



Church Contacts

The Benefice of Chew Valley West

The Revd Dr Ian Mills,	<u>Rector</u> The Rectory, 4 Parsonage Lane, Winford, BS40 8DG chewvalleywest@gmail.com	(01275) 474504
The Revd Fran Smettem	<u>Curate</u> curatechewvalleywest@gmail.com	(01934) 340682

WINFORD - St. Mary & St. Peter

Churchwarden	Alan Clark	(01275) 472019
Safeguarding Officer	Carole Hope	333544
PCC Treasurer	Carol House	472245
PCC Secretary	Sonia Clark	472019
Organist	Bridget Smith	472798
Stewardship Scheme	Kate Elgood	472459
Magazine Adverts	Anne Wawn	474442

REGIL - St. James

Church Steward	Yvonne Chapman	472648
Church Treasurer	Morris Stuckey	472787
Committee Secretary	Jane Keedwell	472369
Organist	Bridget Smith	472798

FELTON COMMON HILL - St. Katharine

Churchwarden & PCC Treasurer	Jan Longden	472440
Churchwarden	Lizzie Patch	07714 376 455
PCC Secretary & Organist	Maureen Mullett	472683

Magazine Editor

Glenis Shiner parishmagfelton@hotmail.com 472564

Submission Deadline: 17th of each month, please

Ministry to Families and Children

Baptism Enquiries	The Rector	474504
'Sunday First' Family Worship	The Rector	474504
Sparklers	Sonia Clark	472019
Children's Choirs	Carole Hope	333544

Details of our services, events, contacts and Safeguarding policies are on our Benefice website:
www.chewvalleywest.org



Worship in Our Churches

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

9.00 am
11.00 am
3.00 pm

FELTON – St. Katharine
WINFORD - St. Mary & St. Peter
NEMPNETT THRUBWELL - St. Mary

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER

9.00 am
10.30 am
6.00 pm

NEMPNETT THRUBWELL – St. Mary
CHEW STOKE – St. Andrew
REGIL – St. James

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER

11.00 am
3.00 pm
6.30 pm

FELTON – St. Katharine
WINFORD – St. Mary & St. Peter
CHEW STOKE – St. Andrew

CHRISTMAS EVE

11.00 am
2.00 pm
4.00 pm
6.30 pm
9.00 pm

FELTON – St. Katharine
WINFORD – S. Mary & St. Peter
CHEW STOKE – St. Andrew
NEMPNETT THRUBWELL – St. Mary
WINFORD – St. Mary & St. Peter

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am
9.00 am
10.30 am

REGIL – St. James
NEMPNETT THRUBWELL – St. Mary
CHEW STOKE – St. Andrew

SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

11.00 am

FELTON – St. Katharine

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY

9.00 am
10.30 am

REGIL – St. James
CHEW STOKE – St. Andrew

SUNDAY 14th JANUARY

9.30 am
11.00 am

NEMPNETT THRUBWELL – St. Mary
FELTON – St. Katharine

SUNDAY 21st ANUARY

8.30 am
6.30 pm

REGIL – St. James
CHEW STOKE – St. Andrew

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY

9.00 am
11.00 am
6.30 pm

FELTON – St. Katharine
REGIL – St. James
NEMPNETT THRUBWELL – St. Mary

ADVENT SUNDAY

Morning Worship
Eucharist
Advent Carols & Christingle

ADVENT 2

Eucharist
Eucharist
Carol Service

ADVENT 3

Eucharist
Carol Service
Carol Service

Carol Service

Crib Service

Crib Service

Carol Service

First Eucharist of Christmas

Holy Communion (BCP)

Eucharist

Eucharist

CHRISTMAS 1

Eucharist (Combined)

THE EPIPHANY

Morning Worship

Eucharist

EPIPHANY 2

Eucharist

Eucharist

EPIPHANY 3

Holy Communion (BCP)

Evensong

EPIPHANY 4

Morning Worship

Eucharist

Evensong

From January 2024 our clergy will be also be conducting services in Stowey and Bishop Sutton. For a full list, please see our website.

Please note that due to restoration work, there will be no services held in Winford during January. Combined services will be held in St James', Regil.

From the Rector



One of the privileges of being a priest is being recognised. This takes a bit of getting used to, but throughout my ministry I have been blessed by so many interesting conversations in the most unexpected places—all thanks to the piece of white plastic I wear as a collar. Whether in our hospitals, our schools, the pub, or the petrol station, it seems we still want to talk about faith. People have shared with me their fears, vulnerabilities, and concerns as well as their stories of answered prayer.

It is sad that we have fewer priests serving our villages than we once did. Our Diocese is under severe financial strain and, to quote Bishop Michael, we have had to find ways to cover many more slices of toast with the same amount of butter! But it is worth remembering that ministry is something that we can and should all be part of. Our churches are full of hardworking and hard-pressed volunteers who serve God and their communities not because they wear a collar, but because they carry a much more important sign—the sign of the cross which they received at their baptism.

