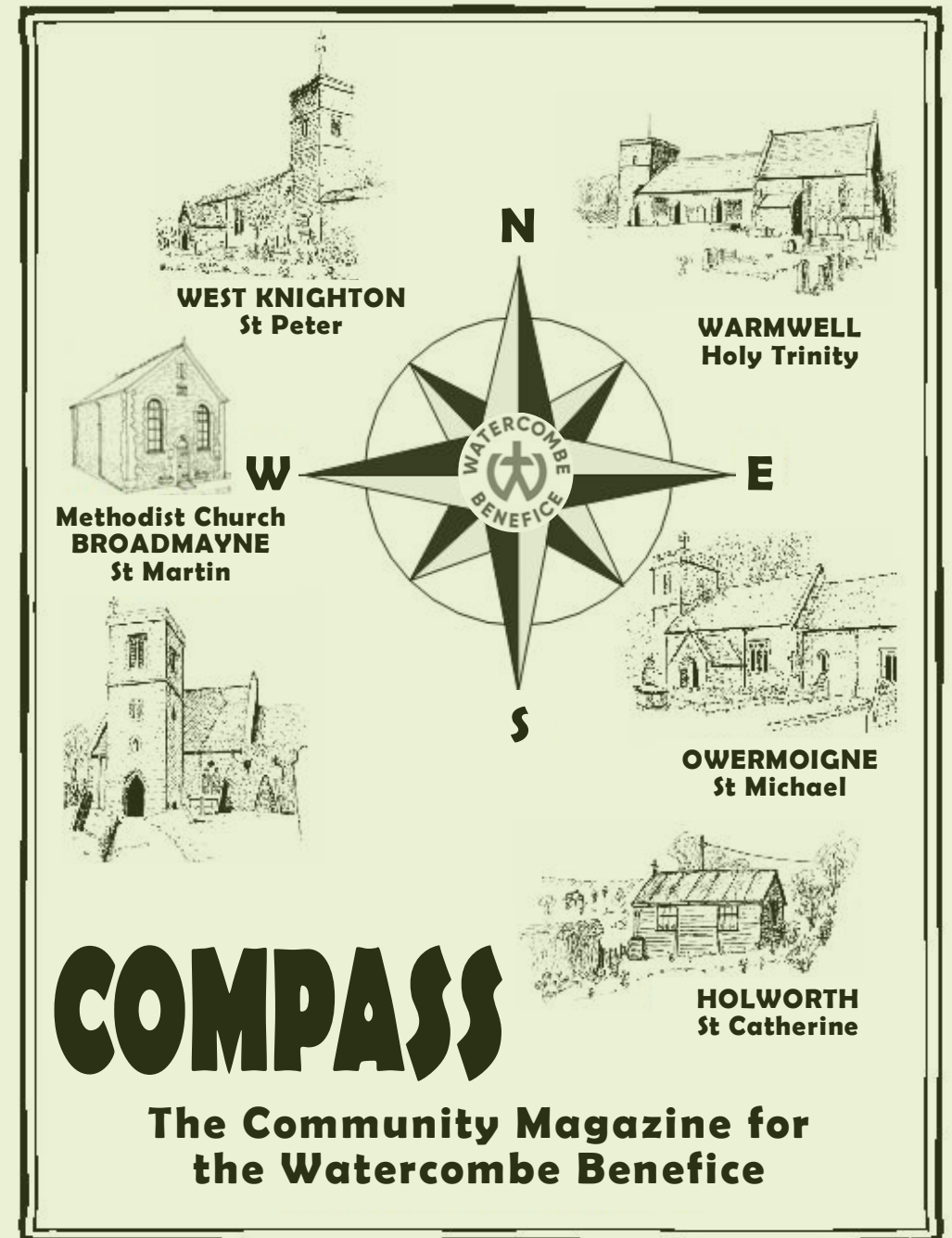




February 2026

Free



Priest in Charge – Rev David Johnson
email drjrev@gmail.com, mobile 07341 655530
The Rectory, Main Street, Broadmayne, DT2 8EB Tel 01305 852435
Benefice web site www.watercombe.org.uk

Enquiries about Baptism, Wedding and Funeral arrangements should be made through Rev David Johnson (Sunday to Wednesday) [Anglican]; or Rev Brenda Stephenson [Methodist]. Please contact the relevant Church Warden or Steward for anything else.

Priest: Rev Anthony Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH 01305 852242
email: bushinarcadia@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07711 794120

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Jenny Bagnall, 2 St. Peter's Barn, West Knighton, DT2 8PF 01305 854950

Benefice Secretary: Mrs Julia Denham, 1 The Spinney, Broadmayne, DT2 8UH 01305 852626

Benefice Treasurer: Roger Holehouse, Shepherd's Cottage, Whitcombe, DT2 8NY 01305 261337

Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Carol Wightman 6 Old Brickfields, Broadmayne, DT2 8UY 01305 854385

St. Martin's Church, Broadmayne

Contact: Tim Clayton, 14 Rectory Close, Broadmayne, DT2 8EQ. 07443 659912

St Martin's Hall Bookings: Tim Clayton, taclayton14@gmail.com 07443 659912

Donations Broadmayne PCC 30-92-69 00263394 Lloyds Bank

St. Peter's Church, West Knighton

Wardens: Lesley Stubbing 01305 852174
Dorothy Emery, 2 Gabriel Cottages, West Knighton, DT2 8PE 01305 854795

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St. Michael's Church, Owermoigne

Warden: Philippa Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH 01305 852242

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Holy Trinity Church, Warmwell

Warden: Mr Sam Ross Skinner, Warmwell House, Warmwell, DT2 8HQ 01305 854545

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St. Catherine by the Sea, Holworth

Warden: Philippa Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH 01305 852242

Donations St Catherine's-by-the-sea church council 40-19-21 20724874 HSBC



Methodist Church, Broadmayne

Ministry Rev Brenda Stephenson, 11 Eilerslie Close, Charminster, DT2 9QQ 01305 459009

Team: Peter Jenner, 1 Vespasian Way, Dorchester, DT1 2RD 01305 751668

Steward: Margaret Eaglestone, Box Cottage, 4 Main Street, B'mayne, DT2 8EB 01305 854229

Methodist Hall Bookings: Wendy Stent, 7 South View, Broadmayne, DT2 8ET 01305 852795

Items for the March Compass must reach the editor by 15th February

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Treasurer: Alan Baker, 15 Broadmead, Broadmayne, DT2 8EE 01305 854578

For rates and details of advertising in this magazine please contact the Editor



Broadmayne, Holworth, Owermoigne, Warmwell and West Knighton

Sunday Services February 2026



	1st February	8th February	15th February	22nd February
Broadmayne St Martin	11am Holy Communion		11am Together@11 at St Martin's	8am Holy Communion BCP
Broadmayne Methodist	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Worship		11am Morning Worship
Holworth				11am Holy Communion
Owermoigne	9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	
Warmwell		11am Holy Communion		
West Knighton		9.30am Holy Communion	6pm Worship & Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer

Methodist Sunday 1st February 11am – Rev Judy Turner-Smith
& Joint Sunday 8th February 11am – Rev Jane Wilson
Services Sunday 15th February 11am – *Revs Anthony Bush & Brenda Stephenson: T@11 at St Martin's*
Sunday 22th February 11am – Tim Wells

By Still Waters Tuesday 10th February, 10am (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month)
Reflective prayer and sharing Broadmayne Methodist Church

This year's **Together @11** theme is **Words of Inspiration**.
Every third Sunday of the month at St Martin's or the Methodist Church.

