

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Our united Christmas events began with an all-age Christingle Service on December 9th. On the 16th the Church was well filled for the Carol Service, when a local choir sang some items. The weather was fine on Friday 21st for our annual "Carols on the Green (above). The carols were introduced by the Rev. Craig Manley, and accompanied by a music group from St Paul's Church, Sherborne.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Since you are the one who has to live with your choices, be sure they are your own. —Alan Cohen

God, having placed good and evil in our power, has given us full freedom of choice; He does not keep back the unwilling, but embraces the willing. —John Chrysostom

Many of our troubles occur because we base our choices on unreliable authorities; culture ("everyone is doing it"), tradition ("we've always done it"), reason ("it seems logical"), or emotion ("it just felt right"). —Rick Warren

Now just think a moment and answer the question, "What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" —D.L. Moody

A PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of free will. Forgive me that I sometimes make wrong choices, which bring pain to myself and others. May Your Holy Spirit guide me to make choices that are in accordance with Your will and the guidance of Your word, bringing glory to You and blessing to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.



SMILE

A teenager who had just received her provisional licence offered to drive her parents to church. After a hair-raising ride, they finally reached their destination.

The mother got out and said, "Thank you!" "Any time," her daughter replied.

As her mother slammed the door, she said, "I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to God."

'You should be ashamed,' the father told his son, Andy, 'When Abraham Lincoln was your age, he used to walk ten miles every day to get to school.' 'Really?' Andy responded. 'Well, when he was your age, he was president.'

HILARIOUS NEWS HEADLINES

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge
High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Mayor to homeless: Go home
Rain biggest factor in flooding
Homicide victims rarely talk to police
Dead body found in cemetery

The prospective son-in-law was asked by his girl friend's father, "Son, are you able to support a family?"

"Well, no," he replied. "I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."

**West
Camel
Methodist**



**FEBRUARY –
MARCH 2019**

MESSENGER

**Our services are
held at
All Saints Church**



REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

Sunday: 2nd–5th Sundays 6pm. Evening worship.
1st Sunday 4pm. "Sunday @ Four" (United)

Wednesday: 7.30pm United Bible study. First and third Wednesday of the month at the Davis Hall.

MINISTER: Rev. Craig Manley, Broadclose, Station Road, Ansford, Castle Cary. (Tel. 01963 351598)

STEWARD: Mrs Elizabeth Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

**WORSHIP
CO-ORDINATOR:** Mr Geoff Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

EDITOR: Mr Geoff Chapman.

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right. (Psalm 25: 8-9)

EDITORIAL

A MATTER OF CHOICE

THE recent 19% rise in violent crime in the UK is a cause for deep concern. The rise in knife crime among the young is especially worrying. Many will ask why this is happening, and what causes people to commit such crimes. It is true that people's upbringing or bad social conditions have an influence on people's behaviour.

However, in the final analysis, no one is forced to commit any crime. It remains a matter of personal choice, and we are all responsible for our actions, and all of us, from time to time, make wrong choices. God didn't pre-programme us, like robots, to obey His laws, but gave us the gift of freewill. Ever since our first parents made that fatal choice in the Garden of Eden, people have been making wrong choices, which blight our world. God has given us the Bible to help us make the right choices, and we should also pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

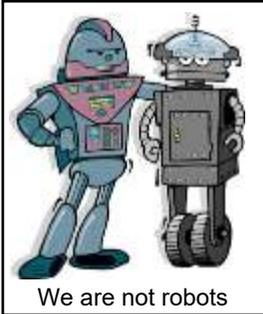
We make choices every day, and many are not that important — what clothes shall we wear, what shall we eat for dinner, where shall we spend our holidays. However, some choices can have a harmful impact on other people. The person who violently attacks someone else affects not only that person's life, but the lives of their family, the police officers who get involved, and puts extra pressure on our over-stretched health service.



Our choices can also have a positive effect. We can choose to help others, especially the poor and vulnerable. One way we can do this is to buy Fairly-traded goods where possible. This makes a real difference to the lives of producers around the world, and also the environment.

As we approach the season of Lent, we are reminded how Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert being tempted by Satan. He resisted the temptation to make wrong choices, for example to use His miraculous powers to make Him popular, rather than in acts of compassion. Jesus chose to go the way of the cross, to willingly die a cruel death to pay the penalty for our sins — those wrong choices which bring so much trouble on ourselves and others. And this presents us with the most important choice we can ever make: will we accept what He has done for us, ask God's forgiveness for our sins, and allow the Risen Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, to live in and through us, so that we don't continue to make those wrong choices? Then we can say with the hymn-writer: "O happy day that fixed my choice on Thee, my Saviour and my God."

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not depend on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3: 5-6)



SUNDAY SERVICES

Feb.	3rd.	4pm	"Sunday @ Four"
"	10th.	9.30am 6pm	All-age Service (U.S.) Mr Geoff Chapman
"	17th.	6pm	Rev. Craig Manley (H.C.)
"	24th	6pm	Mr Steve Roles of Yeovil
Mar.	3rd.	4pm	"Sunday @ Four"
"	10th.	9.30am 6pm	All-age Service (U.S.) Mr Barrie Bryer of Bere Aller
"	17th	6.30pm	Circuit Service at Castle Cary
"	24th.	6pm	Mrs Jacqueline Cobb of Havyatt
"	31st.	6pm.	Rev. Craig Manley (U.S.)

(H.C. = Holy Communion. U.S. = United Service)

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

25 February – 10 March 2019

Look out for the Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance logos



NEWS FROM THE PAST

From *The Western Gazette* 50 years ago

WEST CAMEL:

A special youth weekend was held at the Methodist Church. On Sunday evening there was a youth service, when the young people were joined by others from Somerton and Evercreech. The young people read and sang items to guitar accompaniment. The services were conducted by Mr Derek Cleeve of the National Young Life Campaign. A youth "get-together" followed the evening service, at which there was a sing-song, discussion and refreshments. At a meeting on Monday, musical items were provided by "The Harvesters" gospel group of Yeovil, and Mr Cleeve again spoke. Refreshments followed, and a collection of £2 10s was donated to the Young Life Campaign. (21st February 1969)

On Friday at the Methodist Church the Male Voice Choir of the Yeovil Salvation Army Corps gave a programme of sacred music, with instrumental accompaniment. Mr Peter Bartlett was the chairman, and refreshments followed. (28th February 1969)

The Sunday School prize-giving was held in the Methodist schoolroom. The Rev. A R Burch (Somerton) presided, and the children gave a programme of readings songs and choruses. Mr Ridgwell of Keinton Mandeville spoke to them and presented them with books. A collection was taken for Sunday School funds. (14th March 1969)