

NEWS & VIEWS

December 2024
& January 2025



THE MAGAZINE FOR WEST LAVINGTON
LITTLETON PANELL AND THE CHEVERELLS

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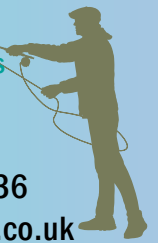
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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the last edition of News and Views for 2024 and the first of 2025! I hope it sees you through until our next issue in February. Another year is drawing to a close, after what seems like five minutes since it began! I hope you find something in these pages to keep you informed and entertained and that you find time in the run up to Christmas to enjoy some of the many events we advertise, both locally and further afield.

As ever, my sincere thanks go to everyone involved in the production and delivery of News and Views, in particular Annemarie Seager, our graphic designer. All the News and Views team are volunteers who give their time and support unstintingly to make sure it reaches our readers. Thank you, too, to all our contributors and advertisers, without whom News and Views could not continue! I am immensely grateful for all your support.

A very Happy Christmas to all our readers, and a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year. See you in February!

Sue Bonney - Editor

Deadline Dates

Editorial copy and photographs should be sent to editor4newsandviews@gmail.com

Articles and photographs for the double February 2025 issue should reach Sue Bonney no later than **Monday January 20th. And I do mean no later!!**

Advertising in News and Views

For more information about placing an advertisement in News and Views, please email newsandviewsadverts@gmail.com

This Month's Cover: Hellebores in the Editor's garden

We are always on the lookout for eye-catching photographs for the front cover of News & Views. They should be portrait (vertical), in colour and of a high resolution.

Photograph Permissions

When submitting a photograph for possible publication in News and Views, please make sure that you have the permission of anyone in the photograph for their image to appear in the magazine, both in print and online. In the case of children, parental permission must be obtained.

News & Views is the community magazine for West Lavington, Littleton Panell and Great and Little Cheverell. You should be able to find the latest News & Views in full colour on West Lavington Posts on Facebook, and on the West Lavington and Great and Little Cheverell Parish Council websites at: www.westlavington.org.uk www.greatcheverell.org.uk www.littlecheverellparishcouncil.org.uk

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REFLECTION

During this season in our Benefice without a rector, different church members are delighted to share a monthly reflection with you. This month it is written by Anna Spear, who lives in Great Cheverell and is one of the Lay Worship Leaders who regularly leads Collective Worship in the local school.

Cycling is one of my favourite pastimes and both cycling and walking in Wiltshire this autumn has enabled me to embrace the beauty of this earth. The adventure surrounding such wonderful activities especially in winter still gives me an exciting experience. Next time you cycle or walk through our wonderful countryside, be thankful for the chance to enjoy it.

Are you ready to go on an Advent Adventure? It's not far! As we await the celebrations of Jesus's birth, the title of this Royal School of Church Music song "Advent! He's approaching, we wait for Christmas Day" comes to mind. 'Ad' means 'toward,' or 'in the direction' - there is the excitement and wonderful thoughts of heading out to achieve your goal and soak up the colour of nature. 'Vent' means 'come' or 'coming' - you are on your way because of the planning of the route. 'Ure' is the result - actual joy when you have achieved the task you set out to do.

Perhaps you would like to approach Christmas Day with the Benefice of the Lavingtons, Cheverells and Easterton and experience the excitement! Look out for the special Christmas services (Advent, Christingle, Carol and Crib services) detailed in this edition.

And finally, find out how those shepherds and kings had an adventure. They journeyed with excitement - they had planned their route by following the shining star; the joy when they had achieved the task the angels set was astounding. Baby Jesus, our saviour, was found lying in a manger.

Merry Christmas to you all on behalf of the Benefice of the Lavingtons, Cheverells and Easterton.

The World was in darkness

And nobody knew

The way to the father as you and I do

They needed a light

Which would show them the way

So God sent his son

On the first Christmas Day.

Mary Merrick (GC)

Anna Spear

Benefice Office

25 White Street, West Lavington, SN10 3LW Tel: 01380 816963

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churchlavington@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator: **Beth Warren**

More information can be found on our website www.lavingtonchurch.org

**CHURCH OF
ENGLAND
BENEFICE**

Regular worship in our sister churches
9.00 am St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Littleton Panell
4.30 pm Ebenezer Baptist Church, West Lavington
Churchwardens
St Peter's, Great Cheverell: Pauline Jenkinson (813775)

Date	Market Lavington St Mary's	West Lavington All Saints'	Easterton St Barnabas	Great Cheverell St Peter's	Little Cheverell St Peter's
Sunday 1st December Advent Sunday	10.30 am Benefice Service All Saints' Church West Lavington 6 pm Advent Carols and Lessons All Saints' Church, West Lavington				
Sunday 8th December Advent 2	10.30 am Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	9.00 am Breakfast Church	10.30 am Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	11.00 am Simple Communion	
Sunday 15th December Advent 3			6.30 pm Carol Service	4.00 pm Carol Service	10.30 am Benefice BCP Communion
Wednesday 18th December		6.00 pm Carol Service			
Sunday 22nd December Advent 4	10.30 am Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall 6.00 pm Candlelight Carols	9.30 am Praise and Worship 4.30 pm Christingle	10.30 am Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall		
Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve	4.00 pm Christingle		4.00 pm Christingle 10.00 pm Midnight Mass	4.00 pm Christingle 10.30 pm Midnight Mass	4.00 pm Crib Service

Date	Market Lavington St Mary's	West Lavington All Saints'	Easterton St Barnabas	Great Cheverell St Peter's	Little Cheverell St Peter's
Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day		10.30 am Christmas Communion			
Sunday 29th December	9.30 am Matins All Saints' Church, West Lavington				
Sunday 5th January	10.30 am Benefice Service St Barnabas Church, Easterton				
Sunday 12th January	10.30 am Covenant Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	9.00 am Breakfast Church	10.30 am Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	11.00 am Simple Communion	
Sunday 19th January			10.30 am Communion	10.00 am Welcome to Worship	
Sunday 26th January	10.30 am Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	9.30 am Praise and Worship	10.30 am Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	11.00 am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 2nd February	10.30 am Benefice Communion St Peter's Church, Great Cheverell				

Help Needed!

Help is needed on a job share basis at the Tuesday Club, which is held on Tuesdays between 11.00 hrs to 1300 hrs at the Community Hall, Market Lavington

Please contact **Anji Scofield 01380 812720** or **anjischofield@icloud.com**



Benefice 200 Club

Jane Garbutt from Market Lavington won the November draw. It was lovely meeting you, Jane. Thank you for buying a £12 ticket last year and contributing to the cost of running the Benefice Office.

We are asking for everyone's support again this December to help with the Office during the interregnum in 2025. We would be most grateful to you for buying another ticket - although the first prize won't change your life, the proceeds are vital to the Benefice.

Please buy your ticket from your Parish seller with cash or cheque, or by internet banking transfer, using the following details:

Account Name: L, C & E Benefice 200 Club

Sort code: 30-92-63 **Account No:** 03298141

Please put your name in the reference box.

Thank you!

Bonnie Matters

bonnie_matters@hotmail.co.uk

Mothers' UNION

The West Lavington Branch of the Mothers' Union has continued to meet on the second Monday of the month. I am very pleased to report that our members have increased throughout the year. We now have seventeen members, and we also welcome guests who join us regularly.

At our November meeting Utility Warehouse representatives gave an excellent, informative presentation on how we can consolidate our utility bills. By doing so we can save money and earn it at the same time by receiving money back from our purchases on the High Street.

On Tuesday 19th November there was an annual service at Salisbury Cathedral: '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Abuse and Violence against Women'. The Right Reverend Bishop of Salisbury, Stephen Lake took the service this year. The guest speaker was Sam Murphy, Fund Raising Manager for Fear Free, which supplies counselling and referral services on behalf of Wiltshire Council. Our Branch, together with West Lavington WI, collected many items for the Salisbury Refuge which we took to the Cathedral, from where they will be taken along to the Refuge.

On 9th December at 2.15pm, we will be having an informal Christmas Carol sing along at our usual venue at 54 High Street, West Lavington. As at all our meetings, we will have tea and cake, and this time there will be the addition of mince pies! As usual all are welcome, so please come and join us.

Jackie Knipe jack_knipe@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE LINK

West Lavington, Littleton Panell & Little Cheverell

Tel: 07598 947180

Call this number if you need transport for medical appointments and have no other means of getting there. Donations to cover expenses will be requested.



Rating Wireman Francis Alan Shore

After our November cover picture of the headstone of **Rating Wireman Francis Alan Shore** of Littleton Panell, Anne Wilson kindly sent us this biography of Alan Shore, taken from Lyn Dyson's book 'Lest We Forget'.

18th birthday to serve in the Royal Navy and became a wireman on HMS Albatross. A Rating Wireman was usually someone who had some skills as an electrician in civilian life, either wiring buildings or motor vehicles.

