

News and Notes

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

September 2026

On Walking and Thinking

We were recently invited to join some friends on a walk round the loop in Nunton and Odstock. A long summer walk, maybe in the cool of early morning or late evening, has to be one of the better ways to enjoy the sheer beauty of nature surrounding us in our local countryside. It's good exercise too and for all-round fitness can scarcely be beaten. Need some respite from the relentless hurly burly? Get out for a walk, however brief, it can work wonders! And a walk with friends is always a pleasure. The flow of conversation usually seems to take care of itself, and when you're surrounded by rolling hills and trees and wonderful views, & under open skies with soaring birds, any pauses in the conversation seem quite natural and can somehow add to the shared enjoyment.

Whether a slow wander for contemplative reflection, part of an energetic fitness programme, a chance to exercise your best four-legged friend or simply to share a few hours with friends, the benefits are enormous. I recently investigated local walking groups and found at least six are already well established in our area & look to be very easy to join. Check it out! Or contact editor@newsandnotes.net if you'd like to have links to their websites. And if any reader is interested in starting a local walking group or perhaps is already in one and would welcome newcomers, please let us know.

The health benefits to body and mind from walking have long been recognised. Here's what Seneca, a Stoic philosopher at the time of the Roman Emperor Nero wrote in his work 'On Tranquility of Mind', sometime around the year 50AD: *"We should take wandering, outdoor walks, so that the mind might be nourished and refreshed by the open air and deep breathing"*. These days, wandering in the great outdoors is sometimes called "Green Bathing" or "Shinrin-yoku" and known to have a strong calming effect, with the inhaled microbes from the countryside all thought to be beneficial contributors to our internal "biomes".

Eventually Nero fell out with Seneca and ordered him to commit suicide. Harsh treatment for a well-meaning Spad. Just goes to show, you can't be too careful with a deranged autocrat in charge. And it's easy to think of a few of those around in today's world who could really use a good calming walk. Make America Walk Again? See you on Clearbury Down.

Editors: Nick and Liz Stanger

Co-editors: Nicolette Beardsmore, Adam Beardsmore

Website: Clare Penny - www.newsandnotes.net

Deadline for October edition: 14 September 2026

Contact editor@newsandnotes.net

Shirley Maureen Sturgeon (née Burdett)

died peacefully on 27 July 2026, aged 91

Beloved wife of the late Michael, adored mother to James and Martin, fabulous mother-in-law to Victoria and marvellous Granny to Allegra and Venetia

The funeral was at St Peter's Britford at 2pm on 26 August 2026.

Anyone For Panto?

Luvvies needed - Join in treading the boards or behind the scenes

**First meeting 6.30pm Thursday 10 Sep in the
Radnor Arms, Nunton**

Roll up, roll up, express yourself and your interest!!
Performance dates Thu 26 – Sat 28 November

Everyone Welcome

No Experience, Skill, Talent or Ability Necessary, it's Just for Fun!

Radnor Hall Players - all proceeds in aid of Radnor Hall funds



Foil Blister Pack Collection Dates

Tue 1 Sep 26 and Tue 3 Nov 26

Britford Notice board (Church) 09:30-09:45

Bodenham Old Post Office 09:50-10:00

Charlton-all-Saints Church collection box 10:15

Odstock Church Carpark 10:30-11:15

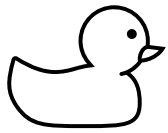
Wild Fire Risk

Salisbury City Council is encouraging residents and visitors to remain vigilant during dry conditions and to report any signs of fire to the emergency services immediately. Prevention is everyone's responsibility.

During periods of hot, dry weather, small campfires, barbecues, bonfires or even litter such as glass or reflective items, can start a fire that quickly becomes more serious.

We've all experienced the recent issues arising from the New Forest blaze.

Let's hope that's the last local major incident this summer!



Many thanks to all who came to the

Duck Race

We made £231 for Morning Star!!



Do come to our next exciting event

Harvest Festival and Shared Tea

4pm Sunday 27 September

in Nunton Church and the Barker Room

in aid of the Salisbury Food Bank



Donations of food and money welcome

Please come: for more details ask Debby 01722 329769

Could You Help Keep Our Church Running?

All Saints' Church is a central part of our village community in Charlton All Saints, and we are looking for a volunteer **PCC Treasurer** to join our small, friendly team.

What does the role involve?

Because we are a small village parish, the role is highly manageable and focuses on simple, straightforward cash bookkeeping. Key tasks include:

- Recording bi-weekly church collections and banking them.
- Paying regular bills like heating, lighting, and insurance.
- Claiming back Gift Aid from HMRC twice a year.
- Presenting a simple "cash-in, cash-out" update at our occasional PCC meetings.

Do I need to be an accountant?

No! You absolutely do not need a background in formal finance or accounting. This role is perfect for anyone who is diligent, organised, comfortable with basic numbers, and has a little experience using computer spreadsheets (like Excel). Full support, training templates, and guidance will be provided by the Diocese.

Do I need to be a regular Churchgoer or on the PCC?

No! The role is open to anyone of good standing.

If you would like to give something back to our village, or simply want an informal chat to find out more about what is involved, please contact:

Clare Penny, Churchwarden on **07555 298 548** or

email charlton.all.saints.pcc@gmail.com

Odstock Nunton and Bodenham WI

Open Coffee Morning 13 July

The Radnor Hall was a hive of activity preparing for ONB WI's first Open Meeting. The hall was set up café style and delicious home-made cakes were cut and plated to serve with coffee and cold drinks, donations were invited for the Salisbury Women's Refuge. Side-tables showcasing the WI were full of information attractively displayed, covering the work of the WI nationwide and the activities special to ONB WI: Book groups, Walkers, Mahjong, Craft team etc.

The renowned ONB WI Stall for Cakes, Produce and Plants was set up in the hall, due to the Village Fete being cancelled this year. Members had generously provided a variety of home-made cakes, preserves, fresh vegetables and a large array of plants to sell.

Following an express business meeting, coffee flowed, cakes were chosen and people enjoyed sitting together for a chat. Meanwhile sales were brisk at the ONB WI stall.

Plastic yellow ducks were on sale for The Ebbfest Duck Race on 18 July, supporting the Morning Star charity. 50 Ducks were sold.

Despite posters on local village noticeboards, attendance was disappointing, possibly due to the hot weather. Never fear - this did not prevent our members and visitors from having an interesting and happy morning focussing on friendship, with the likelihood of a few more members joining ONB WI.

Annual Summer Trip to Arundel Castle 29 July



We had a perfect day for our visit to Arundel Castle, our 2026 destination. The weather was sunny with a pleasant breeze, a bit hot for some at 27°C.

On arrival the ladies had 3 options, to go to the Castle & Gardens, the Gardens only or to visit the historic town of Arundel.

The Castle was founded in 1067.

Members and their guests could visit the oldest part of the building by going up to the Keep. The Castle itself is very imposing. If one had chosen to force one's way in through the main entrance, boiling water, rocks and waste would be thrown down from overhead.

The Gardens included many styles including The Rose Garden, The Walled Garden & The "Collector" Earls Garden and The Kitchen Gardens, so it was a very full day for all the Garden Explorers.

Those that went to the beautiful historic town of Arundel enjoyed themselves by having coffee by the river, lunch at one of the many independent cafes, traditional pubs and restaurants. A very good day was had by all and even the journey home was enjoyed in the air-conditioned coach after such a hot day.



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St Peter's Church, Britford

Pet Service

An opportunity to give thanks for pets and their faithfulness to us.

All are welcome even without pets!

10 am Sunday 6 September 2026




PRACTICAL HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

Join us for a cuppa and support with your digital device in September and October 2026

Funded by the Southern Wiltshire Area Board



 Do you know a resident living in Laverstock, Old Sarum, Winterslow, Alderbury, Whiteparish, Downton, or surrounding villages, who would benefit from improved digital skills and confidence?

 Join us for 1-2-1 support for what YOU need with a laptop, tablet, i-pad or mobile phone

 The sessions are free of charge - there will be lots of tea and cake!

Please register your interest by the end of August and let us know which area you reside in, so we can plan sessions in locations that best meet local demand, by contacting Karlene Jammeh, Engagement and Partnerships:

 **01722 434437**

 karlene.jammeh@wiltshire.gov.uk **Wiltshire Council**

HARVEST SUPPER

Bring & Share

Saturday 26 September

5pm to eat at 6pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CHARLTON ALL SAINTS

Bring food & drink to share with your neighbours

Bring a tin of food for the Tower of Tins to share with The Larder Foodbank in Downton

Harvest quiz
Corn dolly making

Free Community Event

Everyone Welcome

Please let us know numbers so we can get the right number of chairs & tables

Clare, Chris, Mel, Wendy, Janine, David

Spotlight on Longford School and Head Teacher Amanda Hodgson

Amanda has been Head Teacher at Longford School for 18 months. It was good to hear about this thriving school and the links it has with our villages. A thriving C of E faith-based primary, it has about 40 local children aged 4 to 11 on the role, many of whom will move on to one of the local secondary schools. Amanda has a team of 7 teachers and teaching assistants in total, including Coach Harry, who runs the sports activities. He attends for one day each week and also runs an after-school sports club. There are several other after-school clubs too and a breakfast club from 7:30am which for many parents, not least those working in health care, is very important.

