

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 586

April 2024



St Mary's Church, Cricklade - The Chancel
picture © Rick Dixon



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SUZUKI

From the Editor

We have some anniversaries to announce. Cricklade Bloomers is now Twenty Years Old! They started as a group aiming to make Cricklade a better place. The national floral awards they have won for our town certainly show their achievements. They will be holding fundraising teas at the Thames Hall with information displays in conjunction with the Court Leet. Details are on page 28.

The other anniversary is that of D-Day in 1944. We will be marking the events in *The Chronicle* starting with an article on page 26 by Marion Parsons. The build-up to the largest ever invasion force was a time when Cricklade was still not immune from enemy attack. Our articles culminate in June, remembering the 6 June 1944 invasion of Normandy. If you have any family memories to share, please send them to the usual contact address on page 44.

Cricklade Cinema is showing the Michael Caine film "The Great Escaper" on 23 April about a veteran who escaped a care home to attend a Normandy D-Day memorial. Tickets may sell out quickly, so visit page 24. (23 April is also St George's Day!)



On 25 April, St Sampson's Church hosts a recital by Jean-René André, organist of Rennes Cathedral, in Normandy. We hope for a truly wonderful evening with his skill and the tones and power of the St Sampson's organ – see page 25 for details.

The Annual Town Meeting is being held at the Town Hall on 16 April. All are invited – see page 3. The Community Awards will be presented during the meeting.

On 27 April, Cricklade Preschool hold their Jumble Trail with stalls around the town – see page 5. And see you there?

In this issue

Bingo 4 Us	21
Bloomers	28
Bobby Van Collection Volunteers	18-19
Bounce & Rhyme	39
Bowls Club	41
Camera Club	40-41
Chronicle Contacts	44
Chronicle Diary	43
Church Appeal (St Sampson's)	19
Churches Together	22-23
Coffee Café	39
'Come & Sing' at St Sampson's	39
Community Contacts	2
Cricklade Cinema	24
Cricklade D-Day Memories	26-27
Cricklade Library	4
Cricklade Pétanque Club	42
Cricklade Preschool Playgroup Jumble Trail	5
Cricklade W.I.	17
Disclaimer	44

The Final Word	44
Foodbank	24
Garden Club	37
Historical Society	21
Informal Worship	23
Jenner Hall	21
Jenner Hall Save It Club	19
Memory Café	37
Open Door	27
Organ Recital at St Sampson's	25
Parkinson's Café	22
Probus Club	41
Purton & Green Gable Surgery	6
Rugby Club	42
Saxons Pétanque Club	39
Sing Four Four	17
Town Council	3-4
Town Hall bookings	17
USPG Elephants	23
Waylands Estates Charity	20-21
What's On	37
Wiltshire Sight	39

The deadline for the May 2024 issue is Monday 1 April 2024

Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

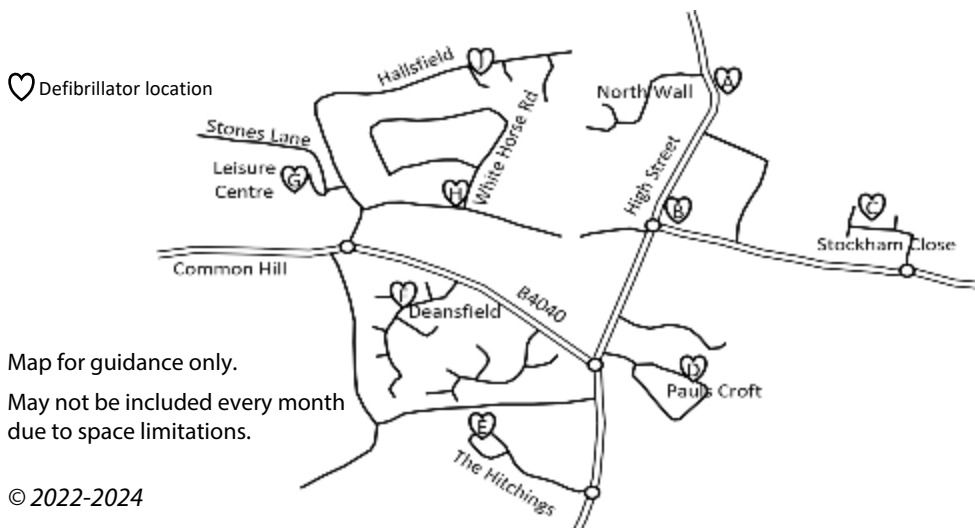
This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

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.

