventon for 25 years and then moved with her parents and sister to Bath, enjoying holidays in the West Country. Her father died in 1805, and they moved to Southampton and then Chawton in Hampshire, less than 20 miles from ►

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

◀ Steventon, where they had a cottage on one of her brother Edward's estates – now a Jane Austen museum. This cottage was where she devoted herself to writing, revising her first three novels and composing another three. But it was here too that she fell ill and died in 1817 – probably from Addison's Disease. She had been published only anonymously in her lifetime, and her style was not immediately appreciated, though its comments on the world of the landed gentry, to which she belonged, quickly became popular – as did her wit, irony and her realistic plots.

She is now more popular than ever, with followers known as Janeites and a flourishing Jane Austen Society with worldwide membership, plus numerous film and TV adaptations of her work.

There are some gaps in her private life, mainly because her sister Cassandra destroyed most of her letters. At the age of 20 she seems to have fallen temporarily for Thomas Lefroy, a neighbour who later became Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, but the relationship never developed. The epitaph by her brother James on her tomb in Winchester Cathedral praises the 'extraordinary endowments of her mind'.

65 years of Coronation Street – Tim Lenton

It was 65 years ago, on 9th December 1960, that the first episode of the TV soap Coronation Street was broadcast on ITV. The programme, then as now, centred on a terraced street in the fictional town of Weatherfield, in Greater Manchester. It was based on Salford, the hometown of the series' creator, Tony Warren – real name Anthony McVay Simpson – an actor and later an acclaimed novelist, who died in 2016. It was said he came up with the idea on a train journey.

The original name for the Granada series was *Florizel Street*, but this was widely criticised, there was much discussion, and eventually the producer Stuart Latham made a unilateral decision in favour of *Coronation Street* – quickly shortened in common parlance to *Corrie*. It was at first broadcast twice weekly, increasing its run time more recently.

The first episode got mixed reviews: the Daily Mirror predicted that it would last only three weeks and said it was doomed from the outset. The 10,000th episode was broadcast in February 2020 and this year it is averaging about four million viewers per episode, despite competition from 'new' soap operas such as Channel 4's *Brookside* (launched in 1982) and the BBC's *EastEnders* (1985).

It seemed that viewers related to the consistent, everyday northern characters and its use of Northern English language and dialect; it was perhaps a refreshing change for them from public school 'received English' to hear terms like 'eh, chuck?' and 'by 'eck!' for the first time on TV – or, for large parts of the country, anywhere.

In 1981 the wedding of Ken Barlow and Deirdre Langton was watched by more than 15 million viewers – more than ITV attracted for the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer two days later. And on 8th December 2000, the Prince (now King Charles III) appeared as himself in a live, hour-long episode celebrating Corrie's 40th anniversary.

Coronation Street attracted quite a lot of criticism in its earlier years for violent storylines and eventually moved into even more controversial areas. It also – perhaps equally controversially – helped to back Government policies with emphasis on social distancing during the Covid epidemic and combined with other similar programmes to promote the topic of climate change before the UN conference in 2021. From 1996 the programme has been sponsored – first by Cadbury's, and later by Harvey's, Compare the Market and, most recently, Argos.



	
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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

The many journeys of the Stone of Scone – Tim Lenton

Some 75 years ago, on 25th December 1950, the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone of British monarchs, was taken from Westminster Abbey in London by four Scottish students as a home rule gesture. They transported it to Scotland but broke it accidentally. It was later left by them in the ruined Arbroath Abbey, repaired and returned to London to be used in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

From 1996 it was kept in Edinburgh Castle, but last year it was moved to a new museum at Perth – two or three miles down the River Tay from Scone Abbey, where it had been used in the crowning of Scottish kings.

The Stone, also known as the Stone of Destiny, is a block of red sandstone that was taken by Edward I “Longshanks” of England in 1296 and used in the crowning of English monarchs since then. It is still used to crown UK kings and queens – most recently King Charles III in May 2023 – but it has returned to Perthshire for the first time in 700 years, and is now freely available to view there. An old symbol of Scottish monarchy, the Stone was first recorded as being used in 1249 for the inauguration of the boy-king, Alexander III. It was taken by the English as war loot – a symbol of Edward’s perceived right to rule.