Amanda loves the school and its achievements and wants to encourage even more integration and involvement with the local community. Most pupils are from one of our villages as well as the hospital community and Oak Tree Field. Strong in special educational needs and disability, Amanda also emphasises teaching about faith which is important for so many parents. Children of all faiths are welcomed and embraced.

The three heart-shaped leaves of the school's emblem represent the three strands of the school's ethos. Kind, Safe, Proud. "This underpins everything we do" says Amanda, and helps make it a happy, successful school. Challenging behaviour is addressed head on, underpinned by sound educational theory. 'Restorative conversation' is used to help dysregulated children so as to help put things right following disagreement or conflict.



By tradition the Longford estate donates a magnificent Christmas Tree every year, and in the past 'countryside days' were organised which greatly enhanced the curriculum. Amanda would love these to restart. There is also a link with Manor Farm, Wilton where Chris Swanton provides educational experiences as there is also with Britford Farm Shop nearby.

Three Church services are held annually for the school in Britford Church, no longer weather dependant thanks to a minibus borrowed from a local secondary school. Rev Ruth visits weekly for a school service (including plenty of singing!), and a group called Open the Book come four times each term to perform bible story reenactments.

A collection made every year at Harvest Festival for the Trussel Trust has recently been replaced by a new scheme of Amanda's, the 'Longford Larder', a community support project in which donations are collected and left for those in need. Items can be collected FOC from a small cupboard at the side of the school carpark. Groceries of all kinds are welcomed, and donors and recipients remain anonymous. It would be hard to imagine a clearer example for children to learn the meaning of charity.

Spotlight continued . . .

The three governors are local people and several villagers support literacy by listening to children learning to read. Amanda says that if you are by any chance interested in helping in either of these roles, please get in touch by email on: **admin@longford.wilts.sch.uk** It is truly rewarding work, contributing to a lifetime of benefit for the children. No previous teaching experience required.

Amanda herself has come from a larger school, having been deputy head at St Andrews, Laverstock which has 210 children. So this has been a real change for her which she has evidently relished. She lives nearby, loves living in this area and let slip that she might rather like one day to be in the village panto....!

Nick Stanger

Date Change - Downton Memorial Hall Film

now **Saturday 19 September at 10.30am**

Rearranged due to heatwave

Now Future TX - a PG -rated Sci-Fi film - in aid of refurbishment fund.

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The Bayeux Tapestry and Britford

Millions of people are expected to visit the Bayeux Tapestry whilst it is in the British Museum, yet few will have any idea that the chain of events which led to the invasion had its dramatic beginning in 1065 in a quiet Wiltshire village which was once the site of a Royal Manor and one of King Edward the Confessor's favourite hunting grounds.

The Tapestry, commissioned and story-boarded by the Norman victors, tells the story of conquest as a retrospective vindication, a justification of the invasion. Little attention was given to the political turmoil in England which made William's invasion possible. It is a forgotten chapter in one of the best-known stories in English history. Today a rural idyll across the water meadows from Salisbury cathedral, the village of Britford was at the time of Domesday counted amongst the top 20% of settlements in the country. It was here that the political crisis erupted, whilst King Edward the Confessor was enjoying a period of deer hunting from the Royal Manor and entertaining the very man whose behaviour set in train uprisings, exiles, and ultimately, not just one, but two invasions: Tostig Godwinson, Harold's brother.

History is always connected not just to people but to places, and these places hold the memories of great events, even when archaeology cannot provide stone monuments to prove it. As Britain prepares to welcome the Bayeux Tapestry, this is the moment to look beyond the familiar story embroidered by the victors and revisit the English landscape where the crisis began.

The story of the invasion, from the English point of view, could very well be said to have started in Britford. It finished, after twenty years of sometimes terrible subjugation, with William taking oaths of fealty from all his noblemen at Old Sarum, five miles down the road. One of these places is protected by English Heritage as it is also the site of an Iron Age hillfort and a later castle. A local initiative bought the land around it by public subscription. Britford is just a very beautiful village under which, it is suspected, the remains of that chapter of our Anglo-Saxon past lie buried, their thatched wooden buildings long decayed in the chalk.

We should remember the English side of the story – it is written in our countryside - when we visit the embroidered version commissioned by the Normans....

For the full story, historic sources and reading suggestions, see News and Notes website www.newsandnotes.net.

***To see the Bayeux Tapestry in person visit the British Museum
from 10 September 2026 – 11 July 2027
Tickets are on sale now***

Alternatively, there is a superb high resolution image of the entire 70m (230') embroidery online and provided by the Museum of Bayeux:

www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/the-bayeux-tapestry/discover-the-bayeux-tapestry/explore-online/

Photo Competition



David Saul of Nunton sent us 2 wonderfully evocative photographs of a beautiful silvery moonlit sky.

Thank you for sharing these with us, David, we think they are both beautiful. See them together in the online version.

Readers, please keep sending yours in too!

Bees, Beekeepers and Honey

There are 24 species of bumble bees in the UK, and over 240 species of solitary bees, but only one species of honey bee: *Apis mellifera*. The nests of bumble bees and solitary bees die out at the end of the season, and the new queens hibernate through the winter and start new nests in the spring. In contrast, honey bees form large, permanent nests, and establish new nests by swarming. The old queen leaves in a swarm containing around half the bees in the colony, and the remaining bees stay in the old nest until the new queen (or queens) emerge. A honey bee colony can swarm several times in succession, first with the old queen, and then with each of the new queens as they emerge, until there are not enough bees left to form another swarm.

Before a swarm leaves, the swarming bees fill their stomachs with honey. This is why most beekeepers try to prevent their bees from swarming. If as a beekeeper you lose a swarm, not only are you left with a much depleted colony, you also lose the crop of honey you were hoping to take. Every week from around the beginning of April, beekeepers anxiously inspect their colonies for signs that the bees are preparing to swarm, ready to intervene as soon as they spot the special 'queen cells' containing potential new queens.

If you manage to discourage your bees from swarming, and if the weather has been good, there may be surplus stored honey in your hives by the end of May. The honey which comes from spring flowers tends to crystallise very quickly. If you don't get around to extracting it soon after the end of May, it is likely to solidify in the comb.

Assuming you succeed in taking off your honey while it is still in a liquid state, you now need to extract it. When honey bees convert nectar into honey they evaporate most of the water content. Honey which contains more than 18.5% water is at risk of fermentation, so once the bees have reduced the water content below this level, they seal each full cell with a cap of wax, to keep moisture out. If your honeycombs are all sealed you can be confident that your honey is ready to extract. First you need to slice the wax cappings off both sides of each comb and spin the honey out in a special centrifuge with a tap at the bottom. You then open the tap and run the honey through a strainer (to remove the little bits of wax), into a bottling tank.

All honey sets eventually, but warming the honey after bottling to dissolve the fine crystals which are present keeps it liquid for longer. Otherwise the bottled honey will set rock-solid and you will need a chisel to get it onto your toast. Unless of course, you eat it all before it has time to set....

Sally Nelson





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Change is often about small contributions cumulatively, like all those small joined up 'marginal improvements' of the British cycling team a few years ago which acted together to propel them to Gold success.

The current record high temperatures and fires are a bit scary crazy. I'm a Stourbridge girl originally so it really hit me when family and friends had to be evacuated. I know the topic of climate change is contentious, but actually only in so far as there is debate as to what proportion of it is due to Mankind. Climatologists do tell us we are still emerging from an ice age and that it's normal for the earth, over eons, to have big swings in temperature. But these same climatologists also tell us that the planet is hotter now than it has ever been over the whole time that mankind has been around. That brings it home to me too. When the Hominin line first diverged from the other apes in the Darwinian soup around 8 million years, our evolutionary settings suited the prevailing cooler environment of the time. It's like gazpacho suits us, rather than hot spicy chowder. If the climate and atmosphere continue to change, it would be understandable if we didn't thrive in them. Same for fish coping with warming seas, and the animals and vegetables around us, that we depend on for our food to live, they all need to be able to thrive too.

Collectively, humans put out a lot of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and other greenhouse gasses, resulting in the well-documented exponential rise in CO₂ levels in the atmosphere that has been seen since the industrial revolution. Higher greenhouse gas levels cause higher atmospheric temperatures, so it seems unlikely that the climate change we are now seeing and that was first predicted back in the 70's as a result of CO₂ rises is not at least partly due to our CO₂ generating activities.

If we accept this, then we humans should be able to reverse on at least some of that activity and its effects, hopefully before a tipping point has been reached. (Don't we need to be thinking about our grandchildren and how they will live in a world that gets hotter and hotter? Will they have to live underground?) The effect of small gains from everyone working together produces significant results.

