



UPPER KENNET NEWS

February 2024

Published by Fyfield, West Overton and East Kennett Parochial Church Council for the Upper Kennet Benefice

Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 23 John Evans
£75 Number 27 Nigel Gray
£50 Number 32 Lorraine Perry

(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

Alexandra Veronica Handover & Matthew Roberts West Overton 31 December

Funerals

Joan Rita Greenaway Avebury 21 December
John Percival Douglas Sumbler Avebury 29 December
Vera Blake Avebury 11 January

100 Club

Draw Results for December

1st	£48.00	19	Penny Gold
2nd	£36.00	68	Ben Woodward
3rd	£24.00	30	Wendy Bowring
4th	£12.00	34	Leon Parker

Draw Results for January

1st	£48.00	14	Jill Durnford
2nd	£36.00	96	Juliet Fooks
3rd	£24.00	43	Clarissa Leigh Wood
4th	£12.00	9	Mark Saunders

(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 6.30 to 6.55pm: 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 31st January, Wednesday 14th February & Wednesday 28th February.

View from the Rectory

As Phil and I prepare to leave and 'Go West' to serve God I have been reflecting on the last 13 years as new ways of working together as a single PCC begins to take shape. I remember coming off the M4 and stopping on Hackpen Hill, seeing the spire of Broad Hinton church wondering 'here, Lord?' then visiting each of the churches in turn before heading to Avebury for a meet and greet. It was February, Phil was overseas, but fully aware of the strength of calling, and as always, his wonderful supportive self. Two days later I was appointed as your priest and we have journeyed together until now, the parting of our pilgrim ways, but very much not the end of either journey as we seek what next for us within the will of God.

We have weathered much together, grieved together, rejoiced together, had differences of opinions, found new ways of worshipping, and new ways of reaching people and offering support to others in the name of Jesus. Some of the experiences we have shared have been joyful and up lifting full of God's presence, others more challenging of our faith in God, not least of which being a global Pandemic, and yet God has been found there, in the struggles, too. We never thought we would be using livestreaming and social media as a matter of course to share our faith, support the isolated and continue to communicate in ways taken for granted by younger generations – but we are. Yet the BCP services that brings comfort in familiar rhythms and words continue, alongside Muddy Church, Celtic Communion and Taizé, and more services are being led by our very able team of Lay Worship Leaders. God has enabled and equipped us over the years to work through difficulties and God is already at work ahead of us in the new journey ahead.

Like pilgrims on the Ridgeway, we journey together for a time, supporting, encouraging, learning, stubbing toes and getting along or on each other's nerves. God walks in our midst and nothing we need for the journey is unprovided by God – all we have to do is recognise the provision. There is one Messiah, Jesus, and He is the one we follow – for me and Phil to Canada, for you on a journey of discovery into what it means to be one United Body of Christ across the villages of the Upper Kennet. This journey is now in your hands, and I have every confidence that with God's provision, God's equipping of you, and God's Blessing, you will grow in strength, faith and commitment to one another and to God. God is already at work calling the right person to help guide you, and while that person will come trusting in God's call, it is for you to continue to exercise the ministry of the royal priesthood God calls us to be - that the love of God for all might be shown in the authentic way we live our lives. Like pilgrims passing on a mountain trail, let us rejoice in our journey together this far and say 'Go with God, Fare Thee Well, as we part. And in the words of some dear friends 'Merry meet, Merry part, and Merry meet again' in this world, or the next.

Rev Maria and Phil Shepherdson



MONKTON LENT LUNCH THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY 12-2.30pm

Do join us for a bowl of soup, bread and cheese
In the Winterbourne Monkton Community Hall
(next to the church)

Plenty of parking available

Donations in aid of the water project for Morobo Diocese, S Sudan (Partnered with Marlborough Deanery)* and Monkton Church

*The wells and standpipes were destroyed by the rebels. Currently there is no safe water for those stopping for the night on their way home from the refugee camps.



