

# MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 2024

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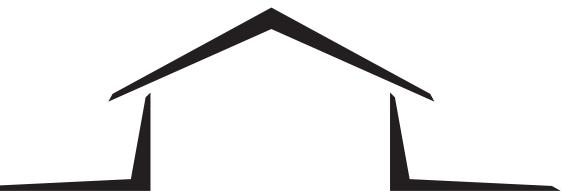


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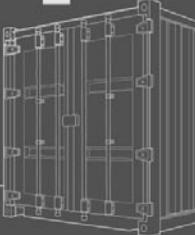
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## A LETTER FROM OUR CHURCHWARDENS

In the Christian Church our focus in December is Advent. It's the beginning of a new church year and a season of expectation and preparation, as we prepare to celebrate the birth (adventus) of Christ.



We recognise that the commercial pressures around Christmas have made it harder to sustain a sense of watchfulness and hopefulness, but the key Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come'. Church decorations are simple (no flowers, just 'the holly and the ivy'). In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. We will light candles on an Advent wreath, a tradition that was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday', and this provides a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent.

In Milborne Port, we will celebrate the lighting of the village lights right at the end of November, and then the village Christmas Tree Festival will be held in St John's Church from 7th to 14th December, so the church will have a week of light and beauty in Advent. The children at the primary school will have their own Christingle celebration in school and then they will come to the church a week later for their Carol Service.

Christmas time can be an extremely difficult time for so many however, with the twinkling lights and endless Christmas songs and carols being played in shops and over the airwaves. This jollity only accentuates the

pain which many feel in their hearts at this time of year, so we commend the **Longest Night Service on Saturday 21st December at 3 p.m.** It is a gentler, reflective service of carols and readings, with the recognition that those present may very well find Christmas challenging.

We must acknowledge that the Church of England has been rocked by the resignation of Archbishop Welby following the publication of the Makin Report, which exposed the heinous acts committed by John Smyth and the failure of many who chose not to follow up the allegations against him. We at St John's take Safeguarding very seriously and have robust policies and procedures in place. Safeguarding, actively taking care of each other, is the responsibility of all of us.



Finally, as December begins, we are very happy to be welcoming back Rev. Rona from her sabbatical. We would like to thank all those who have helped cover Rona's absence in the past three months, particularly our retired clergy, Brian McConnell, Stuart Thomas, Diane Barrett, Frank Wright and Jane Craw.

Wishing you a peaceful Advent and a joyous Christmas.

*Nicki Edwards and Susan Wales  
Churchwardens*

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

There were no baptisms, marriages or funerals last month



## CHURCH HOUSE 100 CLUB

Results of the November Draw

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£30	Anon (No. 4)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£20	Mr R Bawtree
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£10	Anon (No. 72)



## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



### **THE CHRISTMAS STORY WITH BELLS ON!!**

**St Peter's Church, Goathill**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**3.00 p.m.**

**Everyone Welcome Always**

Congratulation to **Scarlett Manger**, who took our cover photo this month. Everyone loves those donkeys and it's good to give them a starring role this Christmas!

We are always pleased to receive new photographs for consideration as future covers. Please send your high-res images of scenes in and around the village to

**[magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk](mailto:magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk)**

## Advent Reflections

From 1<sup>st</sup> December we start predominantly using Luke's Gospel for the Sunday readings. Luke has 24 chapters. So, for the month of December, as we wait for the celebration of the coming of Christ on the 25<sup>th</sup>, join me in reading a chapter of Luke's Gospel each day.



There will be two opportunities each week to meet and reflect on the meaning of Advent, Luke's Gospel and the appointed Sunday Gospel texts. The first will be on a Wednesday, and the second on a Saturday. All meetings will take place in Milborne Port.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December / Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Wednesday** Meet in the Lady Chapel of St John's at 11.00 a.m. , or preferably come to half hour Communion first at 10.30, and stay on for 45 minutes of Advent Reflections. This will include music, poetry, silence and discussion on the chapters which we have read of Luke's Gospel thus far.