THE LONG ROAD TO HEAVEN – A Lent course based on the film "THE WAY"

Everyone is welcome to the Lent Group meetings each Tuesday during Lent at 7.30pm in St Martin's Broadmayne Community Hall. We will be looking at themes in the film, *The Way*, in which Martin Sheen plays a father walking the Spanish pilgrimage route El Camino de Santiago.

Each week there will be part of the film used for the discussions along with short Bible passages, time for thought, lots of good conversations and a break for tea and biscuits.

These are the themes for the Tuesday evenings:

17th February: Screening of the whole film
24th February: What are we saved from?
3rd March: What are we saved for?
10th March: Who can be saved?
17th March: What do we have to do to be saved?
24th March: How are we saved?

There is a study book that accompanies the film written by Tim Heaton called *The Long Road to Heaven* which you might like to purchase. Copies will also be available to buy at the meetings. Everyone is warmly welcome to come along and join in. You can come for all – or any – of the sessions. There is no charge to take part.

If you would like to know more in advance, please contact me by phone 07341 655530; email drjrev@gmail.com; call in at the Rectory or chat to me when you see me out walking!

Revd David



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FROM THE RECTORY

One of the criticisms I have often heard about religion and people who are religious is that somehow we might think we are better or more moral than others. And by implication perhaps religious people regard others as being not so good. I have always been quick to refute that because it either implies pride or superiority and very easily opens us up to further accusations of hypocrisy.

It is certainly not true! I would always point out that prayers of confession and repentance are there in every service along with humble gratefulness for the grace of God we receive. Faith is about living in relationship to God and hopefully some of the good we are inspired to do comes from that. Religion does not in any way have a monopoly on goodness.

At the same time though, I would like to quietly and modestly celebrate all the very good things that are done in the name of religion and by people of faith – especially at the local level within our village parishes: for thoughtful words and acts of care and kindness. Thank you for taking on the not-insubstantial responsibility of caring for these precious historical places of worship. And for opening them up to be buildings and communities where people are welcomed and may come to feel and to know the presence of God.

Archbishop William Temple said “The church is the one institution that exists for the sake of those who are not its members.”

There are people who are not part of our regular worshipping congregations who give so much to our churches – whether that be financial support, care of churchyards, the beauty of flowers, skills as musicians, or particular contributions at significant times of the year such as we have seen at Christmas. And there are people of no faith at all who also do wonderful things in their lives day by day.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus coming into the world – into our lives – into our community – and into our churches with challenges of which we should not be fearful. He does not quite come as a judge but more to hold up a mirror to our world and to us all. Morality is not measured by being better than other people. It is about knowing what is good or bad, right or wrong, and trying to do our best to be the people we know we can be. That is very much modelled on being the people we believe God wants us to be.

I go back to my opening words in celebrating so many good things – and so many good people – within our church communities and within our villages. There are many things I am humbled to know about and to share in – and many more good things that go unseen.

Thank you for the many ways in which you make our village communities places of love and care.

With my prayers and good wishes for you all,
David

BENEFACTORS

Funerals

24th December **Jaqueline ‘Jacky’ Craxton:** Funeral and Graveside Burial at St Peter’s, West Knighton

9th January **Michael Barrington:** Burial of ashes at Holy Trinity, Warmwell

COMMUNITY

Music at St Peter's, Dorchester

As ever, there is a huge selection of concerts, choral services and musical events to be enjoyed at St Peter's Church Dorchester this month!

Sunday 1st February, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist to mark Candlemas includes Byrd 'Senex puerum portabat', Casciolini's 'Missa brevis', Eccard's 'When Mary to the temple went' and the 'Nunc dimittis' by Amy Beach. This service is free to attend and all are welcome to stay for refreshments afterwards.

Saturday 14th February, 12.30pm – 1.00pm: the lunchtime concert is an organ recital and we are thrilled to welcome back renowned broadcaster and former organist of Salisbury Cathedral, Simon Lole, as soloist. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Friday 20th February at 7.00pm: 'Mozart by Candlelight' is an opportunity to enjoy two of Mozart's best-loved chamber works – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik K.525 and the Clarinet Quintet K.581 (soloist Natalie Burton) – in the evocative, candlelit setting of St Peter's Church. The performance will last just over an hour and is presented without interval. Tickets are priced £15 and available online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-peters-church-dorchester>. We recommend you book your seats as early as possible for what is likely to be a very popular concert!

Sunday 22nd February, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist as we move into Lent includes Howells's 'Collegium Regale', Purcell's 'Thou knowest Lord' and Messiaen's 'O sacrum convivium'. The service is free to attend and all are welcome.

Saturday 28th February, 4.30pm: Choral Evensong includes Erik Esenvald's 'O salutaris hostia', Morley's 'Preces & Responses', Kenneth Leighton's 'Second Service' and Brahms's beautiful anthem 'How lovely are thy dwellings'. The service is free to attend, all are welcome and warmly invited to stay for a glass of wine afterwards!

Keep up with events via our website: www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org. If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, subscribe through the website or drop us a line at: musicatstpeters@mail.com. All of our social media and contact details can be found at: linktr.ee/musicatstpeters



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In 2026

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COMMUNITY

Crossways Travel Charity of the Year

Crossways Travel, the local Coach Tour Operator based in Dorchester, offers a range of Day Excursions and Holidays. They started out over 15 years ago and for the first 3 years were non profit making, where every penny of profit was donated to local good causes. They have continued to support local good causes in Dorset by having a nominated charity of the year and giving a substantial donation each year. Frome Valley First School head teacher and the staff were delighted to receive our donation of £4186.71 and assured us that the donation will be a massive help towards their funding for the new classroom along with other much needed things for the school.

Crossways Travel would like to thank its generous customers for supporting this year's Charity Of The Year. If you feel able to help support the School in any way with their fund raising for the new classroom please do get in touch with the school as every £1 helps.

Front from left – Matt Crocker (Joint Owner Of Crossway Travel), Lille & Henri Crocker (Matt & Kadi's children, who attend Frome Valley School), Emma Young (Pre School Manager)

Back from left – Kadi Crocker (Joint Owner Of Crossway Travel), Clare Moore, Head Teacher, Ellen Wells, Frome Valley School PTFA.

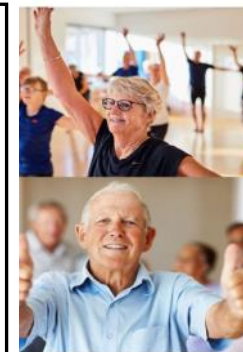


Crossways Youth & Community Centre

Our **Community Café and Table Top Sale** runs on the first Saturday of each month from 9am to 12noon, with our next taking place on **7 February**.

