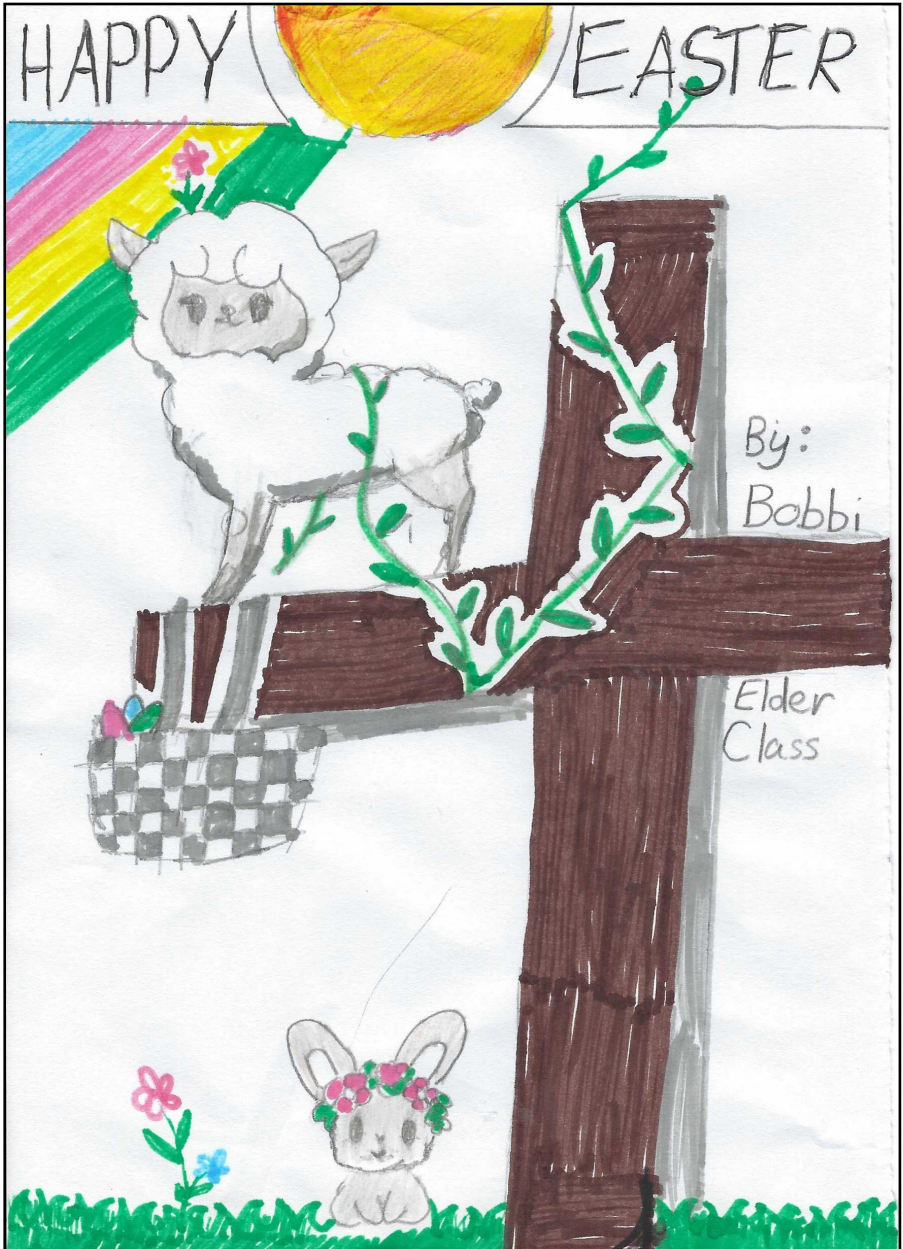


# THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



April 2025

<b>REV PEPITA WALKER</b>		760211
<b>READERS</b>		
<b>Liz Collins</b>		770698
<b>Karen Czapiewski</b>		770255
<b>SPORTILY MINISTER</b>		
<b>Luke Campbell</b>		07949 111509
<b>COATES</b>		
<b>Church Warden:</b>	Nigel Pollock	770881
<b>Secretary PCC</b>	Alison Pollock	770881
<b>Treasurer PCC</b>	Dickie Randall	771300

