

Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter

February 2024



Image: Burns Night at the WI (page 36)

We've raised lots of money over Christmas (page 5, 7, 15, 23)
Like JLS? Listen to what JB Gill says about his faith (page 21)
Celebrate Candlemas with Holy Cross on 4 February (page 23)
Join the Scouts (or Cubs or Beavers) for adventures (page 38)



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Dear Friends,



February is a busy time in the church this year. Candlemas always falls on the closest Sunday to 2 February and so is on the fourth. With Easter being early this year Lent begins on 14 February with Ash Wednesday.

Candlemas is traditionally when people would bring their candles for the year to church to be blessed, and for some it marks the end of Christmas. It replaced the Gaelic festival of Imbolc which falls halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, and marked the beginning of spring. Perhaps this is why snowdrops, those harbingers of spring, are also known as Candlemas flowers. It also falls 40 days after we celebrate the birth of Jesus, recalling Joseph and Mary, taking the infant Jesus to the temple to meet their religious rulers of the time, and the reactions of both Anna, (an elderly woman who lived in the temple), and Simeon, who was waiting to see the Messiah and recognised Jesus as the one who had been promised. Simeon called Jesus, 'a light to reveal God to all nations'.

Accordingly this day was made into a feast of candles. The warm candlelight is meant to be a tangible reminder of that greater light which, for and beyond all time, radiates from Jesus. We ourselves are reminded of the need to be prepared to burn brightly ourselves in the midst of this dark world with the light of Christ.

I read a lovely thought that thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of that candle will not be shortened. It went on to say that happiness and love are never decreased by being shared. So let's try to shine brightly with God's love and share it with all whom we meet. Amen.

Suzi Tipper, Licensed Lay Minister in Upper Thames Benefice.

Deadlines and Advertising

Please phone Richard Vernon if you wish to contact your distributor.

Editorial Team: Claire Sims 01285 869479
Sharon Gater 01285 860926
Louise Mason 07737 638724

Advertising: Brenda Sheppard 01666 860631

Distribution Richard Vernon 01285 861692

Deadline is 16th of the month. Please submit your copy (but not paid adverts) for publication in the **MARCH** newsletter to AKLnewsletter@gmail.com by 8pm on 16 February or to Claire Sims, 18 Happy Land, Ashton Keynes.

If you wish your item to appear also in the Minety Newsletter please contact Mrs Brenda Sheppard by phone or email minetynewsletter@gmail.com

When submitting articles to the newsletters please send in the original **MS Word or PowerPoint format** (not a pdf), as we do have to reformat a lot to squeeze everything in. It would also help if you used **Verdana font, size 11 with no underlining**.

Advertising prices per issue

Half page £28.00
Quarter page £14.00
Eighth page £8.50

All paid advertisements should be sent to:

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Paid Advertisements appear in the Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter **and** the Minety Newsletter

Please check with Brenda Sheppard for this deadline, which is normally 12th of the month for paid advertisements



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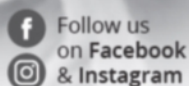


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Editorial



This year is special. In case it's passed you by, this year is a leap year!

Every four years, a leap year adds an extra day to our calendar, keeping it in sync with Earth's orbit around the sun (which takes roughly 365.25 days). This additional day, 29 February, is necessary to keep our calendar accurate. But putting aside this technicality, it's a perfect reminder that time still gives room for surprise. It's an unexpected day so just right for special events, proposals and celebrating 'leap year' birthdays.

Do let us know if you're a 'leap year baby' or took the opportunity to propose.

Whatever you do though, enjoy your extra day.

If you're wondering what to do in Feb/March, go to one of the Lent talks. There are five fascinating speakers from a renowned scientist to an ex-member of a boy band (JLS no less) with an MP, athlete and Bishop thrown in! Do read page 21 for more details and get your tickets. They are free and will go fast.

Lent talks not your thing? Read on - the newsletter is full of other events and activities that might get your interest.

Wishing you happy reading. Claire

Thank you

A huge Thank You to everyone who donated to one of the charities in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

The charities are extremely grateful for your donations. Below is the amount raised for each charity and their thanks to you.

Cirencester Hospital League of Friends - £190

Thank you so much for your kind donations, including online donations, from the villagers of Ashton Keynes and Leigh in lieu of sending Christmas cards. The donations are much appreciated and will be put to good use for the benefit of the patients of the hospital.

Ashton Keynes Village Hall - £990

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those who supported the green energy project in lieu of sending Christmas cards. This brought in about £1000 for the project, a fantastic sum.

Dementia UK - £550

Thank you so much for your kind letter advising us of the wonderful donations made by the villagers in Ashton Keynes & The Leigh. Your support is appreciated now more than ever, as every three minutes someone in the UK develops dementia.

From all of us at Dementia UK, thank you. Together, we can make sure that no one has to face dementia alone.

British Red Cross - £385

Thank you for your kind donation to the British Red Cross. We appreciate your kind support of our work.

I will be running this scheme again next Christmas so look out for details in the November newsletter - in 280 days time!

If you have a charity that you would like to be included please do contact me

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024

Daphne



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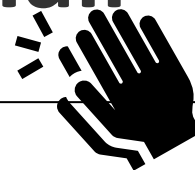
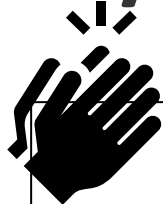
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Green Energy Project Update

The Village Hall committee would like to report that the **Village Hall Green Energy Project will now have sufficient funds to press ahead with the installation** of solar panels and EV charging points in the Spring!! This is all thanks to the wonderful folk of Ashton Keynes and surrounding areas who have supported our events or dug deep into their pockets, donating a total of £2800 either on the JustGiving website or via other means. Donations are still welcome on www.justgiving.com – search for “AshtonKeynesVillageSolar”

This really is wonderful and is doing our bit to cut carbon emissions and so hopefully keep our little corner of the world as environmentally diverse and beautiful as it is. Without these donations we wouldn't be able to go ahead.

Clearly the work isn't over for us as we now try to get the project underway, but the fundraising is almost complete aside from an application to HMRC for a voucher towards the EV charging points and a couple of local grant applications.

Special thanks go to:

- **Westmill Solar Community Benefit fund** who started us off in 2022 with a grant of £5000 and **Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy Community Fund** who followed on with a further £5000 grant
- Those who gave up time and organised events such as the **Big Brunch Band** gig in March, the Barn Dance, NYE Party and the ever-popular quiz masters **Phil Moran** and **Ken Skehan**
- Groups including **The WI, Ashton Keynes Choir** and the **Parish Council**
 - Everyone who **donated in Lieu of Christmas Cards**
- **All of you** who supported an event, donated to a raffle or who bought raffle tickets or who is on a committee and agreed to support the project

This has truly been a community coming together to support the Village Hall. It will help keep the running costs down and hire prices low for groups such as the preschool, Doctor's surgery and everyone who uses us!

