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Meeting Point

Volume 51, Number 3, December 2026

The community magazine for the villages of Olveston, Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton upon Severn

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Publication date
1st of each month
Material for January 2027 to the Editor or Assistant Editor by November 30th 2026

From the Editor

This is the Christmas edition of Meeting Point and, as you would expect, there are details of festive activities in and for the community. From opportunities to sing carols on Tockington Green and the pub in Olveston, to a tour of living Advent windows and the services that are being offered by local churches.

This edition also is an opportunity to look forward to 2027. In January there is a panto coming up in Thornbury, our Parish Players are already hard at work on their new show for the February half-term and there is a reminder about the local Eisteddfod being held in March.

You can find our 'Christmas card' to readers on the centre pages of the magazine where, as usual, we show all the covers we have used in 2026. This year there has been a range of beautiful photographs, and two lovely paintings.

With best wishes for a peaceful and happy festive season from all of us at Meeting Point.

Marelin

Cover photograph by Les Harper

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol.

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the Community Website: *www.olvestonandaust.com*

Pamela MacLeod
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Carols on the Green

Monday December 21st at 6.30pm .



This popular Christmas sing-along on Tockington Green, outside Tockington Chapel, always brings the community together, for friends and family, whatever the weather.

Bring your singing voice, a torch, a mug. Also bring some cash for donations to the Cancer Research charity and towards some mulled wine and mince pies.

Bring your umbrellas if it is wet!

Christingle Service



Tockington Methodist Chapel. Wednesday 23rd December 5.30pm

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, at our family friendly Christingle service, led by our minister Simon Edwards. All are welcome.

Donations will go to NCH Action for Children.

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News from St Mary's



Carols at the White Hart
Friday December 18th 8.30pm
Come along and sing! Led by the church choir. This is always a great village event, and we look forward to seeing you.

The Salvation Army Christmas Concert Change of Date:
This will now be at St. Mary's on Saturday December 19th at 5pm. Donations of new toys will be appreciated. These will be donated to deprived children in Bristol. Thank you.

Village Carol Service
Sunday December 20th 6pm
We look forward to welcoming you.

Christmas Eve Services
Family Crib Service 4pm
Midnight Communion 11.15pm

Christmas Day
Family Service 10am
Wishing you a Merry Christmas from us all at St Mary's!

From the Registers of St Mary's

Tuesday 13th October	The funeral of Jennifer Kay Curtis
Thursday 22nd October	The funeral of Trevor Cook
Sunday November 1st	The baptism of Otis Peet

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Advent Windows

We hope you enjoy our local living Advent Calendar again this year! Thank you so much to everyone who has designed one. Here's where to find them!

1. Waypoint, New Road, Olveston
2. 4 The Green, Olveston
3. Holly Cottage, New Road, Olveston
4. Broomfield, Church Hill, Olveston
5. Churchill House, Vicarage Lane, Olveston
6. Travalan, New Road, Olveston
7. The Crusty Loaf, The Street, Olveston
8. Hardy Cottage, Hardy Lane, Tockington
9. Rose Lodge, New Road, Olveston
10. The Wesley Rooms, Tockington
11. Alma House, Tockington Green, Tockington
12. 4 Cromwell Court, Olveston
13. 25 Russet Close, Olveston
14. 24 Laxton Close, Olveston
15. Sedgeley, The Street, Olveston
16. April Cottage, The Street, Olveston
17. Cromwell House, The Street, Olveston
18. 12 Orchard Rise, Olveston
19. The White Hart, Olveston
20. 2 Denys Court, Olveston
21. School Farm, Elberton Road, Olveston
22. Herm, Haw Lane, Olveston
23. Long Leaze, Haw Lane, Olveston
24. St Mary's Church, Olveston

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400 Years of Stroudwater Textile Mills: OPHS talk

Jenny Newley

Olveston Parish Historical Society
Olveston School, Elberton Road, Olveston BS35 4DB, Wed 2nd Dec, 7.30

The fast-flowing streams of the Stroud hills powered the town's textile mills for centuries. The area was celebrated for its high-quality broadcloth, used in high-end male fashion, military uniforms and clerical garments. The town is still a key player in global markets for tennis ball and snooker table cloth.



