



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**

January 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
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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

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St. Michael's Church, Owermoigne

Warden: Philippa Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH 01305 852242

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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

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



Broadmayne, Holworth, Owermoigne, Warmwell and West Knighton

Sunday Services January 2026



	4th January	11th January	18th January	25th January
Broadmayne St Martin	11am Holy Communion		11am Joint Covenant Holy Communion at the Methodist Church	8am Holy Communion BCP
Broadmayne Methodist	11am Morning Worship	11am Morning Worship		11am Morning Worship
Holworth				
Owermoigne	9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	
Warmwell		11am Morning Prayer		
West Knighton		9.30am Holy Communion	6pm Worship & Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion

Methodist Sunday 4th January 11am – Peter Jenner
& Joint Sunday 11th January 11am – Richard Lownsbrough
Services Sunday 18th January 11am – Rev Brenda Stephenson: Covenant Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 25th January 11am – Chris Smith

By Still Waters Tuesday 13th January, 10am (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month)
 Reflective prayer and sharing Broadmayne Methodist Church

BENEFICE REGISTERS

Burial of Ashes

22nd November **Georgina (Gina) Thorp** at St Martin, Broadmayne
The Revd Dick Douglas at St Catherine, Holworth

Baptism

7th December **Flo Titterington** at St Martin, Broadmayne

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. If you would like a printed edition, these are available at various outlets in the villages, but most reliably from the churches

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

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Politics is the career of plundering and blundering.
 War: a continuation of politics by other means.

Disraeli
 Clausewitz



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FROM HOLWORTH FARMHOUSE

Welcome to 2026

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne? . . .* . . . We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

For me, with only a small quantity of Scottish blood in my veins through my maternal grandmother, this song carries so much of what true friendship has come to mean for me over so many years. Written by Robert Burns in 1788, I've sung it at the stroke of midnight at the beginning of almost every year, for what, some seventy years, probably more? At university, in the army, in many countries around the world on my travels with the Foreign Office, and most importantly with my family. I'm sure I've missed one or two New Year celebrations for various reasons. Sometimes it has been sung in joy, sometimes in sadness, sometimes for those I've loved and lost, but most often and most importantly, with those I've chosen for a lifetime and who have put up with me thus far.

We only learn our true identity when our lives are lived in concert with those who travel with us. Within relationships we begin to discover more clearly who we are and the part we have to play – what we have to give and what we can learn from those who share our journey. We can only fully discover who we are as individuals in the context of community.

Of course the value of community only becomes apparent once the polite social niceties have been dealt with and the real, and sometimes painful, differences between people become clear. If everyone were the same and agreed on all points, achieving community would be both easy and pointless. We have to learn the testing lesson of dealing with differences in order to keep the show on the road. Never has this seemed more difficult than in these present times.

Everyone has a story to tell, and once we have heard it, so much is revealed that mends misunderstandings and heals wounds, and this can lead to what we all need from each other – forgiveness. We are capable of all the good and the bad that has ever been done, and to recognise this is the beginning of Grace. Once we have it, we are freed up to both listen and learn without feeling the need to carp, criticise or complain, but it does not prevent us from stating a point of view that we feel needs to be made. As human beings, we are, and always have been, restless as we travel and that's fine – it's how the human race has survived. And of great comfort to those who believe, is that God too is restless; and he too is also a traveller.

So here's hoping you will enter 2026 with joy and optimism, counting your blessings and with hearts uplifted.

*And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o'thine!
And we'll tak' a right gude-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.*

Anthony Bush

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BENEFACTICE / COMMUNITY

Music at St Peter's, Dorchester

Happy New Year from all at St Peter's Church Dorchester! There is plenty of music for you to enjoy this month and beat those January blues! We hope you can join us for some or all of the many fantastic concerts, services and musical events taking place.

Saturday 10th January, 4.30pm: We begin the new year with our candlelit Epiphany carol service. Alongside traditional hymns, carols and readings there will be glorious choral music by Gustav Holst, Francis Poulenc, Felix Mendelssohn, William Crotch, Peter Cornelius and Philip Stopford. This service is free to attend and all are very welcome.

Saturday 17th January, 12.30pm – 1.00pm: The lunchtime concert is given by soprano Sarah Palfreman-Kay, who is accompanied by Ian Davis. You can enjoy 30 minutes of songs and arias from across the ages. Admission is free.

Sunday 18th January, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist, with some fantastic music including Howells's 'Here is the little door', Victoria's 'Missa O magnum mysterium' and Berlioz's 'The shepherd's farewell'. The service is free to attend, all are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Saturday 24th January, 4.30pm: Choral Evensong includes Tallis's 'Salvator mundi', Richard Seal's 'Preces & Responses', the 'Evening Canticles in D' by Brewer and Bairstow's rousing anthem 'Blessed city, heavenly Salem'. The service is free to attend, all are welcome and warmly invited to stay for a glass of wine afterwards!

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

In 2026

Warm their home, warm your heart

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

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

Thank you

Crossways Library Opening Times – Free to join – Open to all

<u>Monday</u>	2.30pm – 5pm
<u>Tuesday</u>	10am – 12pm, 2pm – 5pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	10am – 1pm, 2.30pm – 5pm
<u>Thursday</u>	10am – 1pm
<u>Friday</u>	12pm – 6pm
<u>Saturday</u>	10am – 1pm

ARTSREACH & WEST STAFFORD VILLAGE HALL present UNDERMINED by Danny Mellor Saturday 24th January 2026, 7.30pm

Undermined is a gritty, witty and powerful show inspired by the accounts of miners who lived through the 1984 Miners' Strike. It takes you on a rollercoaster of emotions in a year of political turmoil. Meet Dale, his best mate Billy, and a whole cast of characters as we follow this year-long dispute in a play which is relevant for those who know nothing about the strike, and those who remember it all too well.

With one pint, one chair, one actor and a classic soundtrack, experience pints in the pub and punches on the picket line.

"An excellent dramatization of an immensely important period of modern history, and a great piece of contemporary theatre in its own right, Undermined is unmissable." (Broadway World).

Touring for over 10 years to pubs, theatres and even Scottish Parliament, this fast-paced show will have you laughing, crying and shaking with anger. Don't miss it as it comes to Dorset as part of the programme by Artsreach. Tickets available from artsreach.co.uk or jacquie.walton@outlook.com. Adults £12.50, U18 £6, Family (2 Adults & 2 U18) £35.



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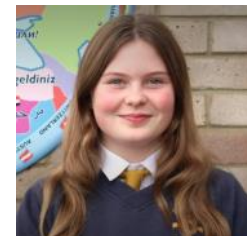
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St Mary's CE Middle School, Puddletown *Inspire today to shape tomorrow*

Happy New Year everyone! To kick off 2026, we have decided to do something a little different! Back in December, we invited our Head Girl, Bunny, to write a diary entry to record a day in the life of a student at St Mary's in 2025! If you would like to let us know what life was like for you at school, especially if you went to St Mary's, we would love to hear from you! Please share your experiences by emailing our school office – office@stmarys.wessex.ac



Dear Diary,

Today was a busy Tuesday at school.

