

MOMSS MAGAZINE



The First Christmas - drawing by Ellah Hale aged 7

Thank you to the children and young people of our villages for all their drawings, others of which appear throughout the magazine.

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

**News & Views for our MOMSS villages of
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch, Stawell,
Sutton Mallet and Greinton**

Our advertisers enable us to provide the MOMSS magazine free of charge to each home in our villages. Please support them if you can, and mention this magazine.

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MOMSS MAGAZINE

This publication is hand delivered
**FREE to over 1,040 homes within the
villages in the United Benefice:
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch,
Stawell, Sutton Mallet & Greinton**

It can also be found at:

www.middlezoyvillagehall.org.uk
and www.stawellvillage.info and
www.achurchnearyou.com/Othery page

MOMSS is issued 11 times a year (there is a joint December/January issue) and is designed as a Community Magazine.

It is produced by volunteers, with the authority of the United Benefice Churchwardens, for the villagers' benefit.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee: Richard Graham, Anita Winslade, Jane Stryker, Isobel Davis and Gill Wilkinson.

Editor this month: Gill Wilkinson

Compiler this month: Jane Stryker

NEWS ARTICLES

We regret we cannot guarantee inclusion of articles or photographs and may need to edit copy due to space limitations.

Submitting articles: Copy preferred in Microsoft Word format.

Email to momssgeditor@live.co.uk
300 word limit please.

Submit handwritten copy via one of the members of the committee if you are unable to find someone to help you transfer it to email. We cannot guarantee its accurate inclusion.

Submitting photos or artwork:
also momssgeditor@live.co.uk

We gladly accept news and views from all groups or individuals, however, the Committee has overriding editorial control. We cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from any error, inaccuracies or omission from any copy or advertising. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the United Benefice, the Editorial teams or

the publisher.

MOMSS Publishing House Style

Articles submitted to the magazine are put into MOMSS house style. This uses Gill Sans 10pt for general text with Gill Sans bold 10pt for sub-headings. Arial Black 10pt is used for main headings. Example of our date format is '25 December' – the st, rd, th are only used after dates with no month alongside. There is no need to insert year unless referring to year ahead. We use a 12 hour time format eg '5.30pm'. Italics, bold or underlining will not be included.

Advertising costs

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For further pricing information and technical details phone

Jane Stryker Tel: 01458 210661

E-mail momssgadvert@live.co.uk

Please note: Copy and payment for adverts must be received by 12th of the month (see date of deadlines on this page).

Advertising space is limited. We cannot guarantee single adverts will be accepted for publication.

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**This magazine is edition
number 11 of volume 20**

**DON'T FORGET !
February edition deadlines:
Adverts 12 January
Articles 15 January**

FROM THE EDITOR

In the gloom of a wet winter with short days and long nights there comes the story of a baby born in Bethlehem. An inauspicious birth in difficult circumstances. The woman being forced to travel far from home by order of the occupying force. Then the family again forced to move and find refuge in Egypt from the death threat of these same occupying forces. Nevertheless, today his name is known worldwide together with the simple message he brought. The world is still not peaceful but nations do unite in an attempt to negotiate peace between warring factions, not perfect but a start.

Look through the magazine to find clubs and hobbies which might interest you as we move into 2024.

As this is the season of giving you might wish to make a donation to our local Foodbanks. Items urgently required are listed on page 17.

Gill Wilkinson Editor



**The MOMSS Committee wish you all a very
Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**



VISIT OF AMERICAN CHOIR FEBRUARY 2024

We now know that the St Peter's Senior Youth Choir and their 'chaperones' will be arriving in Moorlinch on Saturday 17 February 2024.

There will be 22 choristers aged from 11-18 that will need host families for 2 nights – some in groups of 3 and others as pairs. Those hosting will require an Enhanced Child Workforce with Child Barred List Check (DBS) plus an ID check. **Please don't let this put you off – it is not nearly as painful as it sounds.** We have Safeguarding Officers in the parishes and together we will get this process as streamlined as we can!

The proposed itinerary is as follows:

Saturday 17 February

Choir and chaperones arrive Moorlinch. Tea and cake in the hall for choristers.

Concert with hosts and members of our United Benefice congregation

Adults to Street and hosts take choir members home

Sunday 18 February

Hosts bring choristers for United Benefice service at Othery church

Light refreshments served afterwards

Choir and chaperones depart for day trip to Bath

Supper at Stawell village hall for choir, chaperones, hosts and others

Hosts take choristers home

Monday 19 February

Hosts bring choristers to the outside of Ring o' Bells, Moorlinch for farewell.

I have had some offers to host but if you would like to take part in accommodating either youngsters or adults please let me know (stryker.jps@gmail.com) or contact your Churchwarden or Parish Contact (details on inside back cover of the magazine).

Jane Stryker



FARM DIARY

This is written for non-farmers who live surrounded by farmland.

In the Field. The continuing wet weather has meant in our case the last arable crop to be drilled or sown is still in the shed. The field beans are sown about three inches deep (75mm.) and used to be ploughed in eight inches (200 mm.) deep. Either way, as with other seeds, if the ground is saturated or flooded, seeds die. Young plants can stand flooding for short periods but not seeds. Our beans can be drilled later without too great a yield penalty. Farmers have been losing emerged crops to this continuous wet weather but here in central Somerset we are not too badly affected. The sheep and goats are coping with the weather because there are hedges with trees in most fields for them to find some shelter. This is one big advantage for hedges. The sheep are currently grazing the oil seed rape as they did last year. It might save a fungicide next spring as the plants are less crowded and the old leaves are removed by the grazing. There is still maize yet to be harvested around the county. It is almost impossible to travel on most fields with the equipment that we have because of its weight. These crops might yet be lost entirely.

