

followed by a game or two if there is time. To help with catering please let Anita know if you can come.

**\*\* Service on 18th December** Please let Anita have any poems, readings and your favourite carols by Friday 13th so she can arrange things in chronological order.

**Scout and Church Christmas Post** REMEMBER LAST DAY TO POST IS WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER. Full details in the parish magazine (Get in touch if you don't receive one) Delivery areas as last year, cost is 40p a card. If you can help deliver this year please let us know.

**Building Up Date** We have a new light in the main hall. The Microwave stopped working and a couple of people looked at it but couldn't fix it, so we have replaced it.

**Eco Church** Christmas can be a time of year when we buy too much !! So this year perhaps you could help the planet by trying not to waste food by freezing excess or being creative with recipes, (Tesco has recipes using up different common foods) recycle bottles, cans and plastic.

**Creation Station Tree** If you go to St Laurence Christmas Tree Festival look out for the Creation Station Tree, on the theme of Stars this year.

### **Reminder.**

Don't forget to recycle over the Christmas period—the building will be open again after Christmas on Monday 30th and Thursday 2nd for you to put your recycling in the cupboard in the back porch. If you have forgotten what we recycle there are some leaflets available.

If you have any Christmas Presents that you can't use and would be suitable for raffle or tombola prizes please leave them in the back porch.

If you have any puzzles you no longer want we have started collecting for a future Jigsaw puzzle festival.

As the Trussell Trust has closed its shops, Rich no longer has an outlet for books, so he has given us all the English books which came in shoe boxes so we will be having another book fair next year, so please start saving us books as well.

**Contact us by e mail**—[atanner.gtanner@btinternet.com](mailto:atanner.gtanner@btinternet.com)/Phone 01725512648, text 07816542204 Anita and Graham.

**Shoe Boxes** Rich Parsons, from the House of Opportunity (Originated as Trussell Trust) would like to thank the Church for the use of our premises to check the shoe boxes this year. The helpers who had helped in the past, were very pleased to be in a heated building rather than the cold barn last year. 7167 shoe boxes are now on their way to Bulgaria. He flies out to meet them on 11th December. I think he could be back next year, unless he finds somewhere so big he need not move the checked boxes. The barn in Wellow where Rich stores the checked boxes for a couple of weeks in November has sprung a leak and so he is looking for a dry rodent free !! building to use in 2025, which a very large lorry can access. About the size of our small hall, but the lorry couldn't get round the corner. So if anyone knows of a possible building or if someone wouldn't mind leaving their cars outside for two weeks next November. Please let us know.

Many thanks to all those who came to help, who donated complete shoe boxes or who gave items to top up the boxes. It was great to see people who had never helped before coming and enjoying themselves so much they came back, time and time again. I know Rich has found in the past people are happy checking boxes, but most don't like the clearing up afterwards, so he was very pleased to have people come after the last boxes where checked to help pack up things to be kept for next year and help him load the van etc.

Thank you to the ladies who knit hats throughout the year to go into the shoe boxes, we ran out on the last day, so we hope you continue to knit ready for next years boxes.

**Christmas Market** Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Market either by helping on the day, helping set up or donating things to sell. When we get the gift aid back on donations for food we will have raised £857.81. It was a lovely community event.

**St Mary's, St Birinus and Woodfalls Methodist Churches** At our local churches we continue to pray for those who live or work in the community, **During the month of December we are praying for: The Close, Morgan's Rise Road, Foundry Road, Chapel Lane, Gogg's Lane and Harthill.** If there is anything or anyone you would like us to pray for, please contact us.

[roadstogod@outlook.com](mailto:roadstogod@outlook.com) Also, you can place a written prayer in the Roads to God prayer boxes in the porches of Woodfalls Methodist, St Birinus and St Mary's churches or outside Redlynch Village Hall. Thank you.

## **Dates for your diary**

Wed	4th Dec	10.45	Café Style Worship led by Canon Anthony Hawley	Methodist Hall	Thurs	19th Dec	10-12	Cafe	Methodist Small Hall
		Noon	Last post for Scout / Church Post		Sun	22nd Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
							5.30pm	Carol Service with Woodfalls Band	St Birinus
Thurs	5th Dec	10-12	Cafe	Methodist Small Hall	Mon	23rd Dec	10-12	Creation Station + Coffee & Cake- Bringing food to share for lunch	Methodist Hall
		10.00	Talkabout **	Methodist Main Hall	Tues	24th Dec	4.00pm	Crib Service	St Birinus
Fri	6th Dec	3-7pm	Nativity Festival **	Methodist Building	Thurs	26th Dec		NO CAFE	Methodist Small Hall
Sat	7th Dec	10-6	Nativity Festival **	Methodist Building	Sun	29th Dec	10.45am	Morning Worship	Sandleheath Methodist
Sun	8th Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Mark Cheetham	Woodfalls Main Hall	Mon	30th Dec	10-12	Creation Station + Coffee & Cake	Methodist Hall
		11.30-5	Nativity Festival **	Methodist Building	Wed	1st Jan		NO SERVICE AS NEW YEARS DAY	
		6pm	Concert Fordingbridge Choral Society and Redlynch Players	St Mary's	Thurs	2nd Jan	10-12	Cafe	Methodist Small Hall
Mon	9th Dec	10-12	Creation Station + Coffee & Cake	Methodist Hall	Sun	5th Jan	10.00am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Chris Jones	Woodfalls Methodist Church
Tues	10th Dec	7pm	Parish Council meeting	Methodist Small Hall			4pm	Forest Church	St Mary's Church yard
Wed	11th Dec	2.30pm	Link meeting	Methodist Small Hall	Sat	11th Jan	5.30pm	Social	Woodfalls Methodist Hall
Thurs	12th Dec	10-12	Cafe	Methodist Small Hall	Wed	15th Jan	10.45am	Café Style Worship led by Rev Dr Mark Cheetham + Lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Hall
Sat	14th Dec		Christmas Tree Festival	St Laurance Downton	Sun	26th Jan	4pm	Circuit Service—Zambia Link	Salisbury Methodist
		5.30pm	Social **	Methodist Hall					
Sun	15th Dec	10.00am	Special Service to say goodbye to Mr Graham Nagel Smith head master of MV&W school for 20yrs	St Birinus					
			Christmas Tree Festival	St Laurance Downton					
Mon	16th Dec	10-12	Creation Station + Coffee & Cake	Methodist Hall					
		7.30pm	Village Singers Christmas concert	Methodist Church					
Tues	17th Dec	2.30pm	Phoenix Group	Methodist Small Hall					
Wed	18th Dec	10.45am	Café Style Worship with Christmas poems, readings and	Methodist Small Hall					

**\*\* Further details below and overleaf.**

**PLEASE PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY**

**\*\* Talkabout 5th December** Speaker is Cosmic Sparkle.

**\*\* Nativity Festival 6th-8th December** Please let us know if you can help with stewarding or refreshments and encourage family and friends to come along.

**\*\* Social 14th December** This will be a traditional Christmas Meal