

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

December 2020

St John Joins Facebook

I wouldn't normally say it... but you know I think I might actually miss the August Christmas displays; maybe, just maybe, the John Lewis baubles and tinsel were some kind of an early pointer to the season that lay ahead, prompting me to at least mentally think list! It was therefore with some relief that I noted a few weeks ago a few more perfume ads on the television and over the last week the proper Christmas ads even if they did include a flying carrot and turkey!

Sitting in my study, seeing bare branches reaching up into a grey sky, I think of the generations who have gone before us, even those of recent generations. A wave of nostalgia has overwhelmed me as I think of what Christmas preparations were like for me as a little girl in Canada, of jaunts into the woods to find the perfect tree, of family traditions, ice skating on silver lakes, cocoa and bonfires.

Here in the Meon Valley you have your own traditions and those include the very particular way that you have gathered in your churches to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Over the past few weeks individuals have told me of those traditions, of Midnight Communion at St John the Evangelist and the Carol Service at Warnford, of Christingle, Nativity Plays and Crib Service. All important events which remind us of who we are not only spiritually but culturally.



After John Nash



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As so for 2020... there will be new Christmas traditions and different memories that we will remember for a very long while. I think it is a contradiction that we are both brought together and that we become isolated by technology. Zoom and the like are great and have been hugely important in maintaining relationships over the last few months but there is something very special about standing next to someone and singing the carols that speak of the joy of Christmas, or walking down a lane in the middle of the night noticing the stars in the sky's above allowing the words of 'O Holy Night' to run silently through our heads, to have the opportunity to greet passers by with the words 'Happy Christmas' and simply to hold a loved one.

As I write this (17th November) I simply do not know what shape our Christmas celebrations will take. At the moment I have plan A, plan B, and plan C rushing around in my head. I have had conversations with the School and tomorrow evening I will be meeting with members of our PCCs to play around with possibilities but at this point it is difficult to say exactly what will be happening. We will of course be doing our best to let all of you know the nature of our services, unfortunately you will probably receive your copy of this magazine prior to the time when we will be able to confirm our celebrations.

Posters, emails and of course word of mouth will be an important part of the way in which we spread the word. And then there is our new FACEBOOK page! Another means of keeping up to date, and sharing all that is happening in our community.

In previous years you have celebrated Advent with a living Advent Calendar and this year, as needs must, we are launching a FACEBOOK Advent Calendar... each day during Advent a reading will be posted read by a villager! So what to expect... young and old readers... poetry and prose... secular and religious... funny and serious. Do have a look!



St John the Evangelist West Meon Facebook page

Our Advent and Christmas season, as different as it may be, does remain a time of opportunity. It is an opportunity for us to see our world, our relationships and our spirituality in new and different ways. Yesterday I spoke with someone about the sense of presence; to many the presence of God that, sometimes, we are aware of - moments of peace, or perhaps

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great clarity. Taking time, pausing, withdrawing, are all words which may describe the setting of those moments, moments sometimes snatched in nature, in the gaze of a loved one, or even whilst sitting in a quiet church. The sense of presence often comes in stillness, in the moment when the rush of the world is laid aside if only for a moment. In those moments some might say that Christ and his vision permeates our entire being; in this way Christ is born in our hearts, not only for us as individuals but for humanity.

Meister Eckhart, a 14th century mystic, wrote:

“what good is it for me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 1400 years ago and I don't give birth to God's son in my person and my culture and my times?”

So many of us are charitable in many ways, we live out our faith in action, perhaps this Christmas is a time for us to realise God within ourselves, to recognize that the compassion and love we hold for others is sparked by God with us.

Clear the Way by Kate McLlhagga

Gracious God,
As the days shorten
and the pale wintry sun
bathes the sky with light,
so may our anxiety abate
and the warmth of your love cleanse and purify our lives.

Promised One,
as ice skims the pond
and bright frost
gilds the leaf with glory,
may the clarity of your call awaken us to new hope
and new beginnings.

Holy Spirit of transformation,
help us to clear the way
for the coming Christ-child.
As the red sun sinks behind black branches,
slip into our lives
and surprise us by the welcome warmth
of your coming.

Wishing you and all those that you love a happy and blessed Christmas.

