

May 2026

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 look around 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

Listening to a Gentle Nudge

You might have spotted the words *Licensed Lay Minister* (LLM) next to my name in this Parish magazine and wondered what that means. It simply means that I'm just an ordinary person living an ordinary life, but I've felt a gentle nudge to serve my local community through the Church of England.

I'm not ordained, but I am authorised by the Bishop to support the life of the church in all sorts of practical, everyday ways. I work alongside the clergy, bringing my own experiences, skills, and everyday perspective to the mix.

Being an LLM can involve all sorts of things. Sometimes I help lead services or preach; other times I'm visiting someone who could do with a chat, helping at a community event, or working with local groups. A big part of the role is simply being available — listening, encouraging, and helping people explore life's big questions at their own pace. At its heart, the role is about showing that faith isn't just for Sundays; it can bring hope, comfort, and strength into everyday life. It's about trying to be rooted in the community and helping build bridges between church life and village life.

That sense of connection is what first drew me to becoming an LLM. In a previous church, I found myself getting more involved, and encouraged by friends to take the next steps in my growth. In 2010 I went for the first time to Rwanda. Four of us went on a month-long visit to our linked church. We spent time with local families, helped with church services and activities, and supported people in the community — sometimes literally getting our hands muddy repairing homes. Seeing how their LLMs served their communities was inspiring. It made me feel that this was something I was meant to do back home too. After 3 years training I was first licensed in 2013.

Although I've lived in Landford since 2017, I only began serving here as an LLM in 2024, so I'm still finding my feet and learning as I go. There's plenty to be done, and I'm genuinely excited to see where God leads next.

Looking ahead, I hope to grow my presence across the Forest and Avon Team, getting to know more people, supporting what's already happening, and helping things flourish. Maybe our paths will cross soon.

What I've learned is that taking a next step doesn't have to mean doing something huge or scary. It can start with something small — being open to learning something new, getting a little more involved, or offering a small bit of your time. Every one of us has something to bring, and often it's in the everyday moments that we find a deeper sense of purpose and connection. If you've ever felt that gentle nudge to try something new or grow in a different way, it might be worth listening to it. You never quite know where it might lead, or who you might meet along the way.

Antony

Antony Sturmeay, LLM, Forest and Avon Team



Forest and Avon Team Services for May 2026

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Sunday 3 May

09:30am	Communion Service	St Peter's, Bramshaw
10:00am	Morning Worship	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10:30am	Cuckoo Fair Service	Downton Memorial Hall
10:30am	Worship for All	Landford Methodist Hall
16:00pm	Forest Church	St Mary's, Redlynch

Wednesday 6 May

10:45am	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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Sunday 10 May – Christian Aid Sunday

09:30am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Bramshaw
10:00am	Communion Service + APCM	St Birinus, Morgans Vale
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Laurence, Downton
10:30am	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall
15:30pm	Rogation + APCM	St Peter's, Plaitford

Sunday 17 May

09:30am	Communion Service	St Peter's, Bramshaw
10:00am	Café Church (breakfast from 9:45am)	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10:30am	Communion Service + APCM	St Laurence, Downton
10:30am	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall
18:00pm	Evensong	St Mary's, Redlynch

Wednesday 20 May

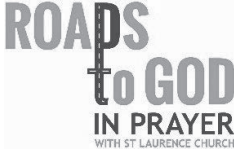
10:45am	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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Sunday 24 May – Pentecost

09:30am	Silent Prayer	St Peter's, Bramshaw
10:00am	Communion Service	St Mary's, Redlynch
10:00am	Pentecost Celebration	St Andrew's, Landford
10:30am	Café Church	St Laurence, Downton
10:30am	Methodist Chapel	Landford Methodist Church

Sunday 31 May – Trinity Sunday

10:30am	Team Communion Service + bring and share lunch	St Laurence, Downton
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In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community during **May** we will be offering prayers for the whole village.

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 **20th May** at **10.30am** in the Lady Chapel and will be led by Rev Ron Hart.



Friends of St Laurence 100 Club

The 100 Club was set up many years ago as a fund raiser to help contribute to the large maintenance expenses of our Grade 1 listed building. There are 4 draws a year with 3 prizes of £50, £35 and £25. The balance of monies is passed on to the church.

