

Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of

Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals



April 2026

All best wishes for Easter

Parish Contacts

Clergy

Revd Dr Graham Southgate, Rector

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

(day off Tuesday)

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Caroline Worthington 07754 882454

(also Lay Worship Leader)

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

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by **Friday 17th April 2026** please

From the Rectory

“Love is come again like wheat that springeth green”

April arrives with a familiar occasion at its heart: the joy and hope of Easter. However many times I hear the story of Jesus' victory, it never loses its power to surprise and renew me.

However, the journey begins in the shadows of Holy Week, walking with Jesus through the uncertainty and sorrow of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and including the grave-like silence of Holy Saturday. These are not easy days. They speak of betrayal, suffering, and loss, all things we recognise in our own lives and in the world around us. The Christian faith does not turn away from these realities; instead, it meets them directly, and in doing so, it reminds us that God is not distant from human pain, but deeply present within it.

Then, in the twilight of the early morning, everything changes.

The Easter story tells us that the women came to the tomb expecting to find death, only to be confronted with life. The stone sealing Jesus' tomb was rolled away, and the world was turned upside down. “He is not here; he is risen.” These words, simple as they are, have echoed through centuries, carrying hope into the darkest places.

For Christians today, Easter is more than a remembrance of something long ago; it is an invitation to see our lives differently. It asks us to consider where we might be expecting only old endings, and to remain open to the possibility of new beginnings. It encourages us to notice signs of resurrection around us, in acts of kindness, in forgiveness offered and received, and in communities coming together.

For Christians, Easter is the most joyful time of the year. Churches are filled with flowers, music, and celebration. Familiar hymns are sung with renewed energy, and the message of resurrection is proclaimed with confidence and joy. For many, it is also a time to gather with family and friends, sharing food, laughter, and companionship after the more reflective weeks of Lent.

Yet at its heart, the message is simple and profound: “Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.” These are words of a hymn reminding us that love is stronger than death, and that hope is never lost.

This Easter, whether you are a regular churchgoer or simply curious about the meaning of the season, you are warmly invited to share in that hope. Come and experience the story again, through worship, fellowship, or quiet reflection. You may find that it speaks into your own life in a new way, because Easter reminds us that no matter how long the night may feel, the dawn will come, and with it, the trust that even after a long and wet winter, new life is on its way

Graham Southgate, Rector (01747 476316)

St George's 100 Club

March winners:

1st Prize - Meryl Hart
2nd Prize - Sue Nathan
3rd Prize - Jenny Dee

Subscriptions are due on April 1st.
Reminders will be sent out in early April,
but meanwhile subscribers may pay £15
per entry by BACS

Sort Code: 30-93-45,
A/C: 01617894

Name: St George's Church 100 Club

Please send a text message to Philip
Newton on 07947 054534 to say that you
have paid. The next draw will be a
double draw for April and May, held at
the Bourton Village Lunch on May 11th.

Contact Philip Newton for details
(07947 054534)

St Martin's Millenium Club

Winners in March 2026

C Spencer
V Rowe
D Maynard
C Spencer

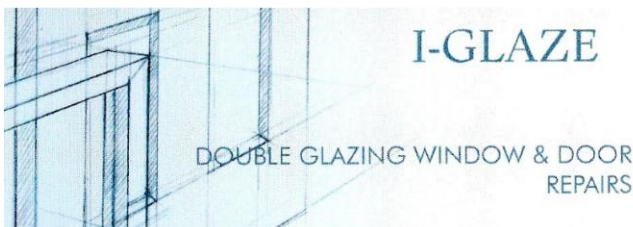
Next draw: week of 3rd April

This lottery raises funds in support
of St Martin's church, Zeals;
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Now read on . . .

There are Rivers in the Sky **by Elif Sharak (Viking 2024)**

This intriguing book deals with the importance of water, with artefacts from ancient Assyria (modern day northern Iraq), with the power of storytelling and with the interconnectedness of our lives. The story is told through the lives of three characters who live between 1840 and 2018 and who are affected by these factors.

The book opens in the magnificent citadel of Ninevah on the banks of the river Tigris in about 625 BC when a raindrop lands on the helmet of King Ashurbanipal. He is learned and takes enormous pride in his library of etched clay tablets. Before the invention of writing tablets all stories were passed down the generations orally, and storytellers were of significant social importance being the “Keepers of Memory”. The kingdom is sacked in 631 BC and the tablets broken into fragments and lost for millennia.

