

News and Notes



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

December 2025 and January 2026

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See pages 9 – 13 inclusive

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The Christmas Story

Can it really be Christmas again! It seems to have come round very quickly this year... but we have already had the pantomime . . . O yes we have! . . . and singers are already planning for the Carol Services.



But before we rush to Christmas lunch and all the trimmings, before we get carried away by all the hype and commercialism of Christmas, before we worry about all the things on our 'to do' lists or whether the turkey will fit in the oven, I invite you to take a moment to remember what Christmas is really about. To remember the birth of a baby, in rather inauspicious

circumstances; the birth of a baby who would be the light of the world and who would change history.

It is easy to feel that we are living in a very dark world; the days are still getting shorter, news reports continue to be filled with reports of conflict, natural disasters, flooding and dire warnings about the impact of global warming. But Advent is a time of hope when we can see light shining in the darkness, when we look forward to the light of Christ coming into our world.

As we once again watch the nativity plays and hear the Christmas story, let us remember that the true meaning of Christmas lies in the values it represents – love, peace, hope and unity. It is a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives and to share those blessings with others. It is a time to embrace the spirit of giving and to remember the importance of gratitude and generosity.

As we gather for our celebrations in a world which seems to be filled with chaos and division, Christmas reminds us of the importance of peace. Regardless of one's beliefs, Christmas serves as a reminder to focus on what truly matters – the well-being of our fellow human beings, the importance of love and compassion, and the hope for a better world.

May this Christmas fill your hearts with the peace that surpasses all understanding. May it inspire us to be agents of compassion, spreading joy to those around us. Let us remember that the greatest gift is the gift of our presence and godly love.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with peace, love and joy!

Rev Ruth Howlett-Shipley

Village Carol Singing

Come and join us singing carols around our villages

Thursday 18 December, Nunton

Meet at 6pm by bus stop at The Orchard
Contact Adrian Taylor 07753 829027

Friday 19 December, Odstock

Meet at crossroads at 6pm
Contact Caroline Cooper 01722 324915

Monday 22 December, Bodenham

Meet at Warmans at 6pm and finish at
Amber Cottage for festive cheer.
Contact Debby Underhill 01722329769

Brand New - Monthly Photo Competition

Now that we have a very smart new website for N&N, we thought it would be the ideal time to start a photography competition.

We know there are plenty of budding photographers out there and we would love to feature your pics on the website and showcase our beautiful villages.

So, for now, this is a just-for-fun competition and the only prize will be the prestige of being the monthly winner. But if it proves popular, who knows what glorious prizes we may have in the future!

Guidelines

You need to be a resident of one of the 5 villages.

Scenic/countryside pics only for now

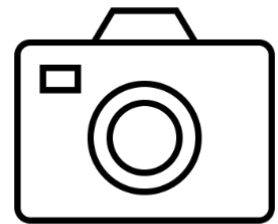
How to enter:

Email one photo to: editor@newsandnotes.co.uk

Include your name and where your photo was taken.

Thank you and good luck. We look forward to seeing your fab photos on the website.

Thanks to Sheri Start for setting this up!



Pantomime Review

Alys Hunter's re-imagining of the well-known story of Jack and the Beanstalk was the perfect antidote to a damp November evening. Rebecca Witt made an entirely believable and suitably gullible Jack, and the author herself, as Flash Alan, handed over the beans in exchange for the wonderful cow Daisy, the possessor of an udder with which surely even Simon Martin would have been impressed. Jack's mother [John Penny], gorgeously bedecked, hammed the part beautifully and cast the beans with fine disdain upon the compost heap [recipe please], where they, of course, germinated forthwith. The ensuing beanstalk rapidly and literally hit the roof. The beans themselves proved to be a rather magical electric green which clearly alerted a wandering party of National Trust functionaries to the possibility of acquiring the obvious castle at the top for their portfolio. A party of Ramblers or mountaineers also found themselves drawn to this slightly out of the ordinary challenge. Meanwhile, up at the castle, something was

