

October 2025

Downton Parish News



Loving St Laurence

50p

St Laurence Church Downton

Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals,
or requests for pastoral visits, should be made to
the team vicar Revd Veronica Batchelor.

Tel. 01725 513878

Email: veronicaforestandavon@gmail.com

Director of Music: Mrs Elaine Hicks-Arnold 01722 710341

Sunday School: Dr Janet McGee 01725 513869

Church Flowers: Mrs C. Parry 01725 514511

Church website: www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk



www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton

Anyone is welcome to come and look round this
beautiful, ancient church or just take time to reflect
and pray in peaceful surroundings. The church will
usually be open daily from 9.30 am till 4.30pm



*"St Laurence Church explores & builds the Kingdom of God
through prayer, learning together & serving the local community."*

St Laurence is part of the Forest and Avon Team of Churches,
together with St Birinus, Morgans Vale; St Mary, Redlynch;
St Andrew, Landford; St Peter, Bramshaw; St Peter, Plaitford.

Downton Parish News is published 10 times a year and is also currently
online. Information for contributors and advertisers is at the back of
the magazine. If you would like to have the magazine delivered to you,
please contact downtonparishnews@gmail.com

Autumn Endings and Beginnings

For some mid-Autumn can look like the beginning of the end. The warmth and light of Summer is passed, the days begin to get shorter whilst the night gets longer and we can see the year approaching its end.

However, for others this time of year is about new beginnings. The academic year has just begun, nature begins to hibernate in preparation for Spring, and for us this year our daughter gets married in October - the start of a new beginning.



In the church calendar Autumn brings the Harvest Festival, which some of our churches have already celebrated and others are later this month. Whilst this festival may be seen as the service with all the food, it reminds us to come together to celebrate both the end and the natural cycle of new beginnings too. Harvest gives us time to pause, remember and give thanks for all that the year has provided. The fruits we have gathered, the seeds we have sown and the land we have tendered, either individually or together as a community.

Harvest encourages us to be thankful for everything that has been so far. At the same time we can give thanks for the seeds as we look ahead towards everything that is yet to be. For the harvest that we gather next year will be from our efforts today. Whether this is how we'll work hard on preparations for the coming year or taking time to centre and gather ourselves so we are ready for the next season of growth.

So, whether for you, Autumn is a time of winding down and settling in for Winter much like our beloved woodland creatures or the start of something new; schools, marriages or planning next year's harvest. Be sure to take the time to pause and be thankful for the fruits of this year before looking ahead to the next.

Veronica x

Revd Veronica Batchelor
Vicar in the Forest and Avon Team

Forest and Avon Team Services for October 2025

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Wed 1st October

10.45am Harvest Celebration at Woodfalls Methodist Church
followed by lunch for those who can stay.

5th October

9.30am Communion Service at St Peter's Bramshaw
10.00am Communion Service at Woodfalls Methodist Church
10.30am Communion Service at St Laurence Downton (chancel)
10.30am Worship for All at Landford Methodist Hall
6pm Harvest Praise & Supper at Redlynch Village Hall

12th October

9.30am Morning Worship at St Peter's Bramshaw
10am Harvest Holy Communion at St Birinus Morgans Vale
10.30am Morning Worship at St Laurence Downton
10.30am The Gathering at Landford Methodist Hall

Wed 15th October

10.45am Café Service at Woodfalls Methodist Church
followed by lunch for those who can stay.

19th October

9.30am Communion Service at St Peter's Bramshaw
10am Café Church at Woodfalls Methodist (*breakfast from 9.45am*)
10.30am Communion Service at St Laurence Downton
10.30am The Gathering at Landford Methodist Hall
6pm Evensong (BCP) at St Mary's Redlynch

26th October

9.30am Special Service with Bishop Andrew at St Peter's Bramshaw
10.00am Communion Service at St Mary's Redlynch
10.00am Communion Service at St Andrew's, Landford
10.30am Café Church at St Laurence Downton (*toast from 10.15am*)
10.30am Methodist Holy Communion at Landford Methodist Church

Other local Church Services

Woodfalls Methodist Church

The Ridge, Woodfalls, SP5 2LH

Service details listed on p.2.

