

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 585

March 2024



St John the Baptist, Latton
picture © Rick Dixon



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SUZUKI

From the Editor

It is quite by chance that I took the cover picture of St John the Baptist, Latton, for this month's cover and sent it to print before receiving the fascinating article about Latton's eccentric vicar from Marion Parsons (page 26).

Spring is in the air and I expect to see daffodils as you read this. But at the time of writing I'm still waiting for snowdrops! If February had an extra day, March is short an hour as the clocks go forward on the last Sunday ... yes, spring is here.

The season marks busy times in the garden, not least for Cricklade Bloomers. Can you spare an hour or two to help with some tree planting on the 2nd? See page 28 if you might. Or maybe half an hour a month to drop off 50 copies of "your favourite local magazine" in the Pittsfield area? (p19)

The Garden Club shakes off winter, meeting at the Town Hall Annexe on the 12th.

It's Mothers' Day on the 10th. If you buy ... or better still, make Mum a card, that will put a spring in her step!

What would life be like if mammoths still sprung around in the Cricklade area. We might find out in the talk hosted by the Historical Society on the 22nd. We won't if we don't buy a ticket – see page 39. Tickets are also needed for Cricklade Cinema on the 26th ... but no, the Old Oaks have nothing to do with gardening! See page 39 if you don't believe me.

Purton Surgery has a talk on Parkinson's Disease on 26 March. Free tickets but see page 21 or you won't get in!

On the 23rd, a Quiz Night is helping fund a young lady's volunteering in Borneo with Camps International. See page 24 for tickets. Might we receive a short trip report for a future issue of *The Chronicle*?



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The deadline for the April 2024 issue is Friday 1 March 2024

Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

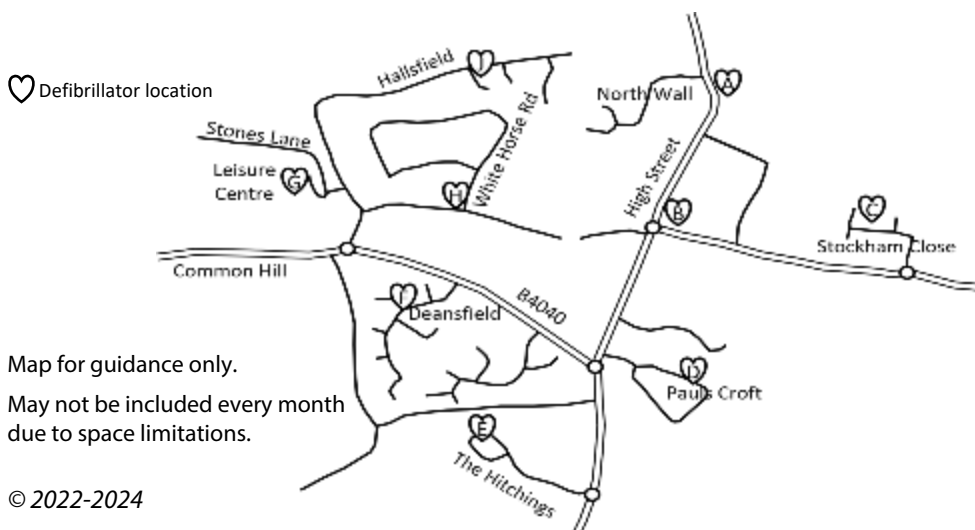
This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

Churches	see centre pages	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Library (113 High St)	750694
Latton P/Council ...clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk		Link Scheme transport	07421 018 499
Wiltshire Council hub	0300 456 0100	Open Door	07599 987 851
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
Dentist (104 High St)	750388		

Defibrillator Locations - Public machines outside these premises:

What3Words location (///) is directly in front of the machine. To find the app, google What3Words.

- A. Meadowbridge School, SN6 6DD ///snapping.clearcut.tunnel
- B. Cricklade Dental Practice, SN6 6AA ///trackers.motivate.joystick
- C. 33 Stockham Close, SN6 6EF ///advances.bakers.opts
- D. 17 Pauls Croft, SN6 6AH ///grace.bind.framework
- E. 48 The Hitchings, SN6 6NJ ///thing.hydrant.height
- F. 24 Deansfield, SN6 6BP ///enabling.gymnasium.records
- G. Cricklade Leisure Centre, SN6 6JW ///smarting.drags.member
- H. Culverhay Stores (Londis), SN6 6EN ///awaiting.sunflower.achieving
- J. 9 Kitefield, SN6 6NF ///cupboards.scan.universe



Map for guidance only.

May not be included every month due to space limitations.

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 4 March Full Town Council (FTC)

Monday 11 March Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee (PCT)

Monday 25 March Community & Leisure Committee (C&L)

All meetings are held in the Council Chamber, 113 High Street Cricklade SN6 6AE and start at 7pm.

Members of the public are welcome and have an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of each meeting.



Councillor Bob Jones MBE



We were deeply saddened at the recent death of Councillor Bob Jones. He will always be remembered by Cricklade Town Council for his huge contribution to the life of the town over the many years he was in Cricklade.

We would like to give our thanks to all who attended his funeral. The large gathering was testament to the recognition of all that Bob did for the town, and for the county as a whole.

Bob was the chairman of the CTC Community & Leisure Committee which he led with his customary enthusiasm. In addition, he served on numerous council working parties. His contributions will be much missed.

