

# CROSSROAD NEWSLETTER

*Join us every Sunday morning at Crossroad for coffee from 10.15 or online at [www.crossroad.org.uk](http://www.crossroad.org.uk)*

## Christmas

*By Esther Heath Coleman*

### Sundays @ 10.45

7th Dec - Robert Spiller

14th Dec. - Andrew Sibley

21st Dec - Jon Sibley

28th Dec - Dave Shackleton

### Prayer

We meet for **prayer** every Sunday 9.45am - 10.15am in the youth hall.

**Prayer for Israel and All Nations** Tuesday 6th January 10am at Crossroad.

**Christians Together in Seaton Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday from 9am-10am at St Gregory's church.

**Sunday Evening Prayer** 28th December at 6.30pm.

### The Loft

The Loft meets 10am - 12 every Sunday morning at Number One. It is a creative church for those who are growing in their faith or who are just looking. There is lots of tea, toast and time for each other as well as getting excited about Jesus. An opportunity for creativity and prayer completes the morning.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights who does not change like the shifting shadows. (James 1:17)*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... Some people love it and others hate it. The hustle and bustle of Christmas. The High Street is decorated with Christmas lights and shops display their Christmas wares encouraging us to come in and buy, some starting as early as September. Christmas songs are played over the tannoy, buskers singing merrily outside and the carollers go along the streets, all bringing Christmas cheer. In the windows, Christmas trees are lit. Houses are decorated inside and some outside too. There will be the smell of Christmas cake, mince pies and cookies baking along with other Christmas goodies and mulled wine is consumed. Advent calendars and Christmas cards on display on the shelves, walls and doors. Is it any wonder children get excited? The beautifully wrapped gifts start to pile up under the Christmas tree and don't forget the stockings to be filled with delights on Christmas eve night.

Hundreds of years ago, Christmas wasn't known. Two young people, a man and his heavily pregnant wife were busy looking for a place to sleep. Bethlehem was filled to overflowing, thanks to the census Caesar Augustus decided to call. There was no room in the inn. They found a stable and she gave birth to a baby boy. The only place she could put him was in a manger of hay. It was the angels who celebrated and sang that night, as they announced the baby's birth to the shepherds in the nearby fields. The shepherds came and worshipped in awe. A couple of years later, some men came from the East with gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense. They were wise men. They knew this baby was the King of kings. The child and his parents were living in a house by then. Everybody else just got on with their lives not realising that God had given the best gift of all, his precious Son. The baby boy would grow up and one day die on a cross, the Saviour of the world.

Christmas is exciting but in the midst of all the shopping, wrapping, partying and cooking, let's take some time to remember the baby boy born to die to give you the gift of eternal life with God. Thank you Jesus.

## This month:

**Every Sunday** - we meet for *prayer* at 9.45-10.15am or join us for *coffee* from 10.15 and for the *Family Service* from 10.45am.

**Homegroups** - We have a number of home groups meeting during the week including the ones below. We would love as many people as possible to be part of a group. If you would like to join a home group please speak to one of the leaders.

Tue 2.00pm Jill Purkiss, 43 Wychall Park

Tue 7.30pm Rosie Giles, 11 Lyme Mews, The Esplanade

Tue 2.00pm Ray and Jacqui Hunter - see Ray and Jacqui for details

Wed 2.00pm Alpha Course @ Crossroad

Wed 2.30pm Axminster Homegroup - see Ray and Jacqui for details

**Crossroad Carol Service** - Sunday 14th December 4.30pm. This is one of the highlights of our year. It is a wonderful occasion when we are joined by friends and neighbours to sing carols and listen to the Nativity story. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies before the carol service. Who are you going to invite this year?

**Crossroad Men's Breakfast** - Sat 3rd January 8am. Come along and enjoy a good breakfast, good fellowship and a great talk.

**Alpha Course** - Every Wednesday 2pm - 3.30pm at Crossroad. We will meet at 2pm for tea and cake before we sit to watch the videos and chat about what we have watched.

**Coffee Morning** - Tuesdays from 10am - 12noon at Crossroad. Includes a Kiddies Corner.

**Anna's Place** - Wed 17th December 2pm at St Michael's Church, Beer. A special 30 minute service for older people followed by refreshments, music and memories. All are welcome - Dementia Supportive - Come and receive God's grace.

**Christian Aid Christmas Lunch** - Friday 5th Dec 11-1.15pm at URC Hall, Cross Street, Seaton. Includes craft and charity stalls.

**AVCAP Craft Fair** - Saturday 13th Dec 10-1pm at Crossroad. Come and browse local craft stalls for unique, original hand made gifts and light refreshments while helping to raise funds for Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty.

**Foodbank needs** - Tins Custard, Tins Rice Pudding, Long-life Whole Milk, Washing powder or liquid detergent, Boxes of Instant Mash, Sugar, Tins Carrots and Sweetcorn, Tins Tomatoes, Packs Fairy Cakes, Tins Chicken Hot Meals, Tins Big Soups, Packets of Noodles, Tins Peaches, Packets Savoury Rice, Savoury Biscuits or Crackers, Sweet Biscuits, Jars Honey, Small Jars Savoury Paste

**Access for Everyone** - We want to make sure everything at Crossroad is as accessible as possible for anyone with sight problems, hearing loss, mobility difficulties, etc. It's important to us that everyone is included in the best way possible in all aspects of church life, including midweek activities. Please come and speak with Janet Eardley or Jon Sibley regarding any access challenges you may be experiencing. We really want to hear from you.

