

Village December Diary

- 4 WI Group Carol Service
- 5 Parish Council meeting
- 7 Probus / Table Tennis Club
- 9 Acorns Christmas Market
- 9/10 Collection of foodstuffs in church for Christmas Appeal
- 12 Luncheon Club
- 14 Mobile Library / WI meeting
- 17 Carol Service 4pm
- 19 School Christingle 2pm
- 21 Carols in The Rising Sun 6.30pm
- 24 Midnight Communion 11.30pm
- 25 Christmas Day Service 10.30am

Church Services for December

Sunday, 3rd December	Advent Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday, 10th December	Advent 2	10.30am	Coffee, craft and chat
Thursday, 14th December		9am	Morning Prayer
Sunday, 17th December	Advent 3	4pm	Carols Service
Sunday, 24th December	Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Holy Communion
Monday, 25th December	Christmas Day	10.30am	All Age Service
Sunday, 31st December		10.30am	United Benefice Communion Service at Seagry. The knitted nativity figures and sheep will be gathering together to celebrate their pilgrimage around the Draycot Benefice.

Refuse collections for December

Blue lid bin collections - Thursdays, 7th and 21st
Household waste and black box collections - Thursday, 14th and Saturday, 30th.
Garden waste - Thursday, 14th
To check your collection days visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days

Household recycling centre opening hours

Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres to check which days your local centre is open.

Village Memorial Cross. Most days many villagers will walk past the memorial cross situated on The Green and perhaps cast a glance at the names of the servicemen carved thereon. Details of those servicemen and the circumstances in which they died will appear in these pages. Most died in the first world war and the brief notes that describe the circumstances in which they died bring home the sheer horror and often chaos of their situation.

Private GEORGE HENRY COLE

47153, 16th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers
who died at Cambrai aged 37 on 11th December, 1917
Son of John and Lucy Cole of Church Road, Christian Malford
Remembered with honour at Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

The Tyne Cot Memorial is located 9 kilometres north east of Ieper. It is one of four memorials to the missing in Flanders for the Ypres Salient. It saw battles for the town from October, 1914 to March, 1918, including the Germans use of gas, its first use in the war. The Memorial bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known, in addition to 11,956 in the Cemetery.

The Battle of Cambrai was the first large scale tank battle in history. Earlier bombardments had required a preliminary period of "registration" in which each gun battery had fired practise rounds to determine where their shots were landing. This alerted the defenders to the possibility of an assault and allowed them to gather reserves. For Cambrai, a new system had been devised to register guns without the need to fire practise rounds. At 6.20am on 20th November, 1917 the attack at Cambrai was launched by just over 300 tanks spread out along a 10,000 yard front and supported by eight infantry divisions. The two German divisions at Cambrai, were caught entirely by surprise. Along most of the line the British tanks crawled their way through the German wire, across the trenches, and with close infantry support reached as far as four miles into the German lines. While the British were moving forward, the Germans were preparing for a counterattack. On 30th November, 20 German divisions launched a massive counterattack that forced the British out of many of the areas they had captured on 20th November and even captured some areas held by the British before the start of the battle. On 4th December a British withdrawal was ordered to shorten the lines. The battle which had started with such a dramatic breakthrough ended with the restoration of the status quo. The British lost 43,000 men, many during the German counterattack. Germans losses were similar, between 40,000 and 50,000 men.

Christian Malford Village Website, Gives details of village events, clubs and societies There is a notice board and a list of useful telephone numbers and local services.

To include your event within the village diary send your item to email: parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk

Parish Council. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 5th December in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.45pm. See below for a report of the last meeting.

The Luncheon Club, This much appreciated club will meet on Tuesday, 12th December at 12.30pm. Contact Angela Hamilton on 721091 or Shirley Palmer on 740627

Women's Institute, The next meeting is on Thursday, 14th December at 7.30pm in the village hall. See below for a full report from the WI.

Christmas Services for Christian Malford

Sunday, 17th December Carol Service at 4.00pm
Tuesday, 19th December School Christingle at 2.00pm
Thursday, 21st December Carols in the Rising Sun from 6.30pm
Sunday, 24th December Midnight Holy Communion at 11.30pm
Monday, 25th December All Age Service at 10.30am

Annual Christmas Collection for the Sisters of the Church

The nuns in this small community in Bristol provide weekly food parcels and other help to the needy and deprived. Last year they gave out 8,694 food parcels to people experiencing all manner of problems and difficulties in their lives. Each year we collect foodstuffs and other items for the Christmas Bags that they give out. This year they expect to provide 550 Christmas bags.

