



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of

Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals



February 2023

Parish Contacts

Clergy

Rev Mac MacCormack *Associate Priest*

07470667118 (day off: Friday)

Email: revmac@upperstour.co.uk

CONTACT REV MAC FOR PASTORAL CONCERNS ONLY

Licensed Lay Minister

Mona Tyler 01985 844509

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Caroline Worthington 01747 840266 (*also Lay Worship Leader*)

Barbara Borwell 01747 840141

***Enquiries regarding Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals
to the Parish Administrator, Emma Chandarana***

Email: parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk

Parish website www.upperstour.co.uk /Facebook Group Parish of Upper Stour

The day-to-day management of the Parish is the responsibility of the Churchwardens and the PCC. Our Parish Administrator, Emma Chandarana, works part time. Contact her by email: parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk

For urgent matters such as arranging a funeral etc, you could contact your churchwarden in the first instance. Contact details below:

Bourton	Margaret Martin	01747 840433	bookworminbourton@gmail.com
Kilmington	Chris Reeves	01985 844894	c.reeves110@btinternet.com
	Celia Cotton	01985 844613	celiacotton1@outlook.com
Stourton	Jane Parker	01985 844248	jane.homefarm@gmail.com
	Crin Fearon	01747 841400	fearoncrin@hotmail.com
Zeals	Sue Evans	01747 840600	smebad@btinternet.com

About Upper Stour Magazine : Contacts

Editor: Celia Cotton 01985 844613 **Deputy Editor:** Sue Evans 01747 840600

Distribution: Carol Affleck 01747 841359 **Treasurer:** Ashley Kemp 01747 840272

Printed by Mail&Print: Berwick St Leonard 0845 362 0983

All items for the March 2023 issue should be sent to
the Editor at Bay Tree Cottage, Kilmington, Wiltshire BA12 6RG
tel 01985 844613

new email → celiacotton1@outlook.com

All items for the March 2023 issue by noon on Fri 17th Feb please

Epiphany and Candlemas

February 2nd: The Christmas season is now officially over, for we are 40 days on! The Kings [or wise men], their gifts and the Holy Family all finally tidied away until next December. But the impact they made can last all year long. The three characters were strangers when they first met, coming from different places as far as we know, yet drawn together by a 'bright star in the east'. It must have been a tough journey at times, and towards the end, they got lost and had to ask for help; having finally found the end - or was it the beginning?- of their long search, they knelt in humble praise, offered their gifts and took a different route home. I imagine their reflections lasted all year long, probably lifelong.

February 2nd is also known as Candlemas, a centuries-old Christian custom which I discovered as a Curate at in Ilminster, to melt down all the year's candles, strain out all the bits of old wick and dirt, so they can be remoulded, ready to be dedicated for the new year's worship and prayer.

Plus February 2nd is a special Sunday in church when the Bible reading recalls the occasion of the baby Jesus being taken to the Temple by his parents to be blessed as was customary in those days. Jesus is recognized as the long awaited Saviour of all people, blessed by Simeon, a faithful elderly priest who had believed this would happen before he died, saying 'Lord now let your servant depart in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation...', as well as being recognized by elderly Anna who, having known early widowhood, had dedicated her life to worship and prayer.

Much has happened since, but all three events can still have relevance for us today. As we journey through life, it is good to travel with others of a like mind; we can get lost on the way, and need to ask others for help, and sometimes the journey seems hard, and we wonder why and where we are going. But we too can discover where to offer our gifts - time, talent and treasure.

Like those old candles, we too can look through all we've collected over the last year and decide what needs to go and what can be refashioned, in thought, word or deed, so our lives can shine a little brighter in the dark days of earthly life.

Yes, it is February! The long dark nights of January are over, the days are gradually getting lighter, and there are green shoots pushing up through the earth, in spite of the more challenging weather of late. Jesus, light of the world, recognized all those years ago by strangers, by the young and the old, continues to shine brightly and steadily. Christmas may well have been tidied away, but we can reflect His light all year long, in acts of faith, hope and love.

