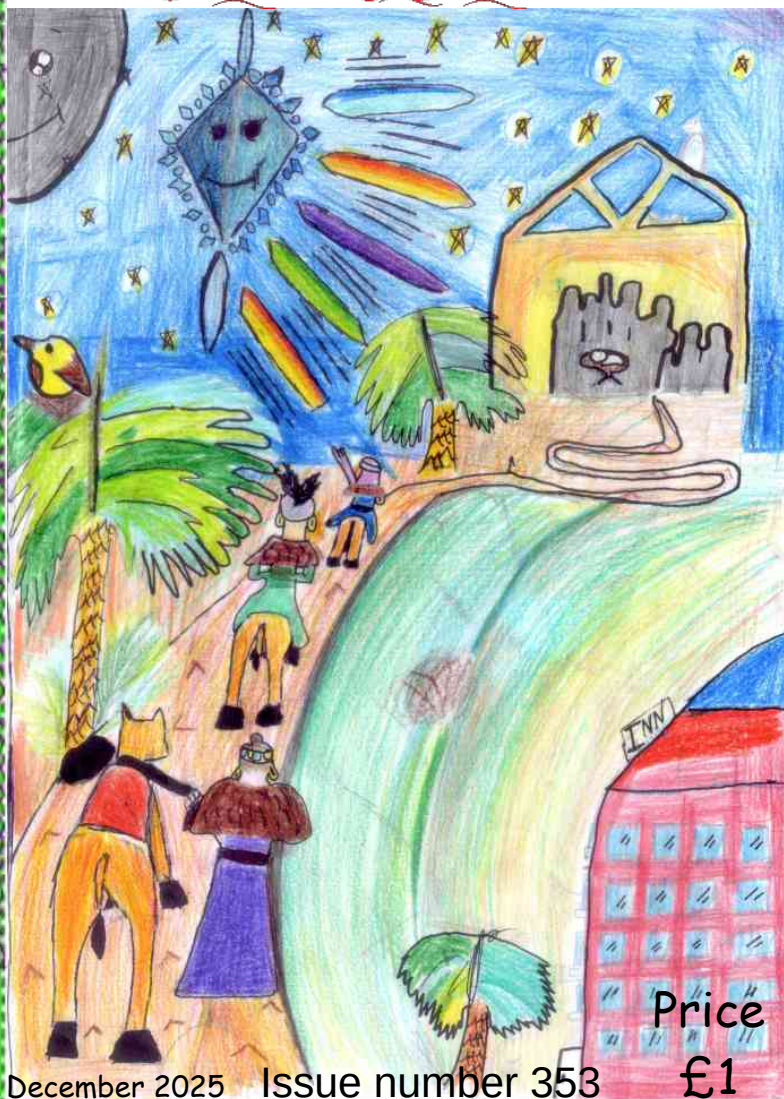


NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE PARISHES OF BODCUMPTON,
SHARDINGTON AND ZIMCOMBE WITH BETHAM

Three in One



December 2025 Issue number 353

Price
£1

Three in One Magazine

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THREE IN ONE MAGAZINE

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Greenway Benefice - Badgeworth, Shurdington and Witcombe with Bentham.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" Mark 16:15

2025 Benefice Worship Pattern

1st Sunday of the month

8am	St Paul's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Worship
11am	St Mary's	Worship

2nd Sunday of the month

8am	St Mary's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11am	St Mary's	All-age Worship

3rd Sunday of the month

9:30	St Paul's	Holy Communion
11am	Holy Trinity	BCP* Morning Worship
11am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

****These are services using the Book of Common Prayer***

4th Sunday 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

***January, April, July, October at Holy Trinity Badgeworth
February, May, August, November at St Mary's Great Witcombe***

March, June, September, December at St Paul's Shurdington

5th Sunday Benefice Service at 10am "Let's Worship"

usually in Shurdington Church of England Primary School

DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR NOTICEBOARDS AND ONLINE FOR SEASONAL SERVICES SUCH AS CHRISTMAS, EASTER, HARVEST ETC.

