THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



COATES, ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

November 2026

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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, Shorncote

FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

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

8 November Remembrance Sunday

9.30	Coates	Vann Cup Holy Communion
10.00	Kemble	Remembrance Service
10.50	Coates	Remembrance at the War Memorial
10.30	Frampton Mansell	Remembrance Service
10.50	Poole Keynes	Remembrance Service
10.50	Somerford Keynes	Remembrance Service
10.55	Rodmarton	BCP Mattins with Remembrance

15 November Second Sunday before Advent

9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
9.30	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
10.00	Kemble	SOURCE service (all age worship)
11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer

22 November Christ the King

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

29 November Advent Sunday

10.00	Coates	Benefice Service
11.00	Rodmarton	Advent Sunday Eucharist
16.00	Poole Keynes	Songs of Praise

WE REMEMBER, SO WE MAY LIVE

Autumn is here: leaves are falling, days are shorter, and everything feels like it's winding down toward winter. For some

this is a peaceful time; for others, the quiet and darker days can feel heavy. Yet through it all, our church calendar marks special days, held together by one clear theme: we remember, so we may live.

All Saints Day — 1 November

We often think of saints as distant figures in old stories, but All Saints Day reminds us that the spirit of faith is found in lives shaped by faith, kindness, and love. We have seen those same qualities in people who have walked — and still walk — here in our villages. They took on jobs and roles in our churches and communities, welcomed new faces, and quietly looked out for anyone who needed a hand. They had no statues or grand titles, but their mark on us and on the places where we live is deep and lasting. Those we have lost remain part of who we are.

Remembrance Sunday — 8 November

A week later, we gather at our war memorials — some standing together, some remembering from home, all united in respect. We honour those from our own villages who gave their lives so we might live in peace. They were sons, daughters, parents, and friends — ordinary people who made the ultimate sacrifice. We do not remember to glorify conflict; we remember to value the freedom and the everyday community life they secured for us. We hold dear the cost of the peace we enjoy, and we promise their giving was not in vain. We hold them in our hearts, and we strive to live in a way that honours what they gave.

Christ the King — 22 November

At the end of the church year, we celebrate Christ the King. This is not about crowns, power, or authority as the world sees it. Jesus' kingdom is built on something entirely different: the lonely are welcomed, the overlooked are valued, and love is the greatest power of all. The best way to honour the saints and the fallen is to build the kind of world they hoped for — right here: caring for one another, sharing what we have, and making sure every single person knows they belong. Whether you join us in church, stand at the memorial, or sit quietly at home, this welcome is for you.

Advent Sunday — 29 November

And before the month ends, a new beginning: Advent Sunday. After remembering and honouring, we turn toward hope — lighting the first candle, watching and waiting, ready to welcome the light that never fades. All that we have remembered leads us here: ready to start again, ready to walk forward together.

We remember, so we may live. We learn from those who went before; we treasure what they gave; and as one season ends and another begins, we walk forward — not alone, but together. **Rev Dr Steve Bullock**

St Michael and All Angels, Poole Keynes

Crib Festival

Saturday 28 November

10am – 4pm

You are warmly invited to our Benefice Crib Festival — a joyful celebration of the Christmas story told through many different nativity scenes.

Come and wander through the church, discovering cribs owned by families from around our villages.

Enjoy gentle music, refreshments, and a peaceful space to pause as we enter Advent.

A place for all ages. A moment of light. A reminder of Emmanuel — God with us. We would love to welcome you



CITATION FOR VICTORIA CROSS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BERNARD VANN

For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty and fine leadership during their attack at Belize at Bellenglise and Lehautcort on September 29, 1918.

For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty and fine leadership during the attack at Bellenglise and Lehaucourt, on September 29th, 1918. He led his battalion with great skill across the Canal de Saint-Quentin through a very thick fog and under heavy fire from field and machine guns. On reaching the high ground above Bellenglise the whole attack was held up by fire of all descriptions from the front and right flank. Realising that everything depended on the advance going forward with the barrage, Col. Vann rushed up to the firing line and with the greatest gallantry led the line forward. By his prompt action and absolute contempt for danger the whole situation was changed, the men were encouraged and the line swept forward. Later, he rushed a field-gun single-handed and knocked out three of the detachment. The success of the day was in no small degree due to the splendid gallantry and fine leadership displayed by this officer. Lt. Col. Vann, who had on all occasions set the highest example of valour, was killed near Ramicourt on 3rd October 1918, when leading his battalion in attack.

The London Gazette No. 31067, 14 December 1918[21]

He was survived by his wife, who was pregnant with their son.[16] King George V presented Vann's VC to his widow in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 26 November 1919.