For example, we can look at the storage of photos and videos on our devices which in total at present is said to use as much energy as the commercial aviation industry and emit the same amount of CO₂. Surprising to me but apparently true. But we can each decide to act individually and reduce both and then a lot of little actions will combine to have big effects. The sum of the total of a team working together exceeds the sum of the separate parts. Something to think about.





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Focus on Food- a letter from West Wales

Apparently taking on new challenges, mixing it up a bit, crashing your routine is really good for staving off the dementia. It also serves to garner some great tips and ideas for new recipes, or old recipes done in a different way.

Whilst we were away in the South of France experiencing van life for the first time, we dropped in on an old Salisbury friend, Lizzie Wallace and her husband Doug who have a lovely little stone gite in a hamlet in the middle of nowhere about 20 minutes from Toulouse airport.

Lizzie is a fantastic cook and used to run 'Fish on Friday' pop up events in Dorset, she's currently serving up delicious food at the artist retreats that she runs just outside of Roquecor. Coincidentally it was a Friday when we dropped in, and she had prepared a classic bouillabaisse for supper with a simple salad to refresh the palette. Even more coincidentally, I was due to cook the same dish for a group of people the following week, when we returned to West Wales. I was feeling a bit nervous as it's a big dish, needing time, dedication, a lot of love and some seriously good ingredients to pull it off.

Hers was divine and she was happy to share her shortcut skills to pull this dish off with aplomb but without the hassle. Serves 6.

Peel and fine dice 200gm red onion and three garlic cloves. Throw them in a sauté pan with a glug of olive oil and sauté for 20 minutes until soft, no colour, add salt and pepper and a gram of saffron, cook gently for another 10 minutes. Throw in a jar of really good quality, French fish soup, 1litre, and another jar of excellent lobster bisque, 750ml. Heat through and add 100ml of freshly squeezed lemon juice. You can add a splash of Pernod, brandy or calvados at this stage if you're feeling flush, I didn't because flush I am not.

Just before serving, add in a handful of shell on prawns, fillets of gurnard, red or/and grey mullet, monkfish, tarragon and finally half a kilo of fresh mussels. Once the mussels are open, sitting fat and plump in the stew, it's ready to serve.

To accompany the dish, albeit a bit of a fag, but well worth it, serve homemade croutons and rouille with grated Gruyere. If you want to cook it from scratch then BBC Good Food is a winner, although remember you will need an amazing, homemade shellfish stock, do not even contemplate a stock cube.

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/bouillabaisse>

For Salisbury people, you are so lucky to have Premier Fish in Fish Row, just off the Market square, where you will find all the ingredients needed for this dish. If you get round to cooking it, let me know how it went and how it was received,

martin@theconstantcook.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you.

Martin Simcock aka The Constant Cook





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News from the Pews

Odstock and Nunton

Hello all, I hope you have survived the summer. Before the river shrank, we had a fun duck race in Odstock, raising money for Morning Star. Sadly, our church organs suffered in the heat. We've taken advice, and it is hoped they will recover when it starts raining and the air retains some moisture.

Ride and Stride is happening again on 12 September. Maybe some of you will take on the challenge to walk or cycle between the churches in the Benefice and sample the refreshments! Harvest Festival will be celebrated this year at St Andrews, Nunton at 4pm, followed by a shared supper in the Barker Room.

Take care all and be kind to your neighbours.

Stephanie Elcock and Mary Boydcamps, Churchwardens

Charlton All Saints

July brought one of the highlights of our year – the annual *Village BBQ*, this year with an *Auction of Promises*. Saturday 11 July was a glorious evening of food, fun and community spirit, with a bar, hearty meat and veggie fare, fresh salads, and a Guess the Location of the Photograph competition for a bit of extra fun. Between the BBQ and the Auction, we raised over £2,000 for our urgent roof repairs – a wonderful result, and our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came, donated, bid, or helped run the evening. A special thank you to Janine, who sourced many of the raffle prizes and auction items – her efforts made a huge difference.

Looking ahead to September, we have our annual *Ride & Stride* sponsored walk in aid of the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 12 September, meeting at 10am at All Saints' – do join in, whether on foot or by bike, or sponsor one of our walkers. We're also looking forward to our *Bring and Share Harvest Supper* at 5pm on Saturday 26 September. This is a free community event – bring food and drink to share with your neighbours to celebrate the end of Harvest. There will be a Harvest themed quiz and some fun to be had making corn dollies. For those less fortunate families, we will be creating a Tower of Tins to give to The Larder at Downton Baptist Church – please bring your contributions of tinned food either to the Harvest Supper or to our *Harvest Festival* service at 9.30am on Sunday 27 September, led by Revd Maggie Metcalfe. Do come along to any or all of these – all are very welcome.

Clare Penny, Churchwarden

Britford

We had wonderful concert at the end of July when we were able to hear the depth and breadth of variety of organ music – thanks to the expertise of Ben and Cathy Lamb and their skilful working of the organ at St Peter's Britford. Music from Bach to Bonnet, Mendelssohn to Mathias; male and female composers from then until now. This was especially impressive given the challenges of keeping our church organs functioning in this heat – thanks to Shelagh and the organ tuner!

2 August was an excuse to celebrate Lammas – when we give thanks for the first fruits of the harvest. We have cause this year to be particularly grateful given the drought and the difficulties faced by our farmers – thanks to you all.

Future Events for your diaries include:

5 Saturday September 7.30 pm – Concert in St Peter's by Allegra Sturgeon and Friends. Tickets £10, children £5, on the door or book via Victoria

(Victoria.sturgeon@btinternet.com)

6 Sunday September 10am Pet Service. All pets are welcome to bring their owners to the church at Britford (Hopefully we will be outside) for a blessing and so we can share our thanks for each other. Those without pets are also very welcome to this family friendly event.

NB: Safety is the responsibility of owners!!

4 October 11am Harvest Festival Service

Followed by **Lunch at 12.30** at the McCoys barn. All are welcome at both or either. Details to follow. Please contact Shelagh Lamb or Maggie Metcalfe for more information nearer the time.

Thanks to the faithful few who make all this possible and to all for supporting and attending!

Rev Maggie Metcalfe

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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 - Martin Simcock**



September 2026 - Church Services

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



Sunday 6th September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

10.00am	Pet Service	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor

Sunday 13th September – 15th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Charlton All Saints	Alison Waterhouse
11.00am	Family Communion	Nunton	Alison Waterhouse

Sunday 20th September – 16th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Parish Communion	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
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Sunday 27th September – 17th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Harvest Festival	Charlton All Saints	Maggie Metcalfe
4.00pm	Harvest Festival	Nunton	Ruth Howlett-Shipley

Sunday 4th October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

11.00am	Harvest Festival	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor

Ministry Team	Team Rector Team Vicar Associate Priests Team Administrator	The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022 The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 01722 697404/07904 034221 The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395 The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825 Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376 TheChalkeValleyChurches@gmail.com
Assisting Clergy	The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607 The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 07808 614597 The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor 01722 503081 The Revd Canon Vernon White 01722 327042	
Lay Worship Leaders	Angela Bridges: 01747 828383, 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	

Friends of Bishopstone Church

Antiques evening: A Day in the Life of an Auctioneer

7.30pm Friday 9 October in Bishopstone Village Hall

Light supper and a chance to show your family heirlooms!

Tickets £12.50

Contact: theseal1@outlook.com or tonyclarke103@gmail.com

Helpers Sought for N&N Delivery in Nunton

More walking and thinking time!

Our grateful thanks go to Kate Bullen for her years delivering the monthly News and Notes in all weathers to you, the readers of Nunton. Kate is now taking a well-deserved break and we are seeking a volunteer(s) to assist Sally and Sophie with deliveries along the main road through the village. It could also be quite easily split into 2 shorter delivery routes, if more than one volunteer wishes to become part of our team. There are just ten editions per year needing to be distributed. Join our friendly team of helpers, you would be made very welcome!

Just email: editor@newsandnotes.net

Community Car Boot Sale Sunday

27 September

Come together with neighbours & friends to help raise funds for our villages at the last community Sunday morning car boot sale of this summer on 27 September!

Get involved to help or come to the pop-up café serving hot drinks and bacon rolls, all helping to support and maintain our local facilities Contact Sherwood Elcock



Development Appeal for Greyfisher Pub

Local Councillors, Annie Riddle and Sven Hocking, have asked Harnham Housing Steering Group to circulate the message below about the proposal to demolish the old garages at The Greyfisher Pub in Harnham and build a Tesco Express with new car parking and changes to access.

The application was refused by Wiltshire Council in December 2025, but the developer has now appealed. A public inquiry will take place in November, when a government-appointed Planning Inspector will consider the evidence.

The principal reason for refusal was concern about traffic and congestion, particularly around the Harnham Gyratory and New Bridge Road. This is also one of our main concerns about the proposed development on Sites 8 & 9 south of Harnham.