Find us on social media on Facebook:

@GreenwayChurches

SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL

School Lane, Shurdington

Lettings for groups and private functions.

Rates £25 large room, £20 small room per session

Further details from the church administrator by
emailing greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com

WITCOMBE & BENTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Enquiries should be made to the Custodian

07518 137635

witcombevillagehall@gmail.com

www.witcombevillagehall.co.uk

BADGEWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Our lovely old school hall is an excellent venue for meetings, rehearsals, receptions and small parties, seating a maximum of 50 people.

Reception hall, main hall, fully fitted kitchen with crockery and cutlery for 50.

Car park opposite the hall for hall users.

Hire charge £25 per session

(8am-1pm, 1-6pm, 6-11pm).

For enquiries and bookings, please email

badgeworthvillagehall@gmail.com

or call 07895 764947.

Badgeworth Village Hall Management Committee

SHURDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre consists of two spacious halls, a room which links both, and a grassed open space.

Events may be booked by following the 'Bookings' link on our website : shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Email: bookings@shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Tel: 07483 303190

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Contributors please note: material for the
February 2026 issue to
John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com
by Wednesday 14th January 2026



Pastoral Letter

Susan writes



December
2025

Dear friends,

It seems like a long time since I wrote the letter for the magazine... we like to share it out across the team. As you read this, we are in December or January. The festive season comes and goes in these two months. It's packed tight with events, carols, parties, children's nativities, family get togethers. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, then we ring out the old year, or bring in the new, depending on your perspective! My grandmother always thought of it as Old Year's Night, not New Year's Eve.

I like the idea of Old Year's Night. A time to reflect on the year that is coming to an end. To remember the good and the bad times alike. It is a healthy thing to spend a little time calling to mind the events and people that have had an impact on us. It is particularly hard when we have lost loved ones. Saying goodbye well is an important part of the grieving process. We might grieve other changes in our lives, like separation, divorce, illness, job loss. We also need to acknowledge and celebrate the good – new babies, jobs, house moves, weddings... and so on.

Sometimes, we get carried away with moving into the New Year, or indeed anything "new", without just pausing, taking a breath, seeing what we have learned, and saying a prayer if that's your thing.

There is a helpful spiritual practice called Examen. It is typically done at the end of the day.

How to Pray the Examen

- 1. Place yourself in God's presence. Give thanks for God's great love for you.*
- 2. Pray for the grace to understand how God is acting in your life.*
- 3. Review your day — recall specific moments and your feelings at the time.*
- 4. Reflect on what you did, said, or thought in those instances. Were you drawing closer to God, or further away?*
- 5. Look toward tomorrow — think of how you might collaborate more effectively with God's plan. Be specific, then conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

I think this would work well on Old Year's Night as well. Review your year. Recall those moments and those feelings. Give yourself time to reflect, in this busy season.

My prayer is that you will enjoy your celebrations and take time to get ready for whatever comes next. I will try to do the same and I hope to see you singing carols somewhere!

Love with Christmas and New Year Blessings, Susan.



By Jocelyn Newman (aged 9) runner up



By Amber-Leigh Powis aged 7

Benefice Diary

December *see pages 6-8 for services & many events*

Saturday	6	Coffee and Chat	28
		Coffee and Crafts	30
Monday	8	Open Monday	13
Tuesday	9	MU	24
Sunday	14	Christmas Bazaar	31
Monday	16	Community Carols	
Wednesday	17	Julian Group	10
Friday	12	Book Club	4
Monday	22	"Blue" Christmas service	20
Monday	29	Open Monday	13

January

Friday	9	Book Club	4
Monday	12	Open Monday	13
Tuesday	13	MU Communion	24
Thursday	15	Gardening Society	22
Saturday	24	Coffee morning	25
Monday	26	Open Monday	13
Tuesday	27	Alan Pilbeam talk	8
Wednesday	28	Julian group	10

February

Monday	9	Open Monday	13
Tuesday	10	MU AGM	24
Friday	13	Book Club	4

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) Greenway Gifts
Every Thursday in term-time Community Choir

Special Church Services December, January and February.

