

# PARISH NEWS

## OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

NOVEMBER 2025

### AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN...



### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!



### WELCOMING OUR NEW CLERGY

November will mark the arrival of our Team Rector, Mike Duff, to live in the Rectory at Sutton Veny, and Team Vicar, Tim Ling, in Codford Vicarage. They have given us their email address (see page 11), but mention that they will not be doing any work for the parish until after their licensing in St John's church, Sutton Veny at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 16 November.

Stephen Lake, the Bishop of Salisbury, will lead the service of licensing,

which will be attended by visiting clergy and other officials from the Diocese. Everyone in the team is encouraged to attend this service, and to join us for refreshments in the Village Hall (behind the church) afterwards.

Mike and Tim will visit each church of the team in the following weeks (see Mike's message on page 11). The service list has these marked with an asterisk \*.

KV

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## THE DIARY

**SUTTON VENY VILLAGE HALL**  
**Tuesday 18th November**  
**6.30 for 7.00pm**

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### ST JOHN'S COFFEE MORNING

1st Wednesday of the month  
 Cakes, Raffle, Chat, Coffee  
 10:30am

### ST MARY'S CHURCH, CODFORD Annual Churchyard Cleanup

Our Annual Churchyard Cleanup this year will be on Saturday, 29th November, 9.30am-12 noon. There will be hot coffee and delicious biscuits to encourage and reward you. Please bring wheelbarrows, leaf rakes, trowels and strong backs with you!!  
*'J' and Nick Claypoole*

### LICENSING OF NEW RECTOR AND TEAM VICAR

The Bishop of Salisbury will licence Revd Mike Duff and Revd Tim Ling in St John's Church in Sutton Veny at 2-30 pm on Sunday 16th Nov 25. All welcome to attend this auspicious event.

### CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT

Codford Tennis's popular Curry and Quiz Night is on Friday 21st November in Codford Village Hall. Have you bought your tickets yet? Invite your teams to gather at 6.30 to organise yourselves and drinks (bar is open!). Quiz starts at 7pm and supper at 8. Be assured the team will come up with delicious curries. (Some people tell me they just come for the curry!)

Our inhouse quizmaster will again present us with a variety of brainteasers and general knowledge questions. Let's make it a great evening of brain burning, getting together and fun! Tickets: £12.50 are available from Codford Post Office, Codford Tearooms and Broadleaze Bar (for cash purchases). If you would like to pay online or book a table of a specific size (normal team and table is six), please contact: lawntennisclubcodford@gmail.com or Vincie on 850239, or WhatsApp on 07747 798365. Look forward to seeing you there

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### PARISH NEWS Editor

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## MINISTRY LETTER

Dear friends,

When the Japanese were attacking in Burma, 'Bill' Slim (who was a soldier's general) was always anxious to be up in the front line if he could. At one point, he was told there were three advance posts closer to the Japanese positions, and he asked to see them. An Indian major was deputed to go with him and at dusk they stumbled forward to the first advance post. When they reached it, the Indian major whispered to Bill Slim, giving him the details of the men and machine guns at the post. They then went forward to the second advance post where, once again, the Indian major whispered the information about men and arms. From there they proceeded to the advance post, clearest to the Japanese lines. Bill Slim, in turn, whispered to the Indian major 'How far away are the Japanese lines?'

The Indian major whispered in reply, 'About two thousand yards or so.' Bill Slim asked, 'Then why are we whispering?'

The Indian major replied, 'I do not know, sir, why you are whispering, but I have laryngitis'.

This story of war in the Far East reminds us of the celebration of VJ day in the summer, when at last so much suffering was ended in that theatre. And this November for Remembrance we will continue to give thanks for the ending of that and other wars and pray for those who suffer as a result.

In this story we realise that the gathering of information and intelligence is essential to winning a war. The General had to understand what was going on in the battlefield so that he could assess any future action. Perhaps the enemy has secrets that we need to decipher. Famous is the role of Bletchley Park during World War Two. Getting into the mind of the enemy is to understand his actions better. Uncovering secrets is exciting for many children. Discovering things is exciting.

Over the last few months I have been part of a group meeting for supper and afterwards investigating the writings of Mark in the Bible. This man records the words and activities of Jesus and by so doing prompts the reader to make discoveries. What exactly is Jesus saying? What is he driving at? Where does his

information come from? What does it mean for me, for you?

It is said that if you don't buy a lottery ticket you won't win anything. It is also true that if you don't read the story written by Mark (and others who write the Bible too) you will not make exciting discoveries that will change your life. There are bibles in our churches for you to pick up, some to borrow, some to take away. The whole Bible is available on line and as an app.

