

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 596

March 2025



Latton Parish Hall
photo © Rick Dixon



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SUZUKI

From the Editor

We've had a few storms this year already. But, just after the high winds of Storm Éowyn at the end of January there was a beautiful blue sky day. Cold but clear and it blew away the gloomy days of the weeks before. So I took the picture of the Parish Hall in Latton. Looks like summer ... minus the leaves ...

The very shape of that building says that it was originally a school, and the 1900 Ordnance Survey map proves it. Perhaps the sunny weather reflects that zeal for education, founded over a century ago.

But as winter gives way to spring, we congratulate all those clubs, and individuals, who have powered their way through the winter, and extend our hopes and good wishes to those beginning their spring and summer seasons.

There are concerts to look forward to this spring. St Sampson's has one at each end

of March (page 24) and Sing Four Four will also be at St Bartholomew's in Bassett on 22 March – details on page 42.

Many clubs are benefiting from the Red Lion meat raffles: the Scouts (page 39) and the Bowls Club (page 40) are the most recent ones.

Spring also marks Lent and there is a series of 6 inspiring talks over March and April by prominent people. *Venues have changed*, so see the details on pages 18-19.

We certainly have a very full Diary section this month, not even enough room to say it is Commonwealth Day on the 10th, let alone St David on the 1st and St Patrick on the 17th, plus Red Nose Day on the 15th.

But March gives us the Spring Equinox (20th) and the clocks go forward an hour at the end of the month. It's almost time for summer!



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The deadline for the April 2025 issue is Saturday 1 March 2025

Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

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

Churches	see centre pages	Dentist (104 High St)	750388
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
Latton P/Council ...	clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk	Library (113 High St)	750694
Wiltshire Councillor	752501	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

Cricklade Town Hall

Book your event at Cricklade Town Hall. Birthdays, anniversaries, wedding celebrations, children's parties, quiz nights, club meetings, etc. The Town Hall offers flexible space with tables, padded chairs, excellent kitchen facilities and free WiFi. There is a choice of the Main Hall, Annexe and Committee Room.

Please contact our Bookings Secretary, Mrs Nicola Fry on 07977 758 389 (before 9pm please) or via email at crickladetownhall@hotmail.com for further details, or Facebook for photos and other information: www.facebook.com/crickladetownhall



Cricklade Link News

At the recent Annual General Meeting of Cricklade Link, two of our long-standing trustees retired, Tina Jones who has been our Secretary for many years, and Maureen Arthurs who has been our Treasurer, also for many years.

Both Tina and Maureen have freely given so many hours of their time over such a long period that it is hard to thank them enough. But here is a warm, public, THANK YOU to both of them. They have kept the wheels of Cricklade Link turning for the benefit of everyone else in Cricklade and Latton. Their time and dedication are much appreciated.

The new Treasurer of Cricklade Link is Duncan Abbott and our new Secretary is Sue Dyson.

We continue to experience a shortage of volunteer drivers able to help at busy times and are therefore still having to turn down the occasional request for our help. If any more of you wonderful Cricklade and Latton people out there can join our team of volunteer drivers it would help us plug the gaps and deliver an even better service to the residents who really need us.

If you can volunteer some of your time, please contact me by email at jonathan1m@hotmail.com and I will get your joining process going. Thank you.



Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 3 March	Full Town Council
Monday 10 March	Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee
Monday 17 March	Premises & Finance Committee
Tuesday 18 March	Annual Town Meeting - TOWN HALL
Monday 24 March	Community and Leisure Committee



All meetings, commence at 7pm, and are held in the Council Chamber, 113 High Street (except the Annual Town Meeting - see below). Members of the public are welcome and have an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of each meeting.

Annual Town Meeting – Tuesday 18 March 2025

This year the Annual Town Meeting is on Tuesday 18 March 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 twelve months. 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.

The Annual Community Awards will be presented at this meeting.

During the evening there will be plenty of opportunities for you to ask questions. These can be lodged in advance (by Thursday 8 March please) if it is likely that your question would need research to answer fully. Everyone is welcome to attend, and refreshments will be served from 6.30pm.

ELECTIONS IN 2025 - COUNCILLORS REQUIRED

Elections for the Town Council are on Thursday 1 May 2025. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in standing for election then why not come along to a council meeting to see what it's all about. Alternatively, please feel free to give us a call, send an email or pop into the office with any questions you may have.

There are 15 seats around the council table and we want to make sure that they are all filled!



Community Speedwatch Team

Speeds have once again been creeping up in the Town, especially along Calcutt Street, Malmesbury Road and Purton Road. The Speedwatch Team who do a great service to our community, will be out checking speeds and taking notes. Please do not ill-treat them, if you are within the speed limit you have nothing to fear!

Continues over ...

If you would like to join the Speedwatch Team please contact the Town Council where your information will be forwarded to the team.

Annual Community Litter Pick, Saturday 22 March 2025

This runs in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy's campaign. We meet at Bath Road play area at 9.30am and finish at Town Council Offices around 11.30am, where refreshments will be available.

Please contact us in advance to register. Community groups and individuals are welcome to participate in this rewarding activity, and all equipment is provided.

We all care about where we live and this is how we can demonstrate how much we love our environment.

