

# Downton

December 2021 &  
January 2022

# Parish News



## St. Laurence Church

## **St Laurence Church Downton**

**Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, or requests for pastoral visits, should be made to**

**Priest in Charge, Rev David Bacon**

**Tel. 01794 390256 Email: davidbramrec@aol.com**

**Churchwarden:** Mr Ken Parsons 01725 512738

**Parish administrator:** Mrs Jo Parsons 01725 512738

**Director of Music:** Mrs Elaine Hicks-Arnold 01722 710341

**Sunday School:** Dr Janet McGee 01725 513869

**Church Flowers:** Mrs A Gates 01725 514674  
& Mrs G White 01725 476024

**Church website:** [www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)



[www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton](https://www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton)

At present St Laurence Church is not open on a daily basis, but we hope to resume this at some time in the future. Currently the church is open on Wednesdays from 11.00 am – 12 noon for those who wish to reflect and pray in peaceful surroundings.



*"St Laurence Church explores & builds the Kingdom of God through prayer, learning together & serving the local community"*

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St Laurence is part of the Forest and Avon Team of Churches, together with St Birinus, Morgans Vale; St Mary, Redlynch; St Andrew, Landford; St Peter, Bramshaw; St Peter, Plaitford.

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Downton Parish News is published 10 times a year, and is also currently online. Information for contributors and advertisers is at the back of the magazine, together with details of home delivery.

**From Rev David Bacon,  
Team Vicar of the Forest and Avon Team**



Dear Friends

**An uncertain Christmas**

As I write this (in the middle of November) none of us knows for sure what this Christmas is going to look like. Last year, we had very much a socially-distanced Christmas, which we hope not to have to repeat, but with the possibility of “Plan B” hanging over us, the plans that we have made (such as the Christmas Services – see elsewhere) are very much “subject to change”.

I grew up in a house where Christmas was pretty much the same every year. Things are generally less regimented these days, but many homes have their Christmas traditions and a definite way of doing things.

But, as I read again the oh so familiar Biblical accounts of Jesus’ birth, I was struck by the uncertainty of it all and by how all the major characters in the Nativity scene are called by God to change their plans and to enter that time of uncertainty.

One of the things about being Caesar Augustus was that, as Emperor, he could require a mass movement of people as they returned to their home town for the Census (no on-line forms in those days!) and Joseph, already traumatised by Mary’s news and having had his plans for a happy family life thrown into confusion, had to journey to Bethlehem.

“And he took Mary with him” (Luke 2:5) which was an odd thing to do. She didn’t have to go, especially in the later stages of pregnancy, and normally we might expect that she would have stayed in familiar surroundings with family and community around her. Are we to conclude that Mary was no longer welcome in Nazareth and that a hard journey to Bethlehem was preferable to staying in the glare of the local gossips? She had an uncertain time ahead.

And there were the shepherds “out in the fields” preparing for another humdrum shift protecting their flock from predators and thieves. Their plans for a “quiet night in” were rudely interrupted and we can’t go on to read the rest of the story.

*Continued >>>>>*

Their journey into Bethlehem was a quick stroll compared with the journey of the Wise Men. If they came from modern day Iran, they travelled at least 800 miles but it might have been much further. And they travelled not even sure what or who they were looking for. When they arrived, they arrived in the wrong place and asked all the wrong questions.

So as we prepare for an uncertain Christmas, my prayer is that we would be open to having our plans disrupted by the love and grace of God. The birth of Jesus Christ is indeed “Good News for all people”, but it may require us to adjust our well-laid plans.

With my love and prayers for Christmas and 2022

David (Bramshaw Rectory)

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## ST LAURENCE CHURCH SERVICES

**5<sup>th</sup> December    2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**10.30am            Holy Communion**

**10<sup>th</sup> December**

**7pm                    Evensong to start the Christmas Tree Festival**

**12<sup>th</sup> December    3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**No Service at 10.30am**

**6pm                    Village Carol Service**

**19<sup>th</sup> December    4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**10.30am            Sequence of Readings and Music for Advent**

**24<sup>th</sup> December    Christmas Eve**

**5pm                    Christingle Service**

**25<sup>th</sup> December    Christmas Day**

**10.30am            Holy Communion**

**26<sup>th</sup> December    No Service**

## ST LAURENCE CHURCH SERVICES

**2022**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Naming of Jesus</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Downton Churches Together joint service at Downton Baptist Church.</b>

As we move into December, we are still cautiously moving ahead with our services. You no longer have to reserve a seat or 'sign in' but we ask that you continue to sanitise your hands on arrival. Wearing a mask throughout the service will now be personal choice. Communion will still be by wafer only.

We will sing our hymns in church. Coffee will then be served at the end of the service.

We ask people to respect those who wish to distance, but if you would like to sit with another member of the congregation, and they are willing, this will be fine.

