

Dad's Army at the Museum

THIS winter local people are again able to benefit from the Insights run by Carisbrooke Castle Museum, each featuring a topic of local historical interest and many using items from the Museum.

On **Tuesday 5th December** 'The history of Isle of Wight motorised transport 1896-1964' will be presented by Mark Chessell, author of 'DL: Isle of Wight Motor Vehicles 1896 –

1939', 'Independent Bus Services on the Isle of Wight', and a new book 'DL: The Classic Years (Isle of Wight motor vehicles 1939-1964)'. Mark will use his detailed knowledge of this subject to give a power point presentation, incorporating many illustrations from our photographic collection. There will be copies of Mark's new book available for sale.

On **Tuesday 23rd January** the Insight will be 'The Isle of Wight

Home Guard 1940-1944', a talk by Steven Williams, with an opportunity to see relevant items from the museum collections.

Both Insights will run from 2pm-4pm and tickets cost £8, including tea, coffee and biscuits. As places are limited booking is essential, either by ringing 523112 or by e-mail to info@carisbrookecastle-museum.org.uk. The charge includes admission to the castle to attend the session.

Trustees of the Castle Museum

A year of woolly wonders



Photo: David Yendall



Among the seasonal scenes created in wool for the recent Wool Festival in St Mary's was Spring (above), featuring daffodils, lambs, ducks, bunnies and Easter eggs. Sisters Amelie and Olivia Thom enjoyed the wonderfully knitted Summer scene which included a delicious display of tea and cakes. More pictures inside.

Please help - we need new delivery volunteers, if you can spare an hour a month contact the editor, details on page 8.

Christmas coming to Gunville

ON 11th November at 11am, 16 people, with ages ranging from 6 to 86, met in the church garden in Gunville for a short act of remembrance. Those remembered included five residents of Gunville killed in the two World Wars.

Coming attractions for Gunville Community include:

Christmas:

- **Christmas Lights:** Our judges will be coming round in the week leading up to Christmas, and our annual trophy (supplied by While U Wait of Pyle Street) will be awarded to the best (not necessarily the biggest) Christmas lights.

- **Snowmen:** A reminder that the next Snowman Festival will be in 2018, but if you have a snowman to put out (or want to make a new one) this year, it will brighten up the neighbourhood. There are some withies (willow), etc., available: ring 529697.

- **Tree:** The tree, jointly funded by the Parish Council and the Community Association, should be arriving as you read this, and there will be Carols by the Tree on Friday 15th December at 6pm. Everyone is invited to join in the singing and the refreshments afterwards.

Christmas Afternoon Tea: All roads lead to Gunville church hall on Saturday

16th December, 2pm-4pm, for a festive Christmas-themed Afternoon Tea. Don't miss it!

Winter Warmers: These are on the first Saturday of the month, so the next two are December 2nd and January 6th, from 12 noon to 2pm. There will be soup and a roll, and tea or coffee with a biscuit – good helpings for just £2.50. Everyone is welcome.

Nellie's: Our award-winning Wednesday afternoons of coffee, cake and chat continue, 2pm-4pm. Our annual post-Christmas lunch will be on 10th January.

Short Mat Bowls: Monday afternoons, 2pm-4pm (sometimes quite full, but ring Sandra on 521360) and Thursday evenings, 7pm-9pm (Martin on 529697). Only £2 a session, to cover hire, heating, insurance, etc. Watch the notice boards for Christmas and New Year arrangements.

Notice Boards: Don't forget to look on our community notice boards outside the Methodist Church and by the Central shop car park for information about events and useful contact information.

Library Bus: The next two visits will be Mondays 4th December and 8th January, 1.20pm-1.35pm in Broadwood Lane.