Our usual pattern of services is on the inside back cover of this magazine. Here are the additional services for January and February.

There is a separate list for December – please check it as there is something for everyone, from schools, to care homes, to pubs, outdoors, indoors, candlelit...

Care Home Worship

Please contact us to confirm, but usually, Badgeworth Praise is held on the first & third Wednesdays of each month, at 11:30am in Badgeworth Court – contact Rachel Cottell. On the third Wednesdays, we usually offer Holy Communion. For Chargrove Praise at Chargrove Lawn please contact Sue Padfield. Holy Communion is offered at Atherton House in the lounge, usually on the first Wednesdays of the month at 11am – contact Reverend Daniel.

Thursday prayers:

On 4th December, 8th January* and 5th February prayers will be in school at 8:30am. On the same days, we will also hold morning prayer in St Paul's church at 9am.

*8th Jan is the 2nd Thursday, but we have moved it from 1st January as school isn't open then.

Usually, on other Thursdays in the month (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th), morning prayer is online at 9am on zoom. Please email revsusancooke@gmail.com for the link to the prayer meetings.

As a result of changing from 1st to 8th January for in person prayers, we will meet online on January 1st 2026.

4th January 2026 – Epiphany celebrated in all three churches.

1st February – Candlemas celebrated in all three churches.

ASH WEDNESDAY 18th February

We observe the beginning of Lent, with a solemn service, including optional imposition of ashes.

6pm at Holy Trinity Church, Badgeworth.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS 2025

These December events are open to all and are in addition to our usual Sunday morning services.

Friday 5th - 9pm Night Prayer (Compline) at St Mary's

Saturday 6th - 10am Christmas Coffee & Crafts Witcombe Village Hall

Saturday 6th - 6pm St Mary's Crib Lights Switch On

Saturday 6th - 7pm Badgeworth Village Hall Christmas Lights Switch On & Raffle

Tuesday 9th – 2.30pm MU Christmas in St Paul's Church Hall (all welcome but please let Rev Susan know if you plan

to attend, for catering purposes)

Wednesday 10th - 7pm to 8pm Carol singing in The Cheese Rollers

Friday 12th - 9pm Night Prayer (Compline) online (email revsusancooke@gmail.com for the link)

Sunday 14th - 2pm to 4pm Christmas Bazaar & Raffle at St Paul's Church Hall

Sunday 14th - 6pm Carols by Candlelight at Holy Trinity

Monday 15th - 6pm Community Carols at Shurdington School (including children playing Ukuleles and Greenway Community Choir singing) Come along to sing our favourites!

Wednesday 17th - 6pm Carols @ Witcombe Village Green, 6.30pm Benthams Green & 7.30pm Hopes' barn

Thursday 18th - 7:30pm Carols with Greenway Community Choir at Shurdington Church Hall, informal, with seasonal snacks!

Friday 19th - 7pm to 8pm Carol singing at The Bell

Friday 19th - 9pm Night Prayer (Compline) at St Mary's

Sunday 21st - 4pm Carols by Candlelight at St Paul's

Sunday 21st - 6pm Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's

Monday 22nd - 6pm Blue Christmas at Holy Trinity. A quiet Christmas service for those who find celebrating difficult, perhaps due to bereavement or current painful circumstances.

Christmas Eve:

4pm Crib Service at St Paul's, *followed by hot chocolate in Beauty and the Tea Cup*

4pm Crib Service at St Mary's

Please come dressed as a nativity character to either of the Crib services! Not compulsory, but all ages welcome to dress up.

11:30pm Midnight Mass at St Paul's

Christmas Day Communions:

9:30am St Mary's

9:30am St Paul's

11am Holy Trinity

Sunday 28th - 10:30 Benefice Christmas Communion at St Paul's

***YOU ARE SO WELCOME TO CELEBRATE AND
SING CAROLS TOGETHER!***

Alan Pilbeam Talks

Tuesday January 27th

Tuesday February 24th

These talks start at 7pm each night at Shurdington Chapel
Paddy Brownrigg

Greenway Benefice Churches

How to find us:

Holy Trinity Badgeworth
Church Lane
Badgeworth
Gloucester
GL51 4UL

(Registered Charity number 1209315)

St Paul's Shurdington
School Lane
Shurdington
Cheltenham
GL51 4TF

St Mary* the Virgin Witcombe with Bentham
Great Witcombe
Gloucester
*GL3 4TS**

**turnings off Ermin Way or Birdlip Hill*

You can also see more information on A Church Near You.

