

Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of

Bourton

Kilmington

Stourton

Zeals



May 2021

Parish Contacts

Clergy

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

Email: revben@upperstour.co.uk

Rev Mac MacCormack Associate Priest
07470667118 (Day off Friday)
Email: revmac@upperstour.co.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers

Brian Martin 01747 840433 Mona Tyler 01985 844509

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Caroline Worthington 01747 840266 (also Lay Worship Leader)
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Enquiries regarding Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals to the Parish Office

Email: parish website www.upperstour.co.uk Facebook Group Parish of Upper Stour

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Contributions for the June 2021 issue should reach the Editor by Friday 21st May 2021 at noon

for Mobile Library - see back page

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 1921 - 2021



God of majesty,
give rest to your servant Philip
who, having served his Queen and country,
has passed from this life,
full of years yet strong in spirit.
As we give thanks for his life,
as Prince and husband,
as Consort and family man,
we pray that all that he has done
may continue to bear fruit
in the lives of individuals
and the life of this nation,
to your honour and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Our parish churches rang half-muffled tolling or chiming of a single bell on Saturday 10th April 2021 at 12 noon, 99 times.

Half muffled tolling or chiming of a single bell also took place on Saturday 17th April at the time of His Royal Highness' funeral

St George's 100 Club

No draw took place in April to allow for all subscriptions to come in for the new year.

Two draws for April and May will be done together during the first week of May. They will take place on the forecourt of Forge Garage in Bourton and details published soon after on the www.bourtondorset.org website, as well as the June edition of this magazine.

Ruth Burrows 01747 840371

St Martin's Millennium Club

April winners

E Kemp F Bex J Ransome C Spencer K Ramsay

The May draw will take place at Zeals Motors on Thursday 6th May.

Contact Nigel Blackmore 01747 841110 SDC Lott 842

Katie Manley - a message from the family.

Emily, Eliza, Nesta & Michael, Jo and I would like to express our thanks to everyone in the parish for their kindness and thoughtfulness since Katie's passing in late January. Katie has deep roots in the parish, going back several generations, and our two girls, Emily and Eliza, continue that today at St George's school.

We have had so many thoughtful messages, they are truly appreciated and we thank you all. Katie's funeral was held at St Peter's Church, Stourton on Thursday 11th March, and I would like to thank Rev Ben for all his support and kindness during this difficult time. We hope to have a memorial service and celebration of Katie's life later in the summer, to which all those who would have wanted to attend the funeral but were unable to due to restrictions are most welcome.

With best wishes and love

Jon Manley

Green Fingers Notes from a Fairweather Gardener May 2021

The sight of apple trees in bloom is not only a joy to behold, but also a sure sign that summer is on its way. So many apple trees grow locally that it is almost impossible to take a walk without seeing some blossom. If you do not already have apples in your garden, do consider growing them. In order for the tree to fruit, two varieties need to be grown together. When I was a child we had a Worcester Pearmain and a Bramley in our garden – still a perfect combination of eater and cooker to my mind. You really can't beat the taste of an eating apple straight from the tree, which tends to be the case for all home grown fruit and vegetables. Old fashioned varieties often take up a lot of space, but these days there are plenty of trees available that will grow in pots, and even some trees which have three varieties grafted together. May is the ideal month to plant out container grown trees, or indeed to start a collection of apples and other fruit trees in decorative containers on the patio.

Now is also the time to start planting up hanging baskets and other summer containers. If you like the idea of hanging baskets but would like something useful rather than purely ornamental, you could consider strawberries or cherry tomatoes. Alternatively, the choices for planting a decorative basket seem to be endless. A personal favourite is a basket full of surfina petunias. These produce a steady stream of blooms all through the summer and as a bonus are sweetly perfumed. Sadly the English weather remains unpredictable, so be sure to harden off your baskets by allowing them to bask in the sunshine but rest overnight in a sheltered porch or shed while there is still a chance of frost.

