

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 602



September 2025

*River Thames looking towards
old railway bridge
acrylic on canvas © A local artist*

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From the Editor

It's autumn and the schools go back. We send our best wishes to all who are starting their school journey, will be in a new class, school, college or university or are entering the world of work.

It may only be September but we have to be thinking ahead. We need someone (or two) to co-ordinate distribution of *the Chronicle* from the February 2026 issue onwards as the current organisers will be retiring at the end of this year. Please have a look at the panel on page 19 and if you might be able to help.

Our congratulations go to Cricklade Open Gardens for the wonderful amount raised for Open Door and the St Sampson's refurbishment. Also to all Cricklade in Bloom entrants and the overall winners.

There is a Macmillan Coffee "Morning" event on Friday 26 September. Don't get confused as it's actually in the afternoon!

See page 17 if you don't believe me.

The Old Stables is organising a concert at St Sampson's on 13 September, featuring Robert Vincent and Friends. See page 24 for tickets.

Please note that the No.53 bus now has an extended route going on from Cricklade to the Orbital Shopping Centre. We have reproduced the revised timetable on pages 26 and 27. The Wiltshire Connect Bus also has an extended service to places not on the regular bus routes. See page 3 for information.

Cricklade Cinema is starting its autumn season on 23 September. If you want a season ticket, you will need to be quick as they sell out fast. Details are on page 25.

Swindon Open Studios is on again over two weekends this month. See page 20.



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The deadline for the October 2025 issue is Monday 1 September 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	Boots Chemist (100 High St)	750226
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Dentist (104 High St)	750388
Latton P/Council ...	clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
MP (South Cotswolds)	01285 300555	Library (113 High St)	750694
	roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk	Link Scheme transport	07421 018 499
Wiltshire Councillor	752501	Open Door	07599 987 851
Wiltshire Council hub	0300 456 0100	Optician (82 High St)	750415
Emergency Services	999	Purton Vets (Bath Rd)	751698
Non-Emergency: Police	101	Household Recycling Centre	778205
Non-Emergency: NHS	111	Samaritans	FREE: 116 123
Doctors: Purton Surgery	770207	Schools: St Sampson's Primary	750452
Green Gables Surgery	752633	Cricklade Manor Prep	750275
Cricklade (De Silva)	750645	Bradon Forest	770570

Cricklade Town Hall

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 01666 861023 (before 9pm please) or via email at crickladetownhall@hotmail.com for further details, or Facebook for photos and other information: www.facebook.com/crickladetownhall



Jenner Hall

The Jenner Hall is a popular place for family events and smaller wedding receptions. The Hall is attractive to all age groups. If you would like to know more about the Hall or check booking availability, please visit our website - crickladejennerhall.com. To book the Jenner Hall for a party or celebration, or your Craft Session, Fair, Table Top Sale, Quiz Night or even Dance/Exercise class, please contact our booking email address at jennerhall.bookings@gmail.com or call on 07823 324 821.



Our smaller annexe hall may be suitable for your Talk or Club Meetings etc.

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 31 July the lucky winners were:-

First Prize	Jean McNally	£36.00
Second Prize	Margaret Rickards	£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 Town Council

Town Council Meetings



Tuesday 26 August Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee (PCT)

Monday 15 September Community and Leisure Committee

Monday 22 September Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

Monday 29 September Premises and Finance Committee

All meetings commence at 7pm, and are held in the Council Chambers, 113 High Street. Press and members of the public are welcome and have an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of each meeting.

Important Travel Information

A - An improved bus service – Wiltshire Connect

This has been mentioned before, but if we do not make use of the service, it might not be viable to keep going. The Wiltshire Connect Bus, is a booking service for those wishing to get around the local area but to places that are not on a direct bus route from Cricklade, i.e. Malmesbury, Royal Wootton Bassett, Kemble etc. There is a map on the leaflet, which can be collected from the Town Council Offices. You can use your existing bus pass or pay as you would on a bus, and it is open to all. It can pick you up at your door if you have a disablement and is available for hospital runs, however it will not wait for you like the LINK.

It runs weekdays 6am to 8pm and Saturdays 8am to 7.30pm. No service on Sunday. All services subject to availability of the vehicle. For more information:- Wiltshireconnect@wiltshire.gov.uk or call 01225 712900.

B - Improved bus timetable for the Stagecoach 53 service

This now runs on a Sunday! We have had a lot of interest in these leaflets; if you want an up-to-date version either check the stagecoach website or pop into the Council for a copy. *[I have placed a copy of the timetable on pages 26 and 27. Ed.]*

We understand from Stagecoach that Swindon Bus Station is due to close to all operations on 30 August 2025, with all Stagecoach services arriving and departing at a new site on Fleming Way from the following day.

C - The ongoing road closures on the A417/9 has monthly updates: please see the notice board, Facebook or the Town Council window for current restrictions. These are given to us by National Highways; we merely pass on information.

A Wonderful Weekend, Cricklade Open Gardens

To all those who displayed their gardens in July, made teas, coffees and cakes, and visited the gardens, we thank you. It was a marvellous weekend, which showed Cricklade at its finest and raised funds for St Sampson's Church fund and Cricklade Open Door. A big thank-you also to the organisers, and sponsors.