**Saturday** Come along to the church 10 a.m. -11 a.m. for more Advent Reflections with music, poetry, silence and discussion on the Bible Reading which we will hear on the next day. (7<sup>th</sup> Dec - Luke 3:1-6, 14<sup>th</sup> Dec - Luke 3:7-18)

Feel free to bring your thermal mug with a hot drink! I look forward to seeing you there.

*With love  
Rev Rona*

## Milborne Port Christmas Tree Festival

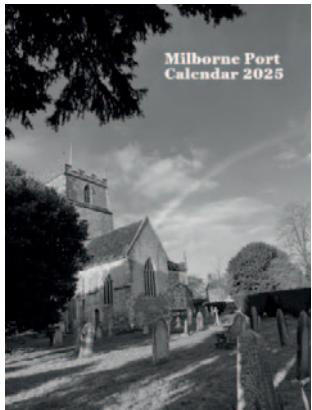


The 2024 Village Christmas Tree Festival will be held in St John's Church, from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The church will be open each day for viewing from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Please come and support all the businesses, clubs and organisations that have taken the time to decorate the trees with the theme "Christmas Hit Singles".

Will you be able to tell "Merry Xmas Everybody" from "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" I wonder?

As in previous years, the trees have kindly been donated by The Spirit of Milborne Port.



## Milborne Port Calendars 2025

The biggest and best bargain of the year!

Calendars for 2025 are out and still only £5.00!

Perfect little gifts for friends and family.

Available at Wayne's Butchers and the Tippling Philosopher – thanks both!

Also at the Primary School Shopping evening on December 5<sup>th</sup> and the Lights Switch-On.

## Remembering

 This is an occasional series, commemorating each of the 19 Milborne Port men who died in service during the Second World War, on the 80th anniversary of his death. It reflects the wartime losses in real time but 80 years on. Our thanks to Naomi Thorp for her work on this.

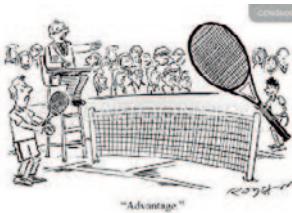
### Thomas Newman died December 1944

Thomas Newman was a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve with 460 Squadron Bomber Command when he was killed in a raid over Germany on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1944. He and his fellow crew members were buried in a collective grave at Oostelbeers Roman Catholic Cemetery, Holland, on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1944, after a service led by the Canadian chaplain who had witnessed the crash.

George Abram and Maud Edith Newman, his parents, lived at Crackmore Lodge in Milborne Port and Thomas was the fifth of their six children. In January 1941 he married Doreen Amy Garrett and the Parish Magazine shows that their daughter, Diane Myra, was christened at St John's Church in November 1942. They also had a son, David, who was born in November 1943.



## News from the Parish Council



**“Anyone for tennis?”** Visitors to the recreation ground at Springfield will know that the recently refurbished tennis courts have been in use for quite a few months now. Anyone can use the courts, there is no fee for using them, there is no booking system and they are never locked. However, priority will be given to members of Milborne Port Tennis Club on Mondays and Fridays and to residents of Milborne Port at other times. A sign with this and other information will be installed at the beginning of next year.

**Welcome on Board!** The Parish Council extends a very warm welcome to two new councillors – Mrs Alison Flynn and Mr Paul Scrivener. We very much look forward to working with them both in the months and years to come!



**Village Hall Steering Group** Some readers will be aware that there has been a change in the governance of the Village Hall, with Chris Sheeran now in role as the manager and with the establishment of a new Village Hall Committee. Chris and the Committee are full of great ideas about how the facilities at the Hall can be improved and developed, but if you are interested in contributing your ideas about how the potential of this valuable asset could be realised, do join a new Steering Group. Contact the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, Councillor Margaret Capon, if you are interested: [margaret.capon@milborneportpc.org.uk](mailto:margaret.capon@milborneportpc.org.uk), tel. 07445 555445.

**Simon and Nathalie wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2025!**

## Planning Committee: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Meetings take place in the Town Hall and start at 7 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can address the meeting with questions or comments from 7-7.15pm. If you would like to attend but would experience access difficulties, please let us know in advance and we will relocate to the Community Room downstairs.