### **SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL**

<b>Rev Pepita Walker</b>		760211
<b>Church Wardens:</b>		
<b>St Luke's</b>	Elizabeth Twinch	762897
	John Thorogood	762861
<b>St Kenelm's</b>	Mark Hamer	760715
<b>Rotas</b>	Elizabeth Twinch	762897
<b>Treasurer PCC</b>	Charles Houldsworth	760300
<b>Flowers</b>	Pam Thorogood	762861

### **RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)**

#### **Church Wardens**

<b>Rodmarton</b>	Richard Marlowe	770401
	Philippa Herbert	07974 422272
<b>Tarlton (Chapel Warden)</b>	Jasper Biddulph	770230
<b>Flower Team Leader</b>	Alex Bransby	07981 793251
<b>Secretary PCC</b>	Jane Marlowe	770401
<b>Treasurer PCC</b>	Simon Biddulph	841462

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

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

For an outline of all our Sunday services:

<http://www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk/services/>

#### *The Thameshead Benefice*

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

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

### 6 April **Passiontide**

10.00	Somerford Keynes	Benefice Holy Communion
11.00	Sapperton	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion

### 13 April **Palm Sunday**

10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer (dog free) *
10.00	Tarlton	Benefice prayer walk to Rodmarton
11.00	Rodmarton	Liturgy of palms procession – meet at village hall

### 17 April **Maundy Thursday**

19.30	Kemble	Holy Communion
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### 18 April **Good Friday**

11.00	Kemble	Meditation
12.00	Sapperton	Meditation
13.45	Frampton Mansell	Meditation
14.00	Somerford Keynes	Wild and Messy Church
19.00	Rodmarton	Compline

### 20 April **Easter Sunday**

06.30	Poole Keynes	Sunrise service
08.30	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
09.30	Coates	Holy Communion
10.00	Kemble	Holy Communion (streamed)
10.00	Poole Keynes	Easter Praise
11.00	Sapperton	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion

### 27 April **Second Sunday after Easter**

10.00	Poole Keynes	Combined Benefice service
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### 4 May **Third Sunday after Easter**

10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Sunday school (streamed)
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer



## Thameshead Benefice



**T**hameshead

**L**adies

**C**onnection

**#TLC**

Come & Join us

*There will be an opportunity  
to purchase prisoner prod-  
ucts*

**SNACKS AND DRINKS**

**Thursday 10 April 7.15pm - 9pm**

### **Venue:**

The Old Forge, Church Road, Kemble  
GL7 6AA

Interested? Want to know more?

Contact:

Julie Morton 07784 790395

Aileen Shaw 07807 199602

Lucinda Turner 07881 825895

***Donations welcome***

CAROLINE PHILLIPS

## **BEYOND GRIEF**

*A personal journey*

RSVP to Lucinda, Aileen or Julie.

### **FRONT COVER**

Thank you very much to the pupils of Sapperton School for sending me some lovely drawings for our Easter cover. As Always it was very difficult to choose which to use.

Editor

## Dear Friends,

For food and drink and fellowship, God's Holy name be praised.

One of my greatest pleasures is sitting down to a meal with my family. At home, we try to eat as a family on a Sunday, where we can chat about the week past and about what is coming up. It is a time of joy and love. Many surveys show that families who eat together are emotionally stable and have a sense of well – being. Sharing a meal with friends is also much enjoyed – relationships can be re-established and deepened.

In Christianity, eating together is considered a deeply significant act, symbolising unity, fellowship, love, and God's provision. The tradition of people eating together being a sign of God's reign or kingdom is rooted in Judaeo-Christian history.

'On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.'

Isaiah 25:6

Jesus frequently shared meals with diverse people, demonstrating inclusivity and the welcoming nature of God's kingdom.

In The Book of Acts we read: 'They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.' Acts 2:46-47(The Message)

On Maundy Thursday we remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his friends. He laid out before them what was going to happen to him – his betrayal, death and resurrection and he gave them a way to remember him through the sharing of bread and wine, his body and blood. We continue to remember his sacrificial love every time we take communion.

The joy of eating together is a way to connect with others, to build community, and express gratitude for God's blessings, thus making it a powerful tool for spiritual growth and relationship building.

As a church, I think we could establish the sharing of meals as a way to connect with our communities much more widely.

As Easter approaches, why not invite some new friends round for coffee, lunch or afternoon tea – it could be fun and it could lead to something even bigger!