If you would like to help St. Laurence by becoming a member of the 100 club, please contact Ken or Jo Parsons on 01725 512738. It only costs £12 per year. A big thank you to all those of you who have recently joined. It is much appreciated.

The results of the last draw

- 1st prize** - Mrs Jane Bingham
- 2nd Prize** - Mr Courtney Spence
- 3rd Prize** - Mrs Ruth Watts

Many thanks. We hope to hear from you.



St Laurence Swift Fayre | Saturday 28 March

The inaugural St Laurence Swift Fayre took place on Saturday 28 March in St Laurence Church, and attracted almost 200 visitors into the church. The fayre, aimed at supporting young people with their side hustles and local small businesses, welcomed 18 stallholders, and raised £330 for the church funds. Our thanks go to all stallholders, visitors, and those who volunteered on the day to support the event to make it a success

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 **21st May at 12.00 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 Ulllyatt

Tel: 07468 491143 or 07786 248880.

Downton Music Festival

The Downton Music Festival will take place in St Laurence Church from Tuesday 9th – Saturday 13th June, with concerts every evening. The festival, which will be free to attend (although there will be a retiring collection), and will feature some of the best local musicians from the Downton and Salisbury areas. Please do come along and encourage friends to come along too.

Event Programme

Tuesday 9 June

19:00 Maerefolk
 19:30 Trafalgar School Choir
 20:00 Interval
 20:30 Salisbury Big Band
 21:30 Concert Ends

Friday 12 June

19:00 Halcyon Singers
 19:30 Rum's Eg Singers
 20:00 Interval
 20:30 Salisbury Community Choir
 21:00 Larkhill Choral Society
 21:30 Concert Ends

Wednesday 10 June

19:00 Navy Larks
 19:30 Suite Jazz
 20:00 Robert Harding (tenor)
 20:10 Interval
 20:40 Woodfalls Band
 21:40 Concert Ends

Saturday 13 June

19:00 Downton Band
 20:00 Interval
 20:30 Amesbury Community Soul Singers
 21:30 Concert Ends

Thursday 11 June

19:00 AMICI
 19:30 Coffee Choir
 20:00 Interval
 20:30 Downton Community Choir
 20:50 Kate Edgar Singers
 21:30 Concert Ends



Downton's Mobile Post Office

Every Friday Morning

Moot Lane (near to Recreation Ground): 9.00 am - 10.00 am.

The Bull car park: 10.05 am till 11.05 am.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION



Photographs of
St Laurence,
Downton

1st May to
1st JUNE 2026
9am-4pm daily

St Laurence Church,
Downton

Step into a celebration of community, heritage, and local beauty at our special photographic exhibition dedicated to St Laurence Church in Downton.

This exhibition brings together a stunning collection of photographs taken by members of the community, capturing the timeless character of St Laurence — from its striking Norman architecture and intricate stone carvings to quiet moments of sunlight streaming through its stained glass. Each image reflects a unique perspective, showcasing not only the historic grandeur of the church but also its place at the heart of village life.

To make the experience even more engaging, guests can vote for their favourite photograph. A simple voting station will be available, allowing everyone to choose the image that resonates most with them. At the end of the exhibition, the photograph with the most votes will be announced as “The People’s Choice,” celebrating both the talent of the photographer and the spirit of the community.

This exhibition is more than a display of images — it’s an opportunity to see St Laurence Church through fresh eyes, share perspectives, and take part in choosing a winning moment captured in time.



2026 UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH

2nd May - The Cuckoo Fair

Come and visit the St Laurence Larder for a bacon buttie, a light lunch, cake, tea and chat

1st May - Photographic Exhibition

View all the beautiful photos taken by the community and vote for your favourite

9th – 13th June - Downton Music Festival

A week of music celebrating all genres, something for everyone. Sponsored by Cognatum Estates Ltd.

