

THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, COATES

FEBRUARY 2026

REV STEVE BULLOCK (DAY OFF FRIDAY)

Curate with responsibility

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Secretary PCC	Alison Pollock	770881
Treasurer PCC	Bob Merrill	07866 972385

SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

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	John Thorogood	762861
Flowers	Pam Thorogood	762861
ST KENELM'S	Mark Hamer	760715
Rotas	Elizabeth Twinch	762897
Treasurer PCC	Charles Houldsworth	760300

RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

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RODMARTON	Richard Marlowe	770401
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Flower Team Leader	Alex Bransby	07981 793251
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Treasurer PCC	Simon Biddulph	841462

The Thameshead Benefice

St. Matthew, Coates: All Saints, Kemble: St. Michael and All Angels, Poole Keynes: St. Kenelm, Sapperton with St. Luke, Frampton Mansell: St. Peter, Rodmarton with St. Osmund, Tarlton: All Saints, Somerford Keynes with All Saints, Shorncote

PARISH NEWS

FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

1 February	4th Sunday after Epiphany
10.00 Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (streamed)
10.00 Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00 Sapperton	Morning Prayer
11.00 Rodmarton	Candlemas Eucharist
11.00 Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
8 February	Second Sunday before Lent
10.00 Kemble	Benefice Holy Communion (streamed)
11.00 Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
15 February	First Sunday before Lent
9.30 Coates	Holy Communion
10.00 Kemble	Morning Source – all age
10.00 Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00 Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00 Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
11.00 Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
15 February	Ash Wednesday
19.00 Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
22 February	First Sunday in Lent
08.00 Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
10.00 Coates	Combined Benefice Service
18.00 Rodmarton	Evening Prayer
1 March	Second Sunday in Lent
9.30 Coates	Morning Prayer
10.00 Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (streamed)
10.00 Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00 Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
11.00 Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
11.00 Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer

REFLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY — JOURNEYING WITH LOVE AND INTENTION

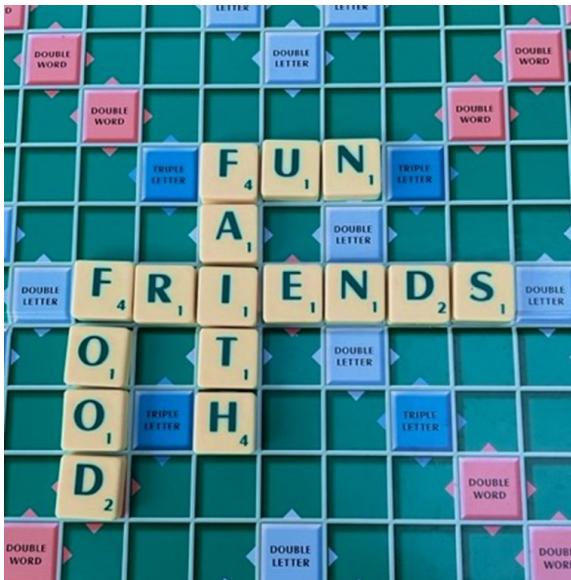
February often slips in quietly between the bluster of winter and the promise of spring, yet it holds within its short days a wealth of meaning for those who search it out, our calendar gently leads us to moments of reflection, celebration, and preparation ie St Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday and the sacred path of Lent. These aren't just dates to be ticked off; they are invitations to draw near to God, to each other, and to the deepest parts of ourselves.

St Valentine's Day (February 14th) is more than a chance for cards and flowers as it reminds us of the one who is love – God, who demonstrates love that is everlasting, selfless, always giving and always endures. For Christians, it's a timely reminder that to love is not just a fleeting emotion but a daily choice, to imitate such love to those around us. Indeed, we are called to a way of being that transforms our relationships, our communities, and even ourselves. Perhaps this year, we might take time to look beyond romantic gestures and consider how we can demonstrate Christ-like love in ordinary moments?

Before the solemnity of Lent, Shrove Tuesday arrives (February 17th) with the inviting aroma of pancakes and joyful playfulness, given that Lent (from February 18th) calls us to be honest about our failings, our longings, and our hope in God's mercy. The act of sharing a simple meal of pancakes with family or friends on this day can be a life-giving habit in itself: a moment to pause, connect, and prepare our hearts for the journey ahead. As we enjoy our pancakes, perhaps we can also reflect as to what we may need to let go of, so we might make room for something new?

