



## COMMUNITY EVENTS TEAM

### OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

On behalf of the Community Events Team, a belated Happy New Year to all parishioners and wishing you good health, peace and happiness in 2026. For our final event of 2025 we celebrated Christmas with our 'LIGHTS ON' event in the Seven Stars garden. Families gathered around a magnificent Christmas tree, kindly donated by a generous parishioner, and sang carols as the evening air was filled with the unmistakable rich, mellow, melodic sounds of the flugelhorn, tuba and big trombone of Winchendon Brass!! The BBQ of Starveall Sausages and Burgers accompanied by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine, courtesy of Steph, was in great demand while flames from the log burners leapt high into the encroaching darkness of the evening sky, making a truly magical scene. Anticipation was high as Vicar of our Parish, Nigel Featherston, stepped forward, raised his finger to the sky and declared, 'LET THERE BE LIGHT' and, as if by magic, the tree burst into illumination and Christmas had come once more.



The celebrations continued under The Stars as teams assembled in the pub for the Christmas Quiz. Eleven teams, stacked with the brains of the parish, battled through rounds including Classic Sitcom Quotes, Christmas Cracker Jokes (Why isn't Donald Trump attending Midnight Mass? – Fake pews!!) and Guess Who?

Tickets for the raffle sold like hot cakes with a massive Starveall Turkey, Champagne, Winterfest Tickets, Rare Japanese Liquors, Whisky and Beer among the many donated prizes along with a beautiful set of illustrated children's books written by local children's author Sandra Plumb. The final result confirmed that some of the Parish brains were perhaps already enjoying the Christmas holidays as Upton Mafia collected the Parsons Nose while The Others, steered by Richard and Karen Crow, took the Golden Bauble and reign supreme over Parish Quiz land for the coming year. Such were the brilliant donations and sales during the two events that, the CET, were able to donate £1000 to our flagship charity, The Florence Nightingale Hospice, based in Aylesbury. Over the years, more than £10,000 has been donated from these Christmas events.

### Activities for 2026:

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February** – FAMILY QUIZ in the village Hall

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** – Summer Ball in the Marquee at Dinton Cricket Club with live band, LOST IN MUSIC performing. This Black-Tie event is always a sell out so book early

**Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>** – Pimms, Champagne and Strawberries afternoon in the cricket club marquee with Wimbledon Tennis airing on a large screen and Dinton playing cricket

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> July or August 1<sup>st</sup>** - possible Quiz in Village Hall. Date to be confirmed

**September/October** - a possible CET event eg Wine & Cheese or Casino evening in Village Hall incorporating the 100 Club draw. Date TBA.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October** – Annual Conkers event at Dinton Cricket Club

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November** - Fireworks Spectacular on Parish field with BBQ and Bar at Dinton Cricket Club.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Tree 'LIGHTS ON' followed by the Christmas Quiz under the Seven Stars.

We will likely intersperse other activities during the year, and we are always open to your suggestions for future events. If there are any among you out in the parish looking to join a fun group who enjoy staging events and happy to give of their free time as a thank you for living in such a great place, then please contact any member of the CET and join one of our regular meetings under The Seven Stars. Cheers. **Steve Merry – Chairperson Community Events**