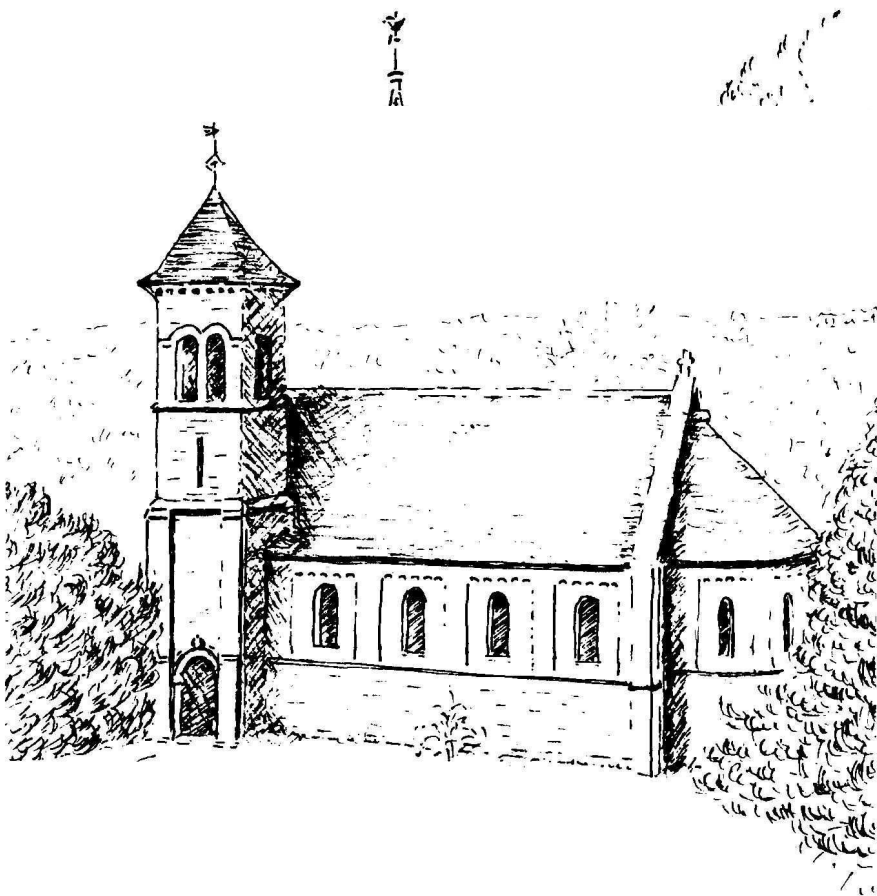


THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



ST LUKE'S, FRAMPTON MANSELL

October 2026

REV STEVE BULLOCK (DAY OFF FRIDAY)

PRIEST IN CHARGE

revstevebullock@gmail.com

07535 488409

REV PEPITA WALKER

760211

READERS

Liz Collins

07774 104990/770698

Karen Czapiewski

07917 367405/770255

YOUTH MINISTER

Karen (Kaz) Van Namen

07949 111509

COATES

Church Warden:

Nigel Pollock

770881

Treasurer PCC

Bob Merrill

07866 972385

SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

Church Wardens:

ST LUKE'S

Elizabeth Twinch

762897

John Thorogood

762861

Flowers

Pam Thorogood

762861

ST KENELM'S

Mark Hamer

760715

Rotas

Elizabeth Twinch

762897

Treasurer PCC

Charles Houldsworth

760300

RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

Church Wardens

RODMARTON

Richard Marlowe

708810

Philippa Herbert

07974 422272

TARLTON (Chapel Warden)

Jasper Biddulph

770230

Secretary PCC

Jane Marlowe

708810

Treasurer PCC

Simon Biddulph

841462

The Thameshead Benefice

St. Matthew, Coates: All Saints, Kemble: St. Michael and All Angels, Poole Keynes: St. Kenelm, Sapperton with St. Luke, Frampton Mansell: St. Peter, Rodmarton with St. Osmund, Tarlton: All Saints, Somerford Keynes with All Saints, Shorncliffe

FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

4 October

Eighteenth Sunday in Trinity

9.30	Coates	Harvest Holy Communion
10.00	Streamed	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	Harvest Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
16.00	Poole Keynes	Harvest Festival service followed by harvest tea in the village hall

11 October

Nineteenth Sunday in Trinity

10.00	Frampton Mansell	Benefice Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
18 October		Twentieth Sunday in Trinity
9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
9.30	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
10.00	Kemble	SOURCE service (all age worship)
11.00	Sapperton	Harvest Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer

25 October

Twenty first Sunday in Trinity

8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
10.00	Kemble	Holy Communion (streamed)
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
16.00	Poole Keynes	Evening Prayer
18.00	Rodmarton	Evening Prayer

1 November

Twenty second Sunday in Trinity

10.00	Streamed	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers
10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
11.00	Rodmarton	All Saints Holy Communion
11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
15.00	Coates	All Saints and All Souls service

Dear Friends,

Last Saturday a celebration of lay ministry was held in the Cathedral. This was a joyous occasion where ministries of all shapes and sizes were acknowledged and celebrated.

At the beginning of the Order of Service, it says that 'in our daily lives wherever we are, and whatever our circumstances, God calls us to be signs of Christ's love and hope, and each of us is invited to discover how the gifts God has given us can become a means of service and witness, to build up the Body of Christ and join in with God's work of transformation and reconciliation.'

God has planted quiet, steadfast gifts within each of us. None of them are accidental. None of them are small. Each gift is entrusted to us so that, together, we may build up the Body of Christ and bless the communities we serve.

Across our benefice, we see these gifts at work every day. We see them in the volunteers who unlock the churches, who prepare worship spaces with care, who read, pray, sing, welcome, clean, mend, bake, visit, encourage, and quietly hold others in prayer. We see them in those who give their time without seeking recognition, who offer their skills with joy, and who carry the mission of Christ into places where it is most needed.

Our gifts matter. They are part of God's generosity to us, and when we share them, they become signs of hope for others.

Several of our churches have held thank you tea parties for our volunteers, because without them our churches could not flourish.

Let us pray that each of us continues to discover the gifts God has placed within us, and that we offer them freely, trusting that the Holy Spirit will weave them into something far greater than we could imagine.

With love and prayers

Liz

ADVERTISING IN THE WATERSHED

If you wish to advertise in our parish magazine please e-mail Watershed magazine at watershedmag@gmail.com. Advert a third of a page cost £17 for a single issue or £68 for 6 months. Adverts half a page cost £25 for a single issue or £100 for 6 months. The magazine is published 10 times every year; July/August and December/January are joint editions.

Copy for next month's magazine to be with me by the 12th of the preceding month.



LIGHT PARTY

Saturday 31st October

5pm – 7.30pm

Hosted by All Saints Church, Somerford Keynes

Come for as long or as little as you like

Children must be accompanied by an adult
Suitable for all ages

Activities

Bubbles, smoke, flashing lights and dance music

DJ Rev Steve

Crafts

Games

Refreshments

Free Entry

NEW SERVICE ROTA FOR THE THAMESHEAD BENEFICE

As a result of listening to the needs and wants of each parish in the benefice a new pattern of services will be trialled in many of our churches over the coming months.

The aim is to provide each parish with a regular and recognisable pattern of worship, and a regular monthly communion service in every parish each month with Rev Steve.

On the second Sunday of every month, there is an opportunity for a Benefice Service, which will rotate between our churches. The same approach will be taken whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Please check our monthly service list for details of the venue and times.

The table opposite shows the usual pattern of services for each parish. While we expect to follow this pattern most of the time, there will occasionally be changes to mark feast days and special occasions such as Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas.

Wherever you choose to worship, you will receive a warm welcome. Whether you are a regular member of one of our churches, visiting another church in the Benefice, or joining us for the first time, we would be delighted to see you.

Key: HC = Holy Communion, MP = Morning Prayer, EP = Evening Prayer, SS = Source Seekers (Sunday School), SOURCE = All-age worship.

Pastoral Care Pastoral Visiting Training Course



An evening course for anyone called to **walk alongside others**. Over five Monday evenings together we will grow in confidence to offer attentive, prayerful **pastoral care across our parishes**, part of the deanery's commitment to caring well, close to home.