They were mainly employed in small ships, mine sweepers and repair bases and were an integral part of the torpedo party.



HMS Albatross

Francis Alan Shore, known as Alan, was born on 15th May 1925, the son of Fred and Rosa Shore. Alan was the baby of the family, his brother and two sisters being at least 15 years older. When he left school he apprenticed as an electrician to Chivers, a Devizes firm. He was a keen sportsman and cyclist and travelled to work each day on his bicycle. He was also a talented musician and sang particularly well.

Alan was called up in 1943 shortly after his

18th birthday to serve in the Royal Navy and became a wireman on HMS Albatross. A Rating Wireman was usually someone who had some skills as an electrician in civilian life, either wiring buildings or motor vehicles. They were mainly employed in small ships, mine sweepers and repair bases and were an integral part of the torpedo party.

At the beginning of June 1944, HMS Albatross sailed from Portsmouth via the Thames Estuary and headed towards Sword Beach, arriving on 10th June. The ship provided naval gunfire support and supplemented the anti-aircraft defence. On 13th June, whilst preparing a ship called the Java for sinking, Alan was struck in the chest by a shell and died almost instantly. It isn't clear whether this was the result of an enemy attack or an accident on board. He was just 19.

HMS Albatross was hit by a torpedo on 11th August with the loss of 66 lives. However, the ship survived the war and eventually evolved into the 'Hellenic Prince'.

ADVENT CONCERT

Saturday 7th December 7.30pm. Priory Church, Edington

There are still tickets available for Edington Arts' very popular Advent Concert, although you need to act swiftly. The performers will be the mixed choir of Somerville College, Oxford, under the direction of Will Dawes.

Somerville College Choir is young by Oxford standards, but has achieved a phenomenal amount since its creation and is a very highly regarded ensemble. There will be plenty of traditional and well-loved Christmas music, both old and more recent, but also some unusual and unexpected delights. A selection of pieces from the programme is listed on the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org/whats-on where you can also choose your seats, book and pay.

Tickets start at £11, 18 and under come free. If you would rather book by phone and allow the Box Office team to choose your seats, please phone **Chrissy on 01380 831256**.

If you have already booked your tickets, and especially if you are coming from further away, why not take advantage of the special pre-concert menu being offered by the Three Daggers in Edington. **Phone 01380 830940**. Early booking is recommended.



Christmas Markets near us

Avebury, National Trust: weekends **30th November/1st December, 7th/8th December, 14th/15th December**. Threshing Barn, Avebury, 10am to 4pm, different local craft stalls each weekend. Cash advised, as the wifi signal for card machines is unreliable!

Bath: over 170 chalets from **28th November to 15th December**. Mon - Wed 10am to 7pm, Thurs to Sat 10am to 8pm, Sundays 10am to 6pm.

Salisbury: Gift Fayre, **November 22nd to December 19th**, Guildhall Square, Salisbury. 10am - 7pm.

Swindon: **November 23rd to 21st December**, The Parade, Swindon SN1 1BB, Swindon's first chalet market. Sun, Tues - Thurs 10am - 6pm, Friday-Sat 10am - 8pm. Closed Mondays. swindonchristmasmarket.com

Southampton: **November 15th to January 5th**. Above Bar pedestrian area. 10am to 10pm, closed Christmas Day. Bargate Light Spectacular from 17th November to Christmas Eve, 5 - 9.30pm. Plus Ferris Wheel, Christmas Fun House, Santa's Workshop.

Local Christmas Church Services

Sunday 1st December:	Advent Carols and Lessons, All Saints', West Lavington	6.00pm
Sunday 15th December:	Carol Service, St Peter's Great Cheverell	4.00pm
	Carol Service, St Barnabas, Easterton	6.30pm
Wednesday 18th December:	Carol Service, All Saints', West Lavington	6.00pm
Sunday 22nd December:	Trinity Church Service with St Barnabas and St Mary's, ML Community Hall	10.30am
	Christingle, All Saints', West Lavington	4.30pm
	Candlelight Carol Service, St Mary's, Market Lavington	6.00pm
	Carol Service and Festive Tea, Ebenezer Baptist Church	4.30pm
Tuesday 24th December:	Christingle, St Mary's Market Lavington	4.00pm
	Christingle, St Barnabas, Easterton	4.00pm
	Christingle, St Peter's, Great Cheverell	4.00pm
	Crib Service, St Peter's, Little Cheverell	4.00pm
	Midnight Mass, St Barnabas, Easterton	10.00pm
	Midnight Mass, St Peter's, Great Cheverell	10.30pm
Wednesday 25th December:	Christmas Communion, All Saints', West Lavington	10.30am
Sunday 29th December:	Carol Service with speaker David Tarling, Ebenezer Baptist Church	4.30pm



DID YOU KNOWOH YES YOU DID!

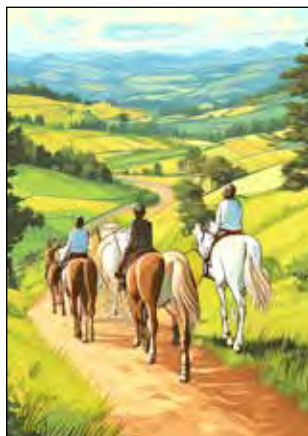
Local Pantomimes this Christmas and New Year

Hansel and Gretel:	Wharf Theatre, Devizes. November 29th - December 7th. Box Office 0333 666 3366. Tickets £14 - £16.
Sleeping Beauty:	Salisbury Playhouse. November 30th to January 12th. Tickets from £18. Box Office 01722 320333. https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/events/sleeping-beauty
Knight Fever:	A very silly family pantomime! December 5th to December 7th. Bemerton Players, St Michael's Community Centre, St Michael's Road, Bemerton Heath, Salisbury SP2 9LE. Tickets Adult £8, Child £6, Family £24 from bemertonplayers.co.uk
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs:	Theatre Royal, Bath. December 12th to January 12th. Tickets £9 - £42.50. Box Office 01225 448844
Cinderella:	Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, December 7th - January 5th. Tickets £14 - £39. Box Office 0343 310 0040. https://trafalgartickets.com/wyvern-theatre-swindon
The Father Christmas Show:	Swindon Arts Centre. December 18th - 24th. Tickets £11.10 to £19.50. https://trafalgartickets.com/swindon-arts-centre
And coming in February!	
Midsomer Murders - Part Two:	Great Cheverell. The Killer Panto returns to Great Cheverell Pavilion for half term on 14th to 16th February. Tickets from Great Cheverell Stores , or contact Nicola on ncoupe@sky.com

Think Horse! Don't block Bridleway access with your car

News and Views has had a request from a local horse owner to raise the issue of parked cars blocking the gates to bridleways. In particular, she asks walkers who park their vehicles at the bottom of the hill near the Strawberry Hill Reservoir site (Grid reference SU995530) not to park their cars by the gate leading up to the bridleway, and to leave the access to the bridleway gate clear so that horses can get through.

They cannot squeeze in between vehicles to get to the gate, and as there is no other access either going up to or coming down the hill, blocking this bridleway is blocking a Right of Way. Why not add a little extra to your walk and park on the hard standing by the Westbury Road and walk down the track to the hill?



Upcoming Local Roadworks

Worton High Street:	0900 9th December to 1600 20th December. Two way traffic light control.
Lavington Lane:	Works to install a pedestrian crossing are now extended until December 20th.
High St and the Crays, Market Lavington:	0700 16th December to 1900 17th December. Traffic lights. Footway resurfacing and ironwork .
Broadway, Littleton Panell (Black Dog to Market Lavington road):	0930 - 1530 17th January. Road closed. Roadworks for Open Reach. Diversion via A360 and Lavington Lane.
Church Street, West Lavington:	7th February 0930 - 1500. Road closure. Open Reach.
B3098 High Street, Erlestoke:	0930 17th February to 1530 20th February. Road closure. Footway and associated works. Diversion via Great Cheverell
St John's Street Devizes	is likely to remain closed for some time into 2025 to allow scaffolding erection at the Town Hall.

For further updates, visit one.network

Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub can help:

- put people in touch with community groups who can help and provide a warm space
- signpost to sources of financial support and foodbanks
- provide advice to those experiencing loneliness
- advise people on cost-of-living crisis
- signpost customers to any appropriate schemes through the Household Support Fund (HSF)



The Household Support Fund is to support households that would otherwise struggle to buy food, pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs during the current cost-of-living challenges and particularly those who may not be eligible for the other forms of Government support.

Call the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub on **0300 003 4576** or email wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-4pm



Making an Eco-Friendly Christmas Wreath from Your Garden

In December, none of us feel like being in the garden - hopefully all your tender plants are tucked up warm and cosy and your beds have a nice, thick layer of mulch. If so, I thought I would give you a nice project to do, using cuttings from your garden by creating an eco-friendly Christmas wreath. By using materials from your garden, you can make a beautiful, sustainable decoration with a personal touch.