We hope you'll be on tenterhooks (like the famous scarlet Stroud broadcloth stretched out in the fields in this painting) to hear Ann Taylor and Ian Mackintosh's talk about this fascinating local industry. They'll tell us about the processes involved in cloth-making and give us all a chance to examine and feel real artefacts. We look forward to seeing you!

Annual fee: £10 in total (all monthly evening meetings, October to April). Fee for single meeting: £3. Cash only, please. Refreshments included (*before* the talk.) Parking in school playground at back of school.

All welcome!
www.olveston.com/historical-society

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News from The Armstrong

If you needed any reminder that Christmas is on the horizon, look no further than the What's On section of The Armstrong's website. Celebration and festive spirit is there in abundance.

- We begin on December 4th with some Christmas creativity at a ***Wreath Making Workshop*** where all materials are provided and expert guidance is on hand to provide inspiration.
- Next day, on Saturday 5th,The Songbirds, Thornbury's fabulous women's choir will be presenting a ***Christmas Concert and Singalong.***
- Then on Monday 7th December, Steph and Craig, along with Ollie the Octopus, present ***Rock the Tots***, their fun filled family gig featuring music, puppets and bubbles.
- Belinda and Peter, our regular dance callers, will be presenting a ***Festive Tea Dance*** in a warm and welcoming atmosphere on Wednesday December 9th - so put on those sparkly dancing shoes and trip the light fantastic!
- And of course, Father Christmas will be here on December 12th with ***Mrs Claus List,*** a Christmas story in which Father Christmas and his Chief Elves prepare for Christmas Eve. This is an adventure which the whole family can enjoy with magic, songs, loads of jokes and festive cheer and a chance for each child to meet the man himself after the show.
- On Monday 14th the Bristol Concert Wind Band are back bringing their concert ***Sounds of the Season,*** featuring Christmas music and songs. In December last year, this wonderful band gave a concert in aid of The Armstrong appeal, and it is delightful that this year they are back actually in The Armstrong seeing the result of their support.
- As part of our regular Armstrong Sessions in the Foyer/Bar, Ian Towers will be leading a ***Christmas Sing Song*** around the piano on Sunday 20th December, so come to relax and raise the roof before life gets frantic in the few days before the big day.

Cont/…….

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- Then – drum roll – as a great way to herald the New Year and celebrate The Armstrong's first year of community joyfulness, join everyone for our very first ***New Year Party***! The fabulous live band, ***Ride the Edge,*** guaranteed to get you dancing and partying, will go on until midnight with Auld Lang Syne and all the trimmings. We are delighted to be in partnership with ***Hawkes House*** who are offering a special New Year's Eve pre-party menu – so make a night of it with a slap-up meal followed by a fantastic party.

For information on all of the events in December and 2027 go to our website *www.thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on* and look out for more information in future magazines, the local press, Thornbury Radio and social media.

Olveston and Tockington W.I.

This time last year we showed a picture of the Remembrance poppy drape on the Tockington Green bus shelter; now this year you will have been able to see two drapes - the one on the Green, and the new one, made up of over 1,000 poppies, at the Parish Hall. Making the new one was a real community effort, and I hope everyone who kindly joined in has been happy to see the drape in place. We thank one very determined WI member for initiating the project and seeing it through to its successful conclusion. She wants to remain nameless, but she knows who she is!

December at WI is our party month, so we shall have entertainment, and delicious food and drink (yes, alcohol at WI!!), so we shall certainly enjoy ourselves. Cheers, everyone!











Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner

150 Club Winners November 2026:
£50 Andy Rowen
£15 Simon Gould
£5 Malcolm Grosvenor

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:
10/10/26 Roger Riggs
24/10/26 John Welsher
31/10/26 Diane Grosvenor
07/11/26 Tracey Jarvis

Up the Down!

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the November draw, held on 5th November 2026, were:

Amount	Number	Name
£150	433	Mrs J Prothero, Buckover
£75	363	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£50	569	Mr P Haworth, Olveston
£25	651	Professor B Bradley, Olveston
£25	642	Mr & Mrs C Patterson, Tockington
£25	721	Ms M Dale, Olveston
£25	330	Mr & Mrs K Lazell, Tockington
£25	640	Mr & Mrs C Patterson, Tockington
£20	301	Mrs J Rawles, Olveston
£20	700	Mr & Mrs B Williams, Alveston

Christmas Gift Sorted
Are you wondering what to buy that certain person for Christmas when they have got everything they want or need? What about an entry into our local lottery? It's only £24 for the whole year and they will have a chance of winning a prize every month. We give 10 prizes every month to the value of £440.

