

News and Notes

For Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock

March 2024

March is upon us! Just about everyone I speak to when I'm out gardening tells me that this is their favourite time of the year. Although I'm more partial to the blistering heat of summer, I can see what they mean. People are once again beginning to cheerfully bustle about of an evening, bulbs are cheerfully bursting out of a morning, and lawn mowers are cheerfully mowing of a weekend. The feeling of 'we made it through another winter!' seems to tinge everything with optimism. Or perhaps that's just me. Our 10 year old, Greta, has already started asking us to quantify exactly **how** excited we are for Ebblefest (answer - our excitement is boundless and bordering on rabid). Although Ebblefest is still some months away I think the changing village atmosphere has sparked this in her, which I love.

Speaking of Ebblefest, head to page 13 for the call to arms made by Paula of Friday Night Raddy notoriety, asking for people to get involved in our ever growing Festival. Isn't this how Glastonbury started? We can confirm that getting involved (whether in the build up, during the actual event or helping with pack down) is brilliant fun and well worth your time. There are also usually snacks.

And that's not all in this month's edition. There's lots more to read including articles from John Martin of Nunton Farm glory and Martin Simcock of Bread and Flowers fame. Plus, a Spotlight article that shines brightly on a true pillar of the community.

Thanks to all who have contributed. Our inbox was bursting with requests, messages, adverts, news and even notes - please do keep them coming as it's made for a fantastic edition. And yes, I would say that even if wasn't a fantastic edition but this time I actually mean it!

And finally, it would be remiss of me to not offer firm handshakes and thanks to our Co-Editors, Jonny and Marelka, for last month's top drawer edition. Hoorah and enjoy!

Orpheus - Co-Editor

Community News

Your Nunton Distribution Team Needs You!

Nunton's Sally Nelson has requested that we inform you all that after several years delivering News and Notes through our letterboxes, Emma Stapley needs to stand down from the Nunton News and Notes distribution team. Our huge thanks to Emma for all the time and effort she has given to supporting our community newsletter. We are now looking for a new member (or members) of the Nunton delivery team. Could you spare half an hour or so once a month? Perhaps you'd like an excellent opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise, delivering News and Notes? If you are interested please contact Sally Nelson on 01722 328220.

Grafters for Rafter

It is with some sadness that we have been asked to announce that Odstock's Stewart Ford, of rafting fame, shall be stepping down as Master of Rafts after this year's Ebblefest Raft Race and he would like to pass the baton to anyone who feels they would like to take up this super important post. The idea is that the incoming hero shadows the incumbent host at this year's (Sunday 30th June) Ebblefest Raft Race, so that in 2025 they can take the reins as a fully fledged *rafteur*. Should you be interested in this superbly Titanic role please contact Stewart directly on stewartdford@gmail.com

Donate your Imperfect Crockery Stash - for the Ebblefest Smash

The Gardener's of Nunton have asked for people to drop any unwanted crockery to Oakdene, opposite the recreation ground in Nunton. There is a wood stack and store on your right as you go up their drive. This is where all of your unwanted crockery will stay until it's time for the Ebblefest Crockery SMASH!

Join u3a

If you are retired, semi-retired or no longer in full-time employment, Spire u3a can be the gateway to making the most of life, without spending a fortune. Meeting in the Memorial Hall at Harnham, they offer an opportunity to hear new ideas, explore interests and share skills. The monthly meeting, beginning with refreshments, is a time to hear what the interest groups are doing and learn about the topic for the morning from a visiting speaker, or one of our knowledgeable members.

Prospective members are invited to come along on **Monday 11th March at 10am** to see what it is all about. No charge. If you like what you find the Treasurer will be asking for annual subs in April - £15 for a full year. So just turn up on the morning of March 11 or contact Mary, the Membership Secretary: mfrobson@btinternet.com

Diving in the Philippines

19:30, Wednesday 20th March. All Saints Church, Charlton All Saints.

Diving in the Philippines, a multitude of different environments from the largest fish & shark in the world to tiny macro life. An audio visual presentation by Jane and Vince Jenkins consisting of two halves joined by cheese and wine.

Admission £10

Please contact Barbara Box: oldcharlton@gmail.com or tel 01725 510758

More Community News

A Heartfelt Thanks

The Friends of Broad Chalke School (FOBS) wish to express their hugest thanks to the Ebbfest Committee, for choosing us as one of their charities to receive a donation.