Not many are awarded the Victoria Cross but in Coates we have someone who was not only awarded the VC but was also ordained. Lieutenant Colonel Bernard William Vann, VC, MC & Bar (9 July 1887 – 3 October 1918) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. Also, an ordained priest, he was the only cleric of the Church of England to be awarded the VC in the First World War for his actions as a combatant.

On Remembrance Sunday we will once again use the battered Communion Cup which he used to give communion to his fellow soldiers.

WOMEN'S WELLNESS EVENT

Join us for a stretch & tone class, a mindful nature walk, and plenty of time to relax and reconnect.

Food, friendship and a chance to enjoy some time for you.

All ages welcome

Saturday 14th November
9.30am - 11.30am

Coates Village Hall,
Coates, GL7 6NW

To find out more and book, head to our website.



For more information contact
karen.vannamen@sportily.org.uk
sportily.org.uk

sportily
PLAY SPORTS, TALK LIFE

CONFIRMATION COURSE

EXPLORE • LEARN • GROW

A welcoming course for anyone who would like to find out more about confirmation.

You don't need all the answers. Just bring your questions.

COURSE DATES:

Sunday, 18th October
Sunday, 8th November
Sunday, 15th November
Sunday 22nd November
3-5pm in Kemble

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

with Bishop Rachel
Sunday, 6th December at 10am
at All Saints Church, Kemble

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL OFFICE@THAMESHEADCHURCHES.ORG.UK

A journey of faith, together.

Thameshead Benefice

ADVENT GROUPS - SAVE THE DATES!

During Advent, we will be holding groups throughout the Benefice following the Church of England's 'Advent from A-Z' materials. Everyone is welcome to join one of our three Advent groups: there will be in-person groups on Monday and Wednesday evenings and an online group on Thursdays. We hope to hold one session of our in-person groups in each parish so that those who may not wish to travel can experience a group in their village and those who are happy to travel, can then join which ever group/s they wish to.

Dates will be as follows:

Mondays, 30 November, 7 December and 14 December

Wednesdays, 2 December, 9 December and 16 December

Thursdays, 3rd December, 10th December and 17th December

Further details to follow, but please email Toto Walls to register your interest: office@thamesheadchurches.org.uk

Toto Walls

Parish Administrator

SOUTH COTSWOLDS FOOD BANK

The following items would be appreciated. Tinned carrots and peas, tinned custard, tinned fruit, rice and rice pouches, instant coffee, tins of ham and biscuits. In addition, donations can be left at any time in the box in church which is emptied regularly or at 5 May Tree Close, Coates.

NEWS FROM COATES

COATES CHRISTMAS FAIR IN AID OF COBALT

Saturday 28 November
10 am - 2 pm

Coates Village Hall

Find your perfect Christmas gifts

Ceramics, knitted crafts, cards, decorations & other stalls including charity tombola

Refreshments available all day

Anyone interested in helping on the day please contact Alison on 07941 377383
amaydom@hotmail.com

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



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Diagnosis • Research • Education



HOW TO USE THE DEFIBRILLATOR

For those who didn't manage to attend the Life Support and Defibrillator training sessions organised by Coates parish council, this video link demonstrates how to use the defibrillator situation outside the village hall.

Also, you should be aware that there is another defibrillator in the village belonging to the Riding for the Disabled (RDA). It is situated on the wall in their yard.

https://www.safelincs.co.uk/video_player.php?vid=115

REV THOMAS DAVIDSON

Rev Tom Davison, who was vicar of Coates, is remembered here by Rory Young a local sculptor of great renown who designed and made the headstone for Rev Davison's grave. Rory's family lived at College Farm where his father, Peter, ran the farm. The grave is located between the east end of the church and the path. If you have not seen it, do go and have a look. There is an inscription around the edge which is not easy to read.

It is particularly apposite as Rory died in 2023 and in his will he bequeathed money to install a stained glass window in St Matthew's Church above the West Door. The window is to be designed and made by Tom Denny; one of the country's most renowned stained glass artists.

Rory spoke of his memories of Tom Davison:

"He came as Rector of Coates sometime before 1965, the year he prepared me for confirmation; so he was the priest, when I was in my teens.

He taught me to serve at the altar, which I did in school holidays and on and off until the Davisons moved away from Coates in 1977. Tom served from 1965–1977.

I found his funeral very moving as it brought back memories of growing up, home-life and being on the edge of this community. The hymns were all old Coates favourites.

At his Induction, my mother discovered that she and Mrs Davison were together at Miss Denly's (Ingleside) junior school in Cirencester. Furthermore, they found that their mothers were

at school together at St Monica's, Warminster. My parents were fond of the Davisons, my father calling him Tom the Divine. They used to ask him to hold a Rogation Service at College Farm. I can see him blessing the crops; his surplice fluttering in the April breeze.