This year, the Church of England invites us into Lent with the theme "Draw Near: Life-Giving Habits for Lent." It's a gentle nudge to consider what practices might help us draw closer to God and others. Rather than focusing solely on what we give up, Lent can be a time to take on habits that nourish our souls: daily prayer, sharing in worship, reading the Bible, acts of kindness, or even intentionally unplugging from our devices for moments of quiet.

Lent is a journey, not a sprint. It's a walk alongside Jesus, who withdrew to pray and then went into the world to make a difference, especially to those who were often overlooked. As we seek life-giving habits, we echo his footsteps in the hope that, come Easter, we will not only have let go of what weighs us down but will have discovered new ways to live more fully, love more deeply, and serve more faithfully.



Thameshead
Ladies
Connection
#TLC

Come & Join us
ALL WELCOME
refreshments

Tuesday 24 February 2026

19:15 to 21:00

Hosted by Aileen Shaw

Venue:

The Spinney, Sapperton, Near Cirencester, GL7 6LJ

Interested? Want to know more?

Contact:

Toto Walls 07989 301120

Aileen Shaw 07807 199602

Julie Allen 07704 892029

DONATIONS WELCOME

FIRESIDE CHAT

with

ANNIE CAMPBELL

who will be sharing her work with the Grace Network/Long table alongside her personal faith journey.

RSVP to Aileen, Toto, Lucinda or Julie

www.thegracenetwork.org.uk

As February unfolds, may you find space to draw near to God, to your neighbour, and to your own heart. Whether through a quiet act of kindness, a shared meal, or a moment of honest prayer, may this Lent be a time when you discover the life-giving habits that God is longing to grow within you. In all things, may Christ's love be both your guide and your companion on the journey.

God Bless

Rev Dr Steve Bullock

Coffee, Cake & Chat



“Delicious sweet & savoury home-bakes, proper coffee & a selection of teas at this community event”

Gluten-free & decaf options available.

10.30am - 12.00pm Tuesday 17 February

3rd Tuesday of every month @ Coates Village Hall

Choice of 2 home bakes & bottomless tea/
coffee £5

Bottomless tea/coffee £2

Well behaved dogs welcome.

Contact us 07794 678 928 / 01285 770 596



COATES CINEMA CLUB



The new season continues on Thursday 12 February doors open at 7pm screening at 7.30pm.

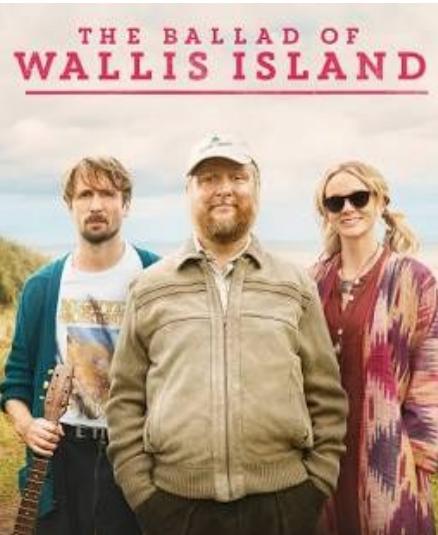
Members are given a choice of films for the next two months to vote for and the film with the most votes is screened at the following month.

Annual membership is £40, guests' tickets £5 on the night.

The Ballad of Wallis Island is a 2025 British comedy-drama, moving, funny and soulful (cert12) film.

More information please contact Simon Large at simon.large@sky.com

07714 220 558



The Village Club

— COATES —

Everyone Is Welcome!

The bar is open 8pm to 11pm, Friday and Saturday.

- Keep an eye on the Village newsletter and Facebook page for last minute event details. Email coatesvillageclub@gmail.com for more information or to join the mailing list.

Monthly Quiz

Friday 6th February – 6:30pm onwards

Bar opens at 6:30 with the quiz at approximately 7pm

Free entry, no need to book!



Village Club AGM

Friday 20th February – 7:00pm onwards

The bar will open at 7 with the AGM starting at 7:30

Everyone is welcome - please come and let us know what you would like from your Village Club!

Darts Doubles Tournament

Saturday 21st March – 6:30pm

£2.50 entry per person, winner takes all!

Bar opens at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start.

