



UPPER KENNET NEWS

December 2025

Published by the Upper Kennet Parochial Church Council

Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 53 Pauline O'Neil
£75 Number 90 T.M. & L.A. Conway
£50 Number 84 Andy Miller

(Some winners prefer that their names are not published, in which case we just state the winning number)

If you would like to join the lottery, please pick up an application form from any church, or ring Jo Snape on 01672 861267 or email josiesnape@aol.com

Another way to support our churches at West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett

Notice Board

Wedding

Emma Caddick & Neil Marsh
West Overton 1st Nov. 2025

Funerals

Dilys Madeleine Scott
North Wilts Crematorium
30th October 2025

Margaret Ruth Davenport
Avebury 17th Nov. 2025

100 Club

Draw Results for November

1st	£48.00	60	Penny Gold
2nd	£36.00	37	Natalie Galbraith
3rd	£24.00	69	Sandra Elliot
4th	£12.00	100	Roger Holdsworth

(some winners prefer that their names are not published)

If you would like to join the lottery ring Philip Scott on 01672 539104 or email philipscott2@me.com

Your way to help support the churches of Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett

Lottery is licensed by Wiltshire Council

"A brief respite from everyday pressures – a time of peace, calm and silent reflection."

MEDITATION (TAIZÉ) Service

Every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at East Kennett Church from 6.00 to 6.25pm: a chance to just sit quietly and relax and enjoy the silence and the peace by candlelight, with a background of occasional singing and some words of wisdom.

Future dates for your diary:

Wednesday 3rd December 2025 &
Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Rector's Letter

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night,
Heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all-embracing birth
Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Just when we are wondering if the Kennet will ever flow again, the rains come, the temperature drops, the leaves fall and the dial of the year makes a dramatic turn. I have been away on a retreat for a month and the sudden change in the season over the past month was quite startling to come home to. The trees have shed their leafy coats, my driveway has grown a mossy, furry green carpet and the blue tits and songbirds now hurtle themselves through the air past my study window at high speed. They are in a great hurry to accomplish something that only they know about. One of nature's great secrets best kept to themselves.

The final drama of the season comes in the form of the descent of the sun as the days shorten and shorten and the year completes like the closing of a great book. Endings can be quite disturbing and often leave us with a sense of 'what now?'

The Christian story at this time of year responds with a tale of Hope and new beginnings. The narrative of new life and light coming into being in the middle of the darkness. A tiny vulnerable baby born to a young woman, not much older than a child herself, and her devoted guardian husband of mature years. God doesn't enter the world in a blaze of glory, the fabric of time and space ripped and interrupted, but through the same path that our own lives came into being, the incarnation of flesh. Vulnerable and needing human nurture. All babies and new life are fascinating and wonderful, but this Christ child brings into being new life not just for himself but for all of us. His destiny will affect the destiny of all.

W. Chatterton Dix's hymn asks the question:

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

'What child is this? indeed! It's a story that continues to fascinate us, even those who have no conscious sense of the deeper meaning. There is something ancient and archetypal about it that calls families to Christmas services to celebrate new birth and the joy of the stable light. And our children tell us the story in nativity plays up and down the land. They own it and are custodians of it for us. Each child with a star on a stick and a tea towel tied to their head, hold onto that mummies' play tradition that still lives in our culture, to bring us, in their innocence and playfulness, the Greatest Story of all. The best way to experience it is through a children's performance. Even God it seems has to enter this world as a squawking hungry baby, a tottering toddler and, no doubt, a moody adolescent in order to fully experience our human life. Only then can he break the mould of our suffering and the bonds of death in an act of outrageous Love on the cross, framed in the same fleshly broken garment that we come to wear.

But for now we are at the beginning of the Great Story. So let's not be shy to sit quietly in the soft glow of the stable and to stare with shepherds and kings, and to passively soak up the atmosphere of a great marvel. What child IS this? He is nothing less than the Word made Flesh that came and dwelt among us.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas with loved ones and friends.

Every blessing
Jonathan – the rector.

