



THE BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF
STURMINSTER MARSHALL,
SHAPWICK, PAMPHILL & COWGROVE



November 2026

You can now read The Bridge in colour
online:

www.bridgemagazinedorset.com

www.redpostbenefice.com

and

www.mackrellcharity.org.uk

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**The Bridge Magazine is sponsored by
The Red Lion, Sturminster Marshall**

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Bridge Publications is the committee which produces the Bridge Magazine for the communities of Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick, Pamphill and Cowgrove. It is financially independent of these communities: its revenue comes from advertising fees and fundraising activities. Our Chairman is Barry Johnson, our Editor is Sally Plowright and our Advertising Manager is Liz York.

Articles

Contributions are welcome from all sectors of the community served by the parishes. Please email your article to bridgemagazinedorset@gmail.com

If you have no email then please print your copy and send it to 7 Parkelea, Sturminster Marshall BH21 4DG, FAO: Editor of The Bridge Magazine.

The submission deadline for articles is the 15th of the month.

Advertisements

If you would like to place a commercial advertisement, or announcement of an event, please email it to bridgeadvertising@outlook.com Advertising rates are listed opposite.

The submission deadline for adverts is the 12th of the month.

Inserts: Your loose leaf inserts or flyers can also be inserted in The Bridge for £20. Please provide 300 copies of your leaflet, in banded bundles of 25, folded to A5 size if larger, by the **27th of the month**. Phone 01258 857528 to arrange.

This month's cover image:



At 11.00am on 11th November 1918 hostilities officially ceased, marking the end of the First World War. We remember and honour all those who have suffered and given their lives in conflict by observing a two-minute silence on the same day, at the same hour every year. Ceremonies will take place across the world on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, and on Remembrance Day itself. See the articles on the next three pages.

Can you find the Sturminster Marshall water rat in this magazine? If you find him contact the editor at bridgemagazinedorset@gmail.com

The first person to correctly identify the rat's hiding place will receive a cash prize of £10. Congratulations to last month's winner, Jan, who very generously donated her prize to St Mary's church.



REMEMBRANCE by Boldngrey

In 1914, the Church was at the heart of our village community. We were fortunate to have a remarkable vicar in the person of the Reverend James Cross, who served the parish for 52 years. It was the Reverend Cross who established this Parish Magazine. Early editions provide an invaluable record of life in the village, in particular, over the period of the First World War.

The First World War changed the way that nations fought. New tactics, technology and alliances meant there were many more casualties.

For the first time the war was 'total'. A patriotic call went out to fight for 'King and country'. In the early editions of the Parish Magazine, the Reverend Cross encourages the young men to do their patriotic duty, sharing the popular opinion that the war would be 'over by Christmas'. There is a wonderful photograph of him bidding farewell to a group of men from the village in uniform, sitting on a cart, off to war.

Sadly, the reality of war began to bite when news of casualties started to reach the village. The men on the cart in the picture fought with the 5th Battalion of the Dorset Regiment at Gallipoli. Of them, Arthur Hart was killed in action, and his brother, William Hart was wounded; so too were James Kent and Sidney White.

James Cross had christened them and many others who became casualties. He knew them and their families well and felt deeply for them. The tone of the parish magazine began to reflect this sadness, and he asked that a church bell should sound for five minutes every day at noon to remind parishioners of their loved ones far away.

All fit men aged between the ages of 18 and 41 were required to fight for their country. The population of Sturminster Marshall was about seven hundred. We believe 105 served in uniform. About twenty-five of them did not return. Families were large, so the losses affected almost everyone.

When a man was enlisted, his unit would write to the Reverend Cross as his parish priest, inviting him to write to the soldier and maintain contact with the village. He did this conscientiously.

The whole village rallied and played a full part in supporting the war effort helping in whatever way they could. Horses, along with the forage grown for them on the farms, were sent from Baille Gate Station to the front for the army. James Cross's family received blackberries picked by villagers to send onwards to the jam factories. Acorns were collected to make explosives and conkers were used in medicine. Boys over twelve were taken out of school to work on the farms while women and girls helped with gathering hay and the harvest.

Early in the war, a Red Cross Hospital was established at Newton Peverell. Among the nurses were James Cross's daughters Violet, Rosamund and Ellen.

Those who remained in the village supported the hospital in whatever way possible, working on the wards, cooking, cleaning and stretcher-bearing. Villagers helped with the men's rehabilitation, inviting them to their homes and involving them in village activities.

In 1916 the hospitals in France were crying out for support. Violet Cross, the vicar's daughter, left the Newton Peverell Hospital to become one of the first nurses to serve in Europe. After the war, she spent a further three years in France nursing prisoners and was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the grateful French government.

The war ended, and men began to come home, many with life-changing injuries, some with what was then called 'shell shock'. Almost all had experienced horrific events that friends and families back home could not comprehend.

The Royal British Legion was one of the organisations that evolved from the need to provide support and continues to do so today. A branch was formed in the village which met regularly in the men's Club in Balls Lane. There was a comradeship based on an understanding of what each had been through.

War memorials were erected and the nation fell silent for two minutes to honour the fallen at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The poppy became the symbol of Remembrance; in the early years, made in factories established to provide employment for those wounded in the war.

The First World War was supposed to be the war to end all wars, but in 1939 countries went to war again. Subsequent wars have been smaller, but no less devastating for those involved. With falling numbers, our branch of the Legion was sadly disbanded. The standard that I remember Stan Sherry dipping with such dignity each Remembrance Sunday was laid up and now hangs at the back of the church.

Today our Armed Forces are small, and the numbers of those who understand what it means to be a soldier are fewer, but many still carry the scars of war, visible and invisible. It is important that we acknowledge what these men have done. When you buy a poppy, the money you donate provides help and support for ex-servicemen and their families. When we stand together in silence, we honour the memory of those who didn't return.

Thank you for doing so.

Herbert Aquila Durant

110 years ago, on the 31st of October 1916, my Great-Uncle Herbert Aquila Durant died in action on Flanders field.

Herbert was born at Bloxworth, Dorset on the 8th of April 1880, the sixth child to Henry and Elizabeth Durant. Henry worked on the local estate as a gamekeeper and Herbert followed him into the job after he left school. Then in 1911 he decided to join the army and enlisted at Borden in Hampshire and went into the Bedfordshire Regiment as a Rifleman.

When war was declared in 1914 the regiment was sent to the front and were fighting at Mons. Early in 1915 he suffered a gunshot wound to the chest.



By 1916, fully recovered, he was back at the front again this time at Flanders. On a moonless night on Oct. 31st he was part of a patrol that was sent out to monitor enemy positions. They crossed no-mans land and encountered German barbed wire defences. Having cut their way through they came under machine gun fire forcing the patrol to go to ground.