As we eagerly anticipate this month the arrival of our new clergy, Mike and Tim, we are looking forward to them revealing more secrets of the Bible so that we might grow in understanding of what God has for us, how much he loves us, and how we can respond.

Finally, a huge thank you to those who over the last three years have led our services and ministered to us. We are so grateful to them.

*Robin Hungerford*

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## WELCOMING OUR NEW CLERGY Continued from front cover

### MIKE AND RACHEL DUFF

Mike and Rachel are no strangers to the Upper Wyllye Valley. Mike moved with his family to West Farm Knook when he was 17 and shortly afterwards joined the Upton Lovell PCC. In the holidays he learned to lamb, fence, and pick wild oats! Studying at Oxford, he led a Christian drama group who together with a Christian Choir from Cambridge were part of a mission to the valley at Easter 1984. Mike and Rachel met in Oxford and were married in Kent, pursuing careers in computer programming and nursing respectively. For a while they ran a Christian arts centre in Oxfordshire before training at Trinity College Bristol - now with two children, Emily and James. Curacy in Portsmouth was followed by a time on the mission field in Indonesia with CMS, and then returning to Portsmouth to lead St Jude's, Southsea. For the last 6 years they have been in Leamington Spa - Mike appointing vicars around the country with CPAS, and Rachel working as a School Nurse based in Daventry. But of course

they have been continually visiting Mike's parents and family throughout, and are now delighted to be returning to work and live and share ministry in the beautiful Upper Wyllye Valley.

### TIM AND ROS LING

Ros and Tim met at Exeter University. Tim then taught French and Italian in London, while Ros worked as secretary to an MP and then for a charity for refugees from East Africa. They were married in 1989 and moved to Cambridge where Tim trained for ordained ministry and Ros qualified as a Primary School teacher. After spells in Gerrards Cross and Woking, they lived for 23 years in Bath, firstly in a parish, then at Monkton Combe School, where Tim was head of Religious Studies and they were house parents to seventy boys in one of the boarding houses, and then back in another parish. For the last two years they have lived in Cornwall, where, as well as supporting the parish church in the nearby town, they have helped another couple to

plant a small Christian gathering in the local Social Club. They have four married children and are greatly enjoying the new experience of being grandparents to their four grandchildren. They also love swimming in the sea and walking their cocker spaniel, Banjo, whilst Tim continues to hope that one day he'll play that round of golf he dreams might be in him somewhere!

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## STORIES OF WAR – THE WYLYE VALLEY CONNECTIONS

I had no idea when I asked people if anyone had connections to VJ veterans in order that I could include them in the prayers at the VJ day service that I would receive so many moving stories. I promised I would write this article to share more details. my thanks to everyone who contributed.

About 190,000 soldiers were taken prisoner by the Japanese and 130,000 Allied civilians, including 51,700 men, 40,000 children, and 42,000 women, captured and interned in various camps across the Far East.

100,000 prisoners passed through Changi camp in Singapore, most were transported North to work on the Burma/Thai railway and more than 16,000 died there.

The Chindits were a special operations group comprising British, Gurkha, Indian and commonwealth soldiers that fought behind enemy lines in Northern Burma in 1943 and 1944. They relied on airdrops, wireless and sabotage to harass the Japanese and disrupt their supply lines.

**Jim Kitley** A Heytesbury man, father of Barbara Savage

At the outbreak of war, Jim enlisted and was posted to Singapore where he was captured by the Japanese and taken to Changi Jail. He was transferred to work

on the Burma Railway, where he spent 4 years. Jim survived and returned to Heytesbury to marry Lily in 1945 and worked at Heytesbury House for Seigfried Sassoon as a gardener. He and Sassoon shared a passion for cricket and were instrumental in the formations of Heytesbury cricket club. In 1948 Jim and Lily moved into Bunters Cottage in the employ of Miss Nancy Pleydell Bouverie; he was renowned for his fruit and veg. Jim spent all of his life in Heytesbury retiring to The Hospital of St John where he died in 2004

**Anthony Wynter-Bee**, Royal Artillery, captured when Singapore fell - father of Rozamund Winterbee-Robey

**2nd Lt Bill Jackman**, Federated Malay States Volunteer force and teacher. Captured Singapore February 1942 worked on the railway in Thailand until 1945

**Col. Douglas Morris** - POW worked on the Burma railway; he lived in East Knoyle and wrote a book, Life as a POW

**Jack Speller** - Chindit who served behind enemy lines - father of Penny Atken-Berry and nephew of H.G Atken Berry who died of dysentery in a Japanese POW camp in Sumatra in 1943

**George Roland Parvin** - father of Ros Colson was a Japanese POW on the Burma Siam Road as he was captured when Singapore fell. After his release, he wrote a book about his experiences.