June Durston

The family of June Durston announced that she passed away on 15th October. She has lived in West Overton since 1955 (70 years)

To all our wonderful contributors

In order to meet production and print deadlines for January 2026 please note that all copy must be in by noon on Monday 8th December

UPPER KENNET CHURCHES SERVICES

	St Nicholas FYFIELD	St Michael & All Angels WEST OVERTON	Christ Church EAST KENNETT	St James AVEBURY	St Mary Magdalene WINTERB'NE MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTER'NE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
Wednesday 3 December			6 pm Meditation Service (Taizé)	10.30 am Celtic Communion			
7 December Advent 2	8.30 am Holy Communion Patronal Festival				BERWICK BASSETT 3 pm Carol Service	10.30 am Morning Service	10 am Parish Communion
Wednesday 10 December				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
14 December Advent 3		10 am Morning Service		10 am Parish Communion			
Tuesday 16 December	6.30 pm Carol Service						
Wednesday 17 December				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
Thursday 18 December						7 pm Carols by Candlelight	
21 December Advent 4		6.30 pm Carol Service	8 am Holy Communion	4 pm Carol Service	10 am Parish Communion		6 pm Carols by Candlelight
24 December Christmas Eve		4 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass		4 pm Crib Service 10 pm First Mass of Christmas	4 pm Carols round the Crib	4 pm Crib Service	4 pm Crib Service
25 December Christmas Day	8.30 am Holy Communion		11 am Christmas Service		11.30 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Morning Prayer	10 am Holy Communion
28 December Christmas 1		10 am Parish Communion					
Wednesday 31 December				(No service)			
4 January 2026 Epiphany	8.30 am Holy Communion					10.30 am Morning Service	10 am Parish Communion

Upper Kennet Churches Winter Crisis Appeal

Are you able to help?

Ten years ago, the Upper Kennet Churches launched a **Winter Crisis Appeal Fund** to help those who were experiencing short term financial problems. Over that period, we have had many donations and we have been able to help a large number of families who were in desperate need.

This year, again, we would ask if you could make a donation if you are able to.

If so, please give your donation to a church warden, or send a cheque to Upper Kennet Churches Office, St. Michael & All Angels Church, Church Hill, West Overton, SN8 4ER; or BACS transfer using sort code 30-92-63 (Lloyds Bank-Upper Kennet Churches Council) account 01498496 (ref: WCA).

Thank you.

Do you need help?

If you:

- live in one of the Upper Kennet Villages
- are worried about where the next meal is coming from
- have to choose between heating and eating
- are facing a sudden financial emergency

we might be able to assist with a week's food supply, or fuel support, or just general advice.

Contact Rev'd Jonathan Poston on 01672 560584, or a Lay Pastoral Assistant on 01672 861786. Your call will be treated in total confidence.

This is not a substitute for Social Benefits or the Food Bank. It is a gesture from people who understand what you are experiencing.

Readings

Sunday 7th December - Purple

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11.1-10
Psalm 72.1-7,18,19 [or 72.1-7]
Romans 15.4-13
Matthew 3.1-12

Sunday 14th December - Purple

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10
Psalm 146.4-10
or *Magnificat*
James 5.7-10
Matthew 11.2-11

Sunday 21st December - Purple

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16
Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20 [or 80.1-8]
Romans 1.1-7
Matthew 1.18-end

24 December – Purple

Christmas Eve & Midnight Mass

Isaiah 52.7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12]
John 1.1-14

25 December – Gold or White

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52.7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12]
John 1.1-14

28 December – White

1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63.7-9
Psalm 148 [or 148.7-end]
Hebrews 2.10-end
Matthew 2.13-end

4 January – Gold or White

Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6
Psalm 72 [1-9] 10-15
Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

Family Crib Service

Christmas Eve
St James' Church
Avebury
4pm

festive jumpers / outfits / sparkle activity encouraged!



TO INAUGURATE AND BLESS THE NEW ORGAN,
PLEASE JOIN US FOR

AVEBURY'S ORGAN CONCERT

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, AVEBURY
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 7PM

A selection of songs and readings from Bishop Andrew drawing on
his love of the Wiltshire landscape
Organ music from Ian Crabbe for Advent and Christmas.

