



WEST KNIGHTON
St Peter



WARMWELL
Holy Trinity

N

W

WATERCOMBE BENEFICE

E

S



Methodist Church
BROADMAYNE
St Martin





OWERMOIGNE
St Michael



HOLWORTH
St Catherine

COMPASS

The Community Magazine for the Watercombe Benefice

December 2026 **Free**

Priest in Charge – Rev David Johnson
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.

Priest:	Rev Anthony Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH	01305 852242
	email: bushinarcadia@yahoo.co.uk Mobile	07711 794120
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Benefice Treasurer:	Roger Holehouse, Shepherd's Cottage, Whitcombe, DT2 8NY	01305 261337
Benefice Safeguarding Officer:	Vacant	

St. Martin's Church, Broadmayne

Contact:	Tim Clayton, 14 Rectory Close, Broadmayne, DT2 8EQ.	07443 659912
St Martin's Hall Bookings:	Tim Clayton, taclayton14@gmail.com	07443 659912
Donations	Broadmayne PCC 30-92-69 00263394 Lloyds Bank	

St. Peter's Church, West Knighton

Wardens:	Lesley Stubbing	01305 852174
	Dorothy Emery, 2 Gabriel Cottages, West Knighton, DT2 8PE	01305 854795
Donations	St Peters Church West Knighton PCC 40-52-40 00006676 Charities Aid Foundation Bank	

St. Michael's Church, Owermoigne

Warden:	Philippa Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH	01305 852242
Donations	PCC Owermoigne 30-92-69 00265516 Lloyds Bank	

Holy Trinity Church, Warmwell

Warden:	Mr Sam Ross Skinner, Warmwell House, Warmwell, DT2 8HQ	01305 854545
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St. Catherine by the Sea, Holworth

Warden:	Philippa Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH	01305 852242
Donations	St Catherines-by-the-sea church council 40-19-21 20724874 HSBC	

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*Items for the **January Compass** must reach the editor by **15th December***

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

Broadmayne, Holworth, Owermoigne, Warmwell and West Knighton

What's On in December 2026
Church Services and other events

Sunday 6th 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 10th December

7.00pm	Taizé-style Service	St Peter, West Knighton

Sunday 13th December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter, West Knighton
11.00am	Holy Communion with Carols	Holy Trinity, Warmwell
11.00am	Morning Worship	Broadmayne Methodist Church

Monday 14th December

3.00pm	More Senior Christmas Party	Broadmayne Community Hall

Wednesday 16th December

6.00pm	Carol Service	St Peter, West Knighton

Thursday 17th December

6.00pm	Carols at the Cricket Club	Owermoigne Cricket Club
6.15pm	Carols around West Knighton	Please meet in Glebe Way, finish at the New Inn at 7.00pm

Friday 18th 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 19th December

6.00pm	Carol Service	St Michael, Owermoigne

Sunday 20th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Michael, Owermoigne
11.00am	Holy Communion	St Martin, Broadmayne
4.00pm	Café-style Carols at 4	Broadmayne Methodist Church

Tuesday 22nd December

4.00pm	Carol Service	St Catherine, Holworth

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.00pm	The First Christmas – Children, come and help us tell the story!	St Martin, Broadmayne
6.00pm	Joint Anglican-Methodist Carol Service	St Martin, Broadmayne

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

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

Sunday 27th December – First Sunday of Christmas

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP-no hymns)	St Martin, Broadmayne

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FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

Our approach to Christmas in the world today can feel like a steep uphill climb followed by a sudden drop. We spend weeks shopping, cooking, preparing, wrapping and rushing towards December 25th, only to tidy away the decorations on Boxing Day and get back to our normal routines.

Yet, the traditional Christian calendar offers a different pattern: the four weeks of Advent are a time for spiritual preparation and thinking about all those who prepared the way for Jesus's birth. And the twelve days of Christmas do not end on December 25th – they begin there.

Spanning from Christmas Day through to the Eve of Epiphany on January 5th, these twelve days extended the celebrations; they invite us to slow down and actually enter into the meaning and the mystery of God coming to be with us through the person of Jesus.

Before we celebrate the arrival of the magi (wise men) at Epiphany there are also many important days in the Christian calendar – St Stephen, St John, and also the Holy Innocents – which remind us that the light of God enters a world of human struggle and sacrifice as well as a world open to love and grace.

I confess that I become confused in the order of the carol after 'five gold rings' but remembering that we celebrate twelve days of Christmas can be an act of gentle rebellion. It gives us time to allow the meaning of Christmas to make a connection with our lives; it invites us to rest and enjoy the company of family and friends beyond a single afternoon; and to realise that the great joy and peace and hope of Christmas is a gift that we unwrap and value beyond December 25th.

Christ is not just for Christmas; he is not just a visitor who departs once the wrapping paper is consigned to the recycling bin.

Christ is a gift to the world and to our lives whose message we can take time to read and think about throughout the year ahead; that is the Christian story you are warmly invited to share with us week by week in all of our churches. As the song by Slade reminds us, at Christmas the story has only just begun.

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas and throughout 2027.

David

BENEFICE REGISTERS
Funeral

24th October **Shiela & Alan Simmons** Burial of ashes at Warmwell
18th November **Dudley James "Jim" Prowse** Funeral at St Peter's West Knighton followed by Cremation at Weymouth

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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At United Church, South Street, Dorchester

Journey to the stable...



...is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. It is an opportunity for Adults and Children to reflect, respond and take something away with them.

It will be Open on Saturday 5th, Thursday 10th & Saturday 12th December from 11-2pm & Friday 11th December from 11-1.30pm. Please use South Street Entrance

Pop in anytime during the above times, average journey takes 20-30 minutes.

Methodist & Joint Services	**Sunday 6th December**	11am – Rev Jane Wilson
	Sunday 13th December	11am – Tony Boyden: Holy Communion
	Sunday 20th December	*4pm – Peter Jenner: Café-style Carols at 4*
	Thursday 24th December	*6pm – Joint Carol Service at St Martin's*
	Friday 25th December	*11am – Joint Christmas Day Service at St Peter's*
	Sunday 27th December	No service

Dorchester Poverty Action
Reg Ch No 1198452



This winter



both young & old will feel the cold

Please help Dorchester Poverty Action to give grants to local people to be able to heat their homes this winter

We distribute grants in the **DT1 and DT2** areas to those in financial need through referral from a professional

If Wenceslas looked out today, he would donate to DPA. *Thank you*

Donate through our website: www.dorchesterpovertyaction.org.uk or contact info@dorchesterpovertyaction.org.uk or **send a cheque** to Dorchester Poverty Action, c/o United Church Dorchester 49-51 Charles Street Dorchester DT1 1EE

Taizé style service
Thursday 10th December 7pm
St Peter's Church West Knighton
Coming in the name of the Lord
A time of reflection using Taizé chant, readings and stillness All welcome

By Still Waters
Broadmayne Methodist Church
Tuesday 8th December, 10am
(and every 2nd Tuesday of the month)
Reflective prayer and sharing

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COMMUNITY

Music during December at St Peter's Church, Dorchester

All services are free to attend, and all are welcome. Some have refreshments afterwards.