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Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

- Monday 8 April** Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee (PCT)
- Tuesday 16 April** Annual Town Meeting at Cricklade Town Hall
- Monday 29 April** Full Town Council (FTC)
- Monday 7 May** Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee (PCT)



All meetings (except the Annual Town Meeting as above) 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.

Annual Town Meeting – Tuesday 16 April 2024

This year the Annual Town Meeting is on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall. It is an opportunity for you to hear from Councillors who will give presentations on the Council's activities and to let you know a bit about what is planned for the next 12 months. The Annual Community Awards will be presented at this meeting. There will also an opportunity to meet and hear from community groups and individuals on matters that are of local importance, so please make a date in your diary now for this informative annual event.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and refreshments will be served from 6.30pm. During the evening there will be plenty of opportunities for you to ask questions. These can be lodged in advance (by Thursday 7 April please) if it is likely that your question would need research to answer fully.

Why not become a Councillor?

This is your chance to influence the important decisions in Cricklade and the Town Council is the local authority closest to the electorate. Each councillor has personal reasons for running but the role offers the chance to make a huge difference to the quality of life for people in your area. Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work and we are looking for suitable candidates to fulfil this interesting and varied voluntary role.

The submission deadline date is 19 April, and then on 29 April the Full Town Council will vote to co-opt one name from the applications received. The application form can be downloaded from the website or a hard copy can be collected from our office.

If you have any questions then please feel free to contact the Town Clerk, Nicola Arthurs.

Nesting Season

Some mature hedgerows are protected by law, but this would not normally apply to garden hedges. The RSPB recommend not cutting hedges and trees between March and August as this is the main breeding season for nesting birds, although some birds may nest outside this period.

It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs. If someone is cutting a hedge during this period, politely mention the risk to bird's nests, and the law protecting nests. If they proceed, and you know there is an active nest at risk, contact the police on 101, and ask for a reference number.

Events Diary 2024 - Advertise Your Community Events

The Town Diary can be found as the 'Events Calendar' on the Town Council website. This is a useful tool for those involved with local organisations planning meetings and social events, or those arranging their own fundraising ventures. Checking the Town Diary at the planning stage will avoid your event being double-booked. You can view the Town Diary on our website and email details of your upcoming events, meetings etc. to admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Grant Funding Opportunities

There is a new grant funding pot available in the Town Council's Small Grant Scheme for Cricklade based community and voluntary projects. Further information is available from the Town Council offices and on our website at www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk

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: 29 March, 1 April, 6 May, 27 May

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

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

Preschool Playgroup

Jumble Trail

Sat 27th April

**Email to book a spot
on the map**

£10 each

Email:

fundraising.playgroupcricklade@btinternet.com

If you are located in Cricklade and would like to hold your own stall,
please email us for a spot on the map!

Make a note of the date and get ready to join in the fun! See what bargains you can find!

Keep your eyes peeled for where to buy the maps on the day,
but they will be available from Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



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

The Health Talk on Parkinson's Disease on 26 March in Purton Surgery will have taken place by the time you read this.

Easter Raffle

This will also have taken place by the time you read this – the next raffle will be in the autumn.

Hay Fever Medication

Please remember that the NHS does not support prescribing hay fever medication.

Most hay fever medication can be purchased over the counter from pharmacies, supermarkets and reputable online retailers at very reasonable prices. Please speak to your local pharmacy for advice.

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. 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 March draw was made by Health Care Assistant, Mary Buckland (*right*). The winners were (£100) Mrs J M Scott, (£15) Mrs Sandra Brimacombe.

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.



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 have purchased. We are pleased to receive good quality donations (no shoes please). Items for the Table should be handed in to Reception and if you would like to buy anything please take your item to the Reception team.

