

THE UPPER WYLYE PARISH NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2013

'Growing in the Love of God'

1979 to 2013

Our vision is to be open, welcoming, growing and inclusive churches, living within the love of God, and sharing God's love and life with others.
<http://upperwyldevalleyteam.webs.com>



SAMARITANS PURSE

Please start collecting shoe boxes, and there are leaflets in the larger churches explaining what this is all about, and what we need to collect.

Thank you to all those who have knitted jumpers, scarves etc., some of these will go by road to Bulgaria with Trussell Trust in December, but we are concentrating on the Christmas Shoe Boxes this year.

Operation Christmas Child has delivered 100 million gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children in the last 23 years and we are trusting God for another 100 million.

Can we count on your support in 2013?

For leaflets and further information please contact Anne on 840339

TEAM SERVICE

11.00am Sunday 29th September
The Feast of St Michael & All Angels
will be held at Manor Farm, Codford
(by kind invitation of the Collins family)

Preacher: Archdeacon Alan Jeans



This service will be a little different as we will be meeting in a marquee at Manor Farm. This is an opportunity for all of our congregations to unite together from all the Churches of our Team to join in worship, prayer and fellowship – and Ven. Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum, will be with us.

The service is followed by a Bring & Share Lunch afterwards
to which everyone is warmly invited.

Come and join us – and bring family and friends!



THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY TEAM
PET SERVICE

**Sunday 15th September
3pm**

at Manor Farm Veterinary Surgery Codford



OUR ANNUAL PET SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER AT 3PM WE INVITE EVERYONE TO BRING THEIR PET ALONG FOR A SHORT SERVICE AND BLESSING. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE MANOR FARM VETERINARY SURGERY.

Hypo meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd Sept, Red Lion

If you are under 25 years or a parent of an under 16 and would like to make the villages a better place for young people to live please come along.

RIDE + STRIDES
for Churches

**Saturday
14 September**

Ride + Stride throughout Wiltshire and Dorset, visiting historic churches using various modes of transport and raising money at the same time. Contact Charles Graham (01672 514301, ctg100@hotmail.com) or Anna Butler (anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk).

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

A message from PN Chairman, David Shaw

The Parish News Committee hosted a simple but important party on 25th July 2013 to say 'Thank You' to all those who help with the monthly production of the magazine. The Chairman would like to take this opportunity to extend those thanks to all those who could not attend – the clergy and all contributors and distributors; without you the magazine would fail. Thank you very much

FROM THE REGISTER

Baptisms

We welcome into the Christian Church

Lucas Alexander James Rennie on 30th June at Codford St Mary

Monty Artimus Osborne on 3rd August at Tytherington

Jacob Michael Ethan Botting on 10th August at Sutton Veny

May they grow in the Christian Faith

Weddings

Congratulations to

Lauren Cundick and Paul Sanger on 5th July at Heytesbury

Georgina Acworth and Georgios Kyriakoudes on 20th July at Norton Bavant

Emily Woznika and Alex Millican on 27th July at Sutton Veny

May they have many happy years of married life together

Funerals

Our sympathy and love to those who mourn the passing of

Audrey Sampson on 5th July at Sutton Veny/Semington

Minnie Lamb on 19th July at Semington

Mavis Lister on 23rd July at Codford St Peter

Reginald John Francis on 23rd July at Semington

Nicholas John Carpenter on 31st July at Semington

May they rest in the peace and light of Christ

Please contact the Ministry Team to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confirmation preparation or Service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage. The clergy will officiate at any crematorium service.

TEAM DIARY

Please let Anne know of any social dates you have so these can be included, and it avoids clashing with other dates and events. We have no ITEMS FROM SOME OF OUR villages; please do send your events in. This magazine is delivered door to door in all of our **ten villages**.

T: 840339 or

E: revannebennettshaw@btinternet.com

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7th Food Festival at Codford

Sunday 15th Pet Service at Codford

Friday 27th Big Coffee Morning

Sunday 29th Team Service Codford

OCTOBER

Monday 7th -14th Retreat to Iona

Saturday 12th Beattle Drive & Supper Sutton Veny

Friday 18th Friends HTK talk at Codford

NOVEMBER

Monday 4th Mens Breakfast

The Speaker on Monday 4 November will be Bishop Crispian Hollis, the Roman Catholic Bishop Emeritus of Portsmouth.