Rewilding. There is a lot of talk about this. Many experienced country people are cautious. On a field scale, it is not likely to produce the biodiversity that we crave. The large blue butterfly is an example. These disappeared from the Devon coasts when the farmers, without realising the butterfly's life cycle, changed the grazing livestock from sheep to cattle. The cattle do not crop the grass so tightly and the required ant disappeared and with it the butterfly. This insect needs short grass. Rewilding will not give that. There must be many, many species of insect and indeed plant that will not cope on rewilded ground. The other concern is the loss of farm land to crop or food production. At some point, this loss will be a problem.

River species growth. There are not many good news stories in our papers. However, in the Daily Telegraph dated Monday 30 October, Ruth Hallows wrote that river species in England have been thriving over the past 30 years. This is despite all the scandals of pollution in our rivers. One of the largest studies of its kind from experts at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Brunel University discovered in a 30 year study that some species particularly susceptible to pollution trebled in species diversity. Overall, the average number of families at each site increased by 66% over 29 years. It is not stated how they picked their sites. *Richard Graham*

PRE-CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN OTHERY CHURCH

If you get your magazine early enough you may still have time to get your tickets for an evening of Classical and Christmas Favourites and Songs from the Shows, to be held on Saturday 2 December at 7.30pm in Othery church. Classically trained tenor Gregory Steward will be singing a new and varied repertoire, this time with some audience participation.

Tickets cost £12 and will include a drink and cake in the interval. All profits from this event will go towards the upkeep of the church. If you wish to purchase a ticket please contact Iris 01823 698243 or Isobel 01823 698119 or email isobeldav@gmail.com.

Tickets will also be available on the door but it helps us with catering if you prebook. Under 18s free.

Pat Adamson, Secretary Othery PCC

SKY AT NIGHT

December 2023/ January 2024

Sunrise Sunset

Beginning December 7.52am-4.08pm; End of December 8.15am-4.13pm

Beginning of January 8.15am-4.14pm; End of January 7.50am-4.59pm

Moon Phases December

Last Quarter 5th / New Moon 12th / First Quarter 19th / Full Moon 27th

Moon Phases January

Last Quarter 4th / New Moon 11th / First Quarter 18th / Full Moon 25th

Planets

Jupiter is visible all evening until the early hours as we pass from 2023 into the new year, just look for the brightest star and that is Jupiter. Saturn is still there but much fainter and sets before midnight. Venus dominates the early morning sky rising at 4am during December and around 5.30am as we move into January.

Constellation

Orion the Hunter rules the night sky at this time of year. Poised high in the southern sky it's an unmistakable sight with its row of three stars which form the hunter's belt. Below this is the stunning deep sky object the Great Orion Nebula which forms the sword, a stellar nursery where new stars are being born. This is easy to see with the naked eye, amazing from a dark location and breathtaking with any binoculars. Look also for the red supergiant star Betelgeuse top left and the steely white star Rigel bottom right of the constellation.

Phenomena

The winter Solstice is on 22 December when we have our shortest day and longest night.

On the evening of 18 January look for the planet Jupiter looking extremely close below the first quarter moon.

Paul Adamson 01823 698156

SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS

There is no meeting during December but our first gathering is on the 31 January at 7.30pm in Othery Village Hall TA7 0QU and also on Zoom. At this meeting committee member John Martin will give a talk on the two man Nasa Gemini missions of the 1960s which were precursors to the Apollo Lunar landings. We also have a guide to observing the night sky during the month of February along with all the latest news from the world of astronomy and spaceflight.

£3 visitors (includes hot drinks);

membership available. The meeting is also on

Angel visiting Jesus



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Zoom for a small donation. For details and Zoom link contact somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com. Follow us on Facebook. We wish all our followers a Merry Christmas and a Happy Star Filled New Year. Paul Adamson 01823 698156

LEVELS AND HILLS WALKING GROUP

We were very lucky for our October walk at Steart Marshes - a beautiful day and it didn't rain! The tracks around the site also made for easy walking.

The marshes lie between the mouth of the River Parrett and the Bristol Channel. It is a working wetland developed to tackle climate change by locking away carbon from the atmosphere. It is also home to a vast array of wildlife that varies wildly throughout the year. There are several hides with lots of information.

After a leisurely walk we enjoyed lunch at The Quantock in Bridgwater.

On Thursday 7 December we will meet at the King Alfred, Burrowbridge to consider the programme for 2024 and possibly have a short walk

If you would like more information contact the address or telephone numbers below.

*Roger Harding. Elmtree Cottage Stawell TA7 9AD
Home 01278 723037 Mob: 07850 908553.*

Jackie Lusty



OTHERY READING GROUP

Leonard and Hungry Paul by Ronan Hession

The first novel of this Irish writer. It is the story of two friends who ordinarily would remain uncelebrated. Leonard lived with his mother until her recent death and is adapting to changes in his circumstances at home and work where he writes entries for a series of encyclopedias, for which he receives little or no credit. Hungry Paul works as an occasional postman and lives with his parents although his soon to be married sister feels he should be more independent and allow their parents to enjoy their retirement. However, the two friends are happy in their friendship, playing board games or sometimes content to sit in silence.

