

THE BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE COMMUNITIES
OF STURMINSTER MARSHALL,
SHAPWICK, PAMPHILL & COWGROVE



February 2023

You can read The Bridge in colour on line
at www.mackrellcharity.org.uk – just follow the link.

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Bridge Publications is the committee which produces the Bridge Magazine for the communities of Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick, Pamphill and Cowgrove. It is financially independent of these communities: its revenue comes from advertising fees and fund raising activities. Our Chairman is Barry Johnson, our Editor is Tony Cross and our Advertising Manager is Liz York.

Articles:

Contributions are welcome from all sectors of the community served by the parishes. Please email your article, which should be prepared on **A5 (NOT A4 OR Letter PLEASE)** size pages, in **MS Word (.doc or .docx)** or **Works (.wps)**, or **it can be a .jpg file or .pdf file**, to the Editor at **tkenator@gmail.com**. You will receive a reply. If you do not receive a reply, please make enquiries. If you have no email then please print your copy and send it to Court House, Cowgrove, BH21 4EL, making it clear on the envelope that this is for the Editor of The Bridge.

The deadline for articles for the next issue is the 15th of the month-so that the finished magazine can be sent to our printers on the 17th or 18th.

Advertisements:

Our advertising fees are as shown on page 3. If you would like to place a commercial advertisement then please submit it by email to

bridgeadvertising@outlook.com

Please do not send any advertisements to the Editor.

If you need help with producing your advert you may contact Liz by post at 7 Parkelea, Sturminster Marshall, BH21 4DG (marking the envelope Bridge Advertising) or by phone at **01258 857528**. We will then be in touch. Please call **01258 857528** if you do not get an acknowledgement, and ask for Liz. This is the contact number for all advertising enquiries.

The deadline for adverts to Liz for the next issue is the 12th of the month.

Inserts: Your loose leaf inserts or flyers can also be delivered with The Bridge for a charge of £30. **Please provide 1020 copies of your leaflet, in banded bundles of 100, folded to A5 size** if larger, to Jan Standing, between the **27th and 28th** of the month. Jan's email is **jan.standing47@gmail.com**.

If you follow up any advertisement could you please mention that you saw it in The Bridge

**The Bridge has been printed by
CMP UK, www.cmp-uk.com, tel: 01202 739993.**

Bridge Magazine Grants

Various groups and schools throughout the Bridge Parishes have been given grants from the Bridge Magazine fund.

These are:

Sturminster Marshall Football (Youth),
Pamphill 1st School,
Senior Lunch Club (Sturminster Marshall),
Pamphill Pre-School,
Benefice Choir & Friends,
Sturminster Marshall 1st School,
Tea and Toddlers,
Horserenity,
Shapwick Community Trust (SCT),
Blandford Forum Railway Club.

Until further notice we regret that we are unable to give any more grants.

CHURCH NOTICE

Sturminster Marshall is joined with the parishes of the Red Post Benefice.

Kingston Lacy and Shapwick are joined with Wimborne Villages and are the responsibility of Rev Suzie Allen.

The contact details for the priests can be found in the Parish Directory on page 54.

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## Bridge magazine advertising fees

| Duration  | full page | 1/2 page | 1/4 page | 1/8 page |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 12 months | £275      | £50      | £85      | £50      |
| 6 months  | £150      | £85      | £50      | £30      |
| 3 months  | £85       | £50      | £30      | £20      |
| 1 month   | £35       | £20      |          |          |

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## From The Church

I don't know what you think of at this time of the year but from my side of things we appear to be in a season of 'inspections'! One of the 3 First schools I have contact with is having a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (Church)) inspection tomorrow and 2 of the 3 schools know OFSTED (Office for Standards Education (Government)) are due to come and visit them soon also. From the Church side of things, we have our Archdeacon coming along to inspect our churches in February, to check we have everything in order (or at least working towards that!). As a result (understandably perhaps) those involved in these inspections are nervous. All are well prepared, they know what is coming (in the most part) and yet one can never prepare for everything. There will always be something that crops up that was unforeseen. Inspections seem to appear to be a modern thing – they are a way of ensuring universal standards are upheld and people are accountable, but when it comes to a life of faith, I think we live and breathe inspections of sorts all the time, or are supposed to. We inspect ourselves (reflecting on how we are doing at living for God with all our heart, soul, mind and body) and seek God to inspect us also. In Psalm 26 David (yes, the David of the David and Goliath story... the one who eventually become King of Israel) writes – “Test me Lord, and try me, examine my heart and mind”. It is quite something to examine others or oneself but to ask God to... wow, that's quite something else, and yet, as a Christian (as a follower of Jesus) we should be transparent (there should be nothing we are trying to hide if we are earnestly trying to live as Jesus showed us). This self-reflection and self-examination is something we should regularly do but is definitely something we should be doing during Lent. Lent is a period of time we want to take slower, making more time for deeper reflection in a way we might not be able to during the rest of the year. Traditionally we revert during Lent to withholding something from ourselves as if we too are journeying with Jesus during in his time in the wilderness where he was without food or water, just before his ministry (when his earthly work for God began). This is admirable – to go without and remember the time of year we are in, and yet for me the 'time-out' for reflection is far more fruitful. By the time Lent ends and we journey to the cross of Christ and then on to the celebrations of Easter I am refocused on who I am, and where I am going.