As a PTA group, we have a genuine passion to create memorable events and raise vital funds to enhance our school children's wider experiences, and we have many children across our villages attending Broad Chalke Primary School. This donation was such a lovely, unexpected surprise for which we are so very grateful.

We look forward to seeing you at Ebbfest 2024..... Look out for us there!

6 week Lent course
'Making Jesus Known'
Come and meet Him

Starts Monday 19 February 3.30-5pm
The Orchard sitting room, Nunton

For more details contact Debby
01722 329769 or email
dunderh942@btinternet.com

East End Lent Lunch
In aid of RISE 61

Saturday 9th March 12pm-2pm
The Radnor Hall

Soup and Ploughman's
Raffle and a speaker

Tickets: Adults £8, under 18 £4, under 12 free

Five go to Kenya

Sheri Start, Sally Sutcliffe, Linda Sutcliffe, Marie-Terese Tiernan and Lynn Walworth will be volunteering for 2 weeks at the Matumaini Rehabilitation Centre (MRC) in rural Kenya.

As nurses and special needs providers with a combined working age of 193 years, we have an exciting opportunity to visit and work along side both staff and children at MRC. This centre cares for children and young adults who are disabled and/or orphaned. Stigma surrounding disability is particularly prevalent in rural African communities and there is little education available to change this narrative. Alongside supporting the lives of these disadvantaged children, we hope to create a 'centre of excellence' where nursing skills can be exchanged to combine knowledge and optimise care. With this in mind we will offer refresher training to those from isolated communities who lack support and mentoring.

Our target of £2,000 will provide training equipment, resources and transport for attendees from remote areas. If funds allow we would love to help modernise parts of the centre and establish a sensory room to enhance their lives and make them know that they matter.

We would be grateful if you could visit our Just Giving Page and hopefully sponsor us.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/five-go-to-kenya>



Spare room in your attic?

WANTED! Space to store Panto costumes

The Dame's frocks, the villain's wigs & all the other pantomime costumes for the Radnor Hall Players are in need of a new home, to be kept safe & dry until it's panto time once again. If you have any spare room, space in your attic, shelves in your garage, etc. we'd be most grateful.

If you can help, please contact:

Paula Gribben
email: nuntonhouse@gmail.com



Focus on Food

If I'm honest, and the new year is the best place to start with this kind of philosophy, I was never the sharpest knife in the drawer. And a good example of that would be my interpretation of Simon and Garfunkel's 'Scarborough Fair,' from way back when. It's a herby reference so fits in vaguely with the culinary themes my pages attempt to portray.

We all know the words, but not necessarily in the right order to quote Eric Morcombe. This is how I heard them, 'Are you going to Scarborough Fair? Parsley, Sage rows, Mary, and Thyme'. I've been to gardens the world over and seen rows of Parsley, Sage and Thyme, but I could never work out where Mary came into the equation, and always thought it must be some biblical reference, Mary Magdalene, Holy Mary Mother of God, that kind of thing, just because the song is so pretty.

Then of course there are my maths skills, exhibited at early grammar school. The classic dilemma, Mary has three eggs, Steven has four mushrooms. Steven gives Mary three mushrooms..... And of course, I get it immediately, this is a story about Mary and Steven and their preposterous affair, involving kissing, cuddling and culminating in a mushroom omelette. Not much got past me in the late sixties.

These days however, I do have a draw full of very sharp knives, so it's funny how life turns in perfect circles. Actually, I don't keep them in a draw, they hang on magnetic strips, on the wall, easy to see and easy to access. My current favourite, since you ask and I'm happy to recommend, is a German made Wusthof, available online at nisbets.co.uk. They have a full selection, they're reasonably priced, and excellent quality.

My go to is the Gourmet serrated pastry knife 25.4cm, it's a great all-rounder, I use it for practically everything and it's about £80. Then I use their 26.7cm chef knife, it has a beautiful weight and balance and is great for chopping herbs, which we use by the kilo every week when the season is at full tilt. It's great for lots of other things too. It is expensive at £150, but when I'm using it 50 – 60 hours a week, it's worth every penny. Of course, every chef has their own favourite brand and price point. I've always used a Victorinox pastry knife until recently, it does a fantastic job, only costs £30 and you'll use it for a year before needing to sharpen it.

