

**MONDAY KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS.**

December dates are **Mondays 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, January dates are 4<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**

Please put bins out by 7.00am. The Waste Hotline is 01285 623123.

<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/1432588/monday-1b.pdf>

**WILLERSEY PARISH COUNCIL**

The Office is situated at the south western corner of the Village Hall and is open for enquiries and advice on Monday each week from 9.30am-12noon (except Bank Holidays). At all times recorded messages can be left on the phone 01386 853635, or e-mail [willerseyparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:willerseyparishcouncil@btconnect.com)

**WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL**

To hire the hall please telephone **Lucy Jordan 01386 854886 after 6pm** or leave a message, or email [willerseychall@btinternet.com](mailto:willerseychall@btinternet.com) Otherwise telephone Jean Harris 01386 858434. Hall Caretaker – Bill Payne 01386 858368.

**METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE** – Tel: Penny Ingles 853306.

**MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE** For queries telephone 01452 425048

The Mobile Library next visits are on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 near the Bell Inn at 1350-1550.

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=65265&p=0](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=65265&p=0)

Don't forget the **MOBILE POST OFFICE** visits every Friday outside The Bell Inn from **12:45 to 14:45.**

**COTSWOLD VOLUNTEERS NORTH**

Anybody who wishes to have transport for hospital and medical appointments should ring the CVN Help Centre: 01608 651115. This telephone is manned from 09:30-13:30 hrs Monday to Friday. At other times there is an Answerphone.

**Transport charges are 50p a mile (Minimum charge £3.00)**

**TRAVEL SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

National Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50 or 03457 48 49 50

National Bus Traveline 0871 2002233

Hedgehog 01386 841466 N. N. Cresswell 01386 48655

Johnsons 01564 797000

Marchants of Cheltenham 01242 257714

Bus timetables for Gloucestershire are at [www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/](http://www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/) and on the Willersey website at [www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus](http://www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus)

**Contact numbers for Breakdown of Services & Police**

Electric Power Faults - 0800 328 1111 or 105. Gas Emergency – 0800 111 999

Floodline – 0845 988 1188. Severn Trent. Sewage – 08007 834444

Thames Water - Water Supply – 0800 980 8800

Police – Telephone 101 . [www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk) Emergency 999.

Dear Friends,

Love, peace and joy! The Christmas message. As we approach the celebrations of Christmas Day we have a habit of moving into a frenzy of activity and activities. Love there certainly must be, the love of our families and our friends, because the frenzied activity is all about getting ready to celebrate together. The presents and the food and the decorating of our homes are all gestures of love. And that is just what it should be! But among all this busyness there is sometimes a lack of peace and quite a lot of anxiety before the great day arrives! So it might help if we pause a little and reflect on what and why we are doing these things right now. We do, after all, love our families and friends all the year round, not just at Christmas. So why now, why at Christmas? Many of you will know why, some may be a little puzzled by all this activity in the depths of winter.

If you are familiar with the Christmas story, then pause and reflect on the Christmas gift we were given over two thousand years ago. The gift was a promise that human kind would overcome evil through the life and death of a very special baby – Jesus the Christ Child, born in a lowly manger.

If you are a little uncertain as to why Christians celebrate the birth of this very special baby, don't be afraid to ask!

The birth of this very special baby changed the world. His life and death gives us hope for the future. In John's gospel we are told that through God's grace and love we all have the opportunity to live life in all its abundance. Our part in this is to live as Jesus taught us: to love one another as he loves us. So as well as thinking of just ourselves this Christmas, thinking about what we can do for others is what we must do. Putting the thinking into action, no matter how small the action might be, will change the world. Living such a life will give us all love, peace and joy, the message we hear at Christmas time.