Upcoming Events

Keep an eye on NextDoor and local Facebook groups such as “Ashton Keynes Families” for more regular updates & info

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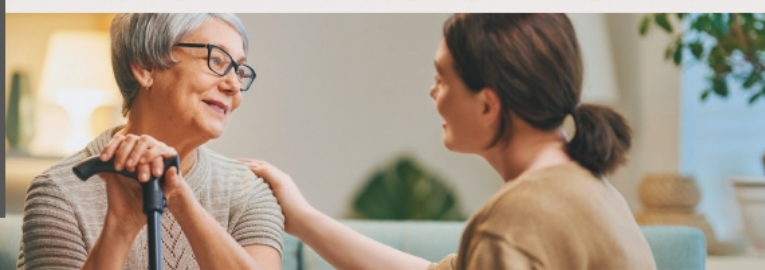
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You can find more information on our website ashtonkeynesshop.org.uk

**Wishing all our customers a
happy and healthy New Year**

Christmas Raffle

The raffle this year made £403 and the proceeds will be split between Pre-School and Downs Syndrome. Thanks go to everyone who bought a ticket and supported this event

Shop Revamp

Have you noticed that the shop has had a bit of a revamp and more space has been created by the bread aisle. The coffee machine has been moved to a more prominent position and I'll think you'll all agree that it really is a great improvement. Well done to Steve and Carol for making these changes.

Did you know?

Bags of logs and kindling are available from the shop so you can keep your fire going in this chilly weather!



Don't forget

Two important dates in February

Tuesday 13 February is Shrove Tuesday and you will find everything you need to make delicious pancakes. What's your favourite topping - lemon, chocolate spread or golden syrup? All are available on our shelves.



Wednesday 14 February is Ash Wednesday and it is also Valentine's Day. Don't forget to send your Loved One a card and treat them to a box of chocolates or a bottle of wine.



Shop opening times

Monday - Saturday
Sunday

7.30am - 7pm
9am - 3pm

Ashton Keynes

New Parish Councillor and Vacancies

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Graham Carter who was co-opted at the December meeting. There is still one vacancy to be filled so please get in touch if you are interested or have any questions.

Can I apply for Co-option?

To join a local council you must be:

- A UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- At least 18 years old
- An elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

To find out more please visit:

www.nalc.gov.uk/makeachange or contact the Clerk.

Footpaths

The Parish Council wishes to express thanks to the **Cullimore Group** who have been carrying out works to footpaths to ensure that they are clear for use. This includes on the Thames Path towards Lower Mill where the footpath was being eroded due to fallen trees.

Thanks are also expressed to the landowner responsible for footpath 41, the footpath is now clear to walk along the entire length.

A reminder that walkers should stick to footpaths and not roam on private land. Maps are available showing where the footpaths are, any queries can be directed to the Parish Council.

Cycling is forbidden on footpaths, please leave footpaths for walkers and those using mobility aids.

Playing Fields

Phase One of the new play equipment project is now complete. Special thanks are expressed to Martin Young, Sam Crawford and the many volunteers who have made this possible.

Precept 2024/25

The Council agreed a budget of £40,194.00 for 2024/25. This would be an increase of 10.63% on the precept. The Council agreed to raise the precept by 5.8% to £38,173.00 and use general reserves to make up the shortfall.

Damaged Road Signs

The recent storms have damaged many road signs, this is a widespread issue. If you see a sign that is damaged, please do report it using MyWilts online reporting.

MyWilts Online Reporting

The Parish Council would like to highlight Wiltshire Councils online reporting. This can be used to report a number of issues from Abandoned Vehicles to Potholes.

This is the best way of reporting problems and it works. You can access the online report via the Parish Council website www.akpc.org.uk or by visiting: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting once you have submitted your report you will be given a unique number which you can use to keep track of any progress.

Parish Council

Planning:

New applications considered, for which there were 'No Objections'

Rixon Farm, Rixon Gate: Proposed minor amendments to Plot 3 only including internal gallery and staircase, replace permitted 2no. staircases with 1no. staircase to first floor bedrooms and relocate ground floor WC.
10 Gosditch: Single storey extension.
Whitefriars Sailing Club, Whitefriars Lane: Change of use from grassland adjacent to camping field to enclosed area to be used as an extension to the boat park.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council, 'No objections'

Chyuli, 1 Rixon Gate: Fell Silver Birch.
4 Dairy Farm, Gosditch: T1 - Silver Birch tree - fell. T2 - Unspecified tree - reduce savor by up to 1.8 metres. T3 - Unspecified tree -

crown raise and target prune by up to 1 metre.

16 Four Acre Close: Laurel – Fell. Leylandii hedge reduce to 5 meters in height.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Refused'

Land at the Derry: Restoration of an old cottage and conversion/replacement of attached buildings.

Wheatleys Farm: Proposed extraction and processing of sand and gravel, and associated site and access works including processing plant, silt lagoons, weighbridge, wheel wash, site office and welfare facilities and staff parking with progressive restoration using imported inert materials to return the site to agricultural use and lowland meadow for biodiversity enhancement (Resubmission of 17/12064/WCM).

More news at www.akpc.org.uk

**Next Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 21 February 2024,
7.15pm, in AK Village Hall - Main Hall**

Please contact Fiona Ryder for more details clerk@akpc.org.uk 07394 856232



Mobile library in the Village Hall car park

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The Magnificent AK's hit 2024 with Vigour

9 December saw Ashton Keynes church host the Magnificent AK's for our fifteenth anniversary concert. The packed audience were treated to songs from throughout our repertoire, which culminated in more songs and more beer in the White Hart; a cracking evening was had by all.

Save the dates

**Dunkertons Cider House, Cheltenham,
10 February, from about 4pm onwards.**

If you missed this delight, fear not, as the Magnificent AK's are already filling the calendar with opportunities where you can hear and see us. To kick off our sixteenth glorious year, we will have performed in Wotton-under-Edge at their annual festival on 20 January, and will be entertaining the patriotic supporters at a screening of the England vs Wales six nations match at Dunkertons Cider House on the 10 February. We should be there around 4pm.

Minety Village Hall 15 March 7.30 for 8pm

Following closely on this we will be gearing up to entertain at Minety village hall on 15 March, 7.30 for 8pm. See poster for more details or take yourself to our website www.themagnificentaks.com where you can find more information including where to buy tickets.