3rd July - Suite Jazz

Relax and enjoy your picnic along live Jazz in the beautiful churchyard setting

24th July - An Evening with.... Captain Barry Sadler

A fascinating talk from a Southampton Docks Pilot Captain Barry Sadler

12th September - Goose Fair

Peruse the stalls, enjoy coffee & cake and help support local entrepreneurs

2nd October - An Evening with.... Ron Burrows

Experience the highs of a RAF pilot from the Aden 'Emergency' to testing the Tornado

6th November - An Evening with.... Baroness Batters

An informal evening of discovery with Baroness Batter's recently published autobiography 'Harvest'

5th – 6th December - Christmas Tree Festival

See the beautiful individual Christmas trees decorated by local people. Get your Christmas shopping in early with our famous Bric a Brac stall. Indulge in locally made cakes & Goodies and listen to a programme of music over two days

11th December - An Evening with.... Courtney Spence

Listen to the tales of the life of a West End actor and a rendition of A Christmas Carol



Volunteers Needed!

Could you spare a few hours a month and help support the team in editing the Parish Magazine?

If so, please get in touch for more information – email:

downtonparishnews@gmail.com

Downton Bowling Club

Bowls isn't just a sport for older generations — it's a game for everyone! Whether you're young or old, bowls offers a great way to stay active, meet new people, and have lots of fun.

Our superb, full-size green reopened for the season on **Sunday 19th April** with a **Members' Charity Fun Day**. We welcome players of all abilities, whether you're interested in competitive league play or simply enjoying social bowls.

We are actively seeking new members, so, whether you're an experienced bowler or a complete beginner, keen to give it a try, why not come along to one of our regular rollup sessions? These take place every **Monday afternoon from 20th April, 2pm–4pm**, and every **Friday evening from 24th April, 6pm–8pm** (excluding bank holidays).

We will also be hosting **free fun taster sessions** on **Sundays 10th, 17th, 14th and 31st May**, from **2pm–4pm**. All equipment, tuition, and light refreshments will be provided at no cost.

For more information, please contact **Ivan** on **07910 290735**, email **buib7@icloud.com**, or visit our website: www.downtonbc.co.uk

Downton Bowling Club

We welcome new members, so why not join us on one of our **Open Days (Sundays 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st May)** or for a roll up at **2pm every Monday or 6pm every Friday throughout the season* from 20th April?**

*All equipment & tuition is provided free of charge.
More details on our web site and Facebook page.*

Downton Bowling Club
Wick Lane, Downton, SP5 3NF

Contact: **Ivan Buss - 07910 290735**
email: **buib7@icloud.com**
web: **downtonbc.co.uk**
or: **facebook.com/downtonbc/**

A warm welcome awaits you.

** excluding Bank Holidays*



Downton Parish Council News

It feels like all the excitement is up and around the Moon at the moment, but excitement is also down on Earth with plants shooting up everywhere, and with a little warm sunshine to nourish our bones! If you spy any jobs for our Parish Steward, please let me know.



Downton Parish Council
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Why not make 2026 the year of volunteering – footpath maintenance and lots of other jobs like sanding down and repairing our benches – the Parish always needs handy people to help keep it looking its best....OR why not join the Parish Council as a Councillor? Help influence projects, get things done and make decisions for YOUR Parish: local democracy at its best!

- DPC have had a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer helping to clear rubbish and weeds in our Cemetery
- DPC are acting on residents' concerns for road safety: a pedestrian survey has been carried out by volunteers and with evidence from the traffic survey strips that were placed around the village will inform Wiltshire Council if any speed restriction measures need to be taken. DPC are expecting the results from Wiltshire Council soon
- Work continues on plans to refurbish the public toilets, a report on the scope and timescales will be heard at the DPC meeting on Monday 13 April
- If Parish residents are experiencing anti-social behaviour or any crime or disturbance, it is **VITAL** to report this to our local Police. **The Police do NOT respond to crimes reported on Facebook.**

In an emergency always dial 999 if: there is an immediate danger to life, someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent, a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft, the suspect is still at the scene

- If the problem is a non-emergency, then dial 101: if you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, door knocking etc.

Our local PC is Marc Evans, and our local police can be reached through dialling 101, or his mobile 07876 817927 which is active when PC Marc is on duty

The Parish Council meetings are held on the **second Monday of the month in the Bonvalot Room in the Downton Memorial Centre. Meetings usually start at 7pm.**

There is always a public question time at the beginning of the meeting, so do come along and have your say. **It is YOUR Parish after all!**

Susan Parsons is the Administrative Officer and Tree Warden for the Parish Council. She can be contacted on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 07483 344035 admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk** Where appropriate, she may redirect queries to Councillors or to the Parish Clerk.