All enquiries to Graham Tanner (01725 512648).



Roman Catholic Services

Church of the Good Shepherd. Barford Lane, Downton, SP5 3QA

The Catholic chapel is now available for private prayer.

At 6.30 pm on Tuesdays the congregation hold a

Service of the Word by Zoom.

There is a Mass in the chapel on the third Thursday of the month.

The next Mass will be on 16th October at 6.30 pm.

If you would like to join the Zoom services or use the chapel for private prayer,
please contact John Elliott on 07980 921558.

St Osmund's Church TV system

can be accessed at: <https://salisbury Catholics.org/church-tv>



Downton Baptist Church

South Lane, Downton, SP5 3NA Tel: 01725 512971

www.downtonbaptist.org | office@downtonbaptist.org

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am:

including groups for young people.

Services can be found on the DBC Church website.

Thursday Morning Worship at 10.30 am:

Followed by a two-course community lunch

every 2nd/4th Thursday of the month.

The PLAYROOM: Wednesday Morning at 9.00 am:

Free Toddler Church playgroup and their adults: from birth to Pre-School.

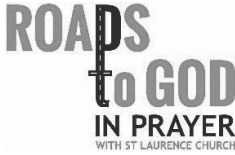
The LARDER: Food for the Community.

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm Every Monday

9.00 am to 10.00 am Every Wednesday (with refreshments)

Pastors: Rev Philip Rhoades and Rev Katy Ulliyatt

Tel: 07468 491143 or 07786 248880.



In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community during **October** we will be offering prayers for:

Squarey Close, The Sidings, Batchelor Way, Moody Drive,
Keeley Close, Bundy Grove, Haydon Close

Requests for particular prayers can be made by telephoning Reverend Ron Hart on 01725 514772 or emailing info@stlaurencedownton.co.uk. Any such requests will be kept confidential. You can request prayers at any time – not just when your road is on the monthly list. For more information, please see the Roads to God page on our website: www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk

Roads to God Prayer Group

The next Roads to God Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday **15th October** at **10.30am** in the Lady Chapel and will be led by Rev Ron Hart.



Could you capture the beauty of St Laurence Church?

Thank you for the many positive comments we've received about our new church logo. The logo started as a sketch on the back of an envelope and we're very grateful to Jane Launchberry and Susan Mason who helped develop the design along the way, and our grateful thanks also to Jason Bennett who completed the final digital design. The logo captures the beauty of the building as well as the love of God that is within and reaches beyond the building.



Following the successful introduction of our new logo, we are now looking for some contemporary and creative photo images. Whether you're passionate about photography, have a creative eye or simply like taking photos why not visit St Laurence and see if you can capture the beauty of St Laurence Church? We're hoping to use some of the best photos (with the photographer's agreement) in our promotional material in the coming months.

You can email your photos to lovestlaurence@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support and we're looking forward to seeing your images.

Love, St Laurence

St Laurence Bells Restoration Fund

We are raising £80,000 to pay for the restoration of the bells in Downton St Laurence church.

Bell ringing is a traditional activity, used to remind people that a church service is about to begin and to mark national events such as the King's coronation. Downton bells have been rung for many of these for many years. Recently the bells have been getting more difficult to ring, and significant restoration work is required.

All donations, of whatever size, are very much appreciated. Please give what you are comfortable donating.

Make a donation on our Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/downton-bells-restoration-fund?utm_term=qqxNmPNPm&utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

All contributions are very much appreciated.



Keep in Touch with St Laurence Church

Would you be interested in learning more about what's going on at St Laurence Church? We have a range of exciting events forthcoming, details of which you can see throughout the magazine, with plans for more exciting events and activities for 2026.

If you would like to learn more, please sign up to our mailing list, where you'll receive monthly emails about what's been going on, plans for the month, and information about our services.

To sign up, please email Revd Veronica Batchelor

veronicaforestandavon@gmail.com

We're also keen to hear any ideas for activities you'd like to take place in the church – please do let Veronica know if you have any ideas or thoughts!