The author wanted to write a book about kindness and about families where conflict is not the central theme. The novel recognises the importance of family, friendships, kindness and silence. Nothing eventful happens but readers loved the book with its gentle humour and brilliant writing. It suggests that we could learn from the people that we overlook in life. Leonard and Hungry Paul change the world differently from the rest of us: we try and change it by effort and force; they change it by discovering the small things they can do well and offering them to others. Recommended.

We meet in the evening on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be in January. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Martin Wall, martinwall1@mac.com. Mollie O'Flanagan

Christmas at Lonsdale Plant Nursery

This year seems to have flown by and Christmas has suddenly arrived before us. Christmas is a busy season for us here at Lonsdale Plant Nursery and it only seems like yesterday that we were propagating winter and spring bedding plants to replace everyone's tired summer displays.

Christmas for us starts on a farm in the Quantocks where we cut holly sprigs to be used in our traditional Christmas wreaths. Our wreaths have proved very popular and as a result we hand make hundreds at the nursery. We do a selection of styles ranging from simple fir and holly designs, which people buy to place on graves of loved ones, to more ornate wreaths that are suitable for using as door decorations. We also sell Christmas trees. We stock the popular variety Nordman Fir due to its reliability for retaining its needles.

From all of us here at Lonsdale we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Christmas Trees
Handmade Holly Wreaths
Seasonal Bedding plants
Winter Hanging Basket



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Bridgwater, TA7 8QS**

sales@lonsdalenursery.com

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WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

The meeting on 13 December 7.30pm in Othery Village Hall is where people can bring artifacts to display and discuss or favourite pieces of prose to share with others. The first meeting of 2024 will be on 10 January at 7.30pm. For this we welcome Glastonbury author Richard Cooper Knight with his second book *Death and Service Part 2*. Richard is on a mission to record and photograph every service recorded death in Somerset. He not just photographs them but also researches the history of the service people he finds. Come and hear the stories behind their lives. Meetings are open to everyone; we look forward to seeing you. We ask for a modest £5 on the door to defray costs this will include a free tea or coffee. Pat Adamson, Secretary, 01823 698156

MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS

It certainly was a busy end to the term. Dragons Class had a wonderful day at Glastonbury Abbey and were complimented on their behaviour and knowledge. Our younger children enjoyed a visit from Animals 2 U and met several, more unusual creatures including cockroaches, a gecko and a pole cat. Following our half-term break, the PTA organised a fun dressing-up day where the children (and staff) came to school in their best Halloween inspired costumes. A fun day was had by all. The children had lots of tales about the village party and their trick or treating adventures the following day.

Our Tag Rugby sessions, with Helen Sheerman from Somerton RFC, have started with the children in Key Stage 2 fine tuning their skills and learning some of the key concepts of the game. The children relish any opportunity for an additional PE session and the afternoons are proving to be a great success. Keeping with the PE theme, Giles Moore (England's Paralympic Team's Goalkeeper) came into school on Monday 6 November and gave a truly inspiring assembly detailing his journey from a young age to representing his country no less than 77 times so far. Giles also joined our PE coach, Mr Hughes, for all PE sessions during the day. The children loved having Giles in to work with them and all of us left assembly feeling inspired. It just goes to show what can be achieved when you really chase your dreams and work hard! We are now looking ahead to all things Christmas, with the Christmas

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Nativity, singing at Middlezoy Chapel and our whole school visit to the panto at the end of term. Not to forget the wonderful PTA Christmas meal on our final day.

If you have a couple of hours spare and would like to support with reading in school, or have a hidden talent for knitting, textiles or crochet, please contact Miss Braithwaite, in the school office on 01823 698464. She will be able to give you more information about ways you can support the children.

Lindsay Hayward Headteacher

SEDGE MOORS TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Final Event

The SMTA members held their final social event on Saturday 11 November at the Bere Cider Company at Aller. The delicious main course dessert and cheese board were enjoyed as members shared memories and experiences of the 25 years of the group's twinning with the St Jean de Daye area in Normandy.

Retiring Chairman Roger Harding thanked everyone for their support throughout the existence of the group especially the remaining founding members who were at the meal. Sadly both twinning associations have had to close down through insufficient numbers of members to run them but it is hoped that continuing personal contacts and exchanges will happen well into the future. *Anita Winslade (Treasurer)*

THE ARTS SOCIETY SEDGEMOOR (TASS)

I have recently joined this group. The last meeting I attended on 4 October was an excellent presentation entitled *The Medici: 'Bankrolling the Renaissance'* by Douglas Skeggs. TASS meetings are held at the 37 Club (between Woolavington and Puriton) at 2.15pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except January, July and August). Visitors are welcome (cost £8).

The next meeting on 6 December will be *The making of landscape photographs*. Speaker Charlie Waite.

For more information about the group search www.theartsocietysedgemoor.org.uk.

Jean Reynolds

THE WI - MORE THAN JAM AND JERUSALEM

Today's Women Working For Tomorrow's World

There are talks, activities and events for every woman, single or wed. You can have a bit of fun, make friends, try a new hobby or just explore a new venue. Whichever WI you attend you can be sure of a warm welcome.

WIs near us

Ashcott and Pedwell 7.30pm 3rd Thursday Ashcott Village Hall, TA7 9PZ.

