

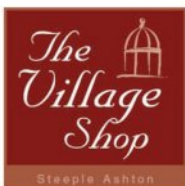
STEEPLE ASHTON
NEWSLETTER

GREAT HINTON
OCTOBER 2023



Thomas Seymour, 1st Baron Seymour of Sudeley

From the time of the Saxon kings – when it was known as ‘Æscstune’ – until the break-up of the Rood Ashton Estate in 1930, the Manor of Ashton was owned by royalty, religious houses, or titled nobility – including, for a brief period, the brother of Jane Seymour: Sir Thomas Seymour. Of all those to have owned the estate, this Tudor high mover was perhaps the most fascinating. An article on him will appear in a future issue.



Steeple Ashton Village Shop

Opening Hours - please see page 7 for the current shop opening hours.

Shop telephone: 01380 871 211

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Editorial

Hello everyone - October, is the usual time for contributions to the newsletter and you should find a small envelope which you can either return to me or to your deliverer, if you see them. £10 would be very helpful! We are still printing 540 copies each month/issue which are distributed free to every household and sent by post to many villagers who now live away.

Even if it was a sad occasion, we all enjoyed the Thankyou Evening in the village hall which turned out to be a 'This is your Life'. Lynda has written a wonderful tribute to Michael Moore which I think expresses how we all feel about his retirement.

I always receive news from the Police Commissioners office but don't often have space for this - our village news is the priority.

Helen

Newsletter Deadline for 2023

Octobe 24th; November 21st for December & January

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 24th October**. They should be sent to Mrs Helen Montague-Smith, 1A Butts Lane, Steeple Ashton or by email to **helenmontaguesmith8@gmail.com**

All published items solely express **the views of the author** and are the copyright of the author and the newsletter unless otherwise stated.

The Editor would like to remind you that it is up to you, the readers, to supply all news and copy for the newsletter. The sender's name and address need to be received before printing. Telephone 01380 871285.

Inquiries for advertisements in the newsletter should be made to **Bridget Lewis** : email: **adverts4steepleashton@gmail.com** or 01380 871279

Please send your ads by email if possible.

Please note, we do not deliver flyers for advertisers.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Join a new initiative: The Steeple Ashton Community Shed group!

Most of us love our village and our community spaces but, as with anything else in life, without a bit of TLC these spaces can start to look a bit tired and worn. The Parish Council ensures that the basics of grass cutting and keeping public spaces safe is undertaken. However, with their current level of funding, they are unable to do any more than the basics.

Some other villages have organised groups, often known as the Community Shed, to ensure their villages get the help they need to stay in good condition - Keevil being a good example.

Would you like to be part of such a group helping to keep Steeple Ashton nice?

Some of the identified tasks could include:

- Repairing the post and rail fence around the old village pound;
- Assisting in the development of St Marys recreation ground;
- Repairs to bench seats;
- Tidy up shrubs around our parks;
- Painting play equipment;
- Introducing more flowering plants to public spaces;
- Replace post to Best Kept Village sign;
- Organise a litter pick;
- Planting trees;

The time commitment would be to suit you, but would probably amount to half a day once or twice a month. We would work in small groups, each bringing our own tools. Materials would of course be provided through Parish Council funds.

If this is something which appeals to you, please get in touch with me – Rob Leonard 01380 871244, rob.leonard@steeple-ashton.co.uk or message me via Facebook.

New Parish Councillors

The Parish Council welcomes two new members, who were co-opted at the September PC meeting:

Cllr Sally Petrie and Cllr Verity Yates.

More information on your new councillors will shortly be made available on the Parish Council website.

Planning Applications

The below applications were considered at the September PC meeting:

PL/2023/07120 - 25 HIGH STREET, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EU - Liquid amber (T1) - target prune the canopy growing over the garden and path by 1m-2m Ginko (T2) - remove the lateral branch on the veg patch side, also remove the two lower branches growing over the driveway Elm tree in rear garden (T3) - remove the lower three branches – No objection.

PL/2023/07100 - THE OLD FIRS, 27 HIGH STREET, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EU - G1 = Cherry tree x 4 - remove, cutting the stumps close to ground level. T1 = Lime tree - 2m-3m height reduction and prune the sides in by 1m-2m G2 = Hornbeam x 5 - crown raise over the lawn and hedge by 2m G3 = Row of mixed Beech/Yew/Plum Cherries along front boundary: Reduce the height of the group by 2m-3m leaving the individual trees well balanced Remove self-seeded Ash trees from inside the group – No objection.

PL/2023/07300 - 6 ST MARYS, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EN - Proposed Two Storey & Single Storey Extensions – No objection.

