

The Bridge



**Worton and Marston
Parish Magazine**

**December
2024**

Price 50p

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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Catherine Malli-Dawson editorofthebridge@gmail.com



A Note From the Editor

Singing carols, drinks with friends, family gatherings, grey laden clouds, and the goose arrows honking across the skies. It must be nearly Christmas. Have you planned your festive meal and all the trimmings? How about that fir tree? Is it up and dressed for the occasion? I will confess that until I started putting the magazine together I hadn't really thought much about the holidays. Now my calendar is full with the various craft markets in the surrounding towns and the Village Hall. And let's not forget about the book swap. There will be plenty of time over the holidays to get some good reading done.

Some of the more eagle eyed may see that there are fewer pages in this month's edition. After inputting all the submissions, there were three pages of gaps. This meant reducing the total number of pages and performing some jiggery, pokery to make everything fit. One of the items I sacrificed this month was the Poetry, Prose, and Possibilities page. I figured you have all had enough of my poetry and will once again put a call out to the community to submit your own writing or even something from your favourite writer or poet.

As we wind down 2024, I'm turning my attention to new and exciting activities in the new year. Like a Murder Mystery on the Worton Express. The setting is a nod to Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*. Check out the poster and block the date (18 January) in your calendar. It's certain to be a fun and exciting night of murder and mayhem.

If you'd like to help on the night, I'm looking for a few people interested in being 'train stewards'. We will have a cash bar (probably tended by Lionel, unless I put him to work as the Conductor) and special effects to set the mood.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a fun filled New Year.

Catherine

PS. You may also see some visitors dotted through the pages. A family of 30 elves have come to visit us and have hidden themselves within the magazine. Can you find all of them before they get up to too much mischief?

PASTORAL LETTER

MAUREEN'S CHRISTMAS RAMBLINGS...

Here I am with a blank sheet of paper wondering what ramblings to share with you this Christmas. You don't need me to remind you that Christmas can be consumerism gone mad or for me to rail against those shops which had Christmas things displayed in September or to point out that the heart of Christmas gets buried under tinsel and tat. So, what shall I write? Maybe you expect me to give you a gentle exhortation to go to the wonderful Christmas services in a church near you, or maybe encourage you to sing "Happy birthday, dear Jesus, happy birthday to you!" to Jesus on Christmas Day or remember to make some time for God in the middle of all the hustle and bustle. OK, I will attempt that – please try and make time for Jesus this Christmas! There, it is said!

But this is easier to write than to do, isn't it? We will all have to fight hard to find the precious spaces to consider Jesus this Christmas. But it is his birthday after all and he's supposed to be in the centre of it all. And if Jesus is not the centre of Christmas, then what is?

I wonder what impressions our children will have about Christmas at the end of Christmas Day. TV adverts and shops will encourage them to believe that Christmas is about getting, getting, getting – more presents, food, and decorations? But what else will they have absorbed about the day that celebrates one of the most important events in Christian history? Will they know a little more about what Christmas means when all the presents are open? Will they know something of the message of hope, peace, forgiveness and joy that Jesus came into the world to give, when the excesses of the day have worn off and their pent-up excitement spills out in tears and arguments?



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Will they have been helped to consider and maybe say a prayer, for those whose Christmas Day is ruined by war, violence, homelessness or poverty? Will they have learned to give something to others who have less than they have? Will they have learned how to feel thankful and to say thankyou? Will they know that being loved is more than just being given *things*?

I think Jesus loves the razzmatazz of Christmas - the baubles and decorations, the enjoyment and fun. He rejoices to see our happiness and hear our laughter. He is glad that he has given us a reason to celebrate. And each year he whispers his love to us, saying, "Please try and make time for me this Christmas. Please let me share with you my unconditional love, peace and presence that will last long beyond Christmas day. And if you can't make time this Christmas, I will come again next year and always, telling you again and again how much I love you". Well, that's written then! Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year!

The Revd. Maureen Allchin



Christmas Trees

You choose then we cut

Saturdays and Sundays
30th & 1st, 7th & 8th, and 14th & 15th

Open 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Norway Spruce £25
Nordmann £35

Marsh Farm
Seend Road
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WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE SERVICES

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st	(Advent 1)	
8am	Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Communion	Worton
9:30am	Matins (BCP)	Poulshot
11am	Communion	Potterne
11am	Communion	Seend
3:30pm	Advent Tea and Service	Potterne
4pm	Advent Songs of Praise	Bulkington
Sunday 8th	(Advent 2)	
8am	Communion (BCP)	Seend
9:30am	Communion (BCP)	Poulshot
9:30am	Morning Praise	Worton
11am	Communion	Bulkington
11am	Communion	Potterne
11am	Morning Praise	Seend
6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Potterne
Sunday 15th	(Advent 3)	
9:30am	Communion	Worton
9:30am	Morning Praise	Bulkington
11am	Communion	Potterne
11am	Communion	Seend
4pm	Evensong (BCP)	Poulshot
6pm	Carol Service	Potterne
Thursday 19th		
7pm	Carol Service	Seend
Friday 20th		
3:30pm	Messy Church Christmas Party	Potterne Village Hall
Sunday 22nd	(Advent 4)	
8am	Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Communion (BCP)	Poulshot
9:30am	Family Service	Worton
11am	Morning Praise	Potterne
11am	High Eucharist (BCP)	Seend
4pm	Evensong (BCP)	Seend
6pm	Carol Service	Bulkington
Tues 24th	Christmas Eve	
2pm	Blessing of Crib	Bulkington
6pm	Carol Service	Poulshot
6pm	Carol Service	Worton
11:30pm	Midnight Communion	Potterne
11:30pm	Midnight Communion	Seend
Weds 25th	Christmas Day	
9am	Christmas Day Communion	Poulshot
9am	Christmas Day Communion	Worton
10am	Christmas Day Communion	Bulkington
10:30am	Christmas Day Communion	Potterne
10:30am	Christmas Day Communion	Seend

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Sunday 29th (Christmas 1)
10am Benefice Service Bulkington

Every Tuesday, 9am Said Matins at Poulshot

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

Please visit our website www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk for more details of all our services, latest updates and to keep in touch.