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 WINTERB'NE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
4 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	<u>8.30 am</u> Prayer Book Communion	<u>4 pm</u> Christingle Service & Baptisms				<u>10.30 am</u> Morning Service	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service
Wednesday 7 February				(No service)			
11 February Sunday before Lent		<u>10 am</u> Morning Service		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service			
Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday			<u>6.30 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Ash Wednesday Service			
18 February 1st Sunday of Lent			<u>8 am</u> Morning Prayer		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service		<u>10 am</u> Morning Prayer
Wednesday 21 February				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Morning			
25 February 2nd Sunday of Lent		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service					
Wednesday 28 February			<u>6.30 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Morning Prayer			

QUIZ FEVER

22ND MARCH 2024
6:30PM FOR 7:00PM START

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE FYFIELD
CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 //
£22PP TO INCLUDE SUPPER (VEGGIE OPTION)

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT:
LYDIA BAUER - 07919 073272
OR
ANSTICE BARING - 07786 038359

LOCATION - THE WHO'D A THOUGHT IT PUB, LOCKERIDGE

Readings

4 February – Green
2nd Sunday before Lent
Proverbs 8.1, 22-31
Psalm 104.26-end
Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

18 February – Purple
1st Sunday of Lent
Genesis 9.8-17
Psalm 25.1-9
1 Peter 3.18-end
Mark 1.9-15

11 February – Green
Sunday next before Lent
2 Kings 2.1-12
Psalm 50.1-6
2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Mark 9.2-9

25th February – Purple
2nd Sunday of Lent
Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22.23-end
Romans 4.13-end
Mark 8.31-end

14 February – Purple
Ash Wednesday
Joel 2.1-2, 12-17, 2-17 or Isaiah
58.1-12
Psalm 51.1-18
2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10
Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21 or John
8.1-11

31st March – Purple
3rd Sunday of Lent
Exodus 20.1-17
Psalm 19 [or 19.7-end]
1 Corinthians 1.18-25
John 2.13-22



Lent is almost upon us again rather early ! So please save the date for the following discussion groups- we are offering a variety of subjects, venues and times led by different people, to make it easier for people from different parts of the parish to attend, so please do come to one or all as you are able. We shall meet on the following dates :

Thursday Feb 22nd 12.30pm
The Old Manor West Overton

Saturday March 2nd 12.30pm
The Old Manor West Overton

Wednesday March 13th 7.30pm
Winterbourne Bassett (address tbc)

Wednesday March 20th 7.30pm
Winterbourne Bassett (address tbc)

We look forward to meeting each other for our Lent study and discussion.

Sibella Laing (01672-861600)
Claire Stiles (01793-731620)

COFFEE MORNING

AND

BRING AND BUY

at

WEST OVERTON CHURCH

on

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY

from 10 am - 12 noon

Any donations of cakes and/or items for our Bring and Buy stall, which will be for produce and plants only, (no bric-à-brac this time) would be very welcome.

Please contact Anne Robinson (861169) for further details.

The proceeds will go towards keeping West Overton, East Kennett and Fyfield churches open.



Avebury Social Centre Soup Lunch Monday 5th February



- looking forward to seeing you (& many others)
from Avebury & villages nearby
soup, bread & cheese + cake & a chance to chat
£1 or a donation of your choice
12 noon—2.00pm

—IF YOU NEED TRANSPORT, PLEASE CALL 01672 539253 BEFORE THE DAY—

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:

Rev'd Maria Shepherdson:

01672 539643 or revmariashepherdson@outlook.com



News from Avebury Tower

Bellringing over the Christmas season has been very up and down. After the poor turnouts previously reported, we started with a satisfactory turnout of ringers for the Benefice service on December 10th and 9 for the practice on 12th. For the Carols by Candlelight service no less than 10 rang, one being Bruce Tye, father of Sean. Bruce is a regular ringer at St John's Devizes. For our practice on the 19th we rang for around 45 minutes before retiring to Brian Vickers house for our long established annual Christmas party. After a disappointing attendance last year, the prospect of a warm house attracted 10 ringers. We were asked to ring for Joan Greenaway's funeral on 21st and five were able to ring. However, by Christmas the "down" started with multiple illnesses. We only managed to have 3 for each of the two Christmas Eve services, 3 is a bare minimum for a change ring to sound at all acceptable. All that can be said is that we rang and there were no complaints.