As our group expands to welcome the parishes of Bishop Sutton and Stowey over the coming months, it is a good opportunity to thank God for those who carry that sign of ministry into their communities in gentle, every-day, unassuming ways.

Soon we will celebrate Christmas in our homes, churches and schools. At its heart, Christmas is about being able to recognise someone in the most unexpected of places. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth, not wearing distinctive robes or even a collar—he came as a vulnerable child, born in the squalor of a cattle shed.

I pray that amid the busyness of the season we will be able to recognise the Christ Child and take time to join the shepherds, wisemen and angels in worshipping him.

I wish you God's richest blessing for a peaceful Christmas.

Yours, in Christ,

Tan K. Mills +



Sparklers

Christmas Sparklers, will meet on **Monday 18th December** in **Winford Church** at **1.45pm**. Join us for an hour of fellowship, craft, activities, conversation, and refreshments.

Due to expected restoration work in church, Sparklers will not meet in January 2024.



Prayer

A **Prayer Request Box** is located in St Mary & St Peter's, Winford. Requests can be left confidentially at any stage.

Our **Contemplative Prayer Group** will continue to meet in St Andrew's, Chew Stoke on **Monday 4th December** and **Monday 8th January** at 10.00am.



Community & Children's Choirs

The next rehearsal for **Chew Valley West Community Choir** will be held on **Tuesday 12th December** in **Winford Church** at **7.00pm**. New members are always welcome. The atmosphere is relaxed, the music is fun, and membership is free!

Our choirs are looking forward to performing at **A Village Christmas**. Details may be found below.



A Village Christmas

Our popular carol concert entitled **A Village Christmas** will return on **Thursday 14th December 2023** at **7.00pm** in Winford Church. Come along and enjoy songs and carols from our Community Choir and Children's Choirs. Admission is free with a retiring collection in support of St Mary & St Peter's, Winford Restoration Appeal



Midweek Holy Communion

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing is held in our group of parishes on the **first** and **third Wednesdays** of each month at 10.30 am.

Wednesday 6th December 2023	FELTON - St Katharine
Wednesday 20th December 2023	CHEW STOKE - St Andrew
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	FELTON – St Katharine
Wednesday 17th January 2024	CHEW STOKE – St Andrew

St. James Church, Regil – Flower and Cleaning Rota

December - Jane Keedwell & Jo Dando

January – Trish Laws & Ali Simmons

Churchyard Appeal

In recent years, a lack of volunteers has meant we must pay gardeners to help with the upkeep of our churchyards. We do our best to maintain our churchyards in a way that is safe, economical and environmentally sound.

This is expensive, with the cost being met entirely by donations from our regular worshippers. Our churches receive no funding from the Church of England or local authority, and we must pay a hefty annual Parish Share contribution to the Diocese of Bath & Wells (in 2024 this will amount to **£12,613** for Felton and **£20,278** for Winford with Regil).

We are very grateful to everyone who supports our churches. If you are able to make a donation towards the upkeep of our churchyards, please contact a Churchwarden or Treasurer (contact details on page 1). Thank you.

Bishop's Letter - A Unique Story

When I speak to my Mum on my birthday, she often recalls to me the events that surrounded my arrival in the world. These include nearly being born in the hospital lift, my older brother being smuggled in to see me under my dad's overcoat and of various aunts sneaking onto the maternity ward out of visiting hours by wearing their WRVS uniforms.

Each of us has a unique story about our birth. At Christmas we'll be recounting once again the story that we share about another birth - the birth of Jesus. Across the world we'll be re-telling and re-enacting what happened in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. We'll recall the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth in the stable, the arrival of the shepherds, the song of the angels, the visit of the Magi.

Our own birth stories are unique to each of us. Jesus's is common to us all. And not just because we all know about it. For in our recollection of Jesus' birth, we'll also be remembering that in him, God came to be at one with us. In Jesus God arrived to share fully in our humanity, experiencing complete solidarity with every aspect of our human condition. Jesus is 'God with us' – in trenches in Ukraine, bomb shelters in Israel and Gaza, in hospital wards where loved ones die, in relationships where there is conflict and distress.

Just as much as he is with us in our greatest joys and our deepest woes, Jesus is also for us. One of the earliest teachers of the Church said this: 'He became what we are so that we might become what he is.' The baby born in Bethlehem stands with us not only in all that we experience. This child also comes to offer us the possibility of opening every part of our lives to the transforming power of God's life of love and joy and peace. He comes so that every day we can become a little more like him.

This is the good news of Christmas and may it be yours this year
A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Bishop Michael

Winford Community Shop News December 2023

Following a successful AGM and shareholders meeting on Tuesday 7th November the committee and shareholders agreed securing the future of the shop beyond the expiry of the lease in May 2024 a priority. If we are unable to renew the lease, we may have the opportunity to buy the freehold of the premises and would need to raise substantial funds to do this.