They returned fire but were then ordered to withdraw and three of the patrol were wounded including Herbert.

All three wounded helped each other to try and get to the safety of their own line only then to be struck by a minenwerfer (a type of mortar) and they all lost their lives.

All three are remembered on Loos memorial to the missing.

Great-Uncle Herbert is also remembered on the war memorial at St Andrews church in Bloxworth and every year on Remembrance Day we place a cross in his memory.

David Whitmarsh

From the Chair - Bridge Publications

The Bridge Magazine is entirely funded by advertising and generous donations from our sponsors. We are particularly grateful to our main sponsor, the excellent Red Lion pub, who support many other activities in Sturminster Marshall and are truly the centre of our community.

If you run a small business in the village why not consider advertising with us, which could not only bring you customers, but also demonstrate your support for the community. If you enjoy reading The Bridge and would like to support us with a monthly or one-off donation, the amount would be up to you, our bank details are below. In order that we can keep a record we would be grateful if you could send an email confirming your action to ebarryjohnson@aol.com

Bank Details: Bridge Publications – Sort Code 209696 - Account 00026530

Barry Johnson

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The Bridge Magazine – Collection Points

Sturminster Marshall:

Premier, Spar, The Red Lion, St. Mary's Church, Memorial Hall, Vines Close.

Shapwick:

St. Bartholomew's Church, The Anchor.

Pamphill and Cowgrove:

St. Stephen's Church, Pamphill Dairy.

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Bridge Magazine advertising fees

Duration	full page	1/2 page	1/4 page	1/8 page
12 months	£220	£120	£65	£35
6 months	£120	£65	£35	£30
3 months	£60	£30	£20	£15
1 month	£20	£15		

If you follow up any advertisement could you please mention that you saw it in The Bridge.

Adapted from ‘4 Ways to Grow Closer to the Lord in November’

by Dr. Paul Chappell | Nov 14, 2011 | Christian Life

The next six weeks are some of the busiest on the calendar. Between now and Christmas, life can easily swallow us up in a whirlwind of holiday preparation and activity. Yet, these busy weeks also hold some of the most sacred moments of the entire year...if we will intentionally look for them.

Below are four simple suggestions that will help us to draw closer to the Lord through the month of November.

1. Johnson Oatman Jr. got it right when he wrote, “Count your blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.” God “daily loadeth us with benefits” (Psalm 68:19), but we best rejoice in them when we name them one at a time.
2. Make a list each day of all the things you are thankful for. Writing these lists will help to shape your mind and heart toward gratitude.
3. We are all recipients of others’ kindness—in more ways than we even stop to realise. Every day, between now and Thanksgiving, intentionally express your thanks to at least one person.
4. This last tip is pretty basic—but it is vital. The average person attends church wondering, “What can I get out of today’s service?” And many Christians don’t even attend at all when they feel too busy—especially if they don’t see any personal benefit in it. Choose instead to look at each church service as an opportunity to return thanks to the Lord for all He has given to you. “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4).

These are busy times, but don’t miss the opportunity for increased focus on the Lord and sacred moments of drawing near to Him with a heart of Thanksgiving.

St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery

October Draw

Main draw

£50	165	Stella Warren
£30	41	Gladys Quick
£20	110	Meryl Burden

Bonus draw

£50	21	Debbi Peacock
£30	77	Wendy Leffler
£20	4	Tom Roberts

Congratulations to this month's winners.

Over 100 NUMBERS have been purchase this year, so there will be Bonus Draws in October, November and December. If you do not have a NUMBER and would like to join, please contact one of the committee members listed below. NUMBERS cost just £2 per month.

Liz Jones: 49 Railway Drive, Sturminster Marshall. (01258 857076)

Karen Royles: Parkfield, Newton Road, Sturminster Marshall. (07761 867738)

Sonia Cade: Bailie View, 24 Dullar Lane, Sturminster Marshall (07717 614270)

Pets galore!

We had a very busy afternoon on Sunday 11th October at St Mary's church, Sturminster Marshall. Dogs of all shapes and sizes, a guinea pig and miniature ponies, all accompanied by their owners and friends, came to hear about the work of Waggy Tails Rescue, to ask advice from a vet from Vetsmiths and to receive a blessing. The short service was followed by tea and cakes and £75 was raised for Waggy Tails. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.





MINSTER PROBUS CLUB OF WIMBORNE

Founded 1988

Our club comprises retired or semi-retired men who have held a position of responsibility during their professional life. We meet at the well-appointed Hamworthy Club in Canford Magna, near Wimborne, on the first Wednesday of the month. Before lunch, we are entertained by speakers, who cover a full and interesting range of subjects. In addition, our club holds social functions and arranges visits and other activities, involving wives and partners, throughout the year.

But above all, we are a friendly club with a great spirit and a warm welcome to new members. If you would like to learn more about us, please contact John Lewis on 01929 459357 or by email at dilyn76@hotmail.com

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What's On in November

A selection of things to see and do around our area

TIVOLI THEATRE, WIMBORNE

01202 885566 www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk

2nd-4th	Sense and Sensibility (U)
3rd	Dear Zoo - Live On Stage
12th	The Phantom Raspberry Blower of Old London Town
16th	Big Band Wonderland : Chris Dean's Syd Lawrence Orchestra
18th	Banff Mountain Film Festival
25th	Ian Ashpitel & Jonty Stephens as : Eric & Ern

ALLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WIMBORNE

01202 887247 www.the.allendale.org

Wed eves	Central Southern Gauge O Group (monthly)
Thurs am	Claire Matthews Pilates
1st	Little Pickles Markets - baby & children's nearly new sales
1st	The Bossa Definitive Trio
6th	High Contrast Cinema : <i>In a Lonely Place</i> (Humphrey Bogart)
13th	Hanson's Auctioneers - jewellery, fine art & watch valuations
14th	Wimborne Musical Theatre Society : The Magic Behind The Curtain
21st	Allendale Christmas Craft Fair
29th	Grandma's Attic Antiques & Collectors Fairs
30th	Bob Barter's 99th Birthday Jazz

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All adverts are accepted and published in good faith.
Payments made by advertisers contribute to the cost of publishing this magazine.