Ministry Team

Rector:	Rev Gerry Lynch	07521 440 622
Associate Priest:	Rev Caroline O'Neill	01380 828302
Benefice Administrator:	Sarah Leckie	07516 224057

sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com



Church Registers

Weddings

Ellen Roberts and Felix Nolan on 19th October at Christ Church, Worton.

No baptisms or funerals this month.

FAMILY OF CHURCHES IN WORTON AND MARSTON

BEER AND CAROLS at the ROSE AND CROWN on MONDAY DECEMBER 2nd at 7:00PM

Get the Christmas Carol-singing season off to a great start in the Skittle Alley. Buy your drinks at the bar, join in the singing and enjoy some seasonal nibbles and a chat with neighbours.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT at MARSTON CHAPEL on SUNDAY DECEMBER 8th at 6:00PM.

Always a lovely evening with the Chapel decorated and lit up. You're assured of a very warm welcome!

FRIDAY JANUARY 31st 2025 in the VILLAGE HALL at 7:30PM NEWCOMERS' PARTY

All those who have moved into the villages during 2024 will receive free tickets in early January (IF WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE!) Other villagers contact us to purchase your tickets please. There is a delicious buffet supper provided by members of the community and a Bar to purchase drinks.

Jean Lane 722069 Heather Walker 725785

FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Five Lanes school children held their Harvest service in church. All the children took part in various presentations, and Harvest songs. We are always very impressed with how well they learn everything and sing the songs from memory. A good amount of food was collected for Devizes Food Bank.

They also attended church for their Remembrance Day service and will be holding the Key Stage 1 Nativity and Key Stage 2 Carols by Candlelight in church.

On Remembrance Sunday the Brownies and Rainbows took part in the Christ Church Remembrance service, with a very moving story from one of the Brownies of her Great Grandfather's part in the war, along with a photo of the ship on which he served.

The Toddlers will be in church just before Christmas to decorate the Christmas tree, to hear the Christmas story, and to enjoy some refreshments. This morning is loved by children and Adults.

So along with our regular Family service which is held on the last Sunday in the month, it is a joy to see the young people in church, all feeling comfortable being there and very often taking part in the service.

A couple of dates for the diary:

Saturday 30th November 2.00pm – 4.00pm: Christmas Community Café, come along to enjoy coffee, cake and other Christmas goodies, and to spend time with friends and neighbours.

Saturday 7th December, Village Hall Bazaar: Christ Church will be running the Cake stall. We would love donations of cakes and any Christmas fare, with proceeds being shared between Church and Village Hall.

Most will now be aware of the collapse of part of the front boundary wall at Christ Church. An extraordinary amount of time and effort has already been put in to exploring the way forward. It is proving to be a very involved project, but updates on progress will be advised to Worton Parish Council as appropriate.


Heather and Jean, Churchwardens

SERVICE CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sun Dec 1st	ADVENT 1 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Rev'd Gary Gotham</i>
Sun Dec 8th	ADVENT 2 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Morning Praise <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Carols By Candlelight</i>
Sun Dec 15th	ADVENT 3 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion
Sun Dec 22nd	ADVENT 4 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Family Service
Tue Dec 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Carol Service
Wed Dec 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.00am(note start time)	CHRIST CHURCH Family Communion
Sun Dec 29th	CHRISTMAS 1 9.30am (Benefice Service is 10.00am at Bulkington)	CHRIST CHURCH No Service

JANUARY

	Sun Jan 5th	CHRISTMAS 2 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Rev'd Gary Gotham</i>
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The wedding of Felix Nolan and Ellen Roberts took place at Christ Church during October.

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Hello all,

Welcome to the December edition. By the time you read this the Village Hall kitchen should be completed and usable for the 7th of December Christmas Bazaar. We are, and I'm sure you are, looking forward to being done with the building work and mess.

In order to continue to improve the overall look, feel and experience of the hall we are planning to complete some additional cosmetic work early next year, such as an internal refresh and painting, some refurbishment of the wooden floor and possibly an external concrete path around the back.

In the interests of continued progress, we will also install internet, Wi-Fi and a ceiling projector sometime in Q1 2025. If you want the very latest on that, I will post updates on the W&M Community Facebook Page and the WMVH Facebook page.

EVENTS

In November we had some private events, which were unfortunately compromised by the building work and we cancelled some of our other plans, such as a 2nd Bingo Night and a Jumble Sale. Hirers were very understanding and in general most continued to use the hall with its limitations.

For December we will run the usual Christmas Bazaar on the 7th, so lookout for posters and social media posts. As I have only been a Trustee since February, this will be my 1st Christmas Bazaar experience!

Kitchen open day. We will run a separate 'open kitchen' event, with tea/coffee and nibbles, for people to have a look around and to promote future use by the community. The timing of this will be posted separately because we are still in some flux on the completion date, so it may potentially creep into early January.

2025. Looking forward to the New Year, we are seeking ideas and involvement in new events. As a Trustee Group we organise and run some events ourselves, but as you can imagine we simply can't handle more than a few.

