

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

November 2022

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## Living Advent Calendar

It is nearly a year ago that Rev. Mary Jepp stepped down from being the Associate Vicar of West Meon and Warnford. How we miss her! Since then, there have been several resignations in our local deanery including that of Rev. Jane Ball who was based in East Meon and was also the Area Dean. In December 2019, Jane oversaw the formation of the Upper Meon Benefice bringing Warnford, West Meon, East Meon and Langrish under one ecclesiastical umbrella. Change is afoot but it could still be some time until we have an incumbent in our benefice again. In the meantime, we only have two services a month in each of the parish churches, all coming together on the months with five Sundays for a special service with lunch. As churches, we each have a desire to hold on to our individuality but we are also reaping the benefits of being part of a larger community and sharing our resources.

Which brings us to this year's Living Advent Calendar. Advent is the season in the church before Christmas when we await Christ's birth. It marks the beginning of the church calendar when there are no flowers in church except for the Advent wreath with its 4 candles, one of which is lit on each Sunday before Christmas, and the colours of the robes and altarpieces are purple in anticipation of the birth of our new King! As Christmas Day is a Sunday this year,



*Photo supplied by Louise Clay*



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Advent begins early, on Sunday 27th November.

The Living Advent Calendar originally started in Stockholm and is a tradition that has gradually been adopted by various communities throughout the UK. It began here in 2014 as a biennial community event introduced by Rev. Lionel Stock. Just like a children's advent calendar, every day a different 'window' will be opened somewhere in our local community. The idea is that at least 24 venues will be open, one for each day or evening of Advent to share in a FREE community event. We last organised this event in 2018 and in the past it has been held in just West Meon and Warnford but this year we are extending the events across the benefice to include East Meon and Langrish communities too.

Previously, these Advent 'windows' have included a wide variety of events such as a Blind Wine Tasting, a Boules evening, a Winter BBQ, an introduction to Bridge playing, a time to Knit & Natter, a Nordic themed evening decorating gingerbread and drinking glogi (Nordic mulled wine!) and a time for Meditation. Some of the events will have limited numbers due to space especially in people's homes. Full details of the programme will be printed with the December issue of Parish News. Whether you are new to the local area or have been resident for some time it's an opportunity to make new friends and enjoy some Christmas cheer!!

If you would be willing to host an event, we'd love to hear from you whether you are an individual or an organisation. December can be a stressful time so let's come together and share in the anticipation and joy of Christmas instead and make Advent a real community time.

To reserve a date or for more details please contact Susan Berry at [susanclareberry@gmail.com](mailto:susanclareberry@gmail.com) or 829014.

## **An Advent Prayer**

God of Light, shine forth,  
show us how  
to bring hope to others.

God of mercy, help us  
to comfort your people  
and share in their joy.

God of hope,  
make us an Advent people,  
preparing the way for life  
in all its fullness.

**Amen**

*Susan Berry*



<https://www.museumselection.co.uk/christmas/advent/holly-ivy-robin-advent-candle/>

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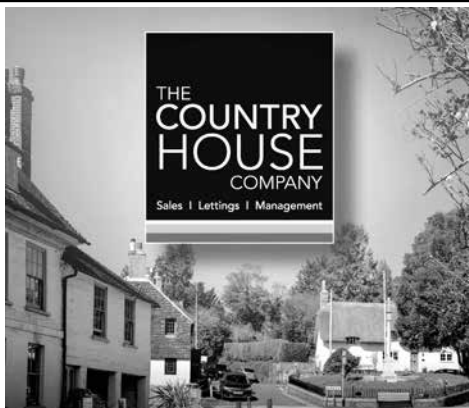
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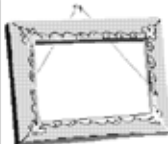
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# West Meon Village Shop

## The 200 Club Prize Draw Winners

The winners of the October prize draw were as follows: 1st Prize of £40 to Angie Trenchard; 2nd Prize of £20 to Virginia de Cosson; 3rd Prize of £10 to Harry Hicks; and 4th Prize of £5 to Pauline Galliar. If you are not already a member and wish to join, then applications forms are available from the shop. It is a great way to support your community shop. The prizes are £40, £20, £10, and £5 in February, June, and October; and £200, £100, £50, and £25 in April, August, and December.



