

Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

www.salemchurch.org.uk



February 2025

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE

Rector: Rev Malcolm Strange, 70 High Street, Winterbourne
Phone: 01454 775529
Email: m.strange@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Associate Priest Rev Joanne Hodge Phone: 07758 648264
Email: j.hodge@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Churchwardens Chris Greef 01454 774479
Derek Andow 01454 775024

BENEFICE AND PARISH OFFICE

95 High Street, Winterbourne, BRISTOL, BS36 1RD

Administrator Nessa Jarman Phone: 01454 776518
Email: office@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Opening hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1pm

WEDDINGS/BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION/FUNERALS

Enquires should be made to the Benefice Office - 01454 776518

PASTORAL VISITING

If you need a pastoral visit or know someone who does, please contact Jo on 01454 775529 or Pearl on 01454 314184

St Michael's Room Bookings Contact the Benefice Office!

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

Factory Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1QL

Minister Rev Leigh Maydew, 31 Quedgeley, Yate, Bristol, BS37.4JJ
Phone: 07388 083488
Email: leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk

To whom enquiries for Weddings, Baptisms, or Funerals should be made.

Senior Steward Margaret Johnston Phone: 01454 773626
Email: 123margaretjohnston@gmail.com

Hall Bookings Jayne Glass Phone: 07935 377790
Email: jaglass103@gmail.com

Revd. Joanne Hodge introduces herself

The Revd Joanne Hodge has come to join the Fromside Benefice with special responsibility for St Michael's so she is someone you are likely to see around the parish in the coming weeks and months. Malcolm Strange is still our Rector and he will still be around as before. Here Jo explains what has brought her to us.

Like most children I knew, I went to Sunday School on Sunday mornings, attending at the Albert Road Methodist Church in a Midlands town from the age of three till I was 16. At the age of five I started school at the local Catholic primary school and was taught largely by Dominican nuns for the next ten **years. I can't remember a time when I was not** learning about God, although from two very different perspectives!



I kept up church activities throughout my teens – Girl Guides, Youth Club, playing the piano for Junior Church on Sundays, but I had no real personal commitment to God. I went because it was expected of me, but I had no hunger to know God any better.

After graduating from university I attended Bristol Cathedral for a time, and it seemed like a good idea to be confirmed. Again, it was the thing I was expected to do.



In my early thirties I found myself at the lowest point in my life. Through many tears I prayed so desperately for God to come back into my life, and not to abandon me anymore. Looking back I now appreciate that God had actually never abandoned me – it was I who had run away and turned my back on him. I suddenly realised that he was the only one who I could turn to and the only one who could help me.

In 1997 I met Nigel, who was a Train Manager, and we married in 1999. I finally started to commit my life to God when our eldest son Benjamin was born in

2000. I began attending church once more, and my faith started to grow, alongside my hunger to know more about God. I trained to become a Licensed Lay Minister, qualifying in 2010, but God just would not leave me alone. Over the next few years, again, with the help of others, I discerned that it was indeed to ordained ministry to which I was being called. I was ordained deacon in 2019, and priested during the COVID conditions in October 2020.

God has been with me all along guiding me, protecting me, carrying me – which is why the poem, Footprints in the Sand, speaks so personally to me. His forgiveness is very real, and he is still calling me to his service. Even now, I still **wonder why, sometimes! I don't know what God has in store for me** – a move to Fromeside came as a great surprise.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."



SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

1st Sunday 4pm St Michael's Community Centre

ST MICHAEL'S PRAISE

2nd Sunday 10.30

St Michael's Church

PARISH COMMUNION



3rd Sunday 10.30

St Michael's Community Centre

CELTIC WORSHIP

4th Sunday 10.30

St Michael's Church

PARISH COMMUNION



Also in St Michael's Church

2nd Sunday at 4pm - Pause for Thought or Healing Service

1st & 3rd Sunday at 8am - Holy Communion

See pages 13 & 17 for details of Christmas services
www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

Recorded services are available on 2nd & 4th Sundays
on the Benefice website
www.fromesidechurches.org.uk
where details of all services in the Benefice can be found.

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

2nd Feb Rev Teddy Kalonga

9th Feb Miss Christine Stones

16th Feb Miss Naomi Sharp

23rd Feb Mrs Brenda Isherwood



Further details on the website www.salemchurch.org.uk

SALEM PAGE

This may be the last time that I write this column for the joint magazine. I move on 16th January into a flat very close to the centre of Yate which will be easier to manage than the house in which I rattle around in Downend.



