

PASTORAL LETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

Buses

London is a fascinating city. I enjoy visiting it and exploring – its interesting to see the way in which it changes over time. The interplay of geography and economics results in a constantly changing cityscape.

On my last visit we took the tube to Bethnal Green to explore the waterways to the east of the city. One of my brothers lived in this part of town before the millennium. It is interesting to see the regeneration and the creeping gentrification. We walked to the Regent's Canal and then followed the Hertford Union Canal alongside Victoria Park to the River Lee. We walked past the Olympic Park and saw trendy new developments cheek by jowl with the older crumbling industrial buildings. Some of the new apartment blocks mirrored the architectural forms of the older warehouses.

Beds of reeds encouraged wildlife as did various disconnected pockets of derelict land; a few were activity managed, other bits were clearly neglected. The water was clear but there was a depressing amount of detritus on, under and around the water. Vehicles on the A12 thundered past, oblivious, on their way to the Blackwell Tunnel. We were the only tourists!

We turned off the river along the Limehouse Cut back towards the Basin terminus of the Regent's Canal where it meets the Thames. Industry was attracted here by the canal, but later factories and warehouses turned their backs on the water and instead faced the highway. We were passing through Poplar about which Bob Gilbert in his wonderful book, Ghost trees tells the history of the parish through its trees.

At Limehouse we decided not to walk back along the Regent's Canal to where we had started but walk along Commercial Road to Whitechapel. After a detour through the exotic smells and vibrant colours of Brick Lane we rested for victuals in Spitalfields Market.

Tired by our journey we decided to eschew the tube and take the bus back to the West End. We are not familiar with London buses **1**

but decided to take the next bus traveling west – it turned south and then east. We googled the destination - somewhere on the Isle of Dogs - we jumped off. The next bus took us to the Tower of London, but we were prepared for it crossing Tower Bridge on its way to the south and so disembarked. We recognised the destination on the next bus, a No. 15, Piccadilly Circus: not only was where we wanted to go but it was an old fashioned omnibus complete with stairs at the back. The seats by the front window were vacant. We enjoyed the rest and the sites as we wound our way through the increasingly familiar city streets.

The bus travel reminded me of the truth of C. S. Lewis' statement, "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." This wisdom can inspire us to makes changes that impact of lives.

How much change could you make? What about 1%? One percent of a day? One percent of a year is over 70 hours – what could you do with that time?

A small change in your use of time, in your habits can make a great difference. If plane taking off from Los Angles flying to New York alters its' course - 1% south, it ends on in Washington DC. A slight change in your daily habits can guide your life to a very different destination.

The bible says Jesus is the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end – all time belongs to him. In him our 1 past is forgiven. He invites us to enjoy life in all its fullness in the present and in the future.

May you use time wisely
May you travel joyfully
Every blessing

Revd Craig

Team Rector Craig Bishop Tel: 01386 841927
Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson
The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785
mobile 07979590826 Email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk



WI Report for December and January

December was a very busy month for our WI members. With us donning festive aprons and head gear, either performing 'front of house' duties or 'prepping' in the kitchen, our Senior Citizens were treated to a delicious Christmas meal and afterwards great entertainment was had from the Blockley Blokes Choir. Everyone joined in the singing whatever their ability.

Thanks to a moment of true inspiration by Pam Martin for decorating the WI Christmas tree in St Peter's church with printed lines from 'Jerusalem', everything was helping us get into the Christmas spirit. Later on in the month with crackers and drinks on our tables, a large group of us enjoyed a festive supper at The Pheasant in Toddington and it was good to know we had Lizzie's list handy if someone had forgotten what they had pre-ordered! A real feast for us all ahead of our own preparations for the big day. As January arrived, and with the new programme to look forward to, we gathered on 8th for the Wassail celebration organised by Maggie Topp and our first speaker meeting. Wearing hats and banging tambourines, and anything that could make a suitable noise, we shouted 'Wassail' to good health and good fortune in 2024 and drank a warm cider drink from the apples gathered in the autumn. Pam Martin and Jan Axon were welcomed as our new Secretaries and Jackie Jordan will be continuing as our WI representative on the Village Hall Committee.

