

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
Buses (local)		0871 2002233
Citizens Advice Bureau, Wincanton		0344 88 9623
CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
Doctors' Surgeries	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	202265
Horsington Church School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governor	Jeanne Mortarotti	07894 470402
PTFA	Terri Mills	
	terrimills0@gmail.com	
MP	Sarah Dyke	TBC
Parish Council		
Chair	Adrian Pratt	07811 699912
Clerk	Barry Druce	01935 726073
	horsingtonpc@gmail.com	
St John's Church		
Rector	Rev. Kevin Rogers	363832
Warden	Stephen Miles	370823
Scouts	Geoff Crabb	370623
Social Services		0845 345 9133
South Somerset District Council		01935 462462
U3A	Susan Kidd	362107
Defibrillator emergency telephone number		602500
Defibrillator Co-ordinator	Stephen Miles	370823
Wincanton Town Council		31693
Village Hall	www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk	
Chair	John Macdonald	370444
Bookings	Emilie Gordon	371396
Art	Gill Elston &	370236
	Jane Hooper	01308 861690
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Yoga	Emma Riley	0788 424 6550
		370830

The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

December 2023/January 2024 - Issue 128



Chair	Sally Packer	370376	Treasurer/Adverts	Chris McCairns	370049
Compiler	Deborah Pitchforth	370867	Articles	Sheila Leaning	370899
Compiler	Trent Nicholson	370738	Articles	Jeanne Mortarotti	202265
Distribution	Bob Jones	370562			

Kindly printed by Thales UK

Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to
info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on 12th January 2024

All opinions expressed in articles published are those of the authors and not of the magazine.

To view past and present copies of the Villager go to the Wincanton Window website
www.wincantonwindow.co.uk and click on the 'Villages' link.

Events Diary - December 2023

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Fri 1st	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 1st	3.30- 5.30pm	School Christmas Bazar	Horsington School
Sat 2nd	9.30-11.00am	Community Market	"
Tues 5th	7.00pm	Yoga	"
Thu 7th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 7th	10.00am	Art	"
Sun 10th	12.30pm	Christmas Lunch	"
Tues 12th	7.00pm	Yoga	"
Wed 13th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Mon 24th	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Horsington Church

The Villager would like to wish their readers and contributors

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We look forward to receiving further input, comments
and suggestions from you in 2024

Please contact us if you would like to become involved
with any aspect of the magazine.

HORSINGTON CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT ST MARGARET'S HALL

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 12.30 FOR 1pm

TICKETS £20 EACH

Bring your own drink

Tickets John Sansom 07974662145

or Steve Miles 01963 370823

IN AID OF COMMUNITY FUNDS

PEVLINGS FARM RIDING & LIVERY STABLES

Traditional riding school offering
riding lessons, hacking and more
Tiny tots – adults (lightweight)

PONY CLUB LINKED CENTRE
BHS APPROVED - ABRS APPROVED
RDA ACCESSIBILITY MARK ACCREDITED
DIY Livery

Licensed by South Somerset District Council

Proprietor Alison Tytheridge

Email: pevlings.stables@hotmail.com

Tel: 01963 370990 www.pevlingsfarm.co.uk



Good value, professional & efficient service, supplied & fitted...

SJH
CARPETS
Wincanton



Carpets, Carpet Tiles
Vinyl, Wood, Laminate,
Natural Flooring
Ceramic Wall & Floor Tiles
Vertical Roller
and Venetian Blinds

Stockists of Amtico and Karndean

SJH Carpets, Tythings Commercial Centre, Wincanton
T: 01963 824418 • Open: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm; Sat, 9am-1pm
Also at High Street, Tisbury • T: 01747 871178 (closed Wednesday)

E.C. SERVICES

Decorating, Tiling & Property Maintenance

07966 932 869

Call for Advice and Free Estimate

The New Barn, Popes Farm, Marnhull

Kington Magna Call Julie on 07966 264621
 Mobile appointments also available
To Book or ask for a pricelist
 Barbering, Family Trims,
 Weddings, Cut & Blow-dries/Sets,
 Colours, Foils, Balayage, Perms.

