



Parish Magazine

December 2023 -
January 2024



Frosty, flooded fields at Faulston, January 2023

Photo by Rob Pendleton

STaB is published by the Parochial Church Council and delivered free of charge to every home in Stratford Tony and Bishopstone. We hope you find it interesting and informative. **Donations towards publication costs are always welcome.**

Donations should be made payable to Bishopstone Parochial Church Council and sent to: The Treasurer, Bishopstone PCC, Ebble Cottage, Mill Lane, Bishopstone, SP5 4BG. Please state on a cover note that it is for STaB.

The views in this magazine are not necessarily those of the PCC.

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Any articles for inclusion are to be submitted by 5pm on the 20th of the month to appear in the next issue - *unless the magazine is already full.*

The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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A warm welcome to Bishopstone and Stratford Tony...

Please let us know if you know of anyone who moves into Bishopstone or Stratford Tony - or indeed if you yourself have recently moved in, please do introduce yourselves! - so that we can offer them/you a welcome in STaB.



Hello from the Revd Canon Jenny Taylor



It is very easy to lose hope for our world – the situation in the Holy Land tears our hearts apart and for Ukrainians a normal life must now seem a distant dream. Amidst all this terror and fear how can we celebrate Christmas here in England?

Perhaps, like a well-known company is advertising “It’s all about you”?! Or perhaps we can relook at our nativity scenes and remember that the ultimate truth is that God gave unconditional love to his world in a tiny baby we know as Jesus, it is a truth that has traversed centuries and continents to reach us in this 21st century in these villages in Wiltshire and that has not and will not ever change! And nothing can wipe out this true essence of Christmas.

So yes, have some special “me” time but also let’s look out for each other so in this part of God’s world the Christmas truth is alive and well!

I so hope you feel able to join us in church over the festive period, all our services are listed in this magazine and join us so together we can celebrate this eternal truth:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

The churches and congregations of Bishopstone and Stratford Tony wish all of you a blessed and peaceful Christmas that will bring hope to us all in 2024.



PS. And the church will still welcome you throughout 2024 and beyond!!!

Jenny Taylor



Christmas in Bishopstone

in our Village Hall

Sunday 17th December, 11.00am

Carols, Readings, Mulled Wine
and Christmas Nibbles



in our Church

Christmas Eve, 4.00pm
Family Carols round the Crib

* * * * *

Christmas Day, 9.30am
Family Communion





THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

ST MARY & ST LAWRENCE
STRATFORD TONY
SP5 4AT



CAROL SERVICE

PLEASE JOIN US

on THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2023 at 6.00pm

with REVEREND CANON JENNY TAYLOR

PLEASE BRING TORCHES AND APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR AS THE GROUND UNDERFOOT COULD BE MUDDY. TRANSPORT TO & FROM THE CHURCH (IF NEEDED) WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE HARD STANDING AT THE TOP OF STRATFORD TONY LANE, FROM 5.30pm

COLLECTION IN AID OF THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST & BISHOPSTONE CHURCH

Parish Council

The latest meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday 9th November. Councillors Edwards, Barter, Smith, Tatner, Williams and Rigg were present, together with the Parish Clerk. Apologies had been received from Cllr Thorne and Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar. Three members of the public were also present. The full minutes of the meeting, together with the papers considered, are available on the village website (www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk).

The main items on the agenda for this meeting were finance related.

Consideration was given to a request from the Bishopstone Parochial Church Council for an additional grant in the current financial year to help meet unforeseen costs of work to clear overgrown areas of the churchyard, deal with ground subsidence around some of the graves and to make safe the large beech tree on the frontage with Church Lane that had been damaged in a recent storm. After some deliberation it was agreed to make an additional grant of £1,500 and to increase the annual churchyard maintenance grant next year from £550 to £800.

A report was considered which provided an update on finances in 2023/24 and options for the level of the Council Tax Precept for 2024/25. Spending in the current year was well within budget. Major items included the new bench seat commemorating the coronation in the Children's Play Area, the contribution to the resurfacing costs in Pitts Lane and the cost of an additional defibrillator (see below). The level of resources required for next year (2024/25) were more difficult to predict than usual. For example, if the bid to get the speed limit on Broad Chalke Road past the Recreation Field and the White Hart reduced from 40mph to 30mph is successful the Parish Council will be required to contribute towards the legal and signage costs. These could be as much as £3,000. However, if the bid is unsuccessful there will be no cost. Decisions on this issue will not be taken before next Spring. It was agreed that the Council had no option but to budget on the assumption that these costs may arise and that a request to Wiltshire Council for funding from Council Tax next year should be £7,500, up from £5,000 this year. This will add approximately £10.00 to the annual charge on a Band D property in the village. Precise figures cannot be provided pending more data from Wiltshire Council and final decisions will be taken at the next meeting on 11th January.

It had been agreed in principle at the September meeting to install a third public access defibrillator to be located inside the bus shelter at the eastern end of the village, near Church Lane. The electrical supply (for the lights and heating element in the case) would come from an adjacent property. Mike Ash reported that detailed quotations had now been received for the costs of supplying the defibrillator and for the electrical installation work. Altogether the costs would be £2134.80. This expenditure was approved. It is likely that the new defibrillator will be operational by about the end of the year.

