



# Parish Magazine

December 2019 -  
January 2020



Colourful wreaths at Salisbury Christmas Market

Photo by Kate 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.



Thanks to Joy Bailey who has submitted this photo of a very impressive bunch of Claret grapes (*Vitis Vinifera Purpurea*) growing in her Bishopstone garden! Here in Bramley Cottage we have had passion fruit growing (see right), which made for some interesting snacks! Do any of our readers know of any more exotic fruit growing in the village or valley?!



### ***A warm welcome to...***

Mel who has moved into The Cross, and Pippa who has moved into Netton Street. We hope you will be very happy in Bishopstone.

Please let us know if you know of anyone who moves into Bishopstone or Stratford Tony so that we can offer them a welcome in STaB.



## Hello from the Revd Canon Jenny Taylor



Last month saw a marvellous Remembrance Service in our Church. The medals glinted, the poppies glowed in their redness and the service was quite rightly full of dignity. The most moving moment for me was when Ted laid the wreath, kneeling on the pew to reach with such confidence and then helping his younger brother keep as still as possible during our Two Minutes Silence. In years to come they will bear the responsibility of maintaining our tradition and it could not be in safer hands. Thank you Ted, and thank you James, for organising everything so smoothly.

We are now weeks away from Christmas and I so look forward to seeing many of you at our services over that time – all our services are listed and I hope at least one of them appeals to you but hopefully they all do!

The Bishopstone Singers will be leading our singing at the Carol Service (22<sup>nd</sup> December) – as you all know they are ably conducted by Olive Moody. This is Olive’s last service and she has decided the time has come to pass on the baton. We thank her so much for all she has done to enhance our services over the years and wish her much happiness and more free time in her “retirement”!

The churches and congregations of Bishopstone and Stratford Tony wish all of you a wonderful Christmas bringing all the blessings that only God through his Son Jesus Christ can give us.



### **Chalke Valley Team Ministry - Parish of Bishopstone and Stratford Tony**

**Team Rector:** The Revd Catherine Blundell 01722 780134

**Team Vicar responsible for Bishopstone and Stratford Tony:**

The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor 01722 503081

**Church Wardens:** George Brutton 01722 718539 Sarah Seal 01722 780305

**Lay Pastoral Assistants:** Sally Leaver 01722 780447 Sheila Nell 01722 781120

**Team Administrator:** Emily Broomhead 07890 262376

[thechalkevalleychurches@gmail.com](mailto:thechalkevalleychurches@gmail.com)

### **The Friends of Bishopstone Church**

If you would like to help the Friends of Bishopstone Church with their work of preserving the fabric of this beautiful building, please contact the Treasurer Norman Barter (01722 780471).

## Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November. The minutes of the meeting will be available on the village website ([www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk](http://www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk)). The meeting was attended by Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green and Roger Stockton, Bishopstone Emergency Planning Co-ordinator. A copy of Cllr Green's report is elsewhere in this STaB.

It was reported that the traffic speed survey undertaken by Wiltshire Council on the High Road by Manor Farm had measured a total of 22,119 vehicle movements in a week (both directions combined). The mean speed for "free flowing" traffic was 34.6mph with 85% of vehicles travelling at speeds at or below 39.5mph. As the speed limit at this point is 40mph no further action is proposed.

The successful installation of the new Play Trail in the Children's Play Area was noted. A number of emails had been received indicating that it is a hit with younger members of the community! The Council approved the installation of a warning notice on the site (copy elsewhere in this STaB) making it clear that the responsibility for ensuring the safety of children using the new equipment rests with parents and carers.

The Chairman, John Gibbon, reiterated the position on the end of Community Speed Watch operations in the village, as set out in November's edition of STaB. He said he personally wanted to record his thanks to all those who had been members of the team, in particular Jan and Rob Goodfellow. Use of the Speed Indicator Device would continue, despite unhelpful proposed changes to the operating arrangements put forward by Wiltshire Council.

The Council conducted a review of its financial position and considered the appropriate amount for the Precept (the amount of money the Parish Council receives from Wiltshire Council as part of Council Tax) for 2020/21. It was agreed to increase the Precept by 10%, to £9,746, which will add £2.69 to the annual charge per property at the "Band D" level (the mid point of the property range).

Roger Stockton set out the current position as regards the risk of flooding in the village (see separate note in this STaB). These matters were the subject of discussion in Wiltshire Council's Operational Flood Working Group. Whilst it is helpful to discuss these matters with other parishes in South Wiltshire, Wiltshire Council's management of the group is inadequate, with no proper accountability for progressing any action required. Mike Ash said that there was often a problem as regards the clearance of drainage ditches and gullies in the village, largely because responsibility was continually being shunted between the Parish Steward, the Wiltshire Council Highways Team and the Land Drainage Team. Cllr Green undertook to pass these messages on.

Mike Ash reported that there had been an incidence of fly-tipping by Crouchston Mill. Whilst this was close to the footpath to Stoke Farthing it was actually on land owned by Mole Valley Farmers and he had written to them seeking its removal. At the request of the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Team had undertaken repairs to the steps and handrail on the public footpath beside Raglands.

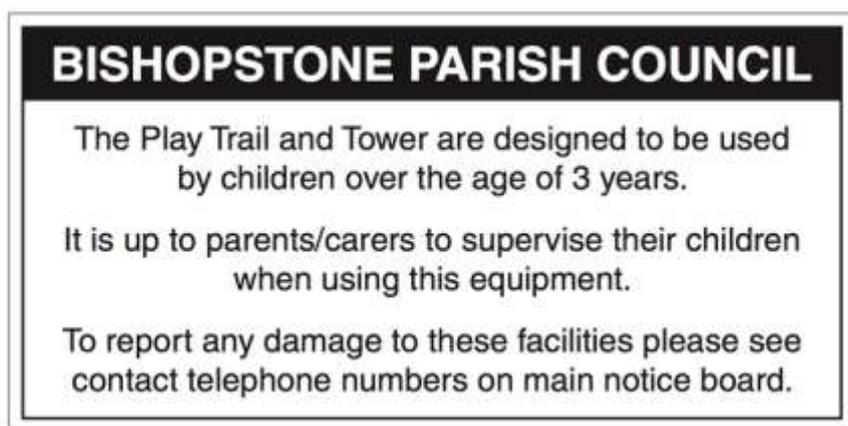
He reported that the Parish Council had been consulted by BT about the proposed removal of the telephone box opposite the entrance to Pitts Lane. This was part of a much wider programme to remove under-used phone boxes nationally. A total of 2 calls had been made from this box in the last year and, now that full mobile phone coverage had been achieved in the village, it was difficult to make a case for retention of the box. A response to the consultation is required in the new year, so if anybody wishes to make a case for keeping the box they should let him know by 1<sup>st</sup> January.

The Parish Council put on record its thanks to the new STaB editorial team for the huge improvement in the content and layout of our parish magazine.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.**

### CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The new Play Trail in the Children's Play Area on the Recreation Field is proving very popular! Whilst this equipment is designed with the safety of users in mind it is important that it is used responsibly. The following notice is being installed on the site.



STaB is great... but for more information about the village, and up to the minute news and events, log on to the Village Website:

[bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk](http://bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk)

For local weather, current events, what is on in the Village Hall, Church service details and news, Parish Council news and proceedings, information on clubs and organisations, the Village Emergency Plan, information on local businesses, detailed maps and walks, where to stay and eat and much on village history and the photo archive.

There is a Village Chat page, where issues of local interest can be raised, and an Ancestry Blog, to find out information on the history of local families... AND MUCH MUCH MORE!



The PCC are planning on having an 'Open Gardens' event next year on 12th July. If you feel that you could have the general public viewing your garden, and would like to take part, please ring Sally Leaver on 780447 or e.mail [davidsallyleaver22@btinternet.com](mailto:davidsallyleaver22@btinternet.com)

Hoping to hear from you!

Sally

## Report from Councillor Jose Green

For those of you who read my updates or attend a Parish Council meeting you will notice that as I cover 15 villages there is a strong possibility you are already aware of much of what I'm going to tell you. For that I apologise. Either way I intend to circulate this report directly to the Editors of the various Parish Magazines in the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division so that it will appear only the once.

I expect you have noticed the new headed paper of Wiltshire Council (WC) has changed, not only the colour, to a bright green that reflects the proactive stance WC is taking on environmental and ecology issues but also the strap line of 'Where Everybody Matters' has been removed. These words were sometimes ridiculed but the intention was sincere.

As we prepare for the winter 24 new gritters are waiting to do their work across the major roads of Wiltshire.....11,000 tonnes of salt is in stock, 726 miles of A and B roads spread 150 tonnes each time they go out. 24 drivers are on standby. I hope all your grit bins have been re-stocked in preparation?

The new MyWiltshire App has just been launched. I encourage anyone who is able to download it and report anything you believe is a problem. From fly tipping, abandoned cars, potholes, signage, drainage and flooding, please be assured it is the most effective way of reporting something to which you are then issued a number and able to 'track' it to see what is being done about resolving what you have reported.

I have previously mentioned the successful Government funding Salisbury has received since the Novichok incident, Chippenham is to receive £75 million to support various infrastructure improvements including some highway works.

The Street LED Lighting programme has begun at a cost of £12,295,000m over 2 years. The intention is that replacement lighting in the Salisbury and Wilton area will commence in February-April 2020.

A newly formed Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group has been formed. As you know WC is hoping to be carbon neutral by 2030. Can I emphasise that Wiltshire Council does not include Swindon which is a Borough Council. Part of the Task Group's remit is to include renewable energy use and efficiency, particularly in WC's housing stock and buildings; Planning, Transport and Air Quality, Waste (to improve recycling rates), Land use, Business and Industry. The SWW Area Board is encouraging the 38 villages within it to create their own environmental/green projects. There are some hugely imaginative groups of volunteers coming up with ideas.

The campaign to reduce Flytipping goes on. A great proportion of dumped material is Commercial Waste. Unlimited fines and/or 5 years imprisonment, a £50k fine and/or 12 months imprisonment are all options when a court case is held. Fixed

Penalty Notices are £400 and are being served proactively now. Any successful information leading to a prosecution will earn a voucher of £200 to whomever reported it.

Never rummage through tipped waste as it could be challenged if disturbed or removed. Always take a photo and report it on the MyWilts App.

Potholes and the state of our rural roads remain an issue. Constantly attempting to keep up with the work is not helped by the weather conditions throughout the year. The satisfaction rates have increased though and reflects the national average but there is more to do. HGV lorries who argue they are lost or using mobile phone SATNAV is being stamped on. Weight restrictions on roads are not encouraged as there is an opinion that vehicles should be 'spread' across the network.

There are 4,500 km ( 2,796 miles) of roads across Wiltshire and are WC's largest asset/liability. Social care and vulnerable people, young and older remains the highest financial commitment.

I attended the Operational Flood Working Group on the 13th November. There is a common thread of concerns regarding ground and surface water, the risks involved and the actions required. Representatives from Ansty, Fovant, Bishopstone, Swallowcliffe and many other villages were able to highlight their main issues. Drains and gully clearance, the river projects, build up of debris and sediment which then blocks the drains and creates standing water above the drains is the main concern. There are 4 gulley tankers to service the County.