Saturday 12th December, 5.30pm: We begin the countdown to Christmas with a performance of Handel's 'Messiah', given by the singers and instrumentalists of Music at St Peter's with members of University Music Chamber Choir. The performance will last for around 90 minutes and is presented without interval. Tickets are priced £15 and can be booked online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-peters-church-dorchester We strongly advise booking as soon as possible, if you haven't already, as sales are progressing quickly!

Sunday 13th December 10.30am: Cathedral-style service of Choral Eucharist. The music includes Goldschmidt's 'A tender shoot', Lennox Berkeley's 'Missa brevis' and Philip Stopford's 'There is no rose'.

Saturday 19th December, 4.30pm: Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. As always, you can expect a very traditional carol service with rousing congregational carols, descants, familiar readings, gorgeous choral settings and all the trimmings!

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December, 11.30pm: Choral Midnight Mass. The music includes Sally Beamish's exquisite 'In the stillness', Haydn's 'Missa Sancti Nicolai' and the nation's favourite carol: Adolphe Adam's 'O Holy night'. Come and join us as we sing in Christmas Day!

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

News from Crossways Youth & Community Centre

Youth Club *The Halloween afternoon held by the leaders and young people raised £116, so thank you to those who supported this event. The Club's last session for 2026 will be on Friday, 18th December, returning on 8th January 2027. It is also now open to Years 6 to 9.*

Christmas Fayre ***Saturday, 5th December 2026 from 10am to 1pm*** *– a mix of gifts, crafts, cakes, tombola and café full of munchies and refreshments! To book a slot, please contact bookings@crosswaysycc.org*

Survey *We are looking at providing some different activities in 2027 and would welcome your views on these:*

- *Games Afternoon – board games and a brew for £1. YES/NO/MAYBE*
- *Repair Shop Morning or Afternoon – if the appropriate specialist can be found to work on items! YES/NO/MAYBE*
- *Community Cinema – there would be an annual cost of £10 per person, plus £5 per viewing. YES/NO/MAYBE*
- *Any other suggestions?*

Please return your views by 1st January 2027 to secretary@crosswaysycc.org

Ian Lambert *We were very sorry to hear of the recent passing of Ian, the former Treasurer and Trustee since its formation in 2016. He was totally committed to the centre, along with his late partner Marilyn Cheffey. We send our thanks and thoughts to his family and friends at this sad time.*

ECO TIP OF THE MONTH

Rethink your wrapping paper and cards

This Christmas, opt for recyclable wrapping paper and recyclable Christmas cards. This means avoiding any paper or card that has glitter, foil and glossy coatings, which can't be processed. Even better, try alternatives like plain white or brown wrapping paper which you can decorate with cuttings from old Christmas cards – but not ones with glitter etc! Or skip single-use paper entirely by wrapping your gifts in reusable boxes or bags, but don't write 'to' or 'from' on them, or they can't be reused!

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

A Busy and Memorable End to the Year at St Mary's

As we approach Christmas, it is hard to believe just how much has been packed into the opening term of the school year at St Mary's. From residential adventures and moments of reflection to remarkable fundraising, it has certainly been an action-packed few months.





Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a fantastic four-day residential visit to New Barn Field Centre, set in the beautiful countryside above Bradford Peverell. The children threw themselves into an incredible range of activities, including orienteering, shelter building, clay work and learning about the history and geography of the local area. They also stepped back in time through an array of hands-on historical experiences, including making fire, churning butter, grinding wheat into flour, examining Viking tools and artefacts and even making Viking-style healing cream. Meeting New Barn's collection of animals, from tortoises to turkeys, was another highlight. It was wonderful to see the children growing in confidence and independence, overcoming any initial homesickness and making memories with their friends that will last for many years.





November also brought one of the most important moments in our school calendar. On the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the whole school came together for our Armistice Day service. As a Church of England school at the heart of its community, remembrance has a special significance for us. In particular, we remembered the 28 young men from Puddletown parish who gave their lives in war. Every child made a poppy carrying their own thoughts and reflections. These were placed around the school flagpole, creating a striking sea of remembrance red at the front of the school and providing a powerful reminder of the importance of gratitude, peace and remembrance.





The generosity of the St Mary's community has also shone through once again in our annual Wear It Pink campaign for Breast Cancer Now. This year we raised an incredible £2,135, taking the amount raised by the school since we began supporting the charity in 2015 to more than £20,000. Pupils and staff embraced everything pink, with doughnuts, glitter tattoos and pupil-made merchandise adding to the fun. Our 5p Challenge proved particularly popular, raising an amazing £830.05 on its own. The winning Year 7 tutor group collected an impressive £183.90. We are enormously grateful to our pupils, families and staff for their enthusiasm and generosity.

As one year draws to a close, we are also looking ahead. Families considering St Mary's for their child are warmly invited to our next Open Morning on Thursday 14 January at 9.30am. Places can be booked by contacting the school office by telephone or email (details below).

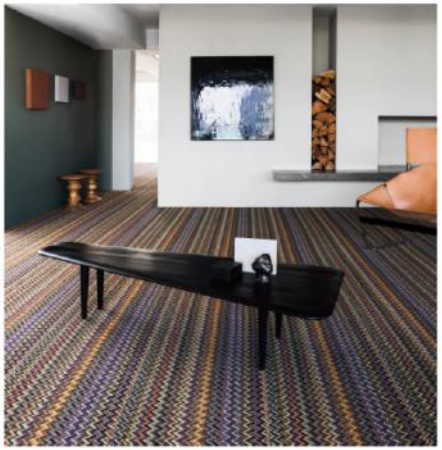
Finally, on behalf of everyone at St Mary's, I would like to thank our families, friends and the wider community for the tremendous support you continue to give our school.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas when it arrives, and look forward to everything that 2027 will bring.

e-mail: office@stmarys.wessex.ac website: www.stmarys.wessex.ac
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Dr Tim Ennion (Head of School)



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Artsreach - West Stafford Village Hall **Friday 4th December 2026 - 7.30pm**
Team Viking — James Rowland

Fifteen years ago, James's best friend Tom was diagnosed with heart cancer and given three months to live. His last wish was to be given a full Viking burial. Team Viking is the remarkable, hilarious and heart-lifting story of how James actually gave his best mate the send-off he wanted.