Tickets £10 at the door, or from the Avebury Shop, or by email
from Stuart-laing@outlook.com

Upper Kennet Churches Christmas Services

Sunday 7 December

Berwick Bassett 3 pm Carol Service

Tuesday 16 December

Fyfield 6.30 pm Carol Service

Thursday 18 December

Winterbourne Bassett 7 pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 21 December

Avebury 4 pm Carol Service

Broad Hinton 6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight

West Overton 6.30 pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve – 24 December

Winterbourne Bassett 4 pm Crib Service

Winterbourne Monkton 4 pm Carols round the Crib

Avebury 4 pm Crib Service

Broad Hinton 4 pm Crib Service

West Overton 4 pm Crib Service

West Overton 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Fyfield 8.30 am Morning Prayer

Broad Hinton 10 am Christmas Communion

Winterbourne Bassett 10.30 am Morning Prayer

East Kennett 11 am Christmas Family Service

Winterbourne Monkton 11.30 am Christmas Communion

Family Crib Service

Christmas Eve
St Michael & All Angels'
West Overton
4pm

festive jumpers / outfits / sparkle activity encouraged!



Avebury and District WI

October

As I wasn't at our October meeting I have had to rely on others for the update! Our speaker was John, a retired fireman/fire-fighter, who gave a very amusing talk on his work with the Fire Brigade which was enjoyed by all who attended

November

For our November meeting we had booked Fred Gillam, known to many locally as 'Fred the Forager', who had recently appeared on BBC Countryfile. As Fred's talks are popular with local residents we made this an open meeting which was very well attended.

Fred is very knowledgeable about fungi and he told us all about the surprisingly many types of fungi that can be found around our area. He also amazed us by telling us how we all carry within our DNA a small fragment of 4 billion year old code that comes from the 'Last Common Ancestor' of ours that we share with all living beings. Another interesting fact was that trees and fungi (of the mycelium type) have a symbiotic relationship that enables mutually supportive use of resources. This is something that is still being explored by mycologists. Thank you to those members who provided sandwiches and cake which were much enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting is our Christmas lunch; if you haven't already please let me know if you will be attending as I need to pre-order. The menu was sent out to all members who are on email last week.

Maggie Lewis, President.

West Overton Tower News

We now have a team (known in bell ringing circles as a band) of bell ringers who ring regularly for St Michael & All Angels services and also for weddings, the band were very proud to ring for the wedding of our Tower Captain's son Neil Marsh at the beginning of November and also for the Remembrance Service which as is customary was on half muffled bells.

The sound of half-muffled tower bells is unmistakable and rather beautiful. In Rounds where the bells are rung in order from the lightest bell - treble to the heaviest bell - tenor it sounds like a normal descending scale followed by an eerie echo of that sound.

To make this sound, a 'muffle' is fitted to each bell. A muffle is simply a pad of resilient material attached to the ball of the clapper in such a way that the impact of the clapper against the sound bow is greatly reduced. The muffle is fitted to one side of the clapper and has the effect that, instead of hearing the 'strike note' of the bell, we hear the 'hum note' instead.

Muffles are traditionally made of leather. Leather has always been a widely available material which is easily worked and will survive the repeated impacts it receives and which provides a suitable degree of damping to make an appropriate sound.

In Called Changes (when the order in which the bells are rung is altered) the muffle is usually placed so that the first stroke (handstroke) by each bell sounds 'open' and the second stroke (backstroke) sounds the muffled echo.

West Overton tower now has its own practice night which is held on the first Monday of each month. We are always happy to welcome new members or lapsed ringers from West Overton or the nearby villages ie East Kennet, Lockeridge and Fyfield. If you are interested to learn more about bell ringing please contact Richard Metters 07979 357913 or Liz Roberts 0798 9074223.

