

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 583

December 2023
with January 2024

*This year's Christmas lights switch
on is Saturday 2 December 2023!*





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SUZUKI

From the Editor

You'd never guess Christmas was coming ... or would you? Nearly every article inside mentions it in some way.

It is supposed to be the season of goodwill and peace, but there are so many places round the world where that isn't the case. I recently flew to Singapore and the shortest route wasn't possible, avoiding: Ukraine and Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Myanmar. And those areas of terror don't include Israel and Gaza. It won't all be over by Christmas.

So, we start with the switching on of the Christmas Lights in the High Street on Saturday 2 December, the weekend at the start of Advent. The timetable is outlined in the poster on p19 and Town Council p3.

Of course it wouldn't be Christmas without the Cricklade Band playing carols outside your house. Their street rota timetable is on pages 41 and 42.

I apologise for the number of articles that have had to split between pages. It's a lot to pack into our few pages this month. "Oh, no it isn't!" Even our What's On snippets have had to be snipped to 2 pages: Purton is the place to go for a Christmas pantomime: "Oh, yes it is!"

I had to mark the funeral of Tony Jepps (p24). If you read my personal tribute, you will discover he was the mystery benefactor for our colour covers this year.

We thank our tireless distributors on page 5 and grant them a month off with this joint issue of your favourite magazine.

Who knows what 2024 will bring? At least a Cricklade Festival (p17).

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
wishes from us!*



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The deadline for the February 2024 issue is Monday 1 January 2024

Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

Churches	see centre pages	Dentist (104 High St)	750388
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
Latton P/Council ...clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk		Library (113 High St)	750694
Wilts Councillor (Bob Jones)...07973 863702		Link Scheme transport	07421 018 499
Wiltshire Council hub	0300 456 0100	Open Door	07599 987851
Emergency Services	999	Optician (82 High St)	750415
Non-Emergency: Police	101	Purton Vets (Bath Rd)	751698
Non-Emergency: NHS	111	Household Recycling Centre	778205
Doctors: Purton Surgery	770207	Samaritans	FREE: 116 123
Green Gables Surgery	752633	Schools: St Sampson's Primary	750452
Cricklade (De Silva)	750645	Cricklade Manor Prep	750275
Boots Chemist (100 High St)	750226	Bradon Forest	770570

Cricklade Jenner Hall ...

... continues to be At The Heart Of Cricklade for over 300 years.

The Jenner Hall continues to be a popular place for family events and smaller wedding receptions.

Our Trustees aim to make the Hall attractive to all age groups and any suggestions would be welcomed.

If you would like to know more about the Hall or check booking availability, please visit our website - crickladejennerhall.com.

If you would like to book the Jenner Hall for a party or celebration, please contact our booking email address at jennerhall.bookings@gmail.com or call on 07823 324 821.

Richard Hickman, Chairman, Cricklade Jenner Hall Community Trust



Cricklade Town Hall

Your Community Hall

Book your event at Cricklade Town Hall. Birthdays, anniversaries, wedding celebrations, children's parties, quiz nights, club meetings, etc. - we have done them all! The Town Hall offers flexible space with tables, padded chairs, excellent kitchen facilities and free WiFi.

We offer a choice of one or more of the Main Hall, the Annexe, and a Committee Room, to meet your particular requirements. The Main Hall toilets and foyer area have been recently refurbished to a high standard, making our facilities eminently suitable for that special event you might be planning.

Please contact our Bookings Secretary, Mrs Nicola Fry on 01666 861023 (before 9pm please) or via email at crickladetownhall@hotmail.com for further details. Check out our Facebook page for photos and other information: www.facebook.com/crickladetownhall
The Town Hall was established on 11 July 1933 for the Parish of Cricklade and is a Registered Charity, No. 305499



Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 4 December	Premises and Finance Committee (P&F)
Monday 11 December	Full Town Council (FTC)
Monday 18 December	Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee (PCT)



2024

Monday 8 January	Full Town Council (FTC)
Monday 15 January	Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee (PCT)

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 113 High Street, Cricklade SN6 6AE, and start at 7pm. Members of the public are always welcome and have an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of each meeting.

**Cricklade Town Councillors and Staff would like to wish all residents
a very Happy Christmas and New Year.**

Christmas Lights Competition

It's almost time for our streets to be decorated for the festive season. The Judges will be out making their decisions in the two weeks leading up to 25 December.

Christmas Lights High Street Switch On

We are pleased to announce that once again there will be Carols Around the Tree and Cricklade will be having a visit from Santa. This year's event will be held on Saturday 2 December from 5.30pm, Carols start around the tree at 6pm with the lighting switch-on planned for 6.30pm. See also the poster on page 19.

Cricklade Half-Marathon, 10K and Fun Run held 8 October

Congratulations to all participants in this regular fixture in the Cricklade calendar. It was good to see over 500 runners out attempting a personal best! A big thank-you to Cricklade Leisure Centre for organising the event and all the volunteers - without whom it could not take place.

The first Cricklade residents home were presented with shields at the November meeting of the Town Council Community & Leisure Committee:

Race	Women	Men
Half Marathon	Penny Lock-Pullan	Jowan Nicholls
10K	Ella Spencer	Jonathan Genet

Civic Awards 2024 - Do You Know Someone Who Goes the Extra Mile?

Cricklade is renowned for its community spirit, so do you know of someone, or a group of people, who volunteer in the community and deserve to be recognised for all their hard work? The Town Council is seeking nominations towards three categories of award: Young Person of the Year, Cricklade Community Award and Community Group of the Year.

Details and forms are available on the website or from the Town Council offices. The closing date for entries is Friday 23 February 2024.

Continues over ...

Council Office Hours over Christmas Period

The Town Council office closes at 4pm on Friday 22 December and reopens at 10am on Thursday 28 December. We will be closed on New Years Day and reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Events Diary 2024

With 2024 almost upon us, we'd like to remind residents about our Events Diary which can be found on the updated Cricklade Town Council website. You can email details of any events or meeting etc. to admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk and the website will be updated with your event details.