Cricklade in Bloom Competition

The judges have been out and about in Cricklade viewing a vast number of lovely gardens and displays, and these are their considered results for 2025. Prizes will be awarded at the C&L meeting on Monday 15 September.

	Best Front Garden	Best Hanging Basket	Best Front Door	Best Commercial
Winner	23 Thames Lane	40 Stockham Close	115 Ladymead	Blackwells
Highly Commended	47 Parsonage Farm Close	28 Reeds	79 High Street	Red Lion

Litter and dog waste

Many have noticed the repaired footpath/cycle route/bridle path behind the Leisure centre, which has improved the area. The Council receive regular reports of litter and dog waste on the many open spaces in Cricklade including the refurbished path. Please can we be considerate of others using our open spaces? ... especially over the holidays. There are plenty of bins which all take dog mess and rubbish all over Cricklade.

The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open:

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

Closed Public Holidays: 25 August

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

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.



Bingo4U

Come along on Wednesday afternoons at the Jenner Hall – anyone welcome.
£2 entry. Eyes down at 2pm.

Contacts: Chris 07500 871 680 or Liz 07780 473 024



Wiltshire Perspective

- Thames Water
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Search and Rescue

Our recent hot dry summer reminded me of the summer of 1976, being followed by the rainiest October on record, with the annual rainfall for that year being average. If something similar happens again we're in for a wet autumn! I don't know if we'll still have a hosepipe ban in place as you read this, but as at the end of July only 12 of the Environment Agency's 105 monitoring stations on the Thames were reporting 'Low' river levels [1]. The last reported figure I heard of the company's leakage rate was 42% [2]. In July, a Cricklade resident pointed out a leak to me and I was able to help get that prioritised and fixed quickly. If you want to report a leak yourself, please contact them on 0800 714 614 (option 1). From Wiltshire Council's perspective, Thames Water only accounts for roughly 14% of residents, compared to 82% that are with Wessex Water, but it's obviously 100% of Cricklade and Latton.

Wiltshire has around 260 Towns and Parishes. It's not easy to find out how many of them have a neighbourhood plan. Cricklade is one that does, and it's currently being refreshed, thanks to the work of Cricklade's Town Council Chair and a working party. With so many developments in and around our town and parishes it may not seem obvious what point it serves. However, there are two main benefits to us:

1) Having a Neighbourhood Plan means Cricklade receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (a charge per m² raised by Wiltshire Council on any new development) rather than 15%. That means we have significantly more funds available to put into local projects and improvements.

2) It also means that Wiltshire Council's planning department can (and does) refer to it when pushing back on some proposed developments. By default, planning permission will be decided by the planning officer, however I can ask for it to be referred to local Wiltshire Councillors to decide by exception. We have exercised this 'calling in' process three times for Cricklade Town Council and once for Latton (which doesn't have a neighbourhood plan) to lobby for our preferred outcome for applications. Where we have been able to refer to the Neighbourhood Plan, we've been fortunate enough to be successful each time.

Lastly, towards the end of September, Cricklade will be hosting an exercise for Wiltshire's Search and Rescue teams. These are volunteers who go out searching for someone who might be missing or vulnerable. I hope it'll be an opportunity for us to see what they do and perhaps help and support their work.

Many thanks again, especially to those who have reached out to me. If you think I can help you, please do get in touch (feel free to chase me) and I'll do my best.

Nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501

Nick Dye, Councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey

1 River Thames - Find river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels - GOV.UK

2 BBC Radio 4 - The Briefing Room, Why is the water industry in so much trouble?

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Donation from PIPS

A huge "thank you" to PIPS for their very generous donation of £309.78 recently. PIPS is an essential part of living in Purton and their share out of the surplus they made this year to local and national charities is much appreciated.

Our next talk – SEPSIS

We are continuing our regular talks giving information regarding various topics we think will be of interest to our patients and their families.

Our next talk is being held on Thursday 2 October starting at 7.30pm in the waiting room of the Purton Surgery. The talk is covering the topic of sepsis and will be given by Melanie Phillips who is the Sepsis, Acute Kidney Injury Lead at the Great Western Hospital.

Entrance is free but in order to manage the numbers, you need to pick up a ticket from the receptionists at Purton or Cricklade surgery. The tickets are available from 1 September.

200 Club:

The August draw was done by Karen Humphrey, a Receptionist at the Practice.

The £100 winner was Nina Herbert. All members of the 200 Club are allocated a number to be used in the draw, if you are a member and wish to know your number then please email our Treasurer (treasurer.pspg@gmail.com) to request it.



200 Club RENEWAL:

As we said in the July Newsletter, it's coming up to 200 Club renewal time! The 200 Club year starts on 1 October but subscriptions need to be received during September. If you have set up a Standing Order then you need to do nothing else; your membership will automatically renew. It is much easier for both yourselves and Peter Kinsman, our Treasurer, if you set up a standing order for membership. A form for joining the 200 Club via a Standing Order of £15 per annum, taken on 1 September each year, is available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries. Please speak to one of the receptionists if you cannot see the forms and hand in any completed forms to the receptionists at either surgery.