It was then a chance to hear our speaker, Rose Hutchinson, who is a practice nurse in Stratford, talk passionately about her work with the Kori Development Project in Sierra Leone. This charity works in a rural area where the infrastructure of the country is almost nonexistent so this development is of vital importance. Supported by such organisations as Soroptimists International, which has been raising money for the projects to empower women and girls, we heard a tremendous effort has resulted in

facilities being developed slowly for learning and to build a self-sufficient community. A library, classrooms, health centre, piggeries and market hall has helped the women earn a livelihood for themselves and their children. Women's and children's lives are being transformed albeit gradually. Rose spends a considerable amount of her 'spare' time crafting and sewing, the proceeds from which go towards the project and items are also sent out in containers to Sierra Leone to support the women and girls. If you are interested in finding more about this project please go to the website. koridp.org Our thanks go to Rose for such an interesting talk. Long may the Kori Project continue to be successful.



COMING UP IN FEBRUARY 2024

The next WI Meeting Monday 12th February Village Hall

7.15 pm

Speaker Linda Dunbar

Topic: "Ex-Pat life in Kenya"

Guests Welcome £4 on the door

Contact Mal Jelfs on 858351 with any queries

Ex-Pats - Did you know !

More than 5.5 million people from Britain live overseas. England and Wales alone have around 10 million people not born in the UK.

[Type here]



Willersey's Big Garden Bird Watch 2024

Would you like to take part?

It's not too late to join in.

- Simply count the birds you see in your garden during any **one hour**. Please only include those birds that **land**, not those flying over.
- Count the highest number of each bird species that you see **at any one time**, otherwise you could count the same bird twice.
- Please record whatever you saw – even if nothing at all.
- I will then collate the results and share with everyone.

Name..... Address.....

Please return survey sheets to either 19 Collin Close, 2 Nash Road, 13 Badsey Lane or the village hall noticeboard by 3rd/4th February. Every Bird Watch counts so thank you for taking time to joining in.
Bob Topp.

<u>Birds in the survey</u>	<u>Number seen at any one time in the hour</u>
Blackbird	
Blue tit	
Chaffinch	
Coal tit	
Collared dove	
Dunnock	
Goldfinch	
Great tit	
Greenfinch	
House sparrow	
Long-tailed tit	
Magpie	
Robin	
Starling	
Wood pigeon	
Please list any other birds on page 6	5



Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Details of the walks available are described on the website (below). **Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary. Additional walks may be published on the website.**

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/guided-walks/>

Farmington to Clapton on the Hill – Tuesday 6th February – Moderate 3hr 6.5ml

We head north from Farmington on the Monarch's/Diamond Way until we reach Clapton on the Hill.

From there we head southerly through several groves and Haycroft Bottom to Haycroft House and Haycroft Farm. We then walk westerly through some copses back to Farmington. Farmington is famous for its quarry where the beautiful Cotswold stone is quarried. Please bring drink/snack.

[Type here]

Start: 10.00am Roadside parking near the church in Farmington. OS Map ref: SP 136 153.
W3W: spinning.finer.albums

Wild Wintry Wolds – Tuesday 13th February – Moderate 3hr 5ml

An exploration of the fields and woods above Stanton searching for wintering birds. The route will depend on what we find. There are some steep slopes and paths will be muddy so wear appropriate footwear! Please bring binoculars, a drink and a snack

Start: 10.00am Stanton Village car park, WR12 7NE. OS Map ref: SP 067 344.
W3W: eternally.master.corporate

Sherbourne Here and There – Friday 23rd February – Moderate 2.5hr 4mls

A delightful walk, through Sherborne Estate, both sides of the village, on paths and tracks with a bit of minor back road. This route has been chosen because it was good underfoot when tried out after heavy rain in December. The views were lovely, and the walk varied. Hoping for some snowdrops...

Bring a drink for a flask stop. Car parking is free for National Trust members so please bring your card. Otherwise, payment is by donation.

Start: 10.00am Watermeadow car park, Northfield Barn, Sherbourne Estate, GL54 3DL.
OS Map ref: SP 175 154.

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.

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It Happened in February!

These historical events all happened in February.

