#### PASTORAL LETTER - December 2025 & January 2026

#### What can we learn in the dark?

When asked what is your favourite season; lots of people answer spring or summer but very few say winter. I have been learning how people from Nordic countries embrace the winter. Winter brings darkness and with the darkness rest. Darkness can be a time of calm, contemplation and recuperation.

Stillness, a lack of hurry is important to our physical, emotional and spiritual health. "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" by John Mark Comer is a wonderful book, a manifesto for a slower and more intentional way of living. Nature rests, but can we? Most people are chronically sleep deprived. Winter brings a different rhythm that we can shape for our own well-being. Rest from the opportunities and busyness that comes with light. In winter we can hunker down, pause and take stock taking a cue from the natural world. We can let the unimportant fall away. Winter can be a time or rest, repair and restoration.

In A Midsummer Night's Dream nighttime, in the Athenian Forest, is a time to play, where identities wobble and discoveries are made. Darkness can provide safety to explore, to question and learn anew who we are and what is important. Asking questions is a part of faith. Asking good questions is a sign of maturity and wisdom. A delightful celebration of darkness comes from the author Barbara Brown Taylor in her book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark." She asks whether God works in the night. She shares things learnt in the dark that couldn't have been learnt in the light. The Psalmist reminds us (Psalm 139:12),

"Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you."

Christians believe that an unseen (spiritual) world runs in parallel to the seen (physical) world. In daylight it can be hard to see a source of light but at nighttime it is visible from far away.

The prophet Isaiah (9:2) foretelling the birth and ministry of Jesus wrote.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

Jesus calls himself the light of the world (John 8:12). The beginning of John's gospel (1:5) proclaims, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Jesus brings light and Christmas is a celebration of light. Christingles, Advent wreaths and the decoration of our Christmas trees all prompt us into praise. "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:9).

Draw the curtains, stoke up the fire, turn on the lights, curl up on the sofa, snuggle down under the duvet, take a glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate - breath out and relax. Invite God's Holy Spirit to be at work in you, through and around you this winter. Enjoy the short days and long nights for there is much to be discovered and discerned.

Every blessing Revd Craig Bishop

Revd Jon Barwood jonbarwood@btinternet.com

Team Vicar, Vale and Cotswold Edge

Phone: 07777 148880

Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson

The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785 mobile 7979590826

Email: <u>rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk</u>



## **Tree of Light**

Every year during the festive season we deck the Jubilee Tree with lights. This tree forms a focal point for many villagers over the Christmas period and reminds us of years past and loved ones now gone. Any monies left after costs will go to support the Village School 'Forest School'.

There is now an opportunity to support this annual festive decoration by sponsoring a light in memory of family or a friend. A voluntary donation of £5 for each person remembered for the year will help the village fund these lovely decorations. If you wish to, the name of your loved one will be recorded in a special Tree of Light Book of Remembrance displayed in Peter Taylor's show room window. To sponsor a light please, fill in the form below or write on a slip of paper by 7th December and post this, along with your donation to the Parish Council Office at Willersey Village hall, WR12 7PJ . Please make cheques payable to Willersey Parish Council and mark envelopes 'Tree of Light'

Your Name
Your Address
The name(s) of the person being remembered
Amount enclosed £ (£5 per person remembered)

#### THE FEBRUARY 2026 NEWS

Copy for the February News must be received by Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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 published on the Internet at. www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm 3



## **WI Report for October**

The November 2025 meeting was the time for our AGM, with the committee members reporting back, reflecting on the year. Our Secretary, Pamela Martin, reminded us of the variety of events, talks and trips we have enjoyed. Such diversity and something for everyone to dip into; from a demonstration on how to use a defibrillator to a talk on exhibiting at Chelsea flower show and a trip to Batsford Arboretum. We also celebrated links between our WI with our 'sister' local groups with a special event at our village hall. Our Treasurer, Heather Rothwell, gave her report on our finances and passed out details of all the transactions. If you would like to see these please contact Heather. Our President, Mal Jelfs, thanked everyone for their help in making the year a successful one and mentioned Anne and Rosemary for writing up our reports. And who could forget Mal's authentic looking costume dressing as a land girl when we commemorated the fortieth anniversary of VE day.

We are a thriving WI here in the North Cotswolds with over forty members and we welcomed two possible new members at the AGM. If you would like to see what we are like, please come along to one of our meetings and try us out!