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 W.I.

Advance Notice: On **Saturday 8 June** we are holding a coffee morning and table top sale in the Town Hall Annexe. Join us for tea or coffee and home made cakes and browse our stalls selling bric-a-brac, cards, dried flowers and jewellery along with a raffle and an alternative tombola.



But don't wait until then to find out more about your Cricklade W.I. We meet every third Thursday in the month in the Town Hall Annexe for refreshments and a chat as well as a talk or activity.

Our speaker in March was Paul Evans who entertained us with humorous poems, readings and monologues and we look forward to our April meeting when we will hear about the life of the artist David Sheppard.

We also have the opportunity to join in activities and events organised by our regional W.I. So come along and see what we are about. We welcome new members and new ideas. For more information check us out on Facebook or contact our Secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com

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 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

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust Collection Box

We are committed to ensuring our volunteers feel valued and recognised for everything they do.



If you are passionate about making a difference become a WBVT Volunteer.

If you love getting out and about but also want to support a cause in achieving its aim, then becoming a Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust (WBVT) Collection Box Volunteer. This could be the right step for you. You will be involved in displaying our collection boxes in your local community to help raise funds for WBVT.

In this community-spirited volunteer role, your support will include getting involved in the following:

- Getting out and about to display our iconic collection boxes in your local community;
- Networking with organisations to share our cause and encourage them to display our collection boxes;
- Maintaining an accurate list of the location of the collection boxes and the dates on which they have been replaced or emptied;
- At suitable intervals being responsible for the pick-up and replacement of these collection boxes;
- Being an ambassador for WBVT.

You'll ideally:

- Have good organisational skills to distribute collection boxes;
- Have good communication skills to spread the word about WBVT;
- Be looking to commit to 8 hours a week which is flexible to allow you to enjoy a work-life balance;

The minimum age of this volunteer role is 18 and you will need to have your own vehicle, insurance, and Driving Licence.

If you don't feel you tick every box but are sure this role is the one for you, we'd love to hear from you! We're always open to suggestions and are very happy to chat with you to find out what's possible. Please just get in touch by emailing toni@wbvt.org

About the Trust:

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust (WBVT) provides a free home security service and online safety service for over 60s, over-18s with a registered disability and people experiencing domestic abuse throughout Wiltshire and Swindon.

We have been protecting the elderly and vulnerable in Wiltshire and Swindon since 1998.

The charity funds the operation of three Bobby vans that provide mobile workshops for Bobby operators to secure homes. Our team of Stay Safe Online Volunteers offer one to one home visits and community talks on online safety.

The Trust aims to help people in Wiltshire and Swindon by:

- Improving security of domestic premises occupied by the elderly and vulnerable to prevent burglary, hate crime and domestic abuse;
- Reducing incidence of repeat burglary and re-victimisation;
- Promoting awareness of fire safety, detection and prevention;
- Offering reassurance and advice on crime reduction, and sign-posting other agencies that may be of assistance to clients' particular needs;
- Providing practical skills and advice to help prevent online fraud;
- Giving talks in the community

Registered Charity No. 1153790

St Sampson's Church Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

We continue to plan events for 2024.

These include our church fete (Saturday 7 September), another Kavali charity evening, musical events and a wine tasting evening.

Information about each of these will be given via posters and social media.



St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winners of the February 2024 draw were:

Gerry Tamplin and Bev Williams who won £31.50

St Sampson's Church benefited by £31.50.

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>.



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

In the Monthly Draw held on 29 February, the lucky winners were :-

First Prize:	Peter & Elizabeth Fullalove	£36.90
Second Prize:	Paul Povey	£24.60
Jenner Hall Funds:		£61.50

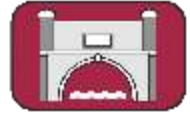


To Join the Jenner Hall "Save It Club", please contact Paul Marley Tel: 752851

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.)

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.

Leave a Legacy to Cricklade

Wayland Estates Charity would appreciate residents of Cricklade considering making a donation or leaving a gift in their will to the Charity.

