



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of

Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals



December 2025 and
January 2026



Parish Contacts Clergy

Revd Dr Graham Southgate, Rector

01747 476 316 /

Email: rector@uswmb.co.uk

(day off Tuesday)

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Caroline Worthington 07754 882454

(also Lay Worship Leader)

Barbara Borwell 01747 840141



Enquiries regarding Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals to the Rector, Graham Southgate

01747 476 316 / Email rector@uswmb.co.uk

Parish website www.upperstour.co.uk

Facebook Group Parish of Upper Stour

Parish Administrator, Helen Bedford (works part time)

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by **Friday 16th January 2026** please

From Darkness to Light

As 2025 draws to a close, the hearts and minds of many turn once more toward the stable in Bethlehem. The season of Advent, which began on 30th November leads us here — a time of waiting, hoping, longing, and prayerful preparation. In the darkness of winter, as the hours of daylight grow ever shorter, many of us light candles week by week, each small flame a reminder that the true Light is coming into the world. And then, at last, the words Christians have been yearning to hear resound again: *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* Christmas is far more than a single day of celebration. It is a season — initially twelve days, but not finishing until 2nd February — in which we linger at the manger and contemplate the astonishing mystery of the Incarnation. God has not remained distant or abstract, but has entered our human life fully, sharing our joys and our sorrows. In the Christ Child we see the tenderness of God revealed in vulnerability. The one who spoke the stars into being now lies wrapped in strips of cloth and laid in a manger.

These days of Christmas invite us to wonder. The shepherds remind us that God’s glory is revealed to the humble and watchful; Mary and Joseph demonstrate quiet obedience and steadfast faith; and the angels call us to join their song of praise and peace. In our homes and hearts, we are invited to make room for Jesus anew — not in noise or bustle, but in stillness and welcome.

Then, as the initial Christmas season draws to its close, the story widens. The Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January tells of the magi who journeyed from afar, guided by a star, seeking the one born to be king. Their arrival proclaims that Jesus’ light is not for a chosen few but for all nations and peoples. The gifts they bring — gold, frankincense, and myrrh — speak of kingship, divinity, and sacrifice, pointing already toward the cross and resurrection.

Epiphany, which means “manifestation,” calls us to recognise Christ revealed in our midst — in Scripture, in sacrament, and in one another. Just as the magi returned home by another road, so we too are challenged in how we should respond to our encounter with Christ. The light that has shone in Bethlehem is meant to shine through us, illuminating the places we live and serve.

As we move from the cradle to the cross, from Christmas joy to Epiphany vision, may we carry that light faithfully — a light the darkness can never overcome.

Graham Southgate, Rector (01747 476316)

St George's 100 Club

October Winners

1st Prize
Tony Wilce

2nd Prize
Michael & Sylvia Hughes

3rd Prize
Biddy Robinson

Contact Philip Newton for details
(07947 054534)

The next draw will take place at
the Bourton Village Hall Lunch on
Monday 1st December

St Martin's Millennium Club

November Winners

J Davis,
P Clayton,
D Gales,
S Aldred,
G Jackson

Next draw: 3rd December

This lottery raises funds in support
of St Martin's Church Zeals. You can
register for inclusion at any time. We
are currently renewing our licence for
2026. For inclusion in draws, booking
numbers or questions contact
Ashley Kemp 01747 840272
treasurer@agkemp.co.uk

Mobile Library : December 2025 & January 2026

Dec 4, 16,	Zeals	School, Chapel Lane	10.00-10.45 am
Jan 1, 15, 29		Zeals Rise	10.45-11.00 am
Dec 4, 16	Kilmington	Home Guard Club	11.20-11.35 am
Jan 1, 15, 29			

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Now read on.....

Coram Boy by Jamilla Gavin
(Mammoth/Egmont 2000)

Jamilla Gavin has crafted a clever, moving, frightening and sometimes gruesome tale around the true issue of abandoned babies in 18th century England, and she wrote the novel specifically for young adults. It won the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year in 2000 when it was published, and it was for some years a regular choice for GCSE syllabuses.

