

Meare and Westhay Village News December 23 & January 24



St Mary's Church, Meare 700 year's celebration



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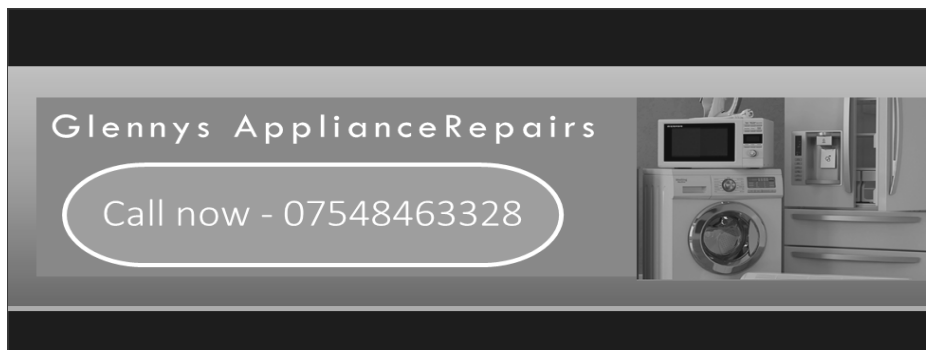
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Editors News

Sorry the Magazines' a bit crammed I added a last minute article.

Well what a lovely turn out for our 700 year old church. It looked fantastic with all the photos, info and flowers. Well done everyone that made so much effort to make the weekend so special.

The church was then decorated in bright orange flowers for Mr & Mrs Woodman's wedding, what a lovely day and the sun shone at all the right times.

Christmas is nearly upon us. I think it's a very happy and sad time of year. We remember those who are not with us and celebrate with those who are still with us. I hope you all manage to meet up with your family and friends making memories and remember the happy times from your past. Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Would Like to Mention

We would like to thank Paul, Kevin and Elaine Stillwell and their staff for turning out to sort out our heating, especially as Paul was on holiday, due to the carnivals etc. It is very much appreciated and we would like to recommend their work. It is always to a very high standard. THANK YOU, Carol and Shane Brown.

Joy Whitelock recently visited her mum and dad's grave in Meare and put flowers in the pot. A few days later her brother visited to find the flowers had been taken out and head removed. It was very distressing for them. If anyone has any information as to what could have happen or if it has happened to you, please contact me and I will pass on the information to them.

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Events in the Parish

Meare Village Primary School

Christmas Fair

Friday 7th December 3-6pm

A range of stalls selling a variety of crafts, decorations, gifts and much more!

- Santa's Grotto
- Raffle, Tombola and Pound in a Bucket
- Choir singing Christmas Carols

Refreshments including baked potatoes with chilli/vegetarian chilli/cheese, hot dogs, mulled wine & mince pies.



New Village Hall

Childrens Christmas Party

Meet Father Christmas and receive a gift

Enjoy An Afternoon Of Scientific Fun & Games

Sunday 10th December
2:00pm till 4.00pm in the Church Rooms

All places **MUST** be booked
Please contact Rosie on 01458 860 000

ENTRY BY DONATION

Meare Parish Activity Group

CHRISTMAS BINGO



SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER

The Church Rooms
Doors Open: 6:30pm
Eyes Down: 7:00pm

£10.00 a Book
£1.00 for the Flyer

REFRESHMENTS

Westhay School Room

Music and Carols At 7pm

on Monday 18th December

Come and get in the Christmas spirit with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

If your having trouble getting to events please ring the organizer's Or Caroline on 860295

MWFT

Carols by Candlelight

with mulled wine and mince pies

a FREE Event 7pm on 17th December at the fish house.

Please wear suitable clothing and bring a torch.
No booking required.



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Announcements

Deaths

Michael Graham Barber aged **94 years** of Stileway Meare. He passed away on 15th September 2023. The cremation took place on 13th October 2023. Donations for Somerset Wildlife Trust and Nature Reserve Fund. Funeral directors where Forsey & Son.

Baptism

The Baptism took place on Sunday 29th October 2023 at St. Mary's Church Meare of **Mildred Ann Wynter** daughter of Ian and Victoria.

Weddings and Anniversary

Congratulations to **Matthew Lee Woodman** and **Charlotte April Norris** on their **Marriage** on Tuesday 24th October at St. Mary's Church Meare.



Happy Anniversary to **Bill and Joyce (ne Whitcombe) Sheppard** who celebrated their **60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary** on 12th October 2023.