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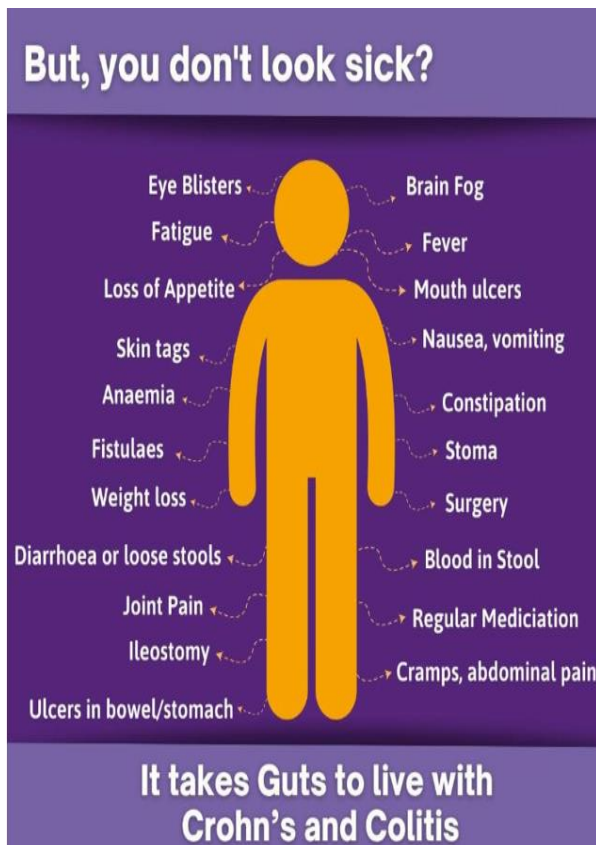
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SPOTLIGHT ON CROHN'S DISEASE & COLITIS

A brief overview of Crohn's and Colitis

Crohn's Disease (CD) and Ulcerative Colitis (UC) are Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) causing inflammation and ulceration in the large bowel (UC) or throughout the bowels from mouth to bottom (CD). IBD is caused by dysfunction in the immune system with the body "attacking itself". There is often a genetic component with the conditions running in families. IBD is different from Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) which does not cause inflammation or have wider effects on the body like IBD does.

Over half a million people in the UK are living with IBD, with 25,000 new cases being diagnosed each year, 1 in 4 of whom are under 16 years old and face a lifetime living with a chronic, incurable and unpredictable disease. Medical treatment and surgery can help control symptoms but those affected live with the constant fear of flare ups and the side effects of powerful medications. Whilst on the outside people living with IBD may look well, symptoms include abdominal pain, diarrhoea, blood in the poo, swollen joints, mouth ulcers, tiredness and weight loss. Blood and poo tests can suggest IBD with the diagnosis only confirmed on biopsy of the bowel. About 1 in 4 people wait over a year for the diagnosis due to lack of awareness of symptoms, embarrassment and fear about symptoms and delays in NHS pathways.



Crohn's & Colitis UK provide trusted information to people living with the conditions and their families, helping to support them through diagnosis and the ups and downs of living with a lifelong condition. The charity also supports cutting-edge research into treatments and leads campaigns to raise awareness of the disease and reduce discrimination of this invisible disability. Together we're fighting for a tomorrow where everyone living with Crohn's or Colitis has everything they need to live well, and for a future where we don't have to live with it at all.

Dr Phil Parslow, Paediatric Consultant

Join us in supporting Phil & his daughter Becky to run the London Marathon in aid of



	WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
	Christmas Table Decoration Workshop	13 December 2026 1-3pm	Community Space St. Mary Church
	Casino Night	30 January 2027	Red Lion Inn
	Quiz Night	27 February 2027	Red Lion Inn
	Bridge Drive	TBC	Old School
	Easter Tea & Cake	27 & 28 March 2027	Old School
	Raffle Draw	24 April 2027 5pm	Red Lion Inn
	Stall at The Lake Gates Car Boot Sale	March, April, May 2027	Wimborne Showground
	Open Garden & Plant Sale	29 & 30 May 2027	Cherry Cottage 192 Church Street

All events in Sturminster Marshall unless otherwise stated
Please contact Cath on 07584229354 for more details

*Join us to make your very own
Christmas Table Decoration*



Sunday 13th December 2026

1pm to 3pm

St. Mary's Church Sturminster Marshall

Have fun learning a new skill preparing for Christmas
Materials & refreshments all included for just

£35

Limited places. Book on 07584 229354 or 07515 065599

Raising Funds for Crohn's & Colitis UK



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By **Claire Forsey**

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www.mackrellcharity.org.uk

Forthcoming Activities at The Old School



Discovery Café

Saturday 7th November at 2.30pm

'Tails of an Old Police Dog Handler'

An illustrated talk by Ron Briggs

Film Club

Thursday 12th November at 7.00pm - A 1930s Double Bill:

'Dracula' AND 'Bride of Frankenstein'

Autumn Feast

Saturday 14th November, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Four-Course Meal - £25pp

See poster on p.39 for further details

Mackrell Lecture - the inaugural lecture of the 2026-27 season

Saturday 21st November at 2.30pm

"The Last Acts of Virginia Woolf"