*Simon Pritchard – Parish Clerk [clerk@milborneportpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@milborneportpc.org.uk)*

*Nathalie Hetherington – Deputy [office@milborneportpc.org.uk](mailto:office@milborneportpc.org.uk)*

*Find us on Facebook! Search: Milborne Port Community Council*

*Parish Council Website: [www.milborneportpc.org.uk](http://www.milborneportpc.org.uk)*

## Milborne Port Community Plan Update

We have recently received the preliminary results from the Community Plan Survey. These are now being integrated into a report from our partners Community Council for Somerset, and we look forward to publishing them, together with the all-important Action Plan, in the near future. We had a total of 374 responses!



We have also received details from the CCS of the three prize winners and have notified them of their success. Well done to all three of you and we hope you enjoy the pre-holiday treats. Our commiserations to other participants, but the survey has provided a wealth of extremely interesting data and priorities which will help us take our community forward in future years, so thank you for the time and effort. It makes a great difference.

More to come soon. *Milborne Port Community Plan Steering Group*

## Our MP in Parliament

Notes on some of the issues that our local MP, Sarah Dyke, has engaged with recently. Not a party political pitch, but a record of her actions as our constituency representative.

- SD brought the Horticultural Peat (Prohibition of Sales) Bill to Parliament. This now goes to second reading.
- SD has been elected to the EFRA committee which oversees the work of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- SD spoke in Parliamentary debate against the “family farm tax”, met farmers at the recent protest, and brought concerns to the Government.



## Milborne Port Village Hall News

### Film Night

Due to the way Christmas falls this year, there is no December Film Night at the Village Hall. We were hoping to open up for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> but unfortunately the film company were already booked. Hope to see you in January.

### Calling All Card Players

Anybody for Bridge? Milborne Port Village Hall, Camelot Suite has the perfect setting for a bridge club or card school, with up to seven tables available. It would also serve for board games, chess, draughts, backgammon, etc. As well as that, it has a screen for presentations or training. In fact, the list of



possibilities for this room is endless but the room is sadly underutilised at present. The room has its own kitchenette as well as ladies' and gents' washrooms, heating and storage. If you are interested, please contact me to arrange a visit to see for yourself.

### Tiny Talk Classes

Calling all parents of babies and toddlers... Meet Natalie, here to empower your parenting journey with fun and educational Tiny Talk baby sign classes in the Camelot Suite. Spaces are available in class for an immediate start so do join them, have a sing, learn some signs, enjoy a hot drink and get your baby sign journey started. There are classes at Milborne Port Village Hall for babies from birth to 24 months. Tuesdays, 10.00 to 12.30, £6.75 per class per family. Contact [nataliedalzell@tinytalk.co.uk](mailto:nataliedalzell@tinytalk.co.uk).

## Christmas at the Hall

The Village Hall is very busy throughout December, but there are still a few slots available in the Main Hall and Camelot Suite for the odd Christmas Festivity, or if you want to check out the facilities at the hall for future events. Please check our website calendar for availability on [www.milborneportvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.milborneportvillagehall.org.uk)

*Chris Sheeran, Village Hall Manager  
manager@milborneportvillagehall.co.uk*

Find us on Facebook: search Milborne Port Village Hall

## Milborne Port Football Club

As we move towards the end of the year, it's certainly been one of success for the club on the pitch, and off it!



Our adult section won a league and cup double, as well as retaining places in Dorset division one and Yeovil and District division one. Our youth team continue to develop and attract players both locally and from further afield. We now have an under 18's team and have also begun training for next seasons under 7's.

Off the pitch, we have secured grant funding to improve our pitches which will enable us to continue to offer our community the opportunity to play sport, which is so important.

None of this is possible without the efforts of our volunteer coaches, committee and the parish council. Thank you to you all. Our sponsors have been magnificent this year as well, thank you to you all. It makes such a difference for us to have your support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from us at MPFC.

**#upthemilborne**

*Ben Tupman*



We have had a busy half term at school. As well as raising money for Children in Need by wearing something spotty, many children supported the Christmas shoebox appeal which is run by the Samaritan's Purse charity. We were able to send a number of shoeboxes off to the charity so that children who are less fortunate will get a Christmas present to open on 25th December.

