



UPPER KENNET NEWS

February 2026

Published by the Upper Kennet Parochial Church Council

Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 83 Sandra Tremeer
£75 Number 45 John Evans
£50 Number 54 Mark Beverley

(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

Baptism

Anna Elizabeth Mitchell Broad Hinton
21st December 2025

Burial of Ashes

June Mary Durston West Overton
16th December 2025

100 Club

Draw Results for January

| | | | |
|-----|--------|----|--------------|
| 1st | £50.00 | 95 | Barry Jago |
| 2nd | £37.00 | 37 | David Taylor |
| 3rd | £25.00 | 10 | Greg Hallam |
| 4th | £13.00 | 41 | Martyn Meeks |

(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

Can you give yourself 25 minutes a fortnight?

Just to relax, turn off, and forget the trials and stresses of life, and everyday pressures, and to enjoy a time of peace, calm and silent reflection. Every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at East Kennett Church from 6.00 to 6.25pm we hold a Taize meditation service: a chance to just sit quietly and relax and enjoy the silence and the peace by candlelight, with a background of occasional singing - often accompanied by guitar playing, plus a few words of wisdom and brief prayers - but mainly peace and calm. No complicated service to follow, just peace and relaxation.

Put these dates in your diary and drop in to join us when you feel like it:

Wednesday 4th February,
Wednesday 18th February &
Wednesday 4th March

Rector's Letter



The Snowdrop

Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time,
Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the May time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!



Lord Tennyson

I have just completed my first year living in Avebury as Rector of the Upper Kennet parishes.

It has been a year of both extreme personal highs and personal challenges but it certainly hasn't been boring! One big challenge was trying to get to know so many people all at once but it has been a pleasure to make lots of new friends.

Winter is by no means over but the promise of spring calls to our imaginations. Nature's message to us this month is encapsulated in the beautiful image of the delicate snowdrop. Its determined spear-like shoots push their way up through the hard, cold earth while the delicate flowers shelter momentarily under a green hood before dropping their lamp-like buds, heads bowed, looking almost apologetic for blooming so early in the season. Shy to proclaim their promise of new life arising out of the bone hard soil. And yet fully aware of their prophetic role as they open their tiny trumpets of proclamation.

This acknowledgement of new life is celebrated in the Christian church with Candlemas and the Presentation of the Christ Child, the baby Jesus, taken into the Temple for blessing. The old faithful priest, Simeon, who has been waiting for this moment, proclaims and prophecies who this child is "a light to lighten the Gentiles (that's all us ordinary folk of past, present and future) and the glory of thy people Israel." Jesus begins small and sacred, like a snowdrop, but will embody the great powers of a season to come, that will transform us and the world forever.

Another figure that looms large at this time of year is Brigid. Our local pagan friends celebrate her as a Celtic Goddess and hold their festivities of Imbolc on 1st February. She is also celebrated as a Christian Saint - St Brigid of Kildare. There is much folklore around her including the story that she had a vision and was transported to the scene of the nativity where she became the "Muime Chriod" the foster mother of the Christ child. In another version Brigid or Bride was the daughter of poor pious parents, and the serving-maid in the inn of Bethlehem before aiding Mary in the birth of Christ. It is a season of new life coming into the world and needing to be held and protected and nurtured and blessed.

It's a good time then to ask God to bless our new year as it slowly comes into being, full of promise and potential. We sit with it held in our arms close to our heart and dream of what our new year may hold, full of promise.

Every blessing
Jonathan - the Rector.

Upper Kennet Churches Home Visits & Home Communion

Please contact the Church Office if you would like one of our Pastoral Team to come and visit you or if you cannot get to church and would like Home Communion.

