



# The Parish of Wellow

## Wellow Church and Parish News

### December 2023

“Something worth hurrying for” by Matthew Street, The Vicar, based on Luke 2:16

*So they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.*  
(Luke 2:16)

If you were to be told in church on Sunday that a wealthy philanthropist was in the street outside handing out wads of cash, how much time would you waste after the service before you went to find out if it were true? The chances are that you'd be out of the church like a shot the moment the final hymn had ended – if not before! Again, if you were out walking and spotted an excited cheering crowd ahead of you, rushing towards something, you'd probably quicken your pace, eager to see what was happening. Some things in life are worth hurrying for.

So it was for the shepherds after hearing the news of the birth of Christ. It's only a small detail, but it's an important one: “they came with haste.” Why? Because the news they'd heard was exciting, breath-taking, wonderful; news they and their people had been waiting so long to hear – almost too good to be true! There was no question of waiting until the next morning and then casually strolling down to Bethlehem after they'd knocked off work. This was news that had to be investigated at once, not something that could be postponed.

Do we, I wonder, still feel that sense of excitement at the Christmas message? Do we still marvel at what God has done for us in Christ? Do we still catch our breath in wonder at the miracle of the Saviour's birth – God made flesh? Do such things still capture our hearts and fire our imagination, not just at Christmas but also day after day and week after week? We may have responded; we may have discovered the truth for ourselves long ago - that doesn't matter: the message of Christmas is still one to get excited about!

## Sunday Services in

### December

Knees

**Sunday 3rd December: 10.00 a.m.**

**Talk:** On their knees. Judges 7:1-21

**Leader:** Shaula Reilly

**Speaker:** Shaula Reilly

**Sunday: 10th December. 4.30 p.m.**

**Christingle Service**

**Leader:** Shaula Reilly

**Speaker:** Shaula Reilly

**Sunday 17th December: 6.30 p.m.**

**Carol Service**

**Leader:** Shaula Reilly

**Speaker:** Shaula Reilly

**Sunday 24th December**

**Christmas Eve**

**Nativity Service 4.30 p.m.**

**Leader:** Shaula Reilly

**Midnight Communion. 11.30 p.m.**

**Leader:** Matthew Street

**Speaker:** Matthew Street

**Monday 25th December. 10.00 a.m.**

**Christmas Day Celebration**

**Leader:** Shaula Reilly

**Speaker:** Shaula Reilly

**Sunday 31st December: 10. a.m.**

**Leader:** Dick Beath

**Speaker:** Dick Beath

### Benefice Office

For anything church related contact the  
Benefice Office:

**Tel:** 07973972018

**Email:** office@stjsgroup.church

### Advertising in this Newsletter

**FREE** for voluntary organisations and charities based in Wellow. All other individuals and businesses, whether based in Wellow or elsewhere.

Full page: £10 per month: £100 per annum

Half page: £5 per month: £50 per annum

Cheques to be made payable to St. Julian's Church P.C.C. and sent to the Editor.

### Church Community Groups

**Wellow Prayer Group**

Tuesdays at 3pm

*Phone Pauline for details: 832625*

### Benefice Praise and Prayer

**Every Monday, 7.45pm-9.30pm**

**@ The Vicarage, Peasedown St John**

*'God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.' John 4:24.*

Please join us as we praise God, hear from His Word, and come to Him in prayer.

### St John's Peasedown

1st Sunday 10:30am HC 4:30pm SF

2nd Sunday 10:30am MP 4:30pm Christingle

3rd Sunday 10:30am HC 4:30pm SF HC

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 10.30am Christmas Day Celebration.

5th Sunday: 10.30 a.m. HC. No Soul Food.

### Contact the Vicar:

The Revd. Matthew Street

**Tel:** 01761 432293

**Email:** mgstreet@me.com

or through the church website.

### Want to keep in touch?

St Julian's Church sends out a weekly e-newsletter with all the latest news and views from around the Benefice.

Email [administrator@stjsgroup.church](mailto:administrator@stjsgroup.church) to subscribe to the mailing list.

## Church News

This month has been a full month with two special services. On 5th November, we had “Remembering loved ones” Sunday. This is always very special and it was lovely to see so many people in church.