So whether you are a Christian or not perhaps take some time out regularly over Lent (it begins on 22<sup>nd</sup> February) and commit to regular times of self-inspection. If you are a Christian, then do make space in your quiet times with God to allow him to inspect you as it were – how does he see you? Where is he calling you to? What changes might you need to seek to make? Why not draw up a pledge of commitment (to yourself and to God) and review it throughout the year?

God bless,

**Rev'd Suzie**

## St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery January Draw

### Main draw

|     |    |                       |
|-----|----|-----------------------|
| £50 | 7  | Roger and Jean Petter |
| £30 | 37 | Daisy McDonald        |
| £20 | 31 | Pete Jones            |

Congratulations to the first winners in 2023.

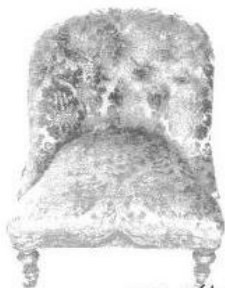
If you would like to support St. Mary's Church please join the 100 Club lottery. You can join at any time of the year. It costs only £2 a month. Please contact one of the committee listed below.

A Happy New Year to all our supporters.

Liz Jones: 49 Railway Drive, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 01258 857076)

Karen Royles: 1 Parkfield, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 07761 867738)

Jan Standing: Chartwell, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 01258 857477)



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## FEBRUARY FILMS

|                                     |                      |         |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> | Empire of Light (15) | 7.30pm, |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>                    | “ “ “                |         |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> ,                  | The Fabelmans (12a)  | 1pm,    |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>                    | “ “                  | 2.30pm, |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> | “ “                  | 7.30pm. |

## FEBRUARY SHOWS

|                                     |                                                                       |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                     | Led-into-Zeppelin<br>The UK's Premier Tribute!                        | 7.30pm, £18.50. |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                     | A Country Night in Nashville                                          | 7.30pm. £28.    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>                     | Supreme Queen<br>Featuring Scott Maley                                | 7.30pm, £27.50. |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>                     | Soft Machine                                                          | 7.30pm, £22.50. |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>                     | A Beautiful Noise<br>celebrating the music of Neil Diamond            | 7.30pm, £22.50. |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>                    | Cloudbusting:<br>the Music of Kate Bush                               | 7.30pm, £21.    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>                    | Laurence Jones + Support:<br>Blue Nation                              | 7.30pm, £20.    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>                    | Mark Harrison Band                                                    | 7.30pm, £16.50. |
| 17 <sup>th</sup>                    | Elke Brooks rescheduled date                                          | 7.30pm, £33.50. |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>                    | ELVIS 56 :<br>Memphis to Hollywood                                    | 7.30pm, £21.50. |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> | Bedroom Farce:                                                        | 7.30pm, £16.50, |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>                    | “ “                                                                   | 2.30pm, £14.    |
|                                     | Wimborne Drama Productions present Bedroom Farce<br>by Alan Ayckbourn |                 |



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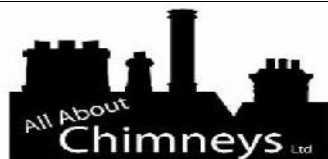
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## **St. Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival**

St. Mary's Church held their popular Christmas Tree Festival again on 9th and 10th of December.

It was of concern that maybe after not being able to hold the festival for two years due to Covid precautions there would not be the support that the Festival needs. This turned out to be a needless worry as all of our loyal friends broke open their craft boxes and dug into their attics and produced beautiful trees once again.

Visitor numbers were lower than we had been used to before the pandemic but that was to be expected especially on such a very cold weekend. However those who did come were delighted with the effect of the beautiful trees decorating the church and the skill and imagination of the decorators. Many stopped to enjoy the excellent refreshments and to sit and take time to enjoy the ambience. Lots of cards and baubles were decorated by the visiting children and the two trees were decorated many times. The church was filled with the sound of happy people singing carols on Sunday afternoon.

The Visitors Favourite Tree Trophy was won by Sturminster Marshall Guides with their tree 'Let there be Peace on Earth', supporting the Red Cross and their work in Ukraine.

Finally a huge 'Thank You' to all of those in the community who help with the Festival. Cake makers, Refreshment helpers, Door and Tree Stewards, Rob and Jackie, Jan, Gordon and Colin, Eddie and all of those many people who contributed to the trees.

Perhaps you might like to think about putting in a tree yourself next time. Looking forward to seeing you in December.

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## **Christmas Windows – Sturminster Marshall**

Many thanks to the 15 people who created a collection of fabulous Christmas windows in their homes, in Sturminster Marshall, during the Christmas period. The public were asked to vote for their favourite window.

Three windows received an equal number of votes and so there was a draw for the winner at the Church service at St. Mary's on Sunday 8th January.

The winner was Gladys Quick with a window depicting a large "Christmas pudding". Gladys will receive a voucher for the Red Lion pub in the village. Thanks to Sarah for donating this prize.

The runners up were "Christmas Presents" displayed by Stella Warren and Sturminster Marshall First school who depicted "Christmas Trees".

We hope you enjoyed seeing this festive display around the village.

**Liz Jones and Sonia Cade**

## Nature's Voice

It's at this time of year, more than ever, that we can choose to look for the brightness; the things that make us smile. The days are still short and the weather, so often grey and wet at this time of year. Appreciating the little things can really help.

There's a crab apple tree I always notice on the way to Blandford from Stur. It's on the left hand side and rather on its own, on the verge. Shaped like an umbrella, its scarlet apples twinkle and add a spark of promise to the grey days. It always makes me smile.