Everyone agreed that Mal and our committee members should continue in their current roles going forward into 2026. Maggie and Adine thanked the committee and Mal for all their work. With a short break for tasty refreshments, we then had the opportunity to try to recognise photos of members when they were babies or young children. All members were asked to choose a photo of themselves and Jan and Pam arranged them on a board only with a number. Lots of lovely photos of gorgeous babies and children. Of course, we have all changed over the years but goodness me it was difficult to identify people. Good fun in having a try though. So now we have our coffee morning and Christmas party to look forward to. From all the WI members we wish everyone in the village a joyful, peaceful Christmas and a healthy 2026.



#### WILLERSEY W I

#### **Coming Up**

Reminder: WI Members Christmas Party is on December 8th from 7.15pm.

The 'Young at Heart' Seniors Christmas Meal for the 55s and over will be on **Saturday 6th December, 12.30 for 1pm** If you would like to contribute to 'Caring Hands' with a food donation please contact Sandra Spensley , 6 Willow Road, Willersey

And if you would like to hire crockery or other items please contact Mal Jelfs on 01386 858351

#### **Cotswold Vale Embroidery Group**

Members had been eagerly awaiting Rose's Christmas surprise. Requirements for the project had asked for embroidery threads but surprisingly not typical Christmas colours. All was revealed at our November meeting when Rose revealed a small wall hanging of a nativity scene worked in varying embroidery stitches. Our first task was transferring the design onto our fabric and then to start sewing. Rose used mainly backstitch on her design, but it was up to individuals what their preference of stitches would be. Hopefully with Christmas just around the corner these nativity scenes will be completed to enjoy for Christmas 2025.

Our December meeting will be a "sit and sew" morning followed by a bring and share festive lunch.

Honeybourne Village Hall, December 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to 11:30 As January 1<sup>st</sup> is a Bank Holiday we won't be meeting, however weather permitting members can meet for coffee at Wayside, Wickhamford from 10:30am on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Our February meeting will be at Honeybourne Village Hall on Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2026. More details will follow at a later date. Any inquiries please phone Gillian 013866 852958.



## Paths Around Willersey Scheme December 2025

December marks the first anniversary of the Group! A great deal has been achieved in the last

year. Success can be attributed not only to the enthusiasm and commitment of the Group Members but also to support, help and co-operation from; Parishioners, Willersey Parish Council, Gloucestershire County Highways, County Councillor Lynden Stowe (retired), District Councillor Tom Stowe, and the Volunteer team from GE Aerospace. Our thanks go out to them and also to other parties who have helped, such as the Church Café.

Campaigning and action by the P.A.W.S. Group has achieved the following in the last year:

- The installation of dropped kerbs in Frampton Drive.
- Clearance of the Footpath on the B4632, from the Willersey Village Sign to the County Boundary.
- Clearance of the Footpath on Badsey Lane, adjacent to the Recreation Ground.
- Clearance of the Footpath on the Village Green from Collin Road to Main Street.
- Clearance of the Footpath opposite the New Inn at the bottom of the raised section.
- Clearance of the Footpath on the B4632 close to The Methodist Church.
- Establishment of two Volunteer work days,
   (One with staff from GE Aerospace).
- The resurfacing of the entire Field Lane Footpath.

- Clearance of the Long House Footpath, (which revealed the deterioration and poor state of the path underneath).
- The publication of monthly articles in the Church and Village News magazine. Informing residents of Footpath issues.
- Attendance at Parish Council Meetings to highlight issues such as the Path and Step close to the Methodist Church.
- Clearance of new weed growth from the centre of several paths.
- Clearance of blocked drains, (which were causing flooding), on the B4632 Footpath, close to the Willersey Village sign.
- Repair of numerous pot holes in both Paths and Roads.

The Establishment Objective of the Group is: To improve Willersey's main footpaths around the village, in regard to accessibility for users. Without doubt we have already achieved this objective. We will however continue to campaign for further improvements.

Generally a rule of thumb in regards to Footpath responsibility is that: If the path abuts a road, it falls to Gloucestershire County Highways. Issues can be reported at;

### https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk

If the Footpath crosses a Village Green or is separated from the road by a Green it is Parish Council responsibility. Issues can be reported to the Clerk, Kevin O'Donoghue Tel: 01386 853635, or email: clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.