Community Litter Pick

The 2024 community litter pick will be on Saturday 23 March. We meet at Bath Road play area at 9:30am and finish at Town Council offices around 11.30am. Please contact us in advance to register. Both individuals and community groups are welcome to participate in this rewarding activity. Equipment will be provided.

Community Resilience

We are now seeking volunteers to run an emergency resilience team, who will liaise with the Council, but ultimately run the working party in the event of an emergency.

One of the key considerations during an incident is to understand exactly what is happening 'on the ground' in a local area during such times as flooding, storm damage, utility failure, pandemic, widespread emergencies etc.

However, if you are or were a member and would like to resubmit your commitment please get in contact: admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk or 01793 751394.

Halls and Meeting space to hire

Are you looking for either a hall or meeting room to hire for a one-off event or on a regular basis?

The Council rents out the Council Chambers at 113 High Street – Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm with minimum hire of 1 hour. There is a boardroom table with seating for 18 people and additional seating for a further 22 people. We also hire out Thames Hall, available at weekends, which comprises a large hall, small kitchen, toilets and a small separate room useful if you need to have a breakout group, or small group area. If you are interested in either space to rent then please contact us for more details: admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk or 01793 751394.

The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open:

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

Closed on Public Holidays

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Cricklade Memory Café

If you have memory issues or dementia join us on Wednesday

6 March at the Town Hall Annexe Cricklade from 10.30am to

12.30pm for free coffee and cake, and to find out more about this

exciting new venture for residents of Cricklade and Latton. There will be music for the mind, plenty of information and support in a friendly enjoyable atmosphere.

The café will then be open on the first Wednesday of each month at a small charge of £2.50. If you are interested in volunteering or want to know more please contact Margaret 07976 620 089 and Vona on 07896 723 794.



Cricklade Library

The Library is above the Town Council Office at 113 High Street. The entrance is through the gateway and there is a lift as well as stairs to the library level.

Current opening hours are: *(Closed Bank Holidays)*

Mon:	2-4pm	Wed:	2-4pm	Fri:	2-5pm	Sun:	Closed
Tues:	10am-1pm	Thurs:	2-7pm	Sat	10am-1pm		

Cricklade Foundation

Old Police Station Update



Further to the letting of the two residential flats prior to Christmas, our full focus turned to completing the commercial units at the Old Police Station.

This work is progressing well, thanks in no small part to the commitment of our dedicated team of volunteers. Week in, week out, they turn up in all weathers and carry out all manner of tasks. Their help has proved invaluable. They have saved CDF significant costs and kept the project moving forward. We wish to express our appreciation and heartfelt thanks to them for all their hard work and ongoing support.

Returning to the commercial units, these are expected to be available for rent in the not too distant future. They are located on the ground floor, have disabled access, and can flex in size from one large to four smaller units, depending on requirements. They are fully modernised, occupy an excellent location on the High Street and have planning permission for Class E use (a, b and c).

Encouragingly, a number of parties have already expressed an interest in various units, which we will follow up at the appropriate time. If you are interested, there is still time to get in touch and arrange a viewing. We especially wish to hear from those looking to rent the larger ground floor unit at the front of the premises. This is a fabulous unit and enjoys a large frontage on the High Street.

Please contact us by emailing contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk or phoning our Secretary, Terri Robertson, 07902 421 756. You can also find out more about CDF, how to become a Member and the latest news by visiting our Facebook page and/or website: www.crickladefoundation.org.uk

Cricklade & District Twinning Association

Following the disruption due to the recent pandemic, Cricklade Twinning is pleased to announce that it has been invited to visit Sucé sur Erdre in France's Loire-Atlantique department over the weekend of either 24-26 May or 28-30 June this year. As usual, our hosts promise a weekend of activities and fun for all ages. Anyone who may be interested in spending a weekend hosted by a French family, please contact either Chris on 07710 075 406 (email_chair@crickladetwinning.org.uk) or Terry on 07484 648 980.



For some time now, the Cricklade and District Twinning Associations website has been experiencing severe difficulties. We are excited to announce that a new website is being prepared, which will give an enhanced experience to all who access the site. The site will have more information about the association, its links with Sucé (including photographs of previous visits) and information on future events. The new website will be launched in the near future.

Music Events at St Sampson's

Organ Recital by the Organist of Rennes Cathedral on Thursday 25 April 7pm.

All-day "Come & Sing" Fauré's Requiem with Mark Lee,

Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral, Saturday 6 July 10.30am - 5pm - £20

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



Wayland Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present

Grant Application



At their next meeting on 29 May 2024, the Trustees to Wayland Estates Charity will consider grant applications from organisations and groups towards any project or activity which has commenced or is about to commence. Any project seeking a grant must be for the general benefit of the people of Cricklade and the local area.

Application forms are available from the Clerk: John Harman

Mobile: 07962 116 526 Email: jharman@btopenworld.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE 1 MAY 2024

Wayland Estates Charity is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 31 March 1976 as amended by resolutions dated 8 July 2009 and 5 February 2020. Copies of the Charity's annual report and investment policy can be obtained from the Clerk.

Cricklade Festival

Sunday 9 June 2024



Following the successful return of the Festival to our Cricklade community last year, the Cricklade Festival takes place in the High Street in 2024 with a new date of 9 June. So make sure you save the date, and come along to enjoy this summer event.