I woke up, brushed my teeth, had breakfast then got on the bus as usual although my bus was a little late today but it's ok because I didn't miss registration. We gathered in our classroom, read our books for a bit and took the register, then it was time for the first lesson, Maths. We were looking at adding, timesing and subtracting fractions and we did a few test-style questions on it. For me the questions were quite hard. I just couldn't wrap my head around it but I think I'm getting the hang of it and hopefully I can learn a bit more tomorrow. My next lesson was English which was better. We are studying war poetry and got to try a drama task looking at a poem called 'We are children of a lesser war' which was fun. We got to go in groups, I went in a group with my friends and we made up some actions to our verse. I found it much easier than maths!

After that it was break and me and my friends got our snacks (I had chocolate biscuits yummm) and went out to the playground. It was very cold today as it's nearly Christmas but no snow, just rain, which is sad because I really want it to snow this December. I'm still crossing my fingers.

My highlight of the day was definitely DT. This week I have textiles and we are making fabric tapestry pictures inspired by nature. We got to use the sewing machines and learn lots of different techniques such as appliqué, ink transfer and batik which will all be incorporated in our final designs. It's not quite done yet but hopefully it will look great. After DT I had lunch, I was so hungry. I had a really good lunch today. It was tomato pasta with some veggies and snacks as well yum! Me and my friends ate in the hall and chatted about Christmas Jumper Day on Friday. I'm going to wear my jumper with baubles on it! Also on Friday, we have the annual Christmas carol competition final. It's where all the classes get into groups in their music lessons and try to create the next best Christmas hit. Whoever wins gets a trophy at the end! My group's song made it into the final so we are now performing it on Friday!! I'm a bit nervous but I'm glad I'm not doing it alone and that I have my group with me. My final lesson of the day was science and we got to do experiments! We were looking at rocks and crystals and whether crystals grow faster when at cold, hot or room temperature. My group discovered that they grow faster in hot temperatures so we recorded all our results on a table. Then it was time to pack up. I went back to my classroom for lesson six where we did our collective worship power point about the Christmas story.

Then it was home time! I got back on the bus for my journey home with my friends.

Overall, I had a great day and I hope tomorrow will end the same, but I am very tired and so looking forward to the Christmas holidays!

e-mail: office@stmaryscemiddle.uk website: www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk

Tel: 01305 848293 Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCEMIDPUDD>
Dr Tim Ennion (Head of School)

Please mention Compass when replying to any advertisement

THE NEW INN WEST KNIGHTON

Two unmissable shows are coming back!

Sheer Luck Holmes

The fast-paced comedy mystery is back! Join the hilarity and help crack the case whilst enjoying a 3 Course Delicious Meal included

3rd February 2026

 Tickets are already flying – book now before they vanish! £65pp

Faulty Towers Dining Experience

Our much-loved immersive dinner show returns – expect laugh-out-loud chaos, spot-on characters, and a delicious meal. £65pp

3rd March 2026

7th April 2026

✨ Don't miss the laughs, the mystery, and the mayhem – get your tickets today!



01305852349 INFO@NEWINNWESTKNIGHTON.CO.UK



COMMUNITY

Crossways Youth & Community Centre

Thank you to everyone – supporters, bakers and stall-holders who joined us last month for our Christmas Fayre. We raised £460 which helps us with our building maintenance costs.

Our next Community Café will be taking place on Saturday, 3 January 2026 from 9am to 12pm. If you would like to book a free of charge pitch – please contact cyc@mail.com

In addition, our building is available at very reasonable rates for parties or meetings. Please send enquiries to bookings@crosswaysycc.org





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Wednesday & Friday 7.30 - 11pm
Saturday 3 - 8pm Sunday 2 - 6pm
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(£1.00 sign in fee for non-members)

Pool table, darts board. Large function room to hire: parties, meetings, dance classes etc
Membership Fees application/renewal forms available behind the bar. Enquires: email thespitfireclubcrossways@outlook.com
Follow us on www.facebook.com/spitfireclub1

WARMWELL / WEST KNIGHTON / BROADMAYNE



2025 Poppy Appeal – a 'thank you' from RBL:

A grand total of £1,244.61 was collected in Warmwell, West Knighton and Broadmayne, thanks to David Gerrard (Warmwell) and Barbara Heal (Broadmayne & West Knighton).

Barbara adds: Regrettably after collecting for 25 years in Broadmayne and West Knighton, next year will be my last year. If anyone is interested in volunteering, to continue with the Poppy Appeal collecting, would you please let me know.

Broadmayne Short Mat Bowls Club meets Fridays, 7pm-9pm in Broadmayne Village Hall.

We are a friendly group who bowl for the fun, the skill, the exercise, and the company in warm surroundings. We would like to welcome some new members to join us. We have the equipment, just bring totally flat indoor shoes or socks and your enthusiasm.

Our experienced members will give you guidance. It's just £3 an evening plus a membership fee of £5. First 2 sessions free.

Contact: Carrie 852285

BPFA LOTTERY **December 2025**

£25	T. Street
£15	M. Compton
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£5	V. Weston
£5	S. Hatton
£5	Mike Carter

Broadmayne
Playing Fields £65



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BROADMAYNE / WEST KNIGHTON



Broadmayne and West
Knighton Women's Institute

Thursday 8th January at 7pm
Broadmayne Village Hall

We will be discussing the 2026 WI
Resolutions and choosing which
one we would like to support

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



E:mail bandwkwi@gmail.com

NFWI Resolution Shortlist

1. Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion
2. Action on women's homelessness
3. Every child needs a friend
4. Nearer to Nature
5. Love your Vulva – Self-checking is your best defence against vulval cancer

West Knighton Village Meeting

Tuesday 4 November 2025 – St Peters Church, West Knighton

Minutes of last meeting: Agreed; no matters arising.

Reports from: PCSO/Police – Appendix A; Herringston Estates – Appendix B; St Peters Church – Appendix C; Broadmayne First School – Appendix D; West Knighton village play park – Appendix E; Footpaths – Appendix F. Reports can be obtained by email from westknightonvillage@gmail.com

Update on Neighbourhood Plan: The Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by Dorset Council.

Dorset Local Plan is now a concern for many residents, a response to their consultation has been sent to Dorset Council by Knightsford Parish Council raising their concerns. There will be no update on this plan until next year.

Any other business: (i) Herringston Estates have kindly agreed, in principle, to the siting of a bench on their land, it is therefore proposed that a bench be sited at the top of the footpath to the rear of Gabriel Cottages near the pony paddocks. If any residents have any feedback or would like to suggest an alternative location for consideration please let us know. (ii) A resident raised concerns that the 3G network would be stopping in the near future. This would cause communication issues due to the rural nature of our village. This will be raised at the next Knightsford Parish Council meeting to ascertain if they or Dorset Council are able to take any remedial action.

