



The Benefice of Aldermaston and Woolhampton, comprising the parishes of
Aldermaston, Beenham, Brimpton, Midgham, Wasing and Woolhampton

THE PEW

December
2023

NEWS



THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION?



NEWS PAGES

For this month's letter from our Rector, the Reverend Jane Manley, or news and articles from our churches and communities, Eco Church, food bank or benefice administration.

SERVICES AND LIFE EVENTS

Weddings, baptisms and funerals, services in the benefice, 'what happens in church', community events.
Things to do and pictures from past events.

FOR CHILDREN AGED 0 - 100 +

Competitions, stories. news from our schools and how to get involved - joining in with church doesn't have to be Sunday, and it doesn't have to be 'at church'!

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

None of us will be able to sing this well-known and favourite carol at services this year without being very mindful that Bethlehem is very far from being still with war raging in Israel and Palestine.

As I write this letter the ceasefire is over and over 140 refugees are still being held, and bombing has started again; whilst not dominating our headlines the war in Ukraine continues; last week the inquest into the death of the Caversham Headteacher was happening and the inquest into the tragic death of four teenage boys in Wales; ... where oh where is the peace, the joy, the hope of Christmas?

All we can do is hold onto 'the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight'. To know that we are not alone in the darkness. I believe in a God who walks with us into the valley of death and darkness and is also there in the light and times of joy.

But I pray that there will be times of joy for each one of you this Christmas. I hope that we will find time to gather as friends and family to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, to enjoy time together. At the same to pray for all those millions for whom Christmas will be a very painful time – a time of war, of painful memories, of dashed hopes.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

God came into the world as a tiny helpless babe who became a refugee himself...came to be with us and I leave you with the poem of RS Thomas 'The Coming' and wish each of you a very blessed Advent and Christmas.

Emmanuel, God with us.
Rev'd Jane

And God held in his hand
A small globe. Look he said.
The son looked. Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour. The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows: a bright
Serpent, A river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime.

On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The sky. many People
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs. The son watched
Them. Let me go there, he said.



The
67th Year
of the

York Nativity Play

in the Parish Church of
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

Thursday 7th December at 8:00pm

Friday 8th December at 8:00pm

-and then one hour earlier on:

Saturday 9th December at 7:00pm

Sunday 10th December at 7:00pm

For free tickets:

Online at: <https://aldermastonnativity.co.uk>

Or by Email: tickets@aldermastonnativity.co.uk

Or send S.A.E. to J. Leonard, Church Lodge,
Aldermaston, Berkshire RG7 4LT



REMEMBRANCE DAY

St Peter's Woolhampton and Woolhampton School



**REMEMBRANCE DAY POEMS WRITTEN BY YEAR SIX PUPILS
AT WOOLHAMPTON SCHOOL**

and

**A LOVELY ARTICLE WRITTEN ABOUT SERVICE AT ST PETER'S
by Catherine Lovell**

You can hear them reading the poems on the school website
<https://www.woolhamptonschool.co.uk/oak-class-year-6/>

The children read this during the Remembrance Day service held around
the War
Memorial.

It was a full weekend of Remembrance Services at St. Peter's Woolhampton. The church was looking beautiful, with a stunning arrangement made by Stella Nesbit. The new gates at the bottom of the church path and at the porch, made by Pike Brothers of Midgham are a fine addition to the church. Hurstborne Forge gave St. Peter's a metal soldier to stand outside the porch and a lovely candle holder depicting a soldier and a poppy for a window sill especially for this weekend. These will be treasured for years to come.

On Friday, 10th November Woolhampton Primary School held their commemoration service, taken by Rev. Jane Manley and accompanied by Alison Dean, an ordinand from Cuddesdon undertaking her third year placement in the benefice. The service was well attended by the children and parents. The year six children wrote some beautiful war poems (which are printed below) and then read out the names of the fallen. Mrs Sharon Lester played the Last Post and Reveille.