This Christmastide come and celebrate God's wonderful gift to us at one of our many special services. Look out for the beneficent Christmas card, delivered to every household. It has details of all our carol services and our Christmas Eve and Christmas day services too. Bring the children to a crib or Christingle service or, if you are night owls or need to get the Christmas turkey in the oven early on Christmas morning, come and join us at St. Egwin's, Honeybourne for midnight mass. Whatever you prefer, the churchwardens and I shall look forward to welcoming you to one or more of our services over the next few weeks. We wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a joyful and prosperous new year.

With love and blessings. Celia

Assistant Curate. Vale and Cotswold Edge Team Ministry.

Our contact details are:

Revd. Craig Bishop (Team Rector): [admin@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk)

Tel. 01386 841927

Revd. Celia Woodruff: [celia.woodruff1@gmail.com](mailto:celia.woodruff1@gmail.com) Tel. 07807 899119

Revd. Dana Delap (Vicar of Blockley & Bourton on the Hill)

[dana@delap.org.uk](mailto:dana@delap.org.uk)

Tel. 01386 700676

**REQUEST FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS** As there is now 3 vacancies for new councillors to serve on the council. Please contact the clerk if you feel can help in any way on 01386 853635.

**TREE OF LIGHT** The Parish Council has opened the book for the tree of light. Application forms are available from the Parish Council office, Willersey Stores and online from the Willersey website at [www.willersey.org/treeoflight16.htm](http://www.willersey.org/treeoflight16.htm).

**RED PHONE BOX in LEY ORCHARD** The PC will make its final decision at the December meeting. If there is enough support from villagers then the box will be kept, rather than removed. To date there are 13 requests to keep the box and turn it into a resource for the community such as book exchange or similar.

**WASTE DISPOSAL** Please note the change of dates for the Christmas and New Year waste collections, you will find them at the back of this magazine or online.

**PARISH COUNCIL** The office will be open on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December and again on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**AND FINALLY!** The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Willersey a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2017.

**Launch of St Peter's Organ Appeal,  
in loving memory of David Griffiths, St Peter's Organist**

Sadly, it has become apparent, through problems with its sound, that our church organ is in need of replacement. It has served the Parish well for over thirty years but independent, expert opinion indicates that there is no way to address inherent problems with this aged, electronic instrument so the Parochial Church Council has decided to launch an appeal to raise funds for its replacement.

With the recent death of our parish's much-loved and respected Organist, David Griffiths, who provided the accompaniment to so many of our services in that time with his own inimitable flare and style, we have decided to dedicate St Peter's next organ to his memory.

Our target is to raise £10,000 and we encourage parishioners to join with us with similar, excellent enthusiasm to that shown for the Parish's successful bells refurbishment programme. Also, we hope that some will feel motivated to make a donation to the David Griffiths Memorial Organ Fund in recognition of David's invaluable service and of how much we have depended and continue to depend on our organ to be there for festivals, weddings and funerals as well as our regular Sunday services.

Robert McNeil-Wilson Churchwarden

As I write this today, the children in key stage 2 are receiving their briefing before taking part in their Forest School session. The children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are all prepared to visit Bidford Flying Club to see the planes and talk to an enthusiast. All this is part of their 'flight' topic this term and is another example of our learning 'outside the classroom' whenever we can.

Our sporting activities have begun this term with Floorball and Cross-country events being well-supported with enthusiastic teams. It has been very good to see the amount of determination and dedication from the children as well as excellent sporting behaviour. We have more events planned before Christmas and all are keeping very active. Our Floorball team is undertaking expert training at Meon Vale and our girls' team will shortly be sharing players with another local school to share skills and train together.

Our oldest children have attended an Italian Taster Day at Chipping Campden School and learned about the culture and language of Italy. Our Maths work has continued with lots of practical maths activities to really practise our number skills and to see when maths is used in 'real life' – measuring, estimating, reading scales as well as challenges where teamwork is needed to solve the problem or challenge.

The Forest School sessions have continued for our younger children in the village. The activities have included: singing the Forest School Song, looking at the types of habitats bugs live in which then led to using this information to create different habitats for bugs as well as techniques to tempt them to come in!

