

HighworthLINK

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December/January 2024

Memorable Moments
Competition
page 17



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Welcome from the Editor

There's no escaping the truth that it's Christmas, and wintertime. It's not like it's taken us by surprise – Christmas confectionery has been in some shops since September! And there's no doubt that, for most people, Christmas is a bit like Marmite: You either love it or you hate it.

We've all got our own feelings about it and perhaps yours aren't so black and white. I find myself hovering somewhere in that grey area of loving-the-message-of-Christmas-but-hating-the-busyness.

Now, you might be in the 'hate it' camp or you may be in the 'love it' camp. Perhaps you're like me and somewhere in the middle. Wherever you are, I just want to remind you that there's more to Christmas than tinsel and eggnog. When the Christmas TV adverts start to grind your gears remember that Christmas is an opportunity to see that there is hope, whatever your circumstances. I've written about it before and I make no apology for saying again that hope is more than a feeling. I think it was back in October when I wrote about hope being a belief in certainty, being confidently expectant of something positive. With that in mind, whatever Christmas is like for you, I want you to remember that it's not all about us and that there is always hope. Always.

Perhaps you already go to church regularly or maybe you're a 'births, deaths and marriages' kind of churchgoer. Take this as my encouragement to you to get to a church service this Christmas. It might be your kid's school nativity play or maybe a carol service. Or maybe the thought of going to an actual church

service in an actual church building makes you break out in a rash. So why not try **Carols on the Podium on Saturday 23 December at 5pm?** This is for anyone to attend, isn't in a church building but is in the Market Square, and it'll be full of carols, free mince pies and hot drinks. It's a super opportunity to come together with your family and friends to experience something of the hope of Christmas. Hopefully I'll see you there!

And in the meantime, let me wish you a peaceful Christmas and a bright new year. Thank you for supporting the Highworth LINK magazine and you'll see our next issue through your door in February 2024.

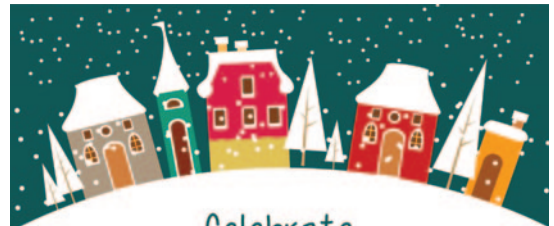


Rachael



SATURDAY MORNING
@ ST MICHAEL'S
2ND DECEMBER
10AM-12PM

Front Cover image: ninikvaratskhelia from Pixabay



Celebrate
CHRISTMAS
in Highworth

Saturday 23 December, 5pm

Carols on the Podium

Free event for all the family

🌸 hot chocolate and mulled wine 🌸 christmas choir 🌸

Christmas For Me is a Thin Place



For many people who are not particularly religious, Christmas is a feeling; a time to be merry, loving and happy. A time to indulge in good food and reaching out to friends and family.

I am a student of history and love to understand about ancient cultures and peoples.

The Celtic Christians understood the idea of A 'Thin Place' not a geographic location but somewhere, somehow, where the boundaries between our everyday mundane existence and the wider spiritual realms somehow grow thin. A time or place where

heaven and earth meet. In this 'Thin Place' we have the realisation that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves.

As a Christian, Christmas is for me the time when the God of heaven and earth bridged the gap between us by sending his only Son into the world. When heaven and earth meet, and God and humanity come together, there is life and hope, joy and blessing.

This is exactly what Christmas is. A 'Thin Place' where heaven and earth are joined.

This Christmas, enjoy the festivities but open your heart and mind to the possibility that God is no longer separate from us, but has come to live in our neighbourhood to be with us and in us.

Phil Goodey

Rector of Highworth and Broad Blunsdon

Thank You from Highworth Support Group for Prospect

We would like to thank Gilmore n' Jaz for a really enjoyable evening with their Latin blues and jazz guitars. Thanks must also go to John Williams for providing his mystifying magic during the interval as well as to the many businesses who provided us with so many raffle prizes, to Lighthouse Bookshop and Visit Highworth who sold tickets and to everyone who supported us.

As a result we are now able to give £486 to Prospect Hospice.

Paul Speller





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Highworth Twinning Association from and to Wassenberg

After Covid put travelling on hold, members of HTA were this year able to renew friendships by visiting Pontorson in May and hosting visitors from Wassenberg in October.

The informal programme in October was based around local interests, including a Town Tour of Highworth provided by Visit Highworth and kindly sponsored by our mayor Keith Smith and Highworth Town Council. We also attended an open day at Coleshill (which was too good an opportunity to ignore) and introduced the Ridgeway path to our visitors, whose reward was a typical British pub lunch.

The annual meeting of the three towns in 2024 will take place **9 to 12 May** in Wassenberg.

No doubt you will have often passed by the 'Welcome to Highworth' road sign where our twin town names are also given. Perhaps you have thought you would like to go there one day just out of curiosity? We plan to take a coach and use the Channel Tunnel which makes the travelling easy. The cost will be approximately £200 per person plus a gift for your hosts. There is no obligation to reciprocate and host in the future.

Wassenberg is a lovely place to visit and we are lucky to be twinned with such a beautiful town. We will likely take an outing during the weekend so you will see some of surrounding North Rhine Westphalia and probably Roermond, the nearest city, which is in the Netherlands.



Church in Wassenberg



Signs at the information centre in Wassenberg

Apart from living in the Highworth area there is no particular requirement to participate and you certainly don't need to speak German – I don't. If you are interested and have questions please email or phone. And if you would like to come please let me know! New

participants are very welcome.

*Richard Pearce, Chairman HTA
07513 009044
rjnpearcehta@gmail.com*

Highworth Historical Society

We have no meeting in December, but on 24 January 2024 our speaker is Jon Ratcliffe. He will talk on Cellars, Towers and Tunnels.

Jon's many photos will show us how Swindon once was – intriguing tunnels and historically interesting features which are never normally seen or heard about. His photos also include buildings such as Aspen and Apsley Houses, and the old Corn Exchange.

As usual we meet at St Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road,

with the doors opening at 7pm. The talk will start at 7:30pm. This gives you time to view a display of some of our artefacts and have a coffee. Our publications are also on sale.

Visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3 cash at the door.

Feel free to contact us for more information.

