

MOMSS MAGAZINE



Carol Singers At The Door - Drawing by Anne Farmer

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

**News & Views for our MOMSS villages of
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch, Stawell,
Sutton Mallet and Greinton**

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Our advertisers enable us to provide the MOMSS magazine free of charge to each home in our villages. Please support them if you can, and mention this magazine.

MOMSS MAGAZINE

This publication is hand delivered
FREE to over 1,040 homes within the
villages in the United Benefice:
**Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch,
Stawell, Sutton Mallet & Greinton**

It can also be found at:
www.middlezoyvillagehall.org.uk and
www.stawellvillage.info/

MOMSS is issued 11 times a year (there is a joint December/January issue) and is designed as a Community Magazine. It is produced by volunteers, with the authority of the United Benefice Churchwardens, for the villagers' benefit.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee: Richard Graham, Anita Winslade, Jane Stryker, Isobel Davis and Gill Wilkinson.

Editor this month: Gill Wilkinson
Compiler this month: Jane Stryker

NEWS ARTICLES

We regret we cannot guarantee inclusion of articles or photographs and may need to edit copy due to space limitations.

Submitting articles: Copy preferred in Microsoft Word format.

Email to momssgeditor@live.co.uk
300 word limit please.

Submit handwritten copy via one of the members of the committee if you are unable to find someone to help you transfer it to email. We cannot guarantee its accurate inclusion.

Submitting photos or artwork:
also momssgeditor@live.co.uk

We gladly accept news and views from all groups or individuals, however, the Committee has overriding editorial control. We cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from any error, inaccuracies or omission from any copy or advertising. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the United Benefice, the Editorial teams or the publisher.

MOMSS Publishing House Style

Articles submitted to the magazine are put into MOMSS house style. This uses Gill Sans 10pt for general text with Gill Sans bold 10pt for sub-headings. Arial Black 10pt is used for main headings. Example of our date format is '25 December' – the st, rd, th are only used after dates with no month alongside. There is no need to insert year unless referring to year ahead. We use a 12 hour time format eg '5.30pm'. Italics, bold or underlining will not be included.

Advertising costs

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Jane Stryker Tel: 01458 210661

E-mail momssgadverts@live.co.uk

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**This magazine is edition
number 11 of volume 18**

**DON'T FORGET !
February edition deadlines:
Adverts 12 Jan
Articles 15 Jan**

FROM THE EDITOR

Although events will be more subdued this December than many previously, yet we have every hope we will be able to be together with our families. Also, every village in our benefice has either carols in church, or round the village. So why not join in, as long as you wrap up warm enough?

The Joyful Spirit will be in Middlezoy on 11 December, followed by Christingle services on the Sunday following in Middlezoy, Moorlinch and Stawell.

COP26 might have seemed to be 'not much cop', according to the media, but there is some very positive news from this meeting of the nations. (see page 5).

The editorial team wish you all a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year. May 2022 be a new beginning for all of us.

Gill Wilkinson (Editor December edition)

momssgeditor@live.co.uk

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR



This year we have again been faced with many challenges in the shadow of the pandemic. However, hopefully, with brighter days ahead we can begin to step out more confidently and begin to look beyond.

In the Church's liturgical year our focus turns to the birth of Jesus; God entering into the world in all its beauty and its chaos. In these weeks leading up to Christmas we are invited to reflect more deeply on the life of Jesus as he stepped beyond his heavenly realm in glory, to walk with us as companion, teacher and ultimately, our Saviour and Lord. And what

does it mean for us?

The pandemic has, at times, revealed the weakness and vulnerability of many of our societal systems on which we so depend, and in personal terms, it has sometimes revealed to us our own hidden weaknesses and hidden strengths, opening to us the transiency and fragility of life. It is into all this that God comes, making his love known to us through Jesus, 'the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us.'

Perhaps there has never been a better time for us to reflect on God's gracious gift to us. In Jesus, we have one who understands our weaknesses, has experienced all our emotions, feels our pain and invites us to bring all of ourselves to him so that he can lead us, encourage us and support us through the vagrancies of life here on earth, and lift us into his realms of glory beyond.

Wishing you all the very best for the Christmas season.

Andrea

*Rev Andrea Harwood
Priest in Charge*



FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

The funeral of **David Thomas** was held at Sedgemoor Crematorium on 28 October. Ann and family would like to thank the villagers of Middlezoy for the support and love shown to them at this sad time. Although only moving to the village from Cornwall in 2008, they were welcomed and accepted wholeheartedly. Middlezoy is truly a special place.

John ('Jack') Henry Harding of Stawell passed away peacefully on Monday 11 October; his funeral was held in St Francis Church, Stawell, on Wednesday 3 November followed by internment.

Russell Leslie Maisey of Othery passed away peacefully on Friday 15 October. On Thursday 11 November a private blessing was held in St Michael's Church, Othery, followed by a ceremony of celebration of Russell's life at Taunton Deane Crematorium.

David Kenneth Marsh, late of North Petherton, formerly of Othery, passed away peacefully on Sunday 31 October; his funeral was held in St Michael's Church, Othery on Wednesday 17 November followed by burial in Bristol Road Cemetery, Bridgwater.

BENEFICE, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN ITEMS

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS Open Daily

The United Benefice churches at Middlezoy, Othery and Stawell are all open daily for private prayer and services.

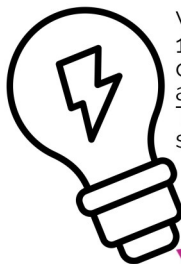
Christmas and Sunday Services

The detailed services chart is on the outside back cover.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Send any prayer request in at any time to middlezoyprayers@gmail.com. Please ask for prayers when they are needed. A group of us are ready to add your requests to our prayers. You can be sure everything is done in the strictest confidence.