Gather Your Materials

Start by collecting evergreen branches such as holly or pine for the base - you'll need more than you think. Look for natural embellishments like pinecones, berries, seed pods, dried flowers or even feathers. For a splash of colour, include sprigs of rosemary, lavender, or eucalyptus if you have them.

Build the Frame

You can create a base by bending flexible branches, like willow or dogwood, into a circle and securing them with twine. Alternatively, reuse an old wreath frame if you have one. To keep your wreath eco-friendly, avoid foam or plastic bases.

Assemble the Wreath

Layer the greenery around the frame, securing each piece with natural twine or biodegradable floral wire. Overlap the stems to create a full, lush effect. Add your decorative elements, like berries and pinecones, ensuring they are evenly spaced for balance. Think about doing things in threes.

Add the Finishing Touch

For hanging, use a ribbon made of natural fibre or repurpose strips of fabric. Avoid synthetic ribbons or glittery decorations. This handmade wreath not only celebrates the beauty of nature but also fosters sustainability. Plus, it can be composted after the festive season, leaving no waste behind. Happy crafting!

Capability Charlotte



West Lavington Friendship Club

Our annual concert this year is on **Wednesday 11th December at 2.30pm** in the Village Hall.

The music will be provided by the duo Done & Broke, and our usual Christmas tea, provided by Steph Honeychurch. will be served in the interval.

Tickets £10, on sale in the Village shop, Coxheads Dairy shop or contact **Eileen on 01380 813264**.

Market Lavington Christmas Country Fair

A big thank you to everyone who came to and/or supported the Christmas Country Fair in Market Lavington Community Hall on November 16th. We would especially like to thank all our stallholders, and everyone who baked a cake and helped our Cake and Hamper stall raise £225. We hope you all enjoyed the Fair and found some great things to buy. Our very grateful thanks to everyone who helped us set up and run the Fair, especially Carol Treloar, June and Richard Wright, Jean and Dave Edwards and Barbara Galloway.

In case you were wondering, the Hamper was won by Oscar Hurley, with winning ticket number 41. We raised an amazing **£1327.26 for the Army Benevolent Fund**, which is our second highest total to date, and brings the amount raised over the last thirteen years to over **£14,250**. Thank you all very much! This money will help a lot of serving and former serving soldiers and their families who are in need.

Sue and Chris Bonney

CHEVERELLS GARDEN CLUB

The November meeting of the Cheverells Garden Club was a talk by Gareth Harris, the recorder for the Wiltshire bat group. He was an extremely interesting and enthusiastic speaker and we certainly learned a lot - including all about his favourite dung beetles!

The December meeting on **Tuesday 10th December** in the Village Hall at **7.15 for 7.30pm** is our AGM and Christmas party, with a chance for all our members to have an input into future events, a good gossip, eat delicious food, drink mulled cider and compete in a fun quiz.

The first meeting next year is on **January 14th at 7.15 for 7.30pm** in Great Cheverell Village Hall, when we have a talk by Capability Charlotte asking if green walls are all they are cracked up to be.

We would welcome new members to our very friendly informal club. If anyone needs any information, feel free to contact me at **Helen.woodlands@hotmail.co.uk**.

Next year's programme is looking fascinating!

Little Cheverell Village Hall Upcoming Events

The Village Hall Committee is pleased to be able to present these upcoming events:

Sunday 1st December at 1pm: Jazz on Sunday, tickets £5, children free.

Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm: Christmas Wreathmaking workshop, £15 per person. Mince pies mulled wine and greenery included. Bring your own decorative items.

Further information and tickets are available on our website Events pages at: **www.littlecheverellparishcouncil.org.uk**

The dramatic sea cliffs, crags and stacks of Rathlin Island, County Antrim, rise more than 200 metres above the Atlantic Ocean and host one of the UK's largest seabird colonies, including hundreds of puffins. From September, when the puffins left to spend the winter at sea, skilled teams started culling the Island's predators, as the final phase of a project to protect puffins, whose numbers declined by 74% between 1991 and 2021. This initiative is a Life Raft Project led by a partnership with RSPB Northern Ireland and the local community. In the first phase ferrets were targeted and none has been seen for a year. The traps are baited but scientifically designed to keep out non-targeted species.

A recent Kew Gardens report concluded that a third of the world's tree species could be wiped out due to climate change and other environmental negatives, including species such as the whitebeam, spindle, hawthorn, and in Scotland, the aspen. Trees are essential for wildlife. Spring blossom provides nectar for pollinators and the leaves are a food source for a range of insects, including caterpillars, leafhoppers and beetles. The berries attract a range of bird species for food in the autumn and winter including migrants, mainly from Scandinavia. Although you are unlikely to spot a Scarlet Tanager on your washing line like the one recently seen in a Yorkshire garden. This bird is a resident of the eastern seaboard of America, weighing approximately 30 grams and blown off course in the recent gales.

Bird Life International is a worldwide conservation organisation concerned in preventing species decline and extinction. If you log onto their website at birdlife.org, it is quite shocking to learn how many world species are on Red Lists, due not only to changing climate patterns but also to over-population and loss of habitat through over development and predation. Data analysis shows that the threats affecting the greatest number of the world's threatened bird species are (in descending order) agriculture (73% of species), logging (51%), invasive alien species (42%), hunting and trapping (39%), and climate change (37%).

The recent extreme flooding in many areas of the populated continents and the decline of sea ice in both polar regions are causing alarm worldwide. The recent COP 29 (Conference of the Parties) has been described in the press as 'not fit for purpose', and the fact that it was held in Baku, Azerbaijan where oil and gas exploration started, was a strange choice. COP 30, to be held in Brazil, will hopefully be more constructive, especially as the rain forests (the Lungs of the World) are getting near to tipping points due to deforestation, mining developments and increasing human populations.

Remember that December 21st is 'Robin Day' for our national bird, so put out some Christmas treats for them. Let us all make New Year Resolutions to improve our environment and to discover Nature again for our children in 2025.

Christmas Book Recommendations

One of the best presents you can give or receive at Christmas is a book and I find choosing the right book for each person is a real pleasure. Here are a few which might help you with your Christmas shopping.

For Children

For the youngest children, the magic of Christmas is brought to life in **The Jolly Christmas Postman**, an endearing classic by **Janet and Allan Ahlberg**. Every page brings a surprise to open and the familiarity of the nursery rhyme characters will delight every child.

For a young reader with a sense of humour, **Father Christmas by Raymond Briggs** is a must. Children will delight in the everyday problems he faces on his quest to deliver parcels all over the world. And for readers aged 8+ **A Boy called Christmas by Matt Haig** is a glorious mix of fairytale, folklore and fun and the 'true' story of Father Christmas.

For Harassed Cooks

Once the lunch is over and the house is full of food, the cook deserves some peace and time to browse something not too serious. To dip into **Jeanette Winterson's Christmas Days – 12 Stories and 12 Feasts for 12 Days** will be a real treat. Stories, festive recipes and quite a lot of magic.

For anyone who wants to get lost in a winter story, try **The Bear and the Nightingale by Katharine Arden**. At the edge of the Russian wilderness, Vasilisa spends the winter nights huddled around the embers of a fire with her beloved siblings, listening to her nurse's fairy tales. Above all, she loves the chilling story of Frost, the blue-eyed winter demon, who appears in the frigid night to claim unwary souls – a magical novel.

Best read aloud, is **The Twelve Days of Christmas by John Julius Norwich**, a delightful little book recording the daily correspondence from a bemused young lady to her unseen admirer whose increasingly unwelcome gifts cause mayhem in an English country Christmas. Perfectly illustrated by *Quentin Blake*.

On a darker note, **The Anomaly by Herve le Tellier**, is a gripping thriller. During a terrifying storm, Air France flight 006 inexplicably duplicates. For every passenger, there are now two: a double with the same mind, body and memories. Only one thing sets them apart, while one plane lands in March, the other doesn't arrive until June. Nothing can explain this unprecedented event. But for each duplicated passenger, an impossible moment of reckoning awaits. If there are two of you, and just one life . . . who gets to live it?

And bringing a very traditional tale up to date, **Mrs Scrooge** by former Poet Laureate **Carol Ann Duffy** is a delight. With her husband, Ebenezer, now 'doornail dead', the coldest Christmas Eve on record finds Mrs. Scrooge outside the supermarket protesting against consumerism and waste. That night, alone in her bed with Catchit the cat, Mrs. Scrooge is visited by the Ghosts and she too learns what Christmas really means.

Merry Christmas to you all! **Sue Bastone**



A Message from Cllr Dominic Muns Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email:

dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on **07585 394 178**.

Many residents have asked me why we aren't recycling our food waste like some other authorities in the UK. In short, when the Environment Act was updated in 2021 with a requirement for councils to collect food waste and flexible plastics (film lids and cellophane), we were midway through a recycling contract and were granted an extension until the end of 2026 when the contracts end.