Simply type "A Church Near You Badgeworth" or "A Church Near You Shurdington" or "A Church Near You Witcombe" into your search engine.



Useful Phone Numbers:



Furniture Recycling Warehouse	01452 331333
Removal of Bulky Waste	01684 295010
Glos Highways	0800 0 514 514
Faulty Streetlights	0800 0 514 514
Police (non-emergency)	101
101 is 15p, the local call number is	01452 726920
Fire/Police/Ambulance	999
(emergency only)	
NHS 'Out of Hours'	08454 220220
NHS Help line	111
Adult social services and	
District nurses	01452 328224
Samaritans	116123
Citizens Advice	01452 527202
Children's social services	01452 328213
CARE direct	0800 444000
Electricity Power Loss	0800 328 1111
Water Services &	0800 783 4444
Emergencies	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Emmaus*	01452 413095

*at Chequers Road, Gloucester:

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

**at Chequers Road, Gloucester:*

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

Julian Meeting

Meeting in silence with God

Please do join us for 30 minutes of silent prayer followed
by a cup of tea together.

Time: 2:30pm Wednesday December 17th 2025

Place: 52 Lambert Avenue, Shurdington. GL51 4ST

Ian & Wendy Davies (01242 861293)



Shurdington church and village organisations

Churchwarden	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Christine Langham	(01242) 861218
Gift Aid Officer		
Sacristan	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
Church Flowers	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
Mothers' Union	Mrs Janet Holmes	(01242) 862989
Church Hall Lettings		
Verger		
Parish Council Clerk	John Kay	07841204404
Shurdington Pre School	Kelly Clifford	07867813627
Gardening Society	Mr. G. Woodruffe	07792269353
Scout Group	Mrs Louise Slee	
	15thcheltenhamscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Shurdington Sports Club	Mr J Barnfield	(01242) 862826
Friendship Club	Mrs Maureen West	(01242) 863991
Children's Society	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505

In time of illness if you would like a visit and / or to be remembered in prayer please contact Clare Stewart (01242) 862598, Sue Padfield (01452) 862509.

Three in One Magazine
Editor John Cummins
07795849688

e-mail address: editor3in1@gmail.com

Business Manager Ian Davies tel (01242) 861293
email: iandavies@pobox.com



Witcombe & Bentham church and village organisations

Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
	Mrs Lynne Cooper	(01452) 864523
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer	Mr Jon Frewin	07808912217
Verger	Mrs Jane Bell	(01452) 862558
Captain of Bells		
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lynne Cooper	07582036001
Magazine Coordinator	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
Village Hall Enquiries Custodian		07518137635
Witcombe Social Fundraisers	Mrs Christine Dyer	(01452) 862399
Witcombe Under 5s	Kyla Hill	thevictoria@btinternet.com



Badgeworth church and Village organisations

Churchwardens	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
	Mr Paul Stanfield	(01242) 463626
PCC Secretary	Mrs Antoinette Wilson	(01452) 856907
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Hazel Cotton	(01452) 857180
Gift Aid Officer	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
Sacristan	Mrs Sue Avery	(01242) 520388
Verger	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Captain of Bells	Mr David Turner	(01452) 712302
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs H.L. Jones	07840073143
Village Hall	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Friends of Church	Mrs Beverly Pickering	(01452) 712907

Open Mondays at Shurdington Community Centre

Century Hall from 11am – 4pm
Second and last Monday of the month.

Refreshments

No charge and all are welcome.

Newspapers, jigsaws, table tennis, charge your phone or just have a chat.

Between 2pm and 4pm, there will be a family film showing on our cinema system.