The Council is now seeking specific, first-hand evidence from local residents to help prepare its case. If you have relevant information, please see the request below and contact the Council directly at planning@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

See online N&N for further details - <https://www.newsandnotes.net/>

Many thanks, Harnham Housing Steering Group (HHSG)

Championing the **Halt Harnham Housebuilding (HHH)** Campaign

 [Visit our website](#) •  [Follow us on Facebook](#) •  [Donate on JustGiving](#) •  [Sign our petition](#)

Do you have an eye for figures and a heart for our parish?

Join us as our new PCC Treasurer

All Saints' Church is a central part of our village community in Charlton All Saints, and we are currently looking for a volunteer **PCC Treasurer** to join our small, friendly team.



What does the role involve?

Because we are a small village parish, the role is highly manageable and focuses on simple, straightforward cash bookkeeping. Key tasks include:

- Recording bi-weekly church collections and banking them.
- Paying regular bills like heating, lighting, and insurance.
- Claiming back Gift Aid from HMRC twice a year.
- Presenting a simple "cash-in, cash-out" update at our occasional PCC meetings.

Do I need to be an accountant?

No! You absolutely do not need a background in formal finance or accounting. This role is perfect for anyone who is diligent, organised, comfortable with basic numbers, and has a little experience using computer spreadsheets (like Excel). Full support, training templates, and guidance will be provided by the Diocese.

Do I need to be a regular Churchgoer, or on the PCC?

No! The role is open to anyone of good standing.

If you would like to give something back to our village, or simply want an informal chat to find out more about what is involved, please contact:

Clare Penny, Churchwarden on **07555 298 548** or email **charlton.all.saints.pcc@gmail.com**.



BERWICK ST JOHN COUNTRY FAYRE

Friday Sunday

18th-20th
September

Gate Open Times

Enjoy Live Music in the bar
from Friday night

Friday 6pm-11:30pm
Saturday 10am-11:30pm
Sunday 10am-4pm

Featuring a new Young
Exhibitors Area for this years
show!

Entry By Donation
With all profits to **Stars Appeal**

Come and see working tractors, military vehicles, steam
engines, and classic cars at our weekend-long show in the
Wiltshire village of Berwick St John.

How to find us

what3words: VOTE/AWAKENING/GLIDES
SP7 OEX



 berwickstjohncountryfayre

 Berwick St John Country Fayre

Scan here to visit
www.berwickstjohncountryfayre.co.uk





BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

September 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 **13th** and **27th** of **August** and the **10th** and **24th** of **September**.

Opening hours are from **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**.

Refreshments are currently offered free of charge, with donations welcome.

As ever, the bookshelves offer a wide range of titles available for a modest donation.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

Friday 25th September.

The first film of the season will be *The Devil Wears Prada 2*.

Reprising their roles from the original film are Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, and Stanley Tucci. Miranda Priestly struggles against Emily Charlton, her former assistant turned rival executive, as they compete for advertising revenue amid the decline of print media, while Miranda nears retirement.

Doors open from **7.00pm** with the film beginning at **7.30pm**. Admission 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.

Quiz Evening

Saturday 24th October. Another classic Quiz evening! The cost is **£12.50** per head or £50.00 for a table of four. This includes supper, and a bar will be available.

Guests booking individually will be joined with others to make up a team. To make a booking, please contact Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 and advise of any dietary requirements for yourself or any guests.

The Sunset Café Stompers.

Saturday 21st November. We are delighted to announce that, by popular request, the Sunset Café Stompers are returning to Bishopstone again this year.

Tickets are £18 each with an optional supper available at an additional £8 per person.

Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Early booking is strongly advised as numbers are limited. To make a booking, please contact Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 or Sue Taylor on (01722) 780316 and advise of any dietary requirements if taking the supper.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

A home-cooked lunch is served monthly from October until April.

The first lunch of the season will be on **Wednesday**, the **7th** of **October**, when the guest speaker will be Sign Painter, Aaron Stephens.

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** for a two-course lunch and a drink.

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*

Photo Competition

David Saul of Nunton sent us 2 wonderfully evocative photographs of a beautiful silvery moonlit sky. Thank you for sharing these with us, David , we think they are both lovely. Readers, please keep sending us more!





Friends of Bishopstone Church
IN AID OF BISHOPSTONE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

An Antiques Evening



Presented by **Jeremy Lamond**

The evening will be led by Jeremy Lamond,
Head of Valuations at Woolley & Wallis
Jeremy will begin with a presentation entitled:
A Day in the Life of an Auctioneer
This will be followed by a light supper

After which you will have the opportunity to show your family heirlooms for Jeremy to discuss

(One item per household & NO jewellery please)

Friday 9th October at 7.30

Bishopstone Village Hall, SP5 4AA

Tickets **£12.50** to include a light supper and a cash & card bar



CONTACTS FOR TICKETS

Sarah Seal – theseal1@outlook.com

Tony Clarke – tonyclarke103@gmail.com



Help With Oil Costs If You Are Eligible

Warm & Safe Wiltshire is a free energy advice service that helps residents of Swindon and Wiltshire live in warmer, safer and healthier homes.

We administer the Wiltshire Crisis and Resilience Fund for Oil, a government fund that supports low-income households in Wiltshire with the price of heating oil. We can also provide residents with free energy advice at outreach events. If you're interested, please contact us on 0800 038 5722 or email warmandsafe@cse.org.uk.

Prepare for winter – apply for heating oil funding now

If you're worried about how you'll afford your heating oil this winter, there might be support available for you.

Eligible households can apply for the Wiltshire Crisis and Resilience Fund for Oil – a government fund that supports low-income households with the price of heating oil. It's worth applying for this now, while the funding is available, so you'll have a fund ready to use when you need to buy oil this winter.

To find out more and apply, visit <https://voucherfund.co.uk/wilts-crf-oil/> or call Warm & Safe Wiltshire on 0800 038 5722.

Warm & Safe Wiltshire

Buy your heating oil now to prepare for winter

If you live in Wiltshire and you're worried about the cost of oil over winter, we can help.

Apply now, while funding is available!

Scan the QR code or visit voucherfund.co.uk/wilts-crf-oil to see if you're eligible for financial support.

If you need any help with managing your energy use or reducing your bills, you can contact us for free:

0800 038 5722 www.cse.org.uk/wsw

Warm and Safe Wiltshire is a free service from the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Centre for Sustainable Energy Wiltshire Council



Enjoy the outdoors but 'be tick aware'

Ticks can transmit microbes that cause infections such as Lyme disease or tick borne encephalitis.

Being tick aware by using the following information can help to reduce the chance of tick bites and of being infected:

- you could be exposed to ticks whenever you spend time outdoors, including when in your garden or the local park
- ticks mainly attach to animals, but sometimes they may bite you, your family or your pets
- you can reduce the chance of tick bites by walking on clearly defined paths, using insect repellent and performing **regular tick checks**
- ticks can bite anywhere on the body, including in your hair. More than one tick can be attached to you at a time
- some tick bites can result in infection, so it is important to remove ticks safely and as quickly as possible
- the safest way to remove a tick is by using a pair of **fine-tipped** tweezers or a tick removal tool
- if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms, persistent headache, confusion or develop a spreading circular red rash (which usually appears within 1 to 4 weeks after being bitten), **contact your GP or NHS 111 promptly**. Mention if you were bitten by a tick or have recently spent time outdoors

Tick sizes compared to a one penny coin



Tick in the environment



Tick attached to skin



Lyme disease bullseye rash



Tick found under hair



For more information, search for the phrases 'ticks' and 'Lyme disease' on these websites:

www.nhs.uk www.gov.uk www.nice.org.uk/guidance

GOV-11370

Voice It, Hear It (VIHI).

Do you live with a health condition that needs ongoing monitoring, care or support?



We'd love to hear from you

Living with a health problem that lasts a long time can affect everyday life, for example:

-  Getting to appointments
-  Looking after your health
-  Staying independent

-  Caring for someone else
-  Seeing friends and being part of your community

Your experience matters

Local health and care organisations in Wiltshire want to improve support for people like you.

Before making changes, we want to understand:

-  What works well?
-  What is difficult?
-  What would help the most?



Get Involved

Voice It, Hear It is a group of charities gathering feedback from local people.

 Email us for a friendly chat: voice@communityfirst.org.uk

 Fill in our short survey: <https://tinyurl.com/VIHIRuralHealth>

 Part of a group? Invite us to come and listen



Wiltshire Council

NHS
Bath and North East Somerset,
Swindon and Wiltshire
Integrated Care Board

*Voice It, Hear It (VIHI) Funded by Wiltshire Council
and BSW Integrated Care Board*



Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) is currently asking VIHI to gather insights to better understand the experiences of people 18+ living with long-term health conditions in rural communities across Wiltshire.

We know that living in a rural area can bring both strengths and challenges. Accessing appointments, travelling to services, maintaining independence, managing caring responsibilities, staying socially connected and navigating increasingly complex systems can all impact people's day-to-day lives.