There is always a **bacon buttie, sausage rolls and a variety of cakes** to go with a tea or coffee too!

Pitches are free, but please book via bookings@crosswaysycc.org



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Crossways Library

Opening Hours

Monday:	2:30pm to 5pm (supported by volunteers)
Tuesday:	10am to Midday (supported by volunteers) and 2pm to 5pm
Wednesday:	10am to 1pm and 2:30pm to 5pm (supported by volunteers)
Thursday:	10am to 1pm
Friday:	Midday to 6pm
Saturday:	10am to 1pm
Sunday:	Closed

www.dorset.police.uk



Dorchester **101** **Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Get in touch with us today to raise any issues you have. You can contact us via the Dorset Police website or social media, where we also promote upcoming meetings and events. We are based at Dorchester Police Station. The Neighbourhood Policing Team works with colleagues across Dorset Police, but does not respond to emergency calls. **If a crime is in progress or life is in danger, always dial 999 immediately, so we can help you as quickly as possible.**

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WEST KNIGHTON / BROADMAYNE



*Broadmayne and West Knighton
Women's Institute*

Thursday 12th February at 7pm
Broadmayne Village Hall

**Steve Jefferies - Dobbies
Getting Ready for
Summer**

*Ladies interested in the WI please come along and
meet us or for more information contact:*
E:mail bandwkw@gmail.com






Coffee & Company
at St Peter's Church West Knighton

10.30-11.30am
Tuesdays 3rd & 17th February
Do join us, everyone is welcome

Knightsford Parish Council Meeting Dates
Wednesday 11th February 7.30pm, West Stafford Village Hall
Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm, Tincleton Village Hall



BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE PARISH COUNCIL – notes from the January 2026 meeting

Public participation A member of the public wondered if the Parish Council may be able to help him identify and get in touch with an appropriate person at Dorset Council or a local representative of Historic England concerning the protection of the paddock behind St Martin's Church, Broadmayne, which is understood to be a site of significant historic importance. The Clerk indicated that he would make some enquiries on the resident's behalf and arrange for a report back to him of any contact details he is able to obtain.

Planning and Tree Matters Decisions and correspondence/updates on previous applications P/RES/2025/02270 Land Adjacent Broadmead Broadmayne. Amended Plans following the grant of outline planning permission P/OUT/2021/05309. The DC Planning Portal shows that this application has still not yet been determined. There were no new planning applications to consider this month.

Reports Playing Field Association: Cllr Ellis reported that the teams are protecting the pitch when necessary. The maintenance contractor has managed to keep the pitch to standard despite the challenges of the inclement weather. Due to overall scheduling and rearranged matches it is likely that the second part of the winter period will see a busier schedule of matches. The Council members also noted the suggestion of some remedial works recommend by the maintenance contractors to maintain and improve the pitch. It was agreed to contact the contractors to arrange for grooming and slitting work of the playing surface to be undertaken as soon as weather conditions allow. It was also agreed that the Council would then consider at the end of the football season the requirement for 'Verti-Draining' remedial work to be carried out. Village Hall: Cllr Eason reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th January. Broadmayne Community Speedwatch: Cllr Byrne reported that due to limited daylight and poor weather conditions it had not been possible to hold any Speedwatch sessions since the previous report. ►

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BROADMAYNE

◀ **Police Community Support Officer:** It was noted that the PCSO had included two local matters in her report for the December period; a fraud and forgery scam which had been reported to Action Fraud, and a possible illegal hunt.

Financial Matters Proposals for the 2026/27 budget and precept were both agreed. Information received from the Dorset Council Finance team revealed that there is a small increase (+0.76%) in Broadmayne's Council Tax Base. This means that there will be slightly more households paying Council Tax in 2026-27 than in the current year. The Council agreed to set a total precept of £29,600, i.e. a total overall increase of £436.10 to help fund the expansion of Parish Council activity on behalf of the community during 2026/27. This results in an increase per Band D property of 39 pence over the year as a whole.

Governance Matters The schedule of council meetings for 2026 was approved and a copy will be published on the website and noticeboards. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 16th May, commencing at 10:00am.

To note and accept the update to the Broadmayne Emergency Plan Cllr Larkin has spent considerable time and effort on a review of and update to the Broadmayne Emergency Plan, and the Plan has now been formally accepted and is ready for use when needed. Copies, with individual volunteers' contact details redacted, will be provided to each Parish Council member, the Resilience Officer at Dorset Council, and also for publication on the website. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Larkin for all his hard work in updating the plan.

Other matters of report The Clerk reported on the following matters: (i) Allotments: over the past month there has been one new addition to the waiting list. Consequently there are now four people actively waiting for a plot. One existing holder of an allotment plot had been in touch to say that he intended giving up the plot by 31st December, and would clear his belongings from it ready for re-letting. That plot has now been offered to the next person on the waiting list. (ii) Condition of footpaths: There is no further news yet on the replacement of the bridge on the right of way between Washponds and West Knighton. This is not within Broadmayne Parish. The matter has however been taken up by the Clerk with the relevant Dorset Council Rights of Way Ranger. Cllr Ellis commented that residents of Osmington Drove remain concerned about the state of the large trees overhanging the Drove, the adjacent properties, and public bridleway S9/10. The Clerk is pursuing this matter again with Dorset Council Officers.

Next meeting The next meeting will take place on **Monday 2nd February 2026** in the Methodist Church Hall, unless otherwise advised. Parishioners are always welcome to attend and speak at council meetings during 'public participation'. Agendas are posted on the village notice boards and the website approximately a week before the meeting. For the full minutes please see the website www.broadmayne.org

BROADMAYNE, BUMPS, BABIES AND BEYOND!

If you are new to the village or at home with little ones for the first time here is some information about the group. We meet in St. Martin's Community Hall (next to the Church) at 10am on Monday mornings during term time. The group is for anyone at home looking after the under 5s. We have parents, grandparents and childminders who come along with their little ones. There are toys to play with, snacks for the children, tea/coffee for the adults and most importantly a friendly welcome and a listening ear in a supportive setting. All this for just £2 per family.

There will be no sessions on Monday 16th February (half term) and Monday 23rd February (school inset day).

If you would like to know more about the group why not come along to one of our sessions or ring one of the numbers below. We look forward to seeing you.

Carol 854385, Leri 07879 405698; Pam 852648





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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE WEATHER REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2025 by Ted Byrne

From the weather station situated at 23 Watergates Lane
 It was a wet December wasn't it? On the other hand, and fortunately, it was dry for the last third, the Christmas holiday period. Those very wet first three weeks brought enough rain to make December, with 206mm, the wettest month of the year. The wettest day, and it was very wet, was the 14th, when we got 39mm. Imagine what it must have been like at Honister Pass in Cumbria where they had 188mm in a 24-hour period! The amount rainfall for 2025 as a whole was about average, but there were marked seasonal differences, with the months of March to August being dry and the last third producing nearly half the annual rainfall.