Wiltshire Council's proposal to establish a Tree Warden in every parish was discussed – see separate note in this edition of STaB.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 11th January 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Trees and Tree Wardens

A number of trees in the village were damaged in recent storms, blocking roads, footpaths and the river. The Parish Council is very grateful for volunteers, such as John and Henry Thorne, who turn out to clear debris that is causing disruption. However, responsibility for trees rests with the owner or tenant of the land on which the tree stands. It is their responsibility to ensure that trees on their land, presenting a risk to the general public or property, are safe. They risk being found liable if a vulnerable or dead tree causes an accident or damage.

The Parish Council is therefore asking all landowners/tenants in the village to make a visual check of their trees, particularly those close to roads, footpaths and the river and to clear any showing signs of decay – such as Ash trees suffering from die-back.

Trees, woods and copses are a vital component of the landscape of the Chalke Valley and contribute hugely to the character of our village. Perhaps even more importantly, trees play a key role in combatting the effects of climate change. It is therefore important that they are properly maintained, replaced when necessary and added to when the opportunity arises.

It is against this background that Wiltshire Council is looking to establish volunteer “Tree Wardens” in every parish in the county to act as a contact and support for all things tree related in the local area. The role of the Tree Warden might include such tasks as:

- Identifying trees at risk – and reporting, as appropriate, to the Parish Council and tree owners any early signs of pests, disease and vandalism and gathering information about trees important for wildlife or heritage in the parish.
- Obtaining the permission and goodwill of landowners/tenants in assisting with the wellbeing of trees in the Parish.
- Getting involved in campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of trees
- Exploring opportunities with landowners/tenants and co-ordinating local volunteers to manage community tree and woodland planting.
- Working with the parish council to provide comment on applications for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order or in Conservation Areas.

The great news is that Michael Pratt, who lives in Church Lane, has volunteered to co-ordinate Bishopstone’s response. He is happy to act as Tree Warden for the eastern half of the village (up to Faulston Bridge) and is looking to be joined by someone to take the lead in the western part of the village. Wiltshire Council are offering training to assist in the development of the Tree Warden role. It should be emphasised that this role is to provide advice and assistance and no responsibility rests with the Tree Warden(s) or the Parish Council arising from this new role. It is also an aim to establish a larger, informal, support group of landowners, tenants and villagers interested in tree planting and maintaining the well-being of the trees and woodlands we already have.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact either Michael Pratt (michael.pratt@outlook.com) or Mike Ash (bishopstoneclerk@btinternet.com).

Village Hall



**December 2023 -
January 2024**



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 1st December from 6.00pm until 7.30pm.

The ever-popular Christmas Fayre will have all the usual stalls and refreshments. Donations for the book, tombola and cake stalls will be most welcome. Books (not magazines or part-works please) can be collected by arrangement - contact Ian Smith on 780425.

The Village Christmas Card this year will support "SERV Wessex - The Blood Runners" (Volunteers who deliver blood and urgent medical supplies for the NHS, using their own vehicles).

The BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY CAFE

Special dates for the Christmas and New Year period are **Thursdays 7th and 14th of December** and then **Thursdays 11th and 25th of January.**

10.30am until 12.00noon.

Everyone is welcome to look in for a coffee and chat. There is presently no charge for refreshments.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

The special three-course Christmas lunch will be on **Wednesday 6th December.**

Times as usual: **12.00 noon for 12.30 pm.** Advance booking is essential. Please telephone Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 and advise her of any dietary requirements. The cost is £7.50 for the lunch and a drink.

The **January 2024** lunch will be on **Wednesday 3rd** when the speaker will be from 'SERV Wessex'. The charity benefitting from the Village Christmas Card collection.

The **February** lunch will be on **Wednesday 7th** with speaker Amber Cotton on the subject of nutrition.

FUTURE EVENT

By popular demand, there will be a Quiz evening on Saturday 2nd March. Details will be in the February edition of STaB.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

The first film for the 2024 season will be **"A Haunting in Venice"** on **Friday 26th January**. An Agatha Christie's Poirot story with Kenneth Branagh. *Now retired and living in self-imposed exile in the world's most glamorous city, Poirot reluctantly attends a séance at a decaying, haunted palazzo. He soon gets thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets when one of the guests is murdered.*

A trailer for the film can be seen in the [Event](#) section of the village website at www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk.

If possible, please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044. Entry for the film is **£6.00**. A cash bar with ices and snacks will be available.

HALL BOOKINGS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Both halls are available for hire. To enquire or make a booking, please contact the bookings secretary Margaret Barter (01722) 780471

BISHOPSTONE PLAYGROUP

The playgroup meets on Friday mornings during term time from 9.30 – 11.00 am. Breastfeeding support is available from qualified breastfeeding counsellor Cally Edwards and trained peer supporters. Find further information on our Facebook page *Bishopstone Playgroup* or contact Cally on callyedwards@me.com or 07968 797168.

"EXTEND" EXERCISE CLASSES

For further information about these exercise classes contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email: jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk

PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE

For further information contact Claudine on 07788 587937 or email: claudineblake@aol.com

YOGA WITH HANNAH

For more details please contact Hannah Stocker at 0773 856 1888 or by email: yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com.

SARUM SPINNERS AND WEAVERS

For more detail about the group please contact Les Smith on 01722 780761.

BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL



XMAS FAYRE



FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER
6.00pm till 7.30pm

Lots of stalls, including :

**TOMBOLA, LOCAL CRAFTS, CAKES &
HOME PRODUCE PLUS OTHER STALLS.**



Bar, tea, coffee & mince pies



**Come and sign the village charity Christmas card in aid
of the SERV Wessex, the Blood Runners (volunteers
who deliver emergency blood & medical supplies).**

Bishopstone Village Hall rates for private hire

Bishopstone Village Hall has 2 rooms that are available for hire for a wide range of functions. The larger room is ideal for children's parties with lots of space for running around. It can also accommodate wedding receptions, charity functions and large family celebrations.

The smaller room (The Memorial Room) is a good size for meetings and smaller gatherings.

The modern kitchen is spacious and fully equipped with an electric catering range, a professional 4 minute dishwasher, water boiler, hot cupboard, microwave oven, 2 fridges and a freezer, all suitable for professional caterers. There is also glassware, crockery and cutlery for over 80 people.

The hire charges include use of heating and electricity.

The rates are currently:

	Villagers	Non Villagers
Hire of both rooms (With full use of the kitchen)	£15 per hour	£20 per hour
Hire of both rooms (With tea making facilities but no other electrical kitchen equipment)	£10 per hour	£15 per hour
Full use of the kitchen <u>only</u>	£10 per hour	£15 per hour
Weddings – per event/day	£150	£250
Parties – per event/day	£100	£150

Broadband

An additional charge is made for use of the broadband connection of £6 per hour with a maximum of £25 per day.

Large projection screen

Use of this professional quality screen is charged at an additional £10 per event.

The hire period must include time to set up and clear away after the event.

For further information and bookings contact: Margaret Barter 01722 780471

Chalke Valley Community Support

POLICE

Call 999 in an emergency: an emergency is when someone is being threatened or at risk of getting injured, or a crime is in progress.

Call 101 for non-emergencies: such as reporting a crime that has already taken place, non-urgent incident, contacting local officers etc

To contact your Community Policing Team about a community-related matter, such as a school visit, then please email SalisburyAreaCPT@wiltshire.police.uk

Please note that this mailbox is not monitored 24/7.

You are unable to report crimes of any type via email and please do not report any situations that require an urgent response.

You can follow us on:

Facebook - www.facebook.com/salisburypolice

Twitter - www.twitter.com/SouthWiltsCPT

Community Messaging: Sign up to Community Messaging for news and updates from your local policing team: www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice

Doves Meadow Surgery, Broad Chalke: 01722 780282

Broadchalke Surgery is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Sixpenny Handley Surgery: 01725 552500

www.sixpennydocs.co.uk



MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library is back in action and will be calling at The Styles in Bishopstone between 1115-1135 on the following Thursdays:

21 December, 18 January, 15 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May



**Coombe
Bissett
Stores**

www.coombebissettstores.co.uk

shop@coombebissettstores.co.uk Tel: 01722 718852

OPENING HOURS, SHOP AND POST OFFICE

Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm, Sat: 7am-1pm

**Chalke
Valley
Stores
Broadchalke**

w: www.chalkevalleystores.co.uk

e: info@chalkevalleystores.co.uk Tel: 01722 780998

OPENING HOURS

Shop: Weekdays 9am - 5pm (until 4pm on Saturdays)

Post Office: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am- 1:30pm

CHALKE VALLEY LINK SCHEME

exists to provide transport and other good neighbour support in a local, personal and friendly way to members of the Chalke Valley community who need it.

If you live between Bishopstone and Bodenham or Britford and need help getting to your surgery/hospital appointments/local shopping or to visit family members in hospital, **please phone 01722 718780 to reach our Joint Transport Coordinators (Anna Mynott, Debby Underhill or Roger Brown) who will be on duty in rotation.**

There is no charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our administrative costs. Our co-ordinators are all volunteers and there may be occasions when you will be asked to leave a message which will be answered as soon as possible. Our drivers are all volunteers too, so please give us as much notice as possible so that we may find a volunteer who is available.

We are always looking for Volunteer Drivers to enable us to continue to provide a useful service for our community. If you feel you can help - you won't be committed to any particular date or time, only when you are free - please contact any of the above for further information.

Registered Charity No 1076335

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Staying in Touch

STaB magazine is a vital source of communication in the village, keeping everyone informed as to what is happening locally. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the fact that situations can change very rapidly. To keep up to date with what is going on there are two other important sources of information in Bishopstone - the village website and our own WhatsApp network.

The village website – www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk is updated in real time and carries all the latest news on issues that affect the village.



The Bishopstone Network is a WhatsApp messaging service that has more than proved its worth during the pandemic, and more recently during the storms when residents were able to report fallen trees and blocked roads to the Emergency Planning Officer. Information can be instantly shared to your mobile phone about support services being provided in the village and on a variety of other matters – everything from the length of electricity black outs to what is available from the White Hart take-away service! You will need to download the App to your phone and then contact Piers Edwards (piersgedwards@gmail.com or 07920 475009) or Kate Pendlenton (kmpendlenton@hotmail.com or 07769202200) and ask to be added to the group.

Salisbury Foodbank

Thank you everyone for your donations, 9.4 kgs this month with a £20 cash donation too.