This prayer initiative is open to anyone in the benefice or beyond. Prayers and reflections are regularly posted on the Holy Cross Church, Middlezoy Facebook page.



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THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

What is at the heart of Christmas for you? Is it the feasting and festivities? The carols and the candles? The stockings and the gifts? Or the presence of those you love?

This Christmas we may find ourselves investing more in our preparations, as last year Christmas plans were curtailed and for some even cancelled. A year ago we were to have had all our family gather for

Christmas at our house and then just before, my husband Howard had a positive Covid test. Everything changed and in fact neither of us felt well enough to enjoy a special meal together let alone welcome others. So, this year I want to pull out all the stops!

The children and grandchildren will be with us and Howard tells me that Father Christmas will be paying a special visit! However, we are also wanting to make sure that we don't get carried away with all the tinsel and trappings and forget the heart of the story. So, we shall limit our spending on pressies but make sure that we really value the presence of one another and particularly of the Christ child at the heart of it all.

This year as you anticipate Christmas, through the stories told through Advent windows, or carol services in your church, or Nativities on the move, how might you prepare your heart for the coming Christ child? The wonder of Christmas is that God has never given up on us and in fact loves us so much that he wants to spend time with us. The birth of Jesus, God's Son, into a humble human family, brought God into our very midst, into the heart of our homes. This Christmas let's make space for Him once more and listen to

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the words of love, hope and joy He wants to share with us. And may that inspire our faith in the future, for ourselves and our world.
Wishing you much joy and peace this Christmas!
+Ruth
Rt Rev Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

GENERAL ITEMS

WOMEN'S BOOKS AND THE BIBLE

For some time, I have been recommending to women the two books in the Bible entitled with the names of women. Both are deeply inspirational as they tell the story of two women with a strong faith. Then we learn what happens in their lives and how they are instruments of our Heavenly Father. If we are a bit down owing to all the things life throws at us, often, I wonder if these books might help. Recently, I rediscovered there is a third, Judith in the Apocrypha, this is similar and a real page turner. They are all shortish and can be read in one sitting. I have written a letter detailing this and sent it to anyone whose email address I have. If you have not received it by the time you read this have a word with your warden. I am sure they will print it for you or email it to you (names on the inside back cover). As a second topic, more fully explored than the first, I have explained how I have become familiar with the Old Testament. Always, I recommend starting with the New Testament and have never explained how I grew familiar with the OT.

All this is to satisfy the thought in the St Francis prayer made more familiar by the musical, Godspell:

*Day by day, O dear Lord, three things I pray,
To see thee more clearly, to love thee more dearly,
And to follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

Richard Graham

QUOTATIONS

Science and Religion

*"Science without religion is lame,
Religion without science is blind."*

"I know not with what weapons World War 3 will be fought but World War 4 will be fought with sticks and stones."

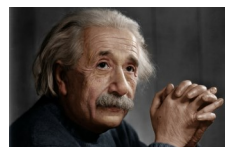
"The important thing is to not stop questioning."

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when creating them."

"Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value."

*"There are only two ways to live.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle."*

Albert Einstein



Global Warming and Resource Protection

*"Belief in progress is a doctrine of idlers and ne'er do wells.
It is the individual relying on his neighbours to do his work."*

Charles Baudelaire, 1887 (altered)

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi 1869-1948

COP26

Here is a personal perspective.

If you 'attended' the Glasgow summit through one of our two public service broadcasters, you would conclude that it has been a complete disaster. Every V.I.P. arriving by private jet, no agreement on ending coal, a prediction of a 2.4 degree rise and so on. The effect of this is to then say to ourselves there is no point in us doing anything at all. This is wrong now and is contrary to the great men whose quotes are above.

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, the Daily Telegraph business journalist, called it a surprising success. Before the fortnight in Glasgow he wrote about the Paris meeting. On scientific advice, it agreed the 1.5 degrees target for this century. Something no commentator mentioned this time, after Paris, the money started to move. Money moves faster than politicians, he wrote. One of the biggest investors in companies is our pension funds. This money has been moving, that is, investing in green technology.

Here are some positive stories: The International Energy Agency said the figure falls to 1.8 degrees if you take all the pledges into account, China is on board, Maersk who are the largest shipping line in the world have ordered 8 new ships to run on methanol, these should be sailing by 2023; they hope never to buy another diesel-powered ship. They are confident they will be able to retrofit their fleet to run on a carbon neutral fuel such as methanol or ammonia. They own approximately 730 ships and lots of those containers that we see all over the place.

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH PRESENT
FESTIVE SONG**

led by the Joyful Spirit Gospel Choir

**A fun evening to start the Christmas
Celebrations at Middlezoy Church**

Saturday 11th December 7.30pm

Bar Available Tickets £10

from Middlezoy Post Office

(Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-12 and 2-5.)

OR contact Gill: wilkiberri@outlook.com 01823 698429

There is good news but it doesn't 'sell' in the media. Let us keep at it and we hope that readers will submit thoughts to the magazine editor of what we can do here to be the change we want to see.

Richard Graham

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

I have been asked to enquire whether anyone from our villages would be interested in forming a group who would put on exhibitions and discuss all historical aspects in local villages. The next meeting will be held in Low Ham with thoughts of putting on an exhibition in the summer. If you are interested, please contact me on 01823 698156 or email gustard@one-name.org

Pat Adamson

MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS

See page 11 for details of Sticky Church

MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS PTA

Grand Christmas Fayre 5 December 11am- 2pm.

Middlezoey and Othery schools PTA will be holding their Grand Christmas fayre in Middlezoey Village Hall on Sunday 5 December from 11am until 2pm.

Lots of wonderful stall holders and crafts will be available: tombola, lucky dip, cake stall and much, much more.

The kitchen will be serving hot food and drinks. Please come along and support your schools and find some fabulous gifts for Christmas.