PLANNING UPDATE – STONES FARM

On Friday 24 January, Cricklade Town Council learned that the Planning Inspectorate have allowed the appeal by Newland Homes for outline consent for the construction of 140 dwellings on their Stones Lane site. Cricklade Town Council, and others, had objected to the scheme in written representations and at the hearing on 3 December 2024 in Chippenham. Whilst the appeal decision is obviously disappointing, we will be in dialogue with the developer as the detailed plans are drawn up to ensure that the development is the best it can be for the new residents and, just as importantly, for the current residents in that vicinity. The full decision notice can be found on the Wiltshire Council planning portal ref PL/2022/02452 – the document is entitled 'Appeal – Decision' and dated 24 January 2025.



The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open, except Bank Holidays:

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

Closed Public Holidays

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Coffee Café

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

Wiltshire Perspective

I went away for a couple of weeks during the winter and was happy to miss the US inauguration. I owe an apology to those who got in touch while I was away and was unable to respond. I hope I've now caught up with you and helped sort something out for you; if not please chase me up.

It strikes me that the general shift to the right in many areas of the world may be a protest vote or an anti-incumbents vote and a vote for people who talk straight and puncture aloofness sometimes (in my opinion) completely missing the facts of the matter in the process. I've been serving Cricklade and Latton for almost a year now, and I've been reflecting during my holiday about areas that I should be focusing on for improvement.

Often I, and others, get frustrated at the pushback from County Hall on various cases, especially when they are busily deferring an action for longer than it would take to do the original work.

In addition, there are cases which end in a 'thank you' and it does give me genuine joy to have influenced a positive outcome for a fellow resident.

It doesn't matter what your politics are or how you vote, it's my duty to help and represent your issues to County Hall and to be your advocate. I hope I do so directly and with purpose.

Having said that, it was disappointing to hear the news about the Stones Farm appeal, despite the work that so many local people had put in, not just me. Cricklade Town Council will be pulling together a working group to try to minimise the impact by actively working with the developer to reduce as many adverse consequences as possible.

From a Wiltshire perspective, the County has much work to do to address the planning changes that have been set in play by the Government. At the moment achieving a common vision for the future has been a huge challenge for County Hall. One that has yet to be delivered.

How that plays out should soon be apparent, but for the moment, any increases in Council Tax for next year look set to be minimised to well below 5%. At the time of writing the vote has yet to be cast but, as the Conservatives hold the majority, it's likely to pass, especially as the Lib Dems (the next largest party) do not propose to try to amend it.

Sometime in March is the deadline to register to vote for the First of May elections. I would implore you to register to vote, you can use this QR code (right).



Many thanks for all the help you give me to fight our collective corner of Wiltshire. It's a privilege to try to help people, and if you think I could be helping you, please do get in touch and I'll see what I can do.

Nick Dye, councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey
Nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501

Roz Savage MP

Roz Savage, MP for the South Cotswolds, is holding regular constituency surgeries to support residents with their concerns. Following parliamentary advice, these surgeries are now by appointment only.

Where possible, appointments will be held virtually. However, Roz is also hosting less frequent in-person surgeries at various locations across the constituency to ensure accessibility for all residents.

To book an appointment, please email roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk or call her office on 01285 300555. If you have specific accessibility needs, please let the team know when booking.



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	

Wayland Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present



At their next meeting on 4 June 2025, 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

Tel: 07962 116 526 email: jharman@btopenworld.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE 1 MAY 2025

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 Memory Café

The café is open on the first Wednesday of each month from 10.30 to 12.30 at the Town Hall Annexe for people with memory impairment, their family or carers.

To find out more please contact Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



New Screen for the waiting room

We are pleased to be able to tell you that the PPG is purchasing a new information screen for Green Gable Surgery waiting room. Due to be fitted in the middle of March, this will give patients the same benefit as those attending Purton Surgery.

200 Club

The February draw was done by Dr Au-Yeung. The lucky winners were: £100 Fran Bissett, £15 Joyce Manning. 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.



If you would like to join the 200 Club then the best way is to set up a Standing Order for £15 to be taken annually on 1 September each year. Forms for this are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries. There are two prizes each month of £100 and £15.

Table Top in Purton Surgery

Thank you to all who support the Table Top in Purton Surgery waiting room, to those who contribute items and those who buy. We do need more donations now! – so if you have anything please hand your items to the Reception staff. If you would like to purchase any items then please hand your money in to Reception.

Don't forget there are also books for sale at 50p each, please put money in the tin or hand into 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.psppg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Cricklade Leisure Centre

Cricklade Half Marathon, 10k and Fun Run

Lace up those running shoes because this amazing event is planned for October. Full details including start times and how to register will be on our website and in the April issue of *The Chronicle*.



As well as runners we also need marshals and other volunteers. Can you help? Please contact us and let us know if you can spare a few hours. Thank you.

For all the latest news:

Follow us on Facebook

Visit www.crickladeleisure.com

Email admin@crickladeleisure.co.uk

Call us on 01793 750011

Or just pop in. We'd love to see you.



Lent Talks

Churches Together in Cricklade, Latton, Ashton Keynes and The Leigh

We hear from 6 prominent people, each with a different and challenging story as they talk openly and honestly about their life, work and faith and how that faith impacts their lives.

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, our sixth series of talks during the period of Lent. Meet and listen to some inspirational and thought-provoking people.

For each venue, see the listing below - they have changed since the previous issue

... but all will start promptly at 7.30pm. Please arrive in plenty of time to be seated. Some will have merchandise for sale, so please come prepared if you want to purchase. There will be drinks following the talks and a chance to speak with the guest speaker. There is no charge for these events but there will be an opportunity to contribute towards the cost if you so wish.