I have enjoyed writing for the joint magazine. I will probably eventually join the Methodist church in Yate, which I have preached in on various occasions. The journey to Salem will be easier than from Downend so I will hope to get to Salem from time to time.



I shall be outside of our Churches Together4Fromeside area but I will follow its progress with interest and remain very committed to the wider Ecumenical Movement. One of our Lord's last wishes was that his people should be as close to each other and He and His Father are 'that they may be one, even as you and I are one'.

The more I know of churches beyond my own Methodist denomination, the more I am impressed by the sheer variety of gifts that even churches so very different over some things have received. God is very lavish in his gifts and we must learn from and come to treasure and draw on the gifts of **others. We remember that Jesus also said, 'other sheep I have who are not of this fold. Them also I shall bring and there will be one flock and one shepherd'**. Let us build each other up in faith in the one glorious triune Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let us rejoice in each other.



2025 may well turn out a year in which we need each other's support and encouragement. Prospects across the world do not seem entirely hopeful. We still have the tragedies in the Middle East and in Ukraine to say nothing of economic and political problems galore. We must maintain a firm Christian witness amidst all of this and testify to the fact that the



Kingdom of God can come in our messy world if only we respect and carry out the teaching and mission of the Lord, seeking to spread good news to the poorest and champion their needs just as Our Lord sought to do.



Despite some of the gloomy signs, we at Salem wish everyone a happy new year and hope that we can make it happy for the community around us.

I will consult Margaret, the Salem stewards and Gill Greef and St Michael's as to whether they would wish me to continue to make contribution as before.

With prayers of thankfulness for you all,
David.

We'd like to thank David for his contributions to the Newsletter over many years - I know how people value his message. We don't want to lose touch with him completely so we have agreed that he will continue to write for us roughly every three months. This will give him time to settle into his new home and parish.

FROM ST MICHAEL'S REGISTERS

Funerals	Date of death
David Edward Price	28th January
Jillian Ann Thorne	7th March
Christine Margaret Higgs	9th May
William Maddox	23rd June
Robert James Randal McWhinnie	23rd June
Terence John Jefferies	18th July
Martin Thomas Colley	23rd August
Valerie Summers	27th August
Peter Andrew London	25th September
Alice Jane Smith Bennett	11th November
Peter Sargent	16th November
Burial of Ashes	
Thomas Patrick Hughes	10th November 2022
Gerald Valentine Sharpe	18th October 2023
David Russell	15th May 2022
Christopher Dean Probert	31th March 2022
Margaret Ferguson	18th September 2023
Rita Ann Boote	13th August 2023



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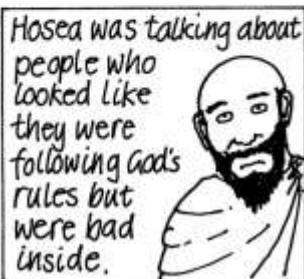
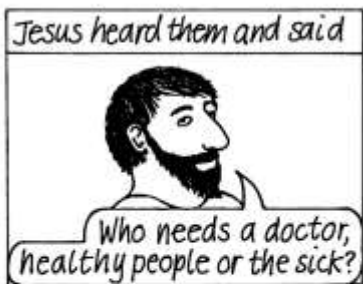
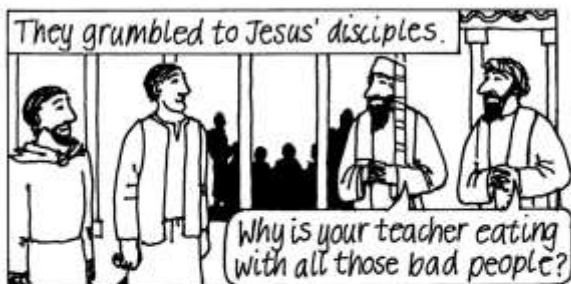
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 9:9-13, Mk 2:13-15, Lk 5:27-32

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.



Where next for Ecochurch in Winterbourne?

In the last newsletter I referred to Advent as the season of hope and I expressed my view that we can do something about climate change and environmental degradation in spite of the never ending stream of bad news. My view is unchanged by the latest headlines that confirm 2024 as the hottest year on record and also the devastating wildfires around Los Angeles.



In Winterbourne, our efforts in the last two years have been directed at getting a **new heating system installed in church, completing the St. Michael's Community Centre project** and getting the hall up and running again. Both of these have **hugely reduced our church's carbon footprint.** And of course we are one of an



ever-increasing number of churches dedicating themselves to the journey towards a more sustainable future. Did you know that there are now 8000 churches **registered with the Ecochurch programme, that's nearly 20% of churches across England and Wales?** Over half of them, ourselves included, have achieved an award and

the numbers with, and working for, higher level silver and gold awards are also increasing.