An Evening with Mark Dawson

St Laurence Church are delighted to be hosting an evening with local bestselling crime author, Mark Dawson, on Friday 10th October. The evening will be an interview, followed by a Q&A, and will celebrate the launch of Mark's fifth book in the Atticus Priest series, *The Inheritance*. Copies of the new book will be available to purchase at the event.

Downton Brewery have kindly agreed to supply a bar for the event. Tickets are available in the Borough Café or on the door, and will cost £5.



An Evening of Music with the Darling Budds

Come along to an evening of music with Harry and Georgie Budd on 25 October at 7pm, in the beautiful surroundings of St Laurence Church. Tickets cost £5, and are available from the Borough Café, or on the door. A bar will be provided by Downton Brewery, and Bar Food will be available, provided by the Borough Café.

The concert will be held in aid of St Laurence Church.



Downton Horticultural Society

Our Autumn Show at the end of August was very successful although the number of exhibits was lower than last year mainly due to the exceptional hot and dry summer. However, what was on show, and particularly the Dahlias were of high quality. We were also pleased with the number of people who visited the show despite the rain.

Our next event which will now be held in the **Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd October** when local NAFAS demonstrator **Andrea Hillyard will be giving a floral art demonstration**. Andrea, a former florist in Southampton, was once inundated with requests to make Brussels sprout wreaths, after one of her controversial Christmas creations went viral on social media. This promises to be an entertaining evening. Admission is free and as usual there will be refreshments, a sales table and a raffle. Also, non-members are welcome although there will be a basket for donations.

Gordon Bishop



FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER

DOORS OPEN 6.30 FOR 7 PM START

AN EVENING WITH

**MARK
DAWSON**

Local best-selling author Mark Dawson will join us for an interview and to introduce his new Atticus Priest book, followed by a Q&A session. Copies of the new book will be available to purchase on the day!

St Laurence Church, Downton

**Tickets £5 - Available to purchase from
The Borough Cafe / on the door**

**Bar provided by
Downton Brewery**



St Laurence

Keep an eye on our facebook page for further information:

www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton

**Woodfalls Methodist, St Birinus & St Mary's Churches
with St Laurence Church**



An Occasion to Remember

A Service of Commemoration for those
who have died
at

**St Birinus Church, Morgan's Vale
at 3.00pm on Sunday 2nd November 2025**



For more information, or to request the inclusion of
a particular name in the Act of Remembrance,
please contact Sheila Youings by telephone 01725 512747
or email sayouings@btinternet.com



Retirement of Team Rector David Bacon

“Thank you so much!”

This comes as a very inadequate but none the less heartfelt “Thank you” for all the many expressions of love that we received before we left on 7th September to begin the next chapter of life and ministry.

The final Sundays were so memorable. There were so many warm words, so many memories shared and so much delicious food. It is no exaggeration to say that we were blown away by the incredible generosity shown in our farewell gifts from across the team.

Thank you to all those who have shared the journey of life and faith with us over the last 20 years. We pray God’s richest blessing for you as we go our separate ways.

With love and prayers
Katie, David, Anna, Ellie, Lucy and Margaret.

Downton Christmas Tree Festival 2025 in St Laurence Church



We are delighted to be bringing the Downton Christmas Tree Festival to St Laurence Church again on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December. We are thrilled to announce that for the first time we are launching the weekend with a spectacular performance by The Salisbury Big Band in the church on Friday 5th December @7.00pm. We will provide the beautiful setting, the wide variety of music, activities for children and our renowned selection of cakes to enjoy with your tea or coffee while you soak up the festive atmosphere.

ALL WE NEED NOW ARE YOUR CREATIONS!

DECORATED TREES, CHRISTMAS SCENES OR WREATHS.

Let your creativity fly and have fun making something. Pick up an entry form from the 19 September from the library, Borough Café or the church, or go to www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk, or www.indownton.org.uk

Final entry deadline: 17 November 2025

The festival will start with:

Friday 5 December live music from the Salisbury Big Band, with a licenced bar **tickets available from September 1st**

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Church opens with exhibits, activities, cakes and music

Entries welcome from individuals, schools, families, businesses, charities and community groups of Christmas wreaths and trees of your own design.

Any funds raised during the festival will be divided between St Laurence Church and Lover Baby Bank.