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Tuesday	Closed	Closed
Wednesday	Closed	2:00pm - 5:30pm
Thursday	8:40am - 11:30am	8:00am - 11:30am
Friday	8:40am - 11:00am	8:00am - 11:30am

Phoenix South Cerney Branch

Clarks Hay, South Cerney. 01285 862112

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Monday	8:30am - 11:45am	2:15pm - 6:00pm
Tuesday	8:30am - 12:00pm	
Wednesday	8:45am - 12:00pm	1:45pm - 6:00pm
Thursday	8:45am - 12:00pm	
Friday	8:45am - 12:00pm	

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Wednesday 7 February – ALLELUJAH (12)

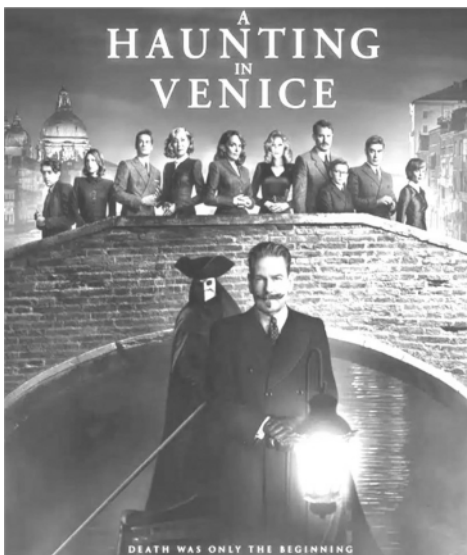
Starring Jennifer Saunders, Judi Dench, Sally Gill, David Bradley, Russell Tovey and Derek Jacobi

“If we don’t go mad once in a while, there’s no hope” – Rachel Joyce (the author of the book)

Based on Alan Bennett’s play, *Allelujah* is a warm and deeply moving story about old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back by galvanizing the local community: they invite a news crew to film their preparations for a concert in honour of the hospital's most distinguished nurse. What could go wrong? *Allelujah* celebrates the spirit of the elderly patients whilst paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources

and ever-growing demand.

Allelujah is a film where you don't realise there's going to be a twist all, never mind one so vicious. Set in a small, crumbling hospital earmarked for closure, and which mostly deals with geriatric patients, *Allelujah* starts out as a classic Little Guy v Government Machine story – but!



Wednesday 6 March – A Haunting in Venice (12)

Directed by Kenneth Branagh and starring (as well as Kenneth Branagh), Michelle Yeoh, Jamie Dornan, Tina Fry and many others

It’s 1947, and a disillusioned Poirot (Branagh) has retired to Venice, a far cry from the exotic locales of his previous adventures. He’s reluctantly pulled back into the world of detection by his ever-persistent friend, Ariadne Oliver (Tina Fey), who persuades him to attend a Hallowe’en party hosted by enigmatic former opera singer Rowena Drake (Kelly Reilly). The pièce de résistance of the party is a séance led by the mesmerizing Michelle Yeoh, who oozes confidence and charm even as Poirot attempts to discredit her.

AK Primary School

The school term began on Thursday 4 January and after the excitement of Christmas the children have settled well into the new term's learning.



A huge thanks to all families who donated towards the Hospital Pyjama Appeal. With the huge help of Olivia and her Mum, Class R were able to support this fantastic charity. We were overwhelmed with the amount of donations received – thank you!

Classes R, 1 and 2

Classes R, 1 and 2 performed beautiful nativities before Christmas - a huge well done to all involved. They were both full of super singing, dancing and sparkle!

On Wednesday 10 January a group of children and staff travelled to Birmingham to be part of the Young Voices concert. After weekly rehearsals the children were really excited to join the other schools taking part and sing their hearts out! The main concert followed an afternoon rehearsal and the atmosphere was amazing. Hundreds of children all singing together and having the most fantastic

time made all the hard work worth it for Mrs Crowley. She said she was absolutely delighted with the children's performance, and Ashton Keynes were shining bright!



Year 3

In Forest School with Mrs Willis, Class 3 have spent time learning about the make-up of a bulb and how they have skins. We classified a variety of bulbs and compared the similarities and differences. The children were really engaged and enjoyed being hands on. The children have layered planters with grape hyacinth, daffodils and tulip bulbs. It will be lovely to see these in bloom in Spring.

Year 4

We took the children to the Forest of Dean on a cold Thursday morning and the children did not hesitate to get stuck straight in to the activities – beginning with the making of the beds! There were some unique approaches to getting bedding on duvets but they were determined and showed excellent team work to get this completed. This determination and team work continued for the entirety of the stay – from climbing up the new high ropes course, completing team challenges in low ropes, crate stacking and orienteering, they battled through the cold weather and kept smiling throughout. It was a delight to take them away and watch them thrive in a completely different environment to the classroom.



Year 5

In Year 5 we have been learning all about Ernest Shackleton and his crew onboard the Endurance and their incredible story of survival. We've been reading the book Shackleton's journey. We started off using our inference skills to work out the theme of the book.

This has led us to learn all about the continent of Antarctica and the scientific stations down there.

Year 6

Class 6 have been learning all about climate change and how we can all work as a team to reduce our own carbon footprints to help the environment. We have investigated how more economically developed countries contribute more to the climate crisis but also

have more money to spend on pursuing new green initiatives such as electric cars and solar panels. We learnt about food miles and the distances food has to travel from where it is produced to where it is sold. We used atlases and a food miles calculator to investigate the distances some of our favourite foods have to travel. We discussed the importance of growing our own produce and supporting local farmers.

In one of our Forest School sessions this term, Class 6 helped support the local community by planting bluebells at Bradstone Field to help the community to create their own bluebell wood for many years to come. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and were a real credit to themselves and the school.



AK Pre- School

!! 👧 👦 New committee team members required for 2024 👧 👦 !!

We are looking for a new team to join the Ashton Keynes Preschool committee.

We are a friendly team run by a voluntary committee of parents/carers and the local community. We meet once a month to discuss and contribute key decisions to help manage the Preschool. We run a few fundraising events throughout the year, which is not only lots of fun, we raise essential funds for extracurricular activities and resources for all the children. Joining the committee is a fantastic way to meet with new parents/carers, as well as making a positive contribution to the village community.

We are looking for the following members:

Secretary
Fundraising
Administration
Website
General Members for additional support/Adhoc basis

Did you know?

- ✓ Our Preschool is managed by a committee, predominantly made up of parents/carers and local community
- ✓ We are registered with the Charity Commission
- ✓ Without a committee in place, consisting of a minimum of 5 members, including a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, the Preschool would have to close
- ✓ The roles require a minimum of 1 year commitment
- ✓ You do not have to have a child within the Preschool
- ✓ No skills necessary, training will be given

Why choose to be a member of our committee?

- ✓ You will meet new and existing parents/carers and members from the local community
- ✓ You get to be part of the community
- ✓ Involvement in your child's education
- ✓ Make plans for the ongoing success and maximum benefit for the children
- ✓ Have your say on topics or changes
- ✓ Bring your own ideas into practise
- ✓ Update existing skills and learn new ones
- ✓ Meet socially once a month for approx. 1 hour



Sound like you could join our team?

Get in touch with us to find out more information and roles available:

☎ 01285 869433 || ✉ chair@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

We are taking new registrations



We are a village Preschool based in Ashton Keynes taking up to 18 children a session, between the ages of 2 years 6 months to 5 years.

We accept 15 & 30 hours funding



Our emphasis is learning through play allowing children to take the lead in the direction of play and control over their own experiences, building confidence and develop independent thinking and learning. We recognise the individual and learn and play for each child.

Our opening hours are:

Monday - Friday 09:00am - 15:00pm (term time only)

Now with Breakfast Club from 8am-9am

If you would like to find out more information or to register, please contact us:



The Village Hall, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, SN6 6NT



01285 869433



info@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk



ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk



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Explore different stories of Life, Work and Faith this Lent

Join us for an exciting series of talks that go beyond ordinary. Churches Together have arranged a lineup of inspirational speakers from the world of politics, sports, entertainment, and technology. Be enthralled as they openly share their unique stories, delve into their work, and uncover the essence of their faith.