Wiltshire Council Planning Decisions

PL/2023/02951 - Land South-East of Elmhurst, Southbrook Lane, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6HW - Proposed Replacement Agricultural Building

Decision: Approve with Conditions

PL/2023/05885 – St Mary’s Church, Church Street, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EW - Japanese Flowering Cherry tree - fell. T2 - Black Mulberry tree - fell. T3 - Black Locus False Acacia tree - cut back some limbs to clear Church building by 2m

Decision: No Objection

Application Ref **PL/2023/04669** - 4 The Strand, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EP - Erection of a stud wall and new doorway to convert a first-floor bedroom back to 2 bedrooms

Decision: Approve with Conditions

Parish Council meeting dates 2023-20024

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall:

Monday 2nd October – Planning Only/Neighbourhood Planning
Monday 6th November – Full Council
Monday 4th December – Planning Only/Neighbourhood Planning
Thursday 8th January – Full Council – Precept setting 2024/2025
Monday 5th February – Planning Only/Neighbourhood Planning
Monday 4th March – Full Council – Year End Procedures 2023/24
Monday 1st April – Planning Only/Neighbourhood Planning
April 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting – Date to be confirmed
May 2024 – Annual Council Meeting – Date to be confirmed

Parish Council Contact:

The Clerk can be contacted on 01373 864127 / 07971 987806 or email clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk. All Councillors have live @steeple-ashton.co.uk email addresses which are also posted on the website.

Find us on Social Media through the Parish Council page, we cover many topics of interest to our residents. There is also a Steeple Ashton Village Discussion Group and a group called ‘Steeple Sells’ for those of you that would like to buy and sell things locally – these pages are not a part of the Parish Council policies or procedures, just a natural extension of social media activities. We would love you to get involved – search for ‘Steeple Ashton’ on Facebook. If you are a village group and need help with your social media or village event promotions, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk or 07971 987806.