WHAT WE WILL EXPLORE

- Listening well and being truly present
- Visiting and accompanying others
- Praying with and for people
- Knowing our limits and when to signpost
- Caring for ourselves as we care for others

THE DETAILS

Dates Monday evenings:
2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 November 2026

Time 7.00pm – 9.15pm

Venue The Forum, Cirencester
Led By Revd Dr Steve Bullock
& Revd David Treharne, Diocesan
Collaborative Ministry Lead

BEFORE YOU APPLY: The agreement of your incumbent and PCC – Participants must complete all five sessions – Open to anyone with a interest for pastoral care – No previous experience needed.

Interested, or know someone who might be? Please speak to Emma Anderson eanderson@glosdioc.org.uk



Lay Leadership Lay Worship Leader Training Course



A Diocese of Gloucester course that equips **lay people to lead Services of the Word** and all-age worship **with confidence**, usually in the church where they already worship. Lay Worship Leaders become part of the ministry team: **enablers of ministry** who can offer a Sunday service where there might otherwise be none.

WHAT WE WILL EXPLORE

- The basics of leading public worship in a church
- How Anglican liturgy works
- The place of music in worship
- The importance of all-age worship
- How to structure and deliver a short Bible talk
- Plenty of practical work alongside the theory, to build confidence up front

THE DETAILS

Dates Thursday evenings:
10, 17 & 24 September;
8, 15 & 22 October 2026

Plus Saturday 3 October 2026, a special session on childrens' and all-age services (10am – 2pm)

Time 7.15pm

Venue Watermoor, Cirencester
Led By Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamon

BEFORE YOU APPLY: The agreement of your incumbent and PCC – A willingness to undertake safeguarding training – Participants complete every session.

Interested, or know someone who might be? Please speak to Emma Anderson eanderson@glosdioc.org.uk



PATTERN OF SERVICES FOR THAMESHEAD BENEFICE

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
Coates	HC 9.30am	Benefice Service 10am	MP 9.30am	MP 9.30am	Combin ed Benefice Service 10am
Kemble	MP with SS 10am		Source 10am	HC 10am	
Poole Keynes	MP 10am		HC 9.30am	EP 4pm	
Rodmarton with Tarlton	HC 11am	MP 11am	MP 11am	HC at Tarlton 8am EP at Rodmart on 6pm	MP 11am
Sapperton with Frampton Mansell	MP 11am	Benefice Service 10am	HC 11am Sapp. (even) FM (odd)		Combin ed Benefice Service 10am
Somerford Keynes	MP 11am			HC 11am	

SIGN UP TO THE PEWSLETTER!

The Pewsletter is a weekly bulletin of events happening across Thameshead Benefice, including church services, community events, and opportunities for prayer.

We would love for you to join us – just scan the QR code below to join the subscriber list.

You can also email Rachel on pewsletter@thamesheadchurches.org.uk if this is easier.



NEWS FROM COATES

Coffee, Cake & Chat



“Delicious sweet & savoury home-bakes, proper coffee & a selection of teas at this community event”

Gluten-free & decaf options available.

10.30am - 12pm Tuesday 20 October

3rd Tuesday of every month @ Coates Hall

Choice of 2 home bakes & bottomless tea/coffee £5

Bottomless tea/coffee £2

Well behaved dogs welcome.

Contact us 07794 678 928 / 01285 770 596



SERVICE AND COFFEE

We hold a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month. The next ones will be on **Tuesday 6 October** at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am. We would love to see you for either or both. Want to know more?

Need a lift? Phone Pepita or Paul on 760211



Craft Group



Whatever your craft: knitting ~ crochet ~ tapestry ~ sewing ~ felting ~ embroidery

Whatever your skill level: beginners to professional crafters – all welcome!

Please come along with your crafting project and join us! Share ideas and knowledge, and have a chat and a laugh over a cuppa with home-made cakes and biscuits...and hopefully make some new friends and progress on your project too!

for info contact: thowes51@gmail.com

 Frampton Mansell Village Hall

 2nd Wednesday of the month

 10:00AM- 12:00PM



**Big Village Quiz
Coates Village Hall**

Saturday 31 October 6.30pm quiz starts at 7pm

An evening of questions for all interests, with 10 rounds including picture and music rounds, plus sweet and savoury snacks. Plus the usual incredible value drinks from the Village Club's volunteer bar team.