All entries to paulophotonut@gmail.com



REMEMBERING REV TOM DAVISON

Tom Davison, who was vicar of Coates, is remembered here by Rory Young a local sculptor of great renown who designed and made the headstone for Rev Davison's grave. Rory's family lived at College Farm where his father, Peter, ran the farm. The grave is located between the east end of the church and the path. If you have not seen it, do go and have a look. Rory said:

"He came as Rector of Coates sometime before 1965, the year he prepared me for confirmation; so he was the priest around when I was in my teens.

He taught me to serve at the altar, which I did in school holidays and on and off until the Davisons moved away from Coates in 1979.

I found his funeral, at the beginning of last year, very moving as it brought back memories of growing up, home-life and being on the edge of this community. The hymns were all old Coates favourites.

At his Induction, my mother discovered that she and Mrs Davison were together at Miss Denly's (Ingleside) junior school in Cirencester. Furthermore, they found that their mothers were at school together at St Monica's, Warminster. My parents were fond of the Davison's, my father calling him Tom the Divine. They used to ask him to hold a Rogation Service at College Farm. I can see him blessing the crops; his surplice fluttering in the April breeze.

The Davison boys and I were at Oakley Hall, where Tom had recently taught. While at Coates he was Chaplain at the Royal Agricultural College.

Tom's children came up with the wording for the headstone. The stone is from Portland; local Cotswold Stone is not reliable for headstones. The inscription was drawn out and cut by hand, as deeply as possible to catch maximum shadow. I have a patent method of mellowing the stone; after washing to clean the dust out of the grain, it is painted with soil-solution and sponged off again.

It was so peaceful in the churchyard when Judith and I fixed the stone on the grave. This church, where my sister and I were baptised, has such enduring qualities."

As the article implies, Rory and his family were great supporters of St Matthew's church and Rory's father was a vicar's warden. Rory was a sculptor and building conservationist of exceptional sensitivity. He died far too young aged 68 in 2023. His remains are buried in the graveyard.

NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

TALKING TO MYSELF

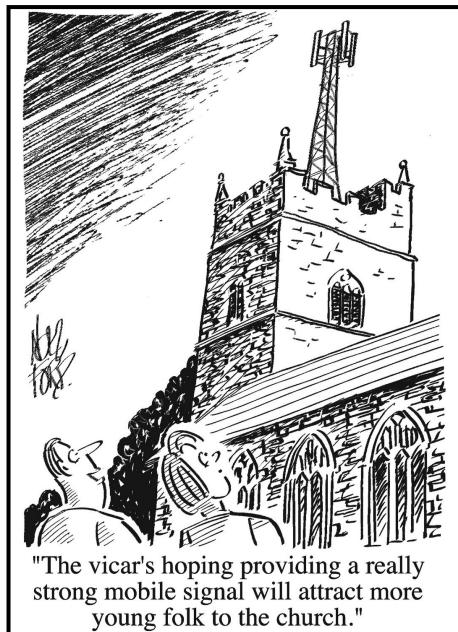
Recently there seem to have been so many dank, grey days. Although there has been an occasional blue skied one. As I write it is one of those grey ones.

As many of you will know we overlook the Golden Valley. Opposite us, on the far side of the valley is Oakridge Lynch. Today, being a grey day and very misty, we can't even see Oakridge.

Thinking to myself I wonder if life can be rather like the weather. Sometimes life is running smoothly and 'shining' on us and at others it is very grey and stormy. Sometimes one doesn't seem able to do right for doing wrong. Every decision seems wrong

Even our relationship with God is difficult. Could it be that we forget that He loves us regardless of the wrong corners we turn. God will forgive us no matter what we have done.

We enjoy watching the Father Brown stories on television. At the end of each programme when the mystery has been solved and the culprit is arrested and sent off to prison, Father Brown tells them that if they ask God for forgiveness, He will grant it. It is a very comforting thought to know that is true for each and every one of us too.



Frampton Mansell Village Choir

A fun community choir for all those who just love to sing!



MONDAYS 7pm - 8:30pm

at The Village Hall

£5 per week

Meet new people

No music reading skills necessary

Open to ALL ages, and ALL voices

Share the love of singing a wide range of music

No formal audition, no previous experience necessary

Be part of it!

FIRST SESSION is FREE!

CONTACT LUCY: framptonmansellvillagechoir@gmail.com 07866 447725



Adult Beginner Piano Lessons

It really is NEVER too late!

If you've ever wanted to learn to play... give it a try, the first lesson is FREE!

Craft Group



Whatever your craft: knitting ~ crochet ~ tapestry ~ sewing ~ felting ~ embroidery

Whatever your skill level: beginners to professional crafters - all welcome!