HAIR CUTS
 next to the village hall
HERE
 At
Willow Cottage

DALES CAR REPAIRS LTD
 Established in 2000
LARGE STOCK OF TYRES
 Modern workshop to carry out all your repairs and servicing to a high standard at a competitive price.
 Free collection and delivery services from South Cheriton or Horsington.
01963 31122 or 07767 201919
 Unit 21/22 Lawrence Hill, Business Centre, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9RT

I.C.T Garden Maintenance

- Mowing
- Mulching
- Strimming
- Scarifying
- Hedge Cutting
- Leaf Vacuum
- Chainsaw
- Spraying
- Rotovating
- Pressure Washing
- Garden Clearance

07875 497869 **ian@ictgardenmaintenance.co.uk**

Events Diary - January 2024

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tues 9th	7.00pm	Yoga	Village Hall
Wed 10th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Thu 11th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 12th	10.00am	Art	"
Tues 16th	7.00pm	Yoga	"
Thu 18th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 19th	10.00am	Art	"
Tues 23rd	7.00pm	Yoga	"
Thu 25th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 26th	10.00am	Art	"
Tues 30th	7.00pm	Yoga	"

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Enjoy Carol singing?
 Why not join our
 'pop-up' choir for our

**Christmas Eve
 Candlelit Carol
 Service 6pm**

No experience necessary.
 Practice dates to be
 arranged

Contact Liz Holbrook (Leader) 01963 363193 or
 Stephen Miles (Churchwarden) 01963 370823



A Flying Doctor in Africa

I have always loved small aircraft. Maybe something to do with being born during the Battle of Britain. I became passionate about gliding in my 20's, and at one time I used to spend all my time, and what little money I had, at the gliding Club near to where I was working in Buckinghamshire. Then I saw an advert for a job in the Zambia Flying Doctor Service. An additional attraction was that the gliding was said to be superb there, due to the climate.

I was seeing a lot of Jane, so I popped the question, we got married six weeks later and flew out to Zambia, having a honeymoon in Kenya on the way. In Mombasa we were taken out to dinner at the very up-market Mombasa Club.

Jane: *"Ooh, this is so nice thank you, and it's our wedding Anniversary."*

Our hostess: *"How great, how long have you been married?"*

Jane: *"A week"!*

We started work in Zambia on 1st May 1968 with the Flying Doctor Service, known as the ZFDS. Until independence in 1964 the country had been Northern Rhodesia, in a federation with Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Nyasaland became Malawi, Rhodesia proclaimed its own independence, known as UDI in 1964, and there was a lot of animosity between Rhodesia and Zambia. Zambia at that time was quite under-developed, though it had great riches in that it had some huge copper mines, which provided most of their GDP.



Our completed clinic building. Gate etc. made by BJ on a Sunday afternoon!

SOUTH CHERITON GARAGE LTD.
EST. SINCE 1983

- SERVICING AND REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES AND MODELS
- MOTs ON CARS AND LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
- LATEST DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT
- WHITE AND RED DIESEL SERVED

TEL: 01963 370179

Mark Pearson Electrical Services

NAPIT registered

10 Houndsmill, Horsington

07875 081103

Computer Maintenance & Repairs

Purchase Advice, Virus Removal, New PC Setup/Installation,
Internet Connection, Upgrades, Computer/Software Tuition

Call Gregg on 01963 370713

CRABB TAXIS

*Your Local, Friendly Service for
Airports, Stations, Shopping etc*

07950 826962

Local & long distance covering Wincanton, Templecombe & Henstridge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Including Births* Deaths* Birthdays* Weddings* Anniversaries* Congratulations

If you have any announcements, articles for sale or to give away, babysitting services etc. you would like included please contact

info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk

Horsington & South Cheriton Community Facebook page is now up and running !

A place for all to contribute and keep up with what is happening in our villages and in the locale.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/horsingtonwithsouthcheriton>

Or just search on Facebook for 'Horsington & South Cheriton'

The Blooming Wild Nursery

Your local Plant Nursery specialising in:

Herbaceous perennials, Ornamental grasses & Native Wildflowers.



All our plants are grown in peat free compost with a range to attract bees, butterflies and wildlife to your garden, or outdoor space.

We are open March - end of October

Wed-Fri: 9.30am-4.30pm & Sat: 10am-4pm.

Sales enquiries welcome all year.