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

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 |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 February Candlemas | <u>8.30 am</u> Holy Communion | | | | | <u>10.30 am</u> Morning Service | <u>10 am</u> Parish Communion |
| Wednesday 4 February | | | <u>6 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé) | <u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service | | | |
| 8 February 2 nd Sunday before Lent | | <u>10 am</u> Morning Service | | <u>10 am</u> Parish Communion | | | |
| Wednesday 11 February | | | | <u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service | | | |
| 15 February Sunday before Lent | | | <u>8 am</u> Holy Communion | | <u>10 am</u> Parish Communion | | <u>10 am</u> Morning Prayer |
| Ash Wednesday 18 February | | | <u>6 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé) | <u>10.30 am</u> Service of Holy Communion with Ashing | | | |
| 22 February Lent 1 | | <u>10 am</u> Parish Communion | | | | | |
| Wednesday 25 February | | | | <u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service | | | |
| 1 March Lent 2 | <u>8.30 am</u> Holy Communion | | | | | <u>10.30 am</u> Morning Service | <u>10 am</u> Parish Communion |

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 St. James

The church clock which serves the whole village needs essential repairs to continue working as it has since 1883!

If you feel able to make a donation towards this work (which will cost over £5,000 plus VAT) we would be extremely grateful. Please make any payment to PCC Avebury sort code 309263 account number 01399579 with reference of your name - clock.

Please contact me, Lizziedaley@icloud.com or 077110082308 with any queries or for further information.

Thank you

Readings

1 February – Gold or White
Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Candlemas
Malachi 3.1-5
Psalm 24 [1-6] 7-end
Hebrews 2 14-end
Luke 2.22-40

8 February – Green
2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1.1-2.3
Psalm 136 *or* Psalm 136.1-9,
23-end
Romans 8.18-25
Matthew 6.25-end

15 February – Green
Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 24.12-end
Psalm 22 *or* 99
2 Peter 1.16-end
Matthew 17.1-9

22 February – Purple
1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5.12-19
Matthew 4.1-11

1 March – Purple
2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12.1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4.1-5, 13-17
John 3.1-17

The late Margaret Smart

Margaret Smart died on 6th January at home
at Rawlins Park, Avebury.

West Overton Church – Spectacles left here at Christmas

Pair of black framed spectacles in a dark blue
case patterned with grey lines.

COFFEE MORNING at WEST OVERTON CHURCH

on
**SATURDAY
31 JANUARY**

from
10 am - 12 noon

**Any donations of cakes,
produce and plants 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.

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.

Coffee Shop Manager (Part-Time) Mustard Seed, Marlborough

We are looking for a warm and capable Coffee Shop Manager to lead the café within our small Christian bookshop in Marlborough. The role is for **18 hours a week (including at least 2x6 hr days behind the counter)**.

The successful applicant will be in sympathy with the Christian ethos of the bookshop and enjoy welcoming and serving the local community. As well as food and drink preparation, responsibilities include overseeing food safety and hygiene, managing a small dedicated team, and organising stock and supplies.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who loves hospitality, community, and creating a friendly, welcoming space.

Interviews 2nd week February; Applications in by Wednesday 3rd Feb.

For further details contact Rachel
mustardseedmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk or collect
from Mustard Seed, Waitrose Car Park, Marlborough.



Avebury Social Centre Soup Lunches Monday 2nd February

12

noon — 2.00pm

**£1 - or donation
of
your choice**

**ALL Welcome from Avebury
& local villages**



If you need transport, call 01672 539253 before the day.

AVEBURY SOCIAL CENTRE

Once again, the main event this last month has been another very successful Pantomime. The run included an extra night and while it was not a total sell out there were very few seats available on the first two nights! It is amazing how many of Avebury village and beyond contribute to this event which is wonderful; and we appreciate the income we have from the many rehearsals they hold during the Autumn.

The quarterly meeting in October included discussion on the heaters, old and new and the need for redecoration and quotes for the same.

Application for grants would be needed before this can proceed.

Our next meeting is at the end of January.

We have further soup lunches to look forward to and a music event to enjoy before the Spring.

Judith Farthing Secretary

LOCKERIDGE ROAD SAFETY

The Parish Council Traffic Group are pleased to announce that we have raised enough money to purchase a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to strengthen our road safety endeavours in Lockeridge.

Following the tragic death of a Lockeridge resident in the village in 2015 as a result of a car accident we were successful in arranging for the 20mph limit throughout the village. Regrettably the new limit was not fully obeyed by some motorists and the Lockeridge Community Speedwatch Team was set up in 2021. They carry out regular patrols and are supported by the Wiltshire Police.

However despite the patrols and the presence of pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists and the lack of a pavement throughout the village, some motorists continue to exceed the speed limit. Our new SID will be a 24/7 reminder to drivers of the village speed limit.

