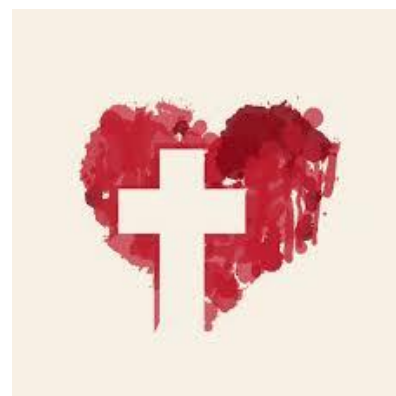




February Newsletter



Dear Friends

It has been a while since I wrote one of these but as I write this newsletter towards the end of January, I am reminded that this is often viewed as a rather dreary time of year with cold days which may well be overcast leaving many with a low mood with Monday 20th being classed as the most depressing day.

Yet for me this an opportunity for appreciating and giving thanks for all that we are surrounded by in this beautiful part of the world. Whilst out walking later this afternoon I could not help but be uplifted by the wonderful sound of bird song and of primroses and snowdrops bursting into flower. As I returned home the sky had cleared to show a beautiful sunset as it seemed to hover over the distant hills with its golden rays lighting up the banks of trees with their buds seemingly waiting for the promise of warmer and longer daylight time as we journey towards the hope and joy of springtime.

As I thought about the month of February for this newsletter, there are special days that stood out for me which include times of celebration as well as times of reflection. On Sunday 2nd of February, 40 days after Christ's birth, we celebrate the feast day of His Presentation in the Temple where, in this the last Sunday of Epiphany, we see Jesus presented by Mary and Joseph before Anna and Simeon, and recognised as the Messiah with Simeon saying,

"At last, Lord, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised!

For with my own eyes, I have seen your salvation which you have made ready for every people—a light to show truth to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel".

Then in the evening we have a special Candlemas service in Lady St Mary Church, where, with wonderful words, music, and candlelight, we may see reflected the sense of Christ coming as a light into the darkness of world. Towards the end of that service, we each hold a lighted candle and in doing so we may ponder on these lights as being symbolic of Christ's light shining within each one of us as we witness to Him in the world.

This month, on St Valentine's Day, we may in some way remember and give thanks for someone who is or has been special to us and whom we love. Cont'd...

Some may be looking back on life and love of the past and many others, including the couples who will be looking forward to their wedding this year may take the opportunity of sharing a card or gift as a gesture of love for their loved one.

All through this month there will be opportunities for us to give thanks and to contemplate as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Lent and subsequently the wonder of Easter. As we celebrate and as we ponder, we may hold in our minds a picture of the world which is embraced by the heart of God who loves this His creation which encompasses both the natural world and all the people in it. How have we responded to His outreach to us in His Son and how might we respond to his love and sacrifice for us as we live as his lights in the world?

Michael

Nunc dimittis

A child within my arms now lays
Asleep, He's in my care
The Son of God, the Spirit says
And now I speak this prayer:

*O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord*

Salvation You have now prepared
Before the face of men
Salvation with the world is shared
So all may live again

*O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord*

A light upon the Gentiles, He
And Israel's glory, too
Now all Your saving love may see
And all may come to You.

*O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord.*

By Nigel Beeton

News from the Parish ...



The article in the January edition of the Newsletter, seeking to raise funds for essential work to be carried out on the LStM Organ, resulted in a heartening response from members of the congregation, such that a decision has been taken to commission the work in anticipation of the full sum being raised.

The fund-raising appeal, therefore, remains OPEN and contributions can still be made either through:

Cheques payable to “PCC of Wareham” (LStM Organ)

BACS Details:

Account name: The PCC of Wareham

Sort code: 60-22-45

Account No: 72063165

Ref: LSM Organ

Thanks are expressed to those who have already contributed and to a number who have offered to stand surety to ensure that the work can be carried out.



We need you!

Are you able to spare a few hours a week to join the Saturday or Sunday morning coffee Rota? It is a great opportunity to get to know others in the Parish.



Sandford St Martin's Church wish to recruit more musicians - keyboard etc. - for their 10.30am services on the first and second Sunday of each month. The first Sunday is usually Morning Worship and the second Holy Communion. If anyone is interested, please contact

Lesley. Thank you.

If you are interested in any of the above, please let Debs in the Parish office know
Tel: 550905 or parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Are you able to offer your gifts and skills to enhance and lead our worship? **YES?**

Do you want worship to be engaging, creative and fun? **YES?**

Then come along to the new
Lay Worship Leaders Course

Learning more about prayer, music, all-age worship, giving talks and more.