**Michael O'Connor** captured at Stanley when Hong Kong fell - Grandfather of Amanda Martyr.

**Jack Bowden** POW lay reader at Norton Bavant, never spoke of his experiences and it was not until he died that neighbours and parishioners knew of his wartime experience. As someone said,

that may explain why he seemed grumpy. I wish we had known.

**Rev/Squadron Leader Philip Tidmarsh** -- Di Walker's father, was an education officer during the war, served in Burma and India and then set up and ran an RAF resettlement centre for returning war personnel in Scarborough. Many of these men were severely traumatised following their harrowing times as prisoners of war. The unit helped them to feel a sense of normality before returning to their homes

**Rev Owen Eva**, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, captured in Singapore in 1942, he worked on the Burma railway and was moved numerous times to various camps and was eventually released in August 1945. He applied to undertake training for the Ministry at the end of the war. He has written a very interesting and moving account of his experiences 'A captivity remembered' - Leigh Walker's godfather

**Peter Kemmis Betty** - Gurkha Officer, captured in 1942 and moved to Singapore. He wrote a diary of his 3 years in Changi and his son Richard has turned it into a book 'Half a Banana' chronicling the 3 years his father spent in Changi with his childhood friend Alec Ogilvy. They spent their time growing food in the gardens for thousands of allied prisoners; all proceeds from the book to the Pahar Nepal Trust. A copy is available.

It has been suggested we might write a booklet to commemorate them in more detail. Please do send me more information about these men and any other stories so that we might do that.

*Amanda Cheesley*



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## ANGLING NOTES

I have not fished locally since April, this is partly due to the weather and partly to increasing age. It is becoming clear however that climate change is having an effect upon angling and it may now be difficult to describe angling as the most popular participation sport in the United Kingdom.

The dramatic decline in salmon numbers in UK rivers is one reason; reservoirs which were once very popular such as Chew Valley Lake and Blagdon now have an algae problem which make fishing in the summer months much less attractive.

All rivers, rain fed and chalk streams have suffered from the extreme weather this year, moving from flood to drought and remaining short of water for the whole summer. To date that does not appear to have had an effect upon the Piscatorial Society, our membership is full and our waiting list robust.

Many anglers are attracted to fishing for carp, pike and barbel which indicates that the size of the quarry is important. Carp can be readily stocked into a variety of still waters and in a heavily stocked carp lake or pond the fishing is very dependable. Some of the former world-famous salmon fisheries on the river Wye now concentrate on the barbel fishing which has become the main

source of income.

We must ask ourselves why the Piscatorial Society membership has held up so well when climate and pollution are having an adverse effect? The concept of fishing for wild fish, trout and grayling appears to be important. It is also helpful that almost all wild fish are returned which ties in with The Society's conservation efforts. The Society has always been aware of the need to conserve whatever we can of the chalk stream environment and a great deal of work has gone into overcoming the problems caused by man and his activities. This conservation effort has accelerated in recent years due to changing attitudes amongst our landlords (waterlords) and the membership together with the availability of grant money from a variety of sources. We have in The Society a busy programme of social events, tuition days, suppers and technical events designed to improve members understanding of the ecology of our precious chalk streams. Our social activities play an important part in attracting and holding our membership.

Birds are on the move and migratory species are travelling South. I had a Fennel plant outside of my study window. Fennel attracts hover flies which in turn attract the small warblers moving through our gardens at this time of year.

The plant died and needs to be replaced in order that I can continue to watch what passes through my garden. R M

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### UPPER WYLYE VALLEY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

At the first breakfast of this season Mike Allen of Codford described in a most enlightening and amusing way how his archaeological investigations put paid to years of theorising over the age of the Cerne Abbas Giant by scientifically proving that it dated from the Saxon period. His research also revealed that the giant was likely to be a depiction of a well-known hermit who was carved onto the down to act as a signpost to the very extensive abbey being built at Cerne. His talk inevitably made reference to the giant's impressive manhood (revealing that it was primarily a symbol of authority and that over the years it had grown by over six feet as a result of it extending to incorporate his navel!) and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The breakfasters responded with generous donations to Mike's chosen charities: Pancreatic Cancer UK and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

At the next breakfast, on Monday 3rd November, the speaker will be James Bashall whose talk entitled 'The Royal British Legion - Yesterday and Today' is an appropriate one to be delivered close to Remembrance Day. And what better a person to deliver it than a past National President of the RBL. Beginning his military career in the Parachute Regiment, James retired from the Regular Army in 2018 with the rank of Lieutenant General after 34 years service with his final post being that of Commander Home Command.

The breakfasts take place at The George Inn at Longbridge Deverill at 8.15am and 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](mailto:uwvmfb@gmail.com)), before the preceding Friday at the latest, if you'd like to attend.