Recorded services within the Forest and Avon Team are available each week from St. Mary Redlynch and St. Andrew Landford. Salisbury Cathedral also offer recorded services.

**The Church will continue to open each Wednesday from 11am until 12 noon for private prayer.** A member of the Church will be present at all times as a steward and again we encourage you to sanitise your hands on arrival.

For latest news & any changes log onto [www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)

**Woodfalls Methodist Church  
The Ridge, Woodfalls, SP5 2LH**

**Services for December**

**Wednesday 1st** 10.45.am WMC. Mr Michael King, followed by lunch

**Sunday 5th** 10.00.am Holy Communion at St Birinus

**Sunday 12th** 10.00.am St Mary's

**Wednesday 15th** 10.45.am WMC. Christmas poems and readings with Carols, followed by lunch.

**Sunday 19th** 10.00.am Holy Communion at WMC, led by Rev Bryan Coates

**Sunday 19th** 4.00 pm Carol service with Woodfalls Band on grass outside St Birinus

**Friday 24th** 4.00 pm Christmas Story on grass outside St Birinus

**Friday 24th** 9.00 pm Candlelight Communion Service WMC, led by Rev Bryan Coates

**Saturday 25th** 8.30.am. Holy Communion at St Birinus

**Saturday 25th** 10.00am. Family Service at St Mary's

**Sunday 26th** NO SERVICE

**All enquiries to** Graham Tanner, telephone 01725 512648;

**email** [atanner.gtanner@btinternet.com](mailto:atanner.gtanner@btinternet.com)

**Online services at** [www.salisburymethodist.org.uk](http://www.salisburymethodist.org.uk)



**Roman Catholic Services**

Church of the Good Shepherd  
Barford Lane, Downton, SP5 3QA

The Catholic chapel is now available for private prayer.

**At 6.30 pm on Tuesdays** the congregation hold a  
Service of the Word by Zoom.

There is a Mass in the chapel on the third Thursday of the month.

**The next Mass will be a Christmas Mass on 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**The January Mass will be on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

If you would like to join the Zoom services  
please contact John Elliott on 07980 921558.

St Osmund's Church TV system  
can be accessed at: <https://salisburycatholics.org/church-tv>

## **Downton Baptist Church**

South Lane, Downton, SP5 3NA

### **Current Services: Sunday Mornings at 10.30am:**

Services are being held indoors.

The Service will be live streamed.

Online Services are on the Downton Baptist Church website.

### **Ministers: Rev Philip Rhoades and Rev Katy Ulliyatt**

More details of all events from Rev Philip Rhoades:

Telephone: 07468 491143. Email: [rhoades470@btinternet.com](mailto:rhoades470@btinternet.com)

**Church Office:** 01725 512971 or **Email:** [office@downtonbaptist.org](mailto:office@downtonbaptist.org)

**Website:** [www.downtonbaptist.org](http://www.downtonbaptist.org)



PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

## **DOWNTON VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE**

A joint Service with all the Downton Churches

**At St. Laurence Church**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**AT 6pm** - *please note corrected time*

With Downton Band, Primary School and Community Choirs



### **Action on Hearing Loss**

#### **Hearing aid maintenance drop in service – batteries and information**

Our hearing aid maintenance drop in clinics are suspended for the time being due to the corona virus, but I can still post hearing aid batteries to you if you are a Salisbury hospital audiology patient. This is a free service. At this time I'm not posting out tubing but I can help you with information on how to get the best from your hearing aids, including daily cleaning and information on hearing loss. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Gill Drayson. Telephone 01722 580014, mobile 07570 670 643,  
or email [Gillian.drayson@hearingloss.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.drayson@hearingloss.org.uk)

# Prayer Diary for December

- 1 All who rely on food aid
- 2 The bereaved and all who mourn
- 3 Our Archdeacon and Rural Dean & their families
- 4 Those made redundant or unable to find work
- 5 Our Church School
- 6 Our Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwardens
- 7 All key workers
- 8 Those at University and College
- 9 Those in Residential & Nursing Homes
- 10 Politicians and their advisors
- 11 Those in financial difficulties
- 12 Medical staff: in hospitals, GPs, Care homes, research laboratories
- 13 Those at work worried about social distancing
- 14 All visitors to our Churches
- 15 Trafalgar School at Downton
- 16 Churches Together in Downton
- 17 Our preparation for Christmas
- 18 School Governors
- 19 Working together for the Church
- 20 Charities struggling to continue their work and fundraising
- 21 Peace in the World
- 22 Retired Clergy and their families
- 23 Our Bishops and all Church Leaders
- 24 Christmas Eve - the homeless and refugees
- 25 Christmas Day - the alone and lonely
- 26 St Stephen - all persecuted for faith
- 27 St John - our witness as a Church
- 28 Holy Innocents - victims of violence
- 29 All who deny God
- 30 Our Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)
- 31 All who have been baptised this year



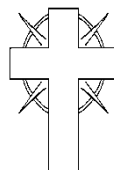
Please use this diary as a part of your own prayers. In this way we can pray together as a parish for our common concerns. If you have any suggestions for inclusion in this diary, please have a word with the Parish Administrator.



