



Wesley Methodist Church Weeke

Wesley Somborne Link

One Church on two sites

17th October 2025



King's Somborne Methodist Church



Where is your place at table?

Many of you will have visited the Great Hall in Winchester and seen suspended on the end wall this magnificent table top, reputed to be that of King Arthur. It is said to have been in this position for 500 years. Henry VIII knew of it and, it's thought, had his image and the Tudor Rose added. There are spaces on this table for 25 knights and all their names are listed.

The myth/legend of King Arthur goes back a long way in time, and has its roots in both Welsh and English history. Arthur was reportedly a 'tribal' leader in the 5th or 6th century, but the stories have benefited from telling and re-telling, (a bit like the legend of Robin Hood). The stories were rooted in morality and ethics, as well as a good dose of romance. The most familiar images are of medieval knights, bent on special missions, involving much bravery and derring-do. These were favourite topics for the Pre-Raphaelite artists of Victorian times.

Hollywood, of course, has got into the mix in modern times, with much panache.

The issue of the 'round table' is crucial to its shape. Apart from the king, no-one had superiority; there was equality of importance and hierarchies did not exist.

Palestine in the days of Jesus was very different. Party etiquette was significant. Elbowing for position at table was not unusual. Social invitations were influenced by social norms and expectations; relationships that needed to be 'oiled' and 'caressed'. In first century Palestine your rank was reinforced by your place at table!

When Jesus is invited to a banquet (Luke Chap 14), he uses the occasion to caution those present that they may not be as important or superior in God's eyes. A humble approach to seating at the 'heavenly banquet' may be more necessary for them (and us). God might invite you and me to the banquet, but beware, he might ask us to give up our seat to one of the homeless that we can see on Winchester streets, or to a refugee who has just landed on the Kent coast, or to a young girl who has been trafficked.

When Bishop JV Taylor began at Winchester, his mitre was carried on a cushion in front of him, to acknowledge the awesome nature of the call to be shepherd of God's people. He wanted to deflect attention from the wearer. He also rejected Wolvesey Palace in favour of a council house to express a genuine desire to be seen as a fellow traveller.

Embracing the 'way of Christ' is challenging. It involves humility. A word without much modern influence or understanding I fear.

Nick Langham

On Sunday 19th October at 10.30am, Bible Month 3 will be led by the Wesley Team

On Sunday 26th October, at 10.30am Bible Month 4 will be led by Mrs Pat Fry

These services will be live streamed, the link to which can be found via the Wesley Website at:

www.wesleychurch.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary:

16th October: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)

17th October: Youth@Wesley Meeting at Wesley, in the church, at 3.00pm

17th October: Friday Fun Club (5.00-6.30pm)

17th October: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)

19th October: Bible Month 3 Service at Wesley 10.30am led by the Wesley Team

19th October: Messy Church at King's Somborne (3.00-5.00pm)

21st October: Church Council, incorporating a talk about the City Centre Chaplaincy, at Wesley at 7.30pm

23rd October: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)

23rd October: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm

25th October: Café Wesley 10.00am—12 noon, supporting the British Legion, with Lego Church 10.00am-11.30am

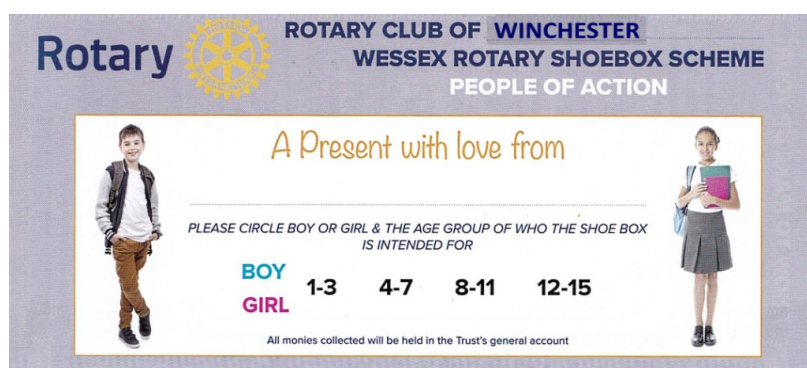
26th October: Bible Month 4 Service at Wesley 10.30am led by Mrs Pat Fry

26th October: Service led by Mr Jeremy Sykes at King's Somborne 10.30am

31st October: Y@W Doorstep Light Event at Wesley 4.00-6.00pm

1st November: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 10.30am

A huge thank to everyone who has filled Rotary shoeboxes or given donations so that children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Ukraine will have a box to open over Christmas. So on behalf of the Rotary coordinator, Colin Cooke and myself, a very big Thank You to everyone! Love Margaret



Winchester and District Young Carers are holding a Coffee Morning at Rick Stein's on Friday, 14th Nov between 9am and 11am. If you are in Winchester at that time, we would love to see you for coffee, cake and a chat. The cost is £5 and there will be a raffle.



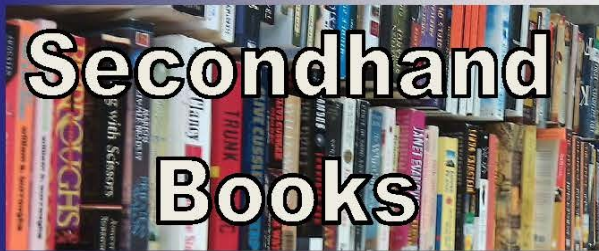
Please note the next edition of the Wesley Somborne Link will be on Friday 31st October 2025, we need any items or notices to be sent to Paul and Brenda, by Wednesday 29th October.
Email: brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com or by phone on 01794389153.