Starting 1st February 2025 and
followed by 15th February 1st, 15th and 29th March

If you would like further information, please contact Revd.'s Neil or Deborah
neilkelly3@icloud.com or debjswann@gmail.com

Parish Finances

The 2025 budget that was approved at the PCC meeting on 27th December 2024 showed the following figures:

Income	Expenditure	Deficit
£ 160,100	£ 221,164	£ 61,064

Our reserves as of 31st December were £ 81,673. The safety level is £ 60,000, which amounts to just over 14 weeks of expenditure.

The largest item of expenditure is our Parish Share, which is set by Salisbury Diocese for 2025 at £133,940. Most of this sum pays the costs of our two full-time clergy (Team Rector and Team Vicar) including their stipends (salaries) and housing costs. Although we do not currently have a Rector, we do not get a reduction in our Parish Share as the Diocesan budget allows for a percentage of vacancies at any one time. Other costs are stipends and training of curates and central Diocesan staff. In case you wonder, the Diocesan budget does not include the costs of Salisbury Cathedral. The Diocese had a deficit of around £1.2 million in 2023, so they need us to pay our full Parish Share.

In order to avoid a shortage in our cash reserves, the main way we can cut our expenditure is to reduce our payments of the Parish Share. The Diocesan have accepted a temporary reduction of £41,040, reducing our predicted deficit to £20,000 and leaving our cash

reserves at about £61,000. If we manage to reduce our deficit further we can release more money to the Diocese. If we carry on paying less to the Diocese over several years, there may be consequences in terms of future resourcing of ministry in our Parish.

The PCC are looking at other areas to reduce expenditure including payments for utilities (mainly heating), church and parish hall running costs and staffing of the Parish office.

The budgeted income for 2025 includes £27,800 for hire of the church and parish hall, PCC fees, sales, investment income and refreshments. The amount of income to be raised directly from church members, donations, legacies, gift days etc. is £193,364.

On average around 177 adults regularly attend our churches. To balance our budget, we need an average monthly income of **£91** from each adult. Obviously, some people cannot afford this amount, but others could pay more. Please consider whether you could increase your giving and if possible, sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme. Details are available at the back of the church or from the Parish Office.

‘Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.’ 2 Corinthians 9:7

‘Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.’ Luke 6:38

Mike Quinlan, Churchwarden

Diary of Events



The Promise of his Glory - Choral Evening Prayer for the Feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple at The Priory Church of Lady St Mary, Wareham - **Sunday 2nd February 2025 at 6pm** Come and mark the end of our celebration of The Saviour's birth, in words, prayer and music.

Outdoor Spirituality Events this month

Wednesday 5th February. A night walk in the light of the full moon. Starting at Lady St Mary's Church.

Sunday 16th February. Fire pit gathering at Holme Priory.

Friday 28th February. Pre-Lent quiet today, 11 am to 4 pm at Holme Priory



Going Deeper: Everyone welcome!

Do you want to deepen your faith, learn alongside others, and be encouraged in following Jesus Christ?

This month:
This month exploring the theme of
Forgiveness

Come along to enjoy informal worship and prayer with refreshments to begin

6pm Sunday 9th February 2025 at Sandford St Martin's Church



Men's Breakfast

The next Men's breakfast is on **Saturday 15th February 2025** at the **Bear Hotel, South Street** starting at **8.30am**. The guest speaker this month will be Mike Quinlan, Churchwarden. Whether you are a regular at men's breakfasts, or have never been before, you are most welcome to come along. **Please contact the Parish Office no**

later than the Wednesday before to book your place, on 01929 550905 or email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk



Open House - Thursday 27th February 2025

2pm at Sandford
St Martin's Church.
'Setting Sail' - with time
after for cup of tea, chat

and a raffle for charity. All are most welcome.

A new Co-ordinator is sought for the monthly (with exception of August) 'Open House' Group at Sandford St Martin's Church.

This would be with effect from April 2025. Please consider this request as 'Open House' often reaches out to twenty or more people and Lesley would be grateful for any enquiries through herself or the Parish Office on 550905. Thank you.