Professor Steve Ellis

Bridge group continues on Thursday mornings at 10am

for more info contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081

or katy.norman1@btinternet.com

***See our website and separate posters in the Bridge
for details of all our activities***

The Old School, Sturminster Marshall
Discovery Cafe

presents



Tails of an Old Police Dog Handler



an illustrated talk by Ron Briggs

Saturday 7th November 2026

2.30pm £8 inc

tea/cake

Tickets on the door

BH21 4BU



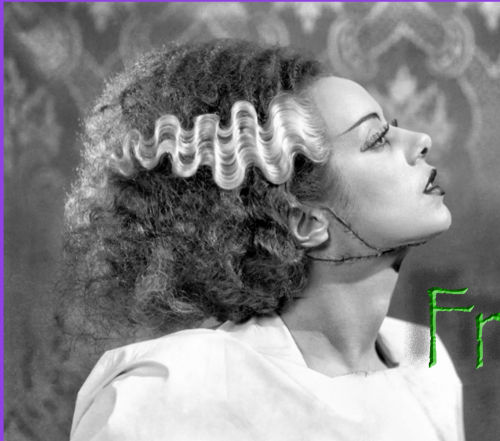
The

Old School Film Club

30's Double Bill: *presents*

Dracula

Dir: Tod Browning
1931



Bride of Frankenstein

Dir: James Whale
1935

Thursday 12th November 7.30pm
sturminster marshall
BH21 4BU

'Mackrell Lectures'
presents



www.mackrellcharity.org.uk

The Last
Acts of
**Virginia
Woolf**



a talk by Professor Steve Ellis

at The Old School, Sturminster Marshall
Saturday 21st November 2026

2.30pm

Tickets on the door: £10

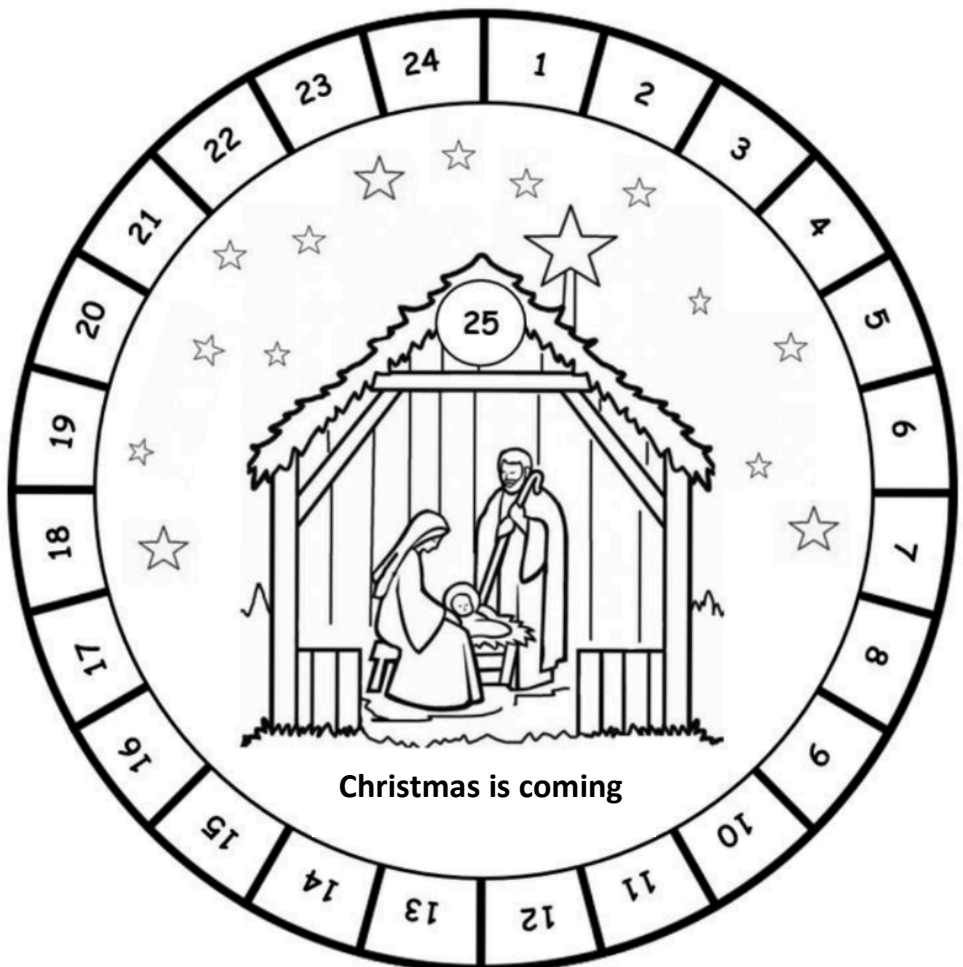
(Tea & Cake included)



Make an Advent Calendar

If you would like to make an easy Advent calendar either with the children or for the children, then here are the instructions.

You will need a paper plate, the template below printed at the size of your plate and coloured pencils, felt tips or paint and a clothes peg that is it! It couldn't be easier. When advent begins, stick a star on the peg and clip it to day 1 and move it round each day.



Brownies **Guides**

Sturminster Marshall Brownies and Guides Groups

Meet at Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall

Brownies
5.45 – 7pm ♥

Guides
7 – 8.30pm ♥

Every Tuesday
Term time only

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- Crafts
- Games
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- Helping the community
- Cooking
- Earning badges
- Activity holidays
- and much much more...

Contact Lynne Seare
07759892965
for Guides

Contact Judith Hayter
07747701453
for Brownies

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Extensions

Whether you are thinking of a garage extension, side extension, double or single storey rear extension, Paice Building Services can help you from design to completion.

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WIFI HOME HELP

The Court Henbury 150th Anniversary Award

To commemorate its 150 years association with Sturminster Marshall, Court 'Henbury', the local Foresters Friendly Society branch, is making a grant of **£250** each year in March to help a young person in their education, vocation or hobby.

To be eligible, you must be aged 11-19 on 1 March of the award year and either live in or have a connection with Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick, Pamphill, Wimborne or Corfe Mullen or be a Court Henbury member.

To apply, simply write a recital of no more than 500 words about the activity you wish to pursue and how the grant would help you towards your goal. You can send it by post to: **The Court Secretary, 7 Gladelands Way, Broadstone BH18 9JB** or by email to: **court5779@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk**.

The closing date for applications for the next Award is 1 March 2025. The winner will be decided at the Court's March 2025 meeting.

Please note: the successful applicant may be asked to be photographed for publicity purposes.



**Foresters
Friendly Society**

For more information visit:

www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk
or scan the QR code



SCAN ME

Foresters Membership benefits are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority or the Prudential Regulation Authority and are reviewed regularly to ensure they are relevant to our members.

Foresters Friendly Society is the trading name of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society Limited which is an Incorporated Friendly Society (Registration No. 513F) and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Registration No. 310029).

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£8 for 3 courses - Midday – til finish.

Next Dates:

14th October – Advice on independent living by Medella
home physio & OT

11th November – Armistice Celebration

9th December – Christmas party (50 spaces) **Booking Essential**

Please call Claire to book - 07757322632

Held at The Old School, Sturminster Marshall - Sponsored by the Mackerall Charity (re. Charity
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These are designed for you to appoint attorneys to make a range of decisions including the buying and selling of your house and other assets, dealing with your tax affairs, operating bank and building society accounts and claiming benefits on your behalf. These can be used at your direction whilst you are still mentally capable and also by the Attorneys if you lack mental capacity to make these decisions.

Health & Welfare LPA

Attorneys appointed under this document can make decisions relating to your living accommodation and care, consenting to or refusing medical treatment on your behalf, and on day-to-day matters such as diet and dress. This LPA can only be used if you have lost the mental capacity to make decisions for yourself.

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You do not have to make two or more visits to a local solicitor instead (at no extra charge) I can visit you and I am contactable by phone 9am-7pm...7 days a week !

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SPONSOR A CHAIR IN ST MARY'S

Work on creating an accessible W.C. and kitchen servery continues in St Mary's. Unfortunately the relentless rain and flooding earlier in the year meant that the work was delayed, but the contractors are back on site and we are hopeful of completion very soon.

The redundant north aisle pews have now been sold and will be replaced by stackable chairs and tables making the church a more flexible and comfortable space enabling a wider variety of services and activities, as well as the creation of a community space.



If you would like to help us achieve this objective by making a donation of £168 for each chair, we shall place a plaque on a chair with one of the following dedications:

- Donated by*name*.....
- In loving memory of*name*.....*d.o.b*...-....*d.o.d*.....
-*name*.....and.....*name*.....married on.....*date*
-*name*.....baptised on.....*date*....

You are of course welcome to sponsor more than one chair.

