



Wimborne
Minster



Parish Magazine
December 2025
No. 472

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(Cover photo: Val Gardena carved Angel)

This month we are delighted to welcome many local schools and organisations to the Minster for Christmas services. Please be aware that if you come in during the day there may be rehearsals or a service going on.



Shoppers' Carol Service, 11.00am on Saturday 20th December

Exhausted and stressed by Christmas preparations? Make a pause and come to our short informal carol service, with the Minster Singers!



Carols in the Cornmarket

This popular event takes place this year on Friday 19th December from 6.00pm. Your carol singing will be accompanied by members of the Broadstone Community Concert Band and choristers from Wimborne Minster. A collection will be taken for Wimborne Minster funds and The Mayor's Charities (the Millstream Theatre Group, a local arts organisation supporting adults with learning disabilities, and Dorset Community Action's youth services). Wimborne BID and Optique 2000 are sponsoring the event and Radio Wimborne is kindly providing the public address system.



The Minster's charities for Christmas

The collection at the Advent service always goes to Crisis, the homeless charity, for their work at Christmas. Collections at the Christmas services (Shoppers' Carols, Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day) go to three selected charities, one international, one national and one local. These are chosen by the PCC, and listed in the service sheets.

Donating to the Minster

If you would like to support the work of the Minster, you can scan this QR code, which will take you to our giving portal. You can also make donations in the Minster, using the Gift Aid envelopes or as a contactless payment on the terminal by the porch door. Thank you.



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Parish Magazine publication details

Co-editors: Rosalind Jensen and Andrew Kelley

Please send articles and information, by email if possible,
to parishmagazine@wimborneminster.org.uk or leave at the Parish Office.

Copy deadline for January issue: **Thursday 11th December.**

For advertising information, contact the e-mail address above.

Services at the Minster

Sundays

8.00 am

Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am

Holy Communion (Common Worship)

with prayer for healing on the 4th Sunday of the month

11.15 am

Minster Praise with Communion on the last Sunday of the month

6.30 pm

Choral Evensong

Weekdays

Holy Communion 11.00am, Wednesday (in the Minster)

Morning Prayer 8.30 am, Monday to Saturday (on Zoom)

Services at St Margaret's Chapel

3rd Thursday

11.00 am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

We continue to stream the 9.30 am services at the Minster. Look for the 'Wimborne Minster official' Youtube channel for live and recorded services.

Minster Praise offers all-age informal worship every Sunday from 11.15 until noon, and includes Kids in the Crypt for children.

Come as you are, relax, and enjoy

In November

23rd Baptism of Persephone Richards

13th Funeral of John Howarth aged 62 years

Memorial service for Susan Gibson aged 99 years

Dates for your diary - December

Monday 1st

9.00am - 4.00pm

Dorset Arts Guild exhibition continues to December 4th (Church House)

10.00am - 4.00pm

Cards for Good Causes continues to December 22nd (Minster)

7.00pm

Allenbourn Middle School Concert

Tuesday 2nd

10.30am - 12 noon

Forest Garden Toddler Group

Wednesday 3rd	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 4th	10am – 11.30am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
	1.30pm – 2.30pm	St Michael's Middle School first carol service
	7.00pm	St Michael's Middle School second carol service
Friday 5th	10.00am – 11.00	Wimborne First School Christingle
	2.30pm – 3.30pm	Dorset WI Carol Service
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 6th	10.30am – 12 noon	Muddy Church (Forest Garden)
	7.30pm	Bournemouth Symphony Chorus Concert
Sunday 7th, Second Sunday of Advent		
	12.30pm	Bring and Share Christmas Lunch and Quiz (Church House)
	2.00pm – 6.00pm	Hurn Court Opera (Church House)
Monday 8th	6.30pm	Amelia's Rainbow Choir
Tuesday 9th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
	6.00pm	Poole Grammar School Carol Service
Wednesday 10th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
	6.00pm	Yarrells School Carol Service
Thursday 11th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
	7.30pm	Canford School Carol Service
Friday 12th	10.30am – 12 noon	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
	1.30pm – 3.00pm	Forest Garden Christmas Party
	3.00pm	Castle Court School Carol Service
Saturday 13th	10.30am – 12.30pm	Adventure Buddies Christmas Party (Minster)
	3.00pm	East Dorset Branch Bell Ringers Guild Carol Service