Happy Anniversary to **Cyril and Maureen (ne Durston) Willcox** who celebrated their **60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary** on the 16th October 2023.

Special Birthday

Happy belated **60th birthday to Oggie Franks** who had a fantastic celebration with friends and family in October.

MPAG

Make sure you keep two dates free, for some fun entertainment. The first is December the 2nd, for our Christmas Bingo. Called by the lovely Sam Bantock, so bound to be a fun evening. There will be festive refreshments.

The second is January the 27th, for more Burns night fun and food. We hope to see lots of you at both events. Janice Bradley

Meare Community Church Thought for the Day

You may have not thought very often about Alexander the Great, but he is a well recorded invader of territories west of Greece, who performed many unpleasant things as he took land by force; men of military age were put to the sword and women and children sold to slavery. People believed he existed and did all that the history books write about in ancient times. He was the King of Macedonia.

Another person of ancient times, although well recorded in 4 biographies that support each other, he was until recently very well respected and much believed. He did many much nicer things: restoring health, healing people, driving out demons, provided guidance on a way of living in harmony for those who believed. He apprenticed 12 disciples for 3 years and taught them about living in a new kingdom. He offered salvation for those who repented and believed, and the hope of eternal life.

The authorities did not get on well with this upstart and had him put to death in the most painful way possible, by crucifixion. After being buried in a sealed tomb for 3 days, women found his tomb open, and body gone. He reappeared to over 500 people over a number of days. Even those disciples who doubted, finally realised who he was. One biographer recalls our mystery man saying “Who do you say I am?”

Roman historians wrote about his life, and his empty tomb. The biographers wrote about the apostles that preached His message under the threat of death. They must have been really convinced of His character. The evidence of who he was and what he did is so strong. Our mystery man, was Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.

If the evidence is so strong, why do so few believe he existed or was who he said he was? Do you doubt He existed or did those miracles? If Jesus came to die for our sins, in the most painful way possible, why should you ignore what He did for you? This year at Christmas, have a think about what Christmas is really all about. Christmas is not about presents and excessive celebratory consumption, it's about a new start in your life.

Prayers were ongoing for Westhay in September and October, we have prayed for our villages road by road and will continue to do so.

If you have a prayer requests, please send them to Meare Community Church - prayer line; mearechapel22@gmail.com. Prayer requests can be private by asking for their name to be withheld.

Community Church Topics coming up are below:

17th December Carol Service

Meare and Westhay Village Hall Update

We are organising fundraising events and by the time this is printed will have held a Beetle Drive.



Our next event is a Children's Christmas Party with a scientific theme on Sunday 10th December in the Meare Church rooms, entry by donation. This will need to be booked as Santa will be visiting us. So please hurry and let us know. Ring Rosie on 01458 860000.

We are looking at events for next year such as a film night, table top sale, strawberry fair and quiz night. Details will be posted on our Facebook page and notice board.

Anyone wishing to get involved or help with this project, please contact any of the trustees. Thank you, Rosie

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Meare & Westhay Fundraising Team



Meare and Westhay Fundraising Team thank you once again for your support this year. We have continued to upkeep the planted areas in the Parish and support the Youth Group where we can. Our last 2 events this year will be the wreath making in December, which sold out quickly and profits will go to the youth group.

The second event for all will be Carols by candlelight with mulled wine and mince pies. A FREE event starting at 7pm at the fish house. Please wear suitable clothing and bring a torch. No booking required.

The next Breakfasts will be in Church Rooms on Sunday January 21st, February 18th, and March 17th 2024. All are welcome

We will also be holding a Fun Casino Night on February 3rd, at £15 per head to include food and 2 free gambling chips. Held in Church rooms from 7pm. This is a Pre - purchased ticket event.

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St. Mary's Church 700th Birthday

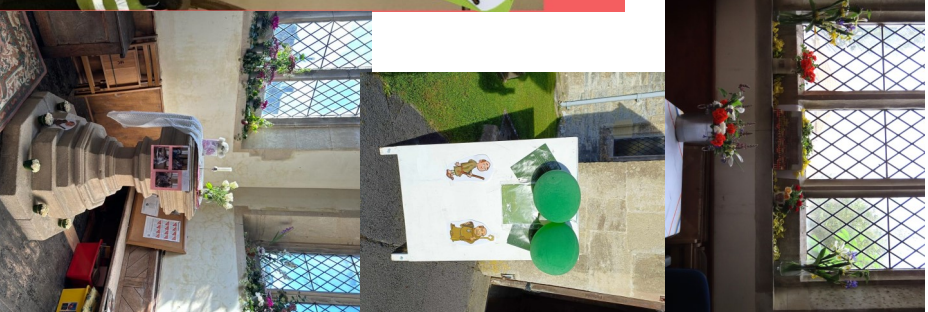
Our October celebrations of 700 years of St Mary and All saints Church were really enjoyable providing three days of events and exhibitions for the communities of Meare and Westhay. It started on Friday 13th October with Meare schoolchildren and staff having an exciting time on a treasure trail devised by Rev Kieron Rowley, around the church. This was based on our new colourful history leaflet which features "treasures" from the 13th-20th centuries.