On Saturday morning, Elstree School held their service. The Reverend Stephen Gray, Conduct of Eton College, recounted a heart-warming story about an encounter between his grandfather and a German fighter pilot, who crash landed in the fields at his farm, back in 1940. The school remembered the 139 Old Boys of Elstree who gave their lives in the two Great Wars, and all those who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

On Sunday morning the village came together for its Remembrance Service. Lieut. General James Bashall, who has been President of the Royal British Legion for the last four years, read the names of the 19 men who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and wreaths were laid by representatives of the Parish Council, The Royal British Legion and the Scout movement. The cubs and scouts carried the standards and the last post was played. James Bashall gave a moving account of his first-hand experience of losing fellow soldiers in war and encouraged the congregation to make the best of each day, regardless of age.

Three members of the congregation wore their service medals with pride.

Given the current global situation, the Remembrance Services felt particularly poignant this year. The congregations were in good voice and the trumpeters excelled themselves.

“Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.”

Catherine Lovell



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Death Day

Tears falling down like rain relentlessly
Falling from the sky.
Soldiers screaming.
Our lives their loss.
Sky fall of bombs.
Trenches filled with blood.

Young, innocent men fighting.
No time for worries many come across.
Bomb after bomb, explosion after explosion, kill after kill.

Planes crashing, boarding boats.
Men getting ready for the battle ahead.
Soldiers appearing out of the shadows.
Battlefields filled with a sight of tired,
Terrified men not knowing what's happening next.

Row on row the soldiers lie.
Poppies grow, sunset glow.
Upon Flanders field the larks still sing.
Someone's husband, someone's brother, someone's son.
We will remember everyone.
Death-day

Brave boats packed with shell-shocked soldiers.
Brace and scared men not knowing
If this will be their last hour.
Big bombs already falling down.
Soldiers lying on the crimson sand.

Gunshot firing, bombs falling.
Soldiers drowning in their grief.
They take their last breathe and fall to the floor
Now to be remembered forever more.

The poppies grow row on row
Where soldiers lost their lives.
That was death-day.





REMEMBRANCE DAY

Day of Doom

The soldiers fight for their lives
Most of them will perish,
The dark and gloomy crimson sky
The bombs fall down, exploding on the soldiers
The soldiers scrabbling off the boats
Most of the soldiers went home because of shell shock.

Bombs explode like fireworks
Gunfire as loud as the sea monster roaring
Soldiers sinking like quick sand
Soldiers blood corrupting the beaches

The battle field was so chaotic
Soldiers limping with gaping wounds
Tanks shooting across the beach
Boats delivering soldiers to war

Boats splashing against the water
Soldiers talking to each other for the last time
Tanks tyre tracks across the deadly beach
Innocent soldiers dying for their country





REMEMBRANCE DAY

The day of darkness

Bood shot collapsing innocent lives,
Being sacrificed more and more,
Dead lying on the desolate floor,
Row on row soldiers lay.
Someone's husband, brother, father, son
Now will fade away.
Soldiers screaming, guns shooting,
No time to be scared, no time to turn back.
As now they lay upon the clouds. —

The gunfire is relentless,
Like the sound of fireworks on bonfire night,
The bangs fly inches past your skull and into your ears,
Until you can stand it no more
HURRY BOYS GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR,
GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR
Is all we ever yell.

People hiding behind bushes for cover
Hailing to dash past all the men,
Feeling sorry for not helping them.

The almighty dreadful sound of gunshots and screaming,
The sand was a crimson red from all the blood,
But they all kept going forward
Preparing to fight.

