

June 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

Living by the right instructions

As some of you may know the kitchen is somewhere I don't venture very often, only recently I tried using coffee from a container labelled 'ground coffee' to make an instant cup of coffee. It didn't work. I'd like to say that if I'd read the label properly this wouldn't have happened, although in reality I still may have tried! It did remind me, though, of the importance of not only reading labels but also following them. Perhaps you've put a red sock into a white wash or put the wrong fuel in the car – whoops that's me again!

Our lives are full of labels, signs and following instructions, most of which are there to keep us safe or to achieve the best results. However, we still miss the signs or sometimes choose to ignore them. Maybe you've driven the wrong way down a one-way street or chosen to park somewhere you shouldn't?



With so many instructions around us, how do we choose which to follow? Rules have always been a part of life, Jesus himself lived within a world full of laws and expectations, some of which he followed, while others he chose to challenge or ignore. The crowds that followed Jesus were astonished by some of his teaching, and a scholar challenged him about why he followed some and not others by asking "*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*" Jesus replied, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*"

At the heart of Jesus' teaching is love, and he challenges us to love wholeheartedly, and that means keeping love at the heart of even the most challenging relationships. Loving others, especially those we find challenging can feel like an impossible instruction and we don't always succeed. However, imagine the difference it would make to our world, community, families if we could all follow the instruction to love with our whole heart.

We won't always get it right and we will occasionally fail to follow instructions, but as we move through the coming weeks, may our actions and our words, whether spoken, written or quietly lived, be offered and received in love.

Rev'd Veronica Batchelor, Team Rector, Forest and Avon Team

Veronica

Forest and Avon Team Services for June 2026

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Wednesday 3rd June

10.45am	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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7th June

9.30am	Communion Service	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Service	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10.30am	Communion Service (chancel)	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	Worship for Everyone	Landford Methodist Hall
4.00pm	Forest Church	St.Mary's, Redlynch

14th June

9.30am	Morning Worship	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Communion Service	St. Birinus, Morgans Vale
10.30am	Morning Worship	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall

Wednesday 17th June

10.45am	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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21st June

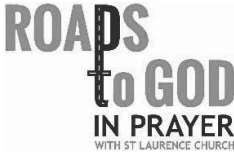
9.30am	Communion Service	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Café Church (breakfast from 9.45am)	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall
6.00pm	Evensong	St.Mary's, Redlynch

28th June

9.30am	Silent Prayer	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Communion Service	St.Mary's, Redlynch
10.00am	Communion Service	St.Andrew's, Landford
10.30am	Café Church	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	Methodist Style	Landford Methodist Church
16:00pm	St Peter's Day Service with Communion	St. Peter's, Plaitford

5th July

9.30am	Communion Service	St. Peter's, Bramshaw
10.00am	Service	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10.30am	Communion Service (chancel)	St. Laurence's, Downton
10.30am	Service	Landford Folk Festival
4.00pm	Forest Church	St.Mary's, Redlynch



In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community during **June** we will be offering prayers for Barford Lane, Standlynch, West Wick and Ceobury View, Moot Close and Easternman 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 **17th June** 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.

Many thanks. We hope to hear from you.



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

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 **25th June 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 Ulliyatt

Tel: 07468 491143 or 07786 248880.



*You are invited to a service to give thanks to God
for his goodness over 40 years of ordained
ministry*

at St Laurence Church Downton

on 21 June at 10.30 a.m.

*followed by a birthday buffet lunch and shared
memories for Ron's 80th birthday.*

12.15 at Downton Baptist Church.

Partners welcome.

Offers of help or food to

creddyhart@yahoo.co.uk

Tel 01725 514772

Mob 07962275925



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.

Sponsorship of the music festival kindly provided by John Lavin, Managing Director of Cognatum Estates Limited.

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

A ‘Thank you’ from St Laurence’s PCC

A huge thank you to all of you who contributed towards making The Larder at Cuckoo Fair 2026 work very well this year. We are grateful, not only to members of St Laurence’s Church but also to those generous souls from other churches in the village as well as the wider Forest and Avon Team.

Those who made cakes, scones or sausage rolls, and those who bought food offerings. Those of you who helped move the ‘hardware’ from church to the Memorial Hall on the Friday evening and back again on Saturday evening. Those who put up the Larder signs and flags and took them down again! Those who helped on the day, many of you staying much longer than the time you originally committed to do: whether it was on the till, cooking and serving breakfasts to the committee, managing the hot drinks, clearing tables, washing & drying dishes, serving food, cooking bacon or clearing up – everything done by you all contributed to the overall success of the event, so thanks again.