## 17<sup>th</sup> October – Charlotte Rose Telfer

## 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Olivia Jennings and Connor Sheehan

## 12<sup>th</sup> October – Judith Musselwhite (72)



## 9<sup>th</sup> October – Dennis Johnson



The Downton Christmas Tree Festival will start with an Evensong service sung by the Laudamus Choir from Fordingbridge. This will be only their second outing after an enforced “pandemic break” and they come to Downton having sung the services in Salisbury Cathedral Cathedral for the last weekend in October. They will be led by their director, Andrew Hanley, with the organ being played by their regular organist, John Radford.

Come and enjoy a traditional service with good music and stay afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies.

5.00 pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December

Donations for the work of The Children's Society  
will be welcomed.



# Prayer Diary for January

- 1 Our resolutions for the new year
- 2 All who rely on food aid
- 3 Flower Arrangers
- 4 Those made redundant or unable to find work
- 5 Our Church School
- 6 The Epiphany - revealing Jesus
- 7 Our Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwardens
- 8 Those at University and College
- 9 Those in Residential and Nursing Homes
- 10 Politicians and their advisors
- 11 Those in financial difficulties
- 12 Medical staff: in hospitals, GPs, Care homes, research laboratories
- 13 Those at work worried about social distancing
- 14 All visitors to our Churches
- 15 The bereaved and all who mourn
- 16 School Governors
- 17 All key workers
- 18 Christian Unity
- 19 All ministers in the village
- 20 Charities struggling to continue their work and fundraising
- 21 Peace in the World
- 22 Our Forest and Avon Team
- 23 Our Bishops and all Church Leaders
- 24 The homeless and refugees
- 25 St Paul - Sharing our faith
- 26 All who serve our community
- 27 Our Church Officers
- 28 The housebound and lonely
- 29 Our Archbishop, Justin Welby
- 30 Our Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)
- 31 St Laurence Church: our mission and ministry



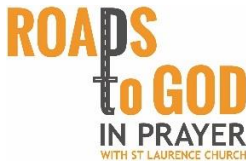
Please use this diary as a part of your own prayers. In this way we can pray together as a parish for our common concerns. If you have any suggestions for inclusion in this diary, please have a word with the Parish Administrator.

From St Laurence's PCC

## Downton Parish News

Since September we have been delivering this magazine free of charge to people who used to be regular subscribers, and others who have moved to the village in the last eighteen months.

We are proposing to re-instate the £5 annual subscription fee from February 2022 to contribute towards the production costs. We ask that you pay this promptly to your local magazine deliverer, please.



In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community, during **December** we will be offering prayers for:

Weeke Close, Waterside and Natanbury, Church Hatch, Hamilton Park and Twynham Close.

During **January 2022** we will be offering prayers for:

Moot Lane, Bridge House Gardens and Old Tannery Flats.

In the present situation we are unable to deliver our usual prayer cards.

Requests for particular prayers can be made:

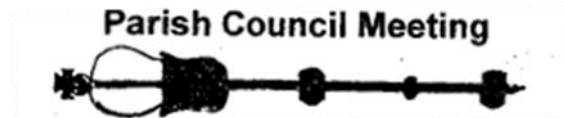
by telephoning Reverend Ron Hart on 01725 514772 or if unavailable please contact Mrs Jo Parsons 01725 512738 or emailing [info@stlaurencedownton.co.uk](mailto:info@stlaurencedownton.co.uk)

Any such requests will be kept confidential. You can request prayers at any time – not just when your road is on the monthly list.

For more information, please see our Roads to God page on our website: [www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)

### Roads to God Prayer Group

The next two Roads to God Prayer Groups will meet on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 10.30am and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10.30am in St. Laurence Church and will be led by Rev Ron Hart. We will pray for both the particular roads in our prayer cycle together with the whole village.



The Parish Council meeting was held in the Bonvalot Room of the Downton Memorial Centre on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Three members of the public were present.

### **Public Question Time**

The Chair of the Downton Society advised the Council that the results of the Royal Horticultural Society 'In Your Neighbourhood' assessment for Downton was 3 in a score range of 1 to 5. She thanked the Council for its support and asked those councillors living in Moot Lane to seek volunteers to water the planters in Moot Lane.

### **Unitary Cllr Richard Clewer:**

Cllr Clewer reported that the focus for the Council was now on the budget, although the funding from central government would not be known until December. He said that the coming year will be a very difficult year for the Council.

Following his expression of interest in how the local policing team was dealing with incidents of anti-social behaviour, Cllr Brentor advised that her assessment was that incidents were becoming more frequent. Cllr Clewer advised that he was continuing to pursue the Public Space Protection Order for Downton and Redlynch.