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Easter,  
With love and prayers, Liz (Licensed Lay Reader)

## Envisioning...



Date:  
TBA

Time:  
TBA

Place:  
The Spinney  
Sapperton

Cost: nominal  
-to cover materials

Come along for a quiet morning of reflection, re-evaluation and life-planning.  
Using cutting & pasting your creativity will flow.

Some comments from previous envisioners...

*"I loved it! Really enlightening, soulful and stimulating."*

*"It was wonderful. I came away with lots to think about and focus on."*

*"I am very excited about my board and what I discovered along the way."*

Interested? Want to know more? Or to make a booking - Contact:

Aileen Shaw tel 07807 199602 or e-mail [familyshawuk@btinternet.com](mailto:familyshawuk@btinternet.com)

## NEWS FROM COATES

### Coffee, Cake & Chat



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

**NEXT: Tuesday 15 April**  
**(always the 3rd Tuesday of the month)**

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

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

**Well behaved dogs welcome**

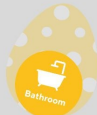
See our notices on the village hall notice board & Coates parish website or contact us on 0779 4678928



Happy  Easter



**Hunt** no further for your bathroom installer...  
**Hop** on over for your water softener salt & filter cartridges...  
Let us help you if your pipes **spring** a leak.



[info@indplumbingandheating.co.uk](mailto:info@indplumbingandheating.co.uk) ~ 01666 503632 ~ [www.indplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.indplumbingandheating.co.uk)

# COATES CINEMA CLUB



A new season of films for 2025 with screenings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Doors open at 7pm screening at 7.30pm.

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

Annual membership is £40 Guest tickets £5

## Thursday 10 April

### Lee cert 15

Starring Kate Winslet. In 1937, Lee is a former New York City fashion model and aspiring photographer living a bohemian lifestyle in France when she meets and falls in love with Roland Penrose. She later moves with Roland to London, and gains employment with Vogue magazine during World War II, photographing Britons during The Blitz. Her ability to further document the war is restricted, due to the United Kingdom barring women from serving near combat. However, after the United States enters the war in late 1941, Lee is assigned as a war correspondent alongside photojournalist David Scherman. And so the story progresses

### Next film in May is *Sea Biscuit*

More information please contact Simon Large at [simon.large@sky.com](mailto:simon.large@sky.com) 07714 220 558

## CAPTURE YOUR MOMENT FOR COBALT

We are excited to announce our 2025 charity photography competition, open from April through July, for participants of all ages and skill levels. By sharing your inspirational photos, you stand a chance to win a prize and support our charity. Each entry costs just £2. All funds raised will support the Cobalt Teenage and Young Adult Nurse in Gloucestershire. For more details, visit our website.

### Upcoming Events

For full details, please visit our website.

**Make A Will Month** – April During April, local partnering solicitors have volunteered their time to write a basic will in exchange for a small donation to Cobalt.

**Quenington Open Garden & Rare Plant Fair** – 13 April Stroll riverside gardens, browse rare plants, and enjoy homemade treats. Entry £8

Discover more about Cobalt at [www.cobalthhealth.co.uk](http://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk) emailing us at [fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk), or calling 01242 535922.



# The Village Club

## — COATES —

Everyone is welcome!

Open 8pm to 11pm, Friday & Saturday evenings

**First Friday of the month**

*Monthly QUIZ night*

**Free to enter - no need to book!**

**Bar opens at 6.30pm with the quiz from 7pm**

**ABBA night**

**Friday 11 April - 7.45pm - 11.30pm**

ABBA themed dress code – light supper served

Tickets £5 from Lorraine (07840 739456)

or from the Village Club bar

**Easter Bingo**

**Saturday 26 April - 6pm for 6.15pm start**

*Followed by...*

**Coates Village Quiz night - 26 April**

7pm for 7.30pm start - £2 per person

Enter a team of up to 6 people to win the prize!

Email Rob at [rh@ifs4you.co.uk](mailto:rh@ifs4you.co.uk) to book.

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

Please email [coatesvillageclub@gmail.com](mailto:coatesvillageclub@gmail.com) for more information.

## **NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL**

### **A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW**

When people speak of freedom, they often refer to birds in flight. Think of the swallows in their annual migration who will soon be returning to our villages. They fly thousands of miles unrestricted across many countries whose boundaries are all political constructs devised by man. Yet man persists in fighting and going to war over these notional boundaries.