## A LETTER FROM BISHOP STEPHEN

November is a time of remembrance, a time when we reflect on or maybe grieve for that which is drawing to a close. It is likely that we feel this even more acutely this year, living in a world which feels increasingly insecure from the perspective of fast-changing global politics and conflicts around the world that show no sign of abating. All is changing; all feels very fragile and deeply uncertain.

One of this country's much-loved hymns is 'Abide with Me', famous for being sung at every FA Cup Final since 1927. The words are based on Luke 24: 29 and were written by the Reverend Henry Francis Lyte, with one of the stories about this suggesting that he wrote them in September 1847 - just after he had conducted his final church service and when very ill with tuberculosis. He died two months later.

Putting aside questions of when Lyte wrote these words, the fact remains that they capture the constancy of God's presence and love, even as the seasons change, our lives change, our world changes; in life and in death:  
Change and decay in all around I see

O Thou who changest not, abide with me. This then is a beautiful reminder that even though we, and indeed our world, pass through times of change and can feel unsettled as a result, God goes with us. God in Christ abides with us, his presence and love unchanging in our ever-changing world: "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. (Luke 24: 29)

*Bishop Stephen*

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## DID YOU KNOW? BRITAIN'S OLDEST SCHOOLS

One of the things that we all have in common is that we all went to school; unless of course, we were 'home schooled.'

I am sure that we all have our own memories of school life and hopefully, for most of us, school was a positive experience. But when did schools first begin?

The oldest school in the UK is considered to be The King's School, Canterbury. It dates back to 597 AD, when St Augustine arrived in Canterbury in order to convert the Anglo Saxons. The earliest schools were all attached to monasteries with the responsibility of educating the nobility on Christian doctrine and practice. The King's School Canterbury was followed by The King's School, Rochester, 604 AD, St Peter's School, York 627 AD, Thetford Grammar School, 631 AD, and The Grammar School, Worcester, 685 AD. It is interesting that Eton College was not founded until 1440 and Harrow School was established in 1572. Warminster School was founded in 1707.

In Britain's earliest schools, Latin and Greek were taught because these were the foundational languages of Western civilisation and these subjects allowed access to classical literature, philosophy and science. Latin also served as the common language for religion and law, while Greek and Latin was a mark of elite status.

In England, it wasn't until 1880 that education was compulsory for all children up to the age of ten. Before that, schools were private fee paying schools. Many of these schools were boarding schools, known as 'Public Schools', which meant that they were not restricted to pupils on the basis of religion, occupation

or home location. In 1893 the school leaving age was raised to eleven and in 1899 it was raised again to twelve. Following the end of the First World War, the school leaving age rose again to fourteen and in 1944 there were sweeping changes to the educational system, including the raising of the school leaving age to fifteen. It wasn't until 1972 that children had to remain in school until the age of sixteen.

Schools have frequently been depicted in literature. Examples include 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte, 'Tom Brown's School Days' by Thomas Hughes, 'Malory Towers' by Enid Blyton and more recently 'Hogwarts School of Witchcraft

and Wizardry' as portrayed in Harry Potter, by JK Rowling.

For many of us, at the end of each term, our parents would receive an 'End of Term Report', which would act as a summary of our efforts over the previous three months.

Richard Briers, the late actor, well known for his performances in 'The Good Life', received the following end of term report from his Headmaster: "It would seem that Briers thinks 'he' is running the school and not me. If this attitude persists, one of us will have to leave!" Those were the days!

*Jonathan Wansey*



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## DOWN ON THE FARM

Autumn has arrived and this year the celebration of harvest throughout churches, schools and the rural community was at a time when the harvest was complete; often it is well and truly in the process as the harvest festivals start. There may not have been a huge celebration to have with what has been described as the second worst harvest on record according to DEFRA with crops achieving a much lower yield than initially hoped for. It is important to acknowledge the harvest across the board for all those who produce food to feed the masses and as an education of the process and the importance of understanding where our food comes from and how weather and environmental conditions can affect the production.

Onwards and upwards as they say and the dry autumn is allowing for field work to move on rapidly. The arrival of rain has allowed for the grass in some fields to grow enough for another silage cut but for some fields it was too late as the long summer of extreme temperatures and sun caused many fields to die and we have had to sow more than we would

normally, adding extra costs on top of an already expensive year.

50 acres of cover crop has been drilled (planted); cover crop is made up of a selection of plants such as phacelia, buckwheat, mustard and clover. There are a number of reasons for this being added to our crop planning, e.g. to avoid bare soil so no runoff in wet weather and to add organic matter to the ground when ploughed in in the spring.

70 acres of oil seed rape was drilled early and so far, is growing and has not been eaten by bugs! A small miracle and there is time yet.