So what should we be doing now in Winterbourne? Tackling these **issues is a journey, not just an exercise in ticking a box (e.g. "I recycle my plastic bags") and then sitting back smugly.** We must



always be looking for more ways of working towards that better future, both personally and as a church. I have been looking at what we should be doing to progress towards a silver Ecochurch award and it is clear that we should be doing more to engage with our local community and also be more actively campaigning for and contributing to environmental action. Possible examples include more engagement with environmental and social justice issues, advocating and campaigning on local transport and river water quality, encouraging more people to enjoy nature, ethical finance management, supporting an environmental charity... the list goes on. What do you think? Is there an environmental issue **that you are passionate about but don't know how to start.** Working together

always makes doing things easier, so let me have your thoughts and maybe we can get something moving.

Chris Greef

PS There is an opportunity to learn about making your home warmer and more sustainable at St. Michael's Community Centre on February 8th from 2 till 4. See below.

**SATURDAY
8TH
FEBRUARY
2PM-4PM**

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When: Every Friday 9.30-10.30

Where: Fromeside Gymnastics Club,

Watleys End Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1PW

Telephone: 01454 776873

Email: office@fromesidegym.co.uk

CANDLEMAS
Sunday 2nd February
at 4pm

DEDICATION OF
CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS

A service of celebration

St Michael's Church
 Church Lane, Winterbourne



CANDLEMAS

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was **when they made their first 'public appearance'**. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to **'present Him to the Lord'**. **At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'**. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of **blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day** – hence the name, Candlemas.



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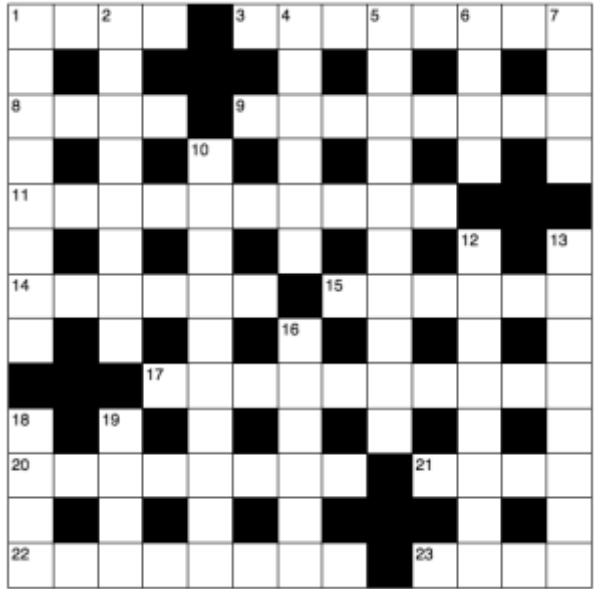


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Prices in excess of £975 referred and is subject to change.
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CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 **'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)**
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 **Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)**
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 **Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)**
- 21 **One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)**
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 **Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)**
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 **One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)**
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 **He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)**
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

Answers on page 27

SALEM DIARY

Belated New Year greetings to you all from all at Salem
After the flurry of events at Christmas, everyone is now able to settle to the usual routine. However, time still marches on at a rapid rate and, at the time of writing, we are already half way through January.

During the winter months of January, February and March we are holding our services in the hall. This is an attempt to curb our ever increasing energy bills. Whilst we are more contained in the smaller space, many find this to be a “cosy” atmosphere and welcome the change.

Coffee morning will be
on Wednesday February 5th from 10 a.m

*This is an opportunity to meet with friends for conversation
and enjoy coffee or tea Please join us*



Film afternoon on Tuesday February 11th at 2 p.m.

Forrester, a reclusive novelist befriends a young, black, gifted basketball player with writing aspirations. Both learn a lot from the experience ALL ARE WELCOME



Bacon Butty morning will be
on Saturday February 15th from 10 a.m.

*Please come and join us for a bacon butty and /
or toasted teacake with tea or coffee*



Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday
February 18th at 2.30p.m.