We'll issue a Christmas card to you for the recipient in time for Christmas, with the message saying ...'Thinking of you this month and every month' and include their lucky number in the card. Simply send an email to me (*andisp28@hotmail.co.uk)* and we'll sort it out for you – it's an ideal gift!

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Green Force

The Rights of Nature is a legal and philosophical movement that shifts ecosystems and species from being treated as property or commodities under the law to being recognized as legal subjects with inherent rights to exist, persist, regenerate, and thrive. Nature is recognised as being capable of action and doing things and therefore becomes a *subject* rather than an *object* of law. People have the legal authority and responsibility to enforce these rights on behalf of the ecosystems. Recognising the Rights of Nature means living in harmony with nature because all life on earth is interconnected. Humans over the decades have regulated environmental laws to suit themselves.

In May 2026, multiple local authorities in England and Wales from across the political spectrum signed a charter recognising the rights of the River Wye. The charity River Action warned that the river is 'on the brink of ecological collapse' and the new charter aims to affirm the river's rights to flow naturally, remain free from pollution, and sustain diverse native species.

Nature is our future. It is the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Peoples's Emergency Briefing update.

On November 16th, Parliament held a scheduled a debate on the petition (which has gained over 135,000 signatures) which urges a UK-wide government briefing on the climate crisis.

Cancer Research UK

A big thank you to all our supporters who attended St Helen's School, Alveston, on 17th October for our Annual Autumn Fair. We raised an amazing £2351 on the day, plus pre-sales, making a final total of £2954.

We thank you for your generosity on the day as well as your continuous support throughout the year, which contributes towards the vital laboratory research being undertaken by CRUK.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Winter Lawn Care

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Our lawns have had a tough time during the last two summers of heat waves. Hopefully, with the recent change in the weather, most are recovering. Now, as temperatures drop and lawn growth slows, it is important to give your grass a little extra care to keep it healthy throughout winter and ready to thrive in spring.

Clear Fallen Leaves – Regularly remove leaves and debris to prevent moisture build-up, moss and lawn diseases.

Avoid Walking on Wet or Frosty Grass – Frozen or waterlogged lawns are easily damaged, leading to bare patches and compacted soil.

Keep Your Lawn Tidy – Grass growth slows during winter, but an occasional light cut on a dry, mild day can help keep it looking its best. Avoid cutting too short!

Improve Drainage – Waterlogged lawns can struggle through winter. Aeration when ground conditions are suitable will help improve drainage, prevent moss and encourage healthier roots.

Plan Ahead for Spring – Winter is the perfect time to plan scarifying, aeration, overseeding and lawn treatments to get your garden looking its best next season.

A little care now makes a big difference come spring!

Thornbury Eisteddfod

Participating in an Eisteddfod (music festival) is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate local young creativity, talent and the joy of performing. Whether you are singing, playing an instrument, reciting poetry, or acting, everyone is encouraged to take part, have fun and support one another.

An Eisteddfod is not just about winning - it is about building confidence, making memories and celebrating the unique talents of every participant. It is a great opportunity to get positive feedback on your performance whatever your experience. Whether you have only been playing, acting or singing for a short time or many years there is a class for you. We warmly welcome everyone to join in and enjoy this exciting celebration of the arts!

