

News and Views

December 2016 & January 2017


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INTERNATIONAL RELIEF


Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

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Calendar of Services - December 2016 The Lavingtons, Cheverells & Easterton					
Date	Market Lavington	West Lavington	Easterton	Great Cheverell	Little Cheverell
4th December Advent 2	10.30 am Benefice Worship Together St Peter's, Little Cheverell Rev David Johnson				
11th December	11.00 am United Service at Easterton	9/9.30 am Breakfast Church ★	11.00 am United Service	11.00 am Simple Celebration	4.30 pm Carol Service
18th December	9/9.30 am ★ Breakfast Church, Old School 6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight	6.00 pm Carol Service	4.00 pm Carol Service	4.00 pm ★ Carol Service	
24th Christmas Eve	4.00 pm ★ Christingle 10.00 pm Midnight Communion	11.30 pm Midnight Communion	4.00 pm ★ Christingle		4.00 pm Christmas Crib Service
25th Christmas Day	10.00 am ★ Family Service	9.30 am ★ Christmas Communion		11.00 am ★ Family Service and Communion	9.30 am Christmas Communion (BCP)
1st January New Year's Day	10.30 am Benefice Worship Together Simple Celebration St Peter's Church, Great Cheverell Rev Henry Pearson				

★ Suitable for all ages. Families welcome

VILLAGE LINK
West Lavington, Littleton Panell & Little Cheverell
TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 816826

Calendar of Services - January 2017 The Lavingtons, Cheverells & Easterton					
Date	Market Lavington	West Lavington	Easterton	Great Cheverell	Little Cheverell
1st January	10.30 am Benefice Worship Together Simple Celebration St Peter's Church, Great Cheverell Rev Henry Pearson				
8th January	11.00 am United Service with Trinity at the Community Hall	9/9.30 am Breakfast Church ★	11.00 am United Service At ML Community Hall	11.00 am Simple Celebration	
15th January	11.00 am Parish Communion	9.30 am Parish Communion		10.00 am Welcome to Worship ★	11.00 am Parish Communion (BCP)
22nd January	9/9.30 am Breakfast Church Old School, ML	9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am Parish Communion	11.00 am Parish Communion (BCP)	
29th January		9.30 am Parish Communion		4.00 pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	
5th February	10.30 am Benefice Worship Together All Saints' Church, West Lavington Archdeacon Sue Groom				

★ Suitable for all ages. Families welcome

Regular worship in our sister churches:

9.00am St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Littleton Panell
 10.30am Trinity Church in the Community Hall Market Lavington
 11.00am & 6.00pm Ebenezer Baptist Church West Lavington.

CHURCHWARDENS

All Saints, West Lavington:
 St Peter's, Great Cheverell:
 St Peter's, Little Cheverell:

Robert Giles (813256) Bronwen Matters (816133)
 Ian Christie (813940)
 Peregrine Rawlins (816315)

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

The article below gives a clear explanation of the activity displayed in the front cover, and as we approach the season of goodwill, it is worth noting that there are in this edition a number of reports that illustrate activities pursued for the benefit of those who are less fortunate or in need of help. For example, we find reference to the successful Poppy Appeal, the Market Lavington Country Fair (Soldiers Charity), support for those struggling with computers, blood donors (especially Julia Ford who has arranged the sessions for years).

One of the main rewards of village life is that we have opportunities to give and receive good will. Especially, in the matter of this magazine, my sincere thanks and best Christmas wishes to those who help in the production of this publication, and especially those who carry out the monthly door to door delivery of the magazine.

Normally at this point in News and Views the reflections are those of the Vicar, a position I do not wish to usurp, and I look forward to this area being by our next incumbent.

Jim Hodges

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD AT D.A.P.S.

Last month, children at DAPS collected a huge quantity of gifts towards this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal. If you're not familiar with this charity, shoe boxes are wrapped and filled with any small items a child may need: soap, toothpaste, pens, notebooks, play do, hats, gloves, small toys, sweets, games, puzzles. A huge amount of donations came in to school, which were sorted into categories and then one afternoon the children "buddied up" - with the eldest helping the youngest - to pack a box of Christmas gifts for children. Thanks to the generosity of everyone associated with DAPS, the children filled an amazing 49 boxes and the pop up sweet shop raised enough money to cover the transport cost of £3 per box. Our boxes are already on their way to children in Liberia in West Africa.

Hilary Stone

FROM DAVID COXHEAD

David would like to thank all the villagers who attended his 70th Birthday and Semi Retirement Party he had this month. He would like to thank them for their kindness, generosity and best wishes which they have sent him.