Without the leaves or blossom you can really appreciate the structure of trees underneath. No wonder they are called the lungs of the planet. This is really what they look like with their spreading branches. There's a horse chestnut on the road from Stur to Wareham, on the left, on a bend. It has the most crazy 'Whomping Willow' branches that you can only see in winter, when it's bare.

The rivers have burst their banks and spread, leaving the usual morning dog walk path underwater for some days now! The flooded fields either side have swallowed the path up, making me grateful for my boots and for the flood barriers that protect the village. Luckily the pup sees it all as a wonderful bonus to have extra water to gallop through! I heard the peep-peep of a kingfisher too, one afternoon, who also didn't seem to mind the extra water.

Apart from one rather chilly week in December, it's been so mild. There are green shoots appearing in the garden. I wonder what other things may be waking up? The flashes of green remind us that spring can't be a million miles away. Likewise, the few recent glimpses of sunshine are reminders that the dark winter days will not last forever. When it's sunny, get out in it if you can! It really is the best pick-me-up. In fact, whatever it looks like out there, it's better to get out in it if you can. You'll always feel better for it.

**Melanie Fermor**

### **Sturminster Marshall Gardening Club**

Meetings are held in the Old School and begin at 7.30pm. New members and visitors are always welcome. Annual subscription is £30, to include refreshments at each meeting.

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>                      Kingston Lacy Kitchen Garden Restoration –  
                                    Andrew Hunt      and AGM

March 3<sup>rd</sup>                  Quiz - Mark Webber

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***February activities in date order***

***Discovery Café - 4<sup>th</sup> February***

***'The Old Shoebox'...first steps in Family History Research  
by Ted Udall – see page 18***

***+++++***

***The Social lunch will meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 12 noon.***

***+++++***

***Film Society 9<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm***

***'Blow-up' - dir. Michelangelo Antonioni 1966.  
Membership required or as guest, see website.***

***+++++***

***Play reading on 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm***

***'Mother Courage' by Bertolt Brecht. – see page 32***

***+++++***

***Thursday morning bridge group 10am - 12.30pm every week.***

***Contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081 or  
[katy.norman1@btinternet.com](mailto:katy.norman1@btinternet.com)***

***+++++***

***Art class will continue during February - spaces available.***

***+++++***

***See our website and separate posters in the Bridge  
for further details.***

*The Old School, Sturminster Marshall*  
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*presents*



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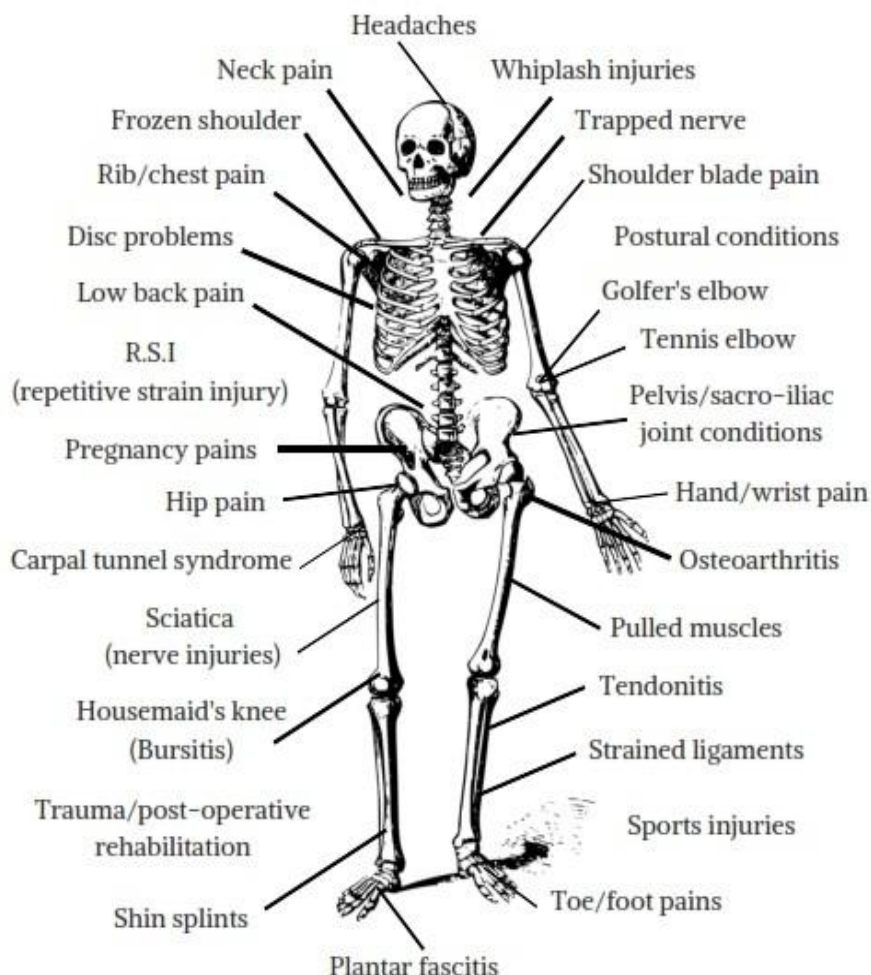
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## **A Personal View: Vera Ricketts.**

Well, we are now in February and I do hope that things will get better as last month was a very bad month as everything went wrong! I know we sometimes have blips in our lives but not like I and the family had with everything going badly.

I am writing this without a T.V and there are other things going wrong. Some I could fix with the help of the family but others I had to leave and let them go! But now I am getting through and we are halfway through January. But like I said with the help of the family I did get through, but I cannot see how rain and wind would stop the TV working, but I got through it and at the time of writing this I can now see the light at the end of a long tunnel!