Our highest temperature was the 14.3°C we had on the 9th and the lowest, -4.1°C on the 31st, the very last day of the month and of the year. What had been until just before Christmas a mild winter, finished on a seasonally appropriate note with some lovely cold, crisp and sunny days. According to the Met Office 2025 was the warmest and sunniest year on record in the UK.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and kind weather for 2026.

Maximum temperature: 14.3°C on the 9th	Minimum temperature -4.1°C on the 31st
Wettest day: 39mm on the 14th	Days with rainfall (0.5mm or more): 18
Total rainfall for the month: 206mm	Total rainfall for the year: 1035mm

More details are available in real time on www.watergatesweather.co.uk. You will see temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit. If you would prefer centigrade click on the settings button at the top right hand corner of the screen and select °C.



MARK HARRISON

Step into a world where blues, roots and folk collide with one of the UK's most original music acts. Mark Harrison is a virtuoso guitarist whose fingerpicking and slide style are nothing short of extraordinary. Joined by the incomparable Charles Benfield on double bass and the dynamic Ben Welburn on drums and percussion, this trio creates a rhythm section that defies convention and captivates audiences wherever they go. Renowned for delivering unforgettable performances, their eight critically acclaimed albums have garnered widespread acclaim, receiving regular BBC airplay and rave reviews from music aficionados worldwide. But it's not just about the music – it's about the stories woven into each song. From the origins of melodies to the soulful depths of the blues, Mark's introductions add a layer of humour and thought-provoking insight that enriches every performance. *"a bit different and kinda groovy too"* (Cerys Matthews, BBC Radio 2)

markharrisonrootsmusic.com

Broadmayne Village Hall

Friday 6th March 2026, 7 for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50 adult; £6 U18; £35 family from Cornerhouse Stores, Broadmayne, www.artsreach.co.uk or Tim Clayton on 07443 659912

CASH-ONLY BAR

COFFEE SHOP 10.30 - 12

in ST MARTIN'S
COMMUNITY HALL

Tuesdays 10th &
24th February

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Run by the Methodist Church for the benefit of the community

Filter coffee ~ Teas
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Fridays 10 am - 12 noon
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 20th February until 27th March

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WEDNESDAY mornings
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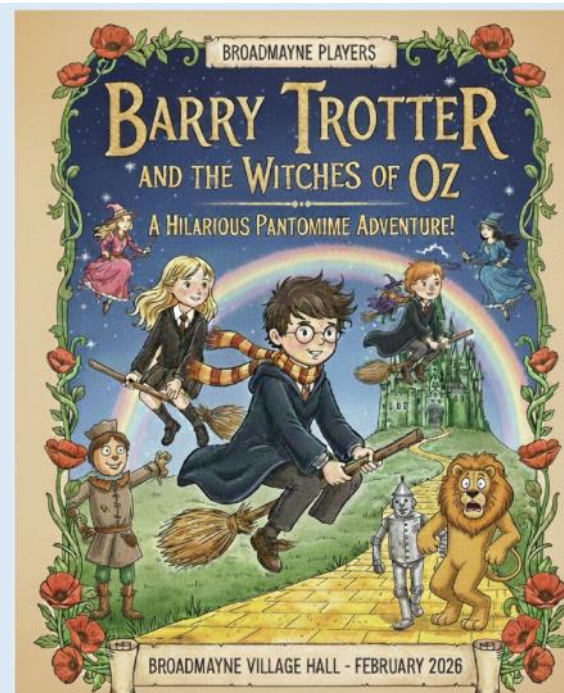
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burrow-environmental.com



BROADMAYNE



Friday 20th February @ 7.30pm Doors open 30 minutes before show time.
Saturday 21st February @ 1.30pm
Saturday 21st February @ 7.30pm
Tickets are available from Corner House Stores, via the QR code, or <https://broadmayne-players.eventcube.io/events/92280/barry-trotter-and-the-witches-of-oz/>



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shirleysmithpilates@aol.com

OWERMOIGNE

On Monday 9th February, **Owermoigne Photography Group** have an evening with John Fanning, who will be talking about his bird, landscape and dog photography. John is an accomplished kingfisher and bird of prey photographer as well as running a business photographing dogs locally.

Doors open at 7pm at the Cricket Club in Owermoigne. Non-members of the photography group are very welcome (must hold cricket club membership). There is no entry fee on this occasion but a collection will be taken for the Julia's House charity. Please let me know if you are attending and not a member of the photography group as seating is limited. Email me at neillegg1410@gmail.com.

PILATES CLASSES with Denise Bowditch in Owermoigne Village Hall
Mondays 11am Multi Level
Tuesdays 6pm Multi Level
Wednesdays 10am Beginners/No Rush, no pressure
Mondays 9am on Zoom Virtual Pilates

For more details of the classes and to book your place, please contact me 07714 836850 or email denbowditch@aol.com



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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Village Hall

Coming events:

- **Pantomime. "Mother Turkey and Her Three Kittens"**
Owermoigne Pantomime on **13th and 14th February**. Get your tickets now!
Please contact Phil Scull on 07786 191828
- **Village Market**
NB: No Village Market in February – next Market will be **14th March**.

And our regular events are:

Village coffee mornings, 10th and 24th February

In February we meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays so come along between 10.30am and 12 noon to receive a warm welcome. We have shelves full of books for you to borrow and you can also get help with any digital issues you may have. We'll be pleased to see you.

Group guitar lessons

Wednesdays, 7-8pm. Contact Nick for more info at nickandjudy@hotmail.com

Owermoigne painters

Our friendly painting group welcomes new members. We meet every Friday 10am-12 noon, except the last Friday of the month. Contact nigel_baker@icloud.com

Short mat bowls

The Short Mat Bowls Club usually meets on the first and third Saturdays from 10am till 12 noon. We welcome new members so contact Rob Burgess on 07836 386088 if you're interested in learning a new game.

Table tennis every Thursday

Table tennis at 10am. Come along to join in or call Margo on 07887 685199.

Dog Training Club

Peter Gibbins runs a number of classes on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm. Call him to check availability on 01305 602883.

The Village Hall also hosts a wide variety of clubs and societies and everyone is welcome. Please see the separate adverts for **Owermoigne Craft Group, Owermoigne Flower Club, Pilates classes** with Deri and **Yoga classes** with Kaly.

You can see event bookings online at <https://owermoignedorset.com/calendar>
Contact Margaret Burgess on 01305 854695 to book the hall or send an e-mail to her at crozlemargaret1950@gmail.com

You can find the village Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/owermoigne/>

Owermoigne Cricket and Social Club

What a busy and enjoyable December we had at the OC&SC. The Fish & Chips supper returned by popular demand and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Once our bellies were full, we settled into a festive Carol Singing sing-along, organised by Jill Lawton, with the singing led by our very own Gareth Malone: Andrew Buckingham. There was just enough time to enjoy a mince pie or two and a glass of mulled wine before putting our thinking heads on for Col's Festive Quiz. The evening was very well attended, with proceeds going to Julia's House. The winning quiz team generously donated their £30 prize, helping to raise a whopping £171.85 in total. Thank you to Carol Legg for giving us an insight into the wonderful work carried out by Julia's House.