Significant funding may be available under a government Community Ownership Fund, and we are starting to apply to see if this is possible. In support of an application, we will need to gather evidence from our customers and residents and need your help. If you value having a shop and post office in the village, even if you only use it occasionally, can we ask you to take a few minutes to complete our questionnaire. Paper copies are available in the shop with hopefully an electronic version to follow shortly.

Finally, a reminder that in the run up to Christmas we have lots of seasonal stock, Christmas treats, cards and wrappings, diaries and calendars.

Christmas opening hours are as follows	Shop	Post Office
Dec 25 th	Closed	Closed
Dec 26 th	Open 9.00 – 11.00 am	Closed
Dec 27 th - 31 st	Normal Hours	Normal Hours
Jan 1 st	Open 9.00 – 11.00 am	Closed

All the committee thank the staff and volunteers for their hard work and support throughout the year. We thank you for your custom and wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

On behalf of the shop committee Simon Martin

Winford Village Hall for Parish magazine (written 14th Nov. 2023)

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Thank you for taking part in and for supporting the Murder Mystery evening which was a great success. We are having a bit of a rest until after Christmas but intend to think of some more events for next year.

As we keep asking, we really, really need more help to run the committee. A few extra people joining us would make so much difference. We would be able to reach a bigger audience and make less work for the present committee members.

Some of the ways you could help are: cutting the hedges, weeding around the hall, taking turns to take the rubbish home to put in your bin, be part of a team to set heating for hirers, occasionally open up and close up after bookings. There are not many of us available sometimes when some of us are on holiday. Just contact one of us if at all able to help.

Present members to contact

Denise Poole 01275 472797

email denise.poole@hotmail.co.uk

Joe Herring 01275 474270

email joe1wigwam@aol.com

Lynne Barnes 01275472628

email lynne@thecomunicators.uk

Once again, we hope you have a lovely Christmas

Denise Poole on behalf of the committee

Winford Primary School PTA – Christmas Fair -Saturday 2nd December 1.00 – 4.00 pm

Come join us for a festive fun filled afternoon, with lots of stalls and games to entertain all ages, including: Tombola, Face Painting, Glitter Tattoos, Mulled Wine, Crepes, Hot Chocolate and Bar.

Not forgetting our amazing Santa's Grotto

We will also have special performances from Winford School Choirs



Winford Coffee Morning.

The next coffee morning will be **Tuesday 12th December at The Prince of Waterloo from 11.00am.**

We are hoping that most people will stay on after coffee to have a spot of lunch at the pub to thank them for their hospitality over the past year. Do come along to meet old friends and make new ones. This is a regular event held on the second Tuesday of the month.

The January coffee morning will be Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Contact Lyndsay Newman, Village Agent 07967 345559.

Felton Village Hall

There are only a few remaining spaces for **Burns Night**, which we are celebrating at the hall on **Friday 26th January at 7.30pm**. The cost is **£20 per person**, which includes a three course meal and a tot of whisky. The haggis will be piped in followed by an address to the haggis. If you do not wish to have haggis there is cottage pie or a vegetarian option. To book your place please contact **Angela 472223 email: r.britton151@btinternet.com** or **Paul 472802 email: paulhatherell@btinternet.com**.

Please book your space early as there are limited spaces left.

Film Night is on Friday 19th January when we are screening **'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'**, featuring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. This story is an uplifting reminder that you are never too old to take a chance and kindness is less rare than you think.

100 club winners were drawn at the Film Night and the winners were

Mr P Chorley number 231 winning £50 and Mrs J Perry number 197 winning £25.

The hall management committee would like to thank people for their support over the past year and wish you all A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Felton & Winford Tuesday Group

A good turnout last month when Jack Gascoigne told us about the excellent work of the Billy Chip Charity. In just a few years the outlets supporting Billy Chip has grown enormously, supporting the homeless and rough sleepers.

This month is our **Christmas Party at the Village Hall on 12th December, 7.00pm for 7.30pm**. If you would like, bring a small wrapped gift up to the value of **£5.00**.

There won't be a meeting in January, we will start our programme on 14th February with **The Wind in the Willows**, an illustrated musical by Lewis and Furneaux.

Just a reminder, **subs of £15.00** will be due.

Do you love baking to the Batter End? We Knead You

We're looking for the next batch of bakers for the fifteenth series of **The Great British Bake Off**.



If you or someone you know is a talented home baker then apply now at www.applyforbakeoff.co.uk or email us on applyforbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk or call **0117 456 8530** for an application form.

Closing date for applications is 1.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

If you would like any more information or help in applying, please do get in touch! You can call us on **0117 456 8530** or email applyforbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk

Felton/Regil/Winford Community Transport

Here are the trips for December. Letters will be sent to regular passengers in December with information of January trips. If there is anyone who would like to have more information before the next edition of this magazine (February), please call me, Jan Longden, on **472440 or 07796 445091**, If I am out please leave a message and I will ring you back.

I would very much like to give up the organising of the bus trips, after having done them since the beginning (23 years). If there is anyone who would like to take it on, please contact me, Jan Longden.

We would still welcome helpers to take the money and generally assist the passengers so, if you would be willing to help with this, please do contact me.