ART CLASSES

at St.Laurence Church with



Lucinda Nicholas



TUESDAY'S 10AM - 12 NOON

9 SEP

14 OCT

11 NOV

9 DEC

£15.00 per person

all materials provided

7 places available

Contact Lucinda to book.

07876 551622 or email

lucindanicholas63@gmail.com



COME ALONG AND JOIN US
FOR AN EVENING OF SONG WITH

THE DARLING BUDDS

WITH HARRY & GEORGIE BUDD
IN THE BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS OF
ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH DOWITON
ON SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2025
AT 7PM

TICKETS £5
BAR AND BAR FOOD AVAILABLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT THE BOROUGH CAFE
DOWITON
AND ON THE DOOR

Downton Bowling Club

The green closes on Sat 20th September, after the completion of our league matches, friendlies & club competitions. As at 7th September, our Westbrook MTL team came 7th/8 & we lost in the cup semifinal. In the Bournemouth & District Triples Section 4 (Saturday), the Bustards finished 4th & the Dragons 5th/10. New Forest Division 4, we came 5th/8 & lost in the second round of the cup. Our end of season club championship finals have now commenced. So far, our winners are:- Mixed Triples - Colin Morris, Ivan Buss & Paul Tanner. Novices – Steve Tanner. Two Woods – Ivan Buss. Sets – Paul Tanner. Six more finals are still to be played & details of the results will appear in the next edition.

We had 12 new members join the club during the season, several of which have progressed to play in our league teams. Thank you to everyone at the magazine for helping us to promote our club this season.

The green will reopen at Easter 2026. If you are interested in playing bowls, or want any more information about the club, please contact Ivan on 07910 290735 or email him on buib7@icloud.com or visit our website www.downtonbc.com



Downton Cuckoo Fair – Autumn Update 2025!

The largest free, not-for-profit event in Wiltshire, helping local community organisations including schools, churches, clubs, and charities raise vital funds to support their activities.

The May 2025 Downton Cuckoo Fair was an extremely successful event again this year with around 17,000 visitors enjoying the wide variety of products, refreshments, activities, and entertainments on offer.

We believe the many local community groups/enterprises taking part benefitted well again from the event and the Cuckoo Fair Team are keen to receive the percentage of total annual income made this year for each one. The Friends of Hale Primary School raised an amazing £2,152 on the day.

Like previous Fairs, this fair saw increased costs which this year came to approximately £43k. The increased costs were partially offset by the generous sponsorship received

from local business Toomers Ltd, together with Batt Broadbent Solicitors who kindly sponsored the Day Leaflet production. We'll be looking for more sponsors next year.

The success of the Fair was largely due to the recruitment of a sufficient number of volunteers to help organise, build and run the event, without whom the fair could not happen. Our sincere thanks are extended to all involved, particularly our new recruits and our sponsors.

The Cuckoo Fair Team will be hosting a number of 'Stakeholder Sessions' this year where anyone - businesses, residents, or local organisations can come along and ask questions or make suggestions. It is planned that these will be held in October, January, and April, days/times to be notified via Facebook and our website.

If you would like more information on joining our team of volunteers, or to help with sponsorship, please contact produce@cuckoofair.co.uk

We are excited and pleased to confirm that the next Downton Cuckoo Fair taking place on Saturday 2nd May 2026!

For latest information check out our website <https://cuckoofair.co.uk> and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/DowntonCuckooFair



Goldies Sing-Along Social Group at Downton Memorial Hall

Goldies takes place upstairs at **Downton Memorial Hall** on the **4th Wednesday of the month from 10.00 am**, led by Carole Still. Walk down the side of the Hall and enter through the door on the left.

At Goldies we chat and laugh with friends, whilst singing along to the hits of the 50's onwards, with artists such as Sir Cliff Richard, Tom Jones, Elvis, Dusty Springfield, Petula Clark and many more. Goldies is not a choir, you don't have to be able to sing to join, just love music and socialising.

Goldies Sing & Smile sessions are open to everyone but particularly aim to reduce isolation with older adults. We ask for a £3 donation to attend.