So, we are looking for new ideas for future events and someone to coordinate and run them. Some thoughts brought forward so far are:

- a themed film evening (where we run the film in the background) along with food and drinks
- an afternoon film event for children
- a murder mystery evening (*hold 18 January in your diaries*)
- a food-based event.

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Organisers.

We will need help in the New Year with event organisation. So, if there is anyone in either of the villages that would be willing to be part of an events organisation group, to help organise events, please reach out to myself or any Trustee (contact info on the back of The Bridge Magazine)

Trustees.

In the coming year we will be losing some of the existing Trustees and are therefore looking for new members to join the Trustee Group. As a priority we are looking for a new Treasurer and Booking Agent, so if you have a leaning for this role please reach out to me, or the existing Treasurer (Pauline Crisp). (wmvhchair@yahoo.com, dpcrisp@uwclub.net).

Until next time, the Trustee Group thank you all for your support and understanding throughout the kitchen building process, and we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year. We'll see you in 2025!

Lionel
on behalf of the Trustees






Worton United Charities

REMINDER: The Charity is able to offer some financial support to residents of Worton or Marston who are facing times of hardship. Please contact one of the Trustees named below.

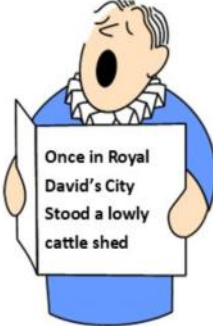
All contacts or requests are dealt with in strictest confidence.

The Trustees

Bill Francis (dfrancis162@btinternet.com), June Mason, Alison Cross, Chris Nixon, Revd Gerry Lynch




BEER




Once in Royal
David's City
Stood a lowly
cattle shed

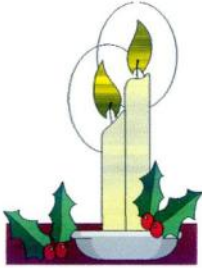
and



CAROLS

7 pm Monday 2 December
at the
Rose and Crown Worton





Come and join us

***Carols
by
Candlelight***

Marston Chapel

6 pm Sunday 8 December

All Welcome!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



VILLAGE HALL



7th DECEMBER 2024



2pm -4pm

Cakes, Crafts, Bottle Stall, Gifts, Cards

Raffle, Tea/Coffee & Cake

Mulled Wine £2 per glass

Christmas Tree Festival 2024

St Barnabas Church Easterton

This year's theme:- Films

Will you be able to guess which ones?

Come and join us on

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December

10.00-16.00

ALL WELCOME

Free Admission

Children's Activities

Raffle

Refreshments

Contact June Wright for more details

junwri@outlook.com



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YOUR
TICKETS
FOR THE

MURDER MYSTERY

ON THE WORTON
EXPRESS

CASH BAR
BUFFET DINNER



Everyone's
a suspect

SATURDAY, 18 JANUARY

7-10PM

VILLAGE HALL

RSVP TO CATHERINE MALLI-DAWSON

CMALLIDAWSON@LIVE.COM

TICKETS

£15

PROCEEDS TO BE
SPLIT BETWEEN VH &
CHURCH

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS



EDINGTON ARTS

There are still tickets available for Edington Arts' very popular Advent Concert on Saturday 7th December, at 7.30pm in the Priory Church, though you need to act swiftly. The performers will be the mixed choir of Somerville College, Oxford, under the direction of Will Dawes.

Somerville College Choir is young by Oxford standards but has achieved a phenomenal amount since its creation; touring, recording and broadcasting regularly. As a key part of a non-denominational college, the choir enjoys a certain freedom from convention; there will be plenty of traditional and well-loved Christmas music both old and more recent, but also some unusual and unexpected delights. A selection of pieces from the programme is listed on the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org/whats-on, where you can also choose your seats, book and pay.

Tickets start at £11, 18 and under free. If you would rather book by phone and allow the Box Office team to choose your seats, please phone 01380 831256.



WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Dauntsey's Choral Society began its Autumn Term in September and we are currently rehearsing Bach's St John's Passion for our Spring 25 concert, under the direction of Philip Pooley.

We need more voices to help us sing this fantastic work, especially male and soprano ones! if you enjoy singing all kinds of choral music, why not join us? We meet every Monday in term time at 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the Farmer Room at Dauntsey's School, which is up the outside steps above the dining hall, and then up the internal stairs.

No audition is needed - just enthusiasm! Subscriptions cost £45 a term, or £80 for both the autumn and spring terms. We are happy to let new members "try before they buy" for a few weeks!

For more information, email dauntseyschoralsociety@gmail.com or just join us next Monday!



THE WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST

Registered Charity No: 1153790

Get into the spirit at Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair

CHRISTMAS shoppers have the chance to browse unique gifts from craftsmen and women amid the atmospheric surroundings of Bowood at the Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair on **Monday December 2 and Tuesday December 3.**

The annual fair, in the Kerry Suite at the Bowood Hotel Spa and Golf Resort between Calne and Chippenham, is not just a showcase for the best in local producers, it raises vital funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, says Director Jennie Shaw.

The charity works in partnership with Wiltshire Police with three operators, who are former police officers, visiting homes across Wiltshire and Swindon to offer free practical home security measures and fire safety assessments for people over 60, those at risk of domestic abuse or over 18 with a registered disability.

It also has a team of Stay Safe Online volunteers who visit older and vulnerable people in their homes and give talks to groups about preventing online fraud.

“The fair is such a lovely event because within the setting of Bowood’s hotel, with the music, carols and the buzz of everyone shopping, you really get a sense of the season,” said Jennie.