Our new committee would like to thank the sponsors, businesses and volunteers for all their hard work and commitment to make last year happen. We learned a lot about how to put on a festival of this size and look forward to bringing you a fun packed spectacular, based around our 2024 theme of 'Celebrating World Music & Dance'

Our Committee members are all volunteers, and the Festival is run on a not-for-profit basis, relying on the generosity of advertisers in our brochure, and local donors and businesses for this event to take place. We would like to thank our sponsors, Pebley Beach and Mather & Murray, for once again supporting the Festival in 2024.

Free entry, free entertainment, free family fun! With all the usual stalls and activities you've come to expect, plus some exciting new ones.

This year's festival is again condensed in terms of location, focusing on the High Street with additional activities in the Green Gables carpark (The Fringe), but will not fall short on entertainment for all the family. There will be plenty for the children to get involved in and an amazing variety of stalls for you to find a little something to eat, drink or take home with you. Once again there will be a range of free performers on the big stage, roaming street artists, children's entertainers, and an informal dog show for children to enter their pooch in classes such as waggiest tail or cutest puppy.

There will also be a classic car display so if you have an interesting vehicle, of any kind, that you'd like to show, please contact Alan via email at info@crickldefestival.co.uk. Full details of the day's entertainment will be in the brochure which will be distributed locally in May.

We are calling out for volunteer marshals on the day, so if you would like to get involved, please message Polly Whinfrey on 07384 699 937. Whether it's an hour or two, or the whole day, we welcome and appreciate all offers.

Remember, Cricklade Festival is all about Cricklade coming together as a community, so we look forward to seeing you there! We're on Facebook www.facebook.com/crickladetownfestival, and have our internet site, www.crickldefestival.co.uk.

Don't forget to put Sunday 9 June, in your diary!



The Friends of St Mary's, Cricklade

Not many buildings have a history of continuous use going back over 1,000 years. St Mary's on Cricklade High Street is one of them.

There has been a church on the site since around 1008 and maybe even earlier. Visiting the site today you are stepping back to Saxon Cricklade. The church is well above the level of the High Street because it stands in part on the mound of earth which is all that remains of Cricklade's North Wall, built in the time of King Alfred.

In the 12th Century the Normans made the church larger and the impressive Chancel Arch they built still stands. The people that extended and repaired parts of the building over the hundreds of years since have left their marks on the structure too.

Originally it would have been a Catholic church, then Anglican following the Reformation until 1981 when it became redundant. In a bad state of repair it was restored by people in Cricklade generous of their time, dedication and financial support. Consequently, in a rare turn of events four years later, the Catholic Church was invited to use St Mary's again.

Its unique history and position means that St Mary's has touched the lives of just about everyone who has ever lived in Cricklade, if only to pass by and look up at the clock or sit in the churchyard.

Most of you will already know some or all of the history of this very old church. What you may not know is that there is a small group of people, The Friends of St Mary's, whose purpose is purely to look after the structure and fabric of the building for future generations.

We take on small scale projects such as decorating, repairs and improvements ourselves, using funds we raise locally to buy materials. These funds come from subscriptions to The Friends of St Mary's, our annual Quiz Night and serving refreshments at the Cricklade Festival.

For major projects we apply for funds through charitable and grant organisations to bring in appropriate expertise. Everything we do complies with the guidelines and procedures that apply to the preservation of such an important historic building.

Last year we were honoured to have recent work at St Mary's included in a presentation in Parliament to celebrate the completion of 39 projects of repair to Grade I and Grade II historic Catholic churches throughout England.



Pictured left and above: The North Chapel dating to 1450

Membership of The Friends of St Mary's is open to everyone for as little as £5 a year. All the money we raise helps secure the future of one of Cricklade's most important buildings. If you would like to become a member or make a donation please contact Anne Wykeham-Martin at annewykehammartin@gmail.com. Or for more information contact sheila.m.styler@gmail.com.

Alan Styler - Chairman, The Friends of St Mary's

New Distributor Wanted

The Chronicle needs a new distributor for part of Pittsfield, numbers 50/92 and Hopkins Orchard, 50 copies in total. If you feel you can help please ring 01793 752898 for more information. Thank you.

St Sampson's Church Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

We look forward to 2024 and the events planned to continue raising funds for the improvement of our church facilities. We especially hope to be able to renew our heating and lighting as soon as possible!



February Quiz Night & Grand Draw

The fund raising group of St Sampson's Church would like to thank all those who supported our recent quiz and Grand Draw, the proceeds of which will go towards the refurbishment of the church.

The quiz raised £1,246 and the Grand Draw £700.

The winners of the main draw prizes were

1st	C Wells	3rd	S Bottomley	5th	E Cripps
2nd	C Smith	4th	S Craig	6th	S Green

Congratulations to you all and to the winners of the smaller prizes

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the January 2024 draw was:

Mrs June Knowler £30.50 who won £30.50

St Sampson's Church benefited by £30.50.

To join the 100 Club, contact Sharon Smith tel. 751375 or email sharonsmith54@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>.





Churches Together: Lent Talks in March

From politics, sport, entertainment, academia etc... plus God.

We hear from prominent people, each with a very different and challenging story. They talk openly and honestly about their life, work and faith and how it impacts their lives.