St Sampson's church sets the stage for these remarkable conversations, starting at 7pm. After each talk, stay for drinks and nibbles and grab the chance to ask the speaker your burning questions.

Admission is free (though donations to support the event are gladly accepted). To secure your spot, be sure to reserve your tickets in advance. Contact Graham Light on 01793 759181 (pm), 07733305519 (day), or anytime at grahamdlight77@gmail.com. Alternatively reach out to Revd Shirley (details on page 24).



Friday 16 February
Danny Kruger
MP (for Devizes)



Saturday 24 February
Tony Jarrett
Commonwealth gold and Olympic silver medallist in Hurdles



Friday 1 March
Prof Andrew Briggs
Specialist in nano and quantum technology and author of several books about science and faith.



Saturday 9 March
JB Gill
Member of one of the UKs biggest boy bands JLS and now a TV presenter (incl Songs of Praise and Countryfile).



Thursday 14 March
Bishop of Swindon Rt Rev'd Neil Warwick

Church matters

Services

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 4 Feb 2 nd before Lent	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship with music group and children's activities in the church Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am	Candlemas Communion
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 11 Feb Sunday before Lent	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Upper Thames Worship Together Communion with Neil, Bishop of Swindon
Wednesday 14 February	St Sampson's, Cricklade		Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St Sampson's (Worship Together)
Sunday 18 Feb Lent 1	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion followed by breakfast Morning Worship Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am 4pm	Morning Worship Evensong
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 Feb Lent 2	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	BCP Communion
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	8.30am	BCP Communion
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship

Weekday worship

Monday morning prayers 9am on Zoom and Thursday Morning Prayers 8.30am for 8.45am start at St Sampson's. Contact Jane our Parishes' Administrator for details – admin@upperthames.org.uk

Church opening times for private prayer

St Sampson's, Cricklade: every day, 9.30am – 3.30pm

Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes: Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday, 10am - 4pm



Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes
St. Sampson's, Cricklade
St. John's, Latton
All Saints', Leigh



Candlemas Festival

Candlemas festival is 2 February; 40 days after Christmas. Christians remember how Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to thank God for his arrival. As Mary and Joseph presented Jesus, Simeon the priest recognised Jesus as the Messiah, God's promised one and he described Jesus as "a light to reveal God to the nations". Because of this association with light, people used to bring candles to church for them to be blessed and they'd be used at home over the



coming year.

We'll be celebrating Candlemas at Holy Cross at our 10am communion on Sunday 4 February. We will bless and give everyone a candle to take home as a reminder of God's blessing.

If you can't make the service, you're very welcome to pop into Holy Cross church between **11.30am – 12.15pm and 2pm – 3.15pm** (Sunday 4 Feb) to **light a candle** (perhaps remembering someone, or as a prayer for a situation or for someone in difficulties) and to **take a candle home** afterwards that's been blessed. You're also welcome to take a prayer of blessing for when you use the candle at home.

Tribute to Trevor Heath

Everyone in the village was saddened to learn of the death of Trevor Heath who had been part of so many organisations in Ashton Keynes. Holy Cross was where family and many of Trevor's friends, both local and from further afield, gathered to celebrate and to thank God for his life.

Trevor and Gillian (who has moved to be nearer family) have both been stalwart members of the Holy Cross congregation for many years and their quiet, considerate service in many practical ways to the church was typical of who they were. Trevor was twice Churchwarden, no small task in itself, read the readings in our services regularly and audited church accounts, as well as those of other charities in and around Ashton Keynes. Trevor was often the kindly face that welcomed visitors and old friends alike to our church, and Gillian too. They were both thoughtful and their deep-rooted faith was obvious and no doubt a comfort to them both in the difficulties they both endured in recent times. Our clergy and lay ministers and the congregation at Holy Cross like many others in Ashton Keynes, shall miss them both and are hugely grateful for the many years they were part of our church community.



The new Bishop of Swindon Neil Warwick is coming to a church near here!

Come and join us at our all-churches Worship Together at St Sampson's, Cricklade, Sunday 11 February at 10am when the Bishop will be preaching. A warm hearted person with lots to share, you're warmly invited to join us.

From the registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches November and December 2023

FUNERALS

Name	Date & Church/Crematorium
Daphne Brown	9 November, Holy Cross church
David William Cook	14 November St Sampson's and Kingsdown Crematorium
Gary (Gerhard) Walter Wilson	29 November, Holy Cross church
Jim (James) Woods	7 December, Holy Cross Ashton Keynes – service and interment in churchyard
Richard Barrow	8 December, All Saints Leigh – service and interment in churchyard
Chris (Christopher John) Waters	16 December, Holy Cross - service and interment in churchyard
Hazel Rumbold	22 December, Holy Cross Interment of Ashes

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS

Name	Date & Church
------	---------------

None

Contact details for the **Upper Thames Benefice** (Cricklade St Sampson's, Latton St John the Baptist, Ashton Keynes Holy Cross and the Leigh All Saints)

Vicar: Revd Canon Debbie Dewes (email to vicar@upperthames.org.uk
Tel 01793 752718 + answerphone)

Associate Vicar: Revd Shirley Danby (email to shirleydanby21@gmail.com Tel 07980 548844)

Parishes Administrator: Jane Eyles (email admin@upperthames.org.uk)
Website **<https://www.upperthames.org.uk>/Tel: 01793 979304**)

For weddings and baptisms please check out our website
<https://www.upperthames.org.uk/what-we-offer/> or contact Canon Debbie, Revd Shirley or Jane (Parish Administrator)

Church matters

Save Leigh Church 200 Club

December 2023 draw

1st Nigel and Sue Massey, Leigh
2nd Roger Baker, Leigh

The 200 Club has a monthly draw, so, each month, at current membership levels, you have a chance of winning more than £20 for first prize and about £10 for 2nd prize. Each ticket is £12 for a year and can be paid by cash, cheque, bank transfer or standing order.

Please go to: <http://leigh-village.co.uk> for more information, draw dates or to download an application form. This can then be emailed to

leighchurch200club@gmail.com or posted/dropped into: **Cathy Skelton,**
Braydon Farm Cottage, Leigh, Wiltshire, SN6 6RQ. 07962 018547

Christmas Thank you

Thank you to the **Christmas Tree Festival team** who created a wonderful festival for us all with 32 beautifully decorated trees in Holy Cross church. What a weekend! Thank you so much Alison and everybody who was involved.

Thank you Anton for an amazing **Leigh All Saints church Christmas lights display.**

Thank you to everyone who swept, hoovered and **cleaned, and decorated** with candles, greenery, flowers and Christmas trees in both **Holy Cross church AK and Leigh All Saints,** enabling both churches to look at their best for our Christmas events and services.

Thank you too for celebrating Christmas with us and for generous donations.

Lovely to have so many people coming to church to celebrate "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" and for all donations made at our Christmas services.