Wars arise in the minds of men who rarely put their own lives at risk in the conflicts. They are often the consequence of countries' leaders exerting greed for economic or territorial gain, such as trying to control another's natural resources, by using unshackled authoritarian power with an implacable solipsistic belief that only they can be right.

Sadly, today there are more than 40 countries involved in ongoing wars, or war-like conflicts. Heading this list of casualties are the Russian-Ukrainian War, the Israel-Palestine War, the civil wars in Myanmar, Sudan and Ethiopia; the terrorist insurgencies in Nigeria and Cameroon, and the drug wars of Columbia and gang violence in Haiti. It is as though humanity has not learned anything from the horrors of two World Wars. What is more disturbing is that we are witnessing the destruction of the unity of purpose agreed in 1945 when 50 countries (including China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States) ratified the United Nations Charter to maintain international peace and security, give humanitarian assistance to those in need, protect human rights and uphold international law. This, the signatories hoped, would prevent another world war like the one they had just lived through. Decisions made today by some leaders, who have no direct experience of WWII, threaten that unity. Those who fail to recognise history are likely to repeat it.

Never has there been a greater need than now to reassert the importance of international unity for the greater good of humanity. This is not a new plea. It was the message of Jesus as clearly stated by St John, 'That they all may be one' [John 17:21]. What we need to appreciate is that such unity of spirit does not imply a uniformity of practice. Unity of spirit can thrive in the presence of the rich diversity of cultural differences, but it cannot exist where there is greed and selfishness.



The unity of which St John speaks is a mystery. It is the unity of all mankind through union with God. The Dominican theologian Herbert

McCabe, in his seminal book 'God Matters', put it this way; 'The ultimate unity of people is only to be found in God, and the real God is only to be found in unity between people.' [p.78]. The frailty of humanity is the reason for us not having reached that unity, but for our spiritual wellbeing we must continue to aspire to achieve it. So long as we picture God in terms of our class, our nation, our race, we will fail to approach that real unity of spirit which is a brotherhood of all peoples where there is a solidarity with the poor, exploited, and oppressed. The sin of the world is that we have the poor, the exploited, and dispossessed, but all too frequently we choose to do nothing to change it. For spiritual unity to prevail we must, therefore, be wary of those extremists who set out to destroy it for self-gain.

With 21st century technology, the world is as one large room, so let us aim to unite as one large human community with a selfless spirit of unity and reconciliation.

Adrian R Hill

 <h2>Frampton Mansell Village Choir</h2> <p>A fun community choir for all those who just love to sing!</p>	
	<p>7pm - 8:30pm <b>MONDAYS</b> at The Village Hall</p> <p>£5 per week or £20 per month</p> <p>The first session is <b>FREE!</b></p> <p>No previous experience necessary Open to ALL ages and voices</p>
<p>Be Part of it... get in touch with Lucy!</p>	<p><b>Adult Beginner Piano Lessons</b></p> <p>It really is NEVER too late... Whatever your age, if you have ever wanted to learn to play piano, give it a try, the first lesson is <b>FREE!</b></p>
<p><b>W:</b> <a href="http://www.camerondavies.me">www.camerondavies.me</a>    <b>E:</b> <a href="mailto:lucy@camerondavies.me">lucy@camerondavies.me</a>    <b>M:</b> 07866 447725</p>	

	<h3>SERVICE AND COFFEE</h3>
<p>We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be on <b>Tuesday 1 April</b> at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am. We would love to see you for either or both. Want to know more?</p>	
<p><b>Need a lift? Phone Pepita or Paul on 760211</b></p>	



## Sapperton Church of England Primary School



We are so proud to tell you all about our special World Book Day at Sapperton. We enjoyed the day dressing up and celebrating reading with fun activities. For the week surrounding the special day, we held a Sponsored Readathon where we raised money for new books in the school. We are so unbelievably lucky to have families and friends who supported us so generously and we raised a whopping £1,100! Each class will be given part of this money and the children will choose the books they buy to spruce up our libraries. We are also going to spend some of the money on subscriptions to some cool magazines, as well as adding interesting books to our non-fiction collections.

Thank you so much to all who raised money and helped.