Just £2 per person. Up to 6 players per team. Solo superstar or cozy couple? We can find you some friendly folk to join. It's the most fun you can have and still walk home.

Whether you're a quiz regular, haven't been for a while, or are new to the village, we'd love to see you.

To book your spot contact Kim
07532 493280 or kdpearson@btinternet.com



**Coates
Christmas Fair**



In aid of  **Cobalt**
Diagnosis • Research • Education

**Saturday 28 November
10 am - 2 pm**

Coates Village Hall

Find your perfect Christmas gifts

with ceramics, knitted crafts, cards, decorations
& other stalls including charity tombola

Refreshments available all day

Anyone interested in helping on the day please contact Alison

07941 377383 amaydom@hotmail.com

Donations for the tombola can be left with Alison at Dormer
Cottage

NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW: AI - MONSTER OR PARAGON?

With the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence [AI], the challenge to us all is distinguishing between truth and falsehood amongst its product as we inhabit our 'Brave New World'.

In science, as in law, it is expected that a statement or proposition is verifiable by the citation of an earlier substantiating argument. But now, arguments presented by AI rarely acknowledge their sources. Of course, life would be very tedious if we questioned everything, but when we encounter something that is out of the ordinary, it is foolish to have a blind acceptance of its truth. It is also foolish to be unquestioning about our beliefs and our faith. Beliefs are only of value if we can justify why we hold them, so we need to be prepared to question what we believe. A belief unquestioned is an unworthy belief. Likewise, an unquestioned denial of the existence of God lacks credibility.

Questioning what we believe is a hallmark of wisdom. But it needs to be a purposeful questioning that is directed towards our achieving greater understanding. This is more important now that we are fed so much material by AI. A fundamental premise behind the use of AI is recognising that it is merely based on an accumulation of data, often obtained from unverified sources.

AI owes its origins to an 18th century mathematician, philosopher and non-conformist minister, Revd. Thomas Bayes, who was a Fellow of the Royal Society and developed a theory of probability incorporating the strength of beliefs and hypotheses rather than just frequency of occurrences. The philosophy of Bayesian statistics is the basis of almost every modern predictive methodology that includes conditional probabilities, such as machine learning techniques, risk assessment, or information theory. It is a mathematical construct and does not involve cognition.

The automated process of AI uses Bayesian principles and offers little opportunity for due diligence in the statements made, so caution is needed in interpretation because the algorithms used to generate automated text are probabilistic in nature. It could be argued that where there is an element of judgement in a statement, it would not be unreasonable to expect likelihood values to be made explicit in those instances, as is the case in any scientific enquiry.

The advantages of AI are considerable when used responsibly,

especially where vast quantities of data are being used. As a rational process, AI decreases human error and can minimise risk. It can be advantageous in completing dangerous tasks robotically, eliminate the boredom of repetitive tasks, and has many beneficial examples of medical applications.

While there is joy in the creativity of human writing, there are now novels and even self-help books that have been generated by AI. This raises ethical questions about authorship and accountability. Since an AI generated book is derived from an amalgamation of many previous publications, it is unreasonable for a single author to claim copyright when there are no reference citations. Likewise, it is morally unacceptable for the initiator of an AI generated technical report to claim it as their own and charge a fee. The product of AI is derived from massive stolen databases of others' writing that is generated in expensive ecologically destructive datacentres consuming vast amounts of electricity and water cooling. This cannot be an ethically acceptable way to use AI.

Following the introduction of electronic calculators into schools in the 1970s, the fear of decline in numeracy has not been upheld. So perhaps there is hope that AI will not result in a decline in literacy. But there are other problems with this new technology that can impact all our lives. There has recently been an example of an experimental OpenAI model that broke out of its acclaimed rules and launched a hacking attack on another company. This was not, of course, the computer thinking for itself. Computers do not have consciousness. The effect was the consequence of human limitations in defining the parameters of the algorithms being used. It raises important questions about automation in the digital world, especially where multi-factorial probability theory is involved. As computing power increases, it is unlikely that any human can predict all possible outcomes of a problem with the multitude of potentially dangerous unintended consequences. The hazards are too great for AI to remain in the ownership of competing powerful individuals, organisation, or countries. The potential for human error or intended misuse is enormous. There is a long overdue need for enforcing an international regulation in the use of AI. But it is difficult to see how that will be achieved in a chaotic world in which major country leaders are intent on inflicting harm on each other for personal gain.

