

April 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](mailto: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](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)



[www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton](http://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."*

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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.

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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](mailto:downtonparishnews@gmail.com)

### Did I see Tom Cruise?

For a split-second last week, it certainly felt that way. I found myself high-fiving someone in a pilot's green uniform, with baseball cap perfectly tilted, and those unmistakable Maverick sunglasses from the book and film *Top Gun*. Although Tom Cruise is famously not tall, this Maverick was shorter than expected - which made perfect sense as my 'Tom Cruise' was actually a primary school boy dressed up for World Book Day!



Of course, I knew I hadn't met the real Tom Cruise, but the moment made me smile, because it reminded me how easily our minds leap to the extraordinary. Imagine the shock if it *had* been him. We sometimes hear stories of people meeting celebrities by chance, and for some the instinct to grab a selfie is irresistible. However, in the rush of our everyday lives, would we even notice a well-known figure standing right beside us?

When Jesus rose from the tomb, he appeared among his followers in the most ordinary of moments. He journeyed alongside some, chatting as they walked and he shared breakfast on a beach with others. Yet not everyone recognised him straight away. Some spent hours in his company before realising who he truly was.

I wonder, if Jesus came alongside you in the quiet, unnoticed corners of your life, would you recognise him? The Gospels suggest that his presence often arrives gently, in conversation, in companionship or in the ordinary rhythms of a day. Those small moments that we're tempted to rush past. We often look for God in the extraordinary, hoping for miracles or moments that feel worthy of attention. Yet so often, his presence is revealed quietly: through a kind word, in a shared meal or a stranger's smile. Moments that are easy to miss, especially when we're not looking for them.

So maybe the question isn't only whether we would recognise Jesus if he stood before us, but whether we're paying attention to the ways he might already be drawing near. Are you aware of Jesus already sharing his presence with you?

Recognition begins with awareness, and awareness begins with slowing down enough to notice. Who knows what, or who we might see when we do.

*Veronica x*

Revd Veronica Batchelor, Team Rector, Forest and Avon Team

## Forest and Avon Team Services for April 2026

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

### Wednesday 1st April

10.45am	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
7.00pm	Compline	St. Mary's, Redlynch

### Thursday 2nd April

#### **Maundy Thursday**

7.00pm	Communion Service	St. Birinus, Morgans Vale
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### Friday 3rd April

#### **Good Friday**

9.30am	Good Friday Service	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
2.00pm	Good Friday Service	St. Birinus, Morgans Vale
1.15pm	Walk of the Cross	St. Laurence's, Downton
2.00pm	Good Friday Service	Downton Baptist Church

### Saturday 4th April

#### **Easter Eve**

7.00pm	Compline	St. Mary's, Redlynch
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### 5th April

#### **Easter Sunday**

9.30am	Communion Service	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Family Communion	St. Mary's, Redlynch
10.30am	Communion Service	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	Easter Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall

### 12th April

9.30am	Morning Worship + APCM	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Holy Communion	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10.30am	Morning Worship	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall

### Wednesday 15th April

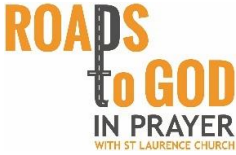
10.45am	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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### 19th April

9.30am	Communion Service	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Café Church (breakfast from 9.45am)	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall
6.00pm	Evensong	St. Mary's, Redlynch

### 26th April

9.30am	Silent Prayer	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Communion Service	St. Mary's, Redlynch
10.00am	Communion Service + APCM	St. Andrew's, Landford
10.30am	Café Church	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	Methodist Style	Landford Methodist Church



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

Downton Business centre and Industrial estate. Long Close  
Requests for particular prayers can be made by telephoning Reverend Ron Hart on 01725 514772 or emailing [info@stlaurencedownton.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)

### Roads to God Prayer Group

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

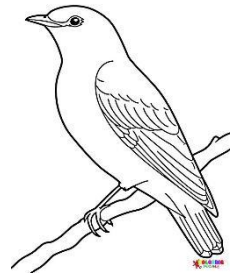


### Could you help St Laurence' Larder at Cuckoo Fair in 2026?

We are looking for willing, reliable, community minded people to help St Laurence' Church run their 'larder' in the Memorial Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026.

