



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

**Serving the villages of
Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals**



November 2020

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***Enquiries regarding
Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals
to the Parish Office 01747 840221***

~ ~ ~

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***Contributions for the December 2020/January 2021 issue
should reach the Editor
by Friday 20th November 2020 at noon***

Mobile Library Times November 2020

Nov 5, 19	Zeals	School	10.00-10.40 am
		43 Zeals Rise	10.45-11.05 am
Nov 5, 19	Kilmington	Home Gd Club	11.25-11.35 am

Message from Rev Ben

During November, we remember. Whether it be remembering 5th Nov as a part of our cultural history, those who paid the ultimate price in conflicts since 1914 on Armistice Day, or remembering the life of a loved one at the All Souls service - November is a time when we have the opportunity to look back and reflect. At this time of year, the nights draw in, the heating goes on, and we so often look inwards to what is on our hearts. This year we have already been quite used to sitting in our burrow with time to reflect. However, during November the church often takes up the opportunity by spending some time in introspection before Advent. We provide the opportunity to remember a loved one at All Souls, we consider the glorious company of Saints who go before us and we remember those who have fallen in battle. However, toward the end of November the church answers its introspection, its collective looking back over the weeks, years and centuries, by affirming the ultimate care, compassion and benevolence of God who holds us in love. Malcolm Guite's Sonnet 'Christ the King', reminds the reader of the rootedness believing in a God who was for a time, human. While November can be a difficult month as we get used to the darker nights with more time to reflect, Guite reminds us that while sometimes we may go from day to day with heavy hearts, the feast of Christ the King doesn't say, "It will all be okay in the end because God knows what's going on even if I don't", and rather that in our times of both sorrow and joy, God is with us. Whatever is on your heart this November, may God who walks alongside us all, be with you

Malcolm Guite – Christ the King

Our King is calling from the hungry furrows
Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,
Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,
Our soundtracks drown his murmur: 'I am thirsty'.

He stands in line to sign in as a stranger
And seek a welcome from the world he made,
We see him only as a threat, a danger,
He asks for clothes, we strip-search him instead.

And if he should fall sick then we take care
That he does not infect our private health,
We lock him in the prisons of our fear
Lest he unlock the prison of our wealth.

But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing
The praises of our hidden Lord and King.

Ben

(Rev Ben Rundell-Evans)

St George's 100 Club

September Winners

1st: Andrew Cattaway (No 86)

2nd Lyn Rose (No 77)

October Winners

1st Trevor Griffin (No 69)

2nd Stuart Etheridge (No 104)

Draw held on 15th October
Winners drawn by John Burrows
Overseen by Tony Moorby

*Any enquiries to
Ruth Burrows – 01747 840371*

St Martin's Millennium Club

October winners

G Poynton

J Rowe

M Garrett

A Ransome

November draw at Zeals Motors
on 5th November

Contact Nigel Blackmore
01747 841110
SDC Lott 842

Kilmington and Stourton Women's Institute

Because of Coronavirus restrictions, the WI is unable to meet for the present and until further notice. As soon as we are able to resume our meetings members will be notified.

For information contact:

Secretary: Bernie Isted 01985 844933 or Jane Parker 01985 844248

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Green Fingers: Notes from a Fair Weather Gardener

November 2020

Traditionally, November is seen as the beginning of winter, when the last glories of summer and autumn have gone and there is only the gloom of winter to come. As a child, I remember it as a time of great excitement, when I would help to gather up the fallen leaves to put on the bonfire on November 5th. My father always seemed to have some old clothes that could be stuffed with leaves to make a guy. As gardeners, we should be collecting the leaves now too as they can harbour unwelcome slugs and snails if left on the flower beds. If collected up and stored for a couple of years in nets or bin bags with holes, they will magically turn into leaf mould to be used for mulching. Now is the time to scatter this around your plants as it will be especially helpful in breaking down the heavy clay soil that many of us locally have in our plots.