*All ladies are welcome to join us
for an afternoon of fellowship*

Special events in & around St Michael's

Sunday 2nd February
at 4pm
in St Michael's Church
CANDLEMAS
service of Dedication and Celebration
see page 13



Sunday 9th February
at 4pm
PAUSE FOR THOUGHT
in St Michael's Church

Saturday 15th February
from 3.30-5
MESSY CHURCH
in St Saviour's Church Hall



Sunday 16th February
at 10.30
CELTIC WORSHIP
in St Michael's Community Centre

FROM ST MICHAEL'S REGISTERS

Baptisms

Thea MacLennan Harris

22nd September

Penelope Nia Carr

29th October

Marriages

Rebecca Elizabeth Bowers &

Rhys David Edward Meredith

2nd April



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A new year message from Revd Julia Chard.

There is a famous saying – never judge a book by its cover! So, apart from the images and author on the cover- what constitutes an enjoyable book? I like to read something recommended which challenges the reader to immerse into the story - not wanting to put it down! I wonder who would admit, with me, to reading the last page to know the outcome - when only halfway through the book!



As we begin the new year it is like an open book with blank pages. The question is, how those pages will bring fulfilment and riches to our lives. We might prefer to shut and tightly close it as there are bound to be mysteries that lie before us that might mean letting go of the past.

Also, new things to discover (a new hobby perhaps?).

Yet, we cannot know the outcome- the last page is unknown.

But the certainty is, the light of love and hope prevails where there is darkness and fear - peace that calms the most torrid storm that sometimes swirls within us.



The nativity story presents such intrigue and mystery - amid a backdrop of uncertainty. The Christ child born into a murky world to illuminate the darkness of suffering and fragile peace. The same unsettled world that fills our TV news channels from day to day. The nativity story stands within the book of life, it **surrounds ordinary people's lives as a journey of discovery**. Its mystery cannot become a dull read, to go back on the bookshelf, dusty and forgotten until next Christmas, along with old decorations and fairy lights. This is a story of hope, with an invitation to read more, of how one life born into a broken world - given in love - can transform a dampened spirit seeking purpose and new life.

The words and prayers of peace from O come, O come Emmanuel still hang in the air to carry us into 2025.

*O come desire of nations bind,
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
fill the whole world with heavens peace.*

PTO



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Continued from page 19



In the Epiphany season, we are now in the next instalment of the nativity story which follows the adventures of the three wise men as they sought the promised saviour, to complete the empty pages of their book of life. It was a journey fraught with danger and mystery - that many others doubted and were unwilling to entertain but as Forest Gump said in the classic film; *Life is like a box of chocolates you never know what you're going to get – but you will handle what comes your way.*

Therefore, as we dwell on our new book of 2025 with its blank pages, I pray the content will soon reveal happy, joyous sentiments to bring excitement and new life to its reader.



All events can be booked online at Ticketsource or via the Barn website www.winterbournebarn.org.uk. If you want to book in person at the Barn please ring 0117 403 1536 to arrange a time (office is open part-time).

Saturday 22nd February from 10-4

Come and learn how to graft apple trees on this course under the tuition of Tim Andrews, owner of Orchard Revival. Tim is a commercial cider maker and orchard specialist. He has over 20 years teaching experience and has featured on Gardeners World and Countryfile for his work on orchards.

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE

For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust

see www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk

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In previous articles, The Revd Dr. Jo White has thought about church buildings in general, here she moves on...

Reflecting Faith: Wall paintings

Prior to the Reformation, English churches were highly decorated with interior **wall paintings**. **As one author wrote, 'They were aglow with colour and images covering every flat surface'.**



Painting pictures seems to be a basic part of people. We see that in newly discovered caves where people from the distant past have made sketches and created art works.

Pictures are more than just communicating a 'flat' story.

Just as we all have our preferred ways of learning – listening, watching, reading, practising – so I suspect we also have for explaining. How much more so, then, when we want to get across **really important information; and it doesn't get much more serious than telling others about God.**

Of course, we know the Early Church, at the very beginning, followed the Jewish tradition of not drawing a likeness of God and hence they used signs and **symbols. But that didn't stop them from drawing pictures about everything else:** stories from the Bible, lives of the saints, and so on. There was no shortage of pictures to be drawn.

There are not many English churches which still have wall paintings, but if you visit an Orthodox church in the UK or if you get the opportunity to enter one when on the Continent, you will see that every inch (centimetre) of the inside plaster is likely to be covered in wall paintings. Quite literally, painting on the wall!

Today, instead of painting on the wall in the UK, we seem to be increasing the number of banners that hang on them, and changing them often, to match the church calendar.

This month: Have a look at the wall paintings or banners in your own or a different church. What do you think the designers were trying to say? What message do they give you that words alone could not have accomplished?

