



UPPER KENNET NEWS

March 2026

Published by the Upper Kennet Parochial Church Council

Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 45 John Evans
£75 Number 37 Jenny Haines
£50 Number 8 Amanda Oram

(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, Wyfield and East Kennett

Notice Board

Baptism

Dougie Marsh
West Overton 15th February

Funerals

Patricia Ann Francis
West Overton 5th February
Cyril Harold Coombes
Broad Hinton 10th February
John Boyd Butler
West Overton 19th February

100 Club

Draw Results

No Draw this month

(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 March, Wednesday 18th March & Wednesday 1st April.

We look forward to seeing you.

Graham Kitchen, Jo Snape and Lindie White

Rector's Letter

We had fed the heart on fantasies,
The heart's grown brutal from the fare,
More substance in our enmities
Than in our love; O honey-bees,
Come build in the empty house of the stare.

W.B. Yates



Many years ago, decades in fact, I used to keep and tend a couple of hives of bees. A good friend of mine who was a master beekeeper got me started and guided me over a year or two until I was able to look after them by myself.

One of the things I loved about beekeeping was how it helped me engage with the seasonal rhythm of the earth. During the winter a colony of bees can reduce to about 5,000 bees, which sounds a lot, but it is only just enough for them to survive. As the first spring flowers start to bloom, nature's nectar flow begins and the colony start to increase in size too, as the life of the earth rises and the nectar they collect from the flowers increases. So keeping bees gave me a very real sense of the expansion of the colony in the hive as the seasons progressed. At the height of the summer the hive can contain between 40 - 60 thousand very busy bees! Then their numbers bottom out a bit, until being sustained by a minor late Autumn nectar flow in late August.

I have just been out for a walk in Avebury and the people wandering around the stones seem to be starting to increase too. The Avebury visitors' numbers also seem to increase with the changing season and the nectar flow (though there is no season with a dearth of skinny lattes and cappuccinos!). We are so much more connected to nature than we realise.

The church too has two main rhythms - its own 'nectar flows' over the year. We've just experienced one with Advent to Christmas to Epiphany and to Candlemas/Imbolc. The one we are about to enter has now started with Lent and will progress into the mysteries of death and resurrection, Easter, and the full coming into being of the spirit in each of us at Pentecost.

As I have an intuitive and embodied connection with the earth's seasons, Lent is always a struggle for me. A period of discipline and austerity at a time when the earth is waking up and calling us into action and movement and sociability makes my Lenten discipline that much harder. But the rewards are worth it, even if I usually fail to achieve all I set out to do.

As a society we are getting less and less used to sacrificing something in the short term for long term gain. We want both/and of everything, and if things aren't going quite how we want them these days we escape to our phones and devices to lose ourselves into something

- anything.

One thing I hope we might do this year is to develop a monthly Saturday afternoon gathering/service at Avebury, where our parish and visitors congregate, to create a space for conversation, fellowship, creativity, music and stories. A place to feel the nectar flow of the landscape and the call to our own personal adventures that God calls us to. A sharing with fellow travellers and with an unapologetic sideways glance to the divine - to the Son of Light who understands completely the challenges and joys of human life and has an amazing blueprint for every single one of us on how to live that life to its fullest. Watch this space.

May you feel the flow.

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'RN E MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTERBRNE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
1 March Lent 2	<u>8.30 am</u> Holy Communion					<u>10.30 am</u> Morning Service	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion
Wednesday 4 March			<u>6 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
8 March Lent 3		<u>10 am</u> Morning Service		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion			
Wednesday 11 March				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
15 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday			<u>8 am</u> Holy Communion	<u>3 pm</u> Mothering Sunday Service	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion		<u>10 am</u> Mothering Sunday Service
Wednesday 18 March			<u>6 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
22 March Lent 5		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion					
Wednesday 25 March				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
29 March Palm Sunday	<u>WINTERBOURNE BASSETT</u> <u>9.45 AM - GATHER AT THE WINTERBOURNE PUB FOR PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION</u> <u>10 AM - PALM SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE CHURCH</u>						

Upper Kennet Churches Winter Crisis Appeal

Are you able to help?