The Christmas Raffle was also well supported. Many thanks to Derek and Lesley Woodward for purchasing and putting together the fabulous prizes, and for running the raffle on the night, with help from Sue Shuttlewood.

The end of year finale was the New Year's Eve Party, and what a finale it was. Col kicked off the evening with his New Year's Eve Quiz, before we danced the night away to music by Hustle. We welcomed in the New Year at midnight with Owermoigne's rendition of Auld Lang Syne! A huge thank you to our Committee, bar volunteers and to all the members who have supported the Club throughout 2025.

Forthcoming Events for February:

- **Thursday, 19th February** – Fish & Chips Supper, followed by Col's Quiz
- **Friday, 27th February** – Meat Raffle
- **Saturday, 28th February** – Cheese and Wine Quiz

Keep your eyes peeled for posters and emails with details of all our forthcoming events!

Caroline Holmes, OC&SC Secretary



Valentines night 14TH February

3 Course set menu



Steak Night 20TH February
Choose your own steak and sides



Pancake night 17TH February

Homemade pancakes to order



Quiz Night 8TH & 22ND
February



Please Call to Book

01305 854021

OWERMOIGNE

Know of someone who would benefit from a weekly bus trip to Dorchester?

A 'PlusBus' community minibus service for all ages now serves Owermoigne on Wednesdays. Anyone wishing to use the service needs to register first. Call 01258 287 987 – or complete the form using the link on <http://ectcharity.co.uk>. Print and email back to: dorset@ectcharity.co.uk. After doing that, bookings need to be made up to 2.30pm the day before travel.



The bus starts at Bovington and serves several villages en route. Booking can be made for 'door to door' pickup or at the village green. Collection is approx. 10am, arriving Dorchester Trinity Street 10.25am and departing again at 12.30pm. A supermarket visit may also be made on the day by agreement with the driver. Show your Bus Pass for free travel as there is a charge of £8 for anyone who does not have a Bus Pass. For more information please call the office on the above number.

Tessa Tripp Tel. 01305 853806



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OWERMOIGNE FLOWER CLUB

On 17th February we welcome Jo Richards from the Bournemouth Academy of Floristry. An old friend of the club. Her demonstration is titled "As the seasons thaw and change". A lovely way to spend a February afternoon.

Come and join us, you'll get a friendly welcome. Visitors £7

We meet at Owermoigne Village Hall at 2pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. For further information contact Chris Davies:

07578391080 or

owermoigneflowerclub@gmail.com

Owermoigne craft group

There will be no craft group in February.

Jenny

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. *Winston Churchill*
Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction. *John F Kennedy*
Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. *Martin Luther King Jr*

Live as if you die tomorrow. Learn as if you live forever.

Gandhi

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Children's page - A short story from the Bible

In the time before there were kings in Israel, there lived a rich man, Elkanah, and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli.

Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.



Each year they travelled to Shiloh to worship God.



After the worship, they feasted.



Elkanah always gave Hannah a special portion of food to show he loved her.



But Hannah was too sad to eat. She left the meal and went to pray.



She prayed silently.



Eli the priest saw Hannah's silent weeping and praying and thought she was drunk.



I'm not drunk! I was just pouring out how I feel to God.



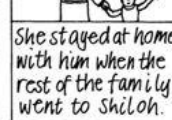
Please give me a son. If you do, he will serve You all his life.

I'm sure God will answer your prayer.

Back home, Hannah had a son, and she named him Samuel.



She stayed at home with him when the rest of the family went to Shiloh.



When Samuel was old enough, Hannah and Elkanah took him to Shiloh to live there and serve God.



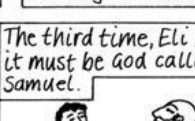
Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.



One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



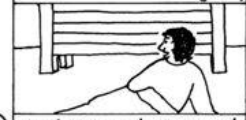
It happened again.



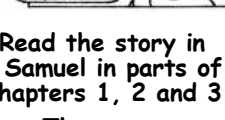
The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



God called Samuel again,



I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



Read the story in I Samuel in parts of Chapters 1, 2 and 3

There are Wordsearches to go with this story on page 27

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PUZZLES — 1

CODEBREAKER

Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet appears at least once in the grid.

Some of the words have a connection with the scriptures or a religion in some form or other.

Some words may be (sometimes obscure!) names of people and places. Three letters are given to start you off.

Can you crack the code?

For another letter see page 47

13	20	9	2	18	15	14	9	20	17	6	3	
20		23		6		9		15		14		14
22	20	23	6	3		16		9	13	22	21	4
21			23			13				3		6
9		11	9	26	9	12		8	7	9	9	3
2		7		22		9		7		16		1
2	9	19	14	22	3		10	22	5	9	3	2
17		14		10		6		14		3		23
22	20	6	21	15		14	4	9	25	14		17
3		13				14			12			24
6	20	22	16	6		6		2	7	2	4	17
12		2		20		21		7		1		3
	13	9	6	21	9	1	9	9	13	17	3	23
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K			H									P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Easy SUDOKU

1	9					5		8
	2	6		3	8	1		9
8				7		4		
				9				6
3	4		8		6		1	7
2				1				
		4		8				1
7		3	9	2		6	5	
6		2					8	3

Medium SUDOKU

							7	2
					9	5		3
6	7			3	2	9		
9				1				
4	1	6				7	9	5
				6				1
		3	1	8			4	6
2		7	4					
8	4							



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PUZZLES — 2

WORDSEARCHES based on the story on page 23

Two wordsearches this month and it's more difficult! The missing words below could be in the top grid or the bottom grid or both! Can you find them all?

answer	Eikanah	Israel	None	Samuel	special	weep
answered	Eli	leave	Peninnah	Shiloh	stayed	wives
brought	feast	listening	prayer	silent	stopped	worship
calling	God	lord	priest	sons	talked	year
children	Hannah	loved	rich	sorry	third	
demanded	heard	morning	right	speak	travelled	
drunk	ignored	night				

LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wordsearch grid with answers circled in red:

I E T N E I C N A O M M B
 N N T R R L O B M Y S O A
 I I C H A L L E N G E D E
 L R I S S D L O G P P S I
 C G Y T A C I N T E I I I
 I A N L H C I T R W P W W
 N H S I T M R S I E H E O
 C R O P L S I I W O A M R
 E R T A A A E S F L N D L
 N Y B E B R E I T I Y H D
 S M V I S I T H R F C C G
 E E A W O R S H I P I E M
 E N S P I I A E C M A G I

WORDSEARCH

WORD LINKS

Wordsearch grid:

3 4 9 5 8 1 6 2 7
 8 2 6 3 7 4 1 9 5
 7 5 1 6 9 2 3 8 4
 4 9 3 7 2 8 5 1 6
 1 8 5 9 3 6 7 4 2
 2 6 7 4 1 5 9 3 8
 9 3 4 8 6 7 2 5 1
 5 7 2 1 4 9 8 6 3
 6 1 8 2 5 3 4 7 9

