

T H E U P P E R W Y L Y E PARISH NEWS



FEBRUARY 2017

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1979 to 2017

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.

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OUR LOCAL HERO

The Parish News is on a quest to winkle out our local heroes, a quest made more difficult when the people we are looking for are those modest, unsung heroes who hide their light well and truly under a bushel.

Our hero for this issue is most certainly in that category. I first met this person some 11 years ago when, having bought a somewhat neglected property, we needed to repair or replace wall plates and floorboards and discovered this amazing carpenter/joiner who sorted everything with the minimum of fuss and bother. Since then, wardrobes, cupboards, shutters and doors have been built and installed by this same person. I hear you say so what? A hero? But wait a minute, this same person is a wildlife photographer par excellence, has huge knowledge of wildlife, has a beautiful bass voice, is a truly "gentle" man, is a Lay Pastoral Assistant and has helped lead Family Services in the Upper Wyllye Valley for many years. He has also been instrumental in bringing young people into the Church through lots of outdoor activities. No prizes for guessing, our hero is Roger Hammond.

Peter Hopkins

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Visiting voices p.4

Places to visit with out breaking the bank p.4

Young voices p.7

Coffee and Cake in Codford p.8

Photographs from a series illustrating the Stations of the Cross by Roger Hammond

THE DIARY

Please let Robin know of any Social Dates you have so they can be included in the diary. We deliver this magazine door to door to all our ten villages, and the editorial team would love to have a greater overview of what is going on in the villages.

T: 840790 robinwculver@mac.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION HEYTESBURY BRANCH

Our next monthly branch meeting will be held on 22nd February 2017 at the Hospital of St John. Our Speaker is Mr Chris Piechowski talking about his Father's early life in Poland, entitled "For our Freedom and Yours"

There will be our usual Bring and Buy stall. Visitors always welcome.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I would like to thank all of you within Heytesbury, Knook and Tytherington who so kindly volunteered to collect for this year's Poppy Appeal. The final total for the 2016 collection for Heytesbury, Knook and Tytherington was £2250.72 which was £139.63 down on last year. As you are all aware this money does a lot of good for our Servicemen and Women and their families so thank you all once again.

Mary Phillips - Poppy Appeal Organiser

Heytesbury Village Hall Exhibition Monday 13th February 2017 Heytesbury Primary School Hall 4pm to 8pm

Come, walk in and inspect the plans for your Village Hall, talk with the Architects and give us your opinions and suggestions. Learn about the associated small-scale housing development needed to fund our new Village Hall. View the business plan, see a programme of proposed activities and the contribution that a Village Hall could bring to our community.

Tea & biscuits available

Free entry to all residents of the Parish
This is your opportunity to comment on the future of our villages.

Your ideas will be very welcome.



PRAYER GROUP

We meet weekly.

If you have any prayer requests, please call Anne on 840339.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Tuesday 7 February.

Mark Hedges. Editor of Country Life.

As usual, the breakfasts are at the Bishopstrow House Hotel, starting 8.15am. The cost is £10, of which £2 goes to a charity of the Speaker's choice. (philip.clark@uwvbreakfast.myzen.co.uk)

FILMS AT THE WOOLSTORE

Wednesday 1 February 7.30pm

BRIDGET JONES' BABY (15)

Bridget's focus on single life is interrupted when she finds herself pregnant, and unsure of the identity of her baby's father.

Broad gags, choice turns and some terrific slapstick involving a hospital revolving door elevate a possibly opportunistic outing into a solid and satisfying comeback.

Starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and Patrick Dempsey.

Tickets £6.00 available in advance at Budgens Post Office 01985 850345

Or at the door on the night (if not sold in advance).

Wednesday 1 March 7.30 pm
A STREET CAT NAMED BOB (15)

A comedy drama based on the best-seller by James Bowen.

Returning home one day James (Luke Treadaway) a Covent Garden busker, finds a ginger cat sitting on his doorstep but leaves him assuming he's a neighbour's pet. When Bob remains outside his front door, James realises he's injured taking him to the RSPCA and deciding to take the cat into his own care. Also starring Joanne Froggatt (Anna Bates in Downton Abbey).

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ST JOHN'S SOCIAL EVENTS

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 8th Feb at 10.30am.

NSPCC WARMINSTER DISTRICT

invites you to a talk by

Commander Michael Cheshire MBE.

LORD NELSON

- from sickly boy to national hero - and
LADY HAMILTON: heroine or survivor?
at the Woolstore Theatre, Codford
on Friday 10 February 2017 at 7.30pm.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*My eyes have seen your salvation
[Jesus], which you have prepared in the
sight of all people, a light for revela-
tion... and for glory"*

(Luke 2 v30-32)

Contributed by Robin Hungerford

QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of the
Wylve Valley Disabled Children's
Riding Charity

Registered Charity No. 1343002

Raising funds for the

Wylve Valley Summer Riding Camp

Sunday 19th February 2017

The Red Lion, Heytesbury

Starting 7:30pm Team competition

Booking essential - ring Sam or Kellie

01985 840315

February always seems to me a bleak and rather austere month; the festivities of Christmas a distant memory, but spring and Easter still a long way off - and this year Lent doesn't start till March. It's a dark and depressing month, reminiscent of T S Eliot's words (in *Murder in the Cathedral*) "Longer and darker the day; shorter and colder the night". There are brief moments of light at Candlemas on the 2nd, and of the day of that very secular saint Valentine on the 14th. Otherwise it's just a long dark slog.