For anyone passionate about knives, as I am, I was given my first one when I joined the scouts aged eleven, there's a fantastic book, funnily enough called 'Knife' by Tim Hayward, 'A love letter to this most covetable of culinary tools.' With magnificent photography, it's an absolutely fascinating delve into the world of both practical and iconic blades. Rush out and get a copy.

Peas in our Thyme.

Martin Simcock - Bread and Flowers

Nunton Farm News

Boy have we been busy since we last spoke! What a winter we have had. The cows have been busy making the white stuff that you know and love, the team has grown, new babies are appearing, and more cafes are stocking our milk!

Over the winter months the cows have enjoyed the luxuries of a delightful bed and breakfast (namely, our 520 space cubicle shed)- bookings available for Winter 2024 now open! The dairy team provide an excellent turn down service, whereby the beds are swept clean and topped up with fresh sawdust morning and evening, and all slurry produced by the cows is scraped away into our slurry lagoon. This leaves the cow shed in a great condition for the cows to return to after milking.

Laurence, our tractor driver, feeds 24 Tonnes of silage every day to the milking cows to keep the wolf from the door. As well as the countless other groups of animals! Thankfully, due to the great forage harvest in 2023, we still have plenty of silage to feed to the cows over the next few months.

You may have noticed a few new faces in and around the village! Ryan joined the farm over the Christmas period and has settled in nicely into the dairy team. Annie, our new apprentice has also started in the new year, helping with every job imaginable on the farm from milking to calf rearing, and maybe even delivering milk! Charlotte has returned to the farm after her maternity leave, which has made a big difference to my workload.

Talking of new additions to the farm, since the beginning of February, we've had 160 baby calves (and counting) born on the farm! Most of these will be reared on farm by Alice (our calf rearer) and will join the herd in 2 years time. The freshly calved cows will join the milking group in the aforementioned cubicle shed.

The more observant walkers amongst you may have noticed a new building being constructed beside shelf lane. This is our new maternity unit for the cows, which will provide more space and allow some well earned rest on deep bed straw. They will be able to feast on delicious silage for the two weeks prior to calving.

As the seasons progress and the temperatures begin to rise, the green green grass is beginning to get going! This means it won't be long before our lovely ladies will be galivanting around the pastures. You may have seen dad "walking the grass". As bizarre as this might sound, it doesn't involve trying to secure a dog leash to a tussock of grass, it does in fact, involve walking from field to field measuring the length and maturity of the grass to establish when it can be grazed. This is a vital practice and helps us to manage the supply of grass throughout the grazing season.

Our vending machine and cafe enterprise has continued to grow, with new additions to our cafe round! We now supply the Hub in Broadchalke, Stalls cafe near Fovant and Ginny's dairy on the market square. Emma and Hazel have both been busy whizzing around Wiltshire to keep them all topped up!

To round off last year we were awarded the "South west Dairy Farm of the year" award! We were so proud to have received the award, this wouldn't have been possible without the hard work from the Nunton farm team and the continued support from Longford estate.

That's it from us at Nunton farm! Thanks for taking some time to catch up on the happenings here on the farm.

John Martin

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CANAPES

Burnt brisket ends, dill relish. Smokey baba ghanoush, crisp flatbreads. Superstraccia stuffed & deep fried Gordal olives.

FIRST

Whipped feta/ Superstraccia, crushed coriander, fennel seeds and burnt orange, sourdough.

SECOND

Porchetta, Fennel, herbs, lemon Or Grilled Hispi cabbage, Lemon, herb butter, toasted Focaccia Crumb

TABLE SHARING

Blackened Beets and Roasted Carrots.

Hasselback potatoes, salsa Verde

Charred Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Chilli, Lemon, radish. Kenson's leaves, charcoal dressing

THIRD

Pineapple, ginger and Thai basil sorbet Or Chocolate brownie cooked on the bbq, Smoked Milk Ice cream.

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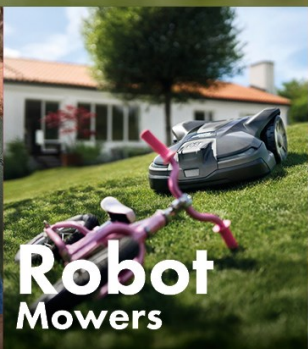


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EBBLEFEST 2024

Ways to get involved!