Maize yields were down by 1000 tons, leaving us exceptionally short of feed. We do not have enough young stock feed so have had to buy in extra straw to mix with the cake (feed) that they are fed, another added overhead.

Currently the wheat is being drilled and if the dry conditions continue followed by some rain we can but hope for a better harvest in 2026 down on the farm.

*Kit Pottow*



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## TURBO'S DOG BLOG IN REMEMBRANCE-TIDE

In my house (the one I share usually with a couple of human beings and occasionally more when their relatives visit) there is a room with portraits of five dogs on the walls. All are dead, except me, and they are there because since the end of the 60s they have been an integral part of this family in their own various lifetimes and have left their indelible pawprints on those of the Guvnor, his wife and their family and a host of other people who have traipsed through their houses over the years. The 'Dog Room' is not a mausoleum; rather, it is a memory prompt - a nudge to anyone who knew them to remember them.

Their first dog was called Cromwell, a King Charles spaniel - I know, but the Guvnor wasn't much good at history in those days. Crommie chased seagulls in Devon, never understanding why he could never catch them. At work as a soldier, the Guvnor was told in no uncertain terms by the RSM that 'a KCS is not an officer's dog, sir; leave him at home with the missus'. More importantly, when they had had him for a year and he was still alive they reckoned they were responsible enough to have children.

He was followed by Domino, an uncharacteristically lunatic Labrador who broke into the general's garden one

afternoon and ate his pet peacocks; the Guvnor's career never recovered. Her successor Labrador was called Janner; he was lovely, gentle, always hungry and brought up three of their children. He was accompanied by a Jack Russell called Biggles who was typically unreliable but game for anything and a brilliant ratter. So good in fact that he ate the younger daughter's guinea pig.

Then came Digit, another JRT but a bitch this time and the most kind and gentle one they had ever known. She should have been a mother but every time a handsome suiter was introduced she simply sat down and would not move. She died peacefully aged 16.

I overlapped with her and after siring two local litters the Guvnor took me up the road to the vet for a small operation, but which had an enormous impact on me. I still marvel at the irony of the stud fees being saved up to emasculate me.

I may not have known all these dogs, but I know of them and have listened to stories of their lives and the influences they had. They were all famous in their way, and none has been forgotten. I am the only one who can write!

And while we mention writers, Dame Gilly Cooper died recently. She was a keen dog lover who held the view that 'if we are deemed suitable to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, soon after passing through the Pearly Gates all the dogs who have ever lived with you come bounding over the lawn to greet you'.

How absolutely brilliant.



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## RESTORING THE MILL POND AT HEYTESBURY: A Rare and Living Chalk Stream

Many residents will have noticed recent restoration work in Heytesbury's mill pond. We recognise that these visible changes can look dramatic, so we'd like to explain why this work has taken place and how it supports the long-term health of one of Wiltshire's most valuable natural assets

The River Wylde is a chalk stream, a globally rare habitat type (more so than rainforests) formed by groundwater emerging through chalk aquifers. Their clear, mineral-rich waters support a unique web of life; from aquatic plants such as water crowfoot to invertebrates, wild brown trout, and Atlantic salmon.

To maintain these fragile systems, the river must have clean gravel beds,

diverse flow patterns, and stable, vegetated banks. Over time, historic management and natural erosion has greatly impacted this section of the Wylde, leading to silt build-up and loss of habitat.

To address this, Nature Matters, an ecological contracting service, carried out a programme of restoration using woody debris placement, willow hinging and spilling, and willow or brushwood mattresses. These proven, low-impact techniques mimic natural processes; creating refuge for fish and invertebrates, stabilising banks, and increasing hydraulic diversity. The most noticeable works are along the bank opposite the weir, where structures now protect against the erosive energy of the outflow.

In addition to providing habitat, the woody material cleans gravels and traps fine sediment, preventing silt from moving downstream and blocking spawning areas. This helps sustain oxygen-rich conditions vital for aquatic invertebrates and juvenile fish. With two consecutive high-water

winters and local flooding, such natural defences also enhance the river's resilience to future extreme events.

Recent ecological surveys have recorded encouraging numbers of salmon parr (young fish) and brown trout, showing positive signs for the river's recovery.

Echoing Robin Mulholland in October's angling column, it is critical that we recognise that we live around an incredibly special habitat, with southern England hosting around 85% of the world's chalk streams. The health of which depends on supporting their smallest life forms. This work reflects exactly that principle.

These efforts ensure that the Wylde remains a thriving space for wildlife, for people, and for the generations that follow.

*Josh Rogers*

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## THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

What a lush fruit and vegetable harvest we have all enjoyed! It's been hard at times to think of things to do, particularly with so many apples and pears. Juicing apples has been a great success for some, although I don't have enough apples for juice, I do have plenty now tucked away in the freezer for pies etc. during the winter months. The one apple tree we have looked very sad a few years ago, and it was threatened with the chop! Thank goodness we didn't because it is the most tasty eater and this year has more than earned its place in the garden.