*Chris
01793 764811*

Robin the Road Sweeper

When we took receipt of the new road sweeper back in April, we decided to ask the community of Highworth for their name suggestions. We were inundated with suggestions for the name Robin. Upon further investigations, it appears Robin Clark was a very familiar face around Highworth many years ago and he took on the task of keeping the streets of Highworth clean and tidy.

Unfortunately, Robin passed away a few years ago but we did manage to contact his family. They were absolutely thrilled and touched that we had decided to name the road sweeper after their Robin Clark and that he will continue to be remembered for many years to come.

'My mother Pam would like to say thank you to all the people who voted for her brother Robin to be named on the sweeper. He loved his job and he loved Highworth and it is so touching to see that he is still remembered by the Highworth community. My



mother is so sorry that she is unable to attend the unveiling but this news has truly lifted our spirits. Thank you all so much.'

On Saturday 28 October the Mayor of Highworth Keith Smith officiated the unveiling of 'Robin the Road Sweeper'. Please visit our website to view the full speech!

Crafty Gnomes Raise Funds for Prospect



Local crafty crafter Katy Badger has been busy all year making gnome toppers for pens and pencils to raise money for Prospect Hospice.

'We have made around 200,' says Katy, 'and every single penny is going to the hospice because they cared for my dying dad. It's just my way of giving back!'

Every penny raised from sales will go directly to the



hospice which has cared for so many local residents and families over the years, and with so many colours to choose from you'll be spoilt for choice. They make ideal stocking fillers and cost £3 each or you can get four for £10.

Please contact Katy for more details on 07519 646255.



Ask AMS

Tax rules for Christmas parties

The rules around tax relief for Christmas parties are fairly generous so long as the party is open to all employees and not just directors/management.

- Party costs (including travel etc.) are fully tax deductible if they are no more than £150 (inc. VAT) per head (including guests).
- Be careful. If, say, £200/head is spent, then the Employer will need to pay PAYE and National Insurance on the total party cost of £200/head – not just on the excess £50/head.
- The £150 is an annual limit so would cover a Summer Party and a Christmas Party in the same tax year. But, if the costs of multiple parties exceed £150/head, then an Employer could use the £150/head limit to cover the most expensive party, and only pay PAYE/NI on the other one.

Peter Bromiley ACA

01793 818400

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Warneford School on Unforgettable Trip to FC Bayern Munich

The boys' football team from Highworth Warneford School in Swindon recently embarked on an unforgettable trip to FC Bayern Munich, one of the most successful football clubs in the world.

The trip, which took place from 18 to 24 October, saw the 50 boys and six staff members stay in the Olympic Park region of Munich and participate in four training sessions with Bayern coaches.

Three of the sessions took place at Säbener Straße, the first team training ground. On the first day, the boys even trained on a pitch alongside the first team who were preparing for their game the following day. Harry Kane was even spotted on the pitch! The other training session took place at the Bayern Munich Campus, the home of the club's academy.

In addition to the training sessions, the boys also had the opportunity to watch two professional fixtures. As the Bayern first team were playing away, the boys travelled to Austria to see a top class professional fixture at the Red Bull Arena and played three fixtures against German sides, all held at the first team training ground.



The boys also had the opportunity to tour the Allianz Arena, Bayern Munich's home ground, and visit the museum, which is full of the many trophies Bayern have won over the years.

David Gibbons, Deputy Head of PE at Highworth Warneford School said, 'As teachers, we

were overwhelmed by the breadth of experiences our students were offered, and by the quality of those experiences. From a full guided tour of one of the most famous stadiums in the world to training sessions on top quality pitches from elite coaches, to matches played at world-renowned facilities against esteemed opposition, to mention but a few; each and every facet of this tour oozed class. We are forever indebted to Inspiresport for giving our students a week that they'll appreciate more and more as the years go by. It really was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.'

Steve Butchart, Managing Director, Inspiresport, who organised this unforgettable experience, said, 'We are delighted to welcome FC Bayern Munich to our exclusive portfolio of partner clubs and look forward to sending groups to Germany, with our first being Highworth Warneford School!'



Bayern Press Photos

Scouts Christmas Post

Stamps are already on sale in the Lighthouse Bookshop on the High Street at the bargain price of 35 pence. Their opening hours are 9am until 3pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9am until 1pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

The final date and time for posting is 3pm on Tuesday 12 December. Could we please ask that you check the delivery area carefully and note that we do not deliver to Lechlade, Faringdon and Marlborough.

This is the biggest fundraiser of the year and we hope you will continue to support us in the same way as in previous years. Any queries please contact David Roblin.

01793 763720
david.roblin@highworthscouts.org.uk

2024 Scarecrow Trail and Annual Quiz

Our other two big fundraisers will again be taking place in 2024. The scarecrow trail will run from the **30 March until the 14 April**. The theme will be Animated Films. The February edition of LINK Magazine will have details for registration etc. so please do not start making your scarecrow until your film has been approved.

The quiz will take place on the **12 April** and again more details will be available in the next issue.

Thanks

Finally, thank you to everybody who has supported us or shown an interest in any of our activities throughout 2023. And, of course, the biggest thanks of all to our fantastic team of leaders.

Highworth Climate Talks

To welcome in the new year, on 18 January 2024 at 7:30pm we will be hosting a talk by Neil Pullen of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, who will be known to many of you. The subject of his talk will be **Wildlife Friendly Highworth**.

Neil will be telling us how to make our gardens and odd corners around Highworth more wildlife friendly. This is increasingly important as we continue to see massive biodiversity loss across the planet including a 70% drop in insect populations since the 1970s. This is vitally important as over 60% of our food crops need to be pollinated. It is routine in some areas for pollinators, especially bees, to have to be transported to fields when the crops need pollinating as local populations of pollinators are insufficient to carry out the work.

Highworth Climate Talks, which are free to attend, are intended as a forum for local people to have their say about the climate and biodiversity crisis and to see what we can do locally to help Highworth become a more sustainable and resilient community.

The talk will take place at the Methodist Church on Vicarage Lane, Highworth. Refreshments will be provided. Limited parking is available onsite. For more information check out our Highworth Climate Talks Facebook page.



St. Michael's Coffee Mornings

St Michael's Church welcome you to a **Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 16 December, between 10am and 12 noon. On behalf of St. Michael's Church Disasters and Emergencies Fund.**

Our first one of the new year will be on **Saturday 6 January, 10am to 12 noon.**

New Debt Centre Manager for CAP Highworth



We are pleased to announce that **Claire Titcombe** (pictured), local Highworth resident of 28 years, is our new CAP centre manager. Kathryn Ford is stepping aside to do other Highworth community work and is delighted to be passing the baton into Claire's capable hands!