Being a 200 Club member will give you the opportunity of winning one of the two prizes each month: 1st prize of £100 or 2nd prize of £15.

Table Top in Purton Surgery

Thank you to all who support the Table Top/second hand books in Purton Surgery Waiting Room, and the books in Cricklade – to those who contribute items and those who buy.

We do need more donations, so if you have anything to donate, please hand your books/items to the Reception staff in either Purton or Green Gable Surgery. For any items you wish to take away, please give your donation to the Receptionists at either surgery.

Mickie Hall, PPG Co-chair

The Chronicle

Athelstan Pilgrim Way Walk and Talk

Braydon Brook & Upper Routes Launch

The Athelstan Pilgrim Way is a series of six circular walks connecting 26 Anglican churches in the North Wiltshire Deanery, with Malmesbury Abbey at its centre.

Date: 6 September 2025

11.30am Pilgrimage Walk from The Leigh Chancel, Waterhay (SN6 6QY) to Cricklade

2.30pm Athelstan Way talk

Main Speaker event with Martin Palmer at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade



Please purchase a ticket to attend the Event Talk.

Tickets cost £10.50 and are available from Cricklade Town Council (cash only) or on line from www.athelstanpilgrimway.org

Martin co-founded the internationally renowned Alliance of Religions and Conservation with the late HRH Prince Philip, and is also the author of *Sacred Land: Decoding Britain's extraordinary past through its towns, villages and countryside* (2012). He is the Founding President of FaithInvest, working globally to help faith groups with their financial responsibilities and values.

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning

And you're invited.

**Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.**

Place: CRICKLADE BOWLS CLUB
*Bath Road green, next door to the Fire Station

Date: FRIDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Time: 2 PM - 4 PM

Contact: WENDY OFUASIA (07878 357 660)

There will be a Raffle so any donations would be gratefully received.

Also donations of cakes or savouries would be wonderful too!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden



Just as retailers plan for Christmas in January, Bloomers plans for the summer baskets and planters for the following year in September. Orange and yellow has been this year's colour scheme and hopefully they will last into the autumn despite the hot temperatures. Meanwhile we are reinvigorating the winter baskets with new compost as all plants from last year are used again (conifers, ivy, primulas and bulbs).

Our fundraising raises a lot of the cost, along with support from the Town Council, to purchase the summer bedding and the peat free compost they require. Our next fund raising event will be the very popular Christmas wreath workshops. Bookings will be open from 1 September. Please visit our website to find more details as we have a new booking system. The web address is - crickladeinbloom.co.uk

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 7.30.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 9 September** when our speaker is Philip Aubrey. His talk is entitled:

Keep them in Shape: Pruning, the Why, When and How

Philip is now retired, having had a long and distinguished career in all aspects of horticulture culminating in his appointment as Director of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

How many of us approach pruning with fear and trepidation? And then either prune too savagely or too timidly? Philip will give us a practical demonstration which will help us carry out our autumn pruning with confidence – and with kindness to our plants.

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

Membership is £25 p.a., 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 07876 347 973 or Janet 07765 276 534.

We look forward to seeing you!



Cricklade Open Gardens

We raised the sum of £1897.70 which was divided equally between Cricklade Open Door and St Sampson's Refurbishment Fund.

We had a good turnout despite the rather hot weather with visitors from as far afield as Chester, Kent etc as well as many locals.

Gloria Light

Cricklade Historical Society

Wednesday 17 September - Edward Buttar, the Cricklade Artist

Speaker – Mark Clarke: Mark is going to talk to us about the artist who painted the “Roasting of the Ox” picture which hangs in the Town Hall.

Wednesday 15 October – War to Wildlife Project

Speaker – Vince Povey: Vince will be updating us on the former RAF Blakehill site with a lean towards the Cold War wireless experiment.

All meetings are held at the Town Hall Annexe – doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments available from 7.15pm.

- - - - -

Advance Notice - Friday 17 October

Our annual fund raising Quiz Night will be held at the Town Hall.

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Ticket price £10 per person, which will include one free glass of wine/soft drink along with snacks/nibbles. Teams of six players. A pay bar with wine, beer and soft drinks will be available.

Tickets can be purchased from the Town Council Offices or via our website (www.cricklademuseum.co.uk)

Distribution Co-ordinator Needed

The current distribution organisers will be stepping down from this role after the December issue.

We are now looking for someone to take over that role.

It involves:

- Sorting the magazine each month into about 40 distribution rounds and delivering it to those distributors.
- Staying in touch with the distributors and occasionally finding new ones too!
- You'll need space to sort and bundle magazines.
- Expenses can be reimbursed.
- The role would work well for two people, but one is also welcome.

If you are interested in taking on this role or have questions, please contact us.

If not you, perhaps you know someone who might be interested in being involved?

Help and advice can be provided until you are settled in the role.

We look forward to hearing from you.

John Coole (Treasurer) 01793 671585 or 07723 022 265

Rick Dixon (Editor) 01793 759123 or 07743 274 977

Cricklade Foodbank

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



The long summer days are now behind us and the nights are drawing in. Our clients are turning their minds as to how they can manage their increasing household bills. We are here to help with both food and fuel costs. Often our volunteers will be able to signpost clients to the relevant agency who will give them specific help.