I always say that with trouble it is a learning time, but what was it trying to do?

It is funny when you are up to your chin that you can get to move on and try to get it better. Just like the weather, it does not rain, it pours, so with rain and all I think it is a good thing that it was not snow, as we would be hard put to get through that!

But saying that, where are the County workers who should be clearing the drains and filling the pot holes in the roads? Shouldn't we have the same treatment on our roads as the towns? Please can we have our pot-holes filled in and the ditches cleared.

**Vera**

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### **The Red Post Benefice - news during the Vacancy**

The Benefice Council, representing all six parishes in the Red Post Benefice, has appointed Vicky Harrison-King, who has lived and worked in this area for many years and who to be the new Benefice Clerk. She is experienced in admin, accounts, computers ,etc. and is also the treasurer for Almer Church. We are confident she will be able to manage the quite complicated process of the recent amalgamation of Sturminster Marshall with the Red Post Benefice and the short period, we hope, when we are without a priest and looking for a new one. Our aim is to provide an efficient and friendly backup team to deal with the day to day and forward-looking processes of our six parishes so that the new incumbent will be able to concentrate on the pastoral work with us.

This is what is happening now:-

20 January                      Advertisement in the Church Times

16 February                    Closing date for applications

7-8 March                      Interview days

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the churchwardens.

Those for Sturminster Marshall are:

Carol Johnson 07400 356901

Katy Norman 07815 610595





**Do you need a comfortable well-equipped venue for a family party, a meeting, a practice venue for your band or choir or any other gathering?**



The Old School, Sturminster Marshall which is situated opposite the Church and next to the Red Lion Pub is available for hire at very reasonable rates. It had a new kitchen fitted in 2019 with a commercial dishwasher and twin cookers both having induction hobs and a total of 4 ovens. A wide serving hatch links to the main hall. There are ladies', men's and disabled toilets. The main hall can seat 80-100 people, although this number is reduced when tables are in use. Ample tables and upholstered chairs are available. The Old School has a licence for serving alcohol.

For further details see website [www.mackrellcharity.org.uk/venue-hire](http://www.mackrellcharity.org.uk/venue-hire) or contact Val Brown on 07788 423281 or email [hall.mackrell@outlook.com](mailto:hall.mackrell@outlook.com)



Registered Charity No: 1026037

Rear of Sturminster Marshall First School

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Wimborne, Dorset BH21 4AY

Email:- [sturminstermarshallpreschool@btinternet.com](mailto:sturminstermarshallpreschool@btinternet.com)

With Christmas seeming a distant memory, we welcomed back all the children, along with some new ones, in January. They have enjoyed telling their friends about all their lovely gifts and the wonderful experiences they have shared over the festive period. Our PE sessions are now in full swing for children due to start school in September. This is such a unique but valuable experience we are able to offer to our children. They have enjoyed running, kicking and catching a ball and balancing in the first few sessions. These sessions not only aid the transition to school but also are a great way for the children to exercise in the safe environment of the school hall.

If your child is due to start school in September, we have spaces available for these PE sessions, please contact us to discuss your child's needs.

Although the weather has been a little unsettled, we have managed to get outside most days. Of course, this is aided with puddle suits and Wellington boots! It's great for the children to spend time in our outside spaces and in the fresh air.

If you have a child aged between 12 months and school age, please contact us to discuss our setting and your needs for childcare. We are a small, friendly setting and have both local children and children from further afield attending.

The Pre-school is open Monday to Friday 8.45 am to 3.15 pm – school term only.

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## **Social Lunch Club**

### **Old School Hall, Sturminster Marshall**

*Sponsored by the Mackrell Charity (Reg. Charity 306275)*

### **Social Lunch Club is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon**

Lunch Club is open to all those over 50 who live in the area.

Come and join a lively group of people – meet old acquaintances and make some new friends – a warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to seeing you.

If you have any questions or need transport to get to and from the Old School please contact  
Heather (01258 857823) or Gladys (01258 856135).

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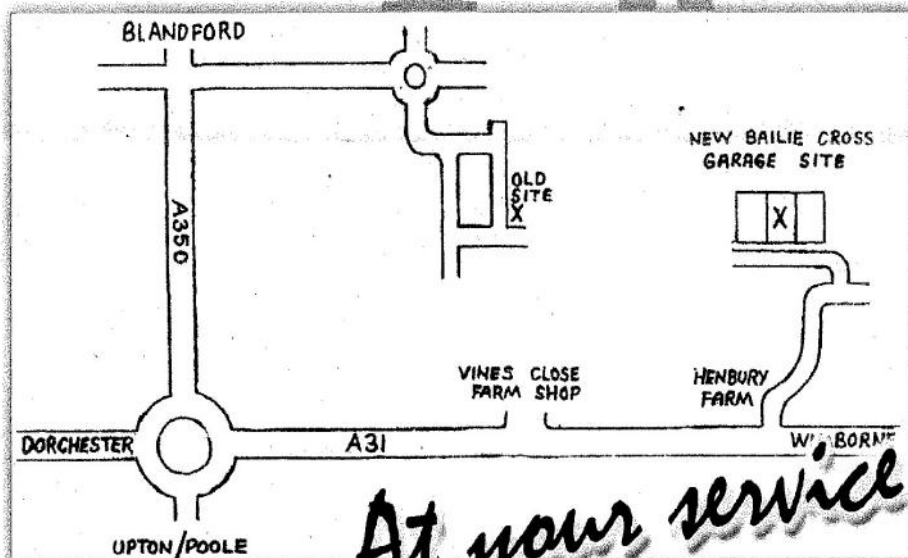
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Thanks from all the team.