“It’s such a joyous time but it also helps us to think of those who need our help all year round. The money raised by the fair will go such a long way to continuing to support the safety and joy of those vulnerable people and will allow them to enjoy the festive period too.”

The Monday evening’s preview event runs from 4pm to 8pm at just £15 per ticket. Visitors will be greeted with a glass of wine and canapes, as well as atmospheric music and carols in the Kerry Suite.

The fair is open again at 9am on Tuesday December 3 and will be running through to 3pm – providing another chance to meet up with friends to shop, have coffee or lunch in the hotel's Shelburne Restaurant to share Christmas plans and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

“As ever we are blessed with a full range of amazing stall holders selling a wide variety of products,” said Jennie. “Whether you're looking for stocking fillers, leather goods, festive food, inspiration for important family members or just to spoil yourself then rest assured we have thought of everything.”

Tickets are available online at www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events with a special two-for-one offer on £5 tickets for Tuesday December 3.

Worton and Marston Link Scheme



Volunteer Drivers Needed!

The scheme relies on a team of drivers who use their own cars to help clients without their own means of transport. Drivers are paid a mileage allowance to cover the costs of fuel.

To find out more call Lyn on 07413 912828 or email wandmlink@gmail.com

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**Potterne
Christmas Market
Friday Dec 6th
4pm – 7pm
at the Village Hall
and the Social Club**

Come and support Potterne people
and organisations.

End of WW2 Event

80 years Not Forgotten!

Sept 6th – 7th 2025

Exhibition in Worton and Marston
Village Hall

A chance to celebrate the anniversary of the end of
the war in Europe and the Pacific

We want to make this a community event.

Was your family a member of the Armed forces, Land Army, Home Guard?
Were they evacuated or in a reserved occupation? Share your family stories.

Where were they when the peace treaties were signed?

We need your family stories, photographs or war time artefacts to help us
record this important event.

Prior to the event there will be free bunting workshops in the Village Hall
open to all. We will help you make the bunting. (If you have any cotton
material we can use please let us know). Help us festoon the village.

There will be interactive displays as well as family memorabilia.

All proceeds will go to charity.

Contact Chris Johnson 01380 720580 email cvs64@hotmail.com



Worton and Marston Village Hall

Run for the community by volunteers

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Capacity of 80 seated, 120 standing -
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Visit our website or call Pauline on 01380 720248
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www.wortonmarstonvillagehall.org.uk



The village hall now owns this 9m x 3m party gazebo
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Please contact:
Pauline (720248) or any other Trustee

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BOOK SWAP

Saturday 14th Dec
10:00am—12 noon

11 Mill Road
Worton
hosted by Elizabeth Murray



Saturday 11th Jan
10:00am—12 noon

36 Mill Road
Worton
Hosted by Jill Duckworth

Happy Christmas to all our friendly readers

We continue to have an interesting & changing selection of books, & convivial attendees – newcomers are always welcome.
Come & join us.



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WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

Due to unforeseen circumstances our speaker for the October meeting had to cancel at short notice. Also, unfortunately the kitchen was out of action as phase 3 of the refurbishment to the kitchen went ahead. As the Poulshot ladies were supposed to be joining us it was decided to cancel the evening.

Hopefully, our November meeting will go ahead on the 20th with no hiccups. Bingo with prizes!!

Our AGM is on 4th December and after business, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served. Hope to see you there.

Finally, I wish you all a **Very Happy Christmas** and all **Good Wishes** for the New Year.

Pam Woods
01380 726679



VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

£50 200 Club winner for
NOVEMBER

TONY McQUAID

Pam Woods
Administrator, Worton &
Marston Village Hall Trustee
01380 726679

MONTHLY QUIZ ROSE & CROWN

Fancy a quiz night? Come along to your local with Jackie & John at the Rose & Crown, Worton.

Quiz takes place the last **SUNDAY** of the month 7.30 start.

£2 per person, up to five people per team.

All proceeds go to the winners' Charity of choice. **OCTOBER QUIZ RAISED £85 FOR WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE.**

Many thanks to Tony McQuaid for stepping in as Quiz Master, hopefully I will be back on duty soon.

Pam Woods (Quiz Mistress)

WORTON AND MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of Winter - lies a Miracle.”

Luther Burbank

We don't have a meeting in December so we will look forward to our rescheduled talk from October. It is Road to Chelsea by Katherine Holland. Meeting from 7pm for a 7.30pm start on Monday January 20th. Visitors welcome.

Last month I submitted a beautiful poem which got slightly lost in the printing process as I had photographed it in a garden. The garden was Twigs Community Garden, and they help many people. The poems were put there by their volunteers. Here are the words:

“Hope” is the thing with feathers.

Emily Dickinson



“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops at all -



And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird -
That kept so many warm-



I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea-
Yet- never- in Extremity-
It asked a crumb of me.

Best wishes,
Alison Parker

aelparker@aol.com



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FIVE LANES WI

For our November meeting we got together in the Village Hall, amongst the building/decorating equipment to have a go at some table-top games. There was plenty of room to set up table skittles, “shove-ha’penny” and Bagatelle and great fun was had having a go and chatting. Luckily, we were able to boil kettles to make tea/coffee as we discussed the next meeting and the meal out in January. The signs are good for the extended kitchen, and we are grateful to the Trustees for all their hard work to make our Village Hall bigger and better!

On **DECEMBER 11th** we gather again in the Village Hall at **7:00PM for CHRISTMAS CRAFTS and SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS**. Sarah has prepared ideas for us to make some lovely, covered rings to add decorations to and brighten up our homes. Please bring any Christmassy bits, ribbon, coloured paper, stickers etc. Also, a pair of scissors and some glue would be useful. Sarah is always ready and willing to help us if we aren’t particularly “crafty”.