Ellanor Jennings

SKY AT NIGHT

December 2021/January 2022

Sunrise Sunset

Beginning of December 7.53am-4.07pm; End of December 8.14am-4.14pm

Beginning of January 8.14am-4.15pm;

End of January 7.48am-5.01pm

Moon Phases December

New Moon 4th / First Quarter 11th /

Full Moon 19th / Last Quarter 27th

Moon Phases January

New Moon 2nd / First Quarter 9th / Full

Moon 17th / Last Quarter 25th

Planets

Jupiter, Saturn and Venus line up in a row in the south west early evening.

All setting by 9pm during December.

Then as we move in to January, Venus passes between the Sun and the Earth reappearing as a morning star mid-month, while Jupiter and Saturn are in

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the south west early evening and setting ever earlier. Mars may be seen rising in the east around 6am.

Stars

The magnificent constellation of Orion the Hunter dominates the southern sky as we move from 2021 into 2022. This constellation looks like its namesake with shield, club, sword and belt.

Under the three stars in a row which form the belt itself is a

glowing patch of light visible to the naked eye. This is the Great Orion Nebula, a stellar nursery where new stars are being born. The red star top left of the constellation is Betelgeuse, a giant star which will one day explode as a supernova and varies in brilliance, sometimes outshining the dazzling blue supergiant star Rigel to the bottom right of the constellation. Both the stars are many times the size of our own Sun.

Phenomena December

The Geminid Meteor Shower peaks on the night 13th/14th. Look after midnight when the moon has set. The constellation Gemini is close to Orion, the winter solstice or shortest day is on the 21st

Phenomena January

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower peaks on the night of 3rd/4th this often produces coloured shooting stars, look northeast in the sky to spot them.

SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS

Our first monthly meeting for 2022 takes place in Othery Village Hall on Wednesday 26 January at 7.30pm. We hope that as we start the year our meetings can return to normal with drinks supplied and with a more relaxed atmosphere for all. However, we will still ensure your safety with social distancing and masks encouraged; also the meetings will still be available on Zoom for those who are unable or wish not to attend.

Each month we give a guide to the night sky for the month ahead along with the latest news from the world of Astronomy and Spaceflight. We also have a main presentation from a guest speaker or club member then after if clear we have telescopes and binoculars to use.

For details on admission price/membership or Zoom subscription please contact us on somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com

www.somersetlevelsstargazers.co.uk and you can follow us on Facebook.

Paul Adamson 01823698156

FARM DIARY

This is written for non-farmers who live surrounded by farmland.

In the Field. All field work will have been done by now except perhaps for some winter ploughing prior to spring drilling. If this is done well before sowing the weather will create most of the seedbed. Our winter beans were the last crop to go in the ground. We drill these at a depth of 75 to 100mm. starting from the end of October. Most grazing animals



will have been brought inside long ago. In our case it rained so much, we brought most in at the beginning of October. Ground conditions and grass volume are two factors affecting this decision but also the grass quality as this tails off in the early autumn. Traditional beef farmers for example ignore this drop-in quality and that is why their cattle take three years to fatten whereas in other systems it is eighteen months to two years. Our goats are enjoying our new crop of lucerne silage.

Red Tractor. We had our inspection in October, this is a check on our cropping management and storage. This part of the article was triggered by TV pictures of the problem facing some Australian farmers who are overrun with mice. Storing grain in dumpy bags in open fronted sheds is not a long- term storage solution (over three months) that complies with Red Tractor. We have to be accredited with a quality body like Red Tractor as all human and animal feed mills (our customers) require it. Accreditation means that we have complied with all the current laws concerning crop management and storage.



Chickens. Battery cages for egg-laying hens were banned in the EU from 2012. Apparently, as part of our overseas aid budget, UK Research and Innovation, a government body, has overseen money spent on improving productivity for caged egg-laying chickens in China. That is our tax-payers money. You could not make this up. *Richard Graham*

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION (WFA)



Somerset branch

Our next meeting is in Othry Village Hall on 8 December at 7.45pm. Our speaker is Simon Buckle.

Simon will bring along some of his display of uniforms and equipment to illustrate how much a Tommy had to carry and how during the war the equipment was changed and updated. Both WFA and non-members alike are welcome to this interesting talk and perhaps handle equipment that your relatives used in and out of the trenches.

The 12 January meeting will be about Wombling on the Western Frontnot the small furry creatures but salvage.

Pat Adamson Secretary Somerset W.F.A.
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STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE NEWS

More information is available on the website www.stawellvillage.info

CHRISTINGLE AND GIFT SERVICE

Sunday 12 December at 10am in St Francis Church Stawell

Our Christingle and Gift Service is being held on 12 December at 10am. As in previous years, we are requesting donations of gifts, unwrapped, and for all age groups, which will be given to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Do consider joining us for this very popular service which will comply with social distancing. However, if you are unable to make it and would like to donate gifts, please leave them in the box which will be in the porch. Many thanks, from the Church Committee.

Ruth Peberdy



STAWELL CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Friday 17 December at 7pm in St Francis Church Stawell

We invite you to our Carol Service by candle light on 17 December at 7pm. After singing our hearts out, mulled wine and mince pies will be served, soft drinks and festive cakes for the children.

On Christmas Eve, at 3pm, the crib service will be in the church, presenting a short dramatisation of the nativity story with carols.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

Ruth Peberdy for the Church Committee.

SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

Friday 24 December at 6pm in Sutton Mallet Church

Come and join us for the start of Christmas.

UNITED BENEFICE CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

Saturday 25 December at 10am in St Francis Church Stawell

Let us celebrate together.