**Amenities:** Various works to install a new noticeboard in Moot Lane, damage caused to a picnic bench, clearing of drains in The Borough and the collection of winter salt for spreading in icy weather were reported by the Clerk.

**Vacancies:** There are currently 5 vacancies for councillors on the Parish Council. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a councillor, please contact the Clerk.

**The next meeting is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30 pm at the Downton Memorial Centre, The Borough, Downton.**

With Covid-19 restrictions still in place at the Memorial Centre only 21 people can be present at a meeting; any written questions for the Council can be sent to the Clerk by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

***Bev Cornish, Clerk to Downton Parish Council.***

***West View, Slab Lane, Downton, SP5 3PS Tel. 01725 513874***

***Email: [clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)***

***[www.downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)***

## Royal British Legion Downton Branch

### POPPY APPEAL 2021



Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the Poppy Appeal and for attending the Service on Remembrance Sunday. We are still collecting the monies and will publish the results in the next edition.

Thank you, Downton and Charlton All Saints, for your generosity and support, both in the collection and the parade.

Bryan Morris, Branch Chairman.

**LIVE ON** - The Royal British Legion provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

Maybe you could help support your colleagues or friends who are not faring so well by joining the Downton Royal British Legion or even volunteering for our community activities such as Poppy collections etc. For more information, please contact us at [thankyou@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:thankyou@britishlegion.org.uk) for details, or come to one of our committee meetings to meet members.

**The Branch meetings are on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (AGM)  
at the Brian Whitehead Sports and Social Club.**

Paul Hammond, Branch Secretary (07710 425983)



## Scouts Christmas Post

**Last posting date Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December by mid-day**

**Stamps cost 30p, available from posting points at:**

Downton Baptist Church, Hair Design,  
The Chemist, The Borough Café.

St Laurence Church is also open for posting cards on Wednesdays from 11am – 12 noon, and Sunday mornings, when stamps will also be on sale

A list of delivery areas is on the website: [www.salisburyscouts.org.uk](http://www.salisburyscouts.org.uk)

*Save money this Christmas and support a local charity!*



# **Christmas Tree Festival**

## **St Laurence Church**

***Christmas exhibits, Children's activities,  
Music. Coffee, Tea & Cakes***

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10.00 Downton Training Band
- 10.40 Barber # Close Harmony Quartet
- 11.20 Fordingbridge Handbells
- 12.00 Downton Community Choir
- 12.40 Downton Young Musicians
- 1.20
- 2.00 Wessex Folk Orchestra
- 2.40
- 3.20 Ottocorde

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10.00 Downton Primary School Choir
- 10.40
- 11.20 Downton Beginners' Band
- 12.00 Jubilee Brass
- 12.40 Trafalgar School Musicians
- 1.20 Jubilee Brass
- 2.00 Salisbury Northumbrian Pipers
- 2.40 Downton Chamber Voices
- 3.20 Briddon Family Musicians

Supporting Wiltshire Family Counselling Trust

## Downton Christmas Tree Festival

Do you have an hour (or possibly two!) available over the weekend of **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December** between 10.00am and 4.00pm? If so, would you like to join me at St Laurence Church running two activity tables for the children when everyone comes to enjoy the exhibits, music and cakes at the Christmas Tree Festival. We have one table where the children can decorate gingerbread men, and another where they can write letters to Santa to go into our special post box. Children and their parents can also join the hunt for the many church mice hiding around the building!

Looking forward to hearing from you. Please call Sue on 07825 745246



### Christmas Tree Sale

**Friday 3rd December, 3.00 - 7.00 pm**

At Long Close Park, The Borough (behind the Bull),

Locally grown Nordmann Firs

Sizes 5ft, 6ft, 7ft @ £30, £35, £40  
(Payment by bank transfer or cash)

Refreshments include hot chocolate,  
mince pies & mulled wine

Also luxury hand-made wreaths

See [www.downtonmoot.co.uk](http://www.downtonmoot.co.uk) for more details

*Proceeds to Downton Moot Preservation Trust*



**'Reflections'**, a book of old photographs of Downton, was compiled many years ago, and provides a fascinating record of village life in times past. *Copies are still available from:*

84 The Borough - contact Enid Crook (01725 511196).

*Books sold in aid of Wessex Cancer Trust. Price £3.*

## Downton Bands

Downton Bands are gearing up for a busy December, culminating in our usual carolling through the village on Christmas Morning. Our provisional carolling dates are as follows - as ever these are subject to change due to weather, etc! Please follow our Facebook page for the latest updates, and please do get in touch if you have any special requests:

**Moot Lane:** Wednesday 1st December (Training Band & Jubilee Brass)

**Mesh Pond & Batchelor Way:** Monday 6th December (Beginners Brass)

**The Sidings:** Monday 13th December

**The Borough:** Wednesday 15th December

**Wick Estate:** Monday 20th December

**New Wick:** Tuesday 21st December

*Reserve night: Wednesday 22nd December*

We'll also be outside Downton Co-op on Christmas Eve and a small group will be playing in The Bull on Christmas Eve evening.