Several lucky winners of the Dogs Trust poetry competition attended the very smart opening ceremony for the new facilities at the Dogs Trust. They took part in the official opening event and had a guided tour of the brand new play, care and accommodation facilities as well as learning about some of the individual dogs and the ethos behind the dogs trust.

Class 2 will be archaeologists for the morning in the next few days at the dig in Broadway and more details will follow in the next edition!

If you would like to visit the school or have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch on (01386) 852646 or e-mail: [admin@willersey.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@willersey.gloucs.sch.uk)

Mr Mark Jackson  
Head Teacher



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

14<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Dear Canon and Mrs. Burch,

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter and the lovely ninetieth birthday cards from the adults and children of Willersey you enclosed.

Her Majesty has been overwhelmed by the wonderful response to this milestone in her life and reign, and The Queen greatly appreciated all of the kind messages you sent from your community, and the good wishes you expressed for Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen was touched to learn the residents of the village of Willersey gathered together to celebrate her special day. Her Majesty was pleased to hear about the activities they were able to take part in, and hopes everybody who attended had a very happy and memorable day.

I am to thank you again for your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and am sorry that, because of the enormous amount of correspondence received by The Queen in the last few months, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Hussey

Lady-in-Waiting

The Reverend Canon Peter and Mrs Burch

It was "Village Sunday" at the **Family Service at St Peter's** on November 20<sup>th</sup> where we celebrated and said "Thanks" for the privilege of living in a village such as Willersey. Some of the Village organisations helped us mark this event but where were you all? We are very lucky (the majority at least) so we should give thanks for our lives, our surroundings and all the organisations within our village.

Our service was taken by Craig Bishop, our team rector from Chipping Campden. Thank you to him and all the organisations who gave of their time to contribute to this service. The various readings were from Beatrix Potter and Roald Dahl. Our next family service is the Carol service on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00am and the Christingle Service is at 4:00pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December. The midnight mass is at St Ecgwin's in Honeybourne on Christmas Eve at 11:30pm.

Holy Communion at 9:30am on Christmas Day. Everyone very welcome Please book **Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00pm** for an afternoon tea in the Village Hall. This event is to raise money to support Cancer Research and our local branch of Maggie's cancer support in Cheltenham. Come along and enjoy a good Sunday tea and lots of talk. Do make a note in next year's diary.

**Happy Christmas.** Peter and Penny Burch would like to wish everyone a peaceful, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. We will not be sending cards but donating to a charity instead.

**Carol Singing at The Bell.**

Please join us to sing carols at The Bell on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm when we will be collecting for Action for Children. This is a great start for Christmas so see you there Peter Burch.

**THE ENEMY WITHIN**

***Out now - the novel by Robert MacNeil Wilson***

A young manager and his pitmen fight to save their mine, their industry and, ultimately, their very way of life. Half a mile down, they face an impossible deadline and the underground hazards of fire, flood and roof collapse. The Miners' Strike turns their pit village into a battlefield. As a pitman, himself, Robert MacNeil Wilson has written of what he knows. *THE ENEMY WITHIN* is a unique, riveting insight into the events of a tumultuous period that continues to fascinate. *You won't read it - you'll live it* PUBLISHED by TROUBADOR on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016. More detail at [www.willersey.org/authorsartists.htm](http://www.willersey.org/authorsartists.htm)

**SPECIAL WILLERSEY OFFERS:** Discounted, signed copies available for £6.00 from the author (email [rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk](mailto:rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk)) – and from **The Bell** and **The New Inn** Or £6.99 from publisher with codeword GALA for special discount via [www.troubador.co.uk](http://www.troubador.co.uk) Also on sale at **Blandford's Bookshop, Broadway**

## Weston Rural Cinema: December

In December there will be no cinema. Information about the January film will be available next month.