We are approaching the early stages of procurement for new contracts and so those of you who are keen to be recycling more will be pleased to hear that we will be building food waste collections and flexible plastic recycling into our recycling programme from 2027 onwards.

Incorporating food waste and flexible plastics is something we have no choice to do, as it is mandated by central government. However, building it into our current operation is likely to cost an additional £2.4m every year! Wiltshire Council's Waste and Recycling Team was therefore tasked with looking at opportunities to accommodate Government policy, improve recycling rates and reduce costs for residents. This led to the testing of various alternative options for recycling from 2027 onwards.

Some local authorities force residents to separate every type of material into different stackable boxes or bags, but our research showed the participation rate is lower because it is too onerous. In fact Basildon has just given up with their 6-container recycling method and is scrapping the whole idea. At the

opposite end of the scale, some councils have experimented with a single bin for all recycling, including glass, but found the mechanical sorting ineffective and too expensive (£1.8m extra cost per year).

The solution approved by Wiltshire's Cabinet on 19th November is the right balance for the environment, budget and residents. From 2027 we will introduce one extra wheeled bin in order to separate paper and card from the current process. 10% of households already have this extra recycling bin, so they will see no change other than to use one for paper and card and the other for plastic and cans. For anyone lacking space for a wheeled bin, an alternative weighted sack will be available.

This will significantly lower the recycling reject rate (the amount of recyclable waste that doesn't make it through the process due to contamination) from 22.5% to just 4.9% and will save local taxpayers £750,000 every single year. The significance of saving £750k versus having to spend an extra £2.4m is massive. This money can be reinvested into our communities through additional road maintenance, town centre development, education or adult social care.

The key message is that there is no change to bin collections or recycling procedure for another few years - for now it is business as usual!

I wish you all a very warm and happy Christmas and an optimistic start to the New Year!

West Lavington and Littleton Panell Community Emergency Plan

In an ever-changing and volatile world, being prepared for emergencies in the community is critical. Your Parish Council has created the 'Emergency Plan', a comprehensive strategy designed to dynamically harness local expertise in times of crisis.

This plan isn't just about reacting to emergencies; it's about preparing, responding, and recovering from a wide range of potential challenges. From floods and severe weather to utility failures and pandemics, we're ready to support each other in the community.

The plan is only as strong as the community that it is designed to protect, and it is imperative that you familiarise yourselves with it now so that in the event of an emergency, you know what to do. Full details of the plan can be found on our website:

<https://www.westlavington.org.uk/information/emergency-plan/>

We're calling on all members of our parish to consider how they might contribute.

Whether you're a medical professional, a skilled tradesperson, or someone willing to lend a helping hand, your skills are invaluable. Perhaps you can offer comfort to those who have been displaced, assist with ground-level flood management, or provide transport in adverse weather. Even making tea for volunteers can make a world of difference!

Key features of the Plan:

Types of Emergencies: The plan outlines potential risks including flooding, snow and ice, utility failures, and major accidents.

Role of Volunteers: Community volunteers play a crucial role in supporting emergency services. They assist with logistics, provide first aid, distribute resources like sandbags, and help open community places of safety.

Places of Safety: In case of evacuation or if you need temporary shelter, one of our designated Places of Safety will be activated: West Lavington Village Hall (our primary location), All Saints Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, or St Joseph's Catholic Church. These locations can provide warmth, shelter, and basic amenities for up to 36 hours.

Local Skills and Resources: The Parish Council maintains a list of local individuals with skills that can assist during emergencies.

What to do if you require community support. If there is an immediate risk to life or property, call 999. For non-life-threatening situations covered by the Emergency Plan, contact a member of the Parish Council. They can help coordinate local resources and volunteers to assist you.

By working together, we can create a resilient community that's prepared for anything. If you'd like to be part of this important initiative, please email wlcr@westlavington.org.uk.

Cllr George Harrison Community Resilience Lead
West Lavington Parish Council

Bowood Festive Food & Gift Fair 2024

Preview Evening

Monday December 2nd 4pm - 8pm

Tickets £15
Incl glass of wine & canapes

Tuesday December 3rd 9am - 3pm

Tickets £5 on the door
or get two-for-one in advance



CAFE SCIENTIFIQUE



Future Flight:

How drones are redefining the UK and tomorrow's tech
See how unmanned systems are setting a new standard in everything from safety and logistics to strategic resilience and get a glimpse of the tech that's poised to power the UK's next chapter



Monday 2nd December 7.30pm
at The Bell Great Cheverell

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
OUR VILLAGE NATIVITY
The Christmas Story



Do join us for family evening of Oscar-winning acting Christmas carols, mince pies and loads of fun
The perfect way to get into the Christmas Spirit

4th December at 5.30 - 7.30pm
Community Hall Market Lavington

Produced by Trinity Church

DECEMBER RHYME TIMES

6th & 20th from 10.15 to 10.45
Market Lavington Library

Christmas Songs

WHY NOT WEAR

Christmas Clothes
& Christmas Hats

PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHILDREN WELCOME



Market Lavington Library

Opening Times

Wednesdays
2pm - 5pm

Fridays
10am to 5pm

Saturdays
10am top 12 noon

Xmas Closing

25th, 26th,
27th & 28th Dec
1st January 2025

Re-opening
3rd January

Regular Rhyme Times

1st & 3rd Friday
of the month
10.15am to 10.45am

Little Cheverell Village Hall WREATH MAKING

Tuesday 3rd December at 7 pm

£15 per person incl
mulled wine & a mince pie

A fun, festive evening
with all greenery supplied
Bring your own decorations
to add: baubles, ribbons, cones etc

Contact

Nocola Bollen 07957427848
littlecheverellvhall@gmail.com



Wednesday 4 December
Starts 11am

Christmas
in Tudor Style

Melksham
Assembly Hall

If you love the arts and would like to meet a group of like-minded people then we'd love to meet you.

We are a very friendly group who meet ten times a year on the first Wednesday of the month in the Assembly Hall Melksham

You can join us free for your first lecture or come as a guest for only £8.00



www.tasnorthwilts.org.uk



TWINNING ASSOCIATION
Last event of the year

Friday December 6th
4-Course Meal
to celebrate the arrival of
Beaujolais Nouveau

This year's vintage
will be available
as well as Beaujolais
not so Nouveau

West Lavington
Village Hall at 7pm

Members £12.50
non-members £15

Please contact Mike Page
on 01380 818510 for tickets

DEVIZES CHAMBER CHOIR Presents

John Rutter's When Icicles Hang
Dream a Little Dream
Christmas at the Movies
Winter Wonderland
Twelve or So Days of Christmas
and more!

Sunday 7th December 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Long Street
Doors open at 7pm

Tickets £12 at the door or
From Devizes Books, Choir Members and
ticketsource.co.uk/Devizes-Chamber-Choir

Charity No 1089712

www.DevizesChamberChoir.org.uk

GREAT CHEVERELL'S HANDMADE XMAS
SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 10am - 1pm

in the Village Hall
REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE
Goods all handmade in the village
 Gifts for Christmas
 Christmas cakes & decorations
 Woodturning & Handbags
 Cards & paintings

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
 Sunday 8th December
 Special Guest RAZAMATAZ

The MAGIC Show

plus other events 11.15am to 1.30pm
 West Lavington Village Hall
 Tickets £5.00 per child
 Children must be accompanied by an adult
 Please bring a gift for your child clearly marked with their name
 Tickets available at
 Kytes Garage Great Cheverell or Call Angela: 07815836933
 In aid of Julia's House Children's Hospice

The Great Cheverell
PAVILION Club

For our Christmas film, we've chosen a well-loved classic romcom, actually. Laugh as Hugh Grant dances in his socks, squirm as Andrew Lincoln stalks Keira Knightley, weep as Alan Rickman is horrid to Emma Thompson
 There will be mulled wine and mince pies - hope to see you there

Saturday December 14th
 Doors open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm
 Members Free - Guests £5

St Barnabas Church
 Easterton
 2024 Theme
 Films

Free Admission
 Children's Activities
 Raffle & Refreshments

Contact June Wright
 junwri@outlook.com

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
 Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th December
 10am to 4pm

The Green Dragon & Trinity Church
BEER & CAROLS
Monday 9th December 7pm
Bring your friends & family - All welcome
 Join us for the
Community Awards Presentation

AN EVENING OF CAROLS
WITH BRATTON BRASS BAND

Wednesday 11th December
7pm - 8.30pm
Doors open 6.45pm
 St Peter's Church
 Great Cheverell
FREE ENTRY
Donations Welcome
 Bar & Raffle
 Contact Nicola 07824 397111

Wednesday 18th December
 Starts 11am
Christmas Ghosts
The Tradition of Winter Tales
 Devides
 Corn Exchange

Kirsty Hartsiotis will take us back to the earliest winter tales of the Middle Ages, the age of Shakespeare and Marlowe and the last years of the 17th and 18th centuries, Membership from October to July is £50 or come to this lecture as a guest - £8.