- 1) In February 1782 the forces of which country defeated the British to capture Menorca?
- 2) In February 1909, Belgian chemist Leo Baekeland, announced the creation of what synthetic material?
- 3) Which sportsman, born in Macclesfield in February 1977, has become the most successful sailor in Olympic history?
- 4) The Third Punic War lasted 2131 years and was officially brought to an end in February of which year when the Mayors of Rome & Carthage signed a treaty?
- 5) Singer/Songwriter Bobby Brown was born in February 1969. Who was he married to between 1992 to 2006?
- 6) Which Welsh actor born in February 1969 starred in films as Tony Blair and Brian Clough?
- 7) Banjo Paterson, who died in February 1941, was a journalist, author and poet from which country?
- 8) In February 1819, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles founded which colonial state?
- 9) Born in February 1828, which Frenchman went on to write “Journey To The Centre Of The Earth”?
- 10) What is the name of the competition referred to as “The World Cup Of Tennis” that was established in February 1900?
- 11) In February 1964 who made their first appearance on “The Ed Sullivan Show” to a record breaking 73 million viewers in the United States?
- 12) February 1986 was the most recent time that which celestial feature was able to be seen with the naked eye, it only appears every 75 or 76 years?
- 13) Created by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera, which pair of cartoon rivals made their first appearance in February 1940?
- 14) In February 1996, what did the supercomputer “Deep Blue” manage to do for the first time?
- 15) Which Illinois senator announced in February 2007 that he would be a candidate for the 2008 presidential elections?

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[Type here]

- 16) Known at his death in February 1567 as Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, he was the second husband of which Queen?
17) In the February of which year, after 27 years in prison was Nelson Mandela finally released? a) 1990, b) 1992, c) 1996.
18) In February 2013 which Pope resigned due to failing health and old age, becoming the first Pope to relinquish his title in almost 600 years?
19) YouTube was launched in February of which year? a) 1995, b) 2000, c) 2005.
20) Which actress, born in February 1927 played Miss Money Penny in the first 14 James Bond films from 1962?

Please see page 16 for the answers

Mike R

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www.campdenhomenursing.org

Christmas Trail Around the Village

I hope everyone who joined in enjoyed the challenge of naming the Christmas Cards and Songs. Some proved more difficult than others, but it was meant to be fun for young and old. Unfortunately, the weather proved to be a stumbling block on some days. Thank you to all the residents who, kindly donated their window or garden space for clues to the songs.

A little daunting to have little faces peering through your window at odd times.

For those who posted their answers through the letterbox, there will be a small gift. Thank you to everyone who returned their trail form.

The following are the answers, but some could have more than one answer, so no-one is a loser.

Location	Answer
20 Timms Green	Hark the Herald Angels Sing
2 Timms Green	Frosty, the Snowman
13 Badsey Lane	Mistletoe and Wine
4 Badsey lane	Last Christmas MASH
Florizel	While shepherds watched their flocks
4 Nash Road	Twelve Days of Christmas
Harvest Piece	
19 Collin close	Rocking Robin
Old Mill	When the Red, Red Robin goes Bob,
Old Mill House	Bob, Bobbing Along
Methodist Church	O Little Town of Bethlehem
Top Cottage	Jingle Bells
Mendelssohn C'ge	Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
Walnut Tree C'ge	Holly and the Ivy
Jordans Farm	Mary's Boy Child
Garage	Walking in a Winter Wonderland Or Driving Home for Christmas Or Frosty, the Snowman
April Cottage	I'm Walking in the Air - Snowman
Ninds Farm	Ding, Dong Merrily on High
School	We Three Kings
Church Noticeboard	Away In a Manger

Cotswold Vale Embroidery Group

Our first meeting of 2024 was a ‘sit and sew’ session. Several members requested to know more about Dorset Buttons. It was decided to do this for the February meeting, with Rose and Gillean sourcing more information on this topic. A selection of STITCH magazines were passed around with ideas for this year’s projects, and by the end of the morning a complete diary had been filled for 2024.

Gillean had brought her Grandmother’s album of Christmas and Birthday cards from early 20th century. How designs and wording have changed over the years.

Next month’s meeting is:
 Thursday February 1st
 9.30 – 12.30
 Topic: Dorset Buttons
 Venue: Honeybourne Village Hall

THE MARCH VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the March News must be received by Saturday 17th February 2024 unless otherwise notified. Please send in any items of interest, thanks or notice of forthcoming events.