stirring between the Giant's wife [Sherwood Elcock in a fetching pink rinse] and Lysander Fleshcreep, the excellent Richard Cameron. He was so convincing one is tempted to wonder if at last he's found his true calling. It turned out to be a rather unlikely but beautifully portrayed romance. Meanwhile the Giant rumbled offstage [fortunately]. In the end the traditional axe was produced and the beanstalk felled – but not before the National Trust ladies and the Ramblers had burst their bonds in the Giant's dungeon and escaped. The Giant's demise was handled with great delicacy [i.e. ignored], but this cleared the way for his far from distraught wife to pursue her romance with Fleshcreep, to their obvious delight. In the end Baron Bodenham [Rory Gardner] who made up in gravitas what he lacked in stature, gave his blessing to the union of his gorgeous daughter [Millie Chidrawi] with Jack. No doubt Jack's acquisition of the golden egg laying goose and the singing harp helped. By the way; Rory now holds the record for the quickest transition from rats to riches. There was much more to it than that of course. There were lots of Rats, a fine Yokel, a painter, a fruit seller, and on and on. Sadly too many names to mention, as the actors and backstage crew numbered more than 30. But that wasn't all. Together with bar staff, ticket sellers, kitchen helpers and The Village Pudding Corps at least 50 people gave up their time, energy and sometimes their money to make this a success. A great example of Community Spirit. In the interval a delicious chicken casserole supplied by Louise Penny of The Radnor Arms was served while the walking Mastermind that is Jeremy Metcalfe called out randomly generated random numbers, randomly, for the raffle. Well it seemed random to me. Nunton Farm contributed milk and cream for the Geometrical Puddings. The costumes were wonderful, the make-up impeccable and Sherwood deserves a special vote of thanks for the set design and construction. The kitchen was masterminded by the effortlessly multitasking Liz Stanger, and Nick Stanger pulled off the seemingly impossible [again], by cajoling/coercing a bunch of total amateurs of all ages to come together to produce a believable and highly entertaining spectacle. Perhaps he may be persuaded to repeat the performance next year. We can but hope.

Peter Docherty – RHP Pantomime Dame/Villain Emeritus

Charlton All Saints Bonfire Bash

Tickets for this annual event sold almost as fast as the rockets went up. The weather couldn't have been better. In the past we've had to hang onto our hats, sunk up to our ankles in mud, or been muffled up to the eyebrows to ward off the elements. For two weeks prior to the big BB, residents had put out assorted items to be collected and burnt on the bonfire – a perfect means to get rid of unwanted cupboards, doors, gates, pallets, fencing material, rotten garden sheds and summer houses, branches and even the old saggy mattress.



This year's crowning 'Guy' was an effigy of a long-standing and much-loved Charlton resident, Roger House, who, along with Pippa and Bertie their dog are soon to leave The Vicarage and return to New Zealand. Roger vehemently denied rumours of involvement in any plot involving gunpowder and MPs . . . This year's Guy sat atop the enormous pyre on an old sofa with a Bertie beside him. How the bonfire building squad achieved this feat remains a mystery but achieve it they did. The Bonfire Bash has been and remains an occasion anticipated with huge excitement by Charlton's team of dedicated pyromaniacs.

After the spectacle, onlookers repaired to the staddle barn in Charlton courtyard for hot dogs and a lively chat with neighbours over mulled wine and other refreshments from the bar. All in all, it was a great night. Congratulations to all involved for a successful fund-raising event in aid of the upkeep of church building.

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2025

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Salisbury Community Pantry

The Pantry first came about during the pandemic when we were left with surplus food from businesses and supermarkets that was too good to throw away .

. .

We used some of the food for family and kids cookery classes until all the groups closed during the lockdown. A team of City Council Community workers would sort it, bag it and deliver to local families who we knew were struggling through no fault of their own.

As the pandemic progressed, we turned our Bemerton Heath Community Centre into a temporary supermarket and invited local people to do a shop.

Many more folk were coming for food than we ever anticipated and from this the empty old lighting shop in Catherine Street was selected and rented by the

City Council, and we moved our supermarket in once we had painted and equipped it with shelving, fridges, freezers and a till. There were obvious running costs to have this shop so it was decided that a £5 shopping charge for each weekly visit would be employed- we also found that customers were suggesting paying a small charge rather than taking away handouts, which many were not comfortable with doing.

The Pantry remains a social supermarket with an emphasis on well-being, which links in with the Community Café that we also run, just across the road, where customers can enjoy hot drinks & biscuits and a very reasonably priced hot meal, & regular visits from various advisors on debt, money management, prevention and wellness team members and many more supportive agencies.

The Pantry is and always has been accessible to anyone trying to make ends meet, regardless of whether in full-time employment or on benefits.

Jane Wise, Community Development Officer (thanks to Sharon Chandler for sharing this)

Creativitea

Relax and be
enriched by
a
time of
inventive crafting and
varied conversations
in the Barker Room, Nunton
third Thursday of the month
eat cake & drink tea
all very welcome.



DROP IN! Third Thursday of the month 2pm - 4pm

THE BARKER ROOM - ST ANDREWS CHURCH - NUNTON



Festive Fair
Saturday 6th December
10am - 2pm

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ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,
NUNTON

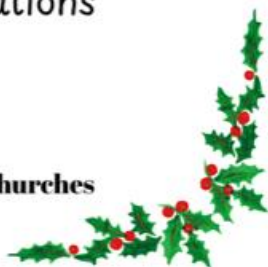
Products to buy from our
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Perfect for your gifts, stocking fillers
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Admission free

Donations welcome to support our churches

Refreshments available



**THE ALPHA
COURSE IS
COMING
HERE
SOON**

Alpha

Introduction & Supper

Broad Chalke Village Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 15 January 2026

The course commences on Thursday 22nd January and then continues every Thursday between 7.00pm and 9.15pm until 19th March 2026.