WHY? Currently, Wayland Estates Charity gives approximately £10,000 per annum to community groups. The Charity has a limited amount of capital, providing a small amount of income, with little opportunity for growth. In future we would like to be able increase our income allowing us to help more groups and support bigger projects.

We started in 1551! Wayland Estates Charity was originally set up in 1551 when the income was used to maintain the highways of Cricklade. In the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries the charity funded some street lighting and helped maintain the Jubilee clock. Any surplus monies were given to the local authorities to help reduce rates. From 1976, with the approval of the Charities Commission, the income has been used to help local groups with grants for capital items.

Who are we? There is a committee of twelve Cricklade residents who, as Trustees, meet twice a year to decide the grant awards and to maintain the running of the charity.

Who do we help? Examples of projects that have been supported are machinery for the Cricket Club, equipment for the Town Band, a gate at the Jenner Hall, the Clock at St Mary's, mirrors in the Dance Studio at the Leisure Centre. Our grants, given for capital projects not for running costs, enable groups to provide a community facility that may otherwise be lost in the future without valuable support.

It is hoped that you may like to donate now or leave a legacy in your will for the benefit of Cricklade and the future of Cricklade. Wayland Estates Charity is the perfect way to do this by adding to the Charity's capital and ensuring a healthy future income with which to help groups supporting everyone in Cricklade.

A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

For more information contact John Harman (clerk to Wayland Estates Charity)

Tel: 07962 116526 Email: jharman@btopenworld.com

or visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/waylandestates

or donate at: donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/waylandestatescharity

(or scan the QR code on the right)



Cricklade Historical Society

The Museum is open Saturday mornings (10 -12) and from 3 April on Wednesday afternoons (2 - 4).

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.

Wednesday 22 May: Robert Dudley, Queen Elizabeth 1st and the Kenilworth Entertainment. (Speaker – Dr Gillian White)

This talk will be held in the Town Hall Annexe.

Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Friday 24 May: Quiz Night and Supper

Tickets are now available to purchase online from our website

www.cricklademuseum.co.uk or from Tracy on 07825 430 278.

This event will be held in the Town Hall Main Hall.

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



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 £2per 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.

Churches Together

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

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

7 April

Easter 2

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's with music group*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

14 April

Easter 3

- 10am Upper Thames Together Communion *at St Sampson's*

21 April

Easter 4

- 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*
- 6pm Evensong *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

28 April

Easter 5

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

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.

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.

er in Cricklade & Latton

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

Informal Worship includes children's and youth groups at St Sampson's Church

Informal Worship meets once a month at 4pm on a Sunday. It's a relaxed service, which includes modern songs played by guitar/keyboard, short lively and relevant talks and groups for children (age 4-10) and young people (age 11-16). We enjoy refreshments before the service at 3.45pm. Visit upperthames.org.uk/calendar.

If you are new to Church or haven't been for a while, don't worry, we would love to see you! To find out more, please use the "Contact Us" form on the Upper Thames website.

U.S.P.G. Elephants

Thank you again to all who contribute to the Primary Health Care Scheme in southern Malawi. The funds we forward to this scheme are received with gratitude and help to provide some basic amenities to this impoverished part of the world.

Last year we collected £1,112.00, so a big THANK YOU again for your generosity.

The April Elephant "round-up" will be on Sunday 7 April so, if you are able to, please bring your Elephants to St. Sampson's that day or I can drop round and collect them.

If anyone would like to an Elephant collecting box, just give me a call.

Paul Fray 750740

Cricklade Foodbank

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



The clocks have now gone forward and we can look forward to longer days and hopefully some warmer weather.

Our Friday Foodbank sessions remain busy, with both new and returning clients. We are just about keeping our heads above water and managing to feed all the clients who come through the door. Your donations are always welcome. Pet food is usually in high demand.

We have a number of drop-off points around Cricklade: Tesco, Animal Fayre (pet shop), Culverhay Stores (Spar), St Sampson's School, the local churches and the Town Council office. The containers are emptied regularly by our volunteers.

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

CRICKLADE CINEMA!