Our main character, Arthur Smyth, is born in 1840 in Chelsea. His first memory is the taste of a snowflake landing on his tongue. His family is poor and uneducated, but his keen intelligence and thirst for knowledge allow him to move out of this environment. He visits the British Museum when 10 years old and is profoundly struck by the monumental statues just being delivered from Ninevah. They had been the gate keepers at Ashurbanipal’s citadel over 2000 years ago.

The second character, Narin, who is a 9-year-old living with her grandmother - a water diviner and storyteller - on the banks of the river Tigris in Iraq 2014. Her family are from the Yazidi tribe who are dwindling in number through persecution and water loss, and the region has become very dry as rivers are diverted to make dams upstream. Disaster - a real event - follows when ISIS troops attack killing indiscriminately and bury bodies in empty water cisterns. What irony. Narin escapes but her future is bleak.

Our third character is 31-year old Zaleekhah who is a hydrologist living on a houseboat in Chelsea in 2018. She has never recovered from her childhood trauma of losing her parents in a flash flood on a camping holiday by the river Tigris.

Elif Sharak (born 1971 and Turkish British) does have an agenda when writing, but it is gently handled in her ability to write compelling stories. She believes a novel can ignite an emotional response in the reader in a way that a factual account would not, so we learn from the heart, as it were. She is aware of our current existential angst and thinks that if we could find space for more nuanced conversations, we would be less apathetic and find energy to resist. She was appointed President of the Royal Society of Literature in 2025.

Water is her analogy of our interconnectedness and that the raindrop we meet in the first chapter is still present at the end. The earth’s water supply is finite and we abuse it at our cost.

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

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News from Stourhead

National Trust

Spring has arrived at Stourhead, bringing the garden back to life. Bluebells are beginning to carpet Bonham Wood and the rhododendrons are adding bright bursts of colour throughout the landscape. With longer days and warmer weather returning, April offers a full programme of activities for visitors to enjoy across the estate.

Easter adventures through the garden are running daily until 19 April. The trail includes Easter-themed activities around the garden, with a chocolate egg to collect at the end. Trails are £3.50 and come with bunny ears and a choice of dairy, vegan or Free From eggs.

For those looking for something more energetic, the popular Trust10 trail run takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month, giving participants the chance to enjoy a free, informal 10k run across the wider estate. A highlight of April's calendar is the Alfred's Tower charity abseil on 25–26 April. This 160-foot descent, hosted by SOS Africa, is already fully booked, but spectators are welcome and it's the perfect excuse to enjoy a woodland walk at the same time.

On 26 April, we'll be holding a willow obelisk workshop. This is a friendly, hands-on session for anyone who is looking to craft their own garden obelisk – ideal for supporting climbing plants such as sweet peas, beans, or clematis. The workshop costs £35 and is suitable for beginners.

With seasonal guided walks, family trails, wellbeing activities and creative workshops, April is a wonderful time to spend a day at Stourhead. We look forward to welcoming you.

For more information on our events, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/stourhead/events

Lucy Fenna, Communications & Marketing
Officer lucy.fenna1@nationaltrust.org.uk or 01747 842032

Country Calendar

APRIL 2026

If it thunders on All Fool's Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay.

Well, I would go with this very old quote if good crops of corn and hay were the result. We have had so much rain from the beginning of the year; a good thunderstorm might clear the air.

The cattle are getting restless and can smell the new spring grass. As I have said many times before, for us it is a worrying time when the cattle are out. As reported in the media a high proportion of dogs' owners are quite indifferent to the damage a loose dog can do to livestock. As recently as February this year, the National Farmers Mutual (NFU) conducted a survey of 1,407 dog owners, and found that 57% let their dogs off-lead in the countryside, with 10% admitting their dog has no recall around livestock. Additionally, 44% reported their dogs only return "some" or "most" of the time, and 5% confessed their pets had chased livestock. Recent reports highlight a surge in "horrific" and "devastating" dog attacks on sheep and lambs across the UK, resulting in significant livestock deaths and injuries. Attacks by dogs on livestock, often referred to as "sheep worrying," have seen a significant rise in the UK recently, with NFU Mutual estimating that farm animals worth £330,000 were killed or severely injured in 2025 alone—a 140% increase from the previous year. Here are some recent Incidents reported by the police:

Devon: A "bloody rampage" on a Dartmoor farm resulted in the deaths of 45 sheep and lambs, with animals left "mutilated" and scattered across three fields.