Tel :01963 371060 www.bloomingwild.co.uk

Cabbage Lane, Horsington, BA8 0DA



K. SANSOM CHIMNEY SWEEP

Brush & Vacuum Woodburners etc

Also mini-marquee hire with furnishings, flooring etc

01963 370038

Crossword Answers
Across: 1. Nativity play. 8. Tuber. 9. New Year. 10. Imagine. 11. Roost. 12. Grotto. 14. Advent. 17. One up. 19. Home run. 21. Nuances. 22. Sable. 23. Frankincense.
Down: 1. Nothing doing. 2. Tibia. 3. Verdict. 4. Tinsel. 5. Power. 6. Anemone. 7. Write to niece. 13. Open air. 15. Demi-sec. 16. Bhiti. 18. Pecan. 20. Robin.

Crossword Answers

The ZFDS had about seven bush clinics scattered across most of Zambia. Each was visited by a doctor and nurse three times a week, flown out in a (usually) two-engined aircraft, a Piper Aztec. We did have one single-engined aircraft as well. The clinics were well-stocked with all the



Our clinic helpers, Edward, James and Toffee.

necessities of primary medical care, and had a permanent staff of a medical assistant and a radio-operator. Amongst other duties the radio-operator let the headquarters know every time an aircraft landed or took off from that particular airstrip. The headquarters of the FDS was at a town called Ndola, on the industrial strip called the Copperbelt, because of all the copper-mines in that part of the country.

Most of the other doctors and nurses in the FDS were from the UK, and we were all on 6-month contracts. Almost all the pilots were professionals from South Africa and Rhodesia. Those two countries were under international sanctions at the time, but the pilots were able to earn well in Zambia so came north to work.

Zambia is quite high, most of it being at about 4,000ft. It has a highly predictable climate, with very little rain from April, then the weather really gets quite cool until the days warm again up in August. It then gets hotter and hotter (September used be named the suicide month!) and then the rains come on about the 10th October. Suddenly it is cooler, very pleasant and all the previously dried out plants burst into green over about two days.

Jane and I were the only doctor and nurse who were married, so were detailed to be flown out to where a new clinic and airstrip were being built. We were to live there, under canvas initially, until the airstrip was properly useable and the clinic was established. Being used to camping we embraced this new strange life, and it was our happiest time of our three years in Africa.



Our first married home. Note open fire for cooking, no door on our hut. And how dry it all is in all the pictures.

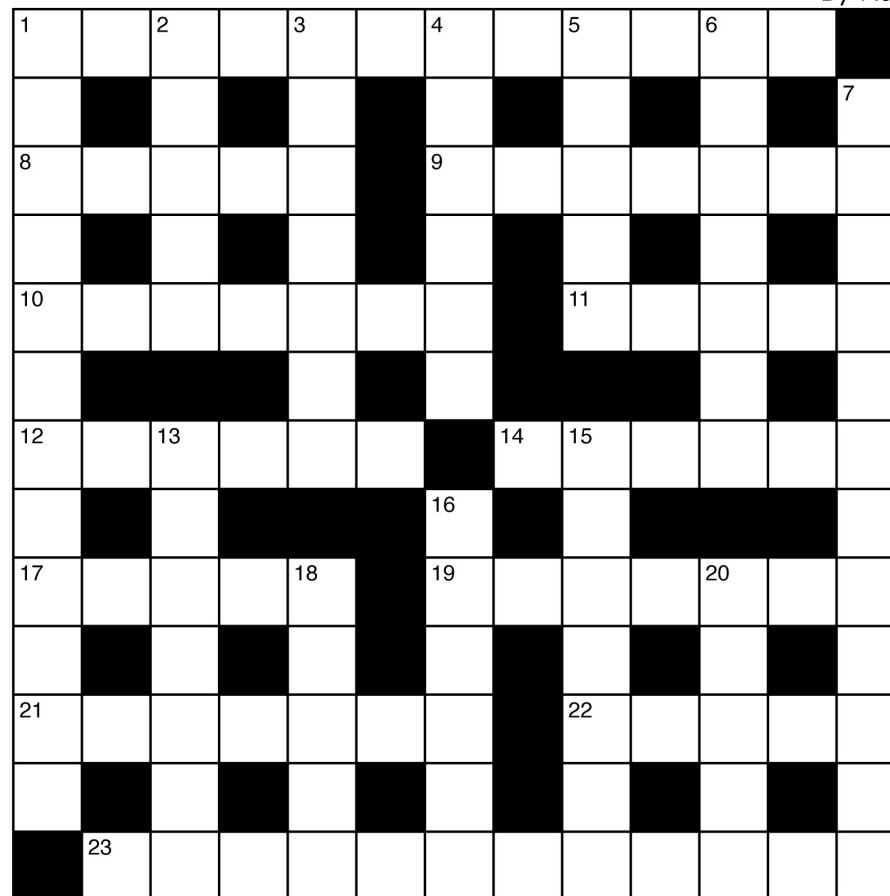
July 1968 saw Jane and I living in the Zambian bush where a new clinic and airstrip were being made. The airstrip was made of compacted mud, nothing like tarmac! There was obviously no electricity there, such was our