Avebury Tower News

The past month has been up and down for our ringers. Readers who have seen bellringers in action or on the TV pulling ropes will of course realise that this is a deliberate pun! - but it contains some truth. Getting rid of the bad news first, the absence of two of our stalwarts on a long holiday to Australia and New Zealand, and another tied up with his work commitments and pantomime rehearsals, has thinned our numbers even more. This resulted in our practice on 28 October having to be cancelled, and that on 18 November has just been cancelled. On the other hand we had an unexpectedly good turnout for the Remembrance Service at Avebury on Sunday 9th when seven ringers turned up. We had only muffled 6 bells, and that had seemed optimistic to me! I should explain that a muffle is a leather pad strapped to one side of the clapper on the bell. This results in one stroke of the bell being distinctly quieter and with a different acoustic to the other. It is particularly effective when the bells are rung in sequence (known as "Rounds") and is considered to add solemnity to events such as Remembrance Day. The ringers were in surname order:

Stephen Andre, Peter Claridge,
Kathy Davies, Michele Lomas,
Jonathan Stubbs and Sean Tye.

However explanations are needed. Your correspondent Brian Vickers mainly called the changes in the sequences of bells, but also did some ringing when Michele had to leave early to practice ringing her trombone for the Last Post. Not only were we bellringers pleased to have her bolster our numbers (we can only hope now that she has left our Parish that she might be persuaded to ring for a special occasion like Remembrance) but all the congregation were thankful that for this service at least she graced us with her presence.

Also the new name of Peter Claridge has appeared on the list of ringers. He expects to settle in Winterbourne Monkton where he has family ties to the owners of the New Inn. He is not a learner like Kathy (who may I say rang very well) so hopefully we have a replacement for Michele.

Nevertheless the two cancelled practices mean that we need more bellringers - new or re-locating. The easy way to sample ringing and hopefully join us is to phone me at home on 01 672 539 482, or simply to appear at the Church entrance porch at 7:30 pm on a Tuesday evening when we begin our practices.

Brian Vickers

West Overton Bonfire Night

There was a very successful bonfire night at Manor Farm on Thursday 30th October, raising funds for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. In total, £1200 was raised, which was a mixture of cash and donations via the website, including a very generous one from Corston.com which was gratefully received. Beer was kindly donated by Arkell's Brewery, fireworks were donated by Manor Farm and help from two members of staff at the local Burj at the Bell. The bonfire was enormous and the fireworks very impressive and a quote was heard 'best fireworks yet!' So much fun and joy and a great gathering of locals.

Morning Prayer 8.30-9am daily

Join us by zoom for half an hour to start the day in an atmosphere of quiet prayer and reflection with others, from the comfort of your own armchair. We are a small group who value this wonderful opportunity to gather ourselves for the day, to focus on what lies ahead and to enjoy silence together.

For more details, the service sheet and the zoom link, contact:
Sibella Laing: 01672 861600 or sibella.laing@outlook.com



Avebury Parish Council

www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Councillors Update

We would like to share that our current Chair, Mike Bedford, has chosen to step down from the role. Mike will continue as a councillor, and we are grateful for his long and dedicated service over many years - first as an ordinary member, then as Vice Chair, and finally as Chair for the past two years. We sincerely thank him for the time, energy, and steady leadership he has given to the parish. A new Chair will be elected at our December meeting, and we will keep residents updated through our usual channels once the appointment is confirmed.

Rawlins Defibrillator

This will be our 5th defibrillator for the parish. Once it is installed we will add it to our website and update you all on its exact location. But in the meantime our other four are located here....



Clair Wilkinson

Clair joined the Parish Council to put her knowledge of local government to good use – supporting both the council and the wider community.

Since moving to the parish just over three years ago with her husband Nick, their two teenage children and two dogs, Clair has embraced village life and the social connections that make Avebury so special. She loves the beauty of the landscape and the spirit of the people who call it home. Adventurous at heart, Clair has already ticked off a skydive, is set for a hot air balloon ride this summer and has her sights on trying wing walking next!

2025 Roundup

It's been a super-busy year for the APC, below are just a few of our key highlights....

been busy planting bulbs around the parish and we look forward to seeing the beautiful flowers they produce in the spring.