There are various stories about the origins and history of the Stone. One goes back to biblical times, naming it as the Stone of Jacob, taken by Jacob from Bethel as described in Genesis 28 and then removed to ancient Ireland by the prophet Jeremiah. There are also claims that the Stone at Perth is not the original, and many stories of the intricate measures taken to ensure its safety during the war years.

LIFE IN THE 21st CENTURY

Those Christmas cards...

We send an estimated 900 million to 1 billion Christmas cards in the UK each year. Royal Mail delivers around 150 million. On average, each person in the UK sends and receives about 17 cards.

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Take it easy on country roads

Country roads may look inviting to drive, but the statistics tell a different story. For collisions on rural roads are around four times more likely to result in a fatality.

Such is the finding of the NFU Mutual Rural Road Safety Report 2024. It found that in 2023, an average of one in every 32 collisions on rural highways resulted in a death, compared to one in every 122 on urban roads. Overall, more than 18 people died on rural roads each week in 2023.

So – what is wrong? It seems it is the sheer number of hazards which motorists may face on a rural road. These include blind corners, narrow roads, road quality, poor visibility, cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders, mud and debris, loose livestock, agricultural vehicles, unexpected road or field entrances, impatient drivers, and SatNavs sending people down unsuitable roads.

It all adds up to one simple message: be careful and expect the unexpected on country roads.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



POETRY CORNER

Nigel Beeton writes: *When you are singing 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night' this Christmas, consider the aeronautical and musical display which the angels put on! Even if you're an angel, you don't learn those skills overnight!*

Flying Lessons

The angels that the shepherds saw
Whose singing led them to adore
The new-born Jesus in a stall
At one time could not fly at all!

To hover, singing, o'er a hill
While playing harps – well, that takes skill!
And blowing trumpets as you fly
Without falling from the sky?

So novice angels all must go
And learn the facts that they must know.
Aerodynamics, and such things
Before they even get their wings!

Then they practise flying well
For crashing just might break the spell
The shepherds won't be 'sore afraid'
As laughter drowns the carols played!

It's sad, but some are never meant
For soaring through the firmament.
But they can spend eternal days
Writing hymns of angel-praise!

But some soon grasp the things they're
taught
Becoming singing aeronauts!
Formation flying? Piece of cake!
And what an awesome sight they make!

And, like the angels in the sky
God teaches us both how and why
That we should learn, this
Christmastime
To praise His name in song and rhyme!

(P.S. You have to be an angel to fly.
Don't try this at home!)

ECO TIP OF THE MONTH

Wrap up Christmas! Shiny or glittery wrapping paper and Christmas cards are pretty, but they're not recyclable! Buy recyclable wrapping paper and cards if you can. Save any non-recyclable Christmas cards and cut them up to use as tags for next year.

LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES ANSWERS

5	2	6	1	3	4	9	8	7
1	3	9	7	8	5	6	2	4
4	8	7	6	2	9	1	5	3
7	5	3	2	9	6	8	4	1
9	6	1	4	5	8	3	7	2
8	4	2	3	7	1	5	6	9
3	9	4	5	6	2	7	1	8
2	7	5	8	1	3	4	9	6
6	1	8	9	4	7	2	3	5

Easy

WORD LINKS

SUDDO KU

Medium

M	A	R	B	L	E
G	R	O	U	N	D
C	A	M	E	R	A
R	U	B	B	E	R
B	E	F	O	R	E
C	O	R	N	E	R
I	N	C	O	M	E
C	H	E	E	S	E
F	A	R	M	E	R
B	E	T	T	E	R
M	E	M	B	E	R
H	E	A	L	T	H
B	U	B	B	L	E
S	A	F	E	T	Y
A	N	S	W	E	R
B	R	I	D	G	E

I	T	P	L	E	A	N	A	H	T	A	N	L
S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	A	O	G	O
N	O	A	P	H	H	A	N	L	I	N	R	V
I	D	C	A	E	N	A	R	T	I	M	H	E
A	A	E	T	D	L	R	A	C	E	A	T	S
M	M	A	R	T	P	L	U	S	H	N	H	A
E	U	E	O	U	S	D	S	O	I	A	G	R
R	W	C	N	N	O	I	F	A	I	N	I	T
E	S	R	A	R	A	N	S	J	R	V	E	A
B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	A	P
H	T	N	E	T	C	T	H	T	S	U	S	
P	I	L	G	R	I	M	A	G	E	N	U	V
F	I	F	E	S	S	U	O	I	P	H	N	S

The hidden phrase is REMEMBER
REMEMBER (the fifth of November)

1. (a); 2. (c); 3. (b); 4. (a); 5. (a); 6. (c); 7. (b); 8. (c); 9. (a); 10. (a); 11. (b); 12. (b); 13. (c); 14. (c); 15. (a); 16. (c); 17. (c); 18. (a); 19. (b); 20. (c).