For further information go to the website: www.golden-oldies.org.uk

Or ring Carole Still on 01722 337880

Good Companions

We meet in the Downton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Regulars pay £2 and visitors, who are always welcome, pay £2.50. Cup of tea and biscuit included. Contact Julia Whitmarsh on 01725 510601.

Joanne has arranged the following for us:

7th October (week 1) - Lover Repair Cafe will be coming to talk about the work they do and the charities they support. You are welcome to bring things for repair which can be collected next time the repair team are at the Baptist Church, which will be the first Saturday in the month from 10am to 12 noon.

14th October (week 2) - Sarah Delves will be coming in for a chat and to value any items you wish to bring in.

21st October (week 3) - Games

28th October (week 4) - Dave Dawson will be here to entertain us.

On 2nd September Ann Blake, who has muscular dystrophy and uses a wheelchair, came to talk to us about her condition and introduce us to her support dog Snoopy, whose training is an ongoing happening which Ann had to learn. Snoopy can take off Ann's socks, pull the washing out of the machine, pick up the post, dropped keys or lead, and many other activities. Ann has written a book about her experience with muscular dystrophy which was on sale to raise money for Dog Aid UK and Muscular Dystrophy UK. The Good Companions collectively donated over £200, which was much appreciated.



Hearing Aid Clinic

Downton Baptist Church, South Lane



First Thursday of the month from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. Drop in and get your hearing aids retubed and cleaned and obtain new batteries.

We will only be able to let a maximum number of clients into the room at any one time. Please respect social distancing measures. This service is for NHS Salisbury hearing aid users. Please bring your battery issue card.

We are RNID and together, we'll make life fully inclusive for deaf people and those with hearing loss or tinnitus.

Contact: Gill Drayson 01722 580014 or 07570 670 643 gillian.drayson@rnid.org.uk

Poppy Appeal and Remembrance 2025

THE POPPY APPEAL 2025

The Poppy Appeal this year begins on Saturday 25 October. As in recent years, there will be a Poppy Stall outside the Co-op, on the following dates, 9am to 2pm:

Saturday 25 October

Saturday 1 November

Saturday 8 November - run by Downton ACF Cadets.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE AND SERVICE 9 NOVEMBER

The Borough and High Street, from the Memorial Gardens to Moot Lane, will be closed from 10am to 11am. There will be the normal wreath laying ceremony in front of the Memorial Centre, beginning at 1010am. This will be followed by those on parade at the Memorial Centre marching up to St Laurence's Church, led by the Downton Band for the Annual Remembrance Service. The road will be opened as soon as the parade is clear.

REMEMBRANCE DAY TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

There will be a short ceremony (Last Post, 2 minutes Silence, Reveille) outside The Goat, by the Borough Cross, at 11am.



Downton Parish Council News

Schools are back, unfortunately along with the wind and rain!

- Here at Downton Parish Council, we've been busy getting 'Winter ready':
 - throughout the year, we've proactively kept our drains and gullies clear using Wiltshire Council's Discretionary Gully Clearance Service. We should currently be experiencing the benefit of doing so, however, if you spot any drains or gullies which need further clearance, do get in touch.
 - we've checked our stocks of salt, gel sacs, and flood signs and placed an order for additional supplies under the Wiltshire Council Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme.
 - Downton's Flood Wardens will be attending 'Lunch & Learn' online Flood Warden Courses during Sept and Oct



- Thanks to all those who got in touch about the woefully inadequate 'Road Closure' yellow signage which appeared on The Borough at the beginning of September. After holding firm discussions with the utility companies and working with the Wiltshire Council Highways Team who grant their permits, Downton Parish Council was able to establish the facts and a sensible way forward. Downton Parish Council proposes to continue to proactively monitor planned roadworks using the 'one.network' online platform and share details with you through the Council's and Community's social media pages.
- We're delighted to announce that the proposed enhancements to the informal pedestrian crossing outside of the Wooden Spoon has been approved by Wiltshire Council's Area Board. We'll keep you posted on timescales.
- Your Councillors and Officers work hard for the betterment of the Parish:
 - currently, Downton Parish Council has six Councillor vacancies. If you're passionate about your local community and interested in joining the team, please get in touch.
 - Council meetings are usually held on the **second Monday of the month** in the **Downton Memorial Centre's Bonvalot Room** starting **7pm**. Members of the public can attend to address Councillors under 'Public Question Time' or simply observe. Everyone's welcome.
- You can contact the Council's Administrative Officer, Susan Parsons by email: admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. In specific circumstances, Susan may need to redirect your enquiry to Councillors or the Clerk.



