

Charlton St. Peter, Rushall & Upavon
TOGETHER
Church & Village News



February



2025

WHO TO CONTACT:

Team Rector: Revd. Canon Rhona Floate, The Rectory, Pewsey, SN9 5DL (day off Friday) Tel: 01672 705130 rhonafloate@aol.com

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PEWSEY TEAM OFFICE: Bouverie Hall, Pewsey 01672 562221

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 11am to 3pm; Wednesday 12noon to 3pm.

EMAIL: team.office@valeofpewsey.org website: <http://www.valeofpewsey.org>

Churchwardens

Upavon	Dr Bill Coker	01980 630803
	Mrs Linda Ward	07976 805592
Rushall	Mr Richard Wohanka	07920 067563
Charlton St Peter	Mrs Rosie Cunningham	01980 630321

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Mr Bill Bracher 01980 630173; Mrs Anne Prince 01980 630008

Hospital visits - If you need a visit in hospital or know someone who has been taken in who would like a visit, please contact a member of the clergy.

Home Communion If you know someone who is unable to get to church and wishes to receive Communion, please contact Bill Bracher on 01980 630173 and he will make arrangements for this to happen.

Please contact a member of the clergy to discuss Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confirmation, the Blessing of your home, Service of Prayer and Dedication, Renewal of Wedding Vows. To visit in hospital, and the dying at home or in hospital. The clergy are here to help and serve, with our Lay Pastoral Assistants

Catholic Parish Priest: Father Saji Mathew 01980 622177

Services at Christ the King, Lords Croft, Amesbury SP4 7EP

Weekday mass 10.00 am; Vigil Mass 6.00 pm Saturdays; Mass 11.00am Sundays

Methodist Minister: Revd. Stephen Skinner 01672 512457 rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com
Pewsey Methodist Church, Sunday services 10.30am

Upavon Baptist Chapel Contact: Mary Jarvis 07876193640

Services 2nd Sunday of each month at 3.30 pm

UPAVON RUSHALL & CHARLTON LINK

07501 004349

TOGETHER MAGAZINE ADVERTISING AND REVENUE and items of news or notices for the next issue, please contact stef.cascarini@gmail.com by the 14th of the month.

The Clergy Letter

Dear Friends,

I write this just a week or so after some wonderful Christmas services, with full churches and joyful singing. It was lovely to see everyone there. And in some of our villages a quarter or more of the population have attended one of our services.

How that contrasts with the message of gloom and decline that you so often read in our media. We obviously can't ignore the statistics that come from our own churches and our own experiences of perceived decline in weekly attendance. But something more is happening if we look upwards and outwards and this is what we are hoping to explore as a deanery this Lent.

For there is anecdotal and tangible evidence that many people are looking again at faith and returning to a belief in God. This is certainly the experience of Justin Brierley, a Christian broadcaster who for the last fifteen years or so has been hosting debates between Christians and atheists and agnostics and he believes the tide of unbelief is turning and has witnessed many coming back to faith. This is especially the case among the younger generations.

One small but tangible piece of evidence comes from a Sunday Times article just before Christmas which said that last year sales of bibles were up by 34% compared to 2019 and just this weekend an article in the Financial Times by Camilla Cavendish Secularists must remember that religion is on the rise is also reflecting this evidence. One of the people she quotes is Justin Brierley.

Justin is going to be sharing this evidence with us, live by zoom, in **St John's Pewsey at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd March** as he talks about what he calls the Surprising Rebirth in Belief in God.

And as we look across the world we can still see millions of people coming to Christian faith, even and perhaps especially in the countries where persecution is greatest. One such country is China.

A school friend of mine, Will Leigh-Pemberton, has spent most of his working life for the last thirty or more years in China and is coming to **Burbage Village Hall on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm**, to talk about his life in China and the extraordinary growth in Christian faith he has seen there. There could be over 120m Christians in China today.

It can be all too easy to become downhearted in our own faith and we hope that these talks may give us all encouragement showing us how God is at work around the world.