*Mary Jepp,
Assistant Rector*

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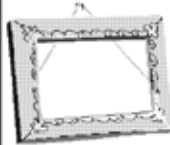
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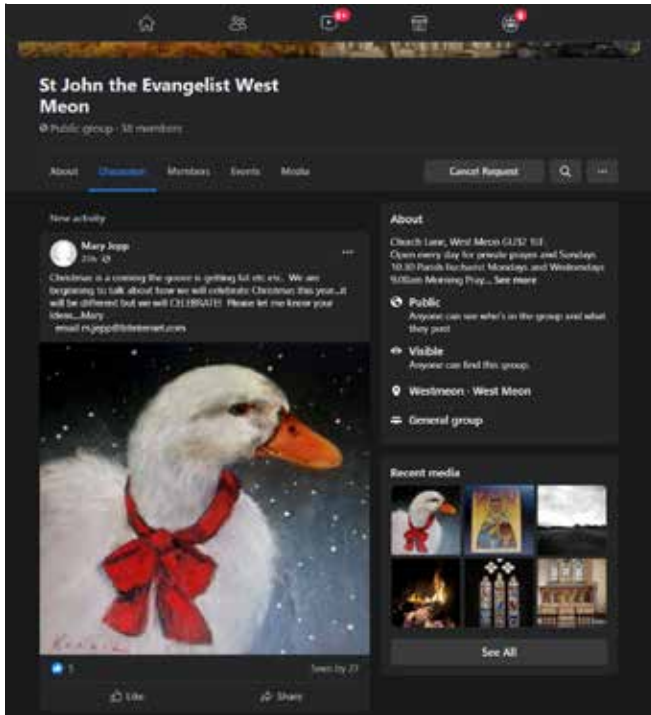
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From Facebook

Christmas is a coming the goose is getting fat etc etc. We are beginning to talk about how we will celebrate Christmas this year...it will be different but we will CELEBRATE! Please let me know your ideas....

Mary's email:

m.jepp@btinternet.com

Good News from Ghana

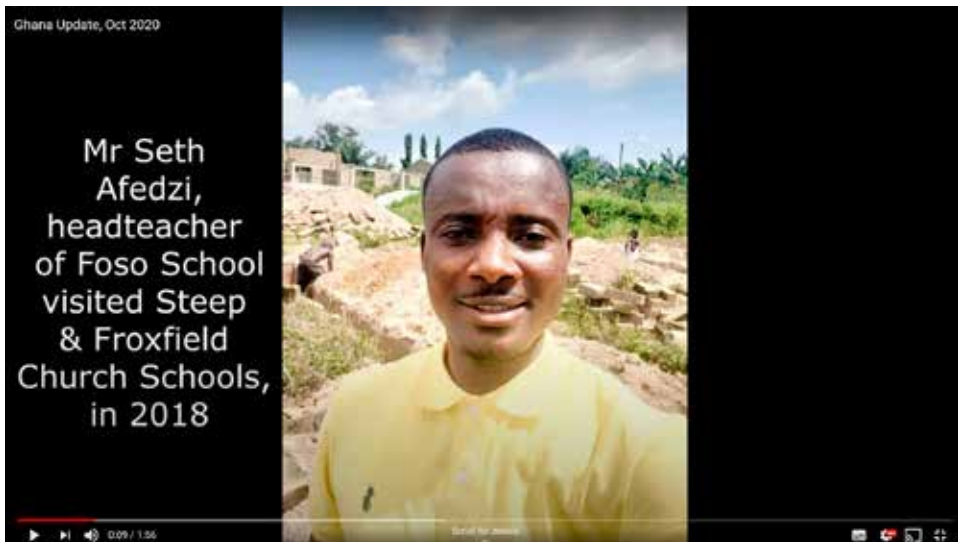
In these inward looking times it is great to hear that funds sent from the parish of Steep to their link school in Ghana mean they are able to start on rebuilding following road construction affecting their present site.

The Headteacher from

Ghana spent a week here a while back. The school to school link is thriving.

<https://youtu.be/XDXDR0KBCyc> or visit Steep and Froxfield Churches' YouTube channel.

The Rev'd Jane Ball



Unwanted Callers

Able Community Care is a Norfolk home care company which was established in 1980 and now provides care 24/7 throughout the UK and beyond.