Find us on the website at <https://steeple-ashton.co.uk/>

~~~ [www.steeple-ashton.co.uk](http://www.steeple-ashton.co.uk) ~~~

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**Open Gardens 2024**

There will be a meeting in the Village Hall on 2nd November at 7:30pm so that I can get an idea on who will agree to open their gardens next year.

Please do come and let me know. **Kathryn Sewell**

## **Jonathon Seed writes**

We move into autumn having enjoyed an "Indian" Summer in September. Temperatures of 33 degrees in the month of September are not unheard of (five times in the last century) but are unusual. Many of us who live in villages will have appreciated an extended season of ripening tomatoes and other vegetables (no green tomato chutney this year!) and a freezer full of excellent blackberries, apples and even cucumber soup! On a personal note I am now fully mobile after my knee replacement and getting on with local politics. To that end I am trying to get a newsletter out to all residents and if anyone is willing to help with the delivery of some leaflets in the village then please let me know.

Village life is often different from a more urban existence and a part of this is how we look after each other. We sadly lost an elderly neighbour last month. We only got to know him 15 years ago when his wife sadly passed away and he was in his seventies but since then he came for a cup of tea and biscuits every morning. He helped my wife with lots of little maintenance jobs around our smallholding and that gave him a real boost by being busy. We often fed him and helped him with his chickens etc. and we swapped garden produce. Last year he became ill and housebound but I kept his extensive lawn mowed simply because he was very proud of his garden and would have been heartbroken to look out into a jungle. A small vignette of village life but one that I suspect is repeated hundreds if not thousands of times across rural Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council is now upping the game on highways repairs and this is very good news for all of us. Government funding for road repairs has only been increased in line with inflation in recent years. However the Cabinet of Wiltshire Council has decided to invest an additional £10million in road maintenance over the next two years. This funding has been found from existing budgets and is a straightforward result of sound financial management of the Council at a time when many other local authorities are facing a bleak financial outlook. We will see the direct results of this with road resurfacing, pothole repairs and verge improvements etc. These tangible improvements in local Wiltshire highways as a result of shrewd local financial management by the Wiltshire Council leadership are very good news indeed for all of us.

### **Jonathon Seed**

Wiltshire Councillor for Melksham Without West and Rural  
Chairman, Melksham Area Board

Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk

Facebook: JSforWC

Tel. 07770774463

## **St Mary's playing field – come and see the approved plan!**

We're pleased to announce that the Parish Council approved an outline plan for improvements to St Mary's playing field on 4 September.

If you can, come along to see the plan and find out more about the next steps.

**When: Saturday 14 October, 2:30pm**

**Where: Village Hall**

### **What:**

- A presentation of the plan for St Mary's playing field
- Information about next steps and timings
- Q&As
- How you can help
- Refreshments!

This plan was developed following the results of the survey in May/June. Thanks again to all who took part.

If you missed the survey results, you can find the survey report on the Parish Council website. We will also add a copy of the approved plan here after the 14 October, as well as on Facebook and in the village shop.

**Rachel Pearson**, Steeple Ashton Recreation Working Group  
sarecgroup@gmail.com

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## **STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP**

**Normal Opening times:**

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**



### **Useful Information**

#### **Postal Collections:**

**Longs Arms** - Weekdays - 4.15pm; Saturday - 10am

**Newleaze** - Weekdays - 9am; Saturday - 7am

**Great Hinton** - Weekdays - 9am; Saturday - 7am

**Mobile Library Visits - Wednesdays;** Longs Arms - 11.00 - 12noon;  
Ashton Common Bus Stop - 3.35pm - 4.00pm  
October 4th; October 18th; November 1st

## NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

At the end of August on an evening where the weather could have swayed either way from dry to wet we were lucky that it did stay dry for the village 'bat walk'.

About twenty of us, led by Alison who armed us with detectors, gathered at the church where Alison then gave us a short talk on UK bat species and how to detect and identify them. There are 17 species of bat breeding in the UK and we know some of them are living and breeding in Steeple Ashton. All UK bats are insectivorous and nocturnal. therefore the best time to see and 'hear' them is from dusk to dawn.

As they fly gathering food such as midges, they use echolocation to navigate. They can work out where objects are by bouncing sounds and by using the time delay of the sound coming back, they know exactly where they are. This sound is at a frequency humans can't hear and each species uses a different frequency. By tuning the detectors for the best sound you can read off the frequency and say for definite which species you are seeing (or not seeing but are there).

We took a short walk staying in the centre of the village where we knew the older buildings held roosts . My thanks to those who allowed us access to their gardens.

We detected Greater Horseshoe, Serotine, Pipistrelle and Soprana Pipistrelle which is the Uk smallest bat with a combined head and body size of 35mm – 45mm.

We ended the walk back at the church where we hoped to detect Lesser Horseshoe bats that we know roost in the church, they are uncommon in Wiltshire. Alas they eluded us that night.

However, one young lad who was on the walk, by chance sadly found a dead bat on the high street. It was shown to Alison who positively identified it as a Lesser Horseshoe. This is a rare bat that can influence planning applications. It's important to remember that all bats are protected by law.