The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open:

Monday to Friday 10.00 - 16.00 hrs (Closed 12.30 - 13.30 hrs)

Closed 23-27 December and New Year's Day

Tel: 01793 751394 E-mail: admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Focus on Wiltshire Council

Back in October you will recall the chaos at the clock tower junction whilst sewer work was carried out. Following my complaint about the planning and implementation the contractor has apologised, in particular, for the traffic management (traffic lights) which was contracted out to another company. Let's hope the lesson has been learnt. The more observant amongst you will have also noticed that the resurfacing work on Calcutt Street planned for October has not been carried out. The reason is twofold, the wet weather is not conducive to surface dressing but more importantly tarmac is in extremely short supply with delays holding up work across Wiltshire and the rest of the country. No new date has been set for this work at present.

Somewhat ironically at its September Wiltshire Council's Cabinet agreed to invest a further £10m over the next two years into maintaining and resurfacing the county's roads. This is on top of the £14m the council will spend this year on highways maintenance. The additional money will be spent on preventative maintenance and a road resurfacing programme including small, local repairs to the highways; verge repairs on rural roads and materials support to volunteers working on public rights of way. Work on potholes will continue in parallel, with £2m of existing funds and the government's recent £3.6m additional grant.

The Cabinet Member for Transport said, "We manage around 2,700 miles of road in Wiltshire, and usually we can resurface around 40 to 80 miles each year. This new funding will enable us to resurface at least 130 miles of road each year, plus address deterioration in rural road verges. The money will help to prevent potholes and defects forming over the winter months and make our roads safer for all users – and is on top of the £1.3m extra we have invested in renewing road signage, repainting road markings and repairing drainage, plus more than £500,000 we have invested in litter collection

for the next two years. The programme of work will begin with identifying the roads due to be resurfaced and giving area boards the opportunity to comment before the work programme begins in earnest from April 2024 until the end of 2025."

I will be following the lack of resurfacing in Cricklade and surrounding areas to ensure we are included in the programme.

Christmas will be here in a few weeks and may I wish you all Season's Greetings. Please take the opportunity to look in on your neighbours to ensure they all have a warm home and sufficient food during the festive season. Maybe invite someone to Christmas lunch as a neighbourly gesture. There are some very proud people in our community who would not admit to needing help. If you all place an item into one of the Food Bank collection points we can make sure we are looking after the most needy in our community.

Whilst we should never be complacent it looks like Wiltshire Council is holding a stable financial position. Members will be holding Cabinet to account over this during the remainder of the year.

If you are having a problem with Wiltshire Council, the Housing Association, or just need some general advice, I can normally find the right contact or highlight your problem to someone who can help. I have a direct telephone contact to all Officers in Wiltshire Council, and you will be surprised what can happen if you talk to the right person. I cannot promise to fix your problem personally, but I can assist you to resolve it.

I am also out and about in Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey during the week or you can phone to arrange a meeting. I can be contacted on my mobile 07973 863 702 or email me at bob.jones@wiltshire.gov.uk

Bob Jones, Wiltshire Councillor

Thank you, Distributors

The Chronicle would like to thank the volunteer distributors for all their hard work and help throughout the year delivering your magazine to the many houses in Cricklade and Latton some of whom deliver more than a hundred copies.

Merry Christmas

Cricklade Historical Society

ON SALE NOW - CHS Calendar 2024

The CHS calendar for 2024 is now available for purchase at £10.00 and it would make an ideal Christmas present for family and friends. You can view the Calendar and purchase it via our website (cricklademuseum.co.uk) or by contacting Pam Debenham on 07453 766 744.

Event Advance Notice

Unearthing the Mammoth Graveyard – March 2024

Want to find out what it's like to unearth an Ice Age Mammoth? Hear more about the incredible Ice Age discoveries behind the documentary "Attenborough and the Mammoth Graveyard" and meet Sally & Neville Hollingworth who made the discovery.

This talk will be held at the Town Hall on Friday 22 March 2024.

Cricklade United Church

Christmas is Coming

... and the colour of the cross on the roof of the church will be reflecting this!

From 3 December it will be purple to celebrate Advent - and then on Christmas week it will become red!

Red is not only for Christmas but it is also the colour of Christian Aid. Over the last weeks with the awful situation in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Christian Aid has been seeking to help and has been supporting its partners in both Israel and the Palestinian Territories. At the United Church we have opened an appeal and have already sent £400 to Christian Aid. The appeal will continue over Christmas and we will be donating to it from our Christmas events.

Friday 15 December: 10 - 11.30am - Friday Cafe in the church hall with mince pies and carols. Please come along and join in. We will be delighted to see you.

Sunday 17 December: Carol service at 4pm - Sing in Christmas week with familiar carols and readings. Followed once again with mince pies! A warm welcome awaits.

Monday 25 December: Christmas Day at 10am - short morning service suitable for all ages. Come and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Services will be held as usual at 10.30am on Sunday 24 December and Sunday 31 December.

Our journey towards recognition as an Eco-church continues. As part of this we acknowledge a strong commitment to Community and Global engagement – contributing to the transformation of local and global communities and ecosystems. Our support of Christian Aid is a big part of this and we want to make this part of our Christmas worship and celebrations.

St John the Baptist Club 100

The club 100 draw for October 2023 has taken place and the winners are:-

1st	£100.00	Mr M J Dearsley	Latton
2nd	£34.00	Mrs F Rochmankowski	Latton
3rd	£23.00	Ms Anya Dearsley	Latton
4th	£9.50	Mrs S Jones	Latton

To join the club please contact Keith Bowen on Tel 752753.

The club's aim is to help maintain the fabric of the Church of St John the Baptist, Latton.

Prospect Hospice Support Group

On 30 September, a local Prospect Hospice support group had a Coffee Morning and Table Top sale and raised £430. Many thanks to the following local businesses who gave raffle prizes – The White Hart, Michael Hart, Tesco's and Cricklade Hotel. Thanks also to Cricklade United Church for allowing us to use their Hall. We appreciate the many people who came or gave generous contributions. Well done Cricklade.



*Hazel Rowland and Yvonne Keeble
The Chronicle*

Latton in the 1950s

The Village of Latton, Post-War.