JANUARY 8th, 2025, will be our New Year meal out and Sarah will e mail details to members. Make sure you keep the date free!

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Coate

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We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 2-4pm.

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Sally Jenkinson (07947 060763) sallyjenks51@gmail.com

You can read more about the Trefoil Guild at: www.trefoilguild.co.uk



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Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUGS) - do you qualify?

This scheme runs until March 2025. If you feel you may qualify, apply soon before it's too late.

Wiltshire Council has been successful in securing more than £3.6m government funding for home energy efficiency upgrades. This funding will allow the council to support retrofitting in owner-occupied and privately rented homes (landlords with no more than four properties).

The qualifying criteria are:

- not connected to mains gas
- have an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of band D-G
- household income of less than £31,000

The retrofits will include:

- energy efficiency measures such as wall and loft insulation
- low-carbon heating technologies such as heat pumps
- renewable technologies such as solar PV
- smart measures such as smart heating controls

It would be great if qualifying residents in Worton and Marston could take advantage of this brilliant opportunity for warmer and more energy efficient homes.

Please contact me at tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk or 07711 824864 for more information.



Devizes & District Foodbank

**Collection box for
donations in Christ Church**



With the cost of living rising and more families than ever asking for support from our local foodbank, we have set up a donation box at the back of Christ Church. The Devizes & District Foodbank is very grateful for any non-perishable items that you are able to donate. Perhaps you could consider popping in with one small item each week to put in the box, such as a tin of tomatoes, a sachet of instant mash or a bottle of shampoo. All donations are much appreciated.

Community First Wiltshire Community Oil Scheme

With this oil scheme, you pay an annual subscription (£24) to Community First and you order your oil through them when you need it. Community First order in bulk, once a month, from the supplier with the best price. Because the supplier is then delivering large quantities to the same village, they can offer the oil at a significant discount.

This month the price was

54p a litre (+5% VAT)

through **Community First**

(Market highest: 64ppl, market average: 62ppl, internet price*: 59ppl)
(+vat @5% on all prices.) *(+ delivery charge on internet price – currently £12)

If you are interested in joining the scheme, please contact: Marion
(asap if you want to get in a **December** order)

Office Telephone: 07843 854857 Email address is info@ofps.co.uk

If you phone, please leave a message and a number to return your call
if the line goes to voicemail.



working on behalf of



Giles Collins (scheme co-ordinator for Worton/Marston)

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Wednesday 5.30PM & 7.00PM

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MESSAGE FROM OUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Devizes Gateway and other rail improvements in the county, move a step closer.

Network Rail has published its Wiltshire Rail Strategic Study, which sets out the basis of strategic rail planning in the county in the future. It follows the business cases developed by Wiltshire Council under the previous government's Restoring your Railway scheme which were championed in Westminster, and locally, by Michelle Donelan and Danny Kruger.

The Wiltshire Rail Strategic Study, led by Network Rail and local partners, looks at how rail services can support the county's growing population and economy. It suggests improvements to rail connectivity within Wiltshire and to key regional hubs to connect the county to the rest of the country. It highlights that the current rail system lacks frequent and direct services, especially in north-south routes, and needs better links to hubs such as Oxford and Birmingham.

Its key recommendations look to increase services, grow passenger numbers and build new stations, including:

- Enhance local services, especially on the TransWilts route (via Melksham), to improve connectivity within Wiltshire.
- Build new stations at Devizes and Corsham to support population growth and increase rail usage.
- Develop new direct rail services between Wiltshire and key hubs.
- Upgrade track and signalling infrastructure, such as in Westbury and Melksham, to accommodate more services and improve connections at Westbury.

The wide-ranging Network Rail report looks to improve connectivity and transport links in Wiltshire and beyond. It also supports our county's sustainable economic and population growth, helping the county to expand sustainably, while also improving regional connectivity, and boosting both passenger numbers and freight use of the railways.

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There is still a long way to go before the objectives of this study can be realised, and Network Rail will now begin detailed analysis of the proposals before taking forward business cases to progress these projects. The good news is that this in rail industry led – and as Cabinet Member for Transport a Wiltshire Council, I will ensure that the Council continues to work with Network Rail and other partners to take these projects forward and to keep lobbying Government to invest in rail improvements throughout Wiltshire.

Read the [Wiltshire Rail Strategic Study detailed report](#)

Tamara Reay
Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West.
Tel: 07711 824864 Email: tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk



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WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

This is the time of the year when we go through our finances and work out what we will need to spend money on over the next financial year. Much of this is predetermined anyway, for example grounds maintenance and the cost of running the council. To misquote Shakespeare, “though we be small we be accountable”. The same legalities apply as far larger arms of government.

In fact, we have found ourselves in an unusual situation as our income has taken a temporary jump due to money linked to the housing development. This put us temporarily into a different category of financial scrutiny and reporting which has been, frankly, right outside my personal comfort zone! Very fortunately, Cllr Powell continues to provide sensible, calm guidance and we have managed the situation well- however it's been a very steep learning curve. So, we will be taking even greater care to account for every penny (thank goodness farthings are no longer available) whilst keeping a lid on how the money we all have put into this via the precept part of our Council Tax. (which I hasten to add is a tiny part of what we all pay). On the positive side, we will have an exciting chance to improve recreation facilities and we will keep in mind the ideas shared with us by the younger residents of the village.