The walk was enjoyed by all and hopefully some younger ones will have been inspired to look out for and protect the nature around us. In other news.



Some wonderfully coloured moths (yes, not all moths are dull and brown) have been seen around the village including 'Jersey Tiger Moth and Magpie Moth and Privet Hawk Moth.

A rare sighting of Weasels dangerously 'playing' in the road was recorded..

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th December at 7:30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Steeple Ashton. The short talk is yet to be determined. Everyone welcome.

Please report anything of interest such as sightings of animal / bird / insect activity etc. Or any unusual or rare plants. Is there something you can't identify? Contact David Culverhouse, 01380 871621 42anchor@gmail.com or Roger Ferguson 01380 870860 r.ferguson550@btinternet.com If we can't answer your question, then we probably have a member who can. Photographs are always welcome and help identification.

**Roger Ferguson**

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**The Royal British Legion POPPY APPEAL 26th OCTOBER TO  
12th NOVEMBER 2023  
in Steeple Ashton, Great Hinton, Keevil and Bulkington**

It's coming up to the time of year when the Royal British Legion launch their annual poppy appeal and will be grateful for your support. Lots of the usual house to house collectors, plus a few new volunteers have generously agreed to give their time to "do the rounds" on your doorsteps in all four villages starting from 26th October – they will all carry identity cards, so please ask if you wish to see them. If you'd like to use Gift Aid (which increases your donation by 25%), all collectors carry Gift Aid forms for you to complete.

All collectors will have a selection of poppies with pins, large silk poppies and crosses – as we are only a small area, our collectors aren't yet equipped to accept credit card payments, so if you'd like to make a donation please do so using good old-fashioned cash!

The RBL is committed to reducing the use of single-use plastic and has therefore developed a plastic-free poppy. This is made from 50% recycled waste from the production of coffee cups and 50% responsibly sourced wood fibre and will also achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions in production compared to the existing design. Although the new poppy is available from this year, we have chosen to use up the stock we have accumulated first and then offer the plastic-free option from next year. If you're unable or would rather not make your donation at your door, there will be poppies and collecting boxes in the following locations from the same date:

- Steeple Ashton Village Shop
- The Longs Arms
- The Well in Bulkington
- Keevil School
- The telephone box in Great Hinton

Many thanks in advance for your generosity towards this important charity appeal

**Paula Boardman** (01380 870122, 07980 652282,  
paula@rocketmail.com) PAO TEE14

**PS: At time of writing, we're not sure if we have enough volunteers to cover all areas in Steeple Ashton, so any offers of help will be gratefully received – please do get in touch.**

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## Steeple Ashton WI



### MIDDLE EAST MEETS WEST

The idea that the W.I. is not just 'Jam and Jerusalem' was reinforced when a flavour of the Middle East came to the Steeple Ashton Village Hall on Wednesday evening. We were visited by Wafaa Powell, a lady from Trowbridge and born in The Lebanon, who allowed us to take part in a belly dance experience.

Wafaa has visited us before and given us the opportunity to taste her delicious Lebanese cuisine, so despite a little initial trepidation at the idea

of trying belly dancing the evening proved to be equally enjoyable.

This dance form has been a type of social dance for over 2,000 years and was danced when groups of women gathered to socialise. Some believe that people migrating over hundreds of years from India to the Middle East and northern Africa brought their dance traditions with them, influencing its development.

Waafa, who was dressed in beautiful rainbow colours, gave us an introductory talk, before giving members the opportunity to 'warm up' with a series of exercises and then introducing them to some of the movements which they then put together, accompanied by some music, to form a very impressive routine, enhanced by the fact that some members had embraced the idea of wearing a colourful 'razzle dazzle' skirt - although I must stress that no bellies were on show!! Waafa ended the evening by treating us to a solo dance.

The next meeting will be held in the village hall on 11 October at 7.30pm and there will be a talk by Claire Diamond-Mills entitled 'The darker side of Wiltshire' (murder and mayhem).

As a W.I. we enjoy a varied range of talks, trips and activities throughout the year and new members are always welcome.

**Marian Little**

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## **METHODIST CHURCH**

### **Extract from Psalm of Courage by John Hammersley**

Do not be frightened or worried for I am your God and I am always with you.

Be determined and confident. Since you are mine I will always support you. I am the God of love who moves you gently on, leading you, drawing you into all that is new and lovely.

All you need is available now. Let me carry you and bear you along in safety. I am the Spirit of Love to direct you tenderly. I hold your hand and will not hurry you.

We will go together into tomorrow for I am with you and won't let you go. Be not afraid for I am with you. I shall never abandon you wherever you may fall.

Only be strong and very courageous for you are mine and I will always love you.

Life is full of constant change. In the last few weeks, thousands of children throughout the country have returned to school to start a new academic year. Many will have started school for the first time and numerous young people will have left home for the first time to start life at university.

We have seen the end of our summer season and moved on into autumn. Life will always bring us change and new challenges. The extract from Psalm of Courage reminds us that we do not have to face any change or challenge alone. God loves each one of us and he is always alongside us, steadfast and our ever-present guide.