St Michael's of course is one of those few churches so have a look next time you are there





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Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is _____
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____
 it does not _____

others, it is not self-

it is not easily _____
 it keeps no record of _____

Love delights in _____
 it always _____

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;

His _____ never come to an end; they are new every _____

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____ and how _____ and how _____ that **love** is. Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**. whoever _____ in **love** _____ in God, and God _____ in them. 1 John 4:16

Give _____ to the Lord, for He is _____

his steadfast **love** endures

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?
God sent me a saviour:
 He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. 1 John 4:9
God gave me His spirit:
 He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**. Romans 5:5
God called me His child:
 See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children. 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?
 Jesus told us to: **LOVE** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**. Matthew 22:37
LOVE your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself. Matthew 22:39

P T Y D E B P O P T E L T
 E R D L N M A Y R F D G R A
 A U G O D J T H O P E F U L
 C S K V U U I K T S F L T O
 E T P E R S E V E R E S H Y
 K I N D E T N B C S N L F A
 M N I Y S L T W T S D M U L
 I G R A C I O U S E S K L I
 H U M B L E S E L F L E S S

GOD • **LOVE**
 PATIENT • KIND
 GRACIOUS • PEACE
 JUST • TRUTHFUL
 TRUSTING • LOYAL
 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS



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A great Greek start to 2025 in Year 4.

What an exciting day we had at St Michael's Primary School as Year 4 kicked off our history topic on the Ancient Greeks with a spectacular Wow Day! The classroom was abuzz with enthusiasm as students donned their finest togas and laurel wreaths, transforming into ancient Greeks for a day of immersive learning.

Our journey into the fascinating world of Greek civilization began with a deep dive into the chronology of the Greek era. The children mapped out significant events and figures, discovering everything from the legendary battles to the birth of democracy. It was enlightening to see them engage with history in such a hands-on way.

Next up was a creative session where the children designed their very own mythical creatures. Armed with their imaginations, they crafted unique beings that could easily belong in the tales of Zeus and Hercules. Later in the term, we will be writing our own Greek myths using these characters. Once their creations were brought to life, the children used various charcoal patterns to decorate their work, adding depth and dimension to their artistic masterpieces.

As the day rolled on, we had a delightful treat for our taste buds. Greek food tasting was a hit, with children trying delicious dishes such as olives, pita bread, figs and tzatziki. It was wonderful to see them step out of their comfort zones and savour new flavours, all while learning about the culinary traditions of Ancient Greece.

Our Wow Day was not just about learning; it was about experiencing history in a fun and vibrant way. The enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the Year 4 **children were truly commendable, and we can't wait to delve even deeper** into the world of the Ancient Greeks in the coming weeks. We will also be learning about what daily life was like in an ancient Greek society, where the Olympic games start, women in Greece, Alexander the Great and what it was like to be at **school during the Ancient Greek era. Here's to a fantastic start to our new topic.**

The School enjoys a Magical Pantomime Adventure

On Tuesday 10th December, over 250 excited children, teachers and parents from St Michael's Primary School in Winterbourne embarked on a memorable **trip to the Bristol Hippodrome to enjoy this year's pantomime, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears***. The day was full of laughter, magic, and Christmas cheer!

Five coaches were needed to transport all of us to the theatre, where we were ready to be swept away into the whimsical world of Panto. As we took our seats, the stage was alive with bright colours and festive decorations. The cast, in dazzling costumes, **quickly drew us into the action, and it wasn't long before we were all joining in, shouting, "He's behind you!" at the right moments and laughing at the classic slapstick comedy.**



The show's highlights were truly spectacular. The dancing bears brought the house down with their hilarious, energetic moves. The amazing acrobats dazzled us with their breathtaking flips and gravity-defying stunts. A talented magician also wowed us with tricks that seemed to defy logic, leaving us all in awe and wondering how they did it! But perhaps the most incredible moment was when an enormous elephant appeared on stage, much to the delight of the audience. It was so big; it looked like it could walk right into the audience!

As the final curtain fell, we all left the theatre buzzing with excitement, discussing our favourite parts of the show. From the dancing bears to the giant elephant, **it was a pantomime experience that we'll never forget. A huge thank you to our teachers and staff for making this magical day possible. We can't wait for next year's trip!**

Photos on the back page

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.



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A day
with the Greeks
at
St Michael's School



Please send contributions for the March Newsletter by email to Gill Greef (gill@gillgreef.com) or deliver them to the Church Office St Michael's Community Centre, 95 High Street by Saturday 15th February.