## Kingston Lacy Estate News

The ranger team have been busy with woodland work in recent weeks, in particular coppicing to create clearings and let light in to encourage biodiversity.

We are very lucky to have a number of hazel copses on the Kingston Lacy estate – a vital habitat for wildlife. In managed woodland where hazel is coppiced, the open, wildflower-rich habitat supports butterflies, particularly fritillaries and Speckled woods. Hazel has also long been associated with the dormouse; not only are nuts eaten by dormice to fatten up for hibernation, but in spring the leaves are a good source of caterpillars, which dormice also eat.

Hazelnuts are also eaten by woodpeckers, nuthatches, tits, wood pigeons, jays and other small mammals. Pollen from hazel flowers is an early food source for bees, though it is difficult to collect because the pollen is not sticky.

Volunteers and staff made a start on coppicing in the bluebell woods behind Home Farm, and made a really big impact within a few weeks. Overgrown hazel had shaded out the woodland floor, as the before and after pictures below show; but now it has been cleared back light and warmth will germinate the hidden seedbank and we should start to see a new flush of ground flora. Our woodland management plan will see areas cleared on a long-term rotation, ensuring there is always a variety of habitats within the wood.



We use the resulting timber in the garden, as plant supports and woven into wigwams for summer climbers. One of the best examples of hazel coppicing is at Highwood behind Badbury Rings, where a professional woodsman has been working for the past five years. He buys the right to coppice an area each year, and sells the timber to thatchers and garden centres.

Back at the property, we are running Snowdrop Walks every Monday and Wednesday throughout February. Book a place on one of the 45-minute walks via our website (£2 pp, normal admission applies). We are also looking ahead to February half term, when there are trails and craft activities planned from bird boxes to seed planting. Check the website for more details.

# CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

## **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>:**

9.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> : 3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent**

9.15pm Sung Eucharist with choir at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

## **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>:**

9.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

## **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent**

9.15am Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

## **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>:**

9.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>: Sunday before Lent**

9.15am Morning Service at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's, Shapwick

11.00am Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's, Almer

## **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>: Ash Wednesday**

9.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> of Lent**

9.15am Family Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

9.15am Family service at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy  
with BAPTISM

## **Weekday Services**

Wednesdays at 9am Holy Communion, Stur. Marshall

Wednesdays at 11am Midweek Communion, Wimborne Minster

**All services and times are correct at date of going to press.**

# CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

## Zoom Services at Red Post

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Mondays at 10am                | Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> at 6pm  | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> at 6pm | Holy Communion |

## Zoom Services at Wimborne Minster

Meeting Number Zoom ID: 883 2976 1518

|                  |        |                |
|------------------|--------|----------------|
| Monday to Friday | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| “ “ “            | 5.00pm | Evening Prayer |

If you would like to join an online Red Post service via Zoom, please email [\*\*redpostbenefice@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:redpostbenefice@gmail.com)

If you would like to join an online Minster service via Zoom, please contact Jackie Leever at: [\*\*jackie-villageadmin@wimborneminster.org.uk\*\*](mailto:jackie-villageadmin@wimborneminster.org.uk)



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## English Usage by Michael Evans

### Sounds and Meanings

On skiing holidays in France, my young kids giggled whenever they heard the word *fart*, French for the wax you put on skis. They found the German word for journey – *fahrt* - equally amusing. These are examples of how the sound of words is not related to their meaning (with some exceptions\*).

Most words in all languages are arbitrary. We can look only so far to find an ancestor of the word English word *dog*, but its sound will have had nothing to do with its meaning, because *hund*, *perro*, *cane*, *gos*, and *chien*, mean the same to Germans, Spaniards, Italians, Catalans and the French.

As Shakespeare's Juliet said, "*What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet.*"

We can never know the earliest origins of our words, but like it or not, language will continue to develop, introducing new words, throwing out old ones, and changing the meanings of others.

*\*Words which were invented because of their sound are onomatopoeic, and I'll write about that next month.*

Answers to last month's anagrams

NOT PRECIOUS – PROSECUTION

FABLED LONER - ALFRED NOBEL

WINE LOVER – WOLVERINE

This month's anagrams:

THE AFRICAN LIONS – 1950s US TV show (2 words)

DIRTY MANURE – very basic !

ASTEROID – use it to hear things from afar



# Mother Courage

...and her children

by Bertholdt Brecht

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## **WIMBORNE MUSIC SOCIETY/PSD MUSIC UPDATE**

Dear Friends,

Just a reminder of forthcoming musical events at St. Peter's - Pimperne, Holy Trinity - Stourpaine and St. Nicholas - Durweston.

### **Sunday Soirées at 7.15 pm**

#### **Sunday 5th February – Holy Trinity, Stourpaine**

(Manor road, Stourpaine, Blandford Forum. DT11 8JZ)

##### **Sally Plowright and Friends**

A programme of 'Musical Journeys' exploring the repertoire of the unusual combination of the Saxophone quartet and Piano.

'4 Saxes' (Lesley Nolan-Stone, Dugald Clark, Karen Robson and Gwenda Malpass-Stocks) and Sally Plowright (Piano).

Includes works by Iturralde, Piazzolla and Farrington.