We have a great film to end our Spring Season on Tuesday 23 April at 8pm in the Town Hall

The Great Escaper (Cert 12A, 96mins)

An 89-year-old World War Two veteran 'escapes' from his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France. Based on a true story, Michael Caine plays the lead role, with his wife played by Glenda Jackson in her final film before she died. (*contains: infrequent strong language, moderate sex references*)



Tickets can be purchased in advance from The Town Council Offices at 113 High Street or on the door (subject to availability). Price £5.

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**



**THURS 25 APRIL, 7PM
ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH
CRICKLADE**

**JEAN-RENÉ
ANDRÉ
OF RENNES
CATHEDRAL**

ORGAN RECITAL

**FREE ENTRY
RETIRING COLLECTION**

**BATH ROAD, CRICKLADE, SN6 4AX
ADMIN@UPPERTHAMES.ORG.UK**

Cricklade's D-Day Memories – Part 1

On 6 June 2024 the country will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. During WW2, Cricklade people could recall in detail many local incidents leading up to it from a very personal viewpoint.

In 1940, far from being a quiet backwater during WW2, Cricklade was in an extremely vulnerable position both by road and by rail. Its two main streets lay on one of the most vital routes for the military to transport troops and supplies from the midlands and the north to the south coast, and was heavily used by tanks and other armoured vehicles through the very heart of town. This traffic was further increased by American convoys driving continually through the High Street and Calcutt Street, usually bound for Southampton. They flattened the pavements as they tore around the then much narrower corner opposite the clock, with stones flying everywhere and making it extremely dangerous for pedestrians to cross the road.

Furthermore, following the London Blitz, in 1940 and 1941, sustained air attacks by the Luftwaffe were steadily increasing further and further north from the south. Local people were well aware of these terrifying nightly incursions by the drone of mass formations of bombers flying overhead and later targeting major British towns and cities with devastating effect – but things were going to get worse!

Local people, including those who were children at the time, still have unforgettable memories of the very real threat of air attacks over Cricklade in broad daylight. Often, German planes which still had bombs on board, would jettison them indiscriminately onto the countryside below as they returned from a raid elsewhere, and the railway line through Cricklade was a very tempting target.

One very frightening incident occurred when several bombs were dropped by one aircraft close to the railway line just beyond Pauls Croft followed by others near Ox House Farm (east of the back road to Swindon). Children could actually see the enemy's plane coming up over the Bottom School, and then flying so low near the railway bridge that the pilot's face was clearly visible. Another recalls how one morning from her bedroom window in Spital Lane, she saw the pilot of another low flying German plane attempting to machine-gun a man on a motor bike somewhere in Calcutt. Fortunately, he jumped into a ditch and survived, but once again the plane had been following the railway line ...

This, and other stories to follow in the coming months, are extracted from the Cricklade Revealed wartime books. For availability please contact Marion Parsons on 01793 750542, or e-mail mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com Profits from all CR book sales are donated to Cricklade Open Door.

Cricklade Station was on a key strategic route in wartime Britain.



D-Day Memories: 6 June 1944

We hope to publish a D-Day, 80th Anniversary issue in June with articles leading up to the nation's memorial events in Normandy, at Portsmouth and at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

If you have any family memories of D-Day that you would like others to read in *The Chronicle*, then pass them on to us at RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com. Whatever your age, someone in your family may have fought in the forces or on the home front. Your grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents? My Dad was in the Royal Navy and I'll tell you his D-Day story in a later issue.

Cricklade Open Door

'Hello' from Open Door. If you receive your copy of *The Chronicle* early, may we wish you a Happy Easter?

Open Door would like to thank everyone who has set up a monthly Bank Standing Order for our Charity. While we can personally express our thanks to members and supporters who visit us and hand us their forms, we also want to say 'thank you' to those who arrange monthly donations directly with their banks, or where we don't have contact details. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Thank you! Your donations play an important role in supporting this vital community service and keeping our doors open three days a week.