Community Café in the Memorial Hall



This regular event takes place at Downton Memorial Hall on the last Friday of each month, from 10.00 am - 12 noon.

Tea, coffee and homemade cake - plus the opportunity to chat to old friends and make new ones. There is a book share, and it is hoped that people will bring and share excess garden produce and flowers.

Everyone is welcome – pop in for a few minutes or stay all morning.

There is no charge but leave a donation if you wish.

If you know anyone who would like to come but needs a lift, please contact stephaniejalland1@gmail.com

The LARDER for our community



Everyone is welcome to come and share from **The LARDER**, situated in Downton Baptist Church. You will find a wide variety of food donated by our local community, including the Co-op and Bidfood. Our hope is that **The LARDER** will reduce food waste and make food available to everyone who would like it. It is absolutely FREE, and anyone can come and access one bag of food per week.

We welcome donations from individuals as well, of items of unopened food, cleaning and hygiene products. We also welcome fresh food. Any financial donations received will go to purchasing more food.

There continue to be many locations where food can be taken. The Collection points are: The Co-op; Ashley Grange; The Cedars at Landford; the Primary School and The Trafalgar School in Downton. You can also bring fresh food and any other items to the church during Larder open times or church office hours. (9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Thursday).

Please see Downton Baptist Church website for further information.
www.downtonbaptist.org/Groups/384889/The_Larder.aspx

The LARDER is open each week on Monday Evenings from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, and Wednesday Mornings from 9.00 am to 10.00 am.



Redlynch & District W.I.

Next year is our 110th birthday so we are starting to plan the celebrations!

It would be lovely to have some more members from Downton (at the moment we only have two) so please do come and join us and make some new friends too. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:15pm (2pm in the winter months) at Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall.

This year our speakers have all been very talented people from the local community which has been amazing.

8 October – Paul Bromage taking us behind the scenes of the Lover Repair Café

12 November – Lyburn Cheeses 'all things cheesy'

10 December – 'Let's get creative,' Art with Lucinda.

As always tea and cake are provided. Cost to visitors. £5.00

Ann Kelly (annkelly33@gmail.com) or tel: 07843 899410

Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society (FEFAS)



It was so lovely to get together with our members and newcomers after the summer and enjoyed a relaxed and informative floral demonstration by our very own demonstrator, Martina Coleman. We just love being creative for displaying flowers

We shall look forward to our October meeting (6th Oct) for a floral demonstration by Andrea Hillyard, entitled 'Time to Relax'. Refreshments from 7 pm, followed by a demonstration at 7.30 pm. Do join us and bring your friend(s)! Non-members are welcome (£8 door fee including refreshments).

All meetings/events are held at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall, Woodfalls (SP5 2LD).

A full programme for 2025/26 is available from the weblink

<https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2025> and on the notice board in the hall, and on our Facebook group.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Contact: Miyuki Griffin 07990 868351

Email: forestedgeflower@gmail.com

Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/forestedgeflower

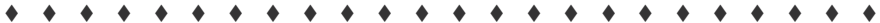
View full programme for 2025/26: <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2025>

Upcoming meetings:

6 October - Demonstration 'Time to Relax' with Andrea Hillyard at 7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

3 November - Workshop 'Ikebana' with Miyuki Griffin at 7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

8 December - Graham King - Christmas Theme at 7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)



Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Talkabout - 2nd October in Woodfalls Methodist Hall. Coffee from 10.00am, and then talk on the 'Trafalgar Ladies' by Kevin Patience starting at 10.30am. All Welcome.



Redlynch Players Backstage News



Cheers!

Autumn Production 2025

We are delighted to be fully immersed in rehearsing our Autumn production which will be an insightful look at an ordinary evening at the pub! **Two by Jim Cartwright** (author of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*) centres around the landlord and landlady of a down-to-earth local pub and the various characters who frequent it. The play explores the complexities of human lives through humour, pathos, and underlying tragedy, ultimately revealing a secret about the central couple. It promises to make you laugh, cry and everything in between! And you, the audience, are invited to join in with this funny, quirky play that captures a slice of typical British life.



Directed by Ron Perry who has some exciting ideas for our latest production, we do hope you will draw up a stool at the bar, grab a drink and gather for a great evening.

The play will be performed **Wednesday 24th November – Saturday, 28th November** in Redlynch Village Hall. Our tickets which will be on sale soon!



Spotlight on...?

Be part of a fun team! We are very much on the lookout for a lighting and sound technician for our latest production. This involves changing the lights for scenes, playing background sound effects and music on cue. It's a great role and not as complicated as it might sound! Full training and support will be given, so please do not be put off if you lack

experience. We meet on Monday and Thursday evenings at Redlynch Village Hall from 7:30pm and you would be required from mid-October and during our performance week. Please do get in touch if you'd like some more information. I am happy to answer any questions.

Email: info@redlynchplayers.co.uk or direct message us on our Facebook or Instagram pages. I look forward to hearing from you!

Find out more about us!

If you would like to be included on our emailing list to hear our latest news, please email: info@redlynchplayers.co.uk

Alternatively, see our website for recent reviews, how to buy tickets and past productions: www.redlynchplayers.co.uk

We post regular updates on our Redlynch Players Facebook and Instagram pages @redlynchplayers.

Ali Silver, Chair of Redlynch Players

Redlynch and District Local History Society

Our start to this year's season of talks was "The man in the picture" by Robert Inns. The title referred to a particular picture displayed in his house, as they were in virtually every house after the War, as he was growing up. The fondly remembered man was his mother's brother in RAF uniform; Robert described his efforts and what he discovered over the past 70 years and noted he still found new information in the course of preparing this talk.

Particularly useful were his mother's address book which gave all the stations and units he was posted to. Photos were worth scrutinising for information, the smallest photos were most useful as they were often the originals posted home with annotations on the back. An enquiry to the Air Historical Branch of the RAF gave a summary of his uncle's loss including the serial number of the aircraft.

In the years up to the 1990s, books were and still are the most useful for in depth RAF operations, units and aircraft details. However the internet does now have increasing amounts of information including "RAF Command". This gives aircraft records which tell you the unit to which a particular aircraft was on charge and when, and squadron operations books which are particularly useful for details such as particular operations and their crews, aircraft serials and notes.

Combining these sources over a lengthy period, nuggets of information provided a chronology of his uncle's journey through the lengthy RAF training from Blackpool via Babbacombe, Cambridge, Rutland, Shawbury to Harwell. From there a Wellington ferry flight in late 1941 to Gibraltar, Malta to Egypt for operations with 162 squadron gathering wireless transmissions intelligence before being lost on a bombing raid during the first battle of El Alamein in July 1942.

Our next meeting is 7 October at 7:30pm at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall. The talk is "History of Communication" by Phil Whitmore; additionally, there will be our brief AGM when you can vote for the committee, new members most welcome.

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*The Repair Cafe is working with Wilts Council to advise people on what to do when Windows 10 is no longer supported on your computers & a further free presentation is available at Downton Memorial Hall on Thursday 2nd Oct. This would be well worth attending & is very informal.

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Sending editorial copy

Articles and notices of events for the **November** issue to be emailed to the
Editor by **7th October.**

Please contact the Editor if you wish to submit a paper copy.

Articles will be shortened if space is limited; any received late may not be
used. Please use black and white clipart rather than colored items.

Word documents are preferable to pdfs or jpegs.

Email: downtonparishnews@gmail.com

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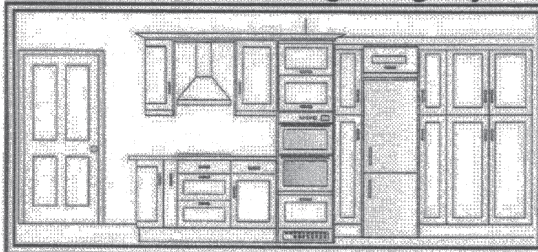
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