The Davison boys and I were at Oakley Hall, where Tom had recently taught. While at Coates he was also Chaplain at the Royal Agricultural College.

Tom's children came up with the wording for the headstone. The stone is from Portland; local Cotswold Stone is not reliable for headstones. The inscription was drawn out and cut by hand, as deeply as possible to catch maximum shadow. I have a patent method of mellowing the stone; after washing to clean the dust out of the grain, it is painted with soil-solution and sponged off again.

It was so peaceful in the churchyard when Judith and I fixed the stone on the grave. This church, where my sister and I were baptised, has such enduring qualities."

Some of you will know that this piece has been in the Watershed previously. The reason that it is reprinted is that Rory, in his will, bequeathed money to install a stained glass window in the West end of the church. The project has now started but will clearly take some time. Tom Denny, a renowned stained glass worker and friend of Rory, has begun work and while I hesitate to say when the window will be installed it should be some time in 2028. We are privileged to have a window designed by Tom.

"Thomas Denny is a stained-glass artist and painter, educated at Edinburgh College of Art in the 1970's. In the 1980's and 1990's he exhibited his paintings in London and New York. Latterly, Denny has concentrated on stained-glass and has now made some fifty windows for churches and cathedrals.

PILATES CLASS AT COATES VILLAGE HALL

Tuesdays at 5:45pm led by experienced Pelvic and MSK physio Nicki Travlos

The class is pelvic floor friendly, all ages and abilities are welcome and it is suitable for postnatal moms too.

Pilates is brilliant for improving your strength, coordination and balance and keeping you active for life!

For enquiries contact 07379 499756 or email invictusphysio@yahoo.com

LOCAL HISTORY IN COATES

The following fascinating article was found by chance by a friend researching local history in the Annual Register of the History, Politics and Literature for the year 1767. The Annual Register is an almanac of events published every year since 1758 and is a source of contemporary opinion, historical context, and bibliographical information.

“An inquest was held on the bodies of two of Mr Tombs’s daughters, of Cotes, near Cirencester, one of the age of 24, the other of 8 years, who, on the day before, were, together with a maid-servant, aged 22, poisoned by taking, for a cutaneous eruption, a dose of arsenick, which was sold to Mrs Tombs for cream of tartar, by an ignorant quack, some months ago. They were, soon after taking it, seized with all the dire symptoms which usually attend the internal use of that cursed drug; and, after enduring inexpressible torture for near 8 hours, they all three miserably expired. Their other daughter was to have taken the same medicine, but she desired to postpone it till the next day, that she might go to church; and thus she escaped the fate of her sisters. This is inserted as a caution not to purchase drugs of ignorant quacks, who, in many instances where there is a resemblance, don’t know how to distinguish one drug from another.”

NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL



COFFEE, CAKE AND CHAT

NOVEMBER SPECIAL!!!

'Soup 'n' Savoury'

17 November 12 noon - 2pm

(Not 10.30am –12 noon)

Coates Village Hall

A choice of 3 tasty home-made seasonal soups with home-baked fresh bread (inc. gluten free) or a savoury scone plus something sweet to finish & our bottomless tea/coffee.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH COATES

Sunday 20 December 2pm

Please contact Heather Wheatley Smith on 770829 if you would like to be part of the choir for this service. Rehearsals will be held during November and December.

A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

Like Joseph's coat of many colours, Autumn comes with its own rich cloak of iridescent colours. It is at times like this that Nature's appearance reminds us how good it is to be alive. If you want to see this Autumnal display of Nature at its best, then make a visit to Westonbirt and become immersed in the wonders and vibrant colours of the arboretum. It is a time to feel and express gratitude for the beauties of God's creation because one of God's gifts is to be found in the joys and pleasures of Nature. To realise this is to treasure all life and not to destroy the beauty of the world in which we live.

November is also a time for us to respect the sanctity of life and is a special time of remembrance, reflection and prayer as we come together to remember those we have loved and lost. As we approach November 11th, we are encouraged to give thanks with heartfelt gratitude for all who made the ultimate sacrifice during wars directed at achieving peace and harmony among all peoples. Sadly, there are still many leaders in the world whose hubris still causes them to initiate war. It seems that throughout history, greed, selfishness, and power are human traits that blind the opportunities to learn from our past mistakes.

Think, for example, of the way in which we now celebrate Hallowe'en which has its origins in a Christian festival of the eve before All Saints' Day. Today, Hallowe'en [All Hallows' Eve] has become associated with macabre and commercial practices that have nothing to do with gratitude for the lives of loved ones who have gone before.