Play facilities for children and on the last Monday of the month, an **NHS run Baby Hub**.

All welcome



Supported by: **Shurdington Parish Council, Tewkesbury
Warm Spaces**

**Community Fund, Gloucester Thriving Communities,
National Grid Community Matters
Gloucestershire Community Foundation**



BOOKS & BANTER

Shurdington book club

Where: in Beauty and the Teacup When:
6pm

Friday 12th December 2025

2026 – 2nd Fridays of the month

9th January 13th February

13th March

NO MEETING IN APRIL

8th May 12th June

10th July

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

11th September 9th October

13th November 11th December

New members are always welcome.

If you'd like to join, please email
revsusancooke@gmail.com

or ask Wendy Lovett in Beauty and the Teacup
or just come along!



Clips, cribs, and community: Advent at Sodbury Vale

This year, Sodbury Vale Benefice is spreading seasonal cheer online with their digital Advent calendar – inviting everyone to share in the hopes, memories, and joy of Christmas as seen through the eyes of their community.

Running from 1 to 26 December, the calendar features 26 virtual ‘doors’, each one revealing a 45-second to one-minute short video clip of a different person or group from the benefice’s four churches.

Every clip gives a glimpse into how people in Sodbury Vale celebrate Christmas, from favourite memories to reflections on what the season means to them.

“We’ve made a joyful digital countdown to Christmas for all to enjoy,” said the Revd Christine Butler, Rector of Sodbury Vale Benefice. “We wanted to make more of Advent in the lead up to Christmas, and to make something that’s a bit of fun too. It’s a daily moment of festive cheer and connection; a space to reflect on the wonder of Christmas and the hope Advent brings. We thought it would be sad to stop on Christmas Day, so we added Boxing Day as well. People will have to wait for the exact date each day to watch the video clips.”

Each calendar door is also illustrated with images from CribFest 2024, the benefice’s much-loved annual nativity display that showcases nativity cribs from around the world – from simple handmade cribs to stunning semi-precious displays.

“A lot of people tell us that CribFest starts off their Christmas, and that in the years we didn’t have it, they felt bereft. People come from quite a long way to attend, because some of the cribs are just amazing and from all over the world,” Christine said.

Excitement is already building for CribFest 2025, running from 3

to 7 December at St John's Church, Chipping Sodbury. This year's theme, 'Good News', aims to point visitors towards the story of Jesus. On the final day, the town is hosting its annual 'Chipping Sodbury Christmas Sunday', complete with two donkeys in the lay-by next to the church.

"We invite everyone to experience the joy of Advent – through our online calendar, at CribFest, or both," said Christine.

To access the calendar, and for more information about CribFest 2025 and Sodbury Vale Benefice's Christmas services, visit <https://svbcofe.org.uk/cribfest-2025/>.

Grace Network launches ethical Christmas hamper

The Grace Network, based in The Old Department Store in Cirencester, is offering a thoughtful way to give back this Christmas with a hamper that supports communities both locally and internationally.

Created in collaboration with Different Kind, also based in The Old Department Store, each hamper purchase helps fund social enterprises, fair trade producers, and community initiatives – from pay-it-forward meals at The Long Table, to fair-wage work for women in Bangladesh. All proceeds go to Different Kind, which supports the makers behind each product.

The hamper includes products like Dalit candles, handmade by the Dalit people of India which helps fund education for children in underrepresented communities, and Wiggly Kitchen's Social Sauce, made with mulberries picked from Bishop Rachel's garden, which helps marginalised groups learn to cook, garden and connect.

Annie Campbell, Communications and Community Lead for The Grace Network, said: "Each item in the hamper has its own story. Everything has been thoughtfully chosen because it gives back in some way, celebrating community, generosity, faith, and the joy of Christmas."

There are two options available, one priced at £75 and another at £115.

To view the full list of hamper products and costs, visit

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/grace-network-launches-ethical-christmas-hamper/>

Orders can be placed by emailing melissa@thedifferentkind.com.