Shapwick Starlets 7.30pm 2nd Tuesday Village Hall, Station Road, TA7 9NJ.

Westonzoyland 7.15pm 2nd Weds Village Hall Cheer Lane TA7 0EZ

Local times can vary so it is best to contact to Somerset Federation before attending for the first time 01278 287034.

Westonzoyland WI

Our January meeting on Wednesday 10th will be by Nikki Robinson, glass artist and owner of Glassification based in Ilminster.

The talk is called 'My Adventures in Glass'. There will be an opportunity to purchase gifts and jewellery after the talk. Cash and cards accepted but not cheques.

If anyone has any queries they can contact Nikki via the website www.glassification.co.uk
So, if you fancy a night out with the girls, come and meet us. We welcome you.
Should you want any further information please email: zoywisec@gmail.com or call
Gill Wilkinson, Secretary, on 01823 698429 Gill Wilkinson

MUSIC ON THE LEVELS

Free Concert Sunday 28 January at 3pm

St Mary's Church, Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP.

The Barnacle Buys is a group of a cappella sea shanty singers based in North Somerset. It exists to enjoy their craft, entertain audiences and raise money for charities.

'The Barnacle Buys have known each other for many years before realising that they had something in common: the appreciation of shanty music. After making the discovery the Buys got together in February 2013 and shared a pint or two in the Old Inn, Clevedon and experimented with a few shanties. The rest, as they say, is history . . .'

Refreshments are available at a modest charge from 2.15pm until the start of the performance. In order to help with the artists' and other costs a raffle is held. In addition, donations are encouraged. It costs around £400 to put on a concert.

Up to now we've never exceeded the church's capacity and never had to turn anyone away, BUT please note, seats are available on a first come, first served basis. From time to time, you may need to 'budge-up!'

Any further information: *Frank Challenger 01278 699071 email: f.challenger@icloud.com*

MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Sticky Church

A morning titled 'Autumn Days' was organised by the Sticky Church team at Blake Training on 27 October. Over 40 (adults and children) enjoyed a time of crafts, treasure hunts, excellent Hungarian soup and toasted giant marshmallows in a beautiful woodland environment.



Remembrance Day Service

The sombre occasion in Holy Cross Church was lightened by the magnificent display of hand-crafted poppies. They festooned the rood screen, the pulpit, the window ledges, the bell-ringing balcony and even the ends of rows. Not only was the service uplifting but also each grave of the war dead was visited and a cross laid. Additionally, £150 was given as a donation to the Royal British Legion. Many thanks to all who contributed to this commemorative occasion.



Return of Joyful Spirit Gospel Choir

On Saturday 25 November the Joyful Spirit Gospel Choir returned to Holy Cross for an evening of festive gospel music. This was their third visit to Middlezoy and matched the earlier ones with zest and joie de vivre.

Village Carol Singing Thursday 21 December 6pm

Join up with us, raise your voices round the village and raise funds for charity. With their characteristic hospitality Ian and Jean have invited all singers back to their home for refreshment after their labours.

Meet outside Chapel at 6pm.

Watch out for details of time and meeting point on Facebook and around the village
PCC Middlezoy

LEVELS METHODISTS CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

Sunday 10 December 5pm – the Village Nativity and Christingle at the Chapel. Come as a Nativity character, or use some of the costumes available and join in as you wish to retell the story of the first Christmas. We shall have Christingles for the children, and finish by lighting a candle in the darkness!

Wednesday 20 December 3pm - Coffee and Carols at the Chapel. Come along to an informal time over festive treats. Choose your favourite carols to sing, and listen to some Christmas readings. All welcome.

Sunday 31 December 5pm – A reflective time to look back over 2023 at



the Chapel, to be led by Ildiko Haraszti. Delicious food and fun for all the family.

Booking the Methodist Church for your events:

Don't forget that the Chapel space and Back Room are available to hire. There is a bookings' form on the website <https://middlezoychapeluk.wordpress.com/bookings> or contact Jill Darby, jilldrb@gmail.com 01823 698000

Revd Deborah Kirk, Minister deborah.m.kirk@gmail.com 01823 334854

Ildiko Haraszti Minister-in-Training

LANGPORT FOOD BANK

Christmas can be a very difficult time, everyone at home and the expectation of presents. A list of goods especially required is on page 17.

If you wish to donate, please leave up at the church, at the village coffee morning or in the porch of 11a Main Road Middlezoy.

MIDDLEZOY COFFEE MORNING

Monday 4 December - the Village Craft group will display and sell the items they have been making. Come along and maybe find that 'different' Christmas gift or maybe just treat yourself.

Monday 11 December will be the final coffee morning for 2023 when we will have the local school children entertaining and will be presenting donations to some village organisations. We will hold a charity Christmas raffle (any donations of prizes would be much appreciated) for Breast Cancer Awareness. From our funds we will match the amount made on the raffle and donate to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Monday 8 January 2024 We will resume the Monday coffee mornings

Thank you again to all the volunteers that make this weekly event possible and special thanks goes to Maggie Pengelly, Trish Foster and Cicely Slade for their continued help almost every week.

Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy new year to you all.