Tony Jarrett: Saturday 24 February at 7pm

A former athlete (hurdles), Commonwealth Games Gold medallist and Olympic Silver medallist.



Professor Andrew Briggs: Saturday 2 March at 7pm

Professor Andrew Briggs is a scientist with a specialist knowledge in nanomaterials, quantum technologies etc. He is the author of several books relating science with faith.



JB Gill: Saturday 9 March at 7pm

A member of one of the UK's biggest boybands - JLS - JB is now a presenter of various TV programmes including Countryfile, Songs of Praise etc.



Bishop Neil Warwick: Thursday 14 March at 7pm

The recently appointed Bishop of Swindon, who formerly worked in the transport industry in the Midlands and with World Vision.

If you are looking for some inspiration or are seeking answers to many questions about what is happening in our world and in our lives, then come along to this series of talks during the period of Lent. Meet and listen to some inspirational and thought provoking people.

All events will be at St Sampson's Church, Bath Road, Cricklade.

Start times will be 7pm. Please try and arrive 15 minutes before we start. Each evening will be followed by drinks and nibbles and an opportunity to meet and talk to our guests. Some will have merchandise such as books and CD's on sale so come prepared if you want to purchase.

There is no charge for these events but there will be an opportunity on each evening for you to contribute to the substantial cost of arranging these.

Each event is ticketed and these can be obtained from Graham Light, 07733 305 519 (day) 01793 759181 (eve) or via email grahamlight77@gmail.com If you want tickets posted you will be asked to provide a stamped addressed envelope.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Patient Feedback

A Message from Kai Howard – Practice Manager

Thank you to all our patients who completed the patient satisfaction questionnaire that is sent as a text message after attending an appointment at the surgery. We receive around 500 responses each month.

The Practice Manager reads and reviews each response and shares the comments with all the team at the surgery. We regularly receive over 99% of patients saying that their overall experience of our service was 'good or 'very good'.

Thank you for taking the time to complete these.

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

We are restarting the regular Health Talks ... 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. The talk will be in Purton Surgery where the capacity is limited, hence we ask patients to ask for a ticket (free) from reception. Tickets are now available from receptionists in both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

Easter Raffle: The receptionists are organising another Easter Raffle this year. Tickets at £1 each will be available from reception from 1 March.

200 Club

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 the year. The cost is just £15 a year and there are two prizes of £100 and £15 each month and 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 February draw was made by Receptionist Dawn Wattling (left) and the winners were £100 Anita Blackett, £15 Christine Shailles. 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.pspg@gmail.com to request it.

Table Top in Purton Surgery

The Table Top in Purton Surgery Waiting Room is quite a success with over £100 raised in January – very many thanks to those who contributed items and to those who bought. We are pleased to receive good quality donations (no shoes please). Items for the Table should be handed in to Reception.

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.pspg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

3 March

Lent 3

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross followed by Annual Meeting*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's with music group and children's activities in church*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

10 March

Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion *at St Sampson's, followed by Annual Meeting*

17 March

Lent 5

- 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*
- 4pm Evensong *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

24 March

Palm Sunday

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*

29 March

Good Friday

- 2pm Final Hour service *at St Sampson's*

31 March

Easter Day

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Easter Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Easter Celebration with Communion + Egg Hunt *at Holy Cross*
- 11.15am Easter Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 11.30am Easter Communion + Egg Hunt *at All Saints, Leigh*

Thursday morning prayers in St Sampson's:

8.30am for coffee & catch up, prayers from 8.45 and finish by 9.30am.

Everyone is welcome.

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Funerals

- 4 January Trevor Heath *at North Wilts Crematorium followed by Celebration of Life Service at Holy Cross Ashton Keynes*
- 24 January Joyce Ponting *at Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 30 January Robert Leslie (Bob) Jones MBE *at St Sampson's Church followed by North Wiltshire Crematorium*

ur in Cricklade & Latton

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.crickladestmary.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.

Sunday Morning services - all at 10.30am

- 3 March Rev Shirlyn Toppin - Superintendent minister of local Methodist circuit.
- 10 March Green, creation, biblical ecology, service - Rev Rob Weston, "Green Apostle" from the URC Synod will be joining the service remotely!
- 17 March Rev Sarah Simpson - our local minister
- 24 March Palm Sunday - Adam Longhurst from Minety
- 31 March Easter Morning - Rev Andrew Francis, retired URC minister from Wroughton

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 United Church

We continue our Eco journey this month - the cross on top of the Church will remain shinning out a white light until it changes to red on Good Friday - 29 March.

Saturday 23 March - Earth Hour - We are asking everyone to switch off their lights for 60 minutes at 8.30pm as a symbolic gesture to indicate our concerns about Climate Change and its implications for the poorest people on the planet.

Sunday Morning services - all at 10.30am

Servoces are listed in the centre pages - page 23.

Cricklade W.I

At our February meeting we were delighted to hear from Caroline Pover about her adventures in Japan. Thank you Caroline for your entertaining talk and wonderful illustrations.



We look forward to our March meeting when we have invited back Paul Evans to treat us to his humorous poems, readings and monologues. Paul has been with us before and returns by popular demand!

