

PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

FEBRUARY 2025



“For 2025 we may
expect the
unexpected!”

see page 10



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WILTSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION (BKVC)

In February, entries will be invited for the BKVC. Categories are Large, Medium and Small villages. There are 15 prizes of up to £200. It's a great way of getting villagers together to keep our villages looking good and to build on our community spirit. Entry is simple and must be received by CPRE Wiltshire by 17 April. Can you help our parish council with this? <https://www.cprewiltshire.org.uk/category/awards/> or call 01380 722157 and leave a message if necessary.

JOKE CORNER

Parishioner to Vicar's wife: "Did you wake up grumpy this morning?"

Vicar's wife: "No, I thought I'd let him sleep." RH

Do you have a joke, a story to raise a smile? Send to the editor for inclusion, but please be aware copyright also applies to jokes.



World Day of Prayer Service

Prepared by Christian Women of Cook Islands

**Upton Lovell Village Hall
Friday 7th March
6.00pm for Supper
Service at 7.00pm**

FILMS AT THE WOOLSTORE

**Wednesday 5th February at 19.30
THE CRITIC (15) Drama/Crime/Mystery**

Set in 1930s London, The Critic revolves around a feared theatre critic named Jimmy Erskine (Ian McKellen), his loyal assistant, a newspaper owner (Mark Strong) who wants to get rid of the critic, and an actress (Gemma Arterton) who has been devastated by his excoriating theatrical reviews. The critic's determination to survive ensures that the other characters are caught in a web of blackmail, deceit and murder.

Tickets are £7, available online from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-woolstore-theatre>, or from the Thursday community cafe on the last Thursday of each month.

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PLANTING DAFFODILS AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, HEYTESBURY

Three Year Six girls from Heytesbury Primary School spent a cold morning planting daffodils along the church wall. The daffodils will provide colour in the spring, and we will continue to plant bulbs and suggest environmental projects to encourage wildlife and help the church maintain its status as an Eco Church (<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>)

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Chairman

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MINISTRY LETTER

CHRISTIANITY is a religion based on historic events, specifically that God came in the person of Jesus, who lived in Palestine under Roman rule, was crucified after a mock trial and rose again three days later and that God, through his Holy Spirit, continues to be active in the lives of people and events in the world. History, the writings and the biographies of Christian men and women can inspire and encourage us in our faith, and provide resources for prayer and worship.

2025 sees the 1700th anniversary of a milestone in the development of the Early Church and its doctrine. In AD 325, bishops and theologians met in what is now Turkey. The Council of Nicaea produced the statement of faith which we still say today in our Holy Communion services - the Nicene Creed. More about this next month, but for now, a brief outline of events before AD 325.

By the beginning of the 4th century, Christianity had spread to all parts of the Roman Empire, with maybe 5 million disciples from all walks of life. After a severe period of persecution under the Emperor Diocletian, when many Christians were martyred, an Edict of Toleration was proclaimed in AD 311 by his successor, Galerius. Galerius died that year, and left the Roman Empire to Constantine in the West and Licinius and Maximinus in the East. Perhaps inevitably, there was a struggle between the two factions for sole rule. In AD 312, Constantine faced a decisive battle against Maximinus at the

Milvian Bridge across the Tiber. On the eve of the battle, Constantine was dramatically converted to Christianity through a vision of Christ. Following his subsequent victory, he marched into Rome and was proclaimed Emperor.

In AD 313, Constantine proclaimed the Edict of Milan, granting religious toleration throughout the Empire. Property confiscated from Christians during the years of persecution was restored, and the Church and clergy were given certain privileges, but it was more than 60 years before Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The Christian historian Eusebius records Constantine's social reforms which made Roman society more humane. Constantine studied the scriptures and theology, as shown by his letters and writings, and financed the work of making copies of the available Christian texts. By AD 325, his rule had become decisive both for the Empire and the Early Church and continued to be so, as we shall see next month!

Barbara Luscombe

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Paul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts of the Apostles chapter 9 v20f RH

ALABARE

At the start of a new year, we at Alabaré would like to say a huge thank you to our local communities for all the support we have received over the past few months. Every gift, hour of volunteer time and prayer helps us to bring more people out of the crisis of homelessness and into independent, fulfilling lives. More and more people are coming to us needing support and predictions indicate that this is likely to continue.

One memorable way that you can support us is by joining our annual sponsored BIG Sleep at Salisbury Cathedral on Friday 28th March. It is an incredibly moving event which gives participants a glimpse into what it would be like to have no home of their own by spending one night sleeping on the cloisters' cold, hard floor. Anyone from the age of 14 to 94 is welcome!