We continually read news/articles flagging up the activities of Doorstep Criminals: fraudulent roofers, gardeners, service officials and other non-genuine visitors who target older people. Over the years we have also had first-hand evidence from our own clients and carers.

As a company we have decided to see if we can help prevent this on a small scale and so we have had the Door Safety Sticker (attached) to give away to older people. To date we have sent out 60,000 upon request, since February 2019.

If you think you may like to have one, please ask or ring 01603 764567 or email to info@ablecommunitycare.com.

We will not keep your details other than to send out the door sticker.

Best wishes, Angela Gifford CEO



Christmas window by J Annabel

Rainfall records for October to Mid-November

The second half of October was not quite as wet as the first half with 92.6mms against 139.9mms in the first half making a total for the month of 232.5mms (9.15").

The month remained mild throughout. November started wet, we then had a 3 day break but after that it rained little or much every day up to mid month. By the 15th we have had 81.8mms (3.2"). Total for the year to the end of October is 931mms (36.6"). To the same date last year we had 738.7mms (29") so we are 7" up on last year to mid October.

The weather still remains mild with hardly a frost to date.



Peter Short



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Christmas In A Shoe Box

We write to ask you for your support in helping Jean Cooke and I collect for Home-Start Butser which is an organisation in Petersfield which supports local families with young children. Many parents need help, friendship, advice or support during those early years when children are young. There is no rule book for raising a family and sometimes it can seem overwhelming, particularly if a family is going through difficult times.

Problems experienced by families are wide-ranging and include physical or mental health issues, such as post-natal depression, multiple births and geographical or social isolation. Home-Start Butser provides carefully selected and trained volunteers with parenting experience who visit families to offer emotional and practical support as they grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children, and widen their links with their local community. Please visit their website www.homestart-butser.org.uk.

In the past we have sent shoe boxes abroad that have contained hygiene items; but this year Jean and I want something to go to local families.

Our aim is to collect Christmas treats to fill 20 or more shoe boxes, (pink ones for a girl and blue for a boy), one each for children, 5 years and under. It would be wonderful if you could fill a box, or more if you would like to, which would be greatly appreciated. The list of suggested contents is shown below:

- A jar of hot chocolate powder
- Tiny marshmallows
- A small mug
- Bubble bath liquid or bombs
- Children's shampoo
- A small book
- Crayons or coloured pencils
- Home made Christmas decoration for a tree or a keepsake
- A Christmas chocolate box treat



Empty shoe boxes may also be needed!

If you are able to collect any or all of these items when shopping or if you wish to give a monetary donation we would welcome your kind contribution, which would then enable us to top up any items still needed. Please can you spread the word.

I am very happy for you to drop off your donations or boxes to me, Sue Croft, at Park Lodge, East Meon. My telephone number is 01730 823638. If you are willing to take part, please can you deliver by Friday the 4th December.

In hopeful anticipation we thank you very much for your support for this worthy cause giving something very special to these little children this Christmas.

Sue Croft and Jean Cooke

Christmas In The Shop

There is now a pleasing range of festive treats and Christmas gifts in the shop, along with a good selection of Christmas cards all of which contribute to a variety of charities. Do drop inside and have a look, although hurry as stock is going quickly.



Outside the shop, to protect customers queuing in the rain and in the street from traffic and the weather, flower pots and a planter along with an awning have been erected as a temporary measure during the pandemic. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



West Meon Wine Society - Wines for Seasonal Festivities

Here we are, locked down again, but still wanting to get ready for whatever festivities we can manage over the next couple of months. One thing's certain, the events and the food we'll be enjoying will need to be accompanied by suitable drinks. So here are some suggestions, including classic favourites from Burgundy, Bordeaux, the Loire and Rioja. Some of the wines have a little age on them too – they've mellowed so that we can do the same. We thought we might need fortifying as well, so there are some sherries, ports and a Madeira to help. Needless to say, all the wines are good, but we have some particular favourites to recommend.

To wake you up: Gutierrez Colosia Fino Sherry, Puerto de Santa Maria - a piercingly crisp perker-upper with a distinct hint of a sea breeze.