Gavin has said she loved her Coram Boy characters, "almost more than any I have created", and I think this love shines through: they are strong, resilient, entertaining, sometimes adorable, and, well, just simply children. Her interest in writing for young readers is to tell stories about other young people in a way that the reader will understand and enjoy, thereby empowering them with the idea that *their own* stories and voices matter – this I think is an important lesson for a child.

The historical facts are that one Captain Thomas Coram returned to London from a successful career running a sailing fleet between the US and UK, and was shocked to see the destitution of illegitimate babies abandoned on the streets. He campaigned strenuously for 17 years to be granted a Royal Charter to open the Foundling Hospital in Coram Fields, London WC1 in 1741. Its purpose was to offer 200 orphaned boys and girls security, care and a basic education leading to an apprenticeship in a trade if possible. The ethic was Christian and involved learning music in a purpose-built chapel.

Gavin presents us with a novel set in two parts: the first in Gloucester in 1741, and the second nine years later in 1750 in London, and the main characters of four young boys and two baby traffickers are inextricably mixed throughout. The issues that arise are class divisions and inequalities, disinheritance, a lack of rights for children, and illegitimacy and its attendant baby trafficking, murder, extortion and blackmail. It's the issue of baby trafficking that we learn most about, and it is truly shocking. The system of parish poorhouses at the time was simply not fit for purpose, as it couldn't (or wouldn't) cope with the numbers, and this led to corruption at all levels of society and inhumane treatment of babies just to dispose of them,

This novel's trafficking devil incarnate is Otis Gardiner, whose brutality we witness from the first opening pages. By contrast, his own simple-minded son Mish shows enormous levels of concern for the babies, and it is his care of one in particular that informs the whole narrative. Mish is our hero to the end, by identifying his own special "Angel" and looking out for him as long as he is able. The "Coram Boy" Aaron is one such very lucky Angel.

Otis takes illegitimate babies from both rich and poor, pretends to offer the children care and an education at the Coram Hospital, whilst extorting large sums of money from the distressed mothers for his service and discretion, sometimes over many years. What he actually does with the babies is stuff them into saddle bags attached to six pack mules, and it is Mish's job to bury the bodies (dead or alive) under hedges along the way, to allow room for the next batch.

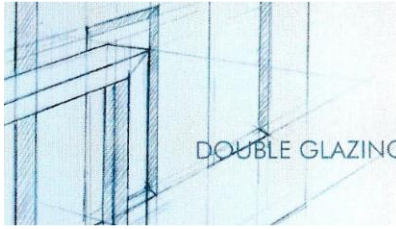
The true horror of all this is somewhat mitigated by the stories of the four main young boys and Mish, and how they support and help each other. Firstly, they all share a love of music: the older two (Alexander and Thomas) are choristers at Gloucester Cathedral and go on to have a musical connection with the Coram Hospital, and the younger pair (Aaron and Toby) are Coram chapel choristers. There is a wonderful scene towards the end, when all their lives are all colliding, where George Frederic Handel is teaching the Coram choir his new work *Messiah*, for a fund-raising performance. It is quite electric with power and excitement for all sorts of reasons.

It is known that Handel had a strong connection with Coram, and actually bequeathed some pages of his manuscript of *Messiah* to the charity in his will. Today these pages can be seen in temperature-controlled vitrines in the Coram Fields Museum in Brunswick Square WC1. It was closed in 1956 by the NHS, but is still in operation as a fostering and adoption agency. Sadly, the original chapel and two dormitories are no longer there, but one can still get an idea of the layout from some carefully restored remnants.

I went to visit this museum recently and it has stories to tell and move. The most touching for me was seeing the many large leather-bound handwritten ledgers which contain a page for each baby cataloguing the details of their arrival and clothing, and including the "token" that mothers were allowed to leave, to be given to their baby when leaving Coram. The tokens range from silver locket containing a curl of hair, a glass bead bracelet, a snippet of fabric, a faded ribbon, or even hand-embroidered little pillows. The novel contains the scene when our two younger boys Aaron and Toby leave Coram and are handed their own tokens: they are rendered speechless with wonder by being given something their own mothers had touched and left *for them*.