All sorts of skills are needed:

- ✓ Loading & unloading equipment between church & hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. (ideally someone with a van or estate car.)
- ✓ Doing the same, in reverse, when The Borough re-opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.
- ✓ Making / selling Bacon butties your bag?
- ✓ Tea or coffee more your thing?
- ✓ Serving food, clearing tables or washing up?



You will meet some lovely people and have an enjoyable time! There is no need to be a church member and you will be not put under any pressure to be one. This is a major fund raising event for the church and our regular helpers are all getting older!!

For further information, please call Janet McGee on 01725 513869.

## 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 **9<sup>th</sup> April at 12.00 pm** (one-off).

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://salisburycatholics.org/church-tv>



### Downton Baptist Church

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

[www.downtonbaptist.org](http://www.downtonbaptist.org) | [office@downtonbaptist.org](mailto: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.

## Downton Music Festival

The Downton Music Festival will take place in St Laurence Church from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

Wider promotion of the event is planned to take place soon, so please do keep an eye out for a flyer containing additional information about the event. The event aims to raise money for St Laurence Church, to help raise funds towards the ongoing church restoration fund.

We do hope that you will come and support the event – we will be welcoming several performers and groups from within the village community, including the Trafalgar School Choir, Suite Jazz, Downton Community Choir and the Downton Band.



### Could you capture the beauty of St Laurence Church?

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. We are also planning an exhibition to display the wonderful images captured.

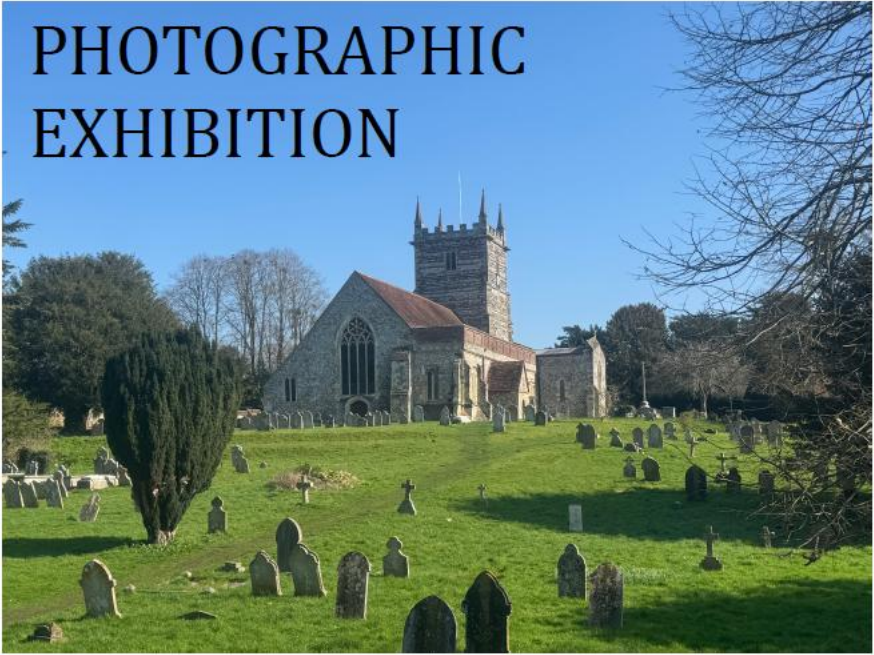
You can email your photos to [lovestlaurence@gmail.com](mailto:lovestlaurence@gmail.com). Thank you for your support and we're looking forward to seeing your images.



Don't forget to follow our Facebook page for the latest news and events from St Laurence! Follow us - @StLaurenceDownton.