**They gave their
tomorrow
for our today
And now for them we
will pray.**





REMEMBRANCE DAY

St Matthew's, Midgham



Thank you for the beautiful light show

St Peters Remembrance Service
Sermon by Lieutenant General James Bashall CB CBE

12 Nov 2023

Just over one hundred and five years ago at exactly this time – 11 O’Clock - on the 11th day of the 11th month, the guns of the Great War – the War to end all wars – fell silent. Along a 200 mile front in France and Belgium, stunned and almost disbelieving on hearing the news, soldiers took off their helmets, unloaded their weapons, and sat silently in a moment of reflection. The end had been foreseen for several weeks; but even in the last days of fighting the casualties had continued on both sides. And at the end, as thoughts turned to home and a return to normality, many men reflected on the losses. The British Military – had lost around 750,000 thousand men killed; more than one in 7 of the adult population under 25 had died, and about one in nine households lost someone in the war; and on top of that were the many thousands of physically and mentally wounded who lived in pain and turmoil for the rest of their lives.

Of course, it was not the war to end all wars; and within 20 years war had been declared once again with Germany, and a second more deadly world war ensued for a further six years. And war sadly has continued to this day. So what relevance does this all have for us in Woolhampton today?

Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth. It was called “Armistice Day” to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War; and was later renamed as Remembrance Day by the Royal British Legion; and since the end of WW2, it has moved to the nearest Sunday to the 11th of November, whilst in more recent times we have also returned to marking Armistice Day on the 11th. And Remembrance Day means what it says, it is a day to remember. But what does Remembrance Day mean to you? Let me start by telling you what it means to me. My

regiment – the Parachute Regiment - has paid an enormous price in casualties suffered in operational service over the past 40 years. I knew all 3 men who were killed in Iraq, some of the 53 killed in NI, and many of 39 who died in Afghanistan. I did not know any of the 40 killed in FI; but the scars of the conflict were very evident when I joined the Regiment two years after the conflict ended. The names of those killed fill boards of remembrance in Regimental headquarters, and all 3 who won posthumous VCs have paintings depicting their action hanging on the walls of the Officers' Mess. So for me remembrance is very personal, and I remember today those who I knew well, those I had served alongside; and also their families who continue to bear the consequences of bereavement.

But, what about you? For those of you of a younger generation, the generation who were born in this century, the wars of the 20th Century may have little meaning, except perhaps for those who had relations and loved ones who served when you were growing up. For all of us however I suggest Remembrance Day is about three things. First, it's a very necessary reminder of suffering and sacrifice by ordinary men and women in the interests of our nation and our cherished values. We commemorate this unique event every year; and on this one special day of the year, we should honour the people who were willing to give up everything, so that you and I can live together peacefully and respectfully, and to ensure that this country remains a land of peace and harmony.

Freedom is never free, it comes with the highest of costs.

Secondly, it's about Not Forgetting. The challenge with much of our lives is we forget and move on all too quickly. In order to ensure we did not forget tens of thousands of communities across the nation at the end of WW1 built memorials in every town and village in our country – many of which are very similar to the one which sits today in the

graveyard of St Peters; and that's why we in Britain wear our Poppies, as a reminder, so each generation of men and women should not forget what was done on their behalf. These memorials are there to help us to remember; they are there as visual aids to remind us of how, in the mercy of God, we've been delivered from tyranny ... "lest we forget". So, I would ask you in the years to come in your lives to continue to buy and wear a poppy at this time of year; and to mentally say to yourselves you will not forget what was done so you may live free and happy lives.

Finally, today is a day of wider reflection; when we reflect on the dead of all generations and all wars; and all loss of life. Writing in 1624, the poet John Donne wrote these lines: 'any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.' Donne is making the point we are all connected, when one dies, we all die a little; that humanity is joined together, and this is even more prescient in the 21st Century. We all should care about and reflect on the nature of human existence, and view with sadness the simple truth that war and violence continues to dominate the lives of many across the world. Something which is all too evident today in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. I pray the day may come when war itself shall be no more. Soldiers don't wish to go to war; many who have seen the consequences of violence at first hand, remain disturbed by what they have seen for the rest of their lives. It is hard also to understand the evil of war, unless you have seen it for yourself. I have worked with British military veterans over many years; and have seen at first hand the horrific affects of conflict , and the damage done to ordinary men and women. It was not only those who lost limbs or sight, there were many who were intelligent confident people, who now cannot concentrate, cannot remember things and cannot socialise anymore. The cost of war is great indeed.