[www.sappertonschool.org](http://www.sappertonschool.org)

01285 760325

*To nurture faith; to inspire success*



# CIRENCESTER C H O R A L S O C I E T Y

Musical Director  
Carleton Etherington

**John Rutter**  
*Magnificat*

**Edward Elgar**  
*From the Bavarian  
Highlands*  
*Imperial March*

Millie Royle (*soprano*)

Carleton Etherington  
(*conductor*)

Musical and Amicable  
Society (*orchestra*)

Thomas Hawkes (*organ*)

**Saturday 3 May 7.30 pm**

**Cirencester Parish Church**

(doors open at 6.45 pm)



Tickets: £17 (Student £6, Child £3) (unreserved seats)  
available online at [www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk](http://www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk), from choir members  
or, from early April, from Cirencester Town Council (Bingham House, Dyer St) and  
Cirencester Visitor Information Centre Tel 01285 654180

## **SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Council meetings for 2025 will take place on the second Tuesday of each month except August.

At the meeting on 11 March, two members of the public attended to discuss the damage being caused to the canal and the banks of the river Frome by 4x4 drivers and motorbike riders using the byway through the valley from Sapperton and Oakridge through Frampton Mansell to Chalford. The damage caused to the track and surrounding area is extensive in the wet winter months and was the subject of a meeting held in February 2024, instigated by our Ward Councillor Julia Judd on our behalf, who met with the GCC Highways Local Area Manager and representatives from Bathurst Estate, to look at various options for mitigation.

The route is classified as a byway or ORPA, (Other Route with Public Access) and as such vehicles have a legal right to access the track. Stopping them from doing so would involve a Court Order which GCC Highways considered too costly at the time and unlikely to succeed. It was agreed instead, that tree trunks or other obstacles could be placed either side of the track to reduce lateral damage but this has not been entirely successful. Vehicles have been seen doing circuits in privately owned fields. The antisocial behaviour of some of the vehicle owners using the track has led to residents being too fearful to approach them when they deviate from the route, where they become a significant danger to animals and anyone on foot.

If you have concerns about the state of the byway, please report it on 'Fix my Street' via the Gloucestershire County Council website: <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

We have received some good news from GCC Highways about the flooding occurring on the lane below the Viaduct in Frampton Mansell. We are assured that GCC Highways are currently working on a 'drainage solution ahead of resurfacing'. This has been hard won and achieved only through the persistence of local residents and the parish council submitting photos and registering the issue on 'Fix My Street'. The more residents that flag an issue, the greater the impact and that increases the likelihood of action! Please use it for all road related concerns!

Babs Maloney

Parish Clerk

Sapperton Parish Council

Mob: 07958 116 794

FRAMPTON MANSELL VILLAGE CHOIR & FRIENDS

PRESENT

# Sounds of the 70's

## An Evening of Music & Verse

Served up with a 'Light 2-Course 70's Supper



"Bring-Your-Own-Bottle"  
with donation  
for corkage...



or have a go  
at the Bottle  
Tombola!

FRIDAY • 25TH APRIL 2025 • 7PM  
FRAMPTON MANSELL  
VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS  
£10

TO BOOK: 07866 447725  
[lucy@camerondavies.me](mailto:lucy@camerondavies.me)

## **NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON**

### **RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON SERVICES**

**Holy Week & Easter services** at St Peter's Rodmarton & St Osmund's Tarlton are listed at the front of the Watershed, but please note especially:

**Sunday 13 April Palm Sunday:** 10am Benefice prayer walk from St Osmund's Tarlton to Rodmarton Village Hall for 11am Liturgy of Palms and procession to the church.

**Friday 18 April Good Friday** 7pm Compline at St Peter's Rodmarton

**Saturday 19 April Easter Eve** 6pm Lighting of the Easter candle at St Osmund's Tarlton

#### **Sunday 20 April Easter Day**

8am HC BCP at St Osmund's Tarlton

11am Easter Day Holy Communion with choir at St Peter's Rodmarton

### **NEWS AND EVENTS**

#### **Quiz Night thank you!**

A big thank you to Lena and Hamish Corley for providing a most entertaining and successful quiz on 8 March. A fantastic evening greatly enjoyed by us all Thank you to all who came and supported the churches here in Rodmarton and Tarlton. It is greatly appreciated.

