

Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of

Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals



June 2026

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

Parish Administrator, Sarah Pike (works part time)

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All items for the July/August combined 2026 issue

should be sent to the Editor Josh Larcombe at

joshlarcombe26@outlook.com / 07487 582243

by **Friday 19th June 2026** please

From the Rectory

A Year Half Gone . . . ?

It seems to me that the month of June changes the mood of a village. Have you noticed how the lanes soften into green tunnels, gardens begin showing off, and the evenings stretch out just long enough to tempt us outdoors after work and our meal? Even those who claim not to care much for gardening find themselves pausing to admire a rose over a wall or listening to blackbirds at dusk. After the uncertainty of spring weather, June often feels more settled, as though the year has finally found its stride.

Life in the countryside keeps us close to the rhythms of the seasons. We know that growth cannot be hurried. Fields ripen in their own time, hedges suddenly burst into life, and the landscape changes almost without us noticing. For me there is something reassuring in these patterns, especially when so much else in the world can feel noisy and unsettled.

Church life follows its own rhythms too. June is often the season of concerts, open gardens and cream teas, along, perhaps, with the annual hunt for enough folding chairs. These occasions may seem modest, but they matter greatly. They are where conversations happen, friendships grow, and communities quietly grow together. Village churches have always been about more than Sunday worship alone. They are gathering places, landmarks, and storehouses of shared memory.

Late May also brought us to Pentecost (Whitsun), the moment in the Christian story when a small and uncertain group of disciples suddenly found the courage to step out into the world with hope and conviction. It is a reminder that the Church did not begin with polished confidence or grand plans, but with ordinary people discovering unexpected strength and purpose. That still feels relevant today.

Perhaps one reason rural churches endure is because they understand that faith is rarely dramatic. More often it appears in steady, practical things: checking in on a neighbour, making tea after a service, helping at a village event, visiting someone who has been unwell, or simply keeping the church door open during the week. These small acts shape the character of a community far more than we sometimes realise.

Quiet matters too. In a world determined to keep us constantly distracted, there is something valuable about places where nothing much is demanded of us. An old church offers precisely that: stillness, cool stone, creaking wood, and a few moments to think and breathe.

As summer begins properly, perhaps June invites us simply to pay attention to the beauty close at hand, to the people around us, and to the small kindnesses that keep village life humane and hopeful.

Graham Southgate, Rector (01747 476316)

St George's 100 Club

winners of the April and May Draws

April

1st Prize - Tony Wilce

2nd Prize - Michael & Sylvia Hughes

3rd Prize - Glenis Allen

May

1st Prize - Pat Ross-Hurst

2nd Prize - David Crathorne

3rd Prize - Jenny Morgan

The 100 Club is somewhat down on members this year. Members who have yet to renew their subscriptions or anyone who is interested in increasing their membership should **contact Philip Newton on 07947 054534** as soon as possible.

The next draw will be held on Monday 1st June at the Bourton Village Lunch.

St Martin's Millenium Club

Winners in May 2026

D Butler

P Clayton

S Todd

P Harden

Next draw: week of 1st June 2026

This lottery raises funds in support of St Martin's church, Zeals. Register for inclusion at any time in year. For inclusion in monthly draws/questions contact Ashley Kemp:

treasurer@agkemp.co.uk

01747 840272

Mobile Library : June 2026

June 11, 25 **Zeals** School, Chapel Lane 10.00-10.40 am

June 11, 25 **Kilmington** Home Guard Club 11.20-11.35 am



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Now read on ...

The Offing by Benjamin Myers
(Bloomsbury 2019)

*. This book was a Times and Observer Book of the Year.
It was read on Book at Bedtime and was a Radio 2 Bookclub Pick.*

Set just after WW2, “The Offing” is the story of sixteen year old Robert Appleyard, who sees his fate determined before him, coming from a family of Durham miners where no other job would be considered. He decides to go for a wander, packs a small rucksack, and sets off from his village for the summer. In the coastal village of Robin Hood’s Bay he meets Dulcie Piper, a fiercely independent older woman living near the sea in a run down cottage. There he stays, initially to help out about the place - clearing the meadow edges, in exchange for food and shelter, but increasingly the two develop an unlikely symbiotic friendship which expands Robert’s world view and sets him on a path to transcending his seemingly predetermined life. Dulcie gently offers intellectual sustenance and wider experience. She introduces him to writers he has never heard of and she also delights in introducing him to food he has never tasted. Eventually, while clearing out the studio-shed that is falling to ruins near Dulcie’s house, Robert finds a manuscript and the history of Dulcie’s life before the war unfolds.