Saturday 29th June



Car Parking

Can you spare an hour or so on the day, between 12 noon & 7pm? The team need helpers to oversee car parking and safe access / departure of on-site traffic.



Gate Keepers

Or could you volunteer for an hour or so to be part of EbbleFest's welcome team? We'll need a crew on the day from 1.30pm to 7.30pm.



Stall host

Another fun way to get involved is to help run a stall... that could be overseeing tickets sales for things like "Barrow of Booze" or "Plot the Plop". We would be thrilled if you're able to help.



Raft Race

Stewart Ford has been captain of the raft race for 20 years but 2024 will be his final voyage. Could you join Stewart in steering this year's race on **Sunday 30 June**? And then be "ship-shape & Bristol fashion" to take the helm in 2025?!

SET UP!

Evening of 27th June
from 6pm

ON THE DAY

At the gate from
1.30-7.30pm

RAFT RACE

Sunday June 30th
morning

If you can help in any way, we would love to hear from you!

Contact the team! Email: info@ebblefest.com



ebblefest



WHAT3WORDS

[uppermost.hazy.roadmap](https://www.what3words.com/uppermost.hazy.roadmap)

Jeremy Metcalfe



When did you move to Bodenham?

We moved into Bodenham in 2006, having spent summer refurbishing the house. We had always hoped to live in a village around Salisbury and were thrilled to discover ONB!

Could you tell us about your life and career?

I joined The Queen's Own Hussars in 1975. I had a varied life serving in Germany, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and England which involved tanks, Defence IT and multinational programmes. We witnessed both the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall collapse. Fascinating times as the Cold War came to an end.

We moved to Wilton in 2001 and I was a key player in the delivery of the Bowman communications which was a £1.2 Bn programme to convert men and machines to the new system. At the time it was a big issue as the whole country seemed to have an opinion on how to do it. In 2005, I received an OBE from Her Majesty, and on being presented the medal in Buckingham Palace, even she had a comment about it! I left the Army in 2010. I then worked at Porton Down running a variety of IT systems for scientists until I stopped paid work in 2021. I have never been busier.

What do you like about living in the Five Villages?

We love living in a village community. We greatly appreciate the friendly people. We enjoy church and community life and I have been fully involved in village activities since arriving.

You run a lot of projects, what are they?

I am Chairman of [The Queen's Royal Hussars Museum in Warwick](#). Two years ago we completed a multimillion-pound rebuild, and now we are at the stage of opening it during the summer months. It is quite a challenge to do this from afar.

I am also Chairman of [CRESS](#). This is an amazing charity which supports refugees in Northern Uganda, and we are in the process of enabling Ugandans to run their own activities through a new NGO. It is our policy to metaphorically teach folk how to fish, not to just provide fish for them. This is working well thanks to the Chalke Valley's generosity.

I'm also Chairman of the Radnor Hall and help with the pantomime and EbbleFest. I am in the process of handing some of this over to fabulous new teams.

Can you tell us something unusual that you have done?

In 2011 I had the great fortune of sailing across the Atlantic in the Jubilee Sailing Trust three-masted schooner, which allows for enabled and disabled people to sail together. I was a buddy to a blind person, which was a fascinating experience.

What hobbies/interests outside of work do you have?

I greatly enjoy our growing family of wonderful grandchildren. If I have a few spare moments then I delve into my past family history; and I recently discovered the joy of designing and laser cutting.

Plant Problems - Solved!

The good people of the Five Villages (Alys Hunter) called out into the void (last month's N&N), for a saviour of sorts... Some kind of plant-based hero was needed and Monty Don wasn't picking up. So here I am; Mind honed to a dull edge, ready to help. Thank you all, for your questions!

Hello! We have a bay tree with brown spotty leaves - best way to treat it? Thanks in advance!

Hello back! So although bay laurels are fairly tough, there are a few things that can do them in, including having roots that are too wet. Being a Mediterranean plant they like good, free draining soil. If it's in a pot then it's a simple fix - repot with plenty of grit to improve drainage and make sure the pot is on feet. Mulch well and Bob's your ankle, as they say. If it's in the ground and still small then dig it up and add grit into the hole to fix the drainage issue and replant. Then mix up baking soda and washing up liquid and give it a good spray (do this if it's in a pot too!) as this will help deter fungal growth. Failing that, copper fungicides should do the trick and get your bay healthy and happy in no time.