#### **May Ball with the George Buchanan Scottish Dance Band Friday 9 May.**

If you enjoy Scottish Reels and are fairly proficient, this is not to be missed! Please contact Jane for more information: 770401

[janemarlowe1@gmail.com](mailto:janemarlowe1@gmail.com)

#### **Big Summer Lunch and Fun Dog Show Sunday 1 June,**

Rodmarton Village Hall 12noon to 4pm Please join us for a delicious Summer Lunch, with festivities, food and friends. Folk Music with the Avening Brass Band, Pimm's and Wine Bar, Big Pudding and Cake Auction, Floral Table Decoration Competition, Fun Dog Agility Course, Tug of War and traditional Children's Games. For enquiries and tickets: 07974 422272 or 07896 311924.

#### **Food Bank collection points**

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



## NORMAN HOPKINS 1929 - 2025

Norman was born and lived at 25 Rodmarton all his life. A very keen sportsman, he played football and cricket. He was Rodmarton cricket club captain for many years.

He worked on Rodmarton Farms all his working life. He helped to design the grain dryer, which still stands today. He could turn his hand to all manner of things on the farm, from mending equipment to harvesting the crops etc. He was a champion ploughman, winning many championships.

Norman was a keen gardener. He grew vegetables, tomatoes and cucumbers, which he would sell by the garden gate. People would make a special trip to Rodmarton to buy Norman's tomatoes. Another passion of his was growing chrysanthemums. He won a lot of prizes for them and supplied local flower shops with them.

Along with his wife Betty, Norman ran the local shop in the village. They were also caretakers of the school and village hall. Later in life Norman became very good at woodwork. He made lots of wooden benches and picnic tables, bird tables and even a bed frame.

He also helped with Rodmarton Church; stoking the boiler, ringing the bells, keeping the graveyard records and digging the graves by hand.

Simon Biddulph



## Craft Group



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

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

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

for info contact: [thowes51@gmail.com](mailto:thowes51@gmail.com)

 Frampton Mansell Village Hall

 2nd Wednesday of the month

 10:00AM- 12:00PM



*Sapperton Primary School Presents*

THE RETURN OF THE

# COTSWOLD

## HIGHLAND GAMES & DOG SHOW

**SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2025**

**AT EDGEWORTH POLO CLUB**

**FROM 1 - 4PM**

- HIGHLAND GAMES
- DOG SHOW
- FOOTBALL PENALTY SHOOTOUT
- OBSTACLE COURSE
- BOUNCY CASTLE
- STANDS, STALLS & ENTERTAINMENT
- FUN DOG AGILITY
- POLO GAMES
- HOBBY HORSE
- BAR & BBQ
- SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE



THE FRIENDS OF  
SAPPERTON SCHOOL



MORE ALLEN  
& INNOCENT

Murphy's   
Doggy Deli

# Rodmarton



## Rascals



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

**Free play, stories and songs**

**£2.00 for a parent  
and child  
£1.00 for siblings  
includes a drink  
and snack**



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

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

contact : [thefriendsofrodmarton@gmail.com](mailto:thefriendsofrodmarton@gmail.com)



## KEMBLE AND EWEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Visitors will be most welcome at 3pm on Thursday 17 April in The Tavern when Terry Ransome will be the speaker. His

title 'Finding Eliza Carr - Girls' education in the 1800's' sounds very interesting. Delicious cakes and biscuits served with a cuppa. Excellent raffle too. Further info from the secretary. Pat Ayres - Secretary 01285 770385



## KEMBLE & DISTRICT RBLWS



Both Standards will be on parade on Sunday 27 April at 3pm at the annual Anzac Service which is held in Leighterton village Cemetery near Tetbury. The day honours the 24 members of the Australian flying corps who died while training at Leighterton airfield during WW1. Leighterton primary school children read the roll call and lay sprigs of Rosemary on the graves. Observers very welcome to attend.

Pat Ayres Chair W/S Pat Ayres chair/sec

## SUPPORT COBALT: YOUR LOCAL MEDICAL CHARITY

Cobalt is making a difference across Gloucestershire, and your support helps change lives. Whether you organise an event or join one of ours, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

### Make A Will Month – April 2025

Partner solicitors will write or update a straightforward will in exchange for a donation:

- **£150** for a single will
- **£200** for joint mirror wills

In 14 years, this initiative has raised over £130,000 for vital equipment and services. Places are limited—visit our website or call **01242 535922** to find out more.

### Upcoming Events

- **Quenington Open Garden** – 13 April 2025: Rare plants and homemade treats.
- **Snowdon Sunrise Trek** – 16 May 2025: A magical climb for a great cause.