"The two most important days in your life are the day when you are born and the day you find out why"
(Mark Twain)

Tickets required - no charge

www.tickettailor.com/events/pccbroadchalke

For more information contact Anthony Belchambers
belchambers@icloud.com Mob: 07795 614403

The Alpha course is supported by 14 Chalke Valley Churches



Brenda Read-Brown



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Saturday 24th January 2026 at 7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50 to include first drink and canapés

Booking essential

Anne Stutchbury annewheelwright@gmail.com
Sarah Seal theseal1@outlook.com

In aid of St John the Baptist Church Bishopstone Roof Appeal

The Man from the Odstock Parish Council

I hope that you are all managing to see the benefits and the continued programme of maintenance throughout the villages. As your Parish Council, we have been working hard to maintain drainage, cut back enthusiastic hedges that have been blocking pavements and improve road conditions by utilising our very pro-active Parish Steward. There is always room for improvement of course and we remain committed to continuing these actions within the constraints of our tight budget; we hope that we have now organised funds to allow for some more projects to start as we move into 2026 and the next financial year.

Things are afoot at Jubilee Gardens with some major riverside sustainability and improvement work being carried out following the removal of the rotted steps and the need for reinforcement of the bank to maintain and preserve this lovely facility. When the contractors are finished, we hope to have created a stronger environment that we can all continue to enjoy.

As well as Jubilee Gardens, we are looking to maintain and sustain the play areas at Nunton and Odstock, which need continuous TLC to make them safe and enjoyable for all. These will be a continuous effort of course as time progresses and we are most grateful for the recent donation from a local Church project that enabled us to replace the bouncy elephant in Nunton – always a small person favourite!

Our main focus for the next immediate period is the replacement of the Bus Shelter in Odstock. Sadly, not an easy or cheap endeavour but one that we are looking to start very soon. Please bear with us as we get going.

The Council are also looking to repair/replace Parish notice boards, enhance the Radnor Hall with a De-fib (much like those situated at both Pubs), remove the poisonous water Hemlock from Jubilee Gardens and continue with road surface repairs where needed. As always, if you have concerns/observations/suggestions, please approach us via the official web site: www.odstock-pc.org.uk

Finally and sadly, we are saying goodbye to our wonderful, efficient and highly competent Parish Clerk Jay as she moves on to bigger projects. We wish her well and offer our huge thanks for all she has done for the Parish. If anyone is interested in taking up the position, give us a shout (see details below).

Chris Trubshaw

See back page for Parish Council Meeting dates for Britford and Odstock.

All welcome to the Public Session at the start of each meeting at 7.30pm

Vacancy: Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Odstock Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic, efficient, and self-motivated person to fill the role of Clerk to the Council. This is a part-time opportunity to work with the local Parish Council with the flexibility to work mainly from home. The total hours are 16 hours a month with an evening meeting every other month. There is training and a modest salary.

See the website, www.odstock-pc.org.uk for details of the role and responsibilities and how to apply or email the clerk for more information at clerk@odstock-pc.org.uk

Focus on Food – letter from West Wales

Mangalitza

I had an email from a chum in Bath. He's in the wine industry, travels extensively and seems to have a pretty good fix on what going on anywhere in the world and who's making it happen. He's a well-connected guy and someone I could almost describe as my personal concierge from time to time. I can call him from most cities in the world and ask for recommendations on places to eat and he'll come straight back at me with a list of three, price pointed options. If I'm ever in a supermarket, lost in the wine aisle, all he needs to know is which supermarket in which town and he will guide me down aisle 26, third shelf up, next to the Australian shiraz, just by the pillar. Last time it was a Spanish Garnache, listed at £13.50, but when I got home, spotted the shop had the bar code wrong and it charged me £3.20.

I digress, his last email was a tip off about a guy selling home grown, pure, rare breed pigs of Hungarian origin, with curly pelts and going by the name of Mangalitza. On checking, his farm was only a few miles away in Cenarth, just inland from Cardigan Bay. As I'm a big fan of shopping at the farm gate, I called the farmer, Hugh Brookes at Penlan Heritage Breeds to arrange a visit and more importantly to buy half a pig, which he was selling straight from the abattoir, delivered for £9 a kilo. After a quick Google search to reveal Mangalitza chops alone selling elsewhere at £10 each, £40 a kilo, I placed my order and set about honing my butchery skills for the imminent arrival of the beast.

Cenarth, by the way, is pretty as a picture and famous for its waterfalls, although I've recently become aware of it for its cheese making, the product of which is sold on St Dogmaels market, just across the Teifi River opposite Cardigan. On my last visit they were experimenting with a couple of blue cheeses, and both were on offer to taste. The first, a tangy stilton-like number, certainly took you by the elbow and introduced itself with a firm 'Hello'. The second, a warmer fellow altogether, more of a dolcelatte, smooth and slick as it slid down.