The story of Cricklade in the 1950s wouldn't be complete without Latton, one mile north on the old A419, since the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) farms and creamery, based nearby, provided considerable employment for both. The CWS had bought a 1400-acre estate from the Earl of St Germans in 1918, after which they established ten dairy farms in the vicinity.



Eric Cripps, whose father rented Court Farm from them, and Win Collett, whose husband managed Church Farm in the village, both remember the old route between Cricklade and Latton at that time, and the village itself. Not only was the long-disused Thames & Severn canal still clearly visible beside the road, but a hump-backed bridge at Fairford Lane, the ruins of a lock keepers' cottage and a practically complete set of lock gates remained for all to see.

Further on, many will remember Eddie Hammond's petrol filling station. He had two pumps on the site post-war, and a small kiosk selling sweets. Hammond's Latton Lido nearby, created through gravel extraction in the 1920s, was solely recreational from the late 1930s and very popular. Airmen from South Cerney swam there during WW2, Cricklade schools used it, and changing huts were provided. At its peak, an ice-cream vendor even cycled over on Sunday afternoons from Swindon!

Opposite Eddie Hammond's house, Latton boasted one of the smallest Post Offices in the country. Next door was an old bakery, and at the north end of a terrace the Keylock family ran their coal merchant's business from Elm Farm. In the field beside it, the huts of a German POW camp remained in situ for some years after the war.

From 'Cricklade Revealed', Part 9.

There are still several single Cricklade Revealed books available at £3 each, covering the war years and the 1950s/1960s. For further details please contact me on 01793 750542 or email mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com



Latton Lido race c1948

Cricklade Festival 2024 is go!

... with a change of date to Sunday 9 June 2024

Building on from the success of this year's Festival, we intend to make 2024 even better! ... For this to happen, we need to increase the size of our committee. If you have any free time and think you can contribute to our cause, then please get in touch either by phone or email as below:

07931 777 699 or info@crickldefestival.com

Thank you,
Alan Armstrong, Cricklade Festival Committee.



Cricklade W.I.

Thank you to all members who brought in items for the Food Bank at our November meeting. We also enjoyed an enlightening talk from Nancy Heath on Royal Jewellery.



December is a busy month for everyone and our WI is no exception. We have our members' Christmas lunch at 1pm on Wednesday 6 December, please see Viv to book and pay for your place. Our 2024 planning meeting will be at 11am before the lunch; all members are welcome to come and tell us what they would like to have at our meetings in the coming year.

Our monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 14 December when Lynne Curtis-King will be taking us through some Tai Chi moves, a good way to combat those seasonal excesses! At our last meeting we brought in photographs for the 'guess the baby/child' competition which will also add a bit of fun to our December meeting.

We look forward to the New Year and kick off our meetings on 18 January with our New Year Party. Visitors are welcome to all our meetings so for more information check us out on Facebook, pop in to one of our meetings or contact our Secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com

Cricklade & District Probus Club

We are looking forward to our coming group meetings when the following talks will take place.



14 December	One Day seated at the Organ
21 December	Members' Christmas Lunch
11 January	Sometimes they just got things wrong.
25 January	The Science and side effects of Sword Swallowing

The meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday at 10am at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group who enjoy keeping our minds active and socialising over a drink in the bar after the meetings. We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and look forward to welcoming new members to the Club.

For further information about our local club please contact the Honorary Secretary, Richard Roberts on 01793 751063.

Cricklade Jenner Hall (Parish Hall) "Save It Club"

In the Monthly Draw held on 26 October the lucky winners were:

First Prize:	Mavis Ells	£37.20
Second Prize:	Terri Robertson	£24.80
Jenner Hall Funds:		£62.00



Thank you to all the "Save it Club" members for their continued support.

To Join the Jenner Hall "Save It Club", please contact Paul Marley Tel: 752851

The Subscription for the "Save It Club" is only £12 per year. Subscribers are encouraged to pay a year's subscription of £12 by Standing Order. (*GDP Regulations compliant.*)

Cricklade Christmas Lights switch-on

Saturday 2nd December 2023



We really hope you'll be able to join us and start your Christmas celebrations with our wonderful community!

The Cricklade Christmas lights committee

Programme:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| From 17.30 | Visit Santa in his Grotto |
| From 18.00 | Christmas lights switch-on accompanied by Carols from the Cricklade Band |
| From 19.00 | Continue enjoying the range of stalls, entertainment and refreshments supported with live music |

St Sampson's Church Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



Our Curry Night was held at Kavali restaurant in Cricklade on 11 November. We thank them for their generosity in hosting a charity night for St Sampson's Church appeal fund and to all those who bought tickets.

St Sampson's Church Appeal Fundraiser Draw

Would you like to win £100, a London hotel stay, original artworks or one of many other prizes?

We will be selling our grand draw tickets outside Tesco's, Cricklade High Street on 9 and 16 December between 10 am and 12 noon. Alternatively, contact:
Adina Grace: 01793 380583 Helen Dixon: 01793 759123 Sharon Smith: 01793 751375
Tickets £1 each

Draw date 14 February 2024

Quiz Night: St Sampson's Church Quiz – 3 February 2024

Teams of 6. Tickets £10 to include hot supper. Drinks by donation.

Church Fete 2024: The St Sampson's Church Fete next year will be held on 7 September.

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winners of the October 2023 draw were:

Mr & Mrs Tuck who won £31.00

St Sampson's Church benefited by £31.00.

To join the 100 Club, contact Sharon Smith tel. 751375 or email sharonjsmith54@hotmail.com

We would still be grateful for any further donations to the next phase of the church appeal. Cash or cheques (made payable to St Sampsons PCC No 2 Account) can be put in the donation box at the church, or sent to Adina Grace, Churchwarden and Treasurer, 24 North Wall, Cricklade SN6 6DU. For further details please contact Adina on 01793 380583 or email janda.grace447@outlook.com

Online donations can be made by scanning the QR code (right) or visiting <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com>.



We give grateful thanks to all who have supported us in so many ways this year.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sing Four Four Community Choir

Our Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday 3 December at 3pm in St Sampson's Church. We have a varied repertoire, including songs both spiritual and secular. After the concert there will be tea and cake. There will also be a raffle. Tickets are £5 for adults (under 12s are free). They can be bought from the Council Offices or from any choir member. Come and join us to get the Christmas season off to a great start!