The collection will take place in the church over the weekend of the 9th/10th December and tables will be set out to receive your gifts. We are a wealthy village. Please respond generously to this appeal with donations of the following items;

Christmas food, chocolate biscuits, boxes of chocolates, Christmas puddings, tins of ham, small jars of coffee, small packets of tea bags.
Argos vouchers for children. Please post these in the box by the church door.
For further information contact Anthony Hughes 720966

***Orders for free range turkeys now being
taken at Christian Malford Village Stores.***

Acorns Pre-school Christmas Market

Saturday 9th December 2-5pm All Saints Church, Christian Malford
Come enjoy some Christmas shopping and a glass of mulled wine,
stalls include Usborne Books,, Neals Yard, Christmas Gifts, health and beauty
and many other ideas for Christmas presents or just a treat for yourself.
Christmas fun for the children with Father Christmas reading stories in his grotto
and giving out presents, craft sessions and Christmas tea party at 4.15pm.
Tickets from Acorns.

The Rising Sun Needs You!

Your invitation to help it thrive

Your village pub was re-born in March this year, through the funding of a syndicate of villagers. Below is a brief update of what has been achieved and what is needed.

The story so far

The syndicate has overcome many challenges, such as securing the lease on the building, obtaining licenses, setting up supplier arrangements, etc. The whole building has had a full facelift and continues to be a venue for the community to enjoy. It enjoys a growing reputation for some excellent food, with 'Burger Night' and 'Sunday Lunch' being very popular.

The next chapter and how to help

Come along and enjoy the food, beers and wines that are on your doorstep. Although a lot has been achieved, more custom is needed to ensure its continuing existence.

Volunteer to help run the pub.

We are investigating ways of enabling the pub to be owned by the community to guarantee its longer-term future.
There are already a number of volunteers helping as a great example of the community spirit in Christian Malford and we welcome more support.
So, please get involved by making contact at info@theriser.pub
Your pub is at risk – use it or you may lose it!!!
www.theriser.pub

Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme celebrates 10 years.

Just over 10 years ago a group of Parish Councillors, members of our various Churches and community minded individuals met at the Mermaid Inn and as a result the Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme was born. In the years that have followed DVLS has given 5,539 volunteer hours, completed 3,264 tasks and driven 63,653 miles (or 16 times around the earth at the equator) fortunately, no accidents and only one speeding ticket. DVLS started out providing a service helping people access vital hospital and health related appointments. However, very early on we recognised the need to help reduce social isolation by helping access social activities and visiting friends; this naturally extends to helping support day to day activities like shopping or going to the hairdresser. Today, DVLS tends to carry out more good-neighbour tasks than those medical related. DVLS were one of the first schemes to fully embrace the good-neighbour aspect of the scheme. In 2013/14 DVLS won the Community Team Award recognising the endeavour and achievements of those volunteering in the community. This was a most welcome recognition of the service that the DVLS provides within the Dauntsey Vale. The Link Schemes are the largest volunteering network in Wiltshire. Each and every volunteer makes a personal contribution which improves the life of many clients. Many older residents need help with small things that the rest of us take for granted, and sadly, sometimes the link volunteer is the only friendly face a person sees or the only contact they have with their community. With austerity, and dwindling resources being invested in rural areas, the need for services such as Link are set to increase.

Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme This good neighbour scheme covers Dauntsey, Foxham., Brinkworth and Christian Malford. The scheme offers far more than just driving clients to/from medical appointments. Other helpful assistance includes shopping, visit to the hairdressers, walking the dog, small DIY tasks in the home, help with forms and letters, visiting a friend in hospital or at home, taking you to meetings and events, reading a book or newspaper, small jobs in the garden. Please ring our Co-ordinator to discuss your requirement. Even if we are unable to help, he/she may be able to give you details of someone who can. Telephone 07563 769549.

Village Ball, 2018, date for the diary. The village ball will be held on Saturday, 16th June and will have a James Bond theme.

Church news. *Church Brass* Could you spare an hour or so during one month a year to help give the church brass a bit of TLC and sparkle? The brass only requires cleaning once each month but currently there are quite a few spaces on our brass cleaning rota and some additional volunteers would make a tremendous difference. Also you don't have to work alone, as two people would get the job done in half the time! So if you could help, please contact Teresa Bolter (720035) for more information.
Church opening times The church is open each day from 9am until dusk for villagers and visitors from elsewhere to enjoy, reflect, pray or just sit quietly within it's medieval walls. The entries in the visitors book indicate how pleased visitors are to have this church open and available to visit. It belongs to the village so please make use of it.

Bobby Van Trust. Online Safety Initiative for those aged 60 and above and those aged 18 and above who are registered disabled. See page 15 for details.

Christian Malford Allotments. If you would like to have a plot (or even just half a plot) when one becomes available, put your name on the waiting list now. For full information visit <http://malfordallotmenters.weebly.com/>

Probus Club The next meeting of the club will take place at The Foxham Inn on Thursday, 7th December starting with coffee from 11am. The meeting will start promptly at 11.30am to cover any business. This will be followed by a talk by Ian Bell on I Never Wanted a Set Career Anyway. Lunch will be served at 1pm. There are still some vacancies and should anyone wish to join our friendly band or would like to find out more about our Probus Club please contact a committee member. Nigel Fairley 721278; John Webb 720216; Steve Purkiss 720077 or Ray Stockall 720676..