A team of village volunteers has kindly agreed to assist with moving the SID between several sites which have been recommended by Wiltshire Council Highways Department:

- Lockeridge Green near the swings
- 'Old Beasants' Aster Housing association property on the main road through the village
- Overton Road – Kennet Valley Hall
- Ryles Lane layby between Chalky's workshop and Millbridge Motors

Anyone who wishes to volunteer to help both with Speedwatch or SID moving please contact Councillor Jill Turner (jill.turner@kvparishcouncil.org.uk).



National
Trust

National Trust Avebury

Half-term activities at Avebury

Enjoy a range of family-friendly activities this February half-term at Avebury. A free Wild Winter Spotter Trail will be available, where you can tick off birds, plants, animals and seasonal sights and sounds as you discover them around the site. There will also be free arts and crafts activities available in the barn. Younger visitors can also search for robins hiding in the displays in the Alexander Keiller Museum. All activities run from Sat 14 February to Sunday 22 February and there are more details on our website.

We need your help!

As part of the new visitor offer for Avebury Manor, we're planning an illustrated map of Avebury that we need your help to create. We would love for the map to tell the story of the village today, and of the people who call this special place home now. We're looking to pepper the layout with your memories and favourite places or interesting anecdotes. If you would like to be involved, please email amelia.bryan@nationaltrust.org.uk and we will send you the exercise.

Community Tree Planting

Work has begun on an exciting project to create a new nuttury in Avebury Manor Garden. Volunteers from Avebury Parish, together with National Trust volunteers, planted the first hazel trees last month, with more planting sessions being planned. In time, the hazel trees will form a series of arched walkways in the orchard, creating a beautiful visual feature in a peaceful part of the garden. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and energy so far.

Parking permits

The car park on Avebury High Street is owned and managed by the National Trust. Residents of Avebury Parish can apply for a parking permit by emailing avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk with proof of address and their vehicle registration number.

Free entry and getting in touch

Avebury Parish residents will continue to receive free entry to Avebury Manor, Avebury Manor Garden, and the Alexander Keiller Museum throughout 2026. Simply show proof of address at the barn on arrival. If you need to contact us, please email avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk or visit the museum during opening hours.

A Village Education

The history of East Kennett school
and

The History of the School at Lockeridge

Copies available - £5 each

Ruth Lamdin

ruth.lamdin@gmail.com

01672 861550

Avebury Tower News

First, I hope that my Christmas and New Year wishes for readers came true. Personally one of mine "surfaced" when an Avebury resident expressed an interest in learning to ring. I will say no more for now since over the years we have had some false starts - but if this "sticks" it will be so nice to get a replacement for Michele Lomas departure from Avebury. Michele will be missed personally since we have rung together for the past 30 odd years, but also she was one of the few local ringers available to ring for services at Avebury. I might also mention that Michele invited us bellringers to a party she was holding shortly before Christmas at her new home in Bratton. In fact, only Helen and I plus Kathryn and Andy Miller (from Calne) were free to go at such a busy time, but we were given a tour of the Lomas' spacious new home in between feasting! Talking of parties, the six ringers who attended the Tuesday evening practice on 16th December finished half an hour early, and repaired to the warm lounge of our house opposite the Church gate for our annual bellringers drinks and nibbles. To get these benefits, all you potential new

ringers need only phone me on 01672 539482 to arrange tuition.

Turning to our Seasonal ringing, I can report that we had enough ringers turn up to ring for the services mentioned in January's Kennet News. Rather than a lengthy list of ringers for each service, I can report that we had 6 ringers for the Carol service on Sunday 21st, 5 for the Crib service on Christmas Eve and 6 to ring the old year out and the new in. The ringers were Kathy Davies (our newest learner now good enough to ring with us), Andy and Kathy Miller (from Calne - extra thanks for coming), Jonathan Stubbs, and from the Tye family Sean, his father Bruce (still ringing regularly at Devizes) and sons James and Samuel (back from University for the season). Your correspondent completed the list.

As a postscript and because it involved me, readers might like to know how international the Upper Kennet News has become with modern worldwide communications. I say this in the knowledge that my article was emailed to David Throup - in New Zealand! David then assembled out there the various inputs for the February edition.