Claire says, 'I'm really excited to join the amazing team at the Highworth Debt Centre. As a local resident I know the needs that are out there and I really want to be part of the solution. Having been a volunteer support worker with the centre since it opened and a CAP Life Skills coach for five years, I've seen how Christians Against Poverty's Debt Centre here in Highworth has helped to transform the lives of countless local people in debt.'

Claire and her team will continue to offer free home visits to anyone in the area who is struggling with debt and will support them until they become debt free. So far over 200 households in the surrounding area have booked appointments and over 70 are already debt free!

Claire continued, 'The great thing about CAP's free service is that it is available to everyone. If you know things are out of control and you're feeling stressed,

missing meals or losing sleep, please give us a call and let us support you in getting your life back on track. You can book a home visit by calling 0800 328 0006 or find out more at our website capuk.org/help/'



If you're interested in finding out more about how you can directly support your local CAP service, contact Claire Titcombe at clairetitcombe@capuk.org

Next CAP Job Club Course

This is open to any job seeker to give them the tools and confidence they need to step into employment. Friendly community, coaching and specific sessions on:

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- Strengths
- Job searching
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- CVs
- Interviews etc.

Every Tuesday starting 16 January, 1:15pm to 3pm (including free lunch) and it runs for eight weeks at The Bridge Centre, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth SN6 7AA. To book a place contact Kathryn on 07885 579876.



New Year's Eve Bell Ringing

Highworth bell ringers are planning to revive the centuries-old tradition of ringing out the old and ringing in the new on New Year's Eve.

The bells will be rung for about 15 minutes prior to midnight to mark the dying of the old year; the tenor bell will then strike 12. All bells will then ring out for around ten minutes to celebrate the start of a new year.

Rob New

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Wizardsing at Southfield School!



The children of Southfield were incredibly lucky to be invited to a Wizard Workshop this term. The event was kindly arranged and hosted by Friends of Southfield (Parent Association) and was truly spectacular.

Activities like potion making, wand crafting and balloon Hedwig designing filled the school hall, which was adorned with Harry Potter themed accessories and music. The children enjoyed a 9¾ photobooth, bags of chocolate frogs and sips of Butterbeer whilst exploring the event. The faces of staff members appeared on many WANTED posters which caused quite a stir! It was an evening packed with fun, excitement and laughter and was a fantastically magical way to end the half term.



To advertise in The Highworth Link contact

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Bourton Club

We are delighted to announce our December itinerary and hope that you will come and enjoy some or all of the following events.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2 December | Christmas quiz, 8pm (Teams of six, please book in advance 01793 782511) |
| 9 December | Soleluna pizza, 5pm to 8pm
Live music from Charlie Kay, 8pm |
| 10 December | Christmas cabaret, 6pm |
| 16 December | Christmas craft fayre, 12noon to 4pm |
| 21 December | Members raffle, 8pm |

All events are held at Church Street, Bourton, Swindon. More details are available and bookings can be made on 01793 782511.



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Christmas at Visit Highworth

We love Christmas time at Visit Highworth so we are very happy that Santa is coming to visit us in the centre! Santa and his helpers will be in his grotto on Friday 1 and Saturday 2 December to hear all your Christmas wishes. He will also have a small gift for you to take home. To book please contact the centre, our details are below, or you can just pop in.

At Visit Highworth we are so lucky to be able to stock incredible artists and makers from the local area. We have such a wide and diverse selection of crafts that you can't help but find the perfect gift for Christmas. We have art works, pottery, jewellery, handmade soaps, hand creams, and candles, as well as leather goods, books, Christmas decorations and the Highworth Calendar. Call in to take a look.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has supported us in 2023, from our shareholders and supporters to all the visitors to the centre.



This year we have enjoyed the first Highworth Art and Literature Festival, two craft fairs, Meet the Maker sessions with our wonderful artists, and held workshops and courses. And of course, the Paint and Prosecco evenings were a great hit! We welcomed groups from Pontorson and Wassenburg, and Fairford and Lechlade Business Club, as well as history societies and the WI, all for our guided tours of Highworth allowing us to share our amazing town with them. 2023 has been a



fantastic year so roll on 2024 – we have even more planned for next year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us all at Visit Highworth!

Helen Lacey, Centre Manager
7 High Street, Highworth
01793 764440
info@visithighworth.co.uk
www.visithighworth.co.uk

Your Game

During the October half term week, on the Wednesday and Thursday, I attended a conference/workshop event run by the FA to showcase the different roles in football that young people like myself may take up in the future. Initially we were split into six groups and were given a chance to bond with our group and meet different people. Additionally each group was led by three members of the FA youth council whose aim it is to empower young people to aspire to help the game.

On the first day we had a more practical get-your-hands-dirty activity day, with six 45-minute sessions covering different aspects of football: coaching; refereeing; strength and conditioning; how to run your

own club; youth leadership; and interacting with the County FA.

The second day was more classroom- and discussion-based with a couple of the young leaders running two workshops. The first one was teaching us how to be good role models and the qualities and skills a good leader should have, whilst helping us develop qualities in ourselves. The second one taught us about trust and that in any role in football trustworthiness is critical to being successful by building strong relationships and helping to encourage others.

Overall a great couple of days and a big thank you to both the FA and Swindon Supermarine FC for hosting and helping facilitate the inspiring of young people.

Josh Fisher



Photograph courtesy of the FA

Wrde and Vorda Cubs Brownsea Trip

Every two years or so Highworth cubs are given the opportunity to visit Brownsea Island in Poole harbour to discover where scouting began. This year we had record numbers; just short of 40 including leaders and one young leader. Ava has just moved up to scouts but only managed a few terms as a cub, so was included in our trip. She kindly wrote a short piece for the Highworth LINK magazine – you can sense her enthusiasm! If you look very carefully you can spot a famous scout in the picture!

Liza Dibble



Despite being a scout, cubs kindly let me join them on an amazing trip to Brownsea Island. It sure was incredible!

Firstly, we stayed overnight in a heart-warming hall called Dad Atkins Centre. At the break of dawn, we had bacon butties and packed our bags ready to go to Brownsea. We travelled on the minibuses to a port where we got picked up by the ferry. Then we explored the island and its gargantuan span of wildlife such as red squirrels, butterflies and much more.