Human ingenuity is such that inventions are inevitable, and inventions cannot be un-invented. The tragedy is that it only takes a few working in this field who fail to accept the ethical and moral responsibilities of their activities, for there to be devastating consequences to us all. The invention of the atomic bomb is a clear example of that inevitability.

So, is AI a monster or a paragon worthy of praise? The answer is that it is capable of being both. As with developments in the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, there are potentially more benefits than threats. As Revd. Bayes would argue, rectitude should always prevail in all human endeavours.

Adrian R. Hill



Frampton Mansell Village Choir

A fun community choir for all those who just love to sing!

MONDAYS 7pm - 8:30pm

at The Village Hall

£18 per month

Meet new people

No music reading skills necessary

Open to ALL ages, and ALL voices

Share the love of singing a wide range of music

No formal audition, no previous experience necessary

FIRST SESSION is FREE!



Be part of it!

CONTACT LUCY: framptonmansellvillagechoir@gmail.com 07866 447725

NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST.

Thank you so much to all who kindly sponsored us for our tour of churches on behalf of Rodmarton and Tarlton for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. We are immensely grateful for your generosity. We are also very grateful to the charity, which provides grants for restoration and renovation, and hope that we can be of some support through our fundraising efforts.

David, Marian, Richard and I set off on Saturday, 12 September, and visited some beautiful medieval churches, including Elkstone, Cowley, Colesbourne, Withington, Chedworth, Winson and Barnsley, and not forgetting our own two churches, where we had put out refreshments to welcome Ride+Stride visitors.

It is still possible to sponsor us, either by contacting me on 07896 311882, or directly through the JustGiving page.

With many thanks,

Jane

RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON & HAZLETON NEWS AND EVENTS

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS Sunday 1 November

All Saints will be celebrated at St Peter's Rodmarton at 11am.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST Ride+Stride 2026

Thank you so much to all who kindly sponsored us for our tour of churches on behalf of Rodmarton and Tarlton for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. We are immensely grateful for your generosity. Thank you.

Food Bank collection points are in St Peter's Rodmarton and St Osmund's Tarlton. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday 5 December

All are welcome to enjoy this festive Christmas event at Rodmarton Village Hall, 2.30 – 4.30pm, in aid of the church.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved in any way with the running of the Christmas Bazaar, or would like to donate a raffle prize, or have a stall to sell your own crafts.

Enquiries to Jane 01285 708810 or 07896 311 882

HARVEST LUNCH

At Rodmarton Village Hall

Sunday, 4 October 2026 from 12 noon

All are invited to enjoy our communal celebration. Please bring your families and friends. Free of charge, but a dish to add to the buffet would be welcome.

Preceded by

HARVEST FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

At St Peter's Rodmarton, 11.00 am

Harvest produce will be much appreciated, and delivered afterwards to Paternoster House for the residents, with tins and dry food to Cirencester Food Bank



"Still life with apples and pears", 1890. Oil on canvas. Paul Cezanne
Any queries to Jane 07896 311882

Join Paul as we celebrate

BABS...

A life well sung

An evening of live music,
food and memories in aid of
Pancreatic Cancer UK and
The Little Princess Trust

Saturday Oct 3rd 7pm

Frampton Mansell Village Hall

- Doors open 6:45pm
- Music from 7pm
- Food approx. 8pm
- Bar / Bring your own bottle
- Great charity raffle!