This is a novel rooted in place and time. England in the immediate aftermath of the war, a place of deprivation, rationing and loss, and within that is an understated reflection on the impact of war. Alongside is the beauty of an English summer, the core of this novel, and Benjamin Myers has a mesmerising ability geographically and poetically to depict the natural world and our relationship with nature. It is also about the human relationships that shape and mould us and is the story of a friendship and growing up and how a set of random choices of path can completely change one’s life.

The offing is “the distant stretch of sea where sky and water merge” and is a perfect metaphor for invisible transition. This is a coming of age tale that looks back at a single life changing summer. It is a delightful summer novel, to be read and enjoyed during an English summer where memories of past summers can filter through and merge.

C. M Jacobson

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News from Stourhead

National Trust

Summer has arrived and every shade of green is filling the vistas across Stourhead. Pockets of wildflowers are emerging, foxgloves stand tall in glades of green and the showstopping laburnum blooms are framing sections of the lake.

Coming up in June, there's plenty to discover for visitors of all ages. Regular guided walks and tours continue throughout the month, offering a chance to explore the story behind this iconic landscape and take in seasonal highlights with knowledgeable volunteers.

Art and nature come together in the ongoing Drawn to Trees trail and outdoor exhibition, created in collaboration with Luke Adam Hawker. Drawn to Trees invites visitors to uncover the stories and folklore of 17 remarkable trees across the garden. For those keen to get creative themselves, a botanical lino printing workshop on 4 June offers a hands-on opportunity to take inspiration from the surroundings.

On 17 June, visitors can hear directly from artist Luke Adam Hawker at a special talk and book signing where he'll be sharing his work and creative journey rooted in the natural world.

Across the estate, activities such as the Trust10 trail run and guided wider estate walks continue to provide opportunities to explore the countryside around Stourhead.

For more information on all upcoming events for June, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/stourhead/events

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



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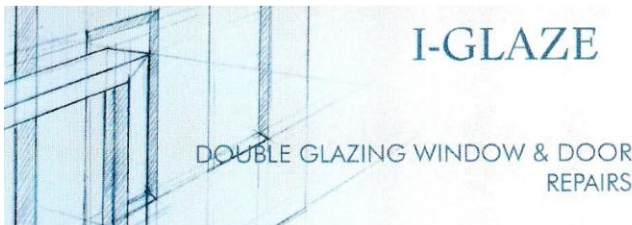
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Country Calendar

June 2026

Here we are entering into the sixth month of the year. On the farm normal service resumes after thankfully passing our TB test. I cannot put into words how much this affects us all and the utter relief at getting a clear test. All the herd are now enjoying the warm weather and green pastures.

Whether you love him or hate him Jeremy Clarkson, in most farmers' eyes, is a hero. His programme on his Diddly Squat Farm in Oxfordshire is a huge success not just here in the UK but all over the world. My own farming son-in-law in New Zealand tells me Diddly Squat is a farm that New Zealand Farmers really want to visit. They are obsessed with his programme and his humour and the way he broaches political issues here in the UK. "Cereals" is the UK's flagship arable event. Farmers come from all over the world to see crop, new equipment and techniques and much, much more. It is a proper farmers day out which no one wants to miss, even more so this year because the host is none other than Jeremy Clarkson. The event will take place at the world renowned famous or infamous Diddly Squat Farm on 10th/11th June. On the announcement last year, the application for tickets created a wild excitable frenzy. Tickets are only allocated to those who have registered with Cereals; it is an industry event and will not be selling public tickets through Cereals channels. Visitors at Cereals 2025 had exclusive early access to 2026 tickets. Tickets for 2026 will have approvals and criteria in place to ensure the audience remains farmer-led. I am afraid Diddly Squat fans are going to be very disappointed, but I am sure Jeremy and Kaleb will feature heavily at Cereals in their next production. Thankfully we applied last year and have secured four tickets, which are now like gold dust!