After Christmas our next event has been to ring before and after New Year preceded by Michele Lomas throwing another small ringers' party at her house. Sadly, this year, Michele was taken ill along with nearly all our ringers. Only Jonathan Stubbs and Brian Vickers were able to ring, and we decided that 2 bells in poor weather would not sound right, so we cancelled. In fact only one man walking his dog appeared by the church at midnight. We also cancelled practice ringing on 2nd January. However, things returned to normal with 10 ringers practising on 9th January.

Brian Vickers. Mary Davidge.

Table Tennis News

The junior section of Kennet Vale table tennis club based out of Kennet Valley Hall has hit a purple patch recently and has seen success in the National Cadet League, where Arthur Ramsden won 8 out of 8 matches to help WILTSHIRE win division 2 and get promotion to division 1 at the next event. The club is also having monthly friendly junior sessions with Dauntsey's and Calne table tennis club and Edward Thomas came top in the latest round with several more KVTTC players coming in the top 10.

The junior section is now 40 strong with sessions at 4:45 pm and 5:45 pm on Friday evenings and after school club at St John's with 18 juniors attending on a Tuesday afternoon. We have a couple of places available for experienced players if anyone would like to come along but can only fit in beginners at the moment with volunteering help from parents - contact Richard Ramsden on 07568 648468 if your child or yourself are interested in playing.



Avebury & District WI

This month our programme organiser, Annie Fellows, kindly offered to do a crafting session for us and 12 members gathered to make a small felt needle case. Annie had prepared all the necessary shapes and pieces needed and a pleasant, social afternoon with the usual delicious tea was enjoyed by all.

When I wrote last month we had yet to have our Christmas lunch but I can now report that we had a delicious lunch at the Hourglass with wonderful food and great company.

This month (and next) our meetings are in the afternoon to avoid the early darkness of the winter evenings. Next month our speaker is from the Youth Adventure Trust. This organisation works with young people in the county, helping them build resilience and confidence, learn life skills and achieve their full potential. This meeting will be an 'open' meeting for anyone with an interest to attend.

The competition for February is Memories of a Walk and the flowers A vase of snowdrops.

Bach Concert

Friday 17th May 2024, 7pm

Venue: St. Nicholas Church, Fyfield

Followed by drinks & canapes at Fyfield House

Bach Concerti arranged and performed by
Charlotte Spruit – winner of the Bach Leipzig
competition 2022 and Music for Awhile, led by Maggie
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MFA is lucky to be collaborating with this phenomenal
violinist

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Tickets: £25pp

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or ansticebaring@mac.com

or Tel: 07919 073272

CHRISTMAS 'DRINKS ON THE DENE'

The second weekend in December last year saw the villages of Kennet Valley Parish gather together on The Dene play area in Lockeridge for the return of "Drinks on the Dene".

Despite the relentless rain around 50 parishioners huddled under gazebos and raised a glass of hot mulled wine and spiced apple to bring in the Christmas cheer!

The list of those who helped, donated and organised is long, but here goes:

To the villagers who donated the yummy snacks and Mulled wine (made to a specific village recipe given to the organisers) and the Parish Council for funding the delicious local apple juice and more snacks.

Thank you to the owners of Dene House for funding the tree purchased from the Church Christmas Tree Sale. To Dougal Oliver for his time and expertise in erecting and securing the tree which had to survive some very strong winds.