Please come along with your crafting project and join us! Share ideas and knowledge, and have a chat and a laugh over a cuppa with home-made cakes and biscuits...and hopefully make some new friends and progress on your project too!

for info contact: thowes51@gmail.com

📍 Frampton Mansell Village Hall

🕒 2nd Wednesday of the month

🕒 10:00AM- 12:00PM



SERVICE AND COFFEE

We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on **Tuesday 3 February** at

Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am. We would love to see you for either or both. Want to know more?

**Need a lift? Phone Pepita or Paul on
760211**





It has been a busy and exciting few months at Sapperton School, with plenty to celebrate and lots happening both in and beyond the classroom.

Our festive season was packed with memorable moments. The children shone in Maple Class Nativity performance, impressing everyone with their singing, confidence and enthusiasm. We also held a special Christingle, which gave pupils time to reflect on themes of hope and kindness, and brought our school community together in a calm and meaningful celebration. To add even more magic to the festive season our Friends of Sapperton School, organised a wonderful evening event which included an exciting visit from Father Christmas and there was a whole school visit to the pantomime.

We're also thrilled to share some exciting news: our new preschool, Saplings has opened. This is a fantastic addition to our school community, and we would love to invite parents and carers to come and visit, meet the team, and find out more about what Saplings can offer. If you're looking for a nurturing early years setting with a strong sense of belonging, we'd be delighted to welcome you. We offer provision five days a week 8am - 6pm.

To help families keep up to date, we've also launched a new school website. It's the best place to see what's happening across the school, including upcoming events, news, and highlights from learning. Please visit www.sappertonschool.org to take a look.

Finally, we're proud to be taking part in an exciting local project: the Sapperton Wilder project, a land renovation programme focused on restoring ecosystem processes and supporting nature recovery. Elder class have already been involved in tree planting, helping to make a real contribution to the local environment — a brilliant example of learning that connects to the wider world.

**Mrs Helen Cooper Executive Headteacher
Sapperton and Powell's C of E Primary Schools**

www.sappertonschool.org admin@sapperton.glos.sch.uk
760325

To nurture faith; to inspire success

NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON & HAZLETON NEWS AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR THANKS

Many thanks to all who helped to make the Christmas Bazaar such a successful and enjoyable event and to all who came to support us. We are enormously grateful to you all for helping to raise much needed funds for the church. Thank you.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 28 February. Quiz Night with Lena & Hamish Corley, in aid of Rodmarton and Tarlton churches. Tickets are available now from 770401 or janemarlowe1@gmail.com so please book your tickets now, teams of six, or join a team. For further information, please see separate flier.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS

There are collection boxes in both St Osmund's, Tarlton and St Peter's, Rodmarton.

Rodmarton & Tarlton

Quiz Night

Saturday 28 February

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm prompt start to the Quiz
with Lena and Hamish Corley

Rodmarton Village Hall

£12 entry per person

Bring your own shared picnic supper for your table

Please bring plates, cutlery & glasses

** There will be a supper break at half-time **

Wine bar

Spring Raffle

Teams of six or to join a team: To book please ring 770401
or email: janemarlowe1@gmail.com

Payment to PCC Rodmarton, Sort Code 30-92-06, Account number 00244455, using
your name as reference

All profits are in aid of St Peter's, Rodmarton and St Osmund's, Tarlton

Rodmarton



Rascals



A new play group for little ones.
Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers are all welcome!

Free play, stories and songs

**£2.00 for a parent
and child**

**£1.00 for siblings
includes a drink
and snack**



**Tuesdays 9-10am
Term time only
Rodmarton Village Hall
GL7 6PE**

A chance to chat and drink a
hot cup of something?

contact : thefriendsofrodmarton@gmail.com





RODMARTON PRIMARY

UPDATE

Happy New Year from all at Rodmarton Primary School!

Looking back, we enjoyed a great end to the Christmas term. The children were thrilled to take part in virtual reality sessions to supplement their learning. Acorn and Sapling classes had great fun exploring the undergrowth as part of their learning on mini beasts and habitats. Whilst Oak class explored both ancient and modern Greece adding to their learning about all things Greek and bringing to life the history, mythology, and architecture.

