

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



April



2025

WHO TO CONTACT:

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

Team Vicar: Revd. Mark Windsor, The Vicarage, Wilcot, Pewsey, SN9 5NS (day off Thursday), Tel: 01672 564265 markwindsor923@btinternet.com

Associate Priest and Rural Dean: Revd. Canon Gerald Osborne, Tel 01672 563459 gerald.osborne@lawnfarm.co.uk

Team Vicar for Community Outreach & Mission: Revd. Hazel Davis, Tel: 07393 116123 revhazeld@gmail.com

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Licensed Lay Ministers:

Anne Mantle 01672 564252 anneimantle@gmail.com

Libby Turner 01672 851141 libbyturner537@gmail.com

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

It is a familiar story, like a well trodden path, but have you really received the message of the good news of Easter? As it draws near once again, I am reminded that even Jesus' closest followers at the time were unable to fully grasp his teaching that it was necessary for him to die and rise again.

On that first Easter Day, two of his disciples were walking on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. It turned out to be an eventful 7 mile journey as recorded by Luke in his Gospel (Luke 24v13-35).

Impressed by Jesus' words and deeds, they had recognised the power of God through him. However, the bearer of their hopes suddenly appeared to be dead and gone. His crucifixion was devastating and it was evidently a topic of conversation on the lips of all in Jerusalem that weekend. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him.

Amongst the things they recounted had happened was some intriguing news:

"Some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." (v22-24)

They did not see him either, at least not until later, when Luke tells us that their eyes were opened and they recognised him. The fog of disappointment, confusion and disbelief was suddenly lifted! They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road?" (v32)

A lot happened on that first Easter Day! With so much going on in our lives, we can easily lose sight of the message of good news for us. Like those two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we might experience a similar sense of dismay at the failure of human hopes. What if Jesus rose again just as he promised and is present with us now?

Why not come and join us at one of our Easter services? Why not take the opportunity to ponder again the astonishing things witnessed and reported that happened?

If Jesus truly is alive then we have the wonderful assurance that he is there, even if unseen, walking right alongside us.

Rev Mark Windsor

Church Services at Upavon, Rushall and Charlton St Peter

6 April (5th Sunday of Lent)

St Mary's, Upavon, 9.30am Informal Worship

13 April (Palm Sunday)

St Mary's, Upavon, 9.30am Parish Communion

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

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

18 April (Good Friday)

St Peter's, Charlton St Peter, 2.00pm Walk of Witness

Calling at St Matthew's, Rushall

And finishing at St Mary's, Upavon

20 April (Easter Day)

St Mary's, Upavon, 9.30am Easter Communion

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Easter Communion

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

27 April (2nd Sunday of Easter)

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Matins BCP

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Martin Goold Funeral at St Mary, Alton Barnes on 7th February

Lloyd Clark Funeral at St John the Baptist, Pewsey on 26th February

Sheila Tarrant Funeral at St John the Baptist, Pewsey on 4th March

Roger Barrow Funeral at Kingsdown Crematorium on 6th March

THE ST TIMOTHY FOUNDATION

Dear All

At the end of February we were brilliantly entertained by the Sarsen Songmen in Milton Lilbourne Village Hall. We were, in total, about 60 people. Thank you so much to everyone who came – there was a wonderful atmosphere at what was a very enjoyable evening.

During March we have continued to raise funds for the Water Project. We are pleased to say that the school now has access to the water. We are delighted with the progress towards raising the £5,000 pledged to the project. Thank you so much.

Lent Lunches have begun very well. We have Lent Lunches in April in Pewsey, Wootton Rivers and Milton Lilbourne. Do get in touch with me if you need further details. Donations only, so you give only what you feel able to give. All donations will go towards the Water Project.

Once again, if you would like to make a special donation to the Water Project 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 offline the Gift Aid form can be downloaded and the donation made by bank transfer 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.

I also ask you to keep in your thoughts and prayers the situation in South Sudan as well as in Sudan. Once more, there is a threat to maintaining peace in South Sudan whilst there is also a heatwave and rampant inflation and, as you will know, a civil war in Sudan. Please note that our website: www.sttimothy.org.uk will give you more information of the work that we support in South Sudan. Our schedule of events and fund raising activities for the first half of 2025 is also on the website.

With abundant thanks, for your support.

Ann (Chair)
The St Timothy Foundation

01980 630256
info@sttimothy.org.uk
www.sttimothy.org.uk



The children at St Timothy's Pre-Primary and Primary School for the 'opening' of the water

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.

The Arts Society – Pewsey Vale

April and May lectures.

