



# THE VILLAGER

A Monthly Church & Community Newsletter

[www.seatonchurches.co.uk](http://www.seatonchurches.co.uk)

The Parish of Camerton and Seaton with West Seaton – December 2023 with January 2024 – Issue 382

## Longing for light....

A few days ago, I decided to move my office around a bit, something I used to do quite often but haven't done for a while now, with the hope of achieving two objectives. Firstly, to create a little more room and secondly, by turning my desk around to have a little more from the window in front of me and the room light behind me. The first one worked well, but the second one hasn't been quite as effective yet, mainly since with the weather we have had over the last few days there hasn't been much light coming in through the window. To be fair there hasn't been much light at all, and I find myself longing for those winter days when it's cold, but not windy or raining, with clear blue skies and a bit of weak winter sun filtering in.

Thinking of long periods of darkness during the day time brought to me the fact that we are about to enter December and I need to give myself a shake because that's what it's like at this time of year, and at the same time we are entering into Advent – the season that reminds us that Christmas is coming (not that we really need any reminding as shops are full, decorations are going up, and almost every other E mail I receive seems to mention the 'countdown to Christmas').

For churches Advent is a time to prepare, to get ready, and often you will find that during this time that church buildings can be bare and

almost stark, dark places – very different to what we are used to at other times of the year. Of course, all of this will change, and they will look and feel very different, thanks to a lot of hard work from a number of people, as we eventually reach Christmas.

Away from the church side of things this time of year is also a dark time quite literally, now that the clocks have gone back, with dark mornings and it being dark again mid to late afternoon. For some people this can have the effect of making them lonely and fearful and they long for the darkness of winter to be over.

But, as we journey through Advent, and the month of December in particular, I always find, when out and about, that despite the darkness around us, whether that be where we live or at the moment with the things we see and hear in the news around the world and at home, light begins to gradually take over again, as we see houses being decorated, lights on trees and in gardens, Christmas trees adorning windows and curtains open so they can be seen. Gradually the darkness is replaced by light and spirits start to lift again.

This reminds me of why we celebrate Christmas and the Birth of Jesus, born in a cold, dark, stark place, in a trouble world, to bring joy, and hope and LIGHT. In the bible we read, in St John's gospel, 'the light shines in the

darkness and the darkness did not overcome it' – reference to Jesus as the LIGHT of the World, whose birth we celebrate - The LIGHT of the World represented by the candle that will sit in the centre of oranges that will be given out at our Christingle services on Christmas Eve, the Jesus whom the Magi found after being led by the LIGHT of a bright star.

As we journey through Advent and December my hope and prayer is that everyone will take time to experience the change from darkness to LIGHT and will be ready to enjoy the Christmas season in its fullness.

As I often do, I'd like to close with some words from a hymn, or in this case a modern worship song and one of my favourites called, **Longing for Light**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth we turn to you,**

**Make us your own, your holy people, Light for the world to see.**

**Christ be our Light shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.**

**Christ be our light, shine in your Church gathered today.**

With my very best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and may the Light and Peace of the Christ child be with you.

- - Rev. Ian Grainger

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday monthly

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



Messy Church will return on **Friday 26th January, 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm.**

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](mailto: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 5th December** at 7.30pm this will be a Christmas meal and party fun! On **4th January** there will be prize Bingo with sandwiches and chips. New members most welcome!

## ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS' UNION

The Christmas meeting will be Carols and Readings in the Round at 2.00pm on Wednesday 13th December in the Church Hall.

On Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 12.30pm a proposed lunch at Washington Central Hotel.

Menu to be circulated and choices made before, please. **Everyone welcome.**

## LOAVES & FISHES LUNCHES

The next Loaves and Fishes lunches will be on **Friday 8th December** (please note this is a week earlier than usual) **and Friday 19th January at 12 noon** in the Church Hall. **All welcome.**

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND GRAND DRAW

St Paul's and St Peter's Christmas Fayre and Grand Draw will take place on Saturday 2nd December at 10.30 am.

There will be various stalls and items available for sale on the day. Please come along and join in the fun!

## 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. Please do let us know especially 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.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On **Saturday 16th December** we will be hosting **'Breakfast with Santa.'**

The cost will be **£6 per child** which will include breakfast and a small gift from Santa. There will be **2 sittings – 9.00 am to 10.00 am and 10.30 am to 11.30 am. Numbers for each sitting will be restricted to 30.** Hot drinks and breakfast sandwiches will also be available for accompanying adults to purchase. To help with catering **booking is essential.**

For further information and to book please contact The Vicar by **6th December.**

## COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Seaton St. Paul's C of E Junior School will be holding community lunches **every Thursday at 1.30pm.** Lunch will **cost £6** & 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!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

On Advent Sunday, **3rd December**, 6 young people are to be confirmed at St Paul's by The Bishop of Penrith. We send our best wishes to Jake Spiers, Will Spiers, Reece McWalters, Caitlin Sands, Jenny Tomlinson and Chantelle Johnson.