Cards



**Drop in
for a
chat**



**Secondhand
Books**



**Secondhand
Jigsaws**

**4th Saturday
every month
10:00 - 12:00**

**create a
scene
challenge**



**LEGO
CHURCH**



Bacon roll



ENJOY A CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH YOUR WESLEY FRIENDS

When: Tuesday, December 16th 2025

Where: The Golden Lion Winchester, 99 Alresford Road.

Time: Arrival after 6pm for our meal served at 6.30pm.

Cost: 2 courses £30 or £37 for 3 courses.

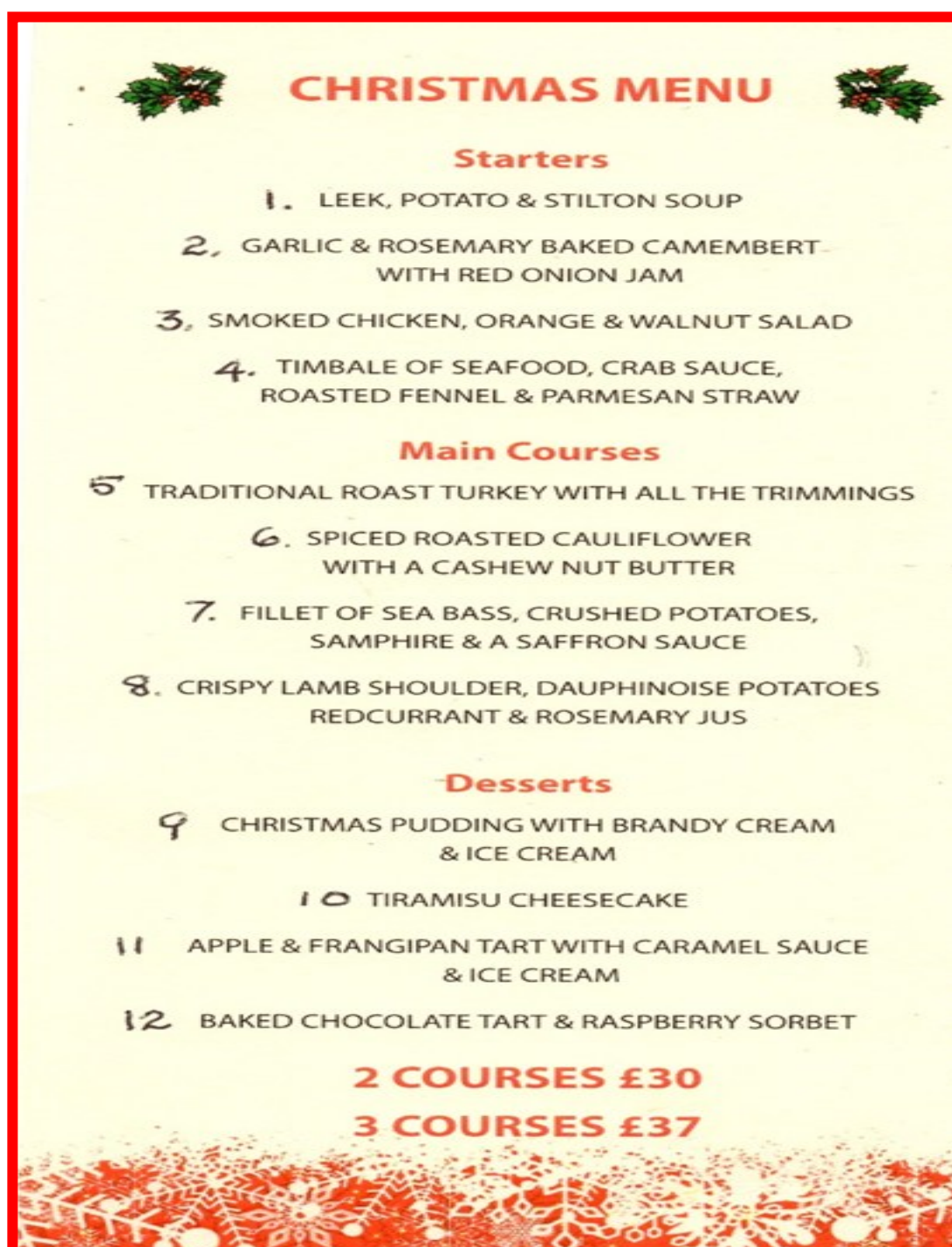
In order to secure your place, please put your name on an envelope and write the number of the dish you would like to have. For example: Jane Smith 1 and 7 - if you are ordering soup and sea bass. Add possibly 10 for tiramisu, if you wish to have a dessert as well.

Please include £8 per person. This will cover the deposit of £5 and a £3 gratuity to the staff.

Please then give your completed envelopes to Heather Marsland. There are 36 places available.

If you wish to come, please would you let us know by Sunday, November 9th

Heather or Jan will endeavour to answer any queries you may have.





Luke 14:13-14

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.

Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

THE GREAT BANQUET

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

CRIPPLED

MARRIED

EXCUSES

SERVANT

INVITED

BLESSED

BANQUET

MASTER

GUESTS

BLIND

ANGRY

READY

LAME

POOR

OXEN