Likewise, many forget the history of 'bonfire night' which has its origins in the burning of Guido Fawkes. While that incident of the notorious Gunpowder Plot on 5th November 1605 was treasonable, we continue to make a public spectacle of killing which is grotesque. All death sentences are barbaric and demeaning of human dignity, and there is no room in a civilised society for any public executions. Christians believe that all intentional killing is murder. Only when we have a heart free of anger, bitterness, and revengeful attitudes can we find room to express gratitude in the joys and sanctity of life. Fortunately, 'bonfire night' has now become synonymous with celebrations

for the end of summer and preparations for the onset of winter. It has become a joyous occasion.

When we choose to focus on the things that we can do, rather than the things that we can't do, we open ourselves to a more enjoyable and fulfilled life. Let's remember the beauty and colour of the vibrant world around us and delight in all creation. Then, we will be in a positive frame of mind to feel gratitude for all the sacrifices that others have made possible for a life of wonder and love.

Adrian R. Hill



LONGFIELD WINTER CHOIR WITH CHURCHDOWN MALE VOICE CHOIR - (in support of Longfield Community Hospice) Sat 5 Dec 7pm - 9pm. Come along to Holy Trinty Church, Minchinhampton, for a heart-warming evening of music this December, as the acclaimed Churchdown Male Voice Choir sing from their repertoire of traditional favourites and contemporary classics in aid of Longfield Community Hospice. Churchdown Male Voice Choir (CMVC) are sponsored by E.G. Carter. £15 per ticket.

GET YOUR WATERSHED BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive a copy of the parish magazine by email I am very happy to add you to my mailing .This may not replace your delivered copy but you would get it earlier and with some colour! Just let me know by email at watershedmag@gmail.com



Christingles and Carols accompanied by Hedley Walls

Tuesday 1 December 2026 from 19:15 to 21:00.

Hosted by Toto Walls.

Kemble Lodge, Kemble, GL7 6AD.

RSVP / Contact:

Toto Walls 07989 301120

Lucinda Turner 07881 825895

Julie Allen 07704 892029

YOUR KIND DONATIONS COVER OUR COSTS

Thameshead Ladies Connection

#TLC

COME & JOIN US

ALL WELCOME

MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND CHRISTINGLES

Come and start the Christmas advent season joining us for an evening of fun, singing and creativity

RSVP Toto, Aileen, Lucinda or Julie

Friday Film Club

@Frampton Mansell Village Hall

13th Nov 7:30pm

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES

with optional Fish n Chips Supper!

Every night a shepherd reads aloud a murder mystery, pretending his sheep can understand. When he is found dead, the sheep realise at once that it was a murder and think they know everything about how to go about solving it....

TICKETS: £4

on the door

6:45pm DOORS OPEN
7pm FISH 'N' CHIPS
7:30pm FILM
Refreshments available!

Why not enjoy Fish & Chips before the film!
PRE-ORDER & PAYMENT by Thurs 12 Nov
Contact: Lucy 07866 447725

TEWKESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY - 'MAGNIFICAT'

Tewkesbury Abbey Saturday 5 December 2026, 7:30 pm

With works by:

VIVALDI, SCHUBERT, ALBINONI, GEOFFREY BUSH, PETER TEAGUE

Soloists: Brittany King, Alexis Hutchinson, Bryan Husband, Kenneth Roles, **Albinoni Oboe Concerto soloist:** Victoria Brawn

Orchestra: Regency Sinfonia **Conductor:** John Holloway

MORE THAN A PLACE AT THE TABLE

A shared meal can open a door. A conversation can turn strangers into friends. And sometimes, those friendships become the beginning of something much bigger.

That hope inspired me to write Sacred Flavors, bringing together forty biblical stories and forty recipes. I wanted to weave Christian faith, food, fellowship and charity into something people could experience together, not only read about.

From the book grew Global Table: a meeting place where individuals, churches, congregations, organisations and businesses can discover one another and put their gifts to work.

One community may have an idea. Another may have the experience, practical skills or resources to help it grow. A connection across the table, or across the world, could become a shared project, a lasting friendship or practical help for someone in need.

To help turn these connections into shared action, we developed the Global Table app, where people can talk, meet by video and plan activities together.

You do not need a grand plan to begin. Bring your story, your curiosity and what you can offer. Discover the book and Global Table at sacredflavors.org.

Svante Hallberg

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

NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON

RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON NEWS & EVENTS

All services are listed at the front of the magazine but please note especially:

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS Sunday 1 November

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8 November:

10.55am, Remembrance Sunday BCP Matins with Act of Remembrance

ADVENT SUNDAY 29 November:

11am, Holy Communion at St Peter's Rodmarton

Collecting for the Royal British Legion: Poppies will be for sale in both Rodmarton and Tarlton, in aid of the Royal British Legion.