Ten years ago, the Upper Kennet Churches launched a **Winter Crisis Appeal Fund** to help those who were experiencing short term financial problems.

Over that period, we have had many donations and we have been able to help a large number of families who were in desperate need.

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

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

Thank you.

Do you need help?

If you:

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

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

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

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

Readings

1 March – Purple

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

8 March – Purple

3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17.1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5.1-11
John 4.5-42

15 March – Purple

4th Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16.1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5.8-14
John 9

Mothering Sunday Readings

Exodus 2.1-10
John 19.25b-27

22 March – Purple

5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37.1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8.6-11
John 11.1-45

29 March – Red

Palm Sunday

Matthew 21.1-11
Psalm 118.1-2, 19-end

Thursday 2 April – White

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12.1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116.1, 10-end [or 116.9-end]
1 Corinthians 11.23-26
John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Friday 3 April – Red

Good Friday

Isaiah 52.13-end of 53
Psalm 22 [or 22.1-11 or 22.1-21]
Hebrews 10.16-25
or Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9
John 18.1-end of 19

News from the Marlborough Deanery Partnership with the Diocese of Morobo

The Advent Appeal for Bibles raised the splendid sum of £600. This will enable around 60 Bibles to be given to soldiers on both sides of the conflict who have decided to follow Christ, helping them to grow in faith. We are most grateful to all who contributed in response to the appeal, and we pray that the continuing efforts of the Morobo Church to bring peace to the region will bear fruit.

We have also been able to send money for the purchase of 15 sewing machines for the Mothers' Union. 40 trainees have enrolled for tailoring training, and the machines are in use and working well.



The Agricultural Project has yielded good harvests of maize, beans and groundnuts, and the grinding mill which we provided has proved to be of great value to the community, as well as relieving long-suffering women of the drudgery of grinding by hand.

Thank you again to all who are supporting this partnership by prayer and giving. It continues to be a blessing to many.



MONKTON LENT LUNCH
Thursday March 26th

12.00pm - 2.30pm

Do join us for a bowl of soup,
bread and cheese

At The Granary (Next to the Church)

Parking available

Donations to St Mary

Magdalene Church

Winterbourne Monkton and

Morobo Diocese, S Sudan

(Partnered with the Marlborough Deanery)

A Date for your Diary Coffee Morning West Overton Church Saturday 18th April 10am - 12 noon

This Coffee Morning at West Overton church will be in aid of the restoration of the bells. There will also be the opportunity to go up to the ringing room in the tower.

Donations of cakes would be welcome.

Please contact Debbie Marsh for more details –
debbiem1965@icloud.com.

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



Join us for our weekly Lent
discussion on:

JOURNEYS AND RESTING PLACES

"You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are
acquainted with all my ways."

Psalm 139:2



AT THE RECTORY EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING

6-7:30PM

25TH FEBRUARY (at the Old Manor, WO)

4TH MARCH

11TH MARCH

18TH MARCH

25TH MARCH

West Overton Coffee Morning

A big thank you to all who attended or helped at the coffee morning on 31st January and to those who baked for it and those who donated produce and plants.

We raised £180 which will go towards keeping West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett Churches open.

West Overton Tower News

Our bells were joyfully rung for the Christmas services and will continue to be rung for Sunday services, weddings, christenings etc. throughout the year.

Congratulations go to our newest band member Nick Corbin who was recently elected to Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

We are now undertaking a project to raise £70,000 for the refurbishment of our bells and have received the very welcome news that Guild's Restoration Fund (LEBRF) has pledged £15,000 towards this project.

A little history to explain why we need to do this refurbishment.

The present church of St Michael & All Angels which is Grade II* listed was built between 1877 and 1878 to replace a medieval church which had fallen into a state of disrepair. The rebuilding was financed by the trustees of Sir Henry Meux who had acquired the manor of East Overton in 1870, the architect C.E. Ponting was appointed to draw up the plans. The new church was opened in September 1878.

