

Parish Diary December and January

Regular Monthly Events - see Events on inside pages for details.

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| First Thursday | 7.30pm WI meeting. (Except August). Michele Stevens 07811 253827. michelemarystevens@hotmail.com . DMH (February Meeting in St Peter's). |
| First Saturday | 10.30am – 12.00noon. St Peter's Church Coffee and Cake Morning. Karen Percival 07982 2263742. Karenpercival199@btinternet.com or any SOSF member |
| Second Sunday | 8.00pm Quiz Night at Strawberry Special. Contact: Lori Toms 01934 742177_ loritoms4@gmail.com |
| Second Thursday | 7.30pm Crib Night at the Strawberry Special. Beginners welcome. Contact Steve Young 01749 870987 or email steveyoung1987@hotmail.co.uk |
| Every Tuesday | Cheddar Male Choir. 7.30pm at Draycott Memorial Hall. New members welcome. |
| Every Tuesday | Mendip Players Youth Group. 5.00 – 6.30pm. at Draycott Memorial Hall. New members welcome. Contact mendipplayersyouth@gmail.com |
| Every Wednesday | 10.00 – 11.30am Drop-In. Term Time Only. Strawberry Tots Baby and Toddler group at Draycott & Rodney Stoke First School Hall Contact Mary Watt 07725 519062 or email mary_2011@hotmail.co.uk |

| December | | |
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| Sunday | 01 | Candlelit Taizé. St Peter's Church 5.00pm. |
| Thursday | 05 | WI Meeting. DMH 7.30pm – Members only. |
| Saturday | 07 | Advent festival including Coffee & Cake, Soup Lunch and Mini Christmas Fair. St Peter's Church 10.30am – 2.00pm. |
| Sunday | 08 | Christingle Service. St Leonard's Church. 11.15am. |
| Sunday | 08 | SOSF Carols in the Pub. The Strawberry Special. 6.30pm. |
| Friday | 20 | Last Day of School Term |
| Sunday | 22 | Candlelit carols in church. St Peter's Church. 4.00pm. |
| Tuesday | 24 | Carols by Candlelight Service. St Leonard's Church. 6.00pm. |
| Tuesday | 24 | Christmas Eve Communion. St Peter's Church. 9.00pm. |
| Wednesday | 25 | Christmas Day Service. St Leonard's Church. 9.00am. |
| Wednesday | 25 | Christmas morning all-age Family service. St Peter's Church. 10.00am. |
| Friday | 28 | The Roses' Christmastide Concert. St Peter's Church. 7.00pm. |
| January | | |
| Thursday | 02 | WI Meeting. DMH 7.30pm – Open Meeting. |
| Saturday | 04 | First Coffee & Cake of the year. St Peter's Church 10.30am – 12noon. |
| Tuesday | 07 | First Day of School Term |
| Sunday | 19 | Plough Service. St Leonard's Church, PRIDY. 3.00pm. |

Deadline for February 2025 edition – Wednesday 15 January

Completed proforma to Mike Kennedy, Micawbers, New Road, Draycott, BS27 3SG
07938 940823 or email vortech.mk@gmail.com

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Parish Clerk: Helen Marshall 07423 283940, or clerk@rodneystoke-pc.gov.uk.
Parish Council: www.parish-council.com/rodneystoke
Village Agent & Carers Agents: Tel 01823 331222 or info@somersetcc.org.uk
Draycott Memorial Hall: www.draycottmemorialhall.org.uk
Neighbourhood Watch: Draycott - Roger Dollins 01934 741021 or rogerdollins@btinternet.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Rodney Stoke - John Smith 01749 870976 or ajsmithgb@hotmail.com

Parish News

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all

Sponsored by Rodney Stoke Parish Council for Draycott and Rodney Stoke

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Pound, Rodney Stoke

Councillor Lynda Dearden and local volunteers have been hard at work planting native bluebells, daffodils and foxgloves. We look forward to seeing the results of their hard work. Sounds like it will be beautiful.

There are 34 children in Somerset who desperately need a home

Could you provide a safe and supportive home for a local child in need? Fostering is a rewarding paid role that requires no experience as full training and ongoing support is provided. Anyone can foster providing they have a spare room in their home and are aged 21 or over, but there is no upper age limit. Find out more online at www.FosteringInSomerset.org.uk or call 0800 5879900. You're not committing to anything by getting in touch to find out more, and you could help change a child's story.

Village Agents and Carers Agents

If you are an unpaid carer, perhaps for a child or partner, carers agents can help find you benefits and support and they focus on the carer. Village agents can offer you or your community group free confidential practical support. If you are registered with Cheddar GP Practice call 01823 331222. If you are registered with either Wells GP practices call 01373 468368 and they can make sure you speak to someone who can help.