You can find more details and sign up on our website at alabare.co.uk. *Helen Inglis* (Church and Community Engagement Officer) h.inglis@alabare.co.uk



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DOWN ON THE FARM

February, when so many begin to feel the year really begins. January is an 'ease yourself into the year' month and it's no different for us on the farm.

The cattle are all in, tucked up warm and dry, the field work from the autumn is complete (in theory), in our case, despite a late autumn for drilling we did plant everything, a big relief. There are field jobs that could be done but travelling across the ground is almost impossible and the damage caused is not worth it. Fortunately, we are not as flooded as we were this time last year and long may that last as it hindered our grazing plan hugely last year with the dairy herd going out much later than we would like.

Whilst the fields may be too wet to move, the roads are not which means we can still manoeuvre cattle feed around. We have maize on site, but we also buy from others which involves transporting it with tractors and trailers; this week we moved 500 tones with a team of 8 working throughout the day. We grow beans on the farm at Salisbury which are stored there, and we haul back as and when we need them.

Our homegrown wheat is used to feed the cows and that is hauled to Rode where it is treated with caustic soda and water. The reason for doing this is to break

down the husk and make it much more digestible for the cows. The alkaline in the wheat soda also helps balance the acidity of the maize and grass silage.

We have straw deliveries throughout the winter, which is used for feed and bedding and now we are in January we can begin to spread muck, and the use of the umbilical cord starts.

The day-to-day work continues whatever the weather is doing, come rain, snow, or shine the animals need the same high standard of care every day of the year and that is non-negotiable. The snow plough has not been needed and we are grateful to not be experiencing the weather conditions other parts of the country are, yet!

The signs of spring will show soon, crops are already up, and the longer and

hopefully warmer days will bring them on nicely along with the fodder crops. We are all looking forward to those days 'down on the farm'.

Kit Pottow



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Only large appliances such as fridges are designed to be left switched on all the time, so ensuring that everything else is unplugged before you go to bed is a simple routine that could protect your home from fire.

To help reduce the risk of a fire in your home, take these simple steps:

- Make sure an electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark when you buy it. Only buy your electrical chargers from a reputable source.
- Never leave items on charge when you are sleeping or when you are not at home.
- Don't overload sockets.
- Regularly check for frayed or worn cables and wires.
- Buy your electrical chargers from a reputable source. Register your appliances to receive notification of safety alerts or product recalls at www.registermyappliance.org.uk

More information about the Unplug To Unwind campaign can be found on the DWFRS website www.dwfire.org.uk/unplug-to-unwind/

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR DEEP MID-WINTER



We haven't had much snow yet, but the Guvnor travelled back to his childhood and piled up enough of it in the garden to use in 'an exciting game.'

He buried a sausage in it and told me to find it. Now to a dog, a sausage is Nirvana, Elysium, Heaven or just plain and simple Utopia - the best of the best so I had a go, found it quickly, ate it even more speedily, shook the snow off and went back to bed. He tried again but I was fed up by then, and left him to it.

I had a quiet Christmas. The

Guvnor and his wife went 'oop nooorth' to Banbury (I know, not very far north but far enough if you are a southerner) to their daughter's and her two hairy and very long Dachshunds (you thought I was going to say teenagers didn't you - but they are girls!) despite the loose link with sausages I find them young, boisterous, pampered and annoying so I was left behind with the house sitter so as not to pretend they were real sausages and cause a scene with our hosts.

Christmas is, after all, the season of good will but is so often quite the opposite in some family gatherings. The last time we went to Banbury for Christmas the whole family attended the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. It was, apparently the scene of much mirth (as well as a bit of pomp of course); first, the Vicar forgot to come so the Churchwarden

stepped in and invited all the children to come up and 'accommodate' the crib.

The first small boy arrived with a giraffe which meant that the roof of the stable had to be removed. It was followed by a rhino and a hippo and various other animals including a bear which meant that the oxen, asses and sheep had to remain outside and even the baby couldn't be found any room in the stable let alone in the inn. But it didn't matter; everyone had a lovely time, and the main principles were adhered to. The Vicar turned up eventually, and unlike Queen Victoria, was amused.

Sausages are an integral part of Christmas. We had cocktail sausages, chipolatas and full-blown bangers - and I sampled them all. The only thing is - I wasn't meant to.

THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN



Well, what will the weather have in store for us this month? Whatever it does there will be the opportunity to pop out there and see what is beginning to peep through the cold earth. Snowdrops should be appearing. They are such a welcome sight and a herald of the growing season to come. If I cut back the leaves on the hellebores, I can see the flowers and so can the early bees. Let's hope for more bees this year, I have bee hotels, and they are being used, but I do worry about the bees appearing too early when there is not much for them to feed on. If the weather is at all warm the hedgehogs come out too, so we keep food at the

ready for them in our special hedgehog feeding box. It's an upturned plastic box with a hole cut out at one end and a tunnel entrance attached that is too small for cats and too scary for jackdaws, but the hedgehogs have no trouble, and expect to find food year round in the same place.

Birds also get lots of help from us and we have quite a variety of different birds. I love standing at the kitchen window watching the sparrows descending in their busy chattering groups, all queueing up for the bird bath and splashing away! It's surprising how quickly they empty the feeders and the bird bath,

which needs to be kept clear of ice so they can drink at all times.

There is not much to do in the garden at the moment (I'm sure professional gardeners would be horrified at such a statement), but prepare for the busy season to come. It's time to wash the gardening gloves and maybe the gardening coat and make sure the tools are clean. If I'm brave enough I might also wash the garden pots if it's not too cold. I would hate to get chilblains! Remember those? Growing up in the country we were always outside as children and after coming home with freezing hands we were told not to warm them up too quickly, but inevitably we put them near the Aga and the result was chilblains. My children have never had chilblains just as they have never had the dubious pleasure of scraping Jack Frost off the inside of the bedroom window!

Save your egg boxes for chitting those potatoes and let's welcome the sun as the days get longer! *Ali Tebb*



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DID YOU KNOW? PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On the 20th January 2025, Donald Trump became the 47th President of the USA. He will be only the second president to serve two non-consecutive terms, as the 45th and 47th president. The other President who served two non-consecutive presidencies, was Grover Cleveland, who was the 22nd and 24th President.

A term of office for the President of the USA is four years, as opposed to five years for a British Prime Minister.

Four Presidents have died in office and four were assassinated. (Abraham Lincoln, James A Garfield, William McKinley and John F Kennedy.) One president resigned, Richard Nixon, who faced impeachment and removal from office.



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The youngest person to become US President was Theodore Roosevelt, at the age of 42. The oldest was Joe Biden at the age of 78. Donald Trump begins his second term also at the age of 78. William Henry Harrison served the shortest term in office. He died only 31 days after taking up his position in 1841.

The full list of Presidents is as follows:

1 George Washington 1789-1797. 2 John Adams 1797-1801. 3 Thomas Jefferson 1801-1809. 4 James Madison 1809-1817. 5 James Monroe 1817-1825. 6 John Quincy Adams 1825-1829. 7 Andrew Jackson 1829-1837. 8 Martin Van Buren 1837-1841. 9 William Henry Harrison 1841-1841. 10 John Tyler 1841-1845. 11 James K Polk 1845-1849. 12 Zachary Taylor 1849-1850. 13 Millard Fillmore 1850-1853. 14 Franklin Pierce 1853-1857. 15 James Buchanan 1857-1861. 16 Abraham Lincoln 1861-1865. 17 Andrew Johnson 1869-1877. 18 Ulysses S Grant 1869-1877. 19 Rutherford B Hayes 1877-1881. 20 James A Garfield 1881-1881. 21 Chester A Arthur 1881-1885. 22 Grover Cleveland 1885-1889. 23 Benjamin Harrison 1889-1893. 24 Grover Cleveland 1893-1897. 25 William McKinley 1897-1901. 26 Theodore Roosevelt 1901-1909. 27 William Howard Taft 1909-1913. 28 Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921. 29 Warren G Harding 1921-1923. 30 Calvin Coolidge

1923-1929. 31 Herbert Hoover 1929-1933. 32 Franklin D Roosevelt 1933-1945. 33 Harry S Truman 1945-1953. 34 Dwight D Eisenhower 1953-1961. 35 John F Kennedy 1961-1963. 36 Lyndon B Johnson 1963-1969. 37 Richard Nixon 1969-1974. 38 Gerald Ford 1974-1977. 39 Jimmy Carter 1977-1981. 40 Ronald Reagan 1981-1989. 41 George HW Bush 1989-1993. 42 Bill Clinton 1993-2001. 43 George W Bush 2001-2009. 44 Barack Obama 2009-2017. 45 Donald Trump 2017-2021. 46 Joe Biden 2021-2025. 47 Donald Trump 2025-present.

