

## Parish News – December 2016

Editor this month: Andrew Clarke

If you have any news you would like included in the monthly newsletter please send your copy to [geoffreyfitch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geoffreyfitch@hotmail.co.uk)  
Also note that if your paper copy of the newsletter has disappeared you can always find it on the parish website [www.wwl-pc.org.uk](http://www.wwl-pc.org.uk) which is updated regularly by John Shepherd.

As Geoff is away this month, it's my turn to scribble some pearls (!) for our newsletter. So let me begin with a big thank you to both him and Cheryl for all they do for us in the parish and this year it is "*muito obrigado*", I sincerely hope it is warmer in Portugal than it is here!

This year's fireworks at the School were a roaring success with perfect weather for the whole evening, it was really enjoyed by all who turned up, so thanks to Westonbirt School for putting on a good show.

The Armistice Day and subsequent Remembrance Services were very well attended this year. For our little parish it was the Centenary of the passing of the two local lads who died on the Somme in 1916. Wreaths were laid in both Lasborough and Westonbirt churches where their names are recorded, and the bell in St Catherine's was tolled at 11 o'clock on the 11th, thanks again Westonbirt School. On each coming Centenary I intend to place a notice of remembrance in our parish newsletter for every last one of them. (Hope I'm still around in 2044!).

The Arboretum very obviously achieved spectacular autumn colour and clearly folk from all over the country came to see the show. Regrettably, a lot of them either could not or would not use the car park and our little one-way lane up to the A433 was very tightly packed with parked cars for two of the 3 main weekends. Despite the very best efforts of the Parish Council, the no-parking signs only finally appeared on the last big weekend.

Now, please note the following very important dates for the Parish:

5 December, 6.15 pm/8.00 pm, Community Carols, Westonbirt Great Hall. Tickets are available from Eventbrite – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-community-carols-tickets-28522043199>

11 December, 6.00 pm, at St Catherine's, Westonbirt, Carol Service followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Christmas Eve, 6.00 pm at St Mary's, Lasborough, Carol Service.

Christmas Day , Family Communion at St Mary's starts early at 9.00 am.

There will be no service on New Year's Day.

My last very important and sad bit of Parish News is that on Sunday, 8th January, one of our Clergy, Alveen Thoresen, will be holding her final service in the Benefice at St Mary the Virgin, Hawkesbury at 5.00 pm. Please come along so we can give Alveen the thanks that she so richly deserves for serving us so well for the last 6 years. (See June Goatley's note attached below and please help us generously.)

Best wishes to everyone for a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

June's note is as follows:

*Dear Friends and Neighbours*

*You may have heard by now that after six years in our Parish, Alveen Thoresen is retiring and moving to Dorset in early January.*

*We are very sorry to see her go and so, to show our great appreciation of all the work that Alveen has done in the Parish, David Hewett and I are collecting donations towards a "farewell" gift for her.*

*If you would like to contribute, please let David or myself have your donation or if it is easier, send a cheque to me in the attached envelope made out to, "Westonbirt with Lasborough PCC".*

*Please give generously!*

*Best wishes*

*June Goatley*

*Church Warden*