Blending storytelling, music, comedy and even an actual Viking helmet, Team Viking is a comic ode to death, friendship and the absurdity of life. Now this modern classic returns for its 10th anniversary tour, as funny, raw and joyous as ever.

Tickets are Adult £13, U18 £6 from:
jacquie.walton@outlook.com / 07968 633834 or www.artsreach.co.uk

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING WEST STAFFORD VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER - 10am-1pm

We welcome you all to enjoy a little festive joy, with a Christmas themed coffee morning with stalls to enjoy starting your Christmas shopping: these include local artist prints from Nick Dale and Derwen Farm Organic produce, eggs and fleeces.
Free entry and parking

Crossways Library — **Opening Hours**

Monday:	2:30pm to 5pm (supported by volunteers)
Tuesday:	10am to Midday (supported by volunteers) and 2pm to 5pm
Wednesday:	10am to 1pm and 2:30pm to 5pm (supported by volunteers)
Thursday:	10am to 1pm
Friday:	Midday to 6pm
Saturday:	10am to 1pm
Sunday:	Closed



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BROADMAYNE, BUMPS, BABIES AND BEYOND!

As you read this we will be approaching the end of term and looking forward to Christmas with all the busyness and excitement that it brings.

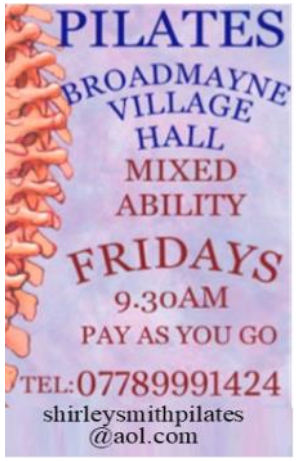
Our last session will take place on Monday 14th December. We shall meet at the usual time of 10am but finish later (by 12.45) after taking part in a shared lunch.

If you are at home on Christmas Eve we would love you to join us for a service at 3pm in St. Martin's Church. 'Come and help us tell the story of the first Christmas' is designed especially for families and young children. Children can dress up and help to act out the Christmas story. There will be props to use or come ready prepared! We hope to see some of you plus older brothers and sisters.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the start of the **Spring Term on Monday 4th January**.

Carol 854385, Pam 852648, Leri 07879 405698





BPFA LOTTERY
November 2026

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£15	T. Gordon
£10	N. Clarke
£5	J. Hobbs
£5	R. Smith
£5	S. Langford

Broadmayne Playing Fields £65

Knightsford Parish Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 9th December, 7.30pm, West Stafford V Hall

Wednesday 13th January, 7.30pm, The New Inn Skittle Alley, West Knighton

Coffee & Company
at St Peter's Church
West Knighton

10.30-11.30am
Tuesdays 1st & 15th December
Do join us, everyone is welcome

Broadmayne and West Knighton Women's Institute

Thursday, 10th December, at 7p.m. Broadmayne Village Hall

It's Party Time…
Celebrating with Grace Lovelass

Ladies interested in the WI please come along and meet us or for more information email: bandwkwi@gmail.com

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Christmas Party!
All 'more senior' members of our community are invited!
Monday 14th 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

BROADMAYNE METHODIST CHURCH and ST MARTIN'S
invite you to
CAROLS at 4
Café Style
Sunday 20th December 4.00pm
at the Methodist Church
Led by Peter Jenner
Food and drink from 3.45 and during the service

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 FREE Mince Pies during December
CLOSED Christmas Day & New Year's Day. Back on 8th Jan

COFFEE SHOP in ST MARTIN'S COMMUNITY HALL
10.30 - 12 Tuesdays 8th & 22nd 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.

BROADMAYNE WEATHER REPORT FOR October 2026 by Ted Byrne

From the weather station situated at 23 Watergates Lane

The weather in October did at last start to feel autumnal and therefore unsettled. We had some much-needed rain and some fairly low temperatures, though we also enjoyed some warm sunny days, with a maximum temperature of 22.5°C on the 4th. In the first half of the month there were 5 days on which temperatures exceeded 20°C. The minimum temperature was 5.1° on the 18th.

The first named storm of the season, Storm Austen, arrived on the 22nd closely followed by followed by Storm Boelo, and they brought us over 100mm of rain in the space of about a week. Total rainfall for the month was 161mm with a hefty 35mm of that falling on the 24th. October turned out to produce the most days of rain, sixteen days, and the most total rainfall of any month since February. Despite that, because aquifers and reservoirs a still pretty depleted, we are still officially suffering from drought and subject to a hosepipe ban.

Maximum temperature: 22.5°C on the 4th	Minimum temperature: 5.1°C on the 18th
Wettest day: 35mm on the 24th	Days with rainfall (0.5mm or more): 16
Total rainfall for the month: 161mm	Total rainfall for the year: 842mm

More details are available in real time on www.watergatesweather.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

Broadmayne matters: November's parish council round-up

On our roads and footpaths (i) Overgrown hedging is narrowing footpath S9/2 between Knighton Lane and the rear of St Martin's Church. A resident also highlighted difficulties on footpath S9/3 behind the Knighton Lane gardens, where ploughing has reached the field edge. The Clerk has raised both concerns with Dorset Council's Rights of Way Team. (ii) Missing white road markings and yellow parking restriction lines on roads resurfaced this summer are scheduled to be reinstated during the week beginning 16 November, weather permitting. (iii) Dorset Council is also considering signage where bridleway S9/10 meets the adopted part of Osmington Drove, clarifying its status and the restrictions on motor vehicles.

Getting ready for winter (i) Could a simple local guide help residents prepare for power cuts, flooding or online system failures? Following a resident's suggestion, the Council will explore emergency contacts and support, alongside questions about vulnerable residents. (ii) Cllr Macer-Wright urged everyone to watch for blocked drains and gullies. Residents can report problems through Dorset Council's road and pavement reporting portal, also linked from the Parish Council website's "reporting problems" page.