Each evening is ticketed (free of charge) and these can be obtained from Graham Light by calling 07733 305 519 or by email grahamdligh77@gmail.com.

If you want tickets posted you will be asked to provide a stamped addressed envelope.

Thursday 6 March (7.30pm at St Sampson's School, Bath Road SN6 6AX)

Stef Jones is a lifelong ad man who ran his own agency for 20 years. Voluntary work in HMP Brixton led him to the realisation that he had a passion for prisons and specifically, helping keep people out of them. Stef set up Onwards & Upwards in 2021 with Rob Love and together they created the first of their planned ventures, XO Bikes in May, 2022. Their mission is as follows:



We want to free ex-offenders from the cycle of reoffending by creating jobs that change lives for good. Our aim is to bring employment rates up and reoffending rates down. By creating trusted brands and small, beautiful and loud businesses, we mean to prove that employing ex-offenders makes business sense, so shifting attitudes towards employing them. Not every offence should lead to a life sentence.

www.onwardsandupwards.uk and <https://xobikes.com>

Tuesday 11 March (7.30pm at St Sampson's School, Bath Road SN6 6AX)

Ram Gidoomal CBE is Chair of South Asian Concern and SHEIN External Advisory SRG Board. He is a Board Member of movement.org (formerly New York City Leadership Centre co-founded by Tim Keller and Mac Pier) and the Whole Word Institute which trains Bible translators in Biblical Hebrew, based in Israel.

He is a Trustee of the Word & Worship Trust and co-produced the albums Songs of the Kingdom and Asia Worship, both with Kingsway. He is Honorary Vice President of The Leprosy Mission England and Wales and Honorary Member of the Faculty of Divinity Cambridge University.



Tuesday 18 March (7.30pm at St Sampson's School, Bath Road SN6 6AX)

Minister Shermara Fletcher-Hoyte is a millennial figure in Ecumenical, Pentecostal, and Charismatic relations. She serves as the Principal Officer at Churches Together in England and also has responsibility for racial justice and young adult ecumenical engagement. A dedicated minister and international speaker, Shermara is committed to fostering holistic and flourishing lives. Her leadership was notably highlighted when she read before a global audience of 4.1 billion at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral on 19 September 2022.



Wednesday 19 March (7.30pm at United Church, Calcutt Street SN6 6AZ)

Stuart Burgess is Professor of Engineering Design at Bristol University and an adjunct professor at Liberty University, USA. He has led the design of the chain drive for the British Olympic Cycling Team for the last three Olympics and exhibited this work at the Royal Society. He has received many academic awards including: (i) the IMechE Clayton Prize 2019 (the top mechanical engineering prize in the UK); (ii) the Turner's Gold Medal for spacecraft design; (iii) a Design Council Prize presented by the UK Minister of State for Trade and Industry; and (iv) the Wessex Scientific Medal for work on biomimetics. see <https://profstuartburgess.com>.



Thursday 10 April (7.30pm at St Sampson's School, Bath Road SN6 6AX)

Rt Hon John Glen MP has been the Member of Parliament for Salisbury since 2010 and was elected to serve on the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee in October 2024 having been the Shadow Paymaster General for 4 months since the July 2024 General Election. John served in the cabinet of Rishi Sunak's administration as both Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Paymaster General in the Cabinet Office, during which time he delivered the compensation scheme for the Infected Blood Scandal. Prior to these cabinet roles he spent a record tenure of four and a half years as Economic Secretary (City Minister) in HMT and was briefly Arts Minister and a Parliamentary Private Secretary to three cabinet Ministers including Lord Hammond when he was Chancellor. John was a strategy consultant at Accenture from 1997-2010. He was also a JP in Westminster for 6 years. John grew up in North Wiltshire and attended King Edward's School, Bath before reading Modern History at Mansfield College, Oxford (1993-1996) where he was JCR President. John studied for an MBA at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge in 2002-3. .



Friday 11 April (7.30pm at St Sampson's School, Bath Road SN6 6AX)

Lisa Potts first came to prominence when, as a nursery nurse in Wolverhampton, she protected her pupils from a machete-wielding attacker. Through her bravery she has won 19 awards including the highest civilian award the George Medal. Lisa, talks about how God carried her through her difficult and terrifying experience, the subsequent rehabilitation through her terrible injuries and how she came to terms with her new found fame.



NOTE: This talk is not suitable for those under the age of 13.

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 30 January the lucky winners were:-

First Prize:	Alistair Dickson	£36.00
Second Prize:	Lucy Aylward	£24.00
Jenner Hall Funds:		£60.00



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.

Cricklade Camera Club

Are you interested in photography, or do you just want to take better photographs?



If so, why not come along to Cricklade Camera Club. Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome - you don't even need a camera. Everyone is welcome. You can try us out for an evening for a guest fee of £6.00. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe and in addition there are a range of workshops and Zoom presentations throughout the year. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website <https://crickldecameraclub.org/program>

On **Tuesday 4 March** we have our Annual Battle with Royal Wootton Bassett Camera Club – it's not as deadly as it sounds! We present our best images and they present theirs, the images are scored by an independent judge and the winner is announced. RWB are hosting the evening in the Function Room at the Angel Hotel, RWB. If you would like to come along contact one of the names on our website and we can share travel arrangements.

On **Tuesday 18 March** in the Cricklade Town Hall Committee Room there will be a presentation and discussion about members projects.