The valour of all service men and women is that in choosing to serve our country we have each freely written a blank cheque to the Government and to the Nation upon which we have promised to pay the bearer on demand the total of four lives. Duty and sacrifice are one side of this contract. The other side seems to me the responsibility laid on each and every one of us, to live each day we are granted by God, the privilege and gift of life, in a way that keeps faith with those who paid the sacrifice of their lives. To remember them is not enough. We must strive to live in a manner in which we take active responsibility over everything we may positively impact. Our responsibility, our duty is to be a good person, a good neighbour and a good citizen. And on this remembrance day, I ask that you reflect on the good fortune you have to live in Berkshire and to be sat in this beautiful old church, and to determine to make the most of the opportunities which lie before you whatever age you may be; so the sacrifice of previous generations is not wasted.



News from our communities



WORSHIP ON WEEKDAYS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

- th Wednesday 14 February 2024
- 10 a.m. to midday
- St. Peter's Woolhampton, RG7 5TB
- Join us as we come together for WOW!
This relaxed, informal and friendly session starts with **tea, toast and toys** and a chance for parents, grandparents and carers to get together for a chat.
A short, informal worship starts at 11 am and we finish it all off with cake! What better way to spend a Wednesday morning?
FUN, FRIENDLY, FREE



News from our communities

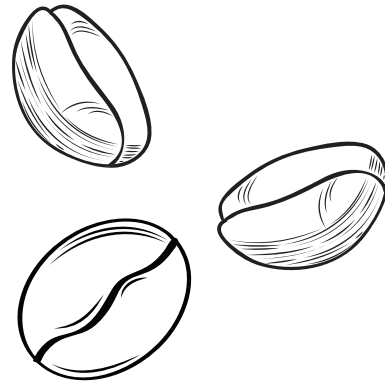
Brimpton Church 100 Club

The winner for November was number 121 - Rhoda Nikolay

COFFEE MORNING (SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH) IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN
10:00 am-11:30 am

WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2023
WEDNESDAY 10th JANUARY 2024
WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2024



Everyone (including dogs) welcome

St Peter's Church Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale

Sincere thanks to all the stalwarts who braved the very wet and very windy weather to join us for the coffee morning and bring and buy sale on 8 November.

Lots of homemade preserves and cakes were on sale together with an array of other goodies. We are pleased to announce that over £300.00 was taken on the day. It is also a great delight to announce this amount enabled us to reach the target for the costs of the under- pew heating.

All in all, a very rewarding day. Thank you to everyone who came and all those who helped beforehand and on the day.

Brenda Scott
On behalf of the PCC

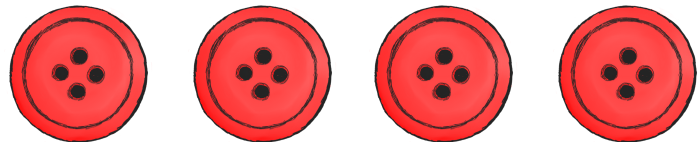


News from our communities

With my Rotary wife hat on, I am making a plea for buttons (approx. 15-20cms). A group of us are knitting socks to go to the wounded in Ukraine. If you have buttons sitting in an old tin at home, please can you spare some? I can be contacted on 0118 971 3113 or mrsbscott@btinternet.com. Happy to collect or they can be dropped off at St Peter's Church, Brimpton.

Thank you in advance.

Brenda Scott



ST PETER'S WOOLHAMPTON

A big thank you to Lynda Large who has organised the rota to clean St. Peter's Woolhampton so efficiently. The time has come for her to pass on the baton.

As ever, many hands make light work, so if you have a couple of hours to spare from time to time it would make the job of keeping the church clean easier for everyone.