Planning and protecting trees (i) The Council made no comment on application P/FUL/2026/05645 for a seasonal campsite at Chalk Meadow, Chalky Road: up to 25 tent and campervan pitches, operating from 1 April to 31 October each year. (ii) Members supported provisional Tree Preservation Order TPO/2026/0056 at 8 Chalky Road. It covers two beech trees, a copper beech and a sycamore on the southern boundary. Dorset Council's Tree Officer highlighted their contribution to the site's character and concerns about proposed homes being close to mature trees under application P/FUL/2026/04666. (iii) Dorset Council Leader Cllr Nick Ireland reported that the DC Planning Enforcement Team was looking into changes on land beside Knighton Lane. He also noted changes in Dorset Council's approach to its Local Plan, whose scoping consultation had just closed.

Village life and local support (i) The Playing Field Association AGM takes place on 19 November 2026. Cllr Ellis reminded members that only three years remain on the current 60-year lease on the playing field. (ii) At the Village Hall, three new Velux windows and blinds have been fitted following water ingress. Work continues on upgrading the heating to make better use of the solar panels, and finances remain healthy, with operating income above routine expenditure. The next meeting is on 6 January 2027 and the AGM on 14 April. (iii) Two allotment holders plan to give up their plots: one will not renew for 2027, while another wants to relinquish one of their two plots sooner. An offer to the next person waiting was declined after a visit, and that person left the list. Six people now remain actively waiting; there were no new joiners to the waiting list this month. (ii) Members approved grants of £125 for Broadmayne Methodist Church & St Martin's from the Patients Support Group Legacy, and £100 for Dorset Reading Partners.

Safety and village upkeep (i) Community Speedwatch observed 1,900 vehicle journeys across four sessions. Fifty-nine vehicles were speeding, with the highest recorded speed reaching 44mph. (ii) The Police Community Support Officer reported one incident: a possible scam involving someone claiming to represent Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. Police advised the resident to check with their bank and report back if a scam had occurred. (iii) The Clerk and councillors met the grounds maintenance contractor on 27 October to review their performance against the scheduled of visits. Improving communication between the contractor and the council was a priority, so that the Council receives timely, reliable information about schedule changes and how monthly requirements will be met.

Better connections (i) A talk by Cllr James Allan of Winfrith Newburgh and E Knighton Parish Council about collaboration on improved bus links to Dorchester was postponed until the next meeting. Meanwhile, Cllr Ireland outlined Dorset Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan, part of its wider Local Transport Delivery Plan and investment programme running to 2029/30. He suggested Osmington and Crossways might wish to join this initiative. (ii) Cllr Evans also reported from a local Community Conversation event he had attended. The discussion had covered devolving assets and services, planning enforcement, the Dorset Local Plan, support for flood-prone areas and closer working with parish councils. Better public transport is another recurring concern at these events.

Come along in December The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 7 December 2026 at the Methodist Church Hall, unless otherwise advised. All residents are welcome to attend and speak during public participation. November's meeting closed at 9.18pm, with thanks to everyone who attended.

Did you know? Clubs, societies, charities, schools, churches and other non-profit-making organisations advertise for FREE in COMPASS. Email the editor with your ad for the activity, event, meeting, etc. The deadline for a given month is the 15th of the preceding month.

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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Church's Painting

HAVE YOU SEEN IT, IF NOT, YOU REALLY SHOULD..... WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT?

Well we are not really sure but it was found rolled up in the kitchen of Vinney cottage, one of the cottages opposite the church, and has hung on the church wall for at least 60 years. It is a painting of the Adoration of the Magi, an 1880s 26inch painting by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris as a draft for a 12ftx8ft tapestry for Exeter College. William Morris is known to have been a frequent visitor to Owermoigne



The Adoration, as the tapestry is often called, was modified by William Morris before being made in his factory during the early 1900s. In all 9 such tapestries are thought to have been made. These are in various cathedrals and other similar places. One of these tapestries has recently been rehoused at a cost of £50k.

Our painting has suffered from being unprotected on the church wall. It has been cleaned at a cost of almost £5k.

It has all of the final additions made by William Morris and at 6ftx4ft is a ¾ copy of the Adoration. It is painted on expensive tapestry material, WHY if not to act as a means of establishing the material, particularly silk, needed to make the actual full tapestry. No evidence has been found but is it a cartoon painted by William Morris or his school?

It will cost about £5k to provide permanent protection. If you feel able to help please send a donation to PCC Owermoigne 30-92-69 a/c 00265516 ref "painting".
Or leave donations in church, ref "painting"
Questions etc to Warren Blacknell 07749997008

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Owermoigne Photography Group

We meet on the second Monday of every month in the village hall from 7pm.

In December we are having a practical evening, doing table top photography. Bring a camera/phone if you'd like to have a go.

In January we will be hearing from Phil Mann about his life as a photographer and viewing some of his work.

Our year-long project to record the life of the village continues into the new year and we'd love to hear from individuals who would like to be included, especially those with interesting jobs, pastimes or just well known characters! Contact Ross MacGibbon at rossamacgibbon@gmail.com to arrange.

PILATES CLASSES with *Denise Bowditch* **in Owermoigne Village Hall**
Mondays 11am Multi Level **Tuesdays 6 pm Multi Level**
Wednesdays 10am Beginners/No Rush, no pressure
Mondays 9am on Zoom Virtual Pilates
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Owermoigne Village Hall — December

Our main events are:

- **Film Afternoon Tuesday 15th December**

Doors open from 2pm, show from 2:30 pm. Tea, coffee and mince pies for sale. Details on notice board

- **Village Christmas Market, Saturday 12th December**

Visit our monthly market for fresh foodstuffs, plants, gift ideas and delicious tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Please come along to support local makers and growers and Owermoigne's wonderful village hall.

- **Christmas Afternoon Tea, Sunday 20th December 2:30 - 5 pm**

£10 per person, booking is essential - message Derek 07976058158

Our regular events are:

Village coffee mornings, 8th and 22nd December
In December we meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays so come along between 10.30am and 12 noon to receive a warm welcome. 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
Wednesdays 7-8pm. Contact Nick for more info at nickandjudy@hotmail.com

Owermoigne painters
Our friendly painting group welcomes new members. We meet on Friday 10am-12 noon, except the last Friday of the month. Contact nigel_baker@icloud.com

Short mat bowls
The Short Mat Bowls Club usually meets on the first and third Saturdays from 10am till 12 noon. We welcome new members so 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 Jill on 01305 354467.

Dog Training Club
Peter Gibbins runs a number of classes on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm. Call him to check availability on 07767 147248.

The Village Hall also hosts a wide variety of clubs and societies and everyone is welcome. Please see the separate adverts for **Owermoigne Photography Group, Owermoigne Flower Club, Pilates classes** with Deni and **Yoga classes** with Kaly.