Cricklade Walking Group: part of Get Wiltshire Walking

Come and join weekly walks in Cricklade, led by fully qualified walk leaders. Friendly and fun, it's a great opportunity to get fit, meet new people and get to know your local area. Everyone's welcome provided you are independently mobile, able to meet the physical demands of your chosen walk and can maintain responsibility for your own safety and wellbeing. We are sorry but no dogs, other than sensory dogs, are allowed.

Walk leaders manage and tailor the following walks to meet the needs of walkers:

- Fridays 9.30am meeting at Waylands (by flag poles): Starter, Stroller & Strider walks;
- Tuesdays 6.30pm meeting at Cricklade Leisure Centre: Strider walk only

On your first visit, please allow a few minutes to complete a short registration form.

For further information contact local walk leader Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or email vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com.

Cricklade Open Door

It is good to see signs of spring – primroses, daffodils, (wonderful snowdrops at Cerney House Gardens), longer days and time to think about spring cleaning or preferably, thinking about a summer holiday.



February was a good month for Open Door with a party for all volunteers, (actually 31 January!) 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 enjoyed lunch at Cricklade's excellent Thai restaurant, JIcsaw, where we are always warmly welcomed and nothing is too much trouble for Yutt and Sassy and their team. Becky and Lucy, exceptional violinists, returned to give us a fabulous morning of music on 24 February, organised for us by The Wiltshire Music Centre's project - 'Celebrating Age' and this was followed by a buffet lunch with wine or soft drinks.

St Sampson's C of E Primary School pupils, Years 1 and 2, visited us on 13 February, as part of their 'History of Cricklade' lessons. We gave them a brief history of the Jenner Hall, from 1652 to the present day and then pupils asked Open Door members questions about their school days, games etc and how life was 60/70/80 years ago. It was a very interactive, interesting morning. Open Door just loves having contact with the young people of Cricklade and we are so fortunate to have relationships and support from both St Sampson's C of E Primary School, Cricklade Manor Prep School and Thames Pre School.

Open Door A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 18 March at 11am when thoughts about last year and plans for the future will be discussed.

Looking ahead into April, a date for diaries:

SATURDAY 12 APRIL COFFEE MORNING

with Chris's famous scones and cakes

RAFFLE TOMBOLA

10.00 - 12.00

THE JENNER HALL

Why not pop into Open Door for a coffee and chat and find out all that's on offer to brighten up your week?

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

Parkinson's UK

At Cricklade Hotel & Spa, Common Hill SN6 6HA : 10.30am - noon

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

There you will find plenty of level parking, good access and an accessible loo!

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

The volunteers team looks forward to seeing you there!

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

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

2 March Sunday before Lent

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

5 March Ash Wednesday

- 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion and Ashing service in St Sampson's

9 March 1st Sunday of Lent

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

16 March 2nd Sunday of Lent

- 8am Holy Communion followed by breakfast at St Sampson's
- 10am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Latton
followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 10am Morning Worship at St Sampson's
- 10am Informal Morning Worship at Holy Cross
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

23 March 3rd Sunday of Lent

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP at Holy Cross
- 10am Holy Communion at St Sampson's + children's activities
in Jenner Hall, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 10am Morning Worship at St John the Baptist, Latton

30 March Mothering Sunday / 4th Sunday of Lent

- 8am Holy Communion BCP in St Sampson's
- 10am Eucharist Service in Bristol Cathedral for Mothering Sunday

There is no 10am service in Upper Thames; everyone is invited to Bristol Cathedral.

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.

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

er in Cricklade & Latton

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Funerals

6 January	Janet Cicely Ridge <i>at North Wiltshire Crematorium</i>
7 January	Mary Freda New <i>at St Sampson's with interment at Cricklade Cemetery</i>
30 January	Hilary Kelland <i>at North Wilts Crematorium</i> <i>with Memorial Service at Holy Cross</i>

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.stthomasparishfairford.org.uk.

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.
crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk

Sunday morning services during March - all at 10.30am

2 Mar	Rev Ray Adams	23 Mar	Worship Group
9 Mar	Rev Sarah Simpson	30 Mar	Rev Gerald England
16 Mar	Rev Sarah Simpson		

Bounce and Rhyme

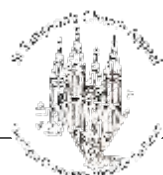
We are a group for parents, carers and grandparents with babies and/or young children. We meet every fortnight - on Tuesdays 1.45pm to 3pm for nursery rhymes, a story book, tea/coffee refreshments and a chat. Venue - the United Church hall in Calcutt Street.

Next meetings - 4 March and 18 March

There is no charge - we are delighted to welcome you

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the January 2025 draw was Jeanne Perrons who won £33.50

St Sampson's Church benefited by £33.50.

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

The Old Stables Presents...

Twice Grammy nominated
KIM RICHEY

Saturday March 1st
St Sampson's Church

An evening of music, stories and laughter from one of Nashville's finest singer songwriters. A special night in the magical setting of St Sampson's church in Cricklade, Wiltshire.

Doors 7.30pm

St Sampson's Church, Cricklade, SNH6AT

Bar and refreshments

Tickets £15



More info and tickets from www.theoldstables.club, call 01793 295164 or buy from Cricklade Council Offices

St Sampson's Church Quiz

Saturday 29 March 2025 at St Sampson's School

Teams of 6 Tickets £10 per person, to include hot supper

Drinks by donation

Tickets from

Adina Grace 01793 380583 Helen Dixon 07976 546 825 Sharon Smith 01793 751375

The Wessex in Concert at St Sampson's

Saturday 26 April 2025 at 7.30pm

Admission by ticket only

Tickets £15.00 (u-16 £7.50) from

TheWessex.org.uk/tickets or QR Code

or Helen Dixon on 01793 759123 helendixonmail@gmail.com

or Adina Grace on 01793 380583 janda.grace447@outlook.com



We look forward to all these exciting events this spring, helping to raise funds for our church appeal project. Proceeds from these events will help us to continue with the project to make St Sampson's Church a warm, light and flexible space for the community of Cricklade.