Speed surveys were approved on two key routes: the A4 and in the Avebury/Trusloe area - part of our ongoing effort to address local traffic and safety issues - there will be more to come within our Road Safety work in 2026 and so we will continue to keep you updated through here, our website and social media channels.

We were sad to see the Chapel lease end in September this year but were thrilled to have such fantastic talks and exhibitions in there throughout the summer – we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did!

We held our annual refresher training on how to use one of our five parish defibrillators – keep your eyes open for our 2026 date – this is open to EVERYONE in the parish and is a great opportunity to learn about how these devices can save a life, and how you can to!

Finally, a new defibrillator was purchased for Rawlins Park, enhancing our community's emergency preparedness.

Defibrillator locations

Avebury High Street



///chitchat.windpipe.insurers

> [What Three Words Location](#)

Avebury Trusloe



///friction.entry.ooze

> [What Three Words Location](#)

The Clubhouse, Avebury



///wolf.classics.surnames

> [What Three Words Location](#)

Beckhampton



///recitals.drain.misty

> [What Three Words Location](#)

Litter Pick

SAVE THE DATE for our annual Village Litter Pick – this year we will be gathering on 28th February 2026. We will update with more specifics closer to the time.

Benches

The benches at The Arches have now been replaced with two new smart looking composite ones. The refurbished benches are in the Play Area and in the High Street. The bench at Gilberts Hill is due to be returned as we type, followed by the A4 Beckhampton bench (next to the bus stop) soon after. The bench plaques are either being retained or a new one being ordered.

Playground Update

The refurbishment of the play area has now been completed, and we hope to have the space open soon. A fault was identified with one of the swing brackets shortly after installation, so the area is currently closed as a precaution while we await an independent safety assessment. A ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) inspection is expected in the coming weeks, and we will provide an update as soon as we are able. Thank you for your patience while this is resolved.

Meet your Councillors

The new playground at Trusloe was installed giving children a modern space to enjoy.

The Green Street verge-protection project reached completion, with new planters/stones and other measures to prevent damage from parking and preserve the roadside verges.

The Council launched its new website - designed to be more accessible, up to date, and user friendly for residents.

Communications have improved: more consistent updates, clearer information, and better engagement with the community.

There were changes in the make-up of Parish Councillors this year, as new members joined and others moved on.

We formally launched a Business Forum to support local traders and businesses in the parish.

New bins were placed around the village with regular collections. We are keen to keep on top of this so please do keep reporting to us and on the MiWilts app if you see them overflowing.

Our annual litter pick was a huge success despite the awful weather – fingers crossed for a sunny spell for next years!

We have refurbished benches and notice boards where possible and, in some cases, installed new ones where they couldn't be mended

APC, along with The Orchard Group have

Parish Steward

Our dedicated Parish Steward has once again been out to tidy and sort – and we want to take a moment to say a massive thank you to him for all his hard work!

If you see something you think he can help with then please email our clerk and we can add it to the jobs list for the next visit!

Otherwise don't forget you can report things through the MiWilts app. His next visit will be 16th December - any requests received by 9th December please will be added to this job sheet otherwise they will go on the list ready for his next visit in December.

Next meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting of Avebury Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at the Avebury Social Centre.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

Avebury Parish Council would like to wish everyone in the village and the wider Upper Kennet community a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We're grateful for the warmth, goodwill, and community spirit that shine through in our parish year after year, and we look forward to working together in 2026. However you're celebrating, we hope the season brings you rest, joy, and time with those who matter most.

Emma Watson, Clerk
clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



**FRIENDS OF KVS
INVITES YOU
TO OUR**

SANTA'S GROTTO

**£8 PER CHILD
2 CHILDREN FOR £15
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

**KENNET VALLEY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAIR**

5TH DEC - 5-7PM

BBQ & MULLED WINE

TEA & CAKE

YEAR 6 STALLS

TOMBOLA & RAFFLE

LOCAL BUSINESS STALLS

COOKIE DECORATING



**ALL WELCOME
FREE ENTRY**



Kennet Valley School, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL
To visit Santa, please contact Ruthie on
admin@kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk
to request the booking form.