Gerald

Canon Gerald Osborne

Rural Dean

Church Services at Upavon, Rushall and Charlton St Peter

2 February (Candlemas)

St Mary's, Upavon, 9.30am Informal Worship

9 February (4th Sunday before Lent)

St Mary's, Upavon, 9.30am Pet Service

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Holy Communion BCP

St Peter's, Charlton St Peter, 6.00pm Evensong

16 February (3rd Sunday before Lent)

St Mary's, Upavon, 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Parish Communion

23 February (2nd Sunday before Lent)

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Matins BCP

St Peter's, Charlton St Peter, 6.00pm Parish Communion

THE ST TIMOTHY FOUNDATION

Dear All

When I wrote in November I was asking for support to bring water into the St Timothy Pre-Primary and Primary School in Nzara. At that point we had no idea that this project could be fulfilled before February 2025!! God does do what seems the impossible for us mere mortals to do. We thank God that Aqua Africa got in touch because they had heard of our plans to bring water to the school and were already in the area to bring water to three villages. The picture you see below is of the school's water points within the school campus. They are supplied by their own 2,000-3,000 litre tank. The St Timothy Foundation has pledged £5,000 towards this project. Will you help us to raise this money? It is a finite amount and funds are being found by Aqua Africa from elsewhere to build the main infrastructure to bring water into the school grounds. So far we have £1,200 towards the pledge. The new academic year for the school began on 13th January so it will be thrilling for the staff and children to know that water will be readily available to them. The Annual Report for The St Timothy Foundation is being prepared so please do look out for a copy or email me if you would like me to send it to you via email.

Our events over Christmas went very well. Thank you for your donations, support at Christmas Fairs and Markets and at the St Andrew's Murder Mystery. Without your support we could not together make a difference to the lives of poverty stricken families in Nzara and South Sudan who are really struggling to exist. In a few days we will be celebrating Burn's Night (25th January) and in February we welcome the Sarsen Songmen who were unable to come, due to Covid, fourteen months ago. I am pleased to say that the event is at Milton Lilbourne Village Hall from 7pm. There will be an interval with a glass of wine and canapes included in the price of £15 per ticket. These are available on-line and through 'Around the World' as well as through me! The Sarsen Songmen (www.sarsensongmen.weebly.com) are a local choir that sing unaccompanied. They have a beautiful tone and sing popular songs!

If you can help to fund the pledge for £5,000 to bring water into St Timothy's School then please go to our donate page on www.sttimothy.org.uk where you can gift aid your donation if you are able. If you prefer to donate off line the Gift Aid form can be down loaded and the donation made by bank to Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00101395 Account Name: The St Timothy Foundation or just drop it into me. Every penny you give will go towards the Water Project. Please note that our website: www.sttimothy.org.uk will give you more information on South Sudan and our schedule of events and fund raising activities for the first half of 2025.

With abundant thanks, for your support.

Ann (Chair)

The St Timothy Foundation

01980 630256

info@sttimothy.org.uk

www.sttimothy.org.uk

Rushall & Charlton St Peter Village Hall

We have a most comfortable hall with under-floor heating, a large fitted kitchen, off-street parking and Wi-fi.

Morning, afternoon and evening sessions are available to book so please get in touch. Why not come and see us at one of our Hall Fund Raising Events.

1st Feb - Coffee Morning 10am to 12 pm.

15th Feb - WINTER WARMER at 2pm.
(Hot Chocolate with Baileys plus Toasted Tea Cakes)

1st Mar - Coffee Morning 10am to 12pm.

5th Apr - Coffee Morning 10am to 12pm.

10th Apr - EASTER BONGO 7.30pm.

3rd May - Coffee Morning - 10am to 12pm.

For all enquiries and bookings regarding the hall please contact us on:

Email: RCVH2000@gmail.com

Phone: [07407 216763](tel:07407216763)

Website: www.rushallcharltonvh.org.uk or

Facebook: [Rushall & Charlton Village Hall](#)

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer Link driver?

URC Link is a group of local volunteers offering transport and good neighbour services to people living in Upavon, Rushall, Charlton St Peter and the surrounding areas.

The service is available to any adult who has difficulty getting to medical appointments and other activities when they are unable to drive themselves or use public transport.

We are funded by donations and drivers are reimbursed at 45p per mile with free hospital parking permits.

What should you do if you think you can help?

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Link driver, even only occasionally, please get in touch by phoning us on **07501 004349** and ask to be put in touch with the URC Link Secretary, who will be happy to provide more information and discuss next steps with you.

Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition (BKVC)

In February, entries will be invited for the BKVC. Categories are Large, Medium and Small villages. There are 15 prizes of up to £200. It's a great way of getting villagers together to keep our villages looking good and to build on our community spirit.

Entry is simple and must be received by CPRE Wiltshire by 17 April.

Can you help our parish council with this? Details are at <https://www.cprewiltshire.org.uk/category/awards/> or call 01380 722157 and leave a message if necessary.

The Arts Society - Pewsey Vale February and March lectures.

The February lecture of The Arts Society - Pewsey Vale will be: **Miniature Portraits - Tiny Treasures Close to Our Hearts**, by Cindy Polemis.