(These events were attended by his many customers and friends, an indication of their affection for this established figure)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM PAT STROWGER

It is difficult to find the words to express my deep gratitude for all the prayers, support, offers of help and love Terry and I received during the past year and which I have received in the past three weeks. All I can say, repeatedly is Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God bless and my love to you all.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2016

Thank you so much to all our collectors from across our villages of Erlestoke, Littleton Panell, The Cheverells and West Lavington who between them raised over £2300 in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. A special thanks must also go to DAPS and Holy Trinity primary schools who each raised well over £200 from within their school communities.

For further information on this appeal please visit

[www.britishlegion.org.uk/
poppy-appeal-2016](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/poppy-appeal-2016)

PETE LAMB AND THE HEARTBEATS

Following the success of our Concert last year, we are organising another one this year on Wednesday 14th December from 2.30-4 p.m., in West Lavington Village Hall with a Tea Interval. It will follow the same format as last year, with the same musical group.

Tickets will be £6.50 and will be on sale at the end of October.

Eileen Hinton

FROM SALLY BULLOCK (Cllic Sargent)

Among the many charitable enterprises in the battle against Cancer is CLIC, a charity in support of children suffering from Leukaemia. Locally it is run by Sally Bullock (813625) of 21 White Street, Easterton SN10 4NZ. It involves little more than giving to her used postage stamps, which can be profitably used through certain outlets. She wishes to thank all those who have contributed. The onset of Christmas is surely an opportunity for us to help by contacting Sally.

Jim Hodges

MARKET LAVINGTON CHRISTMAS COUNTRY FAIR

A big thank you to everyone who came to and/or supported the Christmas Country Fair in Market Lavington Community Hall on November 12th. I do hope you all enjoyed it and found some great things to buy. I thought you would like to know that the Fair raised an excellent total of £1050 for ABF, The Soldiers' Charity, which is our highest total. Thank you all very much! This money will help a lot of serving and former serving soldiers and their families who are in need.

Sue Bonney

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All Saints West Lavington Christmas Celebrations

Sunday 18th December at 6pm
Carol Service followed by
Supper in the church

Carol Singing around the village.

Wednesday 21st December
6 p.m. outside The Heaven,
Littleton Panell
7 p.m. Dauntsey House,
West Lavington
8 p.m. The Churchill Pub

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE CHURCHILL ARMS

We are pleased to advise that the choir from All Saints Church will be at the Churchill Arms on 21st December at approx 8.00 p.m. to sing some Carols for us. We hope you will come along and join us on this evening.

John and Lesley

MARKET LAVINGTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Mums & Chums

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Contact Claire Williams 07817 031858
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Or via our Facebook page

WEST LAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

If you are planning an event for the New Year, why not consider hiring our very much improved Village Hall. Now, with cosy heating, ambient lighting and affordable hire rates, please use your local facility and support our plans for further improvements.

Lynne Rayner
Secretary West Lavington Village Hall.

GREAT CHEVERELL VILLAGE HALL

Coffee Morning

and Second Hand Book Sale

The first Coffee Morning and Book Sale proved popular and so we are repeating it in the New Year
**On Saturday 11th February
in the Village Hall from 10
a.m until 12 Noon**

We will be serving coffee and home made cake. On sale will be a wide variety of mainly paperback books, all in good condition. After Christmas if you thin out your book shelves we would hope you will donate them to help the Village Hall
Wendy Wilshin.

GREAT CHEVERELL VILLAGE HALL

The Christmas Whist Drive will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 23rd December at our usual time of 7.30 p.m. We always welcome new players. There will not be a Whist Drive on Friday December 2nd, otherwise same as usual on all other Fridays

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Friday 2nd December 2016
5pm - 8pm

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Visits must be pre booked on 01380 813373
£2.50 per child



Edington arts

MAGDALEN COLLEGE OXFORD CHOIR'S ADVENT CONCERT AT EDINGTON

On Saturday 10th December, Edington Arts will host the renowned choir of Magdalen College, Oxford for a concert in the Priory Church of Advent Music across the centuries. Mulled wine and mince pies in the interval! The concert starts at 7.30pm.

The choir is one of three originally established by Statute at Oxford University in 1480, ensuring that there would always be a choir to sing services. The 32 choristers – 16 boys and 16 men - are now internationally recognised as a 'five-star' choir. They perform all over the world, have appeared at the BBC Proms, have done a number of orchestral collaborations including TV and film soundtracks, and have recorded a number of CDs.

The College's Assistant Organist, Alex Berry, is directing the choir this term for all its many concerts, pending the arrival in January of the College's new Music Director. They will be accompanied by organ scholar William Fox, and will sing music composed for Advent (and Christmas) across the centuries, from the 16th to the present day. Palestrina, Byrd, de Victoria, through JS and JCF Bach, Stanford, the fabulous Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams, Joubert, Biebl, Matthew Martin - some ancient music is given a modern twist, while some of the new music is in the ancient tradition. You can hear examples of the music on offer by visiting www.edingtonarts.org.

The choir's vivid tone, artistic chemistry and authority promise an evening of rare beauty.