Meare 700 Year Celebration!

On Friday, the children were kindly invited by Father Kieron to take part in activities that celebrated the church's 700 year anniversary. They had to hunt for Saint Beon's image around the church and draw some of the church's old artefacts, and they also studied the stained glass windows and designed their own!

We hope you managed to get along to the church to join in it the celebrations over the weekend!



Saturday 14th October

was a sociable day as many people came to admire the displays of flowers and photos and archive records of events held in the church from 1800s onwards. Many



thanks to all those who made donations and contributed photos and material and set it all up, or acted as stewards and guides, and to the bellringers who demonstrated their skills. A wonderful team of helpers provided cakes and refreshments all day leading up to the organ recital by Matthew Redman at 4.00 pm with an entertaining program of music from 1360 up to the 21st century.

MWFT started Breakfast earlier on Sunday, giving people time to eat before the Sunday Service. It was a complete sell out.



Sunday 15th October was a memorable day with Bishop Ruth of Taunton speaking at our special Thanksgiving Service which was attended by the St Johns choir and members from the Glastonbury churches and Meare Community Church. This was followed by a delicious buffet lunch and wine and another chance to meet friends and discover and share memories of events at the church, such as the 2006 removal and return of the six heavy bells sent on a lorry to London for retuning.

We will keep an archive of all the exhibition for future generations to enjoy. In the meantime all are welcome to visit the church, pick up a history leaflet and come and join in the Christmas services shown below.



Services at St. Mary's Church Meare

Sunday 3rd Dec.	11:00	Advert Sunday, Holy Communion
Sunday 10th Dec.	6pm	Candlelit Carol Service at St Marys
Sunday 24th Dec.	4pm	Family Crib Service
	10pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday 31st Dec.		Benefice Service TBC
Sunday 7th Jan.	11:00	Epiphany Holy Communion

Police

Between the 9th and 15th of October, Avon and Somerset Police took part in a co-ordinated regional operation to pursue and disrupt the activities of county lines drug gangs.

Using intelligence gathered over many months, officers executed warrants to search properties where illegal drug activity was suspected. Our roads policing team targeted vehicles suspected of involvement in county lines activity across the south west.

They made 21 arrests, safeguarded 9 adults and children, seized £230 k of cocaine, heroin and cannabis and 44 k in cash.

Neighbourhood teams engaged with schools and communities to talk about what exploitation looks like, and carried out welfare checks on vulnerable children and young adults.

They use information submitted by our communities to build up a picture about criminal activity. If you suspect drug related activity is happening where you live or someone you know could be exploited, call 101, report online or tell Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

Westhay School Room

Below is the list of fantastic donations given by Westhay School Rooms to different charities in 2023. Well done all!

Café Westhay Raffles

February	£22.00	Children's Hospice South West
March	£13.00	Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
April	£26.00	British Liver Trust
June	£20.00	Children's Hospice South West
July	£20.00	British Heart Foundation
August	£19.00	Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
September	£20.00	Great Western Air Ambulance
October	£20.00	Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
November	£17.00	Guide Dogs for the Blind

King Charles III Tea Party

May	£152.00	Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
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Harvest Service Collection

September	£40.00	St. Margaret's Hospice
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Westhay Schoolroom Events (Registered Charity No.288021)

December 18th	7:00 pm	Carols & Christmas Music
January 22nd	7:30pm	Annual General Meeting
February 3rd 2024	10:30am	Café Westhay

Ladies Group

The ladies group enjoyed a yummy fish and chips supper and quiz in the Community Church. Thank you to **Star Fish Bar** in Street for getting every-



thing ready on time for me to collect with names on boxes and it was still lovely and hot by the time it arrived at the Community Church. It was nice to sit and have a bit of a chat. Thank you Gayle, for putting together a very full quiz, covering everything you could think of.