I'm sure like us, you were worried that the lawn would not recover, but after a few days of rain back it came looking splendid, and very quickly in need of a cut. The pond has filled and still we have had wonderful sunny days to enjoy being outside, the lower sun brings out all the

glorious autumn colours still blooming in the borders.

The leaves are turning and sometimes it's hard at first glance to tell whether the wonderful colours are leaves or branches heavy with berries, hips and haws. There is a huge ash tree at the bottom of the garden so collecting the fallen leaves and putting them in old compost bags is an easy way to make valuable leaf mulch for plants next year.

Stourhead gardens come to mind particularly at this time of year, the parkland is at its best for colour. Horace Walpole wrote in the 18th century that it is 'one of the most picturesque scenes in the world'. Did you know that it was not created by one of the famous garden landscapers, but by Henry Hoare himself, who inherited the house in 1741? It's one of our 'go to' places when we have visitors at this time of year.

The other day I was tidying up some empty pots when I came across a tiny lizard, he was very still, but alive and it reminded me to make sure there are enough hiding places about the garden for small creatures like frogs, hedgehogs and insects to find shelter for the winter. Snails seem to gather in clusters particularly in pots, and I would rather they are in the pots than the flower beds!

The new gardening year will be upon us before we know it, so start planning in front of a warm fire!

*Ali Tebbs*

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# VILLAGE NEWS

## CODFORD COMMUNITY KEY EVENTS NOVEMBER 2025

- 2nd Park run 10am  
Codford village hall grounds.
- 3rd Mobile Police station visiting  
Codford 9.30am - 10.30am  
Codford village hall
- 5th Film night at the Woolstore  
theatre. 'The Salt Path' 7.30pm.
- 8th Free drama workshops at the  
Woolstore theatre 10.30am - 12.30pm.
- 8th Codford fireworks night at Stockton  
Park gates open from 5pm, Bonfire  
will be lit at 6pm and fireworks  
will start at 7pm.
- 13th Hearing aid clinic at Codford village  
hall (small hall) - 10am - 12pm.
- 15th Winter warmers (a delicious bowl  
of soup, a roll, a cup of tea and a  
biscuit) free event at Codford  
village hall 12pm - 2pm.
- 16th Monthly drinks at the Woolstore  
theatre 12 - 2pm.
- 16th Textiles arts and crafts market at  
the Ginger Piggery, Boyton  
10am - 2pm.
- 19th Codford and District gardening club  
talk 'Finding the Theatrum  
botanicum in Salisbury cathedral'.  
The guest speaker will be Gill Pelton  
7.30pm, Codford village hall.
- 20th Warminster and District NSPCC  
Christmas fair at Codford village  
hall 10am - 2pm.
- 21st Codford Tennis club's annual curry  
and quiz night - Codford village hall  
- 7.30pm.
- 22nd Free drama workshops at the  
Woolstore theatre 10.30am - 12.30pm.
- 24th Parish Council meeting 7.00pm  
Codford village hall.
- 25th Codford local history society talk  
'Penruddock's rising. Wiltshire's  
royalist up rising of 1655 to restore  
the monarchy during the Inter-  
regnum of republican rule', with  
guest speak Ruth Butler, Codford  
village hall 7.30pm.

## CODFORD FIREWORKS NIGHT A Sparkling Village Celebration!

Get ready for one of Codford's most  
beloved annual events! The Codford  
Fireworks Night is back and promises an  
unforgettable evening of fun, food, and  
fantastic fireworks - all in support of our  
local community.

It will again be held at Stockton  
Park, gates open at 5pm, bonfire lighting  
is from 6pm and the fireworks display is  
from 7pm (now enhanced for an even  
bigger bang!)

Expect a vibrant atmosphere  
with delicious food and drink stalls -  
including returning favourites from last  
year! Fairground rides and stalls for all  
ages, Toilets available on-site and there's  
plenty of parking.

Tickets available at Budgens Post Office:

Adults: £10, Children under 16: £6,

Children under 5: FREE.

Bring your friends and family and enjoy a  
night under the stars while supporting  
fantastic local causes. Last year, the  
Codford Fireworks Committee proudly  
donated £4,000 to community groups,  
including: Codford Village Hall, Wylve  
Valley Parish News, Wylve Valley Primary  
School, Codford Caterpillars, Wylve Valley  
Riding for the Disabled - summer camp  
funding and Codford & District Tennis  
Club.

Let's make this year even brighter!