You can see event bookings online at https://owermoignedorset.com/calendar

Contact Margaret Burgess on 07909 718569 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/

Christmas in Owermoigne

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

Thursday 17th December Meet at 6.00pm Carols at The Cricket Club. Mulled Wine & mince pies! In aid of Julia's House

Saturday 19th December 6.00pm Carol Service at St Michael's followed by Mulled Wine & mince pies.

Monday 21st December 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning at Jills' 9 Moreton Rd: get your mistletoe and holly.

December 25th Christmas Day Service at 9.30am There will be a prayer box located in the church porch for notes and messages for anyone who needs our prayers.

We wish all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Christmas Church Flowers

We are having dedicated windows in Owermoigne church again for Christmas and the carol service. The cost is still £30 and if you would like a window in memory of a lost loved one please let myself or Jill Lawton know.

Contact details Jenny Blacknell on 07922 455386, or 01305 852909 or email jennyblacknell@hotmail.co.uk ; or Jill on 01305 854457.

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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Cricket and Social Club

Christmas is coming to the Club!

Christmas is fast approaching, and we've got some fantastic festive events lined up at the Club. So dig out those Christmas jumpers, warm up your singing voices and get ready for some festive fun!

Friday 4th December – Christmas Meat Raffle

We're kicking off the festivities with our Christmas Meat Raffle, with some lovely prizes up for grabs! Tickets are £1 each or 6 for £5, available to purchase now at the Club.

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Carols, Fish & Chips and Festive Quiz!

It's going to be a busy and thoroughly festive evening, with something for everyone!

5.30pm – Fish & Chips – We're starting a little earlier than usual with delicious fish and chips from Dorchester's Case & Brewer. Pre-orders by Sunday, 13th December.

6.00pm – Gather for Christmas Carols Join us for a drink (or two!) to wet your whistle before our much-loved annual Christmas Carol Singing gets underway at 6.30pm. There'll be mince pies and mulled wine to keep everyone in the Christmas spirit, with collection proceeds going to support the wonderful work of Julia's House.

After the Carols – Col's Christmas Quiz Once we've finished exercising our vocal cords, it's time for our usual monthly quiz – but with a festive twist! Christmas-themed questions £1 per person (please bring cash!) Teams of up to 4 A jackpot prize worth competing for! Whether you're a Christmas trivia expert or just fancy a laugh, come along and join the fun!

Friday 18th December – Club Christmas Raffle Our Christmas Raffle takes place at 8.00pm, with some fantastic prizes waiting to be won! Squares are on sale NOW at the Club bar for just 50p each, and you can pay by cash or card. Get yours before they're gone!

Christmas at the Club is all about bringing everyone together, enjoying good company and sharing a few laughs. We look forward to seeing members, friends and families joining us for some festive cheer.

Club opening times for the festive period are:

Thursday, 24th December – 4 to 10pm
Christmas Day – 11:30am to 2pm
Boxing Day – 11:30am to 2pm
Sunday, 27th December – 12 to 3pm
Thursday, 31st December – 4pm to 1am

Merry Christmas from everyone at Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club!

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

Caroline Holmes, OC&SC Secretary

OWERMOIGNE FLOWER CLUB

Our October meeting making dragonflies and swallows with Nicky Heale was enjoyed by us all. Nicky makes it look so easy, more of a challenge for our members but good fun and everyone went home with a swallow of some variety.

Please note our meeting in December is a week earlier than usual on Tuesday 8th December when members will be showing their skills at a low-key competition of Christmas designs. Whilst judging takes place members will have social time, and our judge will also give us a verbal critique of designs which is always so helpful and appreciated.

We have a great programme of demonstrations, talks and workshops planned for 2027. Members' subscriptions will be due in January, and this is the perfect time to come and join us.

Visitors are always welcome.

For information, please contact Sue Legg 07775741439 or you can email: owermoigneflowerc@gmail.com



PUZZLES — 1

PATHFINDER

Beginning from the arrow on the left hand side of the grid, follow a continuous path to give you the words of White Christmas (you know all the words, don't you? Try singing it as you go along). The trail passes through each and every letter once, and may twist up, down or sideways, but never diagonally, and should end in the centre of the grid.

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

WORDSEARCH

The much-**loved carol**, **Silent Night**, comes from **Austria**, where it was **first sung** as ***Stille Nacht****, heilige Nacht* on **Christmas Eve**, 1818. It was written by **Father Joseph Mohr**, a **young priest** at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a **melody** for his carol. Gruber was **organist** in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On **Christmas Eve** they presented the carol to the church during the **midnight mass**. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the **version** sung by Bing Crosby is the **third**-best -selling **single** of all time.

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

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PUZZLES — 2

Easy SUDOKU

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

Medium SUDOKU

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

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

Easy SUDOKU

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

Medium SUDOKU

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

WORD LINKS

The hidden phrase is THE HARDY MONUMENT

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

WORDSEARCH

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

ALL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

It was....

175 years ago, on *2nd December 1851* that the President of France, Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte staged a coup and had himself crowned Emperor Napoleon III *(see p35);* and on *19th December 1851* that J M W Turner, the Romantic artist, died *(see p37)*.

125 years ago, on *5th December 1901* that Walt Disney, American animator and film and TV producer, was born: he co-founded with his brother the Walt Disney Corporation, and was creator of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck and Disneyland; and on *10th December 1901* that the first Nobel Prize ceremony was held, in Stockholm: prizes were awarded for notable achievements in chemistry, literature, peace, medicine, and physics; and on *12th December 1901* that the first radio transmission was sent across the Atlantic Ocean: Italian physicist Guglielmo Marconi transmitted the letter 's' in Morse code from Cornwall to Newfoundland; and on *27th December 1901* that Marlene Dietrich, German-born American stage and film ▶

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◀star, was born: she is considered one of the greatest Hollywood actresses of all time.

100 years ago, on *5th December 1926* that Claude Monet, the French artist, died: he had led the Impressionist Movement.

90 years ago, on *11th December 1936* that King Edward VIII abdicated *(see p33)*.

80 years ago, on *2nd December 1946* that Gianni Versace, Italian fashion designer, was born, famous for his bold, provocative and opulent style: he was shot dead by American spree killer Andrew Cunanan in 1997; and on *11th December 1946* that UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was established in New York.

75 years ago, on *31st December 1951* that the Marshall Plan ended: it was set up by the USA after WWII to help rebuild Europe and distributed $13billion in foreign aid.

70 years ago, on *17th December 1956* (until May 1957) that during the Suez Crisis, Britain introduced petrol rationing: motorists were limited to 200 miles a month.