If you can help, please contact Catherine Lovell
07778 179852 or catherine@monksmead.co.uk



Carols with bread and wine



**Come and see the Old Year out
as we sing carols
and share bread and wine together at the Communion**



**Sunday 31st December 10am
At St Peter's Brimpton**



Brimpton Church

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 10th December at 4pm

followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Let us know if you would like to join our informal

Choir from Scratch

Sue Moore 0118 9713858, susanmoore50@hotmail.com

Patricia Brims 0118 9714085, pcbrims@hotmail.com

One practice – Saturday 9th December at 9.30 am

All ages and all voices welcome

MIDGHAM

St Matthew's, Church Hill
First Thursday of the month
December 7th, January 4th, February 1st
Join us for tea, cake and fellowship
2.00pm in the church

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information
henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com



Aldermaston Coffee Club
In the conservatory area of Hilliers' café.



Drop by for a chat, a chance to
meet old friends and to make
new ones.

Everyone is welcome, just turn
up!

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each
month.


Any time from 10 until 11.30am

For further details contact: Cynthia Newman 0118 9713525

MR SID INGLIS OF ELSTREE SCHOOL IS
'BEST HEAD OF PREP SCHOOL'!
CONGRATULATIONS FROM EVERYONE IN THE
BENEFICE ON YOUR AWARD MR INGLIS.



Advertising for local businesses



We are keen to support small, local businesses and would love to offer to advertise for you, for free, in this digital magazine. If you have a service which you feel that our 1000s of local readers could benefit from, please email for a chat. There is a limited amount of space that we'd like to use for adverts, so be quick!



For more details, and to book your advertising space, please get in touch with Michelle
weddings.awb@gmail.com



WEDDINGS!



AT

St Mary's, Aldermaston
St Mary's Beenham
St Peter's Brimpton
St Matthew's Midgham
St Nicholas' Wasing

and

St Peter's Woolhampton

**Please get in touch to see
how to qualify to hold
your wedding ceremony in
one of our beautiful, rural
churches.**



www.awb.org.uk

West Berks Foodbank

If you're worried about money and struggling to afford essentials, call our free helpline for personalised support

0808 208 2138

**Help Through
Hardship Helpline**



**Free phone service open
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**

Closed on public holidays

**The Help through Hardship helpline
is a free phone service
delivered in partnership with
Trussell Trust and Citizens Advice.**

**The Help through Hardship
helpline is a free phone
service delivered in
partnership with Trussell
Trust and Citizens Advice. For
all other information call:
07836 500610**

**If you are in need the foodbank is available 7
days per week. Food parcels delivered to you.
Call 01635 760560**

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

**Details of items urgently needed and low in stock can be found by visiting
<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>**

WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT....

IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS

Drop off locations:

Aldermaston and Wasing: The Rectory, Wasing Lane and 19 Swan Drive, The Wharf.

Beenham: Inside the gate at Beenham Primary School

Brimpton: Inside the porch at St Peter's Church and Georgina Hairdressers

Midgham: St Matthew's Church. Open daily between 09:00-15:00

Woolhampton: Inside the porch at St Peter's Church

www.awb.org.uk

RECIPE FOR DECEMBER

PLOT TWIST - THERE ISN'T ONE - BUT

Do you know why we eat Turkey at Christmas?

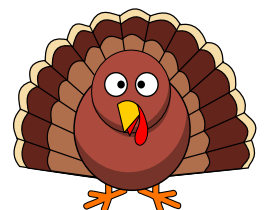
Turkey is one of the most iconic features of a Christmas dinner. For many families, it simply isn't a Christmas dinner without a turkey. However, most people don't know where this tradition started, or why it is that turkeys - rather than goose, chicken or beef - are the most popular option on Christmas Day.

Although turkeys aren't native to the UK, they have been eaten in Britain for hundreds of years. There is documentation of turkeys being imported into the UK in the early 16th century, and Henry VIII was apparently the first British monarch to enjoy turkey on Christmas day. However, it took over 400 years for the turkey to go from a specialty, luxury item to the most popular festive centrepiece across the UK.

