



WEST KNIGHTON
St Peter

WARMWELL
Holy Trinity

W

Methodist Church
BROADMAYNE
St Martin

E

OWERMOIGNE
St Michael

S

HOLWORTH
St Catherine

COMPASS

**The Community Magazine for
the Watercombe Benefice**

May 2026

Free



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



Broadmayne, Holworth, Owermoigne, Warmwell and West Knighton
Sunday Services May 2026



	3rd May	10th May	17th May	24th May	31st May
Broadmayne St Martin	11am Holy Communion		11am Together@11 at the Methodist Church	8am Holy Communion BCP	11am United Benefice Holy Communion at St Martin, Broadmayne
Broadmayne Methodist		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	6pm Evensong	9.30am Holy Communion	6pm Worship & Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	

Methodist & Joint Sunday Services

Sunday 3rd May 11am – No service: Join St Martin's

Sunday 10th May 11am – Richard Lownsbrough

Sunday 17th May 11am – Rev Brenda Stephenson & Jenny Bagnall LLM: T@11 at the Methodist Church

Sunday 24th May 11am – Chris Warren

Sunday 31st May 11am – Benefice Service at St Martin's Broadmayne

By Still Waters Tuesday 12th May, 10am (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month)
 Reflective prayer and sharing Broadmayne Methodist Church

ADVANCE NOTICE

ST CATHERINE-BY-THE-SEA IS 100 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR AND WE ARE PLANNING TO RECOGNISE THIS WITH A SUPPER AND MUSICAL EVENING ON SATURDAY THE 11TH OF JULY COMMENCING AT 6.00PM AT THE CHAPEL.

ALL WHO HAVE KNOWN, LOVED AND WORSHIPPED AT ST. CATHERINE'S ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US. ENTRY WILL BE BY TICKET, TO INCLUDE A WELCOME DRINK AND HOG ROAST. FURTHER DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY DONATION. FINAL DETAILS WILL FOLLOW IN NEXT MONTH'S COMPASS.

BENEFICE REGISTERS

Baptism

15th March Elin Rose Lily Gillespie, baptism at St Catherine, Holworth

Funeral

26th March Alison and Noel Tones, burial of ashes at St Michael, Owermoigne

Watercombe Benefice website <http://watercombe.org.uk/>

St Martin's Church Facebook page <https://m.facebook.com/StMartinsBroadmayne/>

A Church Near You <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

Broadmayne Methodist Church <https://www.dsw.church/churches/circuit-churches/broadmayne.html>



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FROM REV JOHN YARRIEN – ‘INVITATION’

As we move towards reflecting on Christ's Ascension and then the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, I've had cause this May to reflect on this theme of "Invitation", that I encountered all over my Lent and Easter Journey this year. It's relevant because Pentecost is an invitation again, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, filled to over-flowing, filled that we might share and invite others to begin their journey of faith this year.

Cora and I received several invitations to different events during Lent and Holy Week, some familiar and some new. I received an invitation from Margaret to come and share in soup at the Broadmayne Lent Lunches, which was a lovely ecumenical event, with Christians and community coming together to share in hospitality, conversation and wonderful soup and cake.

On Good Friday, I had to decline the invite to join in the walk of Witness being held in Yeovil, Dorchester and Sherborne. However, I joined the Benefice community, and started the Good Friday pilgrimage across your Benefice. In West Knighton and in Broadmayne, we journeyed from village to village, sharing Holy Week reflections and hospitality in every church visited; my admiration goes out to those who journeyed onto several other communities across the Benefice. In the afternoon of Good Friday, I accepted the invitation from United Church Dorchester, to do something new, as we explored a very different look at the Easter story. This event was entitled 'A Quiet Easter', but perhaps the most significant moment came when a nail was hammered into a piece of wood, haunting and moving at the same time.

On Holy Saturday, Cora and I watched people handing out Easter eggs and daffodils and inviting people to go into the church. One passing family had a conversation with a member of the church on duty and her simple words and signposting led to that family spending a considerable time in the church, sharing the Easter Story and prayer with the local minister. In the afternoon I raced up to Sturminster Newton so that I could share in an Easter Tea; some days in ministry are tough, but of course when Soup or Cake is involved. . . not so much!

On each of the above, an invitation was given and a response made to take part in the activities. We were certainly enriched by each of the experiences. In the Bible reading in Luke 24:13-35, Cleopas and the other disciple are nearing their home in Emmaus. Jesus walks on ahead, as if he were going on. This is a key moment in this story. They could let this stranger walk on past their home and never discover that it was Jesus all along. The end of this story depends on what they decide to do. Because Jesus is not going to invite himself into their home. He will only enter if invited.

And isn't it the same with us? He joins us on the journey without our asking, that's true. But at some point, and maybe at a lot of points, he waits to be invited in. So as we walk towards the wondrous celebration of Pentecost, the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, who will you pray for, that they might invite Jesus into their lives? Do you need to offer that prayer yourselves to invite Jesus into your life? Whatever the coming days and weeks have in store for you, I will pray that you are filled to over-flowing with the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, and you make the invitation, knowing that Jesus will enter when you invite him in.

Grace and peace, *Rev John Yarrrien*

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COMMUNITY



St Mary's CE Middle School, Puddletown *Inspire today to shape tomorrow* Celebrating Science, Exploring Our Community, and Looking Ahead to Summer

It has been a wonderfully busy month for our pupils, filled with hands-on learning, real-world experiences, and the excitement of new discoveries across science, geography, and food technology.