## Crossroad Contact

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[www.crossroad.org.uk](http://www.crossroad.org.uk)

## Crossroad Eco Tip

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### *O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How GREEN are thy branches?*

What's your choice this year? To go for a traditional tree and risk picking pine needles out of your socks in July or opt for one of the increasingly 'real' looking trees in the shops? Which option is best for the planet?



Fortunately, the Carbon Trust has done some research on this. They found that a 2m plastic tree has a carbon footprint of approximately **40KG** of CO<sub>2</sub>.

A real tree of 2m, if it ends up slowly decomposing in a landfill site, releases **16kg** of CO<sub>2</sub>.

But the good news is that if you opt for collection by the local council or by one of the charities who will also collect for a small fee, then the carbon footprint reduces to **3.5KG**!

**To reiterate that's 40kg, 16kg or 3.5 kg. A huge difference and one that you can use to decide.**

A man-made tree will be produced from carbon intensive fuels, the majority either PVC or polyethylene. Their ultimate destination will either be a landfill, taking 500 years to decompose, or the Council incinerator. Most are made in China which increases the carbon footprint.

A real tree can be collected, as above, then chipped and used for garden mulch or compost. This process speeds up the decomposition process.

So it's well worth considering a locally grown 'real tree' which will have been grown for approximately ten years before it is cut, will have provided wildlife habitat and environmental benefits and which will decompose back into the earth when you have finished with it!

*(Crossroad Eco Church – Eco Tip December 2025)*

# Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty

## Prayer Guide : December 2025



**Thank you for your prayers throughout the year. The Team wishes every one of you a blessed and peaceful Christmas.**

[www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)

- Give thanks to God for the generous donations we have received for our Christmas Tree appeal. We have been able to purchase live trees, chocolate decorations and also amaryllis plants for each of our client families.
- Please pray for our **Craft Fair** taking place on **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December** at Crossroad Christian Centre, Seaton (poster sent recently). We already have about a dozen crafters coming, but can take a few more. Please contact Sharon if you would like a table (£10), and crafter or not, do come along to support this event, enjoy the refreshments and buy some lovely hand-made gifts for your family and friends.
- Pray for protection for one client who has been receiving scam messages purporting to come from HMRC. Pray that somehow those who prey on vulnerable people to steal their money and cause so much anguish and harm will be caught and brought to justice.
- Please pray for us as we endeavour to contact companies with which our clients are in debt. It can be very difficult, as a third party, to access the right department or answer security questions. Pray for these barriers to melt away so we can really help.
- Please pray for one young client who has relationship difficulties and also needs motivation and hope as he seeks new employment (*Romans 12:2*). Also for the ability to access any new job as there may be difficulties with transport.
- Give thanks that Seaton Town Council have awarded AVCAP a grant of £750. This is great for capital expenditure (e.g. laptop, phone), but we still need more regular sponsors and individual donors to help with the day-to-day running costs. Please pray for this and also for a volunteer to prepare and present future grant applications.
- We are so grateful to our heavenly Father for our wonderful Befrienders – but we really do need more. We have lost some recently due to health issues and particularly need people who live in or are happy to drive to the Axminster area.
- Please pray for Sharon and Alix as they juggle their very full diaries; that they will know the peace and enabling of the Holy Spirit – and will be able to say ‘no’ to some pressures on their time without feeling guilty.
- Some of our clients have smaller debts, but nonetheless carry heavy burdens. Others have huge debts that have built up over long periods, e.g. £45,000 involving a complex situation and long-term health challenges. Please pray for all of them.
- Please pray for a mum and teenage daughter whose husband and father recently died. May they know the deep, deep love of Jesus surrounding them and bringing comfort.
- Give thanks to God for one client starting up her own business completely debt free, another about to have a £10,000 debt lifted from them thanks to a Debt Relief Order, and pray for a single mum looking for p/t employment alongside caring for two children.





# AVCAP Christmas Craft Fair

**Saturday 13th December  
10am - 1pm**

**Crossroad Christian Centre  
Homer Lane, Seaton EX12 2ES**

**Come and browse local craft stalls for  
unique, original, hand-made gifts and  
enjoy light refreshments while helping  
to raise funds for**

**Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty.**

**Free parking, free entry, donations welcome**

To book a craft table, please contact Sharon  
on [sharonbruce@capuk.org](mailto:sharonbruce@capuk.org) or 07519 751999

# **ANNA'S PLACE**

**Special 30 minute  
worship for  
Older People  
Followed by Refreshments  
Music and Memories,  
Wednesdays from 2pm  
at St Michael's, Beer:**

**April 16, May 21, June 18,  
July 16, August 20,  
September 17, October 22,  
November 19, December 17**

**All are welcome!  
Dementia Supportive  
Come, receive  
God's Grace**