We had a fantastic day at the Viney Hill Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean. The children worked together to navigate the trail, which featured a range of activities, such as low ropes and tunnels. A few brave children even took on the abseiling. All of which led to clues and learning about the Nativity story. It was a brilliant visit, and we hope to return in the future.

It was another musical end to the term. Acorn and Sapling class put on a fantastic nativity performance of 'Born in a Barn'. We are so proud of all the children for learning their lines so brilliantly. Oak class held their annual carol service at St Peter's Church which had everyone feeling the Christmas spirit with the beautiful singing and readings. Well done all!

The end of term also culminated in a violin performance by Oak class, the result of extensive preparation under the expert guidance of Gloucestershire's Music Services. The school certainly has some talented young musicians in the making.

The school choir is going from strength to strength. Just before Christmas, the choir featured on the BBC Radio Gloucestershire Breakfast Show, singing a carol and talking about what they love about Christmas. The choir then headed to Cirencester marketplace for more carolling and festive cheer.

To start the first term of 2026, the children will be learning all about health, safety and wellbeing. Acorn class will be attending an NHS Dental presentation to learn about keeping those teeth and gums shiny and healthy. The NSPCC will be coming to the school to talk to the children about staying safe, holding a Speak Out, Stay Safe assembly followed by a workshop. Years 5 and 6 will also be greeting PC Leah Davis, who is visiting to discuss online safety.

We wish you a happy, healthy February from all at Rodmarton Primary School.

GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Snowdrop season! These little bulbs have a very optimistic character, emerging from cold ground in usually very gloomy weather, with a 'can do attitude'. [I was once told of a snowdrop pushing its way through a newly tarmacked drive!] The delightful pearl like buds open to reveal a multitude of shapes, sizes and heights, as prized specimens or extensive drifts. A treat this season is to visit a Gloucestershire snowdrop garden.

This year snowdrops started blooming much earlier than usual. Cold weather ensures a long flowering season. The little white flowers look equally at home with a background of soil, bark, moss, or fine Cotswold stone chippings. My favourite companion plants are decorative leaves of hardy cyclamen, winter aconites, early crocus, hellebores and ferns.

This month can be frustrating for keen gardeners as we are so weather dependent, and February can be variable either chilly in winter or welcomely warm in spring. Increasingly this month is more important to do as much as possible with the likelihood of dry weather in our traditional month of April when many first sowings are recommended.

If garden soil is sticking to your boots leave the ground longer to dry. However, there are a few ways to look after your garden soil without causing compaction; use planting boards along soil paths to set up low tunnels. These help dry and warm garden plots ahead of seed sowing. Later in sunny dry weather low tunnels also retain moisture.

February is the start of the new growing season so spring sow Broad Beans, direct or with protection; start tender peppers and tomatoes inside with heat. Use windowsills and greenhouses for quick cropping baby salad leaves, especially pea shoots. Select and buy 'seed' potato tubers of varieties that suit your needs, eating quality, harvest time and disease/pest resistance. Start chitting tubers inside on a light north facing windowsill. Plant garlic, new rhubarb crowns, shallots and turnips.

Rhubarb is especially delicious if forced, much sweeter; this is a blanching technique, restricting daylight to the growing leaves and stems, either with specialist earthenware pots with lids, or large, tall pots or even upturned dustbins. Select well established crowns, over three years old and only force the same crown once every 3 to 4 years.

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

Winter prune soft fruit, gooseberries, currants and blueberries, making clean cuts at the base of the bushes and removing weak, overcrowded stems. Raspberries require a little more knowledge, the variety and when it fruits, summer or autumn, determine pruning technique; this is the month to prune canes of autumn fruiting varieties to the ground as a new cane will grow and bear fruit. It is a good time to check fruit cages for maintenance; alternatively there are several easily installed pop-up walk-in types available.

Remove dead leaves from cabbages, kales, and other winter brassicas, to deter white flies which now seem to overwinter on our crops, another effect of global warming. The pesky flies easily wash off in kitchen preparation.

Enjoy all the spring flowers as they emerge!

Sally Oates

MIDWINTER MUSINGS

Winter is half-done, with little to remember it for, so far. Suffice it that autumn was mild and wet, and lingered long; then some bright spark switched the tap off in mid-December (just after our hosepipe ban had been lifted), and we had a run of cold nights (down to -6C) and even a couple of snow flurries. But after four dryish weeks, the tap was switched back on. We were lucky, though, for the eye of Storm Goretti (Jan 9th) passed overhead, sparing us a full-strength gale, and much of the rain.