For the main event: Ch des Joulalles 2010 - astoundingly good value for a cracking 10 year old claret, drinking beautifully now. Also, Urbina 2006 Reserva Especial Rioja – while the 2009 Crianza is a perfect example of a good value Rioja, do consider pushing the boat out and try the 2006 Reserva Especial – as one of our tasting team said, the nose alone makes it worth buying.

To finish off: Krohn Colheita Port 2007 - delicious wood aged, rich, and a real talking point. A Colheita is a tawny Port made with grapes from a single vintage. This one was aged in wood until its bottling in 2018. Colheitas sadly are quite rare, which is a shame as they combine the sweet fruit and nuttiness of an old tawny with the particular character of a single vintage.



West Meon CE Primary School

Last month I talked about the focus being the health and well - being of the children and staff, but as we approached half term, we realised that the lack of physical contact with our parents and the general community was having a detrimental impact.

Our virtual parents' evenings went well and definitely helped, but standing at the gate and chatting before and after school to extended family members was something we were missing so much and they felt the same.

We went a step further with masks, which staff were wearing in communal areas and asked parents to wear them at drop off and pick up. Although this might seem like another barrier, it actually enabled parents to get closer to each other to speak and for us to also walk up to parents like we did before to have a quiet conversation, instead of impersonal messages spoken loudly socially distanced.

Foxes and Owls are also starting to use a programme called Seesaw, as a tool to send home photographs of what the children have been doing in school and to communicate more personally with parents. This will also come into its own if we ever have to close a bubble and go back to online learning.

Reverend Mary and Reverend Jane had been coming in weekly to lead collective worship in bubbles and we were planning Remembrance, but the new lockdown rules prohibited this happening in the church building. However, the weather cleared, the whole school gathered in their bubbles around the memorial and Mary led a short service with Ted Rushworth in Year 5 volunteering to read an iconic poem in tribute to the soldiers who had lost their lives. The eldest child in the school, Flick Peet and the youngest child, Harrison Jones, laid the school's wreaths and Mary's husband then rang the bells, so the whole village could mark the moment. It was very moving and the children were superb and very respectful.



The Diocese is making an animated Nativity and we have contributed to the artwork and will share this at the end of term with the children.

We have also found an online interactive Pantomime to watch during the last week and Christmas dinner will go ahead as usual, although these days everything arrives in lunch boxes and delivered to the class bubbles. The only difference is that it is not being served up on site and we will ensure there is a party atmosphere as usual with music and crackers.

The whole school dressed up in pyjamas and onesies for Children in Need and raised nearly £70, which was great.

Year R and 1 are taking wellie walks on Fridays with me, as I help cover that class with Mrs Harris as Mrs Cheshire is unwell, and the autumn leaves have been the source of all sorts of art activities.



Y2 and Y3 are

busy using recycled materials to create waterproof boats and they will be walking down to Linda Davies' garden to see if they float on her part of the River Meon.

Y4,5,6 are part way through a long term project making fairground carousels and we are sending pictures to Michael Major so he can see the art work, as sadly he cannot come in at the moment and we are missing him.

We were also so pleased to hear that Jenny Jenkin has bounced back to good health, someone who has come into school for decades and who we are sorely missing too.

We continue to offer the Aspire coaching sessions after school on a Thursday, after some confusion re the government guidance during lockdown and our before and after school club continues to thrive and Louise Vulinovic has returned to help lead this two sessions a week as well. To help families out, we are reducing the cost by 20% for after school club if they have more than one child, as we hit hard economic times.

Lockdown has also affected visits to school by prospective parents, so please spread the word that on our website we now have a 'virtual tour' created by parents Charlotte and Dave Slater and coupled with our previous video 'What makes a small school special' and all the other information and photographs on our website, gives families an insight into our school. I will also be available to take families on socially distanced tours after school once we come out of lockdown.

Therefore, as you can see, we have adapted well to the situation and continue to work at the heart of the West Meon community.

Julie Kelly, Headteacher

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www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk Curtis Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am – 4pm
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CHRISTMAS GOODIES

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ALLEN GALLERY

Please see our website to book your visit www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery.

Pots and Pilgrims Exhibition

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the journey of the Mayflower and the settlement of Plymouth Colony in 1620. This journey, along with the founding of the earlier English colony of Jamestown, is considered one of the most significant, if controversial, events in the story of modern America.