isolation, and all our water came from the river. After a week or two we asked the local people if they could make us a small hut, rather than our sleeping on dried grass in a bell-tent. Within a day it was finished, along with a double bed with a sprung bamboo base. When we took down the bell-tent we found in the grass that we'd been sleeping on a scorpion with lots of young tiny offspring. The local people there had not actually had non-Zambians living in their midst before. We were most warmly treated, nothing was ever stolen from us and we never felt remotely threatened.

We had a bike each, a rather downmarket Chinese variety, and in the early evening often used to cycle a couple of miles to the river to go fishing. Dried-out elephant footprints make for a bumpy ride! Occasionally we might go to one of the little villages if someone was ill and couldn't get to the clinic. One village headman questioned us, through our medical assistant, "Where is your gun?" They hadn't seen white people in the bush before without a rifle. We never felt the need for one.

We cooked over an open fire, our evening meals being in rotation Vesta Beef Curry, Spaghetti Bolognese and corn-beef hash, which had all come from Ndola with us. We also had Cinzano for Jane and Brandy and Ginger for me, (no ice of course) and we felt like royalty.

In time the clinic building was completed and the airstrip was up to standard and we returned, somewhat reluctantly, to Ndola. We were sad to leave our staff, James, Toffee and Edward, and all the local folk who had made us feel part of the community.



Across: 1. It goes both ways in colour and paly exchange is for seasonal act. (8.4)

8. Underground Romeo is potato. (5)

9. Novel new Norwich river brings in start of January. (3.4)

10. Picture popular drug including three wise men. (7)

11. Roots could be area for first day gift from true love to sit on. (5)

12. Cavern where the late King found a German. (6)

14. Plug chimney for the run-up to Christmas. (6)

17. Having an advantage by pulling strings. (3.2)

19. Winner in hurry. (4.3)

21. Shades of niceties. (7)

22. Jumble blasé animal. (5)

23. Oil bluntly infuriates. (12)

Down: 1. No way when no resemblance to night dingo. (7.5)

2. Ace binary digit backing bone. (5)

3. Judgement of decision. (7)

4. Listen to decoration. (6)

5. Potency comes from all powerful passion. (5)

6. Article and compiler up with single picks windflower. (7)

7. One nice witter gets to pen letter to relation. (5.2.5)

13. Candid tune goes alfresco. (4.3)

15. Change a dime with Securities Exchange Commission for a wine style. (4-3)

16. British Home Stores included one and it goes up for water carrier. (6)

18. Exercise prison nut. (5)

20. Reliant on theft at home. (5)

WINCANTON DROP-IN SESSION OFFER ADVICE ON STAYING WARM THIS WINTER

A drop-in session in Wincanton offered residents advice on staying warm this winter. Hosted by the Balsam Centre on Thursday 16 November, the free session is part of the Centre for Sustainable Energy's Safe and Warm Somerset project and follows on from the Balsam Centre's Elements Climate Fair earlier this year, at which local people shared ideas about how they could reduce their energy consumption.

During the November drop-in, the Centre for Sustainable Energy will be available to answer questions about anything energy related including low cost/no cost steps to reduce the cost of bills, as well as supplier or billing issues. They can also help people to apply for grants and, where necessary, emergency financial support. "We usually resolve issues with just one discussion," explained Atha Murphy, Outreach Energy Advisor for Safe and Warm Somerset, "but if someone has more complicated problems, such as difficulties with their energy supplier, we can connect them with a specialist caseworker for ongoing support, join in conversations and advocate for them to reach a solution they're happy with."

Also present on the day will be advisors from Citizens Advice and Abri Employment Support, both of whom hold regular sessions at the Balsam Centre. "Fuel poverty affects millions of people in the UK, sometimes forcing them to make impossible choices between heating and eating, which is bad for both physical and mental health," said the Balsam Centre's Community Development Manager James Remington. "By having the Safe and Warm Somerset drop-in session on the same day as Citizens Advice and Abri Employment Support, people will be able to ask for help with a whole range of things that contribute to fuel poverty, from poorly insulated housing to high energy costs and low income. It will be a real one-stop shop for advice."