With every blessing,

Reverend Vickie Goodman

St George's 100 Club

Results for December 2022 and
January 2023

December 2022

1st Biddy Robinson No. 21
2nd Vivienne Sturt No. 69

January 2023

1st Peter Williams No. 16
2nd Biddy Robinson No. 21

Enquiries to
Ruth Burrows
01747 840371

St Martin's Millennium Club

December winners:

M Bullen

N Maidment

A Baylis

J Biss

A Etherington

The January and February draws will take place at the end of February to allow annual membership funds to be received and numbers allocated.

If anyone would like to join the draw for 2023, please contact me.

Contact Nigel Blackmore
01747 841110
SDC Lott 842

St George's 100 Club

After 8 years Ruth Burrows is going to hand over the running of the 100 Club to Philip Newton by 1st April 2023. In the 6 weeks before that both Ruth and Philip will be involved in the actions needed to start the new term on 1st April. Ruth has been an excellent custodian and organizer of the Club, and we thank her for her dedication and all her hard work over her tenure.

In order to provide a third monthly prize from April 2023 it is planned to trial an increase in the annual subscription from £12 to £15 from April 2023 to March 2024, with the monthly prize being 1st £30, 2nd £20 and 3rd £10. The renewal forms for the next financial year will go out during late February and March 2023. Thank you to all our members for your continued support.

Tony Moorby – Treasurer St George's Church, Bourton

Mobile Library Times : February 2023

Feb 9, 23	Zeals	School	10.00-10.40 am
		Zeals Rise	10.45-11.05 am
Feb 9, 23	Kilmington	Home Guard Club	11.25-11.35 am



News from Stourhead

National Trust

Snowdrops are starting to appear here at Stourhead – a sure-fire sign that spring is on the way. As we slowly move out of a chilly winter there are plenty of exciting dates to put in your calendar!

While the house remains closed for essential annual conservation, once again our 'behind closed doors tours' are taking place on weekdays throughout February, showing how some of the rooms that aren't open to the public are used today.

You can also come and warm up by the log fire in the Entrance Hall of the house during our 'winter warmer weekends'.

Have you ever thought of volunteering here with us at Stourhead? On January 25 and 28 we'll be showcasing the diverse range of opportunities for volunteers in two recruitment events at Stourton Memorial Hall between 10am and 3.30pm. Pop by the on the day to find out more.

If you are keen to find out more about Stourhead or get involved in the work that we do, please do get in contact. We look forward to seeing you at Stourhead again soon!

Alice Moran, Marketing & Communications Officer
alice.moran@nationaltrust.org.uk or 01747 842021.



Stourton Memorial Hall

Located in the courtyard on the beautiful Stourhead Estate, the hall offers a wonderful, fully equipped venue for your special occasion.

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by Stephanie Bebbington Dyke, Founder & CEO of Blue Fox Wealth, Chartered Fellow FCISI, DipPFS



What is meant by estate planning? In broad terms, it is a planning and forecasting exercise to manage the size of your Estate to limit the burden of inheritance tax (IHT).

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If you would like to discuss your position with a friendly, independent chartered advisor, please get in touch.



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Country Calendar: February 2023

Rain, rain, and more rain welcomed in 2023. Previously we coped with two weeks of freezing cold weather, sleet, snow, frozen water troughs and icy roads. Then temperatures rose from minus 11 to a balmy 12 degrees as Christmas day approached ! So here we are looking forward to another Farming Year. We have nicely started calving, and for 2023 the naming letter is "U" - the obvious is Ukraine for a bull and Utopia for a female. As a pedigree herd every new born calf has to be registered and gets its very own passport. A tag is put in its ear with its personal identification number along with a name tag. The herd is quite content in their winter quarter., February is not my most favourite month, but at least the days are lengthening, and spring is just around the corner. Farmers are the eternal optimists, but we are all sorely tested by high production prices and delayed information from Defra as to new rules and regulations post Brexit. There is very little good news to be had and it saddens me to read of a 25% increase in people having to turn to food banks. Food production and food security should be a priority, home-grown production ticks so many boxes. The trade deals with Australia and New Zealand are lunacy and simply wrong on carbon emissions alone. I have always said that these deals are nothing more than a betrayal of British farmers, especially when one hears Michael Gove admitting on Farming Today that the only good thing about these deals for our farmers, is the get out clause he tirelessly fought for!