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Date	Destination	Return fare
Friday 8 December	Taunton	£11.00 (Return 3.15 pm)
Thursday 14 December	Cadbury Garden Centre	£6.00

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Volunteer Car Drivers Needed – Can You Help?

Chew Valley Community Transport scheme exists to support local people to get to medically related appointments. We offer individual, door-to-door journeys, in the volunteer driver’s own car – and we’re always very happy to explain how we work to people interested in either using the service, or volunteering for us. Please call **01275 333430**.

Volunteering for CVCT is completely flexible, with no regular commitment of any kind – our drivers simply offer to take a passenger, if and when they wish, when they see that a specific journey has been requested.

All requests come through CVCT - passengers who call this number speak to a volunteer coordinator. The coordinator then liaises between passengers and drivers; passengers should not contact a driver directly. The passenger is asked to reimburse their driver in cash for mileage and any parking expenses.

Geographically, we cover all the villages in the rural area between the A38 and the A37: from Felton towards Dundry and Norton Malreward in the north, down towards Blagdon then across to Cameley and Clutton in the south.

Our drivers volunteer because it is such a useful, flexible role - and because they often enjoy some great conversations with many really very interesting people!

If you would like to find out more about volunteering (as a driver or coordinator) for CVCT please call 01275 333430 or email: cvct.coordinator@gmail.com

If you know of anyone who may need our services as a passenger please give them this phone number.

CVCT was set up as a Community Interest Company in 2010, under the auspices of WERN, the West of England Rural Network, and has some admin support from WERN.

We are not part of the new WestLink green bus service. We do not take groups of people on shopping or social trips - because we don’t run a mini-bus!

Diary for December 2023 and January 2024 at a Glance

Fri 1	Craft	Winford Village Hall	1.00 – 4.00 pm
Sat 2	PTA Christmas Fair	Winford Primary School	See Page 6
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Wed 6	Mobile Library	Winford, Lay-by on main road	11.35 am – 12.20 pm
Fri 8	Mini Bus Trip	Taunton	See Page 8
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Tues 12	Winford Coffee Morning	Prince of Waterloo	11.00 am
Tues 12	Felton & Winford Tues Group	Felton Village Hall	See Page 7
Tues 12	Community Choir	Winford Church	7.00 pm
Wed 13	Mobile Library	Lulsgate, Coombe Dale	10.40 – 11.00 am
		Felton, George & Dragon	11.05 – 11.25 am
		Regil, Regil Green	11.40 am – 12 noon
Thurs 14	Mini Bus Trip	Cadbury Garden Centre	See Page 8
Thurs 14	A Village Christmas	Winford Church	See Page 4
Fri 15	Craft	Winford Village Hall	1.00 – 4.00 pm
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Mon 18	Sparklers	Winford Church	1.45 pm
Mon 18	Winford Parish Council	Felton Village Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 20	Mobile Library	Winford Lay-by on main road	11.35 am – 12.20 pm
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Wed 27	No Mobile Library	Public Holiday	
.....			
January 2024			
Wed 3	Mobile Library	Winford Lay-by on main road	11.35 am – 12.20 pm
Fri 5	Craft	Winford Village Hall	1.00 – 4.00 pm
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Tues 9	Winford Coffee Morning	Prince of Waterloo	11.00 am
Wed 10	Mobile Library	Lulsgate, Coombe Dale	10.40 – 11.00 am
		Felton, George & Dragon	11.05 – 11.25 am
		Regil, Regil Green	11.40 am – 12 noon
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Mon 15	Winford Parish Council	Felton Village Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 17	Mobile Library	Winford Lay-by on main road	11.35 am – 12.20 pm
Fri 19	Craft	Winford Village Hall	1.00 – 4.00 pm
Fri 19	Film Night	Felton Village Hall	See Page 7
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Wed 24	Mobile Library	Lulsgate, Coombe Dale	10.40 – 11.00 am
		Felton, George & Dragon	11.05 – 11.25 am
		Regil, Regil Green	11.40 am – 12 noon
Fri 26	Burns Night	Felton Village Hall	See Page 7
.....			
Wed 31	Mobile Library	Winford Lay-by on main road	11.35 am – 12.20 pm
.....			

Felton Flower Show Society

At the AGM in November Laura Batt our guest speaker gave a very interesting talk about the work of Prickles Hedgehog Rescue Centre. We were given advice on how we can attract hedgehogs into our gardens. It was a shame that attendance was low, although given the awful weather and traffic issues this was not surprising.

Next year is our 70th Anniversary, so we will try to make the Annual Flower Show one to remember, with perhaps some classes relating to the 1950s. Several of the committee intend standing down after next year and, unless new members join, 2024 could be the last Show.

Last month we also had a festive flower demonstration by Janet Warden. It was nice to see so many new faces, most of whom hadn't done arrangements before. A very successful evening and our thanks to Kathryn for providing the mince pies.

On behalf of the Flower Show committee, we wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our thanks to all those in the community who helped and supported us during the year.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our events next year, the first of these being our Spring meeting in March.