The mild start to this winter allowed an array of flowers to appear unusually (even unseasonally) early. Never before have Hazel catkins peaked over Christmas and the garden Forsythias were all but spent by mid-January. The birds were at it too: I heard a Great Tit calling and a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming on New Year's Day. Now, that's seriously early.

Missing, though, until late in the New Year cold snap, were the Fieldfares – and this is high grade Fieldfare terrain. We've had plenty of Redwings, including a flock of ca 100 circulating regularly around Culkerton, but hardly any of our normally ubiquitous Fieldfares until around January 10th. Migratory Blackbirds also appeared in numbers then, to the chagrin of our resident birds. By the time these hungry incomers showed up, most of a prodigious hawthorn berry crop was on the ground.

This winter is also memorable for the (relative) abundance of 7-Spot Ladybirds, supposedly our commonest species of ladybird and an

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

aphid-feeding 'gardener's friend'. It's a partial migrant, arriving here in vast numbers on occasions, and overwintering as adult beetles, often collectively. Last summer saw some hefty influxes. Rightly so, for we are half a century on from the 'long hot summer of 1976' when 7-Spot Ladybirds occurred in such profusion that swarms of them drove sunseekers off seafronts, as close to us as Weston-super-Mare I must write Mere not Mud. I was working on the land fifty winters ago and can remember hoards of hibernating ladybirds clustered together on low bushes, whilst garden shed floors were littered with writhing masses – and that was after the 1975 immigrations, myriads more were to come.

Last summer outgunned 1976 on heat and sunshine, but not on drought – and the wet autumn of 2025 (383mm at Culkerton) and a wet early winter have ensured that there will be no repetition of 1976's deep drought this year, though hosepipe bans will doubtless come into force. Now, another early spring seems likely but we need to be primed to expect the unexpected. Another hot dry summer beckons, perhaps?

Matthew Oates

GET BOWLED OVER - SHORT MAT BOWLS IN CRUDWELL VILLAGE HALL

Now we are in Autumn/Winter season and gentle exercise outside might not be so inviting, how about having friendly company whilst building up the skills for a new active hobby? You don't have to commit to becoming a 'match player' just be part of a 'team player' for fun and exercise.

Want to know more please contact Anita anitahill.smith@gmail.com



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FROM WINTER INTO SPRING: THE QUIET WORK OF STAYING CONNECTED

February often feels like a month on the move. Winter has not quite loosened its grip, yet the signs of spring are unmistakable. The light lingers a little longer in the afternoons, snowdrops and crocuses appear along lanes and in churchyards, and there is a subtle sense that the year is beginning to stretch and breathe again.

I have always thought of February as a time of transition rather than pause - a moment when we begin to look outward after the inward turn of winter. In the South Cotswolds, that shift is often reflected not in large events, but in the steady rhythm of everyday life returning. Walks become a little longer, conversations linger a little more, and familiar faces start to reappear after the quieter months.

Unlike December, with its Christmas lights and packed calendars, or the summer months of fêtes and festivals, February rarely announces itself. Yet it is often during this less celebrated season that some of the most meaningful connections are made. Over the winter, and especially in recent weeks, I have been focusing on smaller, regular ways of staying in touch with people across the constituency - holding advice surgeries, visiting villages without a parish event in the diary and spending time door knocking in places that can easily be overlooked.

These moments are not headline-grabbing, but they are deeply rewarding. Conversations on doorsteps or in village halls tend to be thoughtful and grounded. People talk about everyday concerns, but also about what they value; their community, their surroundings and the simple desire to feel heard and connected. Again and again, I am reminded that strong communities are built not only through big gatherings, but through consistency and presence.

This mirrors so much of what sustains village and town life more broadly. The volunteers who turn up week after week, the local groups that meet regularly rather than occasionally and the neighbours who quietly keep an eye out for one another.

As the South Cotswolds weathers the long tail of winter, it is those small, thoughtful acts of connection that help our communities grow stronger and more resilient.

By Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

MP, South Cotswolds

Constituency Office Watermoor Point Watermoor Road Cirencester GL7 1LF. Tel: 01285 300555 Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

KEMBLE DISTRICT RBL WOMEN'S SECTION



We hope to arrange a joint meeting of the branch women's section during the next couple of months after speakers have confirmed when available. It is also hoped that, now a volunteer has come forward to take on the role as a Standard Bearer for the women's section and has received the necessary training, Pat Ayres will be able to retire after serving in the role for nearly 40 years. Meanwhile she will continue and then act as a deputy.