Jill Darby Co-ordinator



MIDDLEZOY COMMUNITY PROJECT

We are very much looking forward to our village run up to the festive period, with two events on successive Saturdays; Clive's Fun Music Quiz on 2 December and a Sladest Christmas dance party on 9 December. If you have not yet entered a team for the quiz, you may just have time. Only £2 a head, and up to six people allowed in a team. Feel free to bring along some nibbles. Phone 01823 690234, email quizbookmcp@gmail.com or book a table at the village post office. Likewise, tickets for Sladest are also on sale at the shop at £10 each. The bar will be open on both nights. For New Years Eve MCP have decided to open up the hall to allow villagers and their friends and families to make up tables and provide their own choices of food and drinks in a convivial setting. Over 14s only £5 a head. Again, please prebook your tables at the village shop. Looking a long way ahead to next Summer, plans are already well advanced for another marvellous Middlezoy Village Fete on Saturday 6 July 2024. If you, or anyone you know might be interested in having a stall at the fete, then please get in touch with us. We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Sally Evans Vice Chair MCP

OTHERY VILLAGE NEWS

ST MICHAEL'S OTHERY CRIB SERVICE

The time is fast approaching for us once more to tell the story of Jesus's birth through our Crib and Carol Service at 3pm on Christmas Eve at St Michael's Othery. It's always a delightful occasion with the older children telling the Christmas story as the costumed younger children build the nativity scene and we all join in singing the carols. Everyone is welcome.

We are hoping to involve as many of the children and young people as wish to take part in the service. We need young people and older children (8+) to do the readings and younger children to help build the nativity scene in the crib. If your child/children would like to participate please contact Mo on

mo.wright2@btinternet.com or
Isobel on *isobeldav@gmail.com*
or

01823 698119 so that we can try to include everyone who would like to take part. Children who want to dress up as a nativity character can either come in their own nativity costume or go to the Church Room after 2.30pm to find a costume which we are hoping the school will kindly lend to us again this year for the service.

Isobel Davis



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DISSOLUTION OF OTHERY YOUTH CLUB

Unfortunately we have not been able to find enough support to enable the Youth Club to start up again and so with regret it has been decided to dissolve the Club. There will be an Open General Meeting in the Othery Church Room on Friday 26 January at 7.30pm to agree on the disposal of the assets. This is open to residents of Othery or Middlezoy who are interested in provision for local young people and children.

Isobel Davis 01823 698119 on behalf of Othery Church PCC Youth Matters sub-Committee

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The village's annual service took place in St Michael's church on 12 November. The service was led by Rev. Andrea Harwood and representative of all organisations in Othery laid poppy wreaths by the memorial plaque. Othery schoolchildren had made 3 wreaths and these were also laid in the service. The congregation enjoyed refreshments and socialising in the Church Room after the service.

Mervyn Winslade (Churchwarden)



OTHERY VILLAGE HALL

Future Events

Village Christmas Party – Sunday 10 December. 5pm onwards. Please bring a contribution to the food (but not sausage rolls) if you are able. No entrance fee, all welcome.

New Year's Eve Party – Sunday 31 December. Tickets will be £5 per person. Dress to impress. Filled rolls will be on sale to keep your energy levels up while you dance into the wee small hours.

Tickets for all events are available via our website/by emailing otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk/by phone or text 07814 754 127 or 07958 006 403.

Regular Events

Wednesdays Western Front Association, Somerset Stargazers, check their entries in the magazine for dates.

Thursday 10.00am Toddler Group, 7.30pm Short mat bowls

Friday 11am Pilates, 7pm Bar night

Bridget Gander, Secretary, Othery Village Hall Management Committee

Email: otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk

MOORLINC H VILLAGE NEWS

CHRISTMAS DATES

Sunday 10 December – Christingle Reimagined 5.30pm – Church Hall Pavilion – Sausages, sparklers, chocolate, fire pits and carols. All welcome

Sunday 17 December - Village Carol Service – 5pm – traditional carol service with mulled wine and mince pies.



THANK YOU - 26 PEOPLE WILL BE SUPPORTED OVER CHRISTMAS, PLUS MORE

A huge thank you to all for helping at and visiting our charity coffee and craft morning in Moorlinch Church Hall on 28 October. It was a lovely day and we made the most of the newly improved outdoor pavilion; to host stalls and games. The excitement continued inside with beautiful handmade gifts, the most delicious baking and some excellent opportunities to buy books and pre-loved items. Everyone just enjoyed getting



together. So many people offered to help, it evolved into a wonderful community effort. We raised a fantastic amount thanks to everyone's support; 26 homeless people will be supported through the Christmas period and into their futures thanks to Crisis; families will be supported through cancer treatment through Macmillan and the hall and church each have a donation towards their upkeep.

As for next year.... some people are already planning how to improve their stalls and others are thinking about learning new skills so that they can have their own table too.

Sam Dawe

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Our traditional, well-attended Remembrance Sunday service was led by Jane Sedgman, a Reader from the Wheathill Benefice.

The church was beautifully decorated – quote posted on the village Facebook page *“I popped into Moorlinch church this afternoon. I wanted to thank those who decorated it and made such a fitting tribute for Remembrance”*.

Following the service Jane blessed the Coronation Trees (see article on next page) and then we all went to the Church Hall for a very filling curry lunch – apparently this is a military tradition following a Remembrance Service.

The Moorlinch Marvels aka Sam and Aileen did a brilliant job of serving, setting up and clearing up. The meal was accompanied by some delicious flatbreads made by Peter, - one half of the amazing Baker Brothers.



Jane Stryker

COMMEMORATIVE CORONATION TREES



Three Himalayan Birch trees, newly planted in the church grounds, were blessed following the Moorlinch Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12 November.