Archaeological excavations have taken place on these sites for over a 100 years revealing objects typical of those you would expect to find in a 17th century English village. The bulk of the material found is pottery, and a lot of that pottery, called Border Ware, came from the kilns of the Hampshire/Surrey border.

This exhibition uses material from collections in the care of Hampshire Cultural Trust to tell the story of how the early colonists carried a cultural life support system with them on their journey. Objects that reveal as much about their ties to the old world as their struggles in adapting to the new. In the Main Exhibition Area till December 19th. FREE.

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Thank you,
Jill Line

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West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

West Meon has 2 vacancies for councilors - If you would like to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council please e-mail the Clerk, Diane Heppell, at clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk with a copy to the Chairman at angiewmpc@gmail.com Please include brief details as to why you would like to join the Parish Council and what skills you offer together with full contact information.

WMPG Grants Policy - Just a reminder that small Grants are available to assist in community projects. If you have a community project that needs some extra funding please see our website (westmeonpc.org.uk – Parish Council, Grant Applications) for further details. Closing date for applications during the current financial year is 28th February 2021.

Local Hero Award - West Meon Parish Council have been awarded a Local Hero Award by the Mayor of Winchester for its ongoing efforts in making sure local people are cared for when they have most needed help during this pandemic.

Dog Fouling – There has been a considerable amount of dog poo not being picked up on the green in front of the bungalows at Long Priors, and behind the garages too. Please ensure you clear up behind your dog.

A new Covid 19 Testing centre opens in Winchester - A walk-through, appointment only, COVID-19 testing facility has opened at Worthy Lane car park in Winchester as part of government measures to increase testing and reduce the spread of the virus. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, can access a free swab test that takes less than a minute. Tests should be booked or ordered as soon as symptoms begin at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119 and you can expect your result from the walk-in facility the following day. Anyone testing positive for the virus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help them track their contacts. This will help people to identify who they may have been in close contact with, protecting others from further transmission. Close contacts of those testing positive will also hear from NHS Test and Trace, advising them to stay at home for 14 days to prevent them from unknowingly spreading the virus. They will be advised to also book a test if they develop symptoms. **How to get a test:** Book online or by calling **119 from 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.** When booking online, make sure you complete the form in full. This includes confirming that you have read and agreed the terms and conditions. You will then be sent a QR code which is required to enter the testing site.

West Meon Parish Council Meeting – Will be held on 8th December at 7.30pm via skype. All parishioners are welcome to join in. If you would like to be present please contact the Clerk clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk.

Warnford Parish Meeting - Information relating to WPM, local facilities and services, vilage news and up and coming events can be found on its website. Please sign up for email alerts. In this time of lockdown/restrictions any residents needing help with shopping, meals, collecting medication, problems due to isolating for a prolonged period etc. should contact the Clerk. There are a number of volunteers ready to help as and when they can.

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 Champman on ederekchapman@btinternet.com.

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

West Meon Parish Council

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07774 698958

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clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk
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West Meon Parish Council website
www.westmeonpc.org.uk
e-mail: westmeonpc2017@gmail.com

Warnford Parish Meeting

Mark Rogers
Chairman
chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk
07712 868858

Lucy Hutchinson
Clerk
warnfordclerk@gmail.com
01730 829598

Warnford Parish website
www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-
village-7802/about-us

Winchester & Hampshire Councillors

Winchester City Councillors
Laurence Ruffell - 01962 777236
lruffell@winchester.gov.uk

Hugh Lumby – 01489 877444
hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

Hampshire County Councillor
Roger Huxstep – 01329 833884
roger.huxstep@hants.gov.uk

Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

Flick Drummond
01962 679920 – Constituency Office
flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk



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Froxfield Choir Christmas Recording And Video

Froxfield Choir delighted in being able to sing together once more in early September and we continued to meet weekly until 5th November in the beautiful setting of Privett Church. The sound created was divine, helped undoubtedly by the glorious acoustic of the setting! Strict social distancing measures were adhered to before, during and after our slightly shorter than usual rehearsal and we took pleasure in revisiting a few familiar pieces, Franck's Panis Angelicus and Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, as well as in learning some new ones, Palestrina's Sicut Cervus and Mendelssohn's Verleih uns Frieden. It was just such a joy to sing together again. How lucky we have been to have had the opportunity to do so when so many amateur choirs around the country have not.