7

Donald: Chairperson P.A.W.S. Group

Contact email: willerseypaws@gmail.com

# Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



#### **December 25 and January 26**

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.cotswolds-nl.org.uk

## Firm Trails and Far Views - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Moderate 2.5hr 5ml

Bearing in mind the time of the year, this route utilises roads and firm tracks for over half of its duration. Starting in Longborough we follow the Gloucestershire Way and pass Hinchwick Manor, before finishing with more Cotswold vistas. Bring a snack/drink.

*Start:* 10.00am Cotswold Barn Café, Longborough. Refreshments available following the walk.

OS Map ref: SP 169 296. W3W: zaps.valve.bath

## Dovers Hill to Chipping Campden Circular – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Moderate 2.5hr 4.5ml

We descend the hill and skirt Weston Park, passing the Kiftsgate Stone. Entering Chipping Campden we visit the start of the Cotswold Way and rest awhile whilst we take a drink and snack. The return route to Dovers Hill is via the Cotswold Way. Bring a snack/drink.

Start: 10.00am National Trust Dovers Hill car park, Weston Subedge. OS Map ref: SP 137 395. W3W: tissue.coder.passing

## CNL60/Hidden Valley – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Moderate 5.5hr 10ml

Starting and finishing by the café in Blockley ideal for coffee before and after (also toilets); main highlight is the wonderful and quiet Hinchwick Valley. We will stop on route for something to eat but this will be out in the open (please bring packed lunch).

#### [Type here]

Toilets only in Blockley nothing on route. Walk is mostly on good farm tracks with very little road walking. Expect some mud but nothing significant, also no stiles.

Please use roadside parking around the village and meet outside the village shop/café where the walk will also finish.

*Start:* 10.00am Blockley Café, Bell Lane, Blockley. Park considerately in the village and meet outside the café.

OS Map ref: SP 163 349. W3W:

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. 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.

## **Praise and Prayer Meeting**

It has been decided that November 9th was our last **Praise and Prayer** meeting until January .

So the next 3 months will be January 11th, February 8th and March 8th . Also, it has been agreed that we will meet at the earlier time of 4pm .

So, New Year, new time.





'I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year'

Charles Dickens - A Christmas Carol

- 1) What item does Father Christmas give to the boy in Raymond Briggs' story of "The Snowman"?
- 2) Gold Chocolate coins are sold at Christmastime in honour of which famous person who once gave gold coins to the poor?
- 3) The song "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" was written by John Lennon and Yoko Ono in protest against which war?
- 4) At which fast food chain restaurant do millions of Japanese people enjoy eating their Christmas dinner every year?
- 5) Which famous company began a TV advertising campaign in 1995 featuring "Christmas Caravans"?
- 6) True or False: Holly berries are poisonous?
- 7) In the famous Christmas movie "Home Alone", by what name do burglars Harry and Marv refer to themselves?
- 8) What language does the word "noel" derive from?
- 9) How many Sundays occur during the period of Advent?
- 10) Who joined with their artist friend John Horsley to create the first Christmas card?
- 11) A film adaptation of the novel "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens was produced in 1992 and featured the cast from which famous show?
- 12) Which Christmas character famously said "Every idiot who goes about with Merry Christmas on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart"?
- 13) In countries such as the USA and Germany, it is tradition to hide a decoration on the Christmas tree in the shape of what type of fruit?
- 14) Which country is visited by 13 Santas as opposed to the one traditional Santa that is celebrated by children in most other countries?

- 15) How many different types of birds are mentioned in the 12 Days of Christmas song?
- 16) In the "Jingle All the Way" movie, what toy does Howard Langston promise to get his son for Christmas?
- 17) What type of chocolate based dessert derives from an old Christmas tradition that involves a fireplace?
- 18) What song does Billy Mack record in the film "Love Actually" in hope of reaching Christmas number one?
- 19) What traditional Christmas beverage is made from mulled cider and begins with the letter W?
- 20) The letter X used in the abbreviated word "Xmas" derives from the first letter of the word meaning "Christ" in which language?

The answers are on page 16

Mike R



## Willersey Footlights

Christmas Eve 6.30 pm.

Do join us for **Carols under The Jubilee Tree** on Christmas Eve
Sing your hearts out. Enjoy Mulled
Wine and Mince pies and we will
welcome your donation for **Action for Children.** (remember to bring
some change!)