	7.30pm	Broadstone Community Band Concert
Sunday 14th	12.30pm	Baptism of Tallulah Deanne Madden and Conway Dylan Madden
	2.30pm	Wreath-making workshop (Minster)
	6.30pm	Taize service (no Even song)
Monday 15th	7.00pm	Corfe Hills School Concert
Tuesday 16th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
	2.30pm	Dumpton School Carol Service
Wednesday 17th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle
	7.00pm	Dorset Police Carol Service
Thursday 18th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
	11.00am	Carols at St Margaret's Chapel
	7.00pm	Queen Elizabeth's School Carol Service
Friday 19th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
	6.00pm	Carols in the Cornmarket
Saturday 20th	11.00am	Shoppers' Carol Service
	7.30pm	Bournemouth and District Concert Band Concert
Sunday 21st, Third Sunday in Advent		
	6.30pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Monday 22nd	3.30pm	Journey of the Magi (family play)
	8.00pm	Compline, with Quintus Imperfectus
Wednesday 24th, Christmas Eve		
	3.00pm	Crib Service
	11.00pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Thursday 25th, Christmas Day		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Christmas Day Eucharist
	<i>No Minster Praise</i>	
Friday 26th	<i>Minster closed</i>	
Saturday 27th	<i>Minster closed</i>	
Sunday 28th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Eucharist
	<i>No Evensong</i>	
Monday 29th	From 10.00am	Ringling of Christmas Peal

Praying for the Wimborne benefice, the town of Wimborne and the world

Prayer diary for December

1	Museum of East Dorset, Walford Mill and Model Town	15	Church Mission Society
2	Our vergers, Elton, Gerald and John	16	The Anglican Community in all its diversity
3	Lay Worship Leaders	17	Twinning Associations
4	Prayer groups	18	Prison chaplains
5	The Mission to Seafarers	19	Local farmers
6	Archdeacon Anthony	20	Allenbourn School
7	Wimborne Civic Society and Wimborne in Bloom	21	PCC Treasurers and Safe guarding representatives
8	Local businesses, the Chamber of Trade, the BID	22	Two By Two and Forest Garden Toddlers
9	FairTrade	23	The Minster bellringers
10	GPs, nurses, carers, physiotherapists	24	God's Acre Group
11	Our retired clergy	25	Pramacare
12	The Minster Choir, children and adults	26	Dioceses of Yambio and Nzara in South Sudan
13	The flower arrangers and silver polishers	27	Vision Wimborne
14	The Friends of Wimborne Minster	28	The financial sector
		29	The climate emergency
		30	Local Hospices
		31	A cause dear to your heart, not listed elsewhere

Please use this diary as a part of your own prayers. In this way we can pray together as a parish for our common concerns.



Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the Earth.
You who sang Creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth!

Come and worship
Christ the new born King!



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Why Scrooge was good



Surprising title? Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' is a classic staple for Christmas time. But what do we think of when we think of Scrooge? A name now synonymous

with greed and nastiness?

Dickens weaves a powerful tale much deeper than the one we tend to remember. Originally published in December 1843, it soon gained popularity and still is as powerful today nearly 200 years later. Why? It is rich in well-drawn fascinating characters caught in powerful dramatic moments at the heart of which is Scrooge. We see the world from Scrooge's viewpoint, and with everything that happens we delve deeper into his heart and mind through the ghosts from his past, his present and his future. Every encounter makes him deal with, and react to, feelings and memories he'd long buried. Until finally he discovered he could be loving, kind and generous. So, did Scrooge become good? Or was he already good, at his heart, but released to be the person he was meant to be by his spiritual experience? His real character buried by life experiences and giving in to greed? I would say so.

I am writing this at the beginning of November and we've just experienced our first onslaught of Christmas. Visiting one of the local

garden centres, as we went through the doors there was an immediate impact of colour and tinsel. A massive area dedicated to all things Christmas - well not quite. As we explored, on the surface it was uplifting, you felt 'Christmasy.' But as we looked closer it was all 'Jolly Holiday' messages but nothing deeper. One could even be tempted to say "Bah! Humbug!"



A Christmas Carol is seen as a modern-day parable. There are clear and intended insights for us all to draw on. At its heart is the Christian message of redemption. As our sight and senses absorb Christmas in the coming weeks, let's remember there is a deeper meaning behind it all. The birth of one who - if we open ourselves to him - will bring out the good in us and transform us to the best that we can be. *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas.