We are always on the lookout to increase our band of volunteers. If you feel you could give one Friday a month, then please contact the centre manager on:

crickladecm@malmesburydistrictfoodbank.org.uk

Please keep the donations coming in. We would not be able to help our clients without them. Our donation points are: Tesco, Animal Fayre (pet shop) Culverhay Stores. Cricklade Town Council, St Sampson's School (during term time) and the local churches.

If you need our help, please contact us by phone on 01666 826982. If there's no reply, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Swindon Open Studios 2025

Artists in Cricklade will once again be taking part in Swindon Open Studios on the weekends of 20th & 21st and 27th & 28th September 2025. You can find out when the venues will be open by visiting the



Swindon Open Studios website at
www.swindonopenstudios.org/search?q=Cricklade
or use the QR Code left:

Cricklade Art Group, Thames Hall, High Street, SN6 6DG
Open 20th & 21st – 10am until 4pm

Great Western Embroiderers, Jenner Hall, Bath Road, SN6 6AX
Open 20th & 21st – 11am until 4pm

Teena Ackary, 6 Thamesmead Cottages, SN6 6BH
Open 20 & 21st and 27th & 28th – 10am until 4pm

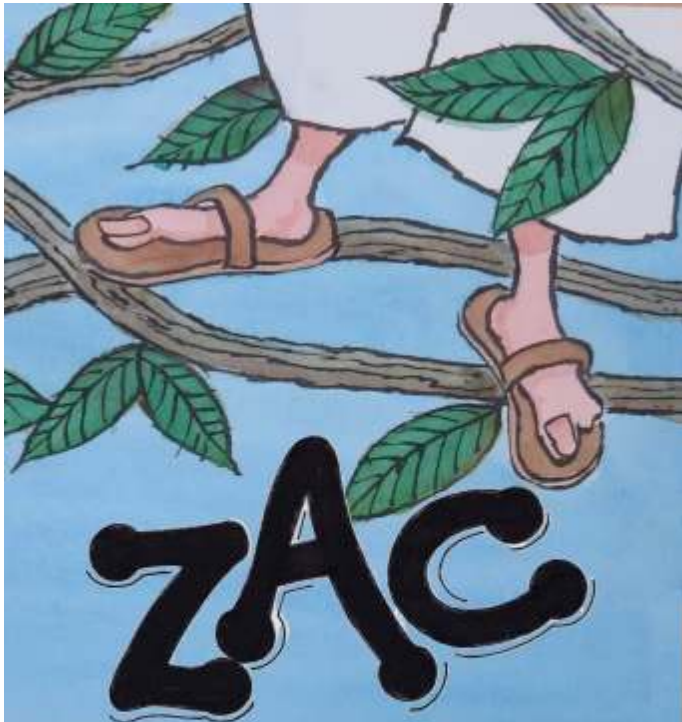
Marit Taylor, 109 High Street, SN6 6AE
Open 20th & 21st and 27th & 28th – 11am until 5pm

Tim Baynes, 5 Giles Avenue, SN6 6HS
Open 20th & 21st and 27th & 28th – 11am until 5pm

Old Post Office Gallery, 29A High Street, SN6 6AB
Open 20th & 27th – 10am until 4pm

You will be able to find more details about the artists from the Swindon Open Studios brochures which you will find in many venues around Cricklade (and wider afield) or you can check out the Swindon Open Studios website at,

www.swindonopenstudios.org/search?q=Cricklade



Zac

The story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19

"Sing a Musical in a Day"

4 October 2025 at Cricklade United Church

Cost is £10 (inc. Lunch) /£6 without lunch

11am to 5pm (performance at 6pm)

At the United Church we are holding another "musical in a day" event on Saturday 4 October.

The musical follows how Zacchaeus, the diminutive Chief Tax Collector, climbs a tree to get a sight of Jesus, but Jesus calls him down! The rest is history!

Open to all ages and abilities, singers, instrumentalists, and those who just come to watch! Led by a team of accomplished musicians - violinist, flautist, pianist, oboe player and guitarists. The musical ZAC is written by Roger Jones, a well-known composer of modern music and worship songs. The style of music is lively and modern, with an appeal to all ages.

Cost is £10 with lunch or £6 without lunch. The workshop will begin at 11am and the performance will be at 6pm.

Contact: phillipa58@hotmail.com tel 01793 750556

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

7 September Trinity 12

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship at St Sampson's
with music group and children's activities
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 11.30am Harvest Celebration with Communion *at Holy Cross*
followed by harvest lunch
- 5pm Harvest Celebration *at All Saints Leigh (Swan Lane)*
followed by harvest tea and cake
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

14 September Trinity 13

- 10am Upper Thames Together Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 3.30pm Messy Church *at Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes*

21 September Trinity 14

- 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 10am Informal Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*
- 11.30am Harvest Morning Worship followed by harvest lunch *at St Sampson's*
- 6pm Evening Service *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

28 September Trinity 15

- 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.