Martin Cooper
Gunville Community Association

St Mary's Church Carisbrooke

Services during January

TUESDAY, 2ND JANUARY
Holy Communion 9.30am

SUNDAY, 7TH JANUARY
Holy Communion 8am
Parish Communion 9.30am
Evensong 6.30pm

SUNDAY, 14TH JANUARY
Holy Communion 8am
Parish Communion 9.30am

TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY
Holy Communion 9.30am

SUNDAY, 21ST JANUARY
Holy Communion 8am
All-age worship 9.30am

SUNDAY, 28TH JANUARY
Holy Communion 8am
Parish Communion 9.30am
Evensong 6.30pm

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER:
Please see opposite page.



A thank you from Friends of St Mary's Church

WE would like to thank everyone who has supported our activities throughout the year. Our events are proving to be a social as well as financial success, with everyone welcome to join us for any of our activities.

We have three events to end the year. On Saturday 2nd December we are holding a Christmas Sale and Coffee Morning in the Church Hall from 10am – 12 noon. Come along for a chance to pick up some bargain gifts as well as delicious cakes! Our Grand Christmas Hamper Draw is being drawn on December

16th, so plenty of time to buy tickets either from the Church shop, members of the Friends or at the Christmas Sale.

The final quiz of the year takes place at the Eight Bells on Wednesday 6th December. Please book your team in by ringing the Eight Bells.

For your new diary: the first Beetle Drive of the year is on Wednesday 10th January and the first quiz on Thursday 18th January. We look forward to seeing you there.

Peter Ednay
Friends of St Mary's Church



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Thought for the month



EVERY year at about this time I face the same problem: how do I find something new to write about in the Christmas magazine? But this year, I've realised that is the wrong way to look at it! The Christmas story doesn't need a new angle every year. It doesn't need something to make it stand out from the rest of the festivities: it is the reason for the festivities. It's a story that is known to millions across the world, and retold in places as diverse as Arctic Greenland and the jungles of Borneo.

But is it a story that we perhaps take for granted? When was the last time that you sat down and read the two opening chapters of either St Matthew's or St Luke's Gospel? The two writers tell the story of the birth of Jesus in their own way, but together those two narratives combine to give us the full account of Jesus' birth. And as we perhaps tell stories around our Christmas trees, of a jolly fat man in red clothes, do we even think of the little baby who was given to be our Saviour long before a certain Nicholas was made Bishop of Myra, and later became a Saint? The truth is, to coin a phrase, Jesus is the

reason for the Christmas season. Even the very word Christmas is a joining of the words Christ (the anointed one, meaning Jesus) and mass (the celebration of Holy Communion). So although it is highly unlikely to be the actual birthday of Jesus, perhaps it could be thought of as the feast with which we remember Jesus' birth. Even if we use the sometimes hated Xmas, Jesus is still there. (In the Greek alphabet, X is the symbol for the letter 'chi', the first letter in the Greek word for Christ. If you know the "code", Christmas and Xmas essentially point to the same thing.)

All of this means that if we take any part in the celebrations of Christmas, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. There is simply no getting away from that fact. And who wants to remember the birth of a stranger, someone that they don't know? So why not come along to a church this Christmas season, and hear afresh the story about the birth of one who was being talked about long before his earthly birth, and who is still remembered and celebrated long after his death – Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Rev Marcus Bagg

www.carisbrookestmary.org.uk



St Mary's Church Carisbrooke Services during December

SUNDAY, 3RD DECEMBER

Holy Communion 8am
Parish Communion 9.30am
Darkness to Light 6.30pm

TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER

Holy Communion 9.30am

SUNDAY, 10TH DECEMBER

Holy Communion 8am
Parish Communion 9.30am
Evensong 6.30pm

SATURDAY, 16TH DECEMBER

7 Lessons & Carols at 4pm
St Nicholas in Castro

SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER

Holy Communion 8am
Christingle service 9.30am

TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER

Holy Communion 9.30am

SUNDAY, 24TH DECEMBER

(CHRISTMAS EVE)

Parish Communion 9.30am
Carols by Candlelight 6.30
Midnight Communion
11.30pm

SUNDAY, 25TH DECEMBER

(CHRISTMAS DAY)

Family Communion 9.30am

SUNDAY, 31ST DECEMBER

Holy Communion 8am
Parish Communion 9.30am

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Darkness to Light
'Darkness to Light', at 6.30pm in the church on 3rd December, is a special candlelight service of music and readings for advent. Come along and bring a friend to enjoy this special service as we prepare for Christmas.

