



# In touch > On line



DEC  
2022  
Wiltshire  
Freemasons

## My Christmas wish.....



The Christmas season is upon us once again; the season of tinsel and paper decorations and twinkly lights. Red suited Santas, prancing reindeer and rotund snowmen with carrot noses and coals for eyes. We're told it's the season to be jolly, but jolly doesn't really do justice to a year like 2022, which looks as if it's going to be remembered for anything but jollity.

We face many things in life and this year has been no exception. The loss of our much-loved Queen Elizabeth II was a shock to the country and to the world at large. Our society continues to experience the fallout from the conflict in Ukraine which has had an adverse effect on the world economy affecting many of our members with high energy costs and an inflationary effect on prices generally.

Christmas dinner this year, we are told will cost at least ten per cent more than the one you enjoyed last year and as for being entertained, it seems that sixty five per cent of programmes on the television will be repeats.

For some, Covid still casts a long shadow and it still remains a source of great concern; so much so that Brethren have sought to absent themselves from our assemblies in the belief that isolating will offer them protection from the effects of the virus.

Is it any wonder that many people look to Christmas as an escape from the drudgery of their everyday life? They can lose themselves in the glitter of the Christmas season and for a time their world can be a make-believe wonderland removed from the troubles that depress them the rest of the year – a Christmas season complete with parties, food and drink, festive decorations and presents.

However, for me Christmas provides a time to enjoy the company of family and friends and an opportunity to reflect on the good things that have occurred during the past year. The horses need 'mucking out' the dogs will demand their walk and only then will I be able to knock back the mulled wine and tuck into the turkey before going for another walk before settling down to watch a film - in all probability a repeat. Or maybe I'll enjoy a re-run of the quite amazing video produced by members of the Communication Team and in particular John Deane and Tom Snell. I was really glad that I was able to join members of Corsham Lodge No.6616, Lansdowne Lodge of Unity No.626 and Vale of Avon Lodge No.8432 in this year's production. Please do take the opportunity to view the video on the Wiltshire You Tube site.

I wish you season's greetings and trust that for you the best of all gifts around your Christmas tree will be the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.



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The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons



DEC  
2022

Wiltshire Freemasons



Freemasons welcome friends and family to enjoy Christmas....

Johnathan Bourne (2nd from right) welcomed Lodge members and their families and friends to celebrate Christmas in the most traditional of ways. Great food, carol singing and a raffle that raised £500 for local charities.

The talented Lisa Williams played incidental music and accompanied members of her delightful children's choir Cantantini with Christmas songs before leading a very enthusiastic bout of carol singing.



Christmas jumpers on display





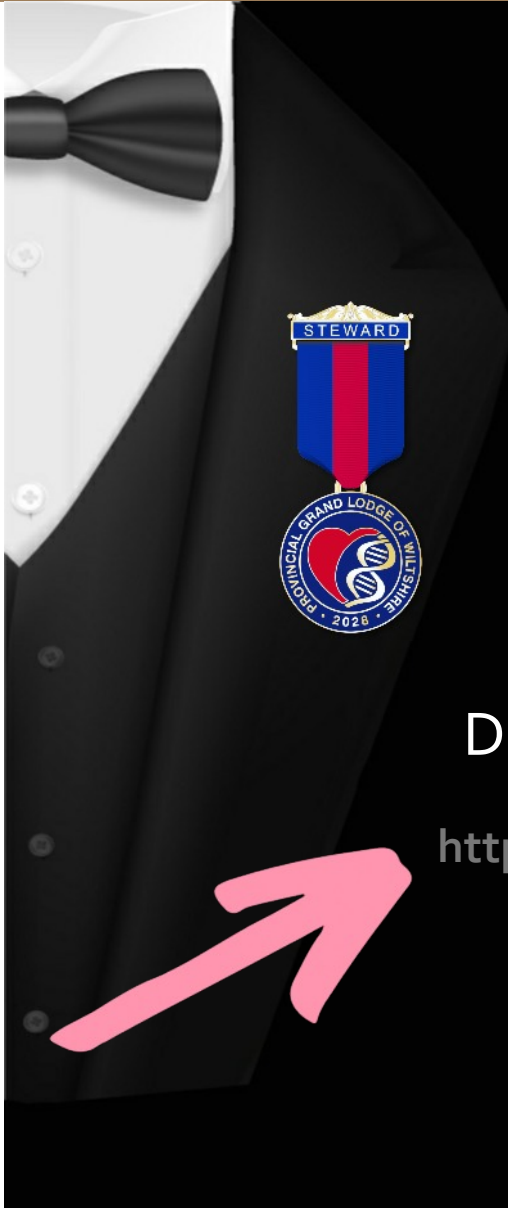
DEC  
2022

### Downton Christmas Tree Festival.....

As part of the Christmas festivities the members of Downton Lodge No.9064 channelled their inner creativity to make and decorate their very own Christmas Tree that they proudly displayed in St Laurence Church for the village Christmas Tree Festival.

The Christmas Tree Festival was held over the weekend of 10 and 11 December to raise money for the local Samaritans and the church maintenance fund. Events included musical contributions from the Downton Training Band, the Fordingbridge Handbells, Otto Corde Mandolins, Northumbrian Pipes and various choirs from local schools and the wider Downton area.





### Wiltshire 2028 Festival

- making a difference -

Join  
John Reid PrGM  
at the  
Festival Dinner

Doubletree Hilton Swindon

<https://tinyurl.com/Wiltshire-Festival>

Bookings for this event  
close on  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

#### Getting ready for Festival....

You don't have to wait until the official launch of the Wiltshire 2028 Festival; you can start to make a difference today by pledging a regular donation to your Lodge Relief Chest or by signing up to a smooth giving plan with the Provincial Festival Relief Chest. Can you pledge to give £10 per month?

Can you give whatever your circumstances in life fairly warrant? Always remembering that in Freemasonry we never expect a Brother to give beyond his means.

Scan the QR code with phone camera to open or visit URL  
[tinyurl.com/53bfkzju](https://tinyurl.com/53bfkzju)

Wiltshire 2028 Festival E2028