A second drop-in session is planned for 14 December for anyone who was unable to attend the November date. Further information on energy efficiency, managing bills and staying warm this winter can also be found on the Centre for Sustainable Energy's website: www.cse.org.uk/my-home/advice



The Balsam Centre | Balsam Park | Wincanton | Somerset | BA9 9HB
01963 31842 | info@balsamcentre.org.uk

Soon our 6-month contract was up, and we were destined to return home to Britain. But we still had the wanderlust. Jane's mother had been born and brought up in Uganda, which at that time, pre-Idi Amin, had one of the best teaching hospitals south of the Sahara, (excepting South Africa.) One of the other ZFDS doctors, Barbara Anderson, had fixed herself a post in Kampala in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health. We followed her example and also arranged a post in Uganda. There was a gap of about four months before we could be accommodated there so I took a post in one of the mining company hospitals, in a town on the Copper-belt called Chingola.

Uganda was a very different country to Zambia. It had never been a colony and had a long history of good education, including the flourishing Makerere University. Jane's grandfather had founded a school some 12 miles outside Kampala in 1906, having walked the 700 miles up from Mombasa. The school was still very much in existence, as it is today. It was touching how some local Ugandans remembered my mother-in-law's family, and with huge affection. There had been one Ugandan boy who in about 1918 had been taken in by Jane's grandparents. He was still very much active in Uganda, and he and Jane's mother had always kept in good touch. And his son and I ended up working together in the same department at the hospital in Kampala. Christopher and I kept in touch until he died in 2021.

We were there for a year. Half of the consultants in the Paediatric Department were on secondment from Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. We worked hard, got around Uganda a lot when time permitted, and planned our eventual trip home. We had blown our return air-ticket on a trip round Ethiopia so had rather burnt our boats. We engineered another post in a Zambian mining company's hospital. The mines paid very well, so we were able to earn enough for our passage home, sailing from Cape Town at the end of 1970. Six months later our first son was born in Sussex.

By the way, just before we started work in the Flying Doctor Service all the gliding clubs were grounded, so I never did glide in Zambia!

Bob Jones



Typical village in the area of our clinic.

PARISH COUNCIL AUTUMN UPDATE

Following our summer update, it has been decided that we will still hold 10 Council meetings per year but the months with no meetings will be revised to August and February. The meeting in January is, on reflection, an important one for finalising budgets and assessing projects for the next financial year. As always, all parishioners are welcome to attend meetings which take place at 1900 hrs on the second Wednesday of each month except the two identified above.

It is now no secret that our new unitary authority, Somerset Council, like so many others, will have to make drastic cuts to services due to a deep black hole in its finances. At the time of writing widespread studies are under way to assess where savings can be made. These reductions, when implemented, will inevitably rebound on Parish Councils. We regularly undertake assessments of our financial position and we can only maintain financial health by economising wherever possible. We will do our level best to freeze the precept (the funds which the County Council allocate to meet our regular outgoings and which are reflected in your Council tax) as I anticipate that precept funding will be seriously threatened. In passing, it should be noted that Parish Councillors all give their time voluntarily and are unpaid unlike County Council staff.

For different reasons, but principally due to lack of custom, many of you will be aware that our local 58/58A bus service is currently heavily subsidised by the County following a declaration by the bus operator that the service is unviable. Council funding will cease at the end of March after which the service is likely to be axed. This will have serious repercussions for those who rely on the bus and it is hard to see what can reasonably be put in its place. The County Council is appealing to parishioners to use the service in a last ditch attempt to persuade the operator that the service can be commercially viable. We have argued that there may be a case to use smaller vehicles on a less frequent service rather than arbitrarily close the route; these arguments have fallen on deaf ears so far.

With the threats to funding in all areas, I appeal again for as much self-help as possible. It is the little things that make a difference; a blocked roadside drain invites a quick reaction with a friendly spade and vegetation invading a highway begs to be pruned back. Land owners, over whose property footpaths run, are legally obliged to keep them maintained and clear of obstructions. These actions benefit us all and may avoid the inevitable flood or accident. The hard truth is that we can no longer rely on swift remedial action by the County Council: it behoves us all to act for the common good.

As we approach the year's end, I would like to thank our contractors Richard and Steve for their valiant efforts in keeping the villages tidy. They go about their business unnoticed and often under-valued. To them and my fellow Councillors and our stoic Parish Clerk and to all of you, on behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you a peaceful festive season.