In 1883 the tower was added and the former ring of three bells, was augmented to a ring of 6 including three newly cast trebles hung with mainly new fittings in a new timber frame by Gillett & Co. The two oldest bells are dated c1555 and 1606.

Around 2007 a survey was undertaken which brought to light certain defects with the frame and fittings and for approximately 16 years the bells were deemed not ringable.

In December 2022 the matter was looked into more closely by a specialist bell advisor and it was agreed that with some adjustments it would be possible for the bells to be rung, these adjustments were carried out and whilst the bells are safe to ring to preserve the bells for future generations two more detailed bell hangers reports have been undertaken. Both reports state that whilst the bells are currently safe to ring there is a significant amount of work that needs to be done to bring the bells and frame up to modern standards which befits our beautiful and historic church.

If you feel able to make a donation towards this project we would be extremely grateful.

Please make any payments via the link below.

<https://givealittle.co/c/WestOvertonBells>

"Absent Friends"

by Alan Ayckbourn

Comes to Marlborough Town Hall this March

Thursday 26th March to Saturday 28th March

Doors open 7pm, performance 7:30pm

Tickets: £10 from the White Horse Bookshop,
Marlborough High Street

www.wegotickets.com/MarlboroughPlayers

NEW
DATE

PUDDING EVENING

NEW
DATE

Friday 20th March 2026

🕒 7:00 PM

All Proceeds to Winterbourne
Bassett Parish Church

- 📍 Clairemont, Winterbourne Bassett, SN4 9QF
- 🍴 Join us for an evening of a Ploughman's Supper followed by a selection of delightful puddings.
- 🎫 Tickets: £20 per person, bring your own drink.

Glass of Fizz on Arrival!

Your sweet presence makes a difference!

For tickets please contact:

Alison Windel: 07715 107679

Claire Stiles: 07880 583095



St James Church Avebury

As you will no doubt have noticed the church clock remains set at 12.00 as it is currently being repaired. The going train of the clock had accumulated wear and tear so needed to be taken to the Workshop. We are expecting it to be returned in March or early April.

We are holding a Soup Lunch in the Social Centre, High Street, Avebury SN8 1RF to help raise money for the repairs on Saturday 7th March 11.30-2.30. All are welcome.

If you would like to make a donation towards the Clock repairs that would be very welcome - Account name P.C.C Avebury, Account Number 01399579 and Sort Code 30 92 63.

Any queries please contact Lizzie Daley, Church Treasurer on lizziedaley@icloud.com



Avebury Social Centre

Soup Lunches

Monday 2nd March

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.



Soup Lunch
in aid of Clock Repairs

Avebury Social Centre

Saturday 7th March
11.30 – 2.30 pm

Soup, bread and cheese
Tea and cakes

Please come and help fundraise for
essential repairs to the church clock.

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

GARDENER

I am a gardener looking for
gardening work in the Avebury,
Winterbourne Bassett, Broad
Hinton and East Kennett area.

I am experienced and qualified
but as I don't drive you would
need to provide tools.

I'm happy to cycle or use public
transport to reach you and I
look forward to hearing from you.

If you are interested please contact
me:

Martin Andre
martinjandre@gmail.com
01672 539641
07887 717626

Kennet Valley School brings you

PUDDING & PIE NIGHT

7TH MARCH @ 7PM

THE WHODA THOUGHT IT PUB
FEAST ON PIE AND THEN BID FOR A
DELICIOUS PUDDING IN THE AUCTION
ALL IN SUPPORT OF KENNET VALLEY
SCHOOL



£20 per ticket
inc. Welcome
nibbles,
Choice of Steak
& Ale, Fish or
Vegan Pie
(BBQ Jackfruit)
gluten & dairy free options
available on request

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofkennetvalleyschool/1980442>



Kennet Valley School



Term 3 was a busy one at Kennet Valley School
and we enjoyed many different activities.