But there are many things that happen in darkness. Many birds and animals come out and do their hunting at night. Beneath the soil, bulbs are stirring and pushing up green shoots. Within the womb, the baby grows. And it is often when we feel within us that we are groping in the dark for understanding, or comfort or hope, that God is walking with us most closely, holding us up, and accompanying us through this time of doubt or stress. It doesn't matter if you don't "feel" anything; faith isn't about feelings, it's about trust and hope - as the Letter to the Hebrews says, "faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of

what we do not see." Darkness can be a time of growth and of new life.

So if you are going through "the valley of the shadow", be comforted - you are not alone, and this time may turn out to be very fruitful. And the Presence that has kept you company through the darkness will be there when the light returns, as it will - for "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it". May God bless you this February and bring you into his marvellous light.
Jane Shaw

HOST

Offer your hand for international friendship! Welcome an adult international student into your home for a day, weekend, or Easter, and do your bit to make the world a little friendlier. I frequently have international students to stay (I'm expecting two for this coming weekend), and they have always been charming, and very interesting people. Many students from across the world very much want to spend a few days with English people, learning about our culture, experiencing family home-life, and talking about their own country. An Easter or a Christmas invitation is particularly appreciated by students who otherwise rattle about in an empty hall of residence, missing their own family at home.

My last guest, Gina Karina from Indonesia, wrote: "A Christmas very well spent! Thank you jolly much for your kindness and all the knowledge (and the amazing meals!)"

Hosting is entirely voluntary, is suitable for all ages and can happen at any time throughout the year with HOST, a charity set up in 1987. To find out more, or be put in touch with our local organiser, write to me or visit www.hostuk.org, or call 020 7739 6292.
Jane Shaw

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Our sympathy and love to those who mourn the passing of

Daphne Spetch

8th December at Codford St Mary

Linda Frost

22nd December

at Salisbury Crematorium

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.



EDITORIAL

We are all so busy these days, looking at our phones, working, going from A to B. Yet we miss so much in this beautiful world of ours. Recently, whilst walking through one of our ten villages, I saw a fascinating image. The door has been there for a long time but the fact it was being prepared for Christmas made it even better. I am not too sure that the dog walker I met, who was allowing her dog to wee on the door, appreciated my comments: "Don't let your dog drown the fairies...!" She gave me a very strange look and crossed the road. Are there any interesting things in your village? Please let the editor know.

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VISITING VOICES – WILL, MY UNKNOWN SOLDIER

In 1988 I found, in a collectables shop, two framed collections of WW1 postcards, including one photo. I was intrigued: who was this young man, dressed in an Australian Army uniform; why was this collection in a shop? I bought the frames and they became part of our household.

We knew his name was Will; he had written his name on a Christmas card that could be seen through the glass. What had happened to Will, who were these cards, posted to? Where is Codford? Finding Will became a journey that we needed to make.

William Rhodes Hair

Date of Birth: 1896. Birth place Longwarry, Victoria Australia
Enlisted: 27th April, 1916
Trained at camp Castlemaine - May to mid July 1916

Embarked from Melbourne for the UK - 1st August 1916
Disembarked Plymouth 14th September 1916 and to camp Codford with 15th Infantry Training Battalion

Embarked Folkestone for France - 6th December 1916
Front Line 25th February 1917
Wounded in action - 12th May 1917 - returning to 59th Battalion when recovered

Major Allied attack on the enemy at Polygod Wood - 26th September 1917
Wounded in action with bullet wound to chest - 27th September 1917

To 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital, Outreau - 28th September 1917
Died of wounds - 28th October 1917

2015 was the centenary of Australia's involvement in WW1 and we decided that it was time we finally discovered Will. In November, we took the frames to an Art Conservator in the hope



William Rhodes Hair

they could safely remove the backing, enabling us to handle the cards that were posted 100 years before. Our first discovery and surprise was that the photo of Will had been taken by a Mr A. Verey, a well-known photographer in the early 1900's in Castlemaine, which is where we live. Could we have brought Will "home"?

Some of the cards had dates and places, only two had messages, all were very hard to read. However, from these we were able to construct a time line of when Will was overseas. To our great delight, one card revealed an enlistment number: we had found William Rhodes Hair! With the help of the Australian War Memorial, we were able to develop a detailed history of Will's involvement in WW1, where he trained, where he fought and was wounded.

It became important to us to walk in the footsteps of this young man who had become part of our lives, and so part of a planned trip to the UK in 2016 was devoted to Will. In July we took a Western Front tour of the Somme and visited the site where he had been injured. In September we came to stay at Corton to be close to Codford, the village where Will had trained.