Update: KPC made aware on 5 November. In addition to Councillor Tarr being made aware this email was received from KPC Clerk: Digital Dorset Team works with Streetwave to map mobile coverage across the region using their Mobile Coverage Checker. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/mobile-connectivity-and-coverage>
<https://app.streetwave.co/coverage-checker/dorset-council>

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Coffee & Company

at St Peter's Church West Knighton

10.30-11.30am

Tuesdays 6th & 20th January

Do join us, everyone is welcome

Knightsford Parish Council Meeting Dates

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

Wednesday 11th February 7.30pm, West Stafford Village Hall





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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE WEATHER REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2025 by Ted Byrne

From the weather station situated at 23 Watergates Lane

The beginning of November brought a very mild start to the last month of the Autumn, with temperatures hardly dropping below 10°C. Temperatures in the country overall were also widely above average. We had quite a few days when the thermometer reached around the 15°C mark and on the warmest, the 13th, it got up to 17.5°C. The second half of the month was quite a bit cooler and on a few nights we got some hard frosts. The minimum went as low as -3°C on the 26th, a marked contrast to the minimum of 13.6°C we had on the 4th.

November, with the help of storm Claudia, was for us, in line with the rest of England and Wales, a wet month with 18 days of rain. The 147mm that fell made it the second wettest of the year, beaten by a small margin only by January. We do often have very wet Novembers, in fact, the average November rainfall of 158mm over the past five years makes it the wettest month of the year for us during that period.

What about the wind? Well, I have been asked about the accuracy of the wind speed data shown on my www.watergatesweather.co.uk website. The answer is that I believe the data to be accurate for the site where the weather station is located, but one has to bear in mind that my garden is a sheltered location and the wind speeds the station indicates reflect that. The maximum wind speed I recorded was for example just 14.7mph on the 27th. It is because of the fact that the wind speeds I record are not very representative that I don't normally provide the data in this report.

Maximum temperature: 17.5°C on the 13th	Minimum temperature -3°C on the 26th
Wettest day: 25mm on the 22nd	Days with rainfall (0.5mm or more): 18
Total rainfall for the month: 147mm	Total rainfall for the year to date: 829mm

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, BUMPS, BABIES AND BEYOND!

Happy New Year to you all. We hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas and look forward to meeting up with you all again.

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.

We shall start our new term on Monday 12th January.

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



CHAPEL CAFÉ

Run by the Methodist Church for the benefit of the community

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Fridays 10 am - 12 noon
at the Methodist Church

Walkers, dogs & children welcome



Warm Welcome Wednesdays

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

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WEDNESDAY mornings
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10am - 12 noon



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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE PARISH COUNCIL – notes from the December 2025 meeting

Public participation A member of the public had contacted Dorset Council regarding the removal of the bridge on the public right of way between Washponds and West Knighton but had not yet received a reply. It was noted that this bridge forms part of the Jubilee Trail, a public footpath, and the historic church footpath used regularly by many residents. Without the bridge, the crossing is difficult. This matter was first brought to the Council's attention at the November Council meeting and was raised with the relevant officers immediately afterwards.

Planning and Tree Matters 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. The DC Planning Portal shows that this application has still not yet been determined. The plans and layout for the SANG were discussed. Concerns were raised regarding accessibility, particularly the reliance on a solely mown path. The Parish Council members wondered whether this may constitute a breach of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The Parish Clerk is to query whether the proposed access arrangements comply with DDA requirements.

Reports from Representatives Dorset Council Ward Member: (i) Dorset Cllr Roland Tarr reported on recent developments concerning matters raised by local residents around Knighton Lane. A site visit has taken place and discussions were held with the occupant who is taking steps to address concerns raised regarding noise, fencing, and lighting. Cllr Tarr reported that the occupant advised that he has been liaising with neighbouring landowners – with no issues known at this time. A planning application in respect of the site is expected in early spring. Highways matters related to this site will be coordinated through the Planning Department. (ii) A brief mention was also given on the wider direction of devolution and its possible implications for Dorset parishes. **Playing fields:** Cllr Ellis reported that the BPFA held their AGM on 21 November 2025. The Committee and Officers were elected at the meeting including a new Treasurer who presented the BPFA accounts for the year to October 2025. In addition to carrying out or organising maintenance where required, Committee members have also undertaken weekly safety inspections throughout the year, working to a 38-point checklist. The next meeting will be held on 26 February 2026. **Village hall:** It was noted that the PV panels are now commissioned and functional. The sound system is expected to be commissioned by mid-December. **Broadmayne Community Speedwatch:** Cllr Byrne reported that little happened in November due to the weather. Only one session took place and the maximum speed was 43 mph.

Financial Matters A grant request for £225 to support *Warm Welcome Wednesdays* during the coming winter period was considered. The Council noted that this is a positive activity and a worthwhile initiative to support. The grant request was approved.

Other Reports (i) **Allotments:** Over the past month there have been no new additions to the waiting list – so there are still four people actively waiting for a plot. AG Trees have been approached about carrying out a survey of the condition of the trees at the allotments and to comment on the possible work to the large multi stemmed Ash tree halfway along to the roadside hedge. They have advised that the main survey should be done when the trees are in full leaf, and so this will be done in late spring/early summer 2026. However, in the meantime, they will visit to do a short interim check in the next few weeks. They will comment on the feasibility of the work to the multi stemmed Ash tree within the roadside hedge as part of this interim check. (ii) **Condition of footpaths/bridleways:** The Parish Council's Rights of Way Liaison Officer, Dr Janet Davis, has been made aware of the missing bridge on the right of way between Washponds and West Knighton. It is not within Broadmayne Parish, but the matter has also been taken up with the relevant DC Ranger, Mr Russell Goff. (iii) **Road works:** There have been no new road works communications from DC Highways this month. The temporary closure of the A353 at Poxwell in January 2026 will bring more traffic through Broadmayne as part of the ►

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HETAS SIA

BROADMAYNE

◀ diversion route. (iv) Cllr Evans advised that he had reported to DC Highways a damaged directional sign on the road to Weymouth.

Next meeting The next meeting will take place on **Monday 5th January 2026** 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

Three Hundred or more Angels!

Over four days in late November the Christmas story was told through five appearances of angels, starting with Angel Gabriel appearing to Zechariah and ending with an angel appearing to Joseph in a dream telling him to escape to Egypt with Mary and Jesus.

Those visiting were able to follow the story, read the relevant bible passages and see the display of over 300 Angels. For First School visits church members were there to relate the story in an exciting and appropriate way for each age group.



All those visiting were given the opportunity to take home a booklet showing artwork of all the appearances together with instructions and materials to make their own manuscript angel. There was no entry fee but visitors could donate money or Christmas treats for the Dorchester Food Bank.

Caring for St Martin's Churchyard – An end of year update

Back in the summer a group of volunteers from Broadmayne started a long-term project to improve, and then maintain, the Churchyard for the benefit of locals and visitors alike. The overall aim is to ensure that the area remains a pleasant place for remembrance and reflection. Meeting on the last Saturday of the month from 1000 to 1200 (with a break for refreshments) an average of 12 enthusiastic amateurs have already made a significant difference which has attracted unsolicited praise from many users of the space – it is amazing what can be achieved in 2 hours/month with willing volunteers!