More information, together with entry forms, can be seen on the Thornbury Arts Festival website. *thornburyartsfestival.org.uk*

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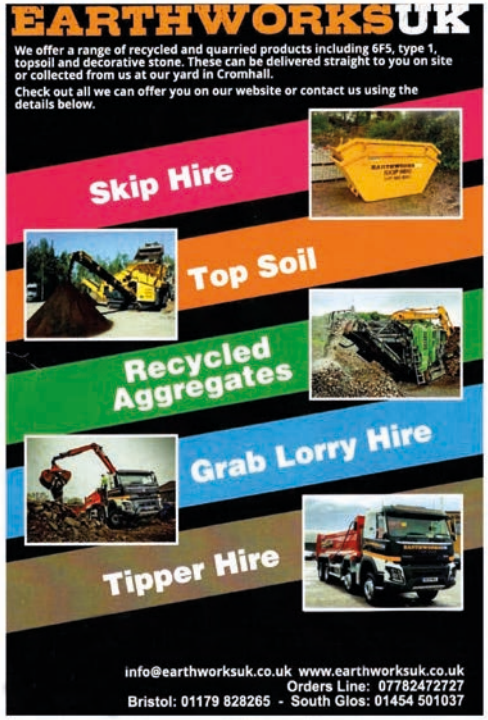
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St Mary's Bells Restoration Appeal

Hidden High Above Us



Most villagers hear our church bells ringing out across Olveston, but few have ever seen what lies hidden high above the ringing chamber.

Suspended in an impressive oak frame are eight magnificent bells. The smallest, the treble, weighs 254 kg, while the mighty tenor weighs an incredible 914 kg! Each bell carries its own inscription, together spelling out a wonderful Christmas message:

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace, Good-will towards men."

Words familiar from *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, but perhaps more recognisable from Handel's *Messiah*. So, when you hear the bells ring out this Christmas, enjoy their message of celebration, hope and joy.

Although the bells have stood the test of time, their bearings, wheels and fittings are gradually wearing out. Our restoration project will ensure they can continue ringing safely for another hundred years.

Help us keep the bells ringing

The restoration will cost £90,000, and we still need to raise £45,181. Grant applications are underway, but much of the remaining money will need to come from our local community. Our recent Auction of Promises raised an amazing £7,500. Many thanks to Jon Pullin, our auctioneer, and everyone who helped organise, attended and so generously supported the evening.

We're making progress, but we still need your help! Could you organise a coffee morning with friends, open your garden in the spring or arrange a small village fundraising event? Every contribution, however small, will make a difference.

Please contact Debbie Harries (*oboe-debbie@live.co.uk*) if you would like to get involved. We'll provide advertising materials, helpers and whatever support you need. Together, we can ensure these eight historic bells continue to ring out across our villages for generations to come.

Olveston and Alveston Bell Ringers wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

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Sister Act

Paul Dimery

Get ready for a heavenly helping of music, dancing and laughter as The Parish Players prepare to raise the roof with their 2027 production of Sister Act. Rehearsals are now under way for this feelgood show, which is set to bring soul and sparkle to the February half-term holiday. Performances will take place from **Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th February** at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall (Upper Tockington Road, BS32 4LQ), so get the dates in your diary now. We introduced a very popular matinee performance for our 2026 show, so we are excited to be staging a matinee again in 2027, on Saturday 20th February!



Based on the hit 1992 film starring Whoopi Goldberg, Sister Act tells the story of Deloris Van Cartier, a glamorous nightclub singer whose dreams of stardom take an unexpected turn when she witnesses a murder. With a gang of criminals hot on her heels, the police decide that the safest place to hide her is somewhere nobody would ever think to look – a convent!

Unfortunately, Deloris has never been one for keeping her head down, and her irrepressible nature soon puts her at odds with the strict Mother Superior, who discovers that keeping this newcomer in line is going to require more than a few prayers. When Deloris takes charge of the convent's lacklustre choir, her unconventional approach transforms the sisters into a singing sensation. But their newfound popularity brings plenty of unwanted attention – not least from the very people Deloris is trying to avoid.

With its colourful characters, hilarious one-liners and uplifting themes of friendship and finding your voice, Sister Act has all the ingredients of a great

Season's Greetings to all our readers!



























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night out. And then there's the music! With a glorious collection of disco-inspired songs written by eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken (The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin), this show is sure to get toes tapping.

The Parish Players have been entertaining local audiences for many years, with their annual February musical becoming a much-loved fixture in the village calendar. Previous productions have proved extremely popular, so we'd recommend saving the dates for Sister Act now and being ready when tickets go on sale on **Saturday 9th January**. Keep an eye out for box office information!

Want to get involved with this show? If you'd like to help backstage or front of house it's not too late. The Parish Players are always delighted to welcome people to help with scenery, costumes, make-up, refreshments or front-of-house roles. We are currently particularly looking for people to help paint the scenery!