Presidents were numbered according to uninterrupted periods served by the same person. For example, George Washington served two consecutive terms and is counted as the first president, not the first and second.

Many Presidents were prolific writers. Theodore Roosevelt penned about thirty separate volumes and many articles. Woodrow Wilson was also a prolific writer, publishing about a book a year during his academic career. Modern Presidents are expected to write their memoirs. It remains to be seen what stories will emerge over the next four year term of office, from Donald Trump.

Jonathan Wansey

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ANGLING NOTES

I was recently loaned a book, 'E.A. Barton The Lost World Of The Chalk Streams' written by Andrew Herd and Jon Ward-Allen. The script is not particularly important but the photographs are. E.A. Barton fished between the two world wars. At that time the chalk streams were fished by those professional people who had the time and money to have a hobby the result of which is that there is a quantity of outstanding literature on the subject but Barton is the only photographer of note.

Now anyone who is serious about their fishing can find somewhere to fish on the chalk streams. Barton was a landscape photographer rather than a portrait specialist and his photographs conjure up a picture of an unspoilt land, no creeping urbanisation, no sign of a motor car and many fewer people in the landscape. The great attraction of the chalk streams, which we are privileged to live by, is that everything is very visual due to the clarity of the water.

In the 'good old days' when Barton fished fly life was prolific and dependable and it was possible to wait for a hatch of fly (usually ephemerids) and for fish to rise and feed at the surface. Then 'match the hatch' and deceive the fish with whatever they were taking. It was considered bad form to fish the water, to fish

blind.

In the Piscatorial Society we have changed our approach due to the decline, even collapse, of fly life, due to climate change and pollution. Members are now allowed to fish the water without necessarily seeing a feeding fish. This still requires some skill in reading where the fish will be but some of the visual attraction has gone.

However, if an angler wishes to maximise his or her enjoyment of their fishing, observation and thought remain important. I caught a grayling on the Itchen out of a small shoal of about 6 fish. I returned it carefully and watched it swim back into its shoal. It appeared tense on the way back but when it came into the shoal it visibly relaxed and I was completely confident that if I had wished I could have caught it again.

On the Wylfe there were two grayling lying on their own. I caught one and then thought that I would catch the other. I caught a second fish but discovered that it was the same fish which I had just returned. On closer examination the second 'fish' turned out to be a shadow!

Trout produce fewer such incidents primarily because when they are returned they immediately dive into cover but their takes are exciting even when at the

last moment they decline the anglers offering. A large white mouth opens to swallow the fly and then at the last moment turns away and the fly remains untouched!

Robin Mulholland



UPPER WYLFE VALLEY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

David Shaw, a Codford resident and a familiar face at these breakfasts, who is also Chair of the Upper Wylfe Valley Parish News Committee, got 2025 off to a joyful start with his entertaining talk about his early life and his Army career. David speaks well and his talk, 'In my Anecdote; a light-hearted ramble through a life' lived up to expectations and was clearly enjoyed by the breakfasters, who made additional donations that boosted the donation to St Mary's Church, Codford to over £140. There was strong agreement that David needs to return to the list of prospective speakers to deliver a Part 2.

The speaker at the next breakfast, on Monday 3rd February, is to be Mark Bunting who is a local supporter of Pick Ups for Peace, a charity that pulls together a convoy of donated 4 WD vehicles, ambulances and quad bikes every few months to deliver aid and equipment directly into the hands of the Ukrainian Army. As well as explaining what the charity does, the talk may also be a bit of a recruiting drive. So if any of you fancy a road trip to Lviv

Breakfasts cost £15, of which £2 will go towards the charity of the speaker's choice. Please note, this is not a club, but is open to all. Just contact the organisers via email (uwvmfb@gmail.com), before the preceding Friday at the latest, if you'd like to attend.



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CONCLAVE - BOOK AND FILM REVIEW

The author Robert Harris is renowned for his deeply-researched novels which re-create different periods ranging from ancient Rome to modern times. In *Conclave*, set in the present day, he gave himself the challenge of taking us into the inner recesses of the Vatican to eavesdrop on the secret processes behind the election of a new Pope.