Year 5 Dive into British Science Week

Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous Science Deep Dive Day in celebration of British Science Week. One of the absolute highlights was a visit from the Explorer Dome, where pupils were immersed in awe-inspiring scientific demonstrations and interactive learning. We extend our sincere thanks to the St Mary's School Association for generously funding this memorable experience for the children.



Year 6 Experience Science on the Farm

Meanwhile, Year 6 spent a glorious spring day at the farm as part of their topic on diversity and genetics. During their visit, they learned about local ecosystems, explored how different species support one another, and even met some exceptionally cute furry residents along the way. A huge thank you goes to Chrissy Hancock of

Wessex Wild Grazing, Tincleton, for hosting our pupils and giving them such a terrific, hands-on learning opportunity.

Year 5 Explore Puddletown Through Fieldwork Back in the village, Year 5 swapped lab coats for clipboards as they spent a morning conducting geography fieldwork in Puddletown. Pupils completed detailed field sketches, recorded both pedestrian and vehicle volumes, and have since analysed their data back at school – producing graphs and discussing what their findings might tell us about local transport patterns.



Full English Feasts in Food Technology

When they're not diving deep into science or investigating Puddletown's traffic flows, Year 5 have also been turning up the heat in Food Technology. Every student has now cooked a full English breakfast, always a much-anticipated moment in the school year. The hallways were filled with delicious aromas – and if staff were lucky, the odd spare sausage!

Appeal for Support – Summer School 2026 Finally, we are appealing to our community for support to help run our annual Summer School for Key Stage 2 pupils during the upcoming summer holiday. This initiative is particularly aimed at supporting disadvantaged children through the long break.

We are immensely grateful for the funding previously provided by Dorset Council; however, this funding is no longer available. To keep this valuable opportunity running, we are now seeking financial support from alternative sources. If you believe you may be able to help – or know someone who might – please contact the school office. Any contribution, large or small, will make a meaningful difference to our pupils. Thank you.

e-mail: office@stmaryscemiddle.uk website: www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk

Tel: 01305 848293 Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCEMIDPUDD>

Dr Tim Ennion (Head of School)

COMPASS ONLINE: Compass can be accessed online as a downloadable pdf file. Either search **Watercombe Benefice** and then click or tap on the **News** tab, or type <https://watercombe.org.uk/news> into your browser.



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COMMUNITY

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Friday 5th June 6.30pm

There will be **skittles knockout fundraising charity evening** raising much needed funds for Julia's House in The New Inn, West Knighton, hosted by Jacquie and Sian, who are trekking The Great Wall of China for the charity in 2027. Teams of 6, £20pp to include supper. There will be a raffle available to purchase on the evening and prizes for the top three winning teams.

Please contact
sian_edwards@btconnect.com to book your space we are limited to 40 players.

BOCKHAMPTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Saturday 16th May 10.30am

We are happy to be once again hosting our **Annual Plant Sale**; the selling will start promptly at 10.30am so please arrive early to grab your favourites. This year it will be held in Greengas Field opposite St Andrew's Church West Stafford. There will be teas/cakes and a raffle to purchase on the day.

This sale is cash only please.

If you have any plants you wish to donate to the sale, please deliver to Greengas field Friday 15th May from 3pm or Saturday morning from 9am.

Entry is free to all and we look forward to welcoming you. Any queries please contact jacquie.walton@outlook.com

News from Crossways Youth & Community Centre

We have lots of 'thank yous' this month! To the players who supported our recently held afternoon Bingo session. It seems to have been quite popular, so we will hold another one in a few months' time!

To those of you who came to support the Spring Fayre at the beginning of April.

And lastly, to the Committee of Moreton Village Hall who provided us with a venue free of charge, in order to run a fundraising Screen Quiz and ploughman's supper!

Our next monthly **Community Café and Table Top Sale** will be on **Saturday, 2 May from 9am to 12 noon.**

We are also on the lookout for some more Trustees to join our team! We are quite a friendly crew – so if interested, please contact chair@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



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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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COMMUNITY

Music at St Peter's Church, Dorchester

We hope you can join us for the choral services and musical events that are taking place. All services are free to attend, all are welcome. Some have refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 10th May, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist featuring Michael Haydn's 'Missa brevis in C', William Harris's 'Holy is the true light' and Groeck's 'Totus tuus'.

Saturday 16th May, 12.30pm – 1.00pm: our free lunchtime concert features clarinettist Natalie Burton and pianist Rob Taylor in a programme of works by Finzi and Copland.

Sunday 24th May, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist to mark the feast of Pentecost includes Mozart's 'Missa brevis in F K.192', Grayston Ives's 'Listen sweet dove' and Tallis's 'O Lord give thy Holy Spirit'.

Saturday 30th May, 4.30pm: Choral Evensong includes Gibbons's 'Come, Holy Ghost', Martin Neary's 'Preces & Responses', Blair's 'Evening Service in B minor' and Elgar's 'The spirit of the Lord'.

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 Our latest Summer Music Brochure, is available through the website or in print from the back of the church; please help yourself to one if you are passing! All of our social media and contact details can be found at: linktr.ee/musicatstpeters



Fundraising Friends 222

Supporting Dorset Nightstop for a 2nd year

Here's where you can find us

Wednesday 6th May – outside Barclays Bank, Dorchester

Saturday 13th June – Broadmayne & West Knighton Village Fete

Tuesday 24th June – Weymouth seafront

Sunday 26th July – Warmwell House

Tuesday 4th August – Weymouth seafront

Saturday 21st November – Christmas Bazaar 10am - 2pm, Trinity Club Dorchester.