### **Church Diary**

All services are at 9.15 am unless otherwise stated. Please come along and join us. You can be assured of a warm welcome, and a time to chat, plus a cup of tea or coffee after the service. If there is anyone for whom you would like prayers to be said, please leave details in the post box at the front door, and they will be included in the Intercessory Prayers on Sunday.

### **OCTOBER**

|           |              |          |                                     |
|-----------|--------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY    | 1st          | 9.15 am  | HARVEST - Rev. Gary Gotham          |
| THURSDAY  | 5th          | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 8th          | 9.15 am  | Pauline Tiller                      |
| WEDNESDAY | 11th         | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship            |
| THURSDAY  | 12th         | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 15th         | 9.15 am  | Clive Illman                        |
| THURSDAY  | 19th         | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 22nd         | 9.15 am  | Joe Vakacokaivalu                   |
| WEDNESDAY | 25th         | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship            |
| THURSDAY  | 26th         | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 29th         | 9.15 am  | Rev. Peggy Kabonde - Holy Communion |
| SUNDAY    | 5th November | 9.15 am  | Rev. Graham Warmington              |

### **C A M E O** (Come And Meet Each Other) A Warm Space

An open invitation for anyone who would like to meet others for a cuppa and a social 2.30 – 4.00 pm on a Thursday afternoon at Steeple Ashton Methodist Church – All welcome.

### **REFLECTIONS & FELLOWSHIP**

A group who meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday mornings of the month, to have a cup of coffee, and look at parts of the Bible to see how it affects our lives. This is an informal group led by our own Izzie Smears. Feel free to come along, and try it. Any queries speak to Izzie on 01380 870538.

## **CATHOLIC NEWS**

**Saint John the Baptist, Saint Bernadette & Saint Thomas More  
Working in Communion for Mission**

**Parish Priest: Canon Thomas Finnegan**

TELEPHONE: 01225 752152

[www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk)

Diocese of Clifton Registered Charity No 1170168

Diocesan Re-Structure: There is to be a diocesan restructure of Deaneries. At present there are 13 Deaneries in the Diocese. As from September, this will reduce to nine. New Deans have been appointed by Bishop Declan to lead these 'local areas. What was the Trowbridge Deanery, is now Deanery 6 renamed as The Pastoral Area of St. Oliver Plunkett. Canon Tom has been appointed as the new Dean. We thank Fr. Martin Queenan, former Dean of Trowbridge Deanery and wish Canon Tom all the best in his new role. A map of the new Deaneries, is available from Canon Tom on request.

**Please see below the usual weekly timings of our Masses:  
but please check newsletter for changes.**

### **St John the Baptist - Trowbridge**

#### ***Sunday & Weekday Masses:***

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 10.30pm

Monday 9am

Tuesday 6pm

Friday 9am

### **St Bernadette's - Westbury.**

#### ***Mass times will be:***

Sunday 9am

Thursday 10am

### **St Thomas More, Bradford-on-Avon**

#### ***Mass times will be:***

Saturday 4pm

Wednesday 9am

#### **Live streaming:**

All masses are streamed live on [www.Churchservices.tv](http://www.Churchservices.tv) or on You Tube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

#### **Parish Newsletter:**

This is available weekly on the Parish website

[www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk)

**Ministry Team for the Benefice of  
North Bradley, Southwick, Heywood  
and Steeple Ashton**  
[www.threeinonebenefice.org](http://www.threeinonebenefice.org)

**Fr Oliver Learmont** (Vicar)  
The Vicarage, 62 Church Lane, North Bradley, BA14 0TA.  
Tel. 01225 774845, 07464 795590  
[froliverlearmont@gmail.com](mailto:froliverlearmont@gmail.com)

**Richard Havergal** (Licensed Lay Minister)  
Tel. 01225 762668 [rhavergal16@gmail.com](mailto:rhavergal16@gmail.com)

***The Pew News can be downloaded from the Benefice website.  
If you do not have access to the internet, do consider letting us  
have your postal address so that we can post/deliver  
you a copy.***

**Worship and Prayer in the Benefice  
in the month of October**

*Except for Evensong, all services scheduled below include  
a sermon or homily.*

**Sunday, 1st October THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|         |                      |                             |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.15 am | Harvest Festival     |                             |
|         | Holy Communion (CW)  | St Nicholas', North Bradley |
| 11 am   | Holy Communion (BCP) | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton   |
| 11 am   | Harvest Festival     |                             |
|         | Family Service       | St Thomas', Southwick       |
| 6.30 pm | Evensong (BCP)       | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton   |

**Sunday, 8th October THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|          |                      |                           |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 am     | Holy Communion (BCP) | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton |
| 10.30 am | Harvest Festival     |                           |
|          | Family Service       | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton |
| 11 am    | Holy Communion (CW)  | St Thomas', Southwick     |

**Tuesday, 10th October Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644**

|         |                     |                       |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion (CW) | St Thomas', Southwick |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|

**Sunday, 15th October THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|         |                     |                             |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.15 am | Holy Communion (CW) | St Nicholas', North Bradley |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|

11 am Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton

**Sunday, 22nd October THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton

10 am Family Service St Nicholas', North Bradley

11 am Holy Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick

**Sunday, 29th October THE TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

11 am Benefice Holy Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick

CW - Common Worship, Order 1 (contemporary language)

BCP - Common Worship, Order 2 (traditional language).

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**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

In consideration of those around you when in church, you are encouraged to continue **using hand sanitisers and take appropriate precautions to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.**

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**Morning Prayer** *is normally said*

**at St Nicholas', North Bradley Monday – Wednesday, and at St Thomas', Southwick at 10 am on Thursday.**

**Further details are posted weekly in the Pew News and on the Benefice website.**

*"We lift up in prayer the people of our Benefice each morning; please let us know if you would like us to include in our prayers any particular person or cause." All are welcome!*

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**St Mary's is open for individual prayer during the day.**

*Please visit the Benefice website **www.threeinonebenefice.org** for details of services, which may be subject to change - and for a range of information about the Parish and the Benefice. And note that the Blog is now up and running !*

**Getting involved at St Mary's**

There are currently vacancies at St Mary's for the role of churchwarden and PCC treasurer. We are also delighted to hear from anyone who would like to read at services or act as a sidesman/woman.

*If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact The Vicar.*

**Church Street Cinema**  
will be showing at the **Village Hall, Steeple Ashton**  
**on Friday, 27th October at 7.30 pm**  
**On Golden Pond**

(US, 109 minutes, 1981, directed by Mark Rydell, with Henry Fonda,  
Katherine Hepburn, Jane Fonda...).

**Tickets are £5** each and will be **on sale on the door from 7 pm**. Wine and soft drinks will be available at a modest price before the film starts. Afterwards there will be an opportunity for informal discussion about the film.

**Concerts and other cultural events at St Mary's**

We welcome such occasions.

*If you are interested in using St Mary's as a venue, please direct your initial enquiries to The Vicar.*

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**Reflection for Steeple Ashton Newsletter – October 2023**  
**Samaria**

The Gospels refer several times to Samaria and the people who lived there, usually concerning ethnicity where the people following Jesus are tested in their attitudes towards others. When Jesus travelled from Jerusalem to Galilee and had to pass through Samaria, it seems to be a place to avoid or pass through quickly.

Josephus Flavius, a Roman chronicler, of Jesus' time gives a much better picture -

‘The country of Samaria lies between Judea and Galilee; it ..... is entirely of the same nature with Judea; for both countries are made up of hills and valleys, and are moist enough for agriculture, and are very fruitful. They have an abundance of trees, and are full of autumnal fruit, both that which grows wild, and that which is the effect of cultivation. They are not naturally watered by many rivers, but derive their chief moisture from rainwater, of which they have no want; and for those rivers which they have, all their waters are exceeding sweet: by reason also of the excellent grass they have, their cattle yield more milk than do those in other places; and, what is the greatest sign of excellency and of abundance, they each of them are very full of people’.

In the Old Testament we find Elijah in a time of drought affecting Samaria, Judea and Sidon. Given their dependence on rainwater, this was



a calamity. Elijah meets a starving widow who feeds him, and he prophesies that her store of oil and grain will never run out. He also prophesies that rain will end the three-year drought, as it does and Elijah shelters in Jezreel in Samaria.

These stories make clear, if it wasn't already, that God brings good things to everyone whoever they are, wherever they come from, and however good or bad they are. The rain that Elijah foresaw rolled in from the sea and fell on Samaritans and Jews alike, and everyone whose crops were wilting. As we celebrate Harvest Festival, we all have great cause to thank God for his great gifts that we receive whoever we are today, and however we use or abuse them.

**Richard Havergal**

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### **Sudan Coffee morning Saturday 19th August**

Thank you to so many people for all their help with the Coffee Morning. The ladies who served Coffee and Tea, Cakes etc, made the Cakes, Charles and Alison for running the Raffle, Sue Edwards for the Sales table, Rene Jefferies for taking the money and not to forget Clive Little who helped set up the Hall and showed us 32 pictures of life in the Sudan. As in so many African Countries there always seems to be conflict and drought.

The total sum of money taken was £694.00.

Thank you again, **Rosie, Sue and Sue Edwards** (Charities)

---



### **John Smith**

It is with great sadness that I have to say that John Smith died on Tuesday, 12th September 2023. His wishes are for a Direct Cremation which I have to abide by. Shortly after that I hope friends will join me and our family in a celebration/memorial of his life which hopefully we will be able to hold in Steeple Ashton Village Hall.

**Chris Smith**



## Steeple Ashton Village Hall

### SEPTEMBER 2023

Now that autumn is upon us, our thoughts are turning to our end of year events. Our next event is our 'Night for the Ladies' on Friday 22nd September. Tickets are almost sold out at the time of writing and we are looking forward to a fun social evening with music, wine, chatter and the chance to browse our Pre-Loved/Brocante stall. If it's successful, who knows, we may repeat it!!!