One of the things we are already discovering is that some people do not necessarily identify with the term "*long-term health condition*." Instead, they often describe their experiences in terms of *getting older, maintaining their independence, coping with day-to-day life*, or supporting family members and carers. We are therefore keen to hear from as wide a range of people as possible to better understand what is working well, what barriers people experience and what changes could make the greatest difference in the future.

Whilst we recognise that engagement and consultation do not always lead to immediate change, they do provide an important opportunity for local people to influence future priorities, planning and service development.

There are several ways residents can participate:

- Complete the [anonymous online survey](#);
- Request a telephone conversation with a member of the VIH team at a time that suits them: voice@communityfirst.org.uk
- Request a paper questionnaire to complete at home via: voice@communityfirst.org.uk
- Share as much or as little information as they feel comfortable with.

History is told by the victors. Everyone needs to know why Britford's story was omitted from the Bayeux Tapestry. And what it was.

THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY:

And the overlooked importance of Britford in the English side of the story.

The Bayeux Tapestry will be on display from 10 September 2026 – 11 July 2027 in the British Museum. Tickets are on sale now.

The embroidered story-board which we know as the Bayeux Tapestry has come home for a while. "Home", because even if commissioned for a Norman (as it must have been), it is thought to have been almost certainly made in England or by English hands. At its heart lies the tragic story of Harold, Earl, later contested King, of Wessex, a handsome character who figures far more frequently than the rather dull William. It is definitely his story which is being told here.

Harold is surrounded by his Anglo-Saxon warriors with their rakish moustaches, whilst William's retinue are portrayed as gawky thugs with their half-shaven heads and poor posture. One cannot help wondering whether the sympathies of the needlewomen lay with the losing side. Most significantly, just one figure in the whole embroidered frieze is consistently depicted as larger and thus more important than others and that is Edward, the King of England. He is care-worn, old and bearded, and seems a little frail.

Whoever commissioned the project and determined the story-board wanted to tell a story of vindication. They wished to portray the events which led to the invasion of England, the death of Harold and the subsequent slaughter of the Anglo-Saxons as having been deserved, the result of Harold breaking his promise, his oath sworn on holy relics. The entire justification for the invasion rests on this. Did he swear this oath? It is a work of retrospective public relations, reshaping history to ensure it tells the victors' side of the story.

What is omitted is the back-story, the political upheavals which weakened England and laid it open to the Norman conquest. It does not tell the story from the point of view of the Anglo-Saxons, our local English, who were subsequently slaughtered in their thousands. The ruling classes and people of authority, including churchmen, were replaced more or less completely with Normans. There were precious few people left in a position to tell the story at all.

When the killing was done, and the armies returned from their forays into the north, William chose to meet them not at the Royal Manor in Britford, where the events which kicked off in 1065 led to the invasion, but at nearby Old Sarum. William was a warrior, up to date with the latest technology and strategy in warfare. He chose to rule from castles built on high ground – both impregnable and imposing.

The settlement at Britford, a large settlement (by contemporary standards) in the river valley and surrounded by wooded hills, was not to William's liking. Instead, his men erected a wooden castle on the top of the Iron Age settlement on Old Sarum, a commanding position, overlooking the valleys all around. Here, twenty years later when the Normans had entirely finished the subjugation of these lands, he took oaths of loyalty from all the leaders who were to remain in Britain, almost all were Norman.

It had been a most terrible, absolute and devastating conquest for the people of Britain. Once performed, William, or perhaps his advisors, chose to tidy the historical record to ensure it told the story to posterity in a way which vindicated his own role in all that had happened. In fact, circumstances had probably offered him an easy victory and William had taken advantage of the upheavals and internal strife in Britain. Let it be a lesson to us today.

COUNTDOWN TO THE CONQUEST - 14TH OCTOBER 1066

Britford, Wiltshire, nearly a thousand years ago.....

Towards the end of August 1065, King Edward, 'the Confessor' was staying in the Royal Manor in Britford, Wiltshire, a rural settlement in the river valley, surrounded by hills. He was probably enjoying the hunting with a friend and relative by marriage, who was staying with him, Earl Tostig Godwinson. The two men probably set off across the river valley, now water meadows, to a deer park on the hill at the other side of the meandering river Avon in a what was later to become known as Clarendon. There is mention of Edward already having been previously struck with illness (thought to have been strokes) but he certainly appears to have been in good

health at that time: out on his horse; hunting and much involved with the politics of his realm. He cannot have been at all the care-worn and bent old man depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry at that time.

His companion, Tostig, was one of the Godwins, an extremely powerful (King Edward certainly often thought *too* powerful) family, huge land-owners who could raise large armies from the men on their lands. Edward had married a member of that family, Edith, some twenty years earlier and thus Tostig was his brother-in-law. Another of the Godwin brothers played a starring role in this story, Harold Godwinson, whose name was to go down in our history books, his image immortalised forever, with an arrow through his eye. What the later embroidery omits is the critical role which Tostig played in bringing that story about. This is what happened:

On 29th September 1065, St Bartholomew's day, and possibly whilst the King and Tostig were actually out hunting, a rebellion broke out in the north of Edward's realm, in the lands owned by his guest. During his absence, Tostig had been outlawed by the rebels and replaced with their own leader, Morcar. The Anglo-Saxon chronicle, written in that same century, recounts it:

"And then, after Michael's-mass, all the thanes in Yorkshire went to York, and there slew all Earl Tosty's (Tostig's) household servants whom they might hear of, and took his treasures: and Tosty (Tostig) was then at Britford with the king."

Tostig was a deeply unpopular figure according to contemporary chroniclers: not only was he a southerner, even then that signalled cultural difference, but he was a cruel and greedy landlord known for peremptory seizing of others' lands, summary executions and high taxes. The rebels had taken advantage of his absence and they forcibly took their own turn now, murdering anyone loyal to him, seizing his lands and putting their own candidate, Morcar, in the role of leader.

Edward's days of hunting must have stopped abruptly as he had to confront an extremely dangerous situation. Efforts by Tostig's brother Harold and his army to stop the insurrection had been in vain and the king now faced a stark choice, should he call up all the nobles to fight on Tostig's behalf, and face what might end up as a civil war, or should he ratify the rebellion led by Morcar, and hope it would all calm down?

It was in what is now a quiet Wiltshire village lying on the water-meadows just outside Salisbury, at Britford, that the King faced his decision. One imagines he would have sought divine guidance in St Peter's, the little Britford church, an Anglo-Saxon foundation, which was probably part of his manorial complex. What followed was to end with the invasion of Britain in 1066.

The King summoned his nobles to discuss the situation and advise him. Foremost amongst them was Tostig's brother Harold, by far the most competent of the siblings and, unlike Tostig, in control of his lands in Wessex, and of his army. Harold may or

may not have attempted to intercede on behalf of his brother, but in truth there was probably no other possible outcome: Morcar had to be accepted as the new Earl of the North and Tostig had to be exiled. It was that or full-scale civil war with the North. In fury, abandoned by his family and friends, Tostig fled to Flanders - his wife's home - to nurture his fury and resentment.

Things unravelled pretty quickly thereafter. King Edward's health deteriorated, perhaps he had another stroke, possibly at Britford, and one might well imagine brought on by this emergency because of which he had summarily to exile his brother-in-law, friend and, up until a couple of days earlier, guest. The stricken King was taken to London.

On the 5th January 1066, twelfth night, King Edward died. He had no children and had not named a successor, instead he seems to have used the promise of succession to the throne of England by way of a bribe, dangling it in front of those he needed to help him, or who appeared to be threatening him. Even if he was clear in his final hours about who was to succeed him, that intention has remained elusive over the centuries.

There were three main contenders:

- Earl Harold Godwin, the powerful Earl of Wessex, brother of Tostig. Harold was not related to the royal family, but he was an immensely wealthy man at the heart of English government. Harold believed that he should be the natural successor and historical sources suggest that on his death bed Edward reached out to him, indicating this wish. (He may of course have wanted a drink of water, but history likes to find meaning in gestures).
- There was also Duke William of Normandy who was a first cousin once removed of Edward's, and therefore shared the royal blood. Moreover, Edward had been brought up in Normandy and had close links across the channel. The two men knew each other well, and it is probable that William had given support to help Edward fight and repel Danish incursions in the north. All in all, it is entirely reasonable that William believed that Edward had promised to make him successor to the English throne.
- The third contender was Edgar Aetheling who whilst in the direct line of succession, was still a child with few supporters. A few years later he was used as a rallying point for resistance in the North against the Norman invasion.

Whilst it was famously Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex, (traditionally identified as being depicted with an arrow through the eye) who became the King of England on Edward's death, there was also an unexpected challenger, a late-comer. The resentful Tostig was not about to relinquish his desire for revenge on his brother and the other nobles whom he felt had betrayed him. He joined forces with the King of Norway, Harald Hardrada, and together they plotted an invasion into Tostig's former territory in the North of England. There they were opposed first by Morcar (the leader of the northern rebellion) and then at Stamford Bridge by the army of the new King, Harold, whilst marching on York.