Downton Horticultural Society

We are holding our Plant and Table-top sale in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 9th May at 2pm. A wide range of plants will be on sale. Refreshments will also be available. There is still time for anyone to book a table-top, these being free for charities or £5 for non-charities. Please contact Chris Parry (514511) to reserve one.

We will be pleased to receive plants to sell on the day of the sale from 12pm, so if you have any spare plants or are dividing established plants etc then please bear us in mind. All that we ask is that they are both rooted and labelled so we know what they are.

Our March event, the illustrated talk by Mike Read entitled 'Wildlife of a Working Forest' was excellent and included amazing photographs of the flora and fauna of the New Forest.

Our Summer Show will be in the Memorial Hall at 2pm on Saturday 6th June and we welcome both new and regular exhibitors and visitors. Show schedules are available from committee members and Chris Parry (see above).

Gordon Bishop (01725 511475)



Downton Horticultural Society



Our Next Event:

Plant and Table Top Sale

Saturday 9 May, 2pm
Downton Memorial Hall

Book a table! Tables cost £5, but are free for charities. Contact Chris Parry to reserve one (01725 514511)

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



1st Downton Guides

The 1st Downton Guides welcome girls aged 10 – 14 to join them for exciting activities, making new friends, and creating unforgettable memories. From 21st April, the Guides will be moving to a new regular night, with meetings taking place on Tuesdays at Downton Baptist Church.

There are three groups, who all meet on a Tuesday night:

Downton Rainbows (4-7 year olds)

Downton Brownies (7-10 year olds)

1st Downton Guides (10-14 year olds)

If you're interested or have any questions, please email downtonguides1@gmail.com.

Alternatively, you can sign up or register your interest here:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Good Companions

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

Joanne has arranged the following for us.

5th May (week 1) - Alan Jones: Cavemen caught colds too!

12th May (week 2) - Games and bring and buy. Please take-home items you have brought in that don't sell. Please make sure food items are in date.

19th May (week 3) - Carol and Ceri Hurford Jones will talk to us about their voyages on their yacht.

26th May (week 4) - Games and Joanne's Bingo!!

On the 24th March Carol Watson, with the aid of her slides took us on a very interesting journey that she and her husband, Jim, had booked, exploring the various areas of Japan, which began in Tokyo, where they met the holiday representative who gave them all the tickets in various colours they would need to cover accommodation, bus, train and boat journeys. They also needed a lot of currency because anything they bought had to be paid for in cash. After seeing the gardens and shrines in Tokyo, they went on the Bullet Train to another area to explore. One of the places was a forest area, where they saw a notice that said they needed to ring a bell because of the bears; there were sturdy posts at 100 meter distances where a brass bell was attached which made a very loud noise when shaken. Each area they went to had a very different landscape, and sometimes they went on ferries across a lake or river. Carol's photos showed a very diverse terrain. When Carol saw Mount Fuji, she was disappointed there was no snow on the peak. It was clear that she and Jim had very much enjoyed their holiday, and we enjoyed sharing it with them too.



Why not buy a Downton Cuckoo Fair bag or tea towel?

Good value, and unique to our village

Contact Edna Pike on 01725 511332

Jute Shopping bags	£4 each
Tea towels	£2.50 each



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PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

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

This year's outing is a bit different as we will be doing 2 trips in one! Firstly, we shall be visiting the City of Wells on Market Day 15th July and then on to Street Shopping Village. A real treat for all the shoppers and browsers amongst us! The cost will only be £1 more than last year i.e. £26 which will help with extra parking fees.

The tree that we have gifted to the cemetery has been planted and is now in bud and should be in bloom very soon, just in time to provide some shelter when the hot summer (we hope) arrives.

Our March meeting will introduce us to needle felting. In April there will be a talk entitled The Social History of Bletchley Park, in May, at our Annual Meeting, Kate Moody from Headway: Brain Injury Association Charity will be our speaker.

The dates for the next few meetings are May 13th, June 10th and then the Annual Outing to Wells and Street on July 15th. Our meetings are held at 2 p.m. on the Third Wednesday of each month in Morgan's Vale Village Hall and they and our outing are open to all.