Donations to the Refurbishment Appeal

How to give: Cash or cheques (made payable to St Sampson's PCC No. 2 Account) in the donations box in church or send to Adina Grace (Church Warden 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 donate.giveasyoulive.com.



Letters to the Editor

■ THE LATE MARY NEW

Graham and family would like to extend their sincere thanks for the many kind words of condolence that have been received since Mary's passing. Every message has been very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

Special thanks go to the Revd Shirley Danby and the St Sampson's Church community, Blackwells Funeral Directors and The White Hart team.

Mary's funeral collection (through people's generous donations) has raised a significant sum of money in order to promote music education at St Sampson's School, where Mary taught for a number of years. We are sure she would have been delighted about this! Thank you to all who contributed to this fund.

■ GROTTO DONATIONS

Sue Lane would like to thank everyone again for your visit to our grotto and for your donations of £120 which has gone to Ferfoot Care Home for residents with dementia.

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Would you like to find out about the work of Bloomers and/or get advice about your own garden? We are extending an invitation to anyone interested in looking after the green areas of Cricklade or the green areas of your own garden. Horticultural expert Anita will be on hand on **Saturday 1 March at Saxons Rest** (the area surrounding the flag poles on the High Street) between 10am and 11am. Come on your own or bring the family to help prune, sweep and weed the borders. Tools will be provided but bring your own gloves. Learn about weeds and how to control them and how to prune and tend shrubs – bring your gardening questions and we will do our best to help.



We are looking for two new volunteers to join our group in a non gardening capacity. We need someone to look after our website (we expect this to be about 2 hours a month) and someone interested in helping us find sponsors for our current and future planters. Please contact Anita at anita@crickladeinbloom.co.uk to find out more.

Cricklade Jenner Hall ...

... At The Heart of Cricklade for over 350 years.

The Jenner Hall is a lovely 17th century Cotswold stone building, which continues to be a popular place for family events and smaller wedding receptions, and is only a 'stone's throw' away from St Sampson's Church, with the bonus of a courtyard at the front of the Hall.

Maybe you would like to hold your craft session or fair, table top sale, quiz night or even dance/exercise class with us. In addition, our smaller annexe hall may be suitable for your talk or club meetings etc. Our Trustees aim to make the Hall attractive to all age groups, and any suggestions would be welcomed.

For more information about the Hall or to check booking availability, visit our website -crickladejennerhall.com

To book the Hall, 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 Foodbank

Open every Friday 10am to 11.30am in the Jenner Hall, Bath Road



Many people have been getting in touch with the Foodbank in the last few weeks. We have been seeing a number of new clients. You will always receive a warm welcome and a listening, non-judgemental ear. You can phone the MaD Foodbank (number below) ahead of the Friday session to obtain a voucher. Having a voucher eases the admin process for you. However, if you come without a voucher, we will always see you.

Call 01666 826982 (leave a message and we will call you back)

Email info@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

As well as giving out food, the volunteers can also help by offering leaflets on advice about fuel or anything that might be bothering the client.

Thank you to all the people who continue to fill our collection boxes.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

In Cricklade our collection boxes are situated in: Tesco, Culverhay Stores, Animal Fayre and all the three churches.

Thank you from the whole Foodbank Team.

Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight have a local centre 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.

Cricklade Open Door: News

Open Door offers a warm, friendly, and sociable environment for residents to meet, enjoy a hot meal, have fun, and leave feeling happy. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning, our staff, volunteers, and door-to-door minibus service ensure that Open Door is accessible to everyone – including those with mobility challenges.

At our most recent Trustee meeting, our Treasurer outlined the budget for the year and highlighted the financial challenges we face. As you may know, we are now operating without financial support from Wiltshire Council. The annual grant of nearly £10,000 we once received has been cut to zero.

Thanks to the generosity of many, we've been able to close part of this gap through fundraising events and both one-time and regular donations. We're deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed so far.

We also rely on our wonderful team of volunteers, who donate hundreds of hours of their time. However, there are still fixed costs that must be met to keep Open Door running.

We are particularly grateful to our Town Council, which has provided a significant grant to help us through this transition. Looking ahead, we aim to become fully self-sustaining and no longer rely on grants, and that's where we need your help.

How You Can Support Open Door:

Below are a few simple ways to donate, each involving minimal form-filling. You can pick up the forms at the Town Council offices or email our Treasurer, David, at david@tetlow.org.uk, to have them sent directly to you.

1. Monthly Donations:~

Set up a standing order for any amount that works for you. If you're a UK taxpayer, don't forget to complete a Gift Aid form, which allows us to claim an extra 25% from the government – making your donation go further. Regular donations help stabilize our finances and ensure long-term sustainability.

2. One-Time Donations:

A one-off donation, with the same Gift Aid benefit if you're a taxpayer, also helps a lot in bridging the gap.

3. Leave a Legacy:

Consider leaving a gift to Open Door in your will. This would be a lasting contribution to the community of Cricklade and help ensure that Open Door continues to provide its valuable services for generations to come.