For readers now, it is both illuminating and moving, and Gavin's straight-forward and simple narrative style suits this rendition – there are no frills but the point is made, and we should give thanks for people like Coram who set up orphanages to save many from death or destitution. A powerful read.

Catherine Potter (catherine.potter@hotmail.co.uk)



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Kilmington & Stourton Women's Institute

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th January 2026. Speaker tbc.
No meeting in December 2025 because of the Stourhead illuminations.
*Kilmington & Stourton WI hold their meeting every fourth Tuesday of the
month unless otherwise stated in Stourton Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.*
For more information contact
Bernie Isted bernieisted@gmail.com or Jane Parker 01985 844248



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Country Calendar : December/January

As we approach the end of another farming year and are about to celebrate 2026. One cannot help but look back on the previous twelve months. A very dear old wise farmer friend, who has long gone, told me "Don't look back just keep looking forward, be grateful that you are: in good health and able to do a day's work!" He was the loveliest gentleman and started farming in the Great Depression which was the time of a severe global economic downturn from 1929 to 1939. To say they were hard times is an understatement, how anyone survived was down to hard work and sheer luck! He said he was lucky; many other farmers were not and lost everything. They were dreadful times for farming; we were just not wanted. I do miss his wise words - he was a truly lovely man. The other day I came across this article; it absolutely stopped me in my tracks :

Labour government faced angry farmers fighting for their livelihood

Labour is in office, and British farming is in trouble. The prices of farm produce have collapsed, land is going out of cultivation, the numbers employed in agriculture are declining, and many farmers facing bankruptcy. In this climate of crisis, the two groups in the industry whose interests seemed more usually to be at odds – the farmers and the farm workers – made rare common cause, coming together in a mass meeting to call on the government for emergency action to save agriculture. An estimated 20,000 gathered at Parker's Piece in Cambridge what was reported as the largest meeting of its kind ever held. Their message to the government was uncompromising: This mass meeting, representing all sections of the agricultural industry, views with the utmost concern the present position in agriculture [and] desires to place before his Majesty's Government its unanimous opinion that measures should be taken to assure to farmers a remunerative price for cereals ...unless effective steps are at once taken to meet the situation nothing but calamity faces the industry. Dated 1st March 1930. National Press Article.

As I said, I was floored: 96 years ago this could easily be an article relevant to present day. In 2025 there have been lots of Farmer Protests. I am constantly asked why are UK farmers struggling? So here is a brief article written April 2025.

British farmers are also grappling with rural crime, climate change, and volatile global markets. Theft of machinery and livestock adds financial strain, extreme weather disrupts food production, and fluctuating global markets can both drive up essential costs and drive down the price of crops Thousands of farmers are set to head to London for the latest in a series of protests as the 'Pancake Day Rally' against Labour changes to inheritance tax 3 Apr 2025.

Looking to 2026 farmers often focus on a mix of hope, humility, and caution, reflecting the unpredictability of both weather and markets. There are many sayings which offer wisdom on the cycles of nature, the value of hard work, and the importance of perseverance. Nothing changes over the centuries; farmers

just love to farm! "Rooted in tradition, growing with purpose". This modern-sounding phrase still reflects an old farming sensibility—that appreciating one's heritage helps guide one's future.

A farm is more than land and crops. It is a family's heritage and future.

Then I hear my dear friend's words in my head **"we were just not wanted!"**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jane Parker

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News from Stourhead

National Trust

The magic of Christmas at Stourhead has arrived. The house is adorned with Christmas trees, seasonal displays and Father Christmas can be found telling magical stories in his cosy grotto in the basement. After dark, the illuminated trail is filling the garden with a million twinkling lights, making for a festive experience you'll never forget.