Adrian Pratt
Chair

LIVING WITH PAIN IS A PAIN BUT THERE IS HOPE!

Do you live with a long-term persistent pain condition? Does it affect your emotional wellbeing and get you down? Does it stop you sleeping well? Does it restrict your daily activities and stop you doing the things you want to do?

The Rural Practice Network (a group of 5 local GP surgeries covering Castle Cary, Bruton, Wincanton, Queen Camel & Milborne Port), has a non-medical pain management programme called Live Well with Pain – the Ten Footsteps – which is available to people registered with any of these 5 surgeries.

The programme covers understanding pain & the brain, acceptance, pacing, goal setting, getting active, relaxation & mindfulness, sleep, communication, managing moods, medication and nutrition and managing setbacks.

Knowing you are not alone coping with pain is important, so there are Live Well with Pain cafes for people to come together to share experiences and discuss ways of managing and living well with pain.

A monthly in-person Live Well with Pain café meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Abri communal lounge in Wheathill Close, Milborne Port (DT9 5EU) from 11.30-12.30pm. Drop in for a free cuppa and a chat with others in the same situation!

There's a monthly online Live Well with Pain café on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7.00-8.00pm on Microsoft Teams.

If you are interested in hearing more, please email sue.crisfield1@nhs.net or call 07749418850 or send a message through the Rural Practice Network Facebook page. <https://livewellwithpain.co.uk/ten-footsteps-programme/>



The next Community Market will be on:

**Saturday 2nd December, 9.30am-11am,
St Margaret's Hall, Horsington.**

Despite last month's apocalyptic weather forecast, which prompted us to limit the stocks and almost cancel the event, we were blessed on the morning of the 4th of November with beautiful sunshine, and it was lovely to see so many local customers coming for a chat and a bit of shopping.

We can guarantee you that we are actively sourcing products and getting ready for the December market, which will be held mainly inside the Village Hall to host many stalls, and will give you opportunities to start preparing for Christmas with fresh food and small gifts.

As usual, 20% of all profits will go to the school, who can't thank you enough for the extra funding, for much needed learning resources.

If you have any products to sell at the market, please contact Penny Nagle 07768 832954 or mail penny@felthamsfarm.com
Social Media: @HorsingtonCommunity on Instagram and Facebook

NB: There will be no market in January. Back on 3rd February.



Home already

Bus it! between Yeovil and Wincanton on the 58

Yeovil > Sherborne > Milborne Port > Henstridge > Wincanton



To view an up to date route timetable, scan the QR code or visit:

www.somerset.gov.uk/busit58

**Somerset Bus
Partnership**

Part of Somerset's Bus Service Improvement Plan



**Funded by
UK Government**



**Somerset
Council**



HORSINGTON CHURCH

From the Rector

December is one of those months in our year that is deeply appreciated by some and dreaded by others. For the latter, the lack of money, health, or accommodation, the absence of a loving family, platonic friendships, the consequences of wars and natural disasters, can make for a lonely and Scrooge-type experience of Christmas. Not to mention those facing Christmas who have recently lost loved ones, or got divorced, or made redundant, or in the midst of domestic abuse or substance misuse. And yet, ironically, it was to people whose experience of life is just this, that Jesus came. He came to be with us – to be Emmanuel, in the very mess, complexity, and tragedy of life.

This is the mystery of Christmas. The most precious gift of all time, God's one and only Son, given that we might know God in the midst of our circumstances; that we might know his love for us, and his forgiveness. And as we seek the Christ-child afresh this Christmas, we will find him when we seek him with all we have. For in Jesus alone, we find life – life in our current circumstances.

And as we move into January, and the cold and darkness and loneliness intensify for some, the Christ-child lives on in our hearts, bringing hope, and courage for the new year.

So, this Christmas, may we who know God, share his risen life in kindness, hospitality, and welcome. And this New Year, may we who know God, share the Christian hope of an eternity with God in the redeemed world for all that receive the gift-child.

December services:

3 rd	9am	Holy Communion
10 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
17 th	10.30am	Holy Communion (with Baptism)
24 th	6pm	Carol Service
25 th	9am	Holy Communion

January services:

7 th	9am	Holy Communion
14 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
21 st	9am	Holy Communion
28 th	10.30am	Holy Communion

Yours in Christ

Rev Kevin (01963 363832)