But back to the pig. It was scheduled to arrive at 'The Constant Cook' HQ one Saturday in September and I had enlisted the support of a recently arrived in the area, retired doctor to help with the butchery. He said he had done one in the past and that was all the credentials I needed, only having previously butchered a Muntjac myself. I set up a couple of stainless-steel tables in the garage housing a large, commercial fridge and chest freezer. All that's required to turn carcasses or cadavers into joints of meat to be frozen for future consumption.

Doctor Mike turned up, sleeves ready rolled, knife bag and hacksaw under one arm and a textbook under the other, something written in the nineteenth century from all appearances, with diagrams and annotations in place of photographs and this he placed on the table next to the head. It put me in mind of Burke and Hare as we compared the notes I had made whilst watching several videos on the subject. We set to, him on the shoulder, I on the leg, working round and down the bones and into the cartilage around the joints, pausing occasionally to turn a page or look up note 28 in the appendix.

It was slow going I have to say, the next one will be quicker. The half pig weighed in at close to 30 kilos, so cost £270. We carved off 20 chops, so using the above

calculation, that was £200 worth already. The shoulder we left whole at 4kg, we cut the leg into two joints, everything tied up and oven ready. The belly was cut into two pieces, bone in. Then we had tenderloin, cheek, trotter, liver and kidney. After careful weighing, wrapping, labelling and packing, the bounty was lowered into the freezer, with the exception of the kidney and some of the liver which we sliced and pan fried in olive oil, butter, garlic and thyme and ate with wilted spinach and a few Pembrokeshire 'Blas y Tir' potatoes, translated as 'Taste of the Land.' The hunter's spoils, so to speak; well, the butcher's spoils in this case.

A couple of weeks later I had a trip to the West Country planned, staying with and catching up with old mates, Bristol, Bath, Salisbury, Holcombe. So I packed up half a dozen Mangalitza chops to cook and share with the guy who tipped me off originally, and his family, we're not that greedy. I cooked them stood on edge in a hot, cast-iron frying pan for 20 minutes, slowly rendering the magnificent fat, then pan frying them, basted with the fat before chucking them in a hot oven for twenty minutes or so. I couldn't work out which tasted best, the meat or the fat, it didn't matter, they were glorious, and we had them with celeriac puree, caramelised fennel and blanched greens.

Of course, you don't have to track down and buy half a Magalitza pig at the farm gate in West Wales. You can buy a single joint online at Real Food Hub or any other reputable supplier. I'm sure it will be equally delicious, but without the backstory to write about and dine out on for months to come. And where would the world be without a few stories to educate and entertain us.

Martin Simcock, The Constant Cook

Holiday Cottage To Let: Fishguard Harbour, Pembrokeshire



Having lived in Pembrokeshire now for ten months, I can honestly say that any time of the year is great to visit. Rain or shine, it's a spectacular spot.

Here's a link to the website where you can read all about it

<https://quaystreetcottages.com/cottages/no-37-quay-street>

or give Bee a call on 07974 199469 if you would like further details.

**A number of people from the five villages have already visited,
we would love to see you down here.**

JN Upholstery Bodenham

Josh Nicols has an upholstery workshop
in the Black Barn in Bodenham.

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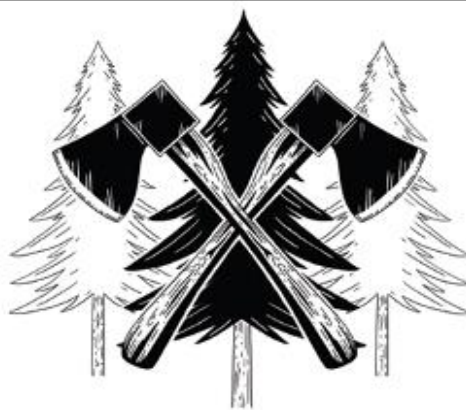
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WI News

The November ONB WI meeting was lively and well attended, as usual. The speaker was Alison Ayling, a volunteer New Forest Ranger since 2003, who described her role engaging with the visiting public and explaining why the New Forest Code matters such as dogs on leads, no feeding or petting ponies and this year no barbecues at all. During the winter, the volunteers are engaged in clearing the edges of paths to promote flora and butterflies and removing invasive species. The role of volunteer is clearly very worthwhile and the New Forest as we see it would not be manageable without volunteers. The next meeting on Monday 8 December is the Christmas meeting when gift packs and groceries for the food bank will be collected.

News from the Pews

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham

Our Curious Christians group meets on Monday afternoons in the Barker Room to study both scripture and seasonal reflections and generally talk through our faith. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Maggie Metcalfe.