Our Year 5 and 6 children have had weekly swimming lessons at Sherborne School this term and our Year 4/5 class had a visit from an engineer. The Choir sang at an African concert at Westlands in Yeovil and were joined by other local primary school choirs. They were also accompanied by four drummers from Ghana who wore traditional costumes.

We are now looking ahead to Christmas! Our Key Stage 1 children have started to rehearse their Nativity play and we will be having our Carol Service in St John's Church on Tuesday 17th December.

*Jonathan Rodd, Headteacher  
01963 250366*

## Milborne Port Primary School PTFA

### Christmas Shopping Evening

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.30 – 9.00 p.m.**

**Shopping, Music from Sherborne Rock  
Choir, Prosecco and mulled wine**

# CHURCH SERVICES

## *(including the Principal Service Readings)*

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St John's: Weekdays at 9 a.m.

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> th December Advent Sunday**

*1 Thessalonians 3:9-end, Luke 21:25-36*

9:00 a.m.	NO Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne
10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Darkness to Light	Charlton Horethorne
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6*

9:00 a.m.	NO Holy Communion	Goathill
10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Carol Service	Stowell
6:00 p.m.	NO Evensong	Charlton Horethorne
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10:00 a.m.	Community Thanksgiving	Milborne Port

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18*

9:00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Wick
10:30 a.m.	Matins	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port

# FOR DECEMBER

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

6:00 p.m. Carol Service

Milborne Wick

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

3:00pm Longest Night Milborne Port

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-45*

3:00 p.m. Carol Service

Goathill

6:00 p.m. Carol Service

Milborne Port

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

*Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14*

3:00 p.m. Crib Service

Milborne Port

5:00 p.m. Carol Service

Charlton Horethorne

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**

*Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14*

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Charlton Horethorne

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Milborne Port

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

*Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-end*

10:30 a.m. **Benefice Communion**

Charlton Horethorne

### **Wednesday 1 January**

10:30 a.m. NO Midweek Communion

Milborne Port

### **Sunday 5 January Epiphany Sunday**

*Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12*

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Charlton Horethorne

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Milborne Port

6:00 p.m. Evensong

Stowell



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December !! What, so quickly? - and now into Advent and Christmas celebrations. Here at ReBorne we are being flexible with plans as we wait to see our completed renovation works. The completed picture will be into January . Watch out for an opportunity to come in and visit.

Our regular activities will restart in January in the ReBorne building - Toddlers on a Monday, Kids Club and Youth Club on a Tuesday - (please note adjusted time of Youth Club to 6-7.30pm), Life Group on a Wednesday and again watch this space for other activities and events. Also keep an eye on the website ([www.rebornechurch.org](http://www.rebornechurch.org))

We want to sincerely thank our village Primary School in supporting and accommodating us during this time, as our activities have been held in school during the building work- thank you so much.

With this in mind, our Christmas Day plans have been cancelled, and we will be sharing with friends and family elsewhere. However, 2025 will be a definite! Our Family Carol and Christingle Service this year is being held in the Digby Hall on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm, please join us if you are free.

This period of time is busy and can be overwhelming. BUT take a moment to reflect on the joy of Christmas - the joy of our Lord and Saviour being born for each one of us . Our prayer at ReBorne Church is that as you gather with families and friends over this time, you have a truly blessed Christmas and that you may experience God's grace , love and fellowship.

*Adrian and Yvonne Bright*

## Pause for Thought

Living alongside the busy A30, as I do, I rarely experience time without the incessant noise of traffic. When I can get away – and it need not be far from Milborne Port – I can walk in the woods and find a little peace.

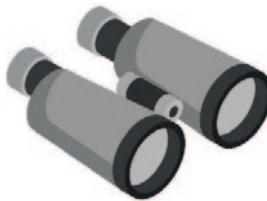
Silence in our busy, noisy world is a rare commodity. Very occasionally, as on Remembrance Sunday, we have a communal silence shared across the whole country. Some people seem to be afraid of silence, filling any quietness with radio, music or television or with chatter. Silence can leave us alone with our thoughts, in an empty space, which can be invaded by our anxious, fearful internal soundtrack.