The next day we caught the minibuses to the tank museum. When we arrived, we saw a variety of tanks and

models which were fascinating. It sure was amazing to see all of the tanks! I never knew they were so fun to learn about.

Overall, the trip was wonderful and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I would definitely go again!

Ava Floyd, age 10

PS: Miss you all xx

Highworth Flower Club

Our Christmas demonstration on Thursday 7 December, 7:30pm, at Warneford School will be as special as always as we look forward to fabulous designs from national demonstrator Lorena Dyer, with her talk entitled 'Sleigh Bells, Slippers and Sparkles'. At this meeting we will start with a glass of wine and nibbles then watch the demonstrator create five magical arrangements to get us in the Christmas mood! Maybe you will win one in the raffle!

We hope you will join us in the school hall. Doors open at 7pm and there's plenty of space in the school car park.

Visitors are welcome at a cost of £10. Contact Michele on 07798 817249 for more information.

www.highworthflowerclub.co.uk

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Memorable Moments Competition

'Did you see Aunt Mary fall asleep in front of the King's speech – again?'

'Weren't the twins adorable in their matching pyjamas?'

'How many sprouts did Dad end up eating?!'

Christmas is full of memories to be made and shared – that's why we're inviting you to send in your photographs to our 'Most Memorable Moments' photo competition.

Send us your funniest, decorative or most poignant photos and we'll choose our favourite.

Whilst quality is important, we're looking for the best subjects rather than professionalism. Open to all readers, the winner and runner-up will receive gift vouchers from one of our local businesses.



All entries must be received by Friday 5 January 2024 at the latest to be entered. Remember to include your name, age if you're under-18, and an email address so that we can contact you if you're the winner.

Have fun!

The Link Team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Highworth and District Probus Club

Probus is a national organisation with clubs meeting in many hundreds of venues, large and small, both in the UK and abroad. It is an organisation for retired men, 55 years of age and over, to meet for friendly comradeship and be entertained by a variety of talks by professional speakers.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Cold Harbour Inn, Blunsdon, gathering at 10am. Our meeting starts at 10:30am and continues



until 12 noon, after which most members enjoy liquid refreshment at the bar.

Talks range from Life in the Fast Lane to The DC3, and members have the opportunity to give a talk if they wish. We are currently inviting residents to join our friendly club.

Come along as a guest and check us out with no obligation on **9 January 2024** when the talk is titled South Marston Aircraft Production.

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Little Caterpillars at Westrop Nursery

Westrop Nursery welcome back our toddler group, Little Caterpillars, for parents, carers and grandparents to come along with children aged up to four years old.

We welcome all families and you are not required to be linked to or attend Westrop Nursery – we just want to allow the Highworth community, especially on a winter's day, to get out of the house and meet new friends.

Our toddler group is for children to explore through play with their carer and alongside other children.



Children explore, question and wonder, and by doing so, learn! From the moment of birth, humans are drawn to new things. When we are curious about something new we want to explore it. And while exploring we discover.

So, come along to Little Caterpillars, to play, explore and discover. **Every Monday, term time, 1:15pm to 2:30pm.**

Any queries, please email nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk or call us on 01793 766646.

News from Shrivenham Golf Club

Parkies Pals

We continue to meet on Tuesdays between 10am and 12 noon at the Shrivenham Golf Club. Hot drinks and cake are included for £3 or £3.50 if a bacon bap is selected and ordered instead of cake. We will be holding our Christmas party at this meeting on **Tuesday 5 December.**

Social Putters

Our meetings in the winter months are between 10am and 12 noon. For a cost of £2 you can have a hot drink and a snack. On **1 December**, 10am until 12 noon, we will have musical entertainment from keyboard player Graham and also handbell ringers from St. Andrew's Church. Bring your singing voices with you and come and make merry! Everyone welcome.

Carole Lee

ADVERTORIAL

'I hate maths. I can't do maths. Maths wasn't like this when I was at school.'

Is it any wonder that students feel failing maths is acceptable? I have heard parents talk like this in front of pupils at parents' evening for 20 years, yet I know that anybody can be taught maths!

I realised early in my teaching career that no matter the level the main criteria for a pupil to succeed in maths is their confidence in their own ability to apply learned knowledge. The opportunity for a pupil to confirm this knowledge during many lessons in schools is limited and often hindered by large class sizes.

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If you are concerned about your child's progress in maths, please contact me at mrservasmathstutoring@gmail.com or via my website MrServasMathsTutoring.co.uk

Amazing Amount Raised for Pancreatic Cancer UK

Many thanks once again to the very generous folk of Highworth for joining us for a relaxed afternoon of drama and music on 4 November to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK. Kindly suggested and organised by John Williams with Elaine Rowe, we were entertained by youngsters Isabel and Emily Laver, followed by Max Geary. Queen Elizabeth I put in an appearance courtesy of Helen Barter with Andy Pritchard joining her in a later sketch. Music was plucked and strummed with the guitar group Trio Grande, including some of their own lovely compositions. Recorder ensemble Nota Bene skilfully showed us the versatility of the recorder when in the hands of top musicians! Delicious homemade cakes rounded off the afternoon!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to ticket sales, refreshments and donations, helping us to raise an amazing £750 from the afternoon! Wow!

Regular readers of LINK magazine will remember that we walked the Offa's Dyke national trail earlier this year to raise funds for research into early diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer in memory of Julia Röthemeier (née Bunting). The walk along with a couple of coffee mornings has enabled us to raise an astonishing £9200



Trio Grande



Isabel and Emily Laver



Sue and Elaine on the Offas Dyke trail



so far. If you would like to help us get that to £10,000 please scan the QR code or find our JustGiving page (at www.justgiving.com) by searching Elaine Rowe or Sue Hodgson.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped over the year and to you very generous Highworthians! You have been stars!

Sue Hodgson and Elaine Rowe

News from Highworth and District Lions Club

We are well and truly into our Christmas preparations and would like to let you know where and when you can see Santa and his elves with us this year.