The following Sunday was Remembrance Sunday. Again, another very special and moving service, led by Dick Beath. The Wellow Choir sang beautifully, including a very lovely rendition of “Abide with me”; Billy Wright laid a wreath in the Warrior Chapel. Sadly we were not able to get a trumpeter this year but Dick kindly organised a recording for us. Dick found some letters written home by soldiers from Somerset, including one from Peasedown St. John, which Clover Holland and Michael Clarkson read out. They were very touching and, perhaps surprisingly, also amusing at times.

The next Sunday was All Age Worship. This inclusive service goes from strength to strength and it is wonderful that so many people are now part of the team that puts together and presents this service. We are hugely grateful to Shaula for coming up with this format and particularly welcome all the younger members of the congregation that attend.

In addition, on Saturday 18th November, we held the St. Julian’s Christmas Bazaar. This was very well attended and made even more special by Kim Cottle, who played carols and other Christmas music on her accordion, which gave a wonderful festive air to the Bazaar. Thank you, Kim.

It is hard to believe that it is already December and we are getting ready to welcome the coming of Jesus. On **Sunday 10th December** there will be the **Christingle Service at 4.30 p.m.** You may not be aware that this service was originally a Moravian Church celebration that in the 1960s was adopted by The Children’s Society to raise funds. Bearing this in mind, we have decided that the collection at the service this year will be given to The Children’s Society.

Then on **Sunday 17th December at 6.30 p.m.** we are holding our **Carol Service**. This will follow the form of previous years with carols and readings. The choir have agreed to sing for us again and we hope that you will all come to this service.

On **Christmas eve, 24th December**, there will be a **Children’s Nativity Service at 4.30 p.m.** and **Midnight Mass at 11.30 p.m.**

On **Christmas Day**, there will be a **Celebration Service** at the normal time of **10 a.m.**

*Pam Pike & Jane Rees, Church Wardens*

*Community Matters: Support your Village  
The Parlour Shop, the Village Hall, the Church and the Societies*

## Wellow Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 6th November in the Village Hall.

Twelve residents attended this meeting to address the matters on the agenda. The following matters were raised by the residents at the Public Participation section:

**Public Participation:** A resident proposed a programme for the maintenance of the river bank around the ford Ford with the aim to enhance the location and provide a habitat to promote a healthy river and protection for the wildlife. The Parish Council strongly recommended that a qualified engineer must make an assessment to make sure that the removal of structural stonework from the river bank does not cause any problems. The Environment Agency must also be consulted before any structural work takes place. A quote for all works must be obtained for the Parish Council's approval prior to committing any PC funds. Once a quote is received, the Parish Council will consider and budget for the next financial year.

A planning application to B&NES was submitted by the Parish Council to obtain permission to pollard willow trees in the Conservation Area. It was agreed that the PC will pay £150 for pollarding the two willow trees once permission is granted.

It was noted that overgrown vegetation was trimmed back on Packhorse Bridge by a local volunteer. It was agreed that landowners should be reminded that it is their responsibility to trim back any vegetation from their properties overhanging roads or footpaths.

**Flooding issue from Wellow Road:** The Parish Council agreed to enquire whether farmers working on adjacent fields are doing anything different this year, which might have caused the excess flooding. Once this information is received, the Parish Council will ask B&NES for any possible mitigation solutions.

The Parish Sweeper mentioned the potholes on Henley View. It was noted that the land is owned by B&NES, but not adopted in B&NES Highways maintenance programme. A councillor agreed to take a look to see if these potholes can be filled with concrete.

A resident raised an issue of ownership of the Village Shop (shareholding). The Chairman requested that this is discussed by the Village Shop Committee.

It was noted that a new Village Hall Management has been appointed. Mrs Bea Dowty is appointed as the Chair and Secretary. Mrs. Katie Millar is the Treasurer.

**Planning Applications:** The Planning Committee for application 22/02169/EOUT for Sulis Down development has taken place on 15th November 2023. The decision was deferred due to more traffic survey requirements.

*Don't forget to visit the Wellow website @ [www.wellowparish.info](http://www.wellowparish.info)*

The Village Survey showed a large majority of respondents in favour of small, sympathetic residential developments on the edges of the village. Therefore the Parish Council will support an application to re-zone the derelict site at the top of Stoney Littleton Lane to allow planning permission to be sought for a small housing development. The Parish Council will email B&NES to notify.