## SEATON LIBRARY HOURS

Opening Hours:

Monday: 1pm - 5pm

Tuesday: 10am – 5pm

Thursday: 10am - 5pm

Friday: 9am - 12 noon

Wednesday/Saturday: CLOSED

Recently, there have been some police changes for Seaton. The new contacts are PC Sarah Parkinson and PSCO Luke King.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2023

### Sunday 17th December

#### **St. Paul's, Seaton**

3.00 p.m. Carol Service

#### Christmas Eve

#### **St. Paul's Seaton**

4.00 p.m. Christingle Service

9.00 p.m. First Communion of Christmas

#### **St. Peter's Camerton**

3.00 p.m. Christingle Service

#### Christmas Day

#### **St. Paul's Seaton**

9.15 a.m. Christmas Communion & Carols

#### **St. Peter's Camerton**

10.15 a.m. Christmas Communion and Carols

#### Christmas Eve Service at St Paul's

Please note, this year we **will not** be holding the 6.00 pm Communion and Carols or 11.15 pm First communion of Communion of Christmas.

**Instead**, we will have our **First Communion of Christmas** service at **9.00 pm** which, when it finishes, will fittingly coincide with the time being after midnight, and so, Christmas Day in Bethlehem (in the past starting at 11.15 p.m. saw us finish on Christmas Day here).

We hope you will join us for this earlier special service.



## JIGSAW SALE

A BIG thank you to all those who supported the recent jigsaw sale which raised £472 for Church Funds.

## SEATON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Seaton Christmas Lights will be switched-on on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 5pm**. Prior to the switch-on, Seaton Parish Council is planning for some family entertainment at Seaton shops in the build up to the big switch-on. Come along & enjoy the fun!

## SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

Seaton Parish Council is asking drivers to park their vehicles courteously in Seaton. Vehicles should not be parked blocking pavement access for users of wheelchairs, pushchairs & mobility scooters; such parking is illegal & can be reported, with photographic evidence, to Cumbria Police at:

101emails@cumbria.police.uk.

The minutes from the Parish Council meetings are available to read at Seaton Library every second Monday of the month. The meeting is held every third Monday of the month.

## SAMARITANS

The Samaritans West Cumbria Friends Group Appeal for used postage stamps, will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Please contact Joan on 01900 68678 if you have stamps to donate.

## FIT 4 LIFE

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

Seaton Village Hall Committee would like to thank Whythegill Wind Farm Community Fund for supporting the hall in providing a grant of £2,300 towards the boiler which was recently fitted at the hall.

A big thank you to The Decommissioning Alliance who is supporting the Christmas parties this year by donating £1,417 towards the parties.

The Christmas party for children is on Saturday 16th December 2pm to 5pm and tickets for this party can be collected from the hall on Sunday 26th November 2.30pm to 4pm or Saturday 2nd December between 10am to 11.30am. First come first served, numbers are limited.

The over 65's party is being held on Saturday 6th January 2pm to 5pm and to reserve a ticket ring Mike on 07513167955 again first come first served.

Both parties have proved very popular in recent years.

Billy Walker has booked the hall on Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st, Wednesday 27th, and Thursday 28th December and will be providing the entertainment, to book a ticket go onto Billy's site.

The shows are in the afternoon with doors opening at 2pm, he has been to the hall before and it is good entertainment. Start Christmas/New year with a good afternoon out!

## YOGA FOR SENIORS

Why not give it a try? You are welcome in Seaton Village Hall on Wednesdays 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Please bring a mat or a blanket to lie on. Loose fitting clothes is advisable (jeans not suitable). £3.50 per session. Contact Jo

## THE VILLAGER

The February 2024 issue of 'The Villager' will be in church on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

Please send items for inclusion to **seatonvillager@outlook.com** by **19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

There is currently 1 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 on:

seatonadverts@outlook.com.

## HOLY BAPTISM

**St. Peter's, Camerton**

5th November

Mayla Jaye Holliday



## FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

2nd November

Tom Wilkinson (68)

*Hazelgrove*

Hilda Sutherland (82)

*Ling Road*

8th November

Catherine Winifred Heron (76)

*Hunters Drive*

9th November

David Malcolm Forster (69)

*Whitestiles*

20th November

Mary Brown (93yrs)

*Derwent Avenue*










## A Prayer for Advent

Dear Jesus, as we light the candles on our Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.



**From all at St. Paul's and St. Peter's we hope you have a very Happy Christmas and send our best wishes for the New Year.**

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