Building on the efforts of previous working groups the initial objective was to uncover the many gravestones that were hidden deep within the overgrown coppices and clear the ivy/weeds from those stones already standing clear. The first part was finally achieved in December; the second part is proving more elusive but is well on the way to looking better. To that end, every bit of help is very welcome in the group sessions or on an opportunity basis by individuals at a time of their choosing; a list of tasks can be found in a green folder located in the Church Porch. Bob Holmes would be very happy to provide any further information and can be contacted on 07866 278368.

Reverend David would like to thank all the volunteers who have freely given their time, the refreshment team who have provided the hot drinks and biscuits and, last but definitely not least, Alan Goldstone and his team for disposing of the plethora of grab bags that the volunteers (over)fill each month!

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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE FIRST SCHOOL

At school we continue to "Fly High" with our learning, and this term has been full of exciting opportunities across the year groups:

- Reception have been focusing on learning their sounds and have produced some excellent writing.
- Year 1 have been exploring the Arctic and asking the big question: can polar bears and penguins be friends?
- Year 2 have been learning how to reduce, reuse, and recycle, thinking carefully about how to care for our planet.
- Year 3 have been working with Mr Senior to improve their football skills.
- Year 4 have been studying the water cycle and writing persuasive letters to Mrs Jordan-Gill, explaining why rain isn't boring but essential!

We also enjoyed walking to the Methodist Church in the village to visit the Angel Festival. It was a joy to see all of the angels we had made displayed around the church. A huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers who helped provide such a special time for our children.

Preparations are well underway for our Christmas production of *The Fleece Force*. The children have collaborated brilliantly and are already bringing festive spirit into school. As a celebration after our own show, we are looking forward to watching the *Rick Whittington* pantomime together.

We are also very grateful to FABS, who have generously gifted our children a new music garden and activity panels. It has been wonderful to see the children taking turns with the games, thinking strategically, and listening to beautiful music being played.

Finally, at the end of this term we will say a fond farewell to Mrs Foyle, who has worked at our school for over 20 years. She has been the heart and soul of our community, and we will miss her very much. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her invaluable and loyal service to our school. It truly won't be the same without her.

As the term draws to a close, we wish all our families, friends, and neighbours a joyful Christmas filled with peace, laughter, and togetherness. May the New Year bring fresh opportunities to fly high once again!

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Tuesdays
13th & 27th January
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.



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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Village Hall

Coming events:

- **Village Market**
NB: No Village Market in January – next Market held on **14 February**.
- **Pantomime. "Mother Turkey and Her Three Kittens"**
Owermoigne Pantomime on **13th and 14th February**. Get your tickets now!
Please contact **Phil Scullon 07786 191828**

And our regular events are:

Village coffee mornings, 22 January

In January we meet on the fourth Tuesday 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 every 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 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 January.

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/>

Owermoigne craft group

There will be no craft group in January.
Jenny

OWERMOIGNE FLOWER CLUB

Members went home with some super Christmas door hangings from our workshop afternoon. We also enjoyed time to chat whilst savouring the lovely bites everyone provided with our tea.

On 20th January it's our AGM. The AGM doesn't usually last long and then 3 club members will take on Ready Steady Flower Arrange which is always good fun.

January is the best time to join the club. We have an exciting programme for next year with a mix of demonstrations and workshops. Members also 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 their skills with flowers including decorating Max Gate for Spring and Autumn again. Come and join us, you'll get a friendly welcome.

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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OWERMOIGNE

An Afternoon of Adventure – Talk at Owermoigne Village Hall
Saturday 10th January | 3pm – 5pm

Tickets: £5 on the door (includes tea/coffee & cake)

Come along for an inspiring afternoon as 58-year-old Tracey — mum of three, grandma of nine — shares the extraordinary story of her **10,000-mile hike around the UK and the Republic of Ireland**.

Carrying a **23kg backpack** and sleeping under the stars in her trusty **Big Agnes tent**, **Aggie**, Tracey spent years wild camping, fundraising for the RNLI, and meeting unforgettable characters along the coastline. Hear her remarkable tales of resilience, kindness, adventure, and the healing power of the great outdoors.

Warm drinks, homemade cake, and a heart-warming community afternoon included.

Everyone welcome!

Come be inspired – and maybe even discover the adventurer in yourself!

POETRY EXTRA! Tracey, who is giving the talk above, has provided this poem.....

SAFARI... A journey

Safari, in Swahili, is a journey, something
each of us is taking,
Following paths and directions,
With future plans in the making,
The main journey of all is the journey of
living,
This beautiful life that we have been given,
So explore all you can and bathe in life's
beauty,
Don't make it just about schedules and
duty,
Plan moments of fun and days of pleasure
Make special memories you can treasure,
Hang out with loved ones, swim in the sea,
Picnics and walks be happy and free,
Because it's not the date you are born or
the date that you die,
It's the dash in the middle that matters...
and why?
Why because the dash is all you did in
between,
The things you have done and things you
have seen,

What you have given to those that matter,
The banquet of life laid out on that platter,
For you to devour to eat up and get full,
Knowing deep down there's one golden
rule,
Live life like you were dying and don't live
with regrets,
Make sure you're the person they won't
forget,
For all that you've given, not for recognition
or glory,
You gave from your heart and in your life
story
Was laughter and strength and wind in your
hair,
Rain on your face completely aware
Of this gift you were given, not in ribbons
and bows,
The good, the bad, the highs and lows,
But with every breath you were able to say,
I gave it my all on life's journey today.

Tracey Hannam

The last meeting of the **Owermoigne Photography Group** in 2025, included a talk on using flashguns in daylight by John Fanning, a presentation of prints produced by Phil Mann and Christmas nibbles. We also welcomed two new members, Ross and Sean.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 12th January**. Contact
Neillegg1410@gmail.com for more information.

PILATES CLASSES with Denise Bowditch in Owermoigne Village Hall
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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Cricket and Social Club

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to all the current members, and hopefully new. Thank you for your support during 2025.

Forthcoming Events for January:

- **Thursday, 15th January – Fish & Chips Supper**, followed by Col's Quiz
- **Friday, 30th January – The first Meat Raffle** of the year

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday, 9th April. Whilst we have a Committee that works hard to run the Club and provide you with a wide range of events and entertainment, each one of us expects – at different points in the future – to pass our respective role-batons on to others who may want to take on the challenge. If you have thought about helping our community, but aren't sure in what capacity, then why not consider a committee role? Fresh people bring fresh ideas and if you think that you might want to get involved – whether it be as Club Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Entertainments Member, Facilities, or just in a general capacity – then get in touch with the current Committee via caroline.owermoignecc@gmail.com and register your interest. You can come along and meet the Committee, see how it all works and find out if it's for you, with absolutely no obligation!

Keep your eyes peeled for posters and emails with details of all our forthcoming events!

Caroline Holmes, OC&SC Secretary

LIFE IN THE 21st CENTURY

Our long love affair with coffee

London's first coffee house opened in 1652, using beans imported from modern-day Yemen. Although many in Cromwell's Britain had doubts about this new drink, others welcomed its reviving effects – and asked for another cup.

