



THE VILLAGER

A Monthly Church & Community Newsletter

www.seatonchurches.co.uk

The Parish of Camerton and Seaton with West Seaton – December 2024 & January 2025 – Issue 392

CHRISTMAS IS COMING....

I wonder, on reading the title, how many people immediately started to recite the old nursery rhyme in their heads – I must admit, since writing it, it has been constantly in mine. The reality is, of course, that Christmas is indeed coming, in fact, it has been in the shops and on the television for a good while now. But, as I wander around the streets of the village, seeing lights and decorations beginning to appear, which is lovely to see as it does brighten days that get dark very early at this time of year, I can't help wondering what does Christmas mean to people in 2024? Is it just a 'holiday season'? Is it a time for families? Is it a major time of celebration? Is it a time of stress and struggle? Or, is it no different to any other time of year.

Of course, for Christians it is a major festival, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the baby born in a cold, dark stable, to bring light, love and warmth into a broken world, a world which is still, sadly, broken and in need of that very same light, love and warmth.

Sadly, for some people it is not a happy time at all, and we have to recognise that too.

Every year Christmas seems to get busier (I love it when people stop me and say "it's coming to your busy time of year" and I often want to respond by saying "not as busy as Santa") and we can get so wrapped up (no pun

intended) in that business that we lose sight of the reason for our celebrations. Our Christmas Carols, Christmas dinners, presents, and much more are down to one simple fact, "God so loved that world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16) and, through that, 'love came down at Christmas', but, there are so many distractions in the modern era we often forget that simple but important message. Without (Jesus) CHRIST there would be no CHRISTmas.

While reflecting on the many modern distractions and approaches to Christmas, and how indeed it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning, I received something from a friend, 'A reminder for all those struggling at the moment and stressing over Christmas' which I have adapted and thought was worth sharing:

You do not need matching Christmas pyjamas to be happy.

You do not need 100 Instagram pics with Santa at different venues to have a good Christmas.

You do not need a Christmas Eve Box to have a magical Christmas Eve

A Christmas movie night does not have to be in a perfect picture home on a 65" TV.

Colour coordinated decorations do not make a difference to Christmas.

The size of your present pile is not a reflection of you as a person, whatsoever.

Children will grow up and only remember the love and laughs at Christmas. Not what they got.

Presence means more than Presents – Family & Friends are everything!

The last one on the list is the most important for me because, as I said earlier, without the Presence – that is CHRIST – there would be no CHRISTmas and no presents.

Please do take time to step away from the busyness, relax in the presence of family and friends, and try not to be stressed over Christmas. I have a friend who often says it's not worth getting stressed over as 'it's only one day', indeed it is, but it is a very exciting and important day when we are reminded of the height, depth and breadth of God's love, his light and his warmth, which first came down at Christmas.

Christmas is coming..... and I send my best wishes to everyone for a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Ian Grainger

Vicar

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

CHURCH ROAD, SEATON (Church of England)

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

9.30am Thursday morning Communion Service.

VICAR: Rev. Ian Grainger

Email: stpaulsseaton@gmail.com

Tel: 01900 602162

ST. PETER'S CHURCH CAMERTON

(Church of England)

11am Holy Communion

Every 1st Sunday monthly

Due to its location there are no toilet facilities at this church.

ASSOCIATE PRIEST:

Rev. Irene Fearon

Tel: 01900 813108



Messy Church will be on Friday 24th January @ 4.00–5.30pm

Messy Church is a different way of 'being church' for families. Come along and join the fun. All children welcome, just remember to bring an adult.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024

St. Paul's Seaton

Sunday 22nd December:

9.30 a.m. Carol Service with Holy Communion

By way of a change, our Carol Service this year will be in our morning worship. Please join us if you can.