For those looking for a family adventure through the garden, 'Robin's Christmas rescue' trail is open throughout December, where little ones can join Robin on a mission to deliver a very important letter to the North Pole. In the Stableyard, you'll find Christmas-themed games and challenges like a sprout shy, pudding toss and pin the nose on the reindeer – to name just a few. To find out more about visiting Stourhead during the festive period, please visit our website.

As we look towards 2026, we are excited to bring back the ever popular 'Behind closed doors' tours. During this tour, visitors will have the chance to see areas of the house usually closed, including the attic and basement storerooms. Behind closed doors tours run from 7 January – 4 March and are free to attend. Booking is required.

For those looking for some respite from the cold after a wintry walk, our 'Winter warmer' weekends are back between 10 January and 1 March. The log fire in the Entrance Hall of the house makes for a cosy spot to warm up while discovering more about the history of Stourhead.

We hope we can welcome you to the magic of Christmas at Stourhead this season, and we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Lucy Fenna, Communications & Marketing Officer
Lucy.Fenna1@nationaltrust.org.uk or 01747 841152



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Christmas Lights Trail at Stourhead

The Trail ends at the garden again this year which will encourage visitors to come into the decorated St Peter's as their final point of enjoyment.

We need 3 or 4 volunteers in the church from 6.00 - 9.00 pm on each of the following evenings : 5-7th, 12-14th and 19-21st December. If you can help, please contact Jane Joyce 01747 [840149](tel:01747840149)/j-joyce@dircon.co.uk.

During these evenings, we will be looking for produce for sale – such as home made jams, chutneys, small cakes, flapjacks (or similar), biscuits, or get your children to make friendship bracelets – or anything else you may feel might be popular. If you have any queries or help getting produce to the church, please contact Emma (07980 272621), or Sarah (01747 840144) or Celia (01985 84423)

Christmas Wreath Making

Zeals Village Hall 10.00am Saturday 6th December

Come along to Zeals Village Hall for a demonstration and to make your own Christmas Wreath. Tickets £15.00 to include wire ring base, wire and/or twine. Tickets available at Zeals Post Office from 14th November to 2nd December 2025

In aid of restoration of the East Window of St Martin's Church



Catering Days at Stourton Memorial Hall 24th, 25th and 26th October

The parish catering days at Stourton Hall were highly successful when an impressive figure of a little over £6,000 was taken. Very many thanks to all those kind people who helped out with cooking, serving, clearing, operating the dishwasher and in many other ways including baking a great many wonderful cakes!

Bourton Gardening Club

Bourton Garden Club is pausing now until February 2026, due to deciding not to have meetings in December and January because of the weather and not being able to secure a speaker for November.

So hope to see as many of you as possible at our February 2026 meeting.

Jan Cowan janne_cowan@yahoo.co.uk



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SERVICES IN UPPER STOUR WITH MAIDEN BRADLEY

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th **Second Sunday of Advent**
10.00 Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

Sunday 14th **Third Sunday of Advent**
10.00 Parish Communion at St Mary's Kilmington
10.00 Morning Worship & Holy Baptism at All Saints Maiden Bradley

VILLAGE & SCHOOL CAROLS

Thursday 18th
11.00 Whitesheet School in St Martin's Church
18.00 St George's School in St George's Church

Friday 19th
18.00 Kilmington War Memorial

Sunday 21st
18.00 Breach Close Green, Bourton



Sunday 21st **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
10.00 Christingle Service at St Peter's Stourton
*(Christingle celebrations normally take place between Advent and
Candlemas, when Christingles are lit during the service as symbols of
Jesus' light. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated
with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top. All welcome.*
17.30 Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Maiden Bradley

Weds 24th **Christmas Eve**
16.00 Crib Service at St George's Bourton
18.30 Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's Stourton
22.00 Midnight Eucharist at All Saints Maiden Bradley
23.30 Midnight Eucharist at St Martin's Zeals

Thursday 25th **Christmas Day**
10.00 All Age Parish Communion at St Mary's Kilmington