I did hear some good news though, there have been mutterings relating to the installation of a mobile phone mast. Wow I am in awe, after years of absolutely little or no phone signal, I can hardly dare to believe that there might be a glimmer of hope. At last, we might be able to use our mobile phones outside the house. On a more serious note, I and many others who live and work here are constantly concerned at the lack of signal. The fear of an incident which results in the loss of life, is a very real possibility. It is simply unacceptable in 2023 that we have such a poor and for us a non-existent signal. Let us hope common sense prevails and a mast is installed very soon.



Whilst writing this I had half an eye on the camera monitor in the labour ward. One of Harry's favourite cows was progressing until we noticed only one foot was showing. Then it was all hands to the deck: Harry, Paul and Verity went to assist and Minille was taken into the calving pen. On examination the other leg was tucked back thus stopping a clean delivery. Harry pushed the calf back into the cow's womb his arm fully immersed which allowed space to lift the leg into position. With a gentle pull

Ukraine, our first bull of the year, came into the world. A big calf he was too. Paul and Verity were straight into action with making sure the calf was breathing properly and airways cleared. Verity's new toy which sucks mucus out and also inflates air into the lungs was applied to its muzzle, at the same time Paul was stimulating its heart by rubbing and then finally spraying the navel. Ukraine was then stomach-tubed with colostrum to give it a boost and the best possible start. Ukraine soon raised his head and his mother was quickly licking and mothering her new baby. I am happy to report that mother and calf are doing extremely well. Dramas over, a good team effort and a very happy farmer.

Jane Parker



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Bourton September Show

We are inviting people who would like to get involved with the planning and running of the Show to get in touch.

Date for diaries will be Saturday 2nd September 2023 at Bourton Village Hall.

Please contact,

Carolyn on 07802 329078, or Glenis at harry.glenis@btinternet.com

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kilmington & Stourton Home Guard Club

The Home Guard Club has been holding a series of fundraising events over the past months and have very kindly made a most handsome donation of £250 to Kilmington LCC towards the repair costs for the damage to the church tower as a result of storm Eunice last year. The LCC is extremely grateful to the Club for this generosity and for all the effort made in support of the Church.

Zeals Village Lunches

We aim to start providing the village with an opportunity to get together again and enjoy a meal and a chat once a month in the Village Hall. Dates for the next six months are below. The food is tasty and nutritious with a variety of homemade soups and fresh fruit. Serving begins at 12.30pm

In order to know how many meals to prepare each time we have a system whereby you collect a numbered card from the village shop. Payment for the food is made at the end of the meal.

Monday 20 th February	Monday 20 th March	Monday 17 th April.
Monday 15 th May	Monday 19 th June	Monday 17 th July

Val Rowe, Zeals LCC

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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday 5th **3rd Sunday before Lent**
10.00 am Morning Worship at St George's Bourton

Sunday 12th **2nd Sunday before Lent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Mary's Kilmington

Sunday 19th **Sunday next before Lent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Stourton

Weds 22nd **Ash Wednesday**
6.00 pm Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals

Sunday 26th **1st Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals

Weekday Services

Mondays: 9.00 am	Morning Prayer at St George's Bourton
Wednesdays: 4pm	Midweek Service at St Martin's Zeals
Thursdays: 9.00 am	Morning Prayer at St Mary's Kilmington
Thursdays: 2.00 pm	Toddlers Half Hour at St George's Bourton

From the Registers

Funerals

On 5th December at St Peter's Stourton : Mrs Veronica Worthington

On 12th January at St Mary's Kilmington : Mrs Margaret Elizabeth Bligdon

Message from Rev Mac

Despite being a 'little' busier than I imagined, I want you all to know that I feel appreciated, supported and looked after as we continue to keep things going during these interesting times. It is lovely to see that we have widened our Sunday offerings, continued with Open the Book in school, have found some helpful friendly priests and organists and that we are able to be here for the pastoral services including funerals, baptisms and weddings.