The Strawberry Line Society

Its great to see the maintenance work and extensions to the Strawberry Line that these volunteers have achieved recently. You can follow their progress on their website www.thestrawberryline.org.uk and Facebook page. We have noticed more signs around our villages recently, which makes enjoying these wonderful pathways much easier.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Please remember that members of the public are always welcome at our meetings.

Next Meeting – Thursday 16 January 2025 – 7.00pm Draycott Memorial Hall

Members of the public are welcome and may speak during public participation. Alternatively written statements received by 12.00pm on the day of the meeting can be read out on behalf of a member of the public not wishing to attend in person.

News & Announcements

Season's Greetings from all at St Peter's and St Leonard's Churches

December is a busy time of year for our village churches, welcoming everyone to celebrate through Advent starting at 4pm on Sunday 01 December with an ecumenical Taizé-style service of music and meditations using candles as we move from darkness to light. Please see the Events page for all the other services and celebrations culminating with the All-Age family worship at 10.00am in St Peter's on Christmas Day. Contact Rev. Thea Oliver 07767 892313 or email revthea@outlook.com.

SLINKY Minibus Service

Somerset Council offer a demand responsive minibus for those who do not have access to a public bus service or who have a disability which means you are unable to access a public bus. Further information at SLINKY services (somerset.gov.uk).

Rodney Stoke and Draycott Cemetery

The Trustees have produced a website, rsdcemetery.podia.com. For further information contact Alan Rowntree email a.rowntree@btinternet.com.

Draycott Community Shop

We are very grateful for all our wonderful volunteers who keep this hub of the community going. If helping out in the community is your New Year's resolution and you would like to be part of the team, please pop in to see us for more info. We have shifts and roles to suit everybody. Thank you. Contact Claire or Leonie 01934 740044 (shop) or email claire@lovejones.co.uk.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

The Draycott and Rodney Stoke Memorial Hall 100 Club

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| October Winners | £50 | P Sherlock |
| | £25 | R Oliver |
| | £15 | Y Finnegan |
| November Winners | £50 | S Vincent |
| | £25 | R & S Walker |
| | £15 | S Chandler |

If you would also like to join the 100 Club and have the chance to win a prize every month e-mail chris@thefultonfamily.co.uk or ring 01934 253741 for details.

Butterfly Conservation

National charity Butterfly Conservation has installed an £8,000 new fence around its popular and picturesque Stoke Camp nature reserve in the Mendip Hills east of Draycott. The 850-metre boundary will secure the Highland Cows and sheep that graze the site and create perfect habitat for species including Chalk Hill Blues, Brown Hairstreaks and Grizzled Skippers. Find out more at, butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/reserves/stoke-camp-somerset.

SOSP Advent Festival Mini Christmas Fair

So many people throughout the year kindly offer donations for our events, which we always warmly welcome. At present we are looking for some donations towards our mini Christmas Fair of cakes, plants or tombola prizes. If this is something anyone would like to support us with it would be appreciated. Chris Fulton is collecting tombola prizes, Dawn Stevens is collecting cakes (please not before 05 December) and Natalya Wills is collecting plants. For further details please contact Karen Percival 01749 870067.

Lanterns for Advent Festival

We are hoping to decorate St Peter's Church with Lanterns for the Advent festival. We welcome home made lanterns, with battery lights only, or if you have a lantern which you would like to share in the festival please bring to St Peter's on Friday 06 December. We would like lanterns to stay in church until nearer Christmas, they will then be returned. For more information, please contact Karen Percival 01749 870067.

Draycott Diaries

Sharing the warmth of our close-knit community this festive period. Hear local voices, stories and laughter. All from one small Somerset village. Tune into our podcast, www.draycottdiaries.com.

Rodney Stoke and Draycott WI

New to the villages of Rodney Stoke & Draycott? Want to try something new? Meet new people? Why not give the local WI a try. New members are always welcome and there are various membership options available if you cannot make monthly meetings. We are a friendly and inclusive WI, holding our meetings at Draycott Memorial Hall. Members take part in various activities, such as skittles, book club, local walks and coffee and chat mornings, throughout the month. Want to see what it is all about, find out more or make arrangements to attend a meeting? Please do call Michele on 07811 253827 for a chat or view WI activities www.draycottmemorialhall.org.uk/activities.

Events

28 December. The Rose Christmastide Concert. Barry and Nicola Rose welcome young and talented instrumentalists Isabella Jordan (Violin) and Harry Jordan (cello) to their annual concert. Music to suit all tastes. £10.00 (children 14 and under FREE) available from Draycott Community Shop, or the Roses. 7.00pm. St Peter's Church, Draycott. Contact Barry Rose 01934 744838. Email BRose80648@aol.com or Level Crossing, Draycott.