We will know more or less where we stand by the December meeting which, as in previous years, will be starting earlier at 6, to allow the strident tones of councillors and attendees to contribute to Beer (expertly) and Carols (gamely), at the pub.

It's good to report that, thanks largely to the skills and drive of my colleague Cllr Slack, we have been moved to the “green” category by LHFIG, which means we will get support and most of the funding for improvements along the High street. We will share the details nearer the time when the work happens (again I stress that those most impacted have already been consulted), but this is unlikely to be until the second half of the new year, with work taking place probably during one of the school holidays.

Whilst still on highways and footpaths (that's the H and the F of the LHFIG cleared up if you didn't know), we have been trying to make sense of what is happening with the footpath behind the church. We were somewhat taken aback when finding out that there is a cost involved in the closure of a footpath, just as there would be with, say, the M25, and someone has to pay it! Unfortunately, in the case of Worton and, in this situation, Marston, that has fallen to the Church -and the figure came as an unpleasant surprise, especially given that those involved had no wish to shut the path but had to do so following consideration of health and safety advice and, indeed, regulation. I must report that Bob and other church representatives have been most sanguine in their reaction, and we are also grateful for Tamara's support in at least limiting the financial shock.

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However, the fact remains that the relevant section of the path remains closed until suitable restoration work has been completed. Whilst we will continue to work on alternative solutions, I must strongly advise walkers not to ignore the signs - if you choose to do so, literally, on your own head be it.

Nick Stokes continues to lead the preparation for our planned entry to the Best kept Village competition and has submitted a detailed plan. It's very clear that Nick can't do this on his own, so please consider what help you can offer. Of course, we all need to play our part however small that might be.

Lastly, I personally was recently able to experience the improvements that are almost complete in our Village Hall. These are the culmination of years of work by all the people who have been working on this project. Of course, we are grateful to Lionel and the current trustees, but it was particularly suitable that Veronica (and a resurgent healthy Geoff) were in the village over the weekend and were able to see for themselves.

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WORTON COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

(Speedwatch sessions are of 45 minutes duration)

There have been two further visits from a Speed enforcement Officer in the village.

On the 28th October a vehicle was monitored travelling at 37MPH. Depending on previous convictions and history the driver will be offered a speed awareness course.

On the 6th November three vehicles were monitored exceeding the speed limit with one recorded at 47mph. Depending on previous convictions and history the driver of the vehicle travelling at 47mph will face £100 fine and get 3 points, the other two will be offered a speed awareness course.

Captured footage will be analysed for other offences like seat belts and mobile phone use.

Best Regards,
Bob




Worton Community Speedwatch Figures for November 2024

Date	Time	Vehicles	Total 30MPH+	Vehicles Reported	Max Speed
Monday 11th	14.45 - 15.30	333	15	4	37
Tuesday 12th	08.00 - 08.45	481	12	3	37
Tuesdy	15.00 - 15.45	350	4	1	40
Wednesday 13th	08.15 - 09.00	474	6	1	37
Wednesday 13th	11.15 - 12.00	224	13	2	37
Thursday 14th	08.00 - 08.45	525	20	1	36
Thursday 14th	13.00 - 13.45	279	14	3	36
Sessions: 7	Average: 381	2666	84	14	
2023 Sessions: 2	Average: 295	590	20	5	37

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Five Lanes CE VC Primary School



Harvest Festival

Since the last edition, we had our Harvest Festival at Christ Church and collected many donations for Devizes and District Foodbank. It was great to have so many of our families there.



Remembrance Service

We have been learning about Remembrance Day and were back at Christ Church for our Remembrance Service to pay our respects..



Children in Need

For Children in Need we came to school in our pyjamas. We even wore them for worship with Reverend Gerry!



We discussed our five senses and how they help us to notice the beauty in the world.

Coming Up:

We have a very busy term ahead and have also started rehearsals for our nativity and Christmas performances which will be held at the church.



Merry Christmas from all of us at Five Lanes

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We have not been able to meet because of ongoing refurbishment
in the hall.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again very soon.

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KIDS CORNER



FLOWER OF THE MONTH



Holly
(*Ilex aquifolium*)

Pointed leaves. That's what *Ilex aquifolium* means. I love the simplicity of the name. It is what it's named. Hollies are either male or female and only the female produce the berries. These berries provide a rich source of food for birds and wildlife through the cold winter months. However, I would recommend keeping your pets away from them as they can be toxic to dogs and cats. The vet bill from earlier this year proves it!

Throughout history, holly was believed to protect against evil and represented renewal of life and light. The Celts and Romans both used holly in their homes to ward off evil spirits. The Pagans and Celts associated holly with the Holly King, who ruled the Earth between the summer and winter solstices.

For Christians, holly symbolizes Christ's crown of thorns. The evergreen leaves represent life after death. The berries are believed to be white and only red as they were stained with his blood.

Holly can grow in either shrub or tree forms. They are best planted in the spring or fall in a sunny spot with well-draining and slightly acid soil. The foliage adds that festive look to holiday décor with wreaths and boughs of holly draped over the mantel. Especially since they are associated with happiness and optimism.