Our Creativitea group has been working hard to create gifts and decorations for sale at the **Festive Fair on 6 December 10am – 2 pm in the Barker Room**. See page 6

We warmly invite you to attend our Chalke Valley Alpha course, held weekly in Broad Chalke from 15 January – please contact Debby Underhill for more details

Charlton

Charlton celebrated Guy Fawkes Night in style, on a clear still night, with a huge bonfire and an excellent display of fireworks. The hotdogs, bar and raffle were enjoyed by about 150 guests. Thanks to the team of helpers, ably organised by Adrian Bright, and to Megan & Howard Taylor for allowing us to use the Barn.

Around 110 residents from all the parishes attended a moving Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial inside Odstock Church. The church looked beautiful with poppies handmade by the Creativitea team and the bugle expertly played by Allegra.

Christmas in our Villages

Sunday 14 Dec 3.30pm - Christingle, All Saints' Church, Charlton

Two young entrepreneurs have offered to provide hot chocolate and gingerbread at each of these, with any proceeds going towards the upkeep of the Church building

**Tuesday 16 Dec 7.30pm - Downton Band Christmas Concert
All Saints' Church, Charlton**

Entrance is free, with a retiring collection, which will be shared between the Band and the Church, and there will be a raffle and refreshments

Thursday 18 Dec 6pm - Carol Singing around Nunton

Friday 19 Dec 6pm - Carol Singing around Odstock

Friday 19 Dec 6pm - Carol Service, St Peter's Church, Britford

Sunday 21 Dec 5pm - Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Odstock

Monday 22 Dec 6pm - Carol Singing around Bodenham

Wednesday 24 Dec 4pm - Scratch Nativity, All Saints' Church, Charlton

Christmas Day

9.30am Family Communion, All Saints' Church, Charlton

11.00am Family Communion, St Andrew's Church, Nunton

Ruth, Maggie and the Ministry Team wish you a very Happy Christmas and Joy and Peace in the New Year.

You are very welcome at any of our Christmas events

You can find all our Christmas events on A Church Near You at

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9472/.

Recycling your Christmas Waste

Recycling your real Christmas tree

If you are signed up for the Council's chargeable garden waste service, you can leave your real Christmas tree next to your garden waste bin on your scheduled collection days in January (if over 5 foot tall, please cut up your tree and add to your bin). Whole trees must be presented beside your garden waste bin so the collection crew can easily identify your property.

Alternatively, if you register by 5 January 2026, you can support the Salisbury Hospice by registering for their tree collection. For a donation, they will collect and recycle your tree sustainably: see website for details <https://www.salisburyhospicecharity.org.uk>

Or you can take your tree to any of the Council's [Household Recycling Centres](#) for free

Blue Bin:

Wrapping paper and Christmas cards – **BUT** only if made of paper AND free of foil and glitter. Not sure if your paper has foil? Scrunch it up, if it stays in a ball lob it into your blue bin; if it doesn't - it goes in household waste

Household Bin

Fake Christmas trees, polystyrene packaging, foil and cellophane wrapping paper, all items with glitter and broken glass baubles

ON but NOT IN the Bin: **Batteries** these go in a small clear sandwich bag
Small electrical items (including dead fairy lights) - ditto

Recycling and donating larger items

Bulky items that are in a usable condition such as fake Christmas trees, white goods and furniture can be collected from your doorstep for reuse with the help of local charities. Or you can also arrange a collection from Wiltshire Council for a fee.

Each year, the UK throws away around £42 million of unwanted gifts. You should check if you can donate any unwanted gifts to charities. Alternatively, Council Household Recycling Centres will accept usable, good quality items.

For more information, check the Wiltshire Waste Website:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/Christmas-waste-donations-and-collections>

Next Blister Pack Collections

Monday 11 December

Britford, Noticeboard by Church - **09.30h**

Bodenham, Old Post Office - **10.00h**

Charlton All Saints - (ongoing collection box in Church) - Box emptied at **11.00h**

Odstock, Church Car Park - **10.30 - 11.30h**

Donations kindly requested £1 per 50 strips

Thank you for helping the environment



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice December 2025 and January 2026



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

7 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Stratford Tony	Ruth H-S
14 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Maggie Metcalfe
	10.30am	Worship Together	Broad Chalke Hub	Janet Roe
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Carol Service	Bishopstone V Hall	Ruth H-S
	3.00pm	Advent Carols	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
	3.30pm	Christingle	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
19 December	6.00pm	Carol Service	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
21 December 4th Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Ruth H-S
	4.00pm	Nativity	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
	5.00pm	Carol Service	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
22 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
23 December	6.00pm	Carol Service	Alvediston	Ruth H-S
24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	4.00pm	Carols round the Crib	Bishopstone	Ruth H-S
	4.00pm	Scratch Nativity	Charlton All Saints	Maggie Metcalfe
	5.00pm	Carols at War Memorial	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Homington	Ruth H-S
	10.00pm	'Midnight' Eucharist (CW)	Fifield Bavant	Ruth H-S
25 December CHRISTMAS DAY 	8.00am	Holy Communion (Said BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Maggie Metcalfe
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Kate Woolven
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
28 December 1st Sunday of Christmas	10.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Alison Waterhouse
	10.00am/	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
4 January THE EPIPHANY	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	4.00pm	Epiphany Service	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven

11 January BAPTISM OF CHRIST	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Ruth H-S
	10.30am	Worship Together	Broad Chalke Hub	Janet Roe
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
	5.30pm	Evensong (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
18 January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am	Service with Baptism	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Maggie Metcalfe
25 January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Homington	Ruth H-S
1 February CANDLEMAS	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor

Ministry Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple: 01722 697022
Team Vicar ~ The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221 / 01722 697404
Associate Priests ~ The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825, 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:

Angela Bridges: 01747 828383, Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785,
Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Don Morgan: 01722 718557,
Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666
Rhoddy Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2026

Britford: www.britfordparishcouncil.co.uk

8 January 2026
5 March 2026
7 May 2026 (*Annual Parish Meeting
& Annual Parish Council Meeting*)
2 July 2026
3 September 2026
5 November 2026

Odstock: www.odstock-pc.org.uk

7 January 2026
4 March 2026
6 May 2026 (*Annual Parish Meeting
& Annual Parish Council Meeting*)
1 July 2026
2 September 2026
4 November 2026

All meetings start with a Public Session at 7.30pm except the May meetings, which will start with the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm
Please note meetings may be subject to change so please check the relevant Parish Council website before attending

FUEL – Free Holiday Activity & Food Programme for Children



FUEL

The free holiday activity and food programme

Winter 2025
Booking now open

Hot Meal provided

- Science and Technology
- Creative Arts
- Performing Arts
- Dance and Gymnastics
- Sports and Games
- Photography Workshops
- Skateboard and Scooter



Booking closes **12 December**

 [Click here for more information and booking](#) 

 Department for Education

Wiltshire Council

Camp Locations

Up to four days at each location

Malmesbury
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Chippenham
Sheldon School
The Rise Community Hub

Corsham
The Pound Arts Centre
Springfield Campus

Bradford on Avon
Fitzmaurice Primary School

Melksham
The Manor CE Primary School
Assembly Hall

Trowbridge
Trowbridge Sports Centre
West Wilts Gymnastics

Westbury
Westbury Leigh Primary School
Westbury Community Project Hall

Warminster
Warminster Sports Centre

Mere
Youth Centre



Purton
Ridgeway Farm CE Academy

Royal Wootton Bassett
Lime Kiln Leisure Centre
Wootton Bassett Infant School

Calne
Calne Leisure Centre

Marlborough
Marlborough Leisure Centre

Devizes
Devizes Leisure Centre

Tidworth
Wellington Lions Academy

Amesbury
Amesbury Sports Centre
The Bowman Centre

Durrington
Avon Valley College

Salisbury
Sarum Academy



Food
F is for Food! You will receive a nutritious lunch each day and you'll also have fun and keep fit!



Unity
Unity means making new friends in your community, while friendly staff are supportive and understanding.



Energy
Take part in a range of activities that will keep you energised, exercised and educated.



Laughter
There will be plenty of opportunities for fun and laughter throughout the programme and opportunities to learn new life-skills.

Private Fostering: caring for somebody else's child

ARE YOU CARING FOR SOMEBODY ELSE'S CHILD?

If you're not a close relative and you're looking after a child for 28 days or more then this is private fostering.

Call our team on **0300 456 0108** or email
integratedfrontdoor@wiltshire.gov.uk

FOSTERING
with
Wiltshire Council



Every year thousands of children are left in the care of people who are not close relatives for extended periods of time. Although this is done by private arrangement, legally the parent and the carer must notify the local authority where the child is going to live so that the local authority can ensure that the child is being properly looked after. Many privately fostered children do not receive the services and protection they are entitled to because they are not known to the local authority. It is the responsibility of everyone working with children and families to make sure the local authority has been notified of any private fostering arrangement.

Wiltshire Council would like to reduce the number of children in un-notified private fostering arrangements across the county and we would be delighted if you could join us to help raise awareness of this important issue.

The ways you can help are:

- Displaying the enclosed poster on your community noticeboard
- Telling us about any young people you believe to be in private fostering arrangements. You can notify the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by calling 0300 456 0108 or email integratedfrontdoor@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Forward this email and information to your colleagues
- Put information from this letter/leaflets on your own website or in a newsletter

Your understanding of this issue can make a big difference to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Wiltshire. If you wish to find out more please visit [Wiltshire Council's website](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or call the Kinship & Fostering team on 01225 716510 and ask to speak with Kinship Duty.