Sunday 28th **Holy Innocents Day**
10.00 Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals



SERVICES IN UPPER STOUR WITH MAIDEN BRADLEY JANUARY 2026

- Sunday 4th** **Second Sunday of Christmas**
10.00 Parish Communion at St George's Bourton
- Sunday 11th** **Baptism of Christ ~ Plough Sunday**
10.00 Plough Sunday Service at St Mary's Kilmington
- Sunday 18th** **Second Sunday of Epiphany**
10.30 *No Services in Upper Stour or Maiden Bradley*
Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Michael the Archangel's, Mere
- Sunday 25th** **Third Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals

FEBRUARY 2026

- Sunday 1st** **Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

Weekday Services

(December, January, February as usual)

- Mondays:** 09.00 Morning prayer at St George's Bourton
Wednesdays: 16.00 Midweek Communion at St Martin's Zeals
Thursdays: 09.00 Morning Prayer at St Mary's Kilmington

From the Registers

Baptisms

On 4th October at St George's Bourton: **Ava Rose Lawson**
and her sister: **Elsie Leigh Lawson**

Funerals

On 13th November at St George's Bourton: **Ruth Rosina Gill**

Parish Administrator

Parish Administrator Wanted – Parish of Upper Stour

We are seeking a new part-time, self-employed Parish Administrator to join us from January 2026.

The role requires approximately 4 hours per week, working from home.

A computer and printer are provided.

Key duties will include:

- Producing weekly service sheets;
- putting in place arrangements for weddings, funerals, and baptisms;
- liaising with clergy, PCC members, and the Parish magazine;
- updating the Parish website;
- sending mailshots;
- and producing invoices for the Treasurer.

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georgebullivant@gmail.com / 07939 04591

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News from Parish Councils

Bourton

We were sorry to receive the resignation of Kevan Barton, one of our long-serving members, who has relocated away from Bourton. Kevan has been an exceptionally active councillor, most recently overseeing refurbishment of the Bourton village sign and leading surface improvements to the footpath alongside Breach Close. On behalf of the Council and the community, I thank Kevan sincerely for his dedication over the years.

Following the departure of Cllr Rick Moore, we are pleased that Ian Rawlings has joined the Parish Council. Ian has been a Bourton resident for many years and brings with him a strong record of community involvement, including with Bourton's Wildlife and Habitats Group and his leadership of the twice-yearly village litter picks. With the new vacancy following Kevan's resignation, Councillors are preparing to co-opt another capable individual who has volunteered to join the PC.

Salisbury Diocese has stated that Upper Stour PCC is responsible for securing the new lease for Bourton Village Hall, which is required since its current lease has less than 10 years remaining. Although Bourton PC is the Village Hall's 'lessee', VH trustees are keen to upgrade parts, especially the roof to improve its insulation and (internal) appearance, and replace the gabions alongside Primrose Lane, which are in danger of failing. A meeting is due to be held between representatives of Bourton PC, Upper Stour PCC and Bourton VH trustees, to enable the process for securing a new lease for the Village Hall.

With regard to planning issues, we expect to learn the outcome of the Appeal Hearings by the beginning of December for the two major planning applications outside Bourton's Settlement Boundary: Sandways site (30 dwellings) and Chaffeymoor Farm (50 dwellings). Both planning applications were robustly refused by DC's Northern Area Planning Committee, helped by the weight of Bourton PC's objections and the volume of those from Bourton's residents. Therefore, we all hope that the Appeals will be rejected by the Planning Inspectorate.

Elsewhere, Dorset Council's booking system for access to recycling centres at Shaftesbury and Sherborne has recently been postponed, such that the process is not due to commence until early 2026. For Dorset residents this will be a simple process; however, residents from neighbouring counties will have to pay, to access the relevant Dorset recycling centres, hence the risk of fly-tipping in the future.