Draycott Cinema Club

13 December. Die Hard. NY Cop John McLean visits his estranged wife in LA for her work Xmas party – what could possibly go wrong? Rated 18. Entry £5. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

19 December. Elf. Buddy sets out for New York to find his real dad bringing a sackful of Xmas cheer with him. Rated PG. Entry £2. Doors open 4.30pm for 5.00pm start.

10 January. Bob Marley – One Love. The story of how the reggae icon overcame adversity, and the journey behind his revolutionary music. Rated 12. Entry £5. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

11 January. Harold & The Purple Crayon. Whatever book character Harold draws comes to life. When he enters the real world, hi-jinks ensue! Rated PG. Entry £2. Doors open 1.30pm for 2.00pm start. Draycott Community Cinema at the Memorial Hall. Contact info@draycottcinema.co.uk.

Events (Cont.)

Rodney Stoke and Draycott WI meetings

05 December. Christmas Celebrations & Gifts for Women's Refuge. Members Only Event.

02 January. Hannah Moore & Her Mendip Schools – by John Paige. Competition: An Item from Schooldays. Open Meeting.

All events begin at 7.30pm. Draycott Memorial Hall. Interested in joining the WI? There is no charge for your 1st meeting. £5.00 non-members at Open meetings. Contact Michele Stevens 07811 253827 or email to michelemarystevens@hotmail.com

St Leonards PCC

08 December. Christingle Service. Please join us for our Christingle Service, where you will make your own Christingle orange to take home and learn its meaning. 11.15am. St. Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke. Contact Megan James.

24 December. Carols by Candlelight Service. Please join us for our traditional carol service by candlelight on Christmas Eve. 6.00pm. St. Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke. Contact Megan James.

25 December. Christmas Day Service. Please join us for our Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion. 09.00am. St. Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke. Contact Megan James.

19 January. Plough Service. A traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year and involves bringing a ploughshare into the church with prayers for the blessing of the land. Please stay after the service for afternoon tea. 3.00pm. St. Laurence's Church, Priddy. Contact Megan James.

Supporters of St Peters (SOSP)

01 December. Candlelit Taizé style service of music & meditation. 5.00pm. St Peter's Church, Draycott

08 December. SOSP Carols in the Pub. Join us for our annual Community Carol Singing in the Pub raising funds for The Children's Society, by invitation of Lori and Mick. 6.30pm. The Strawberry Special. Contact Karen Percival 01749 870067.

22 December. Candlelit Carols in Church. A special village occasion not to be missed, includes mulled wine & mince pies. 4.00pm. St Peter's Church, Draycott.

24 December. Christmas Eve Communion. 9.00pm. St Peter's Church, Draycott.

25 December. Christmas morning all-age Family service. Bring your family, friends and presents! 10.00am. St Peter's Church, Draycott.

Draycott Memorial Hall

On behalf of Draycott Memorial Hall thank you to everyone who has supported us this year by attending our events, Bingo's, Floristry Workshops, Production's, Concert's and Cinema Screenings to name but a few! Dates for your diaries:

20 December. Final Bingo of 2024.

31 January. First Bingo of 2025.

Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm eyes down. Everyone welcome. Raffle, refreshments during the interval (welcome to bring your own), prize flyer and cash flyer. We look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget our online calendar showing regular classes, activities and events are all viewable within the Hallmaster section of our Draycott Memorial Hall. There's something for everyone. www.draycottmemorialhall.org.uk.

Friends Of St Leonard (FOSL)

06 December. Decorating the Village Christmas tree. We decorate and turn on the lights on the tree. Carol singing around the Tree. Everyone is welcome. Followed by First Friday Christmas party in the church hall. 6.30pm. Rodney Stoke Pound. Contact Nikki Watt 07973 280615.

16 & 17 December. Carol Singing around the village. A fun evening touring the village and singing carols. Everyone is welcome. 6.00pm. Meet at the Rodney Stoke Inn. **Contact Nikki Watt 07973 280615.**

Mendip Players

06, 07 and 08 February, Rumpelstiltskin Panto. Tickets are on sale for the Mendip Players pantomime – Rumpelstiltskin available from www.themendipplayers.co.uk or Draycott Community Shop. Join us for another fabulous family show where we join Rosa, Alfie the Elf and Fairy Laura Norder as they try and save Fairy-Brook from the hideous hobgoblin Rumpelstiltskin and his bumbling sidekicks, Hubble and Bubble. If you would like to sign up for the Mendip Players newsletter, please contact themendipplayers@gmail.com.