Our October talk was full of information. Julie Annoniadis came along and gave a fascinating and very useful talk on Legal Tips all about wills, inheritance tax, power of attorney and lots more. She really does know her stuff and lives right here in our Parish. Thank you so much Julie. Call on 01458 555013 for a home appointment.

Winter Lunch Club

The ladies group invite you all to the Church Rooms in Meare for the Winter Lunch Club again. We will be there from **11.00 to 1.30** on Wednesday **January 10th** and **February 14th** (Valentine's Day!). Please let your friends and neighbours know, as all are welcome. Each time we offer a different lunch, jacket potatoes, tea and coffee and cake. We were given a grant from Sharp Mendip last year which means we can offer this for free again. Come have a chat, a cuppa, read the paper or get the cards out. The November meeting had a lovely group of people. If you're new to the Parish why not come and meet some of your neighbours.

Ladies Group Events (at the Community Church unless stated otherwise)

December 14th	6:30 pm	Christmas Dinner at The Duck, Burtle
January 18th	2:30 pm	Mike Strange Talk on period houses

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
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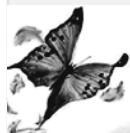
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Youth Group

Please save your drinks cans and let us, at the youth group or any of the MWFT know and we will come and collect them.



As we move into the Christmas period, we are pleased to share that the youth group have almost raised enough money to purchase one end of the proposed sports area.

We started raising funds in February, without the support of Meare and Westhay Fundraising Team (MWFT) this would not have been possible. They have supported the Youth group in many ways: held funds; advertised events; supported every event; and specifically set up the Youth group management team which has in turn devolved several working documents so to them we are extremely great full.

Throughout this year we have also been supported by many other groups and organisations. Our most recent venture has been to raise funds via recycling drink cans, thank you to everyone in the parish who have supported us and particularly Wookey Hub shop and café and more recently SWAT dog training and local cafes who have started collecting cans. A special thanks to The Dairy in Westhay who kindly help providing a can crusher and collection point.

We would like to continue this with the support of the community. We offered young people in the parish the opportunity to attend a skate boarding event in Glastonbury this was taken up by a few people and funded by the Youth group.

So future plans, we will be holding our second committee meeting prior to Christmas and looking into the New Year with a target to form a Youth group on a monthly basis to encourage young people to get together and socialise, exercise and generally have fun. If you have any ideas or would like to take advantage of regular activities, please email [**youthareformeare@gmail.com**](mailto:youthareformeare@gmail.com).

We are finding it difficult to connect with young people who want to get involved. If you have any ideas or parents who would like to help please let us know via email or Facebook.

Halls and Meeting places

Westhay School Rooms.

The Schoolroom consists of a main hall, a kitchen & small meeting room.

The cost of hire is £9.00 per hour, this includes electricity, the use of the kitchen and crockery, also the use of table and chairs.

For bookings and further details contact Anne Moss. tel. 01458. 860853 or Secretary, Richard Brown. e-mail. richardbrown5069@btinternet.com



The Muddy Lane Playing Fields.

For all enquiries including bookings please email the Parish Clerk, Gerard on clerk@meare-pc.gov.uk. He will reply as soon as he can.

Meare Church Rooms



<p>Session Times 8am – 1pm 1pm – 6pm 6pm – 11pm £30 Per Session 7 Days a week</p>	<p>Available for private hire or community events Please call Janice Bradley on 01458 860597 Or email Janice.Bradley3@BTInternet.com</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Hall Address The Church Rooms St Mary's Road Meare Somerset BA6 9PU</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Post Office opening times Friday 9.30am – 12:30pm</p> <p>Also used for voting</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Hall Address The Church Rooms St Mary's Road Meare Somerset BA6 9PU</p>	<p>Post Office opening times Friday 9.30am – 12:30pm</p> <p>Also used for voting</p>
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Allotments

You must be a member of the parish to have an allotment subject to availability. Located at the end of Bramble Close. Yearly membership is £10 & rent £20 pa. Please Contact John Shaw on (01458 860040) or email him using, Johnshaw59@btinternet.com

