

# THE LINK

## THE BENEFICE OF OFFWELL, FARWAY & WIDWORTHY DECEMBER 2022

I'm guessing by now you will have seen the John Lewis Christmas advert. If not, then you should. It is good. The advert works well because it reminds us of another story, that is just as real, and just as moving. The John Lewis advert ends with a young girl looking for a new home and learning that 'there is room in the inn'. It's moving, its real, it touches on the message of Christmas.

There are so many helpful parallels here. Consider the many people who have lovingly prepared homes for Ukrainian refugees in recent months, or the work of Safe Foundation and NDADA (who we are supporting through our Crib & Toy Nativity service on the 24<sup>th</sup>) who provide safe refuge for women and children effected by domestic abuse.

The advert is moving because it brings together the reality of a broken world in which a young girl has no home, with the message of Christmas in which goodwill, love, hope, and new beginnings prevail.

For the story of Christmas to be authentically told we need both the light and the darkness of our world acknowledged. We simply can't do away with the troubling themes of fragility, pain, threat and fear for the sake of a more acceptable version.

You see the birth of Jesus occurred during troubled times: an invading Empire takes hold of a sovereign country, a simple refugee family looks for shelter, a desperate world calls out for salvation, and a baby boy born amongst sheep and cattle in a backwater town. These things sit alongside a story of revelation, of faithfulness, of stars and planets, of angels, of journeying magi, and of a problem-solving innkeeper.

The Birth of Jesus, and the revelation of God in his birth is the greatest and most important moment in human history. The retelling of such a story gives us only a glimpse of what it can truly mean for our lives.

The role of the Church is to tell the whole story, the truth. A faithful retelling of the first Christmas will always start by recognising that our lives are not always neatly packaged. God doesn't ask for our glittery and polished Instagram stories. He delights in knowing us fully, and through his gift of grace loves us anyway. Christmas reminds us that the love of God can overcome any darkness the world should bear. The world needs the light of Christ, and with it the light that each of us carry.

May you know the peace and light of Jesus this Christmas time, and may you have a Happy New Year.

Reverend Jeremy Putnam

# DECEMBER SERVICES

	<b>St. Mary's ~ OFFWELL</b>	<b>St. Michael &amp; All Angels ~ FARWAY</b>	<b>St. Cuthbert's ~ WIDWORTHY</b>
<b>Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 2	9:30am Holy Communion		4pm Christingle
<b>Dec. 11<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 3	4pm Christingle		9:30am Holy Communion
<b>Dec. 18<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 4	10:30am Family Service 6pm Carol Service	11:15am Carol Service	4pm Nine Lessons & Carols
<b>Dec. 24<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Eve	2pm Crib & Toy Service		11:15pm Midnight Mass
<b>Dec. 25<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Day	9:30am Family Communion		
<b>Dec. 26<sup>th</sup></b> Boxing Day	10:30am Holy Communion		
<b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2023</b>	<b>10:30am Benefice Communion @ St. Mary's</b>		

## BIBLE READINGS

<b>Dec 4<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 2	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
<b>Dec. 11<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 3	Isaiah 35.1-10	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11
<b>Dec. 18<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 4	Isaiah 7.10-16	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-25
<b>Dec. 25<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]
<b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2023</b>	Numbers 6.22-27	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 2.15-21

## FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

### December

- 4<sup>th</sup> 11am Conducted by Mr S Haddad  
 11<sup>th</sup> 3pm Conducted by Revd Ben Haslam H.C.  
 18<sup>th</sup> 3pm CAROL SERVICE conducted by Revd. Dr Stephen Mosedale  
 Service to be followed by Tea and Mince Pies  
 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30am United service at Honiton Methodist Church  
**January** 1<sup>st</sup> 11am Conducted by Mrs Margaret Cole



**The Warm Welcome Campaign** is a national initiative that seeks to support and champion a community response to the cost-of-living crisis. Over the coming weeks we will make up a list of support. Signposting people to resources that may help us cope better with the energy crisis, and the rising costs of basic essentials. This leaflet is not exhaustive, do let us know if there is anything else in addition we can share. For more information and updates please visit [offwell.org](http://offwell.org)

**East Devon Home Energy Advice Service 0800 772 3617**

A free service run by AgilityEco which provides important advice, support and energy saving measures to eligible households.

