

THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



St Matthew's, Coates

MAY 2024

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COATES

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Secretary PCC	Alison Pollock	
Treasurer PCC	Dickie Randall	771300

SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

Rev Pepita Walker 760211

Church Wardens:

St Luke's	Elizabeth Twinch	762897
	John Thorogood	762861
St Kenelm's	Mark Hamer	760715
Rotas	Elizabeth Twinch	762897
Treasurer PCC	Charles Houldsworth	760300
Flowers	Pam Thorogood	762861

RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

Church Wardens

Rodmarton	Jane Marlowe	770401
	Simon Biddulph	841462
Tarlton (Chapel Warden)	Jasper Biddulph	770230
Flower Team Leader	Alex Bransby	07981 793251
Secretary PCC	Jane Marlowe	770401
Treasurer PCC	Simon Biddulph	841462

For those with access to the internet the following links will take you to our website pages:

For the calendar: <http://thamesheadchurches.org.uk/calendar/>

For an outline of all our Sunday services: <http://www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk/services/>

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, Shorncliffe

FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

5 May Sixth Sunday after Easter

10.00	Kemble	Communion streamed + Children's Church
10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer

9 May Ascension Day

21.00	Sapperton	Ascension Compline
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10 May

10:30	Frampton Mansell	Prayer Labyrinth
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11 May

14.00	Kemble	Church Fete
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12 May Seventh Sunday after Easter

9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer (streamed)
11.00	Tarlton	Rogation

13 May

14.00	Rodmarton	Prayer Walk
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14 May

21.00	Shorncliffe	Compline
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15 May

19.00	Coates	Prayer Walk
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16 May

19.00	Kemble	Prayer Walk
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17 May

19.00	Poole Keynes	Prayer Walk
19.00	Kemble	24/7 Prayer

18 May

14.00	Somerford Keynes	Prayer Walk
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19 May Pentecost

10.00	Kemble	Source Picnic
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion

26 May Trinity Sunday

8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
10.00	Rodmarton	Benefice Service of Holy Communion

Dear Friends

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. **Acts 2:1-4**

Have you ever experienced something so incredible that when you tried to explain it to someone else, you couldn't find the right words? Luke's account of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples describes how a group of frightened men and women are transformed and given a new hope, a new heart and a new purpose. It was so incredible that even those who witnessed it didn't believe it at first!

Two thousand and more years later, it is still difficult to comprehend.

The Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to come out of hiding and proclaim the good news of the resurrection; to set in motion that which Jesus had prayed for 'Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven'. They were ordinary men and women – just as we are and we are also called to proclaim the same good news of God's love for us. Just as these men and women were transformed into energetic and outspoken witnesses of Jesus, so can we be transformed today.

But how can we share God's love? How does the Holy Spirit enable us to find the courage to speak out in faith? We live in a world that is changing around us every day. One of the things we can do is ask God to intervene; to transform our world and our hearts to love one another more deeply; and pray that people would come to know the love, hope, peace of Jesus.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. This year's initiative runs from 9 – 19 May, and there will be opportunities to engage with different events across the Benefice – do look out for them. One thing we could all do is praying the Lord's prayer at 9am and 9pm each day – set your alarm to remind you!

However, engaging in conversations about God's love and transforming power should not be confined to 11 days in the year – if we want to see God's kingdom on earth, then as Christians we must share our stories and pray for our neighbours (locally and globally) 365 days a year (or 366 this year!).

Father God, We pray for The Thameshead Benefice; that we may be truly united as we come together, whatever our background or culture, to worship you sharing our common belief and trust in You. We pray

for peace, respect and unity as we seek to see Christ in each other, inspiring and encouraging each individual to express their love for You. May our churches be places of peace and safety, joy and love and full of your glory. Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors. Fill us with vision and joy and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship and help us to know and share how much each of us are loved by You. May we see your kingdom come here in the Thameshead Benefice, to the glory of your name. Amen.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby.