Do come along to Open Door. Even though our eldest, treasured member is nearly 101 years of age, you'll be welcome if you're half that age or whatever your age. You will enjoy good conversation and company over a cup of coffee, or taking part in a quiz or game of Scrabble or Triominos, or a discussion etc. Then there's a Seated Exercise group, a Knitting group and a Bingo afternoon. We host concerts, go out for lunches, invite speakers, welcome visits from Cricklade schools etc, etc. We are a Friendship Club, not a Day Care Centre or just a Lunch Club and we are run by an excellent group of trustees, two coordinators and an absolutely marvellous band of volunteers.

We are very pleased to welcome back 'RPM' - Bob and Pete, a super duo who will entertain us with their range of lively music, from folk to 60's, 70's, 80's pop music. They will be with us on Monday 8 April, 10.45-11.45 and everyone is welcome to come along. They will certainly wake us up on a Monday morning.

On Saturday 27 April we will take part in Cricklade Preschool Playgroup's Jumble Trail and our stalls with excellent goods for sale will be at 39 Pittsfield from 10 am.

Looking ahead to May - there are two Bank Holidays, so Open Door will unfortunately be closed on Mondays 6 and 27 May, as well as this month's Easter Monday closure on 1 April.

For more information, just call in to Open Door, The Jenner Hall, Bath Road, Cricklade, on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday between 10am and 3.30pm, have a coffee and find out what's on offer, or telephone 07599 987 851. If the answer machine is on, leave a message and we will return your call.



Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden



The Bloomers team would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped plant the community orchard on Fairview Fields on Saturday, 2 March. In future we look forward to giving you more information about the orchard through 'The Friends of Cricklade Community Orchard'. If you are interested in joining the friends, contact Anita: anita@crickladerinbloom.co.uk

Celebrating 20 Years of Cricklade in Bloom

This year Cricklade Bloomers is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Bloomers was set up by Anita Barratt and Bob Jones in 2004 to 'make Cricklade a better place'. Between them, and their trusty volunteers, they have, as well as the more obvious borders and displays, left a legacy of tree planting all around Cricklade which will be of benefit to Cricklade in years to come. To celebrate this anniversary the Fritillary Tea Rooms will be extra special this year – we hope you will be able to join us.

Fritillary Tea Rooms at The Thames Hall

Saturday and Sunday, 13 and 14 April – 11am to 4pm

Saturday and Sunday, 20 and 21 April – 11am to 4pm

- o Refreshments: Cream teas, light lunches, home-made cakes
- o Home- grown organic plant sales: perennials, annuals, pots of fritillaries
- o Displays of Bloomers and their work in Cricklade over the last 20 years
- o Leaflets and information about North Meadow National Nature Reserve
- o Information about the fritillary watch by Cricklade Court Leet

**Special activities for children
including a treasure trail and seed planting**

All proceeds to Cricklade Bloomers to keep making Cricklade a visually and an environmentally better place.

Email: anita@crickladerinbloom.co.uk for further information and enquiries.

Cricklade Garden Club

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall Annexe. Tea and cakes are served from 7pm. Speaker starts at 7.30pm

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 9 April** when our speaker is Margie Hoffnung, the Conservation Officer and Volunteer Support Officer for the Gardens Trust.

Her talk is entitled "The Threat to Historic Gardens".

The Gardens Trust is a charity dedicated to protecting and conserving historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the UK and to promoting the study of garden history.

Margie has a horticultural degree from Writtle College and has worked at Westonbirt Arboretum, Highgrove and for Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House.

Margie will tell us why protecting historic parks, gardens and landscape is important and of the threats they face from, for example, housing development, infrastructure projects and leisure demands.

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

Membership is £20p.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 Bizzie 07876 347 973, Morag 07730 454 512 and Janet 07765 276 534.

We look forward to seeing you!

Cricklade Memory Café

We opened in February welcoming many more people than anticipated, all enjoying a lively morning of music, singing a little, dancing and loads of chatter and fun. We had visitors from Wiltshire Carers, Wiltshire Wellbeing Team and Cat Attewell from 'Home Instead' so a busy and exciting morning. Many thanks to all who attended and especially to our lovely volunteers who helped make our opening such a success.