*Photo West Meon Village Shop: Mark Wills*

Lots of new fresh produce from The Tomato Stall based in the Arreton Valley on the Isle of Wight. There are cherry tomatoes, Beef tomatoes, Padron Peppers, and beautifully shaped Italian Aubergines. They are quite delicious and proving to be a real hit with the locals. Our Christmas stock will be arriving soon, and what we have out on display

is generally all we will be getting, as we have to order way back in April! Therefore, it is recommended that you to grab the items you want fast to avoid disappointment.

We have had to move the planter from outside the front of the shop as per the council's instruction. However, those arriving by car do please avoid parking directly in front of the door so buggies and wheelchairs can still gain access to the shop and flat. Also, a reminder for children to look carefully as they leave the shop, and to be vigilant of parking cars. This was one of our fears of having to move the planter, which now means our customers now have to step straight out into the road as soon as they leave the shop door!

I must admit it's so lovely to see the school children in the shop before and after the buses leave, which gives us a real village feel. We are hoping to paint the exterior of the shop to freshen up our look, whilst this is happening the shop will remain open, but do watch out for wet paint. The collection of the bills is still on the slow side, so we have employed a young man to help deliver them, hopefully he has managed to pop them through the right doors! Winter is coming so the doors to the shop will probably be closed on most days to keep some warmth in but fear not we are open.

Nigel turned 70 in October, and we would like to wish him a very happy birthday and hope he does not retire any time soon, as we would be lost without him. *Rachell Barnett*

## Warnford Church Fete 2022

This year's Fete took place on Saturday 17th September and we were all relieved that the weather was wonderful. Jeremy Barber, Andrew Sellick and their team started the day at 6am. Two hours later all the stalls and tents were up and ready - the Barber Boys assisted by the Boyes Girls had produced microphone and music. The playground was awash with people setting up their stalls in preparation for 1pm. Meantime Radio Solent were interviewing Amie to talk about our wonderful fete (see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0cwkr59> - it's towards the end if you fancy a listen). Then at 1pm the Fete was officially opened live on air!

The Playground was looking its best, thanks to all the magnificent work that has been done by the Playground Committee. Not only did everyone work hard on the day, but several, such as Plants, Tombola, Teas and Cakes and Bric-a-Brac were preparing for days in advance - also Jane who tirelessly does all fete paperwork months in advance. The attendance was good with lots of friends from West Meon and other Meon Valley villages.

Announcements by Sally Matthews (Dog Show) made for a lively afternoon.



*Dog Show photo Stephen Short*

We are fortunate to have such a beautiful site beside the river, with its adjoining swings and slides where children can let off their energy. It was good to look around and watch the scene: stall-holders cheerfully selling their wares, others relaxing with their teas or Pimms, enjoying ice creams under the shade of the trees.

Many thanks to all those who took part in the fete, either as providers or customers.

Due to the wonderfully sunny weather and the generosity of visitors we raised a total of £2,264. We also received some personal donations from members of the community for which



we are very grateful. Ninety percent will go to the Church and ten percent to the Playground, and so you have helped these two valuable village assets.

The provisional date for next year's Church Fete will be on Saturday 9th September 2023 - keep it free!

*Amie Boyes*

## End of year wine party - save the date

**West Meon Village Hall, Friday 25th November**

Our theme for November's offer and party is 'Bring Me Sunshine'.

If we can't have warmth here at this time of year, we thought we'd better import some. So, channel your inner Morecambe & Wise and stand by for some really interesting wines from Lebanon, California, South Africa, the Languedoc, and other sunny climes.



Tickets, initially at least, will be limited to WMWS members as well as customers who have purchased wines from our online store.

So please visit our website at [www.westmeonwine.co.uk](http://www.westmeonwine.co.uk) to discover our expertly curated wines as well how to become a member and much more. Or email us at [westmeonwine@gmail.com](mailto:westmeonwine@gmail.com).