Chew Valley Gadget Busters - here to help

December 6th The Queens, Chew Magna January 17th Stoke Inn, Chew Stoke

Having difficulty using the Green Buses, WESTLink App or website to book a ride? Or do you have problems using your laptop, iPad, tablet, phone or digital camera? Or maybe you want to make video calls, send photos or use WhatsApp to contact your friends and family, but don't know how.

Chew Valley Gadget Busters are holding face to face sessions, thanks to The Queens pub in Chew Magna and the Stoke Inn, Chew Stoke. So do visit **Gadget Busters** who are here to help.

Either book an appointment by e-mailing **cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com** or turn up on the day. We hold two, 2-hour sessions a month on a Wednesday; the first Wednesday of each month is at The Queens pub, Silver Street, Chew Magna, and the third Wednesday of each month at the Stoke Inn, Bristol Road, Chew Stoke.

Both sessions are from 12.30-2.30 pm. It costs £3.00 per session, all of which will go to charity.

Chew Valley Gardening Society

This friendly society meet on the second Thursday of the month at 8pm at Stanton Drew Village Hall where there is easy access and parking.

On the **14th December it will be the AGM with no produce competition, but a gardening quiz.**

On **11th January 2024 Adam Alexander (the Seed Detective)** will talk on his mission to keep alive the heritage of seeds he has saved from around the world. The competition will be: 3 Seedheads.

If you would like to become a member please contact **Graham Nicol, our Chairman, on 01275 333456** or just come along, you are warmly invited.

Chew Valley Flower Club

is reaching the end of its calendar for this year and, of course, members will be busy with all things floral for Christmas

We have a practice class, to be taken by Elaine, entitled "Christmas Special", on **Monday 4th December**. Something to look forward to.

This will bring us to the end of our calendar for this year and we look forward to our AGM, which will take place on January 22nd.

Our club meets fortnightly, on **Monday evenings at 7.30 pm, in Compton Martin Village Hall**, and we would love to welcome you to join us, to have fun and friendship with flowers. We are a friendly group, so give us a try **Joyce Burton. 01761 462560**



Chew Valley Choral Society

Chew Valley Choral Society

Come and join us for an evening of Christmas music

Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 7.30 pm
Holv Trinity Church. Bishop Sutton. BS39 5XS

We will be singing "The First Nowell", a lovely piece by Vaughan Williams, which includes some well-known tunes, plus a short and joyful mass by George Malcolm, "Missa ad Praesepe (Mass at the Crib) And of course no Christmas concert would be complete without some carols! **Tickets £15 (£6 for children and students)** available through our website or on the door **www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk**

Calling All Singers!

We would love to see you at our next taster session on **Tuesday 30 January 2024 from 7.30 – 9.30pm, at Church Hall, Church Lane, Chew Stoke, BS40 8TX.**



We are looking for new members for all parts: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. The taster session is a chance for you to sing alongside regular members to see how you get on. Some music-reading ability is an advantage but support will be given to those with less confidence.

The session is free of charge. You are welcome to turn up on the night - no need to register in advance, but to give us some idea of numbers it will be helpful if you let us know if you plan to attend.

For more information about the choir, please visit our website:

<http://www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk> or **email: info@chewvalleychoral.org.uk**

Chew Valley Local History Society – Highlights from our November talk, and details of our 6th December meeting.

Justin Newland demonstrated how some of our customs and traditions have been adapted from earlier civilisations. As families amalgamated and then as communities grew, their customs helped unite and enhance their lives. In ancient Egypt this helped the civilisation for over three thousand years, until the traditions were no longer sufficiently valued.

Time only allowed Justin to give limited examples from a few civilisations. He featured the importance that the Egyptian civilisation placed on honouring traditions, not only for enhanced lives, but also for the spirit after death. Behaviour during life was stored in the heart, and on-death, was compared to the weight of a feather. This simply meant that living, contrary to customs, might decrease the quality of life, and additionally, the life of the spirit. The funerary texts describe how the Goddess Ma'at – who personalised

the concepts of truth, balance, order, harmony, law, morality, and justice - supervised the weighing of the feather and heart. For centuries this custom was so strongly honoured that sacrifices required to uphold them were widely successful.

Recently we have been presented with articles from Egyptian life, frequently without a clear understanding of the relevance to the culture. For example, Mummies have been much understood and had little to do with the human body after death. Their sole purpose was as a resting place for the spirit, which the Egyptians knew left the body on death. For about 500 years, they thought that the spirit might need a resting place and refreshment in-between travels in the afterworld. Justin showed pictures of the stone peseshkef and adze which were ceremonially placed on the mouth and eyes of the mummy – and of some statues, as part of the ‘open mouth ceremony’, to ensure that the spirit had unrestricted access to the mummy, or statue.

Justin provided other examples, some of which appeared more relevant than others, but it became clear that until scientific knowledge increased, customs and traditions were adapted from earlier generations. Whilst there is much that cannot be explained by science, Justin demonstrated that life for large generations has been enhanced by honouring customs and traditions. It seemed to support the suggestion that history is an asset in using the lessons from the past, to help us avoid repeating mistakes; especially relevant to understanding the potential value of the traditions celebrated in the Valley at this time of year.