November is a time for looking forward to spring and planting spring and even summer bulbs. You can plant lily bulbs in pots now for the summer, and best of all, you can plant tulips. There really is a tulip to suit every taste and situation in the garden. From the beautiful species tulips that need to be seen at close range to appreciate them, to the stately traditional tulips that bloom in April and May. You could have tulips blooming from February to May in almost every colour of the rainbow. Plant them now in pots or in the garden, but be sure to protect them from marauding squirrels. Pots can be protected with a double layer of wire mesh- not attractive but effective. In the ground, planting them deeper than recommended seems to work, or planting them close to something unpleasantly smelly like a clump of crown imperials.

Looking to spring is all very well, but it's good to enjoy what is in the garden now. There may still be some dahlias in bloom and probably some chrysanthemums and nerines if you have them. Not all the trees will have lost their leaves and fruits, so you can enjoy the vibrant colours of cotoneasters and spindle trees. But it isn't all about colour: the winter garden has a beauty of its own as the trees show their skeletal forms against an autumn sunset.

Daphne Knott

Cards for Sale

The Friends of St Martin's are pleased to report that the sale of cards in aid of Upper Stour churches is going very well. The range has now been extended to include packs of cards and orders are being taken for mounted prints. All available at Zeals Garage.

Debbie Gatehouse



Farm Fresh Turkeys

Orders for Christmas are being taken, various weights available

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01985 844971 or

Email: elizabeth.hames@hotmail.co.uk

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National Trust

News from Stourhead

November is a wonderful month here at Stourhead. It's the time when two of our favourite things combine – when the golden sunsets and fiery reds and golds of autumn meet and gradually give way to the crisp, frost-sparkled mornings and oh-so-cosy hot-chocolate bearing evenings of the festive season.

And what an autumn it's been – the high levels of sunshine throughout the spring and summer have allowed the trees to store plenty of leaf-sugar, which results in the golds, reds, and oranges that we all love to see. The Japanese maples put on a fantastic early display and now the colour has swept its way around the lake, turning the reflections to flame.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the team of staff and volunteers, we have continued to adapt to the changing circumstances and, despite the challenges, have safely welcomed thousands of visitors to enjoy one of nature's most beautiful displays.

The House continues to be open with timed tickets until Sunday 8 November, after which the team will begin decorating for Christmas. Hundreds of hand-made decorations crafted by volunteers will deck the halls and showrooms to create the well-loved festive display, with a special twist for 2020. The Christmas House will open to visitors on November 21.

Elsewhere around Stourhead, the team are now busy at work preparing for the rest of the celebrations. We'll be putting the finishing touches to our plans for festive family fun, and hanging wreaths and garlands, whilst our head ranger will be out on the estate – choosing the perfect Christmas tree to light-up the courtyard.

If you do happen to visit during this time, you'll also start to see preparations for this year's evening spectacular – Christmas at Stourhead. Artists will begin installing their magical illuminations throughout this month, ready for the opening night on November 27. Tickets are already proving very popular, especially at weekends, so do make sure to book yours well in advance to guarantee your place.

However you're welcoming the season, we hope that you're able to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of nature that surrounds you. For what simple pleasure there is in a walk, as the dew sparkles from the grass and the robin fills the valley with silvery song.

To find out more about Stourhead or get involved in the work that we do, please do get in touch. We look forward to seeing you at Stourhead again soon.

stourhead@nationaltrust.org.uk or 01747 841152



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Neosporosis in cattle is caused by the parasite found in the faeces of infected dogs or foxes. Abortion normally occurs between three and eight months of the pregnancy. Infection from dogs can lead to multiple abortions within the herd. **Once infected, animals remain infected for life.**

Neosporosis is the most common diagnosed cause of abortion in cattle in the UK. Any live, full-term calves they produce may be born infected. Neospora will pass from generation to generation and there is no vaccine available.

PLEASE PROTECT OUR COWS - make sure you notice where your dog defecates and pick up and remove the faeces immediately.
Thank you

Charles Spencer, St Martin's Farm, Zeals



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Christmas at St Peter's Kilmington and Stourton Women's Institute

2020 will go down in history as the year of the Covid 19 pandemic. The WI will decorate St. Peter's with this in mind and windows and areas will be dedicated as listed below. Displays will incorporate a card/label with necessary information – eg "Dedicated to All Farmers and Producers" and names of the people who have kindly worked and donated their time to the floral arrangement and expertise on that window/area. The WI's outline ideas are as follows:

The altar and the two windows either side will be dedicated to all lives lost to Covid

The six windows of the North Aisle will be dedicated as follows

- NHS and volunteers
- Carers and care homes
- Battle of Britain
- Farmers and food producers
- Delivery people and postmen
- Trussell Trust Food Bank, and CAB/Mental Health

In addition there will be many other decorated areas and other features including the Nativity crib and a Christmas tree and much more.