Review of the year for Carisbrooke W. I.

ROSIE Brake started our meeting with a minute's silence in memory of Margaret Lowe who was a member for many years and has served on the committee for most of those years, mainly as treasurer and assistant treasurer. She will be greatly missed.

Rosie then proceeded with the business of the afternoon, reminding the ladies about several articles in the Federation News such as the Federation Christmas lunch at Gurnard Pines when we have Mr. Graham Walton telling us "What life is like living with seven women" He is the father of the first all girl sextuplets in

Britain, so it should be interesting.

There were several notices from Denman College on display. The evening with Sue Swaby was very well attended and the flower arrangements she constructed whilst we watched were beautiful, and made very good raffle prizes.

As Monday was National Kindness Day everyone pledged to do a kindness. We then had tea before the Annual Meeting was held. Following the secretary's and treasurer's reports, Rosie gave the President's report. She said we have had a very busy year with quite a lot of cake eaten! We have had lunches out, attended functions, celebrated the Queen's 65th Anniversary of Accession to the Throne with a dinner at a local restaurant, wearing our tiaras, and took part in many other activities. She then thanked the committee for their help through the year, especially Nancy



Photo: Sheila Hall

Pledges for Kindness Day were used to decorate a tree.

Cooke who stood down after 16 years, and everyone for making our W.I. such a success by joining in with it all.

Rosie agreed to be President for the next year, all the officers and the rest of the committee also agreed to stand for the coming year.

Next month's meeting is on Monday 11th December and is about "Fusing Glass". by Linda Grant.

Laura Hunt

The Wayfarers Fellowship Evangelical Church Castle St., Carisbrooke

www.wayfarerschapel.wix.com/home

December and January

Sunday Services at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm
(excluding pm 31st December)

Coffee Morning: Wednesday 10am - 11.30am

Prayer and Bible Study Meeting
2nd and 4th Wednesdays 7.30pm – 8.30pm

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever". (Psalm: 136 v1)*

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Friday 4.30am to 5.30pm

Saturday 5.30 am to 5.00pm

Sunday 6.30am to 12 noon

Wool festival brings colour to St Mary's

THE theme for this year's Wool Festival in St Mary's Church was 'The Four Seasons', which saw the church full of colourful knitted items depicting scenes of different times of the year.

Spring (see photo on page 1) depicted animals and flowers, while Summer featured a delicious tea in the sunshine and, in keeping with our island home, bunting and a lifebelt (below right) reflected the seaside. The main altar was clothed in Autumn colours, while the lady Chapel was decorated by Winter with snowmen, a Christmas tree with woollen decorations and penguins skiing and mountaineering in the snow could be seen (below left). Other areas of the church displayed knitted fruits and flowers, all adding up to give an impressive and skillful display of local knitting and handcraft.



Colours of Autumn are reflected in the knitted leaves, fruits and flowers, accompanied by a family of hedgehogs.



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Knowing God cares

"I DIDN'T know you cared", is a well used, off hand comment – although sometimes uttered because of a surprise gift or act. This last year or two has shown me how much certain people have cared about Bowcombe Chapel in practical ways; in the cleaning, catering and keeping the grounds neat and tidy. Thank you so much – I do know you care!

In a strange way Advent and Christmas reminds us how the Israelite people, apart from the odd one or two, had forgotten that God did care about them. It would boggle our minds too, if we had to wait hundreds of years before a promise was kept.

So, as we celebrate Christmas, the wonder of Jesus' birth, we can say with confidence "Thank you God, I do know you care about me."