But for others, silence brings relief, a reduction in stress and anxiety, a time to allow the mind to drift and dream as our thoughts settle into the quietness. Silence can bring healing and restoration of the mind. Physiologists tell us about the benefits of relaxation and of cultivating silence, from reduced blood pressure, lowered stress hormone cortisol, better and more restful sleep. The aim of meditation is not to empty the mind but rather to train the mind to focus on the present moment

In recent years, there has been a renewal of interest both in silent prayer and in mindfulness and meditation. These have always been a feature of Eastern religions and is central to Buddhism, but a contemplative life is a core and fundamental part of Christianity and has been for nearly two thousand years in monastic communities. Many churches in the Middle Ages housed hermits – anchorites and anchoresses - seeking a quiet solitary life of contemplation. One such person was the 14<sup>th</sup> century anchoress Julian of Norwich.

In Sherborne, there are two groups practicing silence together:- Sherborne Quakers who meet in the Digby Memorial Hall, in Digby St at 10:30 every Sunday, and the Julian Meetings in Sherborne Abbey at 4 p.m. Second Wednesday in the month.

*Margaret Capon*



## Bird Therapy

Since I wrote my first birding article for the magazine a year ago, my passion for bird watching has strengthened. At that time I had recorded 107 UK species. These numbers have risen to 257 globally of which 140 are UK bird species. I have graduated to a slightly better camera, a lighter pair of binoculars and several more second hand bird identification books.

Any hobby which brings you closer to nature is something I would definitely recommend. When you are out walking, occasionally stopping to observe the birds you hear and see, the stresses of everyday life literally disappear and you become consumed with the immense beauty of it all.

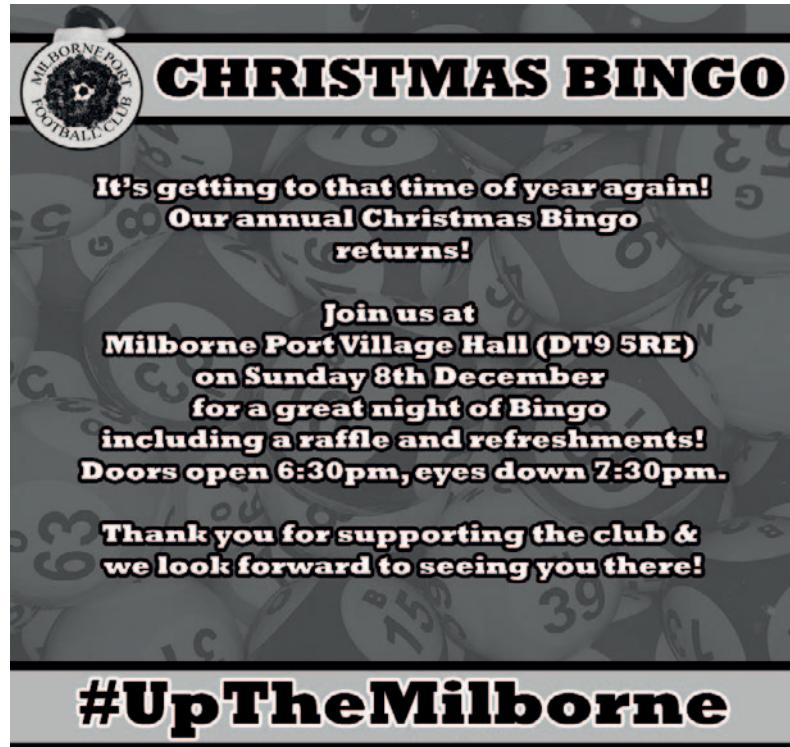
But you don't even need to leave your house. If you have a garden, no matter how big or small, you can attract a large number of bird species to bird feeders here in Milborne Port. I have recorded Blue Tits, Coal Tits, Great Tits, Long-tailed Tits, Goldfinches, Chaffinches, Green Finch, Black Caps, House Sparrows, Blackbirds, Robins, Nuthatch (photo), Starlings, Magpie and Great Spotted Woodpecker and there is always a Dunnock or a Pigeon or two, on the ground clearing up the scraps!