From diplomatic gifts to tokens of love, between the 16th and 19th centuries, miniatures were commissioned as small portraits which could be held in the hand or placed inside locket, creating an intimate relationship between the owner and sitter. This talk looks at the history of these tiny art treasures.

Cindy Polemis has worked as an art guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern. Her area of knowledge spans 18th century European and British art to the contemporary international art scene. She enjoys drawing parallels between art and social history.

Doors open at 2.00pm for refreshments and visitors are always welcome - £7 cash on arrival.

The March lecture of The Arts Society - Pewsey Vale will take place on Tuesday 4th March at the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey at 2.30pm.

Anne Haworth will speak on **From Vincennes to Sevres: The Dawn of the French Royal Porcelain Manufactory**.

Sèvres was the most illustrious and innovative porcelain factory in 18th Century France, employing brilliant artisans as painters, modellers, and gilders. Spectacular vases and finely decorated dining services made at Sèvres found their way to the grandest of state rooms and the most intimate of boudoirs in the nearby Palace of Versailles. However, the origins of this most fashionable porcelain factory were very different. Established in 1740 within the old royal Château de Vincennes, the first steps were a struggle between avoiding financial collapse and the desire to develop a suitable porcelain paste which could tolerate the intense heat of the kiln. Encouraged by the patronage of Madame de Pompadour and King Louis XV, these early struggles resulted in the creation of a fine white soft-paste material, a tactile glaze, and brilliant jewel-like background colours such as bleu lapis, and the vibrant bleu céleste, a turquoise pigment which would become one of Sèvres's signature colours. After those early years at Vincennes, by 1756 the workshops moved to Sèvres and so began a new golden age for what would become a royal enterprise.

Anne Haworth was a senior ceramics specialist at Christie's London with more than 20 years experience of working within some of the world's greatest museums and most prestigious art collections. She works as an independent scholar and historian.

Doors open at 2.00pm and visitors are always welcome - £7 cash on arrival.

Andrew Beauchamp-Proctor

Andrew Beauchamp-Proctor VC, DSO, MC & Bar, DFC (1894–1921) was a distinguished South African fighter pilot in the First World War. Known for his exceptional aerial prowess, he was the most successful ace of his nation and one of the most decorated pilots of the conflict. Born on September 4, 1894, in Mossel Bay, Cape Colony (modern-day South Africa), he initially pursued a career in engineering at the University of Cape Town but interrupted his studies to serve in the war.

Beauchamp-Proctor enlisted in the South African Defence Force and saw service in the German South West Africa campaign. In 1917, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), later part of the Royal Air Force (RAF). His diminutive stature, standing only 5 feet 2 inches tall, required special modifications to his aircraft for him to reach the controls, he had a raised seat and wooden blocks attached to the rudder pedals to allow him to fly the aircraft. This physical characteristic became a defining feature of his story, symbolizing determination overcoming adversity.

He became a fighter pilot in No. 84 Squadron, flying the SE5a, a nimble and reliable single-seat fighter. His first aerial victory came in 1918, and over the next several months, he rapidly rose to prominence as a highly skilled pilot. By the end of the war, he had achieved an impressive 54 confirmed victories, making him the British Empire's fourth highest-scoring ace. His skill and fearlessness in combat earned him a reputation as one of the most effective and daring pilots of the war.

Beauchamp-Proctor was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour for valour in the British Commonwealth, for his actions between August and October 1918. He displayed extraordinary bravery during a period when he downed 26 enemy aircraft. His citation highlighted his "continuous and distinguished devotion to duty" and his remarkable ability to achieve results under extreme pressure. In addition to the VC, he received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), the Military Cross (MC) and Bar, and the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

After the war, Beauchamp-Proctor returned to South Africa, where he was celebrated as a national hero. However, his life was tragically cut short on June 21, 1921, during an aerobatic practice at Upavon in preparation for an air show at RAF Hendon in England, one of the wooden blocks became detached from the rudder pedal which caused his aircraft to spin out of control into the ground, killing him, an event that shocked the aviation community and his admirers.

He was originally buried at Upavon, Wiltshire, but in August 1921 his body was returned to South Africa where he was given a state funeral. His head-stone still stands proudly in Upavon Cemetery where it remains to remind us of an exceptionally gallant military aviator.

Andrew Beauchamp-Proctor remains a symbol of courage, skill, and dedication. His remarkable achievements in the face of personal and technical challenges are an enduring testament to his determination and heroism. His story is a reminder of the extraordinary contributions made by individuals during the First World War and the sacrifices they endured for their nations.