### **Youth Club**

Weston sub-Edge Youth Club meets on the **first and third Thursdays** of each month between 7.00 and 9.00 p.m. Members enjoy a wide range of activities and Sue Stanier, our leader, and Alex Havery, her assistant, have an exciting programme planned. **New members between 9 and 18 years both from the village and from the surrounding area are always welcome.** Join the Club and make new friends. Subscriptions are £1.00 per meeting and drinks and sweets are on sale. For more information, contact Chris Rossington on 01386 849316 or Sue on 07555 649056.

The programme for December: is:

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December: Advent activities

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas party

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**For updates to the Church and Village News do look on our Willersey Cotswolds Facebook page or [www.willersey.org](http://www.willersey.org) for any additions.**

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### **Dog Messing**

From a tolerant – but slowly becoming an intolerant resident of Broadway Road.

Would dog walkers please pick up their Dog's Mess – cold or wet weather is not an excuse for not doing so. Why not teach your dog to go in your own back garden before walkies?

(With apologies to those who walk their dogs and do the right thing).

### **Phil and Maddy's Holidays**

**by luxury Coach from Broadway or Willersey**

Christmas at the Albert Hall (John Rutter conducting) , Bournemouth, New Forest, The Wonderful Scilly Isles, The Gower Peninsula, RHS Show at Chatsworth, Great Yorkshire Holiday, Sidmouth & Seaton Trams, Steam Trains of North Wales, Brownsea Island, Weymouth & Portland.

**For details do call us on 01386 832095.**

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed. Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.

The Wardens run a full programme of guided walks throughout the Cotswolds. For more information see [www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk](http://www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk) or Tel: 01451 862000, also for any changes to arrangements such as due to extreme weather

### **WILLERSEY METHODIST CHURCH NEWS**

December and we're nearly at Christmas. We shall be having our regular services on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December we will be celebrating **Christmas with a Carol Service, with Communion.** The Service will be taken by Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam. All at the usual time of 10.30 am. The year will finish with our Christmas Day Service led by Revd Brian Mason and this will be a little earlier than usual for us, at 9.30 am.

**Our Coffee, Chat and Craft** will take place on Fridays each week at 10 am and we will, hopefully, be able to send another pack of blankets and Fish & Chip Baby outfits soon after Christmas. **We shall not meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> of December,** but will look forward to seeing you in the New Year on the first Friday which is **the 6<sup>th</sup> January – Twelfth Night.**

Our building continues towards finishing, slowly! We hope to have the toilet removed before Christmas! I hope it's empty!! I'm not checking, but if you want to then do! We shall be sending a Christmas Card out from both our church and St Peter's and you will see all the times and dates in that, as well as above. We hope to see you at some time over the season. Please come and join in the Carol Singing. We don't seem to sing carols for long enough do we?

If you know of anyone who would like a visit over Christmas please let us know. Also, if you would like a lift to the service, please ring us. *Penny (Ingles)* 853306

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A huge **thank you** to all the volunteers who have generously given their time to keep the St Peter's brass clean and shiny throughout this year. Thank you to those helpers dusting, sweeping and polishing to keep the Church looking spick & span and inviting for the many visitors coming into our Church throughout the year.

If there is anyone who feels they have the time and would like to join the **band of helpers** I would be most grateful. To get in touch, my number is 01386 852958 Gillian Beale.

## LOCAL WALKS WITH THE COTSWOLDS VOLUNTARY WARDENS Dec/Jan 2016

### Two (!) Lovely Longborough Loops – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Moderate

Glorious distant views, villages, houses and maybe a battlefield. Terrain not too taxing but come prepared for some mud and stiles. If using Food Store car park please give your custom before or after the walk. Stock up for the day's packed lunch or refreshments, maybe? 6 hours: 11 miles.

*Start:* 9:30 am Longborough, Cotswold Food Store and Cafe on A424.  
OS Map ref SP 172 292.

### A Circuit of Stow – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Moderate

A walk through historic Stow and some of the nearby villages/hamlets, the precise route depending on the weather and underfoot conditions. 3 hours: 6 miles.

*Start:* 10:00 am Stow-on-the-Wold town car park adjoining Tesco. OS Map ref SP 191 262.