Thank you to those local residents who donated lights and baubles and a very special thanks to the Reception pupils from Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary School who came out and decorated the tree with decorations they had made themselves, what a splendid job they did!

Thank you to all those who helped with loans of gazebos, tents, camping stoves, tables (as well as putting them up/down!), served drinks and fetched and carried.

Finally, thanks must go to Racheal and Sarah, whose idea it was to restart this festive event (first discussed at the village Coronation Picnic last summer.) Just look at what can come from getting together with one's neighbours over a picnic!

A really lovely community led and supported event.

Same again this year??

Oh, yes oh yes please, just without the rain!!!



Learn to Swim at the Blue Lagoon, Avebury in 2024!

To enquire about lessons with one of our swimming schools, contact:

Turtle Tots Zoe on 07926821886,
zoe.barracough@turtletots.com

Lessons on Monday mornings, Tuesday afternoons and Sunday afternoons

Swim Stars Claire on 07737505243,
swimstarsoffice@yahoo.com

Lessons on Monday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons, Thursday afternoons, Saturdays and Sunday mornings

Tri Swim School Carolyn on 07954356421, info@triswimschool.com
Lessons on Fridays

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previously played:
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Espace Léo Ferré, Monaco
The Bedford, Balham
The Spice of Life, Soho

A Night Of JAZZ FUNK
LIVE At The AvebuRY
Social CenTre
10/02/24

tickets available at the Avebury Community Shop or through the Tye family
contact: samrtye@gmail.com 07861743049

Avebury Social Centre
is delighted to present an evening
with local musicians:

J V N O & **Sammy Till-Vattier**

(*Review comments: "...JVNO set the stage of the Monaco Summer Concert on fire!" & "JVNO (pronounced Juno) were sublimely united ... confident showmanship... given time these guys are seriously heading places"

"...Elton-like pianist **Sammy Till-Vattier** ... self-penned marvels ...akin to Bowie in subject matter")

Saturday 10th February

8.00pm

Tickets: £6

(from Avebury Community Shop & the Tye family see poster)
(Shop purchases cash/cheque only)

[Entry by advance ticket only.
No tickets on the door]



News from the National Trust

February 2024

Flooding at Avebury Update

The site is now open again following the flooding at the beginning of January. Unfortunately, the manor was more significantly impacted and conservation specialists are currently assessing the damage. It is too early to predict when the house will reopen, however, we expect it to be closed for several months. Regular updates on restoration and repairs will be provided through Upper Kennet News.

Car park to be resurfaced

Work has begun to resurface the main visitor car park, which should be completed by the end of February. There will be a reduction in parking spaces while the work is carried out, but we don't expect this to cause any issues during this relatively quiet season.

Toilet refurbishments

Getting ready for the new season, we are in the process of refurbishing both our visitor toilet blocks. Work on the High Street toilets has been completed and these will be open for visitors whilst the work on the farmyard toilets is done. We expect both toilet blocks to be looking as good as new by the end of February.

Getting in touch with us

Unfortunately, due to the flooding, the Estate Office is currently closed. If you would like to get in touch with us in person, please come and see us at the Alexander Keiller Museum, which is open daily between 10am and 4pm, or alternatively do get in touch via avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk.

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swim stars

We run classes for all standards of swimmers from 4 to 12 years old at our venues in Swindon, Avebury and Bourton.

We follow the Swim England Learn to Swim and Reward Programme Stages 1-7 including Distance Awards. This progressive, structured approach means that we can build on children's progress to teach strokes and develop their all round water skills and confidence.

We have been successfully teaching 4-12 year olds for over 15 years and have a wealth of experience of supporting children with different needs and swimming backgrounds including learning and physical disabilities.



www.swimstars.org.uk

Avebury Parish Council

We don't have a meeting in January so our next will be on Tuesday 6th February, 7.30 pm in the Social Centre, High Street, Avebury.