Pat Ayres 770385 ayrescares50@gmail.com

THE FUTURE OF THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE

I have now been editing the magazine since 2004, some 20 years. When I took over from Josephine Birch, I was given some advice. "Tell them you will do it for five years only". Well that didn't work. But I am not complaining and although sometimes it has been a burden, overall I have enjoyed it. And I hope that I have moved it on with new ideas.

The magazine is firstly a parish magazine for the churches. However, my belief is that the church should support the community and vice versa, and the magazine should be a community resource. It is delivered through the letterbox of every household in the parishes and most importantly at no cost.

As we are now, the Watershed's future is fragile. I am not anticipating stepping down as editor but I do need help with advertising in particular. I put a piece in the last issue appealing for help but got no responses. If you want to support your community, please give it some thought.

With the arrival of our new curate, Revd Dr Steve Bullock, there has been some discussion about whether the Watershed and the Parish News, which covers the other parishes in the benefice, should be combined in some way. Rest assured that it is early days and we are just exploring possibilities. If you would like to have some input, do please email me with your thoughts. There will be a meeting open to the public but we haven't set a date yet. When the date is known it will be publicised.

Watch this space! Ed

KEMBLE BELLRINGERS

Please come along to the Church Belfry in All Saints Church any Monday evening from 7pm to Kemble and meet us and have a go! Or contact Rick our team captain rick@applegates.uk to find out more information.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - KEMBLE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The first talk of 2026 has been arranged. A joint meeting has been arranged with the Women's Section starting 2.30pm on Saturday 7 March 2026 in Kemble Village Hall.

The speaker Martin Robbins will talk about Sir George Dowty, who was a globally respected aeronautical engineer. The Women's Section has kindly offered to organise refreshments for this event.

If you would like more information about our RBL Branch, please contact me for details or check out the British Legion website:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/become-a-member>

Ian Czapiewski – Branch Secretary – 07711 015168

KEMBLE AND EWEN WI



We shall be meeting in the Tavern function room on Thursday 19 February at 3pm when a representative from the Severn Freewheelers (Blood Bikes) will be coming to speak about their work. Visitors pay £5 and are very welcome to join members. Tea and cake served.

Further details from secretary.

Pat 770385 ayrescares50@gmail.com

ADVERTISING IN THE WATERSHED

If you wish to advertise in our parish magazine please e-mail Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Advert a third of a page cost £17 for a single issue or £68 for 6 months. Adverts half a page cost £25 for a single issue or £100 for 6 months. The magazine is published 10 times every year; July/August and December/January are joint editions.

Copy for next month's magazine to be with me by the 12th of the preceding month.



CLOSING DATE FOR THE MAGAZINE

Contributions should be sent by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. **Articles should be submitted by the 12th of the preceding month for inclusion in the next month's issue.**

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Coates Tree Warden	Simon Large	07714 220558
Coates Village Hall	Bookings	07818 192587
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	John Dobson	07808 095553
Coates Snow Warden	Peter Tugwell	770314/07860 718209
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Sapperton and FM PC Clerk	Barbara (Babs) Maloney	07958 116 794
Sapperton Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Village Hall	Bookings	07771 006848
Sapperton School Head	Helen Cooper	760325
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Kemble Ward	Mike McKeown	07785 362573 mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk
GCC Councillor	Ian Watson	07830 867356
Member of Parliament	Roz Savage MBE	01285 300555
Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

3 February	11am	Service and Coffee at Frampton Mansell
Friday 6	6.30pm	Coates Monthly Quiz
Thursday 12	7.30pm	Coates Cinema Club
Tuesday 17	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates
Thursday 19	3pm	Kemble and Ewen WI mee
Friday 20	7pm	Coates Village Club AGM
Saturday 21	6.30pm	Coates Darts Doubles Tournament
Tuesday 24	7.15pm	Thameshead Ladies Connection
Saturday 28	7pm	Rodmarton and Tarlton Quiz Night

MARCH

Saturday 7	2.30pm	Joint meeting of the Royal British Legion Men's and Women's Branch
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GET YOUR WATERSHED BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive a copy of the parish magazine by email I am very happy to add you to my list of those who do. This may not replace your delivered copy but you would get it earlier and with some colour! Just let me know by email at watershedmag@gmail.com