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

HARVEST THANKS!

Thank you to all who contributed so generously to the delicious Harvest Lunch we enjoyed after Harvest Festival. It was a magnificent lunch, with food and wine flowing, greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all. Thank you, too, to all who decorated the church so beautifully. The arrangements were absolutely stunning, a glorious array of flowers, fruits and vegetables. Thank you to all who helped to make this a wonderful Harvest celebration, both in the church and for the lunch. Paternoster House and Cirencester Food Bank were very grateful for all the harvest produce. Thank you again.

PRAYER BOOK TODAY – MICHAELMAS 2026



Susan Emson, who for sixteen years served as branch secretary of the Prayer Book Society in the diocese of Gloucester, died unexpectedly earlier this year on 20 March. She had been married to the late Father Stanley Emson, a great pastoral priest and lover of the Prayer Book, who would have been the first to acknowledge that he could never have accomplished his wonderful work – a true sacrificial ministry – without Sue's support. Together they touched many lives that in our time are too often beyond the reach of the Church. This she gave while working as a mother and as manager of Waterstone's bookshop in Cirencester.

Latterly Sue served at the Parish Church of St John Baptist in Cirencester and as secretary to the chairman and trustees of the David Vaisey Prize, a charitable foundation that awards grants to public libraries in Gloucestershire for initiatives to encourage reading. Sue was a person possessed of a fine and quiet intelligence who never sought the limelight despite her exceptional capabilities and reliability, but with unfailing patience was dedicated to service, content to play second fiddle.

Yet though the first violin gets most of the tunes, it is the second that creates the harmony.

Richard Marlowe

RODMARTON PRIMARY UPDATE

November may bring shorter days, but there will be no shortage of activity at Rodmarton Primary School. After rounding off the October term by giving thanks at our Harvest Festival, the children return from a week's break to a month filled with history, stories, sport and the first sparkle of Christmas preparations.

Oak Class will swap the classroom for the court of kings and queens on a trip to Hampton Court Palace. Exploring its grand

rooms and discovering the royal stories hidden within its walls should make for a memorable journey into the past - and a rather more vivid history lesson than any textbook can offer.

There will be adventures between the pages too, as the Stroud Book Festival puts reading firmly in the spotlight. Each class will take part in a different workshop during the week, encountering fresh ideas and inspiring storytellers. Who knows which new characters, plots or favourite stories they might bring home with them?

Meanwhile, the Oak Class girls will be lacing up their boots for the Year 5 and 6 football competition at Cirencester Arena. We will be cheering them on as they represent the school and put their teamwork, determination and sporting spirit into action.

For Years 1 and 2, the destination is the Jolly Nice, where Stories with Santa promises a rather magical change of scene. A festive tale shared together should be just the thing to stir excitement as December draws closer.

That excitement will soon be heard around school too. Acorn and Sapling Classes will begin bringing their Nativity to life, learning lines, practising songs and discovering that memorable performances are built one rehearsal at a time. Oak Class, meanwhile, will turn its attention to preparations for their Carol Service.

On 20 November, the doors will open to prospective parents. The open day will offer visitors a glimpse of the classrooms, the school community and the everyday experiences that make up life at Rodmarton.

From palace corridors to football pitches, book-festival discoveries to Nativity rehearsals, November will take the children in plenty of different directions. By the time the month ends, Christmas will be waiting in the wings — quite literally for some of our youngest performers!

Contact Us

Tel: 01285 841284 Email: admin@rodmarton.gloucs.sch.uk

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON

AUTUMN MUSINGS

This autumn has, to date, been clement. Crucially, the storms have veered off over Iceland, as the Azores High has continued to bubble away, albeit tentatively. The predicted floodgates of a super el nino year have yet to open, which means the reservoirs are still half-empty, or half-full depending on your perspective. We recorded only 40mm of rain in Culkerton during September, and the first half of October maintained the same pattern. If, but only if, we get a dry autumn and winter, prepare for water rationing next summer.

Interestingly, this autumn has brought a subtle but significant 'second spring'. Many perennial plants retreated into their crowns, roots, bulbs or whatever during the summer heatwaves. Virtually all annual plants desiccated and effectively vanished off the face of the earth – but remained as tiny seeds, invisible to us. There has been a massive resurgence from roots and whatnots, and an explosion in seed germination. It wasn't just a matter of the bronzed lawns greening up.