Following the flooding after Storm Henk there are grants that anyone who suffered property damage can apply for and support for removing flood damaged items. In the first instance you should contact Wiltshire Council on stormhenksupport@wiltshire.gov.uk

and more information here: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8670/Council-advises-any-residents-and-businesses-affected-by-recent-flooding-to-apply-for-grant-funding>

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON COMMUNITY HALL

Registered Charity No 1199011

Interest in the hall continues to exceeded our expectations with regular bookings being made. Our Coffee and Cake Warm Hub Saturday morning events have proved popular and the addition of bacon and sausage rolls with other savoury items a great success. Toys and games for children, who are most welcome.

The next event will be Saturday February 24th 2024 at 10.30 am. Please come along and meet friends and neighbours for a convivial chat.

Now that The AV system has been successfully installed we are going to offer **Film Nights at the Hall**. Please visit our website wmch.club or follow us on Facebook. For details

Hall Bookings can be made by e mailing wmch-booking@hotmail.com. Please follow us on our Website wmch.club and on Facebook

Hiring Rates November 2022

General Hirers	Per Hour	WM & BB Residents	Per Hour
Weekday/evening	£15	Weekday/evening	£10
Weekend day/ evening	£17	Weekend day/evening	£12
Repeat Groups		Repeat Groups	
Weekday	£13	Weekday	£9
Weekend	£15	Weekend	£10
		Church/ Village Club	£9

The trustees reserve the right to review the charges regularly.

The trustees reserve the right to apply a security deposit. The security deposit will be refunded only after a post booking inspection of the hall. If the hall is left in an unsatisfactory condition with additional cleaning required or if there is any damage to the fabric, fixtures, or fittings then part or all of the deposit may be retained. Any decision taken by the trustees with regard to this matter are final



KENNET VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk

clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk

Tel: 07897 797208

CHRISTMAS DRINKS ON THE DENE

The Parish Council were delighted to support this Parish wide event held on 10th December 2023, a separate report has been made in this issue of UKN. If you are thinking of organizing a community event and would like the Parish Council to consider supporting, please contact the Parish Clerk.

CASUAL VACANCIES – NEW COUNCILLORS REQUIRED

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council, one for the Fyfield Ward and one for West Overton. This is a great opportunity to support your local community. The Council meets bi-monthly on a Monday evening in the Kennet Valley Hall.

POLITE REMINDER – PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Complaints have been received of dog fouling in Lockeridge and West Woods, please pick up after your dog. Always take bags with you when out walking and do not leave them to pick up later, they do not look pretty decorating trees, can cause fatalities if ingested by cattle and a very nasty infection called toxocarasis in humans.

FLOODING

Following the unprecedented weather conditions on 5th January that saw the rivers banks burst in each of our villages rendering all exits from Lockeridge and West Overton onto the A4 impassable, the Parish Council would like to express their sincere sympathy for all those affected and in particular those whose properties were flooded.

The Parish Council would like to assure you we are doing everything we can to correspond and arrange meetings with Wiltshire Council and Thames Water to see what improvements can be made and measures put in place to try and prevent the reoccurrence of this awful situation.

Thank you to those residents who spent the day guiding the traffic away from the flooded bridges.

Finally, we would like to extend our sympathy to all those outside of our Parish who suffered as a result of the flooding as we are well aware there were many other homes and businesses badly affected.

General guidance form Wiltshire Council on preparing for emergencies is available here:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-planning-for-an-emergency>

Emergency numbers

- Wiltshire Council's emergency number is 0300 456 01000
- Thames Water – 0800 009 3652 (0800 316 6899 (minicom /

