

Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals



April 2021

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Clergy

Rev Ben Rundell Evans *Priest in Charge*Parish Office: 01747 840221 (Day off Tuesday)

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Rev Mac MacCormack Associate Priest
07470667118 (Day off Friday)

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Licensed Lay Ministers

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Contributions for the May 2021 issue should reach the Editor by Friday 16th April 2021 at noon

Mobile Library Times: April 2021

April 8, 22 Zeals School 10.00-10.40 am

Kilmington Home Guard Club 11.25-11.35 am

Please note: The North/South Mobile Libraries are not currently able to operate due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The Residential Care Homes Mobile Library will continue to make deliveries.

For further information contact www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries

Message from Rev Mike MacCormack

Having been introduced in the March edition, I thought I might talk a little about my role and how that might link to the community. Being an Associate Priest is a privileged position; I will be part of the ministry team and have opportunities to offer service, worship, care and to support others, particularly Rev Ben as I stand alongside him, my boss the Parish Priest. He gets the governance, the accountability, and the cure of souls. He has a stipend; I don't and I'm grateful for that because it sets me free to organise my hours and commitments and I still get to experience a full ministry.

Parish Priests serve through leadership which is fundamental to our faith; I believe wholeheartedly in that principle of service leadership for us all and therefore I will work with Ben and the ministry team to keep our mission and ministry fresh, active and collaborative. I welcome a ministry of all believers and will advocate the involvement of all in our work and in our prayer life.

I guess most of you reading this have a faith and are believers, but I am still keen to offer something that has pause for us all to think even if you have no faith. So, imagine if what we call faith was called love or caring or helping others; would that make a difference? And what if I suggested that caring and helping are good practical human behaviours, but love is more spiritual and trickier to pin down?

Love can lead to devotion and the devotion of the lover is gentle, kind, caring and ready to help. Belief can lead to anger, militancy and even terrorism. When we love we can accept others' thoughts and ideas when we truly believe we can be dogmatic and forceful, determined we are right; I see too much of this in everyday life. Love need not be blind, but faith must, ultimately, be a leap in the dark. Let me suggest how faith and love can be one and how we can be spiritual and practical, how we can have an everyday faith that cares and how all people in any community can live together through helping and caring for each other. For those of us with faith we should be asking: Is our faith an everyday faith?

For those of us with faith we should be asking: Is our faith an everyday faith? Does it help us live and tell the story of God in our everyday world?

Those of us who go to church need to connect what happens in church on Sundays to the everyday lives of people in the congregation and those around us in the wider community. As believers we need to be welcoming, caring, and open to all spiritualities and those with none. And those of you with no belief or who are, at best, sceptical please trust us in our faith which we are trying not to keep bound-up in religious worship in the church, but, hard as it is, ready to demonstrate through how we live. In order to be trusted I am therefore keen for us in church to tell the story of the gospels through our deeds, for as John the evangelist says:" Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

Mac

Rev Mike MacCormack

St George's 100 Club

All remaining draws for the current year took place at Forge Garage, on 9 March and the results are:

December winners

1st Jonathan Harris

2nd Barbara Borwell

January winners

1st Oliver Unwin

2nd prize Robert Taylor

February winners

1st Janet House

2nd Rosie Elvidge

March winners

1st Ella Unwin;

2nd Roger Moores

A new subscription year starts in April and anyone can join. Full details available from Ruth Burrows on 01747 840371.

St Martin's Millennium Club

Winners for March

D Gatehouse

A Poynton

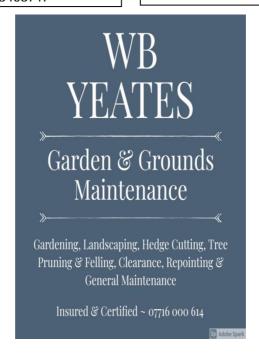
C Pattie

R Lauder

P Saunders

The April draw will be held on Thursday 8th April at Zeals Motors

Contact Nigel Blackmore 01747 841110 SDC Lott 842



Green Fingers Notes from a Fairweather Gardener

April 2021

Do you aspire to a Wembley turf, complete with perfectly mown straight lines, or are you content with a patch of green to set off your flower beds? Either way, now is the time to get out the lawnmower and give the grass its first cut of the year, if you haven't done so already.

This early in the year, it is probably best not to be too brutal when you are mowing so that you encourage the grass to grow healthily. The damp winter might well have encouraged moss to grow in the grass. If so, April is a good time to apply a moss killer and lawn feed mixture, although I fear we might be left with more bare earth than grass if we did that! Grass tends to use up a lot of the nutrients in the soil, so for a really healthy green swathe, you should feed it with a high nitrogen fertiliser. Any lawn, no matter how tatty, is improved by some attention to the edges of the flower beds. It is amazing how much smarter the garden looks after the grass has been mown and the edges trimmed.