Nearly 400 years on, coffee drinking in Britain is a vast industry. We drink 98 million cups of it every day. Even though a takeaway flat white can now cost you more than £5 in London, still coffee has become a daily necessity for millions of us. And perhaps we can now better appreciate why this should be so.

Coffee keeps us awake. This is because when caffeine accesses the brain, it actively blocks our adenosine-producing receptors, which run our sleep-promoting system.

Coffee makes us alert. The caffeine drives our brain towards a more excited state which allows us to process information faster.

Coffee can also improve our mood, especially during the winter, when the loss of daylight acts as a depressant.

And although too much coffee can make us jittery and even prone to heart palpitations, there is ever growing evidence among neuroscientists that coffee can even help to lower our risk of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

but.....Be smart – don't keep up appearances

If you are struggling with money as the New Year begins, you are not alone. Too many of us are using our credit cards as almost permanent extensions of our bank account, instead of as highly expensive loans.

So, this year, think about how just small changes could help you. For example, simply deciding to take your own sandwiches, and skipping lunch and coffee 'out' could save you £25 a week – that is £100 a month, or £1,200 a year – enough to pay off a big chunk of your heating bills.



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Children's page

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different
colours, the colour we
see depends on the
temperature of the star.
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blueish-white, then
yellowish-white,
yellow, orange and the
coolest stars shine red.

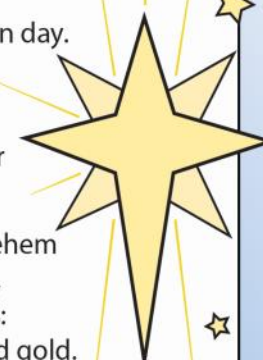
WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came
from a land far away,
they had seen a star
that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign
of the birth of a king,
so they followed that star
to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem
as the prophets foretold,
they gave him three gifts:
myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus
our saviour and king,
let us join with the Wise Men
and go worship Him!



Read the story
of the Wise Men in
Matthew 2:1-12

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

Can you find
these words in
the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI
STAR • SIGN
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • KING
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
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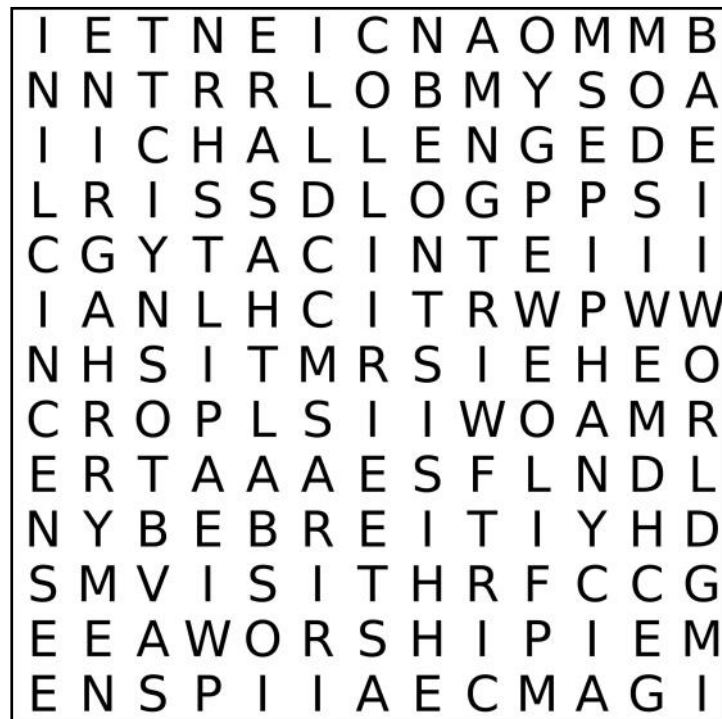


PUZZLES — 1

WORDSEARCH

Find all the words in **bold** in the grid below

6th January brings **Epiphany** – the visit of the **Wise Men** to the baby Jesus. Matthew calls them '**Magi**', the name of an **ancient priestly** caste from **Persia**. Early church **tradition** says there were three: **Balthasar**, **Caspar** and **Melchior**. As for their **gifts**? **Gold** is a **symbol** of **wisdom** and **wealth**, **incense** is a symbol of **worship** and **sacrifice**, and **myrrh** is a symbol of **healing** – and even **embalming**. Jesus **challenged** and set aright the way in which the **world** handled all three of these things.



Easy SUDOKU

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

Medium SUDOKU

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



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PUZZLES — 2

WORD LINKS

Find the 3-letter word that connects the three words on each line. For example, POT, MAR and SOLDIER are all linked by the word TIN, making TINPOT, MARTIN and TIN SOLDIER.

Put the link word in the grid, and then rearrange the shaded letters to find something that is often said in January (four words).

CROSS	WOOD	MULTI			
LINE	GOOD	LEG			
CAKE	TEA	FINAL			
FOLD	BIT	ABLE			
MONKEY	WING	CRACKER			
TOP	OVER	DOG			
ROUGH	BED	LEVEL			
RUN	DOCK	DRIP			
RAMP	POP	WORK			
BRAND	PART	GOAL			
WINNING	OUT	ON			
BLACK	DOG	INSIDE			
MAN	LIST	PARADE			

LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES ANSWERS

Easy

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

Medium

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

PATHFINDER

The shaded letters in the grid rearrange to form DASH, COMET, CUPID, DANCER and DONNER, in that order.

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	
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		Happy Christmas!	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	I	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	A	E	S			

ECO TIPS OF THE MONTH

Christmas Trees. If you bought a real tree that had been cut down, make sure you recycle it after Christmas. Cut it up and put it in your garden bin, or lots of charities will collect whole trees for a fee.

Christmas lights. Recycle broken or damaged Christmas lights – wires and bulbs can be recycled at the tip and batteries in your kerbside boxes.

Wrapping paper. Remove bows and ribbons before recycling. Do not recycle any glittery or metallic wrapping if you can't tear it, or can't crumple it so it stays crumpled.

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

It was....

250 years ago, on *1st January 1776* that, according to tradition, George Washington raised the first American flag, the Grand Union Flag, at Prospect Hill in Charleston, Somerville, Massachusetts; and on *24th January 1776* that E T A Hoffmann, German fantasy/Gothic horror writer, composer, artist and judge was born: Offenbach's opera *The Tales of Hoffman* is based on his stories, and Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* is also based on one of his stories.

200 years ago, on *30th January 1826* that the Menai Suspension Bridge was first opened: it links the island of Anglesey to mainland Wales, and was the world's first major suspension bridge (see p41).

175 years ago, on *7th January 1851* that French physicist Leon Foucault set up the first Foucault pendulum in the cellar of his home, to demonstrate the rotation of the earth, and on 31st March he created his most famous pendulum, hanging a 28-kilogram (62-pound) lead weight from a 67-metre (220 foot) wire from the dome of the Pantheon in Paris.

150 years ago, on *12th January 1876* that Jack London, American novelist and journalist was born: best known for his novels *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*.

125 years ago, on *1st January 1901* that the Commonwealth of Australia was established when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated (see p40); and on *22nd January 1901* that Queen Victoria died, and was succeeded by her son, Edward VII; and on *27th January 1901* that Giuseppe Verdi, Italian composer died: best known for his operas *Aida*, *Requiem*, *Otello* and *Falstaff*.