Information and bookings for the outing can be obtained from Sandra Pearce (01725 512129) or for any other information from Ann Kelly (01725 514559). Do come along to one of our meetings or outing, you'll be very welcome!



Redlynch Players Backstage News

We Are Award Winners!



We are delighted to announce that we are the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) District 12 Achievement winners for our productions 'Deckchairs' and 'Two'.

Not only this, but we have also been nominated for the Best Comedy Production for 'Deckchairs' as well as a Nomination for Best Drama Production for 'Two' in the South West region. This is no mean feat by our little group as the District 12 area covers includes Bournemouth, Poole, Ringwood and Salisbury, and the whole South West region reaches all the way down to Cornwall!



Jeni Colton, NODA SW Regional Representative District 12 wrote: *'These nominations are a terrific achievement in a region as big as the South West,*

and I congratulate you and all the company for your continued successes. The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 23rd May 2026 at Sandy Park, Exeter'.

A group of us are very excited to be going to the awards ceremony later this month to receive our award and see how we fare with our other nominations! Watch this space!

Spring Production 2026 | A touch of 70s nostalgia

Tickets for our entertaining spring production have been selling very quickly since going on sale and we are really looking forward to performing this variety of plays between Wednesday 13th – Saturday 16th May. At the time of writing, there are just a few remaining, priced at £12 and available from tickets@redlynchplayers.co.uk Please look out for up-to-date information on our social media (Facebook or Instagram) or on fliers and posters in the area.



Each play, set in the 1970s, bring us some wry humour and a very British take on daily life. *Bus Stop* by Rae Shirley takes the monotony out of waiting for a bus to arrive, whilst *The Nannie* by George Melly has us considering our next holiday destination. The evening will be completed by *People Like Us* by Cherry Vooght, where three women take a seaside holiday in a static caravan and examine their relationships both with each other and with their advancing years, reflected in the constantly changing British seaside weather.



All directed by Lloyd Perry, we hope you'll enjoy these great stories that still amuse and inspire today.

Want to know more?

Contact us via our email info@redlynchplayers.co.uk or message us on our Facebook or Instagram pages. We would love to have a chat with you!

Information about us, reviews, photos, awards (we are excited!) and any other news can be found on our website: www.redlynchplayers.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Ali Silver, Chair of Redlynch Players

Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Friendship Hub Tuesday 28th April at 12 Noon. Ploughman's Lunch followed by Twenty Questions. In Woodfalls Methodist Hall. All welcome, but to help with catering please let us know on 01725512648 if you plan to come.

Talkabout, Thursday 7th May – Alan Jones will take on Life! A library of memories. Coffee from 10:00am, talk begins at 10:30am

Saturday 9th May – Social beginning with a meal at 5:30pm, followed by team 'Weird things humans search for online' in Woodfalls Methodist Hall. All welcome, but to help with catering please let us know on 01725512648 if you plan to come.

Saturday 16th May – The Big Brekkie – please see details on page 18.



Events at Salisbury Cathedral

Salisbury Cathedral have a full calendar of events over the coming months.

Please see a selection of those in the calendar below. Full details can be found on the Cathedral website -

<https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/whats-on/>

3 May – Orpheus and his Lyre: The Salisbury Connection

9 May – Bach Easter Oratorio and Ascension Oratorio

25 June – Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Concert

17 July – Ella and Friends by Candlelight

27 August – Mean Girls outdoor cinema screening

28 August – Mamma Mia! ExtrABBAganza outdoor cinema screening

29 August – Star Wars: A New Hope outdoor cinema screening

30 August – Andrea Bocelli 30: The Celebration outdoor cinema experience

5 September – The Sound of Music Film Screening



**The Redlynch
Christian Aid Group**

Present



RAISING FUNDS DURING CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2026

You can support this worthwhile cause - relieving poverty and hunger and giving humanitarian aid and disaster relief worldwide

Just come along and enjoy a great breakfast in exchange for a donation – no booking necessary - full selection including gluten free and vegetarian:



DATE: SATURDAY 16th MAY

TIME: from 8.00 am to 11.00 am

**WHERE: Woodfalls Methodist on
the Ridge Woodfalls SP5 2LH**

Supported by



*All profits to
Christian Aid*

Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society (FEFAS)

Our April meeting held on 13th April was a practical workshop (Dem and Do) with Heather, entitled 'Spring has sprung'. The participants created a design using folded wallpaper or cardboard to hold test tubes. A unique way to display spring flowers at little cost and doesn't require much in the way of flowers or foliage! We thoroughly enjoyed creating something unique and fun!