West Meon Wine Society is a not-for-profit organization. Every purchase supports the West Meon Village Shop so that it can continue serving our community.

*West Meon Wine Society Management Team*

## West Meon C of E Primary School

Hedgehog Outdoor Explorers continue to roam the village on Friday afternoons and the trip to Birdworld by Foxes and Hedgehogs was a great day, with much laughter as the rheas raced around their enclosure and the penguins were fed.



Our MacMillan Morning in school was well attended and we raised £70 in school and more in online donations – thank you to the community members who popped in to join us.

Our Friends of West Meon parents group also ran a very successful Popcorn Club after school which gives the children time to relax and have a mini cinema experience. They are now busy planning a Halloween Disco with creative competitions included.

Our Hedgehogs class and Mrs Marriott visited the toddler group run by Hazel Town in the village hall and it was great that those children coming up to school age were involved with our youngest children. Next time they will come to school to play with our Hedgehogs class and get to know them better while their parents chat over coffee and cake.

Foxes led a wonderful Harvest Service and then Owls distributed the gifts around the village. The older pupils will also be leading assemblies during our Safety Week in November on Road Safety, Online Safety and Anti Bullying.

The Petersfield Post came in to take a whole school photo for an article on our school and prospective families have started to visit us. We now have a Facebook page and we welcome children from outside our catchment area and you are welcome to visit our school during the week to see us in action at any time or you can see us on Open Morning on Saturday 19th November from 10am – 12noon, when there will be children in as well to tell you all about our busy school.

*Julie Kelly,  
Headteacher*



# West Meon C of E Primary School

Respect Courage Creativity



**Open Morning**  
**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November**  
**10.00-12.00**

## Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

### Sunday 6th November

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**10.30am East Meon.** Benefice Service of the Word. All Age Worship.

**3pm Warnford.** All Souls Service of Remembrance.

West Meon and Warnford have a joint All Souls service at Warnford at 3 pm on Sunday 6th November to hold in remembrance those who were dear to us. There is a list in each church for names of those people who you would like to commemorate.

### Sunday 13th November

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**10.15am East Meon.** Remembrance Day Service.

**10.50am West Meon.** Remembrance Day Service.

The 13th November joint Remembrance Day service will be at West Meon, starting outside by the War Memorial at 10.50am. There will also be a School Service of Remembrance at 10.45am on Friday 11th November at the War Memorial.

**4pm Langrish.** Remembrance Day Service.

### Sunday 20th November

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Warnford.** Benefice Mattins.

**10.30am East Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.

### Sunday 27th November

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**10.30am Langrish.** Benefice Eucharist for Advent Sunday.

**10.30am West Meon.** Benefice Service of the Word for Advent Sunday.



Botley Choral Society present a

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Botley Choral Society has been going strong for 100 years and to celebrate are performing a special centennial concert! The programme opens with Handel ~ Zadok the Priest followed by The King shall rejoice, Let the bright Seraphim, The Trumpet shall sound and a grand finale of Mozart's Mass in C (Coronation Mass), gloriously supported by wonderful soloists, organist and trumpeter.

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\*All Saints Church, Botley SO30 2EA Parking in the nearby Mortimer Road car park.  
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## Taizé Services

6th November 8pm -

4th December 8:40pm.

The popular Taizé-style services will be resuming at Portsmouth Cathedral on Sunday evenings starting at 8pm. Taizé-style worship offers an opportunity for peace and quiet, for stillness and reassurance. We meet in the Cathedral in the Nave at 8pm to join in Taizé songs and chants and be led in prayer with a time of quiet reflection and meditation. The service usually lasts about 40 minutes.

## Hayling Island Christmas Arts Trail

18th November 5pm

- 20th November 4 pm

St Mary's Church, Church Road, Hayling Island PO11 0NT.

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## The fascinating world of fungi forensics



*Fungi and plants share extraordinary underground networks © Neil Aldridge*

The damp conditions of autumn make it the ideal time for fungi enthusiasts.