Word links grid:

P L Y
 B Y E
 C U P
 T E N
 N U T
 L A P
 S E A
 D R Y
 A R T
 O W N
 T R Y
 L E G
 H I T

Wordsearch grid:

3 8 6 2 7 1 5 9 4
 1 5 2 9 8 4 7 6 3
 4 7 9 6 5 3 1 2 8
 6 4 3 1 2 8 9 7 5
 8 1 5 3 9 7 6 4 2
 2 9 7 4 6 5 8 3 1
 5 6 8 7 3 2 4 1 9
 7 3 1 8 4 9 2 5 6
 9 2 4 5 1 6 3 8 7

Hidden phrase: A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wordsearch grid:

m r i g h t s o r r y k
 o c s j t e p p z h a b
 r s r k a l e a v e g p
 n c a l l i n g p a p i
 i b e o k s w s i r r v
 n r l r e t d t g d i b
 g o d d e m a n d e d
 a u j r p n n s o n s d
 b g i p n i n h r w t d
 s h o e a n s w e r e d
 t t v n i g h t d c x j
 s h i l o h s a m u e l

Wordsearch grid:

d r u n k o k o e f j w
 n g i y o s d a w u c s
 h t u p e n i n n a h a
 a s p v l a e n s s i m
 n j i r k u r q i p l u
 n w t r a v e l l e d e
 a f r t n y e n e c r l
 h g s t a y e d n i e o
 w o r s h i p r t a n v
 e d i a n s w e r l h e
 e y c w f e a s t f m d
 p s h w s h i l o h x h



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ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

It was....

300 years ago, on *20th February 1726* that William Prescott, an American colonel in American Revolutionary War was born: famous for giving the order: "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

200 years ago, on *4th February 1826* that James Fenimore Cooper's historical romance novel *The Last of the Mohicans* was published.

175 years ago, on *1st February 1851* that novelist Mary Shelley died, aged 53: she is best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein* (see p33).

125 years ago, on *2nd February 1901* that Queen Victoria's funeral took place (see p43).

80 years ago, on *11th February 1946*, that the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published: it was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version was published in 1611; and on *14th February 1946* that the Bank of England was nationalised; and on *19th February 1946* that mathematician and cryptanalyst Alan Turing presented a detailed paper for the National Physical Laboratory that gave the first reasonably complete design of a stored-programme computer.

70 years ago, on *11th February 1956* that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union: they had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

65 years ago, on *9th February 1961* that the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.

50 years ago, on *11th February 1976* that John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating; and on *23rd February 1976* that the artist L S Lowry died: best known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men (see p31).

40 years ago, on *12th February 1986* that the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France: it was the agreement to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries, and the tunnel opened in 1994.

30 years ago, on *1st February 1996* that US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House, to discuss the Northern Ireland Peace Process; and on *15th February 1996* that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven in Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

25 years ago, on *12th February 2001* that the Human Genome Project announced the publication of the first complete working draft of the human genome; and on *19th February 2001* that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex.

20 years ago, on *18th February 2006* that the Rolling Stones played the world's largest free rock concert on Copacabana beach, Rio de Janeiro: an estimated 2 million people attended.

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SAINTS OF THE MONTH

14th February – The Two Valentines

If you dig into the history of Valentine's Day, you discover it has a complicated past. There seems to have been two Valentines: Valentine of Terni and Valentine of Rome. But there was only one road involved: the Via Flaminia, or Flaminian Way.

According to some sources, Valetine of Terni was a third century bishop found 'guilty' of having encouraged some young men to convert to Christianity. When the prefect of Rome heard of this, he was furious, and had Valentine of Terni arrested.

Valentine of Terni was then taken to Rome on the Flaminian Way, which was the road linking Rome and Terni. In Rome, Valentine of Terni was beheaded in 273. His remains were then taken back to Terni for burial. An 8th century basilica named after him is found on the Flaminian Way.

Valentine of Rome was a priest who was also martyred in the middle of the third century, this time under the authority of Claudius II. But Valentine of Rome's death may have occurred on the Flaminian Way, where another basilica, bearing his name, has also been found. This one was completed by Pope Theodosius about three centuries later.

The two stories have understandably become confused. Two Valentines, both martyred, in a time of persecution of Christians, and one Flaminian Way. Even Common Worship's choice of c.269 as the date of death is at best a guess.

One thing seems sure: our present-day custom of sending cards and flowers to declare our love has nothing to do with either Valentine. Instead, these may come from the poet John Donne in about 1613. He wrote a marriage song which includes religious commemoration of Valentine along with fertility symbolism. Even the pagan Lupercalia festival may have gone into the mix which flavours our current celebrations of the day.

MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Remembering the work of L S Lowry – Tim Lenton

Fifty years ago the artist L S Lowry died of pneumonia. He was known primarily for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men, but he also painted original and striking seascapes and impressive portraits.

Laurence Stephen Lowry was born on 1st November 1887 in Stretford. His father worked for an estate agent and his mother was an organist, playing at the local church. Laurence went to Sunday school, but as life later turned difficult, his faith became shadowy. After leaving school he became a rent collector for the Pall Mall Property Company and stayed there until his retirement in 1952. This led to some dismissing him as a 'Sunday painter'.

Lowry's life was restricted by his family debts and his mother, for whom he took responsibility after his father died. He tried hard to please her, but she showed no appreciation for the quality of his art, looking instead for a middle-class respectable life. He became a solitary figure and never married.

Lowry remains popular as an artist, with many imitators, but he never formally taught or gathered a group of followers around him. He holds the record for rejecting British honours – five, including a knighthood (1968). A collection of his work is on display in The Lowry, an impressive purpose-built art gallery on Salford Quays.

During his life he made about 1,000 paintings and over 8,000 drawings. His works often sell for millions of pounds. Buried in Manchester next to his parents, he left an estate valued at £298,459, plus artwork, to Carol Ann Lowry (no relation), whose family he befriended when she was 13, after she asked for help with her own development as an artist.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Mary Shelley and Frankenstein – Tim Lenton

It was 175 years ago, on 1st February 1851, that the novelist Mary Shelley died. She is best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein*. Her parents were the influential philosophers William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, a strong advocate of women's rights, who died 11 days after Mary's birth from complications. The future Mary Shelley was herself fascinated by books and philosophy but spent two long, enjoyable spells 'for her health' with the Baxters, a dissenting family who lived near Dundee.

She started on the novel *Frankenstein* – not the name of the eight-foot, lovelorn 'Christian' monster but of the scientist who created him – at the age of 18 after a conversation about ghosts with her husband, the atheist Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, and others. After her book was published anonymously, many suspected that her husband had written it or was co-author, but this was not the case: he may have done some light editing.

Mary, a baptised Anglican who came to despair and doubt, wrote several other books, but her life was tragic on many levels. Her husband had affairs, and they mixed in circles where that was encouraged. A four-year period in Italy with Byron and others, initially welcomed by Mary, became especially hard for her to endure. According to him, she had described Naples as 'a paradise inhabited by devils'.