Finally, a word about weeding — I think I can hear you groaning. The reality is that the fight against weeds is now here for the summer. Most annual weeds can be kept at bay by regular hoeing, but perennial weeds will probably need a systemic weedkiller. Jean Jacques Rousseau said 'Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone'. Is that true in your household? Happy gardening!

Daphne Knott

More Bloopers from (other) Parish Magazines

The sermon this morning – "Jesus walks on the water" The sermon tonight – "Searching for Jesus"

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation

Kilmington & Stourton Women's Institute

For the meeting at the end of April via zoom the speaker was Sue Duckworth who gave a talk on and virtual tour of Sissinghurst Garden in Kent

The Committee is arranging the May speaker.

If you are interested in joining the WI please contact:

Secretary Bernie Isted bernieisted@gmail.com
or Jane Parker jane.homefarm@googlemail.com

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National Trust

News from Stourhead

May is here and we are surrounded by the beauty and colour brought by spring here at Stourhead. There is new life everywhere on the estate, with the iridescent green of the new leaves on the trees and the arrival of lambs, ducklings and cygnets. The jubilant blooms of rhododendron and azaleas have filled the garden with their

tones of buttery yellows, purples and every imaginable shade of pink. It really is a special and uplifting time of year.

It has been lovely over the last few weeks to see so many families and friends meeting at Stourhead to share much overdue time together. There has been much joy shared and we look forward to providing a safe setting for many more of these meetings, or just an escape into nature, in the coming months as restrictions continue to ease. The shop and restaurant (take-away only) have now reopened as has the Spread Eagle and the ice-cream parlour. We look forward to the house reopening to visitors later this month after many months of closure.

Out on the estate ash-die back felling work continues and just north of Park Hill Camp we are felling 36 large chestnut trees that are infected with phytophthora ramorum. It is essential we fell these to stop the spread of this disease which can cause extensive damage and death to many plant species.

If you are out and about on the estate please look out for the cattle that have returned to graze the parkland. We ask that when you are near cattle, please keep your dog on a short lead, but if you are approached by them, please let your dog off. Many thanks for your support with this.

Of course, May also sees wonderful displays of bluebells in the woodlands on the estate. Our waymarked Bonham Wood walk takes in some of the best of these carpets of blue and can be downloaded from our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead. We look forward to seeing you at Stourhead again soon.

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

Country Calendar: May 2021

Butterflies, bees and even a hare Enjoy the blossom scented air Ribbons weave around the Maypole May is the Goddess of one's soul. JP

I often ask myself which is my favourite month of the year and I think it has to be May, simply because for us farmers it is the start of a new season. Livestock are out grazing after a long winter and the smells of new growth are tangible. With the sun shining and longer days May gives us this wonderful green apparel all around us: fields, trees and hedges bursting forth. It is such an inspiring and refreshing feeling. Through lockdown it is understandable that everyone wants to be out and enjoy freedom, fresh air and the countryside. The increased and constant stream of vehicles up and down Tower Road has made life quite difficult for us. Trying to get access into the fields with tractors and large equipment takes twice as long, often hindered by parked cars. I recently drove by a field entrance just as a couple were obviously off walking. I pointed out to them that they were blocking the access, she very curtly replied "but it is Sunday"! After years of having to reverse for people I have come to the conclusion that they are unable to reverse or do not want their vehicle to go off onto the verge, as it just might get scratched or, even worse, dirty! Harry refuses to accommodate these people - he pushes forward regardless with large tractors and equipment often getting a lot of hand gestures or verbal abuse. The strain of lockdown has definitely impacted on people's temper, impatience and, dare I sav. common sense.