Zoom Monday morning prayers – contact David Tarr

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: revdshirleyd@gmail.com tel. 07980 548844

Curate: Revd Sharon Gleed - email: curate@upperthames.org.uk tel: 07305 006693

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

St Mary's 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.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.crickladedstmary.org.uk

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Funeral

15 July Brian Turner Muit, *service at Kingsdown Crematorium*

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 September - all at 10.30am,

7 September	Rev Ray Adams
14 September	Rev Catherine Price
21 September	Rev Sarah Simpson - service includes Holy Communion
28 September	Rev Gerald England

Bounce and Rhyme

We are a group for parents carers and grandparents who are looking after babies and/or toddlers.

The school holidays are over so we have our regular Tuesday meetings this month:

2 September and 16 September

from 1.45 to 3pm for nursery rhymes, a story book, refreshments and a chat.

Venue - the United Church hall in Calcutt Street. there is no charge we are delighted to welcome you.


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.

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

Saturday 13 September at 7.30pm



THE OLD STABLES PRESENTS

ROBERT VINCENT

AND FRIENDS

THE MOMENT HE STARTED TO SWAG + KNEW THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL! - BOB HARRIS' ONE BBC RADIO 2

MOJO ★★★★★

ONE OF THE UK'S BEST SWAGGER/SONWRITERS - AMERICANA UK


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

13th Sept 2025

St Sampson's Church
Cricklade, Wiltshire

In support of the St Sampson's Church appeal

TICKETS £18



Please support the concert by Robert Vincent and friends on 13 September at St Sampson's Church. This will help us to raise much needed money for the St Sampson's Church Appeal fund.

Tickets £18 from theoldstables.yapsody.com or WR code above

St Sampson's Church Autumn Fayre

Saturday 11 October - 2 to 4pm at St Sampson's School.

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the July 2025 draw was
Barbara Smith 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

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.



CRICKLADE CINEMA!

We are back with what we hope is another great season of films for you this autumn so why not come along and enjoy a night at the movies amongst friends?

23 September Juror #2 (12A, 114mins)

28 October Mr Burton (12A, 124 mins)

25 November Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (15, 124 mins)

16 December The Ballad Of Wallis Island (12A, 99 mins) ** to be confirmed **

All films start at 8pm in the Town Hall.

Tickets can once again be purchased from the Town Council Offices at 113 High Street or on the door (subject to availability). Single ticket: £5, Season Ticket: £12 (that's just £3 per film).

Our Season ticket has been extremely popular so please get yours early.

We kick off the season on Tuesday 23 September at 8pm



Juror #2 (Cert 12A, 114 mins)

Riveting courtroom drama directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Nicholas Hoult as a juror at a murder trial, who is shocked to realise he may know more about the case than he originally thought.

(Contains: moderate injury detail, domestic abuse, threat, sex references, language)

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

Email us at: crickladedecinema@gmail.com or phone on 750782

Check us out at Facebook Cricklade Cinema

Sing Four Four Community Choir

On 15 November we holding a "Come and Sing Day" of Vivaldi's Gloria



The choir is pleased to announce a 'Come and Sing' event on Saturday 15 November to be held at the United Church. The timings to be confirmed but approximately 11am to 4pm with a performance to a small audience early evening. There will be a registration cost of approximately £15, final details to be confirmed in the October issue of *The Chronicle*. This is a beautiful piece so if you are interested, please your give your details to Phillipa Knight, either by email Phillipa58@hotmail.com or phone her on 01793 750665. We hope many of you would like to come.

The Choir's regular rehearsals re-commence on Thursday 11 September at the United Church, Calcutt Street. We rehearse from 7.30-9-30pm. The rehearsals are always good fun and we enjoy learning new pieces of music. If you think you'd like to join us, please do come along. For more information, please go to our website: singfourfour.org.uk. Alternatively, you can contact our musical director, Jen Bamford, on jenloubamford@googlemail.com

Timetable valid from 29th June 2025 to 30th August 2025

Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays)

								Hal	Col		
Park North New College	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1620	...	...
Swindon Bus Station (Bay 17)**	...	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1635	1635	1750	1900
Great Western Outlet Village	...	1007	1107	1207	1307	1407	1507	1642	1642	1757	1907
Link Leisure Centre	...	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1650	1650	1805	1915
Lydiard Millicent Forge Fields	0920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1520	1657	1657	1810	1920
Purton Wits Lane	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1708	1708	1820	1930 ^B
Cricklade Turning Circle	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1718	1718	1828	...
Cricklade Bishopsfield	0939	1039	1139	1239	1339	1439	1539	1719	1719	1829	...
Cricklade High Street	0941	1041	1141	1241	1341	1441	1541	1721	1721	1831	...
Haydon Wick Orbital Shopping Park	0953	1053	1153	1253	1353	1453	1553	...	...	...	...

Saturday (excluding Public Holidays)

Swindon Bus Station (Bay 17)**	...	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1635	1750	1900	...
Great Western Outlet Village	...	1007	1107	1207	1307	1407	1507	1642	1757	1907	...
Link Leisure Centre	...	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1650	1805	1915	...
Lydiard Millicent Forge Fields	0920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1520	1655	1810	1920	...
Purton Wits Lane	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1705	1820	1930 ^B	...
Cricklade Turning Circle	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1718	1828	...	...
Cricklade Bishopsfield	0939	1039	1139	1239	1339	1439	...	1719	1829	...	...
Cricklade High Street	0941	1041	1141	1241	1341	1441	...	1721	1831	...	...
Haydon Wick Orbital Shopping Park	0953	1053	1153	1253	1353	1453	...	...	...	...	...