With love and prayers, Liz Collins (Lay Reader)

THAMESHEAD BENEFICE VACANCY

Currently the churches in our area, which is known as the Thameshead Benefice are without a Priest. On Thursday 11 April the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Group met and formally agreed for the Thameshead Benefice to proceed with the next steps to appoint a new priest. We now need to finalise the Benefice Profile before advertising the post. Hopefully this will be late summer or early autumn.

George Collins - Churchwarden Poole Keynes



Adept Tree Maintenance

Adept Tree Maintenance is a local, small 2-person tree surgery team who can cater to your tree related needs!

Our team uses professional equipment to make sure the job is safe and completed to a high standard.

What Services Do We Offer?

- Tree Reductions	- Hedge Reductions
- Tree Removals	- Stump Grinding
- Hedge Cutting	- Log Spitting

There is no job too big or too small for our team!

Environment Agency Licenced waste carrier
Fully Insured and Qualified

Call Will Hardie on 07377 644 447 for your free quote!

THY KINGDOM COME

This year, Thameshead Benefice is marking the time between the celebration of Jesus' Ascension into heaven (9th May) and the Birthday of the Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (19th May) with a series of events focused on prayer. We will be praying for our communities and for the future of our Benefice as we begin the process of seeking our next Priest.

The events are for anyone to join in, and we've tried to make sure that the whole Benefice is included, especially churches that are used less often.

Dates in May	Event & Location	Time
Thursday 9 th	Ascension Compline –Sapperton	9pm
Friday 10 th	Prayer Labyrinth –Frampton Mansell	10.30am
Saturday 11 th	Kemble Fete	2pm
Sunday 12 th	Services across Benefice	
Monday 13 th	Prayer walk – Rodmarton	2pm
Tuesday 14 th	Compline – Shorncote	9pm
Wednesday 15 th	Prayer walk – Coates	7pm
Thursday 16 th	Prayer walk – Kemble	7pm
Friday 17 th	Prayer walk – Poole Keynes	7pm
Friday 17 th	24 hrs of prayer – Kemble	
Saturday 18 th	Prayer walk – Somerford Keynes	2pm
Sunday 19 th	Services across Benefice Source Picnic	

Compline is a short said service of prayer at the end of the day. The prayer walks which will be gentle, starting at the village church and aiming to be back within an hour.

The 24-hour prayer event in Kemble will be in the new prayer room kindly hosted by Jill & Martin Kingston next door to the church, with people invited to sign up to 1-hour timeslots.

Whether or not you can make it to one of these events, we would also encourage you to take a minute at 9am and 9pm each day to say the Lord's prayer wherever you happen to be, knowing that others across our Benefice will be doing the same.

There will also be a **children's poster competition** with the subject being '*Our Church and Village Community*'. The deadline will be the end of the day on 31st May. Please scan or take a picture of entries and submit them by email to the address below. We hope to be able to declare winners for each village and for the Benefice as a whole.

For more information, please contact Rev. Joe Mottram via email: revjoemottram@gmail.com or phone: 07746 211093

NEWS FROM COATES



Coates Cinema presents: The Miracle Club¹²



**Thursday
9 May
Coates
Village
Hall**

**Admission £5
Doors open
7pm**

For any queries contact: Simon Large 07714220558 or simon.large@sky.com

Coffee, Cake and Chat

"Delicious sweet & savoury home bakes, gluten-free too, proper coffee, various teas & decaf at this friendly event"



**NEXT: Tuesday 21 May & 18 June
(always the 3rd Tuesday)**

**10.30am to 12 noon Coates Village Hall
Takeaway bakes from 11.45am, they go fast!**

**£4 Two bakes of your choice + bottomless tea/coffee
£1.50 Bottomless tea/coffee**

Well behaved dogs welcome

See our notices on the village hall notice board & Coates parish website or contact us on 770596 / 07794 678 928



COATES VILLAGE HALL OPEN NIGHTS – 2024

Please note that in May the format will be slightly different, as it includes a musical entertainment. The doors will open at 6.45pm. Our talented speaker, who is also a professional musician, will present a duo, performing folk/country style songs, accompanied on dulcimer and autoharp, starting at 7pm. We will break for refreshments at 7.20pm. The talk will begin at 7.30pm, as usual.