Love,  
St Laurence

# 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.



**The Parish of St Laurence, Downton**

**Church Electoral Roll**

**The Church Electoral Roll is being updated between  
5 and 19 April 2026**

**If you are already on the Electoral Roll and your details have not changed,  
you need take no action.**

If you are not on the Electoral Roll but would like to be, please complete an  
application form.

Application forms are available at St Laurence Church (on the table by main  
door) or from

Linda Ricketts, Church Electoral Roll Officer  
2 The Sidings, Downton, SP5 3QZ. Tel: 01725 513162

If you are on the Electoral Roll but your contact details have changed, please  
notify the Electoral Roll Officer.

Application forms must be returned by Sunday, 19 April 2026. The new  
Electoral Roll will be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on  
Sunday, 17 May 2026, when those whose names are listed will be eligible to  
vote.

*Being on the Church Electoral Roll is a way of saying that you are a member  
of a church. To be eligible you should be baptised and aged 16 or over, a  
member of the Church of England (or a Church in communion with the Church  
of England) and resident in the Parish. If you are not resident in the Parish  
you will need to have attended the church regularly for six months prior to  
enrolment.*

## 2026 UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH

### **2<sup>nd</sup> May - The Cuckoo Fair**

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

### **1<sup>st</sup> May - Photographic Exhibition**

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

### **9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June - Downton Music Festival**

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

### **3<sup>rd</sup> July - Suite Jazz**

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

### **24<sup>th</sup> July - An Evening with.... Captain Barry Sadler**

*A fascinating talk from a Southampton Docks Pilot Captain Barry Sadler*

### **12<sup>th</sup> September - Goose Fair**

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

### **2<sup>nd</sup> October - An Evening with.... Ron Burrows**

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

### **6<sup>th</sup> November - An Evening with.... Baroness Batters**

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

### **5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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*

### **11<sup>th</sup> 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*

## 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 reopens for the season on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2pm–4pm**, and every **Friday evening from 24<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm–8pm** (excluding bank holidays).

We will also be hosting **free fun taster sessions** on **Sundays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **bulb7@icloud.com**, or visit our website: [www.downtonbc.co.uk](http://www.downtonbc.co.uk)

### Downton Bowling Club

We welcome new members, so why not join us on one of our **Open Days** (Sundays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May) or for a roll up at **2pm every Monday** or **6pm every Friday** throughout the season\* from 20<sup>th</sup> 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: **bulb7@icloud.com**  
web: **downtonbc.co.uk**  
or: **facebook.com/downtonbc/**

*A warm welcome awaits you.*

\*excluding Bank Holidays



## Downton Horticultural Society

We are very proud and privileged to welcome **Darren Everest, the Chelsea Gold Medallist**, who will be giving an illustrated talk 'Growing Sweet Peas for Showing' in the Memorial Hall, at **2.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**. Darren has been growing, and showing Sweet Peas for over 30 years, and also has a passion for dahlias. He will probably have some of his hand packaged Sweet Pea seeds and his book 'Show Time' for sale.



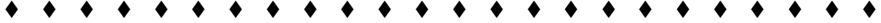
**Everybody is welcome** to come along and there is no admission charge, although we are grateful for donations from non-members. There will be refreshments, a raffle and a sales table. Also, additional parking will be available in the Primary School car park as the children will be on their Easter holiday

Our Plant and Table -top Sale this year will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. We would be pleased to receive donations of plants on the day of the event to sell. So if you have any left over then please keep us in mind. Also, table tops will soon be available to book.

Gordon Bishop

**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.**



**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](http://www.golden-oldies.org.uk)

Or ring Carole Still on 01722 337880



**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](mailto:gillian.drayson@rnid.org.uk)



**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 April 8<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> and then the Annual Outing to Wells and Street on July 15<sup>th</sup>. 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!



**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  
[downtonparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:downtonparishnews@gmail.com)



**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



## Downton Parish Council News



It feels like spring has finally sprung looking out from my office window, long may it last with the beautiful shows of daffodils, magnolia and cherry blossom everywhere. If you are still feeling blue after all that rain cheer yourself up by making 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!