My mother used to say that you should sow parsley seeds on Good Friday to stop the devil eating your vegetables. Like many a country saying, it has the ring of truth – this is indeed a good time to sow parsley. If you are considering planting a new herb bed, remember that most herbs originate in a warm dry climate, so they prefer a sunny spot. They do not need deep or especially rich soil, but they do need to keep well drained, so if you are starting afresh, put a good layer of stones or broken pots into the bed for drainage. Most herbs will also grow well in pots, where the same rules apply, so it is best to use a gritty compost. Many vegetables can also be grown in pots if you don't have space elsewhere in the garden; an 18inch pot will accommodate beans, courgettes, tomatoes or salad crops, although not all together!

There are so many things one could be doing, but sometimes on a sunny spring afternoon when the birds are singing, the demands of a perfect garden have to be ignored in favour of a seat in the sunshine with tea, cake and a good book.

Daphne Knott

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News from Stourhead

National Trust

As April arrives, so does Easter and we look forward to welcoming lots of families to Stourhead over the holiday period. We know that this Easter will be even more important for many families as the rule of six (or two households) means they can spend some long overdue

time together after months apart. So, we will once again be running Easter egg hunts around the garden and we are looking forward to welcoming visitors who are both young in age and young in heart, to enjoy our outdoor spaces and the obligatory chocolate of course!

As I write, spring is definitely springing in the garden with the beautiful yellow trumpets of daffodils appearing in swathes to brighten any spring day. As the season progresses, we look forward to a magnificent display of rhododendron and azalea blossom from April through to June and a glorious bounty of bluebells in the surrounding woodlands on the estate throughout May. Our waymarked Bonham Wood walk takes in some of the best of the bluebells and can be downloaded from our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead.

Whilst the house remains closed until at least 17 May, we look forward to our shop and restaurant reopening this month in line with government guidance (our outdoor kiosk is already open for take away food and drink). If you're in need of a bit of retail therapy without the crowds then do pop in to browse our range of seasonal products and locally sourced items – perfect presents for a loved one (or yourself!). The shop will be open from 12 April.

As the year progresses things are looking brighter still, not only in terms of lengthening days and signs of spring, but also as we move towards being able to see loved ones and spending precious time together again. We look forward to the garden and estate at Stourhead being the backdrop to many of those much-anticipated moments and sharing in that joy.

Louisa Reeves, Marketing and Communications Officer. louisa.reeves@nationaltrust.org.uk

Country Calendar: April

April's gift of sunshine and showers Wakes the hedgerows and tree lined bowers Sweetest ever scents of early spring Oh listen how the birds do sing. JP

April is such a busy month on the farm with lambing (not many this year) and and also calving. All new calves for 2021 begin with the letter "S". In fact, we had a set of twins born, two females, the first set in eleven years, which have been named "Spring and Summer". They are so cute and thankfully, because they are both girls, they will breed. Oddly, if they were one of either sex the female would not breed. When a set of twins is born and one is a bull calf and the other is a heifer calf, more than 90% of the time the female is infertile. We were delighted that they were both girls.

We are also busy on the land, weather permitting, getting the spring crops in. We do not plough or work the soil here at Home Farm, we are a "no till" operation, and have been for over 20 years. We direct drill straight into the ground - there is very little soil disturbance. This is all good for the soil structure and environment. Now we are no longer under EU regulations the Government are developing new schemes to attract farmers to be more environmentally sustainable in their land management. Sustainable farming is the name of the game, all interesting stuff. The goals are all for the environment, biodiversity and climate change. Paul is our right-hand man and has worked for us for many years, as did his father before him. Paul totally understands the concept of conservation agriculture and was enthralled with a documentary called "Kiss the Ground" which is on Netflix.. We had watched it earlier and thought Paul would appreciate it as we farm with the same practices in mind.

In fact Paul told me he thought it so good he has just watched it again, and thinks everyone should watch it. Based in America it follows a farmer/agronomist who, against the general trend by the majority of the farming fraternity, has transformed his farm and set himself a challenge to get the American farmers to embrace and change their way of farming, implementing a no till regime. He was so amazed with the transformation of his land, he decided to organise talks and lectures to the farming fraternity, showing them how it makes such a huge difference to the land and environment. Getting them on board is no easy feat.

/continued on page 9 ...