- Revd Derek Butler

How well do you know your Christmas Carols?



In the October half term, Minster choristers assembled in their Christmas jumper and woolly hats, to be filmed singing a carol for the Diocesan Christmas Campaign.



They are one of a wide range of people - churches, communities and schools - who have been filmed singing carols in many different musical styles.

In December, a video will be posted each morning on the social media channels of the diocese, but *played in reverse*, for you to guess what carol it is. Then each evening the answer is revealed, by playing the clip the right way round! The Minster contribution will appear on December 9th.

Why has this theme been chosen?

At Christmas, everything is reversed. Glory in humility,



majesty in a manger, God with us then and now. This light-hearted campaign points to the heart of Christmas: God sends His Son in a way that doesn't make sense to the world, yet perfectly reveals the upside-down nature of His Kingdom.

Follow the diocese on social media at:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DioceseofSalisbury/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dioceseofsalisbury/ and see how many carols you can recognise.

And don't forget to come and sing carols yourself at least once in the season: there are lots of opportunities!

A new altar frontal and vestments

The new altar frontal and vestments were blessed and used for the first time at the 9.30 Eucharist on 16th November. The set was designed by Julie Quinn of Croft Design, ecclesiastical outfitters based in Much Wenlock Shropshire, and made by Julie and her team. The liturgical colour of red is used several times during the year, including in the season of Remembrance. The colour of the cloth was chosen to complement the reds



of the stained glass in the East window, and the symbols refer to the different seasons - the dove for Pentecost, Palms for Palm Sunday, Crown of thorns for saints and martyrs,

Alpha and Omega for the Kingdom season. All this was made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Minster.
- **Rev. Heather Waldsax**
(Photo by Beatrice Dopita)

Meanwhile in the choir vestry...

Thanks to the Barnes Trust (administered by the Minster Governors), the choir now has smart red music folders, the black ones being rather worn. Here Esther (Head Chorister) and Edward demonstrate the 'Salisbury diocese' way to carry your music.

The folders will be used for the first time at the Advent Darkness to Light service.

The choir has an extensive library of music, which is stored in labelled boxes in the choir vestry and south transept, with a temporary overflow in the church office cupboards. Peter Gibson, Lay Clerk and Choir Librarian, is carrying out a once-in-a-decade check and review of the (computerised) catalogue.

Very little sheet music is ever discarded, except when too worn. For a few days, all the music was set out on the pews of the south transept, in an impressive line-up



A Time of Remembrance

Remembrance was again marked with times of silence and prayer around the War Memorial. Congregation, choir and clergy processed out to the Green at the end of the 9.30am service (right). In the afternoon the Royal British Legion service ended with wreaths being laid at the Memorial. And on Tuesday 11th at 11am there was a further two minutes' silence.



Wimborne Community Theatre

original theatre in unusual places

The Dorset dinosaurs have been perched in the north transept since September's Flower Festival. They have now found a new home with Wimborne Community Theatre, and we are all interested to know what role they will have in future productions...

Wimborne Community Theatre is developing a new work on the theme of Home, asking Is there no place like it? Is it where the heart is? Short performances during the Green Festival invited residents of Wimborne, both long-term and newly



arrived, and visitors to discuss what Home means to them. There will be more workshops before the play is created, and the final production will take place in next year.

An interview with Heather Davey



Many will know that Heather recently published her first novel, The Ghosts of Merry Hall. She is a school librarian, singer and musician, choir parent, longdistance runner, coordinates Sunday School, and is married to Colin Davey, our Director of Music. Her book is a ghost story told in two voices, and has recently been nominated for the Bram Stoker Award.

Q. You started writing early, what were your first stories like? What's your favourite book from childhood?

I've been writing since I was a child, little stories here and there. I used to want to be a Victorian so they were all great family sagas set in Victorian times. My favourite book is The Children of Green Knowe by Lucy M Boston, a ghost story of three children who haunt a little boy living in a

Jacobean house, but it's a really, really beautiful, kind ghost story.