**Yew tree in the Churchyard:** a request was sent to B&NES to investigate the health of the tree and confirm that it not a danger to the public. It must be inspected once again.

The following planning applications were considered:

23/03521/FUL: Dawn Rise, High Street. Support

23/00981/FUL: Sunnyside Bath Hill. Support

23/03903/TCA: Footpath, Railway Lane To Mill Hill. 2 no. Willow, pollard. As this is an application made by the Parish Council, the decision is left to B&NES tree officer.

The following applications decisions by B&NES Council since the last meeting were noted:

23/03132/TCA: Canteen Cottage, Canteen Lane. T1Ash. Fell. No objection

**Church Clock:** It was noted that repairs to the Church Clock have been completed. A specialist's report on additional clock maintenance work was considered by the Parish Council. These works will improve the clock's condition and ensure that problems are avoided in the future. It was agreed to use part of the CIL money to pay £820 quoted for the additional clock maintenance work.

**Wellow Community Bus:** The Community Bus Group Chairman reported on the recent repeated breakdowns of the Community Bus, which have required the hiring of replacement minibuses to keep services going for several weeks. A replacement reconditioned diesel engine has been installed. It is hoped that the bus will be back in service next week.

It was reported that WECA approved the Wellow Community Bus grant application for £25,000 towards the purchase of a new bus in place of the current one. These funds will be used to replenish the Community Bus working capital with £10,000 and £15,000 will be allocated towards the purchase of a new bus. Further fundraising will be organised by the Community Bus Committee. Events are being planned, one of them is a Curry and Bollywood Dance evening on 18 November.

A request has been made to the Village Show Team, the Hort. Soc. and Wellow Rec. for a donation towards the new bus fund. The Bus Group were recommended to apply to the Community Chest to be granted a share of the proceeds from the Sparkle Party in December.

**Highways & Transport:** The following updates were received:

The Parish Council received a request from Sustrans to support a project to designate local lanes as “Quiet Lanes” for cycling, wheeling, walking and horse riding. However, the Parish Council agreed that not enough information had been provided to enable them to give their support. More details will be required for further consideration.

**The application to install a Speed Indication Device:** quotes have been received. B&NES Highways department has visited the proposed sites. A formal approval from B&NES is still required.

Parish Council will work to develop a management plan for the SID in order to keep the batteries charged and to move the device to its other locations in the village. Councillors will also investigate the issue of Chapter 8 Health and Safety training before applying for funding for the SID.

**Speed Watch:** it was noted that Speed Watch is slowing traffic down in the village. A big thank you was expressed to all volunteers.

**Wellow Recreation:** The Chairman of Wellow Recreation reported that although Wellow Rec. has a good cash position, there has been a reduction in the amount of income during 2023. The Wellow Rec. Committee are actively working on new ideas to generate income. Cricket training sessions are being offered to children, there are plans to organise community events such as Open Air Cinema and Open Air Theatre. The Pavilion is being promoted for business meetings and parties. Wellow Rec. is also working closely with St Julian’s School to help maximise its use of the playing field. Wellow Rec. is also considering making an application to the Football Association for funding in order to improve the pitch to attract more users.

**Wellow Way 10K Event 2024:** The Parish Council agreed to pay for the B&NES licence and public liability insurance premium for next year’s event.

**Community Infrastructure Levy:** It was agreed that £3,480 of the Community Improvement Levy funds will be allocated as follows:

£820.00 for the maintenance work on the village clock.

£1,000 for repair of the gate on Railway Lane. Quotes are still to be obtained.

£1,500 maximum is to be allocated for a village compost bin (or 50% of the cost). Alternatively, the Parish Council will consider purchasing an additional bench in the play park.

**Wellow and Shoscombe Cemetery:** The Annual Burial Board Meeting was held on 25th October 23. The Minutes of the meeting have been circulated to Wellow PC and Shoscombe PC.

Concerns were raised about rubbish being dumped at the cemetery grounds.

The Parish Council was notified that no income was received from sale of grave plots at the cemetery this financial year. The expenditure for the upkeep of the cemetery is still expected to be around £3,000/year.

The Burial Board will review the Burial Board finance in March 2024 and make a decision whether to apply to both Wellow PC and Shoscombe PC for a donation for the financial year 2024-25.