Eve Wynn

Email: clerk@bourton-pc.gov.uk Website: <https://bourton-c.gov.uk/>
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/639361217139818>

Kilmington

I am very pleased to report that my replacement has been appointed – Mr Steven Willis who will take up his duties on 1 December 2025. Steve, who lives in nearby Mere, has been working as Deputy Clerk for Wilton Town Council since April this year and will bring with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. I am delighted to be able to pass the reins over to him and to know that the parish council's affairs will be in safe hands.

The RoSPA annual inspection of the playing field took place on 21 October and the report has been circulated to the Committee. Unfortunately, the wooden suspended log walk failed due to decay and has been decommissioned. The Committee have been aware that the majority of the wooden frame equipment is now over 20 years old and is one of the main reasons why, John Harrison (Chairman of the Committee), has been actively trying to source grant funding for a revamp of the area. Apart from this, there were no other significant issues raised in the report.

A meeting took place on 17 November and the next one is scheduled for 12 January.

Ruth Burrows Email: parishclerk@kilmingtonwiltshire.org

Stourton

Firstly, a reminder that the next Stourton with Gasper Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 3rd December. The meeting is at 6pm in the Memorial Hall, Stourton.

It is the time of year the Parish Council is looking at the budget for the upcoming year. The Clerk has looked at what has been spent over the current year, how that differs from what was projected and must produce a new budget keeping inflation in mind. The projected 2026/27 budget will be one of the items for discussion on the December agenda.

By the time this is published we will also be looking forwards to Christmas, unfortunately at the time of writing it is too early to know what will be going on in the Parish, but whatever you are doing over the Christmas period, your Parish Council hopes you have a lovely time.

Lisa Gilby, Parish Clerk, clerk@stourton.org.uk

Zeals

The Parish Council has recently held its November meeting, and the draft minutes are now published on our website : www.zealspc.org.uk.

The Clerk received an email from the local NHS group asking for members of the public to share their views on weight loss support and to help the NHS improve services. If you are currently trying to lose weight or used weight management support in the past, the local NHS teams and health service providers across BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) want to hear from you. Whether you've accessed support through your GP, hospital programmes, online resources, group sessions, or through weight loss medications – your

feedback matters. They also want to hear from you if you have tried unsuccessfully to access these services or are waiting to do so. The Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board is reviewing how weight management services are delivered locally. By sharing your experience, you can help improve services for others in your community. Your views will help shape future support and ensure services meet the needs of local people. Please use this link <https://forms.office.com/e/xKQ59PVI0>

We are nearing the end of the growing season at the allotments, and we currently have some half plots available to be taken on. The cost for a half plot is £15 pa, with the year running April to March. The annual fee would be charged pro rata, and it would be an ideal time to take a plot on to give you time to get ready for the start of next season. If you are interested in taking an allotment on, please contact the Clerk on the email address below. .

The Parish Council holds bi-monthly meetings, and the next one is Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7pm at the Village Hall. If there is anything you feel needs to be discussed at the meeting, please remember to contact the clerk at least 7- 10 days before the meeting as the agenda must be published at least 3 working days before the meeting. Members of the public are always very welcome to attend the meetings. If you have any questions or problems, please have a chat with one of the councillors or contact me, as the agenda must be published at least 3 working days before the meeting.

Members of the public are always very welcome to attend the meetings. If you have any questions or problems, please have a chat with one of the councillors or contact the clerk on clerk@zealspc.org.uk

Lisa Gilby, Parish Clerk: clerk@zealspc.org.uk



In Remembrance

The Silent Soldier

The Bourton Craft & Chat Group's wonderful display of hand crafted poppies in the background of The Silent Soldier on the village green in Bourton.

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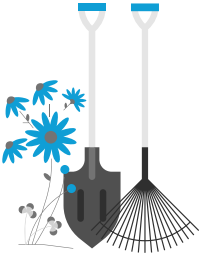


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Green Fingers

Notes from a Fairweather Gardener

December and January

Do you still have any roses blooming in your garden? We often think that December is rather a bleak month in the garden, but it is surprising how many plants either choose to bloom late in the year or cling on to the last remnants of summer if the frosts hold off. Roses in particular seem determined to bloom for as long as possible and can be a welcome delight in Christmas flower arrangements.