### Eight 'Ways' round Winchcombe – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January - Moderate

This walk uses 8 'Ways' - the Cotswold, Isbourne, Gloucestershire, Salt, Winchcombe, St Kenelm, Warden's and Windrush. From Winchcombe, we climb steeply up Fluke's Hill then across to St Kenelm's Well. We pass Parks Farm and stop for lunch at Waterhatch before walking along the Sudeley valley back to Winchcombe. 4.5 hours: 8 miles. *Start:* 10:00 am Winchcombe, Back Lane Car Park (Pay and Display £1 per day). OS Map ref SP 024 285.

### The Ebrington Boundary Stones – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Moderate

A second walk taking in some of the boundary stones installed by the Ebrington Diamond Jubilee Committee marking where each adjoining parish meets Ebrington parish. This time we will see the stones at Stretton-on-Fosse and Blockley. Please bring a packed lunch. 4.5 hours: 8 miles.

*Start:* 10:00 am Ebrington Village Hall (Voluntary contribution of £1 per car). OS Map ref SP 184 402.

### Guided from Guiting – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January - Moderate

We will be following various valleys, high ground and woodland of this secluded part of the Cotswolds. Ancient settlements, tobacco plantations and Estates feature in our route. Bring packed lunch. 6 hours: 12 miles.

*Start:* 9:30 am Guiting Power Village Hall car park (donations). OS Map ref SP 096 245.

### Dipping into Campdens' Arts and Crafts (1) – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January - Moderate

Continuing our interest in the Arts and Crafts movement we will walk to Broad Campden and see some of the buildings redesigned by craftsmen in the early C20th. Our route takes in a loop before returning via the Old Silk Mill in Chipping Campden, the original workshop of the craftsmen. 3 hours: 5.5 miles.

*Start:* 10.00 am Chipping Campden Market Hall, High Street. OS Map ref SP 151 391.

### Windrush and Slaughters Waterways – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Easy

A circular walk along the Windrush River, then over the ridge to the beautiful Upper and Lower Slaughter villages, where the walk turns to follow the River Eye. The Warden's Way takes the walk back to Bourton, a good location for lunch. 3 hours: 5.5 miles.

*Start:* 10:00 am Bourton-on-the-Water Station Road car park (pay and display). OS Map ref SP 169 208..

## From Village to Village: Sharing Gifts

*Rev Israel Selvanayagam*

I was born and bred in a remote hamlet near the shores of the Indian Ocean on the southern tip of India. Most memorable is struggle for life, by the fisher folk on the coast, and Palmyra climbers and agricultural coolies inland. Most of them lived in mud walled, thatched roofed huts. Of course, the situation has changed to a great extent.

I started my ministry as a teenager and served a rural congregation, for four years. Since then my training and ministry (mainly teaching) have been based in cities both in India (Madurai, Bangalore and Chennai) and England (Bristol and Birmingham). Therefore, since I started pastoral ministry at the Methodist churches in Evesham, Broadway and Willersey in September (2016) it has been a strange feeling of returning to countryside.. The resilience of the Willersey Methodist Church (with a new roof!) and their familial bond with the local Anglican Church is very impressive.

There is a special reason for me to rejoice in any achievement of close fellowship and unity of the churches, not simply for the sake of survival but for being effective witnesses to the Gospel. I am a presbyter of the Church of South India, recognised and regarded by the Methodist Church here. It was on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1947 that the CSI was inaugurated in St. George's Cathedral in Chennai (Madras). It was the first united church of its kind in the ecumenical history of the Church, constituted of Anglicans, Methodists and the South India United Church. A group of missionaries and their Indian colleagues started praying and negotiating in 1919 with great faith and deep commitment to realise the prayer of Jesus 'that they all be one that the world may believe' (Jn. 17: 21).