Bob McDonald

St Mary's Christmas Fair

St Mary's Christmas Fair was held on Sunday November 30th - a stormy day, with high winds and heavy rain. However, the weather did not deter village residents and many others from attending – so our thanks to everyone who braved the elements that day.

The refreshments team did a sterling job in providing mulled wine and hot chocolate to warm up weather beaten travellers. Whilst Upavon Carol Band provided excellent festive music to brighten everyone's spirits. Father Christmas was his usual jolly self, who with the help of his elves distributed gifts to the children attending Santa's Grotto.

This resulted in a busy and happy atmosphere as people browsed, and bought, on the wide variety of stalls. These included a talented Face Painter who created some amusing faces. Other excellent stalls displayed delicious brownies, jewellery, arts and crafts, cards and preserves, cosmetics and toiletries, painted coffee mugs, delicious cakes and pre-loved and new items for Christmas gifts.

The clergy and St Mary's Church Council thank all those who contributed to making this event successful; the Church Social Committee and their helpers and the many individuals who donated items for the Tombola and the cake stall.

Without your generous help the Fair would not happen!

The Social Committee are busy planning future events. Save the date for the Summer Fair – Saturday July 19th 2025.

Jan Coker Parochial Church Council Member



Rushall & Charlton St.
Peter Village Hall,
Rushall
Pewsey SN9 6EN



WHITE HORSE (Rushall)
Rushall & Charlton St. Peter Village Hall
Every 4th Wednesday of the month
from 7pm – 9pm

To find out more please contact:

Wi.whitehorse@gmail.com

Next meeting 26th February:
An Introduction to Tai Chi

Your WI is what you want it to be



www.wiltshirewi.org.uk



www.instagram.com/wiltshirewi



www.facebook.com/groups/whitehorerushallwi



www.youtube.com/channel/UCQx-i3QBQa1I2wkkFiuRzQ

Wiltshire Federation of WIs Charity No. 1197142

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with

THE SARSEN SONGMEN

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SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2025
7pm

MILTON LILBOURNE VILLAGE HALL
PEWSEY

Interval includes

Wine, Soft Drinks, A Variety of Canapés

All Inclusive Ticket: £15

In Aid of Water for The St Timothy's School
Nzara, South Sudan

Visit Website: www.sttimothy.org.uk
for more information and online purchasing of tickets.
Also available at: Around the World and from Ann
on 01980 630256

The St Timothy Foundation
Charity No: 1151171



Avon Valley Cricket Club

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY

1st
March

Come and join your local team for a brain teasing evening! Have a fun night out with friends and test yourself. A hot meal of baked potato and chilli is included in the ticket (veggie option).



ARRIVE: 6.30PM
START: 7PM

ENFORD VILLAGE HALL
SN9 6DD

TICKETS: £15

TO BUY TICKETS
Please Contact:
Tim (07765 719778) or
Simon (07464 547032)

TEAMS
OF 4-6

PAY
BAR

The event is to raise money in aid of the Cricket Club

My mum, always
**gave the
best hugs**



Mum left a gift in her Will to Julia's House.
Now she's helping their nurses and carers to always be
there with special care and the best hugs.



Find out how to leave a gift in your Will at
juliashouse.org/alwaysthere 01202 644220

Registered Charity No. 1067125

always there 

New Year, New interests?

Upavon Village Hall is looking for a Treasurer.

You do not need to have any book-keeping background but some understanding of spreadsheets would be helpful. You will be given a comprehensive handover with support if required.

So, if you have 5-6 hours to spare each month,
& would like to join our friendly team of volunteers in the
running of our hall, then please contact:-

Lesley 07545543861 or
email upavonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

ENFORD GARDENING CLUB



**“For the love of Snowdrops”
with Lynn Miles**

Tuesday 11th February 2025

**Bring and buy plant stall, Raffle
Tea and coffee**

**7.00 for 7.15 pm Enford Village Hall
Entrance £5**

Everyone Welcome!

Contact steve.stringer@outlook.fr
Tel 07899 758222

SATURDAY 15th February 2025

Race Night with a difference



Come along to this fun packed evening



£5.00 per person
(incl first bet free)

Bring a plate of Pot
Luck Picnic Food to
share

Bar

7.30pm – 10.00pm
(Doors open at 7.00pm)

Woodborough
Social Club

Smithy Lane,
Woodborough, SN9 5PL

Water into Wine Raffle

Be a jockey for £1

Have fun!!!