Bishopstone Village Hall



December 2025 & January 2026

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Village Hall Café opens every other Thursday and is a great place to relax and catch up with others in the community. Upcoming dates are the **4th & 18th of December**. There will be a short break over Christmas and the New Year, with the Café reopening on **Thursdays, the 15th & 29th of January**. Opening hours are from **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Refreshments are currently offered free of charge.

THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre will be held on **Friday, 5th December**, from **6.00pm until 7.00pm**. There will be a variety of stalls, including Tombola, Cakes and Produce, Local Crafts, Books, and other attractions to enjoy.

****Donations for the Book, Tombola, and Cake stalls will be most gratefully received.** The Hall will be open between **2.30pm and 3.30pm** to receive contributions. We warmly invite you to join us and share in the spirit of the season.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone - Friday 30th January.

The film for **January** will be **'Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale'**. *The cinematic return of the global phenomenon, follows the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s.*

Doors open from **7.00pm** with the film beginning at **7.30pm**. Entry to the film is **£7.00**. A cash bar with ices and snacks will be available. If possible, please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316.

A trailer for the film can be seen in the Events section of the village website at www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk.

The film on **Friday 27th of February** will be **'The Roses'**.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

****The special Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday December 3rd.**

Times as usual: **12.00 noon for 12.30 pm**. Advance booking is essential. Please telephone Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 and advise her of any dietary requirements. The cost is **£8.50** which includes a drink.

The **January** lunch will be on **Wednesday 7th** when Virginia Haworth will be talking about "Reading a Film". In **February** the lunch will be on **Wednesday 4th** with Alan Crossley talking about "Mason Bees".

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 14th February.

We are pleased to present a show by Rob Barratt, "a Dudley-born, brain-tickling, word-mangling comic poet and singer from North Cornwall". He combines clever word play and song with satire, parody and audience participation. He regularly appears at folk clubs, and folk, arts and literature festivals in UK and abroad.

See more about him at <https://robbarratt.wixsite.com/robbarratt>.

Tickets are **£10.00** each and an optional light supper will be available at **£7.50**.

Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044, or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316, stating any dietary requirements if taking the supper.

BOOKINGS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Both halls are available for hire. To enquire or make a booking, please contact the bookings secretary, Margaret Barter (01722) 780471

BISHOPSTONE PLAYGROUP

The playgroup meets on Friday mornings during term time from 9.30 – 11.00 am.

Breastfeeding support is available from qualified breastfeeding counsellor Cally Edwards and trained peer supporters. Find further information on our Facebook page, *Bishopstone Playgroup* or contact

Cally callyedwards@me.com or 07968 797 168.

VILLAGE CRAFT GROUP

The Village Craft Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7 – 9pm. Any crafters are welcome. For further details, please contact Sue Porter on 01722 780459 or Jacqueline James on 01722 335866.

ART GROUP

An Art Group led by Russell Bignold meets every Thursday morning between 9.45am and 11.45am. Drawing, painting and sculpture (clay) are taught, covering all genres. Cost £20 per session, tea and biscuits provided.

Contact Russell at russellbignold@btinternet. Website www.russellbignoldartist.com.

Stars Appeal – Lung Function Machine



The Salisbury Hospital Stars Appeal is significantly improving care for patients with respiratory illness, cancer, and other conditions thanks to a new state-of-the-art lung function machine funded through the generous support of the charity's donors.

The £74,000 piece of equipment is now helping local people receive vital diagnostic tests closer to home, eliminating the need to travel to distant hospitals.

Used by the hospital's Respiratory Department, the machine supports the care of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, cancer, and heart conditions by monitoring how well their lungs are functioning. Each year, approximately 2,000 patients rely on this service, with around 3,500 tests performed.

The new machine means patients can undergo lung function tests at Salisbury Hospital rather than travelling to centres such as Southampton or Bournemouth. It also enables specialist lung muscle testing to be carried out at Salisbury for the first time, expanding the scope and speed of respiratory diagnostics available locally.

Lead Respiratory and Sleep Physiologist Punam Korat said: "If this machine had not been funded by the Stars Appeal, we wouldn't have been able to do the tests our patients need, and they would have had to be sent to other hospitals. Our patients can now be seen more quickly, and we can perform a specialist muscle function test that was previously unavailable."

Kirsty Dudin, 76, from Stratford-sub-Castle, is among the many patients already benefitting from the new equipment. She said: "I need regular testing for my lung disease, so it makes a huge difference to be able to have these tests done locally. Travelling to Southampton is still possible for me, but if I become reliant on public transport it would be quite a journey to get there. Thanks to the Stars Appeal funding the new lung function machine here in Salisbury, getting to regular appointments is not difficult.

"It is great to have access to the very latest lung function testing equipment. I feel well cared for by the Respiratory Department, who are able to monitor my condition so effectively with the new equipment. I feel very special and fortunate to be benefitting from the generosity of a lot of local citizens."