Donation forms are available in church but if you would like more information, please speak to Katy (07815 610595) or Carol (07400 356901) or email us at nhaswell@stmarysprojectwelcome.org.uk

With every blessing,

The Reverend Jane Williams

English Usage: a personal view by Michael Evans

Using the wrong word

A frequent mistake is made with words beginning “over-“ and “under-“.

The archaeologist Ben Robinson presents a very interesting series “Villages next to the sea,” but in a village where severe storms had caused many losses of life he said “You **cannot underestimate** the power of the sea.” If you do that, you are likely to be in serious danger !

To underestimate something means that it is less important than it actually is.

Ben should have said “You **should not** underestimate” or “you **cannot** overestimate”, because it is more important. Some people unfortunately go into the sea underestimating its potential power, and have to be rescued...

Last month's anagrams

A POT STAIN – ANTIPASTO

I TOLD DIANA – ADDITIONAL

This month's anagrams

HOTEL SUITE – Dark shape

MAN FROM ITALY – Stirring up negative feelings

Church Services in November

Sunday 1st: All Saints

- 9.15am Sung Eucharist with choir at St Mary's, Stur. Marshall
3.00pm Annual Memorial Service at St Mary's, Stur. Marshall

Sunday 8th: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 10.00am | Said Holy Communion at St Mary's, Stur Marshall |
| 10.50am | Remembrance Ceremony at War Memorial |

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy |
| 10.50am | Remembrance Ceremony at Shapwick Cross |

Sunday 15th: Second before Advent

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's, Shapwick
9.15am Café Church Harvest Festival at St Mary's, S Marshall

Sunday 22nd: Next before Advent

- 9.15am Family Communion at St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall
9.30am Family Service at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

Sunday 29th: ADVENT SUNDAY

- 4.00pm From Darkness to Light: St Mary's, Stur. Marshall

Tuesdays at 9.30 - 11.00am

Refresh at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall - see poster for details

Wednesdays at 9.00am

Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

LOCATIONS OF OUR LOCAL CHURCHES

St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall: Church Street, BH21 4BU

St Bartholomew's, Shapwick: Church Street, DT11 9LB

St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy: Abbott Street, Pamphill, BH21 4ED



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Refresh

EVERYONE'S WELCOME

AT ST MARY'S CHURCH,
STURMINSTER MARSHALL

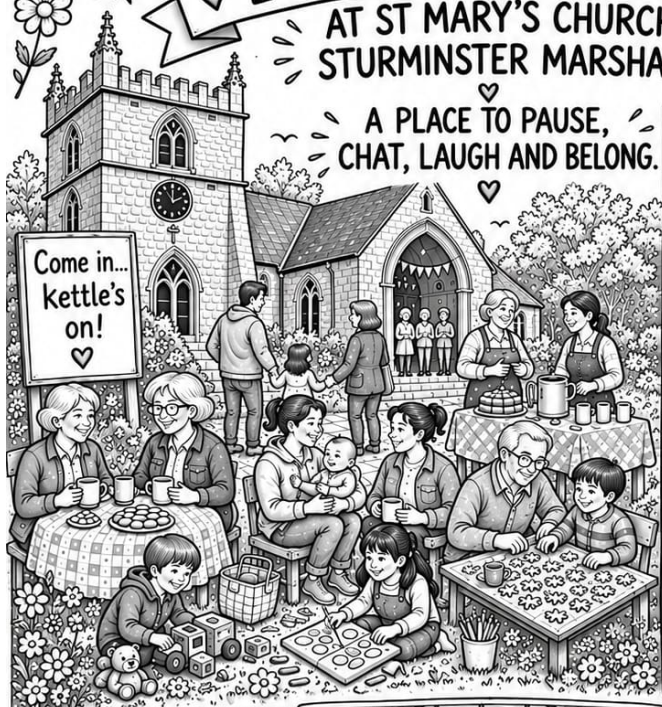
A PLACE TO PAUSE,
CHAT, LAUGH AND BELONG.

NEED A REFRESH?

WHETHER YOU'D LIKE...

-  a cup of tea and a chat
-  someone to listen
-  someone to cuddle the baby while you enjoy a hot drink
-  somewhere safe for children to play
-  company for a couple of hours
-  or simply to be with friendly people...

REFRESH IS FOR YOU.



P PARKING AVAILABLE
AT THE OLD SCHOOL
(Opposite the Church)

AND AT THE RED LION
(Car Park)

BOTH JUST ACROSS
THE ROAD



OUR WELCOMING SPACE
Come in, relax and enjoy!

 **TUESDAYS**
09:30 - 11:00



♥ COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE REFRESHED. ♥

Refresh

In September we launched a new initiative called Refresh. It is a gathering for coffee (or tea if you prefer!) on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am-11am in term-time, in the new Welcome Hub, within St Mary's Church, Sturminster Marshall.

The group is particularly designed to support parents of pre-school age children, especially ones with new first babies or who are feeling overwhelmed, isolated or rather low. However, it is for all ages, and everyone is welcome. Parents involved in the initial planning of Refresh particularly wanted to include older people, not just parents.

It is simply a time to come together, chat and share a social time together. There are plenty of age appropriate toys for the children and good quality coffee or tea for the adults, and usually some nice biscuits or cake!

It is led by Sue, one of the Lay Pastoral Assistants and who was a Health Visitor, supported by David, our Curate, until Rev. Jane returns from her sabbatical. Sue is supported by a team of volunteers, who are there to welcome and look after everybody.

Please do pop in and join us, on any Tuesday morning in term time. We would love to see you there!

Nikki Haswell
Outreach Co-ordinator
St Mary's Church
08877 179145



NOVEMBER NOTEBOOK

NOVEMBER 1976:

The hosepipe ban introduced during the summer drought is lifted. Jimmy Carter wins the US presidency, defeating Republican Gerald Ford. The World Health Organisation announces containment of the first recorded Ebola virus epidemic in Zaire. The Sex Pistols release *Anarchy* in the UK.