For more information, please go to the website (www.singfourfour.org.uk). If you'd like to join us, please use the contact form on the website. Alternatively, you can email the musical director, Jen Bamford, at jenloubamford@googlemail.com

Churches Together (CLAK & L)

The Upper Thames Benefice

Cricklade St Sampson's, Latton St John the Baptist, Ashton Keynes Holy Cross and the Leigh All Saints

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Canon Debbie Dewes email: vicar@upperthames.org.uk tel: 01793 752718

Associate Vicar: Revd Shirley Danby
email: shirleydanby21@gmail.com; tel. 07980 548844

Parishes Administrator: Jane Eyles
email: admin@upperthames.org.uk tel: 01793 979304

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times 9.30am on Sundays
 10.00am on Fridays

For notices please see the noticeboard on the railings of St Mary's.

Parish website www.stthomasparish.plus.com.

Father Michael Robertson can be contacted on 01285 712586 or by email
michael.Robertson@cliftondiocese.com

Gerry Dudley, our Church Secretary, is on 01793 750107.

The Friends of St Mary's website with more details of the history of the church is at
www.crickladedstmary.org.uk

Cricklade United Church Calcutt Street, Cricklade

Minister: Revd Sarah Simpson, tel. 01666 826866

Email: sarahsimpson14@btinternet.com

As a United Reformed / Methodist Church, we are part of the URC North West Wiltshire Pastorate and the Upper Thames Methodist Circuit.

Services of worship take place on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and all are welcome.

Please have a look at our website for all the current information regarding our services, dates, times and other events. <https://crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk>

Cricklade Memory Café

Starting in February 2024, this is an exciting new venture for residents of Cricklade and Latton. There will be more details in the February issue of *The Chronicle*.



In the meantime we are looking for a few volunteers to help. If you can spare a couple of hours a month please phone Vona Wagner 07896 723 794 or Margaret Wright 07976 620 089 to find out more.

The Chronicle

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Churches Together

Services for the Churches Together

3 December Advent 2

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*
- 4pm Christmas Tree Lighting *at St John the Baptist*
- 4.30pm Christmas Tree Festival Carols *at Holy Cross*
- 6pm Christmas Tree Lighting *at All Saints, Leigh*

10 December Advent 3

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Upper Thames Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*
- 4pm Christingle service *at Holy Cross with the school*

15 December (Friday)

- 10am to 11.30am: Friday Cafe in the United Church hall
with mince pies and carols

17 December Advent 4

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's followed by breakfast*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*
- 3.30pm Carols by Candlelight *at Holy Cross*
- 3.30pm Carols and Crib Service *at St John the Baptist*
- 4pm Carols by Candlelight *at United Church*
- 5pm Carols by Candlelight *at St Sampson's*

24 December Christmas Eve

- 8.30am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Upper Thames Group Communion (said) *at St Sampson's*
- 4pm Crib Service *at St Sampson's*
- 4pm Crib Service *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Carol Service *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 7pm Vigil Mass of Christmas *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 7pm Carol Service *at All Saints, Leigh*
- 11pm Midnight Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 11pm Midnight Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*

Thursday mornings in St Sampson's: 8.30am for coffee & catch up, prayers from 8.45am.



2022 in Cricklade & Latton

together over Advent & Christmas

25 December

Christmas Day

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 9.30am Dawn Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Christmas Morning Service for all ages *at United Church*
- 10am Christmas Day Family Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Christmas Day celebration for all ages followed by Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 11.15am Christmas Day Family Communion *at St John the Baptist*

31 December

Christmas 1 & New Year's Eve

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Upper Thames Group Worship Together Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*

7 January

Epiphany 1

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's with Music Group*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

14 January

Epiphany 2

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Upper Thames Group Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*

21 January

Epiphany 3

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's followed by breakfast*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*
- 4pm Evensong *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

28 January

Epiphany 4

- 8.30am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*

Mass is also said at St Mary's R.C. Church on Fridays at 10am.

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Baptisms

15 October Lily Jaine Margaret Turnbull-Scot *at Holy Cross*

29 October George Anthony Cox *at Holy Cross*

Funerals

18 October Tony (Anthony) Wolfe Jepps *at St Sampson's followed by Kingsdown Crematorium*

23 October John Robert Dare Arscott *at Holy Cross, followed by:
25 October cremation at North Wilts Crematorium*

27 October Marjorie Sheppard *at St Sampson's followed by Kingsdown Crematorium*

Anthony (Tony) Jepps 1930-2023

I first met Tony in 2002 when I started up the In Touch Services printing business in Purton. He had been a client of my predecessor when the business traded in Wootton Bassett. Over the years he brought booklets, membership cards and programmes for printing on behalf of North Wilts Rotary (later Swindon North), Thamesdown Probus and the Safari Caravan Club.



It was Tony who sparked my first venture into colour laser printing for the covers of these products and, as the colour impetus grew, I moved onto larger scale colour machines. His booklets now had colour throughout.

The invoices were always in his name and I was never convinced he claimed back the additional cost of colour over black and white from the clubs involved.

It was no surprise really when, I was now retired and editor of *The Chronicle*, Tony contacted me and said how much "nicer" the front covers would be if they were in colour. After a few chats in his sitting room at Paul's Croft, he offered to sponsor our front cover for 2023 enabling what I had been itching to do ever since I took on the role.

The effect is what you see today and it is all down to a "kick up the backside" from Tony. He insisted that his sponsorship be anonymous during his lifetime and asked for nothing in return. He was a kind and thoughtful friend, not just to me but to all of Cricklade and the charitable groups he worked with for so many years.

We have a grant from Wayland Estates Charity to help take the colour covers into 2024 and ideas for taking it on into the future.

I was pleased to see so many family and friends at his Thanksgiving Service at St Sampson's on 18 October. He had a good send off.

Thank you, Tony, and God bless.

Rick Dixon

Coffee Cafe

All are welcome to attend the weekly Coffee Cafe each Friday at Cricklade United Church Hall, Calcutt Street from 10am to 11.30am. Come along for a coffee and a chat.