A highlight was the Wassail Celebration at White Barrow
Farm. The whole school followed the Wassail Kings in a
procession towards the farm, while singing and making music.
The children helped bless the orchard, crops and the farmers
while wishing for a healthy and bountiful year. The Devizes
Jubilee Morris Dancers attended and all joined in for "The
Hanky Panky Dance". The celebration finished with cake and
juice made from the apples grown at the farm. Thank you to all
who joined in, and especially the Jago family for hosting the
memorable event.

The Year 6 pupils undertook their Bikeability training this
term learning how to ride their bikes safely, including how to
undertake safety checks on their bikes; how to build confidence
and how to use key road safety skills.

Another highlight was the "Communi-tea" held in the School
Hall when we welcomed parents, children, villagers and
friends. Everyone enjoyed delicious cake and cups of tea served
by the children, while catching up with friends and neighbours.
This event brings the school values of compassion and
community to life. The next Communi-tea will be on Friday
20th March 2026 3.15 – 4.p.m and everyone is welcome.

The next Stay and Play will also be on Friday 20th March 9 –
10 a.m. with 'funny' activities for Comic Relief Day.

There is a toddler group in School every Friday in term time
8.45 -10.a.m. All are welcome.

Avebury Tower News

News this month is very "Up and Down"; an appropriate pun for any reader who has seen bell ropes pulled. The "Down" part can be seen by the turnout for our Tuesday evening practices during the month. We started (for this reporting period) on 20th January with 6 ringers, the 21st had another 6 and a potential new ringer (but not yet trained to ring), followed by 5 and then 4 ringers for the last two practices. You can see why we need new ringers - who only need to phone me on 01 672 539 482 to get started. In particular we need local ringers especially for Sunday service ringing. At least we made a noise for the monthly service at Avebury church, when the ringers were Kathryn Miller (from Calne), Kathy Davies (from Bishops Cannings), Jonathan Stubbs, and the writer. At least the last two can claim Avebury residence! As has previously been reported, four ringers can make a reasonable sound for non-expert ringers. Probably more on having few ringers next month; suffice it to say that the upside was that we quite enjoyed it since it gave us chance to help Kathy's learning and practice ringing on few bells - not as easy as you might think.

The exceptionally wet weather hasn't helped our turnout. One of our regular practice ringers (and authorised teacher) lives in Heddington, a village on the far side of Calne, and has had car electrical problems preventing her coming on

wet nights. Another sad problem concerns one of our "mainstay" ringers - Jane Ridgwell. I first met Jane when I started ringing 30 odd years ago in the days of Jane Lees and Heather Peak-Garland, who more than anybody else were responsible for the revival of ringing at Avebury. Jane Ridgwell was then very much involved in ringing not only in Calne, but as an officer in the Calne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers. She rings enthusiastically in several towers in our Branch, and I think it probable that without her frequent presence and enthusiasm there would be no ringing at Avebury today. She is also an authorised teacher. Alas Jane suffered a heart valve problem around Christmas and has recently had an operation to repair things. Happily her husband Andrew Woolley (an outstandingly good ringer) reported on the 18th that she had the operation the previous afternoon; had a good night's sleep and is now comfortable. Whilst our prayers have been answered, she will probably not be able to ring for the next three or so months. At least because our bells are notably light and easy to handle, she is likely to restart ringing again at Avebury sooner than at some other towers.

Brian Vickers

BREAKING NEWS

VOL. 26. * THENEWINN@ELDERBROOKHOUSE.COM * MARCH 2026
NO. 3

NEW MENU AT THE NEW INN

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Sunday 1st March - Traditional Roast
- Thursday 12th March - Book Club
- Friday 13th March - Quiz Night
- Friday 27th March - Steak Night
- Sunday 5th April - Traditional Roast and Charity Spring Trail & Egg Hunt

Please note that we will be opening at 4pm on Saturday 7th March.



We highly recommend booking for all of our events to ensure you get a spot - we look forward to seeing you soon!