Jeremy Clarkson expressed his sympathy and frustration to farmers at the high input costs farmers are facing, leading farmers to make a loss. He was speaking to the Farmers Weekly in the run up to the event on his farm. I quote his comments which he made as arable farmers weigh up the prospect of leaving fields fallow because growing crops is too financially risky. This is not a flippant remark; it is the stark reality arable farmers are facing. I am in an extremely fortunate position having other income streams. I cannot begin to imagine how awful it is for farmers who do not host "Who wants to be a Millionaire" – ie most farmers. It must just be utterly, utterly soul destroying. It hurts me enough when you lose money like I did last year. It fills me with despair, and I do agree with what Kaleb says, "people do need to eat!" So somehow somebody hopefully more enlightened might come along and things might get better. Our food security is vital, but you just have to cross your fingers in hope. I know it is all about entertainment value for most Diddly Squat followers, but for farmers we know he is on our side and understands and as he says we can live in hope somebody out there listens.

Jane Parker



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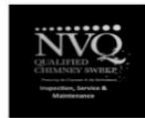
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Message from Barbara Borwell

Barbara wishes to thank very much all those ("you know who you are" she says!) who have given their time, support, prayers, love & get well wishes, flowers etc over the past few weeks, including dog care and walks, shopping, domestic chores and visiting her whilst she has been recovering from surgery. She says she is now well on the road to recovery, if frustrated at seeing a garden full of weeds but restraining herself from doing anything about it! She and her 3 doggies send love and blessings

Craft & Chat

The summer meetings for Craft & Chat at Bourton Village Hall are
2nd June, 16th June, 30th June
14th July, 28th July
NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST -- Starting after the summer:
8th September and each Tuesday following.
2.00-4.00pm. £3.00 includes tea and biscuits

Zeals Open Gardens 27th & 28th June

POSTPONED

The plan to open 10 gardens in Zeals has had to be postponed until next year



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| | |
|--|---|
| Sunday 7th 10.00 | First Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion at Saint George's Bourton |
| Sunday 14th 10.00 10.00 | Second Sunday after Trinity Morning Worship at Saint Mary's Kilmington Morning Worship at All Saints Maiden Bradley |
| Sunday 21st 10.00 | Third Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion at Saint Peter's Stourton |
| Sunday 28th 10.00 10.00 15.00 | Fourth Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion at Saint Martin's Zeals Parish Communion at All Saints Maiden Bradley Churches Together in Mere and District Songs of Praise in Stourhead Gardens |

JULY 2026

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 5th 10.00 | Fifth Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion at Saint George's Bourton |
|---------------------------------------|---|

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Weekday Services

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mondays: | 09.00 Morning Prayer at Saint George's Bourton |
| Wednesdays: | 16.00 Holy Communion at Saint Martin's Zeals |
| Thursdays: | 09.00 Morning Prayer at Saint Mary's Kilmington |

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE AND DISTRICT

**SONGS OF PRAISE
AT STOURHEAD**

Sunday 28th June at 3.00 *p.m.*



We shall meet in the gardens near the Bristol Cross.
Please bring a chair or a rug, and a picnic to share after the service.

About Upper Stour Parish Magazine
Josh Larcombe – New Editor

Josh has now taken over as Editor. Please be in touch with him directly with contributions to upcoming editions of this Magazine (starting with the July/August magazine). I will still be involved as back up so for the time being **please copy me into anything you send to Josh so we can both have input.** His contact details are:

Tel 07487 [582243](tel:07487582243) / joshlarcombe26@outlook.com

Many thanks to everyone for your many excellent contributions and help and support over the past nearly 20 years. You are in good hands with Josh!

Celia Cotton

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News from Parish Councils

Bourton

Bourton Parish Council held its Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council meeting and the usual Parish Council meeting all on the same evening. We had an excellent turn out, with 14 members of the public in attendance for all three meetings. Peter Williams was duly elected to continue as Chairman, with Paul Curry also being elected to continue as Vice Chairman.

Peter Williams presented the Tom Mitchell Salver to Linda Curry. Linda is a volunteer dog walker for the Cinnamon Trust, a charity that supports people who are unwell and unable to walk their dogs. Linda also volunteers with the twice annual litter pick and is a great supporter of events at the Village Hall.

The Clerk reported the following summary for the year end accounts: Total Payments: £32,632; Total Receipts: £24,615; with Balances Carried forward as at the 31st March 2026: £25,982.