65 years ago, on *4th December 1961* that birth control pills became available on the NHS; and on 11th December 1961 that the USA sent its first direct military support to Saigon in Vietnam, with 32 US army helicopters and 400 troops; and on *31st December 1961* that the Beach Boys played their first live performance.

60 years ago, on *16th December 1966* that foreign language versions of Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book* were published *(see p35)*; and on *27th December 1966* that the largest known cave shaft in the world, the Cave of Swallows, was discovered in Aquismon, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

50 years ago, on *4th December 1976* that Benjamin Britten, composer, conductor and pianist, died: one of the leading British composers of the 20th century, noted for *Peter Grimes*, *War Requiem*, and *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*; and on 8th December 1976 that *Hotel California* by The Eagles, was released *(see p37)*.

40 years ago, on *1st December 1986* that the Musee d'Orsay opened in Paris: it is one of the largest art museums in Europe, is housed in the former Gare d'Orsay railway station, and displays French art dating from 1848 to 1914; and on *30th December 1986* that the British government announced that the use of canaries in coal mines was to be phased out, in favour of hand-held electronic gas detectors: British mines were still using around 200 canaries at the time.

30 years ago, on *4th December 1996* that NASA launched its Mars Pathfinder spacecraft: it landed on Mars on 4th July 1997 and released Sojourner, the first successful rover to operate on a different planet; and on *10th December 1996* that the president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, signed a new constitution, completing the transition from white minority rule to full democracy.

25 years ago, on *2nd December 2001* that Enron, the world's largest energy corporation, collapsed, sparking one of the biggest corporate accounting scandals in US history; and on *13th December 2001* that the Pentagon released a videotape of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in which he stated that the deaths and destruction achieved by the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the USA had exceeded his most optimistic expectations; and on *22nd December 2001* that British terrorist Richard Reid, the 'shoe bomber', attempted to blow up a transatlantic flight from Paris to Miami, using explosives hidden in his shoes: he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

20 years ago, on *10th December 2006* that Augusto Pinochet, president/dictator of Chile, died: his regime had killed an estimated 3,000 people; and on *30th December 2006*, that Saddam Hussein president/dictator of Iraq, died by execution: his regime had killed hundreds of thousands of people.

10 years ago, on *8th December 2016* that John Glenn, American astronaut and politician, died: he was the first American to orbit the earth, and the third in space.



MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Well, it wouldn't be Christmas without… – *Rev Roy Shaw*

Sleighbells, mince pies, holly; a wreath on the front door; extra booze and then extra booze again, a big tin of chocolates; the children's nativity at primary school that makes me all dewy-eyed, the party at work where Jo gets sloshed every year, Secret Santa – it's gone up to £8 this year!; a trip to see the reindeer.

Then there's Auntie Maureen's homemade chutney/parkin/bramble wine (delete as appropriate); presents under the tree all fingered before the day; Christmas sweaters to look ridiculous in, red poinsettias, Stilton cheese; a pantomime; *The Snowman* on TV (again), reindeer-antler head-dresses; turkey, crackers with their silly hats and worse jokes.

Then there's children writing to Santa Claus with their wish lists; mistletoe; Christmas cards sent and received, Christmas pudding, old films on TV; chestnut stuffing balls, pigs in blankets; red Santa hats with white fur edging; stollen, brussels sprouts, brandy butter, bread sauce; the Christmas tree decorated with lights and baubles, children getting over-excited; the consensus for the best TV advert; a fairy on top of the tree – 'no, it has to be a star'; arguments.

Then there's the anxiety that we might have forgotten something/someone, carol singers at the door; the muzak in the shops blaring out every old Christmas song you've ever heard; Christmas cake; a partridge in a pear tree; the King at three o'clock; snow or the lack of it; a Salvation Army band playing in the High Street; reminiscing about Christmases past; presents wrapped in festive paper and bows; houses draped in Christmas lights; children determined not to go to sleep on Christmas Eve in order to catch sight of Santa, Rudolf, elves (elves?).

Then there's turkey sandwiches, turkey curry, turkey rissoles, Oh! Let's just throw this away – I'm sick of turkey; chocolate log, gingerbread houses, chestnuts, roast parsnips; the one time in the year we play games as a family; dads snoozing and snoring in front of the TV; the one time in the year the bottle of port comes out; deciding who to re-gift this present to; selection boxes; making a resolution to join the gym and a slimming club; 'Post early for Christmas'; and 'should we start thinking about next year's summer holiday?'.

Oh, and can we squeeze in somewhere Carols from Kings College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve, and Midnight Mass, and – whoops; we've missed Him out so far – the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem? Isn't it meant to be about Him?

1936: the year the King stepped down – *Tim Lenton*

Ninety years ago – on 11th December 1936 – King Edward VIII became the only sovereign to ever abdicate voluntarily in this country. He did so in order to marry an American socialite divorcee, Wallis Simpson, one of a number of women with whom he had had affairs. Edward – known to everyone in his family as David – had been King for 11 months. On his abdication he took the title of Duke of Windsor and went to live a high society life, mainly in France.

Edward was born on 23rd June 1894 in Surrey. He joined the Grenadier Guards in World War One but was not allowed to see active service. In the 1920s he represented his father, George V, on many foreign tours and this, together with his visits to deprived areas of the UK, plus his charm and good looks, brought him considerable popularity.

But there was a rift between him and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang. It was due to Edward's apparent lack of interest in the Church, of which he was head. There have been suggestions that this rift made the abdication unavoidable.

The archbishop and many of the King's other advisers were in any case against marriage to a divorcee, and all attempts to find a solution failed. Edward's brother became George VI and led Britain through the Second World War, while the Duke became Governor of the Bahamas. He died of throat cancer in Paris in 1972.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

60 years since Mao's 'Little Red Book' – *Tim Lenton*

Sixty years ago, on 16th December 1966, foreign language versions of Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book* were first published. It is one of the most-printed books in history. Mao died ten years later, in 1976. His policies in China had led to the deaths of many millions of people.

The selection of 267 quotations from the Communist Chinese leader had originally been put together in 1964, destined for the People's Liberation Army rather than the masses, and one projected version even had a blue cover. But the final red version was aimed at every Chinese citizen, and hundreds of new printing houses were built to achieve that. It was a crucial part of Mao Zedong's personality cult – he himself compared his book to the writings of Confucius and other philosophers – and the quotes covered what he called the class struggle and "correcting mistaken ideas". Included is his opinion that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun".

During what became known as the Cultural Revolution, owning the book became "a way of surviving". The homicidal Red Guards, aiming to "purify" the Communist Party, would check whether bourgeois suspects owned one or could quote from it. It was a way of re-establishing Mao's dominance after the disastrous famine of the "Great Leap Forward".

