



January Newsletter



Dear Friends

Every year from the end of December into the beginning of January, there seems to be a bit of discussion about Christmas decorations. When do they come down? When does Christmas really end? Do they come down on 12th night? And is that the fifth or the 6th of January anyway? Or do they stay up until Candlemas – the 2nd of February?

In church our tree will stay up until the 2nd of February, and I have to confess that although our tree at home will go on 12th night, not all the Christmas lights will come down, because they are fun, we like them, they make us smile, and there's nothing wrong with needing something to make us smile, especially at the darker times of year. But it does make me think a little bit more deeply about Christmas, and it reminded me of a poem.



Many people like Christmas, whether they are people of the Christian faith or not, and there is nothing wrong with that. But from a Christian point of view, Christmas is about Jesus. Celebrating God coming to earth to be a person like us. But although we can leave our decorations up for as long as we like really, there is a risk in spiritual terms in getting stuck at Christmas. If we stay in the stable worshipping a beautiful baby Jesus, but never get onto following the grown-up Jesus, we might be missing the most important thing of all.



So, I want to share a poem with you - one that I think holds an important message if we choose to hear it, as we head into 2025.

Cont'd...

'Incarnation' by Ann Lewin

*He's grown, that baby.
Not that most people have noticed.
He still looks the same,
Lying there in the straw, with
Animals and shepherds looking on.
He's safe there, locked in that moment
Where time met eternity.*

*Reality of course is different,
He grew up, astonished people with his
Insight, disturbed them with
Ideas that stretched them into new maturity.*

*Some found him much too difficult to cope with,
Nailed him down to fit their narrow minds.*

*We are more subtle, keep him helpless,
Refuse to let him be the man is, adore him as the Christmas baby,
Eternally unable to grow up until we set him free.*

*By all means let us pause there
At the stable, and
Marvel at the miracle birth.
But we'll never get to know
God with us, until we learn
To find him at the inn,
A fellow guest who shares the joy and sorrow,
The host who is the life we celebrate.*

He's grown, that baby.

The Reverend Hilary Bond
Associate Priest

Sharing in Mission and Ministry by Strengthening Lay Leadership

Do you want worship to be engaging, creative and fun?

YES ?

Then come along to the new

Lay Worship Leaders Course 2025

Our worship together, is enriched by people sharing their diverse gifts and skills and we would like to encourage more lay worship leadership, across the Parish.

Who this course is for ?

- Everybody
- Those who would like to get involved in leading worship. For example, in prayer, music, giving talks in services, or leading worship, including Breakfast Church
- Those who currently lead aspects of worship and would like to learn and grow in their role and enhance skills.

When ?

All sessions held on Saturday afternoons 2-5pm

The provisional dates are as follows:

1st & 15th Feb and 1st, 15th & 29th March 2025

More detail, about '**What and Where?**' to follow.

If you would like further information contact
Revd's Deborah or Neil
debjswann@gmail.com or neilkelly3@icloud.com



New Year 2025

If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near,

We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His blood
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
O let us trust and know just this –
Our times are in His hands.

By Megan Carter



News from the Parish ...

How fortunate we are to have a fine organ which leads and enhances worship in Lady St Mary week by week; not least at Christmas when, along with many other joyous carols, you may have sung:

*Omega and Alpha He!
Let the Organ Thunder
While the Choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.*



Of course, the wonder of the organ is that it can reflect and support not just the 'thunder' of praise but the full range of spiritual emotions.

Our instrument was built in the late 19th Century (1883) and has been carefully curated, maintained and enhanced by many generations of Wareham congregations throughout its one hundred and forty years.

The complexity of the instrument requires, from time to time, essential maintenance and, currently, we are faced with an infestation of woodworm in the 'Swell' division. If this is not dealt with promptly the problem will inevitably spread and adversely affect other parts of the instrument.

As a consequence of eradicating the offending wood-boring beetle, and replacing the affected timber, parts of the 'Swell' organ (*known as the 'under action'*) will need to be removed.

The PCC has accepted a proposal that corrective work should be undertaken and, in the process, the 'under action' should be replaced using modern, more reliable, electro-magnetic technology.

After full consultation with, and support from, the Diocesan Organ Adviser, a faculty has been granted to the PCC by the Diocesan Registrar

Whilst, at a time when maintaining the financial viability of the Parish is at a particularly difficult stage, it may seem hardly opportune to ask for financial support for work to be carried out on the organ. However, to leave the woodworm problem in abeyance would compound the problem and cause greater expense in the future.