Everyone is warmly welcome to our Christmas meeting at **7.30pm on Wednesday 6th December**, in the Old School Room Chew Magna. **“Witchcraft and Magic” is given by the very popular Prof. Ronald Hutton.** Witchcraft was a facility used to summon evil spirits and demons to do harm to others, in complete contrast to the subject of our November meeting! The talk will be followed by our usual seasonal celebration. Queries about either meeting to **Robin Cade – rcade47@gmail.com.**

I have some new copies of 'Nempnett Thrubwell: Barrows, Names and Manors' from the author Richard Dunn. We have various research projects in the parishes and warmly welcome anyone interested.

Valley Arts

Local performing arts charity Valley Arts have a fabulous Christmas programme of events.

- **Christmas Trolls** - a lively and interactive show, perfect for family audiences. **Saturday 2nd Dec 11.00am, Chew Stoke.**
- **A Christmas Celebration!** Puppets, theatre and music with festive classics **“’Twas the Night Before Christmas and The Snowman”.** **Sunday 10th December 11.00 am, Chew Magna.**
- **Living Spit: A Christmas Carol** - brilliant comedy retelling by local performing favourites. **Thursday 4th January - 7.30 pm.**
- **Open Mic Night** - come and perform or support local musical talent! **Tuesdays – 19th December and 16th January, 8.00 pm. The Pony, Chew Magna.**
- **Instant Wit** - quickfire comedy improv show! **Saturday 20th January, 7.30 pm. Chew Magna.**

Tickets for all events can be booked via the Valley Arts website www.valleyartscentre.co.uk.

Avon Wildlife Trust - Chew Valley Group:

Thursday 25th January 2024: Beavers in Avon - An illustrated talk by Bevis Watts and Rob Stephens

Bevis explains how he came to find Beavers living on the Avon and his adventures following one family of them. He introduces his book 'River Journey: Searching for Wild Beavers and Finding Freedom'. Rob will

provide an update on work to support beavers in the Avon catchment and explain why they can be an important element of combating climate change and supporting nature's recovery.

Chew Magna Old School Room, 7.45pm. Admission £2.50 incl. refreshments.

Jumble Sale!! Saturday 13th January 2024 10.00 am The Old School Room, Chew Magna

Chew Valley Wildlife Group: Fund Raising Jumble Sale for Avon Wildlife Trust

We should be most grateful for offers of help and also for donations of Jumble and White Elephant.

Please deliver donations between 4.00 and 8.00 pm on Friday 12th evening to the Old Schoolroom.

For further information, offers of help and jumble please call **01275 332482**.

Chew Valley U3A

will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, 18th December at 10.30am at Ubley Parish Hall**, when we shall have our **Christmas meeting**, with some entertainment, accompanied by festive drinks and nibbles.

All members and guests welcome.

January 2024:

Chew Valley U3A will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, 15th January 2024 at 10.30am at Ubley Parish Hall**, when **Caroline Duckworth will present a talk entitled "The Society of Merchant Venturers"**.

All members and guests welcome.

Barrow Gurney Cricket Club

After 12 years as Chair, Peter Holdaway decided to stand down at the Club's AGM. His successor, Phil Milton, presented Pete with a print of Jack Russell's painting of Cheltenham College Cricket ground which Pete describes as his "second favourite ground" after Hobbs Lane of course. Pete will still be on hand to prepare the square and outfield for a few more years yet and the club is indebted to his dedication over so many years.

Phil will now lead the club into its 150th anniversary season, it having been founded by a group of local people in 1874. The club still have a copy of the founding document. Plans include fixtures against a Bristol & District Select XI and the MCC. Social events are also in the pipeline.

Long-time treasurer Dick Pillinger who, like Pete played for the club from the 1960s, is also hoping to ease out of his role by handing over to Mark Gracey. The club elected Josh Hall to be Vice-Chair and it was good to see a couple of new faces putting themselves forward for the committee which is the sign of a healthy club.

October saw the completion of a project to install solar panels on the pavilion roof and, despite the poor weather: the club is already seeing the benefits of generating its own electricity. The club is grateful to the Bristol Airport Environmental Improvement Fund and the Somerset Cricket Foundation for funding this project.

Our players and friends are looking forward to a social darts competition and some pre-Christmas drinks before thoughts turn to preparing for the season ahead.

For more information contact Mark Forge on 07884 122301 or email **barrowgurneycricket@gmail.com** or see our website: **<https://barrowgurneycc.co.uk>**

Redhill Village Hall/Club - Up and Coming Events 2023

Church Road, Redhill, North Somerset BS40 5SG. Tel: 01934 862619.