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GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS

Information is available from greintonvillage@gmail.com or via the Greinton Village in Somerset Facebook group

GREINTON VILLAGE HALL

On the last Saturday in October, we held our first social event inside the Village Hall for nearly 18 months. The evening of Mouse Racing was a tremendous success and a great way to celebrate being able to socialise indoors once again and to appreciate all the hard work put into refurbishment during the pandemic. The hall was full and a great deal of money was raised but most importantly, without exception, everyone enjoyed themselves enormously.

Our monthly pub nights, held on the first Friday evening of every month, are also becoming very successful. We don't have a licence so we each bring our own drinks but there is a warm fire, a growing collection of games and the opportunity to enjoy each other's company. The next one is on Friday 3 December, starting at 7pm.

The following weekend, on Saturday 11 December, it is our annual Bingo Night. Doors open at 7pm. £1 per book or £5 for six books, plus a bonus flyer for £2. Light refreshments will be available and there will also be a raffle.

BINGO					
10	18	40	53	74	
3	23	37	55	70	
15	24	★	51	62	
5	30	43	54	65	
1	28	33	58	67	

One final date for your diaries: Saturday 12 February 2022 is Quiz Night at Greinton Village Hall. Further details to follow in the next edition.

CAROL SINGING

On Sunday 19 December a small band of intrepid singers will be going around the village singing Christmas carols. Again, all are very welcome to join in. Meet outside the church at 4pm and we will finish off with mulled wine/cider and mince pies around the firepit at West Town Farm at about 6pm.

BOOK EXCHANGE

The new book exchange in the old telephone box has proved to be very successful. It now contains as many books as it can comfortably hold – we have to remember that the telephone box's primary purpose is to house our defibrillator and we have to be careful not to obstruct easy access. Please could we adopt a 'one in, one out' policy for the book exchange from now on? If you bring a book down, please take one or more away with you. With very best wishes and Happy Christmas to everyone,
Toby Crispin



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MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Services

The full list of services in December and January at Holy Cross is on the back cover of the magazine.

The two Christmas services this year in the church will be the Village Carol Service on Sunday 19 December commencing at 6.00pm and the Crib Service on Friday 24 December commencing at 3.00pm.

Joyful Spirit in Middlezoy 11 December 7.30pm

The Joyful Spirit Gospel Choir will be joining us for an evening of song both sacred and secular, a happy start to the Christmas season. Space is restricted to be Covid secure. Tickets are available from the Post Office and Gill W wilkiberri@outlook.com, 01823 698429

Carol Singing Friday 17 December 6pm

Meet up outside the Chapel at 6pm for singing round the village. We will finish by Holy Cross Church for mulled wine and mince pies.

Recycled Celebration for Christmas

Show your ingenuity by decorating something simple, perhaps some cardboard boxes decked with lights, to demonstrate that decorations need not be expensive throwaway items. These could be placed in your front garden or window.



STICKY CHURCH

Preparing for Christmas

Sticky Church is happening 'in person' in December! We will be focusing on fun Christmas activities, Nativity and of course Christingles for the Methodist service on 12 December. This will be an interactive exciting morning for children and young people. It will be so lovely to see you all again.

When: Saturday 11 December 2021

Time: 10 – 12 noon

Who: Children of all ages welcome – accompanied by adults too J

Where: Methodist Chapel Middlezoy

If you require more information please contact Susy: soozreed@hotmail.co.uk or Sarah: sarah@blaketraining.co.uk or visit us on Facebook.



Remembrance Day Service

Approximately 50 attended the Village Remembrance Day Service on 14 November. The service was led by Rev Deborah Kirk. Twelve wreaths were laid on behalf of the various

organisations in the village. The leaving collection of £210 was forwarded to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

House Group 2022

The group will meet up again in January, starting Wednesday 19 January 7.30pm at Highbank. Possible theme 'Changing the Climate or Green House Group'. Thereafter, on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. 2 March is Ash Wednesday when there will probably be a Benefice service. Meetings will be suspended if there is a Benefice Lent Course.

All are welcome, bring and share your own views.

Contact Gill Wilkinson wilkiberri@outlook.com 01823 698429

Middlezoy PCC

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE UPDATES

Recent fundraising events have raised £274.50 from the cake sale and £382.50 from the brunch. Thanks to all who gave their time and money but it doesn't stop there we have:

Thursday 2 December, Donate a Dress for December.

Friday 14 January, a Quiz, teams of 4 at the Village Hall.

Saturday 26 March, Village Garage Sale, further details will follow.

As for the weekend itself we have confirmation:

Thursday 2 June Taunton Big Band at the Church followed by the lighting of the Beacon on Windmill Hill. Friday 3 June tribute night with Rod Stewart and Elton John.

Saturday 4 June - children's fun and games.

Sunday 5 June - fancy dress parade, Circus skills, Big Lunch, music by Jentle Jazz.

We will keep you updated as more events are booked and confirmed.

Calling all Dads and Mums with engineering skills - we hope to revive the village Soap Box Derby (push car) race during the weekend. So, start thinking and hoarding "bits and bobs" to construct your transport.

Pam Jamieson and the PJ Group

Sheepshome1@outlook.com

MIDDLEZOY BONFIRE NIGHT

Middlezoy

**Community Project
(MCP)**

What a great night. the weather was perfect the bonfire was fabulous...a huge thanks goes to Dave Rolls and Ann Thomas.

The ladies were cooking up a storm with burgers and hotdogs...another huge thanks to Karen and Tayler.

People came from miles

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MIDDLEZOY - SOMERSET

around, lots of new faces. We had the best behaved children, a big thank you to parents and minders! This is village life at its best! Thank you EVERYONE!

Ann Lipscomb Chair MCP

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Our Monday coffee morning has been back running since 6 September. It has been good to see everyone again and to have some new faces join us.

I can't believe we are already heading towards Christmas!