Anyone who can kindly supply mince pies can you drop them at the Village Hall 5.45 – 6pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> or Contact Mal Jelfs 858351

Saint Peter's Church Services, December/January
PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Wednesday Holy
Communion on Christmas Eve. Evensong starts at 4:00pm for the winter.

#### Evensong, Tuesdays, 2 Dec. & 6 Jan. at 4:00pm

9:00 am	Morning Prayer		
10:00 am	Morning Prayer		
9:00 am	Holy Communion		
6:00 pm	WELL-OILED LAMP CAROLS		
11.00 am	CAROL SERVICE All Age Worship		
4:00 pm	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE		
9:30 am	CHRISTMAS MORNING Service of Holy Communion		
10:00 am	Morning Prayer		
10:00 am	Morning Prayer		
9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)			
6:30 pm	Prayer & Praise		
11.00 am	All Age Worship		
3:00 pm Plough Sunday Service A special service in conjunction with Moreton in Marsh Show Society			
10:00 am	Morning Prayer 12		
	10:00 am 9:00 am 6:00 pm 11.00 am 4:00 pm 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 11.00 am 3:00 pm A speck More		

#### [Type here]

Weekly Wednesday Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00 am, except Christmas Eve.

Saint Peter's Welcome Café - every Thursday, 2 to 4:30pm Your Church is open for you every day

#### **Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's**

#### Church cleaning for week ending

December 6<sup>th</sup> )

December 13<sup>th</sup>) Julia & Colin Burrows

December 20<sup>th</sup>)

December 27<sup>th</sup> ) Flower Arrangers

#### **Brass cleaning for December**

Mal Jelfs and Jackie Jordan

#### **Refreshments for December**

December 7<sup>th</sup> Pat and Robert Heming
December 14<sup>th</sup> Karen and Mike Barnard

December 21<sup>st</sup> AA Worship Team

December 28<sup>th</sup> Christine and Richard Sutcliffe

#### **Church Cleaning for week ending**

January 10<sup>th</sup>

January 17<sup>th</sup> ) Gillian Beale and Jenny Bond

January 24<sup>th</sup> )

January 31st ) Robyn Painter and Friend

#### **Brass cleaning for January 2026**

Adine Keatley and Shirley Holmes

### **Refreshments for January**

January 4<sup>th</sup> Gillian Beale
January 11<sup>th</sup> Carolynne Adam
January 18<sup>th</sup> AA Worship Team

January 25<sup>th</sup> Adine Keatley and Liz Webb

February 1<sup>st</sup> Sandra and Ken Spensley

Happy New Year to all helpers who have kindly given their time throughout the year cleaning St Peter's.

Our plea for more helpers to keep the Church clean has resulted in three new names to appear on the rota.

Thank You. With more helpers it means fewer times on the rota for everyone 13



## Willersey's Big Garden Bird Watch 2026



Coming soon: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January Would you like to take part?

- Simply count the birds you see in your garden during <u>any one hour</u>. Please only include those birds that land, not those flying over.
- Count the highest number of each bird species that you see <u>at any one time</u>, 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.

Birds in the survey the hour	Number seen at any one time in	
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 below any other birds you saw in	n the hour	
		14

#### Willersey

**H** orticultural

S ociety



# Make Willersey bloomin' lovely

Early November a dozen

volunteers planted **750** bulbs around the four trees in Willersey's Upper Green. This adds to the **1,000** bulbs planted last year around Pike Corner in the Lower Green. Many thanks to Willersey Parish Council and the Willersey Horticultural Society for the financial donations to make this happen.

It should be quite a display next Spring ©







Wishing all our readers and in particular our contributors and distributors a very happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

Co-editors Bill and Alan

## Christmas Quiz - Answers

#### The quiz on page 10/11

1) A scarf 2) St. Nicholas

3) The Vietnam War 4) KFC 5) Coca Cola 6) True

7) The Wet Bandits 8) French

9) Four 10) Henry Cole

11) The Muppets 12) Ebeneezer Scrooge

13) Pickle (Gherkin) 14) Iceland

15) 6: Partridge, Turtle Doves, French Hens Calling Birds, Geese and Swans.