30 May ‘When Coates had a Station’ by Mike Fenton

Mike has recently published a book (in three volumes) on the GWR in the Stroud valley. Copies of the first volume, which covers Coates, will be available for purchase on the night.

In June, normal timings will resume. Talks will be held on the last Thursday of the month; doors open at 7pm and talks start at 7.30pm. Drinks and biscuits are provided. There is no entrance charge, but donations are welcome to help cover expenses. Profits, if any, will be added to Village Hall funds.

27 June ‘The Steadings’

Peter Clegg, CEO of the new Bathurst Estate development west of Cirencester, will update us on progress and future plans at the Steadings. He will also update us on other recent developments at the estate affecting Coates.

July and August – Further talks will be arranged in the autumn.

Diana Crane

GEOFF MOORE

The funeral of Geoff Moore took place at St Mathews Church Coates on Friday 5 April 2024.

Geoff and Philippa were resident in Coates for 33 years until illness forced a move. Geoff always expressed a wish to be buried in Coates where he found peace, contentment and a strong sense of community. Geoff was for many years a Coates Parish Councillor, tree warden and leader of the litter campaign.

Philippa and the whole family wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the kindness and support they have received from Coates; from Pepita Walker and the members of the church which looked lovely on Friday; the village hall committee and most especially from Coates Kitchen Volunteers who produced such an amazing reception. Thank you all.

Long may the Coates Community Spirit flourish.

Pippa

The Village Club

— COATES —

Everyone is welcome!

We're open 8pm to 11pm, Friday and
Saturday evenings

Monthly QUIZ night

First Friday of the month

Free to enter - no need to book!

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

Saturday special events from 6pm onwards...

11 May **Wine and Cheese** evening

8 June **New Summer Wine list** tasting

22 June **Beer & Cider tasting with BBQ**

Keep an eye on the Village Newsletter and the Coates Village Facebook page for last minute event details...

Situated within the Village Hall, the Village Club is for everyone in our community.

Memberships are now due – £10 for a family membership and £5 for an individual per annum.

If you can help, or would like to know a bit more, please email coatesvillageclub@gmail.com

Coates Christmas Fair In aid of Cobalt

Save the date - Saturday 23 November 10am-4pm

Find your perfect Christmas gift with art and craft stalls, children's Christmas activities and a raffle.

Refreshments available throughout the day

Anyone interested in running a stall (£10) or helping organise the event please contact Alison 07941 377383 or amaydom@hotmail.com

CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

The next meetings in Coates Village Hall are on Wednesday 1 May at 7.30pm.

Meetings are generally on the first Wednesday of the month.

Further details can be obtained from Pat in confidence on 770385 or email ayrescares50@gmail.com



COATES VILLAGE HALL

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE FOR A VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS

Why choose Coates Village Hall?

The main hall caters for 90 persons (standing) 60 (seated)

State of art Audio/Visual equipment and screen

Effective heating

Convenient parking beside the Village Hall

Modern well-equipped kitchen including commercial 2 minute dishwasher

The meeting room caters for 20 persons

Effective heating

Comfortable furnishings

Convenient parking beside the Village Hall

The main hall, meeting room, and kitchen offered at competitive rates with reduced rates for locals.

INTERESTED?

For bookings or to be shown what is available

Contact The Booking Officer

Phone 07818 192 587 or email villagehall@coatesparish.org.uk

NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

TALKING TO MYSELF

I've been sitting by my window looking at the world outside. Thinking how it has changed since yesterday. We have a beech hedge that runs down the garden. A couple of days ago all the leaves were still brown but now they are turning green. It fascinates me as to which part is now in green leaf and which is still dull worn out brown. Why doesn't it all start to show change at the same time? Does some get more sun than the rest; but that isn't the case because some that is never in the sun is now green. Is it because some of the 'hedge trees' are older than others? But that isn't true because they were all planted at the same time. It is one of the things that make nature so fascinating. Nature is in control, we can help or hinder it but we cannot change it. I could spend hours just gazing out of the window. Pity there isn't more free time!