The idea is to run this on the same timescale as the Christmas decorations in Stourhead House, which starts on 1st December and runs until after Christmas. The WI will start decorating the church on Sat/Sun/Mon, 28th, 29th and 30th November. If anyone has any queries please contact:

Jane Parker (01985 844248/jane.homefarm@gmail.com)

or

Vanessa Meeker (vmeeker2@gmail.com)

This is very much a parish initiative and the parish is indeed most grateful to the WI for their generosity in the giving of their time and skills. It is hoped that it might also be possible to sell home-made produce, cakes etc during the month of December, to help counteract the parish not being able to hold fundraising events for most of this year. More on this next month.

Jane Parker

Advent Windows in Bourton

We are all concerned about how our plans for the Festive Season will be affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, but one thing that we can do is to decorate our road-facing windows during Advent.. Pick a day in December, notify me by 1st December and then decorate your road-facing window on the day that you have identified leaving it in place until after Christmas . I will try to distribute the list through Bourton to the Forge Garage, the village notice boards and through St George's School.

Every blessing to you all.

Caroline Worthington 07754 883454

Jane Parker Churchwarden at St Peter's for 20 years



On 20th September at Morning Worship at St Peter's, Stourton, the parish celebrated Jane Parker's 20 year anniversary as Churchwarden. Jane was presented with flowers and a ceramic mug appropriately engraved. Many congratulations and the thanks of the whole parish go to Jane on this milestone and for all she has done over the years and continues to do for St Peter's.

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SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2020

All services are subject to change with the restrictions so do please look at the News and Events page on the Upper Stour Website

Sunday 1st All Saints and All Souls

8.30 am Holy Communion at St Martin's Zeals
10.00 am Parish Communion at St George's Bourton
4.00 pm All Souls Service at St Mary's Kilmington - **see page 14**

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

8.30 am Holy Communion at St George's Bourton
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Mary's Kilmington
- followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
at 10.45 am - **see page 14**
5.30 pm Compline at St Peter's Stourton

Weds 11th Armistice Day

10.55 am Live Recorded Service
See page 14 and www.upperstour.co.uk/services for more details

Sunday 15th Second Before Advent

08.30 am Holy Communion at St Martin's Zeals
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Stourton

Sunday 22nd Next Before Advent / Christ the King

8.30 am Holy Communion at St George's Bourton
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals

Sunday 29th Advent Sunday

08.30 am Holy Communion at St Martin's Zeals
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Stourton

December 2020

Sunday 6th Second Sunday of Advent

08.30 am Holy Communion at St Martin's Zeals
10.00 am Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

Weekday Prayers

Mondays 9am at St George's Bourton

Wednesdays 4pm at St Martin's Zeals

Thursdays 9am at St Mary's Kilmington

For the Fallen

by Laurence Binyon



With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Our Remembrance Service on 8th November at St Mary's Kilmington will be a short (around 40 minutes) Act of Worship and Remembrance at which wreaths will be presented and received.

It will of course only be possible for 30 people to be in church, although the Service will be transmitted to anyone who would like to be part of it, but who inevitably will have to stand outside.

Immediately following the Service we will make our way to Kilmington's War Memorial for our Act of Remembrance which will begin at around 10.45 am. In view of the constraints upon numbers allowed in the church, it is hoped that people might want to concentrate on attending this Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, perhaps instead of coming to church, although of course everyone is most welcome to come to either or both.

BR-E

All Souls

Each year on the Sunday before All Souls' Day, the church remembers those whom we love but see no longer. This year we will be holding a very simple service Sunday 1st November at 4pm in St Mary's Church Kilmington. During this service we remember in prayer any people who we are asked to remember, and those whose funerals have been held in the parish since November 2019.