So if you have memory issues or have dementia join us on 3 April from 10.30 to 12.30 at the Town Hall Annexe for coffee and cake, and find out more about what this café has to offer. We want to know especially what people would like from the Memory Café in the future. The café is open on the first Wednesday of each month at a small charge of £2.50. All enquiries to Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.

In Our Broader Area

■ **Swindon & Cricklade Railway: Easter Egg-Spress Train Rides**
Blunsdon Station, Tadpole Lane, SN25 2DA

Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April, 10am 4pm

Adults £10 / Seniors £9 / Children £10 – child ticket includes chocolate egg.

Web: swindon-cricklade-railway.org

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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.



Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight have a hub on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Cricklade Library between 10.15am and 12.30pm.

By appointment only. Please call 01380 723682 or e-mail info@wiltshiresight.org

Get information, advice and practical help from a sight loss advisor.

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.

'Come & Sing' at St Sampson's

All-day "Come & Sing" Fauré's Requiem with Mark Lee,
Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral, Saturday 6 July 10.30am - 5pm - £20

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade

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 some Wednesdays.

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 competition of external matches and competitions and this winter we have hosted a few rounds of the Great Western Region Winter Doubles.

We've just enjoyed another skittles evening at The White Hart, which has become a fairly regular social event, and we are looking forward to 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.

Cricklade Camera Club

Cricklade Camera Club's season runs from September to June. During July and August, we hold friendly summer meets and workshops.

Our full programme for the whole season can be found on crickldecameraclub.org, or contact the Club Secretary, Anne Eckersley, for further information. Email address: clubsecretary@crickldecameraclub.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 at 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.

2 April: Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm – Polar Photography and Wildlife, with Peter Orr.

This presentation shows some of Peter Orr's favourite locations in the Arctic and Antarctic - where the air is fresh and cool, the landscape is a wilderness and the wildlife is specialised.

Featuring glaciers and icebergs, wild boreal forests and Nordic frozen beaches, we will explore wildlife in their natural setting from polar bears to penguins.

Having visited polar regions nine times, Peter has captured the essence of natural history and photography in these inspiring locations. (www.peterorrphotography.com)

Sunday 21 April: Cricklade Youth Festival at Cricklade Leisure Centre.

Cricklade Camera Club will be in attendance; come and meet us in person.

23 April: Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm

David & Janet Barton - Judging with the Judge

Experienced judging team David and Janet Barton will be joining us for a fun evening and philosophical discussion, looking at what makes a picture work. They will share their own images and what judges thought about them and show us what we should be looking for, if we are going to critique others' work. There will be audience participation.

7 May: Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm – PDI League Round 3 and Prints League Round 3 with Aleks Gjika DPAGB EFIAP

There's all to play for tonight in the last round of this year's league competitions for both prints and PDIs.

14 May: Zoom Meeting - 7.30pm And now for something completely different with Dr David Sadler ARPS, CPAGB, EFIAP

To quote an article in the Dundee Telegraph, "As a forensic pathologist and the head of a photographic society, David Sadler is not someone you'd expect to still identify with punk."

Safe to say, David is not a run-of-the-mill photographer and his images reflect that. His Flickr profile says: "Interested in trying all kinds of photography. An opportunist,

I suppose. I joined Dundee Photographic Society in 2010. Having enjoyed the stimulus and competition within my local club I started entering pictures into Salons, with reasonable success. Since joining, I have obtained a few photographic distinctions: ARPS, CPAGB, EFIAP, BPE*2, LBIPP. I was the President of DPS (2016-18). My main interests are travel, street and opportunistic photography, with a humorous element wherever possible. A recurring theme is fisheye selfies, boldly processed to be "in your face". And the obsession continues ..." (*davidsadlerphotography.com*)

Cricklade Bowls Club

Our 2024 season starts on 6 April when we open our green 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. Come along and try us out between 10am and 4pm.



The club will be supporting the **Preschool Jumble Trail on 27 April** with a stall selling plants and pots. We will also have a raffle plus refreshments of teas and cakes.

We give our congratulations to club member Roger Essex who has now qualified as a coach with Bowls England. His efforts will be a great asset to the club.