Jesus said; 'Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.' He also said; 'Consider the lilies of the fields; they do not work, they do not spin, and yet' I wonder do we spend too much time wanting to change ourselves and not accepting that we are what we are. We may admire other people because they are slim, or beautiful or brainy. If we were all identical would that make us all better? It is good that we are all different. It is good that some people want to be farmers while others enjoy mucking about in boats. God has made us individuals not robots. Let us rejoice in our own abilities and be ready to use them to help those we meet along the road.

Grampton Mansell Village Choir

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



Be Part of it... get in touch with Lucy!

7pm - 8:30pm **MONDAYS**
at The Village Hall

£5 per week or £20 per month

The first session
is **FREE!**

No previous experience necessary
Open to ALL ages and voices



Adult Beginner Piano Lessons

It really is NEVER too late...
Whatever your age,
if you have ever wanted to learn to
play piano, give it a try,
the first lesson
is **FREE!**

W: www.camerondavies.me

E: lucy@camerondavies.me

M: 07866 447725

SAPPERTON SCHOOL FETE

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2024

13:30 - 15:30

SAPPERTON SCHOOL, GL7 6LQ



Come and join us for a day of fun in the sun!

Bring your children, bring your family, and let's make unforgettable memories together!

- Indulge in mouthwatering **Hog Roast** delights
- Exciting **Raffle** with fantastic prizes
- Browse through our vibrant **Stalls** offering a variety of treats
- Test your skills at our thrilling **Games**
- Groove to the rhythm of lively **Music**



Village Craft Groups

10am - 12pm...

2nd Wednesday of the month at Frampton Mansell Village Hall

NEW 4th Wednesday of the month at Sapperton Village Hall *NEW*

Whatever your craft: Knitting - Crochet - Embroidery - Felting - Tapestry - Sewing

Whatever your skill level - From beginners to professional crafters

Do please come along with your crafting project and join us! Share ideas and knowledge, and have a chat and a laugh over a cup of tea or coffee with home-made cakes and biscuits... and hopefully make some new friends and progress on your project too!

Cost: £3 - Includes refreshments

For more information please contact...

Teresa - Frampton Mansell - Email: thowes51@gmail.com

Jill - Sapperton - Email: allawayjill2780@hotmail.com



Our school at Sapperton has been undergoing a bit of a spring-clean. We are so grateful to our families and local community who came to help us tidy up our beautiful outdoor space after a dark and rainy winter. We have planted new flowers to add a splash of colour and stripped back some of the space so we can explore even more. Our mud kitchen has been cleaned and exciting new additions to the planting area have been added to help create the best mud pies in Gloucestershire! Beech and Maple (Reception and Year 1 and 2) have been enjoying the outdoor learning. We are never too old to enjoy mud pie making and pond dipping though, and Elder Class have sneaked out for a little play too!



Recently, our learning in the classroom has also had some exciting new projects. We love Free Write Friday and cannot wait to see what the next topic will be through our Inspiration Worship. Sharing our pieces with the younger children and seeing what they write too is always great fun. Friday is also the day when we share what we have been reading at home. Book Club is even more fun when we can enjoy it outside in the sunshine!

If you listen carefully enough on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon around Sapperton village, you may hear the dulcet tones of the recorder or trumpet! Rowan class (Year 3 and 4) are learning to play the recorder in their music lessons and we also are learning the trumpet in Elder Class! It is a little noisy but it is also great fun being able to play as a group and we are recognising some of the pieces of music. We are looking forward to performing these pieces in a few weeks to the rest of the school.