Back by popular demand...
On Sat 17th January 2026

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER AND CEILIDH

at the Kennet Valley Hall,
Lockeridge
7pm - 11:00pm
Live Pipe Music
Delicious Hot Food and Ceilidh dancing
with popular local caller John Carver
All left feet welcome!

Ticket price: £30

Email: stuart-laing@outlook.com Bring cash on the night for
to secure tickets raffle. Pay bar cash or card
Full payment required at time of booking



Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200

Opening Hours
10am – 4pm every day

Christmas boxes

With Christmas almost upon us, don't forget that you can avoid supermarket crowds by ordering Avebury Community Shop Christmas boxes in advance.

All you do is visit the shop and pick up an order form. Decide what you'd like in your festive box and drop the form back to the shop with a £5 cash deposit. This needs to be done by Tuesday December 9th please.

The box will be put together for you and you'll receive a call on Monday December 22nd with a time for you to collect it that day. You'll be able to park outside at the given time. Just come into the shop and pay.

Order what you like: meat from Sumbler Bros, fruit and veg, bread (including half-baked frozen loaves, very popular recently), cheese, milk, eggs... and of course your Christmas drink supply. There is no additional charge for putting the boxes together, just the price of the items themselves.

Aliens visit the shop

Anyone visiting the shop recently will have seen Kerry McKenna's latest amazing postbox-topper sitting outside: this one shows the 3I/Atlas spacecraft abducting sheep from Avebury. Kerry is fascinated by UFOs.

Each day one of the shop staff sets it on top of the postbox – with its padlock in place, because one of Kerry's previous masterpieces was stolen (captured on CCTV but the thief got away with it). "I love the staff in the shop," Kerry said. "I know all of them. They're fabulous."

She admits to eavesdropping near the postbox, sitting on her scooter and listening to passers-by discussing her creations. The spacecraft took her only a couple of months to make, using acrylic wool sprayed ten times to waterproof it. "I do things fast, often in front of the TV with my husband asleep," she said. "It relaxes me." He, by the way, helps her by making the base from MDF.

Kerry already knows what the next postbox topper will be. If you want to find out, watch this space. It will be revealed in next month's column!

Home deliveries

Remember we offer home deliveries if you're unwell or disabled. Our delivery area includes Avebury, Avebury Trusloe, Beckhampton, East and West Kennett, Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett.

Tim Rice





Kennet Valley Parish Council

Clerk's details: Alison Ingham
clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk Tel: 07897
797208
Website: www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk

Council's Highways teams are on standby to keep Wiltshire's roads safe. The 24-strong gritter fleet is ready for action and the team has been carrying out test runs to ensure all equipment is in top condition and that drivers are fully familiar with their routes before freezing temperatures arrive.

Last winter, the gritters were deployed 50 times, spreading 6,500 tonnes of salt across Wiltshire's primary routes. With 12,000 tonnes of salt already stocked at six strategic sites across the county, and 1,600 salt bins available for public use, Wiltshire is well-prepared for the winter months.

During a weather incident, please report any issues via MyWilts. Wiltshire Council's website also has lots of information available on a wide range of subjects including gritting and snow clearance to property flood resilience.

SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS: SHOP SMART, WASTE LESS

The festive season is a time of joy, but it can also be a time of excess. Here are some tips from Wiltshire Council encouraging everyone to shop sustainably and reduce waste in the run-up to Christmas.

Small changes can help reduce the environmental impact of the Christmas, without losing any of the magic. Here are a few simple ways to make our celebrations greener and kinder to the planet:

- Rethink gifts – choose experiences, homemade items, or second-hand treasures.
- Wrap responsibly – avoid glittery or foil wrapping paper, which cannot be recycled. Try fabric wraps, newspaper, or reusable gift bags.
- Plan your meals – reduce food waste by planning portions carefully and using up leftovers creatively.
- Shop local – support small businesses and reduce carbon emissions by buying locally made products.
- Decorate sustainably – use LED lights, natural decorations like pinecones and dried oranges, and avoid plastic-heavy décor.