We will be holding our Christmas Coffee Morning on Monday 13 December. Hopefully, providing Covid allows, we will have a visit from the primary school choir who will entertain us with some Christmas songs. As we haven't made a great deal of profit this year, we are unable to give the normal donations to village organisations but hope this can resume next year.



Please do come along between 10 and 12, have a coffee and a mince pie and get into the festive spirit with us. Any donations for the Christmas raffle which will take place on the 13th will be much appreciated and monies raised from it will be donated to St Margaret's Hospice.

This will be our last coffee morning of the year and we will re-open our doors again on Monday 10 January 2022. Thank you all for your continued support.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and new year.

Jill Darby Village Coffee Morning Co-ordinator

Tel 01823 698000 email jilldrb@gmail.com

WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB

Brunch 23 October, thanks to all who came along and helped in any way. I believe we made over £350. We do appreciate your support!

Christmas Lunch 2021

I am repeating Jill's entry on Facebook as it cannot be put better:

"After much deliberation and heart searching it is with regret that the Middlezoy

Women's Social Club wish to inform you all that we **will**

not be going ahead with this year's Senior Citizens

Christmas Meal. We feel that for everyone's health and

safety we should postpone again until 2022! We will

review the Covid situation in spring next year and we will

do our best to provide some type of event for you then.

VERY BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW

YEAR FROM THE SOCIAL CLUB!!"

Pauline Stewart



LEVELS METHODIST CHURCH

Services

12 December	5.00pm	Joint Nativity and Christingle at Chapel
19 December	6.00pm	Village Carol Service at Holy Cross
26 December	6.30pm	Circuit Communion Service
2 January	10.30am	Joint Covenant Service at the Chapel

MESSAGE FROM REV DEBORAH KIRK

There seems to be an 'urban myth' circulating about the future of Middlezoy Methodist Church, and its relationship with the Village Shop/PO, which I feel it may be helpful to correct: There are **no** plans for the Methodist Church at Middlezoy to close, and from our perspective, there is also no requirement for the Village Shop to seek alternative premises in the village. If the Village Shop elects to move from its current location to a site which it believes more suitable, that is entirely the choice of the shop and its officers. The Minister and the Trustees of the Methodist Church at Middlezoy continue to be committed to the Chapel's place within the village and its relationship with the community.

Thank you.

Rev Deborah Kirk, Methodist Minister

Coffee and Carols

22 December 3pm a relaxed hour just drinking tea or coffee with mince pies if we're lucky and singing carols of your choice in between. Time to think about the real meaning of Christmas before all that dashing about,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS WISHES!

Pauline Stewart

OTHERY VILLAGE NEWS

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SERVICES

The annual village Remembrance Sunday service took place with representatives from local clubs and organisations laying poppy wreaths by the War Memorial plaque.

Sadly we have been having a series of funerals of beloved residents and past residents in the church. Their families and friends need our comfort and support.

The full list of all the planned services in the church during December and January is to be found on the back cover of this magazine. We invite everyone to come along to any and all of them.

Mervyn Winslade & Margaret Harris, Churchwardens

Crib and Carol Service Friday 24 December 3pm

St Michael's Church, Othery, would like to invite you all to our Annual Crib and Carol Service at 3pm on Christmas

Eve, when we tell the story

of Jesus's birth through readings and carols as we build our Nativity Scene.

If you would like your children, all ages welcome, to take an active part in the service please let us know as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing



you there.

Mo Wright mo.wright2@btinternet.com or Isobel Davis isobeldav@gmail.com

30TH ANNUAL OTHERY STREET FAYRE

The Street Fayre Committee welcomed helpers and new volunteers to the Social Evening and Annual Open Meeting on 20 October and plans are again well underway for the postponed 30th Annual Street Fayre and Evening entertainments to be held on Saturday 18 June 2022. Volunteers and helpers for this event either before or on the day are always gratefully welcomed – if you would like to get involved please contact either Anthony Betty (Chairman) on 01823 698350 or Anita Winslade (Secretary) 01823 698368.

Anita Winslade

CHURCH ROOM COFFEE MORNINGS

Our weekly sessions are on Tuesday mornings from 10am to noon in the Church Room in North Lane. Coffees, teas, hot chocolate, biscuits and cakes are available to enjoy. We also have a Raffle each week.

Our Christmas celebrations session will take place on Tuesday 14 December – our last event of 2021.

We are looking forward to seeing previous and new patrons, young and old when we restart on Tuesday 4 January 2022 and everyone is welcome. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Othery Church Room Committee

READING GROUP

The November choice was *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* by Madeleine Thien, a Canadian author of Malaysian Chinese and Hong Kong Chinese parentage. The novel follows both the daughter of a Chinese immigrant after her father's suicide, and a young Chinese refugee fleeing the post-Tiananmen Square crackdown. The opening words are "In a single year my father left us twice. The first time, to end his marriage, and the second, when he took his own life. That year, 1989, my mother flew to Hong Kong and laid my father to rest...she rushed home to Vancouver where I had been alone. I was ten years old".

It is a history of revolutionary idealism, music, and silence, in which three musicians struggle during China's relentless Cultural Revolution to remain loyal to each another and

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to their music. Forced to make choices, their fates have profound and lasting consequences for the two girls. The book culminates in the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre. Critically acclaimed, in 2016 the novel won several awards and was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize as well as the Women's Prize for Fiction. There were mixed reactions to the book, not everyone had finished it, finding it a difficult read, harrowing but compelling. Personal recollections of readers who spent time in Hong Kong during and after Tiananmen Square made the book even more real. The richness of the language was remarked upon and the writing was described as superb. Our next book for discussion at the January meeting will be *Strange Flowers* by Donal Ryan. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Martin Wall at martinwall1@mac.com.
Mollie O'Flanagan



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*subject to eligibility

OTHERY VILLAGE HALL

Christmas Party Sunday 12 December

Othery village hall is reinstating the Christmas party on Sunday 12 December from 4pm to 7pm. Father Christmas will be in attendance. If you would like your child to receive a special gift (contributed by the parents/guardian) please drop us an email on otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk. Admission is free to all villagers. The bar will be open and there will be a raffle. Please bring a plate of food to add to the celebrations.