These trees have been planted to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III and were funded by the Moorlinch Good Neighbours Social Committee

through a National Lottery grant.

Many thanks to Gilly Hayward, Peter and Penny Allwright and Peter Weeks for their hard work in choosing and planting the trees, to Neil Whiffill for clearing the area and digging the holes and to Jane Sedgman for the blessing.

on behalf of MGNSC



VEGAN LUNCH

Saturday 20 January—12.30pm

Back by popular demand! Many people will be taking up the challenge of Veganuary during the 31 days of January 2024 so come and join us for a Vegan Lunch in the Church Hall on Saturday 20 January. Last year was a taster this year it's a real meal!

Enjoy some good food, good company, hot and cold drinks and swap recipes.

Open to all.

Places limited so book early!

Tickets £10 available from Jane stryker.jps@gmail.com, Pam pamcoombes049@gmail.com or Carrie carriepea@yahoo.com

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STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE NEWS

Information is available on the website www.stawellvillage.info

STAWELL DIARY

Saturday 16 December 10am to 12noon

The monthly coffee morning is at Johnnie and Arlette Bannister's. All welcome.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH



Christmas

Present Appeal



Sunday 10 December 10am

We will be holding our annual Christingle service. As in previous years, we are appealing for unwrapped gifts for all ages which are then given to the Salvation Army for their Christmas Present Appeal. We welcome all those who would like to attend our service, however, if you are unable to do that and have gifts to donate, please leave them in the box in the porch. Thank you.

Friday 15 December 7 p.m.

The carol service comes with mulled wine and mince pies.

Ruth Peberdy for the Church Committee.



GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS

VILLAGE EVENTS

Friday 1 December at 7pm

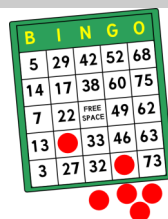
Bingo Night in the Village Hall.

Sunday 17 December at 5pm

There will be a Christmas Singalong in the church. This is not a carol service, but a mixture of seasonal songs, music and readings to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Once again, volunteers to read, or suggestions for appropriate readings/music will be welcomed with open arms.

Finally, we are hoping to get a small band of minstrels together to go round the village singing carols. This will probably be on the evening of Friday 22 December.

For further village information check the Greinton Village in Somerset Facebook site. *Toby Crispin*



BENEFICE, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN ITEMS

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

Open Daily

The United Benefice churches in Middlezoy and Stawell are open daily for private prayer.

BENEFICE/MIDDLEZOY PRAYER GROUP

Please do not think you have to be a member of the local churches as we are very willing to pray for anyone who asks. The prayer group feel it is needed so please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing middlezoyprayers@gmail.com.

The Prayer Group



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.

+ Michael *Rt Rev Michael Beasley Bishop of Bath and Wells*



FOODBANKS

Any donation is appreciated and will reach the people who need it. The following would be especially appreciated

Tinned ham, Meatballs, Hot Dog Sausages, Chilli, Tinned curry, Stewed steak

Tuna

Tinned Potatoes, Sweetcorn, Peas, Carrots, Beans, Tomatoes

Vegetarian beans and sausages

Spaghetti hoops

Coffee – (good quality instant coffee to gives everyone a booster.)

Peanut Butter, Chocolate Spread, Jam

Mayonnaise, Ketchup

Tinned fruit, Custard, Rice pudding

Biscuits, Crackers, Crisps

Rice, Noodles

Pasta sauce

Vegetarian tinned foods

Cuppa soup

Shampoo, Shower gel, Deodorant

Men's toiletries

Children's shampoo, toothpaste

Wet wipes, Bubble bath.

We have plenty of pasta, tinned soup and cereals.

You'll see from the size of the list how great the need is at the moment. Thank you for anything you can spare.

In date items only please 🙏



DONATION POINTS

Middlezoy: Holy Cross Church, Village Coffee Mornings or Meadowbank, 11a Main Road.

Othery: St Michael's Church Porch.

Moorlinch: Spring Cottage, Pit Hill Lane, Moorlinch or St Mary's Church Porch

Stawell: The Old Post Office, Stawell

Cash Donation: By contacting the relevant Foodbank you can make either a single or a regular donation. If you are in a position to give via Gift Aid, the Foodbank will be able to claim back the tax you have paid on this.

To obtain assistance from a Foodbank you need a referral from: Citizens Advice Bureau: Clarence House High St, Bridgwater, TA6 3BH 03444 889623 or your Village Agent, local GP surgery, schools, health visitors and social workers. **Bridgwater Foodbank** can be contacted by email info@bridgwater.foodbank.org.uk or phone 01278 434636 or 07804 119273 (Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays). They will help put you in touch with one of the agencies that can help with a referral.

Langport Cares email langportcares/foodbank@gmail.com





CHRISTMAS FUN FACTS

- ♦ **Mince pies used to contain real minced beef**
The mince pies that we eat now have lots of fruit and spices in them, but 200 years ago they were made from real minced beef.
- ♦ **It is said to be unlucky to eat a mince pie with a knife**
Luckily, we use our fingers and thumbs rather than a knife and fork!
- ♦ **Christmas pudding used to be a soup**
In the 1300s, Christmas pudding was called 'frumenty'. It looked like a soup that was made from beef and mutton, fruit, wine and spices. People used to eat it before Christmas so that they weren't too full up before the main meal on Christmas day.
- ♦ **Candy canes were invented to keep kids quiet in church**
In 1670, a German choirmaster (a person who leads a choir) asked a sweet shop to make sweets (in the shape of a shepherd's hook) for the children at his church to keep them quiet during the Christmas festivities.
- ♦ **Robins are a popular symbol of Christmas because of the postmen**
In Victorian times, those who delivered the mail were nicknamed 'robins' and they went on to feature on lots of Christmas card designs!
- ♦ **It took the three kings 12 days to reach the baby Jesus Christ**
This journey is why we have the 12 days of Christmas now. It is also tradition to take down all Christmas decorations, including the Christmas tree, on the twelfth night after Christmas (on the 6th of January).