A whole bevy of plants have got over-excited and produced unseasonal flowers, both in garden and countryside. Some do it fairly regularly, like Primrose, Wild Strawberry and Common Dog Violet, but Lesser Celandine, in mid-October, no, that's off any trolley. Most impressive has been the annual Cranesbills – small arable-edge weeds – which desiccated horrendously, only to produce a spectacular germination from seed, even in places where I'd never seen them flowering!

The insects have also been doing it, though insects habitually push limits. Thus, my (harmless) garden moth trap produced a pristine Elephant Hawkmoth, an early summer moth, in mid-October, and a spring-flying species, the Waved Umber. Silliest of all, the Purple Emperor butterfly is seeking to produce a small second brood in Savernake Forest, though I fear it's left it too late and will waste itself. But, if these insects are attempting the

impossible in the cooler, damper climes of Wilts and Glos, what are they doing in the warmer Southeast?

As Fred Trueman used to say on Test Match Special: “I doan’t know what’s going off out there anymore...”. Certainly, ignore what the text books say – and never use the term ‘balance of nature’ (that was about us being in control of things anyway).

The Swallows and House Martins departed bang on time, at the autumn equinox, and left the skies bereft; but I have just seen the first posse of Fieldfares flurry down from the north, bang on time (Oct 12th). There are berries aplenty for them this winter. But as for a White Christmas, forget it; we’ll be lucky to get through the festive season without a major storm, and to be able to afford to put the heating on.

Matthew Oates

GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

As the year draws to closure, our very long autumn continues, starting early and finishing later. This is very significant, and to be noted for extending our growing season; the cooler temperatures are still relatively warm at the time of writing this in mid-October, with a mix of night temperatures of 12 degrees Centigrade an active growing warmth, with occasional cooler nights. Winds from the Northwest can cool dramatically, while heated wind from the opposing direction feels very pleasant.

Tender crops are thriving well into our traditional autumn. As tomatoes keep giving, gardeners are commenting they are unable to keep up with the supply. There are different ways of preserving harvests, as all things pass.

I fully expect substantial rain to balance last summer’s drought. There is of course always a proactive approach to make the best of any situation. Thoughtful gardening and going with the flow.

OATES NOTES FROM CULKERTON

As I write this, the weather is cooling, there is more moisture, not much rain, but the autumn magic is coming through with beautiful leaf colours.

Seedlings of all sorts are germinating. Keep up with the weeding avoiding valuable free plants, chard, rocket and American Land Cress which are producing good baby leaf salads. Lambs Lettuce are making abundant germinations, a useful salad crop throughout the colder months.

Also germinating are self-sown cover crops, particularly the fern-like leafed Phacelia tanacetifolia. This is not hardy and a significant frost will destroy the plants. However, all is not lost as the fallen plants will provide a winter cover for the soil and plant food for the soil microbiology, without any help from the gardener; no cultivation needed, adding an extra layer of compost is optional.

There is still time to sow Broad Beans directly into the soil; 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 so 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.

Earlier in the year a few rough sketch ideas/plans were jotted down, time to revisit these, refine and decide how to implement. Some plants are not in the best place, for example Dahlias which I usually leave in the ground permanently. Two ways of organising these into a new bed; either lift and store dry, frost free, ready to replant next season or to leave in the ground and replant as they come into growth in late spring.

Rose nurseries sell bare root bushes at this time of year, at better prices than potted plants freshly lifted from the growing fields. When plants arrive, soak the roots in a bucket before planting for a couple of hours at least. Make sure there is plenty of humus in and around the planting hole and water in well.

During next growing season water copiously, a bucket once a week to promote good roots

Sally Oates

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.

RODMARTON & TARLTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 5 December, 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

At Rodmarton Village Hall

All are welcome to enjoy this festive family event in aid of the church.

Father Christmas will be there! Also mulled wine, mince pies, festive cakes and gift stalls, craft stalls, a school stall, children's workshop, grand raffle, Christmas music.

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 708810 or 07896 311 882







VOLUNTEER WITH HOME-START COTSWOLDS…

A couple of hours of your time each week could make a real difference to a local family. If you've got parenting experience and the compassion to help others, we'd love to hear from you.

We're a local charity working with families going through a tough patch. Our volunteers are trained to visit a family for 2-3 hours each week, offering encouragement and a friendly face when it matters most.

We're looking for people with:

- Parenting experience
- Compassion for others
- 2-3 spare hours each week

Every family is different. You might lend an extra pair of hands at home, help with appointments and paperwork, tackle a bit of decluttering, help build new routines, or simply be a listening ear.

Ready to get involved?

Our free, comprehensive training course starts in January 2027 and will be held in Bourton-on-the-Water. Come and find out more over coffee at The Old Prison Cafe in Northleach on Friday 13 November at 10.30am - let us know ahead of time if you'd like to join us. You can also visit our website for more information and a simple application form.