There are other shrubs which come into their own over the winter, often because they are highly scented, which gives particular pleasure on a frosty winter morning. Mahonia is easy to grow and provides a vivid splash of acid yellow colour to a dark corner as well as sending out a heady perfume. Witch hazels, which come in a variety of yellows, reds and oranges, also perfume the air, but not as strongly. Some of these can grow to quite a size, so check that the variety you buy will suit your chosen space.

One of my favourite winter flowering shrubs is sarcococca or sweet box. This evergreen shrub is well behaved in most situations and soils, although it doesn't thrive in dark shade, and can be trimmed to size without harm. It has beautiful dark green glossy leaves which are a perfect foil to more colourful plants in the summer and look beautiful when the frost catches them in winter. Its white flowers may be hardly noticeable from a distance, but you will be able to smell them from some way off.

Winter jasmines are reliable bloomers against a wall or trained over a pergola, but if you like a neat garden, they are not for you, so if you have a climbing space that needs some winter colour, look out for one of the winter flowering clematis which can be more easily contained.

Believe it or not, the winter months are not all about smelling the roses. If you have unruly vines or birches and acers in need of a prune, do it before Christmas while they are still dormant. In the vegetable plot, you can start to sow seeds indoors during January to get early crops of salad vegetables and cabbages. While you are thinking about seeds, use the dull days to choose some easy to grow annuals for a quick colourful fix for the bare patches you have noticed over the year.

Daphne Knott

BURROW



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New laws mean that you may need to update your system to a wastewater treatment plant to stop your septic tank polluting the environment.

Please contact us to arrange a free assessment visit.

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Bourton Village Hall : **December 2025 /January 2026**

- **Village Lunch** – Monday 1st December & 5th January. 12.30-14.00, pay on arrival - £4.

- **Bourton Film Nights:**

December 3rd – THE BALLAD of WALLIS ISLAND,

- “Estranged folk duo reunites in a classy British comedy drama. *The Ballad of Wallis Island* is one of the best romcoms since *The Odd Couple* (1968), which it closely resembles. It’s a love story and a bromance elevated by the actors’ superb comic timing and a sense of wonder.”

January 7th – still TBC. Our new annual ticket holders will help choose


Want advance notice of films? Email hello@bourtonvh-dorset.org and you will be added to the mailing list.

- **Live Sport on the Big Screen: Ladies International Football:**

Saturday 29th November - England v China, friendly. 17.50 ko, doors open 17.30.

- **Saturday 13th December. Another CODA-LELE Christmas** (Mark James and friends). Selling fast.

- Last few tickets available, £15, on sale NOW. Online at www.musicalcoda.com or at Bourton Garage.

- **CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH.** For anyone who would otherwise be on their own. Reservations are invited by emailing Sarah at bookings@bourtonvh-dorset.org or calling her on 07484 321924. Last booking date December 5th. see p. 27 

- A date for your diary:

19th-21st February: Bourton Players Panto - The Parrots of Penzance!

Wincanton Choral Society

Conductor: Neil Moore

Christmas Concert

Britten A CEREMONY OF CAROLS
Schubert MASS IN G
Fauré CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE

plus CHRISTMASSY MUSIC FOR CHOIR
AND AUDIENCE

WITH SOLOISTS & ORCHESTRA

Sunday 14th December 2025, 7.30 pm

St. Luke & St. Teresa's Catholic Church, Wincanton, BA9 9DH

Tickets £15 (under 18s free)

from Choir Members & on the door

or via www.ticketsource.co.uk/wincantonchoralsociety

www.wincanton-choral-society.uk

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CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Bourton Village Hall



Drinks & nibbles on arrival
Traditional Turkey with all the Trimmings
(vegetarian option available)
Christmas Pudding & Mince Pies