I didn't prune my apple trees at all last year or the espalier ones along the fence... now they are growing like crazy! What shall I do?

So there's good news and bad news here. The good news is you can prune your espaliered apples this year. Towards the end of summer go along and prune back all the long vertical shoots growing off the main stem back to about 5 inches. Leave any fruiting spurs - these are the short stems that the fruit grows on. The bad news is you need to wait until next winter (for both espaliered and standard) for a proper prune. In the meantime, be sure to still remove any dead, diseased or dying branches. Come next winter you can then focus on your standard apple tree. Prune out the branches that crowd the centre of the tree, cut away any that are crossing over or rubbing and remove 2 thirds of the watershoots (the hundreds of vertical branches that they produce!). Leave the branches towards the outside of the tree. Hope that helps. If this doesn't make sense, corner me in the Radnor Arms on a Friday evening where no doubt, after a couple of pints, I'll explain it even more clearly.

My peace lily appears to be ready to be split into multiple lilies. When is the best time to do this and what sort of potting material do they like? Thank you!

The best time to divide peace lilies is during their active growing season, spring or early summer. This helps the newly divided sections take root faster. They are happy with soil that has a good balance of drainage and moisture retention. Standard house plant compost does well for this - I like to add a bit of potting grit as well. Remember to keep the new plants wet while they're growing new roots.

Paula has asked how she trims her orchid's roots without killing the plant.

Hello Paula! As I'm sure you know, the orchid is an epiphyte plant which means it grows on trees in nature! They use their aerial roots to absorb nutrients from the air as well as using them to attach to trees. So put down the shears and step away from the orchid. They need those aerial roots to survive. If your orchid is producing a whole gamut of the things there's a fair chance that its environment isn't humid enough. Consider misting it. The only roots it's safe to remove are ones that are dying. If they've turned brown grab those shears and get busy. Otherwise try to love it despite all its weird tentacles.

Before my bindweed takes hold and takes over, how can I nip its peskiness in the bud when it starts to appear??!!

If you aren't inclined to dig it all out (and honestly, who is) what you can do is get a dog poo bag (bear with me) and stuff all of the bindweed that is above ground into it (without damaging the stem) and then spray into the bag with a systemic weedkiller, being careful to not spray anything else. Then tie the bag off and leave the accursed plant to its fate!

Orpheus Alexander - Co-Editor

WI Report

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I. February 2024

On February 12th members met at the Radnor Hall. New members were welcomed. Priscilla Mackay was thanked for her arrangement of Spring flowers as were the members who provided cakes. Regular group business and county events were updated. We were reminded that subscriptions of £48 would be due in April. Volunteers were asked to knit Trauma Teddies for the Fire and Ambulance services. Following on from last month's meeting two more NFWI resolutions were introduced.

Resolution 3. Say no to gambling advertising. This will reduce gambling harm, save the NHS money, protect family relationships and decrease the number of suicides.

Resolution 4. Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. This highlights the need to reduce the number of women imprisoned for non-violent offences. In particular pregnant women and mothers.

The members voted on all four resolutions and results will be sent to WI House. Members enjoyed a Coffee, Cake and Chat session. Topics to discuss were picked out of a hat. Surplus cakes were sold and with contributions for tea and coffee £65 was raised for the Food Bank.

The next meeting is on March 11th and will be the AGM. The talk will be Dorset's Wonderful River Stour. The speaker Ron Taylor.

Elizabeth Cutter

Church News

News from the Pews

Dear all, well we are into Lent now. No flowers in churns, purple vestments, while we think of the dreadful time Jesus must have had, contemplating his coming death.

Some folk give up a pleasure during Lent, some take on an extra activity, but whatever you do we wish you well with this. Unlike New Year resolutions, there is light at the end of the tunnel as Easter Sunday is at the end of March.

During Lent, the Chalke Valley Benefice support a charity, and this year it is [Rise 61, a local charity](#) helping children and young people on Bemerton Heath. They are trying to raise money to build a centre, with kitchen and activity rooms. We are supporting fitting out the kitchen area. There are leaflets in all the churches explaining this, or you could come along to the Lent Lunch on Saturday March 9th at the Radnor Hall. It is open to all from 12-2pm, where there will be a presentation from Rise 61 as well as lunch and a raffle. Please contact Debby Underhill if you would like to book.