Thank you for considering a contribution to Open Door. Whether through a donation, volunteering, or spreading the word, every bit of support makes a difference. And remember, anyone in the Cricklade area over 18 is welcome to join us.

Bingo4U

Come along on Wednesday afternoons at the Jenner Hall – anyone welcome.

£2.00 entry. Eyes down at 2.pm

Contacts Chris 07500 871 680 or Liz 07780 473 024

The Cricklade Band... *did we help you get ready?*



Apologies for a late festive report... because I missed the deadline! Thanks to Rick, *The Chronicle* editor for nevertheless managing to squeeze in a huge 'thank-you' from all of us in the band to everyone in our Cricklade community!

The band has been busy creating a carol-playing tradition since 1887 and it seems that Cricklade people are making their own traditions too, in coming out to join us as we make our way round all the paths, lanes, streets and roads of the town on the lead-up to Christmas Morning – it's lovely to have an audience that changes as we visit each neighbourhood.

People we'd like to specially thank for their help and support are Eric and Chris, Cricklade's town criers who were out and about with us - some of our band Vice Presidents accompanied us too. Bacon rolls on Christmas Morning are always so welcome, especially when Woody the 'Wobble Doctor' provides them, with bacon supplied by Harold James – thank you!

And then there was 'Christmas Present' the Christmas show! This was once again a Cricklade Town Hall sell-out, leaving the lovely staff at the Council Office amazed at the speed the tickets went! There was even a scam on our Facebook page offering touted non-existent tickets! You all took up the invitation to 'turn it into a party' – the 'golden token' ballooned into Jonathan's lap and apparently we made his Christmas, and year, as he got the chance to conduct the band!

The 2024 big 'Festive Raffle' increased its ticket sales yet again! There was a magnificent list of 32 raffle prizes all sourced in Cricklade. Thank you to all Cricklade's shops and businesses – please support them like they support us - and thanks to every one of our ticket buyers!

It's also a good time to gratefully remind you of the people who have their own panel on our trailer – our 'corporate supporters' – Baz the Farmer, Braydon Lane Limited, Chelworth Garage, GWP Group and The Painted Furniture Company – they support us financially and in other ways too. If you'd like to have your name in front of our audiences just chat with us!

A special note – a number of people were talking to our musicians and to our Crew members during December who were actively thinking about returning to playing or learning to play brass or saxophone – if that included you, or someone you know, then just contact us through the Facebook page or drop into the Town Hall on a Thursday evening – we welcome everyone, regardless of anything. We don't worry about 'Grades', and we're certainly not 'contesty' – oh, and everything in the band 'family' is free of charge!

For now, keep an eye on the band on Facebook as we go through the 2025 events list and once again thank you to everyone who played their own part, helping us make music in our Cricklade community.

Paul, and everyone in the band

Cricklade Open Gardens 2025

I am once again organising an Open Gardens scheme in Cricklade for the weekend of 12-13 July.

Over the years, this have proved to be a very popular event with visitors coming from far and wide.

The proceeds from ticket sales and teas will again go to two local causes – St Sampson's refurbishment works and Cricklade Open Door, a charity that offers friendship, fun and support and a safe, friendly place to meet.

I am looking for residents who are willing to open their gardens to the public during this weekend. The size of your garden does not matter as I am looking for both small and larger gardens to make this a success. If you have not opened your garden before or never considered it, why not give it a go this year? It is great fun and you meet a lot of people who share your love of gardening.

In 2023 we raised £2,820 – let's see if we can reach that again this year ... or more! With your help I am sure it is possible.

If you are able to help or want to discuss it further before making a commitment, then please give me a call as soon as you can on 01793 759181 or send me an email: gloriaellen44@gmail.com

Gloria Light

Cricklade Garden Club

Our gardening year begins on **11 March** with our AGM and our first meeting. We meet in the Town Hall Annexe with tea and cakes served at 7pm.



Our meeting will start promptly at 7.30pm with the AGM. We promise the business will be dealt with efficiently and quickly.

After the AGM we will have our speaker, Kate Holton, who will talk to us on looking after indoor plants.

Kate's shop, Fern & Ivy in Cirencester, is a treasure trove of indoor plants. Kate will show us that the days of indoor plants being a choice of aspidistras, spider plants and cheese plants are long over and she will reveal to us how to nurture and enjoy the amazing variety of beautiful plants that are now available to us.

Kate will be bringing plants to sell.

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

We are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies (www.gfgs.org.uk)

Visitors welcome at £5 a session - come and give us a try.
Queries to Bizzie on 07876 347 973 or Janet on 07765 276 534.
We look forward to seeing you!

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Busy start to a busy year for Scouting



Cricklade Scout Group had a busy December and January with all sections enjoying activities such as mechanics (including a visit to REME museum), Scottish foods, making bird boxes, bowling and crafts! A big thank-you to all patrons of The Red Lion for buying meat raffle tickets and to The Red Lion Charity Fund for having Group volunteers sell tickets! This raised over £500 towards our whole group camp in April!

The group relies on volunteers, and currently needs a Treasurer to monitor our funds. It's a few hours a month, and everything is in place to make it an easy role! If you'd like to occasionally volunteer with activities, we need help across each section. Experience of scouting is good, but not necessary!

Please use contact@2ndcrickladescouts.org.uk or Facebook www.facebook.com/2ndcrickladescoutgroup or speak to a volunteer ... you may well know one!

Cricklade W.I.

Our speaker in February was Justine Salkeld who spoke about the wonderful work the Dogs Trust do in rehabilitating and re-homing dogs in need and how the Trust gives help and support to dog owners and professionals.