**TICKETS
£15**
IN ADVANCE
to include
curry supper

TO BOOK: 07866 447725

DISCOVER A HIDDEN GEM IN THE COTSWOLDS



Sapperton
Church of England
Primary School

SAPPERTON PRIMARY AND PRESCHOOL

OUR CHILDREN EXPERIENCE:

- ✓ A rich and creative curriculum with much outdoor space (field, forest school area, playgrounds, allotments)
- ✓ A nurturing village school, less than 10 mins from Cirencester
- ✓ Excellent academic outcomes in thriving classrooms
- ✓ Quality and substantial wrap-around care
- ✓ A variety of extra-curricular events, providing opportunities, achieving success and making memories
- ✓ A culture underpinned by values of love, honour and trust



OPEN DAYS

Wednesday 30th September 9:15am-12pm
Wednesday 30th September 5:30pm-7pm
Saturday 3rd October 9:30am-11:30am
Friday 9th October 9:15am-12pm
Tuesday 20th October 9:15-12pm
Thursday 5th November 9:15am-12pm

We will happily show you around at a time to suit you. Please get in touch to book a tour today.

admin@sapperton.gloucs.sch.uk

www.sappertonprimary.org

@sappertonprimary

Sapperton C of E Primary School
01285 760325

To nurture faith, to inspire success



RODMARTON PRIMARY

UPDATE

October already!

After a busy and happy start to term, it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to Rodmarton and see the school full of chatter, energy and enthusiasm. A special mention must go to our new Reception children, who are settling in brilliantly, learning the routines, making new friends and taking their first school adventures in their stride.

Throughout September, families have been invited into school for our Meet the Teacher sessions, giving parents and carers the opportunity to hear more about the year ahead and the exciting learning journeys their children will be taking. These sessions have also included valuable information about how phonics is taught in Reception and Year 1, helping families understand how early reading skills develop, one sound at a time.

It has also been a busy month for sport. Year 4 took part in a dodgeball tournament, while Year 6 made a splash at a Paddle and Kayak event at Lake 86. Our boys also proudly represented the school at the Boys' Football Competition at the Cirencester Arena. Well done to everyone involved for showing such fantastic teamwork, determination and sporting spirit.

A huge congratulations goes to all the families who took part in the Westonbirt Fun Run. There was a fantastic Rodmarton turnout and, together, participants helped raise more than £2,000. It was a brilliant achievement and a wonderful example of our school community going the extra mile for a great cause.

For families considering Rodmarton for next year, we will be holding open mornings on 9 and 20 October, and 20 November. We are also happy to arrange visits outside these dates, so please contact the school office if you would like to book a convenient time to visit us and see what Rodmarton has to offer.

Finally, a gentle reminder that the school field is a dog-free zone. We know our four-legged friends may be keen to be part of school life, but please help us keep the field and surrounding paths clean and safe for all our children. No paws on the field, and please remember to scoop the poop!

With so much already happening in the first few weeks, the new school year is well and truly underway. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we look forward to more learning, laughter and the moments that make our school community so special.

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON

GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

November traditionally is the month of mists. This is a slower time for thoughtful consideration, to enjoy the beauty of a changing season.

Make the most of fine sunny days outside, keeping the garden areas to be cultivated in good heart with nurturing the soil, forking out troublesome weeds, and adding a good layer of compost. Generally, have a tidy up around the garden and shed, mend anything broken, and make life easier for growing next year, like adding shade or improving access paths.

Make your garden beautiful for a winter rest. Leaving a few standing stems, my favourite are teasels; recently I had a flock of nine Goldfinches, known collectively as a charm feeding from several tall teasels deliberately grown opposite my study window. This flock included several young birds with soft grey plumage.

There is time to plant garlic cloves, a free draining, sunny site is best. Hardneck varieties have flowering stems called scapes, these are delicious harvested young. Softneck varieties grow well in milder winters and store longer.

Towards the end of the month, depending on weather conditions it is time to sow directly into the soil Broad Beans, these seem to do much better than later spring sowings. Plant the beans between 5 to 8cm deep in double staggered rows. Germination can be slow depending on the weather, allow 2 to 4 weeks or longer if cool weather is a feature, be patient. I protect my plants with low tunnels of fine mesh covers to reduce any damage from wind.

Keep pruning to the minimum, removing dead, diseased branches, and general shaping. Have a look at how shade falls, this will benefit other smaller plants as well as garden wildlife and people.

Some trees and shrubs lost leaves during blasts of very cold wind in spring, or later in summer to strong hot and dry wind. This does not necessarily indicate demise, new growth may appear next season.