- Saturday 9 December** Asda (Orbital outside Next), 9am to 4pm
- Thursday 14 December** Blunsdon and Abbey Farm, 5pm start in Blunsdon
- Friday 15 December** Tadpole Garden Village and Oakhurst, 5pm start in Tadpole Garden Village
- Saturday 16 December** Highworth Podium, 8am to 1pm
Highworth Lions Charity Shop, 9am to 4pm, £2 per ticket to visit Santa in his Grotto, includes gift. Tickets on sale from Highworth Lions Charity Shop
- Sunday 17 December** Asda (Orbital), 9am to 4pm
- Monday 18 December** Aldi Highworth, 4pm to 7pm
- Thursday 21 December** The Goldfinger Tavern Pub, 4pm to 7pm

Santa and his elves will also be at the Highworth lights switch-on in the High Street on Saturday



Eco Tip from Weigh It Up

When you start thinking about how to wrap your presents this Christmas just remember that it takes 24 trees, 10,000KW of energy and 54,000 litres of water to make one tonne of paper. However, if you use recycled wrapping paper each tonne of recycled paper saves 17 trees, 1,725 litres of oil, three cubic meters of landfill space, 4,000 KW of energy and 32,000 litres of water with 73% less air pollution.

And before you put your paper out for recycling make sure that it can be recycled. 60% of all wrapping paper can't be recycled due to plasticised coating, metal, glitter or other additives. Remove any sellotape or gift tags before putting the paper out too.

If the UK used just 5% more recycled paper we would save 2.5 million trees from being cut down every year.



25 November. Santa and his elves will make their way down the High Street in the evening and will be handing out sweets as they go by. Santa's sleigh will be pulled by a vintage tractor so that the reindeer get plenty of rest before their big night!

We have got three stalls for this year's Christmas Lights switch-on so pop along to see us for our huge Christmas tombola, Christmas decorations sale and of course, the very popular games you can play for free.

Last month we donated to the following:

- Highworth Ladies Football Team Kit, £950
- Lions International Disaster Appeal Libya/Fires in Southern Europe/Morocco Earthquake, £1000
- Bumps to Babes, £580 to pay for another room hire for skilled sessions
- Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal, £200
- Blue Park Homes Ltd., £200 to pay for activity led items for the children in their care

From all of us here at Highworth and District Lions Club we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Melanie Davenport
secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com



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CHURCHES THIS CHRISTMAS

Highworth United Reformed Church

High Street, Highworth SN6 7AG

Sunday 17 December Carol Service, 4pm

Sunday 24 December Christmas Service, 10:45am

Highworth Community Church

Offices: The Bridge Centre, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth SN6 7AA

Contact: admin@highworthcommunitychurch.org.uk

Sunday 17 December Christmas Service, 10:30am, Warneford School

Saturday 23 December Carols on the Podium, 5pm, Market Square

Christmas Day Celebration, 10:30am, Highworth Community Centre



Celebrate
CHRISTMAS
in Highworth

Saturday 23 December, 5pm

Carols on the Podium

Free event for all the family

hot chocolate and mulled wine christmas choir

Highworth Methodist Church

Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7AD

Contact: highworthmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Sunday 17 December Carol Service, 5pm

Sunday 24 December Morning Worship, 10:30am

Christmas Day Celebration, 10am

St. Michael's Church, Highworth

Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7AQ

Contact: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Sunday 17 December Candlelit Service, 6pm

Sunday 24 December Families Crib Service, 4pm

St. Leonard's Church, Stanton Fitzwarren

Church Way, Broad Blunsdon SN26 7DG

Contact: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Sunday 10 December Christingle Family Service, 11am

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve Walking Nativity in Church Lane, 3:30pm

Carols by Candlelight, 4pm

St. James' Church, Bourton

Church Row, Bourton SN6 8HZ

Contact: info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Sunday 24 December Family Service, 4pm (Come dressed as a nativity character if you wish to! All ages are welcome.)

St. John the Baptist Church, Inglesham

Inglesham SN6 7RD

Contact: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Saturday 16 December Carol Service, 2pm

St. John the Baptist Church, Hannington

Queens Road, Hannington SN6 7RG

Contact: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Sunday 17 December Carol Service, 4pm

St. Leonard's Church, Blunsdon

Churchway, Broad Blunsdon SN26 7DQ

Contact: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Sunday 17 December Carol Service, 6pm

St. James' Church, Sevenhampton

Sevenhampton SN6 7QA

Contact: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Wednesday 20 December Carol Service, 7pm

Wishing you all a wonderful, joyous and happy Christmas

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Affordable Art!

Have you nothing planned for the Saturday before Christmas? A few local artists from the Lechlade Art Society will be holding a pop-up art sale on Saturday 23 December from 10am to 2pm in the Lechlade Pavilion. Admission is free and there is ample free parking.



Two Somerset Fishermen – Roger Jones

Greetings from Highworth Amateur Dramatics Society

Once the chaos of Christmas has passed and the January blues have kicked in you'll want something to look



forward to, so why not lift your spirits with an evening of comedy and delicious food? By the time you're reading this we should have confirmed the dates for our next show (in February), so keep your eyes peeled for posters around Highworth or check our Facebook page for updates.

If you're interested in helping out backstage or front of house, or would like some information about us and what we do, please email us at Hadshighworth@gmail.com and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Highworth Community Cinema

Highworth Community Cinema doesn't show a film in December so we will commence the Spring half of the season on Friday 26 January, with 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. We meet at St Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, SN6 7HQ and the film will start at 7:45pm.

A seemingly unremarkable man in his sixties named Harold (Jim Broadbent) one day learns that his old friend Queenie is dying and he is moved to act. He leaves home, walking to the post box to send her a letter, until he realises a letter is not enough. He embarks on a walk, only to keep going for 724kms until he reaches Queenie's hospice, much to the despair of his wife Maureen (Penelope Wilton).

108 mins. Cert 12A

Doors will open 7:15pm and there is no membership fee. Admission is £6 on the door with a charge of 50p for tea/coffee and biscuits.

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The Cathedral

*Go into a cathedral
 And feel the sense of time.
 Look closely at the stonework
 And carving so sublime.*

*Look upon the ceiling
 At the craftsmanship and art.
 Gaze a mediaeval windows
 And admire the glazier's part.*

*If you are so lucky
 As to hear some voices sing
 The building will caress you
 Like an angel, with a wing.*

*Then do not come away
 Without a simple prayer
 For those who went before us
 To build a friend so fair.*

David Holden

Success for the Autumn Exhibition

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Autumn Exhibition in October. As always it is great to see so many visitors and we hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did!

We have two winners to mention: Val Cosway who is pictured with Neil George, Chair of Highworth Camera Club, who chose Val's painting 'Moonlight in the Forest' as his favourite on preview night. Secondly John Sirrelle's painting



Moonlight in the forest, Val Cosway



Leopard in dappled light, John Sirrelle

'Leopard in dappled light' which won the People's choice prize for most popular painting. Congratulations to both artists!