The Occasional Singers: Choral Masterworks

Sunday 17 May 7.00pm at St Mary's Church, Edward Road, Dorchester DT1 2HL

The Church will resound to the glorious music of Handel, Bach and Mendelssohn when The Occasional Singers present a concert of short choral pieces for choir with chamber orchestra. They will be joined by the outstanding young Soprano Sumei Bao-Smith as they run the gamut of emotions from the joyful, energetic vigour of Handel's 'Let God Arise' to the tender romantic passion of Mendelssohn's Psalm 42. The programme includes the famous soprano aria 'Scherza Infida' from Handel's Ariodante.

Entrance is FREE. There will be a retiring collection for Weldmar Hospicecare. Everyone is most welcome.

WEST KNIGHTON / BROADMAYNE

St Peter's Church, West Knighton

Thank you to everyone who supported our Lent Lunch.
As a result of your generous donations we were able to send a cheque for £110.00 to Dorchester Poverty Action Group.



Coffee & Company

at St Peter's Church West Knighton

10.30-11.30am
Tuesdays 5th & 19th May
Do join us, everyone is welcome

Knightsford Parish Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 13th May, 7.30 pm, ANNUAL MEETING, West Stafford Village Hall
Wednesday 10th June, 7.30pm, New Inn, West Knighton



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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 10th-16th 2026

There will be a collection this year; if you receive an envelope and would like to give a donation please take the envelope to Corner House Stores Broadmayne where there will be a collection box behind the counter.

Anyone who would like to help with envelope delivery in Broadmayne and West Knighton please contact Linda Clacher on 01305 852525 or 07779510267. Thank you.

Easter Gardens at Broadmayne First School

Just before Easter, six members from St Martin's, St Peter's and the Methodist Church went to the First School to help the 29 children of Year 1 create their own Easter gardens. Rev David Johnson first told the Easter story, with the pupils showing their knowledge of what happened 2000 years ago.

Then the children made their own Easter garden, scooping compost into their trays, adding a tomb and placing a large stone in front of the opening, using small stones for a path to the tomb, and planting polyanthus, bellis and viola, around the garden, with moss to cover the compost. They then placed three crosses on the hill above the tomb.

As in previous years this venture was supported by Dobbies Garden Centre as they generously donated all the plants and compost.



Spring Tea
for the 'More Senior' Members of our Community
organised by Broadmayne Churches
Monday 18 May, 3 - 5pm
St Martin's Community Hall
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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE PARISH COUNCIL – April 2026 meeting highlights

Broadmayne Parish Council met in April to discuss a wide range of local matters, including transport, community facilities, planning updates and forthcoming village events. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Public Participation The meeting opened with residents' questions and comments. (i) One resident asked whether there had been any progress on proposals for a safer cycle route between Broadmayne and Dorchester. The Chair explained that Dorset Council Ward Member Roland Tarr has raised the issue as part of Dorset Council's Local Transport Plan, although it is not yet clear whether the scheme will be included. (ii) Concerns were also raised about the village shop, which can sometimes appear short of stock and may be losing local trade as a result. The Council noted these concerns and agreed that the situation needed to be kept under review.

Planning and Tree Matters Members noted a recent planning decision relating to land adjacent to Broadmead. An application for an advertising board displaying artwork during pre-marketing and marketing stages has been approved by Dorset Council. The Council also considered a consultation for a proposed roof extension and alterations at 49 Main Street. After discussion, it was agreed to raise no comments on this application.

Reports from Local Groups The Playing Field Association reported some positive developments. Repairs to the multi-play unit in the children's play area have now been completed, and further work is underway to inspect and refurbish the hot water system in the changing rooms. Attention was also drawn to the Village Hall Annual General Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 15th April. Residents were encouraged to attend and support this important community facility. Community Speedwatch activity was reviewed for the past two months. In February, three Speedwatch sessions were held, observing 344 vehicles, with 18 found to be exceeding the speed limit. The highest recorded speed was 42mph. In March, five sessions took place, including one attended by the police. During these, 1,557 vehicle movements were observed, with 52 vehicles recorded as speeding, the highest speed being 44mph.

Financial Matters Councillors considered a grant application from Broadmayne Scouts, who are planning to take a group of young people to an international Jamboree in Sweden during 2026. The Council agreed to support the trip with a grant of £1,000.

Defibrillator Replacement Following the receipt of quotations from four suppliers, the Council agreed to accept the quote from the British Heart Foundation for a like-for-like replacement defibrillator. Delivery and installation of the new unit are expected shortly, ensuring this important life-saving equipment remains available in the village.

Annual Parish Meeting Preparations are underway for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Council's Annual Report is being finalised and, as in previous years, will be hand-delivered to every household in advance of the meeting. Dorset Council Leader Nick Ireland has kindly agreed to attend as guest speaker. Refreshments will be available afterwards, and local organisations are being invited to set up information stands. Residents are warmly encouraged to attend and share any issues or concerns.

Other Matters (i) The Council noted that all allotment plots are now occupied following the arrival of two new tenants. One person remains on the waiting list, and anyone interested in being added is asked to contact the Parish Clerk. (ii) Members also discussed a recent inspection by Dorset Council engineers of the retaining wall on the eastern side of Knighton Lane, and the presence of a "Temporary Road Surface" sign on Chalky Road. (iii) A further concern was raised about a blocked footpath across a field off Watergates Lane. This issue has been passed to Dorset Council's Rights of Way Team for investigation.

Next Meeting The next meeting, which will include the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting, will take place on Monday 11th May 2026 at the Methodist Church Hall. Residents are always welcome to attend and take part during the public participation section. For the full minutes please see the website www.broadmayne.org



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More information: www.courtlyemusick.co.uk
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BROADMAYNE, BUMPS, BABIES AND BEYOND!

You may be reading this for the first time; if so 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.