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Advent course: scripture and art, Chapter House, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LX, 7 and 14 December

Explore the Nativity story onsite through scripture, art, prayer, and reflection, guided step by step in community over hot drinks and cake. Online courses on 2, 9 and 16 December are also available. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/advent-course-scripture-and-art-2>

Christmas – the candlelight concert, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 8 December

A festive musical event featuring live performances of classic Christmas songs by singers and a band, performed in a candlelit setting. <https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Gloucester/Tewkesbury-Abbey/Christmas---The-Candlelight-Concert/41054554/#tickets%20>

Beer and carols, St Philip and St James Leckhampton, 60 Grafton Rd, Cheltenham GL50 2DD, 20 December

A selection of beer and carols and a singalong of the best carols and Christmas tunes.

<https://pipandjims.org.uk/christmas>

Gloucester Morris Men and Mummers dance, Gloucester Cathedral Green, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LX, 26 December

The Gloucester Mummers Play, a traditional and entertaining Boxing Day performance revived in 1969 by local folklore enthusiasts is a free, family-friendly event on Cathedral Green featuring dance, music, and festive fun.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/gloucester-mummers-dance-at-upper-green-25>

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

These daily reflection questions build on the themes of the candles in the Advent wreath.

Advent 1: Hope...

Sun is courageous. How will hope empower you to be bold today?

Mon is rooted in the soul, not the head. How will you tune into your heart today?

Tues makes us ready. How will hope prepare you to take on a challenge today?

Wed is sustained by glimmers of God at work. Where will you seek out God today?

Thurs is practical. What will hope allow you to accomplish today that hopelessness wouldn't?

Fri brings light into a broken world. Where will you look for hope among despair today?

Sat is stoked by prayer. What spiritual discipline will you take on today to grow in hope?

Advent 2: Peace...

Sun is an inner reality as well as an outer one. How will you settle your spirit today?

Mon depends on repentance. What change toward someone else will you make today?

Tues is for everyone, or for no one. How will you advocate for peace for someone else today?

Wed is prophetic. How will you take a risk today?

Thurs is constructive. What will you create today that will contribute to peace?

Fri is sown and reaped communally. With whom will you partner to bring peace today?

Sat must be waged. What instrument of peace will you take up today?

Advent 3: Joy...

Sun is persistent. How will you experience joy as a result of not giving up today?

Mon is contagious. How will you share joy with someone else today?

Tues defies evil. How will you overcome malice by laying claim to joy today?

Wed requires openness. What new person or experience will you seek out today?

Thurs is sometimes quiet, sometimes not. What will you revel in today?

Fri can sneak up on us. How will you open yourself to be surprised by joy today?

Sat takes nothing for granted. What small grace are you grateful for today?

Advent 4: Love...

Sun sees and values people as they are. Whom will you see and appreciate today?

Mon is creative. In what innovative way will you show love today?

Tues forgives. What old hurt will you let go of today?

Wed moves us closer to God. How will you thank God for the love in your life today?

Laura Stephens-Reed

Clergy & Congregational Coach

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee morning held at Witcombe Cricket Club on Friday, 7th November, raised £166 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Many thanks to the hosts, organisers, cake bakers, raffle prize-givers and all those who supported this.

Andrew Martin

*Monday 22nd December 2025
Beginning at 6:00 pm in
Holy Trinity Church,
Badgeworth*



Maybe times are, or have been, hard for you – for whatever reason (bereavement, illness, estrangement, worry) – and Christmas seems to accentuate, rather than ease, the difficulties. Or maybe in an overly busy life, you just want a little space to reflect, recall, regroup.

Whatever the reason, whatever the need, you will be welcome at this service.

Wide Valley Calendars 2025

A number of **Wide Valley calendars** are available (over and above those for which orders have already been placed), **with profits going to St Mary's**. Like almost everything else, the cost of production has again increased, but I have managed to keep the sale price per calendar to £15 (plus p&p, where applicable); if, however, you are prepared voluntarily to pay a little more for the sake of the hard-pressed coffers of St Mary's, it will be very gratefully received.