It involves trying to re-educate a mindset of continuously turning the soil, doing away with their enormous ploughs and cultivators which do more harm than good, to adopt a totally new system which will look after the land and environment by going "no till". This will lead to restoring lost ecosystems, creating abundant food supplies, and basically regenerating hope for the climate.

Over the years ground erosion has become an environmental problem. Crop and meat production needs to be sustainable with the best animal husbandry practices. We all know about America's huge beef feed lots, and chlorinated chicken, and these operations are no longer acceptable to a forward-thinking society. Vast tracks of land have become dust bowls with huge environmental issues. This is an inspiring and ground breaking documentary that reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis. It is a must-see programme that everyone should be encouraged to watch. It has huge relevance for the massive environmental and health problems we face today. America is not the only nation which has a lot to learn. The heritage of huge industrial scale farming coupled with good old-fashioned greed might one day be a thing of the past, one can hope.

We at Home Farm are ahead of the game restoring our healthy soil and habitats. If you can watch this programme, I can assure you, you will not be disappointed.

Jane Parker

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Whitesheet School News

All children were welcomed back to school, on Monday 8th March. It was a fun and activities non uniform day organised by the teachers Mrs Edmed and Mrs Bendell.

We were excited to share our newly installed outdoor play equipment, with all the children, and especially those who have not been in school this year. Although I have not been in school through Covid related ill health, I am available by email, telephone or Teams, if anyone has a concern regarding their children or school matters. I am continuing to work with all staff at school and outside the classroom. Mrs Emily Mullford from Shrewton Primary has continued to come into school 2 days a week, until I return on 31st March for the end of term.

The parent questionnaire was sent out by the governors on 12th March. They are being collated by chair of governors Margaret Martin and Reverend Ben. Details next month when the results have been analysed.

We have been successful in appointing a new experienced teacher for the summer term for the Golden Eagles class KS2, to replace Mrs Bendell who is leaving for a career change at Easter. We will be recruiting a permanent teacher for that class in September.

Vanessa Higgins (Head of School)



MURDER MOST FOUL 1557

A Tudor Tragedy to be performed in Kilmington on 18/19th September 2021

AUDITIONS

11 am Sunday 23rd May Kilmington Church, BA12 6RD

EVERYONE WELCOME FOR LARGE OR SMALL PARTS

in this Period Outdoor Play about the infamous

Hartgill Murders

Contact: Christine Dunn 01749 812585 or Peter Booth 01985 845379 www.murdermostfoul.co

Wylye Valley Art Trail 2021

After several false starts, changes of minds and different governmental instructions, the Wylye Valley Art Trail is going ahead this year! There are over 140 artists and 48 venues running from Saturday May 1st until Sunday May 9th Within our area of Zeals there are several venues, which include some new artists and makers to the Trail.

As long as we are all careful to follow guidelines, hand sanitisers and face masks at the ready, and take all necessary precautions, we hope that it will be an uplifting glimmer of enjoyment after such a bleak year.

Barb Ralph

Zealous Artist in Zeals!

The Wylye Valley Art Trail is on this year, so put Saturday 1st to Sunday 9th May in your diary. In Zeals, Eliza Parker is exhibiting some lively oil paintings in her studio. She paints pots, potatoes, places and people, and prices start at £150, a proportion of which will go to local charity. Look out for the WVAT signs from Portnells Lane or Chapel Lane towards White Cross. Her studio at Stour Vale Cottage is right down towards the river Stour on Zeals Row. In accordance with government guidelines, two people at a time can come into the studio, wearing masks. Doors and windows will be left open between 10 and 4 on all days except Tuesday (closed). Refreshments provided. More information will be in the WVAT brochure coming soon, and available in the Post Office.

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2020

Churches open for socially distanced worship from Easter Day

Thursday 1st Maundy Thursday

6.00 pm Recorded reflections, available on

www.upperstour.co.uk/services/

Friday 2nd Good Friday

2.30 pm Recorded reflections: Stations of the Cross

available on www.upperstour.co.uk/services/

Sunday 4th Easter Day

08.00 am Son Rise Service at St Peter's Stourton

10.00 am First Eucharist of Easter at St George's

Bourton

10.00 am First Eucharist of Easter at St Martin's Zeals

Sunday 11th Second Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Parish Communion at St Mary's Kilmington

Sunday 18th Third Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Stourton

Sunday 25th Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals

May 2020

Sunday 2nd Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

Churches open for private prayer from week commencing 12th April:

Mondays 09.00 am at St George's Bourton Wednesdays 4.00 pm at St Martin's Zeals Thursdays 09.00 am at St Mary's Kilmington St Peter's Stourton open all day with restrictions







From the Registers

Funerals

10th March at Semington Crematorium: Robert Brownson

11th March St Peter's, Stourton: Katie Manley

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 13th May

The APCM this year is due to be held on Thursday 13th May at 7 pm in St Martin's Church Zeals. Everyone is welcome, and seating in the church will be appropriately spaced.