Type "[Codfordcommunity.co.uk](https://www.codfordcommunity.co.uk)" into  
your search bar to access the community  
website. There, you will find various  
useful and informative content. A new  
quiz has also been added, which can be  
home page.

**Codford Parish Council minutes** can be  
found on the Codford Parish Council  
website ([codfordpc.org.uk](https://www.codfordpc.org.uk)) or you can  
find a link to them from our Codford  
community website: which can be found  
on the home page.

## CODFORD VILLAGE HALL

Tue: Pilates & short mat bowls.

Wed: Pilates, Fit club.

Thurs: Community café, Happy hearts,  
Clubercise and Badminton

## HEYTESBURY BELLS RUNG

### in memoriam for Sarah Rogers

Residents of Heytesbury may have  
wondered why, on the morning of Friday  
26th September, the church bells were  
rung for an hour, starting at 10:30 am. Was  
it just another group of visiting bell ringers  
practicing our fine set of bells, as happens  
from time to time? No, this was a very  
special ring, in memory of Sarah Rogers,  
who died tragically, on 22nd June this year,  
of brain tumours, aged 42, leaving behind  
a five-year-old daughter, Ava. Sarah was  
brought up in Greenlands and worked for  
a time in both the Angel and the Red Lion.  
Her memorial service was held in Heytes-  
bury Church on Thursday, 24th July, 2025.

The bells were rung by Jack  
Pease and his East Dorset ringers, in  
response to a request by Carol Daly,  
Sarah's Mother, who, together with a party  
of some twenty friends and relations,  
came to listen. Some of the visitors,  
including Carol, climbed the 44 steep  
winding stairs up to the ringing chamber to  
see and hear the bells being rung, and they  
all spent the rest of the time sitting out-  
side on a cold, cloudy morning listening to  
the bells, a number of them sitting on  
chairs outside the porch. The ringing was  
of a high quality, and it was such a  
pleasure to hear them being so well rung,  
albeit for a very sad event.

Opinions expressed about Sarah  
from amongst those who came to listen  
were that she was beautiful, slim, and  
always had a ready smile. So, we were  
very glad and honoured to be able to host  
this memorial ring and to meet Carol and  
those who came with her. It was also a  
pleasure to meet Jack Pease again, and his  
ringers, some of whom had rung our bells  
before, exactly one year ago. JBC

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# VILLAGE NEWS

## HEYTESBURY HAPPENINGS

The village is embracing autumn with preparations for the Pumpkin Festival in the Church and the forthcoming annual Village Fireworks display in the garden of the Red Lion pub; our grateful thanks to Karen and Paul for allowing this event to continue. The horse chestnut trees have shed hundreds of conkers... but nowadays they remain on the ground to be squashed underfoot. Whatever happened to those endless 'conker battles' that children played in autumn? It saddens me to see so many fine conkers lying unwanted and unloved!

On a more serious note, the Parish Council have now triggered the six months moratorium in the terms of the Asset of Community Value. This means that the sale of the Recreation Land cannot be sold for six months, although the landowner's appeal is under review. We have learnt that, by the end of September, only four of the small plots have been sold and two of the larger plots have potential buyers. The Parish Council is monitoring this ongoing situation.

Once again speeding through the village is under review. A resident on the High Street has requested that a 20mph zone be created. It has been noted that some of the offenders who disregard the existing speed restrictions live in the village themselves and have been seen overtaking at speed near the school. Please respect the speed limit... the consequences of an accident are too dire to contemplate to both the victims and to your own future. Poor parking has also become an issue. Please do not park too close to the exit from Greenlands, or at Tytherington Road, and ask your visitors to park sensibly. Parked cars that are too close to the junctions cause a dangerous loss of visibility for drivers turning into the High Street.

The Parish Steward has been tasked with clearing the overgrown bushes that are hiding some of the road signs, and the grit bins are being prepared for winter. The bridge on Tytherington Road is due to be repaired at the end of October.

Due to an administrative oversight, the Annual General Meeting of the Raymond Trust will now be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 28th October in the St John's Residents Hall. The normal meeting of the Parish Council will follow on that evening. The agendas, and minutes of meetings can all be found on [www.heytesbury-parish.co.uk](http://www.heytesbury-parish.co.uk).

We hope to see you there.

## SHERRINGTON

Autumn flew in on the wings of Storm Amy, spinning leaves, tossing trees. As trees are still in full leaf I kept a battery of candles at the ready but we were more fortunate than those in the north. Many years ago the Grants lived at Rectory Cottage. Rumour has it that they planted a Christmas tree, well it has certainly thrived and now thinks that it is a redwood! I am always relieved after a storm like Amy that it has not crashed through the roof!