The April lecture of The Arts Society - Pewsey Vale will be held on Tuesday 1st April at the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey at 2.30pm.

Harry Venning will speak on **The Art of the Cartoonist.**

Harry will be tracing the history of his profession with examples from early practitioners like Cruickshank and Hogarth, to more contemporary artists such as Giles and Schulz, bringing events right up to date with cartoons he will draw for us on the day! He can not, however, draw hands or horses!!

Harry Venning has been a professional cartoonist for thirty years, during which time he has provided cartoons for several high profile UK publications (The Guardian, Radio Times). He was awarded UK Strip Cartoonist Of The Year for his Guardian strip Clare In The Community, which he adapted into a Radio 4 sitcom. Harry tours his cartoon workshop around schools, theatres, arts centres, cruise ships and festivals. He is an Honorary Fellow of the English/Creative Writing departments of Aberystwyth University, winner of a Sony Radio Award for Comedy and a former UK Strip Cartoonist Of The Year.

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

The May lecture of The Arts Society - Pewsey Vale will take place on Tuesday 6th May at 2.30pm in the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey.

Barbara Askew will speak on **Charles 1 - King and Collector.**

This lecture celebrates the 400th Anniversary of Charles I's accession to the throne in 1625. Charles I's obsession for collecting works of art began when, as a 22-year-old prince, he travelled to Spain and saw the magnificent collection of the Spanish king, Philip IV. On becoming King in 1625 Charles purchased the fabulous collection of the Gonzaga Dukes of Mantua which included works by Titian, Raphael and Andrea Mantegna's astonishing series of paintings "The Triumphs of Caesar". Charles engaged Peter Paul Rubens to paint the ceiling of the Banqueting House in Whitehall and he appointed Anthony van Dyck as his Court Artist. By the end of his reign Charles had amassed over 2000 works of art but in doing so he had bankrupted England and alienated his people. His life ended on the scaffold in 1649 and most of the collection was sold in what was known as "The Commonwealth Sale" in 1650. While many works were retrieved by Charles 2nd during the Restoration, others now hang in the great Art Galleries of Europe.

Barbara Askew is an historian and has been a London Blue Badge Guide since 1988. She is a Lecturer, Examiner and Course Director on Blue Badge Guide Training Courses and an acknowledged expert on Royalty and Windsor Castle and the only Blue Badge Guide accredited to guide the Albert Memorial.

Doors open at 2.00pm and non-members are always welcome - £7 card or cash on arrival.

The History of Roads and Toll Roads in Upavon

Upavon, a historic village in Wiltshire, has long been a crucial hub for travel and transport, with roads and tracks evolving over centuries. From ancient trackways to the turnpike roads of the 18th century and modern highways, the development of these routes reflects the village's strategic importance in the region.

Ancient and Medieval Roads

The origins of Upavon's roads can be traced back to prehistoric times, with early trackways crossing Salisbury Plain. The proximity of Upavon to Casterley Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, suggests that these ancient paths were used for trade and communication. The Ridge Way, a well-known prehistoric route, passed near Upavon and would have been used by early settlers.

During the Roman period, Wiltshire was integrated into an extensive road network, though there is limited direct evidence of Roman roads passing through Upavon itself. However, many later medieval roads followed the paths of older Roman and prehistoric tracks. By the medieval era, Upavon had become an important crossing point of the River Avon, with roads radiating from the village to towns such as Amesbury, Marlborough, and Devizes.

One key medieval route was the Avebury–Ludgershall road, which marked Upavon's boundary with Manningford Bohune. The village layout was influenced by these early roads, with farms and buildings positioned along important thoroughfares. Hollow ways, such as the track from Upavon Church to Wood Bridge and Jarvis Street, reveal centuries of travel and trade.

Turnpike Roads and Toll Gates

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, England's roads were in poor condition due to increased travel and trade. To improve infrastructure, turnpike trusts were established by Parliament, allowing private organizations to charge tolls for road maintenance. Upavon played a role in this system, with several important turnpike roads passing through the village.

One of the most significant was the Upavon to Marlborough turnpike, which later became part of the modern A345 road. This road connected Upavon with key trading centres like Pewsey and Marlborough, making it an essential route for merchants and travellers. Another major turnpike was the Amesbury to Devizes road, linking Upavon to Salisbury Plain and central Wiltshire.

To collect tolls, toll houses and gates were built along these routes. These toll houses, often small cottages near the roadside, were occupied by toll collectors who ensured travellers paid fees. Tolls were unpopular among locals who resented paying for access to roads they had previously used for free.