Please note new volunteers must be able to commit to our full training course, the dates are:

- Fridays, 9.30am-1pm, Bourton-on-the-Water
- 22 January to 19 March 2027 (no session on 19 February, half term)

We look forward to hearing from you!

www.home-start-cotswolds.org.uk/volunteering-roles/

office@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk 01285 88539

COTSWOLD FRIENDS

KEEPING CIRENCESTER CONNECTED

A lift can mean much more than getting from one place to another. For someone who finds it difficult to travel independently, it can mean attending a medical appointment, picking up essential shopping or enjoying time with friends.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Over the last year, Cotswold Friends' Community Transport service has transported more than 6,000 passengers in and around Cirencester. Behind these journeys are local people staying connected to their community, supported by the kindness and commitment of our volunteer drivers.

HOW DO WE HELP PEOPLE?

For residents who feel isolated or cannot easily access other transport, this service provides a vital lifeline. A familiar face and a friendly conversation along the way can be just as welcome as the journey itself.

WE NEED YOU

With strong demand for journeys across Cirencester and the surrounding villages, we are inviting more volunteer drivers to join our team. By welcoming new volunteers, we can strengthen this valued service and help more people reach the places and people that matter to them.

FLEXIBLE

You do not need to offer every day of the week. If you have some time to give, we would love to talk about how driving could fit around your existing commitments.

We provide induction, guidance and ongoing support, with agreed travel expenses reimbursed. You will become part of a welcoming team whose contribution makes a practical difference to local lives.

Could you help someone take their next journey?

Visit www.cotswoldfriends.org or call **01608 651415** to find out about becoming a volunteer driver or contact our team for a friendly chat. We would love to hear from you. The time you give is valued by our

clients. They cannot do without it. And it will make you feel that you are giving something back.

A PERSONAL VIEWPOINT FROM A DRIVER

I joined Cotswold Friends as a driver three years ago. In that time, I have never regretted it. What it means to so many people in our society, who are marginalized by not having access to transport, is immeasurable. Some may have lost a partner who used to drive them, some may have had to stop driving and some may never have driven. Public transport is not always convenient and taxis are not cheap. The bonus for clients is that we commit to waiting up to two hours if need without any additional cost. Become a driver and you will love it!

Bob Merrill

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - KEMBLE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our talks and AGM are held in Kemble Village Hall.

Sunday 8 November - 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 RBL members.

Thursday 12 November - Our AGM 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

Kemble.Secretary@RBL.Community 07711 015168

ARMISTICE DAY SINGALONG CONCERT 10:30 - NOON DOORS OPEN 10.15am 11/11/2026

All who can attend are invited to a Singalong Concert of wartime favourites led by the T'ukes Players (Tetbury Ukulele Group) on Wednesday 11 November.

Coates Village Hall from 10:30am - noon with a Remembrance Observation at 11am followed by a short interval for 'a cuppa and rations.'

Doors open at 10.15am. Entry £2 - or a bigger donation, if you wish, proceeds to the RBL Annual Poppy Appeal.

The programme will include songs that recall the sacrifices of those who served alongside songs that reflect the community wartime spirit of the 'home front' - both celebration and commemoration, and a community event.

KEMBLE AND EWEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

'Lady She' alias Sheila Lloyd- Graham will be our guest speaker on Thursday 19 November in the Tavern Function room at 3pm, when she will bring along and talk about Bridal Gowns. Visitors are very most welcome. It will be the AGM and the existing officers would like any nominations for the committee to come forward.

Please contact Pat the secretary via ayrescares50@gmail.com





William and Martin from EESI help with the Longfield Treecycle Collection earlier this year

Volunteers with vans needed for the Longfield Christmas Treecycle Appeal

Longfield Community Hospice is asking local people to help with their annual 'Treecycling' campaign, in partnership with charity JustHelping.

Each year, around 200 volunteers enjoy a fun and physical day out collecting thousands of real Christmas trees from homes across Gloucestershire, which are then recycled in return for voluntary donations to Longfield Hospice.

Last year, the campaign - run in partnership with national organisation JustHelping - saw more than 4,600 real trees recycled, raising more than £76,000 from donations for local hospice care.

The 2027 tree collections will take place from Sunday 10 January – Sunday 17 January and whether you are an individual, group of friends, work or community team, please do get in touch to find out ways to volunteer. Longfield are particularly looking for volunteers with vans and trucks this year.

The charity is also keen to hear from companies willing to sponsor a van and fuel or provide volunteers and vans.

Volunteers can find out more and register their interest on the Get Involved section of the Longfield Community Hospice website

Longfield Community Hospice is based in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.