In addition to carolling round the village, the Bands have the following engagements during December:

**Friday 3rd:** Downton Primary School Christmas Fete from 4.30 pm (Training Band)

**Sunday 5th:** Christmas Tree Festival in St Thomas Church, Salisbury at 3.15 pm (Training Band)

**Saturday 11th:** Christmas Tree Festival in St Laurence Church at 10.00am (Training Band)

**Sunday 12th:** Christmas Tree Festival in St Laurence Church at 11.20 am (Beginners Brass) and 1.20 pm (Jubilee Brass).

**Sunday 12th:** Carol Service in St Laurence Church at 6.00 pm with an extended set of music afterwards

**Tuesday 14th:** Concert in Charlton All-Saints Church at 7.30 pm

**Saturday 18th:** Concert in Lyndhurst Church (time to be confirmed)

The Bands look forward to seeing you at any (or all!) of these and would like to thank the village in advance for their support.

Mike Ricketts. Vice chairman, Downton Band  
<https://www.downtonband.org.uk/>

*Continued >>>>>*



Downton Senior Band is looking to recruit more cornets and a tuba player in the new year, and both the Training Band and Beginners Band are also looking for more players to join up. If you fancy learning a brass or a percussion instrument, please get in touch - message our MD Paul on [paul@downtonband.org.uk](mailto:paul@downtonband.org.uk)

**Downton Primary School Association presents**



## **Christmas Extravaganza**



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 4.00 – 6.00 pm**

**In the school playground - Entrance in Gravel Close**

**Hot food, Licensed bar, Games, Tombola, Raffle,  
Surprise Cups, Crafts, Hot chocolate bar  
School Choir \* \* \* \* \* Downton Band  
And lots more festive fun for all the family!**

**£1 entry \* \* \* \* \* kids go free!**

**\* \* \* \* \***

### **'It's your neighbourhood' result**

This year we entered for this part of 'Britain in Bloom'.

As a Wiltshire entrant in the South West group, which includes Dorset, Devon, Somerset and Cornwall, we were part of a group of about 500 villages, pubs and even prisons!

The categories were:

- ☐ outstanding
- ☐ advancing
- ☐ thriving
- ☐ improving



We are in the thriving group!

Thank you so much to all who put such effort into making it all work.

We have a pretty village. Let's keep it that way!

Robert Willcox

## New Year's Eve 2021

Last year New Year's Eve didn't happen so make up for it this New Year by partying the night away to



In the Memorial Hall, Downton, 8.30 pm - 12.30 am

**Soul Conspiracy** is a local seven piece band featuring an exciting brass section and a female singer with a powerful and distinctive voice. They play great Soul music and other dance favourites.

Tickets are £17 each or £130 for a table of 8.

They are available from Malcolm Dean (07776 132775), Martin Easterbrook (07776 308933) or Hilary Mace (07760 415818).

Licensed Bar available. Please bring your own food.

All profits from the event will be split between buying a large, drop-down projection screen for showing films at the Memorial Hall and Downton British Legion. As this is a fund-raising event it would be appreciated if all alcoholic drinks are bought from the bar – bubbly will be available.



In the event of further Covid restrictions, meaning that the party cannot take place, all ticket money will be refunded.



## Good Companions

We want to say a big thank you to Phyl Ford who had organised a feast of speakers and entertainers for when we were able to meet up again after the COVID lockdown.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October we enjoyed a "Silent Disco" with Stephanie, Ross, Helen and Lou, when we danced, sang, laughed and enjoyed a selection of non-alcoholic cocktails. On 19<sup>th</sup> October Carol Watson took us on a wonderful slide show journey into the American Rockies, introducing us to the amazing array of flowers in the meadows and hidden among the rocks.

Then on 26<sup>th</sup> October Alix Booth came with her array of Punch and Judy puppets, and really entertained us as she shared the amazing history of Punch. In early November we very much enjoyed a Music and Song hour with Sarah Collins.

### Future Visits to look forward to:

- 7<sup>th</sup> December - Another visit from Stephanie to look forward to.
- 14<sup>th</sup> December - Games and Chat: an invitation for you to talk about something interesting! More about it later.
- 21<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Celebration Singalong with the Community Choir, not forgetting the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'; with a lovely tea party spread.

We meet in Downton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Regulars pay £1.50; visitors, who are always welcome, £2.00; cup of tea and biscuit included. Contact Julia Whitmarsh, 01725 510601, for details.



## Downton Horticultural Society

The committee has been busy planning for next year's events. Apart from our Plant and Table Top sale in May and our Summer and Autumn Shows we will be having illustrated talks entitled 'Stourhead to Stanpit', 'The Art of wildlife Photography' and 'You and your garden in Climate Change'. We are also in the process of arranging a local garden visit for next summer. As always, new members are welcome at any our events.