The Arts Society Devides
 www.theartsocietydevides.org

The Holy Trinity PFA invites you to the

Winter Wonderland Bazaar

Join us straight after school on
Wednesday 18th December
 for festive fun and games

3-4.15pm in the School Hall
 followed by Christmas Carols outside
 (weather permitting!)

Cakes
 Secret Jars
 Reindeer Food
 Teddy Tombola



Lavington
Community
Choir

Lavington Community Choir

Christmas Concert

Friday 20th December

7.30pm

Market Lavington
Community Hall
St Mary's Rd, SN10 4DG

Tickets £8

From St Arbucks
Market Lavington
& Devizes Books

Bar & mince pies



The Chevs Christmas Party

21
DEC
@7pm



21
DEC
@7pm

FOOD. DRINK. MUSIC

WHERE: The Pavilion, Great Cheverell

WHAT: LIVE MUSIC. DISCO. HOG ROAST. BAR.

HOW: Entrance by ticket. £5. Tickets available from
Cheverell Stores or Nicola Coupe.

WHY: Charity FUN(d)raiser.

Proceeds: Devizes Food Bank & Cheverell Pavilion Charitable Trust.

CAFE SCIENTIFIQUE



**Wiltshire Museum:
A scientific hub
on your doorstep**

David Dawson will highlight some of
the leading edge research being
carried out using the nationally
important collections of the
Wiltshire Museum one of a handful
of UK museums to
have their own
Research Agenda.

Monday 6th January 7.30pm
at The Bell Great Cheverell



Wednesday 8 January
Starts 11am
**The Epic Journey of
Shackleton & the Endurance**
Melksham
Assembly Hall

This lecture uses Frank Hurley's photographs which
illustrate this remarkable tale of human endurance.

If you love the arts and would like to meet a group of
like-minded people then we'd love to meet you.

We are a very friendly group who meet ten times a year
on the first Wednesday of the month.

You can join us free for your first lecture
or come as a guest for only £8.00

www.tasnorthwilt.org.uk

SOAPBOX SANTA'S SINGING SLEIGH

Monday 23rd December

Starting at Victoria Park
Great Cheverell at 5pm

STOPPING AT
Victoria Park
58 The Green
9 The Green
Weavers Mead
The Old Shop
Bartlets
Garston
The Pavilion
25 High Street
The Bell

GREAT CHEVERELL
SOAPBOX DERBY

GOING ROUND THE VILLAGE
Look for the Stop Signs

*Enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie
and sing carols with us*
Everyone Welcome

NATIVITY SETS ON DISPLAY

St Peter's Church Great Cheverell

Sunday 5th January 2-5pm

Refreshments



For information or to lend us your nativity set
please contact Vanessa on vareburn@btinternet.com
or Nicola on 07824 397 111 or ncoupe@sky.com



Wednesday 15th January
Starts 11am

Australian Impressionists

Devizes
Corn Exchange



The Arts Society Devizes meets on the
third Wednesday of every month
except August and September
with world-class lectures

Membership from October to July is £50
or come to this lecture as a guest - £8.

The Arts Society Devizes
www.theartsocietydevizes.org

LAVINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Cacti & Succulents

a presentation by

Mike Read and Lorraine Percival of
Melksham Cacti and Succulents

All existing members and those
interested in joining our friendly club
are very welcome

Refreshments available

Competition

Table decoration of evergreen foliage

West Lavington Village Hall SN10 4HL

We look forward to seeing you!

Wednesday 15th January 7:15pm

Richard Gamble stood down from the Parish Council in November after many years serving the village as both a Parish Councillor and the previous Wiltshire Councillor for the Lavingtons. Richard has an in-depth knowledge of the village and his experience and wisdom will be sorely missed. We would like to thank him for his service.

We had existing vacancies on the Council, so together with Richard's departure we were able to co-opt three new Councillors at our November meeting. We welcome Michael Sworder, Sandy Pattison and Andrew Koval-Radley. We now have a full complement of members.

Last month we were joined by our new MP Brian Mathew, who gave his time to visit us to look at two issues on which the Parish Council has been campaigning. The first is a sewage leak into Semington Brook. During periods of rain, two manholes next to the brook at the bottom of Russell Mill Lane overflow and pour raw sewage into our chalk stream. Brian has agreed to campaign with us to ensure Wessex Water fixes this issue in a timely manner, as opposed to the snail's pace of ineffective fixes over the last five years. Brian learned that the main sewerage pipe from the village runs alongside the brook in Littleton Panell until it reaches the treatment works on Spin Hill. The pipe was installed in the 1950s and is damaged by tree roots. We also suspect the capacity of the pipe needs to be improved for modern living.

We also discussed the thorny issue of traffic. This will need a regional strategic solution as village traffic will not be solved until a proper north-south trunk route is provided west of Stonehenge. Brian agreed to raise this need with the other MPs in the West to take this matter to the government.

Separately, we are working hard to reinstate our Community Speed Watch. This was suspended by the Police pending traffic surveys which have now been completed and we are in the process of working through the paperwork to restart. The surveys showed a relatively small percentage of vehicles - 15% - do more than 34 mph. In reality, this is still 500 vehicles a day that exceed the posted speed limit! Community Speed Watch is an important deterrent. We are always looking for volunteers to join the team - if you would like to help, please contact us.

Ice has returned with the arrival of winter. Don't forget that the Parish has a number of resources to help residents. For those who are unsteady on your feet we have a stock of pavement salt that you can use on your doorstep and paths. Do let us know if you would like some. We also have Gel sand bags for flooding and flood road signs. Let us know if you need any of this equipment.

A Parish Council Thank You to stonemason Toby Robson of Littleton Panell for the very professional clean of the War Memorial, ready for the Remembrance Day service.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Next Meetings: **Thursday 5th December** and **Thursday 2nd January**, both at 7pm in the Giles Room, West Lavington Village Hall.

Cllr Peter West Chair WLPC <https://www.westlavington.org.uk/contact-us/>

West Lavington Planning Matters

The Haven, High Street Littleton Panell PL/2024/09933: Construction of a garage.

St Joan A Gore Farm Cottage, Gore Cross PL/2024/09418: Installation of a new oil tank.

Tree works at:

The Haven, Littleton Panell

105 High St, Littleton Panell

Pagnell Cottage, Pagnell Lane, Littleton Panell

The Stables, White Street, West Lavington

The Old Post Office, Church Street, West Lavington.

Dauntsey House Care Home applied for tree works to support a future planning application for the construction of a staff car park. This is fully supported by local residents and the Parish Council.



Gardening Jobs for January

January may seem like a quiet month in the garden, but it's the perfect time to tackle essential tasks, especially pruning. The dormant season allows you to shape and care for your plants without risking harm, ensuring a flourishing garden come spring.

Pruning trees and shrubs: Winter is ideal for pruning deciduous trees and shrubs while their structure is easy to see. Remove dead, diseased, or crossing branches to improve airflow and encourage healthy growth. Apple and pear trees, in particular, benefit from winter pruning to shape their framework and enhance fruit production. Never prune more than 15% of a fruit tree - if you overprune it will stress the tree into growing unproductive water shoots. Avoid pruning stone fruit trees like cherries or plums now, as they are susceptible to diseases like silver leaf in cold, damp conditions.

Tidying Roses: January is a great time to prune bush roses to prepare them for the growing season. Cut back to outward-facing buds, removing any weak or spindly stems. This will create an open shape like a vase that promotes good air circulation, reducing the risk of fungal diseases.

Cutting back Wisteria: Wisteria needs attention this month. Prune summer side shoots back to two or three buds from the main framework to control size and encourage abundant flowers.

Other tasks to tackle: While pruning is a priority, don't forget to check stored bulbs and tubers for rot, clear debris from borders, and clean, sharpen and oil tools for the year ahead. Don't forget to get your petrol mower serviced.

By focusing on these tasks, particularly careful pruning, you'll set the stage for a healthy, vibrant garden that thrives throughout the year.

Capability Charlotte



Lavington and District Swimming Club

Spring Term 2025

Whether swimming for fun or lane swimming, our Club caters for all. Using the lovely Dauntsey School 25 metre Swimming Pool, we swim in term time and have two separate offerings: Tuesdays and Sundays, and Thursday mornings.

Spring Term starts on **Sunday 7th January 2025** and includes 11 Tuesday swims and 9 Sunday swims, the last swim being Tuesday 25th March.

The Club swimming times are Sundays: 3.30pm to 5:30pm; Tuesdays: 7:15pm to 8:15pm.

Membership fees for the term:- £35 for individual and £70 for a family.