Phone: 01453 886868 longfield.org.uk



NOVEMBER IN COATES AND RODMARTON

November arrives after an autumn that has already brought some significant moments in and around Cirencester, the town that Coates and Rodmarton look to for their hospital, their services, and much of its community life.

I recently had representatives attended the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Trust's community drop-in on plans for Cirencester Community Hospital, held at The Long Table on the Market Place. Residents will know that I have been pressing for months for written assurances on the future of the hospital's daytime operating theatre, and for proper public consultation before any permanent decisions are made. The drop-in was GHC's chance to set out their thinking and the public's chance to respond. We listened carefully, to put the questions that have been shaping my casework, and to make sure the views of residents across this part of the constituency, including in villages like Coates and Rodmarton, are part of that process. My office also attended a second session on 8 October. I will keep residents updated as GHC's plans develop and as my pressure on this continues. When it comes to a project like this, that will affect so many residents, it is vital that everyone has their voices heard.

October also brought Flood Action Week, running from 12 to 18 October, which I used as an opportunity to raise the pace of the flooding work affecting communities in the upper Thames and Churn catchments. The watercourses that run through and around the fields between Coates, Rodmarton, and Cirencester are under real pressure, and the investment commitments I have secured for this part of the constituency need to translate into action before the winter sets in.

Following Flood Action Week, I held a community flood meeting in Crudwell on the 23rd. Much like last year, this was a fantastic opportunity for residents concerned with flooding across the entire South Cotswold's to hear directly from water companies on the systems in place to combat flooding. It was also an opportunity to hear from councilors and myself on how we are working in residents' best interests and putting pressure on the Government to give the serious issue of flooding the time and money it deserves. It was brilliant to see so many people attend. Together, we can protect our communities from the ‘not if but when’ nature of flooding.

If you have a concern to raise, please do come to one of my surgeries, which can be found on my website, or get in touch directly. My team and I always strive to do all we can to help with any issues you may be facing.
Warm wishes,
Roz Savage MP
Tel: 01285 286 160
roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
www.rozsavagemp.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NIGHTSTOP

At Gloucestershire Nightstop our vision is to champion young people, between 16-25 years, who are at risk of homelessness.
We provide emergency accommodation in the homes of volunteer hosts and advice and support to enable the young people to find permanent accommodation, get qualifications and a job, and thus set them on the road to a more independent and fulfilled life.
The young people who are referred to us are comprehensively risk assessed, we ask for two references, and we do probation checks and work with them to make sure that there is no risk to our volunteer hosts. We offer thorough training and guidance to all our volunteers, and all expenses are covered too. There is 24/7 support from the Nightstop staff team with an on-call number that volunteers can call any time.
We are particularly looking for people who have a spare room who would consider being Nightstop emergency accommodation hosts.
For more information, please see our website: https://www.gloucestershirenightstop.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/



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W : indplumbingandheating.co.uk
E : info@indplumbingandheating.co.uk

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION KEMBLE AND DISTRICT

At the AGM of the RBL on 12 November in Kemble village hall, Pat the chair and secretary of the Women's Section which is now a county supported branch, will give her annual report to those present. The Women's Section branch has a vacancy for a Standard Bearer which drew interest last year but work commitments has prevented the lady taking it on for now, so Pat hopes to carry it again this year at the Remembrance Service in Kemble the honour she held for nearly 40 years. Pat always said she would retire from the role at 80 but now past that she definitely needs someone to step into her shoes permanently!

Training is available from County and local; you have to be a Women's Section member or join up via headquarters as a member. A young female cadet would be ideal or someone who feels passionately (as I do) to represent the community to those who 'laid down their lives for us'.

Pat Ayres MBE chair/ secretary.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

FRAMPTON MANSELL

Frampton Mansell Village Hall Bookings		07710 878987

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

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Ermin Ward	Julia Judd	07853 383874
julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk		
Kemble Ward	Mike McKeown	07785 362573
mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk		
GCC Councillor	Ian Watson	07830 867356
Member of Parliament	Roz Savage MBE	300555
Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk		
Cirencester Hospital		0300 421 6200
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

Thursday 19	3pm	Kemble & Ewen WI
Saturday 28	10am – 2pm	Coates Christmas Fair
Wednesday 11	10.30am	Armistice Day Singalong Concert Coates Village Hall
Thursday 12	7pm	RBL AGM
Friday 13	7.30pm	Frampton Mansell Film Club
Tuesday 17	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1	7.15pm	TLC *Christingles and Carols*
Friday 4		RBL Christmas Meal
Saturday 5	2.30pm	Rodmarton Christmas Bazaar