The Arts Society Upper Thames

You are welcome you to join us as a visitor at our December lecture entitled 'In the Kingdom of the Sweets – The Nutcracker', with our lecturer Nigel Bates. Nigel has been a performer for more than forty years in and out of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, including seventeen years as Principal Percussionist with the orchestra and eight years as the Music Administrator of The Royal Ballet.

The Nutcracker ballet has delighted audiences at Christmas for many decades yet it was deemed a failure at its initial performances. Based upon the current Royal Ballet production by Sir Peter Wright, this lecture takes a close look at how this well-loved ballet now takes its rightful place on stage and how the music of Tchaikovsky, along with story-telling, design, dance and a little bit of stage ingenuity, all come together to make the most magical escape for young and old alike. Includes several performance video clips.

We will meet at Lechlade Memorial Hall on **Thursday 14 December** at 2pm BUT please register first by emailing info@tasupperthames.org.uk



Highworth Fair

*On my morning walk I stopped to stare,
There before me stood the October fair.
In my advancing age it is sadness I feel,
No noise or laughter it seemed unreal.
A thought in my mind suddenly appears,
The memory of my teenage years.
Money in pocket going to the fair,
Eager to go and great fun to share.
Bright lights, loud music, is what fairs do,
Bill Haley, Elvis Presley, the Everlys too.
All the bumps with the speed it gave me a kick,
All my money spent without feeling sick.
Memory fading, time has gone fast,
All those happy days now in the past.
A thought in my head, it would be bold:
Open the fair in the morning for all that are old.
Some people would stare, some would scoff,
Seeing the elderly lifted on and off.
What does that matter when all's said and done?
Yes us oldies still need our fun.*

Ray Wassall

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The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Yay! it's winter! My favourite season filled with snow and warm jumpers, wrapped up under blankets watching the telly. It is one of the most amazing times of the year for me. Yes, that's right – Christmas, full of presents and the sweet smell of cinnamon and fir trees. What is the best present you have ever got?

Did you know that Christmas trees weren't used at Christmas in the UK until the reign of Queen Victoria? Her husband Prince Albert brought a tree back from Germany where he saw a fir tree used to celebrate Christmas!

And soon after Christmas it is a new year: 2024. Wow, four years since the first lockdown. I cannot wait to count down the seconds until midnight. Do you have a new year's resolution? If so, what is it? Mine is to read lots of books.

And only five days after new year's day it will be my birthday when I'll be 13 years old – wow!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you all in February.

Constance Davenport

A Christmas Poem!

*Winter winter white as snow,
Spreading joy as we go.*

*Cheese and crackers brings the party,
On our trees is something sparkly.*

*Elves and reindeers work all year,
Just to give us that Christmas cheer.*

*Pigs in blankets and After Eights,
Are what make Christmas dinner great.*

*Now the joy has past,
New year is at a start.*

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!!!

Sophie Nolan

Debbie would like to thank all advertisers for your continued support and wishes you all a Happy Christmas

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Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon Croquet Club's teams experienced mixed fortunes this year with disruption due to the Moredon Sports Hub development impacting on the season. The Short Croquet team played brilliantly to secure an impressive victory at the South West tournament which was hosted by Nailsea CC. The Golf Croquet Handicap team recorded two excellent wins, a hard fought draw and two losses. The High Handicap team also recorded two wins but suffered three losses. The Association Croquet team endured a tough season, competing valiantly but failing to secure any victories with recruitment of additional players into the squad being sought. SCC's members enjoyed the internal club competitions which were well attended and, as always, the Club has warmly welcomed community groups to experience this fascinating game. Limited play will continue through the

winter months, the highlight being the Sausage Sizzle fun event in early December when players compete in festive outfits! If interested in croquet please do look us up.

www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk

Beverly Briggs

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

We would love to get a few more players for our friendly walking football sessions at the Highworth Rec on a **Friday morning 11:30am to 12:30pm**; all abilities welcome. For those interested we usually follow up the session in The Rose and Crown afterwards! As well as the Friday Rec sessions there are men's sessions held on **Thursdays and Sundays 11am to 12pm** and also ladies **Sundays 11am to 12pm** all at Grange Leisure in Stratton. We are always looking for new players to come and join our friendly recreational sessions. All sessions are Pay and Play meaning anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to come and play; £4 payment per session payable by credit/debit card only, no cash, direct to the Sports Centre. Please contact me for more details.

highworthwfc@outlook.com

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Riders queuing up for Section 8

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

2023 for the Shrivenham Park Golf club was a year which has seen the membership double, with cars often needing to park down the lane as an overspill carpark! It saw a Junior Open held, a joint day with golfers from The Barrington Arms pub in which 19 teams took part, and a growth in the number of Juniors playing on the course. Here's to continual growth and good course conditions. A huge thank you to our green-keeping and bar steward teams who have worked so efficiently this year to cater for all, not to mention a big thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan coffee morning – the appeal reached £184.

October's competition winners were the teams Ruddle, Carthy, Richards and Liquorish who won Adi's Birthday Bash with 34 points. The Jim Howe Senior was won by Ian Ashman with 37 Stableford points and the Senior Winners Competition Medal was won by Nigel Burton with 35 points. The Winter Mixed League has started and the winner on the final weekend in October with 44 points was Martin Boase; the Ladies have their own Winter Eclectic that runs from the start of November to the end of March.

For more information, please do look us up on our website.

*www.shrivenhampark.co.uk
Carole Lee*

Swindon & District Motorcycle Club

October, of course, brought us rain. Lots and lots of rain, and rain that saw waterways expand unrecognisably, some unfortunate home owners claimed on insurance for new carpets, highways flood, and cars left abandoned on main roads. So the prospect of the S&DMCC holding the Jack Croston Trial only a week after Storm Babet could have been considered optimistic. But there's a reason the club enjoy the old railway line between The Freke Arms and Highworth all year round and that's because it drains pretty well. Oh, there was evidence though that the storm had visited, with the ten carefully designed Sections getting quite boggy by the last of four laps leaving no-one free of penalty points for not putting their foot down. Please, therefore, do forgive the blurring on the photograph – the on-board-camera wasn't immune to the spattering conditions!