This half term we have two Bank Holidays when we shall not meet up together in the hall. Dates are Monday 4th May and Monday 25th May.

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.

Carol 854385, Pam 852648
Leri 07879 405698

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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE WEATHER REPORT FOR MARCH 2026 by Ted Byrne

From the weather station situated at 23 Watergates Lane

March was a month that was all about the rain again, or rather the lack of it. After a wet autumn and a very wet winter, the 39mm of rain we had in March was the lowest monthly rainfall since last July, and less than half the average for March. In the second half of the month it hardly rained at all. It was a good month to get on with those early spring gardening jobs, and there were signs of spring everywhere with blackthorn, primroses and daffodils flowering profusely.

We didn't get many cold days either and, apart from a spell of four days from the 19th, there was no frost. The coldest temperature was the -2.2°C we had on the 22nd. I saw a first swallow of the season on the 19th. The poor chap mistimed his journey but seemingly survived the experience since I saw him, and it was a male, on several occasions after that. He no doubt benefitted from some pleasant maximum temperatures at about that time. He wasn't the only one thinking that is was already a good time to start a family; the moorhens on our pond started hatching a brood on the 2nd, the earliest that we can remember. On the 20th, when we had a maximum of 18.4°C , the temperature differential was 19°C . The highest temperature of the month, however, came on the 31st when it reached a balmy 20°C .

Maximum temperature: 20.3°C on the 31st	Minimum temperature -2.2°C on the 22nd
Wettest day: 6.35mm on the 10th	Days with rainfall (0.5mm or more): 10
Total rainfall for the month: 39mm	Total rainfall for the year: 489mm

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 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

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COMMUNITY HALL

Tuesdays
12th & 26th May

Come along for coffee, tea and biscuits while enjoying a friendly chat. Put the dates in your diary or on your calendar and pass the message around to friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome so do join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Broadmayne Annual Parish Meeting
Saturday 16th May,
at 10:30am
in Broadmayne
Village Hall

Guest Speaker: Nick Ireland
Leader of Dorset Council
Refreshments available

I have been collecting used stamps in aid of **Bone Cancer Research** for over 25 years. The collection point is in Reception, Broadmayne Village Hall. This 'Thank You' in recognition of the huge number of used stamps that I regularly send is for **everyone** donating used stamps. Why not join us? Jo Taylor

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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Village Hall – May

This month's main events are:

- **Skittles and Pizza Friday 1st May**
Junior Skittles 4:30 to 7pm, Adults 7:30 pm

Come along for an evening of skittles – details will be on noticeboard and newsletter – contact Derek Woodward on 07976 058158 to book a team.

The **Firehouse Pizzeria** will be ready to serve delicious pizzas from about 6pm. You can order in advance (see their Facebook page for the menu) or come along and order on the night.

- **Village Market, Saturday 9th May, 10am**
 Visit our monthly market for fresh foodstuffs, plants, gift ideas and delicious tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Please come along to support local makers and growers and Owermoigne's wonderful village hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE – Owermoigne Open Gardens June 20th and 21st

Our regular events are:

Village coffee mornings, 12th & 26th May

In May 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

Wednesday 13th and 27th May 7-8pm.
 Contact Nick for more info at

nickandjudy@hotmail.com

Owermoigne painters

Our friendly painting group welcomes new members. We meet on Friday 10am-12noon, 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 07767 147248.

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

You can see event bookings online at <https://owermoignedorset.com/calendar>
 Contact Margaret Burgess on 07909 718569 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/>

Carol and Neil Legg are planning to trek part of the Great Wall Of China in 2027, to raise funds for the Julia's House Children's charity.

Carol was one of the charity's nursing staff for 15 years, having worked previously in the NHS. Julia's House have been organising this type of fund-raising event for some years and there are several different options available for people taking part. Carol and Neil have elected to pay for the trek themselves, so that all their fund raising goes directly towards helping to fund the charity itself. They are hoping to raise at least £3000 over the next 12 months.

There are a number of ways you can help them achieve this goal;

- Donate to their Just Giving page using the link below;
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/carolandneil-legg-4>
- Donate prizes for future raffles to be held at various events they are organising
- If you are a suitable business, have one of their charity donation boxes on your counter
- Come along to one of the events they are organising (the next one will be a quiz night on Saturday May 16th at the Owermoigne village hall).

If you can help in any way, please contact Carol at carollegg412@gmail.com or phone her on 07552 795395.

Owermoigne ladies walking group will be going for a walk on Wednesday May 20th at Moreton at 10 o'clock, meeting at the Walled Garden car park. For more information please contact Sarah Power on 07919 551317.



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OWERMOIGNE

OWERMOIGNE FLOWER CLUB

We had a fun workshop afternoon led by Carrie Diamond and Elizabeth Jolliffe sharing some new techniques. We created a structure made from paper straws and midelino sticks which didn't always stay in place! Once the flowers were added we were delighted with the variety of designs, lots of time to chat and everyone went home with something from the afternoon.

On 19th May, Area demonstrator Sarah Brooker will give us a floral demonstration titled *Down Home*, tales of her childhood.

On 16th June, we welcome visitors to join us at Moreton Village Hall for our Open afternoon – see right for more information. All Annette's arrangements will be prizes in the raffle.

Our plant stall, a great success in 2024, will be brimming with plants to buy too. Sheila's *New to You* stall is always popular plus tea and cakes.

Don't forget in May we'll be at Owermoigne Village Hall at 2pm, but in June we'll be at Moreton Village Hall. For further information contact Sue Legg 07775 741439 or email: owermoigneflowerclub@gmail.com



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Owermoigne Photography Group In April we had a beginners studio photography evening which was so successful, we are carrying on with the subject for our meeting on the 11th May. Please bring along your camera and/or mobile phone if you would like to take part.