THE NEW INN, WINTERBOURNE MONKTON, SN4 9NW
01672 539793

Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200

Opening Hours
10am – 4pm every day

Sweet seventeen

In a couple of weeks' time – actually March 15th – the shop will be celebrating its 17th birthday. Thanks to our superb volunteers (plus two top-class managers upstairs of course) it is still thriving and supplying the local neighbourhood with almost everything it could want from a local shop. (A rumour that they're about to order in flat-pack arks because of the



terrible rain has been firmly denied.)

Many readers will know that the shop contributes to good causes in the local area. Last July £1,000 went to St James's Church in Avebury (pictured) for its organ appeal and the same amount to Winterbourne Monkton village hall for acoustic panels and other improvements. These contributions are being repeated this month. There will be numerous smaller contributions for other worthwhile causes too over the calendar year.

We are a not-for-profit enterprise so any money not ploughed back into the shop itself goes to benefit the local community.

More for March

The fifteenth of the month is also Mother's Day and you can pick up wine and chocolates, as well as a card, for your special person.

Other items of note: there's a new cheese in from Brinkworth Dairy called "Cheddar" which is eleven months matured and a lovely golden yellow; there are still a few bottles left of the delicious Avebury apple juice pressed locally from apples gathered in the neighbourhood; and hot-cross buns are on the shelves for Lent.

Orders, orders

Don't forget that we can order all kinds of things that you might want. Joints of meat, for instance, will be delivered by Sumbler's if they have two or three days' notice. And if there is a particular fruit or veg you are after, it can also be ordered in.

Home deliveries

The shop offers 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



National Trust Avebury

A new future for Avebury Manor's orchard

In recent years, several development projects at Avebury Manor Garden have focused on restoring features that honour the Jenner family, whose influence shaped much of the garden we know today. Recently, we began one of our most ambitious projects, the creation of a nuttery in the orchard, with six arched walkways. In part, this change has been led by the impact of the changing climate.



For some time, several of the orchard's apple trees have been in decline. Some have been lost, and younger trees have struggled to establish. The likely cause became clearer after the severe flooding in January 2024, when parts of the orchard sat under more than a metre of water.

The increasingly wet winters we are experiencing mean the soil is still very wet as apple trees begin to blossom. Apple tree roots cannot bear being wet for months on end and will rot, causing the top half of the tree to become stressed.

To address this, we developed a plan to transform the orchard into a nuttery using plants better suited to wet soil. Thanks to funding from the Tree Council, who were seeking projects that would plant trees outside of traditional woodlands, we've now planted 164

young hazel trees.

Hazel thrives in wetter conditions and should establish well. We hope these new trees may even draw up some of the excess spring moisture, giving the surviving apples a better chance, though time will tell. As they grow, the hazels will be trained into a series of arches, creating a striking visual feature for visitors.

I must end with a thank you. Planting 164 trees is a tremendous effort and it was done over several days (sometimes in very wet weather) with the support of volunteers from the local community and the wider National Trust.

To everyone who lent a hand, you have been part of creating something that will become an engaging part of the garden and an enduring example of climate-adaptive planting.

If you would like to know more about the project, please do stop by the garden to speak to me or a member of the team.

Garry Mumford

Head Gardener, Avebury Manor Garden

Outdoor theatre returns to Avebury Manor Garden

Following last year's performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream, we're delighted to announce that we will have two nights of theatre in the manor garden this summer. The Three Inch Fools will return to Avebury on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 August to perform a new comedy, King Arthur and the Holy Fail.

The production promises 'a land of daring quests, dashing knights, and endless jousting, where a would-be-hero by the name of Arthur bravely battles through blistering cold and scorching fire to save his beloved realm.'

Tickets are now available through the National Trust Avebury website with a limited, early bird offer in place.

Easter at Avebury

Our Easter trail will return on Friday 27 March. Younger visitors will be able to take on 10 fun, playful activities throughout the farmyard and Avebury Manor Garden, before collecting a chocolate egg at the end.