It was a very happy day with Christian fellowship in action.

The PCC have been told indicative profits, but the ‘number’ is yet to be finalised. However, the indications are that we might have pipped what we raised in 2025! But whatever the final figure is, a worthwhile sum of money was raised towards the upkeep of our ancient church building in Downton, Additionally, 10% of our profits will be sent to the Cuckoo Fair Organising Committee to help with the cost of putting on the event and any moneys remaining will go to their nominated local charity.

Thanks again; and please do give yourselves a big pat on the back!



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>

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH

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 Batters' 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 gift 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

Downton Parish Council News



Beautiful May is now well underway, lovely sunshine and clear star filled nights. There is still a risk of frost for our tender plants, but England really is in full glory in May and June, especially in our lovely Parish.

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! Please do contact me, many hands make a considerable difference

- Our Parish Steward service resumes in June, after months gritting, filling pot holes and cutting back vegetation across the county! It's time to concentrate on the Parish now so please do email me any suitable jobs.
For June I already have on the list: **Dig out Warrens Lane gullies, clear Lode Hill of leaves etc., strim behind 2 Avon Meadow, weeds around bollards, Cross and benches outside the Goat, weeds outside the library, strim footpath 18a by Weeke Close**
- The colourful, bright public toilet refurbishment is going well, the opening date will be published on social media and the noticeboards
- The Slab Lane road safety measures have been approved by Wiltshire Council's Local Highways Footpath Improvement Group; this now has to go to the Southern Wiltshire Area Board for final approval on the 4 June 2026
- 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! Come and hear what your Parish Council is doing for you and your community**

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 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



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

**Now extended
until end June!**

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.



Downton Horticultural Society

Our Summer Show will be held in the Memorial Hall at 2pm on Saturday 6th June. Admission is free, so please come and view the many exhibits of sweet peas, roses, pot plants etc, as well as the floral arrangements. Apart from the floral classes this show has an art section for any painting, and a photography section in which the two classes are 'Wildlife' and 'My holiday'. We are also very grateful to Downton Primary School for allowing us to exhibit either a Mini-beast or Single-stem flower made by the children from upcycled packaging, as part of their Eco-schools initiative. There will also be refreshments, a sales table and a raffle, and prize giving at 4.15pm.

If you would like to enter an exhibit in the Show then details of all the classes are in the Show Schedules available from any committee member including Chris Parry, 'Cymbeline', 51 The Borough, Downton (opposite the Co-op) - 01725 5145511. New exhibitors are always welcome. It costs 25p per entry and for most classes the first prize is £1 and the second prize 50p, there are also trophies for some classes. Entry forms (included in the Show Schedule) must be in by 8pm on the Wednesday before the show and the exhibit brought along to the hall, either on the Friday evening or Saturday morning.

Our plant sale went well and raised much needed funds. A big thank you goes to everybody who donated plants and also those people who had table-tops.

Gordon Bishop (01725 511475)



Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Talkabout Thursday 4th June will be Stars Appeal Update by Dave Cates. Coffee served from 10.00am, talk starts at 10.30 in Woodfalls Methodist Hall

Redlynch & District W.I

DON'T MISS OUT! Our outing this year is on 15th July when we shall be visiting both the City of Wells and Street Shopping Village. There are still a few tickets left so be quick! This year you are getting double your money with two venues to explore at a total price of £26.00. You can reserve your seat by contacting Sandra Pearce on 01725 512129.

The speaker at our next meeting on June 10th will be Suzanne Kemp who will tell us all about 'The New Forest, grazing and commoning'. Everyone is welcome to our meetings which are held at Morgan Vale Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. (Tea and cake as well of course!).

Any other information can be obtained from Ann Kelly 01725514550 or just come along to our next meeting, you'll be very welcome!



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.

- 2nd June (week 1) - Games and Quiz
- 9th June (week 2) - Juliet ten Doeschate talk "Brilliant Mini Beasts
- 16th June (week 3) - Games and Joanne's Raffle!
- 23rd June (week 4) - Catch of the Day, Female Sea Shanty Choir will be entertaining us.
- 30th June (week 5) - Games and Quiz

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



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

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.

