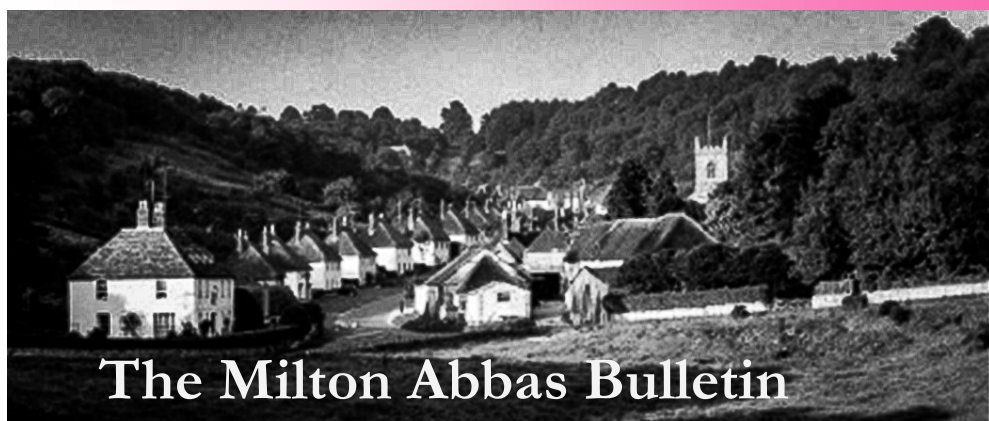




December 2024
Issue 5



The Milton Abbas Bulletin

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Welcome!



A very warm welcome to the final version of the MA Bulletin for this year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Thought for the Month...

From Rev'd Lewis Pearson

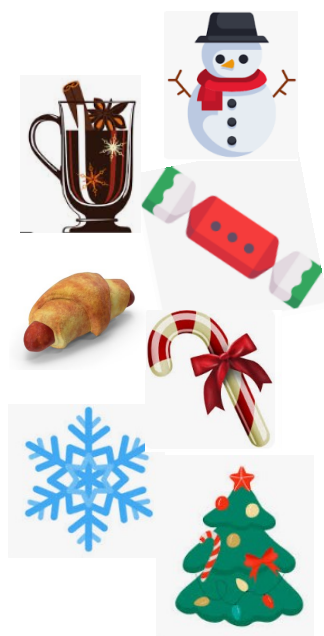
A story of faith, hope, love and peace

"God became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood"

I wonder what this Christmas will hold for you this year? For me it contains nativities, a lot of Christingles, various Christmas dinners, uncountable mince pies, a few 'medicinal' hot toddies and hundreds of carols. It's always a mixture of great fun, a privilege whilst also being a little exhausting. I can see why the Reverend Adam Smallbone in the BBC TV series 'Rev' gets to breaking point with his outburst at Midnight Mass, as well oiled congregants begin an impromptu version of the 12 days of Christmas!

It all seems a million miles away from that little town of Bethlehem just Five or six miles southwest of Jerusalem found in the Judean hills. But it was here that human eyes first saw God in the flesh. Mary, after hearing the message of the Angel Gabriel is required to make a journey, one that is both physical and one of faith. A journey at an inopportune moment, the last thing that she wanted to do. She travels to little old Bethlehem, insignificant amongst thousands of other places. Bethlehem, the place which when translated, literally means the 'House of Bread.' If you will, a place to take a break, the little chef on the motorway... a place to be passed through. The place where sustenance was purchased and consumed probably not in the form of my old favourite the 'olympic breakfast' before moving onto the next part of the journey.

Cont:



Thought for the Month...

From Rev'd Lewis Pearson

Cont:

On this journey Mary no doubt has struggles, times of difficulty, difficulty in believing the extraordinary proclamation from an extra-terrestrial messenger. On this physically and spiritually draining journey Mary finds herself at Bethlehem, the House of Bread, giving birth to the One who called himself the bread of life, the thing that nourishes when nothing else will.