We are now meeting in Owermoigne village hall every second Monday of the month. Doors open at 7:15pm. We are charging £2 per person (please try and bring the correct change).

Our village photography project is progressing well and we would love to hear from more villagers, who might like to be included as subjects of the project.

Finally we would like to offer our best wishes to our member, John, who has just started his treatment for cancer and we look forward to welcoming him back once he has recovered.

If you would like to know more about our group then email me at neillegg1410@gmail.com

Owermoigne Cricket and Social Club Forthcoming Events

- Thursday, 21st May – Fish & Chips Supper, followed by Col's Quiz – pre-orders and payment at the Club bar by no later than Sunday, 17th May
- Sunday, 24th May – Sizzlin' Club BBQ – 12 to 3pm – Just £5 a plate gets you a juicy BBQ bite plus salads – pre-orders and payment by Sunday, 17th May
- Friday, 29th May – Meat Raffle – tickets available to purchase from the Club bar at £1 each, or 6 for £5

Keep your eyes peeled for posters and emails with all the event details!

Caroline Holmes, OC&SC Secretary

PILATES CLASSES with Denise Bowditch in Owermoigne Village Hall
Mondays 11am Multi Level
Tuesdays 6 pm 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

Black Dog News

WHATS ON IN MAY!
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Thursday 21st

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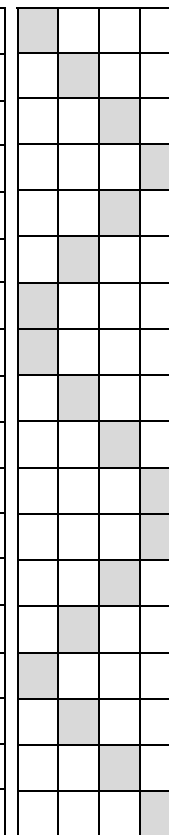
PUZZLES — 1

WORD LINKS

Find the 4-letter word that connects the three words on each line. For example, SPACE, TOWN and CANAL are all linked by the word SHIP, making SPACESHIP, TOWNSHIP and SHIP CANAL.

Put the link word in the grid, and then rearrange the shaded letters to find something that started life in a poem around 1599 and is often used to describe this month.

WHAT	MORE	GREEN
WAY	TOW	FLIGHT
COW	LOAD	POTTING
CRY	SIT	JELLY
LANDING	TOUCH	TOY
LEOPARD	DRIFT	APRIL
GUM	TOP	SHOE
BEAM	HONEY	WALK
STEWART	SOILED	TALKING
LIGHT	BLOW	SUN
CLOCK	WARMER	EVERY
POLE	SHIP	DUST
BACK	HITHER	OVER
FLOWER	PEPPER	DOLLY
CLAP	POVERTY	DOOR
WIRE	ROUND	DAY
TOP	GABLE	RACK
ANGEL	KNIFE	FINGER



Easy SUDOKU

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

Medium SUDOKU

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

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PUZZLES — 2

WORDSEARCH A prayer for Ukraine Find the words in **bold**

Lord, we pray for **Ukraine**, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars **cease** to the end of the **earth**; you **break bows**, **shatter spears**, and **burn shields** with **fire** [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to **save** the **lives** of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this **crisis**. We hear of **war** and rumours of war [Matt. 24:6], but you **Lord** are our **rock**, our **fortress** and our **deliverer**. Our **hope** is in **you**. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "**Be still** and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10].

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

LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES ANSWERS

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

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

Easy
SUDOKU
Medium

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

M	J	E	Z	O	P	H	S	A	Q	I	C	Y
N	V	G	X	F	W	D	U	R	T	B	K	L

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY

It was....

400 years ago, on *4th May 1626* that the Dutch explorer Peter Minuit arrived on the east coast of what is now the USA: he negotiated the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Lenape Native Americans for \$24 worth of cloth and buttons (equal to about \$1,150 today) (see p33).

300 years ago, on *25th May 1726* that the world's first Circulating Library (lending library) was launched by Scottish poet and bookseller Allan Ramsay at his bookshop in Edinburgh.

250 years ago, on *4th May 1776* that Rhode Island became the first of the Thirteen Colonies to renounce allegiance to the British Crown and instead, to declare independence.

200 years ago, on *29th May 1826* that Ebenezer Butterick, American tailor was born: he and his wife invented tissue paper dress patterns in multiple sizes, and thereby revolutionised home dressmaking.

175 years ago, from *1st May to 15th October 1851* that the Great Exhibition was held: with more than 10,000 exhibitors it is regarded as the first World's Fair (see p33).

100 years ago, on *4th to 12th May 1926* that the TUC called a General Strike in support of 1.2 million coal miners: the strike lasted nine days (see p31).

90 years ago, on *7th May 1936* that British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever (at that time) solo flight from England to Cape Town; and on *27th May 1936* that the RMS Queen Mary began her maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton to New York.

80 years ago, on *11th May 1946* that the first CARE packages for Europe arrived in Le Havre, to help people who were starving after WWII.

75 years ago, on *3rd May 1951* that the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened; and on *9th May 1951* that the Lake District National Park was established as Britain's second national park; and on *25th May 1951* that British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow: they were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring.

70 years ago, on *24th May 1956* that the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland: it was won by Switzerland (see p37).

65 years ago, on *31st May 1961* that Michael Ramsay became Archbishop of Canterbury (until 1974).

60 years ago, on *6th May 1966* that the Moors Murderers Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were sentenced to life imprisonment for killing five girls, aged 10 to 17; and on *30th May 1966* that British racing driver Graham Hill won the 1966 Indianapolis 500: he was the only driver in history to win the 'triple crown of motor racing': the Formula One World Championship, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Indianapolis 500.

40 years ago, on *9th May 1986* that Tenzing Norgay (Sherpa Tenzing), died: this Tibetan/Nepalese mountaineer had been with Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand when in 1953 they became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

30 years ago, on *30th May 1996* that the Duke and Duchess of York (the former Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson) were divorced after ten years of marriage.

15 years ago, on *2nd May 2011* that Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, was shot dead by US forces in Pakistan: he was the founder of Al-Qaeda and is thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA.

10 years ago, on *31st May 2016* that Carla Lane, TV screenwriter, died: best remembered for creating the sitcoms *The Liver Birds*, *Butterflies*, and *Bread*.

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SAINT OF THE MONTH

28th May – Gizur of Iceland

If you have ever cruised to Iceland, you'll know just how far off the beaten track it is. You may wonder how anybody in ancient times managed to survive all those miles of icy water to even find the place.

But it seems that Irish hermits in the early Middle Ages did find it, and so first brought Christianity to its shores. Then by the tenth century Norway had sent in missionaries, and the struggle was on for the faith of Iceland, between paganism and Christianity. And so, the scene was set for the life and work of Gizur of Iceland.

Gizur came from a Christian Icelandic family – both his grandfather and father were bishops. Gizur seems to have been greatly respected: Harold Hardrada, the Norwegian military leader, described Gizur as fit to be either a king, a leader of Vikings, or a bishop. Gizur chose to become a bishop and played a key role in the establishment of Christianity in Iceland. Not only did he manage to grow the church and then organise its neat division into two dioceses, he seems to have been involved in the development of its sagas, poetry and history, as well as explorations of Greenland and Newfoundland.

But Gizur's biggest moment came before he was a bishop. He was chosen by the Icelandic people to be the one to choose whether Iceland would remain pagan, or would adopt Christianity. After some time in seclusion, Gizur announced that there should be Christian religion, but Icelandic law. Thus, Christian worship was officially established, but people were permitted to worship their heathen gods in private, and to abandon any unwanted infants to perish of the cold. (These concessions were abolished within a few years, as the people absorbed Christian values.)

MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Remembering the General Strike of 1926 – Tim Lenton

One hundred years ago, from 4th to 12th May 1926, there was a General Strike in the UK. It was called by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, but had little effect in the long term.

The aim was to force the Conservative government, led by Stanley Baldwin, to stop dramatic wage cuts for hard-hit miners and to improve their working conditions. The country came to a temporary standstill, but then the strike collapsed, though the miners stayed out for another seven months without achieving anything.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Scottish-born Rt Revd Randall Davidson, a conciliatory figure within the Church and Christianity generally, spoke out against the strike but called on the Government – unsuccessfully – to improve working conditions for miners, and to subsidise the mines so that wages could be increased.

He wanted to make his appeal known to the public on radio, but the BBC refused to broadcast it, though it was backed by an interdenominational group of church leaders, one of whom told Davidson: "For the first time in my life it has been possible to feel that the Christian forces in this country were united and courageous."

There was considerable sympathy for the strikers among the population generally – for instance, a football match was organised between police and strikers – but there were clashes too. There were also fears that fascists and communists were using the strike to fuel their own revolutionary ambitions. Labour Party leaders were especially worried that outright backing of the strikers might damage their new standing as a party of government. Fears about the dubious legitimacy of the strike – with the threat of seizure of assets – also played a part in its early collapse.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

The Great Exhibition that started the V & A – Tim Lenton

Some 175 years ago, from 1st May to 15th October 1851, the Great Exhibition was held in The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park. More than 10,000 exhibitors attended what is regarded as the first World's Fair.

Prince Albert was an enthusiastic promoter of the exhibition, which was described by some as a reaction to the successful French Industrial Exposition of 1844: he described it as a display of divine providence, though some religious writers took the opposite view, describing it as worldly and even ungodly with its emphasis on human achievement. Others welcomed it as an opportunity to evangelise.

Queen Victoria was an Exhibition enthusiast, visiting three times with her family and 34 times on her own. In fact, six million people – equivalent to a third of the population of Britain at the time – paid it a visit. The average daily attendance was 42,831, with a peak of 109,915 on 7th October. The Baptist preacher Thomas Cook, in a landmark achievement for his embryonic company, arranged travel there for more than 150,000.

The event made a surplus of £186,000 – worth about £30 million today. This was used to found the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum.

The original Crystal Palace, constructed of cast iron and plate glass, was built specifically to house the Exhibition – consisting mainly of examples of technology developed in the Industrial Revolution. Designed by Joseph Paxton, it was three times the size of St Paul's Cathedral and boasted the greatest area of glass ever seen in a building. After the Exhibition, the Palace was rebuilt near the affluent South London suburb of Sydenham Hill and stood there until it was burnt down in November 1936. The nearby residential area was renamed Crystal Palace.

I'll take Manhattan

'I'll take Manhattan' was a popular song in 1929. 'First, we take Manhattan' was a popular song in 1987.

But someone else got there first. For way back in May of 1626, 'taking Manhattan' was exactly what the Dutch colonist Peter Minuit, of the Dutch West India Company, did.

It was 400 years ago this month, on 24th May, that he negotiated the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Lenape Native Americans for 60 Dutch guilders, or \$24 worth of cloth and buttons. (Equal to about \$1,150 today.) That was the beginning of the New Amsterdam colony, which became New York in September of 1664, after the British arrived and took over.