Why not come and join us at one of our meetings? Sometimes we have speakers or an activity, and with spring on it's way we can now enjoy many outings with members and the wider WI. For more information check us out on Facebook or contact our Secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com

Family Quiz Night

Saturday 23 March at 7.30pm at St Sampson's CE Primary School

Tickets are going fast for our family-friendly quiz suitable for all ages, including a hot supper with vegan/gluten-free options. Bring your own glasses and drinks. Raising funds for Bethan's trip to Borneo this summer to volunteer with Camps International.

Tickets £10 per adult, children free, by emailing Ian Wallis at zenyogacricklade@gmail.com See you there!

Sing 4 4 Community Choir

Do you like singing? Cricklade Community Choir is always on the look-out for new members. We are a friendly choir, made up of people of all ages and backgrounds. There are no auditions to join, nor do you need to be a music reader. The repertoire has been carefully selected, with a favourite for everyone. Our summer concert isn't until 14 July, so there will be plenty of time to learn the songs.



Weekly rehearsals take place in Cricklade United Church on a Thursday, 7.30-9.30pm.

Information can be found on the website (www.singfourfour.org.uk). Please use the contact form on the website. Alternatively, you can email the musical director, Jen Bamford, at jenloubamford@googlemail.com

Cricklade Open Door

It is good to see signs of spring - primroses, daffodils, longer days and time to think about spring cleaning or preferably, thinking about booking a summer holiday!



February was a good month for Open Door with a party for all the volunteers, hosted by the trustees, to say 'thank you' for all the many jobs volunteers undertake week by week to ensure that Open Door is a fun and supportive group for Cricklade residents. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a superb tea, raffle and fun with friends and offering L.O.V.E. - Laughter, Opportunities, Variety and Encouragement. Thirty St Sampson's C of E Primary School Year 1 pupils visited us early in February and chatted and played games with members and volunteers; they were a delight. A members' lunch is booked at Jigsaw Thai Restaurant on 23rd February, where we are always welcomed and looked after so well.

On to March - We have been invited to Cricklade Manor Prep School, on 13 March, to enjoy their spring production - 'The Jungle Book'. We are so fortunate to receive invitations to their productions, which are always excellent and make everyone smile and have a most enjoyable morning. We will hold our A.G.M. on Thursday 14 March at 11am, when thoughts about the last year and plans for the future can be discussed.

Looking ahead to early April, a date for diaries is Monday morning 8 April when RPM (Bob and Pete) will start the week with a bang! They are 60's rock musicians who will sing and entertain us and get us singing, clapping and foot tapping for an hour (10.45 - 11.45) before a buffet lunch. Everyone is welcome to come along, not just Open Door members but please let us know beforehand if you'd like lunch.

New members are always welcome, just pop in and have a coffee and find out all that is on offer at Open Door.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am - 3.30pm at The Jenner Hall, Bath Road, telephone number 07599 987 851.

We are closed on Easter Monday, 1 April.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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



7 March: Disaster Waiting – The Severn Bridge Disaster

21 March: The Great Whitley Church

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.

100 Years Ago: Latton's Eccentric Vicar

In the early twentieth century eccentric characters appeared to be commonplace in the countryside in a way that no longer seems to exist today. Cricklade had its fair share, and such people, who were a law unto themselves regardless of public opinion, were invariably perfectly harmless, and were generally viewed by their contemporaries only with bemusement.

No memory of religion in this respect would be complete without mention of the Reverend Claude Tickell (1921 - 1948) of the adjoining parish of Latton-cum-Eisey, since his reputation as an eccentric was widespread. A scholarly man, Reverend Tickell was a prolific writer of letters, articles and verse, but childhood memories of him are mainly confined to little St Mary the Virgin's Church, perched on top of Eisey Hill above the River Thames. At that time Eisey church served a small community of farm labourers living in tied cottages (now demolished) belonging to Eisey Manor Farm, but twice yearly in the summer the local churches united, with their congregations crowding onto Eisey Hill for Reverend Tickell's services.

Local children nicknamed him 'Old Mr Tickle' and thought him a strange old man. His fervent belief was that all living things had their place, and he would never harm any animal to the extent that he refused to dig his garden for fear of disturbing the worms! He had a little hatch in his front door at the Vicarage (now Latton House) through which he'd cautiously peer to see who was knocking, and when his donkey died he asked a local undertaker to make a coffin for it.

Reverend Tickell was very quietly spoken, leading to recent speculation that he may have suffered the effects of mustard gas during service in WW1. His sermons from the pulpit could scarcely be heard, and one former groom remembered having to ask him to repeat their vows at their own wedding ceremony. He was a tall, pale man, who invariably wore a big scarf, and boots which appeared much too big for him. Despite this, unless the weather was very bad when he'd hire a taxi, he'd walk all the way to preach a sermon at Eisey Church on Sunday afternoons, if necessary only to himself

since the congregation there was virtually non-existent.

Reverend Tickell and his wife apparently led a reclusive and undomesticated life behind the closed doors of the Vicarage, and after they left a party of workers were called in to redecorate it. They discovered that the couple had used oil stoves for heating, and as soon as one room was completely blackened, they simply moved in to the next!



Eisey Church



Latton Vicarage

Note: Sadly, due to severe cracks in its masonry Eisey Church was deemed unsafe, and was finally demolished in 1953.

Extracted from **Cricklade Revealed** books. For current availability please contact Marion Parsons on 01793 750542, or email mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com
Profits are donated to Cricklade Open Door. Thank you to all those currently helping me to compile my forthcoming book on Latton – Marion.