This month with Christmas fast approaching they are asking for donations of special seasonal foodstuffs to help people over the Christmas break. If you are already struggling with day to day meals getting the little extras to make Christmas a bit special can feel impossible. So please, when you are shopping just add 1 item of seasonal foodstuff to your shopping and donate it to the Foodbank.

Items like tinned ham, chocolate biscuits, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, fancy cakes, crackers, stuffing, cranberry sauce, chocolates, children's sweets, etc. They will still also need the usual basic items but the little extras will really make Christmas special.

As they have to pack and deliver the foodstuffs I will need to take any donations by **12th December** so please get them to me as soon as possible.

Thanking you in advance for anything you feel you can offer.

You can leave your donations either at the Church or at my house – The Old Post Office, The Cross - or if you would like me to collect please call me on 01722 780306. If you are already contributing through the supermarkets own collection then thank you so much.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Judy Barrett





**Facilities for all the Chalke Valley
SPORTS SCENE
DECEMBER 2023**

The Committee would like to thank the Chalke Valley History Festival for their kind donation of £500. This will be used towards the planned kitchen upgrade so we can improve the catering and sport facilities to the main hall. The sports centre was able to provide ancillary facilities to the festival organisers during their set up and throughout the Event earlier this year.

Broad Chalke Cricket Club, the Petanque Club and the Sports Centre also received donations from the Chalke Valley Fete. With this support, the Petanque Club has purchased indoor mats, and the indoor winter session started last month and takes place on the last Friday each month, 6.30-8.00pm. The Sports Bar is also open.

The Cricket Club has now completed the replacement of the artificial cricket wicket with grants from Broad Chalke Parish Council and SW Wiltshire Area Board. This is all ready for the new season in 2024 and is a great improvement for the Centre.

One of the largest projects since the Sports Centre opened is now being planned. The multi-use games area is approaching the end of its economic life and requires resurfacing. New floodlights were funded last year, and this is the next stage in facility improvements. Site visits with several contractors have taken place and quotations received. Total costs could be £30,000-£50,000 depending on the final specification of works. The Sports Centre Committee have been earmarking funds in a reserve account for the last few years in readiness for this work, but a large sum will still be required from grants and private funding. This is the next key stage of the project. If you would like to know more or are interested in being one of the corporate or private sponsors for the project, please contact one of the committee.

The Executive are delighted to welcome Tim Moss on to the Team. Tim will support the Executive with the Sports Centre website and social media and in the general running and operation of the Centre. We are a small, voluntary committee so every additional pair of hands is most welcomed. If you have a couple of hours you could spare each month, please do contact us, and help keep these wonderful facilities providing sports and recreational opportunities to the Chalke Valley.

Although the weather has changed, there is plenty of sport taking place through the winter period so check out our website for all current activities and how to get involved. A new Tuesday night floodlit recreational tennis session has been added to the calendar. Anyone interested contact Chris.

The hall is available for private hire so if you have a family celebration in the coming weeks, why not see what we can offer?

All our sports activities are promoted through the website.

General e.mail: info@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk

More details can be found on our website: www.chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk



***Shop at the heart of the Community
Owned by YOU, Run by YOU, Here for YOU.***

w: www.chalkevalleystores.co.uk | e: info@chalkevalleystores.co.uk | Tel: 01722 780998

OPENING HOURS

Shop: Weekdays 9.00am - 5pm (until 1pm on Saturdays)

Coffee Shop: Weekdays 10am - 3.30pm (until Midday 12pm on Saturdays)

Post Office: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am to 1pm

When you read this Christmas will be coming and the geese will be getting fatter, so we thought that a few ideas for pressies and treats would be useful to you all.

So, before you go racing off to town to do your Christmas shopping, pause a moment to come and have a look at the range of Christmas goodies we now have in stock.

From Moore's rich fruit cakes, Christmas puddings, mince pies, brandy butter, and delicacies and special treats such as chestnuts, olives and Stollen, to a wide range of wines and other festive drinks, many nibbles, and special biscuits, Summer Down chocolates and all sorts of other stocking fillers, we have many treats to make your Christmas go with a swing.

Most importantly, **we are able to make up Gift Hampers for you**, and we are happy to take fruit and veg orders to ensure absolute freshness for the big day. We will be stocking fresh meat and delicious cheeses, as well as all our usual lines. Do come in and see us. You will receive a warm, seasonal welcome from us all.

Below you will see our Christmas and New Year opening times.

It just remains for us to thank all our amazing volunteers, who give their time to help us make the Hub what it is and to offer a service to the Communities in the Valley.

We wish you all, our customers, volunteers and all who read this a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from all of us in the Team.

Christmas and New Year Opening and Closing Times

The Hub will be OPEN at all normal times on:

Wednesday 27; Thursday 28; Friday 29; and Saturday 30 December

The Hub will be CLOSED on:

Sunday 24; Monday 25; Tuesday 26; Sunday 31 December and Monday 1 January

If you wish to have more information on how to become a volunteer, please contact Tony Patel, our Shop Manager, on 01722 780998. He will be very pleased to help you with the simple process of joining the Team.

NB There is a Trussell Trust Collection Point in the Hub for any donations of foodstuffs you may wish to make. Your generosity, especially at this time, will help those in need.