Turkey's modern popularity is often a source of stress. Although a huge roast turkey is something of a showstopper, they are infamously difficult to cook. Turkeys' huge size - in part natural, and in part due to centuries of careful breeding - makes them difficult to cook through without drying out. Many families choose to purchase a turkey crown, which is smaller and easier to cook more evenly than a full turkey. However, turkey crowns are even more expensive than turkeys. It speaks to the popularity of turkey in Britain that shoppers are willing to spend, per kilogram, twice the amount that they would on a whole turkey on a turkey crown in order to make sure that they still have some form of turkey on their Christmas table.

Where do turkeys come from?

Turkeys, it may not surprise you to hear, are not native to the UK. They arrived in the UK in the early sixteenth century, around 1524 according to the Chronicle of the Kings of England. British merchants bought them from Spanish conquistadors who brought the birds back from Mexico, where they had been domesticated from the wild species over many years by indigenous Mexicans. The Norfolk Black turkey breed is thought to be directly descended from this early turkey breed. The Norfolk Black was bred in the UK for over 200 years, before eventually being transported back to the Americas with European colonists. However, the breed has gradually declined in popularity, and is now relatively rare in both the UK and the USA. Although in the 16th century turkey was very expensive, as turkey farms spread across the UK eating turkey at Christmas took off in popularity. But, it wasn't until the 19th century that turkey became the standard Christmas dinner fare for families around the UK.



Carols around the Tree

**Come and join us this year for the
Community's traditional
Carols on the Loosey in Aldermaston
7pm on Christmas Eve**

For further details Contact

Rev'd Jane

0118 9712 891

jmanley.awb@gmail.com



SERVICES AND EVENTS

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2023 THROUGHOUT THE BENEFICE

Sunday 3rd December : Advent Sunday

St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am Holy Communion

4pm Christingle Service

St Peter's, Brimpton 9.15am Holy Communion

St Matthew's, Midgham 9.15am BCP Communion

St Nicholas, Wasing 10.45am Advent Carol Service

10th December: The Second Sunday of Advent

St Mary's, Aldermaston 10.45am Holy Communion

St Mary's, Beenham 6pm Carol Service

St Peter's, Brimpton 4pm Carol Service

St Matthew's, Midgham 9.15am Holy Communion

St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Holy Communion

17th December: The Third Sunday of Advent

St Mary's, Aldermaston 10.45am Holy Communion

St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am Holy Communion

St Peter's, Brimpton 9.15am Morning Praise

St Matthew's, Midgham 6pm Carol Service

St Peter's, Woolhampton 4pm Carol Service

31st December: The First Sunday of Christmas

St Peter's, Brimpton 10am Holy Communion with Carols

Everyone is welcome to any of our services.

We aim to be entirely inclusive, if there is something you need in order to ensure church is a welcoming and comfortable place for you, please let us know.

For further details about our churches and services:

The Rev'd Jane Manley 01189 712 891 jmanley.awb@gmail.com

For information about weddings and baptisms:

Michelle Galbraith 07568 184704



Christmas Services across the Benefice

Christmas Eve

St Matthew's, Midgham 11am Crib Service
St Peter's, Woolhampton 3pm Crib Service
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston 4pm Crib Service
St Nicholas, Wasing 9pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston 10.45am
Family Communion
St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am Family Communion
St Matthew's, Midgham 9.15am
Family Communion
St Peter's, Brimpton 10.45 am Family Communion
St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Family
Communion





SERVICES AND EVENTS

Crib Services on Christmas Eve

St Matthew's, Midgham at 11am
St Peter's, Woolhampton at 3pm
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston at 4pm



Please come and help act out the Christmas Story dressed as angels, shepherds, kings or anything you think will help us tell the story.