For further details about joining this offering, please contact Alison Andrews, Membership Secretary on Lavingtonswim@gmail.com

Morning Swimming starts **Thursday 9th January 2025** and is from 6:30am to 7:30am. Membership fee for the term is £35.

For further information about the morning swimming please contact **Phil Richardson**, Membership Secretary on ladscmorningswim@gmail.com

Alternatively, for any of the above contact Club Secretary **Anita Holness** via email at: anita@kholness.plus.com

NGS Open Garden

Snowdrop garden open January to March

Westcroft: Boscombe Village, near Salisbury, SP4 0AB. Admission £4, children free.

Opening times: 11am - 4pm on

Wednesday 1st January; every Thursday from **2nd to 16th January;** plus **Saturday 18th January and Sunday 19th January.**

Visits also by arrangement from **3rd January to 31st March** for groups of 15+.

¾ acre galanthophile's garden on chalk. Drifts of snowdrops carpet the floor whilst throughout is a growing collection of well over 500 named varieties. Many hellebores, pulmonarias, grasses and seedheads add interest. Snowdrops (weather dependent) and snowdrop sundries for sale.

Westcroft is seven miles NE of Salisbury, on the A338 just past Boscombe & District Social Club. Park there or in the field opposite the house, or where signed on day. Disabled parking only on drive. Home-made soups and teas, outside or undercover.

www.westcroftgarden.co.uk Lyn Miles 01980 610877/07787 852756 lynmiles@icloud.com

DAUNTSEY ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Decorating the DAPS Christmas tree: At our Dressing the Tree assembly, the children, the staff and families all gather around our Christmas tree and sing songs and carols together. The children hang their tree decorations, lovingly crafted from natural materials, until the tree is bursting. A very big thank you to Superior Plants who have kindly donated a Christmas tree for us to use and then plant for re-use in future years.

Time to shine for our youngest children: Our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are in charge of our Christmas Nativity - they are so brave standing on stage in front of a packed audience, not just once but three times. They memorise their lines, practice their songs and do our school and their families proud in their first big performance.

And Christmas doesn't end there! We are not just decorating trees and performing nativities! There are Christmas dinners, Christmas Jumper days, class parties, the school Christmas Fete, the Christmas church service, a Secrets Room where children can select presents for their families and much more.

Christmas wreath making: Thank you to everyone who came to the Christmas wreath making event on the 30th November. It was lovely to host this year's event and to see so many people supporting the day. Thank you to all involved! It is a huge event to organise and raises a significant amount for the school. Much of the foliage was gathered from our beautiful grounds, around the village and from local gardens. A big thank you to the groundkeepers at Dauntsey School who always gather some wonderful greenery for us.

School starter 2025 open days: Throughout November, we have welcomed many parents who have been considering schools for their child next September. If you would like to visit, give us a call us on 01380 813373 to arrange a time to come and look around. Whether you are choosing a school for your child, moving to the area, or considering an in-year transfer (we have a few spaces in EYFS, Years 1, 2 and 4), it is so important to visit the school you are considering. We welcome you all to come and see DAPS for yourselves.

And that's a wrap for 2024! The school would be a very different place without the amazing help and support we receive. Thank you firstly to my staff who tirelessly go above and beyond to make DAPS such a wonderful place, and to the Governors and the PTA for their commitment to the school. Thank you to the wider community and to Lavington and Dauntsey School for always inviting the children to join the fun things they organise. And finally, thank you to the DAPS children themselves, whose unstoppable and contagious energy warms us all on cold playground duties. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and for that, we are always grateful to be in a wonderful one! **Merry Christmas to you all!**

Philippa Winbolt Headteacher

HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY ACADEMY



We wish all our families and the school community a very Happy Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year.

We are in the throes of rehearsals for our Christmas Shows based on the Christian nativity story, retold in entertaining ways with wonderful songs. The children will also take part in a Christmas service in the local church, with candles and singing. Lots of our worship this term will deal with how we, whether people of faith or not, can draw great messages and inspiration from this season. We always finish the term with a quiet meditation on the messages of Christmas – peace, generosity and welcome to all.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA): Our PFA is a tremendous team - committed,

hardworking and creative, helping to build a warm, welcoming community amongst our families, children and staff. The support they give us enhances and enriches the education we offer our children. This term they will be decorating the school for Christmas, organising a Winter Wonderland Bazaar (Wednesday 18th December 3pm), a Christmas Party, and the very popular Christmas Jumper Day. Their fundraising recently helped to provide a beautiful new wooden play boat on the field, a mud kitchen for KS1 (at the request of the children), and KS2 travel for residential trips. They are also paying for every child to attend the theatre next term. These are luxuries we would be unable to afford without the support of the PFA. They also champion the secondhand uniform recycling swapshop.



‘A Song for Christmas’: We are thrilled that the Holy Trinity KS2 choir has been invited by the Director of the Devizes Eisteddfod, Michael Johnson, to sing with the Philomel Singers at a very special concert on Saturday **14th December** at 5.30pm at St Andrew’s Church, Devizes. Tickets are £6 for adults and available from the School Office. We are very grateful to Mrs Broomfield who does such tremendous work enhancing music in our school, and we are very proud of the children who

work with such commitment to achieve this success.

Exciting curriculum: We are delighted to continue our Culture and Diversity project this term which asks who the people are who make up modern Britain, and how our culture has benefitted as a result of their presence. Since its inception in 2019 we have run days with visitors and activities covering the Hindu festivals of Diwali and Holi; the Roman influence on Britain; Syrian refugees; Chinese New Year; Carnival brought to the UK by the Windrush Generation; and African stories and cultures. This year we look forward to learning about the Jewish and Muslim faiths and revisiting the festival of Holi.

If you think your child would enjoy being at our school, please make an appointment to come and visit us, have a look around and chat to the Headteacher. There is lots of information on our website www.holy-trinity.co.uk and our phone number is **01380 813796**.

Best wishes

Anna Woodman Headteacher

LAVINGTON PRE-SCHOOL



Lavington
Pre-School



We began Term Two looking at Remembrance and talking about those who we lost through war. The children made a wreath, and we joined the children at DAPS in their Remembrance Service. We also looked at fireworks, the glitter came out and the children created some very colourful pictures. Fireworks led to discussions about the fire service and those who help us. The children had great fun in our front garden learning with the staff how fire extinguishers are safely used.

Children In Need was celebrated by the children wearing either their pyjamas, something yellow or something spotty. We raised £28.00 and enjoyed our Pudsey cakes and having our faces painted too. Our fantastic families kindly donated food which we collected for Devizes Food Bank.

As the weather turned very cold, we began to look at the Antarctic, exploring ice and looking at what animals you might find there. This led nicely to our Christmas celebrations. We went to watch the fabulous nativity play at DAPS and we were very busy making our Christmas Crafts and invited our families to join us for a mince pie and watch the children decorating our Christmas Tree. We ended the term with Father Christmas visiting the children at their Christmas party.

We’d like to thank all our families for their support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2025.

We currently have spaces for 2-year-olds and 3-4 year olds. If you have any queries, please either call us on **01380 812551** or email lavingtonpreschool@gmail.com or managerlavingtonpreschool@gmail.com.

Julie Langlands Manager

SOUTH HILLS OLD SCHOOL NURSERY



At Old School Nursery we are starting to make preparations for Christmas. The children have been making decorations for their families and designing pictures for their pen-pals at Holy Trinity. They have been busy learning some Christmas songs, especially focusing on a song about Santa using Makaton. We have been impressed that the children have picked these signs up quickly.

We have recently completed a sponsored puddle jump for Children in Need. We are absolutely delighted to have raised over £500 so far. This was an enjoyable event as the children splashed in muddy puddles just like Peppa Pig and were sponsored by their families and friends to do so. We would like to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause.

We are pleased to have almost finished our new sensory room and will be excited to open this up to the children very soon. This will be a place where children can relax and enjoy the soft cushions and sensory experiences.

We have recently completed a week focused on individual Nursery Rhymes to celebrate World Nursery Rhyme week. Children have used Makaton for various rhymes and completed fun activities related to the rhymes. The children also created poppies using hand prints to create a Remembrance wreath that we placed on the Nursery fence for the local people to see.

We have got lots of lovely activities planned for Christmas time. We will be walking up to The Bell with the children to place their decorations on the big Christmas tree and will be visiting the church to have a Christmas story and look at the Nativity. We also have our own Christmas party to look forward to.

We offer a variety of sessions between 8am and 5pm on both term time and all-year round contracts.

If you are interested in a place for your child from aged 2, contact us on **01380 812418** or **oldschoolmanager@southhillsschool.com** to arrange a viewing.



OLD CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH

A path prepared for you

Imagine you are running in a marathon, and one of the athletes decides to pick their own path. They keep to the 26 mile race standard and set their finish line in the same spot as the official one, but they pick routes with fewer hills and shorter paths. Their plan seems excellent to them, but when they cross the finish line, there will be no medal or ribbon waiting.