The achievement of CSI by those who had extraordinary faith, serious commitment to mission and persistent courage gave a selfhood for the Protestant Christians in southern India covering a vast area with four languages. Internationally, the CSI was seen as a beacon of light for church unity though it was a tiny minority in the challenging multifaith context. When it completes seventy years next year (2017) its membership will have grown fourfold (over 4.5 million). Local church life is lively. For example, my local congregation has on average of 450 for a Sunday service including about 200 in the Sunday School. After sitting through the service for nearly two hours the juniors happily attend the classes of the Sunday School with prescribed study materials.

Celebrating Christmas in my village has three special features: 1. Visiting homes with carols for many days (40 days when I was young) starting at 6 pm and finishing around the midnight; 2. Giving substantial gifts to the poor widows of the congregation. 3. Mega size manger; there is competition of making mega size mangers with thick grass which involves artistic work and processional singing with music across the district that culminates in an award-giving ceremony. There are questions asked about the meaning and relevance of such spectacular demonstrations, but the enthusiasm and joy of the people seems to be real.

It is striking that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a tiny village. King David originated in this village but he was crowned in Hebron. Then he captured Jerusalem which came to be known as the City of David and the City of God. Jerusalem came to be the centre of

religious and political life with sharing of power by shrewd politicians and economic life which was marred by corruption and exploitation. It was understandable, therefore, when King Herod heard about the birth of the 'baby king' in the forgotten village of Bethlehem 'he was disturbed and all Jerusalem with him.' More remote was the hamlet of Nazareth where Jesus grew up. It is not surprising that when a disciple introduced 'Jesus of Nazareth' to Nathanael, he asked 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' It is the experience and observation of many that genuine Christian life, passionate mission and commitment to unity are more abundant among Christians living in remote rural areas! The divine grace flows toward the 'low estate' where lies hope.

### **WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL**

**There will be a Meeting of the Management Committee on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room. Please let the Secretary, Phil Bennett Tel: 01386 858695 know if you are unable to attend**

### **PRAYER BOOK**

As you know our church is open every day for anyone to pop in for a look round or to pray. If you would like a member of the prayer team to pray for you after the Sunday service, please write your prayer in the book at the rear of church. There's no need to leave your name, just a date please. There is also a bible and some booklets containing short daily notes available for you to use if required.

### **Broadway Embroidery Group**

The November meeting was preparation for our Christmas Tree Display. Everyone was involved in making the bunting to accompany our tree display. Beautifully decorated stars were still being completed and added to the finished pile.

We are looking forward to assembling our decorations and hope there will be many visitors to the United Reform Church to see the Christmas Tree Displays from the many organisations in Broadway.

### **December Meeting**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10am to 2pm to include our festive lunch. .

### **Project for the morning:**

Rose is leading a project on Needle felted penguins.

Sewing kits needed by members.

### **Any Enquiries: Please ring**

Penny – 01386 853306

Gillian – 01386 852958

### **Mobile Post Office**

Don't forget the mobile Post Office every Friday outside the Bell Inn from 12:45 to 14:45. You can do everything there – Vehicle Licenses, Pensions, Cheques in, Stamps, and much more. The staff are very helpful. Parking outside has no restrictions and is very easy

Use it or lose it

### **Munch bunch**

The next lunch will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 12.30 and the lunch for January will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30.

Please contact David on 853400 if you are unable to attend.

I am pleased to report that several people have volunteered to help with Munch Bunch so should be good for a few more years. Thank you.

### **FEBRUARY CHURCH & VILLAGE NEWS**

Copy for the February 2017 News must be received by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January unless otherwise notified. Please send in any items of interest or notice of forthcoming events.

Email them to [willerseynews@gmail.com](mailto:willerseynews@gmail.com), drop them into Willersey Stores or phone 858628. Newsletter creation will start early in the morning of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

The Church and Village News is now published on the Internet about one week after the paper edition is delivered. You can find it at.