We will sing well known carols as the story is told, and the service will last no longer than 45 minutes.

Everyone is welcome!



WASING

1759

COME ALONG TO OUR
**Christmas Carols
& Craft Fair**

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

From 4.30 pm
Festive Food & Drink
Local Craft Market

From 5 pm
Santa's Grotto

From 6.15 pm
Tadley Concert Brass Band
Christmas Carols

All in aid of the Mount Charity



wasing.digitickets.co.uk

  @Wasing1759

We are delighted to be hosting Wasing's Christmas Carols & Craft Fair evening on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at Wasing Park.

From 4.30pm - Our beautiful Garden Room will be bursting with festive cheer, opening its doors to our local community. Join us for delicious festive food and drinks including mince pies and mulled wine and a craft fair curated by local crafters where we will also be offering Wasing produce, perfect for Christmas gift shopping!

From 5pm - Father Christmas will arrive in his spectacular Castle Barn grotto, welcoming children and awarding a special gift for all little ones on his Nice List.

From 6.15pm - We'll be hosting live Christmas carols accompanied by Tadley Concert Brass.

Tickets are £2.50 each and all proceeds will go to The Mount Charity which actively supports a variety of local causes throughout the year.

To purchase tickets, please visit <https://wasing.digitickets.co.uk/>

For any queries, please email events@wasing.co.uk

<https://www.wasing.co.uk/lyrical/381-Christmas-Carols-&-Craft-Fair-At-Wasing-2023>

www.awb.org.uk



SUNDAY READINGS DECEMBER 2023



Date	First Reading	Gospel	Liturgical Colour
Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday	Isaiah 64.1-9	Mark 13.24-end	Purple
Sunday 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40.1-11	Mark 1.1-8	Purple
Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61.1-4,8- end	John 1.6-8, 19-28	Purple
24th December Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52.7-10	John 1.1-14	White
25th December Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7	Luke 2.1-14	White
31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61.10-62.3	Luke 2.15-21	White

Occasional services during November 2023

WEDDINGS

4 th November Samuel Addy and Charlotte Gibbs at St Nicholas, Wasing

17 th November Stuart Gough and Lucy Fitchet at St Nicholas, Wasing

18 th November Tobias McNally and Emily Hitchen at St Nicholas, Wasing

‘And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love’



FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES



Christmas Dingbats

DONKEY DONKEY	HODRIVEME XMAS XMAS XMAS XMAS	S	EMINEM
1	2	3	4
	SENFRA NKSE	Sn	FIR <hr/> HERE HERE HERE
5	6	7	8
Hurrah	+ OUTLET		NOE
9	10	11	12
Grrrr + 2.54cms	<i>Jingle</i> <i>Jingle</i> <i>Jingle</i> END	HORROR Dec 24th	JACK
13	14	15	16
CASHEW	EVE EVE EVE HOLLY HOLLY CAROL	CARIBBEAN OFFSPRING HEY HI HELLO	CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS
17	18	19	20

ANSWERS TO WEDDINGS.AWB@GMAIL.COM – ASK YOUR GROWN UP
TO HELP IF YOU GET STUCK – GOOD LUCK!

O COME LET
US ADORE
HIM



Christianbook.com
1-800-CHRISTIAN

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The past month has been packed with lots of activities in school. Two Open Mornings were held when we welcomed prospective families for the September 2024 intake, showing them around the whole school and answering those important questions. Our children are the best advert for our school and we are proud of them. Individual visits can be arranged through the school office. Parents' evenings took place and our teachers enjoyed showing parents how well the children have settled into their learning this year. Teachers are always happy to talk with parents about how their child is getting on and are available daily for a quick chat at the end of the day. Our work on road safety has continued, looking at everything from being visible, understanding stopping distances and the challenges of hearing electric cars have been discussed and considered and it was great to see practical sessions in our school car park helping the children to understand safely crossing roads.