Wales: Two XL American Bulldogs killed 24 pregnant sheep and injured 46 others in a "horrific" incident, with the farmer describing it as the worst devastation he had ever seen.

Chiltern Hills: A farmer lost eight lambs in a recent attack, following a previous incident where 68 lambs and 19 ewes were killed.

Derbyshire: Dozens of sheep and a calf were killed including several lambs.

Wiltshire: A farmer reported 12 sheep killed or requiring euthanasia, with survivors suffering "life-affecting" injuries.

Kent: 12 lambs drowned after being chased into water by a dog.

Thankfully under new legislation, owners of dogs that attack or worry livestock can be fined up to £40,000 or face imprisonment. Additionally, farmers are legally permitted to shoot dogs that are attacking or actively worrying their livestock. "Owner Negligence" is the primary cause of attacks involving dogs that are off-lead, with owners often nowhere to be seen or "shocked" by their pets' behaviour. Farmers are urging the public to keep dogs on leads around livestock, emphasizing that even well-trained pets can fall into a "primal instinct" to chase. Sadly, when asked to control their pets, farmers are experiencing hostile, dismissive, or abusive behaviour from dog owners. These atrocious and harrowing incidents result in not just the farmer, but also their families experiencing intense emotional distress, anger, and feelings of "soul-destroying" trauma after dog attacks on their livestock. Not to mention the financial losses incurred. These attacks are avoidable and caused by human irresponsibility and selfish wanton lack of regard for the farmer and his livestock.

Jane Parker







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| Mobile Library : April 2026 | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| April 2, 16, 30 | Zeals | School, Chapel Lane 10.00-10.40 am Zeals Rise 10.45-11.00 am |
| April 2, 16, 30 | Kilmington | Home Guard Club 11.20-11.35 am |

MERE FIRE STATION PROPOSED CLOSURE

Although the public meetings have taken place, the consulting period remains open. More details on this serious on the website
DWFIRE.ORG.UK

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MERE FIRE STATION PROPOSED CLOSURE

PUBLIC MEETINGS

These will be held at **Mere Lecture Hall**,
Salisbury Street, Mere BA12 6HA on the following dates:

Wednesday 4 March: 6pm – 8pm

Thursday 5 March: 10.30am – 12.30pm

ONLINE DIAL-IN SESSION FOR MERE

Thursday 23 April:
6pm – 7pm:

Scan QR code to join on
Microsoft Teams



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: DWFIRE.ORG.UK

Village Pump

It is almost 10 years since Peter Samson and I set about clearing the brambles, stinging nettles, weeds and overgrown shrubs which totally obscured the gravel area and bank around the pump. It is now difficult to remember what it looked like before and I know people enjoy this focal point in our village.

The aim was to make the area as low maintenance as possible and, after the initial work, that has mostly been achieved. In recent years it has required a concerted effort in early spring and again before Remembrance Day, with only some occasional light maintenance during the summer.

However, nature has a way of fighting back and I would welcome some new helpers to keep it in order, as Peter is no longer able to help. We should thank him for all his hard work for over 10 years, as well as all the other things he has done to contribute to village life e.g. the annual litter pick and cooking for village BBQs and the fireworks. If you could spare a few hours in the next few weeks or an hour or two during the summer please contact me at: georginamuir@btinternet.com or leave a message at 01985 844245. Many hands make light work!

Georgina Muir

P.S. A big thank you also to Darren Davis, who keeps the hedge around the notice board looking neat and tidy all year round, just because he sees it needs doing!



Making Time with Richard Price

Do join us in the Village Hall, Bourton on the 29th May 2026 at 7.30pm for an entertaining evening with Richard Price - the Antiques Roadshow expert on clocks and timepieces. After an introductory talk Richard has kindly agreed to comment on any watches and clocks we may bring along.

Tickets £10 from the Village shop Bourton from 27th April or on the door glass of wine and canapes included. Bar & soft drinks available
In aid of St Georges Church fundraising for toilet and kitchen facilities.



**Easter Garden at
St Mary's
Saturday
4th April**

Help us to make
an Easter Garden
at

St Mary's
Kilmington at 2 pm
on Easter Saturday.
Bring with you any
stones, flowers
sticks etc .

