



The Parish of Wellow

Wellow Church and Parish News

December 2024

Making room by Matthew Street, The Vicar, based on Luke 2:1-7

It happened at that time that Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire world. This was the first such census and occurred while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All, therefore, went to be registered, each to their appropriate town. Joseph, being of the house and family of David, went from the Galilean town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, to be registered with his fiancée Mary, who was expecting a child. While they were there, she went into labour and gave birth to her first-born son. She swaddled him in strips of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

Anyone who has ever commuted by train to London will know all about the problems of making room. Carriages are already full to overflowing as the train pulls into another station heaving with yet more people. Or you may have travelled to the coast on a bank-holiday weekend looking for somewhere to stay, only to see the same sign in every window: 'No Vacancies'. The situation must have been a little like that in Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. People of the house and line of David had come from across Judea to be enrolled as part of the Roman census, cramming into every house, guest room and inn. We can scarcely imagine what Mary and Joseph must have gone through as they searched desperately for somewhere to stay overnight.

That experience, of course, was a symbol of things to come: Jesus found no room in the hearts of many throughout his ministry and continues to find no room in the hearts of many today. We may imagine that we are different; that we have opened the door of our lives and welcomed him in, but let's not be complacent about it. The truth is that most of us only half-open the door, at best. We allow Jesus access to certain areas of our life but keep other areas ring-fenced. We make room when it suits us, but at other times give him our divided attention if any at all. It is easy to fool ourselves that such a response will do, when, in reality, Jesus is knocking at the door, still asking to come in.

Sunday Services in December

Cross Cultural Mission

Sunday 1st December: 10.00 a.m.

Talk: The Great Commission. Matthew
28:18-20

Leader: Andrew Avramenko

Speaker: Dick Beath

Sunday 8th December: 10.00 a.m. H.C.

Talk: The Syro-Phoenician Woman.
Mark 7:24-30, Matthew 15:21-28

Leader: Matthew Street

Speaker: Matthew Street

Sunday 15th December: 4.30 p.m.

Christingle Service

Leader: AAW team

Sunday 22nd December: 6.30 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight

Leader: Matthew Street

Tuesday 24th December: 4.30 p.m.

Children's Christmas Service

Wednesday 25th December: 9.30 a.m.

Christmas Day Celebration

Leader: Matthew Street

Speaker: Matthew Street

Sunday 29th December: 10.30 a.m.

Joint service at St John's, Peasedown

Contact the Vicar:

The Revd. Matthew Street

Tel: 01761 432293

Email: mgstreet@me.com

or through the church website.

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 9..00am BC 10:30am HC
4:30pm SF

2nd Sunday 10:30am MP Christingle

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

24th December: Midnight Communion. 11.30 p.m.

25th December: Christmas Day Celebration. 11.30 a.m.

29th December: 10.30 H.C.

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** to subscribe to the mailing list.



Christmas Services at St. Julian's.



Sunday 15th December at 4.30 p.m.



Christingle Service



Sunday 22 December at 6.30 p.m.



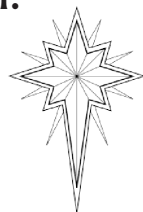
Carols by Candlelight
with mulled wine and mince pies



Tuesday 24th December at 4.30 p.m.



Children's Christmas Service
with the AAW team



Wednesday 25th December at 9.30 a.m.

Christmas Day Celebration



Please come and help us celebrate this Special Day
Everyone Welcome

Church News

As we are rapidly reaching the end of 2024, December is a busy month for St. Julians. Remembrance Sunday saw the Church full; the bells were rung and, as expected, a moving service took place. The retiring collection was given to the Royal British Legion.

The annual Christmas Bazaar, held in the Church was a great success; all proceeds were for the church and were in excess of £1,000.

The All Age Worship Services continue to be well attended with four young families with children joining us this month along with the regular congregation.

St. Julian's continues to struggle meeting its financial commitments. We are still awaiting news from the chancellor regarding the kitchen/loo extension.

On Sunday December 1st in the church we have a singing/musical concert, given by Rolling Harmony, with afternoon tea from 3 p.m. The concert starts 3.30 p.m. Tickets are £10 pay at the door or search the Parish post for more information.