- Young people from Downton Primary School attended the DPC meeting on the 9th, it was lovely to hear about the DPC supported project that the children chose. A budget will be allocated, and further confirmation of the project will be on the agenda for discussion in April. DPC Councillors and other volunteers are helping the Primary School to plant some trees in their grounds; this has been done before in the Memorial Gardens and was great fun for adults and children alike
- DPC are acting on residents' concerns on road safety, a pedestrian survey will be carried out shortly 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
- By the time you read this, we hope to welcome back our Parish Steward Steve who has been recovering from an injury and has been abstracted doing County pot holes. We look forward to giving him and his team lots of jobs so if you see anything for Steve please let me know
- Work continues on plans to refurbish the public toilets, more exciting details soon!

As you may know one of the beautiful Beech trees in the Memorial Gardens will have to be felled on the 23, 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> March due to a nasty fungal disease rendering the tree unsafe as time goes on – this means the whole of the gardens will be closed off so residents will not be able to walk through or use the play park. The good news is that DPC were successful in getting a grant for a

commemorative Oak to mark the end of the Second World War, this will be planted nearby by the Cadets with a short service at 11am on the 11 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.



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

An evening in the African Bush  
with  
Peter Dowling

Birds & Animals  
Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia & Botswana

Downton Memorial Hall on the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> May  
In aid of Salisbury Hospice Charity

## 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.

- 7<sup>th</sup> April (week 1) - Jim Reid will talk to us about the history of street names in and around Salisbury
- 14<sup>th</sup> April (week 2) - Games and Quiz
- 21<sup>st</sup> April (week 3) - Dave Dawson will be joining us for more singing and dancing. Audience participation optional!
- 28<sup>th</sup> April (week 4) - Games.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> February Alex from Salisbury Hospice came to speak to us about all the great things that the team at the Hospice do. In 1981 Peter Gilham was the founder of the hospice. The values were compassion, dignity, choice, respect, collaboration involving patients in decisions relating to them. There were different health conditions: cancer, heart failure, pulmonary fibrosis; controlling pain and meeting spiritual and emotional needs. Fundraising needed for future proofing the support for the Hospice. There was a collection at the end of Alex's talk; the Good Companions donated £70, and £600 was donated by the Good Companion members.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March we had a happy nostalgic afternoon, in memory of Phyl Ford, who had recently passed away, reliving on a big screen, many shows she had inspired members of the Good Companions to take part in. There was group singing, solo songs, poems and dancing; it was fun watching our younger selves on the screen, Edna and others provided a tasty range of food for us to enjoy. All the filming over the years was done by Phyls' Son.



**The Deanery Charity is ECSSSUP which is supporting the new Christian University in impoverished South Sudan.**

**You can find out more and donate on their website <https://www.ecsssup.org/why>**

## 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## **Interested in making a difference in your community – Become a School Governor at The Trafalgar School in Downton**

The governors within Magna Learning Partnership come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the academies. We are currently seeking new governors and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- the ability to work well with others
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- a willingness to support and enhance the values and ethos of the school



### **Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church**

**Talkabout Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** Tom Cunliffe will speak on Hurricane Force. Coffee served from 10.00am talk starts at 10.30, in Woodfalls Methodist Hall. All welcome.

**Social Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** Starting with a meal at 5.30pm, followed by team Black Out Games (Puzzles and activities from a book produced during the war to occupy people during the Black outs). In Woodfalls Methodist Hall. It would help catering if you could let us know if you plan to come on 01725 512648. All Welcome.

**Friendship Hub Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Stay and Play Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April** 10-12 In Woodfalls Methodist Hall. A FREE morning for parents or grandparents to bring children along to play together with our toys, and do some crafts.



**JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST  
SATURDAY 16th MAY  
8-11AM**

**Woodfalls Methodist SP5 2LH**



**EVERYTHING FROM  
TOAST TO A FULL  
ENGLISH FOR A  
DONATION**

**Including Vegetarian & gluten free**

**All profits to Christian Aid.**





## Redlynch Players Backstage News

### Spring Production 2026

### Bringing a touch of 70s nostalgia with the girls!

Our spring production this year consists of two one act plays (and a monologue!) set in the 1970s and performed by all female casts. The first, *Bus Stop* by Rae Shirley, is a comic take on a seemingly endless wait for the bus to arrive, when conversations revolve around village gossip, varicose veins and a portion of chips! You won't look at a bus queue in quite the same way again! This is followed by, *The Nannie*, a witty little monologue by George Melly (yes, that George Melly – the Jazz musician!) which harks back to simpler times and concludes the first half.



In the second, the wryly humorous *People Like Us* by Cherry Vooght, three women take a seaside holiday in a caravan. Set atop the cliffs in the ever-changing British weather, the women face the looming topics of loneliness and independence as their years advance. Ultimately, they are indeed 'people like us' and we are left wondering how we face some of the challenges the advancing years bring us as well as our

relationships with our nearest and dearest.

All directed by Lloyd Perry, we hope you'll enjoy these great stories set in the unsophisticated 1970s, yet still amuse and provoke discussion today.

Tickets, costing £12 each, will be go on sale from Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March for our performances beginning 7:30pm Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, continuing each night until Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May. You can get yours by emailing: [tickets@redlynchplayers.co.uk](mailto:tickets@redlynchplayers.co.uk) Please look out for up to date information on our social media (Facebook or Instagram) or on fliers and posters throughout the parish!

### Find out more about us!

We are always looking for new friends to join us. If you have ever been tempted to get involved, please do get in touch with us via our website, email [info@redlynchplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@redlynchplayers.co.uk) or message us on our Facebook or Instagram pages. We would love to have a chat with you!

Please see our website for recent reviews, how to buy tickets and past productions: [www.redlynchplayers.co.uk](http://www.redlynchplayers.co.uk)

We post lots of regular updates, news and photos on our Redlynch Players Facebook and Instagram pages **@redlynchplayers**. Why not follow us?

### Ali Silver, Chair of Redlynch Players



### Downton Memorial Centre Fundraising Evening

The Trustees have a long list of improvements they wish to make to the Memorial hall. These include refurbishing the kitchen, putting solar panels on the roof and loft insulation to name just three. We will be applying for grants but we also need to raise money.

If you love films, our next event is for you. It will also showcase our new projector and drop-down screen .....

### A Film Evening on Friday 24 April at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

In conjunction with **Film Expo South**, an organisation promoting and providing inspiration for independent filmmakers, you will be able to see:

Five short films (45 mins in total) before the interval and

One longer film (75 minutes) after the interval.

They cover a variety of genres – some are funny, others sad, poignant or thought provoking.

A licensed bar and refreshments will be available.

For more information, including further details of the films, see [www.filmexposouth.com](http://www.filmexposouth.com) (go to 'festival') or our website [www.downtonmemorialcentre.co.uk](http://www.downtonmemorialcentre.co.uk)

Tickets are £10, available from the Borough Café (cash only) or, to pay by BACS, by texting 07760415818 saying how many tickets you would like.

Not suitable for children

## Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society (FEFAS)

Our March meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March was a floral demonstration by Michael Bowyer, entitled 'Herald the Spring'. We were all inspired as well as entertained by his highly creative designs and his theatrical performance! It was lovely to see floral designs with spring bulbs and blossoms.

Please do join us on 13<sup>th</sup> April for our 'Demo and do' practical workshop with Heather. spring flowers. You will create 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! A worksheet is available – do get in touch in advance of the meeting. 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 07990868351

Email: [forestedgeflower@gmail.com](mailto:forestedgeflower@gmail.com)

Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/forestedgeflower](http://www.facebook.com/groups/forestedgeflower)

View full programme for 2026/27: <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2026a>

Upcoming meetings:

**13<sup>th</sup> April** - Demo & Do with Heather (Spring has sprang). 7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

**11<sup>th</sup> May** - Practical with Martina 'Competition work'. 7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