This is an important meeting for the parish, so if you have any issue(s) you would like to raise, please let me know well in advance.

To mark Ascension Day, there will be a Service of Holy Communion at 6pm in St Martin's Church in advance of the start of the APCM.

Rev Ben Rundell-Evans

Lent Course: Seeing and Believing

A group of about 20 of us have been privileged to attend Margaret Martin's Lent Course (on zoom) this year. We have examined various paintings and icons and discussed their connections with our faith and what meanings for today they bring. The course has been most interesting and instructive, and the only sadness has been in our not being able to be together in person for the Course. Having said that, the paintings and icons were of course highly accessible and visible on screen, and everyone is indebted to Rev Ben for being our technical wizard and enabling us to see everything so well. But above all I know I speak for all of us in giving huge thanks to Margaret for a most enlightening and enjoyable course.

Celia Cotton and Sue Evans

Flower Gala: 28th – 30th May Calling all flower arrangers

Please put the dates in your diary as we hope very much that we will be able to hold this in St. Peter's Church this year (depending on Covid restrictions). The plan is to pick on Thursday 27th May and arrange on Friday 28th May. Stewards will also be needed over the weekend. *Crin Fearon*

We had such a success with the produce stall at Christmas that we hope to repeat this in May. We might also have a plant stall so if everyone could please sow a few extra seeds and/or pot up a few additional plants for us, that would be amazing Much more on this, and on the proposals for the produce stall next month.

Jane Parker/Celia Cotton



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Walking in Wiltshire

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Walking in Wiltshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/wiltshire is the website for you! With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Wiltshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so, whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking! *John Harris* www.walkinginengland.co.uk, email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



GREENLIGHT DRIVING SCHOOL

Time to get your driving licence ... Now booking for April 12th onwards Block bookings or hourly lessons.

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News from Parish Councils Bourton

It would appear from recent government updates that virtual meetings will be coming to an end and that from May 7th all council meetings should be actual rather than via Zoom. I will be working closely with the village hall trustees ahead of this date to ensure that we follow all the COVID regulations and guidelines when normal meetings resume.

The Parish Council have recently renewed the defibrillator contract with SWAST (South Western Ambulance Service Trust) and this will run for another 4 years. Contained within the contract is the provision of further training for people who wish to know how to use a defibrillator and as soon as the COVID restrictions allow I will be looking into booking a training session as soon as possible.

You may have noticed the brief appearance of a new map in the noticeboard opposite the war memorial. Unfortunately, the damp conditions meant the map deteriorated fairly rapidly! However, a more robust map has been ordered and will be in place very shortly. Bernard Sullivan and his team of volunteers have recently surveyed the entire rights of way network within the parish and this has been submitted to the Parish Council and the Dorset Council ranger, Graham Stanley so that improvement works can take place where necessary.

Councillor Peter Williams has been working with CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) to refurbish the wooden fingers boards that were on the iron sign posts at the junction of West Bourton Road and the B3081. Councillor Williams has been putting the final finishing touches to the fingerboards, including sanding them down, painting them and fixing 170 letters and numbers to the finished boards. By the time this goes to press the signposts will once again be in place, with bright and clear lettering, directing people to our wonderful surrounding villages.

Eve Wynn, Clerk

Kilmington

The Parish Council will meet via zoom on 24th March. There will be a full report in the next magazine.

The Council has been active in liaising with Wiltshire Highways to clear and maintain some surface water drains in the village, two in particular which have been causing problems.

The playing field shelter floor was in a dilapidated state, and this flooring has been repaired.

The Annual Parish Council will be held on either 19th or 20th May at the Home Guard Club – the date to be agreed at the March meeting. This meeting will of course be subject to Covid restrictions applicable at the time.

Ruth Burrows, Clerk / continued on page 18...

Stourton with Gasper

Current guidelines suggest that Councillor elections to Wiltshire Council and Parish Councils will go ahead on May 6th 2021. Stourton with Gasper Parish Council has 7 councillors, you can find out a little about them from our website http://www.stourton.org.uk/.

PC members and others from the village took part in the recent litter pick. A meeting of the PC took place on 3 March. The minutes can be found on the website. Our next meeting will consist of:

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 19 May 7.00 pm Annual Council Meeting Wednesday 19 May after the APM General Council Meeting Wednesday 19 may after the ACM

It is planned that we will be allowed to meet in person with all the relevant social distancing in place.