Tickets are selling very fast; there are by now only a few front nave and rear nave tickets left, though there is good availability at the sides. Contact Chrissy on 01380 831256 or sue@edingtonarts.org as soon as possible to make sure you get a seat. Prices in advance are £20, £15 and £10 with 18 and under coming free; if you buy on the night you will need to add £2 per ticket.



LAVINGTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

invites you to an
**Evening of Christmas music and
a festive buffet supper**

On Thursday December 15th at 8 p.m.

Market Lavington Community Hall

Tickets £6 will be available from

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Market Lavington Post Office

Sue Ivey, Yew Tree Cottage

Little Cheverell,



Great Cheverell

presents a festive film for 'children' of all ages



Saturday 10th December, 2:30pm

Admission free to all

Book at Cheverell Stores from 1st December

The Steeple Ashton Christmas Tree Festival St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church

Sunday December 11th 2016

from 3.30pm

Featuring:

The Keevil C of E School Choir

St Mary's Church Choir

The Steeple Rocks Choir

The Steeple Ashton A Cappella Soc.

(MC Graham Dalby)

ADMISSION FREE

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Organised by Ron and Chris Plum

with the support of the Steeple Ashton Community & PCC



END OF AN ERA

As many of you will already know, Blood Doning sessions, which had been held locally for many years (over 35 but I am hoping somebody will let me know exactly!), will no longer take place in our villages.

Improvements in clinical and surgical practice, and the Blood Services' own efforts to ensure that blood is used appropriately, means there has been a fall-off in demand for blood from hospitals in recent years. The sessions are therefore carefully planned so that only enough blood is collected to meet patient need and they have reduced the amount of blood collected by consolidating the number of sessions offered to donors. To make the most effective use of resources (in turn lowering costs to hospitals), sessions have been moved to larger venues, where greater numbers of donors can attend.

I know that a lot of you (and the Team and me) are disappointed that our sessions in West Lavington Village Hall, the old hall and more recently the Community Hall in Market Lavington have ceased, but I would like to say a very big "Thank you" to all those of you who supported the sessions: the donors of course, but also the many tea-helpers over the years and all the local shops and businesses who were happy to put up a poster

I hope that you will continue to give blood - if you are invited to attend a session, it means they do need your "pint", so I hope to see some of you in Devizes, or Melksham, or Westbury or! Remember you can book appointments online and find other venues on www.blood.co.uk

Julia Ford 812365

COMPUTER COURSES

As mentioned in several issues, the Parish of West Lavington is funding starter computer courses for people in the village who have little or no IT skill. Two (very successful) courses are about to finish, and the next course will run after Christmas. Several of you have already put your names down for that, but if there are others who might like to join in please let me know.

It is possible that some of you might have ideas for completely different courses/workshops/studies; if so I would be delighted to receive suggestions and investigate them.

Mike May for West Lavington Parish Council
Tel 812574

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WEST LAVINGTON YOUTH CLUB

Once again The Staff and The Youth Club Management Committee would like to thank you for your support through out 2016 and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will be closed over the Christmas period. Please check the opening times for January 2017

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Eric Freeman Chairman - West Lavington Youth Club Management Committee

LAVINGTON AND DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB 2017



Location: DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

SUNDAY 4.00pm to 5.00pm

TUESDAY 7.00pm to 8.30pm

SPRING TERM

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Last Swim Thursday 21st MAR 2017

Half Term 10th February to 19th February

No swimming on 29th January as it is a School's Exeat Day

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100 years ago

Our villages bore a heavy toll during December 1916 and January 1917 with five servicemen losing their lives. It is worth noting that the Great War was not confined to the trenches. Besides the Casualty in France, the other three died from battles in Iraq and Africa

Lance Corporal Charles Potter 11973 Died of Wounds 25th December 1916

Charlie Potter was born in Market Lavington about 1885, the son of Harry Potter, a shepherd from Tilshead, and his wife Catherine Ellen. Charlie enlisted into the Wiltshire regiment on 30th September 1901 and served with them in India from 1902 to 1909.. In 1911 the family was living at New Farm, Gore Cross.

Charlie would have been involved in the battle of Mons, the battle of Marne, the battle of Aisne, and the first battle of Ypres in 1914. In 1915 his battalion was involved in the battles of Aubers and Loos. During 1916 he was fighting on the Somme, where he was wounded and he died of his wounds on Christmas Day 1916 at Dernancourt Casualty Clearing Station.

Charlie would have been involved in the battle of Mons, the battle of Marne, the battle of Aisne, and the first battle of Ypres in 1914. In 1915 his battalion was involved in the battles of Aubers and Loos. During 1916 he was fighting on the Somme, where he was wounded and he died of his wounds on Christmas Day 1916 at Dernancourt Casualty Clearing Station.