**Communication and engagement with external bodies:** There was a good response to Wellow Parish 5-point Survey with 57 responses from approx. 230 households/530 residents. The summary of the results will be published in the village Parish Post. Based on this survey, the Parish Council will create an Action Plan.

The Parish Council representative attended the Parish Liaison Meeting on the 18th October and reported that neighbouring villages have similar concerns as Wellow such as traffic and the need for small housing developments to suit the needs of local residents.

**Finance and Administration:** The Council reviewed the External Audit report for the 2022-23 accounts and noted the recommendations.

The Village noticeboard renovation has been completed. This work has been done by a Councillor, which saved the Parish Council around £1,000. Everyone thanked the Councillor for his work.

**Any Other Business:** It was mentioned that for the next general election, Wellow and the whole Bathavon South ward, together with Peasedown, Radstock and Mid-somer Norton will be included in a new parliamentary constituency: Frome and East Somerset.

B&NES Councillor Matt McCabe mentioned that funds are available for installation of EV charging points in community halls. The EV charging points require good electrical supply.

**Dates of the next meetings:** Monday 8th January; Monday 4th March.

*Olga Shepherd, Parish Clerk. Tel: 07988 192619. Email: clerk@wellowpc.org.uk*

## **Lunch Club**

The December Lunch Club will be held on 7th December in the Village Hall.

*Vicky 01225 835840*

## **A letter from Wellow and Shoscombe Cemetery Board**

Dear Parishioners,

When visiting your loved ones at the cemetery, please don't leave your rubbish there, please take it with you home and dispose of it in your household bins.

The two bins provided at the cemetery are only for green waste such as cuttings, plants and other biodegradable material. Please don't leave rubbish such as plastic bottles, ornaments and other things by the bins. There is no collection service at the cemetery as the cemetery is owned privately.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

*Wellow and Shoscombe Cemetery Board*

## **Update from Dan Norris, Mayor of the West of England**

### **Grants for local shops to cut carbon:**

Grants of up to £15,000 for local businesses to cut their energy bills and carbon emissions are now on offer.

The green grants are there for premises such as pubs, restaurants and shops to purchase and install energy efficient equipment – reducing their emissions by seven tonnes on average.

Grants are available on a first come, first served basis. For more information please contact: [lowcarbonbusiness@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:lowcarbonbusiness@westofengland-ca.gov.uk) or 0117 332 1520.

### **Keep Warm this Winter:**

It's important to stay above 17°C, especially if you're ill, an older person, or have young children. As Mayor of the West of England, once again I'm running a Keep Warm this Winter drive. For top tips please visit: [www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/keepwarm](http://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/keepwarm).

### **Birthday Buses – enjoy Christmas in style:**

Don't forget if your Birthday is coming up in December to apply for your FREE bus pass to enjoy the winter season in style.

You can use it to make as many journeys as you like without restrictions throughout the whole of your birthday month.

Head to [www.birthdaybus.co.uk](http://www.birthdaybus.co.uk) for more information and send off your application today.



## Let's get jolly with your trolley!

Finally as thoughts turn to Christmas shopping, don't forget to shop local and support our fantastic independents.

## TWAM – Tools with a Mission

Some of you may have seen the notice in the Church Porch about donating old tools to TWAM. This is a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. In doing so, they also support UK communities through volunteering opportunities and contribute significantly to environmental sustainability by reducing waste and carbon emissions in the UK.