NOVEMBER 1926:

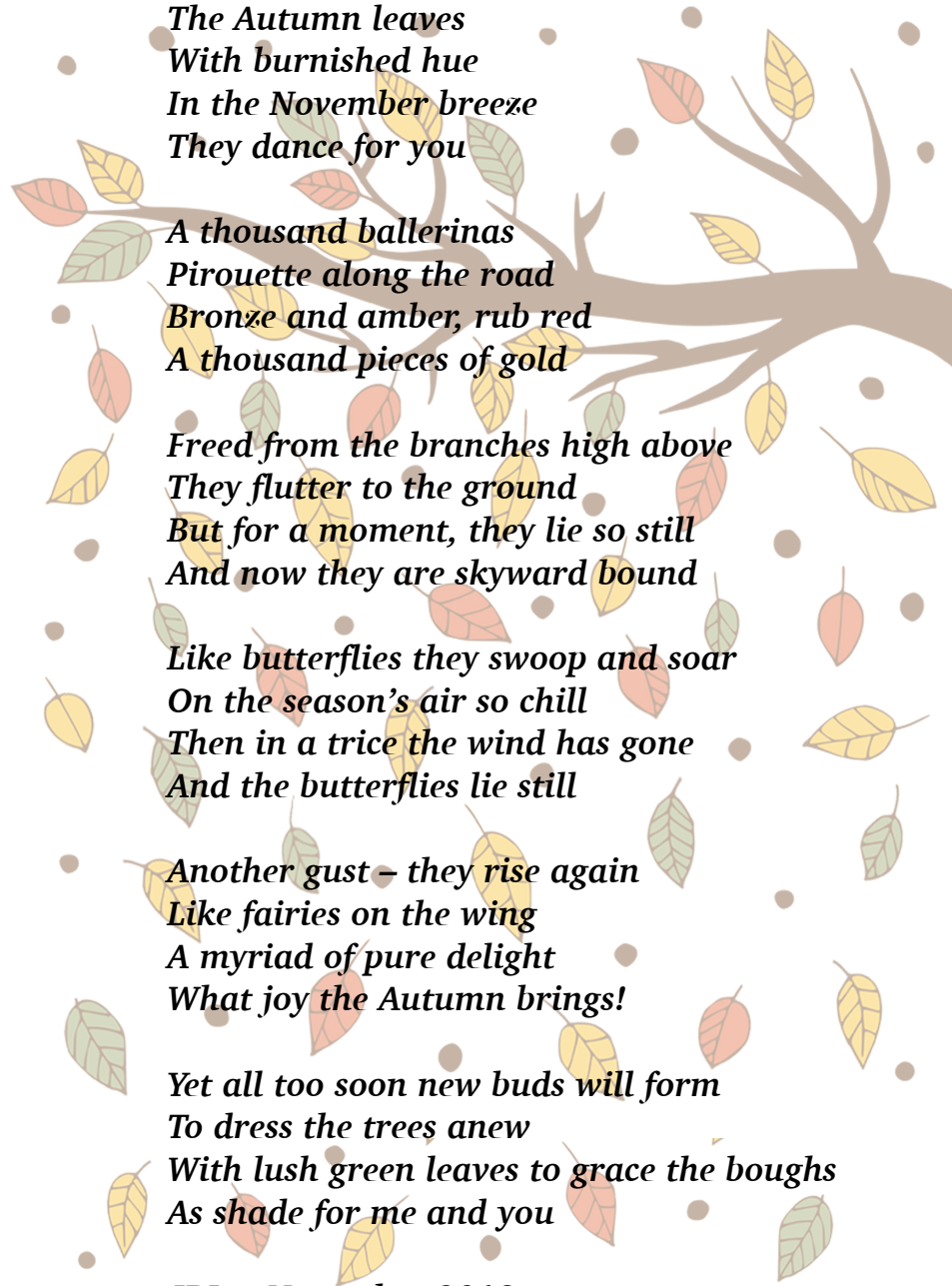
The Remembrance Day service in Sturminster Marshall demonstrates how Armistice Day commemorations have evolved since the end of World War I. The order of service for St Mary's reveals a more complex commemoration when compared with similar events eight years earlier. The changes are highlighted in a Dorset History Centre study which contrasts the Sturminster Marshall service of 1926 with a similar but simpler service at Stoke Abbott Parish Church in 1918. The Stoke Abbott service comprised just three hymns, prayers, a sermon, and a collection for the British Legion. In Sturminster Marshall in 1926 hymns, prayers and the service were followed by '*relatives and others*' being invited to lay wreaths at the memorial cross, before the Last Post, Reveille, God Save the King and the Blessing. The report states: "(In 1918) there is no indication of parades for the fallen, no officials from different walks of life. The implication is clear – remembrance was understandably raw, private, and full of emotion at this point... (By 1926 in Sturminster Marshall) relatives of those lost in the conflict were still important, but the word '*others*' suggests that non-relatives were part of the event of wreath-laying. Perhaps these were simply friends; perhaps they were others who had experienced

loss but were unrelated to the parish; perhaps they were even officials acting in an official capacity. Whatever the answer, there is indication that 'remembrance' had perhaps grown from the deeply personal to something slightly larger as early as the 1920s." Also of note: in February 1922 the Sturminster Marshall Dramatic Society, put on two performances of the *The Way of the Heart*, in the village hall. A search online has revealed no other reference to either the society or, definitively, to the play. The closest discovered - and a strong candidate - is *The Story of the Heart*, by William Bayle Bernard. One of the lead characters has been blinded in war, so it would have been an appropriate play given the timing and that the performance proceeds were to be divided between the District Nursing Fund and the Lord Haig's Fund (now the Poppy Appeal).

Author, poet, lawyer and politician Allen Upward shoots himself and dies at his home near Wimborne. His work was included in *Des Imagistes*, the first anthology of Imagist poetry, edited by renowned American modernist poet Ezra Pound. The imagists rejected traditional metre and romantic diction in favour of precise imagery and free verse. Upward wrote two books of poetry, *Songs in Ziklag* and *Scented Leaves from a Chinese Jar*. His prolific output also included translations, memoirs, plays, novels, stories and a study of Christian mythology. His final book - *The New Word* - was the first to use the word Scientology, and Upward thought it worthy of a Nobel Prize. Ezra Pound believed this obscure genius shot himself after it was awarded instead to George Bernard Shaw.

The Mermaid - (from Scented Leaves From A Chinese Jar)

*The sailor boy who leant over the side of the Junk of Many Pearls,
and combed the green tresses of the sea with his ivory fingers,
believing that he had heard the voice of a mermaid,
cast his body down between the waves.*



*The Autumn leaves
With burnished hue
In the November breeze
They dance for you*

*A thousand ballerinas
Pirouette along the road
Bronze and amber, rub red
A thousand pieces of gold*

*Freed from the branches high above
They flutter to the ground
But for a moment, they lie so still
And now they are skyward bound*

*Like butterflies they swoop and soar
On the season's air so chill
Then in a trice the wind has gone
And the butterflies lie still*

*Another gust – they rise again
Like fairies on the wing
A myriad of pure delight
What joy the Autumn brings!*

*Yet all too soon new buds will form
To dress the trees anew
With lush green leaves to grace the boughs
As shade for me and you*