On the 25th of September, 1066, Harold famously defeated his brother and the Norwegian forces at the battle of Stamford Bridge at which both Tostig and King Hardrada were killed. The new King and his army had scarcely had a moment to celebrate that victory, however, when they learned of an even bigger threat in the south. What was, and might have been remembered as a glorious victory for the English, defeating Tostig and the Norwegian invaders, instead contributed to the undoing of King Harold, and to the conquest of all England by the Normans.

On 28th September, 1066, Duke William of Normandy, taking advantage of favourable winds and of the absence of much of the English army up near York, landed on the south coast at Pevensey. He had been gathering support and recruiting from across present-day northern France and had amassed his own invasion force. The attack by Tostig in the north must have seemed heaven-sent and the landing was unopposed. Within a few days, the Norman invaders must have surveyed the area, and within a couple of weeks had erected fortifications at Hastings and were ready to meet the battle-weary English army after their long forced-march from York.

On 14th October, 1066,

The battle of Hastings took place: the one battle and the one date which surely any English person knows. William of Normandy emerged victorious and the Kingdom of England fell to the Normans. The country did not accede easily, and in particular the people of the North resisted the invaders forcefully. They were met with Norman military aggression which some historians have argued bordered on genocide. The Anglo-Saxon nobility was more or less wiped out, and entire settlements razed. Northumbria bore the brunt, and tens of thousands of people are thought to have starved to death through the despoiling of the land and raiding of the livestock. It was to go down in our history books as the 'Harrying of the North'.

When finally William considered the subjugation of all England complete, years later, he called his troops together, returning to a traditional seat of Royal Power round Salisbury. The Manor at Britford had of course become William's as part of the Crown Estates, as is recorded in the Domesday Book, but William was a military man. He hunted men, not deer, and he built defensive castles in high places, not just hunting lodges by the river. He had a castle built on the top of the mighty earthworks originally raised over a thousand years earlier by the Iron Age tribes at Old Sarum. It was power made visible. Here we imagine him sitting in state and rewarding his men. And it was here, at Old Sarum, looking down over the rambling Saxon settlement which was soon to become the city of Salisbury, that he later assembled the great and the good of the new order, and took their oaths of fealty in 1086. Over time, the settlement at Britford seems to have lost favour and its timber buildings fell into ruin and were lost to the ground. Over the course of the years, Old Sarum too, was abandoned and left to the embrace of nature.

Nonetheless, Old Sarum's prominent position remained as a lasting reminder of its historical importance, and such was the desire to conserve its semi-rural setting that

Hudson's Field was created (through public acclaim) to restrict the encroachment of Salisbury's expanding housing.

In many ways, a similar solution is necessary for Britford: its historic royal remains are less well-known and slighter in scale. Until such time as they are better understood and mapped, they are more vulnerable than Old Sarum. But just as was the case for Old Sarum, foresight and forward thinking can still preserve them in their current semi-rural setting - providing that housing is not permitted to overwhelm any surviving remains and their settings and one of Salisbury's historic treasures is not inadvertently lost.

From an 11th century version of the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle':

"Count William came from Normandy to Pevensey on Michaelmas Eve [28 September 1066], and as soon as they were able to move on, they built a castle at Hastings. King Harold was informed of this and he assembled a large army and came against him at the hoary apple-tree.

And William came against him by surprise before his army was drawn up in battle array. But the king nevertheless fought hard against him, with the men who were willing to support him, and there were heavy casualties on both sides.

There King Harold was killed and Earl Leofwine his brother, and Earl Gyrrh his brother, and many good men; and the French remained masters of the field, even as God granted it to them because of the sins of the people ... and always after that it grew much worse. May the end be good when God wills!"

- Translated by Dorothy Whitelock and others, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: A Revised Translation* (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1961), pp. 142–45.

There is a superb high resolution image of the entire 70m (230') embroidery online and provided by the Museum of Bayeux: <https://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/the-bayeux-tapestry/discover-the-bayeux-tapestry/explore-online/>

If you are interested in further reading about this period:

Stephen Baxter, Edward the Confessor and the Succession Question, in R. Mortimer ed., *Edward the Confessor: the Man and the Legend* (2009)

For one easily accessible version of the Anglo-Saxon chronicle, see:

<https://avalon.law.yale.edu/medieval/ang11.asp>

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<https://avalon.law.yale.edu/medieval/ang11.asp>

For Domesday online, see: <https://opendomesday.org/>

For an excellent synopsis see the *History of Government's* website blog:

<https://history.blog.gov.uk/2016/01/05/the-death-of-edward-the-confessor-and-the-conflicting-claims-to-the-english-crown/>

For a translation of the latin embroidered text, see:

<https://www.usu.edu/markdamen/bayeuxtapestry/text.pdf#:~:text=Rotbert.,ut%20foderetur%20castellum%20at%20Hestenga>

For Domesday online, see: <https://opendomesday.org/> On line extras

Salisbury City Council takes action to reduce fire risk in parks and open spaces

Salisbury City Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team has been carrying out a programme of fire risk assessments and preventative works across the city's green spaces throughout July and August to help reduce the risk of grass and vegetation fires during the current period of dry weather.

As part of this work, Council officers have reviewed guidance from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service alongside relevant Government guidance to identify areas of increased risk and implement appropriate mitigation measures. The programme is designed to help protect residents, visitors, wildlife, and public spaces while maintaining access to the city's parks and open spaces. A range of preventative measures has been introduced, including the creation of fire breaks in selected locations, particularly where open spaces adjoin residential properties. In some areas, dried grass and vegetation have also been removed to help limit the potential spread of fire.

The City Council has carefully balanced these measures with its ongoing commitment to biodiversity and the protection of natural habitats. Decisions regarding additional cutting and vegetation management have been guided by site-specific risk assessments, ensuring that fire prevention measures are proportionate and environmentally responsible.

As weather conditions continue to evolve, Council staff will keep the situation under review and adapt their approach where necessary. Additional signage has also been installed at a number of locations across the city to raise public awareness of the heightened fire risk and to discourage the use of disposable barbecues and the lighting of open fires in parks and open spaces.

Salisbury City Council is encouraging residents and visitors to remain vigilant during dry conditions and to report any signs of fire to the emergency services immediately.

Cllr Jenny Bolwell, Chair of the Environment Committee said, "This work is an important part of reducing wildfire risk, but prevention is everyone's responsibility. During periods of hot, dry weather, small campfires, barbecues, or even litter such as glass or reflective items, can start a fire that quickly becomes more serious.

"Help protect our open spaces. By working together, we can significantly reduce the risk of devastating wildfires."

Salisbury City Council opens applications for Community Infrastructure Levy funding

Do you have an idea that could improve your local area? Salisbury City Council is inviting community groups, organisations, and other eligible applicants to apply for funding.

From community buildings and green spaces to accessible paths and cycle routes, this funding can help turn collective community aspirations into real projects that benefit Salisbury residents and respond to growth challenges.

The funding comes from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is collected from new housing developments across the city and reinvested into projects that benefit local communities. It can be used for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or other measures that support your area's development.

The City Council wants to hear from residents and organisations with ideas that could make a real difference to their community and welcomes applications for projects that demonstrate a clear link to supporting the development of Salisbury, mitigating the impacts of growth, or addressing increased demand arising from new housing and development.

Funding could support projects such as:

- Community facilities and buildings
- Parks and open spaces
- Recreation and sports facilities
- Walking and cycling improvements
- Accessibility improvements
- Highway and road safety schemes
- Environmental and biodiversity projects
- Public realm enhancements
- Heritage and cultural infrastructure

To ensure applications are considered consistently and transparently, the Council operates a three-stage application process:

1. Gateway / Expression of Interest
2. Full Application and Assessment
3. Decision-Making

Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential projects with Council officers before submitting an application. Early conversations can help ensure projects meet the objectives and eligibility requirements of the CIL programme. If you have an idea, but aren't sure whether it's eligible, please contact Andrew Hunt, Corporate