Dec: Friday 1st: Open-Mic night from 7pm

Friday 16th: Quiz Night from 8pm

Coffee Room (Opening days & times)

Wednesdays: 10am – 1pm

Every other Sunday: 2-4pm

Redhill Live

Find further details about our events

Online Ticketing (where applicable)

Latest News, updates and much more

Winford Parish Council Meeting - Monday 16 October

Co-option of Parish Councillor for Felton ward: Christine Jones was unanimously co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Felton ward.

Open Forum: Three members of the public attended, to raise the condition of the track leading from West Lane to Church Trees carpark and the Church. It was agreed that the condition of the track and possible remedial action should be an agenda item for discussion by the Felton Common Working Party and the Parish Council next meeting.

Highways and footpaths: A volunteer litter-picker had pointed out a problem with littering in and around the stone bus stop at the bottom of Upper Town Lane, and suggested that a bin be installed. It was apparent that the littering was largely being done by children waiting for the school buses. It was considered that behaviour change would be a better and less costly way to tackle the problem and it was agreed to write to the local schools, asking them to raise this with pupils. In response to a request from the litter picking volunteers, it was agreed to grant them up to £100 towards the purchase of road safety signage.

A resident of Hillview Park Gardens had contacted the Clerk about the difficulties faced by residents in pulling out onto the A38. Councillor Waite had already spoken with them, and would ask North Somerset Council (NSC) highways to look for a solution. The Clerk would report a dropped manhole cover on Felton Lane. The vegetation at the corner of the B3130 opposite Regil Lane was overgrown again. It was agreed to ask the agent for contact details of the new owner of the field, so that they could be asked to cut it back to improve visibility.

With the help of Parish Council funding, two new bridges had been installed on the Monarch's Way in Regil. It was mentioned that replacing the stiles with kissing gates would improve accessibility of the footpath running behind the Ricklands – this had already been raised with NSC as a Parish Council priority. Councillor Waite suggested that a walking festival would be a great way to encourage more people to take advantage of the extensive footpath network in the Parish.

Airport: Councillor Waite was due to meet with the airport in mid-November to discuss several issues, including the construction of the public transport interchange and potential car parking impact, as well as the proposed A38 upgrades. The Parish Council asked her to also raise the continued parking/stopping on the red lines especially at the allotment entrance, and the outstanding installation of improved signage to the waiting zone. The Parish Council's representative on the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) said that she would bring up the signage at the next meeting of the ACC. The meeting also noted the continued problems with taxis and other airport users waiting and blocking the entrance to Felton Village Hall, and the proliferation of unauthorised car parks in the area. Councillor Waite agreed to discuss with NSC officers the suggestion that they should licence off-site car parking operations to enable monitoring/control/taxing of the operations.

The Clerk would chase a response to the Parish Council's request to be involved in discussions regarding the future criteria for the Local Community Fund. Councillor Waite reported that she had secured a place on the Fund committee.

Play Areas: The Working Party had considered the Vee Lane play area safety inspection report and was seeking quotes for repairs to the zipwire and fitness equipment. The hedges would be trimmed back and the bike track cleared of vegetation (leaving a safety margin with the hedge bordering West Lane). It was also proposed to professionally hedge along the border with Vee Lane. It was agreed that the working party would have a budget of £2,000 to cover these costs. The Working Party would also seek quotes for a replacement, more accessible, roundabout. The broken picnic table had been removed and funding for new tables and a roundabout would be sought from the Airport's Local Community Fund. Ideas were being considered to increase the use of the adult exercise equipment. It was noted that any organised event would need to be run as a third party activity with the proper insurances etc.

Compost site & allotments: NSC had reimbursed the outstanding costs of running the compost site, including clearance of an alternative walking route along the side of the site. In response to a query from a resident, it was agreed that vans could be used to deliver residential green waste to the compost site, but only from the resident's own garden and when the site was open. It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask NSC that the application to divert the footpath running across the compost site be progressed as soon as possible.

Any other business: Councillor Waite reported that she was leading on the development of a NSC Rural Strategy that should be ready on draft form by the end of the year. She explained that budgets were very tight and all NSC departments were being asked to come up with more savings.

Next two meetings: Monday 18 December, Monday 15 January at Felton Village Hall.

Chew Valley Death Café – People Supporting People



A safe and supportive setting for discussions about life and death, based in the Chew Valley at Bishop Sutton Community Library. This is a time and space to talk about life, death and loss, over tea or coffee and cake.

As a group our aim is to increase understanding of death, creating a view that helps us make the most of our lives.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Please contact: **Bryonyhuntley2019@gmail.com 07443 593798**

Dorothy House Hospice Care

We have taken over from St. Peter's as the palliative and end of life care provider in the Chew Valley

Did you know you can self-refer to Dorothy House, or refer a friend or family member? Simply visit our website and search "referrals" or call **0345 0130 555**

We also have a **24 hour Advice Line** for carers, patients, family members and medical professionals. **For immediate help with palliative or end of life care call us any time on 0345 0130 555**

Chew Stoke Methodist Church

www.chewstoke-methodistchurch.co.uk

Minister:

Reverend John Hayes 07341 628932

Email:

revjohn0713@gmail.com

Senior Steward:

Denise Cutlan

Tel. 01761 463139

Sunday Services at 10.30 am

A warm welcome awaits. Do come and join us.