As usual, all the photographs were taken in the "Wide Valley" - the whole sweep encompassed by the Cotswold escarpment, from Cooper's Hill in the south to Shurdington Hill in the north - each one in the month which it illustrates,

though in a range of different years.

Orders to me, please, by **e-mail (preferred)** or 'phone (robintaylorgilbert@btinternet.com; 01242.862284).

Robin Gilbert





SHURDINGTON & BADGEWORTH GARDENING SOCIETY



Our meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, starting at 7.30 in the Millennium Hall. Our first meeting for 2026 will be on 15th January and is a talk by Marion Stainton on Growing Vegetables.

We have 3 shows a year, March, June and August held on the third Saturday of the month. It is not compulsory to show but it is a lot of fun. The other months we have a speaker giving a talk on a specific subject. Membership is only £10 per year.

As I am aware that there is not a 3:1 magazine in January, please note our February meeting is on 19th. This will be a talk on Pruning and new plant introductions by Ian Sadler.

On behalf of the Gardening Society, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Stay safe keep gardening Janette Willis (Secretary)



By Amarah Hillier aged 4



By Wilf Lucas aged 6



Mothers' Union Branch Meeting 11th November, 2025 St Paul's Church Hall.

We arrived for our Branch Meeting on a very dark wet day but we were all delighted to be together again.

We started our busy afternoon by welcoming everyone but especially Jane as a guest and Revd. Daniel Newman as speaker.

Our Prayers had been prepared by Sue Woods and Lisa read them beautifully. They included a MU Prayer for Remembrance Day and Chris read the Wave of Prayer concluding with the MU Prayer.

The minutes of the October meeting were then read, agreed and signed by Janet.

Janet then reminded us that she was collecting our subs for the year which are now £38 and she then gave us a detailed report on the Council Meeting at Hucclecote on 22nd, October, 2025.

Revd. Daniel was then introduced and he inspired us all with his very honest and open 'Journey to Ordination'. He told us he was brought up in Longlevens in a family with 'Christian Values' without going to Church. But he was always curious.

He worked in retail starting at Primark as a Saturday boy and ending up Manager. There he met his Tammy 'the love of his life'!

Life continued and while on holiday on the Isle of Islay he had a moment of revelation sitting on the altar stone of a Chapel looking out to sea on a very black, rainy day when the clouds suddenly parted and the rays of the sun reached across the water to him. God works in mysterious ways Daniel!

He continued going to meetings with other Christians and asking questions. After a difficult time and with the added pressure of lockdown through Covid and many hours of on line meetings and

interviews on FaceTime he was finally accepted for ordination.
Thank you Daniel for an inspiring afternoon.
Tea was then served, raffle drawn and meeting closed at 4.10 pm.

Next Meeting - December 9th. - Preparation for Christmas

January 13th - Corporate Communion

February 10th. - AGM

All Members wish you a very Peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Christmas Colouring competition 2025

First Place Lottie Court (Y5) aged 9. This is on the cover of this magazine.

Second place Toby Williams aged 6. This is on the church Christmas card.

Joint third:

Winnie Lee Aged 5 and
Rose Cleckner aged 11 (see
Page 1)

Runners up

Ted Dyer (Y2) aged 6 (see
Page 1 Right hand)

Theo Oliver aged 5 (this
page)

Jocelyn Newman aged 9

Amber-Leigh Powis aged 7

Commended

Wilf Lucas aged 6

Amarah Hillier aged 4



4th SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

**SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL
10am to Noon**

**24th JANUARY, 28th FEBRUARY,
28th MARCH, 25th APRIL
23rd MAY, 27th JUNE, 25th JULY
22nd AUGUST, 26th SEPTEMBER
24th OCTOBER, 21st NOVEMBER**

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CHAT

On the following Saturdays

6th Dec.

10am-12noon

Badgeworth Village Hall

Coffee and home-made cakes, good company, a raffle & the morning papers.

Please bring items for the Foodbank box.