Adults and children
to be involved.

Refreshments
provided

**Easter Egg Hunt:
Easter Day 5th April**

Following the Service at 10am at
St Mary's on Easter Day,
there will be an Easter Egg Hunt
for children. Each child will have
12 nests to find, each containing
a different type of egg – a real
treasure hunt!
And there will be sherry
for the adults!



SERVICES IN UPPER STOUR WITH MAIDEN BRADLEY

APRIL 2026

- Thursday 2nd Maundy Thursday**
19.00 Parish Communion with Foot Washing at
St Mary's Kilmington
- Friday 3rd Good Friday**
14.00 Last Hour Service at St Martin's Zeals
- Sunday 5th Easter Day**
06.30 Sunrise Service at Search Farm, Stourton
10.00 Parish Communion at St Mary's Kilmington
10.00 Parish Communion at All Saints Maiden Bradley
- Sunday 12th Second Sunday of Easter**
10.00 Parish Communion at St George's Bourton
- Sunday 19th Third Sunday of Easter**
10.00 Parish Communion at St Peter's Stourton
- Sunday 26th Fourth Sunday of Easter**
10.00 Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals

MAY 2026

- Sunday 3rd Fifth Sunday of Easter**
10.00 Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

~~o0o~~

Weekday Services

- 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

Funeral
On 27th February at St Martin's Zeals: **Marjorie Stratton**

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
followed by
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
will be held on
Monday 30th April at 7.00 pm Whitesheet School Hall

Church Electoral Roll

This year we have the revision of the Electoral Roll, in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 30th April 2026 at Whitesheet School Zeals. If you are NOT already on the Roll and would like to be, there will be forms in each of the churches for you to fill in between 20th March- 4th April 2026. You can email me elizabeth.hames@hotmail.co.uk or call 01747 685514 and I will send a form. You do not need to do this if you are already on the Electoral Roll

Elizabeth Hames (*Electoral Roll Officer*)

Parish of Upper Stour – Volunteer Treasurer

The Parish of Upper Stour is seeking a volunteer Treasurer to oversee the finances of our four churches. This rewarding role is at the heart of parish life and helps support the mission and day-to-day running of our churches.

Key aspects of the role include:

- Keeping clear financial records and ensuring income is properly recorded and banked
- Monitoring income and expenditure throughout the year
- Paying authorised bills and maintaining accurate accounts
- Preparing the annual accounts
- Assisting the PCC with budgeting
- Advising the PCC on the parish's financial position
- Providing general financial information as needed

If you have a good head for numbers, enjoy working collaboratively, and would like to make a real contribution to parish life, we would be delighted to hear from you.

For more information or to express interest, please contact

George Bullivant at georgebullivant@gmail.com or 07939 045917
Alternatively, speak to one of the churchwardens

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News from Parish Councils

Bourton

The Parish Council met on 25th February in the Village Hall, with eight councillors present and five members of the public in attendance. During the Public Forum, concerns were raised about the pavement at the bottom of Bridge Street and Kites Nest Lane, which had been excavated by the developer. Residents also asked about access to Village Hall minutes and accounts, and requested that the cemetery be digitally mapped; the Clerk will follow this up. A volunteer also confirmed he would be cleaning the village signs.

Speed Watch activity was limited by poor weather, although two sessions were completed, with more planned for March.

Planning matters included support for an application at Grove House, and updates on major sites. Discussions continue regarding the future of the Village Hall in relation to the Sandways development, with a meeting due to be held in March with the Sandways site's developer attended by several parish councillors and village hall trustees, and a community engagement event proposed for the summer. A Q&A session for Bourton Mill residents, arranged by Sean Dandy, took place on 28th February.

The Council's finances remain healthy, including £20,000 earmarked for the new play area. Progress continues on plans for Jubilee Meadow, with a play area sub-group formally approved and a detailed scheme and quote received from Home Front Outdoor Play. Draft planning documents have been prepared and will be submitted once finalised.