Linda Humber

Bowcombe services for December/January

December:

3rd	Mr Felton	11am
10th	At Quay St Methodist Church	6.30pm
17th	Family Carol service	11am
24th	Christingle at Quay St	10.30am
31st	J Yates	11am.

January:

7th	Covenant Service at Quay St.	10.30am
14th	Mr Hardiman	11am
21st	At Quay St	10.30am
28th	At Quay St	10.30am

Contact Linda Tel: 529065

Our new resident - the winter butterfly

TO call a butterfly as familiar as the red admiral "new" seems strange. We know that this species has been around for at least three hundred years. In the 18th century it was called simply the admiral or the admirable, which seems equally appropriate.

This is a large black butterfly which has bands of red on all its wings and flashes of white towards the wing tips. It has always been common, but in recent decades it may never have been as common as it is today. For years it has been regarded as a migrant, arriving annually in the spring, breeding, and then dying out as cold weather sets in during the autumn. Now however it is widely agreed that this species has, in the south of the country at least, become a resident. Instead of hibernating like some other butterfly species, only emerging on unseasonably warm days, the red admiral often emerges in mid-winter, and may be on the wing early in the day when the temperatures are well below 10 degrees C. It roosts in sheltered spots, and on tree trunks, and it can move about at much lower temperatures, and respond to favourable

weather far more swiftly. In November this species can be seen almost daily and it is not unusual now to see one on New Year's Day. This appears to be a response to our milder winters.

Red admirals love ivy blossom and fallen fruit, and as long as these are about it is highly likely that they will be observed. That said, the resident butterflies are in a minority. The vast majority do arrive on our shores each year, starting in the spring, but with fresh influxes throughout the summer and into the autumn. The majority are thought to come from central and southern Europe, so although they are powerful fliers, their journeys are impressive. A notable feature of this September and October was the influx of red admirals along the east coast, as far north as Shetland, after a long spell of south east winds. Usually, at that time of year some of these butterflies can be seen heading back south across the Channel, but because of the prevailing wind many were still streaming in across a huge length of our coastline. It looks as if some of these individuals may have got to the Island, as numbers of late autumn sightings appear higher than ever this year.

Richard Smout

Bear Grylls: His Greatest Adventure



What does it take to live a life of adventure? The truth is the first step is always the hardest. That's the one which takes the most courage. But I've learnt not to run from that fear but just do it.

I remember crawling onto the summit of Everest and clearing the snow from my mask to see the curvature of the earth at the edges, but finding a simple faith which empowers my life, to me that's been my greatest adventure.

Got questions about life? Try Alpha

Alpha starts at Gunville Methodist Church, January 9th, 7pm-9pm

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Further details www.gunville.org.uk/alpha

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Festivities with Gunville Methodists

DO join us for our Christmas services as we celebrate Jesus being born on this earth. Our Christmas programme is:

Christmas Foodbank Donation

The foyer doors will be open on Friday mornings before Christmas from 9am – 11am for any food or Christmas gifts you might wish to donate to the foodbank. *Suggestion for Advent, put a tin* aside for the foodbank each day as well as eating a chocolate from your calendar! (*please make sure food is in date)*

Singing round the tree:

Friday 15th December, 6 pm, followed by refreshments.

Toddlers' Christmas service: Tuesday 19th December at 10.15 am.

Carol Service by candlelight: Sunday 24th December, 4.30pm (No morning meeting)

Midnight Communion: Sunday 24th December, 11.30 pm

Christmas morning celebration at Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street, at 10.30 am

Programme for rest of December

Friday, 1st December 'Messy church' 3.45 p.m. to 6pm includes games, craft, (short) Christmas talk, and finishes with a meal

together. ALL AGES WELCOME

Sunday 3rd December 'Bitesize' service 10.30 to 11.15 follows on from Messy church; 45 minutes of fast paced praise and worship, with a short, dynamic message for advent: 'Stop!' – All welcome, suitable for all ages from babies and toddlers to senior citizens.

On following Sundays we will continue the advent theme with 'Ready?' (10th December) and 'Go' (17th December).