By Elder Class, Sapperton C of E Primary

www.sappertonschool.org

01285 760325

To nurture faith; to inspire success

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 7 May** 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



NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON NEWS

Forthcoming services at St Peter's, Rodmarton & St Osmund's, Tarlton

These are listed at the front of the Watershed.

Sunday 12 May, 11am: Tarlton Rogation Procession at St Osmund's Tarlton, please join us as we process around the village before returning to the church for refreshments.

Monday 13 May 2pm: As part of the *Thy Kingdom Come* benefice initiative, please join us for a Prayer Walk, starting at St Peter's Rodmarton. Refreshments afterwards in the church.

Sunday 19 May 11am: Whitsun service of Holy Communion at St Peter's

Sunday 26 May 10am: Trinity Sunday Benefice service of Holy Communion at St Peter's

Food bank collection points are in St Peter's, Rodmarton and St Osmund's, Tarlton.

The 17th century English parson and poet George Herbert (1593-1633) was particularly fond of Rogation worship. "Particularly, he loves Procession, and maintains it, because there are contained therein four manifest advantages.

First, a blessing of God for the fruits of the field: Secondly, justice

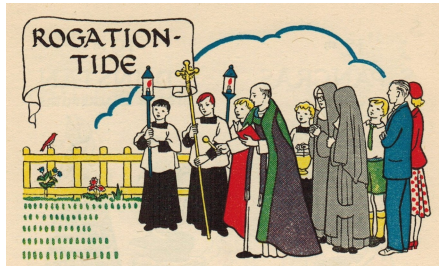
in the Preservation of bounds: Thirdly, Charity in loving walking, and neighbourly accompanying one another, with reconciling of differences at that time, if there be any: Fourthly, Mercy in time is, or ought to be used..."

George Herbert, The Country Parson

RODMARTON AND TARLTON VILLAGES FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CHURCHES

Sunday 2 June Big Summer Lunch, Rodmarton Village Hall

12noon to 4pm Please join us for a delicious Summer Lunch, with festivities, food and friends. Folk Music with the Avening Brass Band, Pimm's and Wine Bar, Big Pudding and Cake Auction, Floral Table Decoration Competition, Fun Dog Agility Course, Tug of War and traditional Children's Games. For enquiries and tickets: 07974



We have been treated to fantastic performances from the Rock Steady bands at Rodmarton this week, who entertained both staff and parents at their recent concert. Children from across the school – Reception to Year 6 -worked as individual bands performing a song of their choice, each child playing a different instrument including drums, electric guitars, keyboard and bass as well as vocalists. The term has been full of music with Oak class also coming to the end of their weekly trumpet lessons. A concert for parents and the school will also be held by the Oak Class trumpeters.



To support the teaching and learning in Sapling Class this term, the children visited the Corinium museum in Cirencester. While the museum is well known for local Roman artefacts, it also holds several Anglo-Saxon and Viking pieces from the local area. The children took part in a workshop and had time exploring the museum.

Across the school, the children have taken part in a range of sporting events. Year 3-6 children were invited to take part in Cross Country races at Deer Park and Kingshill schools. With around 25 children in each race, the event was competitive but the Rodmarton runners held strong positions and most importantly enjoyed taking part. A special mentioned must go to Arthur, who finished both these races in first place. In addition, Arthur has represented the school at two County races in the last few years and has placed within the top 15 for the County – well done Arthur.

Sapling children have taken part in an Orienteering event at Westonbirt Arboretum – having fun finding controls around the historic site. A team of Year 5 and 6 children entered the National Schools Dodgeball event at the beginning of the month. Rodmarton was by far the smallest school to attend but this didn't stop the children securing 3rd place overall within Gloucestershire. A huge achievement.

Rodmarton pupils have also been busy competing in an Oracy event. Three children, one from each of our classes, were selected from school and took part in the Cirencester area competition – with over 30 other schools. Our competitive journey stopped there but our love for Oracy has definitely been ignited.