The protagonist is Cardinal Lomeli, Dean of the College of Cardinals, a devoted but conflicted priest who is charged with managing the Conclave. We are introduced to a colourful array of leading candidates for the papacy: the liberal Cardinal Bellini, Vatican Secretary of State; the thrusting Canadian Cardinal

Tremblay; the ambitious Nigerian Cardinal Adeyemi; and the flamboyant, ultra-conservative Cardinal Tedesco, Patriarch of Venice. With 108 cardinals strictly sequestered for the duration of the election, tensions abound among the candidates and their rival teams of supporters. The unexpected arrival of the heroic but mysterious Filipino Cardinal Benítez, Archbishop of Baghdad, adds complexity to the situation; as the story unfolds, a series of startling revelations place Lomeli under increasing pressure, leading to a dramatic dénouement.

The story is told with skill and compassion: the characters are portrayed with compelling insight, and the workings

of the Vatican and its hierarchy are richly brought to life as the wheels of the Conclave turn. I found this book hard to put down, and have enjoyed returning to it.

The book has now been turned into a film with the same title, released last November and starring Ralph Fiennes, who has already been cited as an Oscar contender for his thoughtful and intense portrayal of the Dean. Excellent camerawork creates a haunting atmosphere, with the architectural splendours of the Vatican impressively evoked and contrasted with the Spartan conditions in which the cardinals are confined. The narrative takes us through the three days of the Conclave at a relentless pace.

When a complex story is compressed into two hours, it is inevitable that the flow of events is simplified and some characters from the book are less sharply drawn. This is, nevertheless, a memorable evening's viewing. For a gripping story, a finely-imagined production and a brilliant leading performance, see this film. For the full experience, read the book.

Mark Venning

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VILLAGE NEWS

CODFORD COMMUNITY WEBSITE UPDATE

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported Codford's community website throughout 2024! Whether you notified us of new events, provided engaging articles, informed us about new village joiners or leavers, or advertised your services, your contributions have been invaluable. We are amazed by the support we've received and thrilled by the steady increase in visitor numbers each month. Looking ahead to 2025, we aim to expand our photo gallery and find more ways to attract visitors to our site. We'd love to

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hear your thoughts and feedback. If you'd like to contribute or provide feedback, please email us at codford-community@gmail.com.

If you haven't visited our website yet, check it out at www.codfordcommunity.co.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!



A wintry scene in Codford

DS

CODFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The first meeting of 2025 is on Wednesday 19th March with guest speaker Felicity Down, who will give a talk on 'Border design - plan it, plant it'.

Felicity is co owner of Cleeve nursery and a qualified florist, having trained at the Constance Spry school.

Some facts for your memory banks. Constance 'did' the flowers for the weddings of the Duke of Windsor, the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. With the co-owner of her cookery school she invented 'Coronation Chicken'. Finally the first David Austin rose was named after her!!

SUPER 70S AND 80S SUPPER AND DANCE

Lifting spirits in the dull part of the year, the Codford Tennis is hosting a Super 70s and 80s Supper Dance in Codford Village Hall BA12 0PP on Saturday 22nd February 2025 at 7.00 for 7.30pm till 11.30pm.

The theme is based on the '70s and 80s'. Dancing to the music of 19EIGHTIES tunes from both decades (popular and known locally through The Vintage Show and Secret Camp Out)

Do not forget the timely glad rags (flares, hotpants, maxi skirts, shiny bright colours, even the black and white tux came back). Dress up, if you wish, to win the Chairperson's prize for the best costume. If that is not for you, wear something smart and comfortable

There will food, fun, frolics, friendship, fundraising and, of course, those moves of the decades - "YMCA" and "Hustle"! Come and join us. Tickets are £25 each (accompanied Under 18's are half price) to include welcome drink, supper (70s and 80s style) and live music from 19EIGHTIES. Tickets from the Post Office, Broadleaze Bar and by calling 01985 850239 (and for table arrangements). We look forward to you joining us on 22nd February.



Bees will survive

DS

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More information can be found on our
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CODFORD KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS DURING FEBRUARY 2025