Cricklade Foodbank

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

A big 'thank you' to everyone who generously gave Christmas gifts so we could put little treats into our food boxes.

We are always very grateful for all your donations. Resources at the Foodbank continue to be stretched. In 2023 we fed double the number helped in 2022. Since 2021 the need has quadrupled.

There are several drop off points in and around Cricklade. We also now have a basket in the Town Council Office. This will supplement our existing baskets at Tesco, Culverhay Stores (Spar), Animal Fayre (pet shop), St Sampson's School and the local churches.

If you would prefer to make a financial donation, there is a 'donate' button on the top of the 'Donate Food' page on the Malmesbury & District Foodbank website. Another way is the 'BanktheFood' App, which gives up to date Foodbank needs.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling to feed either themselves or their families, you can contact us 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



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.

Bingo 4 Us

Bingo4Us meet on Wednesday afternoons in the Jenner Hall, Bath Road, Cricklade. Doors open 1.45pm and it is EYES DOWN at 2 pm.

New members will be made very welcome. No joining fee, just pay £2 per session. No forms to complete just come along on the day.

If you have any questions please give Chris a call on 07500 871 680 or call Vicky 07801 952 027.

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.



Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Firstly, the Bloomers Team would like to say thank you to the volunteers who helped us plant the under storey at the Millennium Wood on Wednesday 14 February. Due to earlier flooding we decided to do this on the same day as the snowdrop planting. We hope all the children that joined us to plant snowdrops enjoyed themselves and will return with their parents to see them bloom and spread for years to come.



Our next big event is the planting of the orchard adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Path that was installed two years ago on Fair View Fields. We have been fortunate to receive a £1,500 grant from the Tree Council along with additional funding from the Town Council. The orchard will consist of 14 half standard apple trees and 13 half standard pear trees. In addition, we are planting two full sized crab apple trees and an ornamental pear in the centre of the orchard to provide food for birds and small mammals through the autumn and winter. To obtain the grant from the Tree Council we had to ensure the fruit trees were UK grown and all associated planting requirements such as mulch and stakes were sustainable and UK sourced.

Bloomers have been looking for a site for an orchard for many years. We hope that it will not only provide fruit for the residents of Cricklade but also opportunities for social events such as wassailing in January and harvesting in the autumn. We are looking for volunteers to help us plant the trees on **Saturday 2 March from 10am**. If you interested in doing so, please email Anita Barrett at anita@crickladerinbloom.co.uk to register your intention to help.

We welcome new regular members on our usual mornings of Wednesday and Saturday at The Walled Garden behind Tesco's on the High Street.

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 25 January the lucky winners were :-

First Prize:	Hazel Rowland	£37.20
Second Prize:	Phyllis Hewer	£24.80
Jenner Hall Funds:		£62.00



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.)

Free Service for Stamp Collectors

Mr Kevin New is offering a free service to consider the arrangement and content of postage stamp collections.

Please contact: Kevin New, telephone number 01793 751410. Address given after phone contact.

Sideways Thoughts

A couple of things over the last few weeks made me think!

Day 1: The first thought was that I have stopped keeping 1p and 2p coins in my pocket. Although they may help in keeping inflation of shopping items in check, they are somewhat useless on their own. So these days I put them in a plastic bag supplied by the bank and keep filling until I have £1 in there. As 1p weighs slightly over $3\frac{1}{2}$ g (3.56g actually) £1 in copper weighs 0.356kg or just over $\frac{3}{4}$ lb! I then give it to my favourite charity.

I was still a student when the UK currency was decimalised. On Monday 15 February 1971, pounds, shillings and pence became pounds and new pence. Instead of the 100 pence to the pound today, there were 20 shillings to the pound and 12 rather large old pennies to the shilling. £1 was therefore $20 \times 12 = 240$ old pence.

An old penny (1d) weighed $\frac{1}{3}$ oz so £1 of them would have weighed $240 \div 3 = 80$ oz = 5 lb = 2.3kg!

That's not the complete story I am old enough to remember and to have spent farthings. There were 4 to an old penny, so 960 to £1. They weren't of much value even then as you could only buy a small chewy sweet called a Blackjack with it. When the farthing was abolished on New Year's Day 1961, I had to buy 2 Blackjacks for a ha'penny!

Day 2: The following day I needed to oil a lock. It had been sticking for a while and I went out to the shed to fetch my handy can of oil. It's not something I use a lot but for some reason I looked at the can in closer detail. Since I had owned it for a long time, I half expected to see an old discoloured label saying 1/9 – one shilling and ninepence. There was no such label. But there were other clues.

The product was Esso Handy Oil in a tin marked 125 ml, 4.93 fl.oz. And it's still half full, so lasting well! There is no CE conformity mark on it so it must predate 1993 which is when that symbol was introduced in the EU. The dual system but round number being in millilitres rather than fluid ounces suggests it must have been after the British Standards campaign of 1965.

However old it really is, I was surprised to see an almost identical can (though empty) had sold on eBay for almost £40. My can is a vintage item.

But then a farthing would cost you up to £4 to £6 on eBay or Amazon today!

Commentator

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!

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.

The Chronicle



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Cricklade Historical Society

The Museum will open Saturday mornings (10 – 12) from 2 March.