Decline of the Turnpikes and Modern Roads

By the late 19th century, the expansion of railways reduced reliance on turnpike roads. With trains providing a faster means of transport, many turnpike trusts fell into decline. The Local Government Act of 1888 transferred road maintenance to county councils, leading to the abolition of tolls. Today, remnants of Upavon's historical roads remain visible, with old toll houses standing as reminders of the village's role in the turnpike era. The A345, once a toll road, continues to be a major route through Upavon, preserving its legacy as an important travel corridor in Wiltshire's history.

Bob McDonald

You are warmly invited to our
Good Friday
Walk of Witness

18th April @ 2-4pm



Beginning at

St Peter's Church, Charlton [w3w: ponies.galloped.crystals]

Pausing at

St Matthew's Church, Rushall [w3w: culminate.standard.royal]

And St Mary's Church, Upavon. [w3w: litters.bookings.invent]

Finishing at

The Ship Inn for Refreshments [w3w: beginning.carpets.binders]

**Please Could All Children be Accompanied by a Responsible
Adult and All Dogs be on Leads, Thankyou.**

Church Flowers and Easter Lilies



It will soon be Easter Time again. I am hoping that we are able to create a really splendid display of lilies and flowers for Easter, so if you would like to remember a loved one by donating towards the Lily Fund I would be very grateful.

Please contact Nikki Vesey Williams nicolavesey2261@gmail.com

If you wish we will display the names of those to be remembered with the lilies, but this is optional, please advise.

Bellringing At St Mary's Church Upavon

St Mary's church is very fortunate to have a team of seven bellringers subscribed to the Upavon tower, four of whom are village residents, one from Pewsey and two from Enford/Chisenbury. They are part of the Pewsey Vale Bellringers, a group consisting of towers attached to Pewsey, Milton Lilbourne and Wotton Rivers churches. These bellringers ring at all churches. Sunday service at every church is populated with any ringer who is available to ring on the day, to welcome parishioners to services.

Upavon is so lucky to have a very fine set of six bells. The largest bell (the tenor) is 14cwt. They are much lauded, not only by bellringers, but also by the engineer from Taylor's Bell Foundry who when inspecting them a few years ago was almost speechless with the quality of the workmanship and the beautiful sound that emanates from them. "They don't make them like that any more", he said.

All the four towers are members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild Of Ringers, who oversee training and development, insurance, news of other towers in the UK, safeguarding and support for all aspects of bellringing. Each church has its own practice evening, Pewsey on Tuesday, Upavon on Wednesday, Milton Lilbourne on Thursday and Wotton Rivers on an ad hoc basis.

It is not all hard work! Social occasions are added to ringing events, for example, there is no finer tea than a Ringer's Tea! Other activities include days out, skittles evenings and visits to the pub – after ringing, not before! There is also an annual weekend ringing trip to the Isle of Wight, where the team is warmly welcomed as the local churches often do not have enough ringers to ring all their bells.

In 2023 Upavon entered a striking competition designed for novices and the team was delighted to be awarded first place out of seven entries. The following year the team entered a competition at a slightly higher level, where some competitors had been ringing for upwards of fifty years! Upavon were awarded fourth place out of eight entries and were pleased with their performance and placing.

In January of 2025 Upavon was presented with two awards: one for the tower who most got out and about to ring elsewhere, and joint second for the Most Improved Tower in the Branch. Our Tower Captain, Lesley Walford is proud of the achievements of the group, from new beginnings five years ago. Bellringing is a skill that is learned over many years and needs commitment and enthusiasm to improve over time.

However, anyone young or old, in reasonable health can learn to ring. Every tower in the land is hoping more potential ringers will come forward to learn this ancient skill which was first developed in the early 17th century. Without new ringers it will gradually die out. So, if you enjoy listening to our wonderful bells ringing out over the countryside, do come and join us and see what you think. It is a little bit addictive!

Lesley Walford Tower Captain St Mary's Church Upavon

Jan Coker PCC Member

Please contact Churchwarden **Bill Coker** in the first instance if you are interested.

cokerwj@btinternet.com

The team after ringing in the New Year 2025 at St Mary's Upavon



LENT SOUP LUNCHES 2025

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

Wednesday 2nd April – 12 Easterton Lane, Pewsey, SN9 5BP

Thursday 3rd April – Wootton Rivers Village Hall, SN8 4NH

Tuesday 8th April – Westering House, Milton Lilbourne, SN9 5LQ

Soup lunches are served from mid-day!
No charge but donations are welcome for
The St Timothy's Foundation Water Project

*Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!
Please call Ann on 01980 630256 if you would like more
Information*

Letter from Upavon Parish Council

Dear Parishioners,

You will no doubt have received your 2025-26 Council Tax bill and might be wondering why the Parish Council precept had risen by 16.6% in the last year and on what your money is being spent.