Your generous Christmas gift has allowed Emily and me to enjoy a short break in Bath including the full Pump House afternoon tea with the accompaniment of an excellent musical trio playing beautifully. Only Jane Austen herself was missing. Thank you.

Mac

Safeguarding

I am the Parish Safeguarding Officer for Upper Stour. It is a requirement of the Salisbury Diocese for each Parish to have a PSO, as we are called. Any issues arising within the church community should be referred to me or the Priest in Charge. If they are of a serious nature I then pass the information onto the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in Salisbury, who would refer to the relevant agencies, such as the Police and Social Services. If I am worried that there is a dangerous situation, I would contact the police directly.

Safeguarding issues can be physical or mental abuse and also include domestic abuse/violence.

Susan Todd 01747 841264 / 07763357019

Parish Fundraising at St Peter's Stourton

The fundraising effort at St Peter's to coincide with people visiting the Illuminations Trail through Stourhead Gardens continued throughout December. Many people visited the church and the home-made produce for sale was as usual extremely popular. People were especially generous in what they offered for sale and also in stewarding. Particular thanks to Georgina Muir and her team for producing well over 500 hot chocolate reindeers (probably the most popular items on the stall), and to Liz Reed for making two beautiful Christmas cakes (plus countless other goodies) which, again, were extremely popular and sold immediately. The flower arrangements were beautiful and hugely admired, and all the stewards were very helpful in welcoming and directing the public. All volunteers are to be warmly congratulated on and thanked for their stoicism and cheerfulness whilst in a very cold church for lengthy periods in freezing weather. After expenses a net total of about £8,000 was made for the parish which was a wonderful result. Very many thanks to everyone.



In October, the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers enrolled father and daughter Chuck and Rene as members of the Guild. Their Membership Certificates were presented at the Zeals Sunday Service, by kind permission of Revd. Mac, on 27th November. Chuck and Rene had both been ringing for the service beforehand, and presentation of the certificates was performed by the Guild President Judith Williamson.

Chuck and Rene have also achieved their Learning the Ropes level 1 certificates and give every indication of being a great asset not only to the ringers at Zeals, but also to the wider Salisbury Diocesan Guild. We wish them every success in their bell ringing journey.

Len Roberts, Mere Branch SDGR

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News from Parish Councils

Kilmington

At the Parish Council meeting held on 14 November, Councillors discussed and considered the likely expenditure over the next financial year, in order to determine the precept requirement (PC's share of the council tax) for 2023-24. We have had various expenses during the course of this financial year which were not budgeted – maintenance to trees, repair of the posts at the village pump, costs of contributing to highway signage, to name a few. This has had an impact on our reserves and it has been necessary to increase our precept to £10,323 (£8975 this year). On a Band D property this equates to a charge of £73.09 compared to £65.10 this year; a 12.2% increase. Full details of our agreed budget for 2023-24 is on the noticeboard and can be viewed on our website.

The speed limit assessment along Kilmington Common, being undertaken by Aikens on behalf of Wiltshire Council, should have taken place during w/c 23 January with the result available sometime in March. This together with many other on-going issues was discussed at our last PC meeting on 9 January and the draft minutes are now available on the website.

With all the rain that we have had over the past six weeks, there have been some blocked drains resulting in flooding and I would like to remind all residents that they can report issues of concern directly to Wiltshire Council by using the county's on-line report system which has recently been upgraded. Alternatively, if you would like me to do it just email over the details with photographs (if possible) and I will submit for you. ***Ruth Burrows, Clerk***

Stourton with Gasper

At the November meeting, the annual budget was discussed, revised and agreed following which the precept of £3640.14 was set for the new financial year commencing in April. This figure is the same as last year. It was noted that our reserves would not sustain current levels of spending for many years so an increase would be needed in future years.