Saturday 30th Christmas Fayre

Heytesbury Church

DECEMBER

Monday 9th Holiday at Home Codford



WELLINGTON TO WATERLOO

WELLINGTON2WATERLOO BY BICYCLE

During 24-27 September, Michael and Judith Hutchings will be cycling with approximately 300 other volunteers, 230 backside-numbing miles from Wellington Barracks, London to Waterloo in Belgium to raise funds for the Grenadier Guard's Colonel's Fund (Prince Phillip is the Regiment's Colonel). The charity's aim is to provide support to the many Grenadiers wounded during 3 tours in Afghanistan, and to the families who have had relatives killed in action. You can find out more about W2W by visiting

<http://www.wellington2waterloo.co.uk>. If you would like to support us and this very worthwhile cause please visit Judith's JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/Judith-Dando or make your donation payable to The Colonel's Fund and pop it into 68 High Street, Heytesbury. With very many thanks for your generosity.

PRAYER GROUP

This continues to meet at 7pm-9pm on Mondays at 5 Hospital of St. John.

Please contact Anne 840339 for prayer requests or further information.



MEN'S BREAKFAST 2013/2014

I hope that you are all having a great summer. Time flies and the next session of **Mens' Fellowship Breakfasts will start on Monday 7 October**.

The arrangements will be much the same as before. The Breakfast starts at 8.15 at the Bishopstrow House Hotel. It normally ends by 9.30 after the talk, questions and prayers. The car park is tight so car sharing would be a great help. The cost of the Breakfast has risen modestly to £8.50 but we will still collect £10 so no change overall. The Speaker will get a little less for his Charity so we will put out a box for donations if you would like to donate or are persuaded to give more.

The Speaker on Monday 7 October will be Mr Angus Macpherson, the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner. He will talk about his plans for the Police Service in the County and also discuss some of the challenges. Should be interesting.

If you would like to attend please ring: Simon Firth (850767) or Henry Collins (850193)

Monday 7 October -

Mr Angus Macpherson. Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Monday 4 November -

Bishop Crispian Hollis. Roman Catholic Emeritus Bishop of Portsmouth

Monday 2 December -

Mr John Smith

Monday 6 January - To be confirmed

Monday 3 February -

The Right Reverend Edward Condry.

Bishop of Ramsbury

Monday 3 March -

General Sir Roger Wheeler.

Monday 7 April -

Mr Richard Southwell QC

Please note that these dates may change but if so will be well published. Great if you can join us for these enjoyable events

Best Wishes. Simon.

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MINISTRY TEAM LETTER

From John Tomlinson, The Rectory, Sutton Veny

Dear Friends

By the time this letter is being read, many of us will have had the privilege of being away on holiday during the summer. For some people, that joy might be awaiting, now that the schools are back, costs are much lower and holiday places are more quiet! I think it's really important for those of us who are able to take holidays to remember what a privilege it is. Many people are not able to go away on holiday: because of lack of finances, for instance, or because of family or work commitments, or because people are elderly, infirm or

housebound.

For those of us who have been able to go away on holiday, unless things have gone seriously wrong, it will have been a time of relaxation and refreshment – in whatever form that takes for us. (It's not that living here in the Wylde Valley is a bad thing – far from it! – how blessed we are to live in this lovely place. It's just that it's often good to get away from the normal routine of life and from the expectations that are on us day by day.) But when we come back, we return refreshed and re-invigorated, our internal batteries fully re-charged, and ready for the regular pattern of life.


All of this begs a question though: how

do we sustain and refresh ourselves day by day, when we're not on holiday? Or do we just rely on those internal batteries lasting out until we are next able to get away? The same question applies even more, to those who are unable to take holidays.

We all relax and refresh ourselves in different ways. For the extrovert, they tend to be the more social activities, meeting with others, doing things together; sharing a meal with friends or a pint in the local pub, for instance. For the more introverted, it may be sitting listening to some good music, or going on a peaceful walk in the countryside. It may be spending 'quality time' with our nearest and dearest, reading, taking part in sport or watching it. Not forgetting what is wonderfully now called, 'retail therapy'! And many, many other ways too, of course. Whoever we are, we need those times in life, not just holidays, to relax and refresh ourselves – to attend to our own well-being.