Marvellous news that the Cranborne Chase AONB has been awarded the International Dark Skies Status. This is a highly prestigious award as there are only 14 across the world. Tourism is likely to increase and greater lighting control to decrease light pollution will be conditioned through the planning process.

I constantly press that we in the Fovant and Chalke Valley should have our fair share of the budget spend. Can I emphasise though, that information and support is always appreciated from the Parish Council's (PC's) in helping to highlight specific problems.

As the PC's are currently setting their precept Wiltshire Council's share of the Council Tax is likely to go up by 2%. Yet again a further 2% will be a levy for social care. This will require ratification at Full Council.

Can I finally wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

José Green

*Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing, but of reflection.*

*Winston Churchill*

## Village Hall



**December 2019 -**  
**January 2020**



### **FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS FAYRE, 6 - 7.30pm**

Come and join us at Bishopstone Village Hall for our annual Christmas Fayre. Lots of festive stalls with bargains in Bric a Brac, temptations in Tombola, gifts, raffle, books, cakes, coffee and local cider. Also the Village Charity Christmas Card for signing.

Donations to any of the stalls will be most welcome, just contact any committee member, or bring to the hall on Friday 6th between 2pm and 3.30pm.

### **SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY - THE SUNSET CAFÉ STOMPERS**

This will be a great evening of authentic New Orleans jazz, played by a renowned jazz band. Tap your feet, sing along or get up and dance.

Tickets cost £12 with an optional supper for an additional £5. Cash bar available. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Phone 781044 or book online.

We expect this to be very popular so advance booking is strongly recommended and is essential if supper is to be taken.

### **MOVIOLA at Bishopstone**

Friday January 24th 'Downton Abbey'

The continuing story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the English countryside in the early 20th century.

The hugely popular TV series created by Julian Fellowes reaches the big screen. The film is directed by Michael Engler and stars Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith, Matthew Goode, Tuppence Middleton, Michelle Dockery and many of the original cast. **Advance booking for Moviola is strongly recommended.**

Tickets which cost £6 each are available from <bvhticketoffice@btinternet.com> or from 01722 781044 or 780002.

Cash bar, snacks and ices available. Doors open 7pm.

### **BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY CAFE**

These are normally held on alternate Thursdays. The next coffee mornings will be on Thursday December 5th and 19th and January 2nd and 16th, from 10.30am until 12.00noon. Everyone welcome to look in for a coffee and chat for just 50p.

### **BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP**

The playgroup meets on Friday mornings during term-time from 9.30 – 11.00am, Find our Facebook page Bishopstone Playgroup, or contact Kate Pendleton on 01722 780655 or email <kmpendleton@hotmail.com > for more details.

### **PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE**

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937.

## **BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES WITH SPEAKER**

Monthly from October until April. A home-cooked lunch is served around 12.30pm. To book, please phone 781044 or 780002, letting us know if you have any specific dietary requirements or need transport.

Lunches cost £7.50 including a glass of wine or soft drink.

*Wednesday 4th December* - Christmas lunch (No speaker on this day)

*Wednesday 8th January 2020* - Liz Wrighton will talk about 'Bell Ringing'

*Weds 5th February* - Stephen Lycett "The challenges of writing historical fiction"

## **"EXTEND" EXERCISE CLASSES** Friday afternoons, 2-3pm

These seated exercise classes are aimed at people who would like a full body workout but prefer to feel stable. £5 per session, (apart from anyone's first free taster class).

Contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email <jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk> or just turn up to any class to try it out. Jenny Berwyn-Jones is fully trained and insured.

## **BISHOPSTONE NEEDLES AND PINS CRAFT GROUP**

The Needles and Pins Craft Group will meet on Thursday 28th November, 12th December and then after Christmas on Thursday 9th and 23rd January, 2 – 4pm. Bring any knitting, embroidery, quilting, tapestry or other hobby needlework, and enjoy a cup of tea and cake in Bishopstone Village Hall, only £2.50.

New members are always welcome. Call Caroline Ash on 781044 for information.

## **YOGA WITH HANNAH**

A new series of Yoga classes will be held in the Village Hall in the run-up to the festive season on Thursday 28th November, Tuesday 3rd December and Thursday 12th and 19th December. Sessions run between 7 and 8pm and cost £7.50 per session. For further information and details of January dates please contact Hanna Stocker on 07738 856 1888 or 01722 780956 or by email: [yoga\\_with\\_hannah@outlook.com](mailto:yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com)

## **FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **BEER AND SKITTLES**

The ever popular Beer and Skittles evening will be returning with a mid-February date. Details will be in the February edition of STaB.

To book a team please contact Ali Thorne at [ali.thorne@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.thorne@btinternet.com)

### **SUNDAY 5th APRIL at 3pm**

The Last Baguette "The Bird Show" Children's show supported by Rural Arts. Details in an edition of STaB nearer the time

## **BISHOPSTONE LADIES GROUP**

Friday, 6th December is the Christmas Fayre when the Ladies Group provide coffee and mince pies. Di, Dot and myself will serve the coffees but we would be very grateful for donations of mince pies, either before the date or on the night. Thank you!

Our annual party on Wednesday, 15th January will be a meal at The White Hart and most of us have already signed up and chosen from the menu. If you still need to add your name to the list, please will you let Di Wass know on 780032.

*For details about the group please contact Shirley Cooke on 780346*

BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL  
**MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY**



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

Mortimer Brewster (Cary Grant) is a newspaperman and author known for his diatribes against marriage. We watch him being married at city hall in the opening scene. Now all that is required is a quick trip home to tell Mortimer's two maiden aunts. While trying to break the news, he finds out his aunts' hobby: killing lonely old men and burying them in the cellar!



**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

An American oil company sends their man Felix Happer (Burt Lancaster) to Scotland to buy up an entire village where they want to build a refinery. Whilst the locals are keen to get their hands on the 'Silver Dollar', and can't believe their luck, a local hermit and beach scavenger, Ben Knox, who lives in a shack on the crucial beach, which he also owns, has other ideas.



**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

Zululand, South Africa, 1879. The British are fighting the Zulus and one of their columns has just been wiped out at Isandlwana. The Zulus next fix their sights on the small British outpost at Rorke's Drift. At the outpost are one hundred fifty British troops under the command of Lieutenants Bromhead (Michael Caine) and Chard (Stanley Baker). In the next few days, these one hundred and fifty men will fight four thousand Zulus in one of the most courageous battles in history.



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Two FBI agents, investigating the murder of civil rights workers during the 1960s, seek to breach the conspiracy of silence in a small Southern town where segregation divides black and white. The younger agent, Alan Ward (Willem Dafoe), who trained in FBI school, runs up against the small town ways of his former Sheriff partner, Rupert Anderson (Gene Hackman).

Doors open: 7.00pm. Film starts: 7.30pm  
 Phone 780346 or 781044 for membership.

# Magic Lantern Society Spring Season

The Society will start its 2020 Season with the vintage comedy film **Arsenic and Old Lace** on Friday 10 January.

Fees for the new year are due with effect from 1 January 2020. The fee rate for 2020 remains as last year, that is £35.00 for Family Membership and £17.50 for Individual Membership. Cheques should be made payable to Bishopstone Village Hall and passed to me or Caroline Ash.

We look forward to seeing you for the new season of classic films. Details of the Autumn Season will be released soon but the likely films are: Singing in the Rain, Open Range and North by North West .....plus the Annual Society Supper.

As an extra film this year we will be showing **Farmageddon**, the Shaun the Sheep movie, when it is released for general viewing. We do not yet know what that date will be but will ensure you all have news of this addition to the programme.

Roger Stockton 780346

## Bishopstone Rugby Enthusiasts



**We are running the televising of the 6 Nations ENGLAND rugby in the Village Hall again this year.**

We really would appreciate you turning up before kick off so you have sufficient time to buy food and drink **before** the game starts. We will be shutting the bar for the anthems this season.

So the schedule of matches is as below. Beer, Cider, Stout (Ireland game only) and Lager plus soft drinks, sausage or bacon butties plus optional onions will be on the menu as usual.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING AS THIS ASSISTS WITH CATERING QUANTITIES**

### MATCH SCHEDULE

<b>Sun 2 Feb</b>	<b>ko 1500</b>	<b>France v England</b>
<b>Sat 8 Feb</b>	<b>ko 1645</b>	<b>Scotland v England</b>
<b>Sun 23 Feb</b>	<b>ko 1500</b>	<b>England v Ireland</b>
<b>Sat 7 Mar</b>	<b>ko 1645</b>	<b>England v Wales</b>
<b>Sat 14 Mar</b>	<b>ko 1645</b>	<b>Italy v England</b>

# BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL



## XMAS FAYRE



**FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**6.00pm till 7.30pm**

**Lots of stalls, including :  
BOOKS, TOMBOLA, BRIC-A-BRAC, LOCAL  
CIDER, CAKES & HOME PRODUCE PLUS  
OTHER STALLS.**

**Plus  
RAFFLE.**



**Tea, coffee & mince pies**



**Come and sign the village charity Christmas card.**

### **CHRISTMAS CAKE STALL - FRIDAY DECEMBER 6th**

At the Christmas Fair on Friday 6th Dec there will be a wonderful cake stall!



The table will be laden with sponges, mince pies, tarts, scones, chocolate brownies, biscuits, shortbread, apple cake, fruit loaves, fruit cakes and all sorts of other bakes. Jams and chutneys will be there too.

If you are able to contribute in any way to this, and indeed ANY stall, we would be most grateful. The Village Hall will be open for donations from 2:30pm that afternoon.

## A GREAT EVENING WITH THE FB POCKET ORCHESTRA



Bishopstone Village Hall was packed on 15<sup>th</sup> November for a brilliant evening of music (and some dancing!) with **The FB Pocket Orchestra** playing jazz, blues and early popular songs. We look forward to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm with **The Sunset Café Stompers** – another great evening of New Orleans jazz. To book phone Caroline on 01722 781044.

# BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

SP5 4AA

**WELCOMES THE RENOWNED**



**FOR AN EVENING OF NEW  
ORLEANS JAZZ**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm**

**Doors and bar open at 7.00pm**

**Tickets : £12      Supper option : £5**

Book online at

**[bvhticketoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:bvhticketoffice@btinternet.com)**

**Or call Caroline on 01722 781044**

## **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 (January 2019):**

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

### **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**



# Christmas at Bishopstone Church

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

11.00am - Carol Service followed  
by mulled wine & mince pies

**24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve**

4.00pm - Carols round the Crib

**25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day**

9.30am - Parish Communion



## Emergency Planning Report December 2019

### General Situation.

We are very fortunate in Bishopstone in having three monitoring assets that we have easy access to though the internet. They are:

### Environment Agency (EA) River Monitoring at Ebbesbourne Wake (<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/3371>)

In effect river level monitoring - the level of groundwater, though this is somewhat upstream.