Brian Vickers

Lockeridge Christmas on the Dene

We'd like to Thank Mr & Mrs Smyth, residents of Lockeridge who provided the Christmas Tree on The Dene again this year. To Dougal Oliver who secured the tree in place for us.

Also, to everyone who came and supported the 'Drinks on the Dene' in December. Watch this space for a Summertime get



FARMERS' MARKET

Sunday 22nd February
Broad Hinton Village Hall
11am - 1pm

Free
Entry



Pete's MicroBakery
real bread, artisan sourdough
Pipp & Co. doughnuts
Grove Farm Butchery organic meats,
wild venison
Roger The Greengrocer fruit & veg
cheese, eggs
Refill Station plastic free household
D & P Salter preserves, pickles,
plants, cakes
Sugar Garden Boutique sweets
Hartshill Honey local bee products
Amy Levin Chocolatier
Bolts' Deli pet treats

Pete's MicroBakery
Pre-order Option
Contact Adam Gilmore
07969 290124
adam.gilmore@outlook.com

Free
Café



Towards a new
community-owned
café & shop
in Broad Hinton

bhwbparishcouncil.org.uk/shop

WHITE HORSE OPERA

COSI FAN TUTTE

BY
W A MOZART



Avebury Social Centre SN8 1RF

Friday 27th February 7.30pm

Bar available. Tickets £15 from

Avebury Community Shop

Cash or cheque only &

www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera

CHARITY NO. 1194308

Avebury Parish Council

www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/

Councillor Update

We would like to express its heartfelt thanks to Mike Bedford for his outstanding service and dedication over more than twenty years on the Council. Mike has now chosen to step down after decades of committed work for our community, and we are deeply grateful for all he has contributed. If you're interested in joining the Parish Council:

- Contact the parish clerk: Reach out to Emma Watson at clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.
- Attend a meeting: Join us at our next council meeting to see how we operate and discuss current issues.
- Express your interest: Let us know about your interest in serving, and we'll guide you through the application or co-option process.
- Your voice matters. Join us in making Avebury an even better place to live, work, and visit.

Becoming a Parish Councillor

This is a rewarding way to serve and shape the future of our villages.

We currently have 1 vacancy on the Parish Council. If you feel moved to apply, please read below for details.

So, what does a parish councillor do?

Parish councillors are local residents who volunteer their time to represent the interests of the community. Their responsibilities include:

- Decision-making - Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered, and what policies should be implemented by attending meetings and committees.
- Monitoring - Councillors ensure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by monitoring how well things work.
- Getting involved locally - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities often depend on what a given councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

Why join?

Serving as a parish councillor offers the opportunity to:

- Influence decisions that affect your local area.
- Work with a team dedicated to preserving the heritage and wellbeing of our parish.
- Gain insights into local governance and community development.
- Contribute to projects that make a tangible difference.

Who can apply?

To become a parish councillor, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any member state of the European Union.
- Meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Be registered as a local government elector for the parish.
 - Have occupied land or premises in the parish as an owner or tenant for the past 12 months.
 - Have had your principal or only place of work in

the parish for the past 12 months.

- Have resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it for the past 12 months.

Rawlins Defibrillator

Avebury Parish Council is pleased to confirm that the new public defibrillator has now been installed and is ready for use. We would like to thank everyone involved in supporting this important community health resource. Please note we are still waiting for confirmation that the defibrillator has been registered with the 999 service. This means that if you call 999 at the moment, the operator may not direct you to it automatically - so please remember to tell them it is available. what3words location: shot.developed.instructs

Playground Update

We're sorry to say the playground remains closed, and we apologise again for the delay in getting this open for everyone. The installation company is currently waiting for delivery of the relevant parts so they can return to site and complete the repairs. As soon as the parts arrive, we've been assured the work will be scheduled as a priority. Please be assured the Parish Council is working hard to get this resolved as quickly and safely as possible, and we will share a further update as soon as we have one. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Village Litter Pick – Save the Date!

Let's give Avebury a fresh start for spring! Join us for our annual Village Litter Pick on Saturday 28 February 2026.

We'll meet at 10am in the High Street car park. We'll provide bin bags and litter-picking equipment - just bring your own gloves.