Please do join us on 11th May for our practical workshop with Martina, theme to be confirmed. Please contact us (details below) for further information. Refreshments from 7 pm followed by a workshop at 7.30 pm. Do join us and bring your friend(s)! Non-members are welcome (£10 door fee including refreshments).

All meetings/events are held at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall, Woodfalls (SP5 2LD). A full programme for 2026/27 is now available from the weblink <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2026a> 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 2026/27: <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2026a>

Upcoming meetings:

11 May Practical with Martina - Competition work
7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

1 June Club competition and exhibition
7.00 pm staging, 7.30 pm refreshments / judging followed by viewing

6 July Cream Tea & Talk with Gill Pelton "Theatre of Plants"
7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

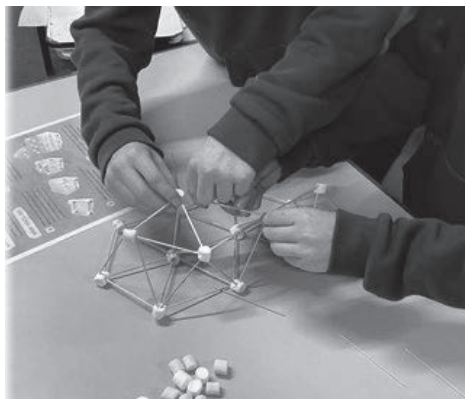
Downton Primary School

The recent after-school Puzzlers Club has been buzzing with creativity and problem-solving leading up to Easter. Every Thursday afternoon, a group of enthusiastic pupils gathered to tackle exciting puzzles, challenges and brain-teasers that stretch their thinking in new ways.

Last week, the room was transformed into a mini engineering lab as the children took on the Marshmallow Tower Challenge. Armed with cocktail sticks and marshmallows, the pupils worked in small teams to design and build the tallest and strongest structures they could. It might sound simple, but the challenge quickly became a test of planning, teamwork and perseverance.

The children experimented with different shapes and frameworks, discovering that triangles and wide bases made their towers stronger. There was plenty of discussion, careful rebuilding and lots of proud smiles as towers grew higher and higher. Some teams even created impressively complex structures that looked like tiny skyscrapers!

Activities like this help develop important STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). As the pupils build and test their ideas, they learn about stability, structure and problem-solving in a fun and practical way. Just as importantly, they practise teamwork, creativity and resilience when their designs need improving.



Lower Repair Café

MAY HAS ARRIVED WITH ALL THE BEAUTY OF BLUEBELLS, CHERRY BLOSSOM AND TULIPS. THIS IS TIME OF YEAR TO DO ALL THAT SPRING CLEANING AND RENOVATION WORK YOU HAVE BEEN PUTTING OFF, SO BRING ALONG ALL THOSE DAMAGED TREASURES AND LET US HELP YOU RESTORE THEM ALL



At Downton Repair Cafe again

It is a job to get good staff now a days, but I think our HR were really pushing the boat out taking on Bugs Bunny, that was taking thing a bit far, don't you think? He was rather 'hopeless' at the tasks we gave him.

Mind you, our industrial ladies were able to keep him under good control (I think)

This is Knitting and ~~Knattering~~ at its best



LATEST NEWS: -

1. We sent Martin, our Chair, up to Parliament last month to represent our Repair Cafe at a big gathering to encourage our MP's to sign up to a Repair And Reuse Declaration.
2. Please be aware that as the Cuckoo Fair is on the first Saturday in May, the Repair Cafe will be in the Downton Baptist Church the following Saturday 9th May. Hoping to see you there.