As God takes on flesh in the form of a baby, we are offered a new story which we are invited to participate in. One of love, joy, hope and peace. A journey that all are invited upon however cautiously, questioning and doubt filled. A journey which exposes our lives to a new dimension and depth, water for the thirsty soul, comfort for the worn out. So often we live our lives in 2D and the Jesus story, God made flesh in the vulnerability of a baby opens up the possibility of a new 3rd dimension. A God dimension if you will.

Like the shepherds who received the first Christmas greeting from the angels, let their reply be our reply:

"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem (the house of bread) and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

May you be struck afresh by the Christmas message of love, joy, hope and peace

Merry Christmas.

Rev'd Lewis



St James' Church, Milton Abbas

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

(There will be No Theme this Year)

**SUNDAY, 8th DECEMBER 2024
UNTIL MONDAY, 6th JANUARY 2025**

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival this year starting ***Sunday, 8th December***, and the trees remaining until ***Monday, 6th January, 2025***. The lights for the trees will be turned on at ***10:30 am on Sunday, 8th December at the Carols, Christingle, and Christmas Tree Festival opening; mulled wine and mince pies will be served on this occasion.***

We hope that families, individuals, and organisations will support the event by decorating a Christmas tree in the Church (*tree height between 3ft and 5ft either real or artificial*).

Time to decorate: Tuesday 3rd, December, Wednesday, 4th December, Thursday, 5th, December and Friday 6th December 2024 from 9:30 am through until 7pm. Trees to be taken down on ***Monday, 6th January, 2025.***

We ask for a donation of £5 to cover the cost of electricity used during the festival. If you would like to take part in this event, please contact Ellie on payne_ellie@hotmail.com or **01258 880981** to register your tree, preferably before **29th November 2024**. Funds raised will be donated to charity.



CHURCHES IN THE WINTERBORNE VALLEY & MILTON ABBAS

ADVENT SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

9am - Turnworth (Communion)

10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Morning Worship)

10:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Communion)

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER

7:45pm - Winterborne Stickland
(Christmas Concert by Viva Voce)

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

2pm-4:30pm - Winterborne Stickland (Christmas Craft Fayre)

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

10:30am - Milton Abbas

(Carols, Christingle & Christmas Tree Festival opening)

10:30am - Winterborne Clenston (Prayer Book Communion)

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

2pm-4pm - Winterborne Whitechurch Old School Room (Messy
Christmas!)

SATURDAY 14TH DEC-SUNDAY 5TH JAN CHRISTMAS TREASURE TRAIL

Visit each of our 6 church buildings to find a clue and to claim your
prize!

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER

10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Carols & Communion)

11:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Carols & Christingle)

6pm - Milton Abbey (Carols by Candlelight)

CHURCHES IN THE WINTERBORNE VALLEY & MILTON ABBAS

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

11am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Cup n Cake Carols)

SATURDAY 21TH DECEMBER

6pm - Winterborne Clenston (Carols by Candlelight)

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

10:30am - Winterborne Houghton
(Contemplative Christmas Service*)

*A quiet, contemplative service as an alternative to the bigger louder celebrations. It is for anyone who would like a more gentle and reflective approach to Christmas. It's especially appropriate for those who might find Christmas difficult.

6pm - Turnworth (Village Christmas Event)

MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER

11am - Winterborne Stickland (Coffee Pot Carols)

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm - Winterborne Stickland
(Family Carols & Blessing the Crib)

6pm - St Catherine's Chapel
(Carols by Candlelight with Communion)

9:30pm - Winterborne Houghton
'Midnight in Bethlehem'
(Midnight Mass with Candlelit Carols..... but a bit earlier)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30am - Turnworth
(Informal Family Communion Service)

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

10:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Benefice Communion)

Milton Abbas Surgery

DNA (Did Not Attend)

Appointments

Over the last year, there have been a shocking number of GP and Nurses appointments that patients have not turned up for.