2nd Lieutenant Ernest James Dutch Died of Wounds 6th January 1917

Ernest was born in 1881 in Great Cheverell, the son of James Dutch, and his wife Louisa Snelgrove. James went to London with the Holloway brothers, and worked as a master carpenter and as a manager, living in Battersea.

Ernest joined King Edward's Horse. He received a commission in January 1916 and transferred to the 25th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers as a 2nd Lieutenant.

After capturing the coastal capital of German East Africa, Dar es Salaam in September 1916, General Jan Smuts ordered his army's advance to halt owing to a malaria pandemic that had devastated the soldiers. Shortly after the New Year, the 25th Frontiersmen Battalion, led by famous hunter and explorer, Captain Frederick Selours advanced into the interior of the colony. When Selours was killed, leading his men, Ernest Dutch immediately took over command, but he was also shot and seriously wounded. He died of his wounds on 6th January 1917.

Private William George Baker 26384 Died of Wounds 22nd January 1917

William was born about 1893 in West Lavington, the eldest child of George Baker and Eliza Burden. George worked as a labourer, and he and Eliza had eleven children.

When he was 17 years of age, William joined the 4th Wiltshire Regiment, and he served for a year in India from 9th October 1914. In January 1917 the battalion was in trenches in Mesopotamia. The battalion was engaged in the difficult task of digging and improving trenches. This was a difficult task under trying conditions, the ground being a network of liquorice roots. During this operation the men came under sniper fire. William probably received his fatal wounds during this time; he died on 22nd January 1917 and is buried in Amara in Iraq.

100 years ago (continued)

Corporal David Chard 11975 31st Died of Wounds January 1917

David served in the 5th (Service) Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment. This was formed in Aug 1914 in Devizes as part of the First New Army .

In July 1915 the regiment embarked on the SS Franconia, headed for Gallipoli.

The regiment was involved in the second battle of Kut al Amara which began with a British attack on both banks of the Tigris on the night of 13th/14th December 1916. The British had suffered a humiliating defeat at Kut earlier in the war, but this time there were 50,000 men included in the advance.

It was during this battle that David was wounded, and he died on 31st January 1917. He was buried in the Amara War cemetery in Iraq.

FREE GOLDFISH !

As has already occurred a couple of years ago, we now have many more pond bred goldfish, than we have pond. Therefore they are available free of charge from 3 Fieldside, West Lavington.

Please ring 01380 818782 to arrange for the fish to be caught, then collected or delivered. This offer does depend on catching fish which do not always co-operate.

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WEST LAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Hire Rates from 1st October 2016

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	Local & Charity	Other	Local & Charity	Other
Hall - Daytime	£7.00	£8.00	£8.00	£10.00
Hall - Evening	£9.00	£10.00	£10.00	£12.00
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Giles Meeting Room - Eve	£6.00	£7.50	£7.00	£8.50
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- Telephone bookings to Lynne Rayner on 01380 812881.
- Email bookings to Lynne@movement4you.com.
- **Bookings must include event preparation and clear-up time**
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- Minimum charge is for 2 hours and 3 hours weekend. A non-refundable deposit or booking fee of £10 is required to secure a booking.
- On cancellation, the deposit will be forfeited unless we are able to rebook that date.
- **Heating is now included in the above rates.**
- The Playing Field (including pitches), for which there is no charge, must be booked even if the Changing Rooms are not used.

A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD GAMBLE

Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose as the French might say. If you need a translation, it means *"The more things change, the more they stay the same."*

You may be forgiven if you suspect that I have been musing cynically about some of the remarkable events of 2016, such as Brexit and Trump.

In fact, my thoughts had been stimulated by consideration of a matter with a slightly lower public profile - music education. Not long ago, if the parent of a child in school wanted that child to learn a musical instrument, the school asked Wiltshire Council and the council provided a music teacher. The parent paid the school, the school paid the council, and the council paid the teacher.

That may sound fine, but the cost of administration to Wiltshire Council was significant. Government did not contribute, the music service was not a statutory obligation and many music teachers were outside the loop. To save money, did we walk away? No! Music education is important. In fact, we found a new way to do things.

The new arrangement is that music teachers are now independent contractors who deal directly with the school and the parent. The Arts Council has provided finance to confirm the credentials of every teacher and to support disadvantaged children. After one year, there has been no discernible change in the number of children learning music. Indeed, more disadvantaged pupils are being supported in a more targeted way. Not least, the vetting process is such that more teachers are being approved, so those who were previously outside the council employment structure are now accountable. The cost to the public purse is down by tens of thousands of pounds. So it's not so much *la même chose* as *mieux* (better)!

Music and Christmas are inseparable. Carols in church; Pop on the radio; Musak in stores and lifts –all contribute to the seasonal atmosphere. Government figures show that the UK's creative Industries, including music, are growing at almost twice the rate of the wider UK economy - generating nearly £10 million per hour.

So sing along and have a very happy Christmas!

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on 07762 018209.