### EA borehole monitoring at Windwhistle Farm (<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/9272>)

This gives an indication of water levels in an aquifer - again monitoring linked to groundwater flooding.

### The private Weather Station at Flamstone Farm (<https://flamstone.com/wd/ww.php>)

This excellent local weather website is a detailed record and shows daily rainfall levels, monthly rainfall and comparisons with the calculated averages.

At the moment none of these sites show any major reason for concern though Windwhistle borehole is high (as at 15 November), bordering on a local flood warning alert. The Flamstone Farm Weather Station indicates double the monthly rainfall average in September and October. So far in November we have had  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the monthly rainfall in the first 12 days of the month - therefore there is no reason for complacency. The water meadows are slowly taking in water, at Faulston South of the river and in the meadows by Mac's Field.

My personal view, shared by others at the Operational Flood Working Group meeting in Tisbury on 14 November is that we are in advance of where we should be at this time of year on local water levels. That, in turn, makes sensible preparations and precautions a recommended course of action.

Borehole readings indicate rising aquifer levels. We know from past experience in 2013/2014 that groundwater flooding is the aspect that surprises us, in as much as we don't know where or when some springs will appear.

However if the river floods we do have good ideas of where it is likely to breach its banks and which properties may be affected.

In the next couple of weeks we will be testing our pumps and generator, I reiterate that the Emergency Plan is on the village website and I am more than willing to answer queries you may have on our local procedures.

Please be aware that Les Smith is currently standing in for Chris Sexton as Flood Warden (East).

Finally, I would like to explain the Operational Flood Working Group in a little more detail. Every 3-4 months a group of volunteers from local villages and towns in southern Wiltshire meet with representatives of Wiltshire Council, the Environment Agency and Wessex Water amongst others to put forward the problems in our area that could cause or affect flooding. These meetings air issues and can resolve difficulties. However we often are faced with the realities of tight budgets, lack of personnel/resources and legalities. Nevertheless be assured that Bishopstone's issues are forcefully presented and the best case is always made on your behalf.

ROGER STOCKTON  
01722 780346

## **Time for Carers Appeal 2019-20**

Carer Support Wiltshire, the charity that supports the unpaid carers in our communities, is currently running an appeal to raise £30,000 to spend on carers.

They are looking for local groups and individuals who would like to help fundraise for the Time for Carers Appeal. That could be by holding an event like a raffle or auction, asking for donations at a quiz or bingo night or taking part in a sponsored run or swim. Anything you'd like to do, CSW can support you with.

There are an estimated 47,500 carers in Wiltshire. A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a family member or friend who could not always manage without their support. They might look after someone with a physical disability, long term health condition, mental health issue or a problem with substance misuse.

It can be an incredibly rewarding thing to do for someone, but can take its toll as well. 40% of carers say they haven't had a day off in over a year, while 25% haven't had a day off in over five years. The effect of not getting a rest from caring is shattering, with carers describing being close to breaking point, desperate for some time to themselves, to sleep, recuperate and see friends and family.

Regular breaks have been proven to combat burnout and stress and money raised by the appeal will directly pay for breaks for carers. Last year's appeal helped over 80 carers take the time they needed to improve their health and wellbeing. It paid for respite care, theatre tickets, yoga classes, counselling sessions and much more

Claire, a carer who looks after her mother who has dementia, said: "It wasn't even about being given the money to go away – it was about being seen and valued as a carer and given the recognition and support that enabled me to carry on."

If you would like to help the appeal and get involved you can find out more by contacting the CSW fundraising team at [fundraising@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk) or phoning 01380 871690. There is also a Time for Carers JustGiving page.

## **Christmas Tree Recycling**

Love having a real tree at Christmas but hate the New Year clean-up? We have the answer! Anyone in postcodes SP1, SP2, SP3, SP4, SP5 and SP6 can register (by January 6th) to have their tree collected for a donation (of any size) to Salisbury Hospice and Love for Louis charities (monies will be split, after costs: 90% to the Hospice, 10% to Love for Louis).

Register online at [www.charityxmastreecollection.com](http://www.charityxmastreecollection.com) or ring 01722 416353.

## Bishopstone Singers

The idea of forming a group of singers in the village came to me during a Service in Bishopstone Church. From where I was sitting I could see another soprano, two altos and two basses. After making enquiries, I discovered two tenors and another soprano living in the village and willing to join us. Hooray! I could start a 4 part choir!

Founded in 1986, nine of us met to rehearse 'Up! Good Christian Folk, and Listen' to sing at the Carol Service that year - Margaret Barter, Alix Ricketts, Sally Leaver, Ruby Thorne, Bill Coles, Rob, Don and Reg Thorne and myself. It took off and thirty three years later, the Bishopstone Singers are preparing to sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah with twenty eight singers accompanied by eight instrumentalists.

Over the years we have sung at many special Services at various churches and venues - including a field at Pentecost! Advent, Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, Patronal and Harvest Festivals, weddings, funerals, Light up a Life, Songs of Praise, Womens World Day of Prayer and other celebratory Services. One of the many highlights of each year has been the privilege of participating in the Salisbury Diocesan Festival Choral Group held annually at Salisbury Cathedral. In 2004 we were invited to sing at Montacute House in Somerset. Those of us who were free to attend thoroughly enjoyed our visit and I'm pleased to say that our performance was well received.

I have decided to retire after Christmas. Please come along to Bishopstone Church to support your local church and local choir at the Carol Service on Sunday, 22nd December at 11 a.m. Join in the many well known carols and celebrate the birth of Christ with joy and thanks.

Olive Moody

### **Bishopstone Singers - Upcoming Rehearsals**

Friday 13th December, 7:30pm - Rehearsal                      21 The Croft

Friday 20th December, 7:30pm - Rehearsal                      21 The Croft

Sunday 22nd December, 10am - Rehearsal, followed by 11am Carol Service, both in Bishopstone Church.

Olive Moody - 780446

*Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past.  
Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and  
reliving those of yesterday.*

*Gladys Taber*

## Chalke Valley Community Support



The 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 volunteers too, so please give as much notice as possible so that we can find a volunteer who is available.

Registered Charity No 1076335

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

### 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

**You can also contact local Police as follows:**

**PCSO Nicola CLARK** – [nicola.clark@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicola.clark@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

**PC Matt HOLLAND** – Community Policing Co-Ordinator

[CPTSouthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CPTSouthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

**Community Messaging** – for emailed crime reports and local policing updates, sign up at [www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk](http://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk)

**Social media** – for local policing updates follow us on Facebook **@salisburypolice** and Twitter **@SouthWiltsCPT**



### Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice

Doves Meadow Surgery, Broad Chalke: 01722 780282

Sixpenny Handley Surgery: 01725 552500

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



## New Horizons for Coombe Bissett Primary



### Introducing our New Head:

Coombe Bissett CofE VA Primary community are very fortunate to welcome a new Head teacher to their family. Mr Berkeley Basinger-Adams comes to Coombe Bissett with a breadth of small school teaching and leadership experience and enthusiasm, especially for sport, drama and computing. Mr Basinger-Adams has successfully led Chapmanslade Primary and St John's Warminster. Together with Coombe Bissett Primary's highly experienced staff and leadership team Berkeley has been embraced by the whole local community.

Mr Basinger-Adams is passionate about delivering exceptional education that develops the 'whole child', academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. It is our aim to enable each and every child to flourish as unique and wonderful people, to develop what makes them special, to give them the confidence to contribute positively to their communities and to be healthy and happy in the world that they will help to create.

**Open Day:** We had a successful open day in October welcoming new prospective families into our fold and sharing what it is like to be part of the Coombe Bissett Primary community. The school prides itself on supporting the 'whole child' and providing a well-rounded education. The children are able to start their journey with small Key Stage 1 classes, forming a firm foundation for schooling in years to come. They are able to support their vision through giving every child wonderful opportunities and challenges within a caring Christian environment. The school welcomes, not only the child/ren, but the whole family into the fold ensuring that children benefit from a balanced home/school relationship based on trust, understanding, care and support.

**Open air play and education:** The children returned to school in September, not only to a new Head, but to a completed new play trail which complements our Nurture area in working towards their overall wellbeing. The school is encouraging more outdoor education and play. To aid this the children have a new Welly Boot shed (to boot!) to house all their wellies on the top field. The children are enjoying having a wider play space option at break times, running around the top field and play trail.

In the first week of Term 2 we were delighted to take part in an international event for Outdoor Learning Day. The children had a wonderful time exploring their core subject skills in a different context, such as applying maths,

communicating clearly, and working with empathy, respect and through teamwork. The enrichment activities the staff ran were outdoor cooking over a fire pit, landscape art, Science 'volcano eruptions' and den-building to make a shelter from the rain. The children had a wonderful time and it was great to see them rising to the challenges.

We have a plan to develop the space between the field and the school into a 'forest schools' area. This would include a fire pit / pizza oven, trugs for planting our own produce, space to construct dens, and outdoor art space, a wildflower / crawly creatures science area, fruit orchard. The use of this will then regularly be built into the curriculum, further enhancing the children's outdoor learning and creativity. *If any member of our community are able to donate time and skills / money / items please contact the school office or Mr Basinger-Adams.*

**In enrichment**, Oak Class paid a visit to Salisbury Cathedral, lead by the Education Centre's Mrs Dolphin and her amazing team of volunteers. The children learned about materials and methods used in the construction of the cathedral. They had hands on experience making clay tiles, stone carving and how to make a stained glass panel. A truly magical experience and highly recommended.

All children have the opportunities to participate in inter-school sports tournaments throughout the academic year. This last term children have enjoyed playing cluster-school Netball, Tri-golf, Hockey, Orienteering and Football.

Involvement in the local community is very important to our school family. Led by Rev Canon Jenny Taylor the children have been involved in numerous services at St Michael and All Angels Church including Harvest, Reflection and Remembrance.

**For Remembrance** the Year 6 children sold poppies to support our armed forces personnel then went to the war memorial to commemorate remembrance. It was a moving visit. They learnt how in the Bible, Jesus said 'man hath no greater love then to lay down their life for another' and they have explored what this means in terms of loving others as they love themselves. All children have been using their creative skills this term (one of our key values) to produce a piece of poppy art. The children placed these in our remembrance garden.

**To support our school** we have two amazing groups – Friends of Coombe Bissett Primary (representing the families) and the 100 Club (representing the wider Coombe Bissett Primary community). We rely hugely on this amazing support. If you would like to help our school in any way there are so many ways: you can join the 100 club, assist with reading with children, and many fundraising opportunities. Please contact the school office for further information.

We have experienced some exciting times and changes this last two months. There are still plenty to come. Stay tuned. Thank you for your ongoing support. Wishing you all a safe and happy Festive Season ahead.

## Dates for the Diary:

Coombe Bissett Primary KS1 Nativity Play, Wednesday 11 December, 2pm, Coombe Bissett and Homington Village Hall.



**SALE OF SALES** - 24 January 2020, Coombe Bissett and Homington Village Hall.

The annual **Christmas Tree Festival** at St Thomas's Church in Salisbury runs this year from 3-8 December, 10-6pm Tues-Sat and 12-6pm on Sunday. Come and see the Coombe Bissett School tree, among over 100 others!



## WILTSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will be visiting **The Styles** in Bishopstone on the following dates, arriving at 1115 and departing at 1135:

Thursday 26 December 2019

Thursday 23rd January 2020

Thursday 20th February 2020



## The Trussell Trust

Donations for this last month amounted to 11.7 kgs , again a huge thank you to those who contributed to this .

Any of the usual foodstuffs are always welcome and appreciated to see families through the Christmas holidays when the need is to find extra food for children who normally get their main meal at school.

BUT..... As we all know, Christmas itself is fast approaching and this can be a very hard and sad time for many parents with young children. How to give them that special something to make Christmas day a special one.

PLEASE, if you are able, add something festive to your donation this month. Anything that you think your family would like at this time of year, be it Christmas pudding, chocolate treats, crackers etc. Anything will make such a difference to a family or a lonely person.

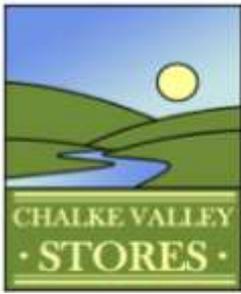
As usual donations can be left in the box in the church porch where they are removed regularly or at The Old Post Office, The Cross, either ring the doorbell or leave them on the step. If you cannot get them to either drop off point then please phone me and I will arrange to collect at your convenience.

I will need to deliver to the depot this month by 15th December to make sure the boxes can be made up and delivered.

Thank you all again for your support over this last year and a very Happy Christmas to you and yours

Regards, Judy Barrett (01722 780306)





**Shop:** Open weekdays 8.30am - 6pm (4pm on Saturdays)  
**Coffee Shop:** Open weekdays 9am - 4.30pm  
(until 4pm on Saturdays for breakfast, lunch, tea and meetings)  
**Post Office:** Open Mon, Tues & Thurs 9.30am –1.30pm:  
w: [www.chalkevalleystores.co.uk](http://www.chalkevalleystores.co.uk)  
e: [info@chalkevalleystores.co.uk](mailto:info@chalkevalleystores.co.uk)  
Tel: 01722-780998

## **THANK YOU AND A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS**

As we rapidly approach Christmas and with 2020 just round the corner, it is an appropriate moment to pause and reflect on another good year for the HUB. Nothing would be possible without the loyal support of you our customers so we thank you most sincerely for your custom and your commitment to this community enterprise which we are pleased to say goes from strength to strength.

## **CHRISTMAS ORDERS**

Please note that orders for turkeys, meat, fish, fruit and vegetables should be made by **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** at the latest. You can either ring us or fill in the forms that are now available in the shop. The cut off for collection is **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** and as we do not have long-term cold storage facilities, so it is important not to miss this deadline.

## **NEW TEAM LEADERS STARTING SHORTLY**

We are delighted to welcome both Dawn Henderson and Rebecca Twig as our new team leaders in the coffee shop. They join Kate Woollen and Nicky Matthews who have both settled in to their new roles very well. However...

## **WE DO STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS**

This is a constant message but an important one as without our wonderful volunteers the HUB could not function. If you or anyone you know, would like volunteer, then please contact Tony who will talk you through what is involved. If you know a volunteer already please talk to them and hear their first hand experience. We are confident they will tell you it is rewarding, fun and a worthwhile way of contributing to the local community.

**THE KNIT AND NATTER GROUP** meet in the HUB mostly on Thursdays and sometimes Tuesday as well. Recently they had a sale in the coffee shop of the items they had made and raised a magnificent £540 for the Salisbury branch of Parkinson's UK. The group also knitted some lovely poppies which were displayed in front of the shop leading up to Remembrance Sunday. If you would like to join please contact Reina on 01722 781264.

## **A NEW SUPPLIER OF CAKES**

We now stock a variety of cakes supplied to us by the National Trust's own cake maker. These range from Red Velvet, Dorset Apple, Eccles cake and Muffins. These have proved a huge success so if you haven't tried one yet, wait no longer...treat yourself!

## **A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR OUR CHEESE SUPPLIER**

The Boot and Bucket cheese company, who have been supplying the HUB since shortly after they started their business just over a year ago, were a finalist in the 2019 Dorset, Food and Drink & Farming Awards. Congratulations to them on this achievement. We are delighted to have supported this new company and contributed in some small way to their success. This is a good example of our commitment to local produce and one which we always seek to expand whenever a new supplier of the right quality comes to our attention.

## **CAROLS AND LIGHTING UP THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

This very popular family event will take place, as usual, in front of the HUB on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December starting at 5.45**. Carol singing will be lead by the Broad Chalke School choir. So wrap up warm and come along for some hearty singing and meeting local friends. Afterwards you are invited to the Queen's Head next door where you will be welcomed by Max and Paul with a tempting array of seasonal drinks and eats.

***Please see the full version of our newsletter on our website, including our CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES!***

## Village Memories - Derek Stirling



*Derek and Margaret's Golden Wedding - 2008 at The Emblems*

### EARLY MEMORIES

I was born and educated in Beckenham, Kent. My National Service was with the Royal Air Force, as a Wireless Fitter. I applied for a 'home posting' and finished up in Hong Kong. On completion of National Service I studied photography at the Regent Street Polytechnic. My father had been a photographer with the 'Daily Sketch' for 25 years until the outbreak of war, when he was seconded to the War Office. He was Picture Editor of 'Soldier Magazine' when he eventually retired.

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN BISHOPSTONE?

Margaret and I, with our children, Katrina, Christopher and Julian, arrived in Bishopstone in 1966. We bought one of the first 5 houses built in The Croft. They were built randomly in phases of 5, in a variety of designs with different brickwork and fenestration. At that time the village boasted a church, a chapel, 2 shops and 2 pubs. Although the village hall didn't enjoy the excellent facilities that it has today, nevertheless it was the centre of activity, in use most evenings. Bingo, beetle drives, whist drives, badminton, table tennis, race nights, snooker to name some of the activities. The Saturday Youth Club was thriving, and Cue One put on many amateur dramatics. The productions had to be scheduled away from the busy times of lambing and harvesting.



*Three shabby fellows from 'She Stoops to Conquer' by Oliver Goldsmith, performed 1973*

*Left to right:  
Ross Colwill, Chris Sexton, Derek Stirling, Audrey Rogers, Jim Webb*

With all the facilities of that time, and with about 30 children living in The Croft, there was a sense of getting together. People would congregate round the White Hart on a Sunday morning, and you used to come into contact with people more because of the various activities and meeting places in the village.

There was no road bridge across the Ebbles – only a footbridge. The cars would have to cross a ford to get across to Crouchston. The children would play in the ford while their parents were in the Three Horseshoes pub. The White Hart Inn had 2 bars with a dart board near the entrance.

The surgery used to be part of Dr Brown's house in Broad Chalke before the purpose built one we now have at Dove's Meadow. Repeat prescriptions would come in to Bishopstone by bus and be deposited at Jack Fennell's shop at the top of Pitts Lane. Security wasn't such an issue then. Jack used to deliver customers' shopping and leave it on the kitchen table – sometimes even putting it away in the larder and fridge.

Going to school from The Croft meant walking on the main road, as there was no pavement along the High Road. Alternatively you could use the back path via Pitts Lane.

### **HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR WIFE?**

Margaret and I met at Porton Down in 1956 and we were married at Lower Bemerton in 1958. Margaret went on to teach at Swan School and I taught at the College of Art in Salisbury, which started out in New Street (now the Cosy Club), before it moved to the site by the Southampton Road roundabout.

### **WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR PASTIMES?**

I ran the Badminton Club for 10 years and recently I met one of the 'ex-youth' members – now in his sixties. He wanted to know how old I had been when running the Club. 'In my thirties' I replied. 'Cor', he said, 'I remember running round that court saying to myself – I'm not letting that old b... get the better of me! One of the annual jobs we had was painting the lines for the badminton court.

I did the lighting for Cue-One productions for 15 years.

Gardening – we started with nothing but a field originally. Now after 50 years a lot of the trees and shrubs need cutting down.

I'm a DIY man – have done plenty of work in the house.

### **WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY?**

Visiting Christopher and his wife Sue in Michigan, USA

### **YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK**

Stephen Hawking - A Brief History of Time

I don't have so much time for reading, as looking after the house and garden are a full time job. I do keep up with the news though.

### **FAVOURITE MUSIC**

I enjoy all Trad Jazz – Lonnie Donegan, Chris Barber, Otilie Patterson, Monty Sunshine. Very keen on piano music - Chopin, Beethoven, so I still tinkle around on the piano.

### **ANY THINGS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?**

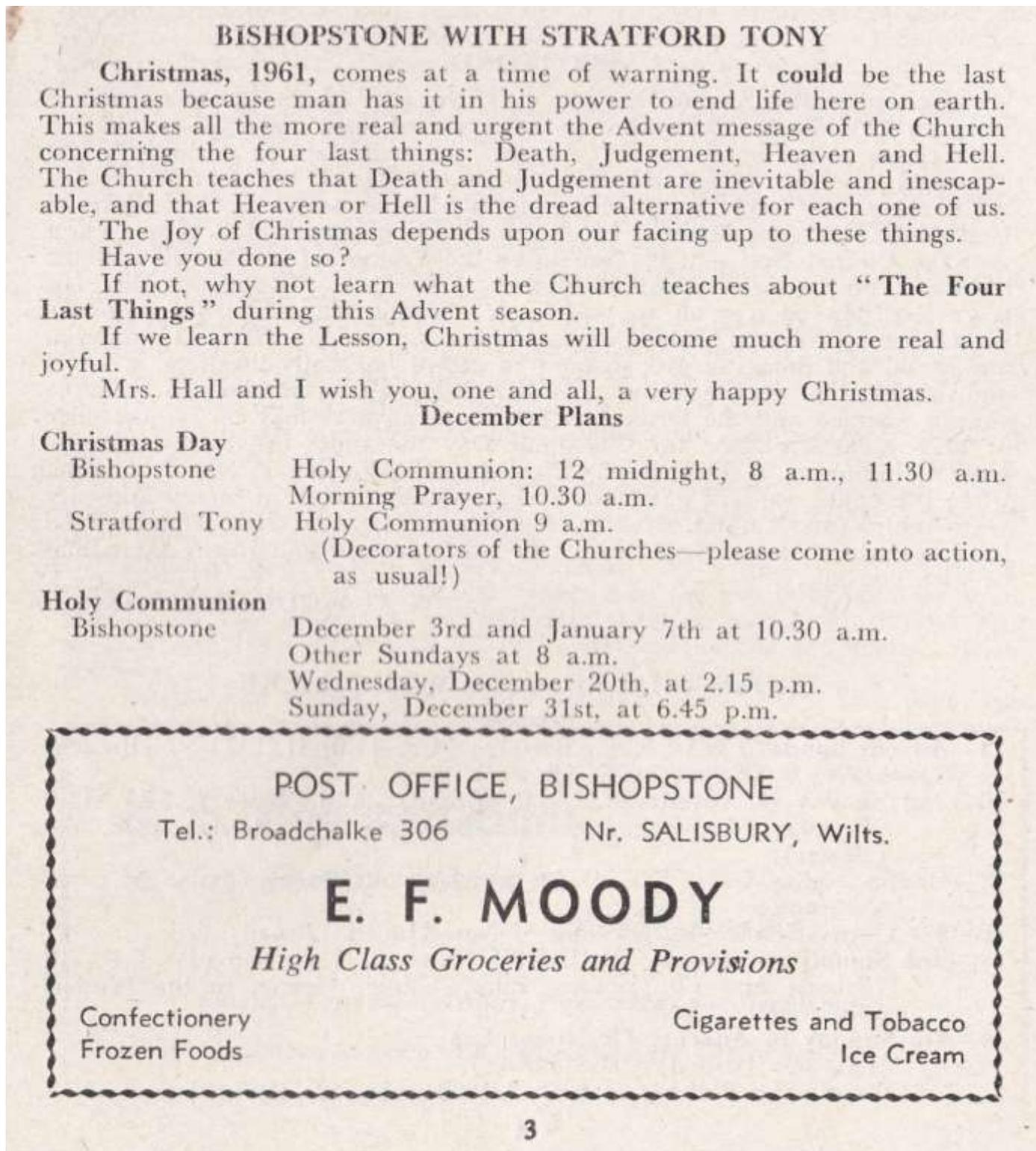
My bucket list is empty

### **IMPORTANT THINGS YOU'VE LEARNED IN LIFE**

Friendship – I like being in Bishopstone. All my memories are here.