This will be followed closely by the popular Sparkle Party on December 7th.

On Sunday 15th December the AAW team are leading the Christingle Service at 4.30pm.

On Sunday 22nd there will be Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm.

On Christmas Eve, do come along to the pop up Nativity called Shiny Bright Sparkling Light at 4.30 pm, all ages welcome.

Midnight Communion, on the 24th at 11.30pm will be celebrated at St John's PSJ and there will be a Christmas Day celebration at St Julian's 9.30 a.m.

So, as you can see St Julian's has a busy December to look forward to. We look forward to seeing you at some, if not all, of these events, if not all of them. It is so good to see the Church being well used.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Pam Pike & Jane Rees, Church Wardens

Wellow Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Monday 4th November in the Village Hall. Several residents attended the meeting to address matters on the agenda. B&NES Councillor Matt McCabe was also present.

The following matters were raised by residents during the Public Participation session:

Don't forget to visit the Wellow website @ www.wellowparish.info

A Parishioner asked about the safety of the storm drain & the placement of a grill at its entrance. This has been raised on 'Fix My Street' and will be followed up.

The Parish Sweeper pointed out that there were still road signs left by Henley View & these were obstructing access and visibility. The PC will contact highways.

He also raised a concern about traffic by the village shop, especially when deliveries were being received. It was agreed that the shop would be contacted to try & sort a space when deliveries due.

It was reported that the stones near the church are completed.

The problem of water running down Bath Hill had been addressed and an amount of sand bags removed from a gulley. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the problem.

Planning Applications: the following planning applications were considered.

24/03182/FUL: Parcel 3573, Bath Hill Wellow. Formation of a new private vehicle track leading to proposed dwelling from Bath Hill & associated change of use of agricultural land to private residential. The PC voted to SUPPORT the application.

24/03599/FUL, Underdown Barn Bath Hill, Wellow. Conversion of a farm building into a dwelling. The PC voted to SUPPORT the application

24/03973/TCA, Oak End, 1 Station Road, Wellow. T1 Oak – top by 2m and reduce lateral branches by 1m. T2 Willow – Crown reduced by 1m. The PC had NO OBJECTION

Wellow Community Bus: It was reported that the bus is running but has some issues with its exhaust system, it has been taken for repair but bookings are being taken.

Highways: Payment has been made for the painting of the finger post at White OX Mead. The remaining finger posts are being assessed

Some research has been done regarding "Speed Awareness Signs". There appears to be some issues with installation, this is being followed up, along with the possibility of obtaining a grant towards "Speed Indicating Devices".

Wellow Recreation: A table tennis initiative is being introduced in the village hall, with taster sessions. Fiona Schubert is the new treasurer. The playing field contract will be up for tender from 1st April 2025

Tree Maintenance: The PC will undertake a village walk on Saturday December 7th
A Christmas tree will be cut from a resident by Tanners if a tree is purchased from them next year.

Church Belfry Clean Up: There was a discussion about the PC responsibility for the church clock maintenance. The Chairman said that he would clarify the council's position. It was agreed that the clean up of bird droppings in the tower would be progressed.

It was noted that the grass cutter will hopefully be back in the spring, and until that was clarified no different arrangements would be put in place.

The EDF energy contract is still being challenged.

The "Sparkle Party" is confirmed for Saturday December 7th

Christmas Tree Carols on the Batch is confirmed for Wednesday 18TH December at 6.30pm

Future PC meetings:: 6Th January 2025, 3rd March 2025, 5th May 2025

Claire Dicken, Parish Clerk. Email: clerk@wellowpc.org.uk

Carols on the Batch 2024



Wednesday 18th December at 6.30pm

All are invited to sing some of our favourite Carols around the Christmas Tree on the Batch.

There'll be mince pies and if we're very good a visit from **Father Christmas** with his sack of goodies.

See you there!

Wellow Parish Council

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

The Village Shop Committee needs your help please!



The shop works on a loss every month and we rely on fundraising to keep going. Now we've found an effortless way to boost our funds:

Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site and is a brilliant way get money for nothing using just **one click of your mouse**.