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WEST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is pleased to announce the recent listing of West Lavington's World War I Memorial as a Building of Special Architectural and Historic Interest. It is now Grade II listed.

The List entry, together with a map, is published on the National Heritage List and can be accessed at the address given below:

<http://services.historicengland.org.uk/webfiles/GetFiles.aspx?av=86098B92-1659-49A2-9406-89B25BFB8748&cn=0646EDB3-6217-43DC-8003-7869770CE7BB>

Listing helps to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It also brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future.

The memorial has already received special attention by the parish. You will recall the rededication service in 2014 which followed the discovery, by our local historian Lyn Dyson, that three people with links to our villages who had died in WWI, were not remembered on the memorial, nor did they appear to be on a memorial elsewhere.



The Parish Council agreed to fund the addition of their names: Percy John Nash, James Harold Shore and William Hall. Descendants were traced and the rededication of the memorial took place on Sunday, 22 June 2014, the original memorial dedication scene of 1921 being re-captured for the 2014 occasion.

**MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO WISH EVERYONE
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

Sandra Gamble, Chairman

If you have ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT the Clerk to the Parish Council, Kaye Elston, on 07782 251464 or at clerk@westlavington.org.uk. The Parish Council website is at www.westlavington.org.uk.

LITTLE CHEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on 16th November 2016 in Little Cheverell Village Hall.

The following were the main items discussed.

- 1. Public Forum** – A member of the public raised concerns about the state of School Lane where silt has gathered to some depth. The chairman will report this to Wiltshire Council
- 2. Planning Applications** - There were no objections to a tree-cutting application and an extension of a temporary planning for accommodation and a stable.
- 3. The Parish Warden Scheme** – Since the Parish Council meeting, on Thursday 17th November, Sue Ivey had met the Parish Steward for an inspection of the places through the village where the priority tasks have been identified. The Parish Steward will report some of the larger jobs to his supervisor as they will require more substantial equipment. Please contact Sue on 813439 or sueivey3@aol.com to report any issues that you notice. The Parish Steward's next working day will be in December
- 4. Low Road 20 mph** – No update
- 5. Low Broadband speed** – Michael Maxwell continues to pursue this issue; he reports that broadband speeds at the lower end of Low Road can vary between 0.5 to 7mb on any one day. Funding may be available through BT Gainshare.
- 6. Defibrillator** – the Parish Council agreed in principle that a defibrillator should be installed in the village. Cost details were discussed.
- 7. Footpaths** – The chairman had walked all the footpaths and found them to be generally in good order, with the exception of CHEP 9 where it continues from CHEP 5
- 8. New Road Signs** – These have been installed. It is to be hoped that they will be effective in keeping HGVs out of Low Road
- 9. Millennium Green** – The ongoing difficulties of maintaining this area could be alleviated if shrubs were planted.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 11h January 2017

CHEVERELL MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

At its November meeting, Council received the resignation of Councillor Jane Andrew. Jane has been a Councillor for some 18 years, and Council paid tribute to her long service and support for our village. Thanks, Jane, and enjoy your rest !

This leaves the Council with a Casual Vacancy, which is nothing like the J.K. Rowling book and TV show the only qualification is that you must have lived or worked in Great Cheverell for at least a year, and the only requirement is that you're enthusiastic about our village, and want to improve it for the benefit of everyone, whether residents or visitors. If you want to know more, please contact the Parish Clerk. Or you could come along to our next meeting on 5th December (7.30pm. at the Pavilion, Witchcombe Lane) and see what the Council does – you'll be welcomed !

A number of Legal changes are required to the way the Council reports its financial affairs – after all, it is YOUR money we're spending, and you have a right to know what we do with it. The Council will start the process of agreeing its 2017/18 budget, which you will eventually see on your 2017/18 Council Tax bill, at the December meeting. But one of the other things we need is an Independent Internal Auditor, to look periodically at how we control things and to give YOU an assurance that everything is 'ship-shape and Bristol fashion'. This job does require some expertise but, if you think you can provide such a service (for which a small payment is made), again please contact the Clerk.

Chris Hall, Parish Clerk

Phone: 01380 816983 Email: parishcouncil@greatcheverell.org

THE LAVINGTONS HOME GROUP

Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. at 46 High Street, West Lavington (Mark and Caroline Spindlow)
Contact us on 01380 813445 or cwood772@btinternet.com.

On 14th December we will be having a Christmas social, once again this is at Ann Wilson's house - 7.30pm. Food and drink details to be finalised but all are welcome.

Our new course starts in the New Year on 11th January 2017 at 46 High Street.

Please feel free to come to any or all of the above!!

Next week is our final "Hearing God's voice" session. It will be at Ann Wilson's house (Hook's Court, 2nd in on the left!) at 7.30 p.m..

On 14th December we will be having a Christmas social; once again this is at Ann Wilson's house - 7.30 p.m. Food and drink details to be finalised but all are welcome.