Finally we wish to thank Bryher for her committed service to Rodmarton's Watershed; updating the local community of all the schools goings on and always being our champion.

Nutty <https://www.rodmartonschool.co.uk/> 01285 841284

THE FAMOUS RODMARTON & TARLTON BIG SUMMER LUNCH 2ND JUNE 2024

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN WITH SOME RAUCOUS AND JOLLY COMMUNITY FUN!
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS FROM THE VILLAGES WELCOME- TICKETS £10 pp per lunch (under 14s free but please note that lunch is not provided for small children, and older children must have a ticket for lunch, if they want to eat)

Delicious Summer Lunch

We are providing a delicious summer lunch of salads, ham, quiches, coronation chicken, new potatoes with butter and mint, pasta salads, rice salads, rare roast beef, home-made mayonnaise, vegetarian salads all freshly made! Tables provided or bring your own rugs, tables & chairs.

Big Pudding Auction

We will be selling off an amazing array of puddings and cakes after the lunch for you to have a sweet treat! We would love any donations for puddings and cakes to be auctioned off after lunch please just bring donations on the day! Ingredients labelled clearly! This is a great fun auction so please make your puddings as amazing and mouthwatering as possible!

Pimms and Rosé Bar

Everyone's favourite summer tippie available with all the delights of summer fruits and mint as well as a wonderful Occitan rosé to sip and savour in the sunshine!

Squash and lollies available for children! Also if any older children require lunch then please buy a ticket for them.

Tug of War & Childrens Games

Plenty of room for running around, eating lollies and playing football on the pitch. Good old fashioned fun and games for children, splat the rat, sponge throwing and all culminating in the village tug of war at 4pm!!! Who will be crowned as strongest villagers?

Flower Prize

This year a prize will be awarded to the person who brings the most lovely floral arrangement for the big summer lunch table. All entries must be in a glass jar and must be fresh British garden flowers. Large or small please bring them on the day with your name and mobile number on the bottom of the jar!
Anyone may enter!

Fun Dog Show & Dog Agility Course

Bring along your four legged friends to try and scoop a coveted rosette. Fun dog show from 2.30 and fun dog agility from 3.30 on Rodmarton Cricket Pitch!

£2 per class per dog for dog show entry and £3 per dog agility course. (Please note some of the agility equipment is not suitable for large dogs)

RODMARTON AND TARLTON VILLAGES FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CHURCHES
SUNDAY 2nd June 2024 12 noon to 4pm

Tickets can be bought on the gate on the day of the lunch or from Jane Marlowe by cheque or bank transfer to **PCC Rodmarton**. Her number is 07896 311882 and her email is janemarlowe@gmail.com.

Please let us know in advance how many tickets you require so we know numbers. Call 07974422272 or 07896 311924 for info.

NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

May is a beautiful month, when spring steps into summer; the big question is how will the weather unfold? As I type this piece the Meteorological Office has released the latest figures for March: record breaking warmth and precipitation. For gardeners, this combination is ideal growing conditions, the difficulty is getting out into the garden and making the most of short dry spells. Our narrow grass paths on slopes have at times become sloppy mud and decidedly dangerous with several slipping falls. Time to make a few changes; perhaps add a central double line of bricks and steps.

There have been very few frosts in spring. A few weeks ago my allotment neighbour planted out four courgettes as the temperatures were acceptable and possibly there will be no late frosts. This is worth trying if you are prepared to replace plants if they fail. Be bold and tenacious.

Usually, May is the month of fruit blossom, especially apple trees, many of these have bloomed ahead of schedule. Fortunately, our friends the pollinating insects have been active earlier as well.

Interestingly for the observant amongst you readers, some flowering trees including different varieties of apples will have noticed some stayed dormant while others came into bloom. In early April, I had worried gardens asking if the trees had died over winter. The trees duly sprouted after the daylight hours increased. There seem to be two main triggers for plant growth: temperature and light. Therefore, some varieties of apples were responding to the mild spring weather and others were waiting for longer days.