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Home Library Service contact Kirsty Jenssen – email: kjenssen@somerset.gov.uk	07814 079831
Childcare Services, Little Starlings, Meare, Gemma Clark, littlestarlingsmeare@outlook.com	01458 781595
Meare Village Primary School	01458-860228
Somerset Council	0300 123 2224
Mind email info@mindinsomerset.org.uk or ring	01749 233115
St Mary's Church Mon-Fri 09.00 - 13.00	01458 834281
Parish Paths Liaison Officer	01458-860537
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Samaritans	116 123
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Village Poppy Appeal Charlotte/Elizabeth	01458-860865
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Parish Council Chairperson & Parish Clerk, Visit www.meare-pc.gov.uk for full list of Parish Councillors	
Chairperson Chris Bennetts	Crysnal, Westhay BA6 9TN Cllr.bennetts@meare- pc.gov.uk 01458 860393
Gerard Tucker Parish Clerk	Langata, High Street, Aller, TA10 0QN clerk@meare- pc.gov.uk 078543 79938

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Cocklake The Post Office (S-bound)	07:42	10:17	13:17	16:07
Wedmore The Mall (S-bound)	07:46	10:21	13:21	16:11
Mudgley Mudgely Cross (SE-bound)	07:50	10:25	13:25	16:15
Westhay Turnpike House (S-bound)	07:55	10:30	13:30	16:20
Westhay The Post Office (SW-bound)	07:56	10:31	13:31	16:21
Meare, opp Millbatch	07:58	10:33	13:33	16:23
Meare Post Office (near)	07:59	10:34	13:34	16:24
Meare, outside St. Mary's Church	07:59	10:34	13:34	16:24
Stileway Bus Shelter (E-bound)	08:00	10:35	13:35	16:25
Brindham Community Hospital (S-bound)	08:07	10:42	13:42	16:32
Glastonbury Chinnock Road Spar Shop (W-bound)	08:09	10:44	13:44	16:34
Glastonbury Town Hall (S-bound)	08:14	10:49	13:49	16:39
Street Strode College (E-bound)	08:22			
Street Crispin Hall (NW-bound)	08:25	10:57	13:57	16:47
Street Sainsburys (NE-bound)	09:30	11:02	14:02	
Street - Shipham Bus 668				
Street Sainsburys (NE-bound)	08:50	11:25	14:30	
Street The Library (SE-bound)	08:55	11:30	14:35	17:00
Street Strode College (E-bound)				17:05
Glastonbury Town Hall (N-bound)	09:05	11:40	14:45	17:13
Glastonbury The Queen's Head (E-bound)	09:06	11:41	14:46	17:14
Glastonbury Chinnock Road Spar Shop (E-bound)	09:10	11:45	14:50	17:18
Brindham Community Hospital (N-bound)	09:12	11:47	14:52	17:20
Meare Rice Farm (NW-bound)	09:17	11:52	14:57	17:25
Stileway, opp Bus Shelter	09:18	11:53	14:58	17:26
Meare, opp St Marys Church	09:19	11:54	14:59	17:27
Meare, opp Post Office	09:20	11:55	15:00	17:28
Meare, adj Millbatch	09:20	11:55	15:00	17:28
Westhay, opp The Post Office	09:22	11:57	15:02	17:30
Westhay Turnpike House (N-bound)	09:23	11:58	15:03	17:31
Mudgley Mudgely Cross (N-bound)	09:27	12:02	15:07	17:35
Wedmore The Borough Yard (N-bound)	09:32	12:07	15:12	17:40
Cocklake The Post Office (N-bound)	09:35	12:10	15:15	17:43
Cheddar Tweentown (W-bound)	09:44	12:19	15:24	17:52
Shipham The Miners Arms (NE-bound)	09:52	12:27	15:32	18:00

Magazine Dates & Contact Information

Our online copy of the Meare & Westhay Village News is available on the village website: www.meare-pc.gov.uk. It comes out every 2 months. Articles and advertising can be either sent to Caroline Sanderson (editor) at:- MeareandWesthay@gmail.com or ring on **01458 860295**. You can also post to South View Farm, Chapel Lane, Meare BA6 9TJ. The Magazine is delivered to every home in the Parish (650 homes).

Everyone is welcome to contribute to the magazine. However any views or comments expressed are those of the individual contributor and do not in any way reflect the opinion of the magazine, the editor or the Parish Council.

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Next Issues	Deadline	Distribution
Feb / Mar	1st Jan 24	1st Feb 24
Apr / May	1st Mar 24	1st April 24

Bin Collection Dates :- kerbside by 6 am		
Wednesday 6th & 20th	Dec	Garden Waste only
Thursday 21st	Dec	Recycling & Refuse
Thursday 7th & 14 Saturday 30th	Dec	Recycling only
Wednesday 17th & 31st	Jan	Garden Waste only
Thursday 11th	Jan	Recycling & Refuse
Friday 5th , Thursday 18th & 25th	Jan	Recycling only

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