(sources: almanac.com, petalrepublic.com)

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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS - 2024

The Bridge:

Editor - Catherine Malli-Dawson editorofthebridge@gmail.com
07984 301 258

Distribution - Kim Cannon kescannon@hotmail.com
01380 727993

Book Swap: Judy Shercliff judy.shercliff@gmail.com 01380 723136

Christ Church, Worton (part of the Wellsprings Benefice):

Contact the Benefice Office on 07516 224057 or
at contact.wellsprings@gmail.co.uk

Church Wardens:

Mrs Heather Walker 01380 725785 heatherwalker66@gmail.com
Mrs Jean Lane 01380 722069 joje@talktalk.net

Cricket (Worton and Poulshot): Giles Collins 07530 771405
giles.collins@btinternet.com

Football (The Badgers): Club President Pete Huntley 07974 756131
or Club Secretary Rob Nuttall 07706 167347

Garden Club:

Alison Parker 07786 985741 aelparker@aol.com
Sally Brooks 07957 917851 svwood90@hotmail.com

Village Show Bill Francis 01380 739986
dfrancis162@btinternet.com

Ladies Group: Pam Woods 01380 726679

Meet last Wednesday each month 8pm, in the Village Hall.

Link Scheme: Lyn Vickers Transport Coordinator 07413 912828

Alun Newman (Chair)
wandmlink@gmail.com for further information

Marston Parish Council: Steven Bennett

clerk@marstonpc.co.uk

Newspaper Delivery: Richard Walker 07702 868863

Rose and Crown: John & Jackie 01380 724202

School (Five Lanes): admin@fivelanes.wilts.sch.uk

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SpeedWatch: Bob Mitchell speedwatch2024@gmail.com

Tennis: Seend Tennis Club: Sally Jackson 07798 564712
Devizes Tennis Club: Barry Devine 07809 221341
Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings.

Toddlers' Group: Linda Rose wortontoddlers@gmail.com
text 07921 867206

Village Hall (Worton and Marston):

For the Chair: WMVHChair@yahoo.com 07385 162999

For Bookings: dpcrisp@uwclub.net 01380 720248

For Maintenance: wmvhmaintenance@yahoo.com

Wiltshire Council: Tamara Reay

Wiltshire Councillor of Devizes Rural West

tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk 07711 824864

Worton Parish Council:

Chair: Barry Devine barry@worton.org.uk bazandsaz@gmail.com

Other Parish Councillors: Richard Slack Dicky Parsons

Patricia Goodenough Malcolm Powell Chris Collins

Robert Goss Nick Stokes Anthony Higgins Clerk: Jules Slack

Women's Institute (W.I.): Helen Bodman (President) 01380 723593

Worton United Charities: Trustee Chair Bill Francis

dfrancis162@btinternet.com

(Please contact me (editorofthebridge@gmail.com) if there are any contacts you would like to add, change or remove.)



December

December is the month
When families get together
To celebrate the holidays
In cold and snowy weather.
We say hello to winter
And wave goodbye to Fall,
We light some glowing candles
To spread holiday cheer to all.

Unknown





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01380 724202

	Lunch time opening	Evening opening
Monday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Tuesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Wednesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Thursday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Friday	Closed	6pm -11.30pm
Saturday	12.00 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Sunday	12.00 - 2.30	7pm-10pm

Rolls and sandwiches available.

We have a pool table, darts and skittles.

We have a quiz on the last Sunday of every month.

A.P McDonald

Funeral Services

INDEPENDENT, FAMILY RUN BUSINESS
01380 698188

Ashley and Paul are here to support you & your family offering a friendly personal service, whether that be for funeral arrangements or to arrange a replacement memorial stone.

We are passionate about delivering a high standard service, either Ashley or Paul will come and visit you at a place where you feel most comfortable, be that your home or in our office at time to suit you to do the arrangement.

We offer bespoke funerals to suit all budgets.

Whatever time, day or night, please do not hesitate to call
01380 698 188

where either Ashley or Paul are here for you & your family.



28 MARYPORT STREET
DEVIZES
SN10 1AG



"Your local family funeral directors"

www.apmcdonaldfunerals.com



Funeral
Guide



WORTON & MARSTON BUS SCHEDULE MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Trowbridge - Steeple Ashton - Worton - Devizes

Show all stops

Trowbridge, o/s Manvers House	09:45	12:25
Paxcroft Mead Newhurst Park (E-bound)	09:50	12:30
Steeple Ashton Memorial (NW-bound)	09:59	12:39
Great Hinton Crossroads (N-bound)	10:02	12:42
Keevil Field Head (E-bound)	10:05	12:45
Bulkington War Memorial (E-bound)	10:10	12:50
Worton Village Hall (E-bound)	10:14	12:54
Worton Sandlease (E-bound)	10:16	12:56
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	10:18	12:58
Marston The Green (NW-bound)	10:23	13:03
Poulshot The Raven (N-bound)	10:30	13:10
Devizes Mayenne Place West (S-bound)	10:34	13:14
Devizes, opp Business Centre	10:35	13:15
Devizes Market Place Bus Island (SE-bound)	10:39	13:19

Devizes - Worton - Steeple Ashton - Trowbridge

Show all stops

Devizes The Pelican (NW-bound)	12:10	14:10
Devizes, o/s Business Centre	12:14	14:14
Devizes Mayenne Place West (N-bound)	12:15s	14:15s
Poulshot The Raven (S-bound)	12:19	14:19s
Worton Sandlease (E-bound)	12:27	14:27s
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	12:29	14:29s
Marston The Green (NW-bound)	12:33s	14:33s
Bulkington War Memorial (W-bound)	12:37	14:37s
Keevil Field Head (W-bound)	12:42	14:42s
Great Hinton Crossroads (S-bound)	12:45	14:45s
Steeple Ashton Memorial (NW-bound)	12:48	14:48s
Steeple Ashton St Mary's (NW-bound)	12:48	14:49s
Steeple Ashton Newleaze (NW-bound)	12:49	14:50
Paxcroft Mead Newhurst Park (W-bound)	12:55	
Trowbridge, o/s Manvers House	13:01	