At Holy Cross Our Christingle celebration raised over **£70** for The Children's Society. From our Carol Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at Holy Cross we have been able to send £270 to a charity called Embrace the Middle East. They print the carol sheets we use, and the charity supports people of all ages and of all faiths and none, in Egypt, Israel, Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. Our donations went to their Gaza appeal.

From donations at our Leigh Christmas Eve Carol Service we've sent **£256** to the Christian Aid Gaza appeal.

Thank you everyone for giving generously.

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Support for Operation HERRICK

Afghan Refugees

In my 20s I served in the British Army and still have contact with people who are serving. I have been told that a number of Afghan refugees have very recently arrived in this country from Pakistan. They are here legally, having supported NATO forces during Op HERRICK e.g. interpreters. Their invaluable assistance placed their lives in danger, and they have had to leave their homes and everything familiar to them behind.

Now they are here, starting anew, we have the opportunity to make their transition a little easier. There is an urgent collection being made of essential items that they need to get through the winter and to help them settle into their new lives.

They are specifically looking for

- Coats (all ages and genders)
- Ladies shoes/boots
- Ladies warm clothing
- Men's clothing
- Mens shoes/boots
- Teen clothing (male and female)
- Hats/scarfs/gloves

- Children's shoes
- Blankets
- Umbrellas
- Cooking pots and pans
- Cooking utensils
- Crockery and cutlery
- Slow cookers
- Toys
- Balls and sports equipment
- Stationary, notebooks, colouring books
- Craft supplies
- TVs
- Laptop (memory must be wiped)
- Sewing machines, sewing equipment

** What the families are really lacking is cooking equipment like big pots, utensils, crockery and cutlery. Slow cookers especially useful and welcome

If you have any of these in good condition and available to donate please could you deliver them to my house - Melton Lodge, Back Street, Ashton Keynes or to Holy Cross Church (open 10 - 4pm Wed, Sat and Sun) by 5pm Friday 9 February and I will ensure any items donated are delivered promptly.

Many thanks for your support.

Alison Beadle



Caring for our

Pop-Up Recycling

2pm - 3.30pm, Sun 24 March

Ellisons Garage Forecourt

ASHTON
GREEN
PROJECT



We will be collecting the following items...

Mobile Phones and chargers (wipe info and remove SIMs) **Sat Navs, MP3 players, Watches, Cameras, iPods, iPads and other tablets, Jewellery** (of any kind) **Stamps, Bank Notes, Coins**, (any currency) **Plastic pens** - all sorts inc marker type (raises funds for a school in Stroud)

Cosmetics (NOT nail polish) **Personal Care** *EMPTY* tubes of lotions

Contact lenses (and their blister packaging)

Eyewear (inc sunglasss)

Bras (will go to 'Against Breast Cancer' raising money to fund research and refreshed and sent on to developing countries)

Oral hygiene products (toothbrushes, packaging, toothpaste tubes, electric toothbrush heads, floss packaging)

Printer Cartridges, Water filters, Energy saving light bulbs, Household disposable gloves (thin ones, not washing up type)

PLEASE NOTE:

No Plastic flower pots this time.

No Batteries. Put them in a clear plastic bag on top of your blue recycling bin

No Medicinal Blister packs you can take a couple of handfuls to Superdrug in Stroud. (They can't cope with large quantities.) There is an Aldi postal scheme, but it is currently suspended, so keep collecting them and watch this space!

Ashton Green Project is a friendly group of villagers striving to make AK as sustainable as possible. Contact Alison Beadle alisonbeadle@aol.com

world

The Stone Age didn't end because they ran out of stones.

I find myself being asked a lot of questions around the climate crisis, and I am delighted that Christiana Figueres (Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 2010-2016) has put together considered, informed and brilliant answers to some of the most common and difficult ones.

Here are a few questions people often ask.

Q - "What about China? Let them sort out their emissions first."

A - There is a decarbonisation race going on right now between China, the US and Europe. The race is to get to a decarbonised economy ASAP which is where we need to be in the 21st Century. China is pretty much winning that race at the moment (due mainly to improving their air quality, which is an urgent priority for them)

A - China is the world's largest investor in solar, wind and battery technology. It has more electric busses than the rest of the world combined and the best and fastest charging infrastructure in the world.

A - China realises it can no longer compete on cheap labour and cheap products. They are investing heavily in green tech and will secure their competitive edge in the near future with low or no carbon products and services.

Q - "How can we afford the transition to a green economy during a cost of living crisis, where's the money going to come from?"

A - There's plenty of money around, it's just concentrated in too few hands. The global community subsidises fossil fuels to the tune of 7 trillion dollars per year! Maybe some of that could be redirected towards a green transition?



A - Wind and solar are now the cheapest form of new power in over 150 countries.

A - It's cheaper not to waste food, It's cheaper not to waste energy, it's cheaper not to waste any resources.

Q - "So you want to electrify everything, every single vehicle? Do you know cobalt is mined by children in unethical conditions? Plus we cannot properly recycle batteries yet."

A - It is true that there are rare earth materials in lithium batteries. Cobalt is difficult to mine, and there are absolutely unacceptable working conditions in the supply chain. That obviously has to change!

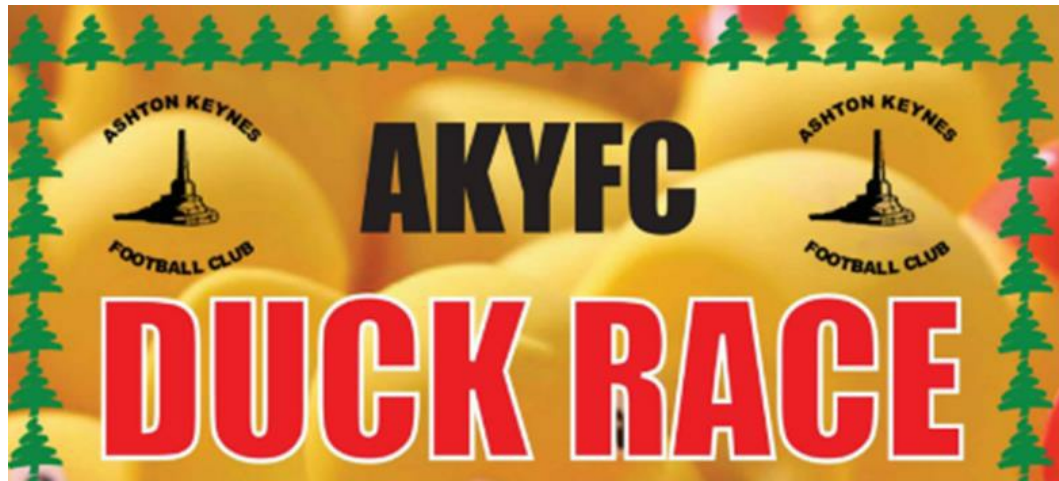
A - It's not actually about cobalt, it's about poverty, the reason children are mining cobalt is because they don't have any other options. Tackling poverty and climate change go hand in hand.

A - Innovation in batteries and electric vehicles has been remarkable over the last few years. The innovation and money that is pouring into this area means that the technology is advancing rapidly.