All normal services will continue as published. It is Mothering Sunday on March 10 and Palm Sunday on March 24. There will be a sectional service on Good Friday at St Andrews Nunton, and Easter Sunday is 11am at St Mary's Odstock Holy Communion. There is an extra service of Holy Communion at Odstock on Wednesday March 20 at 12 midday. During Lent there are opportunities for reflection in groups led by various people. These are listed separately.

Take care, and be kind to each other, and keep looking forward to the light which is Easter Sunday.

Mary Boydcamps & Stephanie Elcock - Churchwardens



Church Services

For Britford, Charlton All Saints,
Odstock and Nunton with Bodenham



March 2024

Please check the weekly e-Bulletin or e-N&N for all Benefice Services

During Lent, a short service of Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 noon:

6th March - Bishopstone, 13th March - Homington; 20th March - Odstock

3 March 3rd Sunday	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Britford Odstock	Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor
10 March MOTHERING SUNDAY	9.30 am 11.00am	Family Communion Morning Prayer	Nunton Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S Rhoderick Voremberg
17 March 5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion	Odstock	Anthony Hawley
24 March PALM SUNDAY	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Charlton All Saints Nunton	Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor
25, 26, 27 March	8.00pm	Holy Week Compline	Coombe Bissett	Clergy
28 March MAUNDY THURSDAY	6.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper	Bishopstone	J Taylor / R H-S
29 March GOOD FRIDAY	2.00pm 6.00PM	Way of The Cross Stainer's Crucifixion	Nunton Bishopstone	Ruth H-S St John's Singers
31 March EASTER DAY	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Communion CLOCKS GO FORWARD	Charlton All Saints Odstock	Ruth H-S Ruth H-S

Clergy Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697 022

Team Vicar ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503 081

Team Vicar ~ Vacant

Associate Priest ~ The Revd Kate Woolven 07754 582 395



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – March 2024




BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



During Lent, a short service of Communion is held each Wednesday at 12noon:

6th March - St John the Baptist, Bishopstone, 13th March - St Mary's, Homington

20th March - St Mary's, Odstock

3 March 3rd Sunday of Lent	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service Morning Prayer (BCP)	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Berwick St John	Tony Monds Jenny Taylor Tony Monds Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor Lay Led
10 March 4th Sunday of Lent MOTHERING SUNDAY	9.30am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Mothering Sunday Service Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) All Age Service Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke Nunton Berwick St John Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Lay Led Rhoderick Voremberg Ruth H-S Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
17 March 5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke Bishopstone Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake Homington Berwick St John	Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Anthony Hawley Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S
24 March PALM SUNDAY 	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Service Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Nunton Bishopstone Alvediston Homington	Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Kate Woolven Adrian Taylor Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Rhoderick Voremberg
25, 26, 27 March	8.00pm	Holy Week Compline	Coombe Bissett	Clergy
28 March MAUNDY THURSDAY	6.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper (CW)	Bishopstone	J Taylor / R H-S
29 March GOOD FRIDAY 	11.00am 12 noon 1.00pm 2.00pm 6.00pm	St John's Vigil Way of the Cross Reflections on Good Friday Way of the Cross Stainer's Crucifixion	Alvediston Berwick St John Broad Chalke Nunton Bishopstone	Lay Led Ruth H-S Lay Led Ruth H-S St John's Singers
30 March EASTER EVE	6.00pm	Easter Fire & Communion	Homington	Jenny Taylor
31 March EASTER DAY  Clocks go Forward	6.00am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Dawn Comunion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion (CW)	Lodge Farmhouse Broad Chalke Bowerchalke Bishopstone Charlton Coombe Bissett Berwick St John Alvediston Odstock	Ruth H-S Barney Hopkinson Katharine Robinson Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Tony Monds Kate Woolven Ruth H-S
7 April 2nd Sunday of Easter	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven

Ministry Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple: 01722 697022

Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, Vacancy.

Associate Priest ~ The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395

Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

Assisting Clergy:

The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 07808 614597

Lay Worship Leaders:

Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Naomi Martin: 07713031774, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley: 01722 780538, Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152

Police and Crime Commissioner

PCC Philip Wilkinson's March Parish Column



After a period of public consultation, I presented my final proposal for the policing precept of your council tax to the Police and Crime Panel this month.