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

It never snows at Christmas in that dry and dusty land.
Instead of freezing blizzards, there are palms and drifting sands,
and years ago a stable and a most unusual star
and three wise men who followed it, by camel, not by car,
while, sleepy on the quiet hills, a shepherd gave a cry.
He'd seen a crowd of angels in the silent starlit sky.
In the stable, ox and ass stood very still and calm
and gazed upon the baby, safe and snug in Mary's arms.
And Joseph, lost in shadows, face lit by an oil lamp's glow
stood wondering, that first Christmas Day, two thousand years ago.

Marian Swinger



DEFIBRILLATOR MACHINES

From the scene of an incident, call 999, ask for Ambulance.

Ascertain the condition of the patient. If a defibrillator is required give the following information about the nearest machine.

Greinton Phone box	TA7 9BW	Call sign	CHT-RT-1583
Middlezoy Chapel	TA7 0NZ		SC0253
Middlezoy Village Hall	TA7 0PG		SC0254 (machine at car park end)
Moorlinch Farm	TA7 9BU		
Othery Village Hall	TA7 0QU		
Stawell Village Hall	TA7 9AD	This is now in action	

Within 200m of a defibrillator they can give you the code to open the cabinet on post code alone, farther away the call sign is required.

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The recycling and rubbish collections for the MOMSS & G area are:

MIDDLEZOY & OOTHERY

Recycling Boxes, every week:

Thursdays 7, 14, 21. Saturday 30 December.

Friday 5 January, Thursdays 11, 18, 25 January, 1 February.

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:

Thursday 7 and Saturday 30 December, Thursday 18 January.

Garden Waste Bins, every other week (except Christmas):

Middlezoy: Mondays 4, 18 December, 15, 29 January

Oothery: Thursdays 14 December, 11, 25 January

MOORLINCH, STAWELL, SUTTON MALLETT & GREINTON

Recycling Boxes, every week:

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20 and Friday 29 December

Thursday 4 January, Wednesdays 10, 17, 24, 31 January

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:

Wednesday 13 December, Thursday 4 and Wednesday 24 January

Garden Waste Bins, every other week:

Thursdays 7, 21 December, 18 January, 1 February

RECYCLING CENTRES—Winter opening hours

9am-5pm weekdays and 9am-4pm weekends. NOT Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Full details of each site, location, opening times, materials they will accept etc. can be found at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres

MOBILE LIBRARY

Taunton Area, Route P

The service continues every 4 weeks on Friday (excluding Christmas period)

Next visits: 1 December, 26 January

Stawell Village Hall 10.10am - 10.40am

Moorlinch Tapmoor Road Junction 10.55am - 11.15am

Middlezoy Main Road Bus Stop 12.20pm - 1pm

For further information about reading books online contact Libraries Direct on 0300 123 2224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries



DATE	SEASON	READINGS
December 3 Sun	First Sunday of Advent	OT: Isaiah, chapter 64, verses 1 to 9 Psalm: 80, verses 1 to 8 and 18 to 20 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 3 to 9 Gospel: Mark, chapter 13, verses 24 to 37 (end)
10 Sun	Second Sunday of Advent	OT: Isaiah, chapter 40, verses 1 to 11 Psalm: 85, verses 1 and 2 and 8 to 13 (end) Epistle: 2 Peter, chapter 3, verses 8 to 15a Gospel: Mark, chapter 1, verses 1 to 8
17 Sun	Third Sunday of Advent	OT: Isaiah, chapter 61, verses 1 to 4 and 8 to 11 (end) Psalm: 126 Epistle: 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 16 to 24 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 6 to 8 and 19 to 28
24 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Advent CHRISTMAS EVE <i>(Midnight Mass)</i>	OT: 2 Samuel, chapter 7, verses 1 to 11 and 16 Psalm: 89, verses 1 to 4 and 19 to 26 Epistle: Romans, chapter 16, verses 25 to 27 (end) Gospel: Luke, chapter 1, verses 26 to 38 OT: Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 2 to 7 Psalm: 96 Epistle: Titus, chapter 2, verses 11 to 14 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 1 to 20
25 Mon	CHRISTMAS DAY	OT: Isaiah, chapter 52, verses 7 to 10 Psalm: 98 Epistle: Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 1 to 12 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 14
31 Sun	First Sunday of Christmas	OT: Isaiah, chapter 61, verses 10 to chapter 62, verse 3 Psalm: 148 Epistle: Galatians, chapter 4, verses 4 to 7 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 15 to 21
2024 January 7 Sun	Baptism of Christ First Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Genesis, chapter 1, verses 1 to 5 Psalm: 29 Epistle: Acts, chapter 19, verses 1 to 7 Gospel: Mark, chapter 1, verses 4 to 11
14 Sun	Second Sunday of Epiphany	OT: 1 Samuel, chapter 3, verses 1 to 20 Psalm: 139, verses 1 to 5 and 12 to 18 Epistle: Revelation, chapter 5, verses 1 to 10 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 43 to 51 (end)
21 Sun	Third Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Genesis, chapter 14, verses 17 to 20 Psalm: 128 Epistle: Revelation, chapter 19, verses 6 to 10 Gospel: John chapter 2, verses 1 to 11
28 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verses 15 to 20 Psalm: 111 Epistle: Revelation, chapter 12, verses 1 to 5a Gospel: Mark, chapter 1, verses 21 to 28