Today, the land of Manhattan alone is worth about \$1.74 trillion, and the total real estate value of the borough likely exceeds \$3 trillion. Just to buy an average apartment in Manhattan is now about \$1.3 million.

As for that \$24? These days, it costs about that much just to get across town!

ECO TIP OF THE MONTH: Beware bread for ducks

The Canal & River Trust, which looks after Britain's waterways, has warned that bread is 'junk food' for ducks. It can lead to excessive droppings, which spread disease. If bread is left to rot, it can trigger noxious odours which can kill fish and encourage algae, as well as rats and mice. So – what DO ducks eat? Try corn, peas, lettuce and seeds.



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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

National Biscuit Day – 29th May

Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world? According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate – over which biscuit holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion.

Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between. And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscotus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite.

The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item.

No quibble guarantee – David Pickup, a solicitor

Recently a man received two letters from his bank. One was telling him his debt was going to be passed to the enforcement department, and the other was offering him a new loan! Sensibly, he got some advice about what to do. If you are thinking of getting a loan or a credit card, do check the small print. Does the offer seem too good to be true? What are the charges if you miss a payment? Make sure you know before you sign!

Many experts wonder if cash will become a thing of the past, because we use credit and debit cards so often, even for small payments. Credit cards and bank cards have their advantages. They are simple and easy to use. If you buy something on a credit card that costs more than £100 you get extra legal rights. So, if it does not arrive or does not work you can claim against the credit card company. But don't forget that debit cards are not credit cards and you do not get the same rights.

Up until a few years back we had offers of credit cards, loans, and buy-now-pay-later deals, all the time. Now things are tighter, and debt is a big worry for many. Even in Biblical times, when there were no credit or debit cards, there were warnings of the dangers involved with money! Think of the often mis-quoted quote: The love of money is a root of all evil. (1 Timothy 6:10)

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Humility is the beginning of true intelligence

John Calvin

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Happy 70th Birthday, Eurovision Song Contest

This year's Eurovision Song Contest, to be held 12th to 16th May in Vienna, will look a bit different as it marks its 70th birthday. That is because Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain have opted out, as a protest to the inclusion of Israel in the contest, following the war in Gaza. That is the largest number of boycotting countries in the contest's history since 1970. On the other hand, at least Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania are set to return this year.

This year's programme will consist of two semi-finals, on 12th and 14th May, and then a final on the 16th. It will be held at Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, and presented by Victoria Swarovski and Michael Ostrowski. Broadcasters from 35 countries will also participate. Britain has won the Eurovision five times in 70 years.

POETRY CORNER

Nigel Beeton writes: "We had a lovely couple of weeks on the Isle of Wight last year and it was the first time we'd ever seen a red squirrel in the wild: it made our holiday!"

Red Squirrels on the Isle of Wight

A sunbeam, in the woods of Wight
Illumines a magenta coat
And, sat within that beam of light.
A squirrel – red! And how we gloat!
Though squirrels are a common sight
We see them nearly ev'ry day
Aloft within the treetops height

But these are never red – just grey.
But there, upon the Isle of Wight
No greys have ever set a paw
So go! You never know, you might
See squirrels you've not seen before.
A lovely island's best delight –
Red squirrels on the Isle of Wight.



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Every Sunday	Church Services	Page 3
Every Monday, 10am	Bumps, Babies & Beyond, St Martin's Comm Hall (not 4th, 25th)	Page 17
Every Mon, Tue, Wed	Pilates, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
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 23
Every Second Monday, 7.15pm	Owermoigne Photography Group, Village Hall	Page 23
Every Thursday, 10am	Table Tennis, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Thursday, 6.30pm	Dog Training Club, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Friday, 9.30am	Pilates, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 19
Every Friday, 10am	Chapel Café, Methodist Church, Broadmayne	Page 17
Every Friday, 10am	Owermoigne Painting Group, Village Hall (not 29th)	Page 21
Every Friday, 7pm	Short Mat Bowls, Broadmayne Village Hall	852285
Every Saturday, 8.30am	Yoga, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 19
First & Third Saturdays, 10am	Short Mat Bowls, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Friday 1st, 6pm/7.30pm	Pizza & Skittles Night, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Saturday 2nd, 9am	Community Café & Table Top Sale, Crossways YCC	Page 9
Tuesdays 5th & 19th, 10.30am	Coffee & Company, St Peter's West Knighton	Page 11
Wednesday 6th	Fundraising Friends 222, outside Barclays Bank, Dorchester	Page 11
Saturday 9th, 10am	Owermoigne Village Market, Village Hall	Page 21
Saturday 9th, 2.30pm	Dances and Dalliance, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 17
Suns 10th & 24th, Sats 16th & 30th	Music at St Peter's Dorchester	Page 11
Sunday 10th - Saturday 16th	Christian Aid Week	Page 13
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Tuesday 12th, 10am	By Still Waters, Broadmayne Methodist Church	Page 3
Tuesday 12th & 26th, 10.30am	Coffee Shop, St Martin's Community Hall	Page 19
Tuesday 12th & 26th, 10.30am	Owermoigne Village Hall Coffee Mornings	Page 21
Wednesdays 13th & 27th, 7pm	Group Guitar Lessons, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
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Friday 15th	June Compass deadline	Page 2
Saturday 16th, 10.30am	BDHA, Annual Plant Sale, West Stafford	Page 9
Saturday 16th, 10.30am	Broadmayne Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall	Page 19
Saturday 16th, 4pm	Quiz Night, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Sunday 17th, 7pm	Occasional Singers Concert, St Mary's Church, Dorchester	Page 11
Monday 18th, 3pm	More Senior Spring Tea, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 13
Tuesday 19th, 2pm	Owermoigne Flower Club, Village Hall,	Page 23
Wednesday 20th, 10am	Owermoigne Ladies Walking Group, Moreton	Page 21
Thursday 21st	Fish & Chip Supper, Col's Quiz, Owermoigne Crkt & Social Club	Page 23
Sunday 24th, 12noon	Sizzlin' Club BBQ, Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club	Page 23
Friday 29th	Meat Raffle, Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club	Page 23