For example, in October alone **43** patients did not attend their appointments, equalling a total of **14 hours of clinical time wasted**. Breakdown as follows:

- **NURSE** time wasted: 8 hours 50 minutes
- **GP** time wasted: 4 hours 10 minutes
- **HCA** time wasted: 40 minutes
- PHYSIO** time wasted: 20 minutes

Some of these appointments are up to 40 minutes long, so missing your appointment or forgetting to cancel means we waste valuable clinic time. For ONE missed Long Term Condition Review appointment, THREE people could have had blood test appointments, so it's really important not to waste these slots.

If you can't attend an appointment, please can we ask that you cancel it at least an hour before so someone else can receive the care they need. This can be done either over the phone or by replying CANCEL to your text reminder. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter - **It could make a huge difference to another patient.**

Christmas Survival 2024

As festive and exciting Christmas time is for many, there are ones who may be struggling with financial concerns or loneliness.

Please don't skip meals to pay bills. Families or individuals can be referred to local food banks (Blandford or Dorchester) by Kelly or Anna, our Social Prescriber's. Please call the surgery or send an email to miltonabbassurgery@nhs.net for their attention, and they will help in any way they can. There are also community fridges in Blandford and Dorchester, and you can just pop along to those.

As of going to print, we are not aware of any activities or meals happening locally specifically for ones who find themselves on their own, but if this changes, we shall make sure to post details on our surgery Facebook page and website. If you do not have use of the internet, you can always call our Social Prescribers at the surgery, and they can let you know if we hear of anything.

There are also people out there who are ready and able to take your call:

- **Samaritans** 116 123
- Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 (24/7)
- **Connection** 0800 652 0190 (24/7 Helpline)
- **Childline** 0800 1111
- **Cruse Bereavement** 0808 808 1677

The Silver Line 0800 4 70 80 90 (for anyone aged 55yrs or over)

You are not alone. We will get through this.