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Every Sunday (and other days)	Church Services	Page 3
Every Monday, 10am	Bumps, Babies & Beyond, St Martin's Comm Hall (not 22nd, 29th)	Page 19
Every Mon, Tue, Wed	Pilates, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Every Mon 11.30/Thu 9.30am	Move It or Lose It, Crossways (Mon)/Broadmayne (Thu)	Page 11
Every Monday 6pm,	Yoga, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Every Wednesday, 10am	Warm Welcome Wednesdays, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Thursday, 10am	Table Tennis, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Every Thursday, 6.30pm	Dog Training Club, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Every Friday, 9.30am	Pilates, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Friday, 10am	Chapel Café, Methodist Church, Broadmayne (not 26th)	Page 21
Every Friday, 10am	Owermoigne Painting Group, Village Hall (not 26th)	Page 25
Every Friday, 7pm	Short Mat Bowls, Broadmayne Village Hall	852285
Every Saturday, 8.30am	Yoga, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 21
Wednesdays Fortnightly, 7pm	Group Guitar Lessons, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Monday 1st, 7.30pm	Broadmayne Parish Council, Methodist Hall	Page 17
Tues 2nd & 16th, 10.30am	Coffee & Company, St Peter's West Knighton	Page 13
Friday 5th, 5.45pm/7.30pm	Christmas Quizzes & Pizza Night, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Saturdays 6th, 13th, Friday 12th	Journey to the Stable, United Church, Dorchester	Page 7
Saturday 6th, 10am	Christmas Fayre, Crossways Youth & Community Centre	Page 11
Saturday 6th, 10am	Short Mat Bowls, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Saturday 6th, 10.30am	Artisan Christmas Market, West Stafford Village Hall	Page 11
Tuesday 9th, 10am	By Still Waters, Broadmayne Methodist Church	Page 7
Tuesday 9th, 10.30am	Coffee Shop, St Martin's Community Hall	Page 21
Tuesday 9th, 10.30am	Owermoigne Village Hall Coffee Mornings	Page 25
Tuesday 9th, 2pm	Owermoigne Flower Club, Village Hall	Page 23
Wednesday 10th, 7.30pm	Knightsford Parish Council, West Stafford Village Hall	Page 13
Thursday 11th, 7pm	Taizé style service, St Peter's West Knighton	Page 7
Thursday 11th, 7pm	Broadmayne & West Knighton WI, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 13
Saturday 13th, 10am	Owermoigne Christmas Market, Village Hall	Page 25
Saturday 13th, 7.15pm	Festive Pub Quiz, New Inn West Knighton	Page 13
Sats 13th, 20th, Sun 14th, Wed 24th	Music at St Peter's Dorchester	Page 7
Monday 15th	January Compass deadline	Page 2
Monday 15th, 3pm	More Senior Christmas Party, St Martin's Community Hall	Page 21
Thursday 18th, 6.30pm	Carols at the Cricket Club, Owermoigne	Page 27
Friday 19th, 8pm	Christmas Raffle, Owermoigne Cricket Club	Page 27
Saturday 20th, 10am	Christmas Family Fun Day, United Church, Dorchester	Page 7
Sunday 21st, 3pm	High Tea for Christmas, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Monday 22nd, 10am	Coffee Morning, 9 Moreton Road, Owermoigne	Page 23
Wednesday 31st	New Year's Eve Party, Owermoigne Cricket Club	Page 27

For your event to be included FREE in WHAT'S ON, email details to the Editor (see Page 2)



