



# UPPER KENNET NEWS

January 2021

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

## Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 74 David Lawrance  
£75 Number 15 Max Dissanayake  
£50 Number 61 Colin Watts  
£50 Number 83 Sandra Tremeeer

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

If you would like to join the lottery, ring David Snape on 01672 861267 or email: davidwsnape@aol.com

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

## Notice Board

### Funerals

Diana Young 20 November Winterbourne Bassett  
Valerie Cowan 2 December East Kennett  
Harry Green 7 December East Kennett

## Christmas Mini Bazaar at West Overton Church

Although we had to restrict our Bazaar this year to a few stalls outside, it was still a resounding success – we made nearly £1,700.

Fortunately, the rain held off and just left us with the bitter cold!

Not only was it successful financially but also, more importantly, as a community event and it was good to meet so many people.

Thank you to everybody who helped in any way and who came to support us.

Graham Kitchen

“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 7.00 to 7.25pm: 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 6<sup>th</sup> January, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

## View from the Rectory

Last January I wrote about overhearing a woman declare her longing to have 20:20 vision and predict the year ahead – well, I wonder what she might be thinking now a year on. ‘No one expects the Spanish Inquisition’ the Monty Python sketch says, and I feel the same could be said about the pandemic. It is still in full swing, folks, but vaccination offers the world hope. Perhaps as we end this strange year we might take stock of what we want to forget and want we want to hold onto and foster more. Last year I wrote the following words and they have been seen in action in our community in a way we could never have imagined.

*‘If each of us chooses to undertake one small act to make the world a better place in 2020 our droplets of love would become a flood that brings transformation, not destruction... And to make the difference we can where we can in whatever way we can ‘In Our Living Years’.* And... our local communities found ways of supporting the vulnerable, encouraging the lonely and enabling our local business to keep going. The work of the Covid groups, the unity of purpose between sectors of the community, voluntary groups, parish councils, churches and others and the increased awareness of our neighbours is something that cannot be undone. We have been changed as we have been challenged and we know we are better together, and apart. We have, I believe, become aware of what really matters and for the most part there has been a generosity of spirit and openness to being flexible, and a genuine joy in the ‘small wins’ that enabled us to come together safely for Remembrance, for VE day, for a market or two, for worship, in small groups outside the pub, sharing laughter together (loudly) at a distance of 2 metres or more.

And what is it that matters? Being together, being unafraid together, being able to communicate in all ways with each other without distance. Having the freedom we took for granted to get together on a whim. The rediscovery of the countryside around us - ‘I’ve lived here 7 years and this is the first time I have walked the Ridgeway’ – and the realisation of how lucky we are to have it when others are cramped in high-rise flats. That we have a choice when ‘this is all over’ NOT to return to the way it was but to press a reset button and make the things that matter our priority so:

That those we care about know we love them and we say it and show it now

That our communities keep growing in mutual care and respect and welcome

That what we have learned about home working and business working changes and shapes how we use our resources

That the socio-economic gap between north and south is addressed

That our young people whose education was interrupted are seen and valued for their courage and resilience and adaptability more than the grade they get

And that our environment truly becomes a priority and focus that all may share in its bounty and protect its creatures.

Can the 20:20 vision of last year become a 20:21 reality because of our experiences together in the Pandemic?

Ohhh - I would like to have 20:21 vision... and I am praying that together we can ‘Make it so’.

Maria

# UPPER KENNET CHURCHES SERVICES

	St Nicholas FYFIELD	St Michael & All Angels WEST OVERTON	Christ Church EAST KENNETT	St James AVEBURY	St Mary Magdalene WINTERBOURN E MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTERBOURNE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
3 January 2021 Epiphany	9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WEST OVERTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 6 January			7 pm Meditation Service (Taizé)	10.30 am Celtic Communion			
10 January Baptism of Christ	8 AM – HOLY COMMUNION – EAST KENNETT 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – AVEBURY 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 13 January				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
17 January Epiphany 2	9.45 AM - BENEFICE SERVICE - COMMUNION – BROAD HINTON 11 am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 20 January			7 pm Meditation Service (Taizé)	10.30 am Celtic Communion			
24 January Epiphany 3	9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WINTERBOURNE MONKTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 27 January				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
31 January Candlemas	<i>Candlemas: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple</i> 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION - WEST OVERTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 3 February			7 pm Meditation Service (Taizé)	10.30 am Celtic Communion			
7 February 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	8.30 AM – HOLY COMMUNION – FYFIELD 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WINTERBOURNE BASSETT 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						

## 2020 Church Christmas tree sale

I would like to thank everyone who purchased or tried to purchase a christmas tree, it was our best result ever and contributed to a really good event.

We have never had so many people pre-purchase trees and although we tried to order additional trees for sale on the day, the grower was unable to accomate us in time for the sale.

On behalf of the christmas tree team, we wish you a happy christmas and rember it is only 335 days left until the next sale!

David Snape

## Views from the Kennet Valley 2021 Calendar

There has been a great demand for our calendar this year, and we have now sold all our print run.

Thank you to everybody who supported this excellent fund-raising venture.



## Readings

**3 January – Gold or White**

**Epiphany**

Isaiah 60.1-6

Matthew 2.1-12

**10 January – Gold or White**

**Baptism of Christ**

Genesis 1.1-5

Mark 1.4-11

**17 January – White**

**Epiphany 2**

1 Samuel 3.1-10

John 1.43-end

**24 January – White**

**Epiphany 3**

Genesis 14.17-20

John 2.1-11

**31 January – Gold or White**

**Candlemas**

Malachi 3.1-5

Luke 2.22-40

**7 February – Green**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

Colossians 1.15-20

John 1.1-14



Talking Tuesdays  
@ The Rectory  
Avebury

Talk, Eat, Pray  
Lively debate, great refreshments!

Will resume in the New Year, Covid  
restrictions permitting

## Under The Beech Tree

A Space to Breathe



Will resume in the New Year, Covid  
restrictions permitting

## St James' Church, Avebury



**Benefice Communion**  
**9.45 am Sunday**  
**10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**The Plough Service we might usually have after the Wassail will not take place this year in the same way. Instead we will have a shorter Holy Communion service and while the plough will be in church we shall not be able to sing indoors.**

**Bring your tools and seeds for blessing as we sing**

***We Plough the Fields and Scatter***

**outdoors at the end of the service.**

**Celebrate our farming tradition at the start of the new agricultural year.**

## Upper Kennet Churches Winter Crisis Appeal

### Are you able to help?

Six 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 would make a donation if you are able to – perhaps you don't really need your winter fuel allowance, for example.

Please give your donation to a church warden, or send a cheque to Upper Kennet Churches, The Garden Room, 62 Lockeridge, SN8 4EL or by BACS transfer using sort code 30-92-63 – account number 01498496.

Thank you.

### Do you need help?

If you:

- live in one of the Upper Kennet Parishes
- 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 Maria Shepherdson on 01672 539643, 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.



# 2021

## Wassail

### (To or be Blessed)

#### *An exert from the Avebury Plough Play* 2020

*Enter Chinese Knight...*

*I am bold Emperor Corona, from China I do hale;  
I shall mash, slash, bash and trash  
all the world so frail.*

*In comes I St George, a man of great wisdom and leader  
of  
the wisest bravest army ever seen:  
The doctors and the nurses  
those who serve their country and their queen.*

*In comes I the Doctor this year has been a trial,  
not so very much to make a medic smile.  
It would be so very nice  
if you take my advice:  
This year we shall have to run away  
and live to fight another day.*

*In comes I the fool, poor old Sarson Billy,  
but not to take the quacks advice would  
make me silly Billy.  
So good people of Avebury  
If our Oss is Willing,*

*We'll see you all next year (2022)  
When we shall go Wassailing.*

## Avebury Parish Council

Headlines from Avebury Parish Council's  
on-line meetings on 1 December 2020 and  
Planning Committee meeting on 9  
December 2020

**Road safety:** We decided to support the proposal to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph on the A4361 between Beckhampton and Avebury as long as the limit north of the village is also reduced. In parallel a petition available in local shops and online at <http://aveburyparishcouncil.org/> asks Wiltshire Council to bring the limit down to 40mph. Please sign it!

**High Street:** Two additional litter bins have been installed, one in the High Street car park and the other amongst the planters.

**Planning applications:** We supported applications for work to a sycamore tree at Gunsite Lane, to replace windows and doors at the Henge Shop, and to build a garage and lower a ridge height at Sarsen Kennels (these last being adjustments to an application previously supported).

**National Trust update:** We heard that the Trust's operations are returning to their pre-lockdown state although the manor, its garden, the great barn, and the chapel remain closed. The Keiller Museum is due to open in January. We noted that celebration of the winter solstice on 21 December is expected to be low key.

**Play area:** Adopting a phased approach, we decided to start work on improving the play area by installing at least one piece of equipment in the New Year.

**Beckhampton:** We have received a request for a handrail alongside steps leading into the village from the lay-by opposite the Waggon and Horses and decided that, whilst we wanted to help, ownership should be confirmed before further action taken. A replacement mirror and post have been ordered to help drivers negotiating the sharp bend at the west end of the village.

**Handyman:** We agreed to post an advert in this publication for the services of one or more handypersons.

**Budget:** We agreed to increase the precept by £413 in order to allow us to maintain our reserves and to complete local projects. The approximate annual increase for the owner of a mid-rated property is expected to be £1.53.

**Date of next meeting:** 2 February 2021 at 19h30. Residents wishing to participate in this meeting are most welcome to do so.

*Draft minutes of this meeting may be found on the Avebury Parish Council website.*



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PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS  
A HANDYMAN.....**

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CLERK@AVEBURYPARISHCOUNCIL.ORG**



## Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number:  
01672 539200

**Revised Opening Hours 10am – 4pm every day – but see holiday hours below**

### Happy New Year

We wish all our customers and supporters a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support during the last year.

### Christmas/New Year Hours

Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December – 10am – 1pm  
Christmas day 25<sup>th</sup>, Boxing Day 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> December and 28<sup>th</sup> December (Bank Holidays) – Closed  
29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 4pm  
New Year's Eve 31<sup>st</sup> December 10am – 1pm  
New Year's Day - Closed

### Meet the Team



Jane is one of our newest volunteers and started volunteering in November. She wanted to volunteer because she has lived in Winterbourne Bassett for over 20 years but she was working full time. Now that she has retired she liked the idea of being involved in the community and meeting people. Her favourite products are Vicarage Lane cakes (especially lemon drizzle

cake), local milk, Barber's cheese and Sumbler's meats. Since starting in the shop Jane has enjoyed meeting a range of people including tourists and villagers. She has been impressed with the amount and range of goods in the shop and that you could get all your weekly groceries in the shop. Through December Jane has noticed that people are taking advantage of the local artisan beers and wines to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

### Extension of Free Delivery Service

Avebury Community shop will be providing a FREE delivery service of food and other essentials to anyone in our community who is in self isolation due to the Coronavirus. This is an extension of the service we already provide to the elderly and others in our community who are unable to get to the shop. Please call 01672 539200 to arrange a delivery. We would prefer payment by card, but can accept cash on delivery if necessary.

Michele Lomas (Chair of Avebury Community Shop)

## Cleaner Required Kennet Valley Hall

Kennet Valley Hall has a term time cleaning opportunity for 2 hours a week after school on Wednesday afternoons.

This is a paid position and open to both individuals and companies.

Please contact Carolyn on 01672 861373 for more information.

## AVEBURY SOCIAL CENTRE

It was with some relief that the Social centre reopened on December 3rd after the latest closure due to the restrictions of Covid-19. This was celebrated with the privilege of hosting the Marlborough Art Society Exhibition which gave both visitors and locals the opportunity to enjoy viewing their latest endeavours. There was a lovely selection of art to admire – many of local scenes, as well as some pottery and glass pieces and cards. One advantage of Covid was that all visitors were recorded and so we were able to note that there had been a considerable number over the Saturday and more were expected on the Sunday.

Unfortunately there could be no Panto from the Avebury Players this year, but hopefully by the Spring we can look forward to a production of some sort. After a difficult year we do hope that our regular hirers will be able to return with their monthly and/or weekly events soon. The Trustees of the hall are looking to organise considerable repairs to the entrance porch in the Spring which will be expensive but essential so your support will be much appreciated.

**Judith Farthing Secretary**

**Contact: The Booking Clerk**

[@aveburysocialcentre@gmail.com](mailto:@aveburysocialcentre@gmail.com)



## THE NEW INN

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON 01672 539793  
FRIDAY: 5-10PM SATURDAY: 5-10PM SUNDAY: 12-8PM

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Covered Outside  
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### Sunday Roast

We will be continuing our Sunday roasts fortnightly. They will be on 10th and 24th January.

Served 12pm until 3pm.

Please call or email [cw@esurio.ltd](mailto:cw@esurio.ltd) for more details and to book your table. Discount on food if pre-ordered.



### Art Exhibition

We are hosting a rolling art exhibition throughout the year to help celebrate local artists and their talents.

The pieces will be available to view and buy every month.

Watch this space each month to find out information about the individual exhibitions and artists.

### Recycle & Reuse Raffle

Received a gift that you may not use? Instead of putting it in the infamous 'gift cupboard' please send it our way.

Donate new, nearly new or homemade craft/upcycled items for our 'recycle and reuse' raffle by January 17th to help us raise funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Raffle tickets can be bought throughout January with the raffle being held on Sunday 31st.

## Homemade Pub Classics & Weekly Specials

Available to dine in or to takeaway on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 5-8pm. Please call to book/order.

All Sunday Roasts and events are subject to Government Covid 19 guidelines.



## Avebury & District WI report

### December meeting

Having had a successful meeting last month via the wonders of technology we decided to go one better this month! As we were unable to have our usual Christmas lunch meeting due to the current restrictions an alternative entertainment was arranged in the form of a Zoom magic show.

Our speaker and magician was Paul Clancy, a family friend of our President, who first dabbled as a teenager and took up magic full time 15 years ago after a career in the Police Force. Paul gave us a brief history of magic in this country, starting with the foundation in 1905 of the Magic Circle, the best known and oldest of the magical clubs though the International Brotherhood of Magicians has a larger membership. He took us through its development and told us of some of its famous members which include HRH Prince Charles. Women were only admitted in 1991 but there are now nearly 100 lady members including Debbie McGee, wife of Paul Daniels. Paul then demonstrated the art of magic for us, amusing and perplexing us in equal measure with card tricks, the cup and ball trick (favourite of street shysters to con the unwary) and even some distance magic but at least this time I didn't get put in the guillotine!

As the current restrictions on meetings are unlikely to be lifted after Christmas we hope to have a craft activity via Zoom for our January meeting and I will email members with what they will need for this. We sincerely hope that, with the arrival of the vaccine, we will be able to meet by the time our birthday in March comes round but in these difficult times who knows?

I would like to wish all members a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year and particularly to thank my committee for their support throughout the year and hope that we will be able to hold proper meetings very soon

Maggie Lewis  
President, Avebury & District WI

## News from the Tower

I have recently been re-reading a book by Richard Jefferies, a nature writer, who was born on a farm near Coate Water, Swindon, in 1848. His description of entering a church tower climbing the winding stone staircase, the confined space, the arrow slits being choked with cobwebs, the fluttering of Jackdaws in the belfry and the tick of the clock, would sound familiar to most ringers today.

He describes the ringers as 'an independent body, rustic though they may be'. He also suggests that 'when the bells are ringing at Christmas time, go outside, for it is a noble music, remember also that it is music that has echoed from the hills for hundreds and hundreds of years. Rude men as they are, these bell ringers gratefully respond to the least appreciation of their art'. Today, the arrow slits are glazed but are still full of cobwebs; many women ring, and only a few of us are rustics and proud to be! We also like to be appreciated, and it is always lovely to see people from the village waiting near the lychgate, having listened to the New Year being rung in. We look forward to being able to carry on this ancient tradition again when the pandemic is over.

Mary Davidge  
Belfry Correspondent. Tel: 01672 513819



## CURIOSITY COMPASSION COURAGE

Church of England,  
Voluntary Aided School  
[www.kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk)

### Ofsted 'Good school'

What a busy month we've had! We have tried to make the run up to Christmas as festive as we possibly can and by the looks on the children's faces we've succeeded!

So far this month we have produced an online nativity for the families of our lovely children. Each class produced their own part of the Christmas story and the amazing Miss Chalker put it all together to celebrate this special time of year and show case the talents of the school.

We were absolutely delighted within the generosity of our families and the local community who gifted a whopping 495 items for the Trussell Trust Foodbank in Devizes. At a time when the foodbanks are facing unprecedented demand, we were so happy to do our bit to help out. A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

We have also enjoyed our Christmas Jumper day which raised £64 for Children in Need. The children looked amazing and the staff looked equally resplendent, one of whom came dressed as a Christmas pudding!

The final week of schools has been rounded off with the children's Christmas party. Each bubble had their own party on separate days, with the Friends providing an online pantomime and ice-cream in the interval. Party games and party food were provided by the staff, and it was a wonderful end to the term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish every member of our fantastic community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year I personally feel that I can look back on this year and reflect on the many positives that have come out of it. Undeniably it has been the most challenging year I have ever faced working in education, but with the help of unswerving support from my staff, we have managed to gain our Good rating from OFSTED, offer continuous care during the pandemic and have grown as a school and as part of the community.

Enjoy the rest and we will see you in 2021 for what we hope to be more 'normal' circumstances

### Merry Christmas

Mrs Emma Russell, Headteacher 01672 861202

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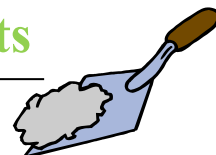
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