Christmas Eve

St. Peter's, Camerton

3.00 p.m. Christingle Service

St. Paul's Seaton

4.00 p.m. Christingle Service

9.00 p.m. First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day

St. Paul's, Seaton

9.15 a.m. Christmas Communion

St. Peter's, Camerton

10.15 a.m. Christmas Communion

CONFIRMATION

On Advent Sunday, 1st December, 3 children will be confirmed at St Paul's by Bishop James Bell (retired Bishop of Ripon). We send our best wishes to Cameron Abernethy, Thea Diesveld and Toby Dustin. **Congratulations!**

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND GRAND DRAW

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas Fayre and Grand Draw in any way. A special thank you to those who sponsored the Grand Draw, including Camerton Consultants Ltd, Taylors Joinery and Plastics, Iggesund, ASDA, Dobies Charitable Trust, Milburns Solicitors, Myers & Bowman Toyota, John Sandelands Ltd, Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway,

Maryport Aquarium and Armstrong Watson. The total raised was **£3632, thank you for your support.**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

There are still a few places left for our popular '**Breakfast with Santa**' on **Saturday 14th**

December. 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.**

LOAVES & FISHES LUNCH

The next lunch will be **Friday 13th December** at 12 noon in the Church Hall. All welcome!

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING 2024

Our final event for 2024 is a

Festive Lunch on Sunday 22nd December. To book a place please contact Julie Bethwaite or any member of the Social Team.

ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday 11th December (note 2nd Wednesday) **2.00pm** St Paul's Church Hall.

Christmas Carol Service (and Enrolment) followed by Seasonal Refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 15th January 2025

12 noon for 12.30pm in the Church Hall. Soup and Sandwich Lunch followed by a fun afternoon.

ST. PAUL'S SEATON WIVES & MOTHERS

The next Wives & Mothers is **Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm.** This will be Do come along and join us!

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

29th October

Catherine Evans (80)

Sunnyside

5th November

Gary John McCullough (55)

Kennedy Road

John Nixon (86)

Low Seaton

7th November

Thomas Robson (80)

Derwent Bank

11th November

Thomas Hodgson (81)

Broughton Moor

13th November

Marilyn Cuthell (92)

Camerton Road

18th November

Stephen James Bell (54)

Orchard Close

19th November

Phyllis Barnes (86)

Brookside

20th November

Peter Cowman (86)

Derwent Avenue



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 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.

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

Seaton Parish Council has arranged for the **Christmas lights** to be switched on on **Saturday 7th December**. The switch-on will be preceded by family entertainment on stage at Seaton shops commencing at 4pm. The Council is arranging face-painting & hopefully Santa will make an appearance to help with the switch-on at 5pm! Come along & join the fun!

SEATON COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS 2024

Seaton Parish Council is seeking nominations from the public for deserving recipients of the above award. Nominations may be for an individual or a group who has/have made a worthwhile contribution to village life over the last year or years.

Nomination Forms will be available from Seaton Library, Seaton Chemist, Parish Council members or the Clerk & may be made by email or in paper format & should include details of the nominee, with brief explanation of why the award is deserved **Closing Date is 2nd January 2025**

SEATON VILLAGE HALL

Children's Christmas Party will be on **Sunday 15th December - 2pm to 5pm**, for more information and tickets please contact Aileen Brown telephone number 07515558041.

There will also be an **Over 65s Tea Party on Saturday 25th January 2025 - 2pm to 5pm**. For more information and to get tickets please contact Aileen Brown on 07515558041.

To hire the Village Hall, contact Mike on 07513167955 or email mthompson.141@outlook.com

CAMERTON VILLAGE HALL

Upcoming Events for January 2025

11th Quiz night

18th Coffee morning

25th Pub Night

For more information and details please visit Camerton Village Hall Facebook page "Camerton Village Hall Cumbria UK"

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.

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 Hodgson on 01900 602898 for more information.

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

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!

CRAFTIES

'Crafties' is held in the Church Hall on **Wednesdays, 7.00pm to 9.00pm**. Please bring along your knitting, crochet, sewing, art project, etc. and come and join us. Everyone welcome.

SEATON LIBRARY

You can become a member of the library for free, simply pop in and ask to join.

Seaton Library opening hours are:

Monday - 1pm-5pm

Tuesday - 10am-5pm

Thursday - 10am-5pm

Friday - 9am-12pm



THE VILLAGER

If you are a community group or will be organizing an event for the community please do send your information to our email address and we will endeavor to include it in our next issue.

We would like to thank our advertisers for their support this year.

Contact us by email: seatonvillager@outlook.com

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