We were fortunate to meet Richard, Barbara and Alex in Corton. They provided us with so much information regarding the training camps of the Wylve Valley, especially the location of 15th infantry training camp, Will's camp. We were also able to view the most impressive map of the locations of all the camps scattered along the Wylve Valley that had been made for the Wylve Valley 2014 Centenary Celebrations.

Our journey is not finished. Who did Will send the postcards to? He writes to "my little sweetheart". Who is she? Why did she frame the postcards? Why did I find the frames in a collectables shop?

Kind regards to all in the Wylve Valley.
Lorraine and Geoff Callister.

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PLACES TO VISIT... without breaking the bank

We are hoping to make this a regular item in the Parish News. Please send any suggestions you would like to share with us to the editor.

Here are two to start us off.
Nunney Castle, Nunney...looked after by English Heritage, free entry, parking nearby. This is a small castle with a moat, which is perfect for sailing homemade boats.

Frome Market, Standerwick...on Wednesday mornings there are various livestock auctions, fun to watch. Next-door is the Cooper and Tanner's household auction, also interesting. There is plenty of parking and no need to spend money unless you are tempted into the café for breakfast or by one of the few market stalls (there is a good cheese one).

HEYTESBURY FC Mid-Season Report

Heytesbury started the 2016/17 season in division 1 of the Trowbridge and District league. There was a difficult pre-season when the club lost 18 players and the manager from the previous year.

New players and a manager were found, and it was decided to continue for the new season. It was known that it would be difficult as most of the players lacked experience at that level of football, and many had not played together before. The season opened with a home game against Hilperton United, ending in a 2-5 defeat.

This was followed by a trip to Freshford United, one of the most experienced and best teams in the league. A heavy 10-0 defeat was the result. Warminster "A" visited Heytesbury Park the following week in the Knock out cup. It was good for Heytesbury to get their first win of the season progressing with a 4-1 win.

October saw some heavy defeats but a couple of good performances. A 3-0 loss away at League Champions Luxol St Andrews was a good result against such a good team. Heytesbury were also unlucky to lose 0-1 to Trowbridge Town reserves.

November saw Heytesbury continue to struggle in the league. A good A & B cup win was a welcome relief, a 9-2 home win against Trowbridge Wanderers Reserves, Jamie Howse scoring 5 goals.

There were just two games in December after the away game at Trowbridge was abandoned after 10 minutes due to a serious Knee injury to the Trowbridge keeper. A visit to Westbury United reserves resulted in the first league points of the season. A very good 4-2 win after being 2 goals down after 20 minutes. This was followed by a trip to unbeaten league leaders Melksham Town despite losing 7-0; it was a decent performance.

The New Year started badly with players missing, and Heytesbury lost to Freshford United 1-11 in the cup.

It has been a difficult first half of the season. Unfortunately manager Tom O'Brien has been forced to make changes to his team every week. We have now used 39 different players in the 14 games we have played.

Many of our players have to travel large distances to play, and others struggle to play on a regular basis due to work commitments. We will continue to fight for our place in Division 1. It is always good to see people coming to Heytesbury Park to support us, and thanks to the Red Lion who provide refreshments to the teams after the games.

Martyn Spratt

increasing anticipation of spring as bulbs emerge and a little bird song begins.

My real concern at this point is the lack of rain in this area and the parlous state of our rivers. We have now completed 2 months of the recharge period of 4 months and we have had no recharge of the chalk aquifers! I wrote in my previous notes of the difficulty the trout will have in finding suitable spawning habitats outside of the main river and I mentioned the problems of not having any weed growth at this time of the year. So much of what happens on the Chalk Rivers during the rest of the year is dependent on what happens during the four recharge months from November to February. From March onwards the majority of rain which falls is taken up by evaporation and plant growth.

The angling community have long thought that the chalk stream trout have an ability to hang on to their spawn until the winterbournes break but we have no substantial published information on this. We do know that some trout will spawn as late as March but assume that this is the tail end of a normal distribution curve, and fry hatched from these late spawners will not fare as well as the main hatch. Oxygen levels are important and one serious effect of climate change is that a small rise in temperature will cause a drop in the oxygen-carrying capacity of the water and hence a poorer hatch of eggs.

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ANGLING NOTES – January 2017

Preparations for Christmas, celebration of Christmas and the weather conspired against me from doing any fishing in December. I do hope that I will be able to have a day or two on our lakes during January in the hope of catching some rainbows before my season ends completely at the end of this month. The days are already getting longer and there will be an

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TURBO'S TALES I (NEW YEAR 2017)

Christmas was busy, fun and excessive in lots of ways but peace has, at last, returned to mankind (and the Guvnor). Some insider reflections follow...

I think one Vicar (not here) must be dyslexic as the notice outside his church said 'Christmas Day Service 11am. All welcome. Remember, God is for life and not just for Christmas'. Surely he means Dog? This, however, