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**News and Views from around the Parish
December 2023/January 2024 Issue 337**

Opinions in Outlook are those of the authors of articles, not the editors.

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**Copy deadline for the February 2024
Outlook is Sunday 14th January 2024**

Christmas events at Widegates Village Hall

Christmas Tree lights switch on – on the Green!

Friday 1st December, assembling after school for hot chocolate and mince pies in the hall, ready to switch on at around 4.30.

Please come as a nativity character of your choice (Shepherd, Angel, Mary, Joseph, King/Wise Person(?), Sheep, Camel etc) for an instant nativity play!!

Christmas Bingo

Friday 8th December 7 for 7.30pm – brilliant Christmas prizes.

Christmas Quiz Evening

Friday 15th December 7.30pm ~ all about Christmas!
With more brilliant Christmas raffle prizes.

Menu

Sandwiches: Turkey and stuffing
Brie and cranberry

Sausage rolls, cocktail sausages

Mince pies

Cake, cake, cake!

Drinks: Tea, coffee, squash,
mulled apple juice



Christmas Afternoon Tea

Saturday 16th December 3 – 5pm.
£8 per head for a delicious
afternoon tea.

Please book your place by calling
Maggie Willmott

on 01503 240218, email
maggiemwillmott@gmail.com
or by visiting Widegates Village Hall
and reading room Facebook

Christmas at St Wenna's Church

Sunday 3rd December Advent Family Service 11am

Friday 8th to Monday 11th December Christmas Tree Festival

Open with refreshments 10am – 4pm Friday, Saturday (+ craft activities 11-3pm) and Monday, and between services Sunday.

Sunday 10th December 11am Advent Communion
6pm Carol Service

Sunday 24th December 11am Informal service

Christmas Day 11am Christmas Communion

Sunday 31st December 10.30am United benefice service



Christmas thoughts from the vicar

As our thoughts turn towards the season of Advent and Christmas we are reminded of the events that happened in the Holy Land 2,000 years ago. That part of the world, the Middle East, has long been a contested region and that is particularly the case this year.

The events of the past few months are disturbing and unsettling. There are people who do not know what to think or say. It is possible to seek for peace in the region that is neither anti-Semitic or anti-Muslim. It is possible to pray for peace for all sides – for an end to death and destruction and for a restoration of peace.

In our Church services, Christingles, and Carol Services during December, we will hear lots of words of “peace”. Some poignant words for me, that we should dwell on, come from Isaiah 40. The opening verse simply says:

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

That is my prayer for the conflict in Israel and Gaza, for the war in Ukraine, for our country and for you – whatever is troubling you. My prayer is that whatever situation you find yourself in, this Christmas you will know the presence of Christ, feel his peace and know the comfort of God.

Rev'd Ben Morgan Lundie

St Wenna's Flower Festival 19th - 22nd October

It was lovely to have so many visitors to the church, to see the brilliant displays created by members of the Parish and surrounding areas. The opening up of the Buller Aisle to allow for refreshments and some craft stalls was a huge success. Everybody was busy chatting to each other whether they were friends or not. Our thanks to Morval Parish Council and County Councillor Armand Toms for the grants given, to allow us to stage the Festival.

Thanks to everyone who contributed whatever they could, be it time, refreshments, raffle or publicity, and finally everyone who attended to make it such a success.

Sue Auger

THE speed of vehicles travelling on the roads of Morval parish has long been a bone of contention.

Previous calls by the Parish Council to reduce limits, or introduce other traffic calming measures, have mostly fallen on deaf ears but councillors have now signed up for the Community Speed Watch programme.

It means that they can record vehicle speeds in 20, 30 and 40-mph areas and, using that information, try to bring extra pressure on the authorities to agree to more road safety initiatives.

The council cannot issue fines but it does pass on information to the police who may write to errant drivers, explaining the potential consequences of their behaviour and encouraging them to be more speed aware.

Two parish councillors have been trained to use the specialist speed monitoring equipment and the search is now on for more volunteers to keep the scheme on the road. Anyone interested should, in the first instance, contact the parish clerk, Sam Pengelly, via the details printed at the foot of this page.

Research shows that on average 97 per cent of speeding offences (not including Community Speed Watch observations) are detected by fixed cameras. The vast majority of these are at roadside areas known to both local residents and regular commuters – and, therefore, these can have little effect in reducing speeds in other troublesome places.

Equally relevant – and especially to rural areas where fatalities are said to be four times more likely to happen than in urban areas – any

The Morval Parish

Council corner

Supporting the Heart of the Community

discussion about road safety and speeding has a tendency to focus on number of collision casualties reported.

In most areas where Community Speed Watch operates, and where speeding evidently is a concern to communities, the quality-of-life issue, as well as feeling safe when using the roads recreationally, have utmost importance to the affected areas' residents.

That usually serves as a reminder that the problem of speeding goes well beyond quantifying its consequences with casualty statistics alone.



Samantha Pengelly
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St Wenna's – where does all the money go?

Everybody associated with St Wenna's was absolutely thrilled with how well the Flower Festival went, in terms of outreach as well as fund-raising, and wish to express huge thanks to all involved.

The funds raised were significant, but it's easy to imagine this just disappears into the church's coffers. This money will be used to help convert part of the church to function as a self-contained space for smaller church services in the winter months (saving on heating costs) and a community room for parish use when needed, whilst being easily able to be part of the full church, when required.

So, some parishioners attend regularly, whilst others may only attend for weddings, baptisms and funerals, but the current church building has served our parish since 1281, with each generation passing a working viable church onto the next. So, what are the costs of running the community asset that our church strives to be?

A key misunderstanding is that the Church of England is rich and funds all churches, including St Wenna's. Nice idea, but untrue. Luckily, we do get regular monthly income from supporters which greatly assists with the regular expenditure

Our church has to have sufficient insurance to cover at least 75% of the complete rebuild costs, currently at an annual premium of £2855. Our church is part of a benefice of 4 parishes, which needs to cover the costs of our priest and also a share of the running costs of the diocese, hence the annual £67,000 price tag.

We also need to ensure that our churchyard is a dignified final place of rest for departed family members, and there is a price associated with this. Fortunately, we are helped in this by a generous grant from the parish council towards a part of these costs. And we also have costs for heating, electricity, organ maintenance, fire extinguisher tests, etc, etc all borne by church members. Needless to say, there is also a devoted group of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that our church continues to be a vital asset to current parishioners, and for the generations to follow.

Mike Willmott (Churchwarden, Treasurer, New Project Coordinator)



Garden Club Events in the New Year

January:

Wed 31: Diana Pearson: Planning and maintaining a fruit garden.

February:

Sat 10: Pancake Morning 11am – 1pm, Widegates Village Hall

Wed 28: Jeremy Wilson: The history of tea

March:

Wed 27: Emma Gunn: Never mind the burdocks + year end AGM

Spot the difference – can you find 6 differences?



For answers, see bottom of page

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Snowman's hat, Star on Tree, Socks, Snow on sign, Door, Star above window