They partner with over 7,000 brands including all the major supermarkets, John Lewis, Amazon, Argos, Ebay, as well as hotel companies such as Booking.com and they will donate part of what you spend to the shop. It won't cost you any extra, nor affect any other discounts or vouchers. So can we please ask you to sign up? Especially as Xmas is coming up and you may well be making online purchases and/or booking your holidays for next year.

You just need to go to:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=329912&invite=x0b6su&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

We'll also get a £1 bonus for everyone who joins up and makes a purchase!

The shop committee and a few other locals have already raised over £1,000 in less than a year which will help to pay our electricity bill. Now you can help us get the funding to cover next year's wages increase.

One more thing: When you sign up (please!), it's important that you enable notifications so that when you are shopping you will get a reminder if you are on a site that makes donations. It's all available on desktop, mobile and tablet. There's also a leader board so you can compete with other villagers to see who can raise the most money!

Thanking you in advance, Alice Harper (Shop Fundraiser)

Please Help Local Endangered Amphibians

Populations of common toads, frogs and newts are declining rapidly in the UK. Thousands are killed on roads each Spring as they migrate to the breeding ponds they have used for generations.

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME TO HELP OUR TOADS & FROGS CROSS A ROAD ?

- Our local rescue group saves approximately 2000 amphibians each year from being killed by vehicles on their migration route to and from their breeding grounds in Tucking Mill Lane.
- We greatly need more volunteers to patrol on mild wet evenings in February and March.
- You can take part as little or as often as you like. Although, if possible, a regular once a week commitment would be very helpful.
- Volunteers patrol in teams of 2 or more on a shift system for approximately 1.5 hours between dusk and 9:30pm in Tucking Mill.
- Short training, hi-vis and answers to your questions are provided.
- All volunteers must meet the insurance policy criteria. Apologies, but the insurance scheme restricts patrollers to adults only. Everyone is required to complete a Patrollers form.
- You will need warm clothes, a bucket, a good torch, and non latex gloves.

Interested? Please respond ASAP but no later than 12th January 2025 to the Amphibian Rescue Group co-ordinators Lyndi and Lena at tuckingmilltoads@gmail.com. Thank you for your help in advance.



ARG UK

Froglife

www.froglife.org

Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group

www.groups.arguk.org/arag

Sparkle Party 2024 - New Date, NEW PRICE!

WELLOW COMMUNITY FEST FUNDRAISER

SPECIAL OFFER



Sparkle Party

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER

MUSIC FROM FIREFLY

* WELCOME COCKTAIL * CASH BAR *

* SILENT AUCTION *

7:30 PM // ST. JULIAN'S CHURCH

TICKETS: £18 (£10 STUDENTS)

Sale! Sale! Sale!

We've listened and have reduced the ticket cost of the Sparkle Party to £18 ticket (£10 for students) and what's more, the first 50 people to buy their tickets get them for the bargain Black Friday price of £15 a ticket, so book that babysitter, buy some new shoes - and get in touch now!

Tickets available directly from annabelchapman@hotmail.co.uk or text/whatsapp/phone 07970 297950

ALL AGE WORSHIP

Dates for 2025

Sunday 19 January

Sunday 16 February

Sunday 30 March

Sunday 18 May

Sunday 15 June

Sunday 20 July

Sunday 17 August

Sunday 21 September

Sunday 19 October

Sunday 16 November

Sunday 14 December: Christingle

Wednesday 24 December: Nativity

All Age Worship is a less formal service with songs, bible readings, activities and much more, suitable for everyone, from babies to grandparents.

Please come and join us and find out.

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Carpets Advanced Low Moisture System. Superb results and **dry in as little as 30mins!** Your neighbours will think you've got new.

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Thank you so much, Michelle and Mimmo

Wellow Parish Diary

Regular activities:

Parish Council meetings: Village Hall; Contact: Parish Clerk: Email: clerk@wellowpc.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: pamela.pike8@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; 3rd 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: 07950 605239; Email: jane@reestools.co.uk. Please let me have material for the following month's magazine by 18th of each month.

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