**December** sees us busy organising the teas and cakes for Paula Boardman's **Christmas Fair** on Sunday 3rd December and the following Friday, 8th December, we will be repeating our successful and very enjoyable **Candlelit Supper** - but with a different menu of course!

Adrienne Hale will be putting on a great **New Year's Eve party** for the village on 31st December and the Village Hall committee will be running the bar once again, all proceeds from the bar going to the Village Hall.

After Christmas and New Year, things can feel a little dull, with gloomy weather and nothing to look forward to for a while. But worry not! Now you will have something to enjoy on a cold February Saturday - we are holding an **American Brunch** on February 3rd!! More details nearer the time, but it will be ticketed and young and old will be welcome.

**Floor refurbishment:** After around 40 years, our tired and damaged floors have now been brought back to life! The main hall, skittle alley and stage floors were recently expertly refurbished by Total Floor Care Ltd of Bridgewater, ensuring they will last well into the future. They look brilliant. We would like to thank The Friends of SA, Geoff Hyatt and Norma Pearce for their donations which were used towards this much needed work.

Heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported our events this year and also to all those who have given donations - it is hard to overstate how much it means to us. We have raised just over £5000 in the last two years, no mean feat for a small village hall committee, but our reward is seeing our village hall looking better, becoming more sound and able to provide up to date facilities for our community.

**BUT - Your Village Hall needs YOU!** we still have much more to raise to reach our goal and can only do it with everyone's help. Any support you can give will be very welcome and if anyone would like to make a donation to the village hall, we would be most grateful. Please contact either myself (Marian) or our Treasurer Francesca Buffery-King - details at the bottom of the page.

Finally - we always need new committee members. If the Village Hall is to continue to provide a pleasant and useful space for our community into the future, it is vital that younger villagers step in - us 'oldies' can't go on for ever, we need young blood and new ideas! So please, think about it and if you'd like to join us, do get in touch, you will be made very welcome.

**BOOKINGS:** Sandra Stevens 07827 291945 email:  
steepleashtonvh@hotmail.com

**GEN. ENQ:** Marian Little (Sec) 01380 871161 email:  
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## ☀️ Picnic in the Park ☀️

Boy oh boy, it was Hot Hot Hot! Thank you to all of you who came along to the Picnic in the scorching heat on 9<sup>th</sup> September. It was hot, but was fun, and enjoyed by all.





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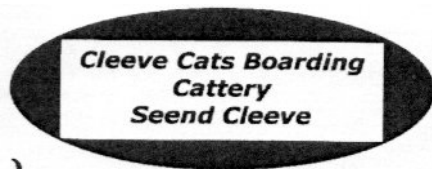
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Rosemary 870119 colingwyrddrugog@gmail.com

🌿 **SAVE THE DATE!** 🌿

For our **'Winter 23'** meeting we will be hosting:



## **'Sage's Seasonal Social'**

to be held on Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>  
at our wonderful Village Hall

Quiz / Sharing food table / Bar / Teas & Coffee (of course!) / also Gardenalia/plants - Bring & Buy / Raffle

🌿 **Everyone welcome, entrance is free,**  
**come along and enjoy!** 🌿

### Barneys garden jobs for the weekends...

**October** - \*Cut back perennials that have died down \* Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts \* Prune climbing roses \* Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf \* Divide herbaceous perennials

\* And.....please watch out for hedgehogs when tidying up!



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PCC Philip Wilkinson says progress has been made but more needs to be done to tackle agricultural thefts by organised crime groups (OCGs) as PCCs and their respective forces across the country mark National Rural Crime Action Week.

In Wiltshire, the Rural Crime Team cover all heritage and wildlife crime including theft of livestock and machinery, fly tipping, poaching and hare coursing to name a few. However, we are seeing OCGs increasingly engaged in rural acquisitive crime, including burglary and the theft of farm vehicles and equipment.

Mr Wilkinson said: “When I took over two years ago, I doubled the size of the rural crime team and gave them specialist equipment and more appropriate vehicles, including a night vision capability and drones.

“However, we need to further build our capability to tackle those organised crime groups (OCG) engaged in acquisitive rural crime, not only in Wiltshire but further afield. I want to help build the capacity of police forces across the south of England - not just in the South West - by working collaboratively with our neighbouring forces and blurring the lines between county borders.

“This will enable us to better understand the networking of these OCGs so that we can engage more proactively in enforcement, interdiction and disruption operations when the intelligence and evidence allows.”

The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) has commissioned research into this link between rural crime and organised criminal gangs, and preliminary evidence suggests that rural crime is being used by gangs to fund other criminal activities including links to the international drugs trade.

In June, PCCs across the South West came together to launch the Rural Crime Survey to explore how crime is affecting rural communities.

The survey asks rural residents if they have been the victim of any crimes in the last 12 months as well as asking what rural crimes concern them the most.

You can take the survey online here.

Contact Information: Amy Pantall

Campaigns and Communications Manager OPCC

[amy.pantall@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:amy.pantall@wiltshire.police.uk)

## Late news.....Colin Green

Colin's funeral is in the church at 1:30pm on Tuesday October 3rd.

Of course everyone will be welcome - Colin will expect good singing!

There will be light refreshments in the hall afterwards as the family would like to thank everyone for the cards and letters we've had.

**Rosie**



Remembering Fear Hills old store in Trowbridge