Wiltshire Police is facing increased financial pressures as we strive to deliver the necessary service improvements required, which led to the panel supporting my decision to increase the precept by 5.2%, an extra £1.09 a month or £13 a year for the average Band D property.

This, alongside a grant from the government, accounts for the core budget for policing in the county.

The decision to increase the precept has been a difficult but necessary one. I am listening to residents when they tell me that they want a better and improved service from both the police and wider criminal justice system with improved outcomes and more visibility.

The public voted in favour of the rise, with 85% of respondents to my recent Policing, Priorities and ££s survey saying they wanted to see more investment in policing.

Whilst key improvements have been delivered over past 12 months, including a fourfold improvement in positive outcomes for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and Wiltshire Police becoming one of the top performing forces nationally in disrupting county lines per head in capita, there is still much to do to make Wiltshire safer as crime and policing demand becomes ever more complex.

Even by putting the precept up by £13 a year, we still need to make savings of £2.4m to cover the funding gap. We remain one of the worst funded force areas in the country, but I will continue to lobby the government for fairer funding.

Both the Chief Constable and I are committed to delivering a policing service which meets an ever-changing crime picture and is fit for the future.

I am confident that with this increase we can continue to invest in key areas to maintain the improvements that we are now seeing across the board.

Police and Crime Commissioner

PCC supports more community groups by awarding grants via Community Action Fund



Another six community groups working to tackle important issues including youth safety, homelessness and domestic abuse have received a grant via Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson's Community Action Fund.

Every year the PCC's Community Action Fund is delivered in partnership with Wiltshire Community Foundation and supports voluntary groups to deliver activities in line with priorities set out in PCC Philip Wilkinson's #MakingWiltshireSafer Police and Crime Plan 2022-25.

Applications for funding were considered by the OPCC panel in January, with applications still be accepted on a rolling basis for next quarter's decision-making panel.

PCC Philip Wilkinson said: "I'm pleased with the number of applications we've received in this window of funding and the standard of those applications has been very high.

"I'd like to thank every group for their interest in my Community Action Fund and for the great work they all do whether that be protecting young or vulnerable people, offering diversionary activities and pathways or providing a space within communities.

"I'm looking forward to seeing these projects develop and visiting as many of the groups as I can to see their great work in action, how they are actively contributing to their communities and helping to making Wiltshire safer by delivering the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan."

For more information visit the website [HERE](#)



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

THE BEST TIME OF YEAR

SPRING is the best time of year to join u3a.

If you are retired, semi-retired or no longer in full-time employment Spire u3a can be the gateway to making the most of life, without spending a fortune.

Meeting in the Memorial Hall at Harnham our local u3a offers an opportunity to hear new ideas, explore interests and share skills. The monthly meeting, beginning with refreshments, is a time to hear what the interest groups are doing and learn about the topic for the morning from a visiting speaker, or one of our knowledgeable members.

Chairman John Holt said: "We always try to find someone who can talk to us on a topic of general interest. Particular interests, such as Photography, Microscopy, Theatre, Poetry or whatever are covered by specific interest groups that meet locally in smaller venues on different days. We also have some thriving social groups - Coffee companions, Lunch Bunch and the Sunday Lunch Club. Then there is Scrabble, Canasta and Craft which all seem to be doing well."

Prospective members are invited to come along on Monday March 11 at 10am to see what it is all about. No charge. If you like what you find the Treasurer will be asking for annual subs in April - £15 for a full year.

So just turn up on the morning of March 11 or contact Mary, the Membership Secretary - mfrobson@btinternet.com

See the [Spire u3a website](#) for more local details, [or the national site](#).

Broken heating system?

**You might be eligible for
financial help to replace it**



Call 0800 038 5722

If you're struggling to afford your energy bills this winter or your heating system is broken, help is available.

Warm & Safe Wiltshire is a free local energy advice service that can offer you practical, bespoke advice to make sure you're not living in a cold home. Friendly advisors can also check if you're eligible for financial assistance, such as the Household Support Fund. Through the Household Support Fund you could receive up to £3k towards the cost of replacing your broken heating system. To be eligible you must:

- Have a broken or intermittently working heating system (this includes any type of system).
- Be on a low income or receive means tested benefits like universal credit, income support or housing benefit.
- Live in Wiltshire.