The Parish Council meets regularly in the village hall, where all are welcome to attend and have their say. It is here that decisions on the annual precept and expenditure are discussed and taken.

A Parish Council has the statutory responsibility of looking after and enhancing common areas and assets within the village – litter bins, footpaths, bus stops, play parks etc.

In Upavon over the past year, aided by substantial CIL money, we have both upgraded old and installed new sports and play equipment in response to ideas put forward by villagers at previous Parish Council meetings. Shortly and over the coming months, we hope to see a start on the long overdue footpath to provide safe access to the village centre for residents of Riverside Park. Likewise we hope to see work continue on the part-built pathway between Whistledown View and Rushall. Neither of which projects come without costs and hence, after several years of holding the precept down, we felt the need to ‘catch up’.

Much of the work done by Parish Councils is, no doubt, mundane and unexciting, from time to time, however, project arise that can and do make a significant difference to our village community as a whole.

Parish Councillors are all, without exception, unpaid volunteers – only the Parish Clerk is paid in accordance with national pay scales – yet the decisions they make can have a profound effect on the wellbeing of our village community as a whole. We are always on the lookout for new councillors and, if the idea appeals, please let the clerk know at clerk@upavonpc.co.uk

Charles Leigh-Bennett
(Chairman)

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

Thank You

St Mary's Parochial Church Council thank all village residents who have contributed so generously to the Food Bank, situated in the porch of St Mary's Church.

The Church Council continues to welcome donations of food, toiletries and financial donations to maintain the Food Bank, which is used by those in the village in need of support.

Financial donations may be made either by completing one of the slips on the table in the church and posting this along with the donation into the small wall safe on the right hand wall as you enter the church; or by contacting the church treasurer, Donal Connon - on 01980 630951 or [**dconnon@btopenworld.com**](mailto:dconnon@btopenworld.com)

VILLAGE HALL

UPAVON LINE DANCING

5th April 2025

Chilli Supper from 6pm

(beef or vegetarian)

Dancing from 7pm

Tickets

£12.50

raffle

**cash bar
available**



Tickets available from Upavon Village Shop

UPAVON VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 26TH APRIL
10 AM - 12 NOON

TABLE TOP SALE

Sell what you like!!

£5.00 per table

table size 6ft x3ft

CALL **07545543861** TO SECURE YOUR TABLE
FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED

please bring cash only to buy goods

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

ENFORD GARDENING CLUB



National Garden Scheme with Ros Ford

Tuesday 8th April 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

CHARLTON ST PETER 100 CLUB

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

Our February 100 Club Draw took place after our service on Sunday 23rd February at 6pm.

Congratulations to the lucky winners:-

£100	T. Kirby (Charlton) No.100
£50	C. O'Neill (Charlton) No.9
£50	T. Fowle (Charlton) No.19
£25	T. Kirby (Charlton) No.96
£25	J. Bottomley (Leics) No.22

Our March 100 Club Draw will take place after our service on Sunday 23rd March 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: Summer Visitors

House Martins

These lovely migrant birds fly from Africa to nest in the British Isles, many in our area. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits. The birds do not cause too much mess and they become distressed if all their hard work is destroyed. If house martins cannot raise their broods, yet another species will be endangered.

Swallows

These beautiful birds always return to their old nest sites, so please ensure access to them. If, for reasons of security, access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small openings in order to reach their traditional nesting sites.

Swifts

Their nesting sites, some of which are centuries old, are fast disappearing. They require an access tunnel of at least 18" long with a small entrance hole; please don't block them off. Swifts are believed to spend at much as nine months to a year on the wing, and they are known to nap whilst flying. Swift sightings can be reported to Bradford-on-Avon Swift Group at climatechampions@gmail.com, or www.swift-conservation.org.

NOTE: These birds are, of course, protected species – it is an offence to disturb or destroy their nest sites and environments.

Cuckoos

Should a reader wish to track cuckoo migrations there are websites which would give up-to-date progress of incoming birds, such as the BTO one. Do please post any cuckoo sightings and hearings on your local facebook page.

Otis Tarda

Antelope Inn Quiz Night

We run a monthly quiz evening **every 1st Sunday of each month from 1800 hrs.** A professional quiz master will conduct the important business! Book your teams by calling 01980 630025 or pop into the pub.

Next quiz Sunday April 6th