Other matters included footpath volunteers will resume work once materials arrive, ash dieback at Breach Close, inconsiderate parking on an unadopted road, and concerns about the future of Mere Fire Station.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, and the subsequent meeting is on Wednesday 22nd April

Eve Wynn, RFO & Clerk, Bourton Parish Council

Email: clerk@bourton-pc.gov.uk Website: <https://bourton-pc.gov.uk/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/639361217139818>

Kilmington

Fibre Broadband – Wessex Internet Update The Parish Council received a detailed briefing from Wessex Internet on the rollout of full fibre under the Government's Project Gigabit scheme. The project moved out of planning in December and is now entering the detailed design phase. Subject to land-access agreements, construction is expected to begin later this year, with service likely to go live in early 2027. The build will deliver gigabit-capable fibre to 117 properties across Kilmington, Norton Ferris and surrounding rural homes.

A residents' information meeting will be held once final routes are confirmed. Residents are encouraged to register interest on the Wessex Internet website.

Co-option to the Parish Council: At the March meeting, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs Tonia Day to fill the current councillor vacancy. Tonia has lived in the village for 11 years, runs a local cleaning business and is studying for a degree in Psychology. She signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the meeting, and we warmly welcome her to the Council.

Highways, Drainage & Flooding: Wiltshire Council's drainage team is scheduled to spend a full week in the parish from 16 March to investigate and repair several long-standing drainage problems. Some works may require temporary road closures, and residents will be updated where possible.

Website & Email Modernisation: The Parish Council has now migrated to a new website & email system to meet modern accessibility and data-governance standards

clerk@kilmingtonwiltshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: kilmingtonwiltshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fire & Rescue Service Consultation – Significant Local Concern

The Council discussed the proposed closure of Mere Fire Station, which poses a serious risk to local emergency cover. Mere is our closest station and frequently attends incidents in Kilmington and Norton Ferris. Closure would place further pressure on Gillingham Fire Station, already covering a wide rural area, potentially increasing response times to house fires, A303 collisions and farm emergencies. The Parish Council will submit a formal objection and encourages residents to do the same.

Steven Willis, Clerk clerk@kilmingtonwiltshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

Stourton with Gasper

The next Stourton with Gasper Parish Council meeting is on 6th May at 6pm in the Memorial Hall. The draft minutes from the meeting on 4th March are on the website www.stourton.org.uk The May meeting is the parish council's annual meeting, it is a legally required yearly gathering of the council to conduct key administrative, ceremonial, and governance functions. The meeting serves to elect officers such as the chairperson, review council business, and set the agenda for the coming year. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

A litter pick has been organised for Saturday 11th April, meeting at 10am on the airfield off Bells Lane. All equipment will be provided. There will be coffee, tea, biscuits and hot sausages for everyone who joins in and a prize for the most unusual find! Please text Connie on 07515 853736 to register and to give an idea for the number of sausages needed, but we will also be very happy if you just turn up on the day!

The phone box on the junction of Gasper Street and Bonham Lane was discussed in the last Council meeting as it needs a little maintenance work, but there was a call for the phone to be used more as apparently calls from the box

are free. The phone needs more use before BT decides it's not used enough and decommissions it.

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

Zeals

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 21st May at 7pm in Zeals Village Hall. The draft minutes from 19th March are now published on www.zealspc.org.uk.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the litter pick on 14th March, it was a success with a variety of rubbish collected. It is hoped to organise another one in September; details will be posted on the website. Next year, the spring litter pick should happen a little earlier as the verges were already beginning to grow. There has been a lot of discussion about the Fire Station closures, and it's asked that you make your voice known about the prospective closures. The public meetings have been held but there is an online session on 23rd April, details on the Zeals PC or DWFire websites. A consultation form is available from www.dwfire.org.uk under proposed station closures. Please take the time to fill this in, it apparently takes a little time and they want your reasons for wanting the station to stay. This is now the best way to get your voice heard.

For parents with children wanting to play outside now the better weather has arrived, the ongoing upgrade to the Zeals Play Area will be continuing. Quotes were discussed in the most recent meeting and, it is hoped that work on the surface and replacing some of the equipment will soon begin.