I hope those answers help. We are super lucky to be alive at this moment in time. We are the generation that have all the solutions to protect our beautiful planet. My feeling is that the more we are truly connected to Mother Earth, the more positive our outlook and the more fulfilled and joyous our lives can be. Get the positive stories out there. These are exciting times.

Gilly Riddington

We Are Nature



Ashton Keynes Youth Football Club would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone that supported another fantastic Boxing Day Duck Race in the village this year!

We raised close to £4k which is an amazing contribution from the community and critical to keeping the football club going for future generations!

Happy & Healthy 2024 to ALL



2023 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Cast your minds back to the first weekend of December last year, and many of you will remember the CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL in the church. It kicked off with a Sparkling Soiree on the Friday evening, continued on Saturday and Sunday with a steady stream of visitors and ended with a service with carols on the Sunday afternoon. THE VILLAGE CHOIR won best tree and THE VILLAGE SHOP came a very close second. All the trees looked really pretty, and it was lovely to see the church bustling with all the festivities. The cold and frosty weather added an extra Christmassy touch too.

We are absolutely delighted to say that the festival raised £4,190 An amazing result! As you may know, our beautiful church building is in need of repair to make it weatherproof. We can now go ahead and get quotes to replace the leaky guttering, repair the windows and even swap the old CD player for an up-to-date sound system.

The organising team wish to offer heartfelt thanks to EVERYONE who volunteered their time over the weekend, donated the wonderful raffle and silent auction prizes, made items to sell, collected and delivered the trees, loaned equipment, helped shift pews around, ran a stall, set up and cleared up. A special thanks goes to all the sponsors of the trees and to Siren Sisters (inc Lars) and The Blue Notes who sang so beautifully at the soiree and, last but not least, everyone who came along and made it such a memorable weekend.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be held every two years, so see you in 2025!

THANK YOU ALL

Winner - Village Choir
Runner up - Village Shop



Village choir



Village shop

Huge thanks to the Christmas Tree Sponsors

Andy Rummings Beef
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Ashton Keynes Bellringers
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Cotswold Balloons & Cotswold Dreams
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Last year fifteen exhibitions - yes, fifteen exhibitions! - were held in the Telephone Gallery. The final three were all in December, starting off with the display that promoted the very wonderful Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival and featured a tree with recycled decorations and free motion embroidery telephone kiosks and had numerous mini trees hanging down too. This was followed by *Crafted for Christmas*



that featured work by Sara Miller, Jane Alexander and me, and showcased hand-built ceramics, unique mosaics, limited edition mugs and tea towels.



The final display was *Nativity*, a beautifully knitted nativity scene in a rustic stable with a twinkling starry night sky. Thank you to everyone involved in creating such a charming display. I know you shouldn't go too much by the response on social media, but *Nativity* again racked up a record number of likes, comments, and post views and so many people stopped me to say how much they loved it and were pleased to see it back again.

Email: **the_telephonegallery@gmail.com**

Come along and enjoy tea/coffee and cake

On Tuesdays 10am - 12noon, AK Village Hall

Cakes are lovingly made and served
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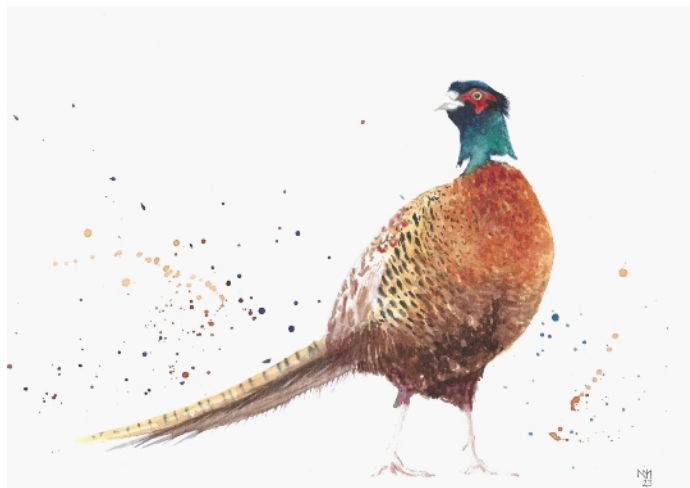
Raising funds for the Scrubditch Care Farm &
Village Hall solar panels



The Telephone Gallery

Watercolour Birds by local artist Nicole McNulty is the current exhibition and is up until 4 February.

Nicole has been a keen birdwatcher since childhood and her fascination with birds has clearly inspired her current exhibition. Nicole moved to the area in early 2020 and she thinks she's fortunate to live in the area due to the abundant birds and wildlife that inspire so much of her artwork. Her artwork has deservedly attracted a lot of attention and prints of her artwork and her lovely cards have been very popular indeed. Prints of her



artwork and cards too are available to buy. To see more of her work, take a look at her website:
<https://nicolemcnultyartist.my.canva.site/>
and Instagram: @nicolemcnultyartist

Website: **thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com**
Instagram: **@thetelephonegallery**
artist

I'm delighted to say that the Gallery is booked up for the next few months, but please get in touch if you'd like to display your artwork.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

5 February – *Activity Collage* by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

9 March - *The Second Anniversary* - an exhibition of some of the works displayed during the Telephone Gallery's second year

25 March – AK Pre-School

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and creative 2024!

Kathryn Gray

Website: **thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com**

Instagram: **@thetelephonegallery**

Email: **the_telephonegallery@gmail.com**

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Health matters

Purton and Green Gable Surgery



Monies raised in 2023

In 2023 the PPG has received donations and purchased items for the Surgery as listed

Donations	£
Bequest	1,125.00
Purton Community Cafe	412.5
Purton Parish Council	2,994.00
Misc donations	221
Total	4,752.50
Purchases	£
Examination couch	752.87
FeNO monitor	2,994.00
ECG machine	1,831.20
Total	5,578.07

In addition the following money was raised:

- 200 Club - £1320
- Books and Table Top in Purton Surgery waiting room - £785
- Raffles - £248

Talk on Parkinson's – 26 March 2024, 7.30-9pm

We are restarting the regular Health Talks which we were organising for patients before Covid ... the first of these will be on the subject of Parkinson's when we have Rachel Gardner, Lead Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist at GWH and Vincent Mobey from Cricklade Parkinson's Café. The talk will be in Purton Surgery where the capacity is limited, hence we ask patients to ask for a ticket (free) from reception. Tickets are available from Monday 8 January from receptionists in both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

Easter Raffle

The receptionists will be organising another Easter Raffle this year, Tickets at £1 each will be available from reception from 1 March.

200 Club

New members are welcome!! The 200 Club year started on 1 October, however you may still join part way through the year, bearing in mind that you will have missed some of the draws for the year. The cost is just £15 a year and there are two prizes of £100 and £15 each month. Setting up a Standing Order for your £15 to be taken annually on 1 September is much simpler for administration purposes. Forms are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

Table Top in Purton Surgery

We would be pleased to receive good quality donations for the Table Top in Purton Surgery waiting room (no shoes please).