# Tales from the Time Capsule

In April 2018 George Brutton, one of our churchwardens, discovered a Smiths Crisps tin box carefully wrapped in a plastic sheet and fastened with wire to a roof timber in Bishopstone Church. The box turned out to be a time-capsule, created we think in 1963 (some items date back to 1954), with other things added from various years up until the 1980s. Each month in STaB we will be showing you a few pieces of interest from this fascinating time capsule.



The South Wilts Church Magazine from December 1961 comes with a sombre warning of possible man-made disaster here on Earth.

Lovely to see the advert for EF Moody's shop and Post Office here in Bishopstone!

## Festive Recipes of the Month

### SPICED NUTS (by Cally Edwards)

These are absolutely delicious instead of the usual crisps etc, and are incredibly easy to make. They can even be lovely gifts to take to friends' houses.

#### Ingredients

750g mixed nuts (e.g. brazils, walnuts, pecans, almonds, cashews, peanuts and macadamia)

50g pumpkin seeds

50g sunflower seeds

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons clear honey

2 teaspoons sea salt flakes

2 teaspoons cumin seeds, coarsely ground in a pestle and mortar

1 1/2 teaspoons paprika

1 rounded teaspoon celery salt

freshly ground pepper

Preheat the oven to 180 C / 350 F / gas mark 4.

Tip all the nuts and seeds into a large bowl and drizzle over the olive oil and honey. Add the salt and spices and a generous grinding of black pepper. Mix well to evenly coat the nuts in the spices. Tip the mixture out onto a large baking tray and spread it all out, so it is level.

Roast on the middle shelf of the preheated oven for about 10 minutes, stirring the mixture regularly so that all the nuts and seeds brown evenly and don't burn. When the nuts are golden, remove from the oven and allow to cool before serving or packaging into pretty paper cones.

### PEPPERMINT BARK (by Lizzie Williams)

#### Ingredients

30 crushed peppermint hard candies, divided

700g milk chocolate candy, coarsely chopped

700g white chocolate, chopped

1 teaspoon oil-based peppermint flavouring (or to taste)

#### Method

Spread 1/3 of the peppermint candy over a 9x13-inch baking pan lined with wax paper.

Melt the milk chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just-barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching, just until melted. Pour the melted chocolate over peppermint candy in the prepared pan. Sprinkle another 1/3 of the candy on top of the milk chocolate. Refrigerate until the chocolate hardens, about 30 minutes.

Melt the white chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just-barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching. Stir in the oil-based peppermint flavouring. Pour the white chocolate over the milk chocolate, and then spread the remaining 1/3 peppermint candy on top.

Refrigerate until the white chocolate hardens, about 30 minutes. Cut or break into pieces to serve.

# Festive Quiz Pages!

*For Children...*

1. What type of pie is usually left out for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve?
2. What name is given to the day after Christmas Day?
3. What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
4. Who is the cold-hearted miser who despises Christmas in a famous book by Charles Dickens?
5. What guided the 3 wise men to visit baby Jesus in Bethlehem?
6. Almonds wrapped in tissue paper gave Victorian Tom Smith the idea to invent which Christmas item?
7. Which family has a pet dog called Santa's Little Helper?
8. Where does Santa send unfit elves?
9. What name is given to an empty sock or sock-shaped bag that is hung on Christmas Eve
10. What do we call the metallic garland used for Christmas decoration?
11. What do we call a large rectangular card with windows, one for each day of December leading up to Christmas, which open to reveal a chocolate or image?
12. What has been given to the people of Britain by the city of Oslo in Norway each year since 1947?



*For Adults...*

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in The Netherlands on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the holy family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?



Answers to Children's Quiz:

1. Mince Pie, 2. Boxing Day, 3. A Christmas Quacker (haha!), 4. Ebenezer Scrooge, 5. A star, 6. Christmas Crackers, 7. The Simpsons, 8. to an Elf Farm! 9. Christmas Stocking, 10. Tinsel, 11. Advent Calendar, 12. Christmas Tree (displayed in Trafalgar Square).

Answers to Adults' Quiz:

1. Advent, 2. More than one, the Bible doesn't say how many! 3. Deep pan, crisp and even, 4. Elizabeth, 5. St Nicholas, 6. 25 (no ell), 7. Bethlehem, 8. 364, 9. 1840s (1843, by Henry Cole), 10. Egypt, 11. Three (Dasher, Dancer and Donner), 12. Germany (actually Latvia, but it was part of Germany then!), 13. Herod, 14. 'Just like the ones I used to know', 15. Carpenter, 16. The Anglo-Saxons - it means 'good health', 17. the shepherds, 18. a sixpence, 19. Gabriel, 20. in a manger.

## Nature Notes

### Bishopstone Swans - update

Back in April, we reported on the pair of mute swans who appeared to have made their home on the Bishopstone Lakes. They were first photographed back in December 2018 looking broody amid the romantically swirling mist. They built their nest towards the end of April and laid 4 eggs. This is quite a small clutch - swans often hatch up to 10 eggs at a time with the expectation



*The pair of swans in December 2018*

of losing several, though it is not uncommon for all the cygnets to be lost to predators, or for most of them to survive. The number of eggs laid each year tends to decrease with time, suggesting our pair are perhaps getting on a bit! Only 2 of the 4 eggs hatched unfortunately and the 2 cygnets were pictured newly hatched in July. The following month there appeared to be only one remaining, but thankfully 2 cygnets were spotted, though with only one parent, on the river just east of the



*The 2 cygnets catching a ride with mother in June*

bridge at Faulston on 19 October. Having lost their downy juvenile plumage, these birds are approaching maturity.



*2 parents and one cygnet on the lakes in July*



*2 cygnets and one parent on the Ebble in October*

Swans in the UK are mainly resident and usually do not travel very far. Some birds leave their breeding territories and gather together in small winter flocks on nearby lakes and estuaries. Unless the whole family head off for one of these wintering areas, it is likely the 2 young from Bishopstone will be driven off to join one of these

larger flocks as soon as their plumage is predominantly white (during late autumn or winter).

It will be interesting to see if these swans nest here again next year. If you see any evidence of this please let the editors of STaB know and remember, it is criminal offence to interfere with nesting swans in any way – they cannot be moved if the location of the nest is inconvenient for whatever reason.

### **Cranborne Chase AONB - Dark Skies**

According to the Cranborne Chase AONB website, 90% of the UK's population and two-thirds of the world's population live under skies heavily polluted by light. This has a detrimental impact on health and also affects local biodiversity, particularly birds and trees.

In Bishopstone, which is part of the Cranborne Chase AONB, we are lucky to possess and cherish our dark night skies. Ours is a unique area of pristine night skies where, particularly at this time of year, we can relish the sight of moonlight over frosty fields and marvel at the sight of the Milky Way on a clear night.

Cranborne Chase was the first AONB to become an International Dark Sky Reserve in its entirety in October 2019. There are currently only two other areas in England that have been formally recognised for their low levels of light pollution -Exmoor Dark Sky Reserve and Northumberland Dark Sky Park.

If you would like to know more about the Cranborne Chase Dark Skies bid, or would like to offer help or support, go to the website at: [chasingstars.org.uk](http://chasingstars.org.uk)

### **Ebble Notes from ChalkeyD**

On the lake one pair of tufted ducks had 9 young and one mallard had seven chicks, but overall, there have been fewer mallard and moorhen young than in previous years. On the river a pair of grey wagtails managed to raise at least one offspring successfully.

We have had 8 wood pigeon nests, 5 of which were within 2m of the house, but only 2 were successful, with a total of 4 young raised. There are fewer wood pigeons around than 10 years ago and they do provide nourishment for sparrow hawks (*pictured right*):



Finally, our neighbour allowed a wild area to be left during the breeding season and at least blackcap and meadow pipits were successful in that area. The local RSPB leader told me that meadow pipits are very rarely seen in gardens and only believed it when I showed a photo.

*Left: Meadow Pipit*

## Helga Soket's Accident

*As you will have seen from the print copy of STaB, I included a heavily edited version of Helga's account of her accident. Here, in the online version, we are reproducing the whole moving tale. The editorial team would like to wish Helga all the very best for her continued recovery.*

I always described myself as a positive, honest person. Sometimes too honest, using even strong language, but at least never unreliable. Some people don't like my kind because they can't take the real and harsh me, but fortunately I've got so many amazing friends who appreciate the true and positive Helga even with my big mouth. How many is so many? I only realised after a terrible accident in which I almost died. The interest, care and love that me and my family received in the last few weeks was absolutely incredible. I'm still bursting into tears when I read the innumerable amount of messages and comments that our beautiful friends sent us. But let's start at the very beginning...

August 2019, my partner Peter had an accident when he injured his right foot and had to be off work for a couple of weeks. We delayed our family holiday because of this and moved it to September, just a month later, when we thought he'd be okay doing water activities. We haven't been on a summer holiday abroad for 4 years and even though we had to pull the kids out of school we didn't want to cancel. Max had just done his 11+ exam and Felix is only in year 1 so we thought it wouldn't be a big deal. Quality family time comes first. So we booked our 10 nights holiday to an amazing resort in the beautiful Greek island of Rhodes. I was extraordinarily excited as I'd never been to Greece but had wanted to go for a very long time. The day finally came and we flew over to the paradise. Although the island itself is so beautiful, we were shocked by the indigence of the country... Anywhere we went out of the resort, 2 buildings out of 3 was completely empty and unfinished... Very old, rusty vehicles, stray dogs and cats all around... So much rubbish everywhere, so much poverty... I felt so sorry as Greece was always a bright clean happy place in my mind... Not in real life unfortunately... I don't know much about their near past, whether it's the recession or the EU that broke them so badly. My heart breaks for them.