#### **Sunday 12th March - St. Peter's, Pimperne**

(Church Road, Pimperne, Blandford Forum. DT11 8UD)

##### **Chris & Pauline Dowie**

Music & Poetry : Galliards to Gershwin

Programme to be announced but it may contain music by William Byrd, Gabriel Faure, Sydney Carter, Eric Coates, Percy Grainger and George Gershwin and poetry by Tennyson, Sir Philip Sydney, Edward Lear, Thomas Gray, William Shakespeare, Liz Lockhead and Lionel Johnson.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 pm in Wimborne Minster Wimborne Choral Society & Wimborne Chamber Orchestra**

Directed by Christopher Dowie

Passiontide Concert

Mozart "Vespers" and Haydn "Nelson" Mass.

Soloists – Roseanna Bowen, Catherine Murray, Michael Aitkenhead and Thomas Humphreys.

Please e-mail me at [christopher@joyofmusic.co.uk](mailto:christopher@joyofmusic.co.uk) for more details.

Yours,

**Christopher Dowie**

# ***Short and Sweet Concerts***

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***19th February at 3pm***

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***£5 including refreshments***

***All proceeds to St. Mary's Church***



## **DORSET COUNCILLORS COLUMN**

### **2023/2024 Council Budget**

Dorset Council has published its initial proposals to deliver a balanced budget next financial year, 2023-24. The council's total net budget for 2023-24 will be £348 million.

The proposals would see essential frontline council services continuing to be provided to residents and businesses, protected from cuts. Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents. The proposals are in contrast with many other councils nationally, which face the prospect of cuts to services, such as library closures and reduction of road maintenance, to balance their budgets.

The council is required by law to set a balanced budget which means its expenditure must be balanced by income without unsustainable use of one-off, or short-term sources of finance.

This year's budget setting exercise once more takes place against a national background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and also the continued growth in need for social care services as a result of the ageing population.

Dorset Council's cost pressures have been well documented in the quarterly financial management reports to Cabinet and in the budget update provided last October.

The council proposes to increase council tax next year by just under 2% and to levy the adult social care precept of 2%. This is less than the maximum 5% increase outlined in the Government's Spending Review in December 2022. The increase would be equivalent to £1.41 extra per week for a Band D property.

The budget setting process takes place in several stages. The proposals are considered by the two scrutiny committees, then reviewed and submitted to Cabinet on 23 January 2023, and then to Full Council in February for final approval.

### **Do you qualify for financial assistance?**

Qualifying for benefits can not only unlock income but could lead to additional assistance where outgoings become reduced. Even if you think you are not entitled to any assistance or have previously applied, you should still check if you haven't done so recently. It takes a few minutes and could have an impact on your day-to-day life. Below are just some examples of where our Welfare Benefits Team has helped residents.

An older council resident who did not qualify for Pension Credit due to his assets, was entitled to the highest rate of Disability Living Allowance where once he had a lower amount. The re-banding of this benefit unlocked £92 a week in income, which in turn allowed him to claim Pension credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support totalling £220 a week. The entitlements also led to a free TV licence, reduced tariff utility bills, assistance with glasses, dental treatment, and hospital transport. The resident also got access to technological devices in his home to notify others if he fell.

In another example, a resident with a learning disability who was assisted with a benefit check when her circumstances changed, was owed tens of thousands of pounds due to previous unanswered claims from the Department of Work and Pensions. This led to additional £180 benefits which unlocked Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, assistance with glasses, free dental treatment, and prescriptions as well as hospital transport.

As always you can contact me on [cllrrobin.cook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrrobin.cook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)



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## STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS

[www.sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk).

During the last few weeks, I have received a lot of Environment Agency Flood Alerts and Warnings. Last year this time, I wrote that it had been wet, maybe not as wet as this late December and early January and now we are expecting another cold spell. Today as I write it is sunny, but a very chilly wind and the Met Office has just issued an ice warning, well it is winter, I guess.

I mentioned in the December Jottings that the Memorial Hall is looking for new committee members, in particular a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and this is still the case. This very vital village asset needs your help and the more people that apply, the more load can be shared. If you have been thinking of helping in any capacity, please get in touch with the Hall Committee.

There is a lot of maintenance on going in the Parish although the weather is not helping. The Johnnies Ditch new sign is now in place, and we have found someone to renovate the Village Bier. The ditches in Moor Lane will be cleared as soon it is possible to do so. The Play area is having various maintenance jobs carried out, and we are also looking at getting quotes to repair the surfaces under the play equipment. There are also jobs that we cannot carry out, one of these is the maintenance of the mini Roundabout at the entrance to the Industrial Estate, we are waiting for Dorset Council to carry out this work.

The Parish Council is still working on a Climate Change Action Plan, and we are updating the current Emergency Plan information. We have booked to join a meeting being held this month by Dorset Council for Parish and Town Councils regarding applying for 20 mph limits.

We have been approached about two possible events to celebrate the King's Coronation of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, please keep an eye out for more information in the coming months.

Dorset Council are looking for families to foster children. If you would be interested in doing this, please contact Dorset Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are currently in the process of drafting the Plan which will come to Parish Council in April.

The Parish Council has set the precept for 2023/24. Taking account of the difficult financial situation this year, the decision was made to limit the rise in the precept to less than 1% and it will be 0.52% overall for a Band D property. Although some parts of the budget had increased due to inflation, we have also reviewed the projects for 2023/24 and will apply for external grant funding for items such as the play area.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Clerk. Contact details can be found in the back of the Bridge and on the website above.

No recent Plans to report.