Festive music and the King's Speech on the b
screen with a quiz in between

Tickets £10

-

This is aimed at members of our community, eith
singles or couples, who are on their own

Places are limited so get in touch by 5th Dec

**Text Sarah on 07484 321924 or email
bookings@bourtonvh-dorset.org**

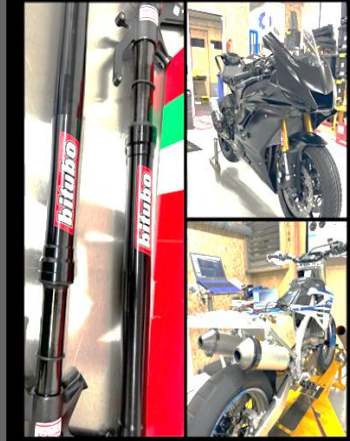


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JAZZUARY @ Stourton Memorial Hall

The Nick Sorensen Quartet

Saturday 17 January 2026

Nick Sorensen
Saxophones



Adam Biggs
Piano



Yuri Goloubev
Bass



Robert Brian
Drums



Tickets £25 (for fabulous jazz and a Stourhead Venison Supper)

from Jane Joyce 01747 840149 j-joyce@dircon.co.uk

BYO drinks and glasses - profits to Gillingham Food Bank

Doors open 6.45pm / Supper 7.00pm / Jazz 8.00pm



Craft & Chat

Our meetings continue on Tuesdays
at Bourton Village Hall 2pm-4pm

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Regular Weekly Events

Weekdays 08.45-09.15 **Preschool meeting** at the Preschool playing fields, West Bourton (*term time only*)

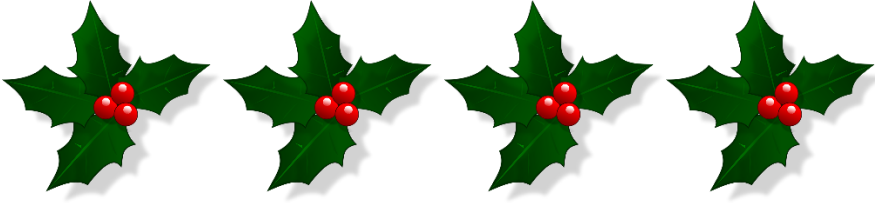
The ZAC Zeals Afterschools Club meets daily 3.15 – 6 on school days at the Playing Field, Wolverton Lane, drawing children from 5 local schools. Contact Sarah on 07908 664 676; zealsafterschoolsclub@gmail.com

Tuesdays **Toddlers sessions:** 9am-12pm (term time only) at Bourton Village Hall. Contact Caroline Worthington 07754 882454

Craft & Chat – every Tuesday in Bourton Village Hall at 2pm

Wednesday **Bellringing practice** at St Martin's church Zeals. Beginners and lapsed ringers welcome. Contact Georgina Muir 01985 844245

Fridays **Choir Practice:** most Fridays 5.30-6.15pm at St Martin's Zeals. New singers welcome. Contact Tom Wheare 01747 840622



Diary Dates

December 2025

Monday 1 st	Bourton Village Lunch	page 26
Wednesday 3 rd	Bourton Film Night	page 26
Saturday 6 th	Wreath Making at ZVH, 10 am	page 14
Saturday 13 th	CODA-LELE Christmas, BVH, 17.00	page 26
Sunday 14 th	Wincanton Choral Soc Christmas Concert	page 27
Thursday 25 th	Bourton Christmas Day Lunch, BVH	page 26/27

January 2026

Monday 5 th	Bourton Village Lunch	page 26
Wednesday 7 th	Bourton Film Night	page 26
Wednesday 14 th	Wessex Wine Society Meeting 7.30 SMH	page 27
Saturday 17 th	Jazzuary Nick Sorenson Quartet 19.30	page 29
Tuesday 27 th	K & S Women's Institute, 7.30pm SMH	page 8

**All items for the February 2026 issue by
Friday 16th January 2026 please**





**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**