They collect: **Agricultural tools:** fork, spade, hoe, garden rake, hand fork and trowel, lopper, secateurs and hand shears. **Builders' tools:** spade, shovel, 3ft spirit level, axe, crowbar, fork, sledgehammer, bow saw, bolsters, chisels, all types of hammers and trowels, pin and lines, tape measures, hacksaws and Stanley and hacksaw blades. **Carpenters' tools:** bevel, braces, clamps, hand drills and bits, all types of files and hammers, Stanley knife, all types of planes and saws, pliers, rules, all types of saws and screwdrivers, squares plus screws, nails and bolts. **Electricians' tools:** allen keys, hand drills and bits, all types of pliers and hacksaws, screwdrivers, spanners, soldering iron, voltmeter. **Motor mechanics' tools:** allen keys, cold chisels, breast drill and bits, all types of hammers and pliers, punches, metric socket sets, spanners, adjustable spanners, cantilever toolboxes, tyre pressure gauge. **Plumbers' tools:** basin or tap wrench, wire brush, breast drill and bits, various grips and saws, screwdriver, oil can etc. **Garage workshop:** hydraulic jack, axle stands, battery charger, ramps and large engineer's vice. **Power tools:** hand and bench drills, sander, planer, jigsaw, circular, band and chop saws, lathe, cultivator, rotavator, welding machine and generator. **Sewing machines:** manual, electric, treadle and industrial. **Knitting machines:** machine and hand wool, needles and patterns. **Haberdashery:** needles, cottons, large material pieces/rolls, buttons, zips, tapes. **Fully working IT equipment:** desktop computers and laptops running a minimum of Microsoft Windows 7, modern flatscreen monitors, tablets. **Bibles:** in modern English.

Jill Tremellen collects the tools in Wellow, and would love you to donate any tools that you no longer need. Please contact her to ensure that the tools you wish to give are suitable. Please note that they can sharpen and remove surface rust, but can't repair or take tools with woodworm.

Contact Jill on 01225 833506 or by email on [jill.tremellen@icloud.com](mailto:jill.tremellen@icloud.com)

# Carols on the Batch 2023



Wednesday 20th December at 6.30pm

Everyone's invited to the Batch to sing some of our favourite  
Carols around the Christmas Tree.

There'll be mince pies and a visit from Father Christmas with  
his sack of goodies.

See you there!

Wellow Parish Council

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# Wellow Parish Diary

## Regular activities:

**Parish Council meetings:** Village Hall; Contact: Parish Clerk: Olga Shepherd: Tel: 07988 192619. Email: clerk@wellowparishcouncil.org.uk

**Magic Box Pre-School:** Village Hall; Mondays, Wednesday and Friday in term-time. 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Contact: Tel: 0771 2369130 or Email: MagicBoxPreSchool@outlook.com

**Boules:** Wellow Recreation Ground; Summer months: Wednesday, 6.00pm and Sunday, 2:30pm. October: Sunday afternoon only. Contact: Email: wellow.boules@gmail.com: Tel: 01225 830188

**Wellow Wellbeing Art & Craft Group:** Village Hall; Tuesdays, 10.30-13.00. Contact Averil Swift: Tel: 01373 834384 or Vicky Hamerton: Tel: 01225 835840

**Wellow Knitting Group:** Manor Close Community Hall: Monday's 1.30-4 p.m. Contact Pam Pike. Tel: 07428 846473 Email: pamelapike8@gmail.com

**Bellringing:** Wednesday evening, 7.30 p.m. at St Julian's Church. Contact Clover Holland; Tel: 01225 833348; Email: cloverholland@outlook.com

**Lunch Club:** Village Hall; 4th Thursday in the month, September to June. Contact: Vicky Hammerton: Tel: 01225 835840

**Mobile Library:** Alternate Tuesdays. Village hall: 10.45-11.45 a.m.

## Wellow Parish Directory:

**Wellow Horticultural Society:** Secretary: Tel: 07966 080005; Email: info@hortsoc.wellow.org

**Parlour Shop:** Tel: 835438; Email: wellowparlourshop@gmail.com

**Wellow Village Hall bookings:** Tel: 835840. Email: canndu@live.com

**Wellow Community Bus:** Contact: Mike Tel: 07854 414084, Email: michaeljclarkson@gmail.com

**Friends of St. Julians:** Contact: Email: friends@stjulianswellow.co.uk

**Wellow Valley Tennis:** Contact: Email: wvtennisclub@gmail.com

**BANES Local Councillors:** Matt McCabe: Tel: 07711 047267; Email: mattmccabe.1@outlook.com. Fiona Gourley: Tel: 07803 015886; Email: Fiona\_Gourley@bathnes.gov.uk

**Westlink, flexible bus service:** Website: westlink.app.ridewithvia.com]westlink.app.ridewithvia.com Tel: 0117 4578561 Email: westlink@wedrt.com

**Parish Magazine Editor:** Jane Rees, 3 Weavers Orchard, Wellow; Tel: 01225 837031; Email: jane@reestools.co.uk. Please let me have material for the following month's magazine by **18<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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