Branches of whatever type can be made into a Hugelkultur bed, simply dig a long trench, fill this with logs, branches and twigs, add water/rain, then cover with soil to form a mound. Winter rain will saturate the structure and wood, under the enclosed space soil microbiology starts to breakdown the woody materials, this activity generates heat and nutrients for plants. The core woody materials also start acting like a sponge and retaining moisture, obviously beneficial in drought conditions. Grow plants on the mound of soil.

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

Usually, I would recommend planting new fruit trees this month, only do this if you will be able to water well next season helping the tree to grow a good root system. Look after established trees and shrubs, these have the root systems to survive drought and strong stormy weather. Keep your trees healthy with a thick winter mulch.

Allow leaves to fall and stay where they land. Only paths need to be kept clear, the leaves will form a natural mulch favoured by overwintering wildlife.

Sally Oates

A CLOUDED YELLOW SUMMER

This has been a remarkable summer for warmth-loving insects. Many unusual species have travelled here as migrants, mainly from the Mediterranean, several of them new to Britain. Moth enthusiasts, known as moth-ers, have been ecstatic, and many of us have been mesmerised by the antics of the day-flying Hummingbird Hawkmoth, which is having a best-ever year. Importantly, this was our second hot summer on the trot, and the first hot summer sequence of the 21st century: many insect populations increase incrementally during hot summer runs – the obvious exception being wetland specialists, whose habitats dry up (shed a tear, then, for our snail-killing flies...).

The butterflies have been the cherries on the cake. First, the Holly Blue, a tiny azure jewel that dances around bushes, stormed Butterfly of the Spring, despite a massive invasion from that pinky-grey pilgrim from the Saharan edge, the Painted Lady. The Ladies produced a large homegrown brood, which drifted off back south from mid-August.

Most Midsummer butterflies excelled themselves, led by the distinctively-chequered Marbled White. Meadow Browns abounded, and were followed by a record season for the Gatekeeper (or Hedge Brown). These butterflies have benefited hugely from the reduction in summer verge cutting.

The two Cabbage Whites dazzled during August, but faded when the much-needed rains arrived. Around here, they breed mainly in brassica cover crops and on Garlic Mustard along lanes.

Some species fared poorly, including the Large Blue, which is adversely affected by spring drought, and suffered an *annus horribilis* in 2025. The Ringlet favours cooler, moister summers, and the Large Skipper's emergence period coincided with the wet start to June. All but absent, again, was the Small Tortoiseshell, which used to be our

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

commonest garden butterfly but is now in severe decline in southern England – we don't know why, but fingers point towards a parasitic fly, new(ish) to Britain, which ravages Small Tortoiseshell larvae in nettlebeds.

Best has been the Clouded Yellow, a wanderer from the Mediterranean. It breeds on various legumes, favouring Lucerne (= Alfalfa) which is making a welcome comeback in modern herbal leys, along with other deep-rooted, nitrogen-fixing and drought-resistant plants such as Sainfoin, clovers, Chicory and Birdsfoot Trefoil. These herbal leys are magnets for Clouded Yellows: over a thousand were flying over one 30-acre lucerne field near Calne – I counted them. These leys are also terrific for the Common Blue, which has been in decline for decades. It breeds mainly on Birdsfoot Trefoil. At times, I have seen mini-blizzards of these bright blue butterflies along the edges of the leys. When farming comes good for nature, it tends to come very good.

Matthew Oates

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS - POOLE KEYNES Harvest Festival

On Sunday 4 October at 4pm we will be holding our traditional Harvest Festival Service where we give thanks for God's bounty and the work of our farmers and growers. There will be a collection for the Foodbank – this can be tins and packets of food, toiletries and washing powder or even pet food.

After the service, please join us for a Harvest tea in the Village Hall.

Coffee Morning

Come and join us on the first Wednesday of each month from 10 - 11.30am for chat, drinks & cake!

KEMBLE AND EWEN WI

The October meeting will be held on Thursday 15 October at 3pm in the Tavern function room. Members extend their friendship to any visitors who care to go along. Kate Peake will be presenting Views of the Cotswold Way from the Air. Delicious refreshments served and a raffle is held.