Three of her four children died at a very young age; only the fourth, Percy Florence, reached adulthood. And her husband died, aged only 29, in a mysterious sailing accident in 1822 in The Gulf of Spezia near Genoa.

Her last book was a travel narrative about rambles in Germany and Italy which she had undertaken with her son Percy in the early 1840s. She died aged 53, perhaps of a brain tumour or a stroke. She was buried at St Peter's Church in Bournemouth.

The funeral of Queen Victoria – Tim Lenton

Exactly 125 years ago, on 2nd February 1901, the funeral of Queen Victoria took place. She had died at the age of 81 on 22 January, having ruled for nearly 64 years, and her death took her family, courtiers and subjects by surprise in difficult times. The Boer war was still in progress, and the previous year the Prince of Wales had been shot at in Belgium, by a boy who was protesting against the war.

Her third adult child – Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh – had just died, another was near death, and she herself had been confined to a wheelchair, almost blind and often confused. She died at the remote Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, and when it happened there was no-one alive who could remember how to bury a monarch.

Victoria had asked for a full military state funeral, and there were secret instructions concerning mementoes of her personal servant, John Brown. The official service in St George's Chapel was chaotic because of timing errors, but it was followed by an emotional ceremony for the family on 4th February, in the mausoleum the queen had built for her husband at Frogmore, adjoining Windsor Castle, where the Queen was laid to rest beside her much-loved Prince Albert.

The total cost was £35,500 (£4.5 million). Victoria had outlived all the members of her Privy Council alive in 1837; all the members who had sat in the House of Commons at that time; and all nine of her bridesmaids.

What has been described as the godly domesticity of the Victorian era appealed to a mainly Protestant public, centring more on morals than on radical evangelicalism and effective prayer. One historian noted the transformation in the general British attitude from 'aggressive, brutal, rowdy, outspoken, riotous, cruel and bloodthirsty' to 'inhibited, polite, orderly, tender-minded, prudish and hypocritical'.





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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally – the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is officially Archbishop of Canterbury from 28th January 2026, when legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral. Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her? Read on...

1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London.
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as 'an opportunity to reflect the love of God'. She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
4. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.
5. She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.
6. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as 'the biggest decision I have ever made'.
7. In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.
8. On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.
9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."
10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.
11. As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.
12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.
13. As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.
14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

- ◀15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.
16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
17. Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.
18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.
19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

'He gave us eyes to see them': The Church Font – Rev Michael Burgess

Open the door of any church and the first thing likely to greet our eyes is the font. It marks the beginning of Christian life in the church. Many fonts have fine carvings of the seven sacraments that nourish the Christian. Others are octagonal in shape: a reminder of Noah and his seven family members saved in the ark from the Flood.



The famous mermen font at St George's Church, Anstey, by Michael Garlick, via Wikimedia Commons

This font is a symbol of the ship sailing the seas of life. It is in St George's Church, Anstey, in Hertfordshire. Around the font are carved mermen – mythical, pagan creatures that belong to a pre-Christian age which the newly baptised is called on to renounce. When it was carved in the 11th-12th centuries, baptism occurred within eight days of birth. Babies would be immersed three times into the waters of the font: dying to the old life symbolised by the mermen, and rising to new life, to be clothed in a white robe and given a lighted candle as a guide through life. They would then grow up in the church, moving from that west end through the upturned boat of the nave to the altar at the east end.

That movement is a sign of the pilgrimage we are all called to make. Like a journey on the seas of this world, we may sail through tranquil waters and peaceful days. There may be times when the skies are cloudy and the waters stormy. Martin Luther, when he was faced by struggles like that in his life, would say the words 'I am baptised' to strengthen and reassure himself knowing that there is always a light to guide and a goal that is sure and eternal.

Can you get across a pedestrian crossing in time? – from the journal Age and Ageing

Have you ever had to hurry to make it to safely across the street because the pedestrian crossing light is about to turn red again? If so, you are not alone. A recent study has found that pedestrian crossing timings are simply too brief for many elderly people and especially those with mobility problems.

The length of time given at crossing points usually assumes a walking speed of 1.2m per second. But the study found that the average speed of adults aged over 65 is only 0.77m per second. So more than half of older people need to increase their normal walking speed by about 50 per cent, just to reach the other kerb safely.

A researcher said: "This isn't just a safety issue – it's potentially a barrier to independence, physical activity, and social connection, all of which often decline in later life." And another said: "Allowing enough time to cross the road can boost confidence, support independence, and help them remain engaged in their communities, all key to a better quality of life."

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POETRY CORNER

Nigel Beeton writes: 'You want peace and quiet. Then the fridge blares at you, because you've left it open. The microwave bleats for your attention. Never mind, you can check the email. – no chance: computer orders you to download upgrades (or upload downgrades, I forget which). So you get into the car to drive to work. That's the worst of all. It moans at you if you don't do your seatbelt up straight away. The sat nav protests that you're going the wrong way. And there are those annoying little arrows that tell you when to change gear. After nearly 40 years' driving, I DO know when a car needs to have the gear changed! Aaargh!'

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My car now has a clever light
Dispelling doubt or fear,
Without it I'd have not a clue
When to shift up a gear!

Of course there is the Sat Nav
To help me find my way
The time I learned to read a map
Was just a wasted day!

My PC's a law unto itself
So busy telling me

To upgrade this or restart that –
The net I never see!

And sometimes, when my work is done
I turn on my TV
All chance to watch my programme gone –
"Retune" it says to me.

The oven, fridge, and microwave
They make a beeping sound
Or else they have bright lights which flash
To order me around.

And so I am a harassed man,
I live a hassled life;
The one who shouts at me the least
Is my sweet and lovely wife!

LIFE IN THE 21st CENTURY

Three in four car thefts unsolved

Keep a close eye on your car this year, because sadly, no one else seems to be able to do so. Recent figures have revealed that more than 121,000 car theft offences were not solved in 2024-25. The British Transport Police, South Yorkshire, City of London, Sussex and Warwickshire police forces reported that more than 80 per cent of car thefts were unsolved. 35 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales had a total rate of 60 per cent of all cases going unsolved. Some critics even say that the dismal figures shows that car theft has been decriminalised in the UK.

Of course, theft has been around for a long time. For this very reason, Jesus warned us not to over-value the things that we own. He said: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where ... thieves break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19). Sadly, no data exists from the 1st century, to tell us how many stolen camels and donkeys were ever recovered.

ECO TIP OF THE MONTH

Wet wipes are convenient, but they are a nightmare for our drains! The government have recently enacted legislation to ban wet wipes made with plastics as they don't degrade and if they enter the drainage system combine with fat to make those giant fatbergs we hear about. But even wet wipes made to biodegrade don't do so very quickly and are still a problem.

So if you have to use wet wipes, please don't put them in the loo, even if the packaging says they're flushable and will biodegrade – they don't. Even better, use a cloth or flannel if that's appropriate – they can be re-used.