The trail will cost £3.50 and includes the Easter trail sheet and bunny ears. Normal admission prices apply for garden entry, but residents of Avebury Parish can get free entry by showing proof of address.

The trail takes place between 27 March and 12 April from 10am-5pm.



FRANK WHITTLE

THE JET PIONEER

The story of aviation's greatest engineer

KENNET VALLEY HALL

Lockeridge SN8 4EL

Wednesday 22nd April

Doors open 7.00pm talk begins 7.30pm

Refreshments available

Sir Frank Whittle's invention of the jet engine makes him the most influential Briton of the 20th century since Churchill.

Aviation film producer Nicholas Jones combines a mix of history and personal anecdotes interspersed with short extracts from **WHITTLE - THE JET PIONEER**. It's a rich mix which covers the narrative of Sir Frank's life in a compelling, interactive format.

Tickets: £12 + 94p booking fee. Pre-booking essential

Book: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kvhall>

Box office: 0333 666 3366

Proceeds shared between Crofton Beam Engines and Wiltshire Air Ambulance



Avebury Parish Council

www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Avebury Parish Council - February 2026
www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/

Councillor Update

At the February meeting, councillors voted to appoint Lynzey Paradise as Vice Chair of Avebury Parish Council. This fills the vacancy created when Sue Millward stepped up to become Chair, and the Council is pleased to have the Vice Chair role in place again to support the work of the Parish Council.

Please note we have a current vacancy – please email our clerk if you would like to learn more

Meet your Councillors



Giles Shaxted
Giles joined the Parish Council as he has a strong belief in community. Since moving to the parish after living abroad he felt immediately at home. The tourism, the lore and the people who live here, visit or celebrate their beliefs here all make it a special place to call home. These are all things Giles is used to after having lived in the Cayman Islands for 25 years working in tourism. Giles has a wide array of hobbies and interests that keep changing. But island life isn't much different from rural life which Giles now

fully embraces, enjoys and calls home. He has a love of food, drink, travel and much more.

Rawlins Defibrillator

We've now received confirmation that the defibrillator at Rawlins Park is live on the 999 service. We would like to thank everyone involved in getting this important community resource in place.

DON'T FORGET.....

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.

Flood Group

Wiltshire Council is asking for evidence of flooding linked to Storm Chandra and recent bad weather, to help prioritise action and support future DEFRA funding bids.

If your property or business was affected (including near misses), please submit details including:

Dates and times

Photos or video

Location/maps showing where flooding occurred

Whether pumping was needed

Any sewage/septic tank impacts

Use of flood gates, sandbags or flood warden supplies

Road flooding (impassable roads or major issues)

Please send information to:

drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk

You can also report flooding online -

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/.../Report-a-problem-with...>

Thank you for helping build the evidence needed to secure support for our area.

Parish Salt Bins

After a couple of years of persistent effort, we're pleased to report that all salt bins across the parish have now been replaced where broken and refilled.

This is a great result and means we're better prepared for icy conditions whatever the weather throws at us this winter.

Thank you to everyone who helped flag bin issues and supported getting this sorted.

Coming Up

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

Tuesday 5th May 2026 | 7.30pm | Avebury Social Centre

Tuesday 2nd June 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

clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Flower Arranging Workshop

Learn the Art of Floral Design with Gemma from Nightingale Florists

Date: Thursday, 12th March

Time: 19:00

Venue: St Peter's Broad Hinton (to be confirmed)

What You'll Learn

Create a moss base

Wire different flowers

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Deadline 5th March

NEWS FROM THE WINTERBOURNE MONKTON COMMUNITY HALL



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Hall Bookings can be made by e mail to

wmch-booking@hotmail.com

Events List

Thursday March 19 th	Pizzalola From 4.30pm
Saturday March 21 st	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 1.00pm
Saturday April 25 th	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 1.00pm
Thursday May 21 st	Pizzalola From 4.30pm

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 Parish Council

Clerk's details: Alison Ingham

clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk

Tel: 07897 797208

Website: www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk

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.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES; SSEN POWER NETWORKS – FREE PRIORITY SERVICES