Winford Baptist Chapel – part of the Chew and Yeo Valley Network

Minister – Revd. John Miles 07427 191898

Trustee Alan Parker 01275 472149

Sunday:

Evening Service 6.15 pm

Wednesday:

Prayer & Bible Study 7.00 pm

Every 3rd Thursday

Renew Wellbeing Coffee Morning 10.30 am

Communion Service third Sunday in the month

Contact Minister or Trustee for details

You will receive a very warm welcome to all our meetings and services



Roman Catholic Churches Covering the Chew Valley (South Bristol Mission Area)

Our family of Catholic Parishes: St Bernadette, Whitchurch; St Dunstan, Keynsham St Pius Xth, Withywood;
(also incorporating The Sacred Heart, Chew Magna – now closed)

In the name of Jesus: Welcomed, Loved, Sent

Parish Priest: Fr Matt Anscombe (01275 833699) matt.anscombe@cliftondiocese.com

Deacons: Rev Mark Forge and Lester Yeo (contact via Parish Office)

Sunday Masses:

9.00 am St. Pius Xth, Gatehouse Avenue, Bristol BS13 9AB

5.30 pm (Sat) and 11.00 am St. Bernadette's, 731, Wells Road, Whitchurch BS14 9HU

11.00 am St. Dunstan's, 20 Bristol Road, Keynsham BS31 2BQ

For other services (including Christmas and Easter) see our website: www.calledtomorebristol.org.uk

For pastoral care, home communions or other enquiries please contact the Mission Area Office

c/o St Pius Xth Church, Gatehouse Avenue, Withywood, Bristol BS13 9AB

Tel: 0117 964 6922 (out of hours mobile 07729 833 779)

Winford Parish Community Cars.

For medical and care appointments: please call

01275 333430 (Mon – Fri) 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Winford Parish Community Transport. (Mini Bus)

Jan Longden 01275 472440

Winford Parish Council - Website- www.winfordpc.org.uk

Chair Paul Hatherell

472802

Clerk Paula Shelley

472802 winfordpc@gmail.com

(01761) 453046

Felton Paul Hatherell

472802 Helen Ingram

Regil Margaret Murphy

(01761) 462979

Holly Salmon Holly-regilparishcouncil@outlook.com

Winford Karen Bye

474063

Gillian Patch 474196

James Webster

472818

Margaret Webster 472818

Alison Johnson

474676

Airport Working Party

Gill Patch

474196

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Police	Non emergency	dial 101
Bristol Airport Community Relations Officer	Jacqui Mills	0117 4575024
District Councillors: Winford Parish	Annemieke Waite	Annemieke.Waite@n-somerset.gov.uk
Backwell Parish	Bridget Petty	
Wrington Parish	Steve Hogg	01934 863283
Backwell Parish Council Clerk	Jane Stone	464653
North Somerset Council Emergency Number		
(for use out of hours, weekends and Bank Holidays)		
Doctors	Chew Medical Practice	01275 332420
	Prescriptions (12 noon to 2.00 pm)	Please choose Option 3 on main phone line
	Wrington	01934 852906
	Downside (Flax Bourton)	01275 850600
.....		
Avon Wildlife Trust	Annie Stewart	332482
Bristol Airport Complaints	https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/contact-and-help/complaints/	
Chew Valley Choral Society	Catherine Hunt	07814 098 457
Chew Valley Children's Centre/Health Visitors		01225 395455
Chew Valley School – Head Teacher	Gareth Beynon	332272
Community Shop		472222
Cricket Club	Rory Gunter	01934 832383
Felton Evergreens	Tina Clements	01179 645668
Felton Flower Show Society	Viv Etheridge	472921
	Anne Cantwell	474647
Felton & Winford Tuesday Group	Anne Cantwell	474647
Felton Village Hall Committee Sec.	Angela Britton	472223
Felton Village Hall Cttee. Letting Secretary	Kathryn Tooth	07919 094 725
Floodline (24 hour)		0345 988 1188
Friday Club (7-11 years)	Elizabeth Parker	472149
Guides and Brownies	Sue Curtis	333361
Rainbow Guides	Jackie Morris	474858
Regil Village Hall	Daisy George	07766 084762
Sparklers for mums, carers & young babies	Sonia Clark	472019
Table Tennis		
Tug-of-War Day Committee	Pete Dyer	01934 823462
Village Agent	Lyndsay Newman	07967 345559
WI Market	Tamsin Free	01761 221674
Winford & Felton Craft	Elizabeth Parker	472149
	Shelagh Sutton	472641
Winford Pre-school	Claire House	472742
Winford Produce Show	Philippa Herring	474270
Winford C of E Primary School		
Head Teacher	Nik Gardner	472730
Chair of Governors	John Miles	07427 191898
Winford Village Hall Bookings	Joe Herring	474270
Winford Village Hall Secretary	Denise Poole	472797