[www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm](http://www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm)

*Comments on the Newsletter are always welcomed. Please email them to [willerseynews@gmail.com](mailto:willerseynews@gmail.com) or leave them at the Village Stores.*

What a grand display of talent from our crowd and Lucy Jordans's clan (we stole her poppies and the idea from her 'Scarecrow' entry at the Horticultural Show) to showcase the poppies at The Bell and St. Peter's Church for Remembrance Sunday. The Willersey

knitting mafia is also out in force at the Methodist church. Mildred tells me they are busy knitting for the 'Fish and Chip' babies across the world - babies being born with nothing to be wrapped in but newspaper. Pam McMillan collected more contributions for the 'Shoebox Christmas Gift Scheme' and I am sure she will be happy to receive any items that are still to be donated. Judy is selling cards for the Colbolt Appeal and we would like support with this but equally if anyone felt they would like to make a contribution to charity and not send cards to WI members that would be good.

This month we had the AGM. A diary of the year's events was delivered by Adine. Gi, who took over from Jean as treasurer gave a report, many of us nodded knowingly having no idea what all the figures meant. Gi was thanked for taking on such an onerous task from such an experienced predecessor. Jean has done the job during the last 15 years, along with supporting and encouraging the rest of the committee. Thankfully Jean is staying on the committee, her knowledge and experience will keep us all on our toes. Mal was unwell so in her absence we voted her as the 2017 President. Beware in your absence as we have carte blanche to sign you up for any job.

The star of the evening was Grace, a lovely black cocker spaniel. Merleen Watson is profoundly deaf and Grace has been her ears for the last two years. Merleen explained how isolating deafness can be socially and in the world of work, and that surprisingly 1 in 6 of the population is affected. In 2014 Merleen was awarded 'The Desmond Wilcox Volunteer Award' for her tireless fund raising to help train 'Hearing Dogs'. It takes £40,000 to train and keep a dog and although awareness was raised in 1978 in 2014 there were just coincidentally 2014 dogs working with deaf people. We are all very aware of 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' but 'Hearing Dogs' and 'Medi Dogs' (sorry a little rant) are very under funded.

Alison and her trustee collie, Ben, won the competition. But Jackie, Sue and Cathy excelled with a delicious supper. Good job we have 'Keep Fit' on Tuesdays.

**'Swinging Sixties' Christmas special**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 7:15 - sixties gear optional**

**Please bring a plate of finger food and a glass**

**Wrap one gift to the value of £3 to £5 to exchange on the night.**

**Birthday flowers - Eileen**

**Table flowers - Jenny**

*Hire of W.I. crockery and cutlery - £15 Part Hire - £10*

*Please Contact Mal Jelfs - 01386 858351*

At the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October the speaker was Ann Davenport who spoke on her Life as a Johnson Coach Courier. Ann had been doing this work for over 26 years and during that time she had taken parties all over the world. One of her favourite places being Norway. She had been many times to Scotland and she told of the many accidents that happened on their travels, including lost luggage, lost passengers, lost false teeth! Baggage going missing planes not being there when needed, broken limbs and passengers having to be rushed to hospital. In a few cases the coach would break down miles from anywhere and in those days there were no mobile phones to get help.

Some of our members had travelled with Johnsons and could confirm how well they were looked after. One of the bigger bonuses, being picked up at the door!

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Reg visited us with his guide dog Bruce.

In 1920 an American Lady had the first dog (named Buddy) trained and people realised the affinity between dogs and humans.

The first formal Centre for training dogs was established in 1933.

Reg had been short sighted from birth and lost his sight completely later on. When he was matched up with a dog the most incredible moment was when he was able to leave the house with the dog unaccompanied by anyone.

He said it is now possible to use a computer, have a talking watch, and talking books etc., but the benefit of Bruce far outweighs all these things. It also makes a difference to the whole family. When a dog is matched to a blind person R.N.I.B. pays all vets fees and costs of having the dog. It receives no Government funding – depending completely on the General Public.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November our speaker told us of the life of George Formby. The story of his life was interspersed with songs, which we all recognized and sang along to. It made a very entertaining afternoon. Our year concluded on 7<sup>th</sup> December with our Christmas Lunch at Charingworth Manor.