Also, please look out for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Gordon Bishop (01725 511475)

## Downton Link



On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November we held our first “live” gathering of volunteers since November 2019 – the occasion was our AGM, and it was really good to be meeting together once more. The 2020 AGM had to be held “virtually” on Zoom.

It was the first opportunity for those who have joined the “Link” in the last 2 years to meet the Committee and their fellow drivers and befrienders and to enjoy each other’s company. 2021 marked 25 years since the launch of Downton Link and it was reported to the meeting that in that time “Link” volunteer drivers have driven 405,980 miles and spent 44,270 hours carrying out 32,145 client requests. This is equivalent to over 16 times around the globe or, if you want something closer to home, that’s 483 journeys from Land’s End to John o’ Groats!

We are fortunate in having a dedicated band of volunteers, drivers, coordinators and befrienders, and of course an equally dedicated Management Committee. Peter Bishop, who stood down as Chairman at the AGM after five years in the Chair, thanked everyone who has supported our service over the last two challenging years. John Matthews was elected as Chairman to take us forward into the next 25 years and we were also pleased to welcome two new members to the Committee one of whom has joined the team as an additional transport coordinator.

The fact that most of our volunteers give their time to support the work of the Link over a number of years is testament to how much they enjoy their involvement and find it rewarding. There is a constant need to recruit more drivers, befrienders, coordinators and committee members in order to maintain our much-needed service which is so very much appreciated by our clients. If you think you could offer some time and would like to know more, you can call our Link number **01725 513807** or email [info@downtonlink.org.uk](mailto:info@downtonlink.org.uk).

May we take this opportunity to wish all our volunteers, supporters and clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Downton Link** (Registered Charity No. 1075805)

### October rainfall



This month is usually wet, and this time it excelled itself with 7.26 inches - well above average.

*M.C.*

## What was COP 26 all about?



COP stands for Conference of the Parties and refers to countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994. Has anything been achieved since then and will it make any difference this year?

Many feel that very little has changed in order to achieve a reduction in climate change and the human behaviour which has contributed to it, but.....we are certainly more aware of the need to address our impact on the climate. Last year coal contributed 1.6% of the UK's electricity mix which was down from 25% five years ago; electricity generation from *wind power in the UK* has increased by 715% from 2009 to 2020 (*Office of National Statistics*); more people drive electric cars, and discussion about hydrogen powered vehicles is now in the media most days.

This might sound like everything is fine but the earth is still heating at a rate that is said to be dangerous to us and to future generations. Surely governments must do more, but so many of us feel powerless in the face of the scale of change that is needed, and the potential economic impact of such change that we want to close our ears to all the talk that has come out of COP 26. To do that is actually defeatist because we can all contribute, however little.

Buying locally; cutting out meat for one or two meals a week; encouraging children and grandchildren to walk to school; and reminding ourselves and our family that the apparently harmless little (or large) electronic devices we all feel quite content to use every day are powered by energy that contributes to climate change. They were not available to our grandparents who are being blamed for 'causing this problem'! Perhaps we should think of COP as standing for 'Contributions of the People' and challenge ourselves and each other to take a little bit of action.

[www.downtongreengroup.co.uk](http://www.downtongreengroup.co.uk) '*encouraging sustainable living within our local community*'.



### Moviola

It has been really great to welcome everyone back to Moviola in Downton once again. Our films for Spring 2022 will be published just before Christmas, starting at the end of January. See you all then!

*Further information from Sue and Lawrence on 07825 745 246.*

## Love Repair Cafe

### News Update:

**NHS Covid Staff Project:** Once again with your help we have managed to increase our giving to the Hospital Staff to a total of £9000.

**Back to School:** A small team of our volunteers went to Greentrees Primary School in Salisbury to take part in their Environment Week. We had a wonderful time with approx. 200 children who showed great interest in what we do, and in actions to preserve and save our planet. At the end of the day we held a **Mini Repair Cafe** when parents & children brought along their items for repair.

**Christmas Fair:** You are very welcome to come and see us at the **Love Christmas Fair in Redlynch Village Hall** at 10.00 am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We will be offering all our checked & donated items at ridiculously low prices, including Dolls Houses and TV's.



**New Helpers:** We are pleased to report that more people, some with specialist skills and some with nothing but an enthusiasm to be involved, have recently joined us. However we are still looking for folk who would like to 'Chat & sell cakes' in our little Cafe.

**Can we help you?** Another reminder that you are very welcome to join us with a repair or a query or simply for a chat on any Wednesday or Friday morning.

We phone you when your item is ready for collection, and simply ask you to pay for material costs and make a donation to our Local Projects when you pick your item up.