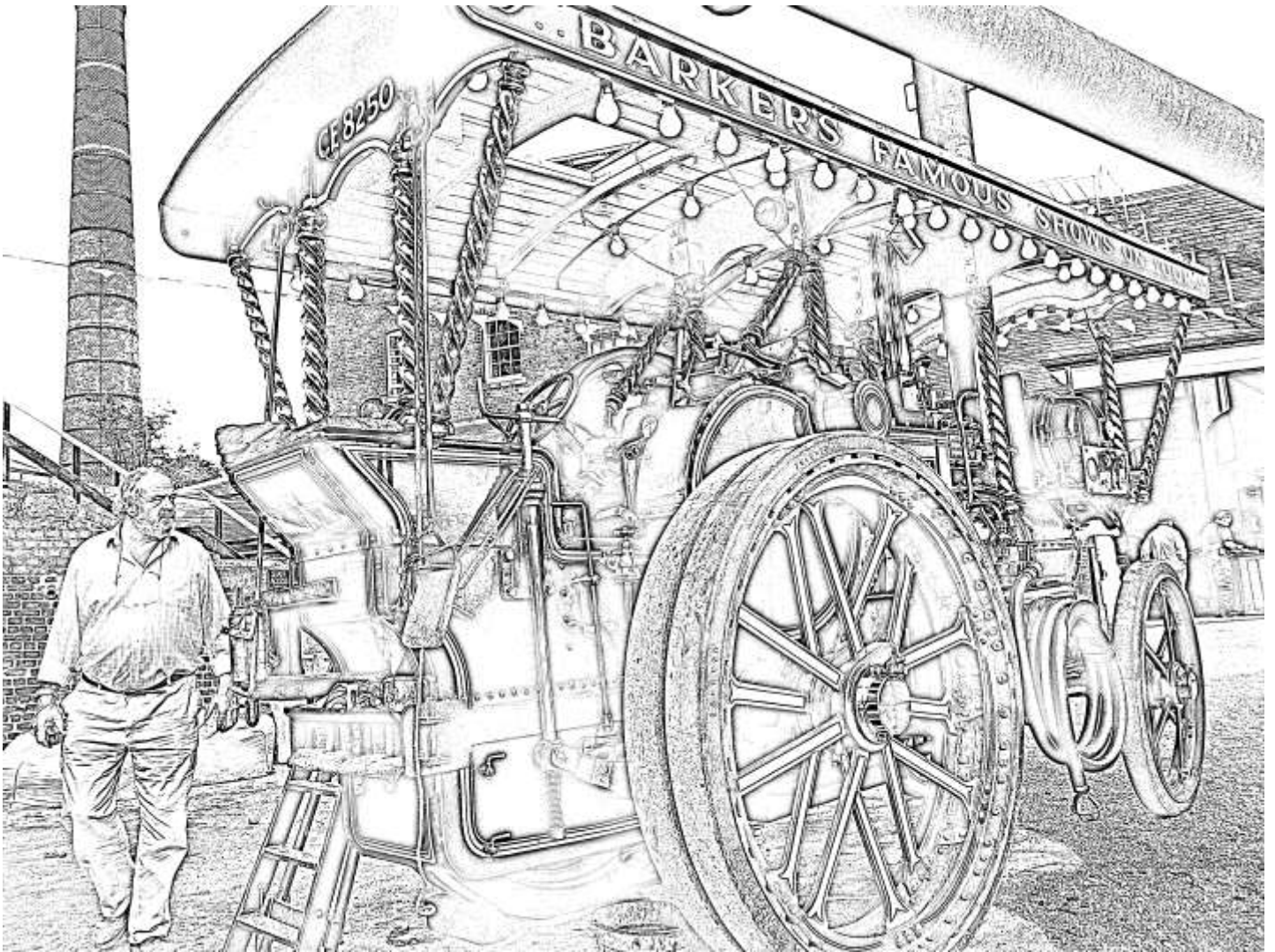
textphone)

Please check your utility company for emergency contact details

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next full Parish Council meeting is **Monday 11th March 2024 at 6.30pm** in the **Kennet Valley Hall**. As always members of the public are most welcome to attend – we look forward to seeing you there.

The Annual Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 13th May at 6.30pm in the Kennet Valley Hall. Further details will follow in the March & April editions.