Newsletter completion will start early the next day.
 Email them to willerseynews@gmail.com or phone Alan 858601 or Bill 858628, Thank you. The Church and Village News is now published on the Internet at.
www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm



**Saint Peter’s
 Church Services February 2024**



4 th February	10:00 am Morning Prayer
11 th February	9:00 am Holy Communion <i>(Book of Common Prayer)</i>
14 th February	6.30 pm Ash Wednesday Service St Andrew’s Aston-sub-Edge
18 th February Lent 1	11.00 am All Age Worship
25 th February Lent 2	10.00 am Morning Prayer
3 rd March Lent 3	10:00 am Morning Prayer

Mid-week Holy Communion (BCP): at Saint Peter’s, every Wednesday at 11:00 am.

Sunday, Evensong: at Saint Andrew’s, Aston-sub-Edge at 4:00pm on Sundays **11 & 25 February.**

Your Church is open for you every day.

Rotas for February

Church Cleaning

Week ending

February 3rd & 10th Sandy Barnes & Elizabeth Milnes-James
 February 17th & 24th Annie Payne & Sue Clark

Brass cleaning

For the month of February Anne Tomblin & Janet Parker

[Type here]

Refreshments

February 4th Paula & Ian Duffin
February 11th Sandra & Ken Spensley
February 18th Rachael & Poppy Barker
February 25th Mark & Deborah Taylor

The key to the vestry for cleaning materials and brass artefacts can be collected from The Bell Inn or Gillean Beale at Florizel Lower Green.

If cleaning materials are getting low please let me know
Thank you for all your help

Anyone out there with an hour or two to spare, do consider a little church cleaning. We would love to hear from you, contact Gillian on 01386 852958. More on the rota means fewer times through the year
Gillean Beale

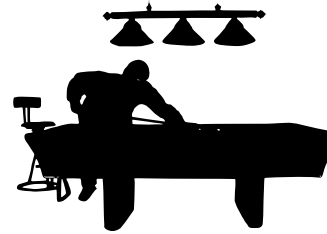
All Age Worship

It was wonderful to have a full church celebrating little Hattie's baptism, and what a happy occasion.

Father Kevin took the service Abley accompanied by Brian his sheep puppet.

Olivia and Nick (Godparents) read the two lessons from the Bible and Hattie's aunt read some beautiful caring prayers. Enhanced by having a real live organist, the singing was very uplifting. The children were captivated by Brian the sheep puppet and were totally engaged throughout Kevin's talk. Thank you to Bel and Bill for welcoming everyone and making sure hymn books were distributed to all the congregation. After the service refreshments were served in the South Transit. Hattie's Christening cake took centre stage and was later shared amongst the congregation. Thank you to the cooks who contributed sausage rolls, flapjack and biscuits. Finally, a huge thank you to those serving tea and coffee and washing up afterwards. No names mentioned but you know who you are.

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Willersey Snooker Club

“Your Club Needs You”

Willersey Snooker Club has been in continuous existence since the 1920s when the first Village Hall was erected on the current site.

Since then, it has been a very successful amenity for Willersey villagers and those of surrounding Parishes to enjoy Membership and to play snooker in a welcoming and quality environment right in the centre of the village.

In order to secure its continuation, we need new, younger Members to get involved in the running of the Club.

The current Committee, who have been in place for many years, are an ageing bunch and would welcome younger Members, who are interested, to get in touch to volunteer their services on the Committee to ensure that the Club continues. Without this it could all come to an end.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Peter Taylor on 01386 852338 or Bill Payne on 07977 844893 for a chat. They would love to hear from you.

Willersey Parish Council

Please note that the email address for communication with the Parish Council has changed to:

clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk

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Nature Box - HOUSE HUNTING



Spring is certainly in the air with early nesting blackbirds paired up and nest building or some already sitting on eggs, with two or three broods each year not being uncommon.

Blue tits, great tits and in some cases house sparrows will have been busy checking out suitable nest boxes to raise this year's young. Often with the female inspecting the potential nest sight whilst the male looks on. Competition for prime nesting real estate can be quite fierce, so February is not too late to pop up a bird box - a 25 mm or 28 mm sized entrance hole often works best - and fingers crossed you may enjoy some of the dramas of nesting.

If a bird box has not been used for a couple of years making the effort to move it can sometimes do the trick, remembering that if possible positioning it to face in a northerly direction away from direct sunlight and bird feeders, with unobstructed flight towards the box all being helpful. But occasionally bird box siting that breaks all of these guidelines - without the built in espresso coffee machine and flat screen TV - can still come up trumps! News of any observed nesting activity would be most welcome, please.