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

It's the end of an era! The evening ended as usual with Mrs Hooper going up to bed and Rev Spasm staying down "as it's silly not to drink the small amount left of this Burgundy". As Mrs Hooper will testify, the 'small amount' was often not much less than half a bottle. Quite frequently she would come down the next morning to find him in his chair having finished his bottle and fallen asleep. So she did not think anything was wrong until she noticed that the bottle was not finished and that he was not sleeping – nor was he breathing. He was dead. Feeling his body temperature confirmed he had been dead for some time, before he had chance to finish the bottle. No point in calling an ambulance so she phoned Rev Keen who arrived within minutes. Everything was left in place and Rev Keen informed the Bishop, and phoned Rev Spasm's GP who arrived shortly. (Perhaps you have to be dead to get a same-day appointment with a GP?) No suspicious circumstances, he said, and certified the death. Now when Queen Elizabeth II died they put a notice outside Buckingham Palace to announce it. Should there be one outside the church? No, the media ensured the word of the Queen got round. Here at St Petrified's probably just as efficient are the coffee mornings and toddler groups and the like where news travels like wildfire. So before lunch most of the village knew.

Rev Keen wondered where he stood – was he now vicar? He phoned the Bishop again who confirmed that he was indeed vicar and would be installed later. What about the recently revealed project for the vicarage and the retreat? It would go ahead as planned. The only difference, said the Bishop, was that there would now be no need to solve the tricky problem of accommodation for the deceased reverend. Rev Keen thought that the Bishop was not particularly sympathetic to the situation. Rev Keen asked if the Bishop would like to conduct the funeral service, but he said no. He did merely

tolerate Rev Spasm – well wouldn't you if you could not email him, and you knew that your letters went into the recycle bin without being opened? So Rev Keen contacted the Ven Humphrey Claxton, the Archdeacon, who agreed to conduct the service, and would help Rev Keen organise it. Humphrey recommended a funeral director who had experience of incumbents' funerals, and Rev Keen the Snare and Ferret for the wake – after all Bill Brewer had lost a good customer. Who would speak at the funeral? Rev Spasm had only a sister and two nieces who knew him. Then Rev Keen thought of Gregory Voice, who had completed his *This is Your Life* of Rev Spasm and had set a provisional date – what he had done must contain something that could be used without turning it into *This is Your Death*? Yes, said Gregory, there were some speakers who live close enough the come for a few minutes' talk, but there were videos telling stories about Rev Spasm's earlier exploits (but some would need to be edited, out of respect for the occasion). The funeral service (and wake) all went well. There is now to be a fundraising event for a headstone.

Rev Keen as vicar was welcomed by the village. He is now popular and efficient – unlike when he arrived with a 'happy-clappy' style of worship, and not great organisational skills, but as a curate you would have expected to be taught these skills by the vicar (wouldn't you?). Rev Keen has guided St Petrified's into the 21st century (some would say from the 19th) and has maintained an active youth group that many churches have been unable to do, as well as supporting other church activities. He has made the cooperation with Four Saints work; he has modernised activities such as harvest festivals, fairs and fetes, dog shows and the like; and has brought together the two communities of Four Saints and St Petrified's, while managing to keep Rev Spasm onside. And me? Yes, I am a churchwarden, supposedly eligible for up to only 6 years at a time (unless there is no one to take over). I have been bringing you the ups and downs of church life over the last 10 years, and I am definitely standing down as a churchwarden this time as my wife and I have downsized to a cottage by the sea. So, it's goodbye from me. The end of an era!

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AND FINALLY . . .

How to get rid of squirrels

Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

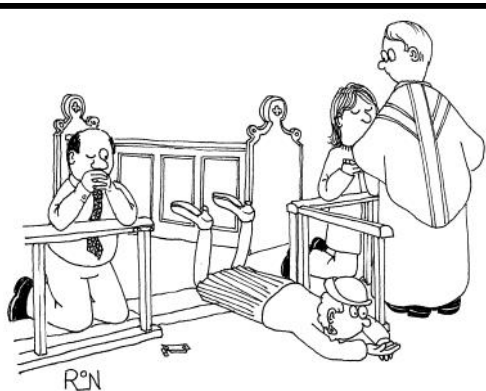
It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels at Christmas and Easter.

Look back

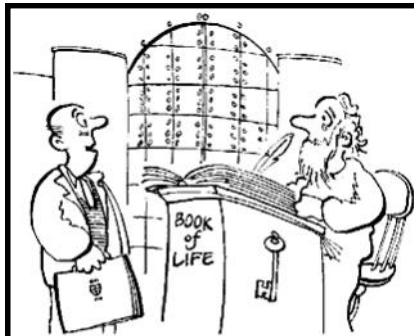
Someday we'll look back on this, laugh nervously, and change the subject.

Love

Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?



When Terry heard the noise beside him he realised the bolt on the communion rail had not been repaired



I'm not ready to come in yet – I'm here to check that you're following data protection laws.

Geraniums

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

Seize the day

Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.

I know

I'm NOT bossy! I just know what you should be doing.

Jubilant

After several synonyms had been given for the word 'jubilant', one little boy shouted out: "Oh I know what it means now – it's like jubilant delinquency!"

Prodigal son

Someone one who left his home
behind but took everything else.