BR-E

Armistice Day: 11th November

This year, in order to mark Armistice in these strange times, when people are even being discouraged from gathering at the Cenotaph, I thought it may be helpful to have a digital service. These are never the same as gathering together to show our respects, but, if you would like to join the recorded service that will go live at 10.45 then please see go to www.upperstour.co.uk/services. I also thought that, rather than marking the day at one of our village centre memorials, it would be nice to mark Armistice Day at the Beech Knoll memorial for those who died in the Dakota Crash 19 Feb 1945 from RAF Zeals.

BR-E

St George's Church Rose Memorial Pedestal

Owing to COVID 19 restrictions and limited access to the church this commemoration is not feasible this year. However the Memorial Book will be displayed on top of the font as usual. This can be viewed when the Church is open for services throughout November (*Church Services on page 12*). The traditional Poppy Remembrance Pedestal will stand throughout Remembrance-tide.

Barbara Borwell



FESTIVE DECEMBER MENU !

**VISIT STOURHEAD WINTER
ILLUMINATIONS AND HAVE DINNER
WITH US**

STARTERS

Parsnip, Cranberry and Chestnut Soup, Bread, Butter (V) (GF*)
Fennel Cured Salmon, Beetroot and Vodka Creme Fraiche, Salmon Caviar, Fresh Dill (GF*)
Rosary Goats Cheese, Pear and Walnut Tartines, Grilled Tomatoes, Balsamic Reduction (V)
Chicken and Black Pudding Terrine, Piccalilli, Toast

MAINS

Roast Turkey Escalope, Sausage Meat Stuffing, Brussels Sprouts, Chestnuts, Parsnips, R Potatoes
Aged Beef Topside, Selection of Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes
Fish Chowder with Purple Sprouting Broccoli and New Potatoes
Pearl Barley Risotto, Roasted Squash, Cranberry Wensleydale Cheese, Hazelnuts, Pumpkin Seeds
Venison and Mushroom Pie, Roasted Parsnips, Carrots, Mash, Gravy
Spiced Cauliflower, Spinach and Lentil Pie, Roasted Parsnips, Carrots, Mash, Gravy (Ve)

PUDDINGS

Traditional Christmas pudding, Brandy Sauce (V)
Sticky Date and Ginger Pudding, Toffee Sauce and Stem Ginger Ice Cream (V)
Spiced Berry Merengue Pie, Curd, Hazelnut Praline (V) (GF)
Classic Chocolate Brownie, Jude's Vanilla Ice Cream, Toasted Pecans (V) (Ve)
Selection of Ice Creams and Sorbets (V) (Ve*) (GF)
Sorbets - Gin & Tonic, Blood Orange, Green Apple, Lemon (V) (Ve*) (GF)

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Country Calendar : November 2020

*Days short, skies dark
Cruel wind, cold and stark
Quickened breath, icy blast
Winter's cloak truly cast.*

JP

Winter is upon us, and we are well into winter work mode. All the cattle are hunkered down into their routine as the wind rain and winter's chill does its worst. I always get a feel-good factor knowing that the cows and calves are dry and warm.

As beef farmers we were shocked to read in the national press that the food wholesaler Booker, which is owned by Tesco, has admitted relabelling Uruguayan beef as British – but claimed it was a case of “human error” and not common practice. This is a breach of both trading standards and environmental health law. Bookers’ freezing and shelf-life policy is just as concerning. A best-before date of July 2021 from an animal slaughtered in November 2019 covers 20 months. Guidelines for good practice on frozen beef suggest it can be frozen for a period of up to six months, but certainly no more than 12 months. A statement from Bookers, in response, said a two-year shelf life on frozen beef, lamb and pork was standard practice across the retail sector for food frozen at source. The original source label for imported Uruguayan beef had been over labelled obliterating much of the original information, which included best-before dates.

Well, does any of this surprise us? The British beef industry produces beef on the highest environmental welfare and ethical standards; we are desperately concerned as an industry that pro Brexit trade deals could allow imports of food produced in ways that would be illegal in the UK undercutting British farmers and lowering standards. Now the whistle is blown on such well-known retailers who are taking advantage of weak government's rules. As it stands to date the government have re-buffed any attempts to include the protections in the Agriculture Bill going through Parliament, arguing existing laws already enshrine them, even though the NFU (National Farmers Union) argue that this is not the case, Booker/Tesco being a prime example! My daughter would tell me to make sure it has The Red Tractor Label, as this is totally traceable from farm to plate.

