



THE VILLAGER

A Monthly Church & Community Newsletter

www.seatonchurches.co.uk

The Parish of Camerton and Seaton with West Seaton – Dec/Jan 22/23 – Issue 372

Hopes and Fears...

Not wanting to repeat myself, I have just looked back to the December/January 2021 edition of The Villager and found that I wrote about **'Another Christmas but the same message'** and the uncertain times we were still living in under the shadow of the Covid 19 pandemic. As expected, it turned out to be a different Christmas once again, but an improvement on 2020, and looking back I'm sure that we were all **hoping** for less uncertainty this year and that we would be less fearful about meeting up with family and friends – the uncertainty would be no more. How wrong could I be! Although things are much improved now, we have a new level of uncertainty about Christmas, more hope and fears about how good or bad it will be, but now as a result of the **'cost of living crisis'** that we are living with and through. We **hope** to be able to celebrate Christmas but **fear** that we might not be able to afford to buy the things we would like to buy for family and friends, we **fear** the cost of our energy bills throughout the winter months and worry about putting our heating on as well as worrying about how friends and neighbours especially the elderly will manage. One of the things we have recently launched is a **Warm Space** in St. Paul's Church Hall, running on Thursday mornings throughout the winter months from **10.15a.m. to 12.30p.m.** This is open to everyone and here you will

find a warm welcome, good company, free hot drinks, newspapers and more. It is **hoped** that this will bring people together for a couple of hours where they don't have to worry about putting their heating on to keep warm or how much it costs to boil a kettle for a hot drink. Please do come along, we are open to everyone.

Of course, **hopes and fears** are nothing new, uncertainty about the future is nothing new, and the very first Christmas is a reminder to us of just that. When Jesus was born, in cold, damp and dark surroundings, the people were living in uncertain times, governed by the Roman Empire and looking for the better future God had promised since the time of the prophets. They were living in **hope** but also in **fear**. The birth of Jesus was meant to change this for ever but here we are still living in times of uncertainty, with hopes and fears for the present and the future. The good news, however, is that just as God came into our world in the form of a tiny baby over 2000 years ago, to calm the fears and give hope the future, he still does the same today and that is what we celebrate at Christ. The baby Jesus received both 'expensive' gifts from the wise men and simple 'less expensive gifts' from the shepherds and no doubt others who visited him at his birth, but there would be no distinction between the value and importance of those gifts or the people who gave

them. What mattered most was that they were symbols of love and joy, and as my mother often reminded me when I was younger and couldn't afford as much as my older brothers **'it's the thought that counts'**.

Into our world all those years ago God gave the greatest gift of all, a gift which would go on to be the most expensive of all, freely to the world, without thought of cost or wrapping paper. He chose to give us love, a love that lasts forever, a love to overcome everything, and remove all uncertainties and **fears**, giving **hope** for the future. The ancient Christmas carol 'O little town of Bethlehem' speaking of the birth of Jesus says that Bethlehem was the place where all the **'hopes and fears of all the years'** would meet that very first Christmas and that in them God would come and dwell, forever.

In our world of uncertainty today, where **'hopes and fears'** are high on agendas, please take time this Christmas, as you give and receive gifts, as you open your presents however expensive or inexpensive, they may be, to open your hearts to the presence of our loving God who gives us love, the greatest gift of all, at no cost.

With my very best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

-- Rev. Ian Grainger - Vicar

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH SEATON (C OF E)

9.30am Sunday Parish
Communion & Children's
Church and Crèche.

9.30am Thursday morning
Communion Service.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH CAMERTON (C OF E)

11am Holy Communion

Every 1st Sunday monthly

There is car parking available
at the church but due to its
location there are no toilet
facilities.



Our next Messy Church will be on **Friday 27th January at 4pm.** Messy Church is a different way of 'being church' for families.

Come along and join in on the fun. All children are welcome, just remember to bring an adult!

VICAR - Rev. Ian Grainger

Email: stpaulsseaton@gmail.com

Tel: 01900 602162

ASSOCIATE PRIEST - Rev. Irene Fearon

Tel: 01900 813108

ST. PAUL'S SEATON WIVES & MOTHERS

December's Wives & Mothers will be on **Tuesday 6th December**, we will be hosting a Christmas Party Night. January's Wives & Mothers will be on **Tuesday 10th January 2023**, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. Both meetings start at **7.30pm**.

ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS' UNION

December's Mothers' Union meeting will be on **Wednesday 14th December at 2pm in the Church Hall**. January's Mother's Union meeting will be on **Wednesday 18th January 2023**, a meal is planned however the venue is yet to be confirmed. These details will be circulated ASAP. **Everyone welcome.**

LOAVES & FISHES LUNCHES

December's Loaves and Fishes lunch will be on **Friday 16th December**. January's Loaves and Fishes Lunch will be on **Friday 21st January 2023**. Both held at **12 noon** in the Church Hall. **All welcome.**

ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEDDING & BAPTISM BOOKING

Please remember that we request bookings and arrangements for weddings and baptisms are made by contacting the Vicar on **01900 602162** or via the '**Contact**' on the website and not through social media messaging systems. It is quite easy to miss messages and so a phone call is preferable.

PARISH PRAYERS

Members of the community are invited to submit concerns/issues for prayer. In December and January our focus is on Barncroft Avenue, Hunters Drive & Close, Ling Road, Inner Ling Road, Donald Road, Kennedy Road, Cape Road, Barnett Drive, Croftfield Road and Peatfield Road. If you do have any concerns or items for prayer, please do let us know. This is especially the case if you have family or friends who are ill, and we can ensure that they are included in our prayers and visits arranged if required.

COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Seaton St. Paul's C of E Junior School will be holding community lunches **every Thursday at 1.30pm**. Lunch will cost £5 & this includes a main meal (roast dinner), dessert & tea/coffee. To book a place for this lunch, please contact Mrs Magill in the school kitchen on 01900 844651. Everyone is welcome & we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

Sunday 18th December at St. Paul's, Seaton **4pm** Carol Service.

Christmas Eve at St. Paul's Seaton, **4pm** Christingle Service, **6pm** Holy Communion & Carols and **11.15pm** First Communion of Christmas.

Christmas Eve at St. Peter's, Camerton at **3pm** Christingle Service.

Christmas Day at St. Paul's, Seaton, **9.15am** Christmas Communion & Carols.

Christmas Day at St. Peter's, Camerton, **10.15am** Christmas Communion and Carols

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On **Saturday 17th December** we will be hosting '**Breakfast with Santa**'. The cost will be £5 per child which includes breakfast & a small gift from Santa. There will be 2 sittings - 9am to 10am and 10.30am to 11.30am. Numbers for each sitting will be restricted to 40. Hot drinks and breakfast sandwiches will also be available for accompanying adults to purchase. To help with catering **booking is essential**. For further information & to book please contact Rev. Ian by **7th December**.

A MESSAGE...

Rev. Ian and Family would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

SEATON LIBRARY

Opening Hours:

Monday: 1pm - 5pm

Tuesday: 10am - 5pm

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 10am - 5pm

Friday: 2pm - 5pm

Saturday: CLOSED

SEATON'S PCSO

A message from PCSO Hannah Donaughee - The Police have received several complaints regarding youths causing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at the local Library and in the Lingbeck Park area of Seaton. This behaviour is unacceptable and anyone identified as being responsible will be dealt with accordingly. The Police would like parents and carers to advise their children on appropriate behaviour when out in public.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Are you interested in playing Scrabble? Our sessions held in the Library at 2pm - 4pm. Meetings are fortnightly. All welcome. For dates in December/January and further information ask Sharon or Martin at Seaton Library Customer Service Desk on 01900 68441.

SEATON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

The Seaton Baby & Toddler group meets in the Village Hall on **Thursdays** (term time only) **10am - 11.30am. £2 per Child.**

Including Tea/Coffee, Juice & Snack Children 0 - 4 years welcome. Walk ins welcome.

SEATON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Seaton Parish Council has arranged for the Christmas Lights to be lit from **1st December**. They will be switched on from 3pm each day, in time for schools coming out, until 11pm. Christmas wishes to all.

CAMERTON VILLAGE HALL

Camerton Village Hall will be hosting a Christmas Cheer event on **Sunday 4th December**. For further details, please contact Michelle (07706101063). Our Coffee Morning in January will be held on **Saturday 14th January 2023 11am - 1pm**. Call in for a coffee, cake, savouries and a natter. We will also have boxes of cakes and pies for sale to takeaway. **All welcome**



A gentle exercise class for over 50s held in Seaton Village Hall every **Friday from 1pm - 2pm, £3.50 per session**. Suitable for all abilities. Contact Fit4Life on 01900 814782.

SEATON VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to everyone who supported the village hall table top sale a total of **£407** was raised and this will be put towards the balcony fund.

All the tickets for the children's Christmas party have now gone.

Some tickets are still available for the over 65's which is being held on **Saturday 14th January 2023**. To get a ticket contact Mike by phone (07513167955) or via the Village Hall on FaceBook.

Plans are well in hand for the Christmas day lunch this will be provided for anyone whatever their age, who is on their own or needs a bit of cheer. This includes families who need a bit of help over the Christmas period. Transport can be arranged for anyone who lives locally if required. Numbers will

be limited and on first come basis, contact Mike again by phone (07513167955) or the Village Hall FaceBook page. The Christmas day lunch is for anyone who lives within the Seaton catchment area.

All parties are free this year as funding has been secured. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so and it will be put towards the balcony fund.

We are hoping that work will start on the balcony soon now that we have all the information required.

EASYFUNDRAISING

Please remember to use Easyfundraising when you do your Christmas shopping.

Over 7,000 brands will donate to St. Paul's Church Seaton and St. Peters' Church Camerton at no extra cost to you - so you can raise donations when you buy gifts, decorations, your festive food shopping or anything else!

Please sign up and help us raise more at: www.shorturl.at/dELU6

THE VILLAGER

The February 2023 issue of 'The Villager' will be in church on **Sunday 29th January 2023**.

Please send items for inclusion to seatonvillager@outlook.com by **22nd January 2023**.

There are currently 3 advertising spaces available on the back of 'The Villager'. If you have a local business and would be interested in taking a space or would like more information please contact us.

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

7th November

Raymond Dixon (87)

Firth House

8th November

Cora Wedgewood (80)

Seaton Park

9th November

William (Bill) Allan (98)

Fernleigh Drive

17th November

William (Will) Messenger (86)

Meadowvale

28th November

Dorothy Mounsey (88)

Main Road

29th November

Florence Crabb (81)

Ling Road

HOLY BAPTISM

"Let the children come to me"

St. Paul's Seaton

6th November

Layla Rose Gill

CONGRATULATIONS

On Advent Sunday, 27th November, 6 children and 1 adult were confirmed at St. Paul's by The Bishop of Carlisle.

We send our best wishes to Bridie Dustin, Amelia Gibson, Logan Hudson, Charlie Irving, Anesu Mazvabo, Tawana Mazvabo and Elizabeth Nzuve.

Keep Watch

Every year Advent reminds us of Jesus' second coming, by reflecting on His first coming which took place 2000 years ago in a small town names 'Ephrathah' or 'Bethlehem'. And so, we wait in **hope** and anticipation for the coming saviour.



Let Us Pray

Christ, come into our world of darkness, Light up our lives with your coming. Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth, and strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world, and to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings. - - Amen

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