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With colder weather starting to get a grip just getting through the night is a constant challenge, especially for small birds that will have to eat about a third of their body weight each day. So keeping feeders topped up makes a huge difference to our garden birds, and a key factor in maintaining Willersey bird numbers.

News received of a garden visiting mystery raptor, a barn owl, migrant blackcaps, fieldfare and redwings, tree creepers, two ring-necked parakeets, dramatic starling murmurations, sightings of hedgehogs and - hold the front page: migrant waxwings. Thanks to Barbara, Sandy, Andrea & Mark, Robert & Helen, Donald, Richard, Pete, Julia & John, Steve and Mike & Shirley. If you would like to report local sightings to Nature Box please email Bob Topp at bob.topp@btinternet.com

It Happened in February! Answers

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Spain | 2) Bakelite (First Plastic) | 3) Benedict Ainslie (Ben) |
| 4) 1985 | 5) Whitney Houston | 6) Michael Sheen |
| 7) Australia | 8) Singapore | 9) Jules Verne |
| 10) Davis Cup | | 11) The Beatles |
| 12) Halley's Comet | | 13) Tom & Jerry |
| 14) Beat World Chess Champion | | 15) Barack Obama |
| 16) Mary, Queen of Scots | | 17) 1990 |
| 18) Pope Benedict XVI | | 19) 2005 |
| 20) Lois Maxwell | | |

(The Quiz is on page 7.)

Collin Lane Buildouts Update

Following the meeting in the Village Hall last February for residents to express their views on the buildouts, the Parish Council submitted a proposal to GCC Highways for improvements which reflected the consensus of the meeting.

In brief these were the removal of the eastern buildout, the installation of a raised table at the western buildout and significant increases in signage and road markings.

Highways have moved slowly in responding but pressure from the PC has resulted in two onsite meetings, a written response and an agreement to address the issue with further measures.

In summary Highways recognise *'the concerns about the potential of head on collisions due to failure to give way, often at excessive speeds'*, but they believe the buildouts are responsible for a reduction in speeds and are reluctant to agree to change without further investigation.

However they *'do support the installation of dragons teeth at the 30mph speed limit sign when entering Willersey; this will give the effect of road narrowing with the aim of reducing vehicle speeds further'*

They have also agreed to conduct a speed survey which is a necessary first step before any major changes. One of the requirements for the introduction of a speed hump or raised table is that average speeds must currently be below 30mph – please can residents bear this in mind.

Whilst the PC welcomes the fact that we have persuaded Highways to recognise the problem and propose improvements, we are not satisfied that they go far enough.

The issue was discussed at the December meeting of the PC with our County Councillor Lynden Stowe, who also attended the residents meeting in February, so is aware of the strength of feeling in the village. He has agreed to argue the case, convey our views to the administration of Highways and the relevant oversight committees of GCC and generally exert pressure so as to increase the priority level attached to finding a solution.

The PC shares the frustration of residents who live with this problem daily and will continue to strive to obtain improvements.

Christingle Service

There was a lovely atmosphere in the packed church at St Peter's on Christmas Eve as we gathered for the Christingle service to hear again the nativity story, to make Christingles and to learn the significance of this lovely tradition. We heard the story of the Nativity read so well by Martha, Poppy, Esme and Ivy while Ian took charge of the organ and made sure that we had the music that we needed to sing the lovely carols. The children broke glow sticks at the time of prayers as a symbol of the coming of Jesus as the light of the world and as they left, they were each given an angel to hang on their own Christmas tree as a symbol of Christmas. The organizers of the service were delighted to see the church so full and if you were one of those who were there and you enjoyed the service you might consider joining us for our All Age service on February 18th at 11.00am. The theme will be love, there will be an activity table for the children and refreshments for all, you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Carolynne Adam



Peter Bond

Jennie and family would like to say THANK YOU for all the cards, flowers and offers of help they have received. The support shown has given us comfort and occasionally a smile with a memory, so thank you to you all.



It's New Year and therefore a totally new schedule for the Willersey Wednesday Club. We have an exciting range of speaker topics already booked through until the end of June 2024. So if you are looking to join a vibrant and enthusiastic local group, just to get some social connection and meet friends, this could be right up your street.