For more information about the Parish Players, or to find out how you can get involved, email *secretaryparishplayers@gmail.com* or visit our Facebook page at *www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers.*

What On Earth is the Big Breakfast?

Well, to start with, it really is a free full English breakfast - egg, sausage, bacon, beans, hash browns, black pudding, toast and marmalade, tea or coffee. It is held every three months, usually on the first Saturday in that month, at 9:30am. It's in St Mary's Church in Olveston and there are, on average, 22 people attending - male, female and all ages.

What is it all about? It is simply a way of getting people together who rarely meet up but who enjoy having a good meal and a bit of chit chat with others. It's not religious in any way, in fact most of them never set foot in the church. And it's all over in under an hour! Some people leave a donation, some don't.

Topics of conversation vary considerably; at the last get together in September, people talked about Nepal, Dolly Parton and the road works on the A38. Enough said. We also like to see those who are lonely and feel like a bit of company.

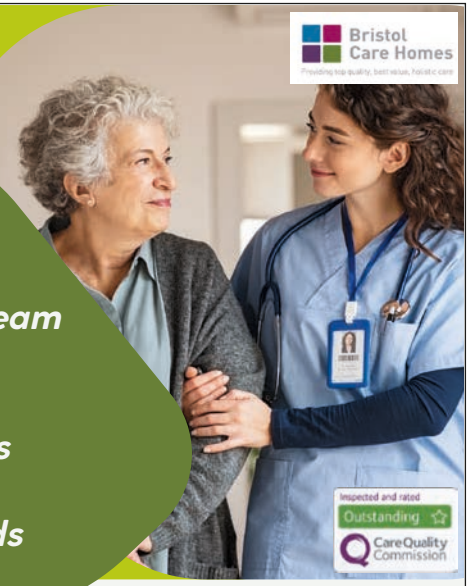
So, if you feel like a slap-up breakfast on Saturday 5th December ring/text Martin Gibson *07990970725* or email *mrtngibs@aol.com.* You'll be made very welcome and that's a promise.

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Monday 7th December

Our final film for 2026 has only just been released on DVD. It is the true story of how forecasting weather conditions became so crucial to the success of the D Day landings in World War Two.

The invasion was originally planned for 5th June 1944, when a low tide and a full moon would be advantageous for the allied forces. However, Eisenhower's British forecaster believed that there would be a storm in the Channel on that day, backed up by information from a young weather forecaster on the West Coast of Ireland. If the forecaster tasked with making this most important of decisions had made the wrong call for 6th June 1944, thousands of Allied soldiers could well have died and the whole operation a total disaster.

In those early days of weather forecasting – with no satellites, no weather ships, no internet - the skills needed to predict weather on a particular day were gifted only to a few. And there were pressures from military leaders which had to be faced full on by those who thought they could foresee weather patterns a hundred miles from England. Tense is how best to describe this very successful 2026 British film.

Venue: St Mary's, Olveston. Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm. Entry is free, but donations are always welcome. Tea and coffee served, licensed bar. This is a community event open to everyone

U3A Investment Group 1

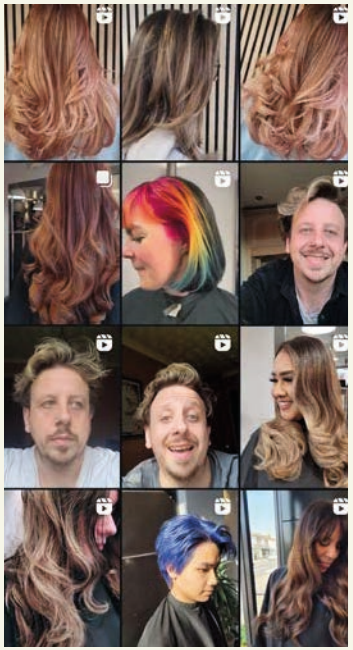
Mike Wright



A little knowledge is a dangerous investment. But a little investment discussed with a group of 'experts' can be fun! U3A has members with a massive knowledge of the arts, music, science, history and decades of business experience.