REMEMBRANCE 2023

A big thank you to all donors in the Village for the terrific support for the RBL Poppy Appeal this year. After much counting of cash, we have achieved the sum of £1518.37. This is the second highest sum collected in the last 18 years! Well done and a huge Thank-you! Village support is very generous, and so much appreciated by the RBL. It assists in all their ventures supporting and helping active servicemen and women and the retired and their families whenever help is needed.

This is my last year organising the collection for the Poppy Appeal, and I am very grateful for everyone's support over the last 18 years since I succeeded Alex Blythe. During that time, we have contributed a total of £18,956.29 from our little village.

I must thank all this year's collectors Mark, Pat and Ron, Anne, Francis and Sue, Rob, Dot and Mike, Piers, Tom and Zara, and Ali and the Windwhistle Shoot, and Sarah and George and the Church congregation. Thanks to all the others who have helped over the years too. Your support for the annual collection has meant a great deal.

As I hand over the responsibilities in the Valley and the Village, I wish to thank Graham Hill for taking on the Valley, and Rob Pendleton for taking over the Village. It has been a privilege to do this every year, but the time has come to hand it on.

Our service in church was, from every account, a big success. Many thanks to all those who read or recited so well again, and all who sang with such undiluted gusto! Thanks to Rev Jenny and the church wardens, and to the florists for their excellent arrangements. It made the church shine yet again.

So, we remembered THEM again this year, and with a magnificent collection. Thank you, and Faugh a Ballagh!



James Thompson



Coombe Bissett CE VA Primary School

“Soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint”

Isaiah 40:31

Autumn days at the school

It's been another busy season for us with many exciting new experiences. Read on for a taste of our recent adventures....

As the term began, we were able to **welcome** back Mrs Portz from her maternity leave as well as welcoming our new SENDCO, Mrs Newman.

Each class prepared songs, poems and prayers for our **Harvest Festival** at the church. A magnificent 102.8kg of food was collected for the Trussell Trust.

We were very fortunate to welcome into school Krishna from the **Hinduism Education Services** who came to share with the children insight into the Hindu faith: what it means to be Hindu and the traditions, beliefs and rituals of the religion. The children were able to learn first-hand through a range of experiences including storytelling, dressing up in traditional Indian costume, plus other topic and activities related to Hindu worship, values and lifestyle. They had an amazing day and have been talking about it animatedly since! A large part of Christianity is tolerance, respect and acceptance and we are very grateful to the Salisbury-based Christian organisation, *Sarum St Michael Educational Charity*, for sponsorship of his event which allowed the children to learn about others outside our community.



We have been joined in school by the **Archdeacon of Sarum**, the Venerable Alan Jeans, who was incredibly impressed by our school and the 'feeling' that permeates all that we do. As part of our celebration of All Saints' Day, he joined Mrs Haworth in leading a Collective Worship where the children learnt about different saints and why they are venerated. We had lots of fun and the children are very keen for him to return.

Our **football and netball** teams have been participating in tournaments and festivals, demonstrating an excellent balance of determination, competitiveness and sporting attitudes.

Ash Class walked to the village War Memorial and church where they held a very moving **Act of Remembrance** in the company of local veterans. The poem 'In Flanders Field' is so incredibly evocative and listening to the children recite the poem with such respect and dignity served as a reminder of our responsibility to ensure that the sacrifice of all of our service people is always remembered. We are grateful to all who have served, or are currently serving, in the defence of everything and everyone we hold so dear. An Act of Remembrance was also held in school where, led by Rev Jenny, the whole school paid our respects with prayers and a period of silence.

As a result of our **Pudsey Fun Run** – including some visiting toddlers – the school has contributed over £1400 to the BBC's 'Children in Need' appeal.

On the same day, Ash Class visited the **Winchester Science Centre** where they enjoyed a James Webb telescope-themed workshop, visit to the planetarium and lots of hands-on exploration to support their current Earth and Space topic.

Odd Socks Day marked the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week where we were all reminded to 'Make a Noise!' whenever we encounter bullying.

There has also been time for regular meetings of the **School Council** and our **Collective Worship group** met with Canon Rev Jenny on the third Friday considering the question, 'What is Spirituality'?

And finally... an invitation to join us in school for our Community Coffee Mornings and Parent and Toddler group. We warmly invite you to attend either (or both!) of the December events. Details can be found below.

 <p>CB Coombe Bissett CE VA Primary Community Coffee Morning CB</p> <p>Mums, dads, grandparents, carers and members of the wider Coombe Bissett community, you are all invited to join us for coffee and biscuits the first Friday of every month!</p> <p>Come and see our beautiful school, meet our headteacher and catch up with friends old and new.</p> <p>6th October, 3rd November, 1st December 9.30-10.30am</p>  <p>Coffee & Chat</p>	 <p>CB Coombe Bissett CE VA School Parent and Toddler Group CB</p> <p>Come and join us on the third Friday of every month. A chance to make new friends with plenty of songs, stories and fun for our younger visitors!</p> <p>Open to under 5s and their carers.</p> <p>A warm welcome is extended to both current members of our school family and families in the wider community. Please let your friends know!</p> <p>9.30-10.30am 12th November and 12th December</p> 
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The Reverend Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity



This was a small charity operating in Bishopstone and Stratford Tony. It existed to give grants to those who needed help with heating or education or other living expenses. The Charity has closed but all funds were transferred to a restricted fund in the Bishopstone with Stratford Tony Parochial Church Council account and remain there safely.