Fungi come in all kinds of shapes and sizes, from the familiar mushrooms to cups, balls and brackets. But these bizarre structures we're used to seeing are just the fruiting bodies, which usually only pop up once or twice a year. Like the fruits of a tree, these are temporary, short-lived parts of the larger organism. Their only job is to help the fungus spread.

They do this by releasing microscopic spores, which require dispersal like seeds from a tree and are often spread by the wind. Some fungi fire their spores into the air like a cannon. The puffball, for example, releases a cloud of spores from a hole in its top when a mature mushroom is compressed by rain, a passing animal or an inquisitive human finger.

The main part of a fungus, which lives on long after the toadstools have toppled, is hidden within the substrate from which the fruiting body grows, be it soil, rotting wood, dung or even nuts and seeds. It's a dense, tangled network of threads (called hyphae) that together are known as a mycelium.

These networks can stretch for metres (or in rare cases miles) through the soil, connecting fungi to the roots of trees, grasses and other plants. In most cases, it's a win-win relationship: the fungus gives the plant nutrients from the soil and the plant supplies the fungus with carbohydrates formed through photosynthesis.

As well as sharing nutrients, these networks can also be used to send information. Studies have shown that trees under attack, from a harmful fungus or insects like aphids, can send out a warning to nearby trees through the mycelium, giving them chance to prepare and defend themselves.

However, the network can also have a darker side and some plants have found a way to exploit it. The bird's-nest orchid is a sickly-looking species that grows in caramel-coloured spires in shaded woodland areas and has no chlorophyll, so can't photosynthesise like most plants to produce food. Instead, it sucks nutrients from the fungal mycelium that connects its own roots to those of the other plants growing around it, giving nothing in return.

So, next time you spot a toadstool sprouting from grass, or a bracket clinging to the bark of a rotting branch, spare a moment to think about the hidden network sprawling beneath your feet, connecting the forest and breathing life into the trees.

*Jake Kendall-Ashton*



*Photo: New Forest mushroom by Adrian Annabel*

## **John Norman Claisse**

John Claisse, long time West Meon resident, lived in this warm and supportive community for 27 years and died peacefully at home with his family on 12th October after a long illness. A thanksgiving service for his life will be held at St John the Evangelist Church, West Meon on Tuesday 1st November at 12 noon.

John was loving and loved husband to Jan, father to Annabelle, Simon and Sophie, grandfather to Tom, Will, Livi, Emma and Sam, and great grandfather to James and Benjamin.

## Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Sunday. Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm  
**ALLEN GALLERY - Great News!**

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) an initial grant for the re-design and development of the Allen Gallery and Garden. The Gallery holds a nationally significant collection of ceramics. HCT will apply for a full grant of £1 million at a later date, which will be used to enhance the visitor experience in the Gallery and boost Alton as a place to live, work and visit.

The Gallery is one of the local community's focal points. As well as the permanent display of ceramics, it hosts a wide range of exhibitions on a variety of mainly local subjects, and activities for many age groups. There is also an important annual display of works by the artist WH Allen, from whom it gets its name. The new project aims to enhance these features.

Planning will take until December 2023, physical redevelopment thereafter, and the whole project will hopefully be completed in 2025. Closure of the Gallery will be kept to a minimum.



*Photo: Icelandic Textile Centre c. river*

### **EXHIBITION - Echoes of Iceland**

In 2019 a group of professional textile artists spent the month of May at the Icelandic Textile centre in Blönduós on the northern coast of Iceland. They were there to explore the landscape, the culture, its textile heritage, local materials and the current production and use of textiles. In using the facilities available at the centre they were able to make a wide-ranging, extraordinary body of work in response to their findings. This exhibition is about that trip. It includes work made whilst in Iceland and pieces that have been constructed since. The work includes felting, weaving, knitting, stitching and basketry techniques, much of it using found and local materials. The group are Delia Salter, Tara Kennedy, Annette Mills and Jennifer Jones.  
5th November – 15th January 2023 FREE entry

### **TALK - The History and Development of Southampton City Art Gallery and its Permanent Collection**

A Talk by Tim Craven, Senior Curator at the Art Gallery, and an artist himself.  
10th November, 7.30 FREE, donations welcome.