Q. You did a theology degree. What attracted you to that? Do you still draw on that way of thinking?

I grew up in a vicarage, surrounded by churchy things. Religious Studies at A level just came really naturally to me so I thought I'd do a degree in theology, which I absolutely loved. I'm still very definitely interested, and read theology books when I've got time. I thought about going into academic theology, but then I met Colin and my life circumstances changed - I ended up becoming a librarian. I'm a member of the Churches Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual

Studies, (Patron: Rowan Williams), so I try to stay up to date with their publications. I'm going to be a speaker at their next conference, which is actually quite scary.

Q. When did you take up writing again?

As a librarian, I went on a one-day course, with a lot of children's authors speaking, and I thought, d'you know what, I really really want to do this. So I waited until Esther and Rowan were a bit older, did the Masters in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University and started taking my writing seriously again. I've written three other books before this one; one I wrote on my MA, about apartheid South Africa, then a middle grade magical realism, and then I wrote a sort of folk horror book. I've rewritten that one now and it's going to be published next year, my second book.

Q. Has being edited for publication changed the way you write? Does your family read drafts?

One thing I've learned is that, when something doesn't feel right in the book, you hope you're going to get away with it, but it's always the thing that the editor picks up. So I've learned to trust my gut feeling, and you



end up with cleaner, tighter plot.

I let Colin read my drafts because he will just tell me if it's not good, in a nice way. My sister [who is also a published author] would read the whole thing but she's incredibly busy as well. If I'm really stuck on something I'll just phone her up and say 'What do you think about this, is it going to work?' We're very similar people.

Q. How have you found doing the publicity for the book?

It's been really fun meeting people, meeting other authors, meeting people who are enthusiastic about books. The publishing community is really welcoming.



Q. Meanwhile, you are on the judging panel for a very prestigious book award for young people, the Carnegies. (Carnegie judges serve for two years, and the majority are librarians.) What has it been like?

I applied because I just love the Carnegie Award, but it is an intense process. We got the longlist of 125 at the beginning of October and have to

have the shortlist after Christmas. So we're on more than a book a day, and the whole thing has increased my reading speed tremendously. In the panel discussions you have to put aside what you actually love and focus on the criteria. Meetings can be quite heated if someone really wants to fight for a book, but I've got a really lovely panel and everyone basically gets on. It's good to see how other writers do things.

One of the themes in my next book is grief, and judging the Carnegies last year, the theme that came through in most of the books was grief. Some authors used humour, some were really philosophical, so it's interesting to see how other people treat a theme.

Thank you, Heather, and we look forward to your next book!

Carnegie Award: <https://carnegies.co.uk>

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Frost Fair in the Minster Saturday 22nd November



On a drizzly grey day, the Minster was full of colour for the Frost Fair. The Friends had spread out their bric-a-brac along the central aisle, and you could find plenty of small gifts on stalls including Lego and Pokemon, Christmas decorations, cushion covers, and fine silver jewellery.

Children's activities included decorating pinecones and making Christmas cards. Tea and cakes were served, Father Christmas was hard at work, and once again we were astonished and delighted by a balloon art performance.



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Obituary: Susan Gibson (1st May 1926 - 12th October 2025)



In November we celebrated the life of Susan Gibson of High Hall, who in her younger days was very active at the Minster. Susan grew up in Kensington, and her father worked at the Home Office. During the war, the children and their mother moved to their holiday cottage in Martin, which then became their permanent home. Susan, both musical and academic, attended the Godolphin School (Salisbury) and then Bedford College, to study history, rather than being a debutante as her mother wished. She stayed on at the College as a librarian, enjoying London cultural life.

It was in Dorset that she met her husband, Charles, who was a town planner in the Civil Service, and they married in 1964 in Martin church. Charles' family had owned High Hall since 1833, and in 1967 Charles, Susan and their children moved to live there permanently and take over running the estate. Both were passionate about architecture, a passion expressed in the foundation of the

Wimborne Civic Society (1973), with friends including Michael and Jane Hanham, Derek and Barbara Willis, Ian Willis and Robin and Phyllis Noscoe. Sadly, Charles died at 61, in 1979. Susan continued running the estate and welcoming visitors to High Hall. She sang in Wimborne Choral Society over many decades, was secretary for Sculpture in the Garden at Dean's Court and worked for Save the Children. She was both a Guide and Librarian for the Chained Library. Judith Monds, remembering the 1980s, recalls how helpful Susan was in teaching her about the Library. Very memorably, Susan foiled the attempted theft of Queen Elizabeth's Seal from the Library by chasing the young man concerned down the stairs and, with others, holding him until the police arrived. She only retired from the Chained Library in 2007 at the age of 81.