My biggest bug bear at the moment is litter! The general public bring it with them but cannot take it back and dispose of it correctly. Coffee cups, cans, takeaway food wrapping, nappies, wipes, bbg trays and, wait for it, the new menace: face masks. Our countryside is rapidly turning into a dustbin. Noticeably where cars park the litter is more prevalent. Then on another level is the scourge of the dog poo bags. You cannot miss these packages of faeces usually thrown into the hedges twinkling in the morning dew weighted down securely by its contents. WHY? I ask myself. They have done the responsible thing by collecting the dog's deposit, and then they leave it in the field, hang it on the gate or fence, or just throw it in the hedge. What do these annoying dog owners think happens to these parcels of delight. They lay or hang there for many months, hundreds of them contaminating our flora and fauna. Then to surpass all, I was out riding enjoying our beautiful countryside when I glimpsed a little robin in the hedge perched on top of a dangling dog poo bag pecking at the plastic, I felt physically sick. When I am out walking, I constantly collect these repellent parcels and dispose of them at home. I pride myself as a dog owner that I never leave or throw these offending bags, until the other day ... I hold my hand up - I am

guilty! I was walking up the side of the field with my labrador and I could hear people's voices on the other side of the hedge. I was concentrating on keeping my dog to heel when a dog poo bag flew through the air it cleared the hedge just missed the dog and landed inches away from me. My spontaneous reaction was done in the blink of an eye and I threw it back; the voices lulled into silence. On that occasion actions speak louder than words. My thoughts as I put all my strength into catapulting the dog faeces back to its owners was "this is for you little Robin Red Breast". I hope they got the message, although somehow I doubt it, and I will probably pick it up on my next sweep of the area.

Jane Parker

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Whitesheet School News

We have appointed Mrs Ross to take up the role as class teacher for Golden Eagles KS2, after the Easter break. Mrs Ross is an experienced teacher, who among her many talents, is great with computing, loves gardening is a skilled archer; she used to teach dance, including ballet. She came into school on the last day of term, 1st April, to meet with Mrs Bendall and familiarise herself with the children she will be teaching. She also met parents and carers at the end of the day. We are looking forward with a fun-filled summer together.

The grand sum of £48 was raised from our crazy hair day at the end of term. Golden Eagles class have been doing some exciting experiments with rocks and soils, some wizardry and some whacky creations from years 5 & 6 in Harry Potter and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Woodpeckers KS1 children have been doing some super science learning about Day and Night. I was very impressed.

The Parent Survey that was carried out, it has been positive on the whole, but there are some common themes which need to be picked up and worked on, such as communication.

Vanessa Higgins (head of school)

MURDER MOST FOUL (1557)

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



AUDITIONS

11.00 Sunday 23rd May Kilmington Church BA12 6RD

Everyone is welcome Parts for all ages and all abilities

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

From the Registers

Interment of Ashes

On 9th April at Martin's Zeals May McArdle

SERVICES FOR MAY 2021

Sunday 2nd 5th Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

Sunday 9th Rogation Sunday

10.00 am Parish Communion at St Mary's Kilmington

Thursday 13th Ascension Day

6.00 pm Holy Communion at St Martin's Zeals

Sunday 16th Sunday after Ascension

10.00 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Stourton

Sunday 23rd Pentecost

10.00 am Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals5.00 pm Service of Wholeness and Healing at

St Martin's Zeals

Sunday 30th Trinity Sunday

10.00 am Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

June 2021

Thursday 3rd Corpus Christi

9.00 am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's Kilmington

Sunday 6th 1st Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

Churches are now open for private prayer as follows:

Mondays St George's Bourton **Wednesdays** St Martin's Zeals

Thursdays 09.00 am at St Mary's Kilmington for Morning Prayer St Peter's Stourton open **all day** with restrictions

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 13th May

The APCM this year will 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



Flower Gala: 28th – 30th May at St Peter's Stourton

Don't forget to visit the Flower Gala at St Peter's church over the May Bank Holiday weekend. The church will be open all day on all three days.