I find this a magical time of year, the sun still warm and the beautiful deepening colour lighting the trees. In the wood the bracken is turning to bronze and the first trees to colour seem to be the beech and hazel bushes. I fear the gloomsters may be right and that Autumn's largesse is abnormal this year. I have never seen hawthorn rose hips, sloes to be so abundant. This is brilliant for incomers like fieldfare, redwing, brambling and waxwings but if next year proves to be extreme then trees and bushes will have been exhausted.

In Spring and early Summer it was a joy to be in the garden and hear the liquid notes of blackbirds. The season for birdsong is now over but the blackbirds are absent from the garden. I wonder how they

have fared. The ground is still rock hard and I fear their young may have perished.

Our bird feeder is thronged with sparrows, some finches, collared doves and the fattest woodies in the Wylde Valley but the birds who live on soft food have found survival difficult.

Walking down the path towards Codford in the early evening the wires across the field were lined with house martins, there must have been 150 of them. They lifted off, what a rush of wings and then settled again but were restless and I know that with dusk they would be gone south. Nature has many miracles but migration is surely among the most amazing especially those small birds weighing only grammes that embark on that journey, this year's young among them.

A surprising visitor of the dusk has been a bat. On two occasions I opened the bedroom door and as I switched on the light found a drone circling at speed!! It was reluctant to leave but I switched on the outside light and on my next visit it had gone. I now know to close my window in the evening!

Our Harvest Thanksgiving saw the little church filled with glowing dahlias. The congregation was small but the waiting hamper was generously filled with provisions for the Foodbank. *Betty Lewis*

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# WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY NOVEMBER 2025

|                                            |                                                               |                                         |                                                                                              |       |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>November 2</b><br>All Saints            | Sutton Veny<br>Codford St Peter<br>Heytesbury<br>Upton Lovell | 9.30am<br>11.00am<br>11.00am<br>3.00pm  | Sunday Worship<br>Parish Communion<br>Sunday Worship<br>All Souls' Service                   | choir |
| <b>November 9</b><br>Remembrance<br>Sunday | Tytherington<br>Codford St Mary<br>Sutton Veny<br>Heytesbury  | 8.00am<br>10.45am<br>10.45am<br>10.45am | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Remembrance service<br>Remembrance service<br>Remembrance service    |       |
| <b>November 16</b>                         | Norton Bavant<br>Sutton Veny                                  | 9.30am<br>2.30pm                        | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Licensing of Michael Duff and Tim Ling<br>by the Bishop of Salisbury | choir |
| <b>November 23</b><br>Christ the King      | Sutton Veny<br>Codford St Mary<br>Knook<br>Heytesbury         | 8.00am<br>9.30am<br>11.00am<br>6.00pm   | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Parish Communion *<br>Parish Communion *<br>Evensong (BCP) *         | choir |
| <b>November 30</b><br>Advent Sunday        | Codford St Peter<br>Heytesbury                                | 10.00am<br>6.00pm                       | TEAM SERVICE *<br>Advent Service of Light *                                                  | choir |

## UWVT WEEKDAY SERVICES

Fridays Sutton Veny 8.30 am Morning Prayer (BCP)

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## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth', for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21 v1ff

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### Parish Deacon in Residence:

Reverend Terry Aspell  
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## FROM THE REGISTERS

### MEMORIAL SERVICE AND BURIAL OF ASHES

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

**Barbara Alice Hunt**

on 16th October at Sutton Veny

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

### BAPTISM

*We welcome into the Christian Church*

**Sophie Nicole Lloyd-Booth**

on 12th October at Heytesbury

**Theodore Wilf Pain**

on 18th October at Tytherington

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### MINISTRY TEAM

#### Team Rector

**The Revd Michael Duff**

teamrector.uwvt@gmail.com

#### Team Vicar

**The Revd Timothy Ling**

teamvicar.uwvt@gmail.com

#### Associate Priest

**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 | Robin Grist | 850596       |
| Codford St Mary | David Shaw  | 850372       |
|                 |             | 07899 906371 |

|                  |                   |              |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Codford St Peter | Alasdair McGregor | 850073       |
| Heytesbury       | Tina Sitwell      | 840556       |
| Knook            | Robert Pottow     | 850285       |
| Norton Bavant    | John Acworth      | 840134       |
|                  | Edward Moore      | 840420       |
| Sherrington      | Richard Morris    | 07555425110  |
| Sutton Veny      | Richard Jackman   | 840899       |
|                  | Sandy Barton      | 07769 781392 |
|                  |                   | /841157      |

|              |                      |             |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Tytherington | Caroline Lester-Card | 07787556505 |
| Upton Lovell | Gilly Cumming        | 850834      |

### LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

|             |                 |        |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|
| Codford     | Henry Collins   | 850193 |
| Sutton Veny | Richard Jackman | 840899 |

### SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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