Christmas & New Year Opening Times

Tue 23rd Dec – Open as usual

Wed 25th Dec – **CLOSED**

Thurs 26th Dec – **CLOSED**

Fri 27th Dec – Open as usual

Sat 28th Dec – Open as usual

Mon 30th Dec – Open as usual

Tue 31st Dec – Open as usual

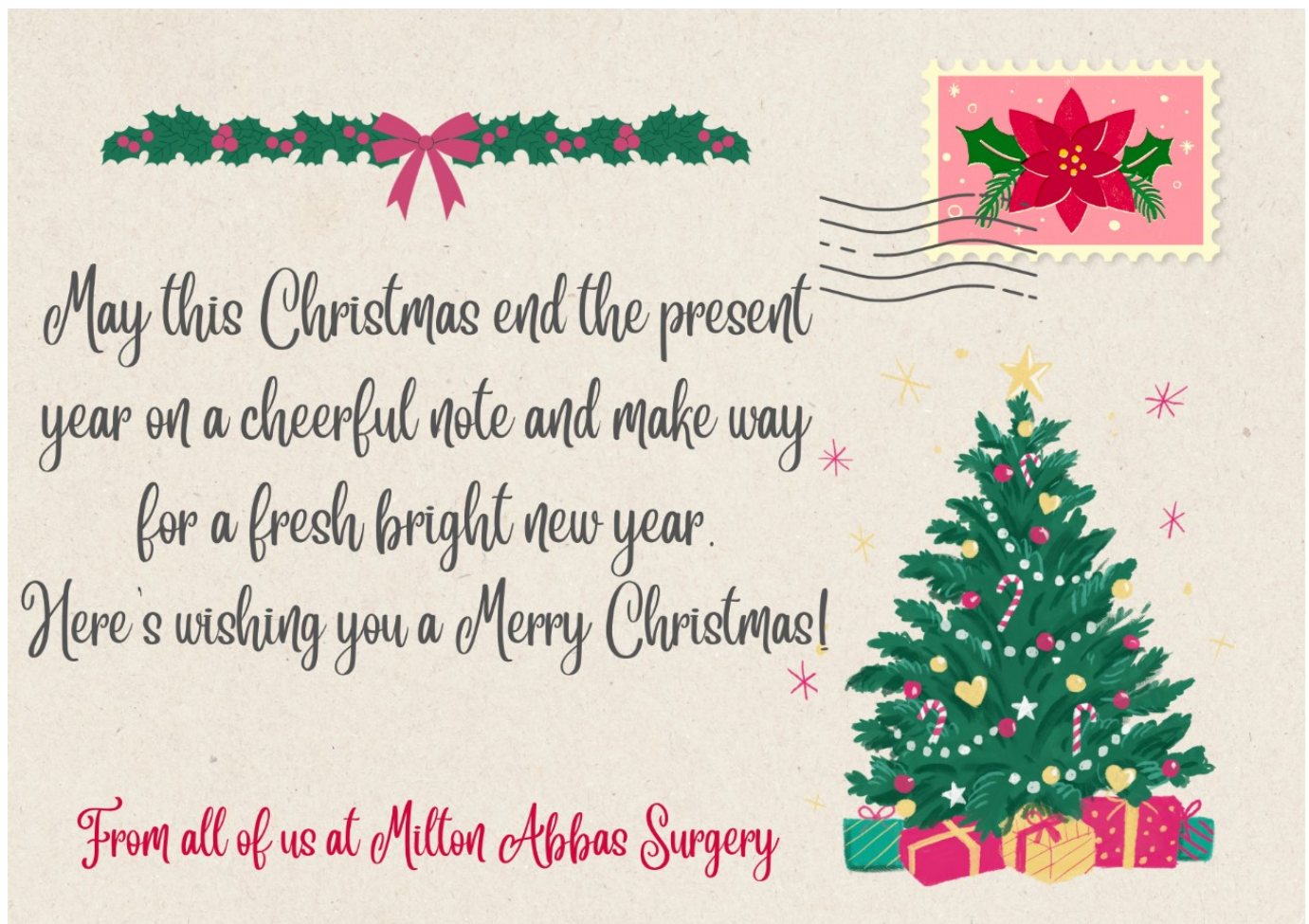
Wed 1st Jan – **CLOSED**

Thurs 2nd Jan – Open as usual

Message from our Dispensary Team: Please rest assured that while we will be closed for a couple of days, there is no need to panic. We kindly ask that you continue to order your medication as usual, and we'll ensure everything is processed as quickly as possible when we reopen. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Milton Abbas Surgery - Cont.

A Christmas Card to our Patients:



For out of hours care or advice during closures, please call 111.

In the case of an emergency, call 999.



GOING OUT WITH A BANG!

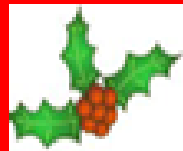
SMITHS
D O R S E T

We were delighted to have a visit from EHO resulting in a raise of our previous four star to **five stars!!** Well done Team Smiths!



We are sending a HUGE thank you to the residents of Milton Abbas for welcoming us into your village as friends! The kindness and support we've felt will never be forgotten.

We will be closing Smiths at Steeptonbill on 8 December and aim to relocate close by in the New Year. We hope to see you all before we go with a jam packed weekend of music and great food and drinks.



Come and have
some festive fun!



FREE Messy Christmas
Craft Afternoon

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Saturday 14 December 2024

Old School Room Winterborne
Whitechurch (next to the church)

Lots of fun crafty things to do!

Make your own Christmas tree decorations & cards!

Pin the nose on Rudolph! Decorate some festive biccies!

☺ Lots of fun for everyone!!! ☺

<http://www.wvmbenefice.uk>

Tregonwell Almshouse & St James' Church Moveable Feast

Following a very successful Moveable Feast last year, The Tregonwell Almshouse Trust and St James's Church are organising another Feast on 1 Feb 25.