- 1st The Friends of St Mary's church ploughman's lunch.
12.00 - 14.00 Codford Village Hall, £6 pp, children under 12 free.
- 2nd Codford tea rooms hosts the 'Freepeace' band. 13:30 - Codford tea rooms.
- 3rd Men's Fellowship Breakfast.
- 9th Codford park run, 10:00 - Codford village hall grounds.
- 12th Ladies circle meeting. 15:00 - Codford village hall
- 15th Winter Warmers (soup, roll, drink & biccy).
Pay what you can. 12:00 Broadleaze Bar
- 16th Ginny's monthly arts and crafts market.
10:00 - 14:00 - Gingery Piggery, Boyton.
- 16th Woolstore theatre opens its doors for monthly drinks. 12:00 - 14:00
- 19th Codford and district gardening club meeting and talk titled 'border design - plan it - plant it'. The guest speaker will be Felicity Down.
19:30 Codford village hall.
- 22nd Codford Tennis Club's Super 70's and 80's Supper and Dance.
19:30 Broadleaze Bar.
- 22nd Steeple rocks choir will be performing at the Woolstore theatre.
They are a community choir with a difference, performing pop classics, rock and a little gospel. Tickets £12, available online from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-woolstore-theatre>, or from the Thursday community cafe on the last Thursday of each month. 19:30 Woolstore theatre.
- 24th Codford Parish Council meeting. 19:00 - Codford village hall.

VILLAGE NEWS

NORTON BAVANT WEATHER NOTES

Rainfall totalled 43.88 inches for the Year. This, compared with 2023, shows a reduction of approx. 3.7 inches which is a barely significant amount.



The 2023 total was 47.6 inches. However, the average for the seven-year period 2016 to 2022 is only 34 inches. So clearly, we are witnessing the effect of climate change.

This year the highest shade temperature I recorded in the village was 33°C. A few degrees less than 2023, but the period of this heat was shortlived. The lowest winter temperatures were in mid January. It was minus 8°C on two mornings running. The summer seemed rather cool compared with the recent trend expected from global warming.

The present CO₂ level stands at 426 parts per million which is an increase of 6 in five years. In the last two years China has opened about 50 coal fired electrical generating plants and India is likely to have increased electrical generation by a similar amount. It seems that the World will be doing well to stabilise CO₂ levels by 2050.

During 2024 there were other factors that may connect to climate change. Sunspot activity was at its eleven-year peak and was more intense than average. The El Nino and La Nina effect in the Pacific Ocean was more prolonged this year and in general all sea temperatures are higher. For 2025 we may expect the unexpected.

JR

SHERRINGTON

Twelfth night and the little church is stripped of its seasonal finery. Candles and evergreens are gone and the very handsome Christmas tree. It had looked lovely for our Carol Service and lasted for the christening at the end of the month.

Time to look up from the muddy footpaths and see the filigree of winter trees against the pale skies. In the Great Ridge the larch are now bare, their outline delicate compared with the heavy, dark green firs. Paths that were crisp with the molten gold of beech leaves are now soft under foot, leaves blended into earth.

Perhaps I am not walking in the right area but I have not seen a flock of fieldfare. It must be the lack of berries. What few there were have gone along with the more plentiful rose hips. Fortunate that the ground is soft for hungry beaks to probe. The sudden changes in temperature must be confusing and indeed dangerous for creatures that hibernate, if a rise in temperature causes them to wake and they emerge when there is no food about. This results, for example, in dozens of hedgehogs in the wildlife hospital.

My goodness how our winters have changed! When I was small and lived in Yorkshire it was routine to have chains fitted to car wheels to cope with the snow.

We lived on a hillside and my father kept a bucket of cold ash from the fire ready to spread beneath wheels of vehicles stuck going up the hill. And oh the fun of sledging for days every year! We seemed to manage without advice from the newspaper telling us to layer up with clothes, we had worked that out!

There must be a roost of red kites in the area as now and again as many as twenty are to be seen circling, one feels encouraged to keep moving! I enjoy seeing rooks fly in to roost, raucous voices as they stream across the darkening sky. So good then to turn back to a warm kitchen.

Always surprising to see the mole activity at this time. There are some major eruptions in the churchyard and elsewhere this year. Soil is so finely graded, perfect for tubs.

The shortest day is past, afternoons lengthen little by little and it will soon be time to spot the snowdrop!

Happy New Year!