The annual Litter Pick takes place on Saturday 11 February. Please come along and join councillors and locals, it is great fun and all family members can join in.

/continued on page 17

The community defibrillator is now in situ in its new cabinet under the archway to the Spread Eagle courtyard from the car park. The defibrillator will be accessible 24/7 and the 'What Three Words' address for its location is: **fish.traffic.unloaded** With thanks to the National Trust team for their help. Our next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 1 March at 6pm. Members of the public are welcome. *Fran Hill, Clerk* clerk@stourton.org.uk

Zeals

At the November meeting, Zeals Parish Council agreed to try and curb spending rather than accept the budget as presented to them. This will allow them to draw further on their reserves and keep the precept the same as last year £5011.00. It was noted that with current spending the reserves would not last long but agreed that this year we all need a little extra help and hopefully a future rise in the precept may be more manageable.

Planning application PL/2022/07519 the Old Cress Beds, on which many people commented and Zeals Parish Council objected to with their comments, has for the present been withdrawn. Thank you to everyone who turned out on a very wet and windy evening to attend the meeting.

Please note that our agendas and minutes are available on our website at <https://www.hugofox.com/community/zeals-parish-council-10408/home/>. This can also be found by googling Zeals Parish Council.

Please note I only work part time so leave a message on 01747 823699 or email clerk-zealspc@outlook.com.

Fran Hill, Clerk

Dorset Digital Champions

People who received a device for Christmas and are unsure how to use it are being urged to call on Dorset's volunteer digital champions for help.

Dorset Council has a team of volunteers who provide both face-to-face and over-the-phone support to anyone who needs help with technical issues – including how to use and set up a new tablet, smartphone or laptop.

The volunteer digital champions run advice sessions at libraries and community centres across the county.

And between 10am and 12 noon every weekday, residents can also get help over the phone by calling the Dorset Digital Hotline on 01305 221048.

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Green Fingers

Notes from a Fairweather Gardener

February 2023

It has been said that February is the border between winter and spring, and one of the heralds of spring to be seen in our gardens this month is the humble snowdrop. I say humble, but in recent years there has been a surge in the development of snowdrop varieties. The real snowdrop collector or galanthophile, will have an assortment of blooms with green or yellow markings, or possibly none at all as well as double and single varieties. It is worth visiting a specialist snowdrop nursery, either in person or online, to choose the varieties you would like for your garden and buy them to plant in the green this month. Although it is possible to buy snowdrop bulbs later in the year, they tend not to flourish as readily. However, before you get carried away with enthusiasm, be aware that you may need a very deep pocket for some of the more unusual varieties available. In a recent online search I found a pure white snowdrop which cost £45 per bulb. Whether you buy the most common or the most unusual bulbs, be sure to plant them in a place that resembles their native habitat. They are happiest in the dappled shade of trees and will grow happily and naturalise in the grass. If you would prefer to celebrate all things snowdrop without spending a fortune, head over to Shaftesbury and join in some of the events in the town's snowdrop festival.

Although it might be cold outside, you can start to grow some vegetables, if you have a greenhouse. The soil is likely to be too cold to sow seeds yet, even under plastic cloches, but you can start to prepare seed beds by laying plastic sheeting down to warm the soil. You could also buy potato tubers and start to chit them, that is start them sprouting. Old egg boxes are ideal for this as you can place one tuber in each section of the tray with the little dents or 'eyes' uppermost. Leave them in a light frost free place to sprout; they are ready to plant when the sprouts are about 3cm or 1" long. For those of you with a greenhouse, it is a good time to start tomato and cucumber seeds for growing in the greenhouse later.

Daphne Knott

JAZZuary in Stourton

Thank you to all that came to JAZZuary on 20th January and contributed to £500 being shared between UNICEF Ukraine and St. Peter's Church.