While work on Zeals Rise has been completed, the Council is very aware there are ongoing problems with the surface on Chapel Lane. The clerk will continue to talk to Highways to see if there can be a resolution

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



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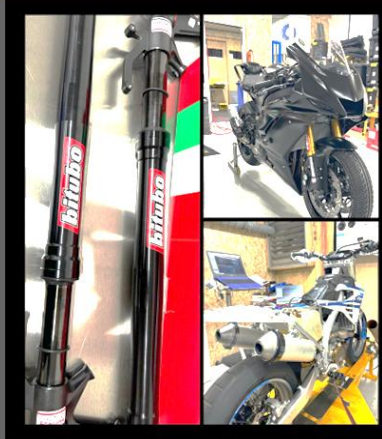


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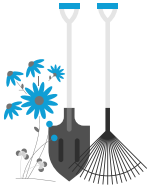
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Green Fingers: Notes from a Fairweather Gardener



April

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything”
William Shakespeare

Are you feeling the spirit of youth in the garden? We have had such a wet winter, and indeed early spring, that it seems to me the weeds especially are feeling youthful and vigorous. At this time of year, while you can still see them in between your ornamental plants, it is time to uproot them before they take up residence for the summer. This is especially true of weeds in pathways, which will possibly need a dose of weed killer.

Elsewhere in the garden, it is high time to get your vegetable patch started. If you have not already prepared it, unless you practice no dig gardening, turn over the ground to get rid of the weeds. The soil should be warm enough to start off a variety of vegetables and salad crops from beetroots and carrots to lettuces and spinach. It isn't quite time to sow beans but make sure you leave a space for them. Runner beans are so decorative, especially the pink and white ones if red is too strong a colour, that you could save a place for them amongst the flowers.

Many vegetables are happy to grow in pots or even sacks if you have them. Carrots and potatoes will happily grow in a sack or you could edge some of your pots with one of the frilly lettuce varieties. Of course there are lots of small tomato varieties that have been developed to grow outdoors in pots or even hanging baskets. I particularly like the mixed varieties of red and yellow tomatoes and you can even get some striped varieties that will grow outside. These days you don't need a greenhouse or even a conservatory to grow tomatoes, just a sunny spot in the garden. If you want a trouble free harvest, look out for the varieties that are mould resistant.

It isn't too late to sow tomato seeds indoors under glass or you could even use a plastic bag over a pot or seed tray and place by a sunny window. You should see some seedlings coming through in about two weeks. Wait until they are large enough to handle and then thin them out. You may need to harden them off before moving them outside, but then you can look forward to harvesting from the summer through to the early autumn.

Daphne Knott

Craft & Chat



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



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Stourton Memorial Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Stourton Memorial Hall Committee will take place at 1800 hrs on Thursday 23rd April in Stourton Memorial Hall Stourton. Residents of Gasper and Stourton and other Hall users are cordially invited to attend.

This is your chance to put your views to the committee as to the direction of use of the Memorial Hall and all are most welcome. It is also the occasion when the old committee formally resigns and a new committee is elected by those residents of Gasper and Stourton who are present.

Should village members who have points to raise with the committee be unable to attend, their issues can be put to the secretary who will ensure they are raised at the meeting.

All enquiries through the Hon Sec at: cmetopham@hotmail.com



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Bourton Village Hall

- **Village Lunch**

– Monday 13th April (delayed due to Easter). 12.30-14.00, pay on arrival - £5

- **Bourton Film Nights:**

April 1st – The Choral (12A)

- As WW1 rages on, the Choral Society in a small English town has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's committee is determined to press ahead with new recruits and engage a driven new chorus master, Dr. Henry Guthrie. As conscription papers start to arrive, the community discovers that the best response to the war is to make music together. Strong cast throughout incl. – Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy, Alun Armstrong

- **Music Bingo,**

Saturday 11 April - incl. hot supper then dancing! Advance tickets £15 from Bourton Garage (cash only), Eventbrite or email: treasurer@bourtonvh-dorset.org

- **Coming up:**

- Please keep a close eye on social media for 'Short Notice Events'.

- **Dates for your Diary**

- Friday 8th May – Back by popular demand:
Murder Mystery & Supper by The Bourton Players

- **Volunteers Always Needed**

New in the village? No major commitment expected, just do what you can when you can. If you'd like to know more, please email hello@bourtonvh-dorset.org and we'll get back to you.

Diary Dates: April 2026

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------|
| Weds 1 st | Bourton Film Night <i>The Choral</i> , BVH | page 27 |
| Monday 13 th | Bourton Village Lunch 12.30 BVH | page 27 |
| Saturday 11 th | Music Bingo, BVH | page 27 |
| Thursday 23 rd | Stourton Mem Hall AGM 6pm | page 26 |
| Monday 30 th | APM & APCM 7pm Whitesheet Sch, Zeals | page 15 |



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



All items for the
May 2026 issue by

Friday 17th April 2026
please