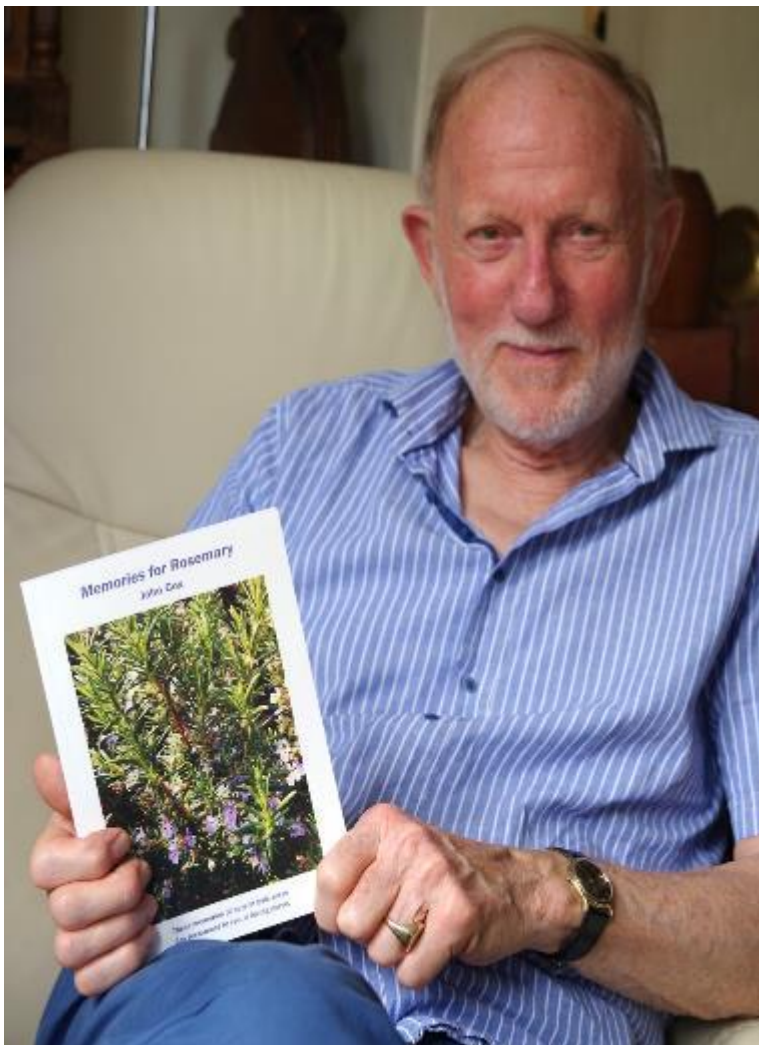
Manager, by email at ahunt@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk for further information or to discuss your project.

To find out more and apply for CIL funding, please download and complete the Stage 1 Gateway/Expression of Interest Form from the [Salisbury City Council website](https://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk).

Cllr Victoria Charleston, Chair of the Communities Committee, said, "The money is there to support residents and communities to improve Salisbury. We want your help to spend this money on projects that are really important to you."



Retired Salisbury teacher publishes poetry collection inspired by wife's dementia journey



A retired Salisbury English teacher has published a moving collection of poems inspired by the memories he shares with his wife, Rosemary, who has been living with dementia for several years. All proceeds from book sales will support Salisbury District Hospital's Stars Appeal. John Cox's book, *Memories for Rosemary*, is a deeply personal collection written to celebrate and renew memories from their lives together. Despite the challenges of dementia, Rosemary continues to recognise people and communicates her understanding through smiles and facial expressions. The inspiration for the book came after John wrote a sequence of poems for his wife. John explained: "Last December I wrote A Christmas Crown for Rosemary, a sequence of fifteen sonnets about our lives together. I read it to Rosemary and was deeply

moved by her response. When I'd finished, I asked if it was all right. She smiled and actually said, 'yes!'. The poetry somehow sparked in her something beyond what talking might do.

"I've gone on to write more poems in different forms, with travel often a recurring theme, and have also written about memories of my life before I met Rosemary. Having shared the poems with family and friends, I would like them to reach a wider readership and to benefit the Stars Appeal, which does such hugely important work for so many people."

The project also reflects Rosemary's lifelong dedication to healthcare. A nurse throughout her career, she trained at St Thomas' Hospital in London and worked as a coronary care nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital when she and John first met. After moving to Salisbury and raising a family, Rosemary returned to nursing at Salisbury District Hospital. She worked at the Spinal Treatment Centre before transferring to Salisbury Hospice. Her final role was as a Sister, liaising with medical staff across the hospital on palliative care.

John said: "Having given so much to so many during her working life, Rosemary is now the recipient of nursing care. Excellent nurses may not always make good patients, but she has become one."

In recognition of both Rosemary's nursing career and the care she has received, all proceeds from sales of *Memories for Rosemary* will be donated to the Stars Appeal, the charity supporting Salisbury District Hospital.

Dave Cates from the Stars Appeal said: "It is incredibly generous that the proceeds from *Memories for Rosemary* are coming to the Stars Appeal to support our work with patients and families at Salisbury Hospital. We are very grateful to John for choosing to support our charity in this way and wish him every success with the book."

Copies of ***Memories for Rosemary*** cost £10 and are available from Salisbury Information Centre, Fish Row, Salisbury. The book can also be ordered online for £12, including postage and packaging, via www.memoriesforrosemary.org. Through the sale of the book, John hopes to share the power of poetry, memory and love while supporting a charity that continues to make a difference to patients and families

"If you have a good idea that you think would make things better for the people in your area – whether it's new water fountains, a playpark, or perhaps community centre improvements – come and speak to us."

Trek the Sahara Desert in support of Salisbury Hospital's Stars Appeal

The Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, is looking for adventurous supporters to take on a 100km Sahara Desert trek challenge.

Taking place in February 2028, the Sahara Desert Trek is the charity's seventh fundraising trek. Over six hot days, participants will walk more than 60 miles across dramatic desert landscapes, trekking over rocky terrain, towering dunes and remote salt plains. As night falls, temperatures will drop as they camp beneath the stars.

Budding trekkers can find out more at an information evening in Salisbury on Tuesday, October 20.

The Stars Appeal's Volunteer Challenge Manager, Jo Maslen, who has trekked five of the previous six treks, said: "This is your chance to change your own life, and the lives of patients and the staff who care for them in our hospital. Our treks challenge you from sign-up to finish line - from getting fit and hitting your fundraising target, to trekking tough but unforgettable landscapes, travelling with a big group and being far from home.

"It will be an adventure filled with breathtaking views, golden sunrises and sunsets, treks alongside Berber guides and their camels, evenings around the campfire, and sleeping under the stars. Along the way, you'll form new friendships, discover inner strengths you never knew you had, and create memories that will stay with you forever. Every step you take will help support Salisbury Hospital. If you have a positive mindset, a can-do attitude, and are ready to challenge yourself, come along to our information evening to find out more." Every trekker is asked to raise at least £2,000 for the Stars Appeal, as well as paying their own trekking costs to the challenge organisers Discover Adventure.

Money raised will help towards the £2million the Stars Appeal aims to raise every year to fund projects across Salisbury Hospital. These include new equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects across the hospital, including support for people with cancer, a dedicated play assistant on the Children's Unit, and Stars Appeal Wi-Fi.

This year, a group of 29 local people completed a trek in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas and raised £91,973 for the Stars Appeal. Funds raised from this trek, together with previous challenges in Colombia, Petra, the Grand Canyon, Machu Picchu and the Great Wall of China, have brought the total raised across six treks to over £570,000.

Sign up to the trek information evening at www.starsappeal.org/events or call 01722 429005.

A promotional poster for the 'Trek the Sahara' event. The top half features a photograph of a group of people trekking across a vast, golden sand dune under a clear blue sky. The title 'Trek the Sahara' is written in large, bold, yellow letters, with 'for the Stars Appeal' in smaller yellow text below it. Below the photo, white text reads: 'Raise funds for Salisbury Hospital on our 100km Desert Challenge 5-13 February, 2028'. The bottom half of the poster has a dark blue background. On the left is the 'STARS APPEAL' logo, which includes three yellow stars and the text 'Salisbury Hospital's Charity'. To the right of the logo is a large yellow star. Below the logo, white text says 'Join our Info Evening Tuesday 20 October 2026'. Further down, it says 'Get full details at starsappeal.org' and 'Scan the QR code or call 01722 429005'. A QR code is located on the right side of this section, with a 'Scan Me' button below it. At the very bottom, small white text provides contact information: 'The Stars Appeal | Salisbury District Hospital's Charity | 01722 429005', the website 'www.starsappeal.org', and the President 'The Earl of Pembroke'. It also mentions 'Registered charity no 1052264'.

Over 2,000 join the Stars Appeal's Walk for Wards in support of Salisbury Hospital

The community came together to show their support for Salisbury Hospital at the Stars Appeal's 21st Walk for Wards and have so far raised over £100,000.

A record-breaking 2,210 walkers registered to take part in the sponsored walk on Sunday, July 5 at Wilton House, which is the flagship fundraising event for the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity.



Participants walked 3k, 5k, 10k or 15k to thank the hospital for the care they or their family have received across various wards and departments, with some dedicating their walk in memory of a loved one.

Daisy Stenner, who walked in fancy dress as Homer Simpson with her family, said: "Last year when I was 20, I was diagnosed with cancer and had chemotherapy treatment on Pembroke Ward. Thanks to the incredible care I received from the amazing staff, I'm now one year in remission. To say thank you, I wanted to help support the amazing work they and the Stars Appeal do for patients going through treatment. They made something that was so horrible and dreadful more bearable."