MOMSS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please advise momssgeditor@live.co.uk of amendments/additions

ANGLICAN CHURCH INFORMATION

Priest-in-Charge

Rev Andrea Harwood 01458 443239 vicarmomss@gmail.com

Sunday mornings, Tuesdays and Wednesdays plus half a day on Saturdays (by arrangement)

United Benefice Readers

Pauline Davies 01278 451280 and Richard Graham 01278 722284

Parish Auxiliary Lay Ministers

Mervyn Winslade (Othery); Ruth Peberdy (Stawell)

Churchwardens

Middlezoy: Ian Campbell 01823 698790

Othery: Mervyn Winslade 01823 698368 and Margaret Harris

Moorlinch: Fiona Hixon 01458 21 1096

Stawell contact: To be arranged

Sutton Mallet contact: Brian Lishman 01278 722579

Greinton contact: Jean Heywood 01458 210497

METHODIST CHAPEL MIDDLEZOY

Minister: Rev Deborah Kirk 01823 334854

Local Contact: Jill Darby jilldrb@gmail.com 01823 698000

Bookings: <https://middlezoychapeluk.wordpress.com/bookings/> or Jill Darby (above)

PARISH COUNCILS/MEETINGS

Middlezoy—Chairman: Paul Baker 01823 698082

Othery—Chairman: Andrew Tizzard 01823 690284

Moorlinch—Meeting Chairman: Anne Farmer 01458 210393

Stawell and Sutton Mallet—Chairman: Philip Jay

Greinton—Enquiries: Toby Crispin 01458 210227

VILLAGE AMENITIES

Middlezoy: The George Inn 01823 698215;

Shop 01823 587222 open Mon, Tues 8.45am-1.00, 1.30-4.30pm, Wed 8.45am-11.00am,

Thurs, Fri 8.45am-1.00, 1.30-5pm, Sat 8.45am-12 noon;

P.O. 01823 698981 open Mon, Tues 10.00am-1.00, 1.30-4.30pm, Wed closed,

Thurs, Fri 10.00am-1.00, 1.30-5pm, Sat closed; Village Hall 01823 698076

Othery: School 01823 698464; Othery Village Hall 01823 690482

Moorlinch: Ring O'Bells 01458 210358; Church Hall 01458 210755

Stawell & Sutton Mallet: Village Hall 01278 723665

Greinton: Village Hall 01458 210277

POLICE: Emergencies only tel: 999 ; Non emergencies tel: 101


CRIMESTOPPERS: 8am-10pm Weekdays 0800 555111;

NHS: Tel: 111

DISTRICT PCSOs: Georgia Coles 07889 659466; Ben Simpkin 07889 659932

VILLAGE AGENTS

To contact a Village Agent ring 01823 331222 and they will find the most suitable person to deal with your query. Referrals can also be made via doctors' surgeries.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
December 3 Sun <i>(First of Advent)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Advent service with start of POSADA journeys and Recommissioning of United Benefice Ministry Team	St Michael's, Othery 
10 Sun <i>(Second of Advent)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 5.30 pm 5.00 pm	Holy Communion service Christingle & Gifts service Christingle Reimagined Village Nativity & Christingles	St Michael's, Othery St Francis, Stawell In the Pavilion, Moorlinch Methodist Chapel, M'Zoy
15 Fri	7.00 pm	Village Carol Service	St Francis, Stawell
17 Sun <i>(Third of Advent)</i> <i>O Sapientia</i>	10.00 am 12.30 pm 5.00 pm 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Holy Communion service Baptism Carol service Christmas Singalong Village Carol service	St Michael's, Othery St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Michael & All Angels, Greinton Holy Cross, Middlezoy
24 Sun <i>(Fourth of Advent)</i> CHRISTMAS EVE	3.00 pm 3.00 pm 3.00 pm 6.00 pm 11.30 pm	Village Crib service Carols & Crib service Carols & Crib service Village Carol service UB Midnight Mass	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Francis, Stawell Sutton Mallet Church St Michael's, Othery
25 Mon CHRISTMAS DAY 	10.00 am	UB-Family Communion 	St Francis, Stawell 
31 Sun <i>(First of Christmas)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Francis, Stawell
2024 January 7 Sun <i>(First of Epiphany)</i> <i>(Baptism of Christ)</i>	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Breakfast Café Joint Worship For All Holy Communion service Morning Prayer	Church Room, Othery Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell
14 Sun <i>(Second of Epiphany)</i>	10.30 am	Joint Covenant service with United Benefice and the Methodist Chapel members	Methodist Chapel, Middlezoy
21 Sun <i>(Third of Epiphany)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion Service	St Michael's, Othery
28 Sun <i>(Fourth of Epiphany)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion service Prayer & Praise All Age Worship service Morning Prayer Circuit Communion Service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell Methodist Chapel, M'Zoy