Commencing February 7th, we have invited Rosamund Young from Kite's Nest Farm, Broadway to talk to us about organic farming and their organic farm shop - which should be very interesting.

Then on February 21st, we have the Editor of Broadway Magazine - Ms Charli Peake who will be coming to tell us about her future plans for the magazine as it takes on a widely expanding readership.

In March, the first scheduled speaker on March 6th is Max Keen - who, if you have never seen him before, dresses up as an historic celebrity and presents lots of interesting facts and figures - this time he will be focussing on Admiral Lord Nelson. Should be a lot of fun!

Remember, everyone over 55 is welcome to come along and find out what we are all about. We meet every other Wednesday afternoon at the Willersey Village Hall. The meeting starts promptly at 2.30pm so we suggest you might plan to arrive by 2.20pm. After the presentation and meeting, we have a variety of teas/coffee, sandwiches, cakes and - a good chance to meet others in the community and just socialise. Anyone from the local villages to Willersey is welcome to come along and join us. See you there.

WILLERSEY CHARITY PARTY NIGHT 24TH FEBRUARY AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Join us for an exciting evening of music, entertainment and dancing at Willersey Village Hall on the 24th February 2024. Featuring the talented Mainstreet band with guest musicians and vocalists, followed by a Disco/DJ set. The events' purpose is to have fun and raise funds at the same time for two very worthy causes, **Campden Home Nursing** and **Cheltenham Hospital Oncology Unit**. Tickets are £30 which includes an arrival glass of fizz, two course meal and bar.

Tickets are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. To reserve your tickets please contact Anthony on 07595 348506 or 01386 852563 or to find out a little more about this event.

Tickets can also be bought on-line using the following link:
www.campdenhomenursing.org/event/live-music-and-dancing/

Hedgehog Community Bus Service to Stratford

For many years the Hedgehog Community Bus has included Willersey on its schedule for the Tuesday service to Stratford. However, it rarely if ever picks up any passengers in Willersey, and the extension of the route from Mickleton to Willersey is costing resources for virtually no return. Tel 01386 841849 Willersey is served by a number of other bus operators, and it may be that there is no need for the Hedgehog's Tuesday service, therefore cancellation of the service is under consideration. Essentially it is a question of "use it or lose it!"

<https://hedgehogbus.org/timetables/stratford-tuesday/>

'Thank You'

A big thank you from local residents to Tony Wilson for keeping Campden Lane free from flooding.



WILLERSEY FOOTLIGHTS



Carol Singing around the Jubilee Tree

The annual Christmas Eve event proved as popular as ever with a very good and generous crowd prepared to donate to the *Action for Children* charity, In all £436.19 was collected and as a result we have been able to send £500 to the charity. We would like to express our appreciation to the Parish Council who agreed to cover the costs of the band and the mulled wine.

Well Done Willersey!!

And there's more ,,,

Willersey Footlights take to the boards again in October. They are well advanced in putting together another fun packed show of humour with a lot of music of course. The theme is sort of about **Books** so who knows what you will get.

As usual there will be a bar, and raffle.

Tickets, (£10 Adults/£6 children under 12) will be available about 4 weeks before the show, so if you want to pre book (it is only 2 nights max. 100 per evening) get in touch with Alan Gittings now. 01386 858601/07734363670 or agittings@talk21.com

It does cost money to put the show on, but Footlights policy is to donate any profits to a worthy cause so come along and support us.

WILLERSEY METHODIST CHURCH

So, this is a new year! 2024 is now the date to remember! The weather is threatening snow, and everyone seems to be getting it. Thank goodness we live in the vale where it's just a bit warmer! We wish everyone a better new year – not least for peace on earth and a bit of goodwill from all the nations!

The big bird watch will happen before February comes in and – why is it that you can see all the birds this week and yet when the bird watch day comes – they've all gone to roost invisibly!! We have a lot of robins, at the moment. I hope they stay.

Our congregation has lost Jeannette to Cornwall! Much warmer than here – what a wise move Jeannette! Jeannette Brewer has been a member of our congregation for a very long time (over 30 years) and her quiet reassurances and smiles will be missed. We hear that she has settled in nicely. We're keeping in touch with her through letters and phone calls.

There are a lot of people in the village who need our thoughts at the moment:- Jen and Ray, Moira, Jean and Jenny – to name but a few! Please remember that everyone has an open invitation to join us for coffee on a Friday morning and we can all cheer each other up!