Merry Christmas and happy bird watching one and all!

*Jane Hewitt*



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The image is a flyer for a Christmas Bingo event. At the top left is the Milborne Port Football Club logo. The main title 'CHRISTMAS BINGO' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the text 'It's getting to that time of year again! Our annual Christmas Bingo returns!' is displayed. In the center, there is a block of text: 'Join us at Milborne Port Village Hall (DT9 5RE) on Sunday 8th December for a great night of Bingo including a raffle and refreshments! Doors open 6:30pm, eyes down 7:30pm.' At the bottom, it says 'Thank you for supporting the club & we look forward to seeing you there!' and features the hashtag '#UpTheMilborne'.

## Christmas Tree Disposal Scheme

Daniel and Lisa from Toomer Tree Services will again be running their Charity Christmas Tree Disposal after Christmas. Their date will be 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

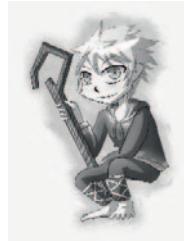
So go ahead and get that real Christmas tree knowing you can recycle it easily and while helping others!

More details next month



## Milborne Port Gardening Club

Jack Frost has definitely made himself felt, and all before the official start of winter. He is the personification of frost, ice, snow, sleet and freezing cold. No doubt your gardens have now felt the brunt of his visits and hopefully you've managed to keep some of your precious plants safe.



November saw the club hold its annual AGM. We had a wonderful turnout of members and trust that many of you are looking forward to the forthcoming program for 2025. Thank you to our program organiser Judith Lazell. We followed the AGM with a slideshow recap of the year's guest speakers and the beautiful and varied visits we made through the summer.

7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December will see our final gathering for 2024 and we will be hosting a Quiz. No clues from me - however, we would love to see our members and any guests come along for what will hopefully be an evening of fun, friendship and possibly a little competition! We will have mixed tables of 6-8 with some festive cheer and nibbles for those venturing out to join us.

On behalf of the Club Committee, and our members, we wish to thank our local community for their continued and positive support, ensuring the continuation of the Club. May everyone have the comfort of the love, friendship and company of those they hold dear during the festive season.

Should you wish to join us in 2025, please do come to any meeting or contact the Secretary (Samantha at [samgraham2009@gmail.com](mailto:samgraham2009@gmail.com)). We happily welcome guests to our meetings for a fee of £3.00 for December and £4.00 from January 2025.

*Samantha Dean*



better luck next year!

I'm writing this on the day in November (21st) when we have had persistent snow all morning, hence our shopping trip to Exeter has been cancelled. I know we were all looking forward to browsing the Christmas markets and having a nice lunch out. However, some of the roads were very bad and we didn't want to get stuck in the freezing cold somewhere between here and Exeter. Let's hope for better luck next year!

At our November meeting a very nice lady from Mind in Somerset came to give us a talk on mental health. Fortunately, mental health does not have the stigma associated with it anymore and is recognized as an illness, just as much as physical health. Looking after ourselves mentally includes socializing with friends and going to meetings. We hope that anyone who wants to chat, comes along to our 'drop in' afternoons which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2.00pm. These are informal and we just ask for a donation of £3.00 to go towards the heating and refreshments. All are welcome.

Some of us attended Henstridge Flyer's 25th Anniversary Party earlier this month. We had a delicious two course dinner, followed by games and dancing. The competition was to make a fascinator with the various craft items supplied. I'm pleased to say that two of our members - Diane and Mary - won the competition, but all the fascinators were fascinating! Our meeting in December is when we have our traditional fish and chip supper, supplied by Else's of course, and is for members only. We will enjoy a glass of wine (or two) and hopefully indulge in a bit of festive silliness!

We continue to serve hot drinks on Friday mornings from 10.30 a.m. and look forward to seeing members, regulars and newcomers then.