**Devon Communities Together 07984 001542 / 01392 248919**

Available to work with individuals or households to look at specific ways to mitigate against the impact of energy costs and explore ways in which you could access additional financial and wellbeing support. For a confidential chat contact [martin@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:martin@devoncommunities.org.uk)

**Boiler Upgrade Scheme [mncscertified.com](http://mncscertified.com)**

The government is providing grants to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS).

**Octopus Energy Free Electric Blanket <https://octopus.typeform.com/to/TuwzbHC2>**

Electric blankets cost around 2-4p/hr to run at their maximum setting so are a cost-effective way to keep yourself warm. Octopus are giving away 10000 blankets to their customers who would benefit most.

**Devon Oil Collective**

<https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/about/membership/join-devon-oil-collective>

The Devon Oil Collective is a simple-to-use bulk-purchasing collective of Devon residents and businesses. As a member of the Devon Oil Collective, you have consistent access to competitively priced oil without having to spend time shopping around!

**Honiton Foodbank [www.thecommunitychurch.co.uk/foodbank/](http://www.thecommunitychurch.co.uk/foodbank/)**

The Food Bank is a local store of non-perishable food operated by volunteers from churches and the wider community in and around Honiton. It is made available to those who are experiencing financial difficulty. The need is assessed by professionals from local agencies and local church leaders.

**Hardship and Household Support fund**

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/financial-support/hardship-and-household-support-fund/>

East Devon District Council will run its Household Support Fund from October 2022 to March 2023. To apply for the fund you must be; over the age of 16; live in East Devon (as your main residence); and be without sufficient resources to meet your immediate short-term needs.

**Offwell Mission Community ACTS435**

[acts@parish-church.com](mailto:acts@parish-church.com) & [www.acts435.org.uk](http://www.acts435.org.uk)

Acts 435 is an online giving charity, directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of their help. This fund can help with white goods, benefit delays, fuel debt, clothes, and transport costs.

# DECEMBER 2022 DIARY DATES

<b>Every Friday</b>	FARWAY VH	Winter Skittles Matches 7:30pm
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL VH	PTFA Christmas Fayre 3:15pm
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL SC	Christmas Bingo and Raffle - Doors open 6pm
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL VH	PTFA Wreath Making - am & pm sessions
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL SC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING (3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL @ GOLF CLUB	CHRISTMAS LUNCH (combined Offwell Ladies and Men) Pre-booking required
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL SC	Christmas Cake Raffle & visit by Santa - 12 noon
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL SC	'Bring a Plate' evening

All are welcome to come and join the children for the **Offwell PTFA Christmas Fayre** where there will be refreshments.

We would love to see you at the **Christmas Wreath workshop**. Tickets are £30 including all materials and refreshments. Times tba. Please email to reserve your place [pfta@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pfta@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)



**The Offwell Mission Community**



Find us on Facebook

## Websites:

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)  
[www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org)  
[www.farwaydevon.org.uk](http://www.farwaydevon.org.uk)  
[www.farway.devon.sch.uk](http://www.farway.devon.sch.uk)  
[www.offwell.org](http://www.offwell.org)  
[www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
[www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Revd Jeremy Putnam**

**Phone: 01404 83191**

**Email: [jeremyputnam@parish-church.com](mailto:jeremyputnam@parish-church.com)**

Typical Working Pattern

Mon - Wed (Exeter)

Thurs, Fri & Sun (Offwell, Widworthy & Farway)

\*Jeremy's position is a 'House for Duty' post for 2.5 days a week. During the rest of the week he is employed by Exeter Diocese as the Diocesan Giving Advisor.

## Benefice Coffee Morning

for all our Parishes

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

From 10:30am to 12 noon

At Offwell, Social Club Room

*This is for everyone. Whether you go to church or not you will be made very welcome. You just have to enjoy coffee, home made cake and a chat!*



## BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS

### FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372

### OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450

David Pavey 01404 43029

### WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688

Mary Wakeley 01404 831345