For tickets contact Paula Baker on
01672 851393/07702 339877
bakerhousehold2@btinternet.com

All proceeds to Hilcott Village Hall /
Barnard Meadow

**THIS IS A CASH
ONLY EVENT**

SO

**Please bring
cash!!!**

CHARLTON ST PETER 100 CLUB

(Licensed by Wiltshire Council for the Vale of Pewsey Team of Churches)

Congratulations to our lucky November and December 100 Club winners:-

£100	J. Anderson (Charlton) No.28
£50	C. Lacey (Charlton) No.13
£50	L. Dixon (Hungerford) No.89
£25	R. Fosbury (Upavon) No.44
£25	N. Golding (Pewsey) No.87
£250	J. Oliphant (Charlton) No.45
£50	J. Anderson (Charlton) No.28
£50	M. Cook (Pewsey) No.20
£25	M. Cook (Pewsey) No.21
£25	C. Lacey (Charlton) No.13

Our January 100 Club Draw will take place after our service on Sunday 26th January at 6pm and published in the next edition of the magazine.

We still have a few numbers available, so if you are interested in purchasing number for £5 a month, please contact Ali Lacey 630385.

Upavon Village Hall

Large, well maintained hall available for hire

Competitive hourly rates: village residents £8.00 per hour
(non-residents £9.00)

Suitable for large gatherings for up to 60 people with ample plates, cups and saucers etc.

Free Wi-Fi

A well equipped kitchen

For enquiries or to book please email

upavonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com or call Lesley

07545543861

**We are always looking for new people to join our committee.
If you feel you could help please contact us!**

Nurture Nature: February 2025

COP 29 has come and gone, and readers will draw their own conclusions as to its effectiveness or otherwise. With all the wars currently being waged it is doubtful whether leaders of oil producing countries, who are often the main protagonists, will lessen their oil and gas outputs. There are adverse knock-on effects to Nature worldwide. Biodiversity is taking a bashing. We are living in a warming world, and 2024 could turn out to be the warmest year on record, and we await the climate scientists' reports as to whether last year will be designated the warmest year on record, in which average temperatures 1.5 ° C above preindustrial levels. An agreement set in the Paris COP of 2015 by nearly two hundred countries. The Arctic sea ice is estimated to have declined by 50%. A similar effect is happening in Antarctica. Polar bears and especially cubs are imperilled as they fall through the thinning sea ice and they often don't survive. Young penguins are especially vulnerable when journeying to the sea from the breeding grounds. Due to lack of sea ice over which to make their journeys, many are having to jump off 60ft high cliffs to reach the ocean. What goes on at the Poles affects all the world's oceans.

Hopefully, robins got special treats on Winter Solstice Day, 21st December, the shortest day of the year, which was also the designated day of our much-loved national bird.

Arachnids – spiders to you and me – had a good mating season – a respected columnist in a daily newspaper reported “Autumn sun adds sexual heat to spider season”. Work-of-Art webs were resplendent in the sunlight, and when decorated with raindrops, sparkled like jewels. The mating procedures of spiders are fascinating – however, the mating game does often end in the females gobbling their spouses. There is also a buzz on the winter flowering shrubs such as mahonia, *lonicera fragrantissima* (winter flowering honeysuckle) and *abelia grandiflora* as the yellow tailed bumble bees are busy collecting nectar even on cold days. Grey squirrels – an alien species, and a threat to our beautiful native red squirrels, have come in for a bad press lately – many people encourage the greys by hand feeding them in parks and gardens. But be aware, as they can carry disease, and a bite from one could be serious. They have also been known to attack humans, hence a headline in a daily paper in the autumn “Passengers flee train under attack from rogue squirrels”. This happened on the 8.54 a.m. GWR Reading to Gatwick service on 16th September. Google it.

To complete the brief notes about corvid populations – Hooded Crows are mainly confined to Scotland and Ireland, and Ravens have now spread to southern England. Back in 1992 the writer was scoffed at when he reported to a local Conservation Group that he had heard and seen a raven over Salisbury Plain. However, soon there were reports of the crunk gruff croak of airborne ravens above southern England. Choughs have made a comeback and are to be seen on cliffs in Cornwall on the Lizard Peninsula, and they are moving inland too. Jays are well distributed in the British Isles and Europe. They are medium sized crows with brightly coloured plumage and beautiful bright blue wing patches much prized by fly fishermen. Magpies are ubiquitous now; in former years keepers controlled their numbers to protect game birds. They are clever birds but are known predators of garden, wood and hedgerow birds, plundering eggs and nestlings, and are responsible for the decline in numbers of many of our garden birds. One cannot mistake their cackling voice, and they have also spread to towns, cities and parks – now very widespread and numerous. Happy New Year to All and hoping you'll have a constructive year nurturing nature. Conservation education is so important for everybody, and especially for children, some of whom will hopefully follow the trail of the naturalist.

Otis Tarda