There are conditions for grants but the Vicar, the Church Wardens and the former Trustees will all be able to recommend beneficiaries and judge each case individually.

If you, or someone you know, might benefit from a grant and live in Bishopstone or Stratford Tony please contact any one of the following:

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor
Mrs Sarah Seal
Mr George Brutton
Mrs Kate Pendlenton
Mr Rob Pendlenton

Our contact details are elsewhere in this edition.

Please be assured your requests will remain completely confidential.

Chalke Valley Fete 2023

Thanks to all of our volunteers that helped on the day and to everyone who turned up to support us we raised over £3000 which we have now distributed to local good causes. If you know of any good causes that need some extra support please contact us to be considered next year . (Treasurer.cvfete@gmail.com)

These are the good causes we have helped this year:

Friends of Broad Chalke Playground - Path from Newtown

Chalke Valley SC- Kitchen refurb

Broad Chalke Cricket Club- Replacement cricket wicket

Chalke Valley Petanque Club- Indoor Playing surface

Men's Group and Parent Support Group

Broadsheet

Ebble news sheet

STAB (*very many thanks - ed*)

Bowerchalke News letter

CV Link

Broad Chalke Village Hall

The other way you can raise funds for your good cause is to organise a stall or activity at next year's fete. We split the profit 50/50 with your charity.

Clubs which benefited this year are:

Tennis Club

Petanque Club

WI

Chalke Valley Sports Centre

Broad Chalke playground fund raising committee

Next years Fete is 17th August so if you are interested on behalf of your group or have some time on the day to volunteer we would be very grateful.

Please contact me if you would like any more details (sara@moss1.me.uk) .

Lastly I would like to thank everyone that helped last year especially all the Committee.

Notes from a Nutritionist by Amber Cotton Nutrition

For December I've chosen a delicious recipe from Kate Humble's book 'Home Cooked: Recipes from the farm'. Bara Brith, meaning speckled bread, is a traditional Welsh recipe that is a lighter alternative to Christmas cake. The fruit needs to be soaked overnight so plan ahead, and it's best stored for a couple of days before eating to allow the flavours to develop.

Whilst this recipe isn't completely healthy, it still has some healthy nutritional features. Firstly it contains only 50g of sugar which is about a quarter of the sugar found in a traditional Christmas cake. This could be swapped out for the same quantity of coconut sugar though the latter doesn't hold as much moisture so the texture of the cake may be slightly drier and denser when its cooked.

Cranberries are synonymous with Christmas, but their health benefits mean that they deserve to be on the menu far more frequently. Dried cranberries are packed with many of the nutrients found in fresh cranberries and are a rich source of antioxidants and fibre. Dried cranberries also contain plant nutrients called polyphenols which can offer protective benefits to your heart and can support urinary tract health. Do be aware that cranberries are very tart by nature and so are often sweetened to make them more palatable. Look at both the ingredients label and the nutrition facts panel to see if yours are sweetened, by how much, and what they're sweetened with. Often, that's sugar, but they can also be sweetened with apple or pineapple juice.

Sultanas, like dried cranberries are a good source of dietary fibre, and also contain a wide variety of minerals such as calcium, iron, magnesium and zinc. But compared to their fresh counterparts, the drying process reduces their levels of vitamins C and K significantly, and their sugar content rises so you may want to pay attention to portion sizes.

Clementines are at their best at this time of year and are jam-packed with vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Both clementine juice and zest are rich sources of vitamin C, an essential nutrient that plays a key role in immune health and is a powerful antioxidant.

Finally you'll be glad to know that whisky is said to contain more antioxidants than red wine though don't add more than a glug or the cake won't cook properly.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very happy Christmas and to put in a quick plug for my Nutritional Therapy special offer. My Personalised Nutrition Review is the human equivalent of an annual service and will give you the confidence that you are nourishing your body in an optimal way to keep you healthy. Throughout December I'm offering STaB readers 20% off the price of any Personalised Nutrition Review booking so have a look at my website (ambercotton.co.uk) for more details.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, or to let me know how you got on with this month's recipe then please get in touch at amber@ambercotton.co.uk.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a healthy 2024.

Amber

Recipe of the Month - Festive Bara Brith

From: 'Home Cooked: Recipes from the Farm' by Kate Humble

Makes 1 loaf

INGREDIENTS

120g dried cranberries

120g sultanas

2 tablespoons of local honey

A glug of whisky

160ml strong hot black tea, made using 2 teabags

225g self-raising flour

50g soft brown sugar

50ml milk

1 large egg

Zest and juice of 2 unwaxed (or washed and scrubbed) clementines



METHOD

- Put the cranberries and sultanas in a bowl with the honey and whisky. Pour over the hot tea and leave to soak overnight.
- When you are ready to cook, preheat your oven to 160C and line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin. Add the flour and sugar to the dried fruit and mix well.
- Mix together the milk and egg and add the clementine juice and zest. Add to the fruit mix and stir until everything is combined.
- Pour into the tin and bake for about an hour, until a skewer comes out clean.
- Cool in the tin and then on a wire rack. Serve with butter or a slice of hard cheese.