As always, your support for our work to both inform and support patients is much appreciated. If you know of anyone who would like to be included in our email list (all sent bcc) then please ask them to contact via secretary.psppg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Ashton Keynes Branch Surgery

01793 750645

www.crickladesurgery.nhs.uk



Cricklade Surgery

Tel: 01793 750645

We are open on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 1pm at the Village Hall.

You can collect your medication anytime between 10.30am and 1pm any Wednesday and also request medication and make appointments. When ordering repeat medication, it will be ready to collect from Ashton Keynes the following Wednesday if it is due to be issued. More urgent requests can be processed and collected from Cricklade Surgery.

FLU Vaccinations

Flu season continues and if you had not had your vaccine yet please contact us if you fit into any of the following groups:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023
- primary school aged children (from Reception to Year 6)
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals

Cancellation of Appointments

Please make every effort to attend all appointments as we are unable to offer those to other patients. If you do need to cancel an appointment, please give 24 hours' notice.

Online Registration and Text Reminders

Did you know you can manage your prescriptions and book appointments online? Please bring some photo identification and complete a form at Reception. You can also register your mobile number with the surgery and we can send you appointment reminders.

We now offer online registration for new patients wishing to register. They can either visit our website and click on new patients' tab or use the address (<https://gp-registration.nhs.uk/J83609>) to start the registration process.

NHS Services

On our website homepage, you can find NHS Services near you! You can find contact details of a wide range of NHS services by just typing in your postcode and select what services you need.

BOOTS PATIENTS – Repeat Prescription Ordering

Boots is no longer able to order medication on your behalf. You will need to order this yourself,. Please only choose the medication you need and request it from the surgery around seven days before your medication is due. You can do this by ordering online. If you are not already registered pop in and speak to a receptionist who can set this up for you, bringing your repeat slip into the surgery or by telephone on 01793 750645 and selecting option two.

Club news

Cricklade and District Probus Club



We are looking forward to our coming group meetings when the following talks will take place:

- 8 February - The Story of a Violin
- 15 February - A The President's Lunch
- 22 February - Putin's Russia

The meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday 10am at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group who enjoy keeping our minds active and socialising over a drink in the bar after the meetings. We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and look forward to welcoming new members to the Club.

For further information about our local club for retired gentlemen, please contact the **Honorary Secretary, Richard Roberts on 01793 751063.**

Ashton Keynes WI



A Happy New Year to all our friends and neighbours.

Looking back to our December meeting we were able to start getting in the mood for Christmas celebrations to come. Jenny Tidmarsh had amassed a supply of wreaths for us to decorate, and with so many decorations provided we set out to make an array of festive wreaths. This was followed by an American supper.

2024 started with a 'bang' - and something new for AKWI. After the business part of the meeting we were introduced to 'A celebration of Robert Burns' by our Presidents husband (Gerald) and his father. The haggis was piped in; Gerald then recited the traditional 'Address to a Haggis' and with great aplomb cut the haggis. The reply was made by his father George and Sarah (our president) replied for the ladies. We then enjoyed the traditional supper of haggis, neaps and tatties, after which Alison Foster told us something about the history around Auld Lang Syne - apparently there are seven verses to it. Replete from our tasty meal a number of members joined in some Scottish Dancing - The Gay Gordons, Strip the Willow and others. A thoroughly good evening was had by all.

Our Speaker on Wednesday 14 February will be Karen Johnson speaking about "Making Venetian Masks" Visitors are always welcome. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Craft Club



In January we held our fourth Craft Club. Like all the others, it was very sociable indeed, we all met new people and got on with projects and, of course, there was a fair amount of chatting too.

As well as being a very sociable group, we've also used our talents to raise £127 for the Village Hall solar panels/EV charging points by selling knitted and crocheted bits and bobs, cards, and notebooks locally and it was lovely to read out the messages of thanks from the Hall trustees to everyone at the last meeting.

While I am not running it as a teaching workshop, I do plan to bring along something for people who are between projects or want to have a go at something new. At the December Craft Club some of made some embossed decorations using the "gold" inside tomato purée tubes. In February I'll be showing anyone interested how to do some simple felt making.

We have dates arranged for the next few Craft Clubs, alternating between a Friday and Wednesday afternoon so if you'd be interested in coming along to the next Craft Club, email me (kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk) or pop a note through our door (16 Gosditch) and I'll get back in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Kathryn Gray

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Our first meeting in the New Year was with Coral Gardiner demonstrating Ornamental Orbs.

21 February 2024

A demonstration entitled 'My family and other animales' by Selina Denham who is a South West demonstrator. Crudwell Village Hall.

Please check the Club's website northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub for further information. If you have any queries you can contact us nwvflowerclub@gmail.com.

We are a thriving, enthusiastic group with plenty of fun and friendship thrown in. Our members and visitors come throughout North Wiltshire and into Gloucestershire with varying expertise some just wanting to relax and watch. There is a full 2024 programme already organised, so why not join us.

We normally meet every 3rd Wednesday at Crudwell Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm start unless it is an outside trip. There is plenty of car park space available post code SN16 9HB.



Tina 07484 705308



Adventure 2024

Do your children want adventures?

Then try our scouting activities and join your local Scout Group.

If your child is:

6 to 8 years old: Join in with our Beaver colony on Tuesdays at 5.30pm.

8 to 10 Years old: Join Our Cub Pack on Thursdays at 6pm.

11 to 14 years old: Come to Scouts on Friday at 6.45pm.

Boys or Girls just come and join us in the School Hall. **Spaces are available in all sections**

Our youngest section is the Beaver Colony

It's been great to welcome the Beavers back for the new term. Our first session included a firm favourite - dodgeball! The group showed fantastic participation and sportsmanship.

We've also said goodbye to six of our eldest Beavers. These were a group of wonderful role models and will be missed from our colony. We wish them all the best for their next adventures. It'll be great to see them flourish within the Cub pack.

Looking ahead, we're delighted to welcome some new faces and can't wait to show them what Beavers is all about. This term, we'll be considering what to do in emergency situations. We'll be using practical skills to create wooden sculptures and also hope to embrace the dark nights, and complete some star gazing activities.

Our mid range section is the Cub Pack

We're very pleased and excited to welcome our six new Cubs from the Beaver colony. However, we need more new members to be able to expand out horizons and take on new challenges.

Our first adventure is ice-skating!

This is a joint activity with the Scouts in the afternoon 4 February, Swindon. Places are available. And that's just the beginning. We have plans to enter the Ten pin bowling District Competition, Scrapheap Challenge, Cubs Night Hike. We're also working on our Food Badge which involves cooking, unsurprisingly.

The senior section is the Scout Troop

Our Scout Motto, 'Be Prepared', is very close to our hearts. We also hope to 'Be Prepared' for unforeseen circumstances.

We had fun working towards the Survival Skill Activity Badge: building bivouacs, sleeping in bivvy bags, making rope out of grass and plastic bottles and lighting fires by rubbing sticks together. Our most exciting innovation was the fire inside a hollow log which also acts as a stove - known as a Swedish Torch.