We will be participating in the Bowls England Big Bowls Weekend on Saturday 25 May when we will again be open to the public.

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 & District Probus Club

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



4 April Penruddock's Wiltshire Rising 1655

18 April The Wicked Wit of Winston Churchill: His Vices, Tastes and Virtues

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.

GOOD NEWS – Cricklade Rugby Club was awarded the Team of the Month Tribute for February by Dorset & Wilts.

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.

Sadly there are no fixtures for April.

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.

Did you see our Juniors and Minis helping out with the Community Litter Pick in March?

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
Tue	7 - 9.30pm	Sat	10am - 12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are:

Wed	10 - 11.30am (ladies)	Fri	10 - 11.30am (mixed)
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We will return to playing on Tuesday evenings (7 - 9.30pm) from 2 April, weather permitting.

Our Club social night will be on Friday 26 April.

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

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club



Moon Phases

Apr 2024

2nd



8th



15th



24th

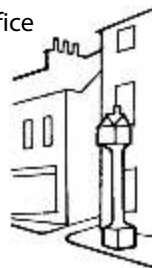


The Chronicle Diary – April 2024

- 1 M **Easter Monday – Bank Holiday**
 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
end of day Chronicle copy deadline
- 2 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
 7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 3 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café's launch event at Town Hall Annexe
- 4 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 8 M 7pm Town Council Planning (PCT) Committee, Council Chamber
- 9 Tu 7.30pm Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 13 Sa 10am to 4pm: Bowls Club Open Day, Bath Road (opp. St Sampson's School)
 10am to 4pm: Fritillary Tea Rooms, Thames Hall (by Town Bridge)
- 14 Su 10am to 4pm: Fritillary Tea Rooms, Thames Hall (by Town Bridge)
- 15 M Wiltshire Schools return (*others may vary*)
- 16 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
 7pm Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall (*Refreshments from 6.30pm*)
 7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 17 W 10.30am to noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Club, High Street
 7pm for 7.30pm start: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 18 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 20 Sa 10am to 4pm: Fritillary Tea Rooms, Thames Hall (by Town Bridge)
- 21 Su 10am to 4pm: Fritillary Tea Rooms, Thames Hall (by Town Bridge)
 10am to 4pm: Cricklade Youth Festival, Leisure Centre
- 23 Tu **St George's Day**
 7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
 8pm Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall, tickets from Council Office
- 25 Th 7pm Organ Recital, St Sampson's Church
- 27 Sa Cricklade Pre-School Jumble Trail (stalls around town)
- 29 M 7pm Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber

Every Week

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall
- Tu 7pm Rugby Club: Tag Rugby at Fairview Fields
- W 1.45 for 2pm Bingo4Us at Jenner Hall
- Th 10-11am Cricklade Credit Union: in Tourist Information Office
 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 ...

On the island of Iona, just off the west coast of Scotland, there is a religious community which brings together Christians of many different traditions. Every week the community undertakes a short pilgrimage across the island to a small chapel beside a cemetery. When all have gathered in the chapel these words are read: "In the Christian Church we celebrate that it was in a graveyard that the resurrection faith began; and it is often in places of death and apparent hopelessness that new beginnings are given."

That simple, yet powerful, act of worship reminds all who take part in it that Christians are an Easter People, filled with the new life which God brings out of death. Such reminders are necessary because we live in a society which acts as if: Christ has died; Christ is buried; Christ is gone forever. To this climate of despair Christians bring the hope of Easter. Christ is risen and God is at work renewing the whole of creation.

The signs of the new creation which the resurrection proclaims are visible whenever we see the power of love at work. We ourselves might be on the receiving end of the transforming power of love, or a loving action of our own changes another person's situation. Perhaps we hear of someone whose feeling of worthlessness is changed into new self-confidence when a friend tells them how much they need them, or we come across an estranged father and son brought together by mutual forgiveness.

Such experiences are glimpses of God's new creation. They are signs of a reality which lies beyond the limits of this old creation but in which, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we already have a share.

*Rev. Michael Robertson,
St Mary's Catholic Church.*

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