Our new course starts in the New Year on 11th January 2017 at 46 High Street.

Please feel free to come to any or all of the above!!

Finally it looks as though a group of us will be attending New Wine next year for week 2. (30th July to 5th August 2017) The link for New Wine is: www.new-wine.org/



NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

Christmas time at Holy Trinity

All children in the school are involved in preparing for the Christmas plays at the moment. The story of the Nativity is always central to our fun in this term, and the plays involve lots of singing, dancing and laughing as the children tell the story of Christmas through the performances.

We will be holding our Handbell Concert with Community Carol Singing, on Wednesday 30th November at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome – always a very moving event. The children will also take part in a beautiful Christmas service in the local church, with candles and singing, and lots of our worship this term will deal with how we, whether people of faith, or not, can draw great messages and inspiration from this season. We always finish the term with a quiet meditation on the messages of Christmas – peace, generosity and welcome to all.

Exciting curriculum.

Children are always inspired to do great learning when they have had an offsite trip and we aim to offer as many of these trips as possible. This month, our youngest children have had a trip to Trowbridge museum to find out more about the history of toys (which is their theme for this term).

Our Eisteddfod choir has done very well, and won a trophy at the Devizes Eisteddfod. The choir was also asked to sing in one of the concerts that marks the end of the Eisteddfod – a great honour! We are very grateful to Ms Sharman who does such tremendous work enhancing music in our school, and we are very proud of the children who work with such commitment to achieve this success.

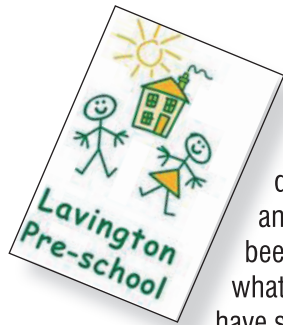
Parents and Friends Association

We are very fortunate to have the support of a hardworking and committed PFA in our school – last year they raised a huge amount of money to provide the children with an outdoor classroom, and every year they provide wonderful events and resources to enrich the experience of our children at school. They also help to build a warm, welcoming community amongst our families, children and staff. They are busy working towards our Christmas Fayre and the Christmas party this term – and they will also decorate the school and ensure that Santa brings every child a gift. Refreshments, including mulled wine and mince pies are provided by the PFA during our performances.

Every day is an open day

If you think your child would enjoy being at our school, please make an appointment to come and visit us, have a look around and chat to the Headteacher. There is lots of information on our website www.holy-trinity.co.uk and our phone number is 01380 813796.

We wish everyone in our school community and our wider community a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and a happy new year!



LAVINGTON PRE-SCHOOL

This term the children's investigations have been centred on *Winter and the weather*. As part of this we have been enjoying the changing colours around us, making various mixed media displays using the different textures in our Autumn environment and looking at how the weather changes all the time. We have been talking about how, when the weather changes, we change what we wear to keep us warm and dry. As always, if you feel you have something relevant that you would like to share with the children please let us know; it is always lovely for the children to have local visitors! We have also been regularly visited by ACTIVE Trowbridge this term and the children have loved this opportunity to learn new games and explore new equipment. We have also been very busy getting festive, making decorations and cards and singing Christmas songs. This year our Christmas party will be after school on the 9th December at 4 p.m. in the school hall and our last day of term will be Friday, the 16th December.

Here at Lavington Pre-school we would like to wish everyone a very peaceful and enjoyable Christmas!

TOP TIP: Our Top Tip for this month is from Physical Development: Moving and Handling EYFS, 22-36 months "Talk to children about their movements and help them to explore new ways of moving, such as squirming, slithering and twisting along the ground like a snake, and moving quickly, slowly or on tiptoe."

CO-OP FUNDING: We are delighted to say that we have recently applied for the Co-op local community fund and we have been successful. Every time Co-op members choose Co-op branded products and services and use their Co-op Membership card 1% of what they spend will go to their chosen local cause. If you have a Co-op membership card we would be very grateful if you would please select us as one of your local causes, thank you.

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING: In April 2014 the Government broadened the criteria for 2 year old funding for up to 15 hours per week and you may now find that you fall into the eligibility criteria if you have a child between 24 - 36 months old. If you think you might be eligible, you will need to complete a funding form: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/early-years-better-2gether-funding.pdf>

We currently have spaces available at our Outstanding Pre-school, if you would like to find out more information about us you can visit our website www.lavingtonpreschool.org.uk or contact our Manager, Becky Gray, on (01380) 812551 or Email: info@lavingtonpreschool.org.uk



WEST LAVINGTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Christmas is nearly here and to celebrate we are holding a Christmas Dinner on Friday 9th December in 7.30 p.m. in West Lavington Village Hall. This is open to everyone (not just members) at £12.50 per head. There will be a wine bar and raffle and a lot of fun. The dinner is from outside caterers so please let me know in plenty of time if you are coming.