All riders took home bikes in desperate need of a jet wash, but only a handful took home the spoils for their efforts. Christopher Wickham topped the Expert Class, Tim Roblett the Clubman Expert Class, Stuart Thatcher the Intermediate Class, Tim Davis the Novice Class, and Thomas Plank the Youth B Class. The sole entrant in the Adult Green Class could have won it had he been able to record a score for each Section but there was clearly too much rust (on the rider) for the conditions; he had fun nonetheless. Full results are hosted on the club's website, as are the events planned for 2024 that see the bikes back with us in January. Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year to all.

www.sdmcc.org.uk – Jason Daniels

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Thank you to our members, customers, staff and suppliers for making 2023 a memorable year. We've had fun, some success, said farewell to friends and discovered new ones. The course has benefited from a high level of rainfall and Tim's roundabout of wildflower mix has attracted many comments. He's now trying to work out how to repeat such an impressive display.

As usual, our Juniors have made great progress and this year reached the final of the England Junior Team Golf Home Nations Interclub Championship, a great experience and there was a broad representation from our Junior Section. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to Alan Kavanagh who voluntarily supports our Juniors and runs the competitions. Brian Drane, who looks after the Cadets, was asked if it was his full time job! Just for the record, the volunteer contribution in all areas of the golf club is vital for the successful organisation of competitions and events at Wrag Barn and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone concerned. We're looking forward

to 2024 – the diary is packed with a busy golfing programme for all ages and abilities and there will be lots to play for.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

www.wragbarn.com

Verity Manners



A Birdie for Christmas?

A photograph of a young man and woman smiling and looking at a smartphone together. The man is on the left, wearing a blue shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a red plaid shirt. They are both smiling broadly. In the top left corner, there is a blue square logo with the text 'Bupa Dental Care' and a white heartbeat line. The main text is in large white font: 'Subscribe to a healthy smile with Bupa Smile Plan'. Below this, it says 'Cover regular check-ups and hygiene appointments with bite-sized monthly payments*'. At the bottom left, it says 'Call Bupa Dental Care Highworth on 01793 762 231 or email Highworth@bupadentalcare.co.uk'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and the text 'Scan for more information'. At the very bottom, there is small text: '*Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Payments are collected by monthly Direct Debit. Bupa Dental Care is a trading name of Oasis Dental Care Limited. Registered in England and Wales no. 00478127. Registered office: Bupa Dental Care, Vantage Office Park, Old Gloucester Road, Hambrook, Bristol, United Kingdom, BS16 1GW.'

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the children's housing, educational and well-being needs. Charity No. 1139321.



Letters To Loved Ones

In October we unveiled the “Letters to Loved Ones” Post Box at Highworth Cemetery. We felt this addition to the cemetery would encourage people to write letters to lost loved ones as part of their grieving process. We understand that coming to terms with the loss of a loved one is a personal journey and be it a birthday, anniversary or just because, putting your feelings into a letter can bring great comfort. The installation of the post box and memorial were both sponsored by Hilliers Funeral Service and Swindon Memorials, we thank them for their kind donation. The Town Mayor Keith Smith officiated the unveiling with the following speech:

“When the question of installing a post box in the cemetery was first brought to the Council, I thought, “What a strange idea.” When Deanne asked whether I would like to be present to represent the Council when it was installed, I was reticent. Then I reflected on my own relationship with the post box.

In the days before email, Skype, Zoom and so on, the letter was how you got your message across.

That first letter sent in 1965. Just a simple, ‘Hello, I thought I would catch up with you.....’ led to two years of friendship followed by 55 years of partnership. In fact, if it wasn’t for that first letter, I would not be standing amongst you today, thanking Hilliers Funeral Services and Swindon Memorials for their thoughtfulness and their generosity.

How can I sum it up? I would say ‘an email is ephemeral, but a letter is eternal.’

Please may I be first to post a letter?

Thank you both Hilliers Funeral Service and Swindon Memorials for your kindness. I understand why you are doing this. I hope others will come to understand too.”



Highworth Tommy

You may be aware the Remembrance Tommy was removed from the Podium a couple of months ago. We are pleased to see he is back in place look very refreshed. Big thanks go to B Squared at Blackworth Industrial Estate who very kindly restored him for us free of charge!



Highworth 20mph Survey

Following the closure of the 20mph survey, Councillors discussed the survey results at the Full Council Meeting in October. The High Street, Sheep Street and Vicarage Lane were identified as a potential area to be assessed for a 20mph speed limit. Areas around the schools also were also identified however these are already subject to 20mph limit during school drop off and pick up times as part of Swindon Borough Councils School Safety Zones.

Swindon Borough Councillor Nick Gardiner will share the survey results with Swindon Borough Council. To view a summary of the results please visit the website www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Highworth Play Parks

Following on from the public survey on Highworth Play areas in December 2021, Highworth Town Council has been working hard behind the scenes to secure funding and draw up designs for 2 of the 3 play areas.

The designs have incorporated the wishes of the residents who responded to the survey whilst ensuring an accessible and inclusive facility for all.

Two public consultations have taken place and Councillors on the working party have visited local schools to get feedback on the designs from the children, who are after all the experts in these facilities. Once the feedback has been collated and the designs potentially modified the project will be taken to Full Council for approval.

For more information, please visit the website. www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

News from Highworth's Mayor



Namaste.

Recently I was asked which party I stood for. I explained that I am an independent councillor elected to represent the people of Highworth. This year particularly, I am not a politician but as Mayor I am

a salesman and the product I am delighted to sell is Highworth.

In the past few weeks this seems to have been directed towards the international market with another welcoming visit to RAF Fairford to meet our American friends. I hope the networking session will be fruitful. I was also invited to lunch with our German friends from Wassenberg. There I spoke of the urgent need to strengthen our ties with our European colleagues in these strained times, particularly since the UK is no longer part of the European Union.

More recently I was invited to a Flower Festival organised by the Telugu community of Swindon, held in our community centre. This was a joyful afternoon where all the women and girls dressed in their fabulously coloured saris and danced around a mountain of beautiful flowers. I was even invited to dance with the ladies! I hope the afternoon demonstrated again that Highworth is a genuinely warm and welcoming town.

Finally I must report on a slightly bizarre event that took place on the market when we christened the new mechanical road sweeper ROBIN. It was named after a former road sweeper who was born and bred in Highworth and elicited genuine affection from the residents. One of his sisters came along to the ceremony and other family members sent messages of goodwill. It was a lovely time. What it taught me was that I do not need to be a salesman – the people of Highworth do the job magnificently without my help.

In the spirit of internationalism Fröliche
Weinachten, Joyeux Noel, Merry Christmas.