*Jill Line*



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# **West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting**

## **Your Parish Council needs you**

WMPC has 2 vacancies to fill. If you are interested contact the Chairman, Angie Trenchard, or the Clerk, Mrs Jo Tester (details opposite).

## **Meon Water Courses**

Due to the weather extremes we are experiencing, could riparian owners please ensure that the Meon water courses running through their properties are cleared of weeds, branches, and debris ahead of the seasonal storms we can expect. Even minor blockages can have a severe impact on land and properties situated upstream.

## **New build Houses**

Three new build two bedroom houses are being advertised on Hampshire Home Choice from 12th until 23rd October. These houses are at Northfields, West Meon GU32 1FA. The housing association landlord is VIVID. The weekly rent for these houses is £197.92. To register an interest please contact Hampshire Home Choice.

## **Fireworks**

Bearing in mind the large number of thatches in the neighbourhood could residents please refrain from letting off fireworks and lighting bonfires in celebration of Guy Fawkes. Descending fireworks can easily still be glowing along with sparks from bonfires.

## **And Finally, from West Meon**

The next Parish Council Meetings will be held on Tuesday 8th November 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall, Parishioners are welcome, please contact the clerk. Jo Tester clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk

## **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website (see opposite) which also has details of local facilities and services, village news and events. Please do sign up for email alerts so that you'll be kept informed of forthcoming events, planning applications etc.

## **Autumn Meeting**

The Autumn Parish Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 3rd November 2022 in the Village Hall. Papers relating to it will be on the website nearer the time. Anyone preparing an application for a grant should follow the procedure set out on the website. This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the redevelopment plans for the Manor Farm Dairy. Please send any further suggestions for the Agenda to the Clerk.

## **Rights of way in Warnford**

If you are aware of any rights of way in Warnford that are becoming overgrown or are otherwise obstructed please email Derek Chapman at: ederekchapman@btinternet.com.

## **West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City & Hampshire C.C. Contacts**

### **West Meon Parish Council**

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07774 698958

Jo Tester  
Clerk to West Meon Parish Council  
clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk  
02392 632106

### **West Meon Parish Council website**

[www.westmeonpc.org.uk](http://www.westmeonpc.org.uk)  
email: [westmeonpc2017@gmail.com](mailto:westmeonpc2017@gmail.com)

### **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Mark Rogers  
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[chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk](mailto:chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk)  
07712 868858

Lucy Hutchinson  
Clerk  
[warnfordclerk@gmail.com](mailto:warnfordclerk@gmail.com)  
01730 829598

### **Warnford Parish website**

[www.hugofox.com/community/  
warnford-village-7802/about-us](http://www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village-7802/about-us)

### **Winchester & Hampshire Councillors**

Winchester City Councillors  
Neil Bolton  
[nbolton@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:nbolton@winchester.gov.uk)  
01962 771256

Hugh Lumby  
[hlumby@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:hlumby@winchester.gov.uk)  
01489 877444

Hampshire County Councillor  
Hugh Lumby  
[hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk](mailto:hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk)  
07738 289912

### **Member of Parliament for Meon Valley**

Flick Drummond  
[flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk](http://flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk)  
01962 679920 – Constituency Office



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## W.I. Report

What a brilliant evening we all had at West Meon Village Hall on Saturday 15th October!

About 80 of us attended a W.I. supper and Shakespearean cabaret presented by our terrific local West Meon Theatre Company which, as usual, provided a production of a very high standard. This joint collaboration between the Theatre and the W.I. was fantastic entertainment and great fun.

At our meeting on Monday 10th October we were reminded about our Autumn outing to the D-Day Map Room at Southwick House near Fareham on Monday 17th October at 2pm. This should prove to be a fascinating visit and quite a few members have signed up for this outing.

Our speaker for our afternoon talk was Giles Remnant and the subject was 'Training Lions for Born Free, and how some of the famous scenes were created'. Giles was brought up in Kenya and his first job was working in game control for the Kenya Game Department, where they walked vast distances on foot (no cars) and used camels for transport. He was employed to work with the lions for the film Born Free, based on the book by Joy Adamson, and was assigned to work with George Adamson.