My hibernating hedgehogs also emerged with the longer days.

All the plum family of trees bloomed well during mid-April, fingers crossed for a good crop of fruit from these, our greengage was full of blossom looking like a giant spirea in bloom.

As we all had delayed gardening sessions with the constant rain for many months, our winter tidy up was disrupted, so now is the time for a good spring clean of the garden. Clear out any 'might be useful wood', old rotting canes, or old spoilt wooden garden furniture. Get on to weeding, especially on dry sunny days when it is a pleasure being outside. Check woody plants for die back and trim lightly also remove dry standing stems left over winter. As narcissi and tulips finish blooming, remove dead heads and give these bulbs a Tomorite feed to help make good bulbs for next year's blooms.

NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

There are so many seeds to sow this month, Runner and French Beans, either in pots or direct, depending on weather or space. Herbs, parsley, coriander, dill, fennel including the bulbing types. Courgettes, squashes and pumpkins. Summer lettuce and rocket. Sweetcorn direct if the soil is warm. All next autumn and winter's brassicas, Brussel Sprouts, Kales and collards. Plant out tomatoes and sow basil.

Make your garden joyful with as many flowers that will fill spaces, annuals as seeds or small plants. Pots full of summer flowers wherever a space needs a shot of colour.

Sally Oates

SPRING RISING

We would have had a wonderful Easter, had the UK implemented its 1928 Easter Act, which sets Easter for the day after the second Saturday in April – but has never been enacted. That balmy mid-April weekend, warmth and sunshine broke through spectacularly, for the first time since early October: Swallows and House Martins arrived and skimmed the stilling skies, Chiffchaffs dink-dinked in every copse, Holly Blue and Orange Tip butterflies wandered the lanes as if out of Narnia, and our world arose from several months of flood, bog, mud and pothole. As it was, the cold and interminably wet early Easter of 2024 is best forgotten...

The mild winter and early spring meant that many elements of our flora and fauna have leapt ahead of any norm we might want to apply, notably the vegetation. By mid-April I had seen Elder in bloom, and Ox-eye Daisies and Red Clover flowering along road verges. Now, those are features of early June, or late May in an early year. This was on top of oaks being well in leaf, and in flower, and the bulk of the nation's daffodils being finished by that dire early Easter. As Fred Trueman used to say on Test Match Special, 'I doan't know what's going off out there anymore...' (usually in response to England fielding without a Third Man).

The state of the nation's caterpillars speaks even louder, though few of us assiduously work them. Insect's push limits, any limit: indeed, for insect, think wannabe locust. Here it can be revealed that the caterpillars of many of our midsummer butterflies are three or four weeks ahead of their norms. Only the rains have held them back, the winter and early spring temperatures didn't. Unless the rains continue

NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

ad nauseam, butterflies like Meadow Brown, Marbled White and His Gloriousity the Purple Emperor are going to be well out by the start of June – unprecedentedly early.

We are left pondering, whatever next?, in the absence of any semblance of a longer range weather forecasting system. The one thing the beleaguered farming and building industries – and many others – need is a confident seasonal weather forecast system, but we're lucky if we get an accurate weekly forecast. Moreover, those of us who regard themselves as being relatively in touch with the natural world, find that they have lost the one thing they relied on most – confidence in their intuitive feel. 'I doan't know what's going off out there anymore...'

Matthew Oates

LONGFIELD HOSPICE UPDATE

When a diagnosis changes everything Longfield Hospice is there for the patient, family and loved ones. If you would like to find out more about our services, please visit www.longfield.org.uk

As a local hospice charity, we are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports our work. Their support means that last year we supported 1,633 patients and their loved ones through clinical care, counselling, support groups and wellbeing sessions.

Why not support us by going to one of these amazing events?