Wednesday 20 March - War Churches with Interesting Connections

Speaker – John Hickman.

This talk will be held in the Town Hall Annexe. Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Friday 22 March - Unearthing the Mammoth Graveyard

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.

- * Find out what it was like to discover the site.
- * How the documentary was made.
- * Find out how scientists examine their discoveries.
- * Learn about mammoths, how they lived and how they died.

This talk will be held in the Town Hall and tickets can be purchased via our website (www.cricklademuseum.co.uk) or from Tracy on 07825 430 278.

Doors Open at 6.45pm for 7.15pm start.

CHS Members £5.00, Non-Members £7.50, Children under 18 £2.50

Wednesday 17 April - Aftermath, the Peace of 1919 - 1939 (Speaker – Bill King)

This talk will be held in the Town Hall Annexe. Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Cricklade Garden Club

Our gardening year begins on 12 March with our AGM and our first meeting.

As a slight change of procedure, our meeting will start at 7pm with the AGM. We promise the business will be dealt with efficiently and quickly. Our annual membership fee will stay at £20.00 - a bargain, particularly when our first speaker explains how we can raise new plants without spending any money!

After the AGM, our speaker David Cropp's talk is entitled "New Plants from Old."

David will give us a practical demonstration of dividing perennials and potting on. Many of us will have watched the presenters of "Gardeners' World" doing this, but seeing it done in front of us and being able to ask questions should give us confidence to have a go.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be served after the demonstration giving an opportunity to chat about how our gardens have survived the winter and our plans for spring and summer.

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 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 CINEMA!

Cricklade Cinema

Our Spring Season continues on Tuesday 26 March at 8pm in the Town Hall

The Old Oak (15, 113mins)

A struggling pub in the heart of a once thriving mining community in County Durham is the focus of tensions in the town with the arrival of Syrian refugees. Made by veteran director Ken Loach.
(contains very strong language, racism theme)

Tickets can be purchased in advance from The Town Council Offices at 113 High Street or on the door (subject to availability).

Price £5.

And still to come.....

23 April – The Great Escaper (Cert 12A, 96mins)

More details about all the films being shown and information on Cricklade Cinema can be found on our website
(www.cricklodecinema.org.uk) so why not take a look.

Email us at: cricklodecinema@gmail.com

Check us out at Facebook Cricklade Cinema



**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

Cricklade Camera Club

Our full programme for the current season can be found on cricklodecameraclub.org, or contact the Club Secretary, Anne Eckersley, for further information: clubsecretary@cricklodecameraclub.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 March: Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm: Our Annual Battle with local club Royal Wootton Bassett Camera Club, judged by Eddy Lane

Now in its sixth year, this year's judge Eddy Lane will have the unenviable task of considering 60 images, 30 from each club. and awarding marks to select a winner.

19 March: - Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm: An AV Masterclass with Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-FIAP APAGB

Ian is a well-known figure in the world of audiovisual photography. He was the first person ever to be awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society on the strength of digitally projected photo sequences. Tonight we're in for a treat with his AV masterclass and we look forward to a very exciting evening. (www.ibateman.co.uk/ian)

Cricklade Bowls Club

As we approach spring, the Bowls Year is coming out of hibernation. The work that was done last autumn in dethatching the green, spreading sand and seed, and poking holes in the green (aerating) seems to have paid off. Despite the often heavy and prolonged periods of winter rain, we don't seem to have any of the flooded patches that we suffered a year ago.



And we did our first lawn cut on 30 January!

It's not all been quiet over the winter. It's a time of getting jobs done in preparation for the new season. One of the tasks done was demolishing the old portacabin store that partially collapsed during last summer. We had already bought and installed its replacement which will last us well for years to come. However getting rid of the old one was a challenge! Several of our club members are retired builders who helped put together a safe plan for the demolition and the Wednesday Team completed the hard work! All the "bits" went to the correct recycling or disposal routes.

Taking down the portacabin revealed a rotten fence and posts between us and the Fire Station next door. That has now been fixed too. One job leads to another ...

So we are looking forward to the new season which starts with our green opening on 6 April for members' practice. This will be followed by our **Open Day & Members Registration on Saturday 13 April** when we will welcome everyone who wants to know more about the game of bowls. No charge, no experience necessary and no special kit – just make sure to wear shoes with a flatish sole. We have club members who can show you what to do and we have spare bowls for you to use.

For more information please contact:

Roy Phillips (Secretary) roy2308@btinternet.com

Paul Coleman (Men's Captain) colemanpaul1@hotmail.com

Adina Grace (Ladies' Captain) janda.grace447@outlook.com

Rick Dixon (Treasurer) rickdixonbowls@gmail.com or 01793 759123

We hope to see you there.

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
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Coaching Sessions are:

Wed	10 - 11.30am (ladies)	Fri	10 - 11.30am (mixed)
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Recently the Club hosted a round of the GWR Winter Doubles. Twelve teams took part.

Our Club social night will be on Friday 29 March.

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

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club



Join us for RACE NIGHT at the Town Hall on Saturday 16 March. Look out for more details on posters around town and Facebook. First race at 7pm.

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.