The Investment group has been in business for over 25 years and has learned the analyst jargon, avoided the 'tips', bought some

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shares ‘too late’ got bored with them sliding along sideways and sold them just before the ‘price doubled!’ You really remember those transactions!

We’ve had several long-term strategies and been refreshed by new ideas from recent joiners. Some you lose and some you win. Yet the group still managed to improve the club portfolio as well as any city scribbler. All by surprisingly good democratic decision-making.

For even greater entertainment the group runs a number of competitions with ‘fantasy money’ to give members the satisfaction of a very small prize in recognition at the end of the year.

An alternative pension fund this is NOT, but it might help you to understand your investment adviser! Or maybe your spouse or even the dog.

Group 1 meets monthly in Tockington Chapel and then sorts out the world over light lunch in The Swan.



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Severn Vale Art Trail

Calling all artists and makers. Applications for the 2027 Severn Vale Art Trail open on January 1st and the organisers are keen to hear from artists and makers working across a wide range of creative disciplines. Whether your work involves drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media, illustration, photography, sculpture, textiles, woodwork, glasswork, digital art or something altogether different, check out the website *(www.severnvalearttrail.org*) for details on how to apply.

SEVERN VALE ART TRAIL
29 APRIL - 3 MAY 2027
WWW.SEVERNVALEARTTRAIL.ORG

Following the success of the 2026 trail, which featured more than 80 artists and makers exhibiting across 36 venues, the organisers are looking forward to welcoming both returning and new participants.

You don't have to be a painter to be part of the Severn Vale Art Trail which takes place this year from Thursday 29th April to Monday 3rd May. The organisers are keen to showcase the incredible diversity of creative talent in the region and give visitors the opportunity to discover skills, techniques and finished work they might not otherwise encounter.

The Severn Vale Art Trail provides a wonderful opportunity for artists and makers at all stages of their creative journey to exhibit and sell their work, share their skills and processes, and connect with an enthusiastic local audience.

If you are a local artist or maker and would like to be involved, applications open on *1st January 2027*. For further information including sign up to the mailing list and details of how to apply, visit *www.severnvalearttrail.org*.



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Finding Dopey

Octopus Drama Group's upcoming pantomime 'Finding Dopey' will be performed from 13th to 16th January 2027 at Christ the King Hall in Castle Street, Thornbury.

Written by Heather Cain who is also jointly directing with Abi McManus (both members of Octopus Drama Group) this pantomime is set to be another crowd pleaser.

Snow White and the Prince have finally returned from their long, fairytale honeymoon and as they step back into the heart of the kingdom, excitement ripples through the air. The dwarfs are eager for embraces, tales of far-off wonders, and perhaps a glimpse of the souvenirs tucked in Snow White's bag. However, somewhere between their cosy cottage and the Castle the dwarfs realise someone very important is missing… Dopey. Gone. Poof. Vanished! Worried about his safety, some help is called upon. Soon a merry little team gathers – friends who are brave, curious, and occasionally distracted – ready to follow clues and chat with quirky characters as they venture through the forest on a quest to find their favourite dwarf. Their mission is simple: bring Dopey home safe and smiling.

There will be 5 performances: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7.30pm and Saturday at 11am and 2.30pm.

Tickets go on general sale on Saturday 5th December at Rosie & Rex gift shop, 32 High Street, Thornbury. Tickets £10 for adults and £8 for children under 18 can be purchased Wednesday to Saturday 9am – 4.30pm. For those who want a programme it would help if you bring cash.

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	Perry's (Butcher), Alveston	Xmas Eve: Open - close at 12 noon Xmas Day and Boxing Day: Closed Bank Holiday Monday 28th TBC New Year's Eve: Open - close at 12 noon New Year's Day: Closed
Pharmacy	Pharmacy, Alveston	Xmas Day: Closed Boxing Day: Open - close at 1pm Closed Bank Holiday Monday 28th
Garage	Green Lane Garage	Closed: Christmas Eve – 3rd January. Open again on Monday 4th Jan.
Pubs	White Hart, Olveston	Open Xmas Day 11am.
	White Hart, Littleton	Xmas Eve 12 – 10pm. Xmas Day open 11am till 1pm. Boxing Day 12 – 10pm. N.Y.Eve 12 - 2am (please check with pub) N.Y. Day 12 – 10pm
	The Fox, Old Down	Christmas Eve open 12.00pm to 1.00pm NB No Food until 06.01.27 Christmas Day open 11.30am to 1.30pm Boxing Day open 12.00pm to 6.00pm 28th Dec open 12.00pm to 11.00pm New Year's Eve open 12.00pm to 8.00pm New Year's Day open 12.00pm to 5.00pm Kitchen re- opens Weds 6th Jan.
Medical	GPs' Surgeries	Closed: Xmas Day, Boxing Day, Bank Holiday Monday 28th N.Y's Day
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Coming up in January…….