DONATED GIFTS AVAILABLE (The cost is whatever you wish to pay)

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Dawes Man's Bike	Elna Sewing Machine	Marantz Cassette Desk	Gas Fire Heater
Fellows Paper Trimmer	Bosch Hedge Trimmer	Small LG Television	Artisan Food Mixer



Everything seemed to happen in Downton last month, on the left we see our Team and a happy customer offering a cross-cut saw for repair at Seedy Sunday. On the right, that Blessed Bunny would not burrow away, however we are very grateful that he was happy to advertise our activities. News Flash: - We are only four jobs short of 9000 jobs since starting!!!



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Contact: loverrepaircafe@gmail.com or downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com or

Visit our Website

<https://loverrepaircafe.org.uk>

Redlynch and Local District History Society Report

Our April talk was by local resident Helen Roberts of the Australia Badge Trust who has been involved with the restoration of the downland chalk outline of Australia at Hurdcott near Fovant. There were a number of WW1 army camps along the A30 from Swallowcliffe to Fovant (Camps 1 to 4) and on to the camps 5 and 6 at Hurdcott. The Army units carved unit badges into the chalk hillsides above their camps and they are now listed, however the maintenance (weeding and remarking) is done by local volunteers overseen by Historical England.

The camp at Hurdcott was swiftly erected at the start of WW1 and hosted a number of British units in turn. In April 1917 the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Regiment moved out and the Australians moved in. The camp operated as a hospital convalescence unit and as a depot. Papers at the time noted mental effects on many of the patients and no weapons of such training was allowed in the vicinity. The camp continued in use into 1919 as a depot for Australians awaiting ships home. A number of men died whilst there and about 100 are buried in parish churchyards in the vicinity.

The camp comprised timber huts each holding 30 men who slept on straw mattresses on the floor. Facilities included a boxing ring, theatre, as well as the messes and training huts. During their time there the punishment detail began and completed the chalk carving and marking. The site was remarked in the early 1950s but by 2015 the "Australia" badge had disappeared apart from a faint outline. Helen obtained the landowners permission to try to restore the badge which with a number of volunteers and Historical England starting with a survey in 2017 and completion on 9 October 2018. Maintenance of the site is ongoing, weeding and the then laying fresh chalk into the carving. Care is taken not to throw earth spoil onto the grass as from a distance it appears white and denies the sharp outline the volunteers aim for.

On ANZAC day every 25 April a service is held and the site is regularly visited by members of the Australian Army when they are in the UK. One of the huts is now used as the village hall. The talk was not only interesting but beautifully illustrated by contempered photographs of good quality. Much information is freely available on line on the wartime Australians and in my experience, the Canadians as well.

Our next talk is Milestones (and other Wiltshire stories!) by Jamie Hobson in Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall at 7:30pm on 5th May.

To advertise goods or services in this magazine:

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All box and line advertisements in this magazine are accepted in good faith

Sending editorial copy:

Articles and notices of events for the **June** issue to be emailed to the Editor by **7th May**. Please contact the Editor if you wish to submit a paper copy.

Articles will be shortened if space is limited and any received late may not be used. Please use black and white clipart rather than coloured items. Word documents are preferable to pdfs or jpegs. **Email: downtonparishnews@gmail.com**

Opinions expressed or implied in the Downton Parish News are not necessarily those of the Editor or Parochial Church Council and no responsibility can be accepted for any errors of fact printed.

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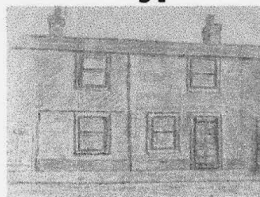
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Contact **Darren Hilton** on
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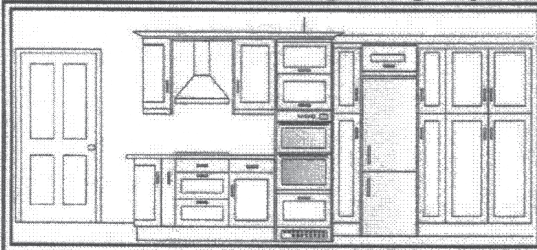
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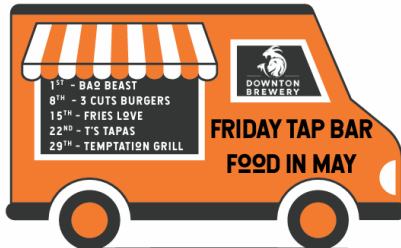
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