Cricklade Open Door

Christmas Greetings from Open Door to everyone in Cricklade and surrounding areas. We wish you a happy, healthy, fun filled season with your families and friends.

November has been a lively month at Open Door with all the usual activities - quizzes, games, Beetle, seated exercises, knitting group and Thursday bingo afternoon, or if you just fancied a quick coffee and a chat, that was on offer too. We enjoyed a super Autumn Afternoon Tea with light hearted autumn games and plenty of chat and fun and most of all, a superb tea.



On Wednesday 29 November, we have been invited to watch Cricklade Manor Prep School's Nativity Play, which we always enjoy, especially the refreshments beforehand! Cricklade Manor Prep School are excellent supporters of Cricklade Open Door, providing our lunches, scones with jam and cream at Easter, mince pies at Christmas and inviting us to watch all their productions.

Cricklade Open Door really appreciates their support and interest given to our Cricklade community group. We are so fortunate to have the support and interest from other Cricklade young people and their leaders too - St Sampson's C of E Primary School, Thames Pre-School and Kim's Brownie pack. The young and the not-so-young understanding each other - super!

On 8 December we will have our Christmas lunch at The White Hart Hotel, which is fully booked and on Thursday 14 December we will enjoy our 'in house' Christmas Tea Party with entertainment (thank you, volunteers!) and a great raffle, which is also fully booked.

We will close after the party on 14 December and reopen on Tuesday 2 January. However, the mobile telephone number will still take your calls or return messages left over the holiday period - 07599 987 851.

Before we sign off, we would like to thank everyone in the community who supports Open Door with monetary donations, raffle prizes and paperbacks for our book table and all your kind words of support – we couldn't keep going without you.

Our volunteers are a wonderful bunch, who take on all sorts of varied roles and give endless hours of service, always with a supportive smile and much laughter to lift everyone's spirits, thank you all very, very much.

Come along in 2024 from Tuesday 2 January and join in with friendship, fun and support, in a lovely, clean, warm hall (thank you Jenner Hall trustees).

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 3.30pm.

Have a safe, great Christmas and New Year.

In Our Broader Area : What's On? - see also page 28

■ **Purton PADS Pantomime "Jack & Jill" at Purton Village Hall, SN5 4AJ**

Fri 26 Jan at 7.30pm / Sat 27 Jan at 2.30pm (matinée) / Sat 27 Jan at 7.30pm

Tickets £10 adult / £6 concession / £6 child, available from Flawless Floors and Pips Cafe in Purton or from 07495 362 968.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Harvest Raffle

The Harvest Raffle raised a total of £140.50, thank you to all who took part. The six lucky winners were ... Hampers - Ray Butt, Linda Young, Julie Stepp and Gillian Motley; Scarecrows - Elizabeth White and Val Walker.

200 Club

All profits from the 200 Club go to help purchase items for the surgery which are not provided by the NHS.

New members are welcome! The 200 Club year started on 1 October, however you may still join part way through the year, bearing in mind that you will have missed some of the draws for that year. The cost is just £15 a year and there are two prizes of £100 and £15 each month. Setting up a Standing Order for your £15 to be taken annually on 1 September is much simpler for administration purposes. Forms are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

The November draw was made by Healthcare Assistant Maria Collins (*right*) and the winners were £100 Graham Crockford, £15 Nicola Lawrence. All members of the 200 Club are allocated a number to be used in the draw. If you wish to know your number then please email our Treasurer: treasurer.psppg@gmail.com to request it.



Talk on Parkinson's – 26 March 2024, 7.30-9pm

We are pleased to be restarting the regular Health Talks which we were organising for patients before Covid. The first of these will be on the subject of Parkinson's when we have Rachel Gardner, Lead Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist at GWH and Vincent Mobey from Cricklade Parkinson's Café to talk. You may remember that we hold the talks in Purton Surgery where the capacity is limited, hence we ask patients to ask for a ticket (free) from reception. Tickets will be available in the New Year.

Table Top and Books in Purton Surgery

We need good quality items suitable for Christmas for the Tabletop in Purton Surgery Waiting Room, if you have any that you can donate please hand them in to reception. If you wish to make a purchase from the Tabletop then please hand your donation to the reception team. We are unable to receive any shoes for the table. There are also books in the bookcase for purchase (50p each). We currently have plenty of books so are unable to accept any more for the time being.

As always, your support for our work to both inform and support patients is much appreciated. If you know of anyone who would like to be included in our email list (all sent bcc) then please ask them to contact via secretary.psppg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Cricklade Foodbank

Open every Friday 10.00am to 11.30 am in the Jenner Hall, Bath Road



Firstly, the Trustees and volunteers would like to thank the schools and churches who gave so generously to the Foodbank collections at their Harvest Festivals. It is most appreciated. Demand for our services is high and will increase as the Christmas season approaches. The baskets at our drop-off points are emptied regularly and taken to the warehouse at Malmesbury to be weighed and dated.

The drop-off points in Cricklade are: Tesco, Culverhay Stores, Animal Fayre (pet shop), St Sampson's School and all the local churches.

Financial contributions are always appreciated. This allows the Trustees to fill in any gaps in the warehouse.

For up-to-date foodbank requirements please use the 'bankthefood' app.

Thank you for your continued support.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling to provide either for themselves or their families the Foodbank can be contacted on any of the addresses below:

call – 01666 826982 (we will call you back)

Email: crickladecm@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Cricklade Garden Club

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall Annexe. As the next meeting is our Christmas meeting there will be mince pies and mulled wine as well as tea and cakes which will be served as always from 7pm. The Speaker starts at 7.30pm.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 12 December when our speaker is Julie Richie of Hoo House Nursery in Tewkesbury which specialises in Perennials and Alpines.

Her talk is entitled, **Plants for Awkward Corners**

Who hasn't one of those areas where nothing seems to grow happily? Julie will help us find the right plant for the right place, bringing plants from her nursery with her.

Fred the Forager was unable to make our October meeting as he went down with Covid but we hope he'll be able to join us next year. We had an impromptu Gardeners' Question Time instead which was entertaining and particularly helpful for those of us who are new to gardening in Cricklade.