NEXT PARISH MEETING

The next **Parish Meeting** takes place on Monday, 12th January 2026, 6.30pm at Kennet Valley Hall. As always, members of the public are most welcome to attend – we look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year,
Alison, Clerk to Kennet Valley Parish Council

WELCOME TO NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Matt France was co-opted to the Parish Council at the Parish Council meeting of 10th November 2025 and represents the Fyfield Ward.

CHRISTMAS DRINKS ON THE DENE, SUNDAY, 14TH DECEMBER AT 1.30PM

All Parishioners welcome to Christmas Drinks on the Dene, as above. Please bring a mug. Any donations of bottles, Christmas snacks or cash are very welcome. Thanks to the Lockeridge residents who are organising this.

ROAD SAFETY ISSUES SAFETY AND CONSIDERATE CAR PARKING IN OUR VILLAGES

Residents and visitors are reminded politely to ensure that they park safely, legally and considerately in our villages. Please do not park too close to road junctions to avoid restricting the view of other motorists using the junction. Also, please do not park on the pavement as this can cause problems for pedestrians especially those with buggies or using wheelchairs.

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY THROUGH OUR VILLAGES.

The grass verge of a property in the Parish has been damaged recently by a large vehicle which failed to stop or report the incident. Please drive carefully through our villages and obey the speed limits too.

AUTUMN WEATHER

Please help to avoid surface water flooding in our villages by clearing leaves, straw etc from driveways and paths so that they do not block the gullies and drains and cause flooding. You can keep in touch with the weather updates by signing up for flood and groundwater warnings (<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>) and the national flooding guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/help-during-flood>)

Other useful contact details include:

- Wiltshire Council's emergency number - 0300 456 01000
- Thames Water emergency number - 0800 316 9800
- Please check your utility company for emergency contact details
- Floodline telephone: 0345 988 1188 (24-hour service)

Wiltshire Council encourages residents to keep surface drains clear especially in times of heavy rainfall where safe to do so in order to prevent flooding. Please report blocked drains to the Council via the online reporting link, MyWilts.

...AND WINTER TOO – A MESSAGE FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

The autumn and winter may have been very mild so far, but as the colder months and winter storm season approach, Wiltshire

The Avebury Players present

Treasure Island

by Alex Jackson

DECEMBER
Monday 8th
Tuesday 9th
Thursday 11th
Friday 12th
Saturday 13th

At Avebury Social Centre
Curtains up at 7:30pm
Script kindly presented in agreement with
www.alexjacksonpantomimes.com

Adults £8
Children £4
Tickets available at the Avebury Community Shop from 1st November (cash/cheque only)

NEWS FROM THE WINTERBOURNE MONKTON COMMUNITY HALL

Registered Charity No 1199011

Please visit our Website wmch.club or follow us on Facebook.



Hall Bookings can be made by e mail to wmch-booking@hotmail.com

Events List

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR PATRONS

Saturday Dec 13th Coffee Morning
10.30am- 1.00pm

Sunday Dec 21st Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
4.30 -6.30

As a thank you for your support we are holding our Annual Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Event

Bar open to purchase other drinks



We are always looking for new ideas for events. Any suggestions please let us know. Speak to a Committee Member or put a suggestion in our post box.



Christmas at Avebury

Christmas at Avebury Manor

Saturday 29 November until Sunday 4 January, 11am-4pm

Visit Avebury Manor for a special one-off celebration of decorations, lights, and festive memories, as the doors open for the first time since January 2024.

Story Time with St. Nicholas

6-7, 13-14, 20-21 December - Tickets can be booked online

Meet St. Nicholas under the twinkling lights of the historic dovecote for a fun story time and to receive a gift to take home.

The Hollytail Hares trail

Saturday 29 November until Sunday 4 January, 10am-4pm

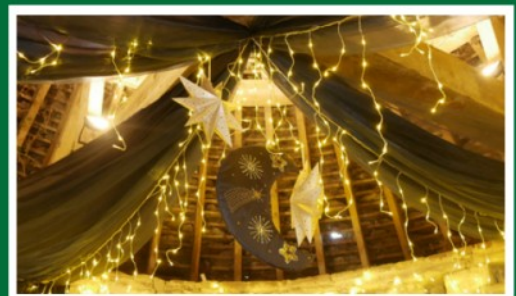
A group of magical hares are hiding in Avebury Manor Garden with a Christmas message. Can you follow the clues to find them?