Learn more at [www.cobalthhealth.co.uk](http://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk)



Tewkesbury Choral Society



**Karl Jenkins**

# **The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace**

**John Rutter**

# **Magnificat**

Tewkesbury Choral Society

Regency Sinfonia and Hannah Davey (Soprano)

Directed by John Holloway

Tewkesbury Abbey

Saturday 17th May 2025 at 7.30 pm

Tickets £20 (carers & children free; students £10)

- from members of the Society
- from The Abbey Shop (01684 856148)
- from Alison's Bookshop (01684 274600)
- on-line: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/t-c-s](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/t-c-s)
- at the door on the evening of the performance

Registered Charity 260811

## **OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON**

### **GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL**

At last, we are officially on our Summertime and so thankful for the extra daylight hours, although in reality the next two months are late spring into summer depending on the actual weather that comes our way. April always feels like a busy month for keen gardeners, with seed sowing, under cover or direct, nurturing young plants and planting out as appropriate. Some areas of ground may need preparing.

I was reading a favourite old book recently, (published in 1976) which cautioned April can be a deceptive month weather wise, changing quickly from warm sunshine to heavy rain and emphasised the need for using plenty of frost protection. The balance of these weather conditions has changed to less rain, and frost to warmer temperatures interspersed with very cold winds.

Early sowings made in March can be repeated with successional sowings to extend the harvest time. With experience growing crops you like to eat and your plot grows best become the go-to basics, give these the best areas.

What to sow in April? To sow outside directly or in modules to plant out as small plants, beetroot, carrots, spinach, calabrese, spring onions, coriander, Swiss chard, peas, and half-hardy flowers. Also, sow tender crops to nurture until warmer weather at the end of May, runner beans, tomatoes, courgettes, pumpkins, squash, and cucumbers. There is still time to plant potatoes.

April is known as the hungry gap. Leeks, Kales and Purple Sprouting Broccoli usually come through the winter with good pickings. This year Rainbow Chard and American Land Cress are also available. This is a good month to sow these and other autumn/winter greens, Brussel sprouts, kalette, cabbages and cauliflowers.

This last winter took a toll on grass paths and lawns so loosen soil to repair small areas, barely cover the grass seed with soil, but do protect from pigeons, this may look unsightly while the grass germinates and grows to a reasonable size. It is only for a relatively short time.

During March you may have noticed some daffodils were flowerless or blind; there are several reasons for this. The bulbs may not have been planted deeply enough; they need to be at least 15 cm or deeper to give many years of blooms. Bulbs need to develop for subsequent years with fully functioning leaves. If these are cut off early or mown,

## OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

the bulbs will deteriorate and eventually disappear altogether. For good quality flowers feed bulbs in the leaf growing phase.

Look out for charity or specialist plant sales; very often some unusual treasures are offered, small cuttings may need growing on or large chunks planted ASAP. I recently acquired a good-sized rose cutting, repeat flowering in deep pink.

This month we await the twitter of returning House Martins, they usually arrive with noisy chatter and then disappear for a few days to the water park to feed up on insects after their long flight from sub-Saharan Africa. This an astonishing feat for such a tiny bird.

Sally Oates

### BLOSSOMING TIME

The first half of March was kind to us, clement in fact. Months of rain had ceased and the land managed to dry up – at long last! – though there are telltale ruts and silted hollows everywhere, which will linger far into summer. For the record, 286mm of rain fell in Culkerton during the three official winter months; it felt more, because it followed on from a preposterous 444mm in Gloucestershire's wettest autumn.

Winter's wannabee empire lay in ruins, its squalidness forgotten. Spring's verdancy and blossom were paramount, birds were singing, and the rookeries were sky-dancing. It was party time, out there in the natural world, the real world, where we spend so little time.

We should celebrate spring far more than we do, taking a lead perhaps from the Japanese, who venerate cherry blossom time – the *Sakura* season – through the ritual of *Hanami*, or blossom watching. The problem is, spring is a variable feast; here one day, AWOL the next, with winter always seeking to twitch again, albeit briefly. Moreover, Nature is becoming more and more something we see and experience through a car windscreen, or through what the dogs see and do on their daily walk. And, of course, Nature is something we must control; there is no 'balance of nature', that is just us trying to be in control of something that doesn't recognize our agenda.