Deng Xiaoping, Mao's successor in 1976, tried to suppress the book, which he disliked intensely because it pandered to Mao's cult of personality. He called for people to hand them in, and they were then destroyed: the only copies available today are English versions for tourists.

Some Christians suggest that the *Little Red Book* laid the groundwork for the current Christian revival in China, by stripping away traditional beliefs and leaving behind a deep spiritual hunger.

The president who made himself an emperor – *Tim Lenton*

175 years ago, on 2nd December 1851, the President of France, Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, did not want to leave office. So, he staged a coup and had himself crowned Emperor Napoleon III. He granted himself dictatorial powers and dissolved the French Second Republic, ruling the Second French Empire until 1870.

The coup was code-named Operation Rubicon, and it was timed to coincide with the anniversary of his uncle Napoleon I's acclaimed victory at Austerlitz in 1805. If the coup had not happened, Louis-Napoleon would have been forced to leave office the following year. The coup dissolved the National Assembly and granted dictatorial powers to the President. It followed disputes within Parliament, particularly on the subject of universal male suffrage, which Louis-Napoleon supported, and the appointment by the President of his own sympathisers to key positions, particularly in the military. A circular issued by the Minister of War reminded soldiers of their pledge of "passive obedience".

Two-thirds of the General Council supported Louis-Napoleon, but an alliance of the far left opposed him. There were also revolts in other parts of France, with rebellions reported in the south-west in particular. But the army, which supported Louis-Napoleon, was able to put them down. Some opponents were arrested and some fled, notably the novelist and politician Victor Hugo, who found sanctuary on the island of Guernsey, where he is still remembered.

Louis-Napoleon got strong backing from Catholics and positioned himself as a protector of Christians and Jews generally, although some Protestants in remote areas joined uprisings, which were quickly crushed. The coup – and the subsequent establishment of the Second Empire – were ratified by two plebiscites, both of which were undoubtedly rigged (92 per cent and 97 per cent voting in favour respectively).





MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

The 'Master of Light and Atmosphere': remembering J M W Turner – *Tim Lenton*

175 years ago, on 19th December 1851, J M W Turner, the Romantic artist, died. He was noted for his landscapes and dramatic marine paintings. Joseph Mallord William Turner (known as William) died aged 76, in a rented house in Chelsea, where he was known to his neighbours as Admiral Booth and was nursed by his friend Sophia Booth.

Although he had had cholera and other problems, it is believed he died of heart disease. When told of the seriousness of his condition by his doctor, he is said to have responded: "So I am to become a nonentity, am I?" Although Turner's paintings were regarded as spiritual and some were overtly Christian, he was not a conventional churchgoer, though he attended a Methodist school in his youth. He certainly regarded nature as a divine creation. He asked to be buried in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, near painter Joshua Reynolds. As he was approaching death he became bed-bound and restless, away from his beloved views of country and sea – though he had a roof terrace installed in the house for "sky-viewing".

Turner was born in Covent Garden, son of a barber, who was said to have sold some of his very early paintings: there is little doubt that he was a child prodigy, and he became a Royal Academician at the age of 27. Influenced initially by Monet and Pissarro, he became known as the 'Master of Light and Atmosphere', focusing on subjects such as storms, the sea and sunlight. In all he created more than 550 oil paintings, 2,000 watercolours and 30,000 drawings. At his death he left his large collection of pictures – finished and unfinished – to the British nation. They can be seen at Tate Britain and the National Gallery.

***Hotel California* – 50 years on** – *Tim Lenton*

Fifty years ago, on 8th December 1976, the album *Hotel California*, by the American rock band The Eagles, was released. It became their biggest-selling studio album, and one of the best-selling albums of all time. It sold more than 42 million copies. Released by Asylum Records, it was the band's first album with extrovert guitarist Joe Walsh, who had replaced founding member Bernie Leadon, and the last to feature founding bassist/vocalist Randy Meisner.

Hotel California was an immediate commercial and critical success, topping the US Billboard 200 chart. At the 20th Grammy Awards, the title track won Record of the Year, and *New Kid in Town* won Best Arrangement for Voices. The album was also nominated for Album of the Year, but it lost out to Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours*.

Hotel California marked a change for the band, as a move from their traditional and highly successful country rock to a straighter rock and roll sound. According to drummer and singer Don Henley, it also "probably" represented a peak for them. The title track, an outstanding lyrical and musical achievement, has been performed live by The Eagles over 1000 times.

There has been much debate over the meaning of that track – nearly all of which, says Henley, are way off the mark. One suggestion that it had overtones relating to a hotel which had become a Satanist church got the scornful response: "It has nothing to do with any of that." In fact, he said, the themes in *Hotel California* were "the same themes that run through all of our work: loss of innocence, the cost of naiveté, the perils of fame, of excess; exploration of the dark underbelly of the American dream, idealism realised and idealism thwarted, illusion versus reality…" Meanwhile, the hotel on the album cover is the Beverly Hills Hotel in California.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.

R. Smith

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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER?