That seems a crazy thing to do. We can fall into this very trap when we decide the course for our life instead of running the race God intends. By submitting to His will we remain on the right path. But the moment we revert to old habits or start making decisions based on our own wisdom, we drift away from the right path. (Heb 12:1)

Whether believers run the race God's way or their own way, they will reach a finish line. That does not mean that it's the same one. No one wants to look back and realise that they didn't run the course meant for them and that they did not accomplish anything of value. Deeds done for the Lord are the only truly lasting and worthwhile ones. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

Thankfully, even if we veer far off course, the Holy Spirit is still present. We are reminded of the right path enabled with the power to return to the right path and persevere. We need to check our course is correct by reading scripture and praying for guidance. 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight'. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Being in a godly community, obeying the truth, actively reading the bible and praying with sincerity, gives you confidence that you are following God's plan for your life.

As the Advent season starts we think of the baby Jesus, born in poverty, born to save our souls, born to lead the way, born to become the reason for the life we lead, ie to glorify God. 'Whether we eat or drink or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.' (Cor 10:31)

Rev Fr David Knipe (Prayer/Pastoral care/Bible Study)

email: frdavidknipe@liberalcatholics.co.uk **website:** www.liberalcatholics.co.uk



OLD CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH

— WORLDWIDE —
ANCIENT IN FAITH, MODERN IN VISION



More fundraising needed to meet shortfall

In November, Dorothy House launched its ambitious 'Bridge the Gap Appeal', a 36-hour fundraising super sprint, aimed at raising £350,000 for local care. This resulted in over 3180 donations in a 36-hour window, raising an amazing £370,000.

Dorothy House Hospice Care provides free palliative and end of life care to over 550,000 people in Bath & North East Somerset, and parts of Somerset and Wiltshire. With no additional funding yet offered, the National Insurance changes announced in the budget will cost Dorothy House Hospice Care an additional £422,000 per year. Rising costs over several years have meant hospices across the UK, including Dorothy House, are facing growing financial pressure.

The Hospice estimates that it is only serving 50% of the population requiring end of life care. To meet the challenges facing the community, Dorothy House continues to innovate, ensuring it is doing all it can to provide more care for more patients and families across its 800 square mile patch. The Hospice is funded partly by the NHS, but predominantly by donations, its 27 shops, and fundraising efforts. For every £1 from the government, it has to raise another £4 to make sure it can meet the growing need for its services.

You can donate online to the Dorothy House Christmas Appeal and find out more about their fundraising efforts at dorothyhouse.org.uk or call Dorothy House Fundraising on **01225 721480**.

Carer Support Wiltshire in Devizes

All at the Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS

Carer Support Cafe, Devizes: 1st Wednesday of the month, 4th Dec, 8th Jan 10.30-12.00

Our cafes are a great way to make new friends and enjoy a cuppa, cake and a chat with others in relaxed, friendly surroundings. Come when you can and stay for as long as you like.

Bereavement Help Point, Devizes: 3rd Dec, 17th Dec 10.30 - 12.30

A community based drop-in service where all people who are bereaved are welcome. It's a space to meet and talk with others who may be experiencing similar thoughts and feelings, in an informal and supportive setting. All sessions are free of charge and there's no need to book, just come along. This group is a partnership between Dorothy House Hospice and Carer Support Wiltshire. It is kindly funded by Devizes Town Council, Devizes Lions, Potterne Parish Council and Worton Parish Council.

Parent Carer Group Devizes: 18th Dec, 15th Jan 10.30 - 12.00

Group for people who are caring for a child or young adult. There is always a support worker on hand to help you and discuss any difficulties you may have. This month our guest speaker is Louise Rendle from WSUN talking about the support available for young people with ASD.

Carer Support Wiltshire

Freephone **0800 181 4118 Mon-Thurs 9am - 4.30pm, Fridays 9am - 4pm**

General Enquiries: **01380 871690 carersupportwiltshire.co.uk**

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency Ambulance/Police/Fire	999
Police Non-Emergency	101
NHS Direct	111
LOCAL SERVICES	
Courtyard Surgery	01380 813 300
Day Lewis Pharmacy, ML	01380 813 395
Salisbury District Hospital	01722 336 262
RUH Bath	01225 428 331
Great Western Hospital Swindon	01793 604 020
Minor Injury Unit Trowbridge	01225 711 329
Minor Injury Unit Chippenham	01249 447 100
Village Care and Link West Lavington	07598 947180
Village Care and Link Gt Cheverell	01380 721 775
Wiltshire Council	0300 456 0100
Your Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns	07585 394 178
West Lavington Parish Council (Parish Clerk)	07597 761 361
Cheverell Magna Parish Council (Parish Clerk)	07766 319252
Little Cheverell Parish Council littlecheverellparishcouncil.org.uk	07908 143389
Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner	01380 734 022
Wiltshire Highways	0300 456 0105
Wessex Water Plc	0345 600 4600
Open Reach (BT)	03301 233 7533
National Grid	0800 404 090
LOCAL SCHOOLS	
Lavington PreSchool	01380 812 551
SouthHills Old School Nursery	01380 812 418
DAPS	01380 813 373
Holy Trinity	01380 813 796
Lavington School	01380 812 352
Dauntsey's School	01380 814 500

CHARITIES	
Alzheimers Support Wiltshire	01225 776 481
Carer Support Wiltshire (for carers)	0800 181 4118
Citizens Advice	0808 278 7995
Dorothy House Hospice 24 hr Advice Line	0345 0130 555
Julia's House Devizes	01380 562 525
Kennet Furniture Refurbiz	01380 720 722
SSAFA Wiltshire	0204 566 9131
Victim Support	0808 281 0113
Wiltshire Fear Free Domestic abuse helpline	01225 775275
Wiltshire Mind	01225 706 532
Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub	0300 003 4576
Wiltshire Sight	01380 723 682
Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital Animal Queries and Emergencies	01980 629 470 07850 778 752
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	01380 725 670
NATIONAL HELPLINES	
Childline	0800 11 11
Combat Stress Helpline for veterans	0800 138 1619
Crimestoppers to anonymously report a crime	0800 555 111
Highways Information Line	0300 123 5000
Macmillan Cancer Support	0808 808 0000
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline	0808 800 5000
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	0808 2000 247
National Suicide Prevention Helpline	0800 689 5652
RSPCA National Call Centre	0300 1234 999
Samaritans	116 123
SSAFA Forcesline	0800 260 6767
Veterans Helpline	0808 1914 218
Victim Support Supportline	0808 1689 111

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

'Emmanuel: God with us'

Joseph, a carpenter from Nazareth, was considering breaking off his engagement to Mary. She was pregnant. And he wasn't the father. According to Matthew's Gospel, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to convince him to go through with the marriage. The heavenly visitor told the carpenter, '*do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*' As the Lord had spoken by Isaiah the prophet, '*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,*

and they shall call his name Emmanuel.' The name given to Jesus by ancient prophecy tells us something about his unique identity and mission.

God with us Matthew explains that Emmanuel means, 'God with us'. Christians believe that the baby boy who was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger was God in human form. Now, that's an awesome claim. We might perhaps expect that God would do God-like stuff, like create the universe to display his wisdom, power and goodness. But would the Creator of heaven and earth stoop to enter our world as man? The New Testament insists that he did. Jesus is the Son of God, fully divine in every way. Yet he became human. He is Emmanuel, God with us as one of us.

God for us The angel of the Lord also instructed Joseph that Mary's son was to be named Jesus "for he will save his people from their sins". Jesus is the Greek version of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means 'the Lord saves'. That is the reason why God became man, to rescue us from sin and death. Christ, who was without sin, died in our place on the cross that we may be forgiven. As Paul affirms, 'God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'

God in us Matthew concludes his Gospel by telling us that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples. The final words of the risen Lord to his followers in Matthew's account are, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus ascended to heaven, having completed the work of salvation. He then poured out the Holy Spirit upon the church on the Day of Pentecost. Christ dwells in his people by the power of the Spirit. His presence in the lives of his followers now is the pledge of greater things to come, 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'. Jesus became Emmanuel, God with us so that those who believe in him may be with God for ever.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Guy Davies www.pbc-ebc.org.uk

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday services at 4.30pm.

22nd December, 4.30pm. 'Time for Tea + Christmas Special' Carol Service, followed by a festive tea.

29th December, 4.30pm. Carol Service. Speaker: David Tarling from Chippenham. Followed by a time of fellowship with tea, coffee and mince pies.

TRINITY CHURCH

We meet in the Community Hall, Market Lavington every Sunday morning at **10.30 am** unless stated otherwise.

Visitors to our informal style of worship in the United Reformed Church/Methodist tradition are always welcome. Do come along.

All services are accompanied by refreshments and we follow current regulations to help keep you safe.