Whether you can spare 20 minutes or the whole morning, every pair of hands helps. Bring a friend, meet your neighbours, and help keep our village looking its best.

Meet your Councillors

Angela Norman



Angela has lived in the Kennet Valley for nearly 30 years - 15 in Lower Fyfield and the last 13 in Avebury - and has always been an active member of the local community. Over the years, she's served on the nursery school committee, been a parent governor at Kennet Valley School, joined the PCC, and contributed to the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature project. Now retired after 28 years of running a business in Marlborough with her husband, Angela brings her energy and experience to the Parish Council. A passionate advocate for the natural world, she never tires of daily walks with her Norfolk Terrier, Ziggy, through the landscape she calls home. A keen amateur wildlife photographer, Angela is most inspired by the wildlife on her doorstep. Her recent road trip along the east coast of Australia left her with a thirst for more adventure - and a bucket list that's growing by the day.

Annual Precept - What did the Parish Council decide?

The Parish Council approved a precept demand for 2026/27 of £22,500.

What does this mean for households?

For a Band D property, the parish element of the Council Tax will be £97.10 for the year, up from £64.57 last year. That is an increase of £32.53.

Why has the Council kept the precept low until now?

In recent years the Council has been able to keep the annual precept down by using unallocated reserves (savings held in the bank). This has helped cover

rising costs without increasing the precept each year.

Why are unallocated reserves lower now?

Those reserves have reduced because they have been used to pay for village priorities and improvements, such as:

- contribution towards road safety initiatives
 - work to the playground and community facilities
 - new and replacement bins
 - planters and planting around the village
 - replacement and refurbishment of benches and noticeboards
- other maintenance and day-to-day costs that help keep the village looking its best

Why increase the precept now?

This is the time of year Parish Councils and other local councils set their annual precept for the new financial year, which starts in April. This increase is intended to make funding more sustainable, so the Council can meet ongoing running and staffing costs year after year.

How does Avebury compare nationally?

For context, the average parish council precept in England for 2025/26 was £92.22, and it is projected to rise to £97.75 bringing us inline with the national average.

Where can I find out more?

Residents are welcome to come along to Parish Council meetings or contact the Clerk with any questions.

Update from Wiltshire Council: Parish Steward Visits

We have received the following update from Wiltshire Council:

Due to the exceptionally high volume of pothole repairs required across the county, Wiltshire Council has agreed to temporarily suspend parish steward visits from Wednesday 14 January until the end of January, or until the situation becomes more manageable.

Wiltshire Council has advised that there will be a dedicated crew available to respond to any urgent or emergency issues within the parish during this period - so please do keep reporting any issues as and when they arise through MyWilts if you don't have access to this service through us. They have thanked residents for their understanding and patience while they address these challenges, and hope to resume regular steward visits in February.

Defib Refresher Training

There will be a free defibrillator awareness session with South Western Ambulance Service on Saturday 14 March at 10.30am. The session is open to everyone in the parish and will cover how to use a public defibrillator and what to do in an emergency. We'd encourage anyone who can to come along - the more people who feel confident, the better prepared our community will be.

Coming Up

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 | 7.30pm | Avebury Social Centre

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 | 7.30pm | Avebury Social Centre

Tuesday 7th April 2026 | 7.30pm | Avebury Social Centre

Contact your Parish Council

You can find details of how to contact individual councillors on our website, many of which are also on the Community What's App group.

Alternatively you can contact our Clerk:

Emma Watson, Clerk





Kennet Valley Parish Council

Clerk's details: Alison Ingham
clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk

Tel: 07897 797208

Website: www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk

THANK YOU FROM KENNET VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Our Parish Councillors very much appreciate the efforts of all those who work with us to enrich the lives of everybody in our community. This includes, among others, the Emergency Team, daily defibrillator checkers, the Lockeridge Community Speedwatch team, children who organise the Communi-Teas at the school etc and those who just kindly check in on elderly and vulnerable neighbours from time to time. Many thanks to all ... and a special seasonal thank you to the residents of Lockeridge who funded the Dene Christmas tree and lights again this year and those who organised the 'Drinks on the Dene' event.