Every Sunday (and other days)	Church Services	Page 3
Every Monday, 10am	Broadmayne Bumps, Babies & Beyond, Community Hall (until 14th)	Page 15
Every Mon, Tue, Wed	Pilates, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Mon 11.30 / Thu 9.30am	Move It or Lose It, Crossways (Mon) / Broadmayne (Thu)	Page 13
Every Monday, 6pm	Yoga, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Tuesday, 6pm	Christmas Choir Rehearsals, St Michael's Church, Owermoigne	Page 7
Every Wed 7.15, Fri 7, Sat 8.30am	Yoga, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 15
Evert Wednesday, 7pm	Group Guitar Lessons, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Every Thursday, 10am	Table Tennis, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Every Thursday, 6.30pm	Dog Training Club, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Every Friday, 9.30am	Pilates, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 15
Every Friday, 10am	Chapel Café, Methodist Church, Broadmayne (not 25th, Jan 1st)	Page 17
Every Friday, 10am	Owermoigne Painting Group, Village Hall (not 25th)	Page 23
Every Friday, 7pm	Short Mat Bowls, Broadmayne Village Hall	852285
First & Third Saturdays, 10am	Short Mat Bowls, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Tuesdays 1st & 15th, 10.30am	Coffee & Company, St Peter's West Knighton	Page 15
Friday 4th	Meat Raffle, Owermoigne Cricket Club	Page 25
Friday 4th, 7.30pm	Team Viking, West Stafford Village Hall	Page 13
Saturday 5th, 10am	Christmas Fayre, Crossways Youth & Community Centre	Page 9
Saturday 5th, 10am	Christmas Coffee Morning, West Stafford Village Hall	Page 13
Sats 5th, 12th;Thu 10th, Fri 11th	Journey to the Stable, United Church, Dorchester	Page 7
Monday 7th, 7.30pm	Broadmayne Parish Council, Methodist Hall	Page 19
Tuesday 8th,10am	By Still Waters, Broadmayne Methodist Church	Page 7
Tuesdays 8th & 22nd, 10.30am	Coffee Shop, St Martin's Community Hall	Page 17
Tuesdays 8th & 22nd, 10.30am	Owermoigne Village Hall Coffee Mornings	Page 23
Tuesday 8th, 2pm	Owermoigne Flower Club, Village Hall	Page 25
Wednesday 9th, 7.30pm	Knightsford Parish Council, West Stafford Village Hall	Page 15
Thursday 10th, 7pm	Broadmayne & West Knighton WI, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 15
Thursday 10th, 7pm	Taizé style service, St Peter's, West Knighton	Page 7
Sats 12th, 19th; Sun 15th, Thu 24th	Music at St Peter's Dorchester	Page 9
Saturday 12th, 10am	Owermoigne Village Christmas Market, Village Hall	Page 23
Monday 14th, 3pm	'More Senior' Christmas Party, St Martin's Community Hall	Page 17
Monday 14th, 7.30pm	Owermoigne Photography Group, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Tuesday 15th	**January Compass deadline**	**Page 2**
Tuesday 15th, 2pm	Film Afternoon, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Thursday 17th, From 5.30pm	Fish & Chips, Carols, Col's Quiz, Owermoigne Crkt & Social Club	Page 25
Thursday 17th, 6.15pm	Carols around West Knighton (meet in Glebe Way)	Page 3
Friday 18th, 5pm	Nativity Trail around West Knighton (meet at the school)	Page 3
Friday 18th, 8pm	Christmas Raffle Draw, Owermoigne Crkt & Social Club	Page 25
Sunday 20th, 2.30pm	Christmas Afternoon Tea, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Sunday 20th, from 3.45pm	Carols at 4, Broadmayne Methodist Church	Page 17
Monday 21st, 10am	Coffee Morning, 9 Moreton Road, Owermoigne	Page 23

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

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THE LETTERS OF UNCLE EUSTACE

My dear nephew Darren

It was delightful to have a family from your church visiting ours last week, but perhaps if it happens again, you may suggest a certain dress code to them. That the man arrived without wearing a tie was probably forgivable, but I do think you should have warned them about the temperature. Your church building may be warmer than a nursing home, but the only time that hot air is blown over the heads of our congregation, is when the archdeacon preaches.

Thus, by late November, our congregation knows to come to church equipped with overcoats, scarves, gloves and thermal socks. And the Verger's regular disappearance into the side chapel during Services isn't on urgent ecclesiastical business, but to warm himself up with copious swigs from his hip flask.

So, your poor visitors suffered from the cold. In fact, by the time of the sermon, were they to have been laid horizontally, they would have been indistinguishable from the marble effigies of the Earls of Stowe lying in state in the north aisle. As they limped out at the end of the Service, totally numb, my offer of a sherry at the Rectory was more medicinal than social.

No, December is almost always the month when I gracefully concede defeat regarding the church boiler. True, the congregation has been dropping hints to me since Harvest about the autumnal nip in the air, or of the flowers keeping well in church because it is cool there, or even the slightly more pointed remark that it will soon be time for the heating to be turned on. But all are studiously ignored. I live in an arctic 17th century Rectory, and am hardened to it.

But when members of the congregation start arriving bearing travelling rugs and flasks of hot tea, I begin to realise that the time approaches to fire the boilers up. Then on the Sunday when Colonel Richards lights up his primus stove next to him on the pew, I know it is appropriate to announce that next Sunday the church will be heated – although 'heated' is rather more an aspiration than a reality.

Should any of our congregation be tempted to pay a visit to your own church, I will tell them to dress for a Mediterranean August – although the men will certainly wear a tie. One does have standards to maintain.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

POETRY CORNER — Lapland Reindeer

Nigel Beeton writes: I've never been on a Christmas trip to Lapland, but I've seen them advertised! I often wondered what the reindeer make of all the Christmas razzmatazz?

The reindeer up in Norway,
They see the coaches come,
The children in the doorways
Are shouting as they run.

"Look Mum! Look, there is Cupid
"And Rudolph too!" they said.
"It's true! No, we're not stupid!
"His nose is very red!"

The Reindeer is bewildered
(His name is 'Boazu'*),
A gathering of childhood
Discuss his nasal hue.

But 'Rudolph' said, without a tear,
"Oh, here we go again!
"For we have reached that time of year
"When humans go insane!"

**Boazu is the name for 'reindeer' in the Sami language of North Norway*

Watercombe Benefice website http://watercombe.org.uk/
St Martin's Church Facebook page https://m.facebook.com/StMartinsBroadmayne/
Broadmayne Methodist Church https://www.dsw.church/churches/circuit-churches/broadmayne.html

AND FINALLY . . .

Keep fit this Christmas?

A magazine offered this exercise as a way of keeping your tummy trim over the Christmas break:

"First, clasp your hands over your head and place your feet together on the floor. Now bend to the right at the waist as you sit down to the left of your feet. Now by sheer muscular control, haul yourself up, bend to the left and sit down on the floor to the right of your feet. Keep this up for ten times and let us know of the result."

The email received by the magazine said: "The ambulance came quickly."

Over Christmas

I asked a friend of mine what he would be doing over Christmas. He said he reckoned he would be busy with "aqua-thermal heat treatment of ceramics, aluminium, and steel in a constrained environment."

I was astonished – and baffled. In further conversation, I learned that he would be washing the plates, pots and pans with hot water, under his wife's supervision.



The vicar had a 'Toy Story' dream that all the nativity figures had come to life



They'd heard that the preacher was such a humorous speaker that he'd bring the house down

The night before

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, except
father's mouse.
The computer was humming, the
icons were hopping,
As father did last minute Internet
shopping.
The stockings were hung by the
modem with care
In hope that dear Santa would bring
new software.
The children were nestled all snug in
their beds,
While visions of computer games
danced in their heads.

New puppy breeds for Christmas?

Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter: A traditional Christmas pet

Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso: A dog that folds up for easy transport

Spitz + Chow Chow = Spitz-Chow: A dog that throws up a lot

Great Pyrenees + Dachshund = Pyradachs: A puzzling breed

Pekingnese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso: An abstract dog

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