You're also very welcome to join us for our 'meetings' in church on Sundays at 10.30, when we have some prayers, readings and discussions which can go off into the outside world. You'd be amazed what we discuss on a morning!

I leave you with the thought that, although we don't have all that **we want**, we are in a more comfortable position than a lot of people in this world.

Penny (Ingles) 853306

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL TREASURER WANTED

Our village hall committee is made up of representatives of all village organisations, so this is a wonderful opportunity to meet people and get involved in village life. Our Treasurer Tracey is returning to full time employment, so we are looking for someone to take her place.

Tracey will give full training to a new treasurer and remain on hand to ensure a smooth handover over. If you would like to become part of a very friendly Village Hall Committee and take on this important role please email nevillejelfs@gmail.com.

Neville Jelfs Chairman **07980-870309**

Christmas Tree Festival

Decorated Christmas trees and silver and white floral arrangements were all in position for Saturday 16th December. St Peter's looked very festive.

This year soup and savoury rolls were on offer, and this proved very popular. A special thank you goes to Alison who manned the soup station.

The Christmas Craft stall was full of novelty gifts and raised over £150. Thank you, Sandra for taking note of the more popular sales gifts, Useful for another time.

Carolynne was kept busy at her "Crafty Church" tableware Children made angels. Donations from refreshments amounted to £214.

Thank you to everyone who contributed soup, rolls, and cakes and thank you to all the helpers who gave their time making drinks, washing up and chatting to the many visitors. Finally thank you to all the organisations and individuals who contributed a decorated tree for the event. They were admired by so many.

Organisations and individuals represented:

Primary School - Easy Exercise - Embroidery Group – Footlights - Friends of the School - St. Peter's Knitters – The Bell Ringers – Curling – Table Tennis – Touch Tennis - Riding for Disabled – National Childbirth Trust – Snooker Club – Ava, Bertie, Pixie and Joshua – All Age Worship – Wednesday Club – Willersey WI – The Bell Inn – Willersey Church and Village News – Les at the Garage.

The money raised is going towards St. Peter's new venture - 'A **Welcome Café. It will open in the Church on Thursday Feb 29th from 2:00 to 4:30pm**' and thereafter **every Thursday**. Come and enjoy freshly brewed coffee, tea and cakes in a tranquil setting.

PUBLIC NOTICES February 2024

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **5th & 19th February 2024**. Please put all bins and bags out by 7.00am. The Waste Hotline is 01285 623123. https://publica.force.com/sfsites/c/resource/CDC_Calendars/Mon_2.pdf
Please note that the situation on these can change at any time if say the weather is bad. Just leave your bins out for a late collection. (Food waste every week.)

PARISH COUNCIL The office is on the corner of the Village Hall. Open every Monday from 10.00am to noon. Outside these hours, please contact the clerk on 01386 853635 or email clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL To hire the hall please telephone **Annie & Bill Payne 01386 858368**, or email willerseyhall@btinternet.com or see <https://www.willerseyhall.co.uk/>
METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE Tel: Penny Ingles 01386 853306.

The MOBILE POST OFFICE Visits Willersey on **Friday at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45**. There is a **Post Office and cash machine in Broadway Co-Op**.

BROADWAY SURGERY is on Station Road WR12 7DE
Telephone 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

NEAREST LIBRARY The nearest library is in Broadway.
Open Mon & Wed, 9:30am – 4:30pm. Saturday 9:30 – 1pm 01905 822722

COTSWOLD FRIENDS Anybody who wishes to have transport for hospital and medical appointments ring the Cotswold Friends Help Centre: transport section 01608 651115. This telephone is manned from 09:30-15:30 Monday to Friday. .

SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50 or 03457 48 49 50
National Bus Traveline	0871 2002233
Hedgehog	01386 841849
N. N. Cresswell to Evesham	01386 48655 for route R4
Diamond Bus to Stratford-upon-Avon	01527 813120 for route 1
Pulhams Coaches to Cheltenham	01451 820369 for route 606

Bus timetables for Gloucestershire are at www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/ and on the Willersey website at 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 83444
Thames Water – 0800 980 8800 British Telecom - 0330 1234 150
Police – Telephone 101 (999) www.gloucestershire.police.uk