Othery Village Hall Committee



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2021 OTHERY

Thank you to all the people who put donations into the collection boxes in Othery and Middlezoy schools, the London Inn, the collection at St Michael's Church, the Somerset branch of the WFA and at Blenheim House. The grand total for this is £468.13. All donations will really make a difference to those helped by the RBL.

Pat Adamson

MOORLINCH VILLAGE NEWS

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Christingle Service and Tea - Sunday 12 December 4pm

Come and make your Christingle, support the Children's Society and enjoy a scrummy tea afterwards.

Can't make the service? Collect a Christingle bag from the church porch on Sunday 12 December and make one at home.

Village Carol Service Sunday 19 December 4.30pm followed by mulled wine, mince pies and the draw for the MCH Christmas Raffle.

Come and join us to celebrate Christmas.



"IF WE'D KNOWN YOU WERE COMING, WE'D HAVE BAKED A CAKE...."

And of course, we did know you were coming so we did bake a cake. On Bible Sunday the congregation all added some ingredients to a large mixing bowl and they were skilfully beaten and blended together to make a Bible Cake. Audrey was our MasterChef and showed great stamina and fortitude in mixing so many ingredients together! Unfortunately, we don't have an oven in the church so we couldn't actually bake it during the service but, as they say on Blue Peter, there was one "we made earlier" to sample!

Pauline joyfully led our service and among other activities we did she got us all planting seeds in egg boxes and afterwards we enjoyed some of Mrs Bumble's Somerset Whortlebury Jam and some real Cheddar Cheese.

A lovely morning of worship, praise and fun.

Jane Stryker



SAUSAGE AND MASH SUPPER

I just wanted to share these moments captured at the Sausage and Mash Supper on Saturday 30 October.

You all were a great crowd; good company and it was oh such a pleasure to be able to meet up and chat. The evening got off to a good start when the church joined in a nationwide peel of bells to mark the start of COP26, the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

There were loads of sausages and mash and lashings of onion gravy; Jenny had also made some seasonal Parkin as a dessert. The fire pits kept us warm and the fairy lights enabled



us to see. There was even the traditional raffle.

Thank you everybody for coming and we look forward to seeing you at our next village event.

Mary Mason, Chair of MCHC

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

THE HISTORY OF COMMON ENGLISH SAYINGS

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day.

Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: **‘Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold, pease porridge in the pot nine days old.’**

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could **bring home the bacon**. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and **chew the fat**.

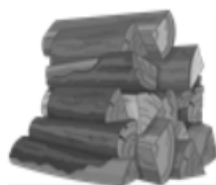
Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or **the upper crust**.



Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. They would be taken dead and prepared for burial, then laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days. The family would gather around, eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of **holding a wake**. When villages started running out of places to bury people, they would dig up coffins take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25, that is 4%, were found to have scratch marks on the inside, people had been buried alive. To avoid this, string was tied on the wrist of the corpse and attached to a bell on the ground. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (**the graveyard shift**) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be **saved by the bell** or was considered a **dead ringer**.

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EASY CHRISTMAS PUDDING

This microwave easy Christmas pudding below has got many people out of a sticky situation on Christmas day – it's fast and has a very short ingredients list and uses up some of the cranberry sauce that's left over from your turkey dinner. What's not to love?!

Ingredients

100 g (3½oz) butter, softened, plus extra to grease
100g (3½oz) ready-made cranberry sauce
2 tbsp. golden syrup
100 g (3½oz) dark brown soft sugar
2 medium eggs, beaten
100 g (3½oz) plain flour
1 tbsp. mixed spice, heaped
300 g (11oz) mixed dried fruit
1 medium apple, peeled and grated



TIP: If you have the time, soak the fruit in tea the night before!

1. Grease a 1.2 litre (2¼ pint) pudding basin. In a small bowl, stir together cranberry sauce and golden syrup. Spoon two-thirds of the mixture into the base of the prepared basin, reserving the remaining mixture.

2. In a separate bowl, beat together the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, mixed spice, dried fruit and grated apple until well combined. Spoon the mixture into the prepared basin and press a large piece of parchment paper on to the pudding to cover the surface.
3. Microwave on medium power for 9min until firm to the touch. Leave to stand for 10min before turning out on to a plate. Spoon over reserved cranberry mixture and serve immediately with brandy sauce, custard or cream—or all three!.

ADVENT QUIZ

(Answers on page 23)

1. What does the word Advent (from the Latin *adventus*) mean?
 - a) Before Christmas
 - b) Arrival or coming
 - c) To go on an adventure
 - d) A website for online Christmas coupon
 - e) All of these.
2. Like the 40 days of Lent, Advent is a fixed number of days before Christmas.
 - a) True
 - b) False
3. When does Advent begin for most Christians?
 - a) 1st December
 - b) Fourth Sunday before Christmas
 - c) First Sunday in December
4. How many doors would you usually find on an Advent calendar?
 - a) 24
 - b) 26
 - c) 31
5. Do you know how the Advent calendar began?
 - a) Chalk lines were drawn on the door to mark the days
 - b) Religious families hung pictures on the wall, one for each day
 - c) A candle was lit for each of the 24 days in December
 - d) A mother fixed candies on a cardboard calendar for her son
 - e) All of these.
6. If you gave all the gifts in the song Twelve Days of Christmas how many gifts would there be?
 - a) 78
 - b) 201
 - c) 364
7. What well-known Christmas song became the first song ever broadcast from space in 1965?
 - a) Little Donkey
 - b) Jingle Bells
 - c) We wish you a Merry Christmas
 - d) Hark the Herald Angels Sing
8. What is traditionally put in Christmas puddings for luck?
 - a) Teeth
 - b) Mouse droppings
 - c) Coins
 - d) Berries
9. Why are candy canes hung on Christmas trees?
 - a) Because Father Christmas is an old man
 - b) The hooks make them easier to hang on the tree
 - c) The peppermint helps with indigestion after all the Christmas eating
 - d) They resemble a shepherd's staff, as a way to remind us of the shepherds who visited baby Jesus
10. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word "Emmanuel"?
 - a) Mighty king
 - b) Christ child
 - c) God with us
 - d) All of these
 - e) None of these



Milk and Cookies for Santa

By Kelly Roper

There's milk and cookies for Santa,
And they look delicious to me.
There are four on a plate on the mantel,
And if I eat one, there will still be three.