The Garden Club is "put to bed" in January and February so our first meeting of 2024 will be on Tuesday 12 March, which will also include our AGM.

For information about the club, upcoming events and trips please look at our excellent website www.crickladegardenclub.org.uk

Membership is £20 p.a. We are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies (www.gfgs.org.uk) and to the RHS.

Visitors welcome at £3 a session -come and give us a try

Queries to Anne 07717 695 022 ; Janet 07765 276 534 ; Bizzie 07876 347 973

We look forward to seeing you!

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Once again Cricklade Bloomers are pleased to announce that we have received level 5 - outstanding in the Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom "It's Your Neighbourhood Competition" for 2023. In addition, this year, we have gained third place in the Gordon Ford Trophy for the same competition.



Thank you to all of you that helped plant the understorey in the millennium wood in November. We hope to have more tree planting news in the new year.

All wreath workshops are fully booked but places may still be available for the table decorations workshop at 12 noon on 16 December. Additionally, there may still be wreath kits available for collection on 9 December between 10am and 12 noon.

Booking essential at anita@crickladeinbloom.co.uk

A reminder of the days and times for those who have booked and paid by bank transfer.

Wreath making: Saturday 2 December at 9am, 10.45am and 12.30pm, and Wednesday 6 December at 9.30am and 11.15am

Luxury wreath making: Saturday 9 December at 10am

Table arrangements: Saturday 16 December at 10am and 12 noon.

We look forward to meeting you on the day for an enjoyable and festive start to the Christmas season with hot drinks, mince pies and the pleasure of taking home a local, natural and more sustainable wreath than a bought one.

Bounce & Rhyme

Free music for babies sessions plus breastfeeding and chestfeeding support in Cricklade.

Cricklade United Church is pleased to host a fortnightly free of charge Bounce & Rhyme session for babies, toddlers and their carers on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 1.45 to 2.45pm.

We sing nursery rhymes together, play instruments, read a story and meet new friends. We also enjoy a cuppa and a snack!

Tues 5 & 19 Dec (Xmas party)

You can access the National Breastfeeding Helpline 9.30am - 9.30pm every day, 365 days a year on 0300 100 0212 to chat to a trained professional.

In Our Broader Area : What's On? - see also page 25

■ 'The Wessex' Christmas Concert at Christ Church, Swindon SN1 3HG

Saturday 8 December at 7.30pm: With guests The Shrivenham Military Wives Choir.

Tickets: adults £13.00* / u-16 £6.50*. Tickets available from thewessex.org.uk/tickets/ (*full price includes online booking charge by TicketSource.)



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Cricklade Development Foundation

AVAILABLE TO RENT

RESIDENTIAL FLATS AND COMMERCIAL UNITS



The ongoing redevelopment of the Old Police Station by the community is progressing well. The conversion of the ground floor into vibrant commercial/retail spaces is expected early in 2024, and the completion of the two modern one-bedroom flats is expected sooner, in December.

Residential flats:

The flats will have been advertised for a few weeks by the time this Chronicle reaches you. If interested, this will likely be your last chance to secure one of these excellently appointed flats. Please get in touch as soon as possible to arrange a viewing.

Note: as a Cricklade development, we hold our community close to heart, so we will look to favour local residents or individuals with strong ties to Cricklade.

Commercial units:

The Old Police Station enjoys a prominent central location in the primary shopping area at the north end of the High Street. It enjoys a large frontage, disabled access, and can flex in size from one large to four smaller units, depending on requirements. When finished by early 2024, it will likely be the most desirable property on the High Street.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in renting part or all of these commercial premises, please get in touch to express an interest. *Note:* Planning Permission has been granted for Class E use (a,b and c).

For either the flats or the commercial units, please contact Terri on 07902 421 756 to arrange a viewing. Alternatively email us at contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk.

Thank you to the community for all your support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

New Book by Local Author

Local author Anni Rose has published her sixth novel in the Recipe for Love series – timed just right for Christmas.

RECIPE FOR MR CHRISTMAS is out now for just 99p* (Kindle edition)

Settle down in front of the fire and indulge in a heart-warming story, a brand-new laugh-out-loud, feel-good festive romance.

For the past forty years, Susie Keane had a wonderful married life – but since her husband's death she's been lost for what do. Then she meets Bod Diamond at an unexpected school reunion. He too is mourning his wife and knows exactly what Susie is going through. Perhaps together, they can fall back in love with life, and possibly each other...

*This special launch price is available for a limited time only. Please check this price offer is live and available in your location before purchasing.

Available from Amazon

Publisher: Choc Lit, A Joffe Books Company

Cricklade Pétanque Club

At the Cricklade House Hotel, SN6 6HA

Pétanque is great fun and an excellent way to meet people.

Our playing days are:

Mon 2 - 4.30pm

Wed 2 - 4.30pm

Sat 10am - 12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are:

Wed 10 - 11.30am (ladies)

Fri 10 - 11.30am (mixed)

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Club Doubles Competitions and congratulations to our winners.

Ladies Doubles Champions

Mary Hughes & Philippa Cooper-Tydeman

Ladies Doubles Plate Winners

Liz Guest & Marion Gee

Men's Doubles Champions

Gerry Ough & Malcolm Brooks

Men's Doubles Plate Winners

David Wall & Mike Strange

Mixed Doubles Champions

Gill Brooks & Gerry Ough

Mixed Doubles Plate Winners

Malcolm Brooks & Philippa Cooper-Tydeman

A reminder that our AGM will be held on Saturday 16 December at 12 noon at the Cricklade House Hotel. All members welcome.

For more information please go to our website www.crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club.

CRICKLADE CINEMA!

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who came along to our Autumn 2023 season; it was another successful season and we hope you enjoyed it.

We are planning our Spring 2024 season with the first of four films scheduled for Tuesday 23 January at 8 pm in Cricklade Town Hall. Tickets will be on sale from 1 December and can be purchased from the Town Council Offices at 113 High Street or on the door (subject to availability). Single ticket: £5, Season Ticket: £12 (that's just £3 per film).