Katie Merrett and her family were walking to say thank you to the Neonatal Baby Unit team who cared for her daughter Lucia who is now one. Lucia was born at 32 weeks and spent a month on the unit. Katie said: "It means so much to us to be here as a family, as it was touch and go whether Lucia would survive because when she was born, she wasn't breathing. To see the doctors and nurses who saved her life and looked after her is lovely. They are real-life angels."

During their time on the unit, they were supported by projects funded by the Stars Appeal, including its dedicated parents' accommodation. Katie said: "It made a massive difference to be able to stay together. I would have been so anxious if I'd had to leave Lucia, as we live 20 miles away. The thought of leaving her was horrible."

The vital funds raised from Walk for Wards will help the Stars Appeal towards the £2million it aims to raise this year to fund projects across Salisbury Hospital. These

include new equipment such as a mammogram machine for the Breast Unit, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects across the hospital, including support for people with cancer, a dedicated play assistant on the Children's Unit, and Stars Appeal Wi-Fi.

Cancer Consultant and Stars Appeal Ambassador, Dr Tracey Parker, said: "My colleagues and I all take great pride in our hospital and have deep appreciation for the support of our hospital charity, the Stars Appeal. Every day, we see how that support touches our patients' lives. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part, those who so generously sponsored them, Lord and Lady Pembroke for hosting, our main sponsors Salisbury Reds, the marshals from Wilton and Salisbury Rotary Clubs, and the countless other people and organisations. Without this amazing support the light of the Stars Appeal could not shine as brightly as it does." A date for Walk for Wards 2027 will be announced soon. To find out more visit

www.starsappeal.org



Breathing Spaces 2026 brings Salisbury together through nature, wellbeing and community

Safer and Supportive Salisbury (SaSS) is celebrating the success of its 2026 Breathing Spaces Showcase after nine days of activities encouraged hundreds of people to discover the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time outdoors. Running from 27 June to 5 July, Breathing Spaces brought together local charities, community groups, volunteers and activity providers to offer more than 30 free and low-cost events across Salisbury and the surrounding area. From wild swimming, yoga, morris dancing and cycling to conservation volunteering, gardening, wildlife experiences, wellbeing walks and family activities, the programme demonstrated the remarkable variety of opportunities available locally throughout the year.

One of the most encouraging outcomes was the diversity of people who took part. Activities welcomed participants ranging from young children enjoying family events to older residents reconnecting with nature, alongside individuals attending on their own, families, carers, community groups and those trying something completely new for the first time. The showcase proved that spending time outdoors is something everyone can enjoy, regardless of age, experience or ability.

As well as helping people improve their physical and mental wellbeing, Breathing Spaces introduced many residents to local organisations that continue to offer regular activities throughout the year, creating lasting opportunities to stay active,

meet new people and enjoy Salisbury's beautiful parks, rivers, woodlands and green spaces.

Anne Trevett BEM, Chair of Safer and Supportive Salisbury, said:

"Breathing Spaces has shown just what can happen when a community comes together around a simple idea – helping people enjoy the wonderful natural spaces on their doorstep. We have been delighted to see people of all ages taking part, making new friendships, building confidence and discovering activities they may never have considered before. The enthusiasm of our partner organisations and volunteers has been inspirational too, and we hope this is just the beginning of many people's journey to better wellbeing through nature."

Safer and Supportive Salisbury would like to thank every organisation, volunteer, activity leader and participant who helped make Breathing Spaces 2026 such a success.

Their enthusiasm, generosity and commitment created a welcoming showcase that celebrated not only Salisbury's outstanding natural environment, but also the strength of its community.

The charity hopes Breathing Spaces Salisbury has inspire residents to continue exploring the many outdoor activities available across the city and looks forward to building on its success in future years – mark your calendars for 26 June – 4 July 2027. The 2026 Breathing Spaces green coloured brochure can be used as a handy directory of all the community groups, and the interactive map is being updated all the time with new green and blue spaces open to the public in Salisbury and surrounds.

The full programme and interactive map can be viewed online [SaSS-Breathing-Spaces-Website.pdf](#)



Safer and Supportive Salisbury (SaSS) is an independent charity that brings together local organisations and volunteers to create a safe, supportive and inclusive community. Breathing Spaces is a city-wide wellbeing showcase celebrating the benefits of nature, physical activity and community connection through a programme of free and low-cost events held across Salisbury's parks, rivers and green spaces.

PRACTICAL HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

Join us for a cuppa and
support with your digital
device in September and
October 2026

Funded by the Southern
Wiltshire Area Board



Do you know a resident living in Laverstock, Old Sarum, Winterslow, Alderbury, Whiteparish, Downton, or surrounding villages, who would benefit from improved digital skills and confidence?



Join us for 1-2-1 support for what YOU need with a laptop, tablet, i-pad or mobile phone



The sessions are free of charge - there will be lots of tea and cake!

Please register your interest by the end of August and let us know which area you reside in, so we can plan sessions in locations that best meet local demand, by contacting Karlene Jammeh, Engagement and Partnerships:



01722 434437



karlene.jammeh@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

PRESS RELEASE

6 August 2026

Salisbury City Council launches Living Legacy Project with 800 trees for the City

To mark the 800th anniversary of Salisbury receiving its Royal Charter, Salisbury City Council is launching a landmark Living Legacy Project. Community groups, schools, businesses and residents are invited to help create a lasting gift for future generations by planting 800 trees across the city.

The initiative will be the first in a year-long programme of Council-organised events celebrating this historic milestone, and will see 800 saplings planted throughout Salisbury, creating a living legacy that will enhance the city's natural environment for years to come.

The project aims to support local biodiversity, provide valuable habitats for wildlife and contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents by increasing access to nature.

Residents, organisations and community groups are invited to apply for a tree or native hedge to plant on private land, with the permission of the landowner. Available options include rowan, bird cherry and oak saplings, as well as native hedging.

Those wishing to take part are encouraged to apply now by completing the form on [Salisbury City Council's Salisbury 800 webpage](#). Paper copies of the form are available to collect from Salisbury Information Centre. The closing date for applications is Thursday 1 October 2026.



PRESS RELEASE

14 August 2026

Help keep Salisbury safe: volunteer as a CCTV operator

As part of Salisbury City Council's CCTV monitoring service, a dedicated team of volunteer operators monitors the city's state-of-the-art CCTV and radio system. The City Council is seeking volunteers to join the team and help keep Salisbury safe.

Working closely with the police, city partners and local businesses, volunteers play an important role in supporting public safety by observing activity across the city centre and reporting incidents when necessary.

The City Council is looking for people who:

- ☐ are aged 18 and over.
- ☐ can multitask effectively.
- ☐ are confident using technology.
- ☐ can think quickly and remain calm under pressure.
- ☐ have a keen eye for detail and passion for helping others.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer CCTV team can apply by simply emailing Keith Jackson, Salisbury City Council's CCTV Manager, at kjackson@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk to express their interest.

Successful applicants will undergo a police vetting process before receiving comprehensive training to prepare them for the role.

The safety of residents and visitors remains a top priority. Whether people are shopping during the day, visiting local attractions or enjoying Salisbury's nightlife, CCTV plays a vital role in creating an environment where everyone feels safe.

Salisbury City Council The Guildhall Market Place Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 1JH
Tel: 01722 342860 email: info@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk





Services in the Chalke Valley Benefice: September 2026

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



Sunday 6 th September - 14 th Sunday after Trinity			
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
10.00am	Pet Service	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Alison Waterhouse
11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
11.00am	Morning Service	Bishopstone	Sally Leaver
Sunday 13 th September - 15 th Sunday after Trinity			
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Charlton All Saints	Alison Waterhouse
11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Alison Waterhouse
11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
Sunday 20 th September - 16 th Sunday after Trinity			
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
11.00am	Harvest Festival	Ebbesbourne Wake	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
11.00am	Service at the Steam Fair	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
4.00pm	Sunday Praise	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
4.00pm	Sunday Praise	Coombe Bissett	Don & Ruth Morgan
Sunday 27 th September - 17 th Sunday after Trinity			
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
9.30am	Harvest Festival	Charlton All Saints	Maggie Metcalfe
11.00am	Harvest Festival	Bishopstone	Maggie Metcalfe
11.00am	Harvest Festival & Baptism	Alvediston	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
4.00pm	Harvest Festival	Nunton	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
6.00pm	Harvest Festival	Homington	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
Sunday 4 th October - 18 th Sunday after Trinity			
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Ruth Howlett-Shipley
9.30am	Harvest Festival	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
11.00am	Harvest Festival	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
11.00am	Harvest Festival	Broad Chalke	Ruth Howlett-Shipley

Ministry Team:

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

Team Vicar ~ The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221or 01722 697404

Associate Priests ~ The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395

Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376 Email: thechalkevalleychurches@gmail.com

Assisting Clergy:

Revd Canons: Anthony Hawley 01794 390607, Tony Monds 07808 614597, Jenny Taylor 01722 503081, Vernon White 01722 327042

Lay Worship Leaders:

Angela Bridges: 01747 828383, 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