Music at St. Mary's, Thornbury

The first 3rd Sunday Afternoon Concert of 2027 will take place on January 17th. As usual, it will be at St, Mary's Church, Thornbury, and starts at 4.00 pm.

The performance will be given by Ensemble Ebano. They are a chamber music group consisting of flute, french horn, harp and mezzo soprano. They focus on a storytelling programme, combining both music and words.

The concert will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection, the proceeds of which go to St. Mary's Music. Since the concerts re-started, there has been a wonderful increase in the size of our audiences and we hope you will continue to support us, not only in this concert but throughout the coming year.



Second Best Bed

The story of Shakespeare's wife Anne Hathaway.
Performed by Liz Grand
Written by Avril Rowlands
Directed by Chris Jaeger

When Shakespeare died, he famously left his wife Anne only one thing, the second-best bed. This superb one-woman play, full of both humour and pathos, has received great critical acclaim since its premier in 2012. It takes place after the wake has finished on the night of Shakespeare's funeral. The mourners have left, leaving Anne to remember her life with the most talented playwright the world has ever seen. Or was he? Did he write the plays? Anne should know. In this frank, humorous and revealing monologue, the audience gets to know Shakespeare like never before. And you will find out who wrote the plays!

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Yours Faithfully

Deacon Lawrence Carthy
Christ The King Church, Thornbury

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God … and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John, Chapter 1 v.1 and v.14)



In amongst the great hullabaloo and excitement of what is now commonly referred to as the 'festive season', we can sometimes lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. And yet, for those open to the marvel and mystery of what was the Incarnation, when God became as One with us, Christmas was the great turning point in time, after which nothing was ever the same again.

Our world can at times seem a dark, disjointed, dangerous and difficult place to be. But in it, there remains a light that still shines for all to see. A light which will always be there. And when perhaps we are frightened by the dark – loneliness, insecurity, fear of the unknown and of the future – we can take great comfort and reassurance from that light. In our world of today, there is a still a place for that child born of Mary and Joseph in a lowly stable in Bethlehem, over two thousand years ago. The Child born of Mary brought a new way of life and being into our world. Sometimes, sadly, we lose sight of that way through neglect and a lack of good will for people of all faiths and none.

As we prepare to celebrate this festive season for another year, perhaps the real message has been so covered with tinsel that we have almost lost sight of its true meaning. Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were real people living in a real time and place. That time and place had become so over-burdened with rules and regulations that the real purpose of God's plan had been lost. Perhaps this sounds familiar to our own time today.

So, whilst it is right and fitting to decorate our homes, to spend quality time with our families and friends, and heartily enjoy the celebrations which this time of year brings, then maybe too we can reflect on the events that took place so long ago. Now perhaps is the time to bring Christ back into Christmas.

With all very best wishes to everyone of all faiths and none and may the message of peace and love for God and for one another be with us all at this most special time of year.

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Dec 6th	10am 4pm	Holy Communion. Evensong - **Choir**	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 13th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - **Choir** Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 20th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - **Choir** Christmas Carol Service	Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 24th	4pm 11.15pm	Family Crib Service Midnight Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 25th	10am	Christmas Service – **Choir**	Paul Harrod
Dec 27th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion - **Choir** Reflective Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride

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Dec 13th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss
Dec 27th	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Moss

Contact: Rev David Moss, 01454 415190
Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 13th	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 15th	7.30pm	Carol Service	Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 20th	3pm	Christingle	Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 25th	9am	Christmas Service	Rev David Moss

Contacts: Church Wardens: Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065

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Dec 13th	3pm	Carol Service	Rev Ann Lloyd
Dec 27th	3pm	Christmas Communion Service	Rev David Moss