This is a really fun event which starts in the Reading Rooms for drinks and then participants circulate around different houses for starter and main courses, finally ending up in the Church for pudding and coffee. We need a percentage of guests to offer to provide either a starter or a main course.

Details of the event are below, together with contact details to express your interest. This event is always fully booked, and we are limited to a total of 50 people. We operate a first come first serve policy and we keep a waiting list in case of cancellations and look forward to hearing from you.

Milton Abbas Moveable Feast (an 'around the houses' supper party)

Saturday 1st February 2025 at 7pm

Drinks at 7 pm in The Reading Room, locations around the village for food then finishing at St James's Church for coffee and pudding

Cost £10 per person

For more details contact Susie or Mark Castle-Smith
on mamoveablefeast@gmail.com
Tel: 07971 886290 or 07843 271470

We will need hosts so please consider whether you could host a starter or main course or maybe you would like to donate a pudding.

Organised by the Tregonwell Almshouse Trust together with St James's Church

Coffee Stop



Coffee Stop at St James' Church.

Each Tuesday from 11am until 12noon, come and enjoy a chance to catch up with fellow villagers over a hot drink and a piece of cake.

We meet inside the church in the south aisle, all are welcome.

£1 for a hot drink and £1 a slice of cake.

All proceeds go towards the up keep of St James.

Friday Quilters!

Fridays from 9:30 to 12:00 in the Milton Abbas Reading Room.

You do not have to be a quilter! Bring your knitting or anything else that you are currently working on.

We stop for coffee, tea & biscuits or, if you are lucky, a piece of cake!

We will be very pleased to see you.

Further details from **Anthea - 01258 269348**



The Hambro Arms

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER – 8.30pm.

Bex & the City live music singing soul, funk, blues & rock & pop covers.

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER – 7PM.

Open Mic Music Night with 5 separate live acts.

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE – 7.30PM

Live music performed by Chris Henderson singing a wide range of contemporary covers.
(Feel free to bring your own plates of nibbles)

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY.

The pub will be open from 11am until 2.30pm for drinks only.

THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER – BOXING DAY.

Pete's Boxing Day Disco from 4pm.

TUESDAY 31 DECEMBER – NEW YEAR'S EVE – 8PM

Live music with ELVIS in the building. (Feel free to bring your own plates of nibbles)

On behalf of Keith & Bev and all the staff at the Hambro Arms, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous & Healthy New Year!

The Hambro Arms Milton Abbas

Tel. 01258 880233

The Hambro Arms

Milton Abbas

Dorset

DT11 0BP

01258 880233

www.hambroarms.com

Steeptonbill Farm Shop

Selling beautifully fresh, locally-grown produce all year round!

Opening hours:

Monday	09:00 - 17:00
Tuesday	09:00 - 17:00
Wednesday	09:00 - 17:00
Thursday	09:00 - 17:00
Friday	09:00 - 17:00
Saturday	09:00 - 17:00



Steve is current selling Marfona and Maris Pipers - Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Roasties! Check out this recipe!

<https://www.seriousseats.com/the-best-roast-potatoes-ever-recipe>

Pilates with Catherine

Fridays 10.45 am - 11.45 am or

12 pm - 1 pm

Milborne St Andrew Village Hall

Do you have aches and pains, osteoporosis, joint replacements or sciatica? Still able to get up and down from a mat and want to stay active and supple?

Milton Abbas Lunch Club - Christmas Meal

Its Christmas Dinner with Milton Abbas Lunch Club on Wednesday
11th December 2024.

The time is 1pm and we are providing a traditional Christmas Dinner
for anyone over 55 years of age, with Crackers and a glass of wine,
followed by Christmas pudding, and mince pies!

What a feast! and all cooked on site in the Reading room, and at a cost
of £5.00 per person.

Booking Essential at the post office by Friday 6th December please.

Some fun Christmas games will be played too! But don't worry, nothing
embarrassing!