**1<sup>st</sup> June** - Club competition and exhibition. 7.00 pm staging 7.30 pm refreshments / judging followed by viewing

# Lover Repair Cafe

APRIL FOOLS DAY – “THIS IS THE DAY UPON WHICH WE ARE REMINDED OF WHAT WE ARE, ON THE OTHER 365 DAYS” (Mark Twain). SO, BE WISE EVERYBODY AND CONSIDER BRINGING YOUR BROKEN AND DAMAGED ITEMS TO US, TO GIVE THEM A FRESH LIFE AND TO SAVE YOU HARD EARNED CASH.



### **Downton Repair Cafe**

A chance for a chat & A repair job  
 Every first Saturday morning of the month we will be at the Downton Baptist Church to repair your items and to refresh your spirit.

### **Lover Repair Cafe**

Wednesday & Friday mornings the Team will be on hand to refurbish your treasures and (shh) sometimes we have Pavlov's on our scrummy catering menu.



### **LATEST NEWS: -**

1. Happily, the number of jobs being received and actioned is still rising well. So much so that we anticipate that the 9000<sup>th</sup> Job will come in during April & one customer will receive a bottle of Presseco as a prize.
2. Our Helper list changes as we say thank you & farewell to Lawrence & Peter as they relocate to be closer to their families and we happily welcome George & Terry onto the Team with their skills.

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

Philips Mixing Wand	Hardwood Coffee Table	B7D Corded Drill	Mondo Vac Cleaner
Hoover Breeze Vac	External Light (as new)	Bosch Leaf Blower	Breville Steam Iron
Dawes Man's Bike	Cream 4 Bumer Toaster	Marantz Cassette Desk	Gas Fire Heater
2 No. Paper Trimmers	Bosch Hedge Trimmer	Small LG Television	Artisan Food Mixer



A couple of pictures from Lover RC. Ola and Peter appear to be happy shining a little light on the keyboard. On the right hand side is a little glimpse of Dawn, our most senior member at 91 (bottom left) keeping her eyes on the main floor at Lover Repair where the work comes in and the teas, coffee's and chats take place.



We are here to help you by repairing furniture, ceramics, electrical goods, clothing, books & old treasures etc. So, please VISIT US at:

REDLYNCH VILLAGE HALL – Every Wed. & Fri. Morning, 10am to midday, or

DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH – On the 1st Saturday of each month, 10am to midday

Contact: [loverrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:loverrepaircafe@gmail.com) or [downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com) or

Visit our Website <https://loverrepaircafe.org.uk>

## Redlynch and Local District History Society Report

Our well supported March meeting came to hear Salisbury Museum Director Adrian Green speaking on Romans in our area. There was a well organised rural lifestyle here before the Romans arrived. The River Avon itself was an artery of the Wessex heartland, being a barrier between the Forest and Cranborne Chase. Hengistbury Head where the Avon flows into the sea was a very important port during the Iron Age, remains have shown the importation of Breton Pottery and figs plus the exportation of cattle and slaves. There were a variety of tribes in the area, and the Avon may have been a border for some of those. There were settled areas of population throughout the area with many large Hill Forts, e.g. Old Sarum, Clearbury Rings and Whitsbury Castle.

Britain became part of the Roman Empire in 43AD; Old Sarum had Roman ruins around it and five Roman roads running to all points of the compass due to its position in central Southern England. It appears the Romans used the rural settlements they found around our area with rural life continuing as the main occupation.

The remaining archaeology showing Roman life in the Avon Valley are the Roman Villas. Rockbourne Villa was large and sprawling and would have grown over many years. It is a complicated site with both agricultural and industrial aspects. A hoard of 7,714 coins was found there. Downton Roman Villa was situated close to what is now Moot Close. it was not excavated till after the 2nd World War and known as a Corridor Villa and was much smaller than Rockbourne villa. The Downton villa was surrounded by other estate buildings; with a bath house and a corn drying oven nearby. A large lead vessel was found here which would have held 14lbs of grain which points to this being an agricultural settlement and people living very much as they would have done in the previous Iron Age.