Our March meeting will be another interesting and informative one. We've all seen bikers in high vis jackets with 'Blood' signed in bold letters. Geoff Brown, who is a founding member of the Severn Freewheelers 'Blood Bike' service, will be explaining to us how their group started and exactly what service they provide. Blood bikers are all volunteers who spend their free time delivering vital medical resources around the UK. Geoff's group covers an area as far south as Devizes and north towards Birmingham and the Midlands.

We have some really interesting speakers and activities at our meetings and we also have the opportunity to join the regional WI events and arrange our own activities outside our meetings. We meet on the third Thursday of each month (except December) at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Annexe. We also have an informal 'coffee and chat' get together on the first Tuesday of each month at 11am in the White Hart (non-members welcome). Come and meet us and find out what we are about or keep a look-out for posters around town, on Facebook or contact our Secretary, Viv Tomkins (vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com) or by phone - 01793 752459.

We look forward to meeting you!

Cricklade Computer Club

On the first 'working' Monday of the month, we will be available from 10am to 12 noon in the Leisure Centre café. We try to help anyone with problems with computers, tablets, phones etc. We are volunteers and there is no charge for any help we are able to give you. Even if you have no particular problems, you could always pop in for a coffee, a cake and just a general chat!

Roger Heafield

Cricklade Bowls Club



First up, the Club wishes to thank the Red Lion for the proceeds of the December and January Meat Raffles. This will go a long way towards improvements to our access path which is beginning to crumble in some parts and has become slippery. We also thank the club members who sold raffle tickets every Friday evening during those two months. And Gill for organising our side of it.

So we're coming into March, and April is the start of the Bowls Season. The weather between March and April is often a bit iffy, but we plan to have our Members' Day on a Saturday early in April and a Public Open Day shortly after.

Bowls England have a Big Bowls Weekend towards the end of May and Cricklade Bowls will be participating with another Open Day on Saturday 24 May.

We will know more about both months' events for the April issue of *The Chronicle*.

We welcomed the Cricklade Rugby Club to our clubhouse on 31 January for their Annual Quiz. We were able to obtain a Temporary Event Notice licence for the event and hope other clubs and organisations might be interested in using our facilities as a venue for their events.

For more information please contact:

Roy Phillips (Secretary) roy2308@btinternet.com or 07751 201 793

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

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

Margaret Essex (Ladies' Captain) margaret.essex@sky.com

We hope to see you this coming season.

Cricklade Pétanque Club

Our pistes are at the Cricklade House Hotel and Spa, SN6 6HA

Pétanque is great fun, suitable for all ages and an excellent way to meet people. We play all the year round unless the weather is really awful and sometimes even then!



We now have 12 pistes which means we can host large competitions, so we have a busy time ahead but as always we look forward to our regular playing and coaching sessions, friendly games and matches. For the more competitive amongst us we play in league matches and regional, national and even international events!

We have regular monthly socials and our next one is on Friday 28 March. We are also holding a Curry Night at the Kavali Restaurant on Monday 10 March. There may be some tickets left (£25), so please ring Helen on 07976 546 825 or email: helendixonmail@gmail.com

Our playing days are: Mon 2 - 4.30pm Wed 2 - 4.30pm Sat 10am - 12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are: Wed 10 - 11.30am (ladies) Fri 10 - 11.30am (mixed)

Please arrive 10 minutes before start to avoid delays in play!

www.crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk Facebook Cricklade Petanque Club

email: info@crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk



We would like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to all the wonderful local traders who supported our raffle with some splendid

prizes! Huge thanks as well to the Bowls Club for hosting our quiz and raffle night at their clubhouse.

Cricklade Rugby Club is keen to recruit new players. Come and join us and have some fun; Adults, Juniors and Minis. RUGBY – the sport that builds strength, teamwork and resilience.

Adult 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. Mixed Tag with strength and conditioning on Tuesdays 7-8pm. We are a friendly club and welcome new players and supporters.

Come along and support your local team. Matches in March are:

1st vs Royal Wootton Bassett IV Away 22nd Home vs Supermarine

Results: we won the last match in December 57-5 vs Royal Wootton Bassett IV.

In January, matches were scarce because of the weather; we played Chippenham III twice with one resounding win, 62-0 and lost the other 17-38!

Is your son in Year 10? Then contact Seth and he can come along and join the new Under 15s.

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 4 sessions are free):

Juniors **Under 11s:** Fridays 5.30–6.45pm. **Under 12s:** Fridays 6–7.15pm.

Under 16s (MC Quins joint with Minety) Fridays 7-8.15pm at Cricklade / Tues at Minety.

Minis **Under 6s** through to Under 9s, Saturdays 11-12noon.

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.

Atlantic Rocketman – World's Toughest Row

In our February issue, we told you about Andrew Major and his solo row challenge across the Atlantic. *[Ed: I checked his progress on 3 February via the web link and he was still on his way to Antigua and Barbuda having been rowing solo for 54 days and with 531 nautical miles to go.]* He is currently ranked 4th in the solo row class and expected to arrive in Nelson's Dockyard on 17 February. We will update you with his progress in the April issue as we go to press before his arrival!

If you would like to donate to his cause, scan the QR code (right) which will take you directly to the GoFundMe page. Or visit the www.atlanticrocketman.com website.



Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Do you fancy trying a new sport this year? You're welcome to come along to Saxons Pétanque Club, borrow some boules, and give pétanque a go with no obligation to join the club. It's the same as French boules and it's very easy to pick up.