CAN YOU HELP? – HANDYMAN SOUGHT

Please contact the Clerk - details above – if you could help with ad-hoc repairs (eg to signs, playground equipment) and maintenance jobs, such as painting etc.

PARISH PRECEPT 2026-27

The Parish Council precept is a tax levied by Parish Councils on local residents to fund budget requirements for community services and operations. It is added to the Wiltshire Council tax bill and shown alongside other additions such as police, fire and social care. In 2025-26 Kennet Valley Councillors drew on financial reserves to help fund the precept and reduce the contribution made by parishioners. A small increase is now proposed for 2026-27 to ensure that funds are available for the day-to-day work of the Parish Council and to maintain reserves for emergencies and special projects.

LOCKERIDGE ROAD SAFETY

The Parish Council Traffic Group continues to follow up on road safety issues across the Parish and is pleased to announce that we have raised enough money to purchase a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to strengthen our road safety endeavours in Lockeridge. Following the tragic death of a Lockeridge resident in the village in 2015 as a result of a car accident we were successful in arranging for the 20mph limit throughout the village. Regrettably the new limit was not fully obeyed by some motorists and the Lockeridge Community Speedwatch Team was set up in 2021. They carry out regular patrols and are supported by Wiltshire Police.

However, despite the patrols and the presence of pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists and the lack of a pavement throughout the village, some motorists continue to exceed the speed limit. Our new SID will be a 24/7 reminder to drivers of the village speed limit.

A team of village volunteers has kindly agreed to assist with moving the SID between several sites which have been recommended by Wiltshire Council Highways Department:
Lockeridge Green near the swings
Old Beasants' Aster Housing association property on the main road through the village
Overton Road – Kennet Valley Hall
Ryles Lane layby between Chalky's Workshop and Millbridge Motors

Anyone who wishes to volunteer to help both with Speedwatch or SID moving, please contact Councillor Jill Turner at jill.turner@kvparishcouncil.org.uk

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE IN WILTSHIRE

The mobile signal coverage in our Parish is poor with little or no availability in many areas. This situation is not only inconvenient but also presents a risk especially in situations where power cuts cause broadband and Digital Voice telephones to fail.

Wiltshire Council is conducting a survey about mobile coverage across the county to enable them to map the situation across the entire county and take further action with the Mobile Network Operators. The more data they have, the stronger the evidence they can present and residents are invited to complete a short survey – just type Digital Wiltshire in your browser to access the survey, thank you.

DIARY DATES

ANNUAL DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING SESSION SATURDAY, 16TH MAY 2026 – PLACES AVAILABLE

Knowing how to use a defibrillator and the basics of CPR could save a life. The annual Parish defibrillator and CPR training session will be held on Saturday, 16th May 2026 from 10.00 to 12 noon at Kennet Valley Hall. Parishioners are invited to attend including anyone who has attended previously. Please contact jill.turner@kvparishcouncil.org.uk to reserve a place.

MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting takes place on Monday, 9th March 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.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on Monday, 11th May 2026 at 6.30pm at Kennet Valley Hall. The purpose of the Annual Parish meeting is for Parish Councillors to report on the Parish Council's activities over the past twelve months. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions about any issues relating to the parish. The Annual Parish meeting will be followed by a Parish Council Meeting.

With best wishes for 2026
Alison, Clerk to Kennet Valley Parish Council

Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200

Opening Hours
10am – 4pm every day

Slow but steady

This is the quietest time of the year for the Avebury Community Shop, so here's a reminder that we appreciate any visitors continuing to keep the till ringing, especially when the weather is grim!

As many of you know, this not-for-profit enterprise is run entirely by volunteers (plus two managers) and, even when the weather warnings are out, we take pride in staying open in all conditions. Why battle through floods on your way to a supermarket if you can find what you want in your local shop – and support your community at the same time?

Don't forget that we can order in many things that you might want. Joints of meat, for instance, can be delivered to the shop by Sumblers if they have two or three days' notice. And if there is a particular fruit or veg you are after but it's not in stock, it can also be ordered in.

As for bread, in the freezer upstairs there are sourdough loaves, organic brown bloomers, onion bloomers, mini baguettes and more. Delicious after a short time in your oven. Happy shopping!