Puzzles and Activities

By Cally Edwards

**LOST AT CHRISTMAS
MAZE GAME**

**Poor Father Christmas is lost !
Can you help him get to the chimney?**



Rooms of Wonder

Johanna Basford

Charity News and Events



Double your donation to CRESS in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023
CRESS are taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge to raise £12,600 in just 1 week! Funds will be used to support South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda.

CRESS has set up 74 Savings groups in rural Northern Uganda with 1669 registered members, 75% of whom are women. Savings groups act like a community bank. Refugees put their money in and can then ask for loans for business or family needs. They repay back over time with interest. Groups are also encouraged to create projects to raise funds together. Big Give will enable our yearly savings conferences where groups are trained students inspired and ideas are shared. We hope also to run an inspirational conference for the children whose education is supported by CRESS sponsors.

Donations to our Big Give Christmas Challenge will be generously matched by our supporters & The Together Trust>> during the campaign meaning your money can support twice as many refugees.

Caroline Lamb, CRESS Founder and CEO says:

"We have been so impressed with the take-up and reports of the ever growing numbers of Savings Group members and their success stories. We hope you will support this, our first Big Give Challenge, and enable us to bring together and inspire the members to further success in their small businesses which enable them to be more self-sufficient, feed, clothe, house, educate their families and pay for health care."

How can you get involved?

- Visit **BigGive.org**. and make a donation from **November 28th and December 5th**
- Set a reminder and add our campaign page <https://tinyurl.com/cress-big-give-2023> (or use the QR code) to it so you remember not to miss your chance to double your donation this Christmas!

Don't forget - We also have CRESS Christmas Cards for sale at The Hub in Broadchalke £5 for 8 cards from The Hub

or email - caroline.lamb@cressuk.org (extra charge for postage)

Not sending cards? Why not send some via email - dontsendmeacard.com/ecards/charities/cress/christmas

Stars Appeal Christmas Raffle

A cash prize of £1,000 is the star prize in this year's Stars Appeal Christmas Raffle, sponsored by FJ Chalke. The second prize is £500, third prize £250, plus many more cash prizes to be won! Tickets cost just £1 each and are available both online at www.starsappeal.org, from Stars Appeal ticket sellers in the hospital's main entrance and the Stars Appeal Bookshop at Salisbury District Hospital.

Money raised will help towards the £1million the Hospital Charity aims to raise each year to fund projects across Salisbury District Hospital. These include 20 specialist cots for newborn babies costing £38,000, a £50,000 additional endobronchial ultrasound scope for the Respiratory Department to help diagnose patients with lung cancer and other related conditions, and a £15,000 mechanical CPR machine. This is in addition to ongoing projects funded by the charity including provision of accommodation for parents of babies and children in hospital, support for patients with cancer, and free Wi-Fi. You can see full details of these projects and many more, at www.starsappeal.org/our-work/

Mr Graham Branagan, Consultant Surgeon at Salisbury District Hospital and Chair of the Appeal Ambassadors, said, "By taking part in the Christmas raffle you will be helping the Stars Appeal to do more to support patients and staff at our Hospital. We couldn't do it without you, thank you!"

George Chalke, Dealer Principal of FJ Chalke, said: "Having seen first-hand how local people benefit from projects funded by the Stars Appeal, like the breast unit, new scanners and accommodation for parents with poorly children and babies, we are delighted to continue our support for this amazing charity."

Online entries will close on the January 4th. Paper ticket stubs must be returned to the Stars Appeal by January 8th. The draw will take place on January 11th 2024, winners will be announced at starsappeal.org.

Tickets are £1 each and are available online at www.starsappeal.org or at the main entrance of Salisbury District Hospital. Books of tickets are also available on request from the Stars Appeal office by calling 01722 429005 or emailing info@starsappeal.org



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01722 326428, from choir members and on the door



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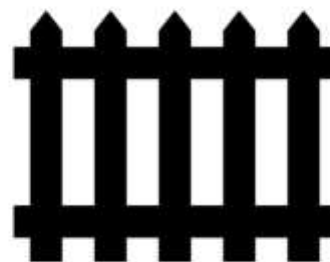
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5. The Editor reserves the right to edit all contributions.

How to pay:

Cheques: Please write your <u>invoice number</u> on the back	Bank transfer: Please use <u>your name</u> & <u>invoice number</u> for reference
Payable to: Bishopstone Parochial Church Council Send to: The Treasurer, Ebble Cottage, Mill Lane, Bishopstone, SP5 4BG	Bank: Lloyds TSB Sort Code: 30-97-41 Account Number: 00665145 Account Name: PCC Bishopstone Church

Terms – payment within 14 days

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors	Telephone
Ali Thorne (Chairman)	07768 514133
Piers Edwards (Vice Chairman)	01722 780079
Norman Barter	01722 780471
Anita Smith	01722 781213
Michelle Tatner	07968 842525
Simon Williams	01722 780905
Nicky Rigg	07786 806914
Parish Clerk	
Mike Ash Lower Thatch Flamstone Street Bishopstone SP5 4BZ	01722 781044 bishopstoneclerk@btinternet.com
Further information is on the village website: www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk	

THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman - Norman Barter	780471
Treasurer - Francis Taylor	780316
Secretary - Sue Grantham	07873 596310
Entertainments - Sue Taylor	780316
Event bookings - Caroline Ash	781044
Hall bookings - Margaret Barter	780471
Hall maintenance - Nigel Peasley	780713
Minute secretary - Virginia Middleton-Smith	780444
Member - Andy Stocker	780956
Member - Kathy Hales	07940 659644

The Village Hall is an important resource and offers a venue for a wide variety of events for the benefit of all. The Hall is supported by a large group of dedicated local people in addition to the Committee. We hope you will support events whenever you can and if you would like to join the wider group of Friends of the Village Hall then please contact any member of the committee.