One of the aspects of our well-being, is to look after the spiritual side of our nature. We don't have to be on holiday to do this: some of us might do it by enjoying the lovely countryside around us, some by listening to music or enjoying art, for example. Within the church, looking after our spiritual selves is recognised as vitally important: it's about maintaining our contact with God who made us, loves us, and is always near to us. And at the heart of building and developing our relationship with God are prayer and worship. Some of this is very personal and simply between us as individuals and God: it's about spending time regularly in the presence of God. But there's also a corporate dimension to this, which is about meeting with others for prayer and worship.

As always there is a wide variety of services to choose from for anyone who would like to join us; and there are Harvest Festival services, for example, throughout the Team later this month or at the beginning of next. Everyone is warmly invited and is very welcome at any of our services.

With my prayers for the well-being of everyone who  lives and works in our villages.

MAGNA CARTA FLOWER FESTIVAL, 2015.

Salisbury Cathedral will be organising a major flower festival in September 2015, entitled Magna Flora. All parish flower arrangers are invited to take part. To register your interest, contact Susan Branch on susan.branch@btinternet.com. There will be a launch meeting in the Cathedral in January 2014



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“FROM ANTIQUARY TO ARCHAEOLOGIST”

William Cunnington 1754 – 1810

William Cunnington was born near Gretton in Northamptonshire, the second of John and Elizabeth Cunnington's six children. At around the age of fourteen he was given the Cooper family bible by his maternal grandfather, and apprenticed to a clothier or draper in, or near Warminster. In 1772 he is listed as a member of the Common Close Chapel, a Congregational church in Warminster. Shortly afterwards he moved to Heytesbury, and eventually established his own business as a wool merchant, mercer and draper. According to Edith Olivier he lived in the Estate House. In 1787 he married Mary, daughter of Robert Mearns of Wallbridge House, Frome. She, and their three daughters accompanied him on many of his later expeditions.

Cunnington's health was not strong. It has been suggested that he suffered from acromegaly, an abnormality of the pituitary gland, which caused severe headaches. He recorded that his doctors "told me I must ride out or die. I preferred the former, and thank God, though poorly, I am yet alive". Although self-educated, he was widely read, and soon expanded his interests from geology to antiquarianism and serious archaeological research.

In 1798 Cunnington met the author and antiquarian John Britton whom he provided with details of his excavations. He dug at Knook Castle, and under the fallen stones at Stonehenge. He also obtained permission to excavate the Roman villa at Pitmead. In 1801 he was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a rare honour for someone with his background. He made other contacts in the antiquarian world including H.P. Wyndham, M.P. for Wiltshire (whose sister was married to Sir William a Court of Heytesbury House), and the Reverend William Coxe, rector of Bemerton. On 24th March 1803, at the latter's instigation, Sir Richard Colt Hoare, and his illustrator Philip Crocker called on Cunnington at Heytesbury. Hoare agreed to pay for the labourers' expenses in a programme of barrow excavations to be supervised by Cunnington whose reports would provide much of the source material for the first volume of the History of Ancient Wiltshire. It is dedicated to him.

Theories about the date and purpose of barrows differed widely. Wyndham thought that long barrows were the graves of warriors slain in battle, because of their scale and the disarticulation of the bones. He also regarded the classical authors as the best sources of information on ancient British monuments. Cunnington wrote to Hoare: "I have ever had the highest respect

for people who have had a liberal education like yourself; but I contend that the information to be gathered from Roman and Greek historians will afford little information as data for illustrating Abury, Stonehenge, Marden etc., the works of an ancient people like the Celtic Britons." Hoare proclaimed, somewhat ambitiously: "We speak from facts, not theory". Chronology was constrained by the general acceptance of Archbishop Ussher's opinion that the world was created in 4004 B.C.

Cunnington's principal diggers were Stephen Parker of Heytesbury, and his son John. By modern standards their methods were haphazard, but they were a considerable improvement on earlier practice. Much was destroyed, but much was preserved and recorded in Cunnington's collections. Expert advice was sought. Animal bone was taken to the local butcher for identification. Soils were examined, complete sections dug, and an attempt was made to understand the meaning of the monuments and not just to retrieve antiquities. Cunnington's most famous find was the Stonehenge urn, the first example of a Deverel-Rimbury barrel urn (c1,000 B.C.) now in Devizes museum. Cunnington and Hoare opened c.465 long and round barrows, and left coins or tokens in them to be found by future excavators. In 1803 Cunnington opened the Upton Gold Barrow, and in 1804 he was working on the land of another friend, Aylmer Bourke Lambert. He opened the barrows at Corton, Boyton and Sherrington.