During these darker nights we'll be planning how and when we can put these skills into practice for real in some of our planned coming activities: nighthike, campfire cooking (hopefully entering competitions), ice skating trip, orienteering in Lydiard Park, caving in Mendips, all day hike on Thames Path and many more. This is just the start!

Club news cont

To support these sections we rely on Volunteers

While we have Leaders for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, we need more support volunteers.

The Scout Movement and all groups which includes 1st Ashton Keynes Group are registered charities and must be led by an active Trustees Board. We have a couple of members but need more representation. This includes Committee members and most essential a Chairman and Administrator/ Secretary for the Group.

This Board is essential if our Group is to continue and flourish. We meet only 3 or 4 times per year; helping guide and administer the group as well as supporting our section Leaders.

Remember this is our village Scout Group and we need your support to thrive and grow to meet our children's needs.

We need your help now so that we can go on running the existing sections and group and give consideration to new sections like the 4 to 6yr old Squirrels.

You could be a parent, or a person who is enthusiastic and has the well being of young people at heart; age is no barrier and training will be given. Just call me and offer to help -

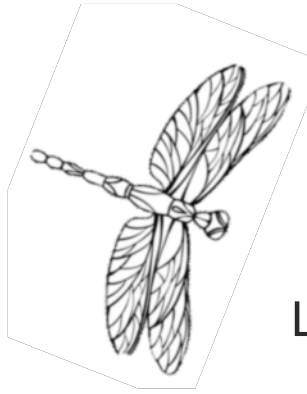
david.tarr@davidwtarr.plus.com 01285 86142



Become a Volunteer

Thanks to the small team of volunteers who have come forward to help at Beaver camp this September. However, we are really in need of many more helpers at sectional meetings, and also in support roles. We may only need occasional help, if we can get a rota going, probably a couple of hours every month.

Like to help? Then call David Tarr 01285 86142 - david.tarr@davidtarr.plus.com



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Tuesday morning: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday afternoon: 2.30pm - 4.30pm



Telephone **07512 233200**, the **AK Helpline**, if you'd like a lift.

Teas, coffees and cakes served on Tuesdays by the WI: 10am - 12noon

Start a new ADVENTURE in 2024



Canoeing, climbing, surfing, making, sailing, helping, playing, volunteering, abseiling, fundraising, acting ... whatever you like doing, Scouts make it happen.

1st Ashton Keynes Scout Group

Regular meetings take place at Ashton Keynes Primary School.
Call 01285 861425 or 07900 211324, or email below:

Beavers

Ages 6 - 8 years. Tuesday Nights - 5.30pm.
Email: beavers@1ak.uk

Cubs

Ages 8 - 10.5 years. Thursday Nights - 6.00pm.
Email: cubs@1ak.uk

Scouts

Ages 10.5 - 14 years. Friday Nights - 6.45pm.
Email: scouts@1ak.uk

Trustees

Join our Committee of Trustees to help support Scouting in Ashton Keynes. No experience necessary, just a willingness to volunteer for a few hours a year. Bring your experiences from all walks of life to contribute to helping the young people in the village. Meetings are cordial and also look great on a CV.
Email: trustees@1ak.uk

Local numbers

Here are some of the **local groups, organisations and clubs** available to us.
Please also see the village website www.ashtonkeynes.org.uk where you will find further information.
Please let us know if you would like your group to be listed or you find an error.

Village Emergency Telephone System 01793 250211

For use when you need the defibrillator after ringing for an ambulance

AK Link Helpline 07512 233200

AK Website Steering Group via village website

Alpha Courses Pete Tuck 01285 861466

Anglers Ryan Peare

secretary@ashtonkeynesanglingclub.co.uk

Ashton Keynes All Stars Golf Geoff Chick

geoffchick00@aol.com

Ashton Keynes Charities Richard Smith 861461

Ashton Keynes Cricket Club

www.pitchero.com/clubs/ashtonkeynescricketclub

Ashton Keynes Musical Festival Phil Moran

01285 861745

Ashton Keynes C of E Primary School

01285 861436

Ashton Keynes Village Choir Howard Foster,

07502307490, www.akvillagechoir.co.uk,

ashtonkeyneschoir@gmail.com

Ashton Keynes Seniors Table Tennis Club

Diana Wain dw24813@gmail.com

Baby and Toddler Group Jemma Craven

jemmalcraven@gmail.com

Badminton Club Karen Carter

01285 862371 akbc@live.co.uk

Big Brunch Band jackie@davidmitchell.co.uk

Big Questions for Seniors Revd Shirley Danby

01793 751463

Bradstone Pavilion Bookings bookings@akpc.org.uk

Bridge Gordon Coble 01285 861444

Craft Club Kathryn Gray 01285 869341,

kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk

Cricket Mark Brooks (sec) 01285 862401

Dig Deeper Revd Shirley Danby 01793 751463

Football Junior Phil Moran 07880 715715

Friends of Holy Cross Alison Beadle 01285 861411

Holy Cross Church Canon Debbie 01793 752718

Revd Shirley 07980 548844 Admin 01793 979304,

admin@upperthames.org.uk

Holy Cross Flowers

Jiu Jitsu Club (Cirencester) James Slaughter,

Keep Fit Tim Bird 07794 614962, 01285 656986

TimothyGBird@aol.com

Messy Church Shirley Danby 01793 751463

Millennium Green Trustees Doug Yarrow 01285

861427 dougymarrow@msn.com

Minety Squash Club Tim 01666 860368

tim@lagondahire.co.uk

Mothers Union Margaret Godfrey 01666 860536

Neighbourhood Watch paul.eastham@totalise.co.uk

Orchestra see www.cirencesterphil.co.uk

Parish Council (AK) Fiona Ryder 07394 856232.,

clerk@akpc.org.uk, www.akpc.org.uk.

Parish Council (Leigh) Mandy Thomas

01285 860488

Parochial Church Council Andrew Sims (Sec)

07500 884188

Pre-school 01285 869433,

www.ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk,

communications@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

secretary@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

fundraising@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

Reading Group cathy.conlon@talktalk.net

Rural Cinema Dave Sheppard dave@akvh.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls ddsak78@gmail.com

Siren Sisters Val Skehan 01285 860069,

www.sirensisters.org.uk

Tai Chi (Down Ampney) Tim Price

01793 752852, tim@cotswoldwu.co.uk,

www.cotswoldwu.co.uk

The Telephone Gallery, Kathryn Gray, 01285

869341, thetelephonegallery@gmail.com

www.thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com

Tennis Annie Dyson ashtonkeynestennis@gmail.com

The Magnificent AKs Stuart Harris

stuart.harris1965@gmail.com

Twinning Association

ashtonkeynestwinning@gmail.com

Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

01793 250211

Walking Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Whitefriars Sailing Club Patrick Green, 01285

861670, info@whitefriars.org

Women's Book Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Women's Institute Susie Grier 01285 861561

ashtonkeynessec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

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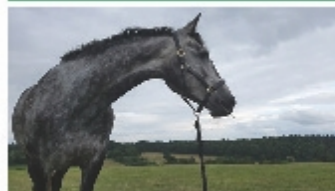
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