Our Season Ticket is very popular and we usually sell out quickly so please pick yours up early to avoid disappointment.

More details about all the films being shown and information on Cricklade Cinema can be found on Town Council notice boards plus our website (www.cricklادecinema.org.uk) and Facebook page so why not take a look.

Email us at: cricklادecinema@gmail.com

Parkinson's UK At The Cricklade Club, High Street 10.30am - noon

Join us for coffee, cake and chat on 3rd Wednesday each month.

We meet in The Living Room, turn right and follow the sign from the Foyer.

Contact: parkinsonscafecricklade@gmail.com or call 07951 944 760.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

Belly Dancing

Belly Dancing – it's not just about the jangly belts and sparkly costumes. It's time to change perceptions as we ring in the changes for 2024! Make 2024 the year you challenge your body and brain to learn something exotic!

"I can't dance, I've got no rhythm and I'm not fit enough." Do you hear yourself saying that when someone suggests taking up dancing to keep fit? It's a common-enough response and that's a shame as there are some really fantastic benefits to regular dancing. It's also a fantastic aid to your weight loss or fitness journey – one dancer said, "I've lost an inch off my waist since I started this – my trousers are definitely looser."

I have been dancing for almost 25 years and teaching Egyptian Classical style belly dance for 8 years. This style is based on the folk dances of Egypt, danced **by women for women** and at celebratory events, and it's a gentle, lyrical dance form that is easy to learn and lovely to watch. It's great to see how it quickly builds confidence and rhythm.

Classes are inclusive and structured so you learn technique and how to build that into a dance. We focus on the dance fitness elements rather than performance, so there is no obligation to dance in public (unless you want to!). It doesn't matter if you've not danced before or if you want to improve your fitness.

Coin belts and circular skirts can be provided. We wear soft, flat shoes like ballet pumps and t-shirt and leggings so you're comfortable and can move freely.

Weekly classes on Wednesday evening 7.30pm at St Sampson's Junior School Hall.

£5 per class to cover group expenses. No experience needed. Beginners/improvers welcome.

Call Louise at Cricklade Shimmers (07976 878 219) to discuss anything or book your place.

Cricklade Camera Club

Our full programme for the 2023-24 season can be found on crickladecameraclub.org, or contact the Club Secretary, Anne Eckersley, for further information: clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org



New members are always welcome - you don't even need a camera. Everyone is welcome. So if you are budding novice or a more experienced photographer, why don't you try us out for an evening for a guest fee of £6.00.

We meet in person on the first Tuesday of every month between September and June in the Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm and on another Tuesday of the month by Zoom.

5 December, we venture out for a social evening at the White Hart.

19 December: Zoom Meeting - 7.30pm - SCPF PDI League 6 Home Match

This is your chance to see some great images from other clubs as well as our images as we host our round of the SCPF league, Division 6. This round will be judged by SCPF Level 3 judge Peter Rocchiccioli.

2 January 2024: Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm - The Work of David Rutter FRPS. David is a local photographer and is not only the RPS Creative Eye Group Committee Member

responsible for their annual exhibition, but also he is an RPS Assessor.

He has a wide range of photographic interests and enjoys the taking and making of street, portrait, abstract, minimalist, still life etc, but all with an emphasis on light and how it is used to greatest effect. This presentation covers many photographic genres and finishes with his personal interpretation of portraiture not shown anywhere other than in this presentation - not to be missed. (www.davidrutterphotography.com)

16 January: - Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm. Underwater Photography from swimming pools to sharks with David Keep.

This talk covers David's underwater photography, from working with models in the swimming pool to photographing the magnificent creatures that swim in the oceans around our world. (www.davidkeepphotography.co.uk/underwater)

A short video showing examples of the content is at youtu.be/X3bsBimJOBc

Cricklade Band

THE CRICKLADE BAND AT CHRISTMAS - festive spirit...live!



People always tell us 'Christmas starts when I hear the band' – and here we go again with a tradition that's over a century old as Cricklade's community band plays carols around and about Cricklade in a festive lead-up.

Covid brought about many changes – one of these is that our lovely Crew people no longer go door-knocking, it isn't the done thing now! Instead, we'll once again have some bright red buckets near the band for you to drop in some coins (or notes!) - and we've also gone all tech-savvy with cashless payment facilities! Watch out too as we use social media to the full with rolling updates and pictures on our Facebook page.

So that you know when to keep an ear out, and have your camera phones ready - join us for a while, jingle and sing too if you like - here's the when and where:

Wednesday 13 December, from 7pm – Heberden House, then Pittsfield, Deansfield and Bishopsfield, then crossing to Cliffords and Bath Road, with a couple of stops in Culverhay we finish up at Kennel Cottages.

Sunday 17 December – 'Christmas Present' at the Town Hall – watch out for Facebook and poster announcements! Not only that, this is when our magnificent Festive Raffle will be drawn – wonderfully supported by Cricklade's traders and businesses. Tickets will be on sale wherever you see our band people from the beginning of December - £1 a go!

Tuesday 19 December, from 7pm – all the estates off West Mill Lane, starting at Reeds, Middle Ground, Home Ground, then Jenner's Yard, on to Hallsfield, North Meadow Road and then finishing up with couple of stops in Culverhay.

Wednesday 20 December, from 7pm – starting at Stockham Close, then on to The Fiddle and The Forty, Carpenters, then Byre Close, Purton Road, Hitchings and finishing by Giles Avenue.

Thursday 21 December, that's our 'reserve' night, in case poor weather causes us to postpone one of the other nights!

Continues over ...

Saturday 23 December - Cricklade High Street – from 9.30-11.15am.

Christmas Morning, from 8.30am – High Street north, North Wall, Gas Lane, Abingdon Court Lane, Thames Lane, Manor Orchard, then to Calcutt Street, High Street south, Waylands, Pauls Croft, Portwell and a big finish at the Weighbridge by the Town Hall

Here's the really important bit: keep going back to the band's Facebook page for all the pictures and news of what we're up to.

Can we all wish you a happy Christmastime – enjoy our festive spirit...live! – and thank you!