Sunday (and most Public Holidays)

Swindon Bus Station (Bay 17)**	0900	1100	1300	1500	1700	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Western Outlet Village	0907	1107	1307	1507	1707	...	...	...	...	...	...
Link Leisure Centre	0915	1115	1315	1515	1715	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lydiard Millicent Forge Fields	0920	1120	1320	1520	1720	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purton Wits Lane	0930	1130	1330	1530	1730	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Turning Circle	0938	1138	1338	1538	1738	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Bishopsfield	0939	1139	1339	1539	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade High Street	0941	1141	1341	1541	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haydon Wick Orbital Shopping Park	0953	1153	1353	1553	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notes
^B Continues to Bertram Turn, arriving at 1932.

^{Col} Runs during New College term time only.

^{Hal} Runs during New College holidays only.

^{**} Swindon Bus Station is due to close to all operations on 30th August 2025, with all Stagecoach services arriving and departing at a new site on Fleming Way from the following day.

Timetable valid from 29th June 2025 to 30th August 2025

Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays)

	Orl		Hal																
Haydon Wick Orbital Shopping Park	...	...	...	...	0957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1457	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade High Street	...	...	...	...	1009	1109	1209	1309	1409	1509	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Turning Circle	0820	0725	0725	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1718	1828	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Bishopsfield	0822	0727	0727	0912	1012	1112	1212	1312	1412	1512	1719	1829	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purton Wilts Lane	0831	0736	0736	0921	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lydiard Millicent Forge Fields	0841	0746	0746	0931	1031	1131	1231	1331	1431	1531	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Link Leisure Centre	0847	0753	0753	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1537	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Western Outlet Village	0855	0803	0803	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swindon Bus Station **	0702	0812	0812	0952	1052	1152	1252	1352	1452	1552	1745	1855	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Park North New College	...	0817	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Saturday (excluding Public Holidays)

Haydon Wick Orbital Shopping Park	...	...	...	0957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1457	1557	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade High Street	...	...	...	1009	1109	1209	1309	1409	1509	1609	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Turning Circle	0820	0725	0810	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1718	1828	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Bishopsfield	0822	0727	0812	1012	1112	1212	1312	1412	1512	1612	1719	1829	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purton Wilts Lane	0831	0736	0821	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lydiard Millicent Forge Fields	0841	0746	0831	1031	1131	1231	1331	1431	1531	1631	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Link Leisure Centre	0847	0752	0837	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1537	1637	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Western Outlet Village	0855	0800	0845	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1645	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swindon Bus Station **	0702	0807	0852	1052	1152	1252	1352	1452	1552	1652	1745	1855	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Sunday (and most Public Holidays)

Haydon Wick Orbital Shopping Park	...	0957	1157	1357	1557	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade High Street	...	1009	1209	1409	1609	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Turning Circle	0810	1010	1210	1410	1610	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cricklade Bishopsfield	0812	1012	1212	1412	1612	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purton Wilts Lane	0821	1021	1221	1421	1621	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lydiard Millicent Forge Fields	0831	1031	1231	1431	1631	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Link Leisure Centre	0837	1037	1237	1437	1637	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Western Outlet Village	0845	1045	1245	1445	1645	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swindon Bus Station **	0852	1052	1252	1452	1652	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notes

Orl Runs Direct to Swindon along A419.

Hal Runs during New College term time only.

Hol Runs during New College holidays only.

****** Swindon Bus Station is due to close to all operations on 30th August 2025, with all Stagecoach services arriving and departing at a new site on Fleming Way from the following day.

Cricklade W.I.

August was a fairly quiet month for us, as it traditionally is for most organisations during the holiday season. I think the hot weather has also slowed things down a bit this year.



We had a fascinating talk in August about the history of ice cream from a charming lady called Alison Warren and of course a tasting! Makes you think about the origins of ice cream as you lick your cornet.

18 September will see a talk about the history of the Quakers. The movement's core values are based on simplicity, peace, integrity, equality and stewardship (very relevant today) so it should be an interesting talk. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings; the cost to non-members is £5 to include refreshments and delicious homemade cake. We start at 7.30pm.

As well as our local Cricklade events we can also attend meetings at other WIs and National and Wiltshire Federation events. Lately members have attended International Day focusing on Italy, a Walking in Wiltshire event at Laycock and a treasure trail. In September some members will attend the Great Bustard conservation event on Salisbury Plain learning about the project.

Over the coming months topics will include information on taking photos with your mobile phone, staying safe online and Riding for the Disabled.

We also host a regular Coffee and Chat session at the White Hart, Cricklade on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am. The September session will be on Tuesday 2nd. Everyone welcome.

If you are interested in finding out more information about us please contact our secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or email at Vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com.

Hope to see you!

WHCT Ride & Stride Event 13 September 2025



Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust's annual Ride & Stride will take place on Saturday 13 September to raise money for Wiltshire's churches. St Sampson's Church has received several donations from WHCT towards roof repairs and an new heating system and we hope people will participate again. Half of the money collected goes to your chosen Church and half to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. The aim is to walk, cycle or horse ride to as many churches as possible for you on the day. For further details and sponsorship forms contact ruthderham@outlook.com

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!