Hoare was a frequent visitor. In 1808 he commissioned a portrait of Cunnington by Samuel Woodforde which forms the frontispiece of the first part of Ancient Wiltshire, and is now in Devizes museum. In 1809 he wrote: "I beg you will give me a piece of roast meat at two o'clock; and I liked my bed so well at the Angel that I beg you will bespeak it for me again for

that night".

In 1810 the first part of Ancient Wiltshire was published. It is dedicated: "To you, therefore Sir, who first projected the plan of this history, and by your interesting collections, and important discoveries, encouraged me to pursue it, this work is most gratefully and appropriately dedicated by your sincere friend, etc., Richard Colt Hoare. Stourhead, 1 January, 1810"

Cunnington's health was deteriorating. Hoare suggested arsenic as a cure for headaches, while the vicar of Gretton wrote: "I hope it is not yet too late to derive much advantage from a more generous use of the grape." Cunnington died on 31st December 1810. He is buried in Heytesbury churchyard. There is a memorial stone in St. Katherine's chapel, and a print of Woodforde's portrait hangs in the vestry. Hoare bought his collections which are now in Devizes museum. Ancient Wiltshire remains a very important contribution to English archaeology. Hoare wrote: "He was the alpha of this publication; Fate forbade that he should be the omega".

"From Antiquary to Archaeologist is the title of Robert H. Cunnington's biography of his great great grandfather.

Author the late Maria Mayall

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DOG POOP PROBLEMS?!

Do you own a dog? (may be that should read, "Are you owned by a dog?") Most dog owners are responsible adults who pay their council tax and parking fines. Some of these dog owners are well respected within the community, have important jobs, volunteer for local organisations and are members of local clubs; but that responsibility seems to end when it comes to clearing up after their dog. There are laws in place to encourage people to pick up after their pooches. So why do these responsible dog owners break the law and breach this legislation daily? I can understand why! It's hardly the most pleasant job in the world! I mean the smell,

the texture and it's so fresh it's still disgustingly warm. Truly a grim task by any ones standards – so much so that even those with the strongest of stomachs may find themselves heaving. Of course there are also people who think it beneath them to stoop and pick up poo and would hate to be seen carrying round a little bag with a small parcel inside that is highly fragrant. But does that moment of unpleasantness during a dog owner's walk bring any comfort to the lady running to catch the train to work who stepped in poo? The little boy running down to the park in excitement who fell in it? Or the parents of the little girl who has permanent eye damage and is partially blind as a result of Toxocariasis?

Puppies can produce as many as 100,000 roundworm eggs per gram of faeces. These eggs can survive for up to THREE YEARS in soil and it is younger children that are predominantly at risk of infection due to their weaker immune system.

I recommend keeping your poo bags by your dogs lead, making sure that your dog is wormed every 3-6 months and making a mental note of dog waste bins in the vicinity that you walk your dog.

If you really can't bring yourself to do it, why not hire a responsible local pet care business like Wiltshire Pet Care

(www.wiltshirepetcare.com) to walk your dog for you – that way you are delegating the task and your dog is making new friends of the four and two legged variety all in one go.

There are many responsible dog owners out there who do pick up after their dogs. If we all set that example, our children will follow it and we will make the world a cleaner, better and most importantly safer place for them and our grandchildren to live in.

Jo Middleton
Wiltshire Pet Care
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DIGIT'S DIARY (or the Dog Blog) as narrated to David Shaw

What a summer it has been – and it's not over yet, they say. Hottest since 1976 when the Guv'nor was a lad (well under 30 anyway) and I delight in it as I love the warmth. Turbo is a different matter altogether as he has a luxurious fur coat that doesn't suit the heat. Serve him right for being such a 'teacher's pet' and for not letting on that I have taught him everything he knows. This is emulated in every household in the land that has children; first, no parent will admit to having a favourite child although it is obvious to me that the one who is least trouble is just that and, second, children never admit to having learned anything from their siblings. Hang on a tick – or 'paws for thought' – explain? The Guv'nor reckons even schools that should know better set an appalling example these days, with a typical instance being a message about a forthcoming field trip from one of the grandchildren's schools warning about the perils this year of ticks (and Limes Disease that might result from picking up these nasty little insects). The trouble was that the school spelled it 'tic' which he thought was a nervous twitch some people have. 'Get real', he was told; 'spelling doesn't matter anymore as long as the sense comes out clearly'. He then bemoaned the drop in standards at our schools for the next half hour and ranted

about such expressions as 'Get real' but I am inclined to agree with him. What next, I ask myself? Will dogs whoof for their biskits?