11 May at 7.30pm Cappella Nova Bath Chamber Choir celebrates the music of the Elizabethan ages at Tetbury Goods Shed Arts Centre

25 May at 7.30pm The Hill & Valley Singers & Guests present 'From Bach to Bacharach' at Cirencester Baptist Church 01285 720403

25 May at 7pm at Tetbury Choir present a Life in Song at Minchinhampton Church and tickets from longfield.org.uk/event/tetbury-choir/

26 May 2024 Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire Open Gardens 1.30pm to 5pm

From the walled garden of the Manor through to pretty cottage gardens, Frampton-on-Severn offers a fine selection to inspire everyone with an interest in gardening. As before, there will be a display of some 50 old and interesting cars on the Green from noon until 4.30pm. Delicious cream teas and cakes available. Dogs on leads welcome.

KEMBLE AND EWEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

All welcome to the Tavern for 3pm on Thursday 16 May when the members will hear all about the work of the Stroud Women's Refuge.

Please come along and join with the members.

Pat Ayres - Secretary 01285 770385



The advertisement is set against a light pink background with abstract, flowing shapes in shades of purple, green, and yellow. At the top, the text 'Jilly's Cakes and Bakes' is written in a purple, cursive font. Below the text are three line drawings: a picnic basket on the left, a three-tiered cake stand in the center, and a rectangular cake on the right. Two pink rounded rectangular boxes contain text. The left box lists 'PARTIES', 'AFTERNOON TEAS', 'PICNICS', 'BUSINESS LUNCHES', and 'SPECIAL EVENTS'. The right box lists 'BESPOKE CAKES, BROWNIES, CAKE POPS AND CUPCAKES' and 'ALL MADE TO ORDER'. At the bottom, it states 'FREE DELIVERY IN THE LOCAL AREA', 'YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE', and 'CALL JILL - 07879 292 729'.

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 would 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

CLOSING DATE FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE

Contributions should be sent by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Articles should be in Arial font at 11 point with **formatting kept as simple as possible**. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. **Articles should be submitted by 12 May at the latest for inclusion in the next month's issue.**

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Happy Easter



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Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578

COATES

Coates Parish Council Chair	Robbie Whitfield	07872 027100
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Alan Moorcroft	641375
Coates Village Club secretary	Tara Davidson	07948 966957
Coates Coffee, Cake & Chat	PJ	770596
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

FRAMPTON MANSELL

Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	07710 878987
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RODMARTON

Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Chair	Mark Grimes	770289
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Clerk	Susan Hare	ex-dir
Rodmarton School	Matthew Smith	841284
Rodmarton Village Hall	Jasper Biddulph	770230

SAPPERTON

Parish Council Chair	Sarah Osborn Smith	07836 512538
Sapperton and FM PC Clerk	Barbara (Babs) Maloney	760276
Sapperton Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Village Hall	Bookings	07771 006848
Sapperton School Head	Gary Price	760325

OTHERS

Watershed RDA	Kathy Mottershead	07979 853907
Cirencester Eating Disorder Support Group	Pat Ayres	770385

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Ermin Ward	Julia Judd	07853 383874
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julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk

Kemble Ward	Mike McKeown	07785 362573
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mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk

Gloucestershire County Councillor	Stephen Hirst	01666 504213
Member of Parliament	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	01452 371630
Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Wednesday 1	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in Coates Village Hall
Friday 3	6.30pm	Quiz Night in Coates Village Club
Tuesday 7	11am	Service & Coffee in Frampton Mansell
Wednesday 8	10am	Village Craft Group in Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Thursday 9	7pm	Coates Cinema
Saturday 11	6pm	Wine and Cheese in Coates Village Club
Thursday 16	3pm	Kemble & Ewen WI Meeting
Tuesday 21	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat Coates Village Hall
Wednesday 22	10am	Village Craft Group in Sapperton Village Hall
Thursday 30	7pm	Coates Village Hall Open Night

Coates Produce Show

Save the date and start planting!

Saturday 7 September

Please look out for the schedule in the next

Watershed magazine or in

the Coates Village email newsletter or

Coates Village Facebook page

Or email tara@tarajane.co.uk for more info