During the usual monthly meeting a member of the public raised concerns on behalf of other residents regarding inconsiderate parking on Church Track which is causing issues for residents trying to exit their drives. Paul Curry suggested that the residents affected consent to the Clerk forwarding their emails to Tony Burden at Dorset Council.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th June.

Eve Wynn, RFO & Clerk

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

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

Kilmington

At the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting held on 11 May, residents received updates on parish activity over the past year and discussed a number of local priorities. Cllr Graham Cotton was re-elected as Chair, and Cllr Elizabeth Hames as Vice-Chair for the coming year, with councillors also confirming governance arrangements and key policies for the year ahead.

Councillors reviewed recent traffic survey data for the B3092 at Norton Ferris, which showed vehicle speeds below the threshold required for further traffic-calming intervention. While this limits the scope for immediate action, the Council will continue to monitor the situation. It was also noted that the

long-requested traffic survey for Kilmington Common has been subject to repeated delays, with Wiltshire Council now indicating it should be completed imminently.

Discussions also included the condition of playground equipment, with plans to prioritise maintenance and future improvements.

Since the meeting, attention has turned to a fault affecting the Speed Indicator Device (SID) shared between Kilmington and Zeals. Initial inspection has identified moisture ingress within the unit, and further assessment is underway to determine the extent of any damage and available repair options.

Parish Council meetings remain open to the public, and residents are always welcome to attend.

Steven Willis, Clerk clerk@kilmingtonwiltshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Stourton Flower and Produce Show

will be held on

Sunday 16 August in Stourton Memorial Hall.

Please put it in your diary and plan your entries!

The Show will follow a traditional theme: Flowers and Foliage, Flower Arrangement, Fruit and Vegetables, Cookery, Handicraft, Art and Photography.

Entry forms will be available from the Farm Shop and Zeals Garage in late July, and a summary of the categories will be advertised in next month's magazine.

Please note: this Show will be slightly later in August than previously

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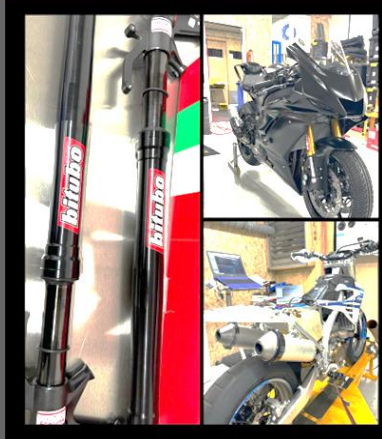


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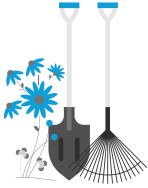
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Green Fingers:

Notes from a Fairweather Gardener



June

Gardens are not made by singing ‘Oh, how beautiful,’ and sitting in the shade.’ So wrote Rudyard Kipling, and this maxim is very true at this time of year, when we might indeed be tempted to sit in the shade and congratulate ourselves on a beautiful garden display.

On the days or evenings when you are feeling more energetic there are plenty of small maintenance tasks that can be carried out which will enhance the look of the garden without too much effort. Tall plants like delphiniums and hollyhocks look better and survive any stronger summer breezes if they are staked. If you have climbing or rambling roses, tie in the new stems horizontally to their supports to encourage more flowers.

Roses, especially the modern hybrids, are one of the many plants that benefit from dead heading to encourage further flowering. Nearly all annuals and many summer perennials will throw up new flower shoots if you get rid of the dead flowers. Remember that you can be quite brutal when doing this and treat it as a pruning exercise rather than just picking off the dead flower head. Prune roses down to the next leaf shoot and cut off the whole stem of other flowering plants. On some plants, such as centauria, the flower stems and associated leaves die back, so the dead stem can be cut back to the ground.

Another way to encourage flowering, particularly in annuals, is to pinch out the leading flower shoots. This will produce a bushier plant with more flower heads. It seems a shame at first when you lose all the new flowers, but it is worth it later on when you have even more flowers to enjoy. This method can also be used on fuchsias.

The vegetable garden should be starting to bear fruit now. Most vegetables are hungry and thirsty, so it is a good idea to apply a liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks. Specialist tomato feed can be used on a range of vegetables, not just tomatoes, so give your marrows, squashes and courgettes a treat. Beans of all sorts, squashes and courgettes will grow better if you apply a mulch around them to conserve water. Leaf mould, well-rotted horse manure mushroom compost and of course your own home made compost are all excellent mulches. Your vegetables will thank you!