The Annual Parish Meeting is the opportunity for parishioners to join the councillors and hear reports from local groups. It allows parishioners to meet and learn about the different groups that make up the community. This will be on 19th May 2021 and we would encourage all sections of the community to come along and join us for at the Parish Meeting. You are then welcome to stay on for the Parish Council Meetings. *Fran Hill, Clerk*

Zeals

The new financial year (from the start of April onwards) ought to see the first meeting of the Parish Council to be held on the evening of Tuesday 18 May at 7pm in the Village Hall. Proceedings will start with the Annual General Meeting, to be followed by the usual bi-monthly meeting. Unless there are restrictions still in place, this is planned to be a public meeting.

Wiltshire Council has granted the Parish Council the same precept amount as last year: thus, a sum of £5041 will be available to carry out our obligatory duties on behalf of the parish.

The current year finished with councillors considering a planning application for a 70-bed Care Home to be sited on the 303 Interchange site. Further details can be viewed on the Wiltshire planning website.

Should any keen gardener wish to rent a productive allotment within Zeals, I am currently compiling a waiting list should any vacancy arise. Anyone interested should contact me directly.

Graham Edgar: kgedgar1@outlook.com

Kilmington & Stourton Women's Institute

The WI held their first virtual meeting in February. The virtual meeting on 23rd March was addressed by Art Historian Lizzy Rowe whose subject was "Colour in Art Throughout the centuries, the ways in which artists have used colour give us an insight into their working minds".

The Committee is in the process of organising a Speaker for April.

If you are interested in joining the WI please contact:

Secretary Bernie Isted <u>bernieisted@gmail.com</u> or Jane Parker <u>jane.homefarm@googlemail.com</u>



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Regular Weekly Events

Weekdays Pre-School 08.45 -15.15 at the Preschool Playing

Fields, West Bourton [term time only]

The ZAC (Zeals AfterSchool Club)

Daily 15.15-18.00 (17.00 Fridays) at Mere Youth Centre, off White Rd,

Mere

01747 840077/<u>info@thezac.org.uk</u>

Tuesdays Tummies, Tiddlers &

Toddlers

09.15 - 12 noon at Bourton Village

Hall [restarts 20th April]

Wednesdays Bell ringing practice 19.30 – 21.00 at St Martin's Zeals

[will re-commence when restrictions

allow]

Contact Georgina Muir 01985 844245

Fridays

Friday Fun Club 10.00 - 11.30 Whitesheet School Hall

Zeals

[temporarily suspended due to Covid]

Beavers contact Anne Martin (ZAZU)

anne.martin9@btinernet.com or by text to 07368 588270

Cubs Contact Lesley Love GSL

lesley1ump@hotmail.co.uk or text on 07967100106

[Bourton Scout group Beavers and Cubs are not planning to

return to Friday evenings at least until May 2021.]

Choir Practice Most Fridays (18.00-19.00) at St

Martin's Church Zeals. New singers welcome. Contact Tom Wheare

01747 840 622

[will re-commence when restrictions

allow]

Bourton Village Hall

The Hall team has been busy. With no one using the Hall, it has been the ideal time to do some repairs and give the interior a smart new look. It really is much more inviting now. We had already done the work to make the Hall Covid secure within the guidelines. It is now a matter of being patient and waiting for the overall picture to improve. Our best view of the next few months is as follows:

- The toddlers group is able to come back as soon as they wish. Effectively, nothing else is permitted.
- From the 12th April at the earliest, the Hall should be available for specifically exempt gatherings such as a wedding or a funeral although we would need good early warning to check all of the signs are back in place and stocks of sanitising material.
- From the 17th May at the earliest, the Hall can be open more generally though still under Covid secure rules and within social distancing requirements (groups limited to 2 households/6 people over 15 indoors with no mixing between groups and otherwise all 2 metres apart).
- Finally, the Hall should be open for all "normal business" **from the 21**st **June** in line with the Government's Step 4 and with whatever social contact/distancing limitations are then deemed still essential. We are not expecting much to restart before the end of June given these limitations but please make contact if you do have an event in mind. We will be considering a simple, probably outside version of a Village Lunch when the weather permits.

We all know how difficult, how lonely and anxious these past times have been for so many. So, we will be looking to restart activities that bring people back together at the earliest, albeit capacity and Rule of Six constrained. We are also hoping to start up some new activities once we have taken Step 4, so please watch this space, our noticeboard, the Village website and the Facebook page.

To discuss hall bookings, contact Heather Ransley 07849 673 670 hransley@btinternet.com

Mike Chapman, BVH Trustee

Contributions for the May 2021 edition by *Friday 16th April 2021* please