Some images to colour from a steam gala and the Kennet & Avon Canal. Take a photo of the finished result and send back to editor@upperkennetnews.co.uk for publication in a future edition.

Above is the beam gallery at the worlds oldest working steam powered beam engine still able to do the work it was built for in 1809 - Crofton Beam Engines. Crofton Wilts.

www.croftonbeamengines.org

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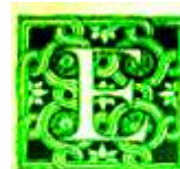
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anya.earthwise@googlemail.com

WHO'S WHO in the Parish of Upper Kennet

RECTOR: REV'D MARIA SHEPHERDSON

01672 539643

The Rectory, 27 High Street, Avebury, SN8 1RF

Email: revmariashpherdson@outlook.com

If you require a priest in an emergency and are unable to contact Rev'd Maria please telephone one of the churchwardens.

BENEFICE SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs Elizabeth Daley 01672 539277
Mr Roderick Palfrey 01793 731067
Mrs Sibella Laing 01672 861600
Mrs Claire Stiles 01793 731620
Mr Graham Kitchen 01672 861798
Mrs Alison Andre 01672 539641 (also a Lay Pastoral Assistant)
Mrs Angharad Hughes 07771 615534
Mr Magnus Thompson

sibella.laing@outlook.com
c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk
graham@grahamkitchen.com>

LICENSED LAY MINISTER (PTO)

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

BENEFICE OFFICE: Anne Robinson, Sophie Roberts (Mon-Thurs, 10am-1pm)

Address: St Michael & All Angels Church, Church Hill, West Overton, Marlborough, SN8 4ER

Tel: 01672 861786 e-mail: upperkennetchurches@gmail.com

BENEFICE WEBSITE: www.kennet8.org.uk

CHURCHWARDENS AVEBURY

Mrs Maureen Dixon 01672 539690
Mrs Sandra Hues 01672 539444
Mrs Helen Vickers 01672 539482
Mr Graham Kitchen 01672 861798
Mrs Jo Snape 01672 861267
Mrs Susan Rogers 01672 861374
Vicky Evans 01672 861622
Ms Penny Gold 01672 539158
Mrs Claire Stiles 01793 731620
Mr Peter Barry 01793 731589
Mrs Gill Crabtree 07774 424125
Mr Robert Fitzpatrick 01793 739156
Mr Peter Barry

shues01@hotmail.com
brian.helenvickers@googlemail.com
graham@grahamkitchen.com
Josiesnape@aol.com
sjrogers44@gmail.com
bixevans@gmail.com
goldpennygold@aol.com
c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk
peter17.barry@gmail.com
gill.crabtree1@gmail.com
fitzpatrickrobert16@gmail.com

EAST KENNETT

WEST OVERTON

FYFIELD

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON

WINTERBOURNE BASSETT

BROAD HINTON

PCC SECRETARY:

LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEES - SECRETARIES AVEBURY

EAST KENNETT, FYFIELD & WEST OVERTON TBC

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON

WINTERBOURNE BASSETT

BROAD HINTON

Mrs Michaela Lambert 07953 855621
Mr Philip Scott 01672 539104
Rose Barclay
Mrs Liz Palfrey 01793 731067

mrs.michaela.lambert@gmail.com
philipscott2@me.com
rosebarclay@gmail.com
lizpalfrey@btinternet.com

MAGAZINES

UPPER KENNET NEWS in Fyfield, West Overton, East & West Kennett, Beckhampton, Avebury Trusloe, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton & Berwick Bassett:

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

davidthroup@aol.com

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

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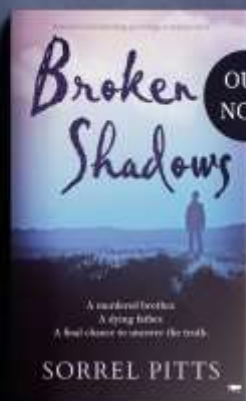
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