100 years ago, on *13th January 1926* that Michael Bond, children's writer, was born: he created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse (see p39); and on *14th January 1926* that Warren Mitchell, radio, TV, stage and film actor was born: best known for his role as Alf Garnett in the TV sitcoms *Till Death Us Do Part* and *In Sickness and in Health*; and on *26th January 1926* that Scottish engineer and inventor John Logie Baird gave the first demonstration of his TV system to members of the Royal Institution.

90 years ago, on *18th January 1936* that Rudyard Kipling, writer and poet, died, best known for *The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, *If*, and many more: he was winner of the 1907 Nobel Prize for Literature; and *20th January 1936* that King George V died and was succeeded by his son Edward VIII, who abdicated that December.

80 years ago, on *3rd January 1946* that Willam Joyce, Lord Haw-Haw, British fascist politician died: he had broadcasted Nazi propaganda from Germany during WW2 and was later hanged for treason.

80 years ago, on *8th January 1946* that Elvis Presley received his first guitar on his 11th birthday: apparently, he would have preferred a bicycle; and on *10th January 1946* that the United Nations General Assembly convened for the first time, in Westminster Central Hall, London.

75 years ago, on *9th January 1951* that the UN headquarters in New York City was officially opened; and on *30th January 1951* that Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian automotive engineer died: he designed the Volkswagen Beetle, the Tiger tank and founded the Porsche sports car company.

70 years ago, on *8th January 1956* that five American evangelical Christian missionaries were killed by members of the savage and isolated Huaorani tribe in Ecuador: the missionaries were attempting to bring Christianity to the Huaorani people, and had spent several months dropping gifts from an aeroplane and had ►






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◀ established a camp a few miles from the Huaorani settlements on 6th January, but were all killed within two days; and on **31st January 1956** that AA Milne, writer, poet, humourist and playwright died: best known for his stories about Winnie the Pooh.

65 years ago, on **20th January 1961** that John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the USA.

60 years ago, on **17th January 1966** that the album *Sounds of Silence* by Simon and Garfunkel, was released.

50 years ago, on **12th January 1976** that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died: best known for creating the character Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap* (see p39).

40 years ago, on **28th January 1986** that the US space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, Florida: all seven astronauts were killed, including the first teacher in space, Christa McAuliffe.

30 years ago, on **20th January 1996** that the first Palestinian general election chose Yasser Arafat to be President of the Palestinian National Council in a landslide victory; and on **22nd January 1996** that a mass grave was discovered near Brcko, Bosnia, that contained the bodies of nearly 3,000 victims of Serb ethnic cleansing: they had been killed in May-June 1992; and on **27th January 1996** that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany, and became International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations: it marks the day (27th January 1945) that the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated during WW2.

25 years ago, on **12th January 2001** that Swedish football manager Sven Goran Eriksson became the first non-Briton to coach the England national football team.

20 years ago, on **12th January 2006** that at least 346 people were killed in a stampede during the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Mina, Saudi Arabia.

10 years ago, on **31st January 2016** that Terry Wogan, Irish radio and TV broadcaster, died: known for his long-running BBC Radio 2 show, and for presenting TV's *Wogan*, *Blankety Blank*, *Come Dancing*, *Children in Need*, and for his commentaries on the *Eurovision Song Contest*.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

2nd January – Gregory of Nazianzus: the 'Trinitarian Theologian'

The young Gregory had never intended to be a theologian. Far from it. Born in 329 into a wealthy Greek family in southwest Cappadocia, he had excelled in rhetoric and philosophy in Caesarea, Alexandria and Athens, becoming a gifted scholar and orator. Then disaster struck. While Gregory was on his way to Athens, a severe storm nearly engulfed his ship. Amid the terror of the wind and waves, Gregory promised God that if his life was spared, he would dedicate the rest of his life to the service of Jesus Christ. It was not an easy promise to keep, as by nature Gregory preferred a life of study and reflection. Instead, as a priest and then Bishop of Sasima in 372, and Bishop of Constantinople in 380, he was plunged into the tumultuous church politics of the time. His crowning moment came in 381, when he presided at the opening of the Council of Constantinople.

But it was in his quiet times of study and writing that Gregory made his biggest contribution to the early Church. For he expanded the idea that our salvation is a progressive journey enabled by the Holy Spirit. Gregory is greatly honoured in both Eastern and Western Christianity. He was one of the three 'Cappadocian Fathers', who along with Gregory of Nyssa and Basil of Caesarea, developed the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and the Trinity.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Michael Bond, creator of Paddington Bear

It was 100 years ago, on 13th January 1926, that Michael Bond, the children's writer, was born. He has an assured place in any literary Hall of Fame, for he created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Paddington Bear padded into Michael Bond's life quite by accident. It was back in 1956 that Michael was on his way home from work at the BBC when he spied a lonely looking teddy bear on the shelf in a shop window in London. On the spur of the moment, Michael decided to take it home as a stocking filler for his wife.

Michael called the bear Paddington, because they lived near Paddington Station at the time. Two years later, in 1958, while daydreaming over a typewriter and a blank sheet of paper, Michael wondered what might happen if an unaccompanied bear turned up at a railway station looking for a home. The rest is literary history.

His first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was written in ten days and published by Collins in October of 1958. 28 more books followed, and in all more than 35 million Paddington books have been sold worldwide, in more than 40 languages. More than 27 million Paddington Bear soft toys have been sold, just since 2021. The films alone have grossed more than \$778 million.

Paddington made his most famous appearance at Buckingham Palace in 2022, where he had tea with Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee, and exchanged tips with her about the best place to store marmalade sandwiches.

Bond was born in Newbury in 1926 and served with the RAF and army during WW2. He started writing in 1945 while stationed in Cairo, and began his career at the BBC, where he later worked on Blue Peter as a cameraman. He died in 2017, aged 91.

Remembering Agatha Christie

50 years ago, on 12th January 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright, died. Best known for creating the characters Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay in 1890, the daughter of wealthy parents. In 1914 she married Archibald Christie, and Rosalind, their only daughter, was born in 1919. Agatha produced her first detective story in 1920, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, which introduced Hercule Poirot. Her marriage failed in 1928, but not her desire to write, for in 1930 she produced *Murder at the Vicarage*, and Miss Marple arrived.

That same year, 1930, Agatha married again, this time to an archaeologist Max Mallowan, who was 14 years her junior. They had met when Agatha visited an archaeological dig at Ur, a major ancient Sumerian city-state located in modern-day southern Iraq. After the war, Max became Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology at London University and as Director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq he excavated at Nineveh and Nimrud 1947-61.

Agatha went with him, and her travels in the Middle East inspired *Murder in Mesopotamia*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile*. Back home, in 1934 the couple had found a peaceful and elegant home just outside of Wallingford, where they lived for many years.

In all, Agatha wrote more than 100 novels, plays, short stories. The undisputed 'Queen of Crime', she is the best-selling novelist of all time. Some two billion copies of her books, translated into at least 100 languages, have been sold. Her play *The Mousetrap*, has been in continuous performance in London since 1952, breaking all records.



MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Australia celebrates a milestone

As of 1st January, it has been 125 years since the Commonwealth of Australia was established in 1901, when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

But a British presence in Australia began long before 1901. It was way back in 1788 that 11 ships had left England seven months earlier. Their passengers were mostly convicts, and Captain Arthur Phillips had been charged with the job of establishing penal colonies to house them.

The First Fleet landed at Sydney Cove on 26th January 1788, a small bay on the southern shore of Sydney harbour. British settlers stood on Australian shores for the first time and the Union Flag of Great Britain was raised. They formally established the Colony of New South Wales on 7th February, and 20 years later, in 1808, the convicts who had been pardoned were now emancipated convicts, and heartily celebrating the anniversary of their arrival with dinners, drinking and toasts.

The first official celebration took place in 1818 on the 30th anniversary of their arrival, with Governor Lachlan Macquarie naming the day a national holiday, called Foundation Day. While Australians have celebrated the 26th of January as Australia Day ever since, the story is not all a happy one. For indigenous Australians, who have been there for thousands of years, faced persecution and even dozens of massacres during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Nowadays Australia Day is a day when: "We reflect on our nation's past, which began more than 65,000 years ago, and the impact of European settlement on the First Nation's Australians. Our national day is a time, above all, for inclusion and respect, as we work towards reconciliation."



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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Complaints and refunds: what about consumer protection? – David Pickup

'Use honest scales and honest weights.' Leviticus 19:36

'The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favour with him.' Proverbs 11:1

These verses are not about the scales you use to weigh yourself, to see how much weight you have put on over Christmas! It is a biblical warning for businesspeople to act fairly and not cheat the buyer. As such it is one of the earliest pieces of consumer protection.

The law has been updated to reflect changes in buying. Many of us do our shopping online and much of what is bought are not goods in the old-fashioned sense, but electronic items such as downloaded music or games. Whether you do your Christmas shopping in the January sales or on Christmas Eve, what legal rights do you have? This is a complex area, and the following is a guide only.

The law gives us some basic rights about the quality and standard of things we buy from a business. They must be of 'satisfactory quality' which means what a reasonable person would consider satisfactory. They must be 'fit for purpose' and 'as described'. So, if you bought a book, it must be in good condition; and it must be the whole book; and it should not fall apart when you start to read it. If it is a hardback, you would expect it to last longer than a cheap paperback.

So, what if there is a problem?

Normally within the first 30 days, if it is faulty, you can get a refund.

Up to 6 months, if it cannot be repaired or replaced, you are entitled to a refund – in most cases

Up to 6 years, if goods do not last a reasonable time, you may be entitled to some money back.

Some shops give you more rights. They offer money back guarantees if you change your mind. Always keep the receipt. Check that what you buy works, and that it is ok when you get it. No point buying something in November and then find out on Christmas Eve that it is broken. Watch out for those scales!

Menai Suspension Bridge celebrates 200 years

If you have ever gone to Anglesey, chances are that you used the Menai Suspension Bridge (Pont y Borth, in Welsh). A lot of people do – an average of 13,300 vehicles a day, or about 4.8 million vehicles a year. The bridge celebrates a big anniversary this month: it is 200 years old. It was formally opened on 30th January 1826, to link Anglesey (Ynys Mon) to mainland Wales (Gogledd Cymru).

The bridge is special – it is the world's first ever major suspension bridge, with a 176-metre span. Designed by Thomas Telford, it took seven years to build and has been a huge success. It made the crossing safer (until then famers had had to swim their livestock across the strait), and it also made the crossing more dependable and quicker for everyone, cutting hours off the trip from London to Holyhead.

The bridge has changed a bit over 200 years – the original wrought-iron chains were replaced with high-tensile steel chains in 1940, the bridge was reconstructed after a fire in 1970, and in 1998 it was brought under the management of UK Highways A55 Ltd. But the Menai Suspension Bridge is still a much loved and critical road bridge for Anglesey, and there will be warm celebrations for it this month.

To put the history of the bridge into perspective: it was built nearly 25 years before Big Ben (in 1859) and more than 60 years before the Eiffel Tower (in 1889).





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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Burns Night – 25th January

Each year, Burns Night takes place on 25th January to celebrate the life and legacy of Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns. (1759 to 1796)

Burns Night is usually a combination of haggis, neeps, tatties, and warming 'drams', accompanied by recitals of some of Robert Burns' famous work.

Robert Burns was born in 1759 and died only 37 years later, in 1796. But his life and writing certainly left a rich inheritance behind. Here are some interesting facts:

- After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, Robert Burns has more statues dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure.
- American music legend Bob Dylan said that his greatest-ever source of inspiration was Burns' *A Red, Red Rose*.
- J.D. Salinger's 1951 novel *The Catcher in the Rye* based its title on the Robert Burns poem, *Comin' Thro' the Rye*.
- Auld Lang Syne is a song of friendship in China. Known as You Yi Di Jiu Tian Chang – or Friendship Forever and Ever – the song is played at graduations and other formal gatherings.
- *Is There For Honest Poverty* (also known as *A Man's a Man for a' That*) was chosen to open the new Scottish Parliament in 1999 due to its themes of equality and universal brotherhood.
- *Auld Lang Syne* is recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as one of the top three most popular songs in the entire English language.
- American fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger claims to be a direct descendant of Robert Burns.
- In 2009, Robert Burns became the first-ever person to appear on a commemorative bottle of Coca-Cola.
- A book of Burns' poetry was carried into space by astronaut Nick Patrick during a two-week space mission in 2010. The book completed a 5.7-million-mile trip, managing 217 orbits of the Earth.
- Burns fathered at least 12 children during his short lifetime. His youngest son, Maxwell, was born on the day of Burns' funeral.

POETRY CORNER

Our irrepressible poet Nigel Beeton was inspired to write another version of a famous hymn...

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

See, amid the winter's snow
Lots of cars that just won't go;
It is not the drivers' fault –
Councils have run out of salt!
Here, we sit the whole night long!
Where have all the snowploughs
gone?
If we'd known we'd be delayed
We'd perhaps have brought a spade!

Say, ye cheerful children, say
Why aren't you in school today?
'We are skating round and round
'Cos the heating's broken down!

'Yes, the heating's gone berserk!
'Mum has missed a day at work!
'Though she's cross and seems on
edge,
'We can ride upon our sledge!'

Sages on the weather show
Said the sun would surely glow,
And, said they, we may be sure
Of a glorious day in store!
But they missed a detail, small
And the snow did thickly fall!
But the met-men feel no shame –
Their computer takes the blame!