A wide range of people can be eligible for support - for example, if you have young children below 5 years old, or if you are over 60, or have a medical condition, use a stair lift or are hard of hearing you can sign up for priority support. To register please go to: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/contact-us/> or call the free number: 0800 294 3259

THAMES WATER - FREE PRIORITY SERVICES

Thames Water offers free priority services to customers who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances should they experience an interruption to their water supply. Bottled water could be delivered to you, bills sent in an accessible format and a 24-hour helpline are just some of the benefits from registering. Amongst the eligibility criteria are poor mobility, sight or hearing loss, using medical equipment at home, people with speech or hearing difficulties or cognitive impairment like Dementia. To register visit thameswater.co.uk/priorityservices or phone the free number: 0800 980 8800

UPDATE ON CHICKEN FARM, LOCKERIDGE

The Chicken Farm in West Woods, Lockeridge has new owners. Work to repair the surface of the lane to the Woods is underway. Please be aware that the large chicken lorries will once again be using the track to the Woods and Ivy Lane and the first batch of chicks will arrive at the site in mid-February 2026.

Please help to avoid traffic problems in the village and avoid parking too close to the junction of Ivy Lane with the main road through the village to enable the lorries to make the turn right without damaging the opposite bank.

Residents may also have noted that the verges and banks on the side of Ivy Lane are becoming eroded due to excessive rainfall and the effects of vehicles using the narrow passing places. The erosion is damaging the sensitive verges and tree roots and unfortunately contributes to blocking the drains on the High Street. Where possible it is suggested that a diversion is taken around the Dene and swings to get back to Ryles Lane without risking further damage or meeting a large lorry in the Lane. Thank you.

THE COST OF LITTERING IN WILTSHIRE

Litter spoils our stunning countryside and clearing it costs over £2m every year. Since February, Wiltshire Council's contractor, Idverde UK has collected nearly 6,000 bags of waste from our roadsides – that's around 35,500kg of litter!

This work is essential but expensive, taking resources away from other vital services. Please do your part by taking your litter home and disposing of it responsibly. The Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean takes place from 13-29 March – see its website for more details if you would like to get involved.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON ACCESS IN THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS

Whether you visit to walk, wheel, cycle, ride, volunteer, or simply enjoy being out in the landscape, the North Wessex Downs Landscape Team would really like to hear about your experiences. Your input will help their team and partners improve access and make the North Wessex Downs easier for all to enjoy. To complete the survey, please go to www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/access-survey/

WILL YOU BE GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN 2026?

Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation is offering University Bursary grants to help young people from Wiltshire and Swindon with the costs of studying for an undergraduate degree. The bursary is worth **£1,900** per year, for each year of the course, and can be used towards everyday essentials such as travel, books, or general living costs. As long as their circumstances stay the same, funding will continue for each academic year of their degree.

Who can apply?

To be eligible, a young person must:

Have parents or guardians, or themselves, claiming at least two means-tested benefits or two elements of Universal Credit, or be a Looked After Child in the care of Wiltshire Council or Swindon Borough Council

Be aged 17 to 24 at the point of application

Have lived in Wiltshire or Swindon for at least two years, or have their family home there if they are already at university

Be eligible for funding from Student Finance England

Be planning to start, or already studying for, their first undergraduate degree at a UK university, college, or institution

Don't Miss Out! Applications close on **10 April 2026** – apply today by visiting

[University Bursary - One Degree More | Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation](#)

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.

Alison, Clerk to Kennet Valley Parish Council

 **Martin Bell**
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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

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WINTERBOURNE MONKTON

WINTERBOURNE BASSETT

BROAD HINTON

Lindie White

Sophie Roberts

Mrs Jenny Scott

Rose Barclay

Mrs Liz Palfrey

01672 861864 lindiew@btinternet.com

01672 861786

01672 539104

rosebarclay@gmail.com

01793 731067 lizpalfrey@btinternet.com

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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