Imbolc celebrations

One of the best times for the Avebury shop in January and February is the festival of Imbolc, connected to St Brigid's day, on February 1st. A picture of St Brigid's Cross on the right. Whether you're a druid, a pagan, a Christian or none of the above, it's a significant time in the calendar.



The shop prepares for the celebrations by ordering in extra supplies of vegan and vegetarian produce, plenty of mead (not just the traditional kind but other flavoured varieties), as well as local beers and ciders. Let's hope the weather is kind.

Half-day closing

A note for your diary: on Saturday February 28th the shop will be closed at 1pm for the annual stock take.

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

The New Inn

& Elderbrook House



News from Your Local 01672 539793 thenewinn@elderbrookhouse.com

Thank you for your ongoing support!

We've had an incredible year and we are so grateful to everyone in the local community who continues to support us.



Highlights of 2025

Cabbage Sunday

This year's event was a huge success - and for once, it didn't rain! With fabulous stalls, fab auction donations and wonderful community spirit we raised £2932.70 - which we are told is a record!

Please note The New Inn will be closed 2nd - 4th January

The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton, SN4 9NW

'The Hayloft' is complete!

We are delighted to share that The Hayloft renovation is finished and now open for bookings.

Local's Tip: Contact us directly for a local's rate if you have friends or family visiting.

A Year of Fantastic Events

From our *Alice in Wonderland Themed Supper Club* to *Monthly Quizzes* (with proceeds supporting our lovely church!), it has been a joy hosting such wonderful gatherings.

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

Saturday February 21st Coffee Morning
10.30am – 1.00pm

Saturday February 28th Film Night
The Thursday Murder Club
Doors open 6.30 Film starts at 7.15

Thursday March 19th Pizzalola
From 4.30

Saturday March 21st Coffee Morning
10.30am – 1.00pm

Saturday April 25th Coffee Morning
10.30am – 1.00pm

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.

Kennet Valley Hall Your Community Hub

We would love you to be a part of it

Welcome to the Heart of Our Village!

Our village hall is more than just a building; it's a vibrant hub where memories are made, friendships blossom, and community spirit thrives.

This is a place where our community comes together for events, activities and friendly faces!

This year we celebrate 50 years of Kennet Valley Hall and we want to do it in style! Can you help us make it happen?

Why Get Involved?

- Meet friendly local people
- Feel part of village life
- Make a positive difference in your community
- Help the hall stay active and thriving
- Feel a real sense of pride in where you live
- Enjoy a special discounted rate when you book the hall for your own events such as birthday parties or wedding celebrations

WE NEED YOU!!!

Ways You Can Help

Joining the Social Sub Committee to help plan and organize

Providing ideas and suggestions for what you want to see at **your** village hall

Giving your time to run the events and help with logistics on the day

Get Involved!

If you'd like to contribute your time and skills, please get in touch

No pressure, no heavy commitments – just whatever time you can spare us

Email us at kvhvolunteers@gmail.com or call Martin on 01672-861533

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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 07710 082308

Mr Roderick Palfrey 07799 221816

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

(Mon-Wed, 10am-1pm & Fri 11.30am – 2.30pm)

St Michael and All Angels Church, Church Hill, West Overton, Marlborough SN8 4ER

Parish Website: www.kennet8.org.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

AVEBURY Mrs Sandra Hues 01672 539444 shues01@hotmail.com

Mrs Helen Vickers 01672 539482 brian.helen.vickers@googlemail.com

Mrs Maureen Dixon 01672 539690

BROAD HINTON Mrs Gill Crabtree 07774 424125 gill.crabtree1@gmail.com

Mr Robert Fitzpatrick 01793 739156 fitzpatrickrobert16@gmail.com

EAST KENNETT Mr Graham Kitchen 01672 861798 graham@grahamkitchen.com

Mrs Jo Snape 01672 861267 Josiesnape@aol.com

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

AVEBURY

EAST KENNETT, FYFIELD & WEST OVERTON

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON

WINTERBOURNE BASSETT

BROAD HINTON

Lindie White

Sophie Roberts

Mrs Jenny Scott

Rose Barclay

Mrs Liz Palfrey

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MAGAZINES

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

Editor: David Throup, 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:

Editor: Liz Moakes 07776 188805 3villageslocalnews@gmail.com

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