Giles was full of praise for the professionalism of Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, who played George and Joy in the film and he had brought along a lot of photos and memorabilia for us to see. They used orphaned lion cubs, which had been raised on goat milk and said that one of the questions he is most frequently asked, is how they got the lions in the film to 'pose' on top of vehicles, and he said they used sardines in oil as apparently lions absolutely love them!

When the time came to take Elsa into the wild, when she would hopefully find a mate and have cubs, she was taken to the Mara Triangle, which is near the Serengeti, and released. Towards the end of the film Elsa comes back from the wild with three cubs to present them to George and Joy, before she is called back to the wild by her mate.

Born Free took 18 months to film, and should have taken 6 months, and was massively over budget.

Our next meeting is on Monday 14th November at West Meon Village Hall at 2pm. Our speaker is Andrew Negus, who will give us the third of his talks on the history of Winchester. As we all know Andrew is a fount of all knowledge on anything connected with the history of Winchester, so do come along and join us for a fascinating afternoon.

We look forward to seeing you then, and visitors are very welcome.

*Sue Kinlochan*

## Rainfall Records September/October 2022

September 2022 ended with 109mms of rain (4.29"). From the 15th through to the 21st we had a dry warm spell and then in the last 8 days we had 22mm ( 0.88").

September 2021 we had 52.7mms ( 2.1") So considerably more this year, in fact double the amount.

Total for the year to end September 2022 449.2mms (17.9")

Total for the year to end September 2021 693.5mms (27.7")

So, year to date, there was nearly 10" more last year than this year.

*Peter Short*



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## Garden Club News

We spent a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining evening with Paolo Arrigo at our October meeting, when we learned all about “Italy from Seed to Plate”.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th November at 7:30 for 7:45 pm in Warnford Village Hall. In our bid to appeal not only to gardeners but also to a wider population, our very own Edwin Grimshaw, gardening enthusiast and local historian, will relate “A History of the Meon Valley Railway”, accompanied by slides and a rare video.



*Photo from Ray Stone's Collection.*

This will be followed by our AGM.

The lecture is likely to prove popular with Meon Valley residents so we strongly recommend booking in advance via:

email: [clareswinstead@gmail.com](mailto:clareswinstead@gmail.com)

phone: 01730 829059 (evenings)

Cost: Our membership fee for the coming year (a bargain at just £5 for the whole year!) will be payable at the AGM.

For visitors, the entry fee is £2.

Please bring the exact amount in cash with you on the night.

*Clare Swinstead*

## Diary Dates

**Tuesday 1st November**

**Thanksgiving service for John Claisse**

12noon St John the Evangelist Church,  
West Meon.

**Thursday 3rd November**

**Warnford Parish Meeting** 7.30pm Warnford  
Village Hall.

**Tuesday 8th November**

**West Meon Parish Council Meeting** 7.45pm

West Meon Village Hall.

**Thursday 10th November**

**Garden Club talk and AGM** 7:30 for 7:45  
pm Warnford Village Hall.

**Monday 14th November**

**WI meeting** 2pm West Meon Village Hall.

**Wednesday 16th November**

**Seedler by Kit Power** 6pm Meon Hall,  
Meonstoke.

**Saturday 19th November**

**Open Morning** 10-12am West Meon C of E  
Primary School

## Parish Directory

**Rector:** Vacant

**Churchwarden for West Meon:**

Michael Johnson 829105

**PCC Secretary for West Meon:**

Louise Clay 829235

**Churchwarden for Warnford:**

Andrew Sellick 829161

**Verger for Warnford:**

Peter Short 829285

## Hampshire Farmers' Market November dates

*Markets open from 10am - 2pm  
except Winchester from 9am - 2pm  
and Romsey 10am - 1pm*

Sunday 6th Petersfield/Romsey

Saturday 12th Alton

Sunday 13th Winchester

Saturday 19th Emsworth

Sunday 20th Southsea

Saturday 26th Ringwood

Sunday 27th Winchester

## Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922

Virginia de Cosson 829362

**The Parish News is published by the  
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