---

## **Shapwick Acoustic Sessions 2022**

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The Club plays on the following days:-

Monday afternoons 2.00pm – 5.00pm,

Thursday evenings 6.15pm – 9.15pm,

All sessions are held in the Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall.

It is a great sport for all ages and we would welcome some younger players, so do come along. The club owns several sets of bowls and these can be lent to players who do not have their own, but they must remain on the premises. Completely flat shoes must be worn on the mats.

We are a mixed club and we do not compete in leagues, so the emphasis is on pleasure and not pressure. We do join other local clubs for just friendly matches.

INTERESTED? – come along, your first three sessions will be free, so give it a try.

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Poole based handbell group 'Clapper Chaos' joined us at our January meeting and entertained us with their unique music arrangements from classical to pop and Disney. They carefully orchestrate the music with bell swaps and sharing to achieve the fullest score possible. It was an impressive and very enjoyable performance.

WI Resolutions are a call for a change on a current issue in society. The Women's Institute is democratic and member-led, and the resolutions process is unique in putting members at the heart of decisions about the campaign activity. Once a resolution has been adopted at the national Annual Meeting, the WI Public Affairs Department turns it into a campaign. The shortlisted resolutions for our members to vote on this year are:

1. Save our water – every drop matters,
2. Women to women – turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers,
3. Online gambling harm: time for action,
4. Clean rivers for people and wildlife.

Full details of the resolutions were shared with members and a vote held at the January meeting.

-----

Why not make 2023 the year to join our WI and start your involvement in the largest women's organisation in the UK? We pride ourselves on being a trusted place for **all** women of **all** generations. Or give us a try before you join by coming along to a meeting as a visitor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in The Old School. We start at 7.30pm and a warm welcome awaits.

For more information about SMEWI please contact  
Lesley Moors – 01258 857523 or visit our website  
**[www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com](http://www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com)**

Follow us on Facebook: Sturminster Marshall Evening WI

**Christine Rainsford**




## MINSTER PROBUD CLUB OF WIMBORNE

**Founded 1988**

Our club comprises retired or semi-retired men who have held a position of responsibility during their professional life. We meet at the well-appointed Hamworthy Club in Canford Magna, near Wimborne, on the first Wednesday of the month. Before lunch, we are entertained by speakers, who cover a full and interesting range of subjects. In addition, our club holds social functions and arranges visits and other activities, involving wives and partners, throughout the year.

But above all, we are a friendly club with a great spirit and a warm welcome to new members. If you would like to learn more about us, please contact Don Martin on 01258 857795 or by email at [don.martin@btinternet.com](mailto:don.martin@btinternet.com)





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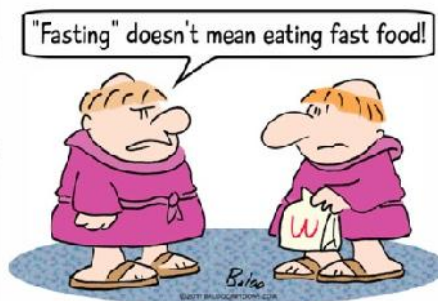
## What is Lent?

Lent is a time when Christians remember the 40 days and nights Jesus spent alone in the desert without food, being tempted by the Devil. Jesus used this time to prepare for His work by fasting and praying.

The number 40 often occurs in the Bible. The rain lasted for 40 days in Noah's flood. Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for 40 days and Jonah gave the people of Nineveh 40 days to repent.

Some people give up something for Lent such as Chocolate or Alcohol and give the money they have saved to a worthy cause, to remind them of those 40 days. Sundays are not included as Sunday is a day of celebration in the Christian church and cannot be included in the 40 fast days of Lent. Lent is often used as a good time to start a diet, especially as Sunday is a day off, an eat what you like day!

Lent, which is a preparation for Easter, starts on Ash Wednesday, which this year is 22 February. As Lent was a time of penitence, in the ancient church of Rome sinners were sprinkled with ashes and dressed in sackcloth until Maundy Thursday (the day of the Last Supper) when they were reconciled with the Christian community.



Some churches still use ashes, obtained by burning the palms used on the previous Palm Sunday and then they are applied in the shape of a cross on the forehead of each worshipper on Ash Wednesday.

The day before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday or Pancake day. As Lent was a time of abstinence, Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that weren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent.



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## **Grit akkles with almost everything - by Lys de Bray**

If you have a very small garden or a 'courtyard' sized area for your plants, take heart, it can be made to look really good and as a bonus it's labour-saving.

What you plant depends on its aspect - is it sunny, partly shaded or in total shade? Let's start with the last, then, because you are limited in your choice. The most useful plant here would be ivy, our wild native *Hedera helix*, a plant with many virtues and many varieties.

It can be grown as the climber it is or it can be easily persuaded to put on a different hat and become excellent ground-cover. It will cost you nothing because you can root a multitude of cuttings taken from your own garden or that of a friend, but not, please, from that little woodlandy bit along the road which actually belongs to somebody or the National Trust. Ivy flowers in late autumn/mid-winter providing welcome food for insects and queen bumbles who don't sleep right through, they wake if there's a warm spell and you'll see them about on what flowers there are. Fast forward a bit, once ivy has established and clothed the wall(s) behind it with a curtain of shining green, you could put a white statue in front, or a pale-coloured pot on a matching base, and if they're all plastic, who's to know! A golden yellow Privet - *Ligustrum ovalifolium* kept small would look well here. Ideally you need two identical plants in large pots because in shade golden yellow shrubs tend to go greenish, so if you alternate the plants their corner will always look as smart as when you first planted it. Many shrubs have golden leaved varieties which are worth tracking down on the internet. Silver-grey plants are always pleasing but there's a different problem here; 'silvers' almost always crave the sun and if you plant them in shade or even semi-shade they just won't do. (There's an old dialect word, 'akkle' which loosely translated means that something just won't work, so I would say that silver-grey plants don't akkle in shade. Some of them have soft, strokable furry leaves, children call them 'Rabbit's Ears', but these furry leaves retain moisture and may rot, so it's best not to put them in a shaded place. However, if you're prepared to box and cox, you can do the same with them as with the golden leaved plants. Many of the foliage plants have flowers but the buds can be nipped off if you don't want to spoil the scheme and in a difficult corner it's the foliage that counts.

But, as usual, I think I've wandered off the point, so, coming back to grit, it's an excellent mulch because it keeps surface-areas cool(er) in hot weather and warm(er) in winter and you could say grit akkles with almost everything.

Important note: If you can, get your grit from the same place as the other rocks in the garden, it's best for them to be the same geologically; plants are sometimes picky.

Second important note: Natural-coloured grit looks wonderful covering the ground in a focal position with just a few matching rocks and some special plants.

Third important note: I saw the above on a municipal roundabout yesterday.

Fourth important note Don't put white grit/gravel in a shady place, it'll go green.



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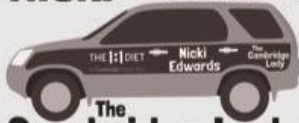
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### **The Parish of Kingston Lacy and Shapwick**

Vicar: Rev Suzie Allen (Suzie's day off is Monday) 01258 840668  
Email: Suzie-assocpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk  
Organists: contact Churchwarden

Churchwarden Kingston Lacy: Rob Langdown 01202 841381  
Email: Kl-cw@wimborneminster.org.uk  
Churchwarden Shapwick: Anne Tillin 01258 858208  
PCC Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Christine Cosgrove 01258 858876  
Electoral Roll Officer: Janet Tory 01258 857531  
Verger: Vacant

### **Sturminster Marshall Parish Church**

Vicar: Vacant  
Email: redpostbenefice@gmail.com  
Organists: contact Churchwarden

Churchwarden: Katy Norman 07815 610595  
Churchwarden: Carol Johnson 07400 356901  
PCC Secretary: Liz York 01258 857528  
PCC Treasurer: Mr Edward Warren 01258 857467  
Verger: Vacant  
Captain of the rings: Mr M. Stickley 01202 021895  
Electoral roll officer: Elaine Huntriss 07818 280800

### **Schools**

Sturminster Marshall First School: Mrs N. Charman 01258 857348  
Sturminster Marshall Pre-school: Mrs Patsy Barnes 01258 858395  
Pamphill CE First School: Mr Michael Wheeler 01202 883008  
Pamphill Pre-School Nursery: Mrs. D. Gould 07415 473977  
The Old School Shapwick Nursery: Ms. E. Praschma 01258 857922

### **Police**

Police station (non emergency number) 101



### **Hall Bookings**

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Old School, Sturminster Marshall: Mrs. Val Brown             |              |
| Contact by email only, please, to: hall.mackrell@outlook.com |              |
| Memorial Hall, Sturminster Marshall: Mrs. K. Kollberg        | 07729 712428 |
| Email: sturhallbookings@gmail.com                            |              |
| Pamphill Parish Hall: Mrs. Pip Chissell                      |              |
| Email: pamphillparishhall@yahoo.com                          |              |

### **Councillors**

|                                                                 |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Dorset Councillor: Cllr. Mr Robin Cook                          | 01202 889199 |
|                                                                 | 07968 265897 |
| Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Chair: Miss Hilary Palmer   | 01258 857588 |
| Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Clerk: Mrs. Alison Clothier | 07469 780548 |
| Email: sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk                   |              |
| Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Chair: Mr. Philip Chissell   | 01202 883369 |
| Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Clerk: Mrs. Lindsay Hole     |              |

### **For Sturminster Marshall**

|                                                                 |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Sturminster Marshall FC: Mr. D. Miller                          | 01258 857314 |
| Church Preservation Trust:                                      |              |
| School Society: Mrs. K. Selway                                  | 01258 857348 |
| WI Evening Secretary: Ms. Janet Lloyd                           | 07967 544343 |
| Sports Association: Mr. R. Haysom                               | 01258 857616 |
| Gardening Club: Mrs. S. Crowfoot                                | 01258 857606 |
| SturminsterMarshall Craft Club: Mrs. Barbara Beaves             | 01258 858404 |
| Scouts: Andy Thornton                                           | 07788 683422 |
| Cubs: Mrs. G. Spong                                             | 01258 857799 |
| Beavers: Mrs. A. Thornton                                       | 01202 625561 |
| Brownies: Miss J. Hayter                                        | 01202 885309 |
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| Henbury Residents' Association: Mr. M. Soper                    | 01258 857647 |
| Homewatch Co-Ordinator: Mr. Adrian Holden                       | 01258 858884 |
| Sturminster Marshall Short Mat Bowls & Social Club: Mr. J. Case | 01202 690718 |
| Sturminster Marshall Village History Website                    | 01258 857606 |

### **For Pamphill**

|                                           |              |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Kingston Lacy Skittles Club: Mr. R. Frost | 01202 883084 |
| Kingston Lacy Cricket Club: Mr. S. Maine  | 07969 883814 |
| Pamphill Pre-School: Mrs. D. Gould        | 07415 473977 |

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