We spent 7 beautiful days in and out the resort, visiting the old town in Rhodes city, walking through the Valley of Butterflies, lots of snorkelling, water-sports and of course resting by the pool. We tried some really nice food and went for some relaxing long massage at the spa. It was all like heaven until the 8th day. On Wednesday the 25th we went to Tsampika beach, the biggest and nicest of all in Rhodes. It was not too far from our hotel so we rented a car and packed everything in. The plan was that we spend the morning and lunch at the beach then go and see Lindos for the afternoon and evening. Our morning was full of fun, had lots of splash in the water and we've made some lovely new friends in the owners of the

restaurant/bar. We had the most delicious gyros ever with wonderfully refreshing natural smoothies. Early afternoon came and we started to pack and change clothes. We were off to visit the Acropolis and do some lovely shopping in Lindos. The boys were fall asleep in seconds at the back seat of the car so we stopped by an amazing view of Lindos to take some photos. It was about 4pm when we arrived at Lindos. Got the boys out of the car and walked down this epic place... All started to look like what I always expected from Greece. Beautiful old, but simple buildings, amazing shops and authentic bazaar. After taking a few corners we thought it would be better to go up the Acropolis first to look around before it gets dark, so we can come back to the village afterwards for a nice meal and some shopping. Walking up the hill was all so magical. It was a long way but it didn't make us tired as we were rather excited and amazed by the buildings and view. At the entrance of the site we paid to go through the gates to visit the Acropolis. There was another long way to go up with lots of stairs but it was interesting and exciting rather than tiring with an extraordinary view to the bay.

The first unsafe area we have noticed was a huge high stairs going up the castle. The stairs did not have any staircases or any other protection on the left side. With a good few metre drop on our left we thought it would be better to keep the kids on the right side and hold their hands all the way up. In the main site there was so many lovely areas I wanted to take photos of, so I never really put the camera down. Climbing through large moving rocks and another weird stairs, we were finally entering the top bit with the large carved stone columns. Max instantly loved the space and asked me to take some "I hold the building" images, so I did take a few steps to the opposite side to get the right composition. I barely looked the left side of the area and when I took my steps backward, in my peripheral vision I saw a bush so I thought it was safe. When Felix joined for the photos I felt like I had to take some more steps behind while I was in squat. To take the right photo of both of them, I just kept going backwards in small steps, down in squat.

Then the next picture is that I'm falling, swooshing through tree branches... I don't even remember of losing my balance up there... All happened so quickly. After those few milliseconds of pictures about the fall, I suddenly found myself at the bottom of a hole, laying on large rocks. I can't remember the landing at all. First of all, I tried to push my upper body up a little bit with my arms and did some movements to find out what's damaged. Then the next second I felt like my mouth was filled with some fluid so I spat... it was blood. My first thought was, shit... Then within the next seconds Peter was right next to me. He was shouting at Max very loud to take Felix's hand and keep away from the hole, then he somehow jumped/climbed in the hole to hold me. I remember he was so upset as he thought that my injuries were extremely serious. Well it looked like... I couldn't move and my vest was in pieces halfway off my body... I was literally topless with lots of bruises and cuts all around my body, covered with dirt and blood. I didn't look good for sure... Strange enough, but in the first ten minutes I was absolutely relaxed. I asked

Peter to help me to pull my top back to cover my breasts at least and asked for my things if he can see them around me. Phone, shoulder bag and flip flops were all over the place but he didn't seem bothered at this point. I thought the air ambulance would come and save me in few minutes and I will be taken care of in no time... I didn't worry at all and tried to calm Peter as well. I heard Felix crying in the background but Max was really good with him and some staff of the site came as well to help and take care of them. There were so many people around the hole looking down at me. The ambulance and the fire brigade had been called already so we just had to wait...

Few minutes gone, 10 then 20... the pain's got stronger and I was wondering where the helicopter is... Unfortunately, there was no air ambulance at all. The rescue team arrived in around 40 minutes. We still didn't know if I had any serious damage inside so I had to stay very still. The next few hours were horrific... As soon as the ambulance arrived, I started to ask for painkillers, but they didn't give me anything. I begged in tears, no pain relief.. they just said they can't. When they moved and fixed me to the stretcher the pain level was extremely high. I almost fainted and probably had lots of black outs as I can't remember it all. I can recall a few moments when they lifted me up and tried to climb me up on the ladder. It was dark already and I was constantly crying for pain killers... The poor children heard me and I heard Max shouting at the rescuers very loud "Why don't you give my mum painkillers??!!" He was so upset, but stayed very strong. A few minutes later the children had been taken to the office by one of the staff so they didn't see and hear me suffering anymore. Peter was helping to the rescuers but he was always around to calm and reassuring me. It took them almost 2 hours to get me out of the hole, using the local's help and a ladder of a local builder. They didn't have much equipment, but they saved me with bare manpower and human collaboration. When I was finally out the deep, they had to carry me down by hand to the bottom of the castle which was around 1 mile route through climbs, rocks and stairs. Down by the entrance a 3 wheeled moped had been waiting for me to take me through Lindos's extremely narrow streets, to finally reach the ambulance car. No one knew if I had any internal injuries, but they were all talking about that 7m fall which they didn't understand how I survived... When we've got down the centre, I was transferred into an ambulance car which looked very-very old. They tried to find my veins but it took them a few attempts before they did... They gave me an infusion and something for the pain that I didn't really feel. The pain was there constantly, it didn't fade a little bit. Peter assured me that he and the children would follow the ambulance car to Rhodes hospital. It was another 40-50 minutes to get there, lying on the stretcher, still in so much pain... In the hospital I was taken to the emergency where there were undone curtains around me so I could see a lot when I turned my head and looked. I realised instantly that not only the emergency car was old, but the hospital itself was also in poor condition. I had the first painkiller there that helped a little bit, but still wasn't enough to comfort me. I had to have another

infusion for the antibiotics, but again, they didn't find my vein easily... I had a few more bruises on my arms and hands because of this.

When I looked down my right leg, I saw my toes facing upwards while my knee was pointing to the right... Peter arrived and talked to the doctor and after he thought I'll be in good hands, he took the children back to the hotel to organise a babysitter then come back to the hospital to be next to me. Fortunately there was no babysitter so he stayed with the children... The boys needed him as they were very upset. They couldn't sleep and worried too much about me. I assured Peter that I was absolutely fine and I was happy for him to stay with the children. The night was ahead of me anyway...

I had to wait at the ER for around an hour before they took me to the first scan. In the meantime I had my scars sprinkled with antiseptics and my knee stitched. All the other scars were left untreated, including my chin and a badly damaged toe. Most of the times I saw the ceilings only as they moved me to the X-ray scan, it was mouldy and rusty wherever they took me. I was scared... Every little bump was awfully painful and there was a lot of them by any doors and elevators. I had three different scans that took a few hours then they finally took me to the ward for the rest of the night. They had to move me to bed and prepared me that they would have to pull my leg to put it in the right position, which they did. I should not talk about the pain any more... it was simply unbearable. I'd rather go to labour and give birth 10 times than have that pain again...

A doctor came to see me and said I have two fractures on my thigh bone. One in the middle and the other one is by the hip. They said I need to have an operation that they can do next Monday or Tuesday (!!!) or I can have it done back in my country. They assured me I'm safe to fly. I was in touch with Peter all night on the phone. He couldn't sleep, I couldn't either so we kept talking and messaging. The children also had an awful night with terrible nightmares... It was a very shocking, terrible experience for all of us...

The next morning, Thursday the 26th... when my family arrived, as Max was entering the room (and saw me for the first time after the accident) he burst out crying and gave me a big cuddle straight away. Felix was calm and full of questions. He said "Mummy I thought you was gonna die". They were completely opposite prior to the previous night when Max was strong while Felix was crying continuously.

Peter had already contacted the insurance company, but they needed the medical report from the hospital before they can do anything... Right then, so we started to chase the report straight away. They said we had to wait 24 hours from the accident before they can provide it and they will give it to us around 5pm... After a couple of hours the boys went back to the hotel and I was on my own again... Time went, the evening came and my report was nowhere. I asked for it, tried to chase them, but I had no useful answer... I just didn't want to spend another night in

that hospital... I could not move, I hadn't been washed, laid on a bed in my dirty clothes. It was so hot outside, no air conditioner inside... I was sweaty, covered with dust, dirt and blood. I was extremely tired, but I couldn't sleep. Because of the post traumatic stress as soon as my eyes were closed, I had this whole body clonus, an extreme shake that woke me up even before I could fall asleep. It was horrible and rather scary as it added a great dose to my stress level. I wasn't sure if I could handle it much longer... Around 8pm a doctor came who said they will move me to the orthopaedic ward early morning then I can get the report. Next morning I was even more exhausted after another sleepless night and not enough painkillers. They kept me on paracetamol which clearly wasn't enough at all for the extreme pain I had. The nurses were rude and unhelpful there. When I said I'm in pain and I need more pain relief some of them just arrogantly smiled while the others just didn't care. I just couldn't wait to get out of that place...

Friday the 27th. Unfortunately nothing happened... again. I started to lose hope. When the boys came, Peter washed the top of my body with a wet towel he brought from the hotel. I still wasn't able to move so there was no chance to do my bottom side. I was stinking dirty and smelly, my hair was gluey from the salty sea water... I have never felt so bad and ashamed. Absolutely vulnerable in such an uncaring, unclean environmental. After Peter gave me a gentle clean, I felt a bit better even though my bottom and back were almost glued to the bed... We had waited a few hours while Peter was making some phone calls with the insurance company, explaining the very poor conditions of the hospital and myself but they still didn't make any attempt to help. They said they phoned the hospital and spoke to a doctor who said that my condition isn't good enough to fly. We were all very surprised as my doctor said to us I'm okay to go. When Peter asked the hospital they said they didn't even had any phone call from our insurance company... How awful is that?

That morning many information, details, thoughts, memories and emotions went through my brain. We were in trouble abroad with two little children in a poor dirty hospital and our insurers wasn't only unhelpful but they lied to us?? I almost had a breakdown, could have cried constantly, but I took a deep breath and said NO. That morning I went online on my phone and searched up for air ambulances. Peter recommended me to do it while I was on my own so I phoned the first one I found, called IAS. The company was absolutely brilliant and helpful but they needed the medical report too. As we still didn't have it, they had other solutions and started to chase the hospital to speak to one of the doctors about my condition. They tried again and again until they could speak to my doctor! The hospital confirmed verbally that my condition was good enough to fly so I received a quotation for the air transport from Rhodes to Salisbury. It was such a shocking number, and all my hope were gone when I told Peter... His first reaction was, "I will get the money somehow, no matter what! We won't leave you behind!" I had no chance to refuse, even though I tried. I said to him I can stay there, but he didn't

Even want to hear about it. The children were also so scared of the idea of leaving without their mummy.