Cricklade Memory Café

In July we had our last visit from our little friends at Thames Pre School before they leave and go on to “big” school. We have so enjoyed their visit each term, bringing fun and laughter to our day, and wish them well for whatever the future brings. Some of our members and volunteers spent a very enjoyable morning at Barchester White Lodge Care Home celebrating summer with the residents.



We enjoyed scones with jam and cream and strawberries in August and were delighted to have a visit from Barbara Law from Cricklade Pétanque who brought the proceeds of their Quiz Night in July at the Vale Hotel, which raised a whopping £360 for us. We are a small charity and rely on donations to cover our monthly running costs and to remain free for all our members. We are delighted and very grateful not only to Cricklade Pétanque, but to all our supporters and to the generous people and businesses of Cricklade. If you are a local business and would like to donate and support us our monthly running costs are approximately £40 so your sponsorship will be most welcome.

I must also mention our lovely volunteers who give so generously of their time and cakes etc. Without these ladies we would not be able to run the café. An enormous thank-you to them all for their continued support and commitment which is very much appreciated by the committee and all our members.

We have plenty of fun and interest planned for the autumn – Glyn, Steve and their guitars will entertain us in September. We look forward to welcoming new little friends from Thames Pre School and of course plans are afoot for a wonderful Christmas Party.

So please pop along and see what we are all about on the first Wednesday of every month at the Town Hall Annexe from 10.30 to 12.30 for coffee, cakes, friendship and fun in a safe, non-judgemental welcoming environment. We look forward to meeting you.

For more information, please contact Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

- 4 Sep Rout of the Riviera - Exercise Tiger - The Slapton Sands Disaster
- 18 Sep Three Men from China



Meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday meeting at 10am for a 10.20 start 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, Martin Chambers on 01793 751223. If you contact Martin and advise you would like to attend, which is free for the first few visits, you will be allocated a dedicated host who will introduce you to our members. Alternatively, just turn up on the day and you will be made welcome. For further details about Cricklade & District Probus Club and our scheduled talks for the year, visit our new website at probus.org.uk/cricklade

Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon Croquet Club enjoyed an emphatic 16-4 (20 game match) victory over Broadwas CC in Worcester on 26 July. In the penultimate match of the season SCC dominated each of the four rounds on the fast lawns of the home club.

Team Captain, Clive Smith praised his sides efforts, "Congratulations to the rest of the team for adapting to the slopes of the lawns. We needed this win to maintain pressure on league leaders, Cheltenham, as we head to the final game of 2025."

Mention must be made of, 'rookie', Dave Norman (*pictured top with Clive Smith watching on*) who enjoyed two wins, Fiona Hancock (*pictured below*) and Martin Briggs who won all of their games during the Day. Excellent support was provided by Terry Clements and Colin Brain.

If you are interested in trying this game of skill and strategy please contact us on croquetwindon@gmail.com or telephone our Secretary, Wendy White, on 07733 271 607.



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. Come and try us out, your first evening is FREE. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe and there is a range of talks, workshops and Zoom presentations throughout the year. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website crickladecameraclub.org/program

On **Tuesday 2 September** at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Annexe we will have a slideshow of all the images that were entered into the Annual Competition in June. It will be great opportunity to see everyone's work, not just the winners and commended images.

Members will also be showing their images on the subject of 'Breaking the Rules'. Not just sticking to the usual photography guidelines, but trying new techniques, compositions and subjects.

On **Wednesday 10 September and Tuesday 16 September** there will be two fascinating Zoom presentations.

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 Bowls Club

September is the last month of our bowls season but we still have a few events to look forward to. The Club Championships finals day is on Saturday 13 September and the season ends with the Captain v Chairman match day on the 27th.



The Club is also pleased to be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26 September. See the details on page 17.

We will continue to have social roll-ups on Friday evenings until the end of September and you will be welcome to come along, and see what the game is all about. We start at 6pm, so it's best if you come at that time so we can sort out teams and coaching.

You will find us at the Bath Road green, next door to the Fire Station, and opposite St Sampson's school.

We have a Coach, fully qualified with Bowls England, who will show you how to play and we have spare bowls you can use. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes on the green itself.

For more information please contact:

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

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

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

We hope to see you sometime soon.

Cricklade Pétanque Club

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

Some of our members enjoyed a glorious but very hot and long day at the Sherston Boules festival which happens annually. We were delighted that Malcolm, Gill and Anne, after playing against some stiff opposition, reached the final of The Plate competition. They lost in the final but many congratulations to them as it was an exceptionally exhausting day.



We look forward to hosting the GWR Triples Competition on 7 September.

If you would like to come along and have a go you would always be welcome on any of our playing days as below. There is nearly always someone around to show you the ropes but better still there are Pétanque England DBS checked qualified coaches at our coaching sessions. These sessions are a combination of training and then playing a couple of games. Nothing too serious. It really is a lovely way to get a bit of gentle exercise and to meet new people.