Breaking News: Harry Parker is the newly elected Chairman of The British Limousin Cattle Society. Harry has been involved in this breed of cattle for many years and is an active member of The South West Limousin Club. He has been the Club Representative on The British Limousin Council of Management for 8 years and has now been voted Chairman of the largest cattle breeding society. It is a huge accolade as Harry works tirelessly to promote the breed and the best of British beef. The position is for three years and will encompass the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of The British Limousin Breed.

Jane Parker

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News from Parish Councils

Bourton

With the colder weather fast approaching I will be working towards ensuring the grit bins are adequately filled and there are to be new bins installed, one at the bottom of Church Track and the other on Millers Close. The Parish Council continue to hold the monthly meetings via Zoom and this is working really well. I envisage this will be how we conduct our meetings for the foreseeable future, certainly well into 2021. The PC Highways Team, led by Councillor Fran Gillett and our Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Sheila Williams, are continuing to look into the issue of speeding traffic and drivers abusing the white hatchings on West Bourton Road. Any near misses, minor and non-injurious incidents should be reported: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/roads-highways-and-maintenance.aspx>

The public consultation and community engagement event with the Sandways site developer, Aaron Pearce (director of T & A Land) to inform the community and assess the level of support took place in the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd October and was well attended by many people from the village. There was a good turnout by the village with over 50 attendees showing much interest in the indicative plans. The feedback from the community will have provided much useful information for T&A Land in preparation for their Pre-Application discussions with Dorset Council planning officers. Further feedback and information of this event will be reported in the October minutes. Please continue to use www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk to report issues such as potholes, drainage, street lighting and rights of way problems

Kilmington

I am delighted to report that the Parish Council has received an excellent response to our request for donations towards the cost of the new defibrillator unit. The total cost was £1400 and the PC was able to find £575 from reserves which left a shortfall of £825. £300 was received from the Amenity Fund, £347 from parishioners and £178 via Lloyds Bank compensation payments which I successfully claimed from them for excessive hours spent on the telephone and errors on our account. We would like to thank all our donors very much indeed. More good news comes in the shape of Wiltshire Highways having done a fairly thorough patching job in Butts Lane and in Church Road.

As you may have already heard, the Playing Field Committee has unfortunately had to cancel the annual Firework Display on 5 November as it is felt that under the present restrictions it would be irresponsible to hold it.

The next meeting of the PC will be held remotely, via the Zoom internet conferencing platform, on Wednesday 25 November commencing at 8pm. The Agenda and details of how members of the public may join the meeting will be available on our website and on the noticeboard at least 4 working days prior to the 25th. If you have any queries, please contact me. **Ruth Burrows, Clerk**

Stourton with Gasper

Following the Parish Council meeting on 30 September you will find details on the website http://www.stourton.org.uk/parish_council1.html, and also available on the noticeboard. Please note the Spring Litter Picking Campaign will take place on 27 February 2021. This is earlier than previous years and more details will be out nearer the date.

The consultation regarding the BT telephone box has now closed and as yet we are unaware of any decisions that will have been made. The Parish Council vehemently recommended that this should not be discontinued on the grounds of safety due to the remoteness of our villages. We are very fortunate to have a defibrillator in the village which developed a fault recently with the kiosk light. Although we have a lovely councillor who regularly checks this, we would ask anyone noting the light not working to inform us, so we can ensure it is all in working order when we might be required to do so.

Due to the continuing situation it is unlikely that the Parish Council will be meeting in person for a while yet. Our next meeting is Wednesday 2 December. This will again be via Zoom.