We are having a secret Santa too, so bring a wrapped gift for £5, mark
whether it is suitable for male, female or both and swop it for a secret
Santa gift of your own!



Quiz, Cheese and Wine Night

- in aid of the church roof

18th January, 6pm

St. James' Church Milton Abbas

Tables of up to 6 people, £10 per table

Cheese platter and a glass of wine £7, per person, extra wine will be available with a contribution.

**Contact either Jennifer hrrssnsup@aol.com
or Bev beverley.martin11@btinternet.com to book.**

MA Football

MA Football kicks off on Friday evenings @ 6:30pm.
We play on Milton Abbas Sports Field where we play on an excellent small sided pitch to suit 5,6 or 7-a- side games.

Our aim was to gather players of 50+ and get a little bit fitter each week. In truth we have some players in their 40's and had some younger ones too in their 20's as occasional visitors supporting their Dad.

Would you would like to play Football on Fridays?

You don't need to be super fit and only need trainers with a grip for the grass pitch.



Contact Martin Kelly:

Pews News

Carols by Candlelight

15th December @ 6pm

(3rd Sunday of Advent)

At **Milton Abbey**



Old Testament: **Zephaniah 3. 14 to end**

Psalm: **146. 4 to end**

Epistle: **Phillipeans 4. 4 to 7**

Gospel: **Luke 3. 7 to 18**

Website: www.wvmabenefice.uk (or a 'Church Near You')

If you would like Pews News as an email, please contact **Jennifer Harrison** on wvmabenefice@gmail.com

From Lewis Podcast on Prayer - Lewis interviews Franciscan Brother (Monk) Clarke Berge about prayer.
<https://open.spotify.com/show/2ud8RWFoYgHBPLW54Ksw4f>

The View

We are located at the Milton Abbas Sports Field and offer a welcoming spot with scenic Dorset views. We have a cosy indoor space, and beautiful expanding covered outdoor area sheltered from sun or rain, dogs are very welcome!

With a menu featuring hot and cold food, pastries, toasties, and unique treats. Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options are available. We also sell Jurassic Roast coffee, Clipper teas, and local Piddle Brewery beers.

There is free parking, a bike rack, and family-friendly sports field.

WINTER OPENING HOURS

From October 1st

MONDAY: 9AM-4PM

TUESDAY: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY: 9AM-4PM

THURSDAY: 9AM-4PM

FRIDAY: 9AM-4PM

SATURDAY: 9AM-4PM

SUNDAY: 10AM-3PM



Find us on our website: www.theviewcoffeeshopma.com or our social media pages

Milton Abbas Local History Group

The Milton Abbas Local History Group (MALHG) works to unearth, understand, transpose, collate and archive the recorded history of Milton Abbas, and there is a group of expert volunteers working on various aspects of this. Anyone is welcome to join in these activities, but for those interested from a more general aspect, there are monthly meetings where you can either be welcomed at the Reading Rooms, or join on Zoom for a talk on some really fascinating elements of our history. (First weds of every month)

All welcome to join, either in person or remotely, and we would be delighted to discuss with you all that the group has done and continues to do to preserve our local history. We would also be welcome to ideas about how we could support other activities and events that are going on locally.

Contact Simon Martin - simonmartin@btinternet.com for more information.

November Picture Quiz Result:



We have a winner!

Last Months' picture was correctly identified by 3 people, but **David Robinson** was the first! Well done Dave!

This is the inscription found on the left hand door pillar to St Catherine's Chapel in the woods overlooking the Abbey. It is written in Lombardic capitals and promises pilgrims "120 days indulgence" (the reduction of punishment for sin, which can be either earthly suffering or time in Purgatory)

December Picture Quiz:

Do you know where this was taken? Recognise the image? Drop us an email and let us know! The first correct responder gets their name in next month's MA Bulletin.



Articles and Feedback Gratefully Received:

MiltonAbbasBulletin@GMail.com

or contact the editorial team directly:

Paula Driver

Bev Martin

Stuart Driver