Meanwhile, the seasons dissolve into each other, and spring dissolves into summer as gold dissolves in aqua regia. Would that spring would tarry longer, as autumn and winter do. It is too transient; blink and you miss it.

## **OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)**

Easter this year falls unusually late, so late that the primroses will be all but over in the southwest and all the myriad daffodils in Wales too. There is even a fair chance that the bluebells will be past peak by Easter Day, for after being delayed by a fair number of frosts during January, February and early March (35 frosty nights during those ten weeks here), they are currently romping ahead. I saw my first native bluebell bloom on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

What we all need, farmers and growers especially, is a decent long range weather forecast, accurately foretelling what lies ahead in the coming weeks. However, our climate is now changing, or fluctuating, so much that it is hard to see beyond the coming week. After last year's annus horribilis, we are due a decent spring and a fair-minded summer. Bring them on!

Matthew Oates



### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRIGHTEN UP THE WATERSHED**

Over the many years I have been editing the Watershed Magazine, the covers have altered. Originally it was a map of the parishes, then it changed to pictures of our churches taken from a pamphlet found in the church in Coates. Easter and Christmas we use designs from our local schools drawn by the pupils.

Would you like to send in a photograph or drawing of something reflecting local history? Remember we print in B&W so some colour images may not look good. I will consider anything but I reserve editorial rights!

### **GET YOUR WATERSHED BY EMAIL**

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

### **CLOSING DATE FOR THE MAGAZINE**

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



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## ADVERTISING IN THE WATERSHED

If you wish to advertise in our parish magazine please e-mail Watershed magazine at [watershedmag@gmail.com](mailto:watershedmag@gmail.com). Advert a third of a page cost £15 for a single issue or £60 for 6 months. Adverts half a page cost £23 for a single issue or £90 for 6 months. The magazine is published 10 times every year; July/August and December/January are joint editions. Avoid using PDF files as they do not reproduce well; Word documents and picture files are best. Please keep formatting simple to allow me to modify if necessary.

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



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Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578

### COATES

Coates Parish Council Chair	Robbie Whitfield	07872 027100
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Alan Moorcroft	641375
Coates Village Club secretary	Tara Davidson	07948 966957
Coates Coffee, Cake & Chat	PJ	770596
Coates Tree Warden	Simon Large	07714 220558
Coates Village Hall	Bookings	07818 192587
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	John Dobson	07808 095553
Coates Snow Warden	Peter Tugwell	770314/07860 718209

### FRAMPTON MANSELL

Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	07710 878987
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### RODMARTON

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

### SAPPERTON

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

### OTHERS

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

### COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Ermin Ward	Julia Judd	07853 383874	<a href="mailto:julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk">julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Kemble Ward	Mike McKeown	07785 362573	<a href="mailto:mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk">mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Gloucestershire County Councillor	Stephen Hirst	01666 504213	
Member of Parliament	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	01452 371630	
Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200	
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336	
Police non emergency (24hrs)			101

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

Tuesday 1	11am	Frampton Mansell Service & Coffee
Tuesday 8	7pm	Sapperton & Frampton Mansell Parish in FM Village Hall Council Meeting
Thursday 10	7.15pm	TLC at The Old Forge, Kemble Lee
Friday 11	7.45pm	ABBA Night at Coates Social Club
April 8	7pm	Sapperton & Frampton Mansell Parish Council Meeting in Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Thursday 10	7pm	Coates Cinema Night <i>Fly me to the Moon</i>
Sunday 13		Quenington Open Garden & Rare Plant Fair
Tuesday 15	12pm	Coffee, Cake & Chat Coates Village Hall
Thursday 17	3pm	Kemble & Ewen WI meeting
Friday 25	7pm	Sounds of the 70s Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Saturday 26	7pm	Coates Easte Bingo & Quiz Night

### MAY

Saturday 3	7.30pm	Cirencester Choral Society Concert in Cirencester Parish Church - Rutter & Elgar
Friday 9		Rodmarton and Tarlton May Ball
Tuesday 13	7pm	Sapperton & Frampton Mansell Parish Council Meeting in Sapperton Village Hall
Saturday 17	7.30pm	Tewkesbury Choral Society Concert in The Abbey - Rutter & Jenkins

### JUNE

Sunday 1	12noon	Rodmarton Summer Lunch & Fun Dog Show
Saturday 7	1pm	Cotswold Highland Games & Dog Show