A community event organized by Holy Trinity Church and sponsored by Badgeworth Village Hall

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER



St Paul's Church Hall
School Lane, Shurdington, Cheltenham, GL51 4TF

2:00-4:00pm

Seasonal Refreshments, Crafts
Christmas Wreaths & Floral Decorations
Raffle - Prizes include £100
Food Hamper, Chocolates and More
Raffle drawn at 3:45pm

Greenway Gifts



Food Bank

If you need some help with groceries, please come along to our non-referral food bank, every Monday, **except Bank Holidays**, between 9am and 10am, at St Paul's Church Hall. This is for Shurdington, Witcombe, Bentham and Badgeworth, and those associated with Shurdington School and Shurdington Preschool.



Cake and Chat

Every 3rd Monday of the month we have cake and chat. Free & all welcome!

If you would like to support the Food Bank, you can offer long dated items by leaving them in our churches, dropping in on a Monday morning, or you can donate directly to Shurdington Parochial Church Council using the QR code below. Please use the references GIFTS. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS COFFEE & CRAFTS



Saturday, 6th December

10.30am – 12.30pm

WITCOMBE VILLAGE HALL GL34TB

–Christmas Wreath-making–

–Table decorations– etc.

Coffee, Tea, Cakes, Mince pies, Mulled wine

*Organised by WSF/St Mary's PCC in aid of Church &
Community*

PICNIC IN THE PARK .

Witcombe Social Fundraisers (WSF) held the annual Picnic in the Park on the 6th September at Witcombe Court at the kind invitation of Fred Hicks-Beach.

Our thanks to Fred for generously allowing use of his picturesque grounds -a fine setting for listening to music, sipping wine and chatting to friends.

This year the birds tweeted, the sun shone and the cows sauntered by on the surrounding fields, all a nice backdrop to a pleasant picnic with good music by 'Cygnet' who entertained us playing tenor and baritone saxophones, piano, flute and vocals and followed by singer Max Stockin.

Teas and cakes were sold and a raffle held, all to raise funds for church and community, Fred also provided a Bar with proceeds going to Great Western Air Ambulance charity.

A very enjoyable occasion - we look forward to seeing everyone at next year's "Picnic in the Park"

WITCOMBE QUIZ.

The Annual Witcombe Quiz, compered (and written) by David Cooper, Chairman of Witcombe Social Fundraisers (WSF), was held on 17th October with some 80+ eager participants!

The questions must have been easier this year as I actually managed to answer a number of them Perhaps, fewer sporting and Pop songs questions also helped!

If you know the answer to questions such as: "What did God create on the Second Day?", "the name of a baby hare" or "which firm manufactures the Mokka vehicle?" then make sure you come along next year and try your luck!

WSF raises funds for both St Mary's Church, Witcombe, and Witcombe & Bentham village, so if you know of any good cause needing support let WSF know and we'll do our best to help.

Geoff Pilgrim-Morris



St Paul's Shurdington
Snowdrop Day 2026
Saturday 14th February

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DEDICATION CANDLES at St MARY'S



If you would like to dedicate a candle this Christmas to a loved one who has died, as is customary at St Mary's, please let me have the name(s), clearly printed, and £1 per candle.

Candles will be lit at Carols by Candlelight at 6pm on Sunday, 21st December, and at 9.30am on Christmas Day

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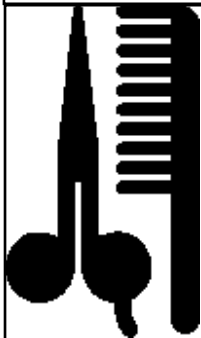
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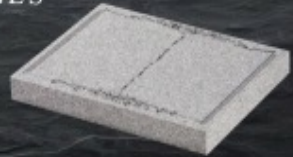
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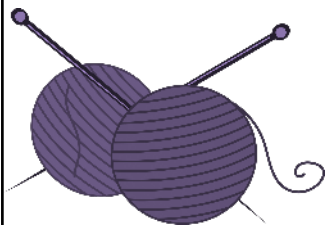
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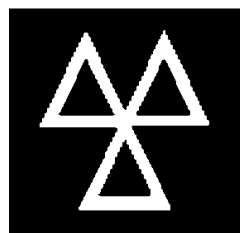
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