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Camouflage Nets for Ukraine

Help the Ukrainians in their long battle against the invaders, even if in a modest way. Become a volunteer. Join us at Kilmington Home Guard Club from noon to 3 pm Sunday 5th February 2023 to help make simple cam nets. We knot strips of used sheets and blankets to old tennis nets. Very basic, and easy to do. Refreshments from the Home Guard cash bar will be available.

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Regular Weekly Events

Weekdays	Pre-School	08.45 -15.15 at the Preschool Playing Fields, West Bourton <i>[term time only]</i>
	The ZAC (Zeals AfterSchool Club)	Daily 15.15-18.00 (17.00 Fridays) at Mere Youth Centre, off White Rd, Mere: 01747 840077/ info@thezac.org.uk
Tuesdays	Tummies, Tiddlers & Toddlers	09.15 – 12 noon at Bourton Village Hall
	Craft & Chat	2pm-4pm Bourton Village Hall Contact Angela Ambrose 01747 841336
Wednesdays	Bell ringing practice	19.30 – 21.00 at St Martin's Zeals <i>Contact Georgina Muir 01985 844245</i>
Thursdays	Toddler Service	St George's Church Bourton at 2pm <i>Caroline Worthington (07754 882454)</i>
Fridays	Friday Fun Club	10.00 - 11.30 Whitesheet School Hall <i>[temporarily suspended]</i>
	Choir Practice	Most Fridays (18.00-19.00) at St Martin's Church Zeals. New singers welcome. Contact Tom Wheare 01747 840 622

Bourton Village Hall

LUNCH AT THE HALL – MON 6th FEB

Homemade soups, bread & cheese, cake & coffee, only £3. Doors open 12:30pm until 2pm. All welcome. Pay cash or contactless on the day.

FILM NIGHT – WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING (15) – WED 8th FEB

Abandoned by her family at a tender age, a solitary Kya raises herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina, isolating herself from her community. When a man she was once involved with is found dead, she is immediately cast by the locals as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh. Doors and Bar open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Tickets £6 from Bourton or Zeals shops or pay cash/contactless on the door.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Film Nights Wed 8th Mar Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG)
Wed 12th Apr See How They Run (12A)

A season ticket for £15 for the Feb, March and Apr films will be available to purchase on 8th Feb.

Lunches Mondays 6th Feb, 6th Mar, 3rd Apr

HIRE THE HALL

Large hall with raised stage and fully equipped kitchen perfect for parties. £8 per hour for Bourton residents, otherwise £10 per hour. Contact Heather for more information - 07849 673670 or h.j.ransley@outlook.com

Bourton's Got Talent

What's your secret talent, want to show it off on April 29th at Bourton Village Hall?

If so, sign up for a place by emailing Jan at Janne_cowan@yahoo.co.uk.

Open to all ages, wherever you live.

Dates for your Diary February 2023

Sun 5 th	Nets for Ukraine, 3pm Home Gd Club Kilmington	page 21
Mon 6 th	BVH Lunch, 12.30 BVH	page 23
Weds 8 th	Film Night at BVH 7 for 7.30 BVH	page 23
Weds 15 th	Bourton Gardening Club, 7 for 7.30pm BVH	page 10
Mon 20 th	Zeals Village Lunch, 12.30, ZVH	page 11

Kilmington & Stourton Women's Institute

Kilmington and Stourton WI hold their meetings every fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise stated. Venue Stourton Memorial Hall @ 7.30 pm. For more information contact Bernie Isted bernieisted@gmail.com or Jane Parker 01985 844248

Our next meeting is on 28th February – speaker tbc.

For our Christmas Celebration, our members certainly came up trumps bringing donations for the Gillingham Foodbank. See the photo below which shows just how generous our members were!



We were all delighted to be able to help such a worthy cause in these times of cost of living crisis.

We also donated the funds raised from our raffle ticket sales - £110 to the Foodbank.

All Items for the March 2023 issue by Friday 17 Feb latest please