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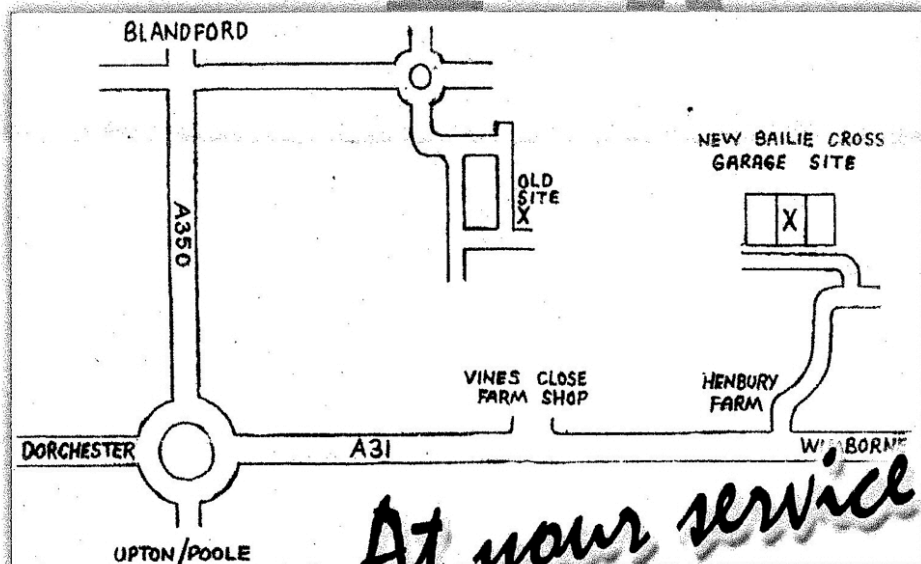
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Saturday

7th November

10.00 – 12.00



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St Mary's Church**

STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS

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The autumn is now in full swing with lovely colours and trees shedding their leaves, although we have been experiencing some warm days in amongst the rainy ones too. Winter will be upon us before we know, and it is time to make sure your homes are prepared for the possibility of flooding especially after last winter. The Community Flood Plan has recently been reviewed by the flood wardens and has been updated. This is available on the Parish Council website. It is also time for some hedge maintenance as I have noticed a lot of brambles sticking out over the pavements and walkways around the village.

Following feedback from residents in the Jubilee Cross area, Sturminster Marshall Parish Council with the support of Lytchett Matravers Parish Council, approached Dorset Council to request a reduction in the speed limit on the A350 around the Wimborne Road turning towards Lytchett Matravers. We are pleased to confirm that the new speed limit is now in place and being enforced. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and helped support the request. We should hear about the 20mph proposal for the village in December.

As you will have seen, the new Maypole is now in place, and we are going to seek the advice of structural engineer in the coming months as to whether we can put the weathervane back on the top.

We are still seeking local volunteers to paint the Book Box on Stocks Green. Sadly it has been vandalised recently, and this had been reported to the police. We are hoping that the repairs can be carried out along side the painting works. We are also looking into repairing a bench on Charborough Green.

The Parish Council has approved the replacement of the baby swings in the play area with an up-to-date version of the swings. We have also approved resurfacing work around the slide, rope swing and rotating net. The works may cause some minor inconvenience while they are being carried out. We will provide further information when we know the dates of the work.

It is that time of year again when we will be looking at setting the budgets for the next financial year. This is a very important task as we need to make sure in these challenging times that we have enough funds for any projects, maintenance and unexpected costs. Councils are yet again experiencing big shortfalls and more responsibilities are being placed on Parish Councils.

We currently have a vacancy on Sturminster Parish Council, and if you would like to help shape the future of our village and are interested in local issues, please get in touch with the Parish Council at parishclerk@sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk

No recent house related plans, just one for tree works below:

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STURMINSTER MARSHALL SHORT MAT BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB



TRY YOUR HAND AT INDOOR BOWLS



We are currently looking for new members, no experience necessary. We pride ourselves as being a very sociable, friendly and non-League Club; our aim is to have fun and enjoy our game.

The Club plays on the following days:-

Monday afternoons 2.00pm – 5.00pm,

Thursday evenings 6.15pm – 9.15pm,

All sessions are held in the Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall.

It is a great sport for all ages and we would welcome some younger players, so do come along. The club owns several sets of bowls and these can be lent to players who do not have their own, but they must remain on the premises. Completely flat shoes must be worn on the mats.

We are a mixed club and we do not compete in leagues, so the emphasis is on pleasure and not pressure. We do join other local clubs for just friendly matches.

INTERESTED? – come along, your first three sessions will be free, so give it a try.
For information telephone:- John on 01202 690718 or Jean on 01258 857308.



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Monday - Closed

Tuesday - 8.30 to 3pm

Wednesday to Saturday 8:30am to 3pm & 5pm to 8pm

Sunday 8:30 to 4pm

**Sturminster Marshall Golf Club,
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Tel: 01258 858444**



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Friday 27 th November 2026

6.30 pm

Old School Hall

Sturminster Marshall

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Sturminster Marshall, Fridays, 1.30pm-3.30pm**

**The bus will be in the car park opposite St Mary's
Church & an adviser will also be inside the church
at the coffee afternoon**

Speak to our friendly advisers about a range of issues including benefits, debt and money, employment, energy, water schemes, family, housing, legal and more.



Check our website for more information
www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk



Advice Bus stops in Sturminster Marshall on November 6th, 13th & 27th

Whilst chatting over a cuppa a couple of weeks ago, one lady said she was really worried that her direct debit for her heat and light had gone up from £173 previously, to £250 last month and then over £500 this month!

She did not know or understand why it was happening, as she was not aware of her supplier informing her.

Luckily, the Citizens Advice (CA) Adviser was sitting nearby and explained that CA have a specialist team to help with energy problems. She took the lady's details and explained that a telephone appointment would be booked for her and that the specialist adviser would be able to arrange a three-way phone call, with the lady, the specialist adviser and her utility company, to help sort this out.

Also, a man who was having a drink with us offered to go round and help her to change the settings on her heating time clock, which she did not know how to do, as she wanted to reduce the time the heating was on. He went round and did it that same afternoon.

Sometimes, if you talk to other people about something that is worrying you, it can help you find the help you need. ***Don't worry alone, come and ask the CA advisers, if they can help and encourage friends and neighbours with problems to do so too.***

Nikki Haswell, Outreach Co-ordinator, 07788 179145

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in St Mary's Church,
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Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church

Sturminster Marshall

**5th and 6th
December**

10.00 - 4.00

**Raising funds for your
favourite charity**

Application Form

**To be submitted by
23rd November
to**

liz.york@btinternet.com

**7 Parkelea, Sturminster
Marshall**

I /We would like to have a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church, Sturminster Marshall

Name_____

Email_____

Telephone_____

Name of Charity	
BACs Transfer details (Please make sure you have entered these or no payment can be made.)	
Approximate size of tree	
Real or Artificial?	
Lights - Battery or plug in.	
Title of tree if wished	

1/We accept that St Mary's Church, Sturminster Marshall, and the organisers of the Festival will take due care but may not be held responsible for any losses.