Contacts: Tracey Black 417660 and Tim Pyper 416422 /07802 419451

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 6th	11am	TMCH	Morning Worship at Thornbury Church
Dec 13th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Pearl Luxon
Dec 20th	10.30am	Tock Ch	Carol Service led by Rev Dr Simon Edwards followed by a Faith Lunch
Dec 23rd	5.30pm	Tock CH	Christingle Service led by Rev Simon Edwards
Dec 27th	10am	Tock Ch	Local Arrangement

Contact: Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176 Simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL
Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and 3rd Weds at 2.30pm.
Contact: 01454 612084, thevine_awkley@hotmail.com
THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN
Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.
Contact: Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com
AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 11am every Sunday
LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 5.30pm every Sunday
Contact: esther@thebamfields.co.uk
RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury
Mass on Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am
Contact: 01454 412223, https://ctkandholycross.org.uk
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury
Contact: Chris Willmore, chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk
THORNBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Services are every Sunday at 10.45am Rev Neil Thorogood

Diary Dates for December:

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Tues	Citizens Advice, every Tues Thornbury Art Club painting studio, Every Tues WRBL meeting	10-12pm 1.30-4.30pm 7.30pm	TTH SMCH DGCL
2 Wed	Table Tennis every Weds Olveston Parish Historical Society	7pm 7.30pm	OPH OPS
3 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop, every Thurs Good afternoon choir, every Thurs Thornbury Art Club painting Studio, every Thurs.	9am 9.30-12pm 1-3pm 1.30-4.30pm	 StM URC SMCH
4 Fri	Haven Memory Café every 1st&3rd Fri Tockington Community Café Friday Monthly Music Night	10.15-11.45am 10-12pm 7.30pm	URC TMC CTK
5 Sat	Park run every Sat Love Thornbury Christmas Fair	9am 10am	MPF Thorn
6 Sun	Litter picking	10am	OPH
7 Mon	Monday Movies Severn Vale Flower Club Demo	7.30pm 1.30pm	StM StMCH
8 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café every 2nd & 4th Tues Olveston & Tockington WI	10.15-11.45am 7.30pm	URC OPH
17 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market	9am	
18 Fri	Carols at the White Hart	8.30pm	Olv
19 Sat	Salvation Army Xmas concert	5pm	StM
21 Mon	Carols on the Green	6.30pm	Tock
28 Mon	Bank Holiday: Boxing Day substitute		
31 Thurs	New Years Eve Party with Ride the Edge	7.30pm	TA

Looking forward to January:

Sat 30th – "Second Best Bed" – 7.30pm – Methodist Church Hall
Weds 13th – 16th – Octopus Drama Grp presents Finding Dopey – 7.30pm (11am & 2.20pm on Sat) - CTKH
Sat 16th – Repair Café, Alveston – 10am – 1pm- StH



KEY: **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** – Alveston Methodist Hall, **AOSH**-Almondsbury Old School Hall, **AVH** – Aust Village Hall **CS** – Castle School, **CH** – Cosham Hall **CTK** – Christ the King, **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **ECVH** – Easter Compton Village Hall, **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall, **FVH**-Falfield village Hall, **JHA** – Jubilee Hall, Alveston **LVH** – Littleton Village Hall **MSch** - Marwood Schoo **MPF** - Mundy playing fields **OC** – Oasis Church, Old Down, **ODE** – Old Down Estate **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** – Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** – Olveston Parish Hall, **OTF**-Olympus Theatre Filton **OPS**-Olveston Primary School **PHT** -Porch House, Thornbury **QAMP** – Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down **RHVH** - Rockhampton village hall. **StH** – St Helen's Church, Alveston. **StHSc** – St Helen's School **StM** – St Mary's Church, **StMB** – St Mary's Berkely **StMT** – Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **StP Sch** – St Peters School, Pilning **SMCH** – St Mary's Church Hall **SBVH** – Severn Beach Village Hall, Thornbury, **TA**-The Armstrong, **TGC** – Thornbury Golf Club, **TCC**-Turnberries, **TOT**-The Olympus Theatre **TMC** -Tockington Methodist Church, **TMCH** – Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** – United Reform Church **WADCA** – Winterbourne & District Community Association

Contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: www.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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