Times marked **s** – "set down only" – the bus will only stop to drop passengers off

SATURDAYS

Trowbridge - Steeple Ashton - Worton - Devizes

Show all stops

Trowbridge, o/s Manvers House	09:50	12:25
Paxcroft Mead Newhurst Park (E-bound)	09:55	12:30
Steeple Ashton Memorial (NW-bound)	10:04	12:39
Great Hinton Crossroads (N-bound)	10:07	12:42
Keevil Field Head (E-bound)	10:10	12:45
Bulkington War Memorial (E-bound)	10:15	12:50
Worton Village Hall (E-bound)	10:19	12:54
Worton Sandlease (E-bound)	10:21	12:56
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	10:23	12:58
Marston The Green (NW-bound)	10:29	13:04
Poulshot The Raven (N-bound)	10:36	13:11
Devizes Mayenne Place West (S-bound)	10:40	13:15
Devizes, opp Business Centre	10:41	13:16
Devizes Market Place Bus Island (SE-bound)	10:46	13:21

Devizes - Worton - Steeple Ashton - Trowbridge

Show all stops

Devizes The Pelican (NW-bound)	12:20	14:25
Devizes, o/s Business Centre	12:24	14:29
Devizes Mayenne Place West (N-bound)	12:25s	14:30s
Poulshot The Raven (S-bound)	12:29	14:34
Worton Sandlease (E-bound)	12:37	14:42
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	12:39	14:44
Marston The Green (NW-bound)	12:43s	14:48s
Bulkington War Memorial (W-bound)	12:47	14:52
Keevil Field Head (W-bound)	12:52	14:57
Great Hinton Crossroads (S-bound)	12:55	15:00
Steeple Ashton Memorial (NW-bound)	12:58	15:03
Paxcroft Mead Newhurst Park (W-bound)	13:05	15:10
Trowbridge, o/s Manvers House	13:11	15:16

Times marked **s** – "set down only" – the bus will only stop to drop passengers off

NOTE: Not all stops are shown in the above schedules
(Source: <https://bustimes.org/services/76-trowbridge-steeple-ashton-worton-devizes>)

Historical Extracts from The Bridge (December 1994)

The Bridge



Reviews

OVER THE "WORTON" MOON

It wasn't on Match of the Day or Sky Sport but as a Football Match the opening game by the children of Worton, Marston and Cheverell against Woodborough School was a game to be savoured. Some really good football from both teams, whose ages ranged from 6-11 years, provided a surfeit of goals, eleven in total. Woodborough won 7-4 yet the scoreline didn't diminish some stylish football from the home side and the game could have gone either way. It was particularly heartening that the home sides four goals were scored by three current members of Worton and Marston School team, James Wilson, Joe Read (2) and Jason Howard, maybe a sign of things to come.

With some flowing situations the majority of children played, cheered on by parents and friends who came to watch the match. Thanks go to Woodborough School for providing such good opposition, we all look forward to the return match.

A special thanks goes to the over 11 players who could not play in this game but turned up to support their team mates and assist the organisers and match officials.

From the touchline

OPENING OF "BERWICK"

27 OCTOBER 1994

A group of Worton and Marston Brownies attended the opening of the new Wiltshire South Guide Headquarters at Berwick St. James.

The old school has and will be undergoing a dramatic re-fit for the purpose of providing a guide centre. Facilities will be available for camping and pack holidays, for the use of all guides.

The hard work was rewarded by a visit to officially open the new centre by Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret. She arrived by helicopter to a sea of Brownies, Rainbows and Guides, waving flags and cheering from the assembled crowd.

She was greeted by officials and dignitaries and showed around the campsite and buildings. Inside the Rainbows and Brownies were involved in various activities.

A plaque was unveiled by Her Royal Highness and the new building dedicated. A posy of flowers was presented by Jenny Page of Worton and Marston Brownies.

Her Royal Highness spent nearly two hours on her visit, took tea and was accompanied by the County Commissioner, Mrs E. Harris of Worton.

December 1994

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VILLAGE DIARY

**Regular Meetings
Around the Village**

Village Hall

- **Garden Club**
3rd Monday 7.30pm start (not Aug/Dec)
- **Fitness Group**
Fridays 5:3pm-6:30pm
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday 8pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**
2nd Wednesday Village Hall
- **Worton Toddler Group**
Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**
Tuesdays 6pm-7.30pm
- **Potterne Rainbows**
Tuesdays 4.45pm-5.45pm
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston

- **Marston Meditation**
1st & 3rd Sunday 6pm start
- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
(as shown on notice boards)

Mobile Library

Location: The School

1.10pm - 1.50pm

Next Date: Monday 2nd Dec

Call Wiltshire Library Services
on **01225 713727** for information



Forthcoming Events

- 14th Book Swap
- 11th WI
- Jan Garden Club

**Kerbside Collections
in December**

Worton & Marston

**Black box and Blue lidded
bin recycling:**

Tuesdays 10th & 24th

Household waste:

Thursdays 5th & 19th

Garden waste:

Fridays 6th & 20th

**Kerbside Collections
In December**

Close Lane, Marston

**Black box and Blue lidded
bin recycling:**

Tuesdays 3rd & 17th

Household waste:

Thursday 12th & 28th



**Worton and
Marston Link**

If you need help with transport
for hospital appointments
visiting the doctor and dentist or other
important journeys.

**Call W&M Link on
07413 912828**

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15th December 2024

Catherine Malli-Dawson, Editor

Carpe Diem, Plough Lane, Marston Telephone: 07984 301 258

email address: editorofthebridge@gmail.com