Signature_____

Please return to Liz York 7 Parkelea, Sturminster Marshall by Monday 23rd November at the latest.

Kingston Lacy Estate News

Is it too early? Possibly not if you want to book your child on Kingston Lacy 's Storytelling with Santa! There are still places for all, but the popular slots (especially Saturdays) can sell out surprisingly quickly.

A couple of dates to note in your December diary are our Twilight openings on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 December. The property will be staying open till 7.30pm, and the house till 6.30pm to give everyone a chance to see the decorations. There'll be a special appearance by Squidge and Pop with their bubble show, and Dorset Pizza Kitchen will be coming along as well. Entry price will be reduced (obviously members go free) after our normal closing time of 4pm – search 'Festive twilight opening' on our website. The main Christmas festivities start on 21 November; again, check out the website for all the details.

Meanwhile, we've welcomed back one of Kingston Lacy's most important portraits after conservation at the Royal Oak Conservation Studio in Knole, Kent. George Romney's portrait of Frances Woodley was painted in 1780-81, three years before she married Henry Bankes the Younger.



The original project was a straightforward clean. However, technical imaging revealed original pigment particles in the varnish, presenting a challenging conservation dilemma. Cleaning would remove the pigmented coating and require extensive retouching. Not cleaning, however, would leave the crisp white dress looking yellow and the blue sky a dull green.

So the conservator developed a tailored treatment. The figure and sky were fully cleaned, while the pigmented coating in the trees was reduced rather than completely removed. This approach brought back the brilliance of the colours and Romney's rapid and energetic brushwork, while preserving the visual unity of the landscape.

The technical imaging also gave insights into Romney's creative process, showing him as an artist who was constantly revising his composition directly on the canvas with rapid, energetic brushwork. Macro X-ray fluorescence (MA-XRF) mapping showed that he originally painted several additional tree branches before changing his mind. The imaging also revealed brushstrokes of hair and flesh colours, marks which likely relate to Romney cleaning his brush or testing his colours.

Now, the portrait once again displays the beauty of Romney's colours and brushwork. Drop in and see it in the Drawing Room.

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Cream Tea

St Stephens Church

Kingston Lacy

Will be holding in

Pamphill Village Hall

an Advent Cream Tea

on Sunday 29th November

2.30 to 4.30pm





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STURMINSTER MARSHALL EVENING WI

Our September meeting was an evening of fun and games. We had a game of Boogie Bingo with a theme of Movie Soundtracks followed by a team challenge to build the tallest tower using spaghetti and marshmallows! We also had a 'guess the decade' competition with members bringing along a photo of themselves (or someone else) in their bridal dress/outfit. We had a great selection to challenge us.

The WI was 111 years old on 16th September 2026. We celebrated at our meeting by wearing purple which is the colour of the Suffragettes and also symbolises loyalty, creativity and wisdom which is our members to a 'T'!



Our next meeting is on Thursday 19th November at The Old School at 7.30pm. An evening to release your inner swan and learn about the Silver Swans, a Royal Academy ballet dance programme for over 55's.

We are always delighted to welcome new members and you don't need to be a resident in Sturminster Marshall to be able to attend.

For more information about SMEWI, please contact Christine Rainsford on 01258 857413 or visit our website:

www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com

Follow us on Facebook: Sturminster Marshall Evening WI

Karen West

Parish Directory

The Parish of Kingston Lacy and Shapwick

Rector: Revd Canon Andrew Rowland (The Rector's day off is Friday)	01202 882340 rector@wimborneminster.org.uk
Organists: contact Churchwarden Churchwarden K Lacy: Rob Langdown	01202 841381 KL-CW@wimborneminster.org.uk
Deputy Churchwarden Shapwick: Alan Cosgrove	07971 512390 alancosgrove@btopenworld.com
PCC Secretary: Margaret Langdown	01202 841381
Treasurer: Christine Cosgrove	01258 858876
Electoral Roll Officer: Janet Tory	01258 857531

Sturminster Marshall Parish Church

Vicar: Rev Jane Williams (Jane's day off is Friday)	01258 858604 janewilliamsrpc@outlook.com
Red Post Benefice Clerk: Vicky Harrison-King	redpostbenefice@outlook.com
Organists: contact Churchwarden Churchwardens: Carol Johnson Sue Pritchard	07400 356901 smcwsue@gmail.com
PCC Secretary: Liz York	01258 857528
PCC Treasurer: Ed Warren	01258 857467
Verger: Vacant	
Captain of the Rings: Mr M Stickley	01202 021895
Electoral Roll Officer: Elaine Huntriss	07818 280800

Schools

Sturminster Marshall First School: Mrs S Bentley (acting head)	01258 857348
Sturminster Marshall Pre-school: Mrs Holly Keets	01258 858395
Pamphill CE First School: Mrs Sarah Fairman	01202 883008
Pamphill Pre-School Nursery: Mrs D Gould	07415 473977
The Old School Shapwick Nursery: Ms E Praschma	01258 857922

Police

Police station (non-emergency number)	101
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Hall Bookings

Old School, Stur Marshall: Val Brown	hall.mackrell@outlook.com
Memorial Hall, Stur Marshall: Mrs K Kollberg	07729 712429
	sturhallbookings@gmail.com
Pamphill Parish Hall: David Wright	pamphillparishhall@gmail.com

Councillors

Dorset Councillor: Cllr. Mr Will Chakawhata	
	cllwill.chakawhata@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Stur Marshall Parish Council Chair: Mrs Sonia Cade	
Stur Marshall Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Alison Clothier	07469 780548
	sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Chair: Mr Martin Underhill	
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Lindsay Hole	

For Sturminster Marshall

Sturminster Marshall FC: Mr D Miller	01258 857314
Church Preservation Trust: Philip Cubitt	philipcubitt@btinternet.com
School Society: Dolly Purtill (Chair)	
	schoolsociety@sturminstermarshall.dorset.sch.uk
WI Evening Secretary: Mrs Gladys Quick	07720 343897
Sports Association: Mr R Haysom	01258 857616
Stur Marshall Craft Club: Mrs Barbara Beaves	01258 858404
Brownies: Miss J Hayter	01202 885309
Guides: Mrs L Seare	07759 892965
Henbury Residents' Association: Mr M Soper	01258 857647
Homewatch Co-ordinator: Mr Adrian Holden	01258 858884
Stur Marshall Short Mat Bowls & Social Club: Mr J Case	01202 690718
Stur Marshall Village History Website	07469 780548

For Pamphill

Kingston Lacy Skittles Club: Mr R Frost	01202 883084
Kingston Lacy Cricket Club: Mr S Maine	07969 883814
Pamphill Pre-School: Mrs D Gould	07415 473977

For Shapwick

S.C.T. (Village Green): Jez Bragg	07813 925681
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nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacy

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