Turbo picks up ticks as they can cling on to his long fur and then bury themselves into his tasty young skin so he has to be inspected every day; he hates the process – until the biscuit tin is placed on the table in front of him. The Guv'nor was despatched to the Vet's to buy one of those plastic gadgets which hook underneath the tick and then with a swift twist and a pull, out comes the little fat blood-sucker with head intact. He took Turbo up with him as part of the 'familiarity training' regime they occasionally remember to follow and the little toe-rag swanned into the Vet's as if he owned it, haughtily ignoring the cat that was safely locked away in its basket and sitting quietly with its female owner. The Guv'nor paid his three quid and turned round to find that Turbo had pooped on the waiting room floor – and right in front of the cat (who probably wasn't very well anyway), to his acute embarrassment and the disgust of the cat's owner.

We went to the Boyton and Corton Fête and were both entered in the Dog Show. My dismay at not achieving a prize in the Veterans' Class was mitigated by the fact that Turbo didn't win anything in any of the

other classes either. This was unexpected, actually, as his father is a Champion Dog and his mother a beautiful bitch just like me but with longer legs – and that usually moves any male judge. I have mixed emotions about the event; on the one hand I'm upset but, on the other, Turbo had his come-uppance. Sadly, there was no class for 'Grumpiest Owner'. He'd have won that one hands down.

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BOOK REVIEW



LARK RISE TO CANDLEFORD

I'm recommending an old favourite. Perhaps I should begin with an apology to those who loved the television series, because after seeing one programme, I thought it a pale reflection of the original: sentimental, sanitised and adapted for relevance to the twenty first century viewer.

The author, Flora Thompson, wrote her autobiography as three books, which were later published under the one title, and apart from name changes (she is Laura) there is nothing fictional about it. It is not only genuine social history, but a splendidly observant record of childhood (the best part). Flora was born in 1876 to humble and hard-working parents in north Oxfordshire, the tiny hamlet Juniper Hill (Lark Rise), where now no houses remain, but go to nearby Cottisford and you can sit in the church pew near the open door where Laura and brother Edmund looked out at birds and butterflies during the long service). Turn inwards and you see the list


of those killed in the 'Great' War- including Edwin Timms (Edmund).

In the book, Laura, thought a plain, thin girl, sees with the new eyes and ears of a child, also with later insights into character: and there are eccentric characters (yes I'm sure television made the most of them). She describes life in the family End House, (the wall plastered with newspaper cuttings), with some humour; their home was one down, two up, bigger than the neighbours'. There are vivid descriptions of harvest sports and games, of adult conversations, of her father's political views, of Laura's first trip, on a cart, to Candleford (Buckingham) all of eight miles away, and of school. Laura was shocked by the teasing of the new teacher! She and Edmund both won the only school prize, a large calf-bound Book of Common Prayer, given by the rector whose favourite sermon was on the supreme right of the social order...

Flora Thompson, having left school at fourteen to become an assistant to the village post mistress, was the author of

several books but it was the Lark Rise trilogy, written in her fifties, which brought her fame, taking the reader into the lives, homes and countryside of an already vanished world. CH

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURGERY 2013

We are currently basking in a mid summer heat wave for the first time for some summers. It seems a long time since I wrote the last newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

We are delighted to welcome Dawn Long to the Reception Team having worked locally as a carer. She takes the place of Penny Edmonds who has embarked on retirement. We wish Penny well in her garden nurturing her bees and thank her for the many years of service at the Practice.

Mandy Newland is also new to the Reception Team. Mandy has been working in the hospital as a Phlebotomist and will continue to fulfil that role within the Practice in addition to accompanying Dominique, Dawn, Paula and Sheila in Reception

Alison James has been working in the Eye Clinic and prior to that was working as a Practice Nurse in Devizes. Alison will be honing her Practice Nurse skills over the coming years and I am sure you will all make her welcome.

FEEDBACK

We are fortunate at Codford in often receiving positive feedback and thanks from our Patients. We are very grateful for this as it helps maintain morale and certainly we feel that most of the time we are working as a team hand in hand with our patients in trying to achieve better health care. Sometimes patients are kind enough to write to us, this is particularly the case where perhaps we have gone the extra mile in helping someone. However, we appreciate that our style of medicine does not suit everybody and sometimes despite our best efforts something goes wrong. We would want Patients to feed-

back to us in either instance to enable us to learn, change our Practice and reconsider surgery services in the light of that feedback. This can now be done online with the NHS Choices website. If you have access to a computer and feel that you have a comment to make on the health care that is offered at Codford Surgery then please go to the NHS Choices website and leave your comment whether it be to compliment or to criticise. This can be done anonymously. If you put NHS Choices into Google and then search for the Cherry Orchard Surgery you will find that Cherry Orchard Surgery is one of the options in addition to the Old Orchard Surgery in Wilton.

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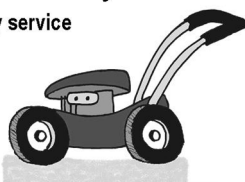
As of the end of August, the email address for Codford dispensary will no longer work. We have taken this opportunity to try to improve the online access to the surgery for our patients that like to manage their health needs online.

For those of you that don't know, we have a relatively new website at www.theorchardpartnership.co.uk. From here you will be able to follow a link to order your repeat prescriptions online and also to book appointments directly if you wish.

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All you need to do is request a user name and password from the front desk in order to log on to our online service (System One).

We hope this new online facility will be well-received. Certainly other practices that use this process locally have found it a great success. As ever any feedback will be gratefully received!

THANK YOU

The church in Boyton and the Fane Hall in Corton wish to record their deep appreciation to all who came to their fete on 6 July and gave it such good support. You raised a magnificent total of a little over £4,200 after expenses which will be equally shared between the church and hall.

A very big thank you to you all. We hope you enjoyed the day which fortunately was blessed with perfect weather – no wind to blow the tents down and no need for brollies!

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

Time flies! It will soon be time to buy Christmas cards again, and where better than our big sale of Charity Christmas cards at Boyton. As always there will be a huge choice of cards, as well as stocking fillers, wrapping paper etc. This years sale will be at The Ginger Piggery from Wednesday 23rd - Sat 26th October inclusive. Please make a note in your diary, book lunch in The Trough if you wish, and bring your friends!

MACMILLAN WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

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**PRODUCE STALL
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A big thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make the Produce Sales such a success so far.

The weather earlier in the season meant we were a bit behind with the garden produce, but we have had a wonderful supply of home made goodies and as a result we have made on average the same as last year.

Please support us for the last two sales on 7th and 14th September and make Saturday mornings a lovely social event.

**ST JOHN'S
SOCIAL CALENDAR**

Our monthly coffee morning will be WEDNESDAY 11th September at 10.30am and we invite everyone to join us to support our charities of the year. Lots of homemade cakes, savouries and preserves.

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WOMENS SECTION
HEYTESBURY**

Our next meeting is on 25th September. Our Speaker this month is P.C. Caroline Wright, our local Community Police Officer, who will talk about her work which should be a very interesting talk. We meet in the Resident's Hall of the Hospital of St John at 2.30p.m. Visitors always welcome."

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Summer's end but still we are having golden days. In the mornings and the evenings there is that hint of Autumn in the air and one afternoon last week the sky above the village was thronged with House Martins. We have had so few this Summer but there they were, gathering all ready to move South, numbers increased by this year's young and travellers from the North. It is exciting to see them but I am always saddened, thinking of what lies ahead for them such lightweight little beings to take on such a journey.

The land stretches under the sun, a tawny lion skin of ripening corn and already the combines lumber across fields. The race to gather in has begun and after last year let us hope the weather is benign. I happened to be in Avebury at the beginning of August and there was a celebration of Lammas Tide. In Medieval times (and beyond) the beginning of Harvest was marked and here in Avebury on 4th August was a similar event, long robes, garlands, folk drums, all gentle pastoral stuff. Our Harvest Thanksgiving is celebrated when the Harvest is completed. In Sherrington church this year it will be on 6th October at six o'clock, BCP. As is the practice now we give tinned and packet food. Not as colourful as the fruit and vegetables of previous years but

really welcomed by the Food Bank for distribution.

Last month I mentioned the dearth of grasshoppers. Out on the Plain at the end of July I put my rucksack down on the grass and behold, a beautiful green grasshopper alighted. In an area such as that where no pesticide or herbicide corrupts, there is a rich variety of wildlife in all its forms. Not rich in Barn Owls this year however, it is the worst year that Nigel has recorded and reflects the losses of last year due to torrential in June followed by the heavy rainfall in January and February this year and the bitter cold March and April. This caused a massive decline in the ground mammal population and those owls that survived were not fit enough to breed. Conditions are better now, all we need is some normal weather for the remainder of Summer and a reasonable Winter.