The estimated cost given by our Organ Builder is £11,900. + VAT

If you feel able to make a contribution to assist with this project, please see details below:

Please make cheques payable to "PCC of Wareham"

BACS Details:

Account name: The PCC of Wareham

Sort code: 60-22-45

Account No: 72063165

Ref: LSM Organ

If we can achieve the fundraising and set the work in hand before March, we are virtually assured of a VAT reclaim under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

MET December 2024

Open House - A new Co-ordinator is sought for the monthly (with exception of August) 'Open House' Group at Sandford St Martin's Church.

This would be with effect from April 2025. Please consider this request as 'Open House' often reaches out to twenty or more people and Lesley would be grateful for any enquiries through herself or the Parish Office on 550905.



Thank you.

Special Events



Purbeck Village Quire present 'Hark the Glad Sound'

*at the Parish Hall Sunday 5th January 2025
at 6pm*

*Lady St Mary Handbells will be playing
carols on arrival*

*Folk Songs and West Gallery Carols from the 18th and 19th
centuries, linked with a script, in aid of Wareham Parish church*

Diary of Events

Going Deeper: Everyone welcome!

Do you want to deepen your faith, learn alongside others, and be encouraged in following Jesus Christ?

This month:
The Way Forward?

Come and reflect and share ideas for Going Deeper 2025

6pm Sunday 12th January at Sandford St Martin's Church



Men's Breakfast – The next Men's breakfast is on **Saturday 11th January 2025 at the Bear Hotel, South Street starting at 8.30am**. The guest speaker this month is Ian Davey. Whether you are a regular at men's breakfasts, or have never been before, you are most welcome to come along. **Please contact the Parish Office no later than the Wednesday before to book your place, on 01929 550905 or email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk**



Ladies That Lunch and Pray: The next meeting TBC, an update will be in the weekly newsletter. Please bring a sandwich, and drinks will be provided, between 12.00 - 14.00pm. Please note that this will be held at the normal venue and any further information or RSVP please contact Elaine Orchard, Margaret Harris, or Debs at the Parish office
Tel: 01929 550905 or parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk



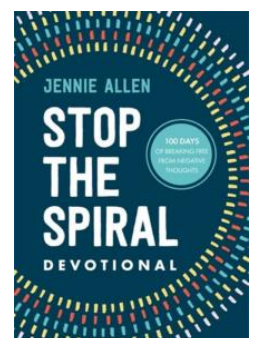
Open House

Thursday 30th January 2025 - 'Open House' at Sandford St Martin's Church, **2pm**. 'Quiz' with time after for cup of tea, chat, and a raffle for charity. All are most welcome.

Book Review...

Stop the Spiral Devotional – 100 Days of Breaking Free from Negative Thoughts

By Jennie Allen, SPCK, £17.99



Are your thoughts holding you captive? Are you worn out from getting stuck in patterns of anxiety, distraction, or cynicism? If so, do you know that God built a way for us to escape that downward spiral?

Stop the Spiral Devotional, inspired by the New York Times bestseller *Get Out of Your Head*, is your invitation to begin noticing negative spirals – every day. In this book, you'll find one hundred days of devotions to inspire you to stop toxic thinking patterns and remind you of God's power to set you free.

Each day's reading includes: verses for meditating on God's Word, a 'Rewire the Spiral' statement to repeat throughout your day, a personal prayer for sparking deeper intimacy with God.

Let this hundred-day devotional guide you in refusing to be a victim to your thoughts and in realizing that you have already been equipped with God's power to live free.

Jennie Allen is the founder and visionary of IF: Gathering, as well as the New York Times bestselling author of *Get Out of Your Head*, *Find Your People*, *Made for This, Anything*, and *Nothing to Prove*.

Contact information!

Parish Office opening times

The Parish Office will now be open to answer all face-to-face enquiries, telephone and email enquiries **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** 9am to 1pm. At all other times enquiries and queries can be made by email and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.



Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Friday 20th December and will reopen on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Contact details: Debs Barclay, Parish Administrator - **Tel:** 01929 550905, **Email:** parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk **Website:** www.warehamchurches.org.uk
Address: Parish Office, Church Green, Wareham BH20 4ND

Members of the Team are available for confidential help, support, and advice. Please contact:

Clergy Team



Team Vicars, The Reverends Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann

Tel: 01929 208400

Email: neilkelly3@icloud.com and debjswann@gmail.com

Schools Worker and Pioneer Priest, The Reverend Hilary Bond

Tel: 01929 551219 **Email:** hilary.bond@me.com

PtO, The Reverend Michael Young

Tel: 01929 552582

Email: myng220@btopenworld.com