Susan long continued social events at High Hall, on one occasion inviting the Minster choristers (boys only, at that time) to tea. They walked up from Wimborne and, after tea, enjoyed finding hidden corners of the house, including – according to report – a priest's hole.

The photo above shows Susan at the 50th anniversary of the Civic Society in 2023 (photo by John Allen). Her children, Jonathan and Charlotte, said at the memorial service, "We feel lucky and blessed to have had such a lovely, wise and inspiring mother. We feel blessed too that she kept her alertness...to the last... always interested in what everyone was doing, always thoughtful, always kind."

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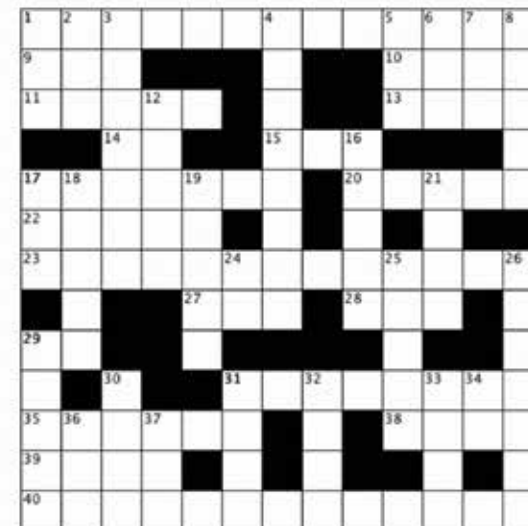
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December Crossword set by Bruce Jensen

ACROSS

1. One of the top 10 carols, with words by Watts and music by Handel (3,2,3,5)
9. '... you asleep?' (famous dumb question) (3)
10. 'Now when Jesus was born [...] there came men from the east...' (4)
11. Not neat (5)
13. Big deposit: 'The gold miners hit the mother...' (4)
14. It stands for Information Technology (2)
15. 20% added to everything we buy (3)
17. Gruesome, horrifying, or ghastly (7)
20. Appliances for cooking (5)
22. The horse was mostly white but had '...' that was dark-coloured (1,4)
23. Group of stars in a recognisable pattern, such as The Plough (13)
27. A pig's home (3)
28. His wife turned into a pillar of salt (3)
29. Mister (abbr) (2)
31. All-powerful: 'The Lord God ...' (8)
35. One of the 7 Wonders of the World, The Colossus of ... (6)
38. '... yourself a merry little Christmas' (sung by Judy Garland - breaks my heart every time I hear it) (4)



39. The greek letter 'I', in English it means 'little bit' (4)
40. '...', no crib for a bed' (4,2,1,6)

DOWN

1. Sticky situation, perhaps for traffic (3)
2. What miners mine (3)
3. Positive answer to 'Are you able to do it?' (3,1,3)
4. 'Sleep in ... peace' (from Silent Night) (8)
5. Harry Potter's communication creature (3)
6. ... de Janeiro (3)

7. A shorter way to refer to lysergic acid diethylamide (3)
8. We are judged not by our words but by our ... (5)
12. A group of men named Stanley (5)
16. The whole of it, all added up (5)
17. A 3/4 length raincoat (3)
18. Love to the French (5)
19. A nickname for Elizabeth (but not HRH) (5)
21. Give out, as light (4)
24. Film of the 80's: '... the Extraterrestrial' (2)
25. Able to withstand hardship: 'She was as ... as old boots' (5)
26. Jan 1 brings the dawn of a ... (3,4)
29. Mother of Jesus, to the Spanish (5)
30. A list of who does what when (4)
31. From Handel's Messiah: 'Unto us ... is given' (1,3)
32. How to address a queen (4)
33. Put the washing on the line (4)
34. What they call telly in the USA (2)
36. '... do you do?' (3)
37. It breaks every morning (3)

*Dear Solvers, I apologize in advance for 12 Down. A silly clue for a silly (but necessary) word. I hope you all have a good Christmas. -The Constructor

Solution to November crossword

COUGHMEDICINE
ALLALI ROD
TATTOOERS ARM
CEI GETON U
HARDLYA O N
I N U C D
PLOUGHTHROUGH
I R O I P I
ON BLACKPOOL
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