**Enquiries: Paul 01725 510753 or preferably write to us at [loverrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:loverrepaircafe@gmail.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Downton's Mobile Post Office - Every Friday Morning**

**Moot Lane near to Recreation Ground: 9.00 am - 10.00 am**

**The Bull car park: 10.05 am till 11.05 am**

## **Exciting Times at Hamptworth Croquet Club**

As readers will know, we are based in the grounds of Hamptworth Golf Club. What readers may not know is that Hamptworth Golf Club has a new owner. Already changes are taking place and work has started to refurbish the clubhouse. Other improvements are also planned. What exactly these new times will mean for the Croquet Club remains uncertain, but we are very optimistic and look forward to making use of the improved facilities.

We are also going through some improvements of our own. Two of our five lawns have been out of action since the start of September due to aeration works, re-sowing and top dressing. They are progressing well and should be back in use for the start of December. The return of the lawns also means the return of our open tournaments. The first of our tournament weekends is 11th and 12th December. Spectators are always welcome - especially if they are wearing flat-soled shoes (like trainers) which will not damage our new lawns!

In the New Year we will be running taster sessions for those who wish to take up playing croquet, so please keep an eye out for the news or come along and ask us at the tournaments.

Steve Bennett – Chair, Hamptworth Croquet Club. (07912 608733)

Website: [www.croquet-websites.org.uk/hamptworth](http://www.croquet-websites.org.uk/hamptworth)

## **Redlynch and District WI**

We welcomed David Stocks from Ashley Heath to our November meeting; his talk was entitled 'Authors of the Lake District' and he gave us a look into the private lives and scandals of six authors.

The next meeting will be our Christmas party on 8th December 2.15 pm at Morgans Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall, when the speaker will be John Pitman with a talk entitled 'Life of a Pantomime Dame'. Guests from Downton will be very welcome.

Morgans Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall will be celebrating its 100th birthday on Saturday 11th December. There will be displays in the afternoon by local clubs, and also tea and cakes so do come and have a look.

Any queries - contact Jill Bowen on 01725 511173.

## Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society



November saw Jo Richards visit us and demonstrate an array of wonderful designs based around her love of flowers and the influence of her floristry background. Jo showed us a number of different ways to arrange flowers without using floral foam, all of which we could do at home for ourselves. It was a lovely evening of fun and flowers, with many happy members leaving having won a design from the raffle.

On 6th December we will enjoy a festive demonstration entitled "The Magic of Christmas" with Elizabeth Whitcomb. You will be most welcome to join us as a visitor and hopefully get some inspiration for the festive season ahead. (Door charge: Visitors £6, Members £1). We meet in Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall, at 7.00 pm for refreshments, ready to start at 7.30pm. Why not come along, we would love to see you.

Martina Coleman (Chairperson) 01725 512556



## Nativity Festival

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**WOODFALLS METHODIST CHURCH**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 3.30 pm – 8.30 pm** with Coffee and Cake

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 am – 7.00 pm**

(Soup at lunch time, cream teas and cake in the afternoon)

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 12 noon – 7.00 pm**

(Ploughman's lunch, cream teas and cake in the afternoon)

**Displays of Nativity sets,**

**Nativity Christmas Cards and poems.**

**Activities for children.**

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Supported by St Mary's, St Birinus & WMC

*\*\*\* All are welcome \*\*\**



## Woodfalls to Rangoon....The Story of Gunner David Green

A Talk by Sonia Aarons-Green

Like many veterans, the Speaker's father in law did not talk very much about the years he spent fighting in the Far East. He had never even collected the medals he had earned.

The Speaker and her husband Anthony decided to find out more. Research led them to the war diaries of David Green's regiment, the 139<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery, and other accounts of the Burma Campaign. This then led them to making a journey retracing David's postings. This took them from what was then Bombay, across much of India and then on to the sites of the relentless and brutal close quarter fighting in often appalling conditions, that David was present at. They travelled from Kohima down through Burma and on to Rangoon. David was not to return to his family until 1946, arriving home with very little fanfare and weighing 6½ stone.

The talk was well illustrated with pictures and anecdotes of David Green's life in 1930s Woodfalls, which was of much interest to a local audience. There followed a mix of older army photographs and those from the Speaker's travels, to accompany the descriptions of both the wartime hardships fighting the Japanese and the complete contrast with life in rural Wiltshire. Unfortunately technical difficulties curtailed some of the wartime pictures, but this did not detract from an entertaining and informative evening.

Our pre-Christmas talk is on 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm at Woodfalls & Morgans Vale Hall, entitled "Myths and Legends of Stonehenge" by Matt Pike, English Heritage's first writer in residence at Stonehenge.