Produce stall at the Flower Gala

As mentioned last month, we are planning a produce stall for the three days of the flower gala at St Peter's. We will be selling home made whole cakes or plates of individual cakes, brownies, flapjacks etc, plus jams, chutneys and so on. And we are also hoping to sell plants, vegetables etc. If anyone has anything they would be willing to offer for sale, or if they could spare a little time to man the stall or steward the church, please contact one of us below. With many thanks in advance

Jane Parker 01985 844248 or Celia Cotton 01985 844613

Summer at St George's Bourton Save these dates please!

As regulations permit we are planning to hold an Art in the Garden Event on Sunday 8th August from 3.0pm-5.0pm in gardens in Old Pound Court. Teas as well as art!

September Show will be on 4th September in and around the Church

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES
IT WILL BE LOVELY TO SEE YOU ALL AFTER LOCKDOWN!



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May 17th - hall use limited to 2 households or 6 people June 21st - all restrictions are lifted. (all subject to Government guidelines)

For enquiries and bookings please email; <u>bookings@stourtonmh.co.uk</u> or call Helen on 07971 811347website; stourtonmh.co.uk

Wylye Valley Art Trail 2021: 1st - 9th May Sunday May 9th

2021 marks 20 years since the first Wylye Valley Art Trail. After several false starts, changes of minds and different governmental instructions this year the artists have chosen to take the delicate balance of trying to keep everyone safe and going ahead, although in a slightly limited format. There are over 140 artists and 48 venues, a few are virtual (online) events, venues are open from 10.30 am until 5.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Brochures are available from Tourist Centres and locally from Zeals PO; each entry in the brochure gives directions for visitors from a main road. Look out for the numbered yellow trail marker signs. Admission to most of the events is free; if there is a charge it will be marked in the brochure, dates in pale grey indicate that the venue is closed that day.

It is a chance to visit open studios and workplaces, galleries, exhibitions by art groups, student groups and other exciting events including demonstrations, workshops and talks: a unique opportunity to see a high standard of visual arts and crafts across a wide range of skills,

We hope that WVAT 2021 will be an interesting look at local art and craft, as long as everyone follows guidelines and people are careful to use hand sanitisers and wear face masks.. We hope that it will be a glimpse of enjoyment after such a bleak year.

Barb Ralph



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News from Parish Councils Bourton

During the pandemic, the government temporarily removed the legal requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person, giving councils the powers to hold virtual meetings. However, this comes to an end on 7th May 2021 which means the PC have to think ahead to future meetings and work with the Village Hall Trustees regarding the rules and regulations of COVID safe meetings. Therefore, for the first time in over a year, we will hold a face-to-face meeting in the village hall on May 24th.

Nick Hall continues to carry out a wonderful voluntary roll in running our village website and there is the facility to contact various groups in the parish via the website. However, any Parish Council related questions should come via bourtonparishclerk@hotmail.com

I am in the possession of a more robust village map and this is to be placed in the noticeboard opposite the war memorial.

As a local government we are heading towards using a .gov.uk email domain and this will be for the Clerk and for all councillors. Once this has been secured and set up, our new contact details will be distributed via the website, noticeboards, Facebook and in the parish magazine.

Recently, via Dorset Council, the issue has arisen of problems of wet wipes, nappies and other items being flushed down our toilets and the resulting problems these items cause our sewage system. In some cases, drains become so clogged up that raw sewage floods onto private land and fields. Wet wipes, and so-called "flushable" wipes, are the biggest cause of blockages in our region. Sewerage systems are not designed to cope with today's disposable household products such as make-up, cleaning, toilet and baby wipes. This issue was raised at our last council meeting and it was agreed to try and raise awareness within the parish the problems flushing such items down our toilets cause. Remember, only the three Ps should go down the toilet – poo, pee and paper!

Kilmington

The local Wiltshire Elections take place on Thursday 6 May and voting will be at the new venue of the Home Guard Club on Kilmington Common. For the first time in very many years, there will be a poll for your parish councillors. Details of the 8 candidates who have been nominated to stand are on the noticeboard and website www.kilmingtonwiltshire.org. I am sure that if you want to ask them any questions, they will be pleased to answer them. The current Parish Council will stand down on 10 May (4 days after polling day) and the new Council takes office on the same day. The Annual Meeting of the PC will be held on the evening of Thursday 20 May and, at the time of writing this report, we are not entirely sure if this will be a remote meeting or a socially distanced meeting at

the Home Guard Club. Details will be posted on our website and noticeboards as soon as possible after 10 May.