In the New Year we are holding an Chinese New Year evening (it is the year of the Rooster), again open to non members. This will be on Saturday January 28th at 7 p.m. again in West Lavington Village Hall and again at £12.50 per head.

Our news from St Pierre is that the village of St Pierre is to be merged administratively with 2 adjacent villages. This means that there will be only one mayor instead of the current three and will mean an expansion of their twinning association. We therefore have the challenge of increasing our membership in order to host more in 2018. Membership of WL Twinning Association is already open to residents of villages near West Lavington, so all you have to do is send me an email if you would like to join us. I look forward to hearing from you!

Michael Page, Secretary (818510)

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When we arrived for our November meeting we found the Village Hall floor piled high with foliage. Behind this pile stood our speaker Sara Gruzelier, armed with a pair of secateurs. As the evening progressed the pile was gradually reduced. At the end of the evening Sara departed with a

large bag of prunings. The audience had been given instructions about pruning, some useful tips and also a live demonstration of pruning in progress. We were asked at times to imagine that Sara's outstretched arm clutching a frond was a wisteria fixed to a wall. Then out came the secateurs and we were left with a well pruned (imaginary) wisteria. And later we had to imagine that an intertwined bunch of branches was a shrub that needed some central branches removed to allow air to circulate so as to prevent mildew or other fungal diseases from developing.

This evening of theatre was a refreshing approach to giving us a basic guide to pruning. Sara is a renowned garden designer. She also teaches trainee gardeners and runs pruning workshops. She claims to have learned about pruning by following closely behind the Wisley trained gardener who came a few times a year to do the pruning in her own garden, Pilgrim Croft.

Sara said that many gardeners are terrified of doing the wrong thing when pruning. This often results in them not pruning hard enough. Others just have a go and often overdo it. Sara offered us some good advice. She advised that we learn the names of our plants so that we could look up the pruning instructions specific to that plant. Then there were some rules of thumb that gardeners use. For instance, there are 3 D's for pruning namely, take out Dead, Diseased and Dying branches. Always clean your secateurs after pruning each plant and especially after taking off diseased branches. Never prune when it is frosty or there is going to be a frost as the open cut will suffer freeze/thaw damage. In general, anything flowering before the longest day should be pruned when it has finished flowering and anything that flowers after the longest day should be pruned in spring. Always remove branches that cross each other and rub together. And remove branches that overhang paths (unless you are deliberately designing a covered arch or tunnel). On some tender plants, such as fuchsias you need to leave the flowers on throughout the winter until April as the flowering branches help to protect the rest of the plant from the winter weather. When removing diseased branches you need to check the cut end to make sure you have removed enough.

There was plenty of audience interaction. Sometimes there was an audible gasp as an imaginary shrub was reduced to a short stump. Sara also took questions from the floor and gave people ideas on how to tackle their problem plants. Many of us have now added good secateurs and a good book about pruning to our Christmas list and are looking forward to pruning instead of dreading it.

Our next meeting is our Christmas party on 13 December.

Our first meeting in 2017 will be on Tuesday 10th January. It will be about pests and diseases. We have been invited to take photographs of our problem plants or the problem pests to bring to the meeting for discussion. Meet at Great Cheverell Village Hall at 7.15pm.



WORTON AND CHEVERELL F.C.

With the FA rules, results of matches can only be published for age groups above Under 12 level, with some recent results for the Badgers being as follows:

U14 now in the top league of their age group, are currently in 2nd position having played 6 games with 12 points, following a tight 5-4 win against Westbury. In the Cup they drew with local rivals Devizes

2-2; however, lost on penalties.

U13 : Cup success, now into second round of the league Cup after an impressive 7-4 win away to higher league opposition Melksham Town. Also doing well in the league, currently joint top having only lost one match so far this season, and recent away win 0-1 against Bromham.

At the younger age groups of the Club, the training and friendly matches are more focused on development and skills:

Under 5s: Training is now indoors at Lavington School Sports Hall.

U7 and U8s The teams are continuing to improve with each game played. We are still looking for some more players to add to our team. Please contact Sharon Black (01380 818193) for more info.

U9: training continuing at Northbrook 6.30 p.m. Fridays

U10 – 2 teams. Currently learning the offside rule ready for next season. Training Fridays 6 p.m. at Northbrook.

U11: on a good run with positive league results against county opposition and are looking to continue that run into end of year and beyond. Training Fridays 5.30pm @ Northbrook

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4th 10.30 am	Rev Gary Gotham
11th 11.00 am	Christmas Gift Service at St Barnabas Church, Easterton
18th 10.30 am	Mrs Sue Smith
25th 10.00 am	United Family Service for Christmas Day at St Mary's Church. January
1st 10.30 am	Rev Gary Gotham
8th 11.00 am	Covenant Service
15th 10.30 am	Local Arrangement
22nd 10.30 am	Rev Tom MacMeekin
29th 10.30 am	Soul Café at St Andrew's, Long Street, Devizes

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Casual Cuppa – Friday 2nd December 10.30 am to noon. Drop- in for coffee and company.