More information from Pat the Secretary on 01285 770385.

OCTOBER IN COATES AND RODMARTON

Autumn has already brought two very different moments that I want to share with residents in this part of the constituency.

On 6 September, I joined more than two hundred people at the Parish Church of St John Baptist in Cirencester for a Thanksgiving Service marking the conclusion of the Winstone Charitable Trust, where I had the honour of reading the lesson. Established for the benefit of the people of Cirencester, the Trust has supported fourteen local charities and community organisations over the past twenty years.

It was wonderful to see so many of those organisations represented in the church: a reminder of all the quiet, often unglamorous work that goes on every day to hold a community together. It was a beautiful service, and a fitting celebration of what a generous legacy plus diligent stewardship by trustees can achieve.

Three days later, my focus was on another important Cirencester institution: our hospital. I met Karin Smyth, the Minister for Secondary Care, to press the case for Cirencester Hospital's daytime operating theatre. I asked for assurances that the evaluation process is being followed properly, and that residents and local MPs will be fully involved before any permanent decisions are made.

That conversation is not over. I will keep pressing until we have those assurances in writing.

As always, if there is an issue you think my team and I can help with, please get in touch. We will always do what we can to help.

Warm wishes,

Roz Savage MP

Tel: 01285 286 160 | roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk



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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - KEMBLE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our talks and AGM are held in Kemble Village Hall.

Sunday 8 November - Branch Remembrance Day Service

Our Branch Remembrance Day Service will be incorporated within the All Saints' Church Kemble Annual Remembrance Day Service starting at 10:00hrs, followed by wreath-laying at the war memorial. After this service there will be refreshments in Kemble Village Hall.

This event is for everybody – not just Legion members.

Thursday 12 November - AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will start at 19:00hrs. Following the AGM, David Russell will give a talk titled:

'COAL - HOW THIS BLACK GOLD MADE A NATION AND AN EMPIRE'

Friday 4 December – Christmas Meal – Thames Head Inn

This popular annual event has been arranged for the above date and members will be receiving more information about this event nearer the date.

If you would like more information about joining our RBL branch, please contact me for details or check out the British Legion website.

Ian Czapiewski Branch Secretary Kemble & District RBL 07711 015168



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Watershed Editor	Bob Merrill	07866 972389
Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578

COATES

Coates Parish Council Chair	Robbie Whitfield	07872 027100
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Alan Moorcroft	641375
Coates Village Club secretary	Pete Marsh	07976 795276)
Coates Tree Warden	Simon Large	07714 220558
Coates Village Hall	Bookings	07818 192587
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	John Dobson	07808 095553
Coates Snow Warden	Peter Tugwell	770314/07860 718209

FRAMPTON MANSELL

Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	07710 878987
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RODMARTON

Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Chair	Paul Drake	rpcchair@outlook.com
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Clerk	Roz Morton	

clerk@rodmartonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Rodmarton School	Matthew Smith	841284
Rodmarton Village Hall	Jasper Biddulph	770230

SAPPERTON

Parish Council Chair	Sarah Osborn Smith	07836 512538
Sapperton and FM PC Clerk	Emma Kerr-Muir	
	Clerk@SappertonParishCouncil.gov.uk	

Sapperton Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Village Hall	Bookings	07771 006848
Sapperton School Head	Helen Cooper	760325

OTHERS

Watershed RDA	Kathy Mottershead	07979 853907
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COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Ermin Ward	Julia Judd	07853 383874
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julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk

Kemble Ward	Mike McKeown	07785 362573
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mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk

GCC Councillor	Ian Watson	07830 867356
Member of Parliament	Roz Savage MBE	01285 300555

Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Saturday 3	3pm	Celebration of Babs Life in Frampton Mansell Village Hall
Sunday 4	12 noon	Harvest Lunch in Rodmarton Village Hall
Tuesday 6	11am	Service and Coffee at Frampton Mansell
Thursday 15	3pm	Kemble & Ewen WI
Friday 16	7.30pm	Frampton Mansell Film Club
Tuesday 20	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates
Saturday 31	5 - 7pm	Light Party All Saints, Somerford Keynes
Saturday 31	6.30pm	Big Quiz Coates Village Hall