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 March are on our website and on the village noticeboard. The issue of creating some parking spaces for the residents of Brookside has started to move again and another meeting with the National Trust has taken place. The road repairs in The Street, which were undertaken last year, have been inspected and found to require remedial works. We do not yet know when this will happen but they will be at the contractor's expense and not recharged to Wiltshire Council. The shelter in the playing field has been extensively refurbished by a local resident who has done a very good job. The Playing Field Committee are going to be laying new safagrass matting under the swing set during the course of the next month or so.

Ruth Burrows, Clerk: parishclerk@kilmingtonwiltshire.org, 01747 840371

Stourton with Gasper

Change of Date: The Stourton with Gasper Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 20 May at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall and this will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Please note that we have a number of opportunities for co-option onto the Parish Council.

What do Local Councils do?

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- Get involved locally.

For more information, please contact clerk@stourton.Org.uk

Fran Hill, Clerk

Zeals

Six of our residents were initially nominated and then accepted afterwards for their roles as parish councillors for the next few years until whenever the next round of local elections takes place. At the next meeting of the parish council, which will be the formal Annual General Meeting, its chief officers will be appointed, a review of the previous year's accounts will be undertaken, and, finally, the regular bi-monthly meeting follows where normal, regular issues will be discussed by the appointed team. This meeting, which is a legal requirement, is currently time-tabled for the evening of Tuesday 18 May. However, at the time of writing it is not at all clear if it can be a public meeting owing to the many government regulations that have to be met beforehand. Due notice will be given once I know for certain.

Graham Edgar: Clerk to Zeals Parish Council



Preparations for the 2021 Mere Literary Festival have started

Advance notice that the dates this year are **11th – 15th October**, when a wide range of authors have agreed to come and speak. More details in due course

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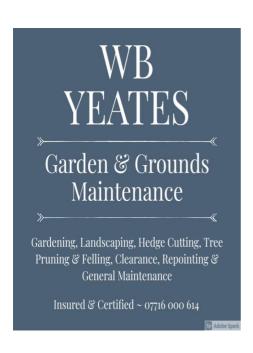
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Elizabeth Love

14 year old Elizabeth Love from Bourton has been fundraising for the Stroke Association in memory of her grandmother, Jackie Healy, who died in January following a stroke. Elizabeth wanted to raise awareness of the signs of strokes, so she incorporated her DofE and started making jewellery and pots and held a home-made sale which made £230 for the Stroke Southampton Association and Hospital. Elizabeth wishes to thank Bourton Garage for their generous donation of ingredients to make the cakes, and also everyone who bought cakes and iewellery.



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

Hurray! The Village Hall is reopening, albeit slowly! Our first indoor event will be a Village Afternoon Tea to be held on Friday 21st May. All are welcome to pop in for a cuppa and a slice of cake. We'll be open between 2:30pm and 4:30pm so why not drop by and say hello and see the improvements we've made to the hall in the last few months. It will be lovely to see you all again!

Safety is very important to us so rest assured that all necessary COVID rules will be followed at this and any other event.

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

Mobile Library Times: May 2021

May 6, 20 **Zeals** School 10.00-1040 am **Kilmington** Home Guard Club 11.25-11.35 am

Mobile Library Service – restarting – third time lucky?

Following the lifting of government restrictions South Mobile library re-starts on 16 April. From these dates the Mobile Library Service is operating as before the last lockdown. Dates and times of all mobile library stops are available online via the website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries and from printed timetables available from the mobile library. We look forward to seeing all of our customers when we next visit you.

Contributions for the June 2021 edition by Friday 21st May 2021 please