Bob and Ash 's Bacon Breakfast – Saturday 10th December 9.00 – 2.00 pm.

Tots on Tuesdays – if you care for a baby, new-born to 18 months, drop into St.Arbucks on any Tuesday morning to meet others for a friendly chat and cup of coffee.

The Food Cave for 13 – 17 year olds. Open every Tuesday in term time 4.30 – 6.30 pm for young people to socialize and hang out. Prices are subsidized. Run for and by local young people. Free WIFI available.



WEDDINGS

Anna Victoria CLARK and William John Andrew FRAZER were married by Rev Paul Richardson at St Mary's Church, Market Lavington on Saturday 29th October.

Melanie HUNTER and Nicholas HOLMES of Market Lavington were married at St Mary's Church, Calstone on 5th November 2016.

FUNERALS

Gordon Cyril HEYWOOD of Great Cheverell, died on 13th October 2016, aged 72 years. His funeral at West Wilts Crematorium was on 24th October and his ashes were buried at All Saints' Churchyard the following day.

William "Bill" Titt of West Lavington died on 22nd October 2016, aged 101 years. A funeral was held at West Wilts Crematorium on Monday 31st October.

BENEFICE 200 CLUB

I thought it appropriate that on Remembrance Sunday I asked the uniformed youngsters of our villages to draw the numbers for November. Before parading into church for the service I asked Jessica Smith from the Market Lavington Guides to draw the first prize. This winning ticket for £40 turned out to belong to Jean Penrose of Worton. The second prize was drawn by Robert Martin of the Army Cadet Force and belonged to Jim Thomas of Little Cheverell. Thank you Jessica and Robert. Congratulations to Jean and Jim.

Your church 200 Club ticket sellers are out again with fresh tickets for 2017. Please support this initiative which brings in a sizable contribution to Benefice Funds for an outlay of only £12 which gives you 24 chances of a possible £40 or £20 win. It could be you!

Bonnie Matters - 816133

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas Disruption

Well, 2016 has certainly proven to be an eventful year, What with Brexit, Trump and what have you. After these shocks to the geopolitical system isn't it nice to be able to anticipate the warm, familiar glow of Christmas? It comes but once a year, bringing with it fond memories of Christmases past. Family gatherings, turkey and trimmings, pressies, the Queen on telly and so on. A chance to stop the world and get off for the festive season.

The first Christmas was rather more disruptive. Wise men from the East arrived at Herod's palace seeking the new born King of the Jews. Herod's reaction wasn't, 'Aw, baby Jesus, how sweet.' The power grabbing ruler could brook no rivals. He wanted the infant King killed. Shocking isn't it?

The message of Christmas is disruptive. It disrupts what we may think about God. We might expect him to make a universe to display his glory. But do we imagine for one minute that almighty God would enter the world as one of us, a flesh and blood human being? That's exactly what happened when Jesus was born. He is the Son of God born as man. His name is 'Immanuel', meaning 'God with us' as one of us.

Why did Jesus come? The Bible explains it was 'to save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21). That too is a disruptive thought. It suggests that all is not well between us and God and that we need to be forgiven to put things right. Well, yes. In the Gospel accounts there is a direct road from Bethlehem where Jesus was born to Calvary where he died for the sins of the world.

The wise men got it. They believed in Jesus, sought him out and worshipped him. They were prepared to embrace the disruptive power of God's grace in Jesus. How about you?

Season's greetings,
Pastor: Guy Davies www.providence-ebenezer.org.uk

Christmas at Ebenezer:
Sunday 18 December Morning Worship with Carols 11.00am
'Time for Tea Plus' Christmas Special 4.30pm A festive
tea, followed by a short carol service.
Sunday 25 December Christmas Morning Service 11.00am

MAGAZINE DATES

PLEASE NOTE - DATE FOR HANDING IN COPY IS
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STRUGGLING TO GET TO WORK?

If you or someone you know is over 16 and cannot access a job because of transport problems then the Wiltshire Wheels to Work scheme may be able to help.

Wiltshire Wheels to Work is a scheme which provides 50cc scooters, rider training and equipment on a short-term, not-for-profit basis to local people who would otherwise be unable to access work or work-based learning in Wiltshire.

The scheme is run by local communities' charity Community First.

For more information about the Wheels to Work scheme please visit www.communityfirst.org.uk/Wheels-to-work.htm or call (01380) 722475 and ask for Liam Tatton-Bennett or Sheila Martin.

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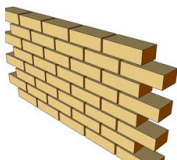


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