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Every Sunday	Church Services	Page 3
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Every Mon, Tue, Wed	Pilates, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 17
Every Mon 11.30/Thu 9.30am	Move It or Lose It, Crossways (Mon)/Broadmayne (Thu)	Page 9
Every Monday 6pm	Yoga, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Wednesday, 10am	Warm Welcome Wednesdays, Broadmayne Village Hal	Page 15
Wednesdays, 7pm	Group Guitar Lessons, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 19
Every Thursday, 10am	Table Tennis, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 19
Every Thursday, 6.30pm	Dog Training Club, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 19
Every Friday, 9.30am	Pilates, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 17
Every Friday, 10am	Chapel Café, Methodist Church, B'mayne (Easter cards from 20th)	Page 15
Every Friday, 10am	Owermoigne Painting Group, Village Hall (not 27th)	Page 19
Every Friday, 7pm	Short Mat Bowls, Broadmayne Village Hall	852285
Every Saturday, 8.30am	Yoga, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 17
Monday 2nd, 7.30pm	Broadmayne Parish Council, Methodist Hall	Page 11
Tues 3rd & 17th, 10.30am	Coffee & Company, St Peter's West Knighton	Page 11
Friday 6th, 7.30pm	Mark Harrison, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 15
Saturday 7th, 9am	Community Café, Crossways Youth & Community Centre	Page 9
Saturdays 7th & 21st, 10am	Short Mat Bowls, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 19
Monday 9th, 7pm	Owermoigne Photography Group, Cricket & Social Club	Page 17
Tuesday 10th, 10am	By Still Waters, Broadmayne Methodist Church	Page 3
Tuesday 10th & 24th, 10.30am	Coffee Shop, St Martin's Community Hall	Page 15
Tuesday 10th & 24th, 10.30am	Owermoigne Village Hall Coffee Mornings	Page 19
Wednesday 11th, 7.30pm	Knightsford Parish Council, West Stafford Village Hall	Page 11
Thursday 12th, 7pm	Broadmayne & West Knighton WI, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 11
Friday 13th, Saturday 14th	Mother Turkey & Her 3 Kittens panto, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 19
Sats 14th, 28th, Suns 1st & 22nd	Music at St Peter's Dorchester	Page 7
Sunday 15th	March Compass deadline	Page 2
Tuesday 17th, 2pm	Owermoigne Flower Club, Village Hall,	Page 21
Tuesdays 17 & 24th, 7.30pm	The Long Road to Heaven, St Martin's Hall, Broadmayne	Page 3
Thursday 19th	Fish & Chip Supper, Col's Quiz, Owermoigne Crkt & Social Club	Page 19
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Fri 20th 7.30; Sat 21st 1.30, 7.30	Barry Potter pantomime, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 17
Friday 27th	Meat Raffle, Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club	Page 19
Saturday 28th	Cheese & Wine Quiz, Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club	Page 19

For your event to be included FREE in WHAT'S ON, email details to the Editor (see Page 2)



Greetings again from St Petrified's

You may recall that during Covid people in the village were encouraged to use their old Christmas cards (in February!) to write to others in the village during lockdown. There was at that time a Christmas post run by the Senior Citizens' Club but the extra work for the February run was not popular with the old folk who were supposed to be socially distancing, so the Kids' Army was brought in. Since then the Christmas card service has struggled to find willing volunteers to run it. Maybe surprisingly, since young folk tend to send texts and videos rather than cards, the youth group, aka the Kids' Army, asked Rev Keen if they could take over the running of the Christmas card scheme. But they had an ulterior motive – whereas the old scheme was free, theirs was to be paid for. Perhaps they had been inspired by Jeremy Jameson, who had shown entrepreneurial foresight which paved the way to his fortune that funded the church hall improvement. They suggested 20p per card, all proceeds to go to the youth group coffers, which were generally at the bottom-of-the-barrel stage when they wanted some sort of paid-for activity. Would villagers pay 20p? Given the astronomical cost of postage (and the worry that your card would be just over the limit for a normal card and into the large letter price hike) Rev Keen thought that it would be acceptable. He reckoned that of the 900 million cards sent each year only 150 million are delivered by Royal Mail, so assuming that the remaining 750 million had not been lost in the post, there must be schemes running across the country to take care of the rest. And Rev Keen had an ulterior motive too. The youth group had asked if the scheme could be extended to involve Four Saints' youth group, which they had been meeting occasionally with. So since the bishop had contacted him and Rev Young at Four Saints to ask how the cooperation between their two churches was progressing, he would have something different to say to him.

So the two youth groups got together to get everything organised. There were questions to be answered, such as how

would they deal with the mail for addresses in the 'other' village, which had increased over the years as various get-togethers, outings and the 'Five Saints' WhatsApp group had forged friendships between the two communities. A sorting office, they decided. Where would it be? First thought was somewhere half way between the two villages – but there was nowhere indoors. Bill Brewer of the Snare and Ferret heard of this in a casual chat with one of the older girls who did some cash-in-hand waitressing for him, and he suggested that his pub would be available (and, he thought, provide him with extra customers wanting refreshments – don't ask – I didn't). No that's not fair on Four Saints' group, our waitress insisted, so Bill contacted his opposite number at the Loose Woman in Hyton and a reciprocal arrangement made for alternate sorting office venues. When would they deliver? Weekends, they decided, until the beginning of the school holidays. What transport? Most had cycles of some description – a good way of getting around, except up the steep hill to Hyton.

The posting boxes were in the churches, with a slot for cards and payment, and the posting boxes filled up quickly. A certain amount of local knowledge was essential to decipher some scribbly handwriting and enigmatic addresses: like 'the third house after the first lamppost on the road to the church'. Must be Hyton as there are no lampposts on the road to our church – all the folk who come on a winter's evening approach together, with shining torches: makes a good start to a carol service. The volunteers set off on their bikes to Hyton with bags carrying the cards over their shoulders, and many of them wore dark blue clothes making them look like last-century postmen! Pity they couldn't find peaked hats. Did anything go wrong? Not really. One boy's brakes failed on the way back down the hill from Hyton – he even overtook a car! But he needed a new pair of trainers as most of the soles of his are embedded in the gravel on the road as he used them as brakes. Did the two communities like it? Yes, some particularly, who had not sent cards for years and had rummaged in lofts, garages and under beds to find old cards saved 'in case they came in useful'. Did everyone like it? Well, Rev Spasm didn't, but that's perhaps because he had very few cards sent to him. But then, he didn't send any.

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Codebreaker extra letter: 16 is M

AND FINALLY . . .

It hurts

A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!" That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting him. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

Light

A nurse at a hospital received a call from an anxious woman. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," she said.

"Are you light-headed?" the nurse asked. "Oh no," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."

Not quite what was meant

Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order.

Correction: We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon'.



... but you weren't to know that the army would mistake us for their mock-up church tower target for drone practice...



It seemed that even the mice had been evicted from some royal residences...

Post-Valentine

A man confided to his vicar that he and his wife had had a serious argument the night before. "It finally ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees."

"What did she say?" asked the vicar, amazed.

The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek.

"Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