Table Tennis. Not looking forward to those long winter evenings? Want to be more actively enjoying life and meet new friendly village folk? We have the answer. We are a small fun group that play mainly socially, with no seriousness involved! Just turn up and join us. We will give you a very warm welcome. The group meets on Thursdays 7.30pm 'til 9.30pm (except third Thursday in the month (except December)) at Christian Malford Village Hall Cost:£1.50 per session. There are two table tennis tables, bats and balls provided. The only skill required is the ability to hit a ball! Average standard play, but we are good teachers if you are a beginner. No match play or

leagues....only pub drinks afterwards, if you've worked up a thirst! From age 12 to 90 (12 to 16 year olds must be accompanied at all times by a parent). Phone Sally Purkiss 01249 720077 for further information.
Dates: December 7th, 21st, January 4th, 11th, 25th, February 1st, 8th, 22nd and March 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th

Women's Institute. Our WI county AGM was well supported by many of our group where we proudly received the Victor Ludorum shield again. In the afternoon our special guest speaker was Mandy Hickson, who has been one of only five female tornado jet pilots. She was absolutely marvelous, entertaining, educational and inspirational – exactly what we hope for our organization. How can we thank all those in the WI who contributed to the firework night success? Serving, cooking, preparing our stall, and clearing up etc. A wonderful weekend which could not have been achieved without all your help. A special thanks to Tina and Marion who co-ordinated and 'managed' us all!

Group Carol Service **Monday, 4th December 7.00 for 7.30pm**

Our group carol service will be at Little Somerford Church. Always a happy gathering with mince pies and coffee after much carol singing. Car shares will be arranged.

Christmas Wreath Making **Tuesday, 5th December 10.00am - 12.30am**

Book yourself a place. It will be held in the village hall with a £16 cost for the session plus all the materials.

Christmas Party **Thursday, 14th December 7.30pm**

(Please note the date change to our normal WI night) Do not miss this Christmas Party in the Village Hall. It is always fun. Bring own drink, a plate of 'finger food' and a fiver! Your money will give you a welcome drink and one raffle ticket for a chance to win 10 wonderful prizes, and at the same time, charitably support a local group at Christmas. This year we hope to give funding to 'Wiltshire Sight' which is an independent charity supporting people living with sight loss in Wiltshire and Swindon. They assist more than 2,500 people of all ages, as well as their families and carers, offering information, advice and guidance, as well as giving people practical and emotional support to help them in their daily lives. They have a fully equipped resource centre at St Lucy's in Devizes, offering state-of-the-art assistive technology products and low vision aids.

You may wish to bring along your Christmas cards on the evening or you may wish to make a donation to a worthy cause and not send cards, the choice is yours.

All our information and club activities can be found on the notice board outside the village shop. New members are always welcome. Phone Tina for any queries on 01249 720956

Christian Malford Community Speed Watch Summary In October and November, the CSW volunteers provided 34.5 hours road side speed watch sessions over 7 areas around the village. During these sessions we reported 114 speeding vehicles to CSW Central and one driver was captured at 70 mph! All these vehicle owners will get recorded in a central police database, receive a warning letter and those who are repeat offenders or at dangerous speeds will get a visit from the police. The CSW team work really hard conducting speed checks to help keep our village safer. Please watch your speed and if you would like to join CSW to help us, e-mail join@christianmalfordcsw.co.uk.

Household Recycling Centre Refurbishment Programme The Centre at Stanton St Quintin will be CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT from 4th December to 18th December.

Refuse collections for December Blue lid bin collections - Thursdays, 7th and 21st

Household waste and black box collections - Thursday, 14th and Saturday, 30th.

Garden waste - Thursday, 14th visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days

100 Club winners for November. £40 Mrs B. Veitch, £20 Mrs J. Lawrence, £15 Mr. G. Wareham and £10 Mr. K. Watson.

The mobile library The next visit will be on Thursday, 14th December stopping at the village hall between 2.15–2.45pm. Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries

Acorns. After a lovely half term break we returned to Acorns and began with some fantastic spooky activities - slime with bugs and spiders, some green slimey biscuit decorating, a witchy word game and some ghostly stories. The children had a lovely time dressing up and celebrating all things halloween. This was closely followed a week later by some fun craft work for bonfire night, the children made some beautiful pictures to represent the fabulous fireworks they had seen at our village bonfire display. Most of the remainder of this term will be spent getting ready for Christmas. We have Acorns Christmas Market to look forward to on Saturday, 9th December as well as a Nativity to rehearse for and songs to learn.