**Meetings next year.**

4<sup>th</sup> January Members day.

18<sup>th</sup> January Talk, Christmas Bon bons.

1<sup>st</sup> February The Wonders of Tea.

15<sup>th</sup> February Cities of southern Spain.

1<sup>st</sup> March Talk, Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

**SERVICES at ST. PETER'S CHURCH for December 2016  
and January 2017**

N.B. Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) service is celebrated every Wednesday at 11am. Do come along and join us for the service and/or coffee and a chat at 11.30-12.00 noon.

	<b><u>Sidesperson</u></b>	<b><u>Reader.</u></b>
<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Geoff Dear	Alison Dear
	<b>Advent 2</b>	<b>9:30am BCP Holy Communion</b>
	Isaiah 11. 1-10 & Romans 15. 4-13.	
	Coffee	Alison Dear & Emma Phillips
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent 3</b>	<b>9:30am Eucharist</b>
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent 4</b>	<b>11:00am Family Carol Service</b>
	Coffee	Justine and Rachael
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve 4:00pm Christingle</b>	
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve 11:30pm Midnight Mass at St Ecgwin's in Honeybourne</b>	
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Day 9:30am Eucharist</b>	
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Christmas 1</b>	<b>10:00am Benefice Service at St Ecgwin's in Honeybourne</b>
<b>January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Baptism of Christ</b>	
	<b>9:30am BCP Holy Communion</b>	
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	<b>11:00am Family Service</b>
<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Epiphany 3</b>	<b>9:30am Eucharist</b>
<b>January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Epiphany 4</b>	<b>9:30am Joint Service with the Methodists at St Peters</b>

*Please check for changes on the weekly sheet.*

<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>St Peters Church Cleaning</b>	
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Julian and Gillian Beale	
December 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pat and Sally Heming	
January 7 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Elliot and Gillian Beale	
January 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mal Jelfs and Jackie Jordan	

**Week Ending St Peters Brass Cleaning**  
 Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Francis Fairclough    Dec 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Pat and Sally Heming  
 January 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Christine Elliot and Gillian Beale  
 January 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Mal Jelfs and Jackie Jordan  
 Thank you once again to all the volunteers helping to keep our church clean and inviting for our many visitors. The cleaning cupboard is in the vestry. A key is in the Bell Inn or from Mrs Gillian Beale 01386 852958

**METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES for December 2016  
SUNDAY WORSHIP All at 10.30am, Unless otherwise Stated**

4 <sup>th</sup> December	Rev. Stanley Weary
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Joint Service with Broadway
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Rev. Israel Selvanayagam
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day Rev. Brian Mason. (9.30)

**METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES for January 2017**

1 <sup>st</sup> January	Own Arrangement
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Mr Alan Cooper
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev. Israel Selvanayagam (covenant service)
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Miss Lillian Fitton
29 <sup>th</sup> January	United at St Peters

Coffee is served every Friday in the Methodist Community Room between 10.00 and 11.30am. We also have a sale of a selection of fair trade goods.



**Carols around the Tree.**

Come and join us to sing Christmas Carols around the Jubilee Tree (opposite the pond) at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve. The Avonbank Brass Band will be playing for us and, if you are lucky, we will be serving hot mince pies and maybe hot punch too! Please bring lots of money as we will be collecting for Action for Children. Christmas hats can be worn! See you there.

**Mince pies.**

If anyone would like to make or donate mince pies for the Carols on Christmas Eve, please contact Penny Burch on 01386 853837

**Willersey Snooker Club AGM 2016**

Willersey Snooker Club's Annual General Meeting will take place in the Snooker Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. All members are welcome, along with any guests interested in future membership. The meeting will follow the traditional format to include the election of Club Officers and Committee

**Willersey Snooker Club needs a new Treasurer**

Due to the retirement of the current Treasurer we are in need of someone to take over. Could anyone interested in taking up this voluntary role please call Peter Taylor on 01386 852338 for an informal chat.