However, if you fall outside of these criteria, we also review everyone's case individually. It's very likely we'll still be able to help.

If you think you'd benefit from this, or other energy saving support, please get in touch by calling 0800 038 5722 or by filling in [this form](#). Or you can refer someone using [this form](#).

For more information, visit the [Warm & Safe Wiltshire website](#). Funding is available until the end of March 2024.



Access Community Service

Wiltshire Library

Drop-in Sessions

Want to know more about groups, clubs/societies in your area, or fancy a chat about mental health?



Come and join us...

We will be based in each of the main **Wiltshire Libraries** once a month for a 2 hour drop-in session.

Amesbury- Last Thursday 10am-midday
Bradford on Avon- Third Monday 10am-midday
Calne- Last Tuesday 2pm-4pm
Chippenham- Second Monday 11am-1pm
Corsham- First Monday 2pm-4pm
Devizes- Third Wednesday 10am-midday
Malmesbury- Second Friday 11am-1pm
Melksham- Last Friday 11am-1pm
Royal Wootton Bassett- Last Monday 11am-1pm
Salisbury- Last Thursday 1pm-3pm
Tidworth- First Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm
Trowbridge- First Friday 10am-midday
Warminster- Second Thursday 1pm-3pm
Westbury- Second Thursday 10am-midday

For more information contact our Group Coordinators;

- Abi: abi.mitchell@rethink.org
- Becky: rebecca.bye@rethink.org

Service Contact / Find Us Online:

rethink.org

08082 803528 @ AccessWiltshire@rethink.org rethink.org/wiltsaccessmh wiltshire.clic-uk.org



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Stars Appeal VR Support



Stars Appeal virtual reality kit transports children in Salisbury Hospital to magical worlds

Children in hospital can be transported into space and even go on safari with a new virtual reality headset funded by the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity.

The specialist virtual reality (VR) therapy kit, which cost £6,000, is helping children on Sarum Children's Ward at Salisbury Hospital to feel calmer and make their time in hospital more fun.

The headset has an array of virtual reality experiences creating life-like three dimensional worlds for children to explore including expeditions into space, animal and dinosaur safaris and relaxing trips to the beach, as well as games.

Seven-year-old Khloe Mann, from Durrington, was able to get up close to her favourite animals during an African safari thanks to the specialist VR kit when she was on the children's ward at the end of last year.

She said: "The VR headset was really good. There were lots of different kinds of animals to see. It was really exciting; my favourite animals were the lions. It made me feel calm and relaxed."

Her dad Ryan added: "It's nice to break up their time up and it definitely makes children's stays in hospital easier."

Arya Smith, aged nine, from Wilton, tried out the games on the VR headset when she was in hospital. She said the games were "cool" adding: "It's fun playing the games."

Her mum Lorna said: "It's great to have something like this, which can be taken to their bedside. It gives them something to keep their minds busy while they are in hospital. Thank you very much to all the Stars Appeal supporters for making Arya's stay more pleasant."

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

The specialist therapy equipment is also a great distraction for children when they are being treated and having procedures like blood tests.

As Sarum Ward's Play Specialist Natasha Long explains: "The virtual reality therapy kit has made such a massive difference to children on Sarum Ward. It is a brilliant distraction for the children especially when they are being treated and having procedures like blood tests which, in some instances, we would have struggled to get without the therapy headset. It has a calming effect and immerses the children into a different world. Thank you to Stars Appeal supporters for giving us the opportunity to make the children's time in hospital less scary and more fun and enjoyable."

This is just one of the ways Stars Appeal supporters' generous donations and fundraising are making a difference to children in the Hospital. The Stars Appeal also provide enhancements to the ward, a parents' flat and pulldown beds so parents can stay by their child's bedside, a dedicated play assistant, and multi-sensory toys.

Find out more about projects supporting Sarum Children's Ward on our [website](#) .



The Stars Appeal is the charity for Salisbury District Hospital. Every day, work funded by the charity helps hundreds of patients at Salisbury District Hospital and supports the NHS staff who care for them. The Stars Appeal aims to raise over £1 million each year to fund projects which offer direct, practical support to patients, their families, and the Hospital's staff.

News and Notes

For Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock

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