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026 AT 7PM

J O I N U S

SUITE JAZZ

Kate Edgar, Paul Borrelli & Dave Mace

ST LAURENCE CHURCHYARD

Bring a savoury picnic, chairs a woolly and your friends

Puddings and hot drinks will be on sale

Tickets £10 (under 18 £5) available on the door

or in advance from The Borough Cafe

or from Courtney Spence at

courtney.spence7@gmail.com

All proceeds in aid of St Laurence Church

(If wet the performance will be in the church)



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/>





St Mary's Church, Redlynch present

Tea and Tennis!

Sunday, 12th July

Watch the Gentlemen's Singles Finals
live on the big screen in Redlynch village
hall whilst enjoying a complimentary bowl
of strawberries and cream!

- Doors open from 3:45pm
- Unreserved seating
- Bar (including Pimms of course!)
- Raffle



Tickets, costing £12 are available from
tennis@stmarys-redlynch.org.uk
or phone:

Peter Bishop 01725 512779

A fundraising event for St Mary's, Redlynch

Redlynch Players Backstage News

Spring Production 2026 – A touch of 70s nostalgia



After another successful sell-out run for our Spring production 'A Touch of 70s Nostalgia' we are starting to relax for our summer break. We had great fun rehearsing for this one as well as working hard on getting it just right for the performances – we lost count of the number of bananas and chips that were consumed in the

process (If you weren't there, I will leave you intrigued!). Many thanks to all who came and shared in the evening as well as thanks to our dedicated backstage and front of house crew who helped us keep everything flowing smoothly. We couldn't do it without you!



We Are Award Winners!



We were honoured to be awarded the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) District 12 Achievement winners for our productions! The am dram equivalent of a BAFTA! At the end of May a small contingent from the group went to a very glamorous award ceremony in Exeter to receive the award. More details will follow on the next magazine! We were also nominated for Best Comedy and Best Drama in the South West

– at the time of writing we don't yet know the outcome, but we were very excited to be nominated! 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.'*

And so, our thoughts turn to next year which will be our 70th! We are planning some rather exciting things, but will need some help to achieve them. If you would like to help out, please do get in touch via the contacts below. More specific information will be coming soon!

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

Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society (FEFAS)

Our May meeting held on 11th May was a mini demonstration by Martina entitled 'Showtime' which gave us all some useful hints and tips for competition work which will take place on 1st June!

Please do join us on 1st June and see various floral designs created by our members for a competition entitled 'Gateway to Summer'. Refreshments (and judging) from 7.30 pm followed by viewing. 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:

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)
 No August meeting



St Birinus Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th June 10 - 12 noon

**at St Birinus Church,
Morgan's Vale Road SP5 2HU**

Please join us for a social morning
with delicious cakes and hot or cold
drinks; homemade marmalade and
preserves also on sale



All donations or sale proceeds will support the
mission, maintenance, and running costs of our
church, as well as
our current appeal to repair our boundary wall

Lover Repair Cafe

"JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER"

WELL THAT IS WONDERFUL IF IT IS ALL ABOUT NATURE, BUT IF IT IS YOUR FURNITURE, CROCKERY, ELECTRICAL ITEMS, CLOTHING OR METAL-WORK 'BUSTING', THEN PLEASE BRING IT ALONG TO THE REPAIR CAFE WHERE WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEND IT FOR YOU.



On the left a recent Donation given. We congratulate seven year old Isla for having her hair cut off to support the Little Princess Trust, who take hair tresses & turn them into wigs for children suffering cancer treatment. Dawn, our senior member presented her with £165 from RC funds & gifts.

Hitting the Ivories

Somebody must really have been playing in an athletic 'Jam Session' to cause this amount of damage to their electronic keyboard, but we will people who can fix it.



LATEST NEWS: -

1. We held our AGM last month and are pleased to report all is going well. We completed 1544 Jobs in year, allowing us to give £13,117 to various needy charities. This also meant a Landfill Saving of 5.32 tonnes of waste and a CO2 Reduction of 26.56 tonnes.
2. This month we are now able to provide all our Helpers with their own Lover Repair Cafe Manuals, providing RC history and action details, also we can now obtain Shirts & Gilet's in our own livery.

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

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What would you do with the 'Bits' on the left?