Greetings again from St Petrified's

You remember Gregory Voice, the retired BBC producer who used to work on *This is your Life* both as a researcher and as a producer, who came to Rev Keen to investigate the possibility of a *This is your Life* on Rev Algernon Spasm? Rev Keen had said 'yes' to Gregory, who had duly gone away to do his research. Well, he was now back with a draft outline of the show to obtain Rev Keen's opinion. Gregory had already contacted Rev Spasm's sister, Gertrude, and her daughters, and a couple who had been married by Rev Spasm, all of whom agreed to take part. Gregory started his new research in the archives of the Midhampton Chronicle, and came across a curious headline: *Vicar marries daily help*. It turned out that the vicar, Rev Spasm, had conducted the marriage ceremony of the young girl who was his daily help in the vicarage – the ambiguous headline probably being chosen for its impact value rather than providing clarity. Gregory somehow managed to locate this young helper, who said she quite liked the vicar, who treated her much more kindly than other employers had, probably because he quite liked her too, she thought. Her husband-to-be suggested that she asked Rev Spasm if he would agree to conduct their ceremony, which she did, but she said she did not phrase the question well and said something like "Will you marry me?", at which Rev Spasm's eyes had lit up and to his apparent disappointment she had to explain what she should have said. To her embarrassment this tale, possibly slightly embellished, had become established in the family folklore. The lady concerned would be willing to speak at the show. Would this story be suitable? Rev Keen thought that it would.

The Chronicle also provided a headline *Bier at Funeral* which Gregory thought worth following up. Attention-grabbing, especially for those who cannot spell 'beer'! There was an old gentleman in the village who vowed that he was going to have a 'traditional funeral, just like his father and grandfather before him', the Chronical

reported. By which the gentleman meant that he would lie in the front room of his house, in a 'proper coffin' and be transported to the church and his grave draped in the family embroidered cloth, on a bier pulled by members of his family all dressed in mourning clothes. Rev Spasm had said that the church had a bier which had not been used for many years and he would instruct the verger to find it. Unfortunately Rev Spasm did not instruct the verger to clean it. It's amazing how easily accumulated dust can be transferred to black suits. The wheels had not been oiled either, which meant that pushing the Victorian carriage and its passenger needed hefty pushes particularly up even slight inclines. The undertaker (they weren't funeral directors in those days) was concerned that the coffin would be projected from the bier during the journey, as he only had fixings to keep a coffin secure in a hearse and on the aluminium trolley he usually used. A huge sigh of relief from the funeral director accompanied the end of the journey (even though the next stage would be the passage over the uneven grass). How did Gregory find out all this, because not everything was in the Chronicle? Obviously not from the deceased but from the son of the deceased – who is still considering whether to keep the family traditional funeral alive. Have we still got the bier? Must ask Mr McNasty to check in the hidey-holes that only he knows exist.

Gregory had followed Rev Keen's suggestion when they first met to investigate Rev Spasm's army days. Military records were rather more difficult to access, but somehow he managed, and had a number of stories, mostly positive, about Rev Spasm's army days as a chaplain, which he shared with Rev Keen. He had also lined up a number of ex-comrades to say hello (in person or by video link) to Algernon and to speak about his exploits. Rev Keen and Gregory agreed that the show should go ahead and would aim the go public early in the New Year. What to call the presentation – nothing to suggest its true content. How about *Looking back at St Petrified's* or similar? Gregory asked Rev Keen how he thought Algernon would react when it was announced 'Algernon Spasm – This is your Life': would he refuse to take part? Rev Keen thought he had a plan to prevent this, involving copious glasses of Burgundy!

The names of the reindeer that appear in the puzzle are Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donner

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AND FINALLY . . .

The Wrong Gift

A young couple began to assemble a special Christmas gift they had bought for their children. They had bought a kit for a tree house, but it didn't make sense. Then they realised that the materials were for a sailboat, so they emailed the company to complain. The company's reply was brief: "While we regret the inconvenience this mistake must have caused you, we are more concerned about the man who is out on a lake somewhere, trying to sail your tree house."



"I think I've got more spam, my dear – or it's the children playing a trick on me."

True story

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them.

As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"

What Are the Three Gifts?

While participating in a church Christmas pageant many years ago, I was delighted to be chosen as the narrator. Each rehearsal went off well and then on the night of the show, I announced, in a loud and penetrating voice, the gifts of the Magi as being 'gold, Frankenstein and myrrh.'

Who was the Real Virgin?

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible.

Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said very seriously, "No, that's not possible. T-shirts don't rattle."