Betty Lewis



'Winter Sunrise' A36 toward Salisbury RO

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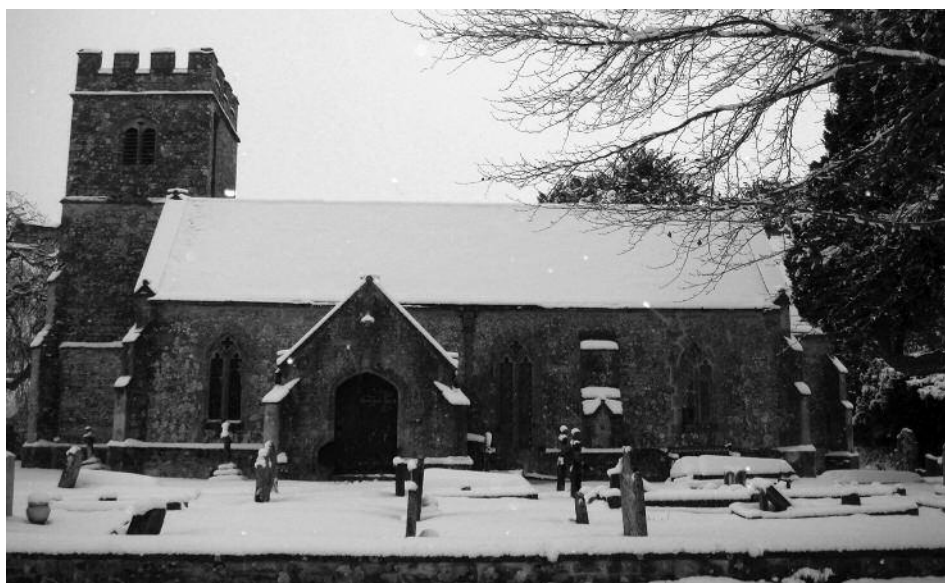
Cleaning products and human waste contain Phosphates which, unlike Nitrates, cannot be "broken down" into harmless compounds. Phosphate needs to be bound (biologically or chemically) with other compounds to make it inaccessible to river ecosystems where it causes excessive growth of algae that robs the water of essential oxygen. You have the power to make a difference.



2 FEBRUARY Candlemas	Heytesbury Upton Lovell	10.00am 6.00pm	TEAM SERVICE for Candlemas Evensong	choir
9 February 4th Sunday before Lent	Tytherington Upton Lovell Codford St Mary	8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Evensong	choir
16 February 3rd Sunday before Lent	Boyton Codford St Peter Norton Bavant	8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Pimms & Hymns	choir
23 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	Sutton Veny Knook Heytesbury	8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)	choir

UWVT WEEKDAY SERVICES

Fridays Sutton Veny 8.30 am Morning Prayer (BCP)



CRICKET NEWS

Following the huge success last year, the Cricket Club launches its Pre-Season Indoor Programme for 2025, for both Juniors and Adults.

Junior & Youth Cricket

STARTS Friday 7th February for 10 Weeks
Friday Evenings (Indoor) at Warminster
CC Academy BA12 8LH

Under 11 (School years 5 & 6)

Mixed Boys & Girls 1700-1800

Under 13 (School years 7 & 8)

Mixed Boys & Girls 1800-1900

Under 15 (School years 9,10 & 11)

Mixed Boys & Girl 1900-2000

All abilities welcome. Our Award winning

team of coaches will be on hand to deliver expert coaching and technical tuition. No equipment necessary. Matches start after Easter outdoors. Contact Justin 07876 456260

Seniors Cricket (Men's & Women's)

STARTS 7th February for 10 Weeks

Friday Evenings (Indoor) at Warminster
CC Academy BA12 8LH

Seniors 2000-2100

NOT PLAYED IN A FEW YEARS? Come and have a refresh your skills! We offer both League and Social cricket through the summer.

For more information Contact
Justin 07876 456260

Women's Section: Sarah 07736 640674

HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN, HEYTESBURY

CHAPEL SERVICES

Wednesdays Morning Prayer at 10.00

3rd Sunday of the month

Holy Communion at 10.30

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

We welcome into the Christian Church

Theodore David Neville

on 28th December at Sherrington

May he grow in the Christian Faith

OLD FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Our sympathy and love go to all those who mourn the passing of

Jenny Smith-Bingham of Sutton Veny

Catherine Rice of Sutton Veny

Joy Danks of Sutton Veny House

Patrick Ellis-Jones of Sutton Veny

Dave Alder of Codford Antiques

Teddy Fellowes of Heytesbury

*May they rest in the peace
and light of Christ*

*Please contact the Ministry Team to make
arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,
Confirmation preparation or Service of Prayer
and Dedication after a Civil Marriage.*

*The clergy will officiate at any
crematorium service.*



PRAYER GROUP

We pray daily.