### Downton Cuckoo Fair

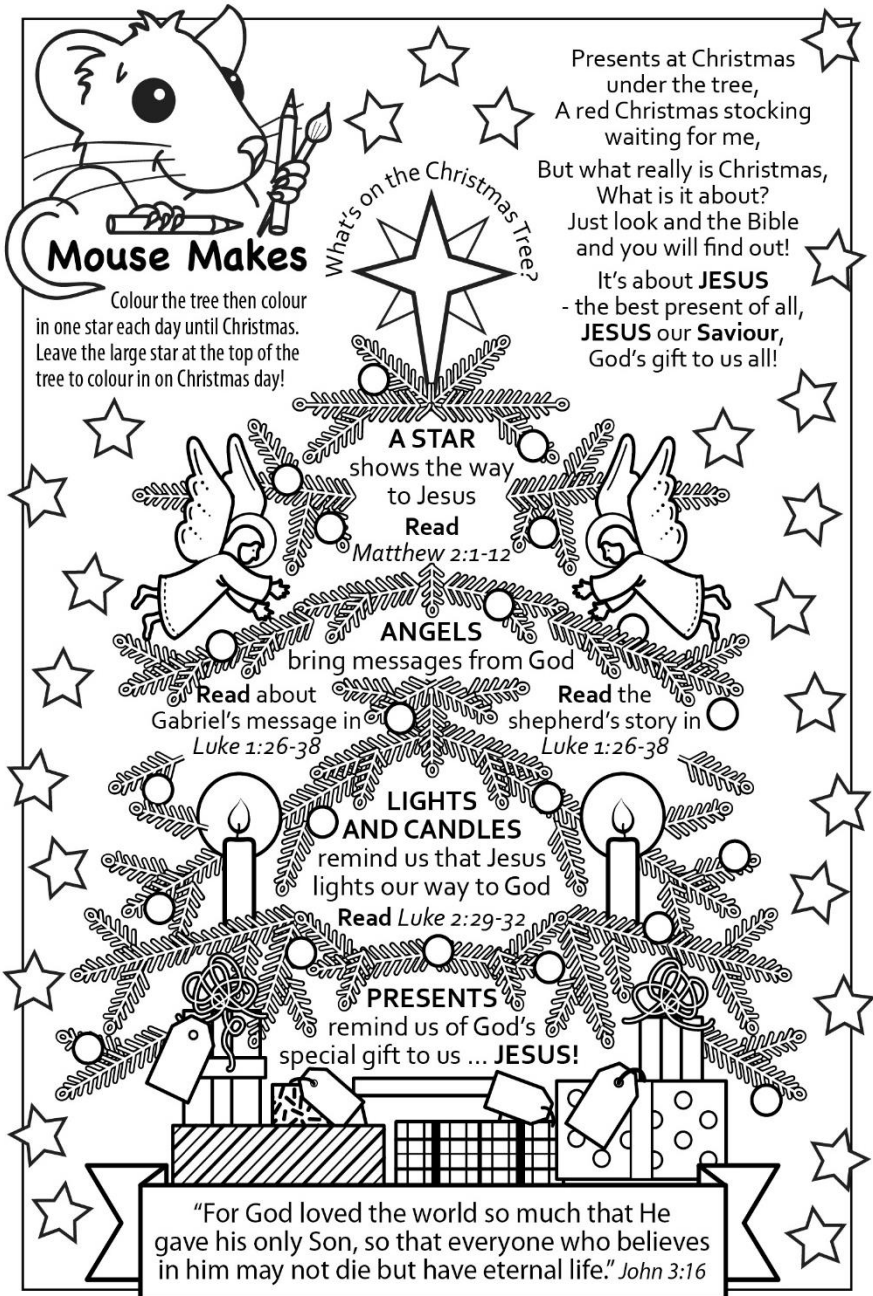
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**Small ads:** Details from Marguerite Pitt (01725 510586).

The cost of a 30 word insert on this page is £2.50 per month (£20.00 per annum). Please send a copy of your advertisement plus cash to Mrs M Pitt, 11 Joanna Close, Downton (01725 510586) by 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**All box and line advertisements in this magazine  
are accepted in good faith**

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## Sending editorial copy

Articles and notices of events for the **February** issue to be emailed to the Editor **by 10<sup>th</sup> January.** Please contact the Editor if you wish to submit a paper copy.

Articles will be shortened if space is limited; any received late may not be used. Please use black and white clipart rather than coloured items. Word documents are preferable to pdf's or jpg's.

**Editor: Angela Jones (01725 512204)**

**Email: [alovelockjones@waitrose.com](mailto:alovelockjones@waitrose.com)**

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*Opinions expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or Parochial Church Council, and no responsibility can be accepted for any errors of fact published in the Parish News.*

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**If you would like the Parish News to be delivered to you each month, please contact Mrs Jo Parsons (01725 512738).**

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Village website: [www.downtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.downtonvillage.co.uk)

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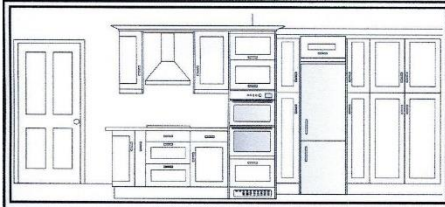
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