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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
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Every Wednesday, 10am	Warm Welcome Wednesdays, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 15
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 21
Every Friday, 10am	Chapel Café, Methodist Church, Broadmayne	Page 15
Every Friday, 10am	Owermoigne Painting Group, Village Hall (not 30th)	Page 23
Every Friday, 7pm	Short Mat Bowls, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 11
Every Saturday, 8.30am	Yoga, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 21
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Saturday 3rd, 9am	Community Café, Crossways Youth & Community Centre	Page 11
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Saturday 10th, 3pm	An Afternoon of Adventure, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 25
Monday 12th, 7pm	Owermoigne Photography Group, Cricket & Social Club	Page 25
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Thursday 15th	February Compass deadline	Page 2
Thursday 15th	Fish & Chip Supper, Col's Quiz, Owermoigne Crkt & Social Club	Page 27
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For your event to be included FREE in WHAT'S ON, email details to the Editor (see Pg 2)



Dorchester www.dorset.police.uk
Neighbourhood Policing Team



Get in touch with us today to raise any issues you have. You can contact us via the Dorset Police website or social media, where we also

promote upcoming meetings and events. We are based at Dorchester Police Station. The Neighbourhood Policing Team works with colleagues across Dorset Police, but does not respond to emergency calls. **If a crime is in progress or life is in danger, always dial 999 immediately, so we can help you as quickly as possible.**

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Greetings again from St Petrified's

It was a close thing. As is our tradition, we did hold our Christmas Fair in November – on Saturday 29th to be precise. The work on the church hall had been completed, and Santa was not booked elsewhere – so all was go, go, go! Being optimists, and because Mr Graf had been standing over the six workmen and two ladies most of every day, we had assumed the job would be completed and had made plans for a Christmas Fair. Mr Graf had insisted on the ladies because the work included a kitchen and a ladies' toilet and he wanted experts involved from the start, not expert complaints from the lady users of these facilities. He also got on well with the Misses Sweet and learnt a lot of practical detail from them. So as well as Santa, the usual stalls and attractions were planned: cakes, sweets, crafts, lucky dip, tombola, bric-a-brac, pre-loved (what we used to call second-hand) clothes and so on.

To stir up enthusiasm for the fair it was decided to hold an open day where villagers could come and view the renovated venue for the fair. And all of the family who could be contacted of Jeremy Jameson, who left the bequest in his will, were also invited to the 'grand re-opening' of the hall. As it turned out, his family are spread far and wide across the world, but a number still in Britain, did, despite the short notice, arrive in their large expensive vehicles, clogging the church car park and the village streets. Villagers coming to the open day appreciated the transformation, but did the family? Jeremy would have done! And so there were queues at the kitchen door to look at the facilities and to view the Misses Sweet beaver away serving hot drinks and cake; and queues at the loos with people wishing to see the sparking facilities, check the lights and try the hot water, all of which were poor or absent in the previous facilities. Now there are separate Ladies and Gents, the women said how splash-free it all was without the men, and the men said how much better it was not having to queue.

Attendances at Christmas fairs have fallen over the years, and following the numbers at the open day, thoughts turned to how to provide something that would attract them to the fair. Rev Keen turned to his 'think tank' (the youth group) one of whom remembered going to a church hall with some stalls run by charity shops. Rev Keen saw the potential as many of the charity shops in Midhampton often cannot accept donations because their storerooms are full, so he took the idea to the committee who, as no one had thought of anything else, agreed instantly.

A good number of shops welcomed the proposal, especially as Mr Spendlow had said that there would be no charge for the stall and that the charities could keep all their takings. So early on the morning of the fair the village streets were clogged again: with the charity shops' vehicles. All our usual stalls were also setting up and the event was opened by Major Gore-Blimey promptly at 10.30. Business was brisk as many in the village love charity shops but find it difficult to get to Midhampton. Delivery? No problem, as Rev Keen had organised the kids' army to do it. There were some serendipitous finds. Mr Trump (no relation as far as we know) found a crystal wine glass which was an exact match to one he had broken from a set which celebrated his wife's birthday and, as he said, he was unable to manage a mend but was now able to make amends! Mrs Price had been left one of two vases by her mother, and never found who had received the other: whoever it was obviously did not appreciate it and gave it to the charity shop. It was quite large and did need help from the kids' army, but she insisted on escorting them home just in case it got dropped!

Bedlinen, curtains, towels, tea towels (many of the 'Present from Margate' type obviously never used), cushions and other similar items all sold well, perhaps an indication of what shops were no longer on the Midhampton high street. Some folk brought things to donate to the shops – which had not been expecting this but by the end of the day most had sold much more than was left to take back so accepted gracefully. 'Our' stalls also did well, boosted by the increased numbers to the event overall, but the Jameson family members, who had been sent invitations, were strangely absent.

AND FINALLY . . .

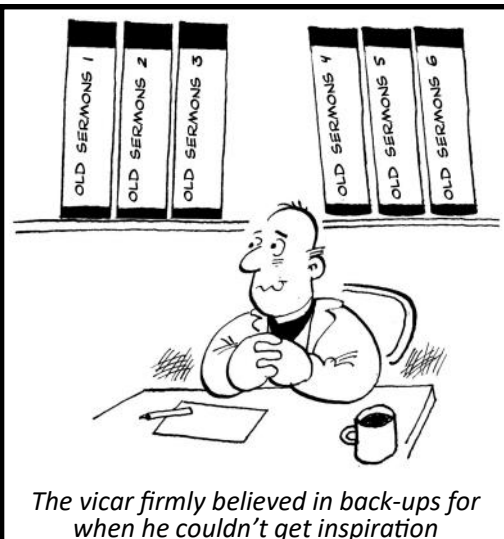
The bump

A vicar who had just undergone a very complicated operation kept complaining about a bump on his head and a terrible headache. Since his operation had been an intestinal one, the nurse was concerned. Finally, she spoke to the doctor about it. The doctor reassured her, saying: "Don't worry, he really does have a bump on his head. About halfway through the operation, we ran out of anaesthetic and he was about to wake up."

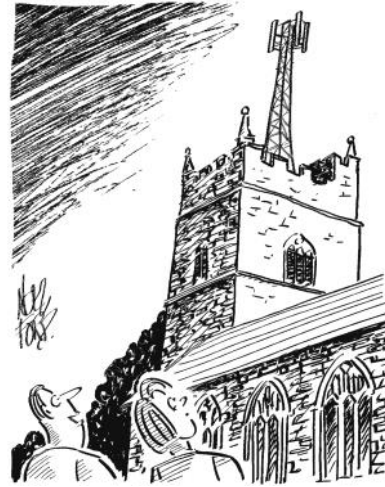
A musical note?

A church youth group leader who plays the accordion is driving home late one night after a youth event. He's tired and hungry, so he stops at a late-night café for a bite to eat.

Halfway through his meal he realises that although he locked his car doors, his accordion is in the back seat, in plain sight! He rushes out to his vehicle, but he is too late. The windows are already smashed, and someone has thrown in two more accordions.



The vicar firmly believed in back-ups for when he couldn't get inspiration



The vicar always wished the church had a spire so he's welcomed the phone mast

Texts to the vicar

The vicar was trying to engage with the younger generation and said he would answer their texts. He did not expect some of these...

I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. – Loreen, age 9

Please pray for all the airline pilots. We are flying off on holiday tomorrow. – Laurie, age 10

Please say a prayer for our local cricket team. We need God's help or a new bowler. Thank you. – Alexander, age 10

My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. – Joshua, age 10

Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class. – Carla, age 10