March fixtures are:

16 Mar	Swindon College Old Boys II	Away
23 Mar	Royal Wootton Bassett IV	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	Fridays 5.30 to 6.45pm
	Under 13s and 14s	Fridays 7 to 8.15pm
Minis	Under 6s through to Under 9s	Saturdays 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 support the Juniors and Minis, so if you are interested please contact Seth.

Saxons Pétanque Club

Saxons Pétanque Club play on the gravel just in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and 10am on Saturday mornings, with Wednesday evening sessions during the summer. We also run informal training sessions at 10am on the first and third Wednesdays of most months.

Membership is very reasonable at just £20 per annum for adults and £5 for children. For some members our club sessions are enough whilst others enjoy the competitiveness of various external matches and competitions.

We are having another social skittles evening at The White Hart in March, which is always a popular event, and hope to arrange a meal at a local restaurant soon.

If you'd like to find out more about Saxons Pétanque Club, we're a friendly bunch so please come and say hello, take a look at our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit our website at saxonspetanque.co.uk.

Moon Phases

Mar 2024

3rd



10th



17th



25th



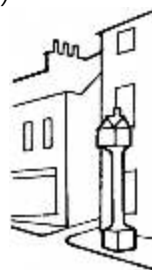
The Chronicle Diary – March 2024

- 1 F *end of day* Chronicle copy deadline
- 4 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
- 4 M 7pm Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
- 5 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
- 5 Tu 7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 6 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café's launch event at Town Hall Annexe
- 7 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 10 Su **Mothers' Day – Mothering Sunday**
- 11 M 7pm Town Council Planning (PCT) Committee, Council Chamber
- 12 Tu **7pm** Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe (commences with AGM)
- 16 Sa 7pm (*prompt!*) Rugby Club Race Night at Town Hall – see page 42
- 19 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
- 19 Tu 7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 19 Tu 7.30pm Camera Club Zoom meeting
- 20 W 10.30am to noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Club, High Street
- 20 W 7pm for 7.30pm start: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 21 Th 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 21 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 22 F 6.45pm for 7.15pm: Hist. Society talk: Mammoth Graveyard, Town Hall. p39
- 23 Sa 7.30pm Family Quiz Night at St Sampson's School – see page 28
- 25 M 7pm Town Council Community & Leisure Committee Meeting, Council Chamber
- 26 Tu 7.30pm Talk on Parkinson's at Purton Surgery – free but ticketed (p21)
- 26 Tu 8pm Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall, tickets from Council Office
- 29 F **Good Friday – Bank Holiday**
- Wiltshire Schools holiday until 15 April (*others may vary*)

- 31 Su **Easter Sunday**
- 2am Start of British Summer Time – the clocks go forward

Every Week

- M 10am-3.30pm Open Door at Jenner Hall
- Tu 10am-3.30pm Open Door at Jenner Hall
- 7pm Rugby Club: Tag Rugby at Fairview Fields
- W 1.30 for 2pm Bingo4Us at Jenner Hall
- Th 10-11am Cricklade Credit Union: in Tourist Information Office
- 10am-3.30pm Open Door at Jenner Hall
- 1.30-4.30pm The Paint Palette: Ladies' Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 7pm Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
- 7-10pm The Cricklade Band rehearsal night, at Town Hall, visitors welcome
- 7.30-9.30pm Sing Four Four choir rehearsal at United Church, Calcutt Street
- F 10-11.30am Cricklade Foodbank at Jenner Hall
- 10-11.30am Coffee Cafe at Cricklade United Church Hall
- 7pm St Sampson's church choir rehearsal
- Sa 10am-noon Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street



The Final Word ...

I suspect that many of us in the dark, wet and weary days of mid-winter wondered whether we would ever be warm and dry again. I went for a walk with my dog and kept thinking 'the water will get shallower in a minute' and it didn't; eventually the water was up to my thighs and when I got home I tipped about a pint out of each welly. I remember thinking then - before long we will be having hosepipe bans and wishing it would rain.

Somehow when we are in the depths it is hard to remember that it doesn't remain like that. You will know, yourself, of a time in your life when you felt like things couldn't get any worse – and then they did! But, by and large, we don't stay there.

Good Friday shows us that the depths of human suffering, even death itself, don't need to be the end of the story. In Jesus' glorious, extraordinary resurrection we find the power, tenderness and grace of God in every word, phrase, feeling and story.

Jesus died a real death on a real cross; it was terrible, prolonged torture. Death on a cross was a helpless and humiliating end, ignominious and despised by everyone.

Jesus rose to live a real life in our real world. Although it is past our ability to comprehend - people saw him alive. One of his friends mistook him for the gardener. He invited one of his friends to put his finger in the nail holes in his hand. He cooked breakfast for his friends on the beach.

It was love which took Jesus to the cross - it was love which meant that death could not hold him.

As we come to Holy Week and Easter, let us remember that wherever we are, in flood or desert, in dark or in light, the God who loves us sent his son to show his love, in death and resurrection. We can rely on him.

Rev'd Canon Debbie Dewes, Vicar, Upper Thames Group

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CRICKLADE CHRONICLE CONTACTS

Items for publication to the Editor: Rick Dixon, RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com, 01793 759123 or by post to 19 North Wall, Cricklade SN6 6DU.

Advertising: crickladechronicleadds@gmail.com, tel: 01793 752898 (office hours)

Distribution: Allan & Nick Webster, crickladechronicleadds@gmail.com, tel: 01793 752898 (office hours)



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