If you have any prayer requests,
please call Anne
on 07432 205229

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR AS CHRIST LOVES US

Do you need some support? If you would like a chat,
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PARISH OFFICE

upperwylyealleyteam@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM

Team Rector Vacancy

Team Vicar Vacancy

Ordained Minister with Permission to Officiate

The Revd Jonathan Hiscox **840966**

jonathan.hiscox@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Katherine Venning LLM **840283**

katherine.venning@gmail.com

Barbara Luscombe LLM

barbara_luscombe@hotmail.com 840830

CONTACTS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Boyton & Corton	Susanna Maitland	851191
Codford St Mary	David Shaw	850372
		07899 906371

Codford St Peter	Alasdair McGregor	850073
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Heytesbury	Tina Sitwell	840556
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Knook	Robert Pottow	850285
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Norton Bavant	John Acworth	840134
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	Edward Moore	840420
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Sherrington	Richard Morris	07555425110
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Sutton Veny	Richard Jackman	840899
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	Sandy Barton	07769 781392
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		/841157
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Tytherington	Caroline Lester-Card	07787556505
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Upton Lovell	Gilly Cumming	850834
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LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Codford	Henry Collins	850193
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Sutton Veny	Richard Jackman	840899
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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Kim Sutton
suttonkimh@gmail.com

BELL RINGERS Nick Claypoole 850724

PARISH CHOIR Katherine Venning 840283

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS Please telephone 840283 for any changes.

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Christopher Newbury 01373 822508

Bill Parks 07484 826540

POLICE: Warminster Neighbourhood Team

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PC 2342 Helen Daveridge

PCSO 70901 Lukasz Kolasinski 07471029004

lukasz.kolasinski@wiltshire.police.uk

Warminster Rural Beat

Community Police (non-emergency) 101

PARISH COUNCILS

Boyton/Corton

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Codford Chair: Tom Thornton 850560

Clerk: Karungi Grant 850523

clerk@codfordpc.org.uk

Heytesbury Chair: Nicholas Williams 07799 300778

Clerk: John Cap 01985 217144

Sutton Veny Chair: Carol Morris 840140

Clerk: Heather Parks FSLCC 07970780424

Upton Lovell Chair: Steve Boxall 851171

Clerk: Nicola Duke 01373 864127

clerk@uptonlovell.org.uk

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HEYTESBURY, HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN

Administrator 840441

DOCTORS' SURGERY CODFORD 850298

CODFORD POST OFFICE (Budgens) 850345

HEYTESBURY POST OFFICE 840914

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Codford Mike Davidson 850549

Corton John Rigby 850303

Heytesbury Peter Andrews 840517

Norton Bavant John Acworth 840134

Sherrington Nigel Lewis 850496

Sutton Veny Peter Strangeways 840403

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Heytesbury Hedgehogs

Annette Pulvertaft 840798

Wylve Coyotes Afterschool Club 851713

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or 07805 515863

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Codford, Wylve Valley

Head: Robert Barnes 850461

Heytesbury

Head: Ms Laura Williamson 840429

Sutton Veny

Head: Adam Lewis 840428

www.suttonveny.wilts.sch.uk

VILLAGE HALLS

Codford Secretary: Karungi Grant 850523

secretary.cvh@codfordvillage.org.uk

Bookings:

Janine Clarke

bookings.cvh@codfordvillage.org.uk

Corton Fane Hall

Bookings: Tina Kerr 850373

Sutton Veny Chair: Alan Russell 840 883

Newsletter: Richard Jackman 840899

svvhnewsletter@gmail.com

Bookings: Gay Woods 840057

svvhbookings808@gmail.com

Upton Lovell Bookings: Ros Coombs 851277

WOOLSTORE THEATRE

Bookings: Angus Bramwell 01722 743459

angus.bramwell@googlemail.com

Codford Post Office 850345

CODFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

J Claypoole 850724

CODFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sir William Mahon 850586

Sally Thomson 850339

CODFORD LADIES CIRCLE

Jenny Hunt 850280

PARISH WEBSITES

Team www.upperwylvevalleyteam.com

Webmaster admin@newvalleywebdesign.com

Codford www.codfordcommunity.co.uk

Heytesbury www.heytesburyparish.co.uk

Norton Bavant www.nortonbavant.co.uk

Sutton Veny www.suttonveny.co.uk

SPORTS CLUBS

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Dominique Beagley 850952

Cricket (Heytesbury & Sutton Veny)

Chair: Justin Wagstaff 840782

Secretary: Robert Robson

Football Club (Heytesbury and Codford)

Martyn Spratt 07790 728197

Tennis (*Codford*)

Chair: Vincie Abbott 850239

Secretary: Jeremy Coltman 07976 398194

STARQUEST

Astronomy Club: Pete Lee 840093

SUTTON VENY FLOWER SHOW

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Horses in the snow Sandra Hares