*Christine Porter*

## Friends of Milborne Port Library

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** Crime Lovers and Cake Club –. Enjoy Crime Fiction? Come along to our friendly session, where we share book recommendations and eat cake! 10.30am

**Rhyme Time** every Tuesday 10.30am (not on Christmas eve)

**Yarn and Natter** Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup>, 2.30 – 4pm (not on Christmas Eve)

**Lego Club** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December – – 9.30 – 12 noon

**Christmas Eve** : Childrens Craft Activities -, 10 – 11am.

**Monthly Book Recommendation:** *The Christmas Bookshop* by Jenny Colgan Carmen does not like accepting help, least of all from Sofia, her glamorous, successful, generally -perfect-in-everyway older sister. But Carmen needs a job fast, and Sofia, infuriatingly, happens to know where she can find one. Mr McCredie will be forced to sell. Carmen is his last hope. What next? Borrow a copy from the library for your Christmas reading.

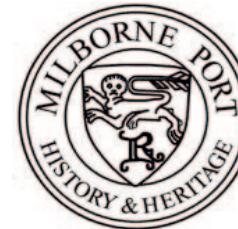
**New Library Staff:** A new member of library staff will be joining us in January to work alongside Millie. We know you will all make them very welcome.

**NOTE: Christmas Opening Times:** Apart from possible early closing on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Library opening times will remain as normal,



Merry Christmas to all our library users,  
new, old and future!

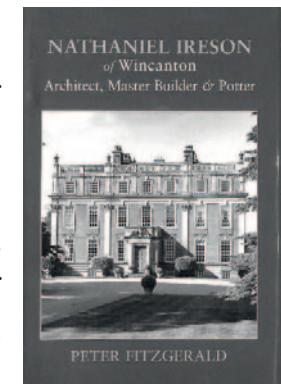
*Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com*



## Milborne Port History & Heritage Group

Members of Henstridge U3A were our guests on 8<sup>th</sup> November for a guided walk around the ancient borough and a visit to the Museum (after lunch at The Tipp!) We received some great feedback and hope to see some of them again at the Museum in the Summer.

For our talk on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, we were joined by Peter and Sarah Fitzgerald to tell us about the life and works of Nathaniel Ireson of Wincanton (1685-1769), the builder of Ven House in the time of James Medlycott, and about Ireson's delft pottery factory; Peter is the author of *Nathaniel Ireson: Architect, Master Builder & Potter*. Peter showed us many examples of Ireson's architectural skills, and Sarah gave us a charming whistle-stop tour through the Wincanton pottery works.



At the end of the talk, we revealed that the sixth great-granddaughter of Nathaniel Ireson – who by happy coincidence lives in Milborne Port – had been sitting in the audience all along! And as if wasn't wonderful enough, we then discovered that there was yet another Ireson descendant amongst us! A delightful family reunion followed, as you can imagine...

There will be no talk this month, but our first talk of 2025 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January will be given by members of the Committee and will take you on a tour around some interesting buildings of historical import in the village, including Bazzleways and Manor Farm House. More details in the January magazine.

Don't forget to keep Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 free for our VE Commemoration Day! We are busy making plans and would welcome the offer of extra help to bring all of our ideas together; it will be a day of activities, exhibitions, displays and talks about Milborne Port and its surroundings during the Second World War, all at the Village Hall, with a 1945 'rationed' lunch and an evening dance with what we hope to be a live band playing songs from the period!

*Nathalie Hetherington*

## The December Night Sky

*This Advent moon shines cold and clear,  
These Advent nights are long:  
Our lamps have burned year after year,  
And still their flame is strong.*

*Christina Rossetti, from "Advent"*

This month we will be blessed with both Jupiter and Venus at their most spectacular for 2024. Venus will be dominant in the west and Jupiter high in the south. Not to be outdone Mars also burns bright. Add in the constellations Orion, Canis Major, Canis Minor, Taurus and Gemini and you have the most perfect backdrop for anyone watching the night sky this December.

1<sup>st</sup>: Start of meteorological winter, First Sunday in Advent and New Moon

4<sup>th</sup>: Early evening view of Venus and the crescent moon together low in the southwest sky.

7<sup>th</sup>: Jupiter bright all night.

8<sup>th</sup>: rising together at dusk there will be a close approach of Saturn and the moon. First quarter moon.

9<sup>th</sup>: Close approach of the Moon and Venus. Both rise in the East at about 4:20 am and are lost in the dawn by 7:20 am.