16) A Turbo Man Action Figure

17) Yule Log 18) Love is All Around

19) Wassail 20) Greek

## Willersey Snooker Club



#### **AGM 2025**

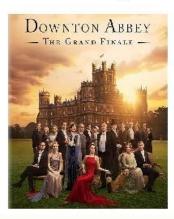
Willersey Snooker Club's Annual General Meeting will take place in the Snooker Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 8th December. All members are welcome, along with any guests interested in future membership. The meeting will follow the traditional format to include the election of Club Officers and Committee



# Honeybourne Village Hall

Jan Film Night





Saturday 17th Jan

(due to DVD release date being delayed)

Doors open 7pm Tickets £5.00 pp Refreshments and Raffle on the night

resnments and kattle on the night Tickets available online at

www.honeybournevillagehall.org

It's time to say goodbye. When Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the entire household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change as the staff prepares for a new chapter with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future.

PG

#### NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our meeting on Tuesday 11 November was very full with many coming to hear the presentation from Cotswold District Council on the Proposed Local Plan. Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director of Planning, explained why the Council want to develop a new Local Plan which would set out development plans until 2043. The Government's targets for new homes will be almost impossible for the Council to meet, particularly with the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that exists in the Cotswolds. My fellow Councillor Nigel, has set out information and possible areas for comment below. The PC will discuss their response at our next meeting.

We now have two applications for significant development. Folly View, which is off the Broadway Rd, has an outline application for thirty homes behind the existing development. A massive well done and thank you for the residents of that local area who have worked so hard and achieved 417 objections from Willersey residents. Thank you to all who have made their views known. The PC have also lodged their formal objection. Severn Trent has put a Holding Objection on the application process, to investigate the sewage issues. This means the application remains open for comments.

The other application is for the land beside **Auto Sleepers, often known as Terrify.** This is for 60 homes. This land was designated for development in the current Local Plan, however, residents and the PC can still object to issues regarding the development. Although the application talks about consultation with the PC during the process, the PC is disappointed that a lot of their points and wishes have been disregarded.

17

We are also concerned that the infrastructure of the village will not sustain such developments. Please do make your views know, positive or negative.

We have no more news on the **Willow Green** development extension off Collin Lane (Nash Rd) but local residents are working together on their possible response, when the application is lodged.

As the rains came, so did the flooding in the Village. At the PC meeting, we were delighted to meet Justine and Jason, our new volunteer Flood Wardens. We are so grateful for all in the village who volunteer and do so much to keep the village functioning. We will update on the Flood wardens' role in 2026.

We hope to see as many of you as possible round the Tree on Christmas Eve for Carols and some Mulled wine. Do enjoy the Jubilee Tree which shines across the Village and means that Christmas is here.

Next Meeting Monday 15 December 7pm - please note the earlier start time.

On behalf of the PC, may I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jane Rintoul Chair of the Parish Council.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Advertising in the Willersey Church and Village News**

Whatever your needs in terms of reaching the local populace remember we deliver over 600 copies to all households in Willersey, Saintbury and adjacent parts of Broadway. We only seek to cover our printing costs which makes our prices very competitive – why not try us.

Contact Alan Gittings at <a href="mailto:agittings@talk21.com">agittings@talk21.com</a> or 01386 858601 /07734363670 **19** 

## Willersey Farmers Market

Thank you to all those who continue to support us. Please keep coming, our traders need your business.

Our last market is in Sunday 14 December. We are moving forward the market because of other Christmas markets and our traders' availability.

We will have our usual food and drink stalls and some Christmas crafts in the hall in December and we are expecting to have a visiting choir and Mulled wine at 11am, so do come and toast the last market of 2025.

We will be back in February 2026.

Happy Christmas to all our traders and visitors!

Willersey Farmers Market Team



My name is **Dani** and I am a small business owner of 'Sweet Treats' in Willersey

I make sweet bouquets for occasions and all ages. I also make sweet cones suitable for birthday parties etc. As Christmas is drawing closer, we have Bouquet Advent Calendars

These can be made up of sweets, chocolates or both.

Please scan the QR code to take you to my Facebook page

### **Recent Village Sightings**

Elsewhere in this month's edition is a copy of the annual Willersey Bird Survey ready for our village bird count over the weekend of January 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour. Every survey counts and we'd love to know your sightings. There will be other survey sheets available for collection around the village nearer the time. Around 50 plus households across the village regularly join in, giving us a picture of Willersey birdlife, so please consider taking part.