Part of our Lockdown2 plan is to record a shortened version of the traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which is held annually on the Sunday before Christmas as sadly this year we will not be congregating up the hill, huddled together in the freezing cold, under the spire of Privett Church.

For the first time this Christmas, you are invited to join Rev. Canon John Owen and Froxfield Choir online at 6.30pm on Sunday 20th December via the Steep and Froxfield Churches YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMXPTx8XhR5Tt8HNmAhhGB3g> or through the website www.steepfroxfield.com. We still hope to be able to record in Privett Church itself if the ending of Lockdown2 allows, but if that is not to be, we intend to make an audio recording in the new tradition of Zoom! We shall celebrate Christmas with the usual familiar and much



loved carols and readings, and perhaps one or two new ones! Until then keep safe and we'll keep singing!

Sarah Rush

A Jenkin Thank You

I have been reading again the piece that Mary Jepp wrote in a recent Parish News about the Sense of Community in this village.

Conrad and I are eternally grateful for the fantastic kindness of friends and neighbours who have shown so much support over what has been a difficult time.

We do have a marvellous close family as well, but the way so many local people came out with cards, flowers, meals and general offers of anything they could do has been way beyond any expected bounds.

We have lived here a long time and have always felt it was a special village. When a totally unexpected bolt from the blue thunders down, you think long and hard.

Thank you to everybody, Jenny Jenkin



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Making a big difference...what it's all about!

Meon Valley Lions secured funding of £4,395 from a generous benefactor to buy a Smartdrive 'Power wheel add on' to power up the wheelchair of a young lady in Bishops Waltham. This is life changing.

The Club received a letter of thanks from her mother saying "She can't stop bouncing in her chair and grinning from ear to ear every time it is mentioned! It really will make a huge difference to her quality of life and it is so wonderful to see her so enthused after such a difficult year. Father Christmas literally delivered early this year!"



Help for the little people



Meon Valley Churches Together

Meon Valley Lions Club is proud to support and sponsor the new Meon Valley Baby Bank based in Bishops Waltham. They have set up to help all families in the community who are in need of baby and children's items up to 4 years of age.

You do not need an appointment or referral to go to the Baby Bank, they welcome everyone. They also work with child and family care agencies, such as Home Start and local Health Visitors, to gift items by request to families facing financial and emotional stress.

The Baby Bank is now open on the first Thursday of every month. They are also raising money for new storage.



Thankyou BBC Radio Solent

On 27th October Lucy Ambache kindly gave us air time on her Local BBC Radio Solent show to describe how the last 6 months of COVID restraints have hit both our fundraising events and charity support.

Our Christmas Programme and our aims for helping out have also been severely hit but we are doing whatever and wherever we can within the Meon Valley.

Thank you for your support.

Carole Dash

Diary Dates From December 2020

Church Services

If dates and arrangements are finalised they will be inserted in a flyer and/or available in the Pew News email distribution (for further details contact the Rector).

*Merry Christmas
from all at the
Parish News!*



Tuesday 8th December

West Meon Parish Council Meeting – at 7.30pm via skype. All parishioners are welcome to join in. If you would like to be present please contact the Clerk via email at clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk.

Thursday 20th May 2021

Warnford Parish Meeting - details of how to join will be on the village website nearer the time. Any matters for the Agenda should be emailed to the Warnford Parish Clerk.

Parish Directory

Rector :

The Reverend Jane Ball 823221

Assistant Rector:

The Reverend Mary Jepp 829670

Church Wardens for West Meon:

Helena Gomm 829741

Michael Johnson 829105

Church Warden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 829161

Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829285

Hampshire Farmers' Markets

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6th December 2020

Petersfield 10am - 2pm

The Square, Petersfield GU32 3HQ

6th December 2020

Romsey 10am - 1pm

Alma Road Car Park (opposite Waitrose), Romsey, SO51 8ED

Care Group Co-ordinators

West Meon:

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922

Warnford:

Vera Short 829285.

The Parish News is published by the Parochial Church Councils of West Meon & Warnford and delivered free to every home in the parishes.

Contributions by the 15th of the previous month please to:

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