Santa's quite a plump fellow,
Looks like he eats well all year through.
If I eat one more of those cookies,
Santa will still have two.

Those cookies have made my mouth dry,
And now I need something to drink.
That milk is still quite chilly,
A few gulps will do it, I think.

Those cookies were oh so tasty.
I don't think my tummy's quite done.
If I only eat one more cookie,
Santa surely can get by with just one.

That last cookie looks so lonely,
He must miss his friends in my tummy.
I'm not sure that I can resist him...
No, I can't, and he's certainly yummy!

Uh-oh, Santa's treat is all gone now.
If I'm caught, I will be in big trouble.
I need to retreat from the scene of my
crime,
And get back into my bed on the double!





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Images showing storage units, a person using a van, and a person using a shredder.

The Common Worship readings and lessons for each of the following services

DATE	SEASON	READINGS
2021 December 5 Sun	Second Sunday of Advent	OT: Malachi, chapter 3, verses 1 to 4 Psalm: 28 Epistle: Philippians, chapter 1, verses 3 to 11 Gospel: Luke, chapter 3, verses 1 to 6
12 Sun	Third Sunday of Advent	OT: Zephaniah chapter 3, verses 14 to the end Psalm: 146 verses 4 to the end Epistle: Philippians, chapter 4, verses 4 to 7 Gospel: Luke, chapter 3, verses 7 to 18
19 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Advent	OT: Micah, chapter 5, verses 2 to 5a Psalm: 80, verses 1 to 8 Epistle: Hebrews, chapter 10, verses 5 to 10 Gospel: Luke, chapter 1, verses 39 to 55
24 Fri	Christmas Eve	OT: 2 Samuel, chapter 7, verses 1 to 5, 8 to 11 and 16 Psalm: 89, verses 2 and 19 to 27 Epistle: Acts, chapter 13, verses 16 to 26 Gospel: Luke, chapter 1, verses 67 to 79
25 Sat	CHRISTMAS DAY	OT: Isaiah, chapter 52, verses 7 to 10 Psalm: 98 Epistle: Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 1 to 12 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 14
26 Sun	First Sunday of Christmas	OT: 1 Samuel, chapter 2, verses 18 to 20 and 26 Psalm: 148 Epistle: Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12 to 17 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 41 to the end
2022 January 2 Sun	Second Sunday of Christmas	OT: Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 7 to 14 Psalm: 147, verses 13 to 21 Epistle: Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 3 to 14 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 18
9 Sun	Baptism of Christ First Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Isaiah, chapter 43, verses 1 to 7 Psalm: 29 Epistle: Acts, chapter 8, verses 14 to 17 Gospel: Luke, chapter 3, verses 15 to 17, 21 and 22
16 Sun	Second Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Isaiah, chapter 62, verses 1 to 5 Psalm: 36, verses 5 to 10 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 1 to 11 Gospel: John, chapter 2, verses 1 to 11
23 Sun	Third Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Nehemiah, chapter 8, verses 1 to 10 Psalm: 19 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 12 to 31a Gospel: Luke, chapter 4, verses 14 to 21
30 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Ezekiel, chapter 43, verses 27 to chapter 44, verse 4 to 5 Psalm: 48 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, verses 1 to 13 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 22 to 40

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES NEAR US

Ashcott and Pedwell 3rd Thursday 7.30pm Ashcott Village Hall TA7 9PZ
Burrowbridge 3rd Monday 7.30pm Coronation Hall West Yeo Road TA7 0RH
Shapwick Starlets 2nd Tuesday 7.30pm Village Hall Station Road TA7 9NJ
Westonzoyland 2nd Weds 7.15pm Village Hall Cheer Lane TA7 0EZ
local times can vary so it is best to contact to Somerset Federation before attending for the first time 01278 287034.

Burrowbridge

Sue Heyes, Secretary Tel. 01278 691326 or email: BurrowbridgeWI@outlook.com



Wishing You All
A Very Merry Christmas and
A Happy, Healthy New Year
From
The MOMSS&G Magazine Committee



ANSWERS TO THE ADVENT QUIZ

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. a
5. e
6. c
7. b
8. c
9. d
10. c

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From the scene of an incident, call 999, ask for Ambulance.

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Middlezoy Chapel	TA7 0NZ	SC0253
Middlezoy Village Hall	TA7 0PG	SC0254 (machine at car park end)
Moorlinch Farm	TA7 9BU	
Othery Village Hall	TA7 0QU	
Stawell Village Hall	TA7 9AD	

Within 200m of a defibrillator they can give you the code to open the cabinet on post code alone, farther away the call sign is required.

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The recycling and rubbish collections for all the MOMSS & G area are as follows:

Recycling Boxes, every week:

Thursdays 2, 9, 16, 23, December, Friday 7 and Thursdays 13, 20, 27 January.

Black Wheeled Bins, alternate weeks:

Thursdays 9, 23 December, Friday 7, Thursday 20 January.

Garden Waste Bins, alternate weeks: note only one collection in January

Middlezoy: Mondays 6, 20 December, 17 January.