Our value for this term is 'Hope' and we will be sharing lots of bible stories on this theme and thinking about why hope is important when we look at what is happening in the world around us. In class, the children are following the example of our Thinker Firefly learning hero who is full of ideas and uses a creative and imaginative approach to solve problems. The Firefly hero also promotes the British value of respecting different cultures and religions. Children will be thinking about how we celebrate diversity and welcome the chance to learn about ideas and beliefs that are different from our own.

All classes have been looking at acts of remembrance as we approached Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. Each child has helped to create a poppy wreath for their class. Our Year 6 class made the annual visit to the Aldermaston War Memorial where we held a short open air service to remember those who lost their lives while fighting from our local area. We laid the five class wreaths at the lychgate.

Finally, thanks to everyone who joined us for our PTA Fireworks and to the team which worked so hard to put on this community event.

On behalf of everyone at the school may I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS

WOOLHAMPTON SCHOOL

On 7th November, a number of governors gathered at school for our annual 'governors day'. Members of the governing body were invited into lessons, spent time meeting and talking to children, with an focus on the strategic development of the school. It was a lovely opportunity to draw together all we do as governors, whilst remembering that the children remain firmly at the centre of our decision making.

During governors' day, we were joined by Laura Dean, chair of the Friends of Woolhampton School (FOWS) committee. At Woolhampton, we are very lucky to have a committed group of parents and friends of the school, who work tirelessly to raise additional funds to support projects that fall outside of the school budget. FOWS have been building momentum and increasing their efforts over recent months.

On 5th November, FOWS held their first ever fireworks night and number of parent governors were on hand to offer their support with manning the entrance, directing cars and selling ever popular light up toys! Several other governors were in attendance, or supported in other ways, and it was a privilege to see many of the ROCK (respect, optimism, compassion and koinonia) values in action. There was certainly a huge dose of optimism from Laura in getting the event off the ground in the early stages, and a whole load of koinonia (community) on the day itself. Members of the public came from far and wide, and several pupils of the school commented that they were proud to be part of a school that put on such an amazing evening.

The governors would like to thank FOWS for their continues efforts and we look forward to supporting with their future grand plans!

Kelly Mitchell



Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Diary Adventures at Brimpton School

Mental Health Awareness Day - Dear diary

We had a lovely time today, and this is what we did today and so it went like this. We came in to a calm relaxing environment and did some beautiful colourings. After spending some time doing our colourings we went into assembly. In our assembly our wonderful head teacher told us all about what our mental health is and how to help others with their mental health. After Break we all got together and calmly played fun games such as board games like chess and Monopoly or card games such as Uno or top trumps. After lunch we came in and could either carry on with our colourings or read a book. Then we all got together in the hall and put all the soft cushions down and watched a movie (which was really funny)

Harvest Festival – Dear diary

Today was awesome! We had a normal first half of the day but then after lunch we paired up and got to go to the church. Once we got there we went and sat in our seats admiring the lovely scenic glass paintings, there was amazing music such as we plough the fields and scatter. As the music played we began to walk up the red velvety carpet to place our food on the altar for people who need it. Once the music had stopped Mrs Davies spoke to us and our family's about harvest then Reverend Jane who spoke for a bit about food donations then It was time for the classes to each do their performances (we all were a bit nervous) then once we had done that we sang Cauliflowers Fluffy. It's important to feel we are helping others and giving thanks.

Hampton Court Palace - Dear diary

When we arrived at school we left for Hampton Court on a bus almost immediately so there was no being late! After we got off the bus it was a short walk to get to the castle, we met Anne Harris and got a tour around the palace grounds Alex got crowned King Henry VII and got treated as well as you can imagine, Ben got given the role of toilet cleaner but did get given sick pay and as much food as he needed, Bluebell was the baker (not the kings) and Lawrence was the cleaner. Then we looked around a bit in the afternoon it was all amazing! The building was trimmed with gold and really transported us back in time.

Written by C Jones and N Wheeler – Year 6

If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School

Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311

office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk