



UPPER KENNET NEWS

January 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 99 D. Williams
£75 Number 11 Toby Snape
£50 Number 94 Sandra Tremeeer
£50 Number 5 Laura Feeley

(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

"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 3rd January,
Wednesday 17th January
& Wednesday 31st January.

Kennet Valley Amateur Dramatic Society

presents

The QUEEN of Hearts

Pantomime

Kennet Valley Hall

January 2024

Thursday 25th, 7:30pm

Friday 26th, 7:30 pm

Saturday 27th, 2:30pm & 7:30 pm

Bar and refreshments available

Tickets £8 Adult, £6 Children

Box office opens 2nd January

01672 861423

A View from a Mental Health Chaplain

So, here we are, at the beginning of another New Year! It feels only right to share a message of hope and renewal. For many, these winter months can be a challenging time. The cold, dark and gloomy days with the stark stripping back of nature can make us feel exposed and adrift in the stillness of it all. We may long for the lighter and warmer days of Spring. It is in such times that we can find solace and wisdom in nature. Winter teaches us about the beauty of rest, shedding old layers, and embracing renewal. So, as the Earth rests during winter, cannot we?

As this New Year begins, I gently encourage you to grant yourself the gift of stillness. The Psalms remind us, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). 'Busyness' has undoubtedly become the new normal, and we can struggle to make room for stillness, reflection and contemplation in our lives. Can we be kind with ourselves and inquire, 'who do I arrive as this year?', 'how am I feeling?', 'am I still carrying the burdens of last year?' What would it mean for you to 'let go'? I strongly believe that the more weight we are willing to release during these winter months, the more vibrant and creative our lives can become. Why? When we let go, we let come. We create room for new growth within ourselves. I am reminded of when Jesus said, "no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins" (Mark 2:22).

I wish you a peaceful and rejuvenating start to 2024, and many fruitful opportunities in the year ahead.

Gareth

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.

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
Wednesday 3 January			<u>6.30 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)				
7 January Baptism of Christ Epiphany	<u>8.30 am</u> Prayer Book Communion						<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service
Wednesday 10 January				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
14 January Epiphany 2		<u>10 am</u> Morning Service		<u>10.30 am</u> Plough Sunday Service			
Wednesday 17 January			<u>6.30 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
21 January Epiphany 3			<u>8 am</u> Prayer Book Communion		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service		<u>10 am</u> Morning Prayer
Wednesday 24 January				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			
28 January Candlemas Epiphany 4		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service				<u>11.30 am</u> Morning Service	
Wednesday 31 January			<u>6.30 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion			



Avebury Social Centre

Soup Lunch

Monday 8th January

- 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—



Readings

7 January – Gold or White Epiphany

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

14 January – White Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3.1-10 [11-20]
Except

Avebury
Psalm 139.1-5,12-18
Revelation 5.1-10
John 1.43-end

21 January – White Epiphany 3

Genesis 14.17-20
Psalm 128
Revelation 19.6-10
John 2.1-11

28 January – 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

4 February – Green 2nd Sunday before Lent

Proverbs 8.1,22-31
Psalm 104.26-end
Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

Upper Kennet Churches Winter Crisis Appeal

Are you able to help?

Eight 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 Office, St. Michael & All Angels Church, Church Hill, West Overton, SN8 4ER; or BACS transfer using sort code 30-92-63 (Lloyds Bank) account 01498496 (ref: WCA).

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.

Wassail

(To or be 'Blessed)



We invite you to join us for a traditional folk blessing for our apple trees and land. Noisy children with pots and pans to bang very, very welcome

We shall Wassail, Wassail all over the town (well village actually)

We will bless apple trees throughout the village including the Community Shop, Henge Shop, Avebury Community Orchard and the Avebury Manor Orchard where there will be traditional children's treats with the Lord of the Manor.

We will perform seasonal songs, music, a Plough Play and the Rector will bless the plough in the National Trust farm yard. After which we will all process the plough and present it to Katie and Jonathan Guest and our local farmers for the success of our local farms and the coming harvest. From there the plough will be processed to the Church ready for Sunday's traditional Plough Sunday service.

When: Wassail Saturday 13th January 2024, at 1 pm at the top of Avebury High Street in the Coach House courtyard.

Plough Sunday Church Service 10.30 am, Sunday 14th January 2024 in St James' Church, Avebury.



St James' Church, Avebury

Traditional Plough Sunday Service

with Holy Communion

10.30am, Sunday 14th January 2024

Come to the Wassail on Saturday 1-4pm

Then join us the next day for a traditional

Plough Sunday service

Bring your tools and seeds for blessing as we sing

'We Plough the Fields and Scatter'.

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

Bless the earth and promise to cherish it.

CHRIS MARSH

Debbie, Ryan and Neil would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards and flowers, and for their support at this very sad time.

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





Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200
Opening Hours 10am – 4pm every day

Happy New Year

From all the team at the shop, we wish all our customers and supporters a happy New Year.

Meet the Team



This month we feature one of our newest volunteer Yixuan, who moved to Avebury Trusloe three months ago from Cambridgeshire. Originally, from China, she is well travelled and has moved around the world a lot in the last few years, including living in the Maldives, Fiji and Tonga. She enjoys living in the UK and now wants to settle here. She is a freelance writer and wanted to volunteer as a way to get to know people and to give something back to the community. Yixuan is enjoying

working in the shop and finding the people in Avebury very friendly.

Yixuan's favourite products are the local produce, especially the milk and dairy products.

Volunteers Needed

We still need more people to join the team. Anyone, young or more mature would be welcome to join the team of volunteers. If you would like to consider volunteering, please contact one of our shop managers, Lyn or Martin, on 01672 539200. Full training will be given along with copious tea and coffee and homemade cakes or biscuits

Michele Lomas

News from the Tower

Despite a scare over manning for the practice on 5th December when two of our regular ringers were absent playing in the Avebury Pantomime and a third on birthday duties, seven turned up which is quite enough for a practice night, and with 6 bells to be rung it means that there are no long waits to get a ring, but also one ringer can have a breather. Incidentally the occasional longer silences villagers might notice are caused by Avebury being known as a sweet tower. We always have a round of sweets and a good chat around 8 and 8.30pm. Chatting is not possible during a ring, it can be quite a sociable activity during breaks in ringing (and most practice rings at Avebury do not last more than 10 minutes of continuous ringing). On the social subject, other ringers are welcome, and we were pleased to meet John and Margaret from Erlestoke on the 21st November practice. They are relatively new ringers, and newcomers can sometimes pick up ideas and experiences by occasionally meeting a different set of ringers. Few ringers have identical techniques!

On the 9th December the Calne branch welcomed the Devizes branch for Carols and a delicious tea; this year it was held at Bromham. Next year Devizes will be the hosts. It's always a lovely occasion.

The ringers would like to wish all their listeners and readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Brian Vickers

Bag a Bargain Garage Sale

@ The Rectory,

Avebury

**Saturday 20th January
10-4pm**

In the case of a move to Canada we LITERALLY can't take certain items with us! A full list available on request from Rev'd Maria and some items will be available from 15th.

Electrical Items - TV, DVD, sound bars, lamps, undercounter freezer, Laptop, projector and sound system, Nespresso coffee machines, kettle, iron, toaster, bread machine, food processor, heater, hairdryers, security CCTV cameras system etc, Christmas outdoor and indoor lights including projectors, Brother sewing machine, Janone needle felting and embellishing machine.

Furniture - pine half-wardrobes, TV stand, teak coffee table, pine double bed, bellows organ (antique) and smaller decorative items made of wood, quality picture frames (wooden), patio furniture set, floor rugs.

Garden tools, unopened paint, miscellaneous computer parts (keyboards etc), tools and DIY items (screws etc), DVDs, books, sundry decorative items.

Crafters de-stash, wool/paints, crafters tables etc.

NB- Bosch washing machine, fridge freezer and dishwasher available

Saturday 3rd February

Kennet Valley Amateur Dramatic Society presents

The QUEEN of Hearts

Pantomime

Kennet Valley Hall

January 2024

Thursday 25th, 7:30pm

Friday 26th, 7:30 pm

Saturday 27th, 2:30pm & 7:30 pm

Bar and refreshments available

Tickets £8 Adult, £6 Children

Box office opens 2nd January

01672 861423.

Avebury Parish Council

Public question time: Following a resident's request, we said we would seek reductions as soon as possible in the height of the trees on the south side of Rawlins Park.

Flooding: Noting that there would soon be two vacancies on our emergencies and flood prevention committee, we agreed to invite residents keen to help the community in this way to make themselves known to Maggie Lewis (durranhouse@hotmail.co.uk). Really important work – as recent events have shown!

B4003: We said we would repeat our request to Wiltshire Council to ask for action – urgently - to prevent further destruction of the verge adjacent to the recently remodelled layby.

Defibrillator: We heard that South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust had expressed reservations about the locations proposed for a defibrillator at Rawlins Park and agreed to confirm and seek approval for two others.

Planning: Whilst reminding the PCC of APC's tree policy encouraging would-be tree fellers to plant an equal number of new trees, we supported an application from the PCC to remove three trees behind the church. We also supported a minor variation and additional detail in an approved application from Manor Farm, Bray Street and urged Wiltshire Council to expedite the approval process.

Leaves: We agreed to ask the parish steward to sweep leaves, especially from the footpaths between Bray Street and the village and its connection towards Chapel Corner, and elsewhere where needed.

Date and place of next meeting: 6 February at 19h30 in the Social Centre. As always, residents wishing to participate in these meetings are most welcome to do so.

Meanwhile: a Happy Christmas and New Year to all who read these Headlines!

Maggie Lewis. Co-chairman, Avebury Parish Council

AVEBURY & DISTRICT WI

At the time of writing our Christmas lunch is just under a week away but December's deadline forces me to look into my crystal ball and predict that we will have a delicious Christmas meal at the Hourglass at Devizes Marina, with Secret Santa gifts and good company.

We had some very sad news recently – Joan Greenaway, our longest serving member and former President, Secretary and Treasurer, passed away peacefully after a short stay in the hospice in Wroughton with her daughter Sue by her side. She will be much missed and our thoughts and prayers go to Sue and Joan's family. The funeral is on 21st December at St. Michael's, Avebury.

Our next meeting will be on **January 11th at 2 p.m.** and is a craft meeting when we will be making things in felt.

I look forward to seeing everyone on 14th at the Hourglass

Wishing all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year

Maggie Lewis. President, Avebury & District WI

Manager Vacancy

Driven individual required to supervise sales, marketing and people management of our small but national food business. Job role and hours can be shaped around the right individual.

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Thank You

Cody, Ben and the team would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. Since we opened in 2019, it has not been without it's obstacles but with the support of you, our loyal customers, we are still ticking along! We look forward to seeing what 2024 brings.

Sunday 29th - Traditional Roast - 12-3pm
Booking and pre-ordering is recommended.

Help
needed

The plans for the charity events for 2024 are already underway however we need your help! If there is a local charity/cause that you feel would benefit from being a 'Charity of the Year', please send your nominations by January 26th. There will be a vote throughout February to decide the final two.

OPENING HOURS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
5.30PM - 9PM
SATURDAY
8.30AM - 11AM &
5.30PM - 9PM
SUNDAY - 12-9PM

WE ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAY
15TH JANUARY AND THEN
THURSDAY 19TH TO SUNDAY
22ND JANUARY FOR
MAINTENANCE.

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Ticket price: £25

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Email:

info@angharadhughes.com
to secure tickets

TICKETS SELLING FAST



News from the National Trust

- January 2024

A busy time in the Manor Garden

We have started two projects in the Manor Garden, to restore the iconic Lavender Walk and the Topiary Garden. Following removal of some old plants, the process of planting thousands of bulbs has begun, starting with snowdrops and winter iris in the Lavender Walk. Narcissus triandrius 'Thalia', a multi-headed and scented daffodil, is being planted in the Topiary Garden, which also now features the first tranche of Taxus (Yew). Head Gardener Garry Mumford said: "The Taxus will now be left alone to allow the roots to establish. We will trim them in early to mid-spring and they will begin to take the lattice-shape, one of the iconic aspects of the gardens here at Avebury."

Limited car parking between 2-12 January

There will be limited parking for visitors between 2-12 January 2024, due to essential works being undertaken ahead of anticipated improvements in February. We have been informing visitors through the website and are promoting the use of available public transport routes.

Caring for the monument

Like last year, we are giving all four henge banks in the monument a chance to recover from festive season footfall. Access to the banks will be closed during January, but the rest of the monument will be accessible as usual.

Thank you for your support this Christmas

Avebury Manor will be closed between 2-12 January to allow our Christmas display to be removed and carry out essential conservation cleaning, but we hope to see you again after that. As always, residents of Avebury, including Avebury Trusloe, Rawlins Park, Beckhampton and West Kennett get free entry to the manor, garden and museum by simply showing proof of address on arrival.

If there is anything you wish to discuss with us, please do get in touch via avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk

**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.

Swindon / Avebury / Bourton

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M: 07737 505243

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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

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON COMMUNITY HALL

Registered Charity No 1199011

The Hall has now been open for over a year. Interest in the hall has 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.

We have recently been fortunate to receive a grant from the National Lottery to enable us to install an advanced Audio Visual System together with hearing loop in the hall. This will allow films to be shown and for potential hirers to give audio visual presentations.



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



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villagegeekassist@gmail.com

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⦿ Anxiety ⦿ Depression ⦿ Skin issues

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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: revmariashepherdson@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
Mrs Angharad Hughes	07771 615534
Mr Magnus Thompson	

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

(also a Lay Pastoral Assistant)

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
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EAST KENNETT

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