



Friends' Newsletter

Friends of St. James'
Church, Wigmore

Winter 2025

Friends News Round-Up

Welcome to the Winter issue of the newsletter.

This is normally a very quiet time of year for activities in and around the church with very few events being hosted but we do have a few things to report.

Unfortunately we still have no more news about the church's process to close St. James' as a place of worship. Our understanding is that this issue is with the Commissioners for the Church of England and has been since June when the Bishop of Hereford approved the proposal for closure. However, since then it appears nothing has happened. That being the case, the Trustees of the Friends have agreed to continue with our own "business as usual" into 2026 and until we hear more from the powers that be.

At our AGM held in September it was agreed that Lesley Pollacco will join the management committee of the Friends as a Trustee in the New Year so we are very happy to welcome her on board.

Behind the scenes we have been busy trying to arrange a schedule of events for next year - more about our draft schedule on the next page.

But the next big event at the church will be the Carol Service on:

Saturday 13th December

As usual we will have a tree which we would like local children to help us decorate - **that will be at 2.30pm.**

The Carol Service will begin at 3pm.

We are working with the village hall on this event and from 2pm until 5pm at the village hall there will be craft stalls, mulled wine, mince pies etc. so you can stop off there before or after the carols at the church for some festive refreshments and Christmas stocking fillers.

Do come along and help us make this a successful event and remember to bring your warm togs for sitting in the church!

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Find out more about The Friends Group:


On our Website:

 friendsofstjameswigmore.org.uk

or scan the code below



On our Facebook Group:

 Friends of St. James' Church, Wigmore

Draft Events Plan for 2026

The Trustees of the Friends have decided to keep a similar mix of events to previous years, a combination of talks and music events. To that end we are currently looking at....

Sat 9th May - The Birds of North-West Herefordshire



An illustrated wildlife talk by Mike Wheeler, a lecturer at Worcester University, founder of the Leintwardine Wildlife Group, Committee Member for Herefordshire Ornithological Club and the County Bird Recorder for Herefordshire.

We have never had a wildlife talk as part of our schedule and it was one of the suggested events that came out of the AGM so we are looking forward to this.

Sat 13th June - The Battle of Mortimers Cross - 1461 - What we know and what we think we know

An illustrated talk by Ian Maddox, Regional Chairman of the Marches and West Midlands Region of the Battlefields Trust.

The presentation talks about the main protagonists at the battle and the findings, or lack of them, from the research project that was carried out between 2016 and 2022.



Sat 18th July - An Evening with the Ludlow Concert Band



The Ludlow Concert Band is a group of talented musicians who have been entertaining audiences for years. They play a variety of genres, from stirring marches, through classical favourites and old-time swing numbers to pop anthems.

The LCB performed at the very first of our Friends' events two years ago and they sounded awesome in the old church, so we are delighted to welcome them back.

Fri 14th Aug - Ludlow Male Voice Choir

Ludlow Male Voice Choir is a traditional four-part male voice choir, led by musical director Darren Clarke, a professional tenor.

Their repertoire ranges from hymns through opera classics, and songs from popular musicals to pop and we are sure with the wonderful acoustics of the old church they will sound great.



**WIGMORE VILLAGE
COMMUNITY CENTRE**



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND CAROLS

2PM - 5PM SATURDAY 13TH DEC.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH WIGMORE CHURCH

**CRAFT STALLS, MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES
AND OTHER CHRISTMAS TREATS AT THE
VILLAGE HALL FROM 2PM - 5PM**

**CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING IN THE
CHURCH AT 2.30PM**

CAROLS AT 3PM

EVERYONE WELCOME



Churchyard News...

Lots going on in the churchyard...

Footpath

The gravel path between the two gates has been re-laid, the work financed by the Friends with a donation of aggregate from the Breedon Group. This now looks good and should last many years.

Bench Renovation

We are planning to have the bench that sits beside the path renovated. The Friends have obtained new oak slats to replace the rotten ones and hopefully this work will be completed before Christmas.

Tree Work

Wigmore Group Parish Council have undertaken a major piece of work to manage the trees around the church including pruning the huge yew trees and removing ivy and dead ash.



Help Still Needed...

We are still looking for volunteers to go on the rota for unlocking/locking the church each day and for assisting at our events (setting up and clearing down). If you can offer some time, do let us know via any of the contact methods below.

And Lastly...

The Trustees of the Friends of St. James' Church would like to wish all our members and followers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks for all the support you have given over the last two years.



Contact Us

Message via our Facebook Group page:



Friends of St. James' Church, Wigmore

Message via the Contact page on our website:



friendsofstjameswigmore.org.uk

Email to the address below:



admin@friendsofstjameswigmore.org.uk

Please contact us via any of these methods with feedback or suggestions and ideas for going forward.