The intense heat of our Summer must have made stock management a nightmare. Huge dairy herds require a huge amount of grazing. Last month I mentioned the wealth of wild flowers to be seen on the bank leading up past the chalk pit in Sherrington Bottom. I went back a day or two later to find that cattle had been there and pronounced them not only beautiful but delicious! How could I grudge them such a treat when grass was in such short

supply! At this time of course Ragwort is rampant and together with tall spires of sorrel it makes the grazing land look very poor. I believe it is not harmful to cattle but hugely dangerous for horses and it is an anxiety to see them on poor grazing with ragwort present. Some horses do get a very raw deal.

It is so wonderful to see gardens alive with bees and butterflies too. Our lavender and now the hollyhocks are a frenzy of activity and it is a delight. Opulent peacock butterflies bask on warm stones and cluster on the buddleia jostled by industrious bees. In the Great Ridge wood flowers on the brambles are starred with stunning copper coloured butterflies. I thought they should be called Large Coppers but find they are Silver Washed Fritillaries. When they close their wings the underside shows silver grey. There are clouds of small butterflies too and I am told that those are Skippers. Again we need a gentler Winter this year to help these beleaguered species. A recent television programme looked at the decline in bees. Interesting that in towns and urban areas they appear to do better. Hardly surprising when one compares flower rich gardens with the mono-culture that so often is the rural scene. In an ideal world all the hectares of arable land would be bordered with a margin of wild flower mix, that might go some way towards putting things right. In that same programme a bee keeper was augmenting his depleted hives with imports from Italy (or was it Spain). I wonder at the wisdom of that when we look at the result of importing ash trees.

Flowers in the church have been lovely this Summer. It is good to see, when locking up, that they have been remembered and that fresh flowers are on the altar. In the churchyard I feared that badgers were moving in so deep was their excavation. In desperation I sprinkled some pepper and was relieved to see, a day or two later that a cobweb had been spun over the entrance. Bob Beagley has since filled it in and sown grass seed. Mrs Chivers had a visitation from Brock who knocked over some milk bottles during the night. I am not sure if they were full!

Hats off for Charlie and Rosie Thomas of Spring Head. They completed the hundred mile London Cycle Ride and with two small children and so many demands on their time making training very difficult that was a huge achievement. Their chosen charity was the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, very well done.

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UPPER WYLYE VALLEY TEAM CHURCH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE
1st	Sutton Veny	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14th Sunday	Upton Lovell	9.30am	Holy Communion
after Trinity	Codford St. Mary	10.00am	Family Service
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Parish Communion Choir
8th	Codford St. Mary	9.30am	Patronal Festival Parish Communion
15th Sunday	Norton Bavant	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
after Trinity	Sutton Veny Village Hall	10.00am	Family Service
(The Blessed Virgin Mary)	Boyton	11.00am	Patronal Festival Parish Communion Choir
	Knook	11.00am	Parish Communion
15th	Codford St. Mary	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
16th Sunday	Tytherington	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
after Trinity	Heytesbury	10.00am	Family Service
	Codford St. Peter	11.00am	Parish Communion Choir
	Sutton Veny	11.00am	Parish Communion
	Manor Farm Vets	3.00pm	Pet Service
	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
22nd	Boyton	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
17th Sunday	Heytesbury	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
after Trinity	Codford St. Peter	9.30am	Parish Communion
	Norton Bavant	11.00am	Harvest Festival
	Sutton Veny	11.00am	Matins (BCP) Choir
	Upton Lovell	11.00am	Parish Communion
29th	Manor Farm, Codford	11.00am	TEAM SERVICE Choir
	St. Michael & All Angels		

WEDDINGS

7th September at Norton Bavant 14th September at Sutton Veny

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 Heytesbury
 Wednesday 8.30am
 St. Peter's Codford
 Thursday 8am Upton Lovell
 Friday 8am Sutton Veny

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Wednesdays at 10am
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USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Please telephone 840339 to change or include a contact number – we would be grateful for any suggestions to the update

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ASSOCIATE PRIESTS: The Rev'd Anne Bennett-Shaw 840339 revannebennettshaw@btinternet.com **The Rev'd Ian Duff** 850291
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