We play on the gravel pistes just in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and 10am on Saturday mornings and our newly qualified coaches plan to start coaching sessions in the spring.

We arrange a few social events throughout the year and our next one will probably be the ever-popular skittles at The White Hart in Cricklade.

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.

Sing Four Four Community Choir

Concert on 22 March 2025



The Choir is pleased to announce that its singers are joining Swindon Male Voice Choir for a concert on Saturday 22 March. The venue is St Bartholomew's Church, Royal Wootton Bassett and starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Cricklade Town Council office.

Please put the date into your diary and come along for a fun evening of music.



In Our Broader Area

The Wessex (male choir)

All Points Concert



Saturday 28 June at STEAM, Swindon SN2 2EY

Four of the UK's finest choirs come together, singing in aid of Prostate Cancer

Côr Tadau Trisant – An exciting young male choir from South Wales.

Jubilate! – A superb multi award-winning ladies choir from Pinner, Middlesex.

Vox in Frox – An all-female chamber choir based near Bath.

The Wessex – The multi award-winning male choir from Swindon, and your hosts!

Tickets £20 from ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir

1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer. We are supporting the work of Prostate Cancer UK to give every man the power to navigate it. Whether that's helping you to understand your risk, make the right choice about treatment or get the expertise you need to feel informed and in control.

Moon Phases

Mar 2025

6th ●

14th ○

22nd ●

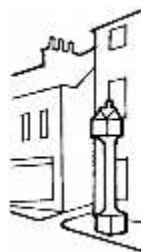
29th ●

The Chronicle Diary – March 2025

- 1 Sa 10am to 11am: Bloomers Open Session at Saxon's Rest
7.30pm Kim Richey in Concert at St Sampson's Church – page 24
end of day Chronicle copy deadline
- 3 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
7pm Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
- 4 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
7.30pm Camera Club at Angel Hotel, RWB
- 5 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 6 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
7.30pm **Lent Talks series**, then 11th, 18th, 19th - see pages 18-19 for venues
- 10 M 7pm Town Council Planning etc Committee Meeting, Council Chamber
7pm Kavali Curry Evening for Cricklade Pétanque Club - page 40
- 11 Tu 7pm *speaker 7.30pm*: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 17 M 7pm Town Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber
- 18 Tu 11am Open Door AGM at the Jenner Hall
1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
7pm Annual Town Meeting, Council Chamber
7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
7.30pm Camera Club meeting, Town Hall Committee Room
- 19 W 10.30am to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa
7.15pm *for 7.30pm start*: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 20 Th **Spring Equinox**
10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe:
- 22 Sa 9.30am to 11.30am: Community Litter Pick starting Bath Road Play Area
7.30pm Sing Four Four concert at St Bart's church, Wootton Bassett - page 42
- 24 M Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber
- 25 Tu 8pm Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall. Tickets from Council office
- 29 Sa 7.30pm St Sampson's Church Quiz at St Sampson's School – page 24
- 30 Su 2am **Start of Summer Time: clocks go forward**

Every Week

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall
- Tu 6.30pm Cricklade Walking Group - from Cricklade Leisure Centre
7-8pm Mixed tag rugby at Fairview Fields
- W 1.45 for 2pm Bingo4U at Jenner Hall
2-4pm Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street
- Th 10-11.30am Acorn Community Bank: in Tourist Information Office
1.30-4.30pm The Paint Palette: Ladies' Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
7-10pm The Cricklade Band rehearsal night, at Town Hall, visitors welcome
7-8.30pm Cricklade Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
7.30-9.30pm Sing Four Four choir rehearsal at United Church, Calcutt Street
- F 9.30am Cricklade Walking Group - from Waylands/Saxons Rest
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 ...

Even in this age of global warming, no sensible person goes outdoors in February without several layers of warm clothing. However I'm amazed by the number of young people I see around the streets dressed as if it were the middle of July. When I tackled a friend's 14 year old daughter about this, her reply was "It's cool to be cool". For her and for all her friends, fashion was far more important than comfort.

Before we adults dismiss such behaviour as just typical of the crazy things adolescents do, we should pause and look at our own behaviour. For many of us image is all important. We do our best to create an impression in the minds of others. We have our own idea of the sort of person we want other people to think we are and, through the clothes we wear, our holiday destinations, the music which we play on our car sound systems, we make statements about ourselves to the world around us. Sometimes there is no pretending and we are simply being ourselves, but often there is a considerable gap between image we attempt to create and reality.

Lent, which begins this month, is a time for returning to reality and leaving behind the burden of living up to an image. Jesus teaches us to do this by prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through prayer we come to experience our true nature as God's beloved daughters and sons. Fasting, that is doing without some of the comforts with which we surround ourselves, helps us to focus upon what really matters. In almsgiving, the practical help which we give to others in need, we express the reality of our membership of the one human family.

Almost all of us chase after images, such as the indispensably competent manager or the super-mum or the homemaker with impeccable taste. When the gap between these images and our reality widens we become overburdened. May this Lent be a time when we free ourselves of such burdens, when we return to the wonderful truth that we are God's creatures fully open to his love.

Rev. Michael Robertson, St Mary's Catholic Church

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- ✓ Pruning and Shaping
- ✓ Felling and Removal
- ✓ Hedge Cutting
- ✓ Stump Grinding
- ✓ Tree Planting

Free quotations and advice
Call Ian Walding *(N.C.Hort / N.D. Arb)*

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