Othery: Thursdays 2, 16 December, 13 January.

Moorlinch, Stawell, Sutton Mallet, Greinton:

Thursdays 2, 23 December, 20 January.

RECYCLING CENTRES

Winter opening hours are 9am-5pm weekdays and 9am-4pm weekends.

Note: Closed 27, 28 December, 3 January.

Full details of each site, location, opening times, materials they will accept etc. can be found at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres

MOBILE LIBRARY

This service continues on a Friday every 4 weeks.

Note the two week break for Christmas.

Next visit: 3 December, 14 January

Stawell Village Hall 9.50am - 10.30am

Moorlinch Tapmoor Road Jct 10.45am - 11.15am

Middlezoy Main Road Bus Stop 12.30pm - 1.10pm

For further information about reading books online contact Libraries Direct on 0300 123 2224 or visit

www.somerset.gov.uk/librarie

VILLAGE AGENTS

To contact a Village Agent ring **01823 331222** and they will quickly find the most suitable person to deal with your query. Referrals can also be made via local doctors' surgeries.

MIDDLEZOY & OTHERY

Jane Wood

Email: janew@somersetccc.org.uk

Phone: 07985 680266

MOORLINCH

To be allocated.

STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET

Daniel Bell

Email: danielb@somersetccc.org.uk

Phone: 07946461548

GREINTON

To be allocated

MOMSS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please advise momssgeditor@live.co.uk of amendments/additions

CHURCH INFORMATION

Priest-in-Charge

Rev Andrea Harwood 01458 443239 vicarmomss@gmail.com

Sunday mornings, Tuesdays and Wednesdays plus half a day on Saturdays (by arrangement)

United Benefice Readers

Pauline Davies 01278 451280 and Richard Graham 01278 722284

Parish Auxiliary Lay Ministers

Mervyn Winslade (Othery); Ruth Peberdy and Roger Harding (Stawell)

Churchwardens

Middlezoy: Ian Campbell 01823 698790

Othery: Mervyn Winslade 01823 698368 and Margaret Harris 01823 698838

Moorlinch: Fiona Hixon 01458 211096

Stawell contact: Rachel Fortune 01278 723416

Sutton Mallet contact: Brian Lishman 01278 722579

Greinton contact: Jean Heywood 01458 210497

METHODIST CHURCH MINISTER

Middlezoy: Rev Deborah Kirk 01823 334854

Chapel Stewards: Pauline Stewart 01823 698351 and Sandy Rogers 01823 698220

PARISH COUNCILS/MEETINGS

Middlezoy—Chairman: Paul Baker 01823 698082

Othery—Chairman: Andrew Tizzard 01823 690284

Moorlinch—Meeting Chairman: Ron Hixon 01458 211096

Stawell and Sutton Mallet—Chairman: Brian Lishman 01278 722579

Greinton—Enquiries: Toby Crispin 01458 210227

DISTRICT PCSOs

Georgia Coles 07889 659466; Benjamin Simpkin 07889 659932

VILLAGE AGENTS

See Useful Information on page 24 for contact details

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Middlezoy: School 01823 698465; The George Inn 01823 698215;

P.O. 01823 698981 - Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:45am-12pm, 2pm-5pm

Shop 01823 587222 - **Mornings** - Open: Monday to Saturday 8.45am-11am

Afternoons - Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 3pm-5pm

Othery: School 01823 698464; The London Inn 01823 698416

Maisey's Bakery—Closed

Moorlinch: Ring O'Bells 01458 210358; Garage 01458 210298;

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Middlezoy Village Hall 01823 698366; Othery Village Hall 01823 690482;

Moorlinch Church Hall 01458 210755;

Stawell & Sutton Mallet Village Hall 01278 723665; Greinton Village Hall 01458 210277



CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
December			
5 Sun <i>Advent 2</i>	10.00 am	UB Communion Service	St Mary's, Moorlinch
12 Sun <i>Advent 3</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 4.00 pm 5.00 pm	Holy Communion Service Christingle Service Christingle Service and Tea Joint Nativity & Christingle	St Michael's, Othery St Francis, Stawell St Mary's, Moorlinch Methodist Chapel, M'zoy
15 Wed	1.30 pm	Middlezoy & Othery Schools Nativity	Holy Cross, Middlezoy
17 Fri	7.00 pm	Village Carol Service	St Francis, Stawell
19 Sun <i>Advent 4</i>	10.00 am 4.30 pm 6.00 pm	UB Communion Service with Carols Village Carol Service Village Carol Service	St Francis, Stawell St Mary's, Moorlinch Holy Cross, Middlezoy
24 Fri Christmas Eve	3.00 pm 3.00 pm 3.00 pm 6.00 pm 11.30 pm	Village Crib Service Carols & Crib Service Carols & Crib Service Village Carol Service UB Midnight Mass	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Francis, Stawell Sutton Mallet Church St Michael's, Othery
25 Sat Christmas Day	10.00 am	UB Communion Service	St Francis, Stawell
26 Sun <i>Christmas 1</i>	6.30 pm	No services in UB churches Circuit Communion Service	Methodist Chapel, M'zoy
2022 January			
2 Sun <i>Christmas 2</i>	10.30 am	Joint Covenant Service	Methodist Chapel, M'zoy
9 Sun <i>Baptism of Christ, Epiphany 1</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Joint Worship For All service Holy Communion Service Holy Communion Service Holy Communion Service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell
16 Sun <i>Epiphany 2</i>	10.00 am	UB Communion service	St Michael's, Othery
23 Sun <i>Epiphany 3</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Service Holy Communion Service All Age Worship service All Age Worship service Circuit Communion Service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell Methodist Chapel, M'zoy
30 Sun <i>Epiphany 4</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Mary's, Moorlinch