Paul, and everyone in The Cricklade Band 'family'



Join us for RUGBY – the sport that builds strength, teamwork and resilience. Training, Thursdays 7 - 8.30pm at Fairview Fields, no

experience necessary; contact Captain, Mike 07514 596 910, or Coach, Pixie 07728 399 759. All are welcome and Mixed Tag continues with strength and conditioning on Tuesdays 7 - 8pm. We are a friendly club and welcome new players and supporters.

Coming fixtures are:

2 Dec	tbc	at			at Home
Home			6 Jan	Chippenham	Away
9 Dec	Minety Away		13 Jan	Swindon II	at Home
16 Dec	Swindon College Old Boys II		27 Jan	Fairford	at Home

Please come along and watch your local team.

Our Minis section continues to grow and is open to all boys and girls of all abilities. We aim to provide a safe environment where every player can enjoy rugby and develop their personal and social skills as well as a wide array of transferable multi-sports skills.

Training is held at our Fairview Fields ground and new players from age 6 are always welcome (no experience necessary and the first four sessions are free):

Juniors	Under 10-12	Friday 5.30 to 6.45pm
	Under 13s and 14s	Friday 7 to 8.15pm
Minis	Under 6s through to Under 9s	Saturday 11 to 12 noon

Please contact our Director of Minis, Seth Wareing, sethwareing@hotmail.com or phone 07305 059 879. We would also welcome any parents who want to get involved and

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade

We play on the gravel piste at Cricklade Leisure Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2pm-4pm) and Saturdays (10am-12pm). Come and say hello if you'd like to find out more about us, take a look at our notice board just inside the Leisure Centre for our contact details, or visit our website at saxonspetanque.co.uk. Our AGM will be held after the second game of pétanque (approximately 3pm) on Tuesday, 12 December 2023.

As well as competitions, we hold various social activities throughout the year. Our skittles evening will have taken place by the time this goes to print and we are all looking forward to Christmas dinner together at the White Hart.

The Chronicle Diary – December 2023

2	Sa	5.30pm	Christmas Lights event, High Street: Carols 6pm, Switch-On 6.30pm
3	Su	3pm	Sing Four Four Choir in concert at St Sampson's Church
4	M	7pm	Town Council Premises & Finance Committee Council Chamber
5	Tu	1.45pm	to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
		7.30pm	Camera Club Social Evening at the White Hart
6	W	11am	Cricklade W.I. Planning meeting at White Hart <i>followed by:</i>
		1pm	Cricklade W.I. Member's Christmas Party at White Hart
11	M	7pm	Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
12	Tu	3pm	Saxons Pétanque AGM at Leisure Centre
		6.30pm	<i>eyes down 8pm:</i> Cricklade Scouts Bingo at Town Hall
		7pm	<i>speaker 7.30pm:</i> Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
14	Th	10am	Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
		7.30pm	Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
16	Sa	12 noon	Cricklade Pétanque AGM at Cricklade House Hotel
18	M	7pm	Town Council Planning Committee, Council Chamber
19	Tu	1.45pm	to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
		7.30pm	Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
		7.30pm	Camera Club Zoom meeting
20	W	10.30am	<i>to noon:</i> Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Club, High Street
21	Th		Wiltshire Schools holiday (others may vary)
21	Th		Probus Club, Members' Lunch
25	M		Christmas Day
26	Tu		Boxing Day

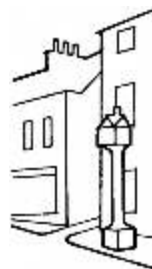
January 2024

1	M		New Year's Day
		<i>end of day</i>	Chronicle copy deadline (February issue)
2	Tu	7.30pm	Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
4	Th		Wiltshire Schools resume (others may vary)
8	M	7pm	Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
11	Th	10am	Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
15	M	7pm	Town Council Planning Committee, Council Chamber
16	Tu	7.30pm	Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
		7.30pm	Camera Club Zoom meeting
17	W	10.30am	<i>to noon:</i> Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Club, High Street
18	Th	7.30pm	Cricklade W.I. (New Year Party) at Town Hall Annexe
22	M	7pm	Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber
23	Tu	8pm	Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall, tickets from Council Office
25	Th	10am	Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel

For Diary Events held Every Week, see your November issue!

Moon Phases

Dec 2023	5th	●	12th	●	19th	●	27th	○
Jan 2024	4th	●	11th	●	18th	●	25th	○



The Final Word ...

In the bible Jesus is given many titles, a whole list comes from the prophet Isaiah – ‘He shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God the Everlasting Father the Prince of Peace’. These are words we often hear read at Christmas time. But I wonder if you, like me, have a serious question mark in your mind about how God in Jesus can be the Prince of Peace when what we see around us is destruction, violence and war. There are so many places in our world with problems which seem intractable, and for which people seek violent resolution. How does Jesus fit into that?

I think the answer comes (and not without some wrestling) in another title Jesus is given – Emmanuel, God with us. Where is Jesus? In the midst of the suffering. Where is the Prince of Peace? Working in the hearts and lives of all peacemakers across the world regardless of race or creed. So let me bring this closer yet – where is the Prince of Peace in us and for us?

Are we peacemakers? Are we living in peace with others? How do we see people who are different from us? Where have we allowed self-interest to cloud a bigger picture of a united humanity.

I heard an interview with a Rabbi on the radio, and he was speaking about his response to the war in Israel/Gaza; he was a peacemaker. His response was – wherever we are, we are to be a blessing, this is how blessing spreads. So he went on, wherever we are we are to make peace, live peace, spread peace.

Maybe this Christmas and New Year we can resolve to live in peace and kindness, careful about how we respond to people, careful how we speak of people and to people, bringing the Prince of Peace into our hearts and homes, so that we can live in the peace of Emmanuel, God with us, and share that peace with others.

Peace be with you,

Canon Debbie Dewes (Vicar Cricklade, Ashton Keynes, Latton and the Leigh)

Contributions to The Chronicle are welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are known or supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this Magazine - especially with those recognisable in any photographs. Opinions expressed are solely those of the respective contributors.

Articles and advertisements are accepted in good faith and The Chronicle cannot be held responsible for their accuracy, nor can it guarantee that they will be published. The Editor's decision is final.

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