So it seems that the Avon Valley was a passing through area for the Romans, they came and they used the local areas of population, made sure taxes were set up and then they moved on to populate towns in different areas of the country. Although principally the area was still very rural through the Roman occupation, there were many Roman kilns throughout the valley. To finish the talk Adrian updated us on DNA work on local Roman era skeletons and it has been found that most had British Iron Age genealogy. By the time we get to the Anglo-Saxon burials they only have 5 to 6 % of that same genealogy so that is probably due to a later mass immigration.

Our April talk is "Rediscovering Australia" by Helen Roberts. She will talk about the Australia badge near Fovant and about Hurdcott Camp where up to 3,000 Australian troops were billeted in World War 1. 7 April at 7:30pm Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall.

## **Navigating Dementia Conference Brings Support and Expertise to Salisbury**

Small changes can make meaningful differences. That is the message behind the upcoming *Navigating Dementia Conference*, hosted by **Safer and Supportive Salisbury**, which will take place on Tuesday 19 May at **Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury**.

The free afternoon event will bring together local services, national expertise and lived experience to support carers, people living with dementia, professionals and voluntary sector organisations.

A buffet lunch will be served from 12.30pm, with the conference beginning at 1.30pm and running until 4.30pm.

The keynote speaker will be **Sir Al Aynsley-Green**, who will speak on the importance of compassionate care. Representatives from **Alzheimer's Disease International** will share the latest research developments in treatment and prevention, offering insight into global progress in dementia care.

The conference will also feature guest speakers with lived experience of dementia, providing personal perspectives on navigating diagnosis, care and community support. Local dementia support organisations will be available throughout the afternoon to offer one-to-one information and guidance.

To ensure the event is inclusive and accessible, a quiet room with a tailored programme of activities will be available for people living with dementia during the conference.

The event is free to attend; however, places are limited and must be booked in advance to ensure appropriate support and catering arrangements.

To request a ticket/s, please visit this Eventbrite Page [Navigating Dementia Conference Tickets, Tuesday, May 19 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm | Eventbrite](#) or call 07484 157768 or email [admin@safersalisbury.org.uk](mailto:admin@safersalisbury.org.uk). Attendees are asked to advise of any dietary or support requirements at the time of booking.

For further information about the conference and local dementia support initiatives in **Salisbury**, please contact Safer and Supportive Salisbury. [Safer and Supportive Salisbury](#)

<https://navigatingdementia.eventbrite.co.uk>

# Navigating Dementia Conference

*Small changes can make meaningful differences.*

Entrance  
**FREE**  
pre-booking  
required

**07484 157768**

A welcoming afternoon for health and community services professionals and people with dementia and their carers to connect, share and learn.

**Tuesday 19 May**  
**12.30-4.30pm**

**Salisbury Methodist Church**  
**St. Edmund's Church Street**  
**SALISBURY**  
**SP1 1EF**

12:30 Registration and  
Buffet Lunch

1:30 Conference starts

Key speaker  
Sir Al Aynsley-Green  
on compassionate care

Alzheimers Disease International on  
research and future developments

People with lived experience of Dementia  
will share their perspectives

Local support organisations will be on hand to offer  
information and advice

A supported quieter space also available for people with  
lived experience of dementia throughout the afternoon

This event is funded by the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation



Charity No 1205499

[www.safer Salisbury.org.uk](http://www.safer Salisbury.org.uk)

Hop on over for our

# EASTER Egg hunt

Join us on

**Sunday 5th April at**

**2.30pm**

family and friends welcome!

Ashley Grange, Iode Hill, Downton



**£3**  
Per Child  
11 Years Old and  
under  
Adults go free!



# EASTER EGG HUNT



MONDAY  
6th  
April

**GATES OPEN AT 10.30AM**

**11AM START**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

NO DOGS OR ANY UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

ALTERNATIVE DATE 11TH APRIL IF BAD WEATHER