This is just one example of the work funded by the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity. The Stars Appeal aims to raise £2million each year to provide the latest diagnostic and treatment equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects including support for people with cancer, Stars Appeal Wi-Fi, and a dedicated play assistant on the Children's Unit. To find out more about the charity's work and read its latest Impact Update visit www.starsappeal.org

OPCC News - Child Criminal Exploitation

Teenagers from across the South West are being told to 'Spot the signs' of child exploitation amid the growing threat of county lines in a targeted TikTok and snapchat advertising campaign. The adverts highlight what child criminal exploitation looks like, how to spot the signs and where to get help and support. Links to regional services and helplines will ensure that anyone affected can access help quickly and safely.

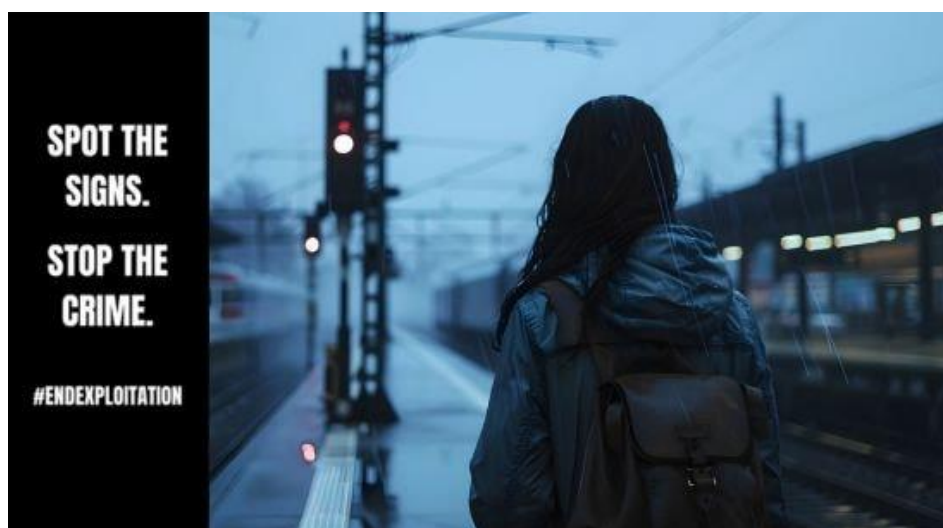
Recognising that these crimes do not stop at borders, Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset and Gloucestershire police forces alongside their respective OPCCs, have combined resources to take a bold stand against exploitation.

Criminal gangs are increasingly targeting children to transport drugs and cash across county boundaries, using coercion, intimidation and violence. This exploitation can have devastating consequences for young people and their families.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Philip Wilkinson said: "This campaign represents a united front against those who seek to harm our children. By working together and using platforms young people most engage with, we can raise awareness and prevent exploitation before it happens. By definition, county line drug gangs don't recognise borders and often use children and vulnerable young people to transport drugs across the country. By working together across the region we want to make the South West a hostile place for those who exploit our young people create significant harm to our young people and make our communities safer."

Detective Superintendent Megan Elkins said: "Criminal gangs exploit fear and vulnerability to draw young people into their networks, often using coercion and violence to maintain control. This campaign is about breaking that cycle by giving teenagers the knowledge and confidence to recognise exploitation and seek help before it's too late. Every child deserves to feel safe, and that means empowering communities to spot the signs and speak out. Intelligence is absolutely critical in tackling child criminal exploitation. Every piece of information - no matter how small - can help us build a clearer picture, disrupt criminal activity, and safeguard vulnerable children. By working together across the South West, sharing intelligence and resources, we can dismantle these networks, protect the most vulnerable, and send a clear message: exploitation will not be tolerated."

For more information, please visit [Child Criminal Exploitation](#)



Chalke Valley Link Scheme

Chalke Valley Link Scheme

Good neighbour support with transport and other practical help



For residents in our area who are elderly or incapacitated and are unable to use public transport

Serving the Valley from Berwick St John to Bodenham since 1996 & awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2006, the Chalke Valley Link Scheme is a Registered Charity that provides good neighbour support with transport help for Valley residents.

For example we can provide: Transport to a medical appointment, visiting family members in hospital, collecting prescriptions or changing library books. If you live between Bishopstone & Britford/Bodenham please phone: 07795 620812: (Geoff Stephens, Jenny Monds or Debby Underhill on rotation).

The co-ordinator answering your call will take your details and contact a volunteer who can help you. If your call is answered by a recorded message, please leave your contact details & a co-ordinator will respond as soon as possible. There is no set charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our running costs.

All our co-ordinators and drivers are volunteers so please give us much notice as possible to find an available driver.

If you would like to become a volunteer driver to enable us to continue this service to our community, please contact the above number.

Registered as a Charity no. 1076335