Joint Concert Mozart Requiem

**Saturday March 29th at
Lady St Mary Church, Wareham BH20 4ND**
Refreshments served 6:30pm, concert starts 7pm, no interval

Conductor
Hazel Ricketts

Organist Paul Ellis

Soprano Lucy Braga

Alto Mariah Beswick

Tenor Matt Dietz

Bass Sam Young

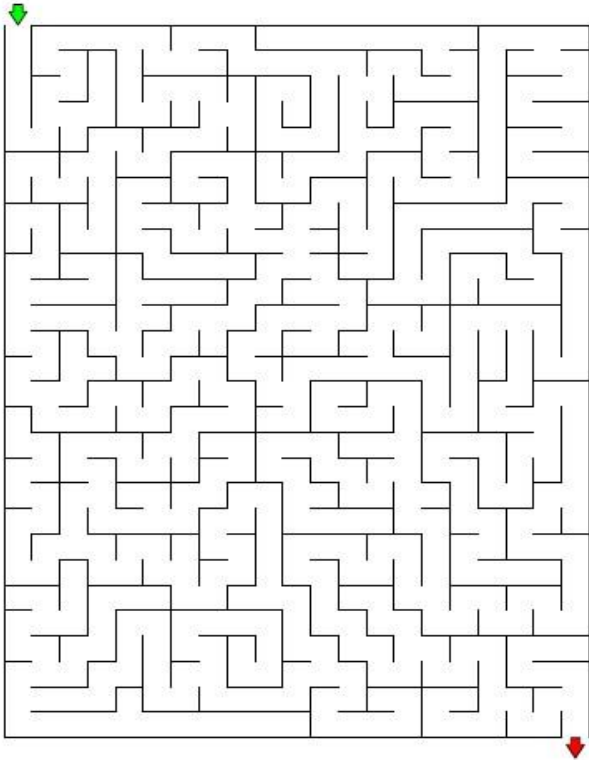


Thanks to: The King's Arms, Stoborough for their financial support
<https://thekingsarms-stoborough.co.uk/>

 Ticket prices: £10 Accompanied under-18s **FREE**
online <https://www.warehamchoral.uk>
email warehamchoral@gmail.com phone **01202 632678**
Joys in Wareham. Tickets also available on the door

Also on Sat April 5th 7pm at St James Church, Poole BH15 1JN
For details and tickets see <http://www.bhchoir.org.uk/>

Puzzles



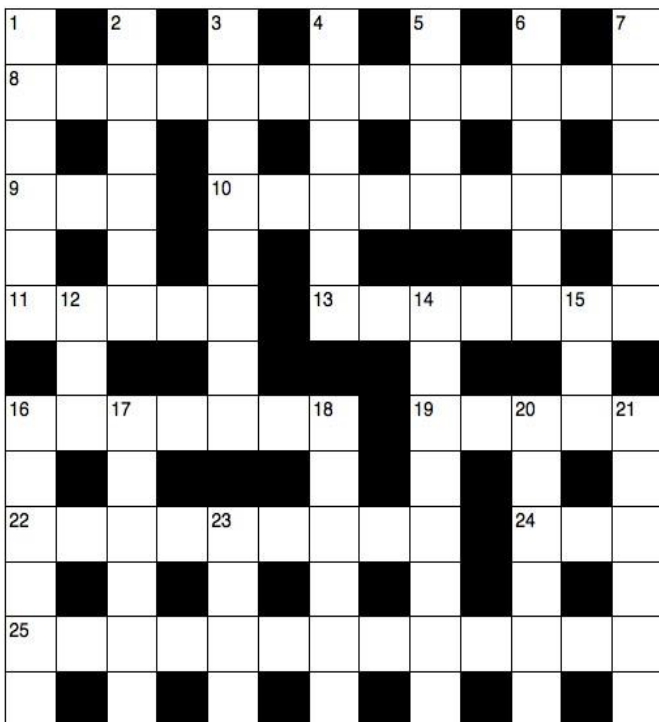
The Maze

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2	9				6			8
	3			2		7		

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Sudoku

Crossword



Clues Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Clues Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Contact information!

Parish Office opening times

The Parish Office will now be open to answer all face-to-face enquiries, telephone and email enquiries **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** 9am to 1pm. At all other times enquiries and queries can be made by email and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.



Contact details: Debs Barclay, Parish Administrator - **Tel:** 01929 550905, **Email:** parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk **Website:** www.warehamchurches.org.uk
Address: Parish Office, Church Green, Wareham BH20 4ND

Members of the Team are available for confidential help, support, and advice. Please contact:

Clergy Team



Team Vicars, The Reverends Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann
Tel: 01929 208400

Email: neilkelly3@icloud.com and debjswann@gmail.com

Schools Worker and Pioneer Priest, The Reverend Hilary Bond

Tel: 01929 551219 **Email:** hilary.bond@me.com

PtO, The Reverend Michael Young

Tel: 01929 552582 **Email:** myng220@btopenworld.com