13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>: Geminids meteor shower, interference from moonlight - so poor viewing this year with only the brightest trails visible.

15th: Full Moon: the full moon this year falls before midwinter, so it is known as the Moon before Yule.

14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Close approach of the moon and Mars, rising together at dusk and then on subsequent nights a little late until by the 17<sup>th</sup> they will rise together at about 7 p.m..

21<sup>st</sup>: **Winter Solstice**, the Sun is at its lowest point in the sky. On this day we will have our shortest day and longest night. Also, the start of astronomical winter. - from this point forward, the days gradually grow longer until we reach the summer solstice. The lighting of bonfires at this time of year traditionally represents the slow return of the light.

22<sup>nd</sup>: Last quarter moon.

30<sup>th</sup>: New moon – and it's a blue moon. A 'blue moon' is the second full moon in a calendar month with two full moons, it is a relatively rare occurrence, hence the expression "once in a blue moon".

## **Sunrise and Sunset**

1<sup>st</sup>: Sunrise 7:51 a.m. Sunset: 4:09 p.m.

31st: Sunrise 8:14 a.m. Sunset: 4:14 p.m.

In Milborne Port, the first day of the month is 08 hours, 18 minutes long. The last day of December is 08 hours, so the length of the days gets 18 minutes shorter in December 2024.

*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas with the hope of good viewing conditions, as there is lots to see.*

*Ganymede*

## **MAGAZINE DEADLINES**

### **Please note early dates to avoid Christmas week**

All entries for the January 2025 issue of the magazine to the editor please by Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon latest.



Distributors at the church on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2 p.m.

Editor's email :

**magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk**

All email contributions will be acknowledged. If you do not receive a reply, or if you are unable to use email, please ring 01963 33495

## **MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS**

### **PARISH CHURCH: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

#### **Staff**

Priest in Charge	Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne	845278
Churchwardens	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
	Mrs Nicki Edwards	nickiedwards19@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Ms Helen Solomon	250248

#### **Other Useful Church contacts**

Organist	Mrs Rachel Willetts	01935 813958
Vergers	Mr & Mrs Ronnie Goodman	845082
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Mumford	33495
Magazine Advertising	Mr Robin Bawtree	251359
& Magazine Treasurer		
Tower Captain & Sec:	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
PCC Secretary	Mrs Felicity John	250382
Church Treasurer	Mr Paul Springett	220790
& Stewardship Recorder		
Church House Treasurer	Mr Ben Grundy	bengrundy@mpchouse.org.uk
Parish Church of St Peter, Goathill:	Church Warden: Mrs Trudy West	250611
Milborne Wick Church:	Prowarden: John Sprake	250243
Church House Bookings:	www.mpchouse.org.uk or Christine Porter	250821

#### **OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES**

Roman Catholic Church (Wincanton)	hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk	
Reborne Community Church	Minister Adrian Bright	07975 755032

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

Doctors	Drs Wyer, Bulley, Smith, Esteves, Palanisamy, Robertson, Gray & Squire	250334
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Primary School	Head Teacher Mr J. Rodd	250366
Clerk to Parish Council	Mr Simon Pritchard, Town Hall	251268
Registrar	Ms S Shire	435008
Spirit of Milborne Port	Claire Andrews	07729 582 669
Village Hall	Manager/Bookings: Chris Sheeran	07946 333542
WI Contact:	Christine Porter	250821
Police	Non Emergency	101
PCSO on duty (Wincanton)	Emergencies	999
Library	At the Town Hall	101
	Tuesday 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Friday and Saturday 9-12.30	07396 587767
Pharmacist	Ty and Mansur Lawal, Milborne Port Pharmacy	250259
Over 65s Tuesday Lunch Club	Anne Salkeld	250529
	Alison Flynn	07896 678267
	Chris Chiswell	07713 030782

Milborne Port community website and diary [www.milborneport.org.uk](http://www.milborneport.org.uk)

Parish Council website [www.milborneportpc.org.uk](http://www.milborneportpc.org.uk)

Benefice website: [www.milborneportchurches.org.uk](http://www.milborneportchurches.org.uk)

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