Well, our Team are the 'Ever Hopefuls' and with a lot of skill and a bit of magic we can usually turn things back to their former glory. In fact as recently reported at our AGM we recorded an exceptional 87.8% success rate and we are aware that the average from other Repair Cafe's is approx 63.5%



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Redlynch and Local District History Society Report

Our May talk, given by Jamie Hobson, was about Milestones. The milestone was introduced to Britain during the Roman period. Roman milestones were typically placed at intervals of one Roman mile along principal roads.

Evidence suggests that Roman roads often followed earlier trackways rather than creating entirely new alignments. The Wessex Ridgeway ran through Wiltshire while the Harrow Way crosses the country from Kent and the two meet at points along the way. As the proverb says, “All roads lead to Rome” and the original measuring system worked by measuring distances to a central point. It is thought that the London Stone in Cannon Street may have been the original such point in Britain. For the South West it is often Hyde Park Corner that is used as the measuring point. Many Roman milestones are honorific and carry inscriptions naming the reigning emperor and listing his titles. References to distance are often secondary.

As time passed many of these roads remained in use but alternative trackways and systems were also developed. Travel by road was slow and difficult and as traffic levels increased the road conditions were inadequate. Turnpike legislation was implemented, requiring each area to pay for its own roads. Local landowners were often heavily involved and milestones from this period often reflected distances to their properties, for example to Longleat. More directional stones started to appear.

In terms of the milestones themselves, which are mostly carved from stone, the earliest ones used serif Roman capitals and numerals. In time they began to adopt Arabic numbers. Some stones show physical alterations where the Roman numerals were then converted. Later milestones began to use early sans-serif letterforms, historically known as “grotesk” which was much easier to carve. Some of the earliest examples had no spaces and were carved Boustrophedon style. This was eventually changed to read left to right. These modifications demonstrate changing expectations of legibility for users travelling at increasing speeds. Text was sometimes supplemented with symbols. One of the most distinctive was the manicule or pointing hand. These directional hands indicated routes clearly without relying entirely on language. Manicules vary widely in design, ranging from gloved hands to simplified fists. Common forms of milestones include rectangular slabs, tapering posts and multi-faced stones positioned at junctions allowing multiple destinations and

distances to be shown on a single stone. Some milestones were built into walls or banks; others stood free.

From the Industrial revolution cast iron milestones appeared. These allowed for mass production and consistent typography. Turnpikes became more widespread, often built by private companies. Toll houses became common – one local example is on Harnham Bridge.

During the Second World War, many milestones were removed or defaced to prevent aiding enemy navigation. Others were lost through road changes or theft. As motor traffic increased modern road signage came to be, particularly after the 1950s, when Britain adopted a signage system recognisable with our system today.

There are still many examples of milestones to be found in Wiltshire. There is a lovely example in Marlborough showing the distance to Salisbury, another in Britford with italics and an example of grotesk in Barford St Martin. There are also several around Stonehenge plus a stone near Donhead St Andrew showing the distance to Hyde Park Corner.

Today many milestones are listed. Further information can be found via the Milestone Society website.



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/>

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 Screen

Downton Primary School

Duck Race



The Duck Race was also a great success on Monday 4th May. As you can see from the photos the event was a great success.

The winning ducks were... drumroll please ... 🥁

1st 125 - £50 cash

2nd 107 - £20 Amazon voucher

3rd 889 - £20 cinema voucher

The winners will be contacted directly - congrats! 🏆

Therapy Dog Visit

Fern thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Dormice class last term and would like to say a huge thank you to the children for making her feel so welcome. Fern is now working with Hedgehogs class and it is already clear from these wonderful photos just how much the children are valuing their time with her. Fern is very much looking forward to getting to know the class just as well over the coming weeks. Thank you to Fern for your time and enthusiasm, and to Nicky Miller for supporting this valuable work in school.



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Sending editorial copy:

Articles and notices of events for the **July/August** issue to be emailed to the Editor by **7th June**. 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

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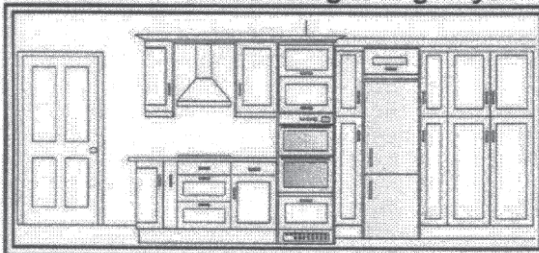
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