By **John Baker**

The former M&Co retail shop in Silver Street, Trowbridge, is being cleaned up for a pop-up interactive art exhibition by the Social Scaffolding art collective.

Three Wiltshire artists have joined forces to create a new exhibition in one of Trowbridge's most prominent vacant retail shop units.

Lou Baker, Juliet Duckworth and Alyson Minkley are staging an exhibition of immersive and interactive artwork at the former M&Co shop at 2-3 Silver Street, Trowbridge.

One of the posters for the Social Scaffolding art exhibition in the former M&Co shop.

The Social Scaffolding art collective is being supported by the Arts Council for England, Bath Spa University and Emerge.

Entry is free to anyone who wishes to come along to get involved or look around.

They say: "It's free and not like a normal art gallery with 'Do Not Touch' signs, in fact we encourage you to explore the artworks and invite you to get involved."

Cllr Jo Trigg, the Wiltshire ward member for Trowbridge Lambrook, said: "This art project will be in the old M&Co shop space on Silver Street from September 22 to October 14. It looks quirky, engaging and brilliant."

## **Keevil Primary School looks forward to another activity filled year**

Keevil Primary School welcomed their new reception class at the beginning of Autumn term, with 16 new pupils joining the school. Headteacher, Mrs Hermon, reports that all of the pupils have “settled in wonderfully, and will all be looking forward to an action packed year ahead.”

Keevil pupils will be lucky enough to embark on many new activities that are not available to the majority of primary schools, including swimming, gymnastics and Keevil’s own forest school.

Unfortunately very few primary schools are able to offer children access to swimming all year, through every year group, due to a combination of cost, time, and lack of availability of sessions and teachers at swimming pools. Once again, Keevil is pleased to have secured swimming for all children through the entire school year.

Similarly, Keevil will be continuing their partnership with Wiltshire School of Gymnastics, offering all children the opportunity to access tuition, facilities and provision at the excellent regional gymnastics facility.

In addition, the children will be able to enjoy getting mucky at Keevil’s Forest School. This is part of the school’s core curriculum as every child gets to do it throughout the year. Mrs Hermon explains “We believe it is important that children are able to extend their learning and development beyond that prescribed by the subjects of the National Curriculum. We are very lucky to have our own forest school where the children can enjoy outdoor space.”

This month also saw the completion of the new wall at the front of the school. The school was asked to raise the height of the existing wall in order to provide better safety for the children. Mrs Hermon would like to thank the local community for their ideas and input to ensure that the wall remains in-keeping with the beautiful village of Keevil.

We look forward to sharing news and activities from Keevil School over the forthcoming school year.

---

**A quick note** to say that flowers in church for the Harvest services on Sunday October 8th will be limited to the altar pedestal and the lovely arrangement which was done for Colin Green’s funeral on the 3rd. This is as a tribute to our recently retired church warden, Michael Moore. **Ed.**





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[continued from p40]

Michael has been an amazing servant to this church, and we are all truly grateful to him.

Each one of us knows Michael in our own way, whether it is church related or not.

For example Petra's grand-daughter Lucy, who is 5 years old, knows him as 'The Man who lives in the church', because he is always there. I think that says it all.

We all know a small bit about Michael Moore from our own interactions with him, but we were all able to find out a bit more about Michael, courtesy of Geoff Hyatt, asking Michael questions about his past, present, and future plans.

For example, who knew that years ago a couple with their young children knocked on Michael's door to apologise... their children had painted the old car sat in his yard PINK, using paint they had found at home. In fact, they had only painted the half you can see from the road!

Rosie Brett Green also gave us an insight into Michael, having known him all his life. She used many different words to describe Michael but decided that the best one which summed him up was simply 'NICE'.

One of St. Mary's bellringers, Steve Turpin, presented Michael with a framed acknowledgement from the Bishop of Salisbury for his many years of dedication as Churchwarden.

Lord Geddes led us in singing 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'.

AND SO SAY ALL OF US

Thank you, Michael.

Lynda Beaven

St. Mary's bellringer



Is this your life?

## **Huge turnout to say ‘Thank you’ to Michael Moore**

As many of you will be aware, the last few years for Michael, as Churchwarden, have been extremely difficult, and in other church roles, difficult for many other people as well.

Now matters have come to a head, with Michael deciding last December that he could no longer work with the vicar. After giving 8 months’ notice of his intention, nothing has changed, so Michael stopped being Churchwarden at the end of August.

It is a very sad turn of events, but we all know that no one else would have put up with the way he has been treated, for as long as he did. We, as a church community, could not let this moment pass unrecognised. Whilst it was definitely not an evening of celebration, we needed to mark it somehow.

So, on 30th August, around 80 of the church community came together in a packed village hall, for an evening to say ‘Thank You Michael’ for everything you have done for St. Mary’s, for many years of dedication, and for keeping the church Covid safe during the pandemic. No one fully knows all the things you diligently do, week in, week out... but the next few weeks will surely be revealing.

We don’t think this is the end, but it is surely a well-deserved pause, giving extra time to do new things and see new places and doing things that he wants to do, rather than always putting other people first. [cont. on p39]