Christmas markets

6 December and Sunday 7 December, 10am - 4pm

Discover a range of high quality handmade goods in the 17th century threshing barn, with carols and music each afternoon.

More information available at nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



DRINKS PROVIDED BUT
BRING YOUR OWN MUG!

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PARISH WELCOME!**

Christmas Drinks on the Dene Lockeridge

Sunday 14th December at
1.30pm.

*Bring a mug and any donations of
bottles, Christmas snacks or cash are
very welcome*

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7TH
DECEMBER**

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Avebury Social Centre SN8 1RF
Friday 27th February 7.30pm
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Avebury Social Centre Soup Lunches Monday 1st December

12 noon —
2.00pm



Centre funds

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Avebury
& local villages**



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THE NEW INN

Festive Events



Friday 14th November
Chilli Night



Friday 19th December
Quiz Night



Friday 21st November
Cassoulet Night



Sunday 21st December
Festive Roast & Live
Music by Dan Graham



Thursday 27th November
Alice in Wonderland
5 Course Supper Club



Christmas Eve
Mulled Wine, Mince
Pies & Christmas Carols



Friday 28th November
Quiz Night



Christmas Day
Drinks, Mince Pies &
Festive Cheer



Sunday 28th November
Traditional Roast



Boxing Day
Festive walk followed by
breakfast rolls, mulled
wine, tea & coffee.



Sunday 7th December
Charity Santa's
Grotto & Raffle



New Year's Eve
Flowing drinks, nibbles
on us and bubbles at
midnight.



Sunday 14th December
Wreath Making



New Year's Day
Buck's Fizz Brunch



Thursday 18th December
Christmas Theme
Beetle Drive

We would love to see you over the festive season at one, two or even more of our events.

Booking is recommended for most occasions; to secure your spot just pop in,
call 01672 539793 or email thenewinn@elderbrookhouse.com.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Wishing you all the very best as we head into 2026.

Cody, Ben & The New Inn Team

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WHO'S WHO

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If you require a priest in an emergency please telephone one of the churchwardens.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Elizabeth Daley 01672 539277

Mr Roderick Palfrey 01793 731067

LICENSED LAY MINISTER (PTO) Mrs Sibella Laing 01672 861600 sibella.laing@outlook.com

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mr Graham Kitchen 01672 861798 graham@grahamkitchen.com

LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs Claire Stiles 01793 731620 c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk who is also a Lay Pastoral Assistant

Mrs Alison Andre 01672 539641 who is also a Lay Pastoral Assistant

Mrs Angharad Hughes 07771 615534

Mr Magnus Thompson 07885 465916

UPPER KENNET CHURCHES OFFICE: 01672 861786 upperkennetchurches@gmail.com

Anne Robinson & Sophie Roberts

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Parish Website: www.kennet8.org.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

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WEST OVERTON Mrs Susan Rogers 01672 861374 sjrogers44@gmail.com

Mr Stuart Laing 01672 861600 stuart-laing@outlook.com

FYFIELD Co-opted PCC member Vicky Evans 01672 861622 bixevans@gmail.com

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON Mr Philip Scott 01672 539104 philipscott2@me.com

WINTERBOURNE BASSETT Mrs Claire Stiles 01793 731620 c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL: Co-Lay Chairs: Simon Jones 07768 008160
Angharad Hughes 07771 615534

PCC SECRETARY Mr Peter Barry 01793 731589 peter17.barry@gmail.com

LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEES - SECRETARIES

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Editor: David Throup, Longmynd, Lockeridge SN8 4ED 01672 861279 davidthroup@aol.com

Please send all copy including advertising and payment to David Throup.

Final copy date 20th of each month by 1pm latest.

LOCAL NEWS in Uffcott, Broad Hinton & Winterbourne Bassett:

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