Around lunchtime Peter went to see a private hospital not too far from Rhodes city. Our insurance company said they had phoned them to find out if they can take me there. Peter just wanted to find another solution in case I won't be safe to fly after the insurance company said they've been told this. Peter spoke to the hospital director himself for information about how their system worked and how they take patients. Unfortunately they didn't have the facilities to do such a big operation, so the plan B was that if I go there, they will look after me before and after the operation, but I have to be taken back to the main hospital (where I actually was) for the operation (which they could do on the next week!!). Peter also asked if our insurance company got in contact with them... the answer was (not surprisingly) no! Our trust in the insurance company was fragile after the numbers of promises of call backs but this time the trust was absolutely broken and we knew we wouldn't get any help. By this point our lovely friends who are solicitors from Salisbury are joined into the "battle" and took over to deal with the insurers. It was a huge help for us as we had so much to worry about.

While Peter and the boys were away to see the private hospital, I'd been moved to the orthopaedic ward early afternoon (instead of early morning). I knew I have to spend at least one more night there before I can either fly back home or be moved to a private hospital. As we didn't have any callbacks or help from our insurers, Peter made the decision and transferred the money to IAS and booked my flight for the next day. 33 grand wasn't in his pocket just like that so he had to ask for some help. All our life savings went out to pay my trip in hope that we'll get it back from the insurance company afterwards. Hopefully it'll happen so we don't have to say goodbye to our dream of buying our own home, as the deposit has gone...

Still Friday, evening time... I received my medical report from the hospital, handwritten in Greek... I took a photo of it with my phone and sent it to IAS who were kind enough to translate it for us. It's already been over 48 hours since my accident and the insurance company probably could start working on this only the next morning. Even if they were about to do something, I was already way over the critical time as I should of have the operation in 24 hours according to the information on the NHS website. If I stayed in Greece, the surgery would have only been done on Monday or Tuesday... That's 5 or 6 days after the accident!!! But we couldn't trust their word either as my medical report was so late, so there was a great chance that they do the same with my surgery... All those worries and so much stress with 2 small children around was so unnecessary...

My last night at Rhodes hospital was a bit better. Although I still wasn't able to sleep, at least I wasn't in so much pain any more. The nurses were kind there and I finally had proper painkillers. I met some really lovely people on that ward. My room mate was such a lovely woman who spoke English so we had some really nice

conversations.

Saturday the 28th September; In the morning I finally had a few bites of food and a slip of water too. I was happier as I knew I'd be back home soon. The boys came around lunchtime and spent the afternoon with me until IAS came. Their service was absolute top quality. Their medical team was totally spot on and I felt a lot better already. I had good painkillers so there was no trouble at all. Not surprisingly they found my vein on the first try! They provided a door to door service, which meant they would take me to Salisbury hospital which of course I asked for. I even had my doctor's name already as they sorted everything out for me. The flight was smooth and it was raining when we arrived to Southampton. I've been never so happy for the good British rain!!! The ambulance car was already waiting for me and it didn't take long to get to Salisbury District Hospital. I knew I was in good hands. The boys were on their way home too as our original flight was on the same (Saturday) night. I asked Peter to go home with the boys and only come in to the hospital to see me in the next morning. They were unbelievably exhausted, especially Peter.

Although the ER was busy, I didn't have to wait much to get help. Two kind and gentle nurses came to wash me all over and gave me clean gown and bedding. I still had sticks and pebbles in my bottom and back... More vein needed for the new IV, they also found one with no problem. I guess it only takes a well trained nurse!! I had some more scans and then they transferred me to another bed with a leg puller... I had lots and lots of gas while they stretched my leg... I didn't even know where I was, but didn't feel pain at least. I was in my private room for the night in no time but still couldn't sleep much. I was on and off all night, shaking and thinking, but I was a lot happier.

Sunday the 29th September; In the morning they started to prepare me for the surgery which was planned for the afternoon. I met my doctor and his team and they assured me that I'll be able to snowboard once I'm fully recovered, ha-ha!

My sister arrived first to see me. She washed my hair which felt oh so good and I finally felt 100% clean.

Peter and the boys came to see me as well as my loveliest friend Tess. It was the first time I saw Peter cry because of me... He was so extremely exhausted and he burst into tears as soon as he saw me in the clean hospital bed and clean clothes... oh and alive. I've never seen him so worried before, he was so upset in the last few days. He showed his true, strong, honest love to me that made me realise I should never have to question his feelings towards me.

The children looked like fine at this point and gave me big-big hugs and kisses. We talked about the silly accident and the alternatives for it could possibly ended. We all agreed that I was so extremely lucky to 'only' break my thigh bone instead of hitting my head, neck or spine... I could be paralysed or even dead... If I had

internal injuries then I may not have survived because the help was very-very slow. Again, I don't blame them as it's not their fault.

However, thinking of the hospital in Greece wasn't a great memory... Peter felt confident by now and had the courage to show me some photos he took with his phone in Rhodes hospital... He didn't want me to get even more upset when we were over there so he didn't tell me about what he'd seen. The pictures were shocking... I've talked about rust and mould before, but there was a lot more out of my sight as my movements were limited. Catheter bags full of urine thrown on the floor just outside my room, huge glass jar in the window full of cigarettes, nurses smoking on the ward (yes inside the building), and more... I was shocked and sad at the same time. I was even more happy to be back home... We were wondering how EU standards work over there... We don't know the answer, but that place just wasn't right.

I had some news later in the morning that I've been put ahead of someone else so I can have the operation sooner. I was ready for the surgery and went into theatre just around lunchtime.

By this time I already knew there was some miracle is going on... A miracle that was there all the time around us, but I'd never really seen it properly. It's the wonderful people around us. All the worry, care, love, support and help we received was just unbelievable. After our family, we've got friends, or people we just see on our dog walk and stop for a few words, mums from school chatting about the actual weather or the latest newsletter that we shouldn't miss... On their own they are just people we know, but all together they make a miracle. A good friend said, "true colours show when the shit goes down". How true is that? We were just amazed by the true colours of the people around us! While I was in hospital, the magic was growing...

My gorgeous friend Tess organised freshly cooked meals for my family with the other mums from my children's school. They cooked my boys wonderful dishes so they had freshly made meals each evening. Tess also had Max for the first week we were back from Greece so Peter could concentrate on Felix, to see if his little soul was okay after such a shocking experience. My eldest had the best time at Tess's as her son, Archie and Max are best friends. They are such a positive, energetic family so I knew he'd be in the best hands.

My wonderful English 'mum', Alix turned up at our home and asked Peter to give her all the laundry. She offered to be our laundry lady for the next few weeks. How kind is that?? Peter didn't have to worry about washing and ironing which made our life a lot-lot easier.

My lovely Hungarian girlfriends teamed up and started to cook for us when I was back from the hospital. We kept receiving delicious dishes and didn't have to eat junk food.

Another sweet friend, from school, Annabelle who's a physiotherapist came to see me and gave me fantastic exercises that I was (and still) able to practice daily at home.

Rachael from the village offered to take my boys for swimming as we normally both go in the same time and place. She still doing this for us and we cannot be more thankful for her help as I'm still not able to drive.

I've received flowers from the church and cake from people I hardly know...

The amount of gifts, flowers, chocolates & cakes, greeting cards, messages & emails and phone calls were just extraordinary, but the childcare, lifts, cooking, cleaning, washing & ironing and much much more help that we've been offered was just incredible.

It's a great shame that something terrible has to happen to make people realise about such important things in life. A miracle that's actually around us. I always thought I need to move on and didn't feel settled where we lived. I was moaning about the weather, narrow roads, trash, and some other stupid things that are all actually bullshit. I realised it doesn't matter where I live, what matters is how positive I am inside. Everything is just point of view and the good vibes are all inside you. If you think crap, your life will be crap! If you have negative thoughts it'll poison your life and you'll never feel good. I almost gone into this trap although I'm usually positive and optimistic. I just felt like I have to try and find the way to "live in the best place with my family". The thing is, we are already here, because the best place is where the good friends are. I don't want to move anymore and finally feel 100% at home where I am now. I'm thankful for the rain, I don't care about the narrow road and I'll continue to pick up the trash. It would be the greatest mistake to leave all this magic behind. Thank you all!

After the surgery I slowly started my recovery. Because in the UK they're using the latest technology, I didn't have to lay in bed for months with a fully plastered leg after my operation, instead I had to stand up and put weight on my bad leg right on the next day. This was extremely hard, but I had so much help and support in the hospital. The NHS is truly amazing and I can't thank the wonderful doctors, nurses and physiotherapists from Salisbury District Hospital enough. I was discharged a week later and am still recovering at home. I'm planning something to thank the hospital for their continuous and incredible help. As soon as I'm able to walk properly (with no pain) I'm going to organise a walk to raise money for the ward on which I was looked after. I'm hoping that the Salisbury Journal will help me to make it bigger as they interviewed me in the hospital about my accident. Their article was great, but the people who didn't see the whole picture were a bit questioning about our decisions which is understandable. This is one of the reasons I wanted to write everything down. Hope it's all clear now.

The Journal also offered their help with a second article if we can't get on with the

insurance company, who stretched the time that I didn't have and never attempted to make any help. We did choose the "best" company we have found online and paid for the top package in hope we can get the best service in such horrible situation. We were covered up until 5 million pound but my accident would have cost them less than £35.000 in total which is just a fraction of the cover we had. If I stayed there, maybe in a private hospital, it would of cost them a lot more and I wouldn't be able to see my family for months... My children had to go back to school and they needed their mummy. My husband would have had to pay for more travel to visit me, childcare to look after our children while he would have been away, not to mention the time off work which would be a high amount too. We need our money back and will go viral if they not willing to do what they should. I've been contacted by larger media companies including a popular TV channel as they want to tell my story. It's up to the insurance company how we're going to tell it.

And finally, now's the time for me to allow my body and spirit to heal from such a traumatic injury and processing change. I'm working so hard 7/7 to retrain both my body and mind. I do my exercises at home with a bit of a yoga and meditation. I started swimming almost every evening and paying for extra help like seeing my lovely osteopath and having acupuncture as well. I'm slowly improving, but I learned that recovery from such a serious bone and muscle damage requires a lot of strength and patience. I feel blue sometimes not being able to do what I want but then I realise it's all temporary and I'll be fine soon. I'm itching to get back to normal life (and snowboarding!!), but I also understand it takes time. My life is right here right now and I just have to choose to be happy in any situation. I cherish each moment I can spend with my family and thankful to be able to be around.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story.

Helga Soket

*Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.*

*Edith Sitwell*

*Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.  
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.  
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.  
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.*

*Yoko Ono*



## Sarah's Festive Gardening Tips

1. Make a Christmas wreath using items you have foraged yourself: Pine cones, birch twigs, rosemary, viburnum berries etc.
2. Create a festive outdoor pot using winter heathers, cyclamen, pansies, viola, cushion bush and miniature conifers for example.
3. Plant amaryllis bulbs to get those fantastic trumpet flowers in a couple of months.
4. Sow pelargonium seeds in a propagator at 18-20 degrees C. They take a while to come on.
5. Treat yourself to some lovely Poinsettia plants from the garden centre to cheer you up through the winter. Looked after they will last all year.
6. Start planning now for the Bishopstone open gardens event in July 2020.