On 31st December we have an all age service where we will be thinking about recognizing Jesus – then and now

Services start at 10.30am, all welcome

January Programme
6th January from 4.30pm to 6.30pm all ages are welcome to join us for a New year party to celebrate the start of 2018.

7th January Bite size service, 45 minutes of fast paced praise and worship, with a short, dynamic message for the new year.

9th January – start of alpha course (see the separate article about this)

14th January – Covenant service

Our theme for the rest of our Sunday services this month is 'What's it all about? Why are we here?' All start at 10.30am

We remember them



Remembrance Sunday was celebrated in the beautiful castle chapel of St Nicholas in Castro, while outside the poppies in the Remembrance Garden looked bright in the morning sun.



Young people's programme

In **CONNECT** (our Sunday young people's group) we'll be continuing to look at ways we can get to know God more and live out our faith in Christ in our day-to-day lives."

HUNGRY is for school years 9-13 on Mondays 5pm-7pm (term time) at 'Homestead' behind Bethany Church on Union St, Trafalgar Rd, with pizza, games, lively Bible discus-

sions, creative prayer, sung worship and social action.

ROCK SOLID for school years 6-8, on Mondays 7pm-8.30pm (term time) with games, fun, food, discussions and short reflective times.

THE ARK TODDLERS GROUP Tuesdays in term time, 10 - 11.30am (£1.80)

If you would like to find out more about us there is further information on our web site which you can find at www.gunville.org.uk

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Diary of Events for December 2017/January 2018

Monday, 4th December– BJ's Christmas lunch, 12.15pm – 3pm. More details if needed from Brenda on 520666 or Jill on 528287.

Wednesday, 6th December– a Grand Christmas Quiz organised by the Friends of Carisbrooke Church, 8pm at the Eight Bells, with teams of up to 4 people, £2.50 per person. Ring 520666 or The Eight Bells to book in your team.

Wednesday, 13th December– The IW Branch of the Historical Association will be welcoming, Prof. Jonathan Harris, Department of History Royal Holloway, University of London, for a talk on 'Byzantium and the Crusades' at the Riverside Centre, Newport 2.45pm. Visitors welcome. For details contact: IW 524410

Friday, 15th December – everyone is invited to join in singing round the Christmas tree on the corner of Broadwood Lane at 6pm, followed by refreshments.

Saturday, 16th December – the Grand Hamper Draw organized by Friends of Carisbrooke Church will take place at the Church Shop at 12 noon. Tickets are still available from members or from the Church Shop

Thursday, 21st December – Carol Service at Carisbrooke Priory, starting at 7pm in the Chapel, followed by refreshments in the Tea Room.

Note: No meeting of SOCKS in December.

Wednesday 10th January – a Beetle Drive organised by the Friends of Carisbrooke Church, 7pm in the Church Hall, costing £2.50 per person including refreshments. No experience needed, just come and join us for an evening of light hearted fun!

Wednesday 10th January – The IW Branch of the Historical Association will be welcoming Dr John McAleer, University of Southampton, for a talk on 'The East India Company' at the Riverside Centre, Newport at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome. For details contact: IW 524410

Monday 15th January, - Bee-jay's lunch club meets in the church hall from 12.15pm-3pm. Please check with Jill on 528287 or Brenda on 520666 for details or to book a place.

Thursday 18th January – a Fun Quiz organised by the Friends of Carisbrooke Church, 8pm at the Eight Bells, with teams of up to 4 people, £2.50 per person. Ring 520666 or The Eight Bells to book in your team.

Saturday 27th January– Handicraft Group (SOCKS) meeting in the Eight Bells from 10am to 12noon. Refreshments available. Bring a handicraft project of your own or join in with the group activities. Refreshments available, everyone welcome

NEXT COPY DATE

FRIDAY, 10th January is the copy date for the February issue. If you would like to contribute news or an article please contact the editor, Brenda Hall, on tel: 520666, or send an e-mail to carisbrooke.editor@aim.com

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