Our playing days are: Mon 2 - 4.30pm Tue 7 - 9.30pm
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

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Our Club plays on the gravel in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and at 10am on Saturday mornings. We have started a coaching session on Wednesdays, 10am to 11:30am. Wednesday Summer Club evenings continue - 7pm to around 9pm.

Please come along if you are interested and have a go! You can borrow some boules, with no obligation to join the club. Pétanque is fun and sociable; we play three games during each session, with a break after the second. If you decide to join our club our annual membership fee is only £25

We organize social activities, e.g. skittles evening, ten pin bowling and the occasional meal out. We have an annual charity day competition too, our latest was held on 19 July and raised £201 which will be donated to a local charity.

Our more competitive members play in the Cotswold Pétanque League and various competitions in the Great Western Region.

To find out more about us please come and say hello, and take a look at our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit our website at saxonspetanque.co.uk.



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. Senior men's training is on Thursdays 7 to 8.30pm at Fairview Fields – no experience necessary.

Contact Captain, Nick 07542 021 692, or Coach, Pixie 07728 399 759 – all are welcome.

Mixed Tag is on Tuesdays 7 to 8pm. We are a friendly club and welcome new players and supporters. We are looking forward to some pre-season friendlies, especially Old Guard vs Men's 1st XV, so look out for those on social media.

Our Minis section continues to grow and is open to 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 will start in September and 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). 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 – if you are interested please contact Seth.

Moon Phases

September 2025

7th ○

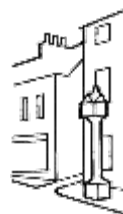
14th ●

21st ●

30th ●

The Chronicle Diary – September 2025

- | | | | |
|----|----|---------|---|
| 1 | M | 10am | Wiltshire schools resume (others may vary) |
| | | | 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 Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 3 | W | 10.30am | to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe |
| 4 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| 6 | Sa | 11.30am | Athelstan Way walk from Leigh Chancel to Cricklade |
| | | 2.30pm | Athelstan Way talk at St Sampson's Church – tickets see page 17 |
| 9 | Tu | 7pm | speaker 7.30pm: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 10 | W | 7.30pm | Camera Club Zoom meeting |
| 13 | Sa | | Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride Event |
| | | 7.30pm | Concert in St Sampson's Church, with Robert Vincent – see page 24 |
| 15 | M | 7pm | Town Council Planning, etc Committee Meeting, Council Chamber |
| 16 | Tu | 1.45pm | to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Art Group at Town Hall Annexe |
| | | 7.30pm | Camera Club Zoom meeting |
| 17 | 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 |
| 18 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| | | 7.30pm | Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe |
| 20 | Sa | | Swindon Open Studios in Cricklade |
| 21 | Su | | Swindon Open Studios in Cricklade |
| 22 | M | | Autumn Equinox |
| | | 7pm | Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber |
| 23 | Tu | 8pm | Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall – see page 25 |
| 26 | F | 2pm | to 4pm: Macmillan Coffee event at Bowls Club, see page 17 |
| 27 | Sa | | Swindon Open Studios in Cricklade |
| | | 10am | to 12 noon: Open Door Coffee Morning, Jenner Hall, see page 33 |
| 29 | M | 7pm | Town Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber |



Every Week

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall
- Wednesday (2-4pm), Saturday (10am-noon) Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street
- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| 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 |
| 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 |
| | 7.30-9.30pm | 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 |

The Final Word ...

In the beginning was the word, and the word was green (with apologies to St John).

Harvest is upon us, a time when we thank God for creation and the gifts it brings. As we think about how we and God relate to creation, there are some ideas we might ponder. At the beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, are two stories that help us to flesh out some of our ideas.

The first of these stories is written like an act of worship, with the repeated refrain 'God saw that it was good' – the whole of creation is seen to have a high worth in God's eyes, and for us 'all creation is a song of praise to God', as Hildegard of Bingen put it.

Humanity is given a special responsibility in the order of creation. To use the biblical language from the story, we are to 'subdue' and 'have dominion' over it. Nowadays these words attract many negative connotations, but actually it's much more about 'to bring order and well-being', and to 'care for their well-being'. The second of the creation stories in Genesis echoes this as well; humanity was placed into the garden to 'till and care for' the soil.

To me it is absolutely clear that both in response to God's goodness to us, and as people who want to let others know of it, that all of creation can be thought of as 'God's first cathedral' – a place where God can be found, sensed, and worshipped. Should we choose to spoil creation by abandoning our responsibility to care for it, then it is akin to placing a barrier between people and their awareness of God's presence. As the psalmist wrote: "The heavens tell out the glory of the Lord, they make known his handywork". (Ps 19:1).

Let us indeed celebrate creation in this harvest season and do our best to ensure the well being of all God's wonderful creation.

Revd Adam Beaumont, Associate Archdeacon, Diocese of Bristol

The Chronicle is published by Churches Together in Cricklade and Latton. It is prepared and distributed on a voluntary basis, printed by Webster Printing, Cricklade, 01793 752898 and funded entirely by local advertisements.

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

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Commercial Advertising & Distribution: Allan & Nicky, Webster Printing, crickladechronicleadds@gmail.com, tel: 01793 752898 (office hours)



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01793 790210



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www.heritage-treecare.co.uk