*Keith Smith
Mayor*

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

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Highworth Methodist Church

**December 3rd
Christmas
Café Church
10.30am**

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**December 5th
Tuesday Afternoon
Communion @ 2pm**

Craft Group

Tuesday, 5th & 19th
10am-1pm



What's on in December?

**December 10th
Morning Worship
@ 10.30am**

Refreshments served
every Sunday morning

**Every Saturday
Coffee Morning
10.30 – 12 noon
Coffee and Cake**



**December 17th
Morning Worship
@ 10.30am**



**Carol Service
@ 5pm**

**December 24th
Morning Worship
@ 10.30am**



**Christmas Day
Celebration
@ 10am**

**Every Friday
9.30-11.15 am**



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for families**

2nd December 10am – Saturday morning crafts

15th Dec 4pm – Christingle @ the 3

17th Dec 6pm – Candlelit Carol service

24th December 4pm – Families Crib service

At the heart
of Christmas



CHURCHES

St. Michael's Church

The church is open daily for private prayer.

10:15am Sunday Service

We meet in in Church and streamed live, and can be found at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or on YouTube by searching St. Michael's Church Highworth.

Morning Worship is held on the **first, third and fifth Sundays of the month**. Holy Communion is held on the **second and fourth Sundays of the month**.

8:45am Holy Communion

On the **first Sunday of the month**.

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers are held every Tuesday morning at 9am.

Friday Blessings are held every Friday morning at 9:15am.

Prayer Hour is held in the Church Room at 8pm on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

We remember those we love and miss

Wendy Ratcliffe

We congratulate on their marriage

Lucy Turner and Lewis Dancer

Praying for the roads in the town

- 3 December Wessex Way and Westhill Close
- 10 December Westrop and The Willows
- 17 December Windrush and Wrde Hill
- 5 January The Archers and Arran Way
- 12 January Barra Close and Beech Grove
- 19 January Biddell Springs and Blandford Alley
- 26 January Blandford Mews and Botany

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

- 3 December Morning Praise, 9:30am
Team Advent Service, 4pm
- 10 December Christingle Family Service, 11am
- 17 December Team Service, Coleview Community Centre, 10am
- 24 December Christmas Eve Walking Nativity in Church Lane, 3:30pm
Carols by Candlelight, 7pm

- 25 December Christmas Day Holy Communion, St. Margaret's Stratton, 10am
- 31 December Team Service, South Marston, 10am
- 7 January Morning Praise, 9:30am
- 14 January Family service, 11am
- 21 January Team Service at St. Leonard's with the Archdeacon, 10am
- 28 January Holy Communion, 9:30am

Stanton coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 20 December** and **Wednesday 17 January** at Stanton House Hotel, 10:30am, for coffee and a chat before our speaker begins 11am. We usually finish around 12noon.

The church building will be open every Wednesday in school term time from 9am to 3pm, or 'phone Liz and Roger on 01793 762935 to organise for the building to be left open for you to visit safely.

There may be changes to the schedule. Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.

St James' Church, Bourton

St. James' Church offers a full programme suited to all ages.

- (Sat) 2 December Family Service, 10am
- 17 December Family Service with communion, 10am
- 24 December Christmas Eve Service, 4pm.
Come dressed as a nativity character from the nativity story if you wish. All ages welcome.

St Michael's Church Highworth

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@ ST MICHAEL'S

6TH JANUARY 10AM-12PM

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Journey to the ends of the earth
Scholar's Pick: Increasing Limits
JUST DOWN NOT QUITE



With thanks to all those who have sponsored the floodlighting of St. Michael's Church



30/11/2023

Elizabeth Shurmer – Happy heavenly birthday another year you're not here to celebrate. Loved and missed every day. Alf, Heather and Families xx

13/12/23

In loving memory of Roy and Sheila Johnson

14/12/23

Remembering our Dear Grandchildren Matthew and Freya. Forever in our thoughts and so loved.

15/12/23

Esmé Weight – 'The love in our family flows strong and deep, leaving us memories to treasure and keep.'

15/12/23

Fourteen years have passed but the tears still remain, you are always in our thoughts. Love you forever our beautiful son Michael. Mum and Dad

25/12/23

Graham Arrondelle – Missed more than words can say.

25/12/23

Tim and Joan Peapell – Much loved and missed by your Children and Grandchildren

25/12/23

Mum and Dad – Missing you this Christmas and always. Always in our thoughts. Lots of love, Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all your family xxxx

25/12/23

Les Skinner – Missing you this Christmas and always. Lots of Love Vi xxxx

31/12/23

Gordon Pollock, the light of our lives. Loved and missed always. Sue, Liz, Hannah and Alex

6/1/24

Cyril Knight – Thinking of you on your birthday, Dad. We all miss you and talk of you often. Lots of love, Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all your family xxxx

30/1/24

Remembering our Dear Grandchildren Matthew and Freya. Forever in our thoughts and so loved.

Floodlighting forms are available from the Lighthouse Bookshop or the Church website at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting. Your dedication will appear in this magazine.

IMPORTANT SUBMISSION UPDATE

Please note the submission to the Church Office date is changing to ensure floodlighting requests can meet the Link deadline. We now need submissions by the last Friday of the month, 2 months prior as any submissions must be with the Link on the 1st of the previous month with no late submissions now possible. It's hard to get that in writing so please do contact the Church Office on 01793 762702 if you need clarification.

Submission date: Friday 22 December for the February 2024 publication.

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Community Transport	01793 617828
Traveline	0871 200 2233

COLLEGES

Cirencester College	01285 640994
New College	0808 172 4445
Swindon College	01793 491591

LAW & ORDER

Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Victim Supportline	0808 16 89 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2030

COUNCILS

Highworth Town Council	01793 762377
Swindon Boro. Council	01793 463000
Streetsmart	01793 445501

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

Highworth Surgery	01793 762218
Elm Tree Surgery, (Shrivenham)	01793 782207
Great Western Hospital	01793 604020

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

Highworth Pharmacy	01793 762220
Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392
Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268
South Marston Pre-school	01793 823379

SCHOOLS

Eastrop Infants	01793 763772
Southfield Junior	01793 762210
Westrop Primary	01793 762897
Warneford Secondary	01793 762426

TAXIS

Veezu	01793 701701
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TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Disabled and Assisted Travel	08001 971329

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
Pest Control	08000 988652
Samaritans	01793 537373
Women's Refuge	01793 610610

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