Acorns had another large intake following the half term break and we welcomed Teddy, Henry, Pippa, Lilly, Tommy and Thomas. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Bea and Maddie as they journeyed to live in Canada for the next couple of years. We hope to keep in touch with them and hear all about their life in the Rockies.

The good weather that has continued to remain this term has meant that we are still very much enjoying plenty of outdoor play in our garden, and, in the woods we have still managed to take a picnic lunch and make the most of a full day's play and learning. The children are learning about different trees that we find in our wooded area and on the way to the woods. They have all learnt about the hazel tree and are able to tell us about the nuts they will produce! Even more exciting, whilst in the woods eating our snack a little robin has taken it upon himself to visit us each week, getting so close that it will sit on a log and peck at crumbs alongside the children. This has been such a lovely learning experience for all the children

School news Since our last item in the Parish News, plenty has been happening at school. After our harvest celebrations, the Year 6 children hosted a very successful harvest tea for the senior members of our community. They enjoyed tea and cakes and a chance to catch up with their friends. We also held well attended open day and parents evenings.

Children from Elm and Orchard classes attended Sevington Victorian School where they dressed in Victorian costume, took a traditional packed lunch and did lessons on slates and wrote with ink pens. They also played a variety of traditional games and with traditional toys. They all had a fantastic time and were a great credit to our school.

Remembrance Day was observed at the War Memorial by Year 6 children who laid a poppy wreath and the church was home to a wonderful display by all the children at school.

We raised funds for Children in Need by wearing spotty clothing and also held a photo competition with a theme "Where have you been spotted?" which had lots of entries.

Our Friends of School have also been busy, organising a fashion show which was a sell out and also running the BBQ at the Bonfire Night.

With Christmas approaching, our Nativity performance rehearsals are well underway, as are our plans for childrens' parties, Christmas lunch and a whole school visit to see Peter Pan at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon. The children will also be having a Christingle making workshop before the end of term and our Christingle Service will be held in the Church on Tuesday, 19th December at 2.00 pm.

Extra item re Maddy Uzzell

At the beginning of the year all the children from Christian Malford Primary School entered the Royal Mail's Christmas Stamp Design Competition. There were over 200,000 entries from around the country. Only five entries were chosen from each region to win a price. Maddy Uzzell from Year 6 was one of these regional winners and she won £100 for herself and £100 for the school. Maddy has appeared in the Gazette and Herald and also was a guest on BBC Radio Wiltshire to talk about her fabulous design.

Report from the Parish Council

Linda Bragg, Parish Clerk contact details – Tel: 07982 030973
Email: parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk

Thank You to Jo Lawrence – Jo was thanked for all her hard work getting the defibrillator installed in the telephone kiosk and for arranging the training seminar and for acting as the Clerk's Line Manager and dealing with personnel matters. Jo has very kindly agreed to continue looking after the defibrillator on behalf of the council.

Parish Councillor Vacancy – following the resignation of Jo, we have 1 vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are aged 18+ and have lived in the parish for more than 12 months OR are on the electoral register for the parish and would be interested in joining the team please contact the Clerk or visit our website – www.christianmalford.org.uk/councillors.

Finance – approval was given for:

- The purchase of 2 more dog poo dispensers for the rec (£196).
- The purchase of 5 safety signs for the play areas at the rec (£388).

Recreation Ground – The Maintenance Officer has been busy working in the play areas cleaning the safety matting and has removed the noticeboard so that it can be refurbished and have a new door fitted. He also had to clear up some broken glass from the MUGA – please DO NOT take glass onto the MUGA. The contract is now in place for the 1100ltr waste container – it will be emptied monthly during the winter and bi-weekly during the summer.

Highways and Parish Steward – Adrian Moss, the Parish Steward has again been busy in the village filling small pot holes on The Green, weed killing and hedge cutting. His next visit will be on 29th & 30th November – please report any issues to Cllr Mike Lawrence – mike@hamhouse.co.uk.

Road Closure - B4122 from J17, M4 to Draycot Cerne – will be closed from 20th November to 8th December between the hours of 20.00 and 06.00 for Wilts Council to undertake works for A350/M4 improvements.

Rising Sun – The Cllrs agreed to support the community group to help ensure the survival of this valuable community asset.

Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Stephen Depla represented the Parish Council and laid a wreath at the Service held at the War Memorial on 12th November. Many thanks to Nigel Fairley for arranging delivery of the wreath again this year.

War Memorial – Heritage England's application was successful and the war memorial at The Green has now been included on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Next Parish Council Meeting The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 5th December in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.45pm

When people think of German Christmas markets, the one that stands for most of the lore and tradition is the one that goes down each year in Nuremberg. It's one of the oldest and most famous markets in the country. Though its direct origins are murky, historians believe it began during the early 17th century.