Fran Hill, Clerk

Zeals

Thanks to our returning Parish Steward, who had been seconded along with other stewards to undertake highways work throughout the county, several of our hidden street signs that had been covered over by foliage are now exposed, and a number of overgrown verges have also been trimmed. He was also able to make the time to patch small areas of road surface along High Street. Wiltshire's contractors have carried out essential repair work on the road surface along Bells Lane following recent requests. Unfortunately, the repairs required to make safe the damaged build-out structure opposite the Hall will involve more planning and technical expertise. To his great credit again, our Parish Steward has completed another temporary repair thus making the build-out reasonably safe for the time being.

Some residents may not be aware of the very successful Seeds4Success organization that operates locally. It is a charitable venture of interest and benefit to teenagers and others that operates out of Mere, and also with branches at Wilton and Tisbury. Altogether some 65 young people are currently engaging in activities and receiving other opportunities and advice from the system's key workers. Their website will provide readers with further details.

The next public meeting of the Parish Council would normally be taking place at 7pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17 November. However, it is most likely that this will not take place owing to the uncertain times we are currently experiencing. Councillors shall most probably continue to deal with business matters remotely, as they have been doing since lockdown began several months ago. Councillors meet regularly as a group outside whenever there is a site meeting to discuss a planning application. The Parish Council will be laying a wreath on behalf of the village by the War Memorial on Remembrance Day. By then we should have named brass plates in situ beside each of the commemorative trees at Longcross as another reminder of those from our village who gave up their lives for our freedom.

Graham Edgar, Clerk



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Regular Weekly Events

Weekdays	Preschool The ZAC (Zeals Afterschool Club)	08.45 – 15.15 at the Preschool Playing Fields, West Bourton (term time only) Daily 3.30 – 6 pm at Whitesheet School, Zeals. Contact Ross Coad 01747 841531
Tue	Pilates Tummies, Tiddlers & Toddlers	10 am – 11 am ZVH 1.30 – 3.00 pm at St. George's School Hall (term time only); entrance across the field.
Wed	Pilates Bell-ringing practice	9.15 – 10.15 a.m. ZVH 7.30-9.00 pm at St Martin's Zeals fortnightly. Beginners and lapsed ringers welcome.
Fri	Friday Fun Club Beavers Cubs Choir Practice	10 – 11.30 am (term time) Whitesheet School (Zeals) Hall 18.00-19.00 Bourton Village Hall Contact Anne Martin 07483 893006 anne.martin9@btinternet.com 19.15-20.45 Bourton Village Hall Contact George Cadnam on 07718 785738 / gcadders@hotmail.com Most Fridays (6-7pm) at St Martin's Zeals. New singers welcome. Contact Tom Wheare 01747 840 622

Bourton Village Hall

There are no lunches or teas planned for November at the present time but please do check the noticeboards for updates. The Village Christmas Lunch is pencilled in for 14th December. If you wish to book a place for Christmas Lunch please contact Paul Curry 01747 840432 npaulc1@outlook.com.

The hall is COVID-19 compliant and can open for socially distanced meetings, toddler groups and exercise classes, subject to government restrictions. To book the hall for future events, please contact Heather Ransley 07849 673 670 / hansley@btinternet.com.

St George's School, Bourton

At St George's School we are developing our Outdoor Learning provision. As a school we put a high focus on getting outside and learning as much as possible and now more than ever this is crucial following on from the effects of Covid 19.

We used to take the children over to a woodland, owned by a member of staff in the village, each week to take part in Forest School sessions. These sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and staff and were a valuable part of the children's curriculum, giving them opportunities to learn by experience. Due to Covid 19 restrictions we are unable to visit our usual woodland and we needed to find an alternative option, so we have decided to develop our school grounds. We are fortunate to have a wooded area on our school field and have decided to set this up as our dedicated Forest School area incorporating our school garden area. Currently the area is open to the public out of school hours, but we are fencing off the area and putting gated access for school use only, thus ensuring a safe space for our children to explore and learn outdoors. We have received a generous donation from past parents along with a very generous donation from our school PTFA and plan to use this money to create a purpose built safe and secure Forest School area complete with fire pit, tools, seating and gardening facilities; thus improving our current facilities.

Look out over the coming weeks for photographs of our wonderful children showing the benefits of getting outside in the fresh air, whatever the weather!

Editor's Note

As usual the December/January issue will be combined:

**Contributions for the December 2020/January 2021 edition by
Friday 20th November please**