December 1st	Trinity Church Service with Holy Communion Led by Revd Gary Gotham
December 8th	United Service at Community Hall Led by Revd Gary Gotham
December 15th	Trinity Church Service Led by Clive Illman
December 22nd	Trinity Church Service Local Arrangement
December 29th	Trinity Church Service Led by Revd Gary Gotham
January 5th	Trinity Church Service Led by Margaret White
January 12th	United 'Covenant' Service with Holy Communion Led by Revd Gary Gotham
January 19th	Trinity Church Service Led by Joanne Williams
January 26th	United Church Service Led by Jeannie MacMeekin

Church Minister: Revd Gary Gotham, 69 Queens Road, Devizes.
01380 724264 gary.gotham@gmail.com

Trinity Church Secretary: Les Charlton
079 624 22 624 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

Postal address: Trinity Church Secretary, c/o St. Arbucks Cafe,
1 Church St, Market Lavington SN10 4DT

WHAT'S ON WHEN - A CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 2024	
Sun 1st	Jazz on Sunday, LCVH, 1 - 3pm, Tickets £5, children free
Mon 2nd	Cheverell Magna Parish Council meeting, The Pavilion GC 7.30pm
	Cafe Scientifique 'Future Flight'. The Bell Inn, GC 7.30pm
	Preview Evening, Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair, Bowood Hotel Spa, 4 - 8pm. Tickets £15
Tues 3rd	Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair, Bowood Hotel Spa, 9am - 3pm. Tickets £5 on door or two for one in advance
	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Little Cheverell VH, 7pm.
Wed 4th	North Wilts Arts Society Lecture A Tudor Christmas, Assembly Rooms, Melksham 11am - 12 noon. £8
Thur 5th	West Lavington Parish Council meeting, Giles Room WLVH, 7pm
Friday 6th	Potterne Christmas Market, Village Hall and Social Club, 4-7pm
	Village Nativity, ML Community Hall, 5.30 - 7.30 pm
	West Lavington Twinning Association dinner, Beaujolais Nouveau, WLVH, 7pm. Tickets Members £12.50, non-members £15. Contact Mike Page on 01380 818510
Sat 7th	Christmas Fair, Churchill Arms, WL. 2 - 5pm
	Devizes Chamber Choir Christmas Concert, St Andrew's Church, Long Street. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £12.
	Edington Arts Advent Concert, Edington Priory Church, 7.30pm
Sun 8th	Children's Christmas Party in aid of Julia's House, WLVH, 11.15am - 1.30pm. Tickets £5.
	Christmas Fair, Corn Exchange Devizes. 11am to 4pm
Mon 9th	West Lavington Mothers' Union meeting Christmas Carol singalong, 54 High St, WL, 2.15pm
	Beer and Carols and presentation of Community Awards, Green Dragon, ML, 7pm
Tue 10th	Cheverells Garden Club AGM and Christmas Party, GCVH, 7.15 for 7.30pm
Wed 11th	WL Friendship Club Christmas annual concert featuring Done and Broke, WLVH 2.30pm. Tickets £10 from Village shop and Coxheads.
	An Evening of Carols with the Bratton Brass Band, St Peter's Church, GC, 7 - 8.30pm. Doors open 6.45.
Fri 13th	Christmas Evening in Old Swan Yard, Devizes, featuring Lavington Community Choir. Late night shopping 5 - 7.30pm
Sat 14th	Film Night, The Pavilion Great Cheverell. Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

WHAT'S ON WHEN - A CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

Sat 14th	Christmas in Hillworth Park, Devizes. Santa's Grotto, carols, farm animals, market, food and drink. 4 - 7pm, Children's tickets £5
Sat 14/15th	Christmas Tree Festival, St Barnabas, Easterton 10am - 4pm. Free admission
Sun 15th	Devizes Town Band Christmas Party, Corn Exchange, 2pm. Tickets £10, U-16 £7.50, Preschool £5
Wed 18th	Arts Society, Devizes lecture: Christmas Ghosts. Corn Exchange, 10.45 for 11.00am. £8.
	Winter Wonderland Bazaar, Holy Trinity Primary Academy, GC. 3 - 4.15 pm
Fri 20th	Lavington Community Choir Christmas Concert, MLCH, 7.30pm
Sat 21st	The Chevs Christmas Party charity fundraiser, The Pavilion, GC, 7pm. Tickets £5
Sun 22nd	Devizes Young Farmers' Tractor 'N Tinsel Run and Market, Devizes Market Place from 10.30am
JANUARY 2025	
Thur 2nd	West Lavington Parish Council meeting, Giles Room, WLVH, 7pm.
Sun 5th	Twelfth Night Nativity Sets Display, St Peter's Church, GC. 2 - 5pm
Mon 6th	Cafe Scientifique: 'Wiltshire Museum'. The Bell Inn, GC, 7.30pm.
Wed 8th	North Wilts Arts Society lecture: Shackleton and the Endurance, with Hurley photographs. Melksham Assembly Hall. 11am - 12 noon.
Tues 14th:	Cheverells Garden Club meeting: Capability Charlotte. GCVH, 7.15 for 7.30pm
Wed 15th	Devizes Arts Society lecture 'Australian Impressionists'. Devizes Corn Exchange 10.45 for 11.00am. £8.
	Lavington Gardening Club meeting: Cacti and Succulents. WLVH. 7.15 for 7.30pm

2025 dates for that new diary!

Urchfont Scarecrow Festival: Saturday 3rd May - Monday 5th May

West Lavington Village Fete: Saturday July 12th

Good Friday 18th April

Easter Monday 21st April

Early May Bank Holiday 5th May

Spring Bank Holiday 26th May

Summer Bank Holiday 25 August

Wiltshire school term dates 2025

6th January to 14th February

24th February to 4th April

22nd April to 23rd May

2nd June to 24th July

1st September to 22nd October

3rd November to 19th December

REGULAR MEETINGS OF VILLAGE GROUPS

Art Group: Thursday mornings, Giles Room, WL Village Hall, 9.30am - midday.

Cafe Scientifique: first Monday of the month, 7.30pm, The Bell Inn, Great Cheverell

Cheverells Garden Club: second Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, GC Village Hall

Dauntsey's Choral Society: Monday evenings, term time, Farmer Room, Music Department, Dauntsey's School 7.30-9.30pm

Easterton Sewing Bee: Wednesday evenings, 7pm in Easterton Village Hall

Friendly Fridays, Old School, Market Lavington 10am to 1pm, all ages

Gt Cheverell Book Club: last Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Gt Cheverell Friends and Neighbours: first Wednesday in the month, GC Village Hall 3pm.

Home Group: Tuesdays in term time, 46 High Street, West Lavington, 6.30 - 8pm

Kennet Quilters: second Monday in month, ML Community Hall, 1.30 - 4.30pm.

Knitting Club: Baptist Church hall on third Wednesday of the month at 10am.

Lavington Community Choir: Thursdays, ML Community Hall, 8pm for 8.15pm.

Lavington and District Swimming Club: Sundays 3.30-5.30pm, Tuesdays 7.15-8.15pm, Thursdays 6.30am-7.30 am, Dauntsey's School Pool. 7th January to 25th March 2025.

Lavington and District Garden Club: third Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm, WL Village Hall, £2 per meeting, £15 per year

Market Lavington Short Mat Bowls Club: Mondays 10am & Wednesdays 7pm, Market Lavington Community Hall

Mothers' Union: second Monday of the Month, 2.15pm at 54 High Street, West Lavington, unless otherwise advised.

Rhyme Time: for babies through to pre-schoolers, 1st and 3rd Fridays of month, including holidays. 10.15 - 10.45am, Market Lavington Library

Tuesday Club: for 60+, Tuesdays, ML Community Hall 10am - 2pm

West Lavington Friendship Club: second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, Baptist Church Hall at 2.30pm, unless otherwise advertised.

West Lavington WI: second Thursday of the month, Giles Room WL VH, April-Oct 7pm, Nov-March 2pm.

West Lavington Youth Club: West Lavington Youth Club: Mondays 6-8pm Year 8 (12 yrs+), Tuesdays 6-8pm Year 7 (11 years), Wednesdays 6-8pm Years 4-6, (Primary) WL Village Hall

Whist Drive: Every Friday, Great Cheverell Village Hall 1.30pm

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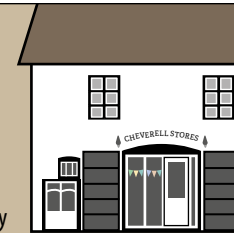
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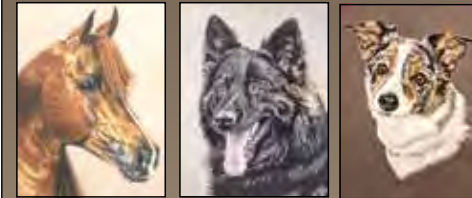
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