Bishopstone Village Website

www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk

The village website carries a wealth of information about Bishopstone. There are pages devoted to the church, the Parish Council, what's on at the Village Hall, meetings, clubs, local organisations and village walks. There are even digital copies of this magazine.

If you want to have any information included on the website please contact either

Mike Ash (bishopstoneclerk@btinternet.com)

Or Roger Stockton (rogerstockton@icloud.com)

Letters to the Editor

Letters to STaB are very welcome, but the views expressed may not be those of the editorial team or the Parish Church Council.



We had another great evening in our village hall on Saturday 18th November. This was the Stompers' third time to perform here and hopefully not their last!!

Well done to the hall committee.

Dot Walker

ADVANCED NOTICE- STAR GAZING EVENING - CHALKE VALLEY SPORTS CENTRE, BROADCHALKE

Star gazing evening and Planetarium. Friday 9 February 2024 in partnership with Cranborne Chase AONB. More details in January but email Chris if you are interested as places will be limited.

chris.rothwell@chalkevalleysportscentre.co.uk Tel 07552159369

Congratulations to the White Hart for their incredibly successful Firework night last month! Ali Thorne and his team put on a wonderful pyrotechnic display, while Tom, Zara and the staff team worked non-stop to serve the hundreds of guests drinks at the bar, and food from the barbecue.

Approximately £800 was raised for Salisbury Foodbank.

Congratulations to the White Hart for a wonderful event.



STaB Selling Spot

STaB Selling Spot posts are free of charge for those who live in the Parish. Let us know if you have anything to sell!


If there are any problems with the delivery of STaB please contact Sue Porter on porter1totalserve@gmail.com or 01722 780459.



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – December 2023

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



3 December 1st Sunday of Advent	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service Morning Prayer (BCP) Advent Service	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Berwick St John Bishopstone	Kate Woolven Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor Lay Led Sally Leaver
10 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Family Carols Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) All Age Service Advent Service	Bowerchalke Nunton Coombe Bissett Charlton All Saints Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
14 December	6.00pm	Carol Service	Stratford Tony	Jenny Taylor
17 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Carol Service Nativity Play Carol Service Carol Service Carol Service	Bowerchalke Ebbesbourne Wake Homington Bishopstone Vill. Hall Broad Chalke Odstock Berwick St John Coombe Bissett	Kate Woolven Biddy Trahair Tony Monds Jenny Taylor Lay Led Ruth H-S Kate Rosslyn Smith Jenny Taylor
21 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Broad Chalke	Ruth H-S
22 December	6.00pm	Carol Service	Britford	Ruth H-S
23 December	6.00pm	Carol Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	11.00am 4.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 10.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Carols round the Crib Carol Service Nativity 'Midnight' Eucharist (CW)	Alvediston Bishopstone Homington Charlton All Saints Fifield Bavant	Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Ruth H-S
25 December CHRISTMAS DAY	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW)	Homington Bowerchalke Bishopstone Broad Chalke Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Nunton Berwick St John	Jenny Taylor Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Kate Woolven Kate Woolven Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Tony Monds
 31 December 1st Sunday of Christmas	11.00am	Benefice Communion	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
7 January Baptism of Christ	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service Morning Prayer (BCP)	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Berwick St John	Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Adrian Taylor Lay Led
14 January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Family Communion (CW) All Age Service Evening Prayer	Bowerchalke Nunton Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Kate Woolvern Ruth H-S Rhoderick Voremborg Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – January 2024

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



21 January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Katharine Robinson
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Ruth H-S
28 January Candlemas	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Barney Hopkinson
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Rhoderick Voremberg
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led
4 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	11.00am	Morning Service	Bishopstone	Sally Leaver

Ministry Team: Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple: 01722 697022
Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, Vacancy
Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

Assisting Clergy: The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 07808 614597
The Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith: 01722 780011, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395

Lay Worship Leaders: Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447,
Naomi Martin: 07713031774, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley: 01722 780538,
Janet Roe: 01725 519242,
Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152

See inside cover for details of the December services in the Valley.

Are you interested in taking part in a community Nativity Play in Broadchalke Church this year? The play is on 17th December at 4pm.

There are some main speaking parts, but also opportunities for making costumes and props, decorating the church, looking after light and sound or helping with things musical. Maybe you and/or your child is interested in being part of this in some way, such as acting, narrating, singing or stage managing?

Singing rehearsals are on Monday 4th December and Monday 11th December, both 4:30-5:30, and there will be a full walk-through from 10-12 on Saturday 16th December. All rehearsals are in All Saints' Church, Broadchalke.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Miranda Dodd on miranda@mdodd.net or 01722 780102 as soon as possible.