*An optimistic gardener is one who believes that whatever goes down must come up!*

*Leslie Hall*



**Question:** Which Christmas plant grows high up on the branches of a host tree?

*(Answer on p64)*

**Sarah's Garden Services: 07971 909 548**

**Email: [mygardenservices@outlook.com](mailto:mygardenservices@outlook.com)**

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*If you use any of the businesses advertised here in STaB please do let them know that you found them/their details here in the magazine. This helps them to know that their advertising is working, and helps us to continue to receive revenue from advertising fees. Many thanks!*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**Saturday 21st December from 8pm - Live music by Eve n Song; cocktails; meat, seafood and cheese platters.**



**Sunday 22nd December, 4pm - Christmas Fair! Come and meet Santa, shop at the many stalls, and buy tickets for our huge raffle in aid of Cancer Research.**

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Monday	10:15	HIIT	Broadchalke Sports Hall
Monday	13:45	Pilates	Broadchalke Sports Hall
Monday	16:30	Pilates	Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
Monday	19:00	Better Backs	Bishopstone Village Hall
Tuesday	09:15	Pilates	Coombe Bissett Village Hall
Tuesday	14:00	Pilates	Radnor Hall
Tuesday	18:00	Fitness Pilates	Britford Memorial Hall
Tuesday	19:00	Pilates	Britford Memorial Hall
Wednesday	09:30	Better Backs	Bishopstone Village Hall
Wednesday	18:00	Pilates	Bishopstone Village Hall
Wednesday	19:00	HIIT	Bishopstone Village Hall
Wednesday	19:30	Pilates	Bishopstone Village Hall
Friday	09:15	Fitness Pilates	Broadchalke Sports Hall
Friday	11:00	Pilates	Bowerchalke Village Hall

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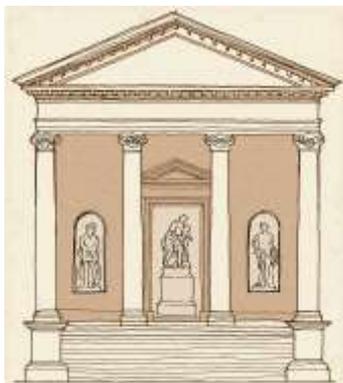
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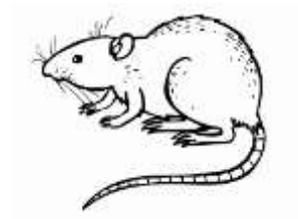
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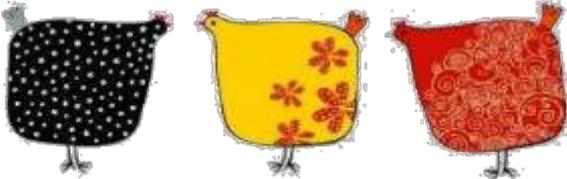


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Price per year: 10 editions (Aug/Sept & Dec/Jan are joint editions)

Occasional adverts can be paid for at a pro-rata rate (1/10<sup>th</sup> of the annual rate per issue)

<b>Full page</b> 13x19cm <b>£110 per annum</b>	<b>Half page</b> 13x9.5cm <b>£60 per annum</b>	<b>Quarter page</b> Portrait 6.5x9.5cm <b>£30 per annum</b>	<b>Quarter page</b> Landscape 13x5cm <b>£30 per annum</b>
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### How to place your ad in STaB

1. Make a .pdf, .jpeg, or Word file of your ad, making sure it is the correct dimensions for publication (see table of sizes and prices above) and that it will reproduce well in black and white.
2. E-mail the file to Rachael Dew ([ads.stab@gmail.com](mailto:ads.stab@gmail.com)), stating what size of ad you would like, and how long you would like it to run for.
3. The deadline for publication is 5pm on the 20th of each month. Please send ads as early as possible.
4. When you have placed your order, you will receive an invoice with details of payment by cheque or bank transfer. Please pay within 14 days. Donations always welcome.
5. The Editor reserves the right to edit all contributions.

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Norman Barter	01722 780471
George Brutton	01722 718539
Anita Smith	01722 781213
Piers Edwards	01722 780079
Michelle Tatner	07968 842525
Parish Clerk	
Mike Ash Lower Thatch Flamstone Street Bishopstone SP5 4BZ	01722 781044 <a href="mailto:bishopstoneclerk@btinternet.com">bishopstoneclerk@btinternet.com</a>
Further information is on the village website: <a href="http://www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk">www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk</a>	

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### Bishopstone Village Website

[www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk](http://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](mailto:bishopstoneclerk@btinternet.com))

Or Roger Stockton ([rogerstockton@icloud.com](mailto:rogerstockton@icloud.com))



# Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - Dec 2019/Jan 2020



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

**Every Wednesday at 12.15pm, there is a short benefice service of Holy Communion  
First Wednesday of the month at Broad Chalke, remainder at Bishopstone**

<b>1 December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Mattins (BCP) Family Communion (CW) Family Service Morning Service Evensong (BCP)	Britford Broad Chalke Ebbesbourne Wake Berwick St John Coombe Bissett Nunton Bishopstone Homington	Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Roger Leake Ann Philp Adrian Taylor Sally Leaver Jenny Taylor
<b>8 December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) URC Morning Worship Morning Service Choral Mattins (BCP) Family Service Carol Service Evensong (BCP)	Broad Chalke Bowerchalke Odstock Broad Chalke Chapel Alvediston Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Fifield Bavant Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell A-C T-Rosinhg / R Leake Jenny Taylor Peter Pay Biddy Trahair Lay Led Don Morgan Catherine Blundell Lay Led
<b>15 December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) R3vive Christmas Service URC Communion Service Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Mattins (BCP) Carol Service	Bowerchalke Nunton Bishopstone Broad Chalke V Hall Broad Chalke Chapel Berwick St John Homington Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett	Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Lay Led Jackie Lowe Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor
<b>22 December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	09.30am 09.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Carol Service Choral Mattins (BCP) Carol Service Carols round the Village Carol Service	Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Alvediston Bishopstone Coombe Bissett Berwick St John Bowerchalke Odstock	Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Kate Rosslyn Smith Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
<b>24 December CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	4.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 10.00pm 11.00pm	Carols round the Crib Christingle Service Carols and Candles Nine Lessons & Carols Midnight Eucharist (BCP) Midnight Eucharist (CW)	Bishopstone Broad Chalke Alvediston Homington Fifield Bavant Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor
<b>25 December CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) URC Morning Worship Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service (CW) Family Communion (CW)	Homington Bowerchalke Broad Chalke Bishopstone Broad Chalke Chapel Nunton Charlton All Saints Berwick St John Coombe Bissett Ebbesbourne Wake	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Ann Philp / Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Nick Lowe Anthony Hawley Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Archdeacon Alan Jeans Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell
<b>29 December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>	10.00am	Short Benefice Communion	Bishopstone	Catherine Blundell
<b>5 January 2020 EPIPHANY</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Mattins (BCP) Family Communion (CW) Family Service Morning Service Evensong (BCP)	Britford Broad Chalke Ebbesbourne Wake Berwick St John Coombe Bissett Nunton Bishopstone Homington	Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Roger Leake Anthony Hawley Adrian Taylor Jenny Taylor Roger Leake

<b>12 January BAPTISM OF CHRIST</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Broad Chalke	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Christingle	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Choral Mattins (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Lay Led
	10.30am	URC Covenant Service	Broad Chalke Chapel	Nick Lowe
	11.00am	Family Service	Coombe Bissett	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
	3.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
<b>19 January 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	K Rosslyn Smith/R Leake
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	J Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Nunton	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
	10.30am	URC Holy Communion	Broad Chalke Chapel	Jackie Lowe
	11.00am	R3vive	Broad Chalke V Hall	Lay Led
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	C Blundell / R Leake
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Mattins (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
<b>26 January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	C Blundell / R Leake
	11.00am	Choral Mattins (BCP)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ann Philp
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Roger Leake
<b>2 February CANDLEMAS</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
	11.00am	Mattins (BCP)	Berwick St John	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Service	Bishopstone	Sally Leaver
	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Homington	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
<b>Ministry Team:</b> Team Rector ~ The Revd Catherine Blundell: 01722 780134 Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, The Revd Dr Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh: 01722 238267 Curate ~ The Revd Roger Leake: TBA Licensed Lay Minister ~ Mr David Blundell: 01722 780134 Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376 URC Ministers ~ The Revds Ana & Tod Gobledale 01722 330980, The Revd Jackie Lowe: 01722 780008				
<b>Assisting Ministers:</b> The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Ann Philp: 01722 555178, The Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith: 01722 780011				
<b>Lay Worship Leaders:</b> Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862 Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666				

## 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.*

Bishopstone Village Hall Committee send our thanks to all of you who have Co-op membership cards and who went on line and nominated Bishopstone Village Hall as your chosen charity as part of the Co-op Local Community Fund scheme. As a result of your efforts we have just received the princely sum of £2,018.60 from the Co-op and some of the committee will attend a presentation at the Wilton branch of the Co-op to celebrate this event.

Francis Taylor, Bishopstone Village Hall Treasurer

Dear Editor,

Thank you for passing on the name of the descendant of Florence May Compton who has now been given the book prize 'A Bearer of Despatches' received from the vicar of Stratford Tony Church in 1908 when Florence was ten years old. I found the book in a sale at Coombe Bissett several years ago and was determined to find a member of the family to return it to. I had a really enjoyable meeting with the Granddaughter of Florence when I was able to learn more about her local family and pass on some of my research.

Thanks again, Marilyn Smith.

Dear Sir and Madam,

Many thanks for another superb edition of Stab for November with lots of interest and plenty about Remembrance, and much fun too! Well done and thanks.

However, I am very sorry that John Gibbon has had to give up his duties with the CSW camera. He moved H&H to get it here, and was a stalwart beside the road in all weathers. And the result has been a reduction in most speeds along the High Road. However, it was a really thankless task, so a big thanks from me and many others to John, the Goodfellows, to Roger and other Speedwatchers for all they have done for the safety of the village.

Once again, it is the older members of the community who are doing the volunteering. It would be most encouraging if some of the younger members would find the time to spare for some volunteering for the benefit of all. We who do things now, have always done so, even when younger. Come on, please find a bit of spare time to help!

Yours with thanks to all volunteers, James Thompson

### Indian Runner Duck returns to Bishopstone!

I'm not sure where these friendly ducks have been but I'm glad to see that at least one has returned to the village. Does anyone own them or are they wild?

Rob Pendlenton



Thanks to Roger Stockton who sent us this photo of the Hunter's Moon in November. For (very) local weather and moon conditions see **flamstone.com** an excellent website run by Rob Thorne.

If there are any problems with the delivery of STaB please contact Sue Porter on [porter1totalserve@gmail.com](mailto:porter1totalserve@gmail.com) or 01722 780459.