This past month has seen more reports of sparrowhawks with one photographed tucking into a wood pigeon and another witnessed snatching a goldfinch meal. Garden visiting buzzards have been spotted by four people too, the most populous bird of prey these days with 70,000 pairs currently in the UK having made a magnificent comeback over recent times. For such a large bird it is interesting to note that although they eat small rodents and the occasional rabbit, earthworms form a significant part of their diet.

Another otter sighting close to the village has been shared although this individual was probably the victim of a road accident. A warm early November has kept hedgehogs active with three reports from various parts of the village.

Sometimes many of us miss amazing sights like the 'siege' of herons - eight in fact - seen standing together statuesque, hiding in plain sight in a nearby damp field, probably seeking out frogs or invertebrates. Smooth newts are often seen in local garden ponds during breeding time but just occasionally, as reported in recent days, one is spotted away from water.

Green woodpeckers with their maniacal laugh have been putting in an appearance or two; plus strings of long-tailed tits, a firecrest, a diminutive jewel of a bird, and a redpoll. **21** 

The first fieldfare and redwing of the winter on our patch also recorded. Four local kestrel sightings have been shared, which given their reduced numbers nationally is heartening. Please report any other observed kestrels.

Over recent years a number of nest boxes have been erected in public spaces around the village. On checking this autumn 50% had been used this spring, thus giving a helping hand to small bird numbers in Willersey.

Sightings reported by Gi & Pete, Tony & Holly, Mike, Nick & Lena, Chris, Shirley & Mike, Robert & Helen, Sue, Sarah, Charles and Charlotte.

If you would like to report local wildlife sightings please email bob.topp@btinternet.com

## **Christmas Tree Festival** [Not long to go]



This year the Christmas Tree Festival will be held on Saturday the 20th of December midday to 3:30pm. In the past organisations and businesses have supported this event with a wonderful variety of decorated trees displayed amongst the floral arrangements created by St Peter's Flower Group. Refreshments including soup, savoury rolls, cakes and scones will be served. A Christmas craft stall will be displaying last minute tree decorations and stocking fillers to tempt you.

If any if there is anyone wishing to decorate a tree themselves or an organisation we have missed, please contact either Jenny on 01386853430 or Gillian on 01386 852958 before November 21st.

Thank you

#### **November All Age Worship**

The November All Age Worship Service was a trip down memory lane as our theme for this month was Memories. The hymns were chosen with this in mind. Carolynne's talk was our memories wondering what would be the disciples thoughts on this topic. There would have been lots of happenings but if we hazard a guess, would it have been the Last Supper with all the friend together. Just a thought

The congregation was asked to give its memories and the A board had photos of services that used to take place at St Peter's. With photos of all the three choirs from the past we were trying to recognise faces. The memories shared were all either from different parts of the country or even different countries. It was good to share these events as always. Thank you to the congregation and helpers within this service

### **Christmas**



Carols for All
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of December at 11:00
in St Peter's Church.
Come and Join the Celebration and sing sing, sing
Enjoy festive refreshments afterwards

## **The Festive Season**

Come and see the Christmas Trees and Flower Arrangements
Enjoying the refreshments served from 12:00 until 3-o'clock
Soup, savoury treats and of course cakes
There will be a craft stall at this event, handy for last minute Christmas shopping

23

The Christingle Service will be at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve Come and join in this Special Service PUBLIC NOTICES December 2025 & January 2026

#### MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are 8<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and 6<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026. 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.)

<u>PARISH COUNCIL</u> 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 <u>clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk</u>

<u>WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL</u> To hire the hall please telephone Annie & Bill Payne on 01386 858368, or email <u>willerseyhall@btinternet.com</u> or see https://www.willerseyhall.co.uk/

<u>METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE</u> Tel: Penny Ingles 01386 853306. The <u>MOBILE POST OFFICE</u>

Visits Willersey on Fridays at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45.

There is a Post Office inside and a cash machine outside Broadway Co-Op.

BROADWAY SURGERY is in Station Road WR12 7DE Telephone numbers are 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

NEAREST LIBRARY Leamington Road, Broadway

Open Mon. Wed. & Fri. 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.

#### TRAVEL 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 <a href="www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/">www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/</a> and on the Willerson website at <a href="www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/">www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/</a> and

on the Willersey website at <a href="www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus">www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus</a>

#### **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

©Willersey and Saintbury Village News 2025