



Newsletter – Sunday 21st December 2025

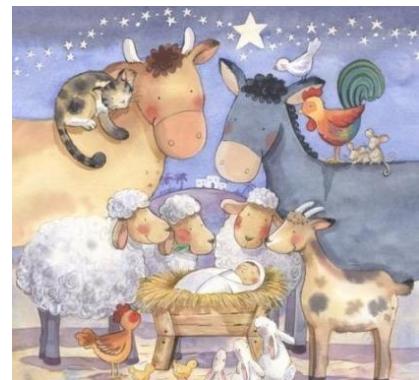
A special welcome if you are worshipping with us for the first time.
Today's service is The Nativity!

He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

Isaiah 40:29

Animal Nativity

Congratulations to all who made the Nativity happen and those who attended the shows! £740.39 was raised which will be equally distributed to children's hospice south west and Weston hospice care. God bless, David



New Year Services

The following additional services will take place in the New Year, as opportunities for quiet reflection, remembrance and worship:

- Service in the Quiet, Chapel, 6pm, Sunday Jan 4th
- Service of Remembering – for those who are mourning lost loved ones, Lynch Chapel, 6pm, Sunday Jan 11th
- Evensong – David will be preaching – All Saints, 6:30pm, Sunday Jan 18th



Next week's Speaker: Rev David Jewell

Secretary: Marshall Clements 01934 863285

Minister: David Jewell, 07443 907454

Hall Bookings: Jackie Tester 07729 360144

Newsletter: Sam Mc sammyg229@gmail.com

Wounds that Speak

We are headed into Christmas. The general theory of the Christ-birth seems now to be that it was warm and cuddly and angels were everywhere. I would say that this is not the picture the Bible paints. It would have been a hugely challenging time for Joseph and especially for Mary who could have been stoned to death for becoming pregnant without being married. Jesus was born into a fragile peace and was vulnerable to elimination for the first years of His life. As we draw near to the end of this period of waiting, popularly known as Advent, I would like to pass on some helpful and challenging words I have read recently. Firstly, a warning from the actor Alan Alda, "Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in."

Secondly, a helpful quote from Frederich Nietzsche: "If you do not find eternity here (in this world), you are probably not going to find it anywhere else."

Thirdly, I have been studying the book of Judges and even though I have read it many times, I still find myself shocked by its content. If you have a strong stomach, read chapter nineteen! Anyway, the helpful thing I found was when reading chapter twenty, headed in my version 'Israel's war with Benjamin': in other words, there was civil war. What I took away as I read about the Israelites' perseverance when it appeared they were losing the fight against the Benjaminites, was that we should persevere in prayer even when circumstances seem to be going the opposite direction.

Fourthly, I have been preparing to take funerals this week. Dear Enid's was on Friday and John's—who reached one hundred last Christmas—is on Tuesday. One of the issues for me—and I fully understand—is the desire that no one becomes upset at a funeral. In Israel when Jesus lived, the custom was for the mourners to tear their clothing. That was known as *kriah*. We must recognise that wounds must be allowed to speak

A prayer:

*God of our wounds,
Help me to be unafraid to make my kriah.
Help me to let my wounds speak.
Help me to see that the first step to healing can be tearing. AMEN*

Dates for your Diary

Sun 21st Dec; Quiet Hour, Chapel, 4pm

Wed 24th Dec; Carol Service, Chapel, 6pm

Thurs 25th Dec; Christmas Day Service, 9:30am

Sun Jan 4th: Evening service, Chapel, 6pm

Sun Jan 11th: Remembering the departed, Lynch Chapel, 6pm

Wed 14th Jan, Book Club, The Swans, 7pm

Sun Jan 18th: Evensong, All Saints, 6:30pm

Sun Jan 25th: Alpha, 5 Knapps Close, Winscombe