Daphne Knott



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Bourton Village Hall June 2026

- **Village Lunch** – Monday 1st June
12.30-14.00, pay on arrival - £5

- **Bourton Film Nights:**

 - **Wednesday June 3rd – Hamnet (12A)**

 - - William Shakespeare and his wife, Agnes, celebrate the birth of their son, Hamnet. However, when tragedy strikes and Hamnet dies at a young age, it inspires Shakespeare to write his timeless masterpiece "Hamlet." This is an historical fiction, based on some true facts. Featuring Best Actress Oscar Winner, Jessie Buckley, as Agnes.

Summer Films

We are looking to break with recent tradition and continue Film Nights throughout the summer, but have yet to choose the titles. Please watch village social media and other noticeboards in the village for updates.

Wednesday 1st July – TBA

Wednesday 5th August – TBA

- **Dates for your Diary**

 - **World Cup Football – England Fixtures on the big screen**

 - - June 17 v Croatia, 9.00pm KO

 - - June 23 v Ghana, 9.00pm KO

 - - June 27 v Panama, 10.00pm KO

 - The date of their next fixture will be in July , either:

 - **1st July (group winner), 2nd July (group runner up),**

 - **3rd July (group third place)**

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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.

Chloe's Mighty Hike

Macmillan Cancer Research - Fundraiser



I'm taking on the Jurassic Coast Mighty Hike, pushing my limits to raise £250 in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, because no one should have to face cancer alone. In recent years, people close to me have been directed impacted by cancer, and it's my goal to raise as much

money for a charity which supports every stage of an individual's journey through treatment and beyond. Your donation, no matter the size, will help ensure that no one has to face cancer without the care, compassion, and expert support they deserve. Together, we can make a mighty difference. Thank you so much.

mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk

Chloe Stanfield chloejstanfield@gmail.com

Chloe is a member of the Upper Stour church choir

Lady Keegan's Cookery Corner

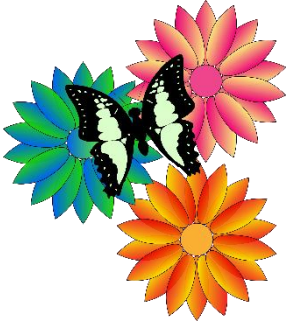
Roasted Cauliflower and Hazelnut Salad

This recipe is not only good for you (it's almost completely calorie free!) but it's delicious, both on its own or as an accompaniment to grilled or poached fish.

Ingredients (for 2 hungry people or 4 as a side dish)

Ingredients: 1 good sized cauliflower broken up into small florets, 5 tablesp olive oil, 1 large stick celery, cut into diagonal slices, 2 tablsps hazelnuts, 2 tablesp fresh pomegrate seeds 1/3 teaspoon ground cinnamon and allspice 1 tablesp sherry vinegar, 1 ½ teasp maple syrup, salt and ground black pepper, bunch of flat parseley, roughly chopped.

Method: Heat the oven to 220 (200 fan). Mix florets with 3 tablesp oil, season with salt and pepper and roast at the top of the oven until crisp and golden brown (about 20-25 minutes). Transfer to a serving dish and cool. Reduce the oven temperature to 150C and roast the hazelnuts until golden brown (keep an eye on them in case they burn), then chop roughly either by hand or for a few seconds in a food processor. Tip into the serving dish, add the remaining oil and all other ingredients. Cover with cling film and refrigerate until needed. Serve at room temperature.



Diary Dates

June 2026

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|---------------------------|--|---------|
| Monday 1 st | Bourton Village Lunch 12,30pm, BVH | Page 26 |
| Tuesday 2 nd | Craft & Chat, 2-4pm BVH | Page 13 |
| Wednesday 3 rd | Film <i>Hamnet</i> , BVH | Page 26 |
| Saturday 6 th | Concert at St Peter's Stourton, 6.30 pm | Page 24 |
| Thursday 11 th | Mobile Library Zeals & Kilmington | Page 4 |
| Friday 12 th | Creative Workshop for Unpaid Carers 2-4 pm | Page 11 |
| Thursday 25 th | Mobile Library Zeals & Kilmington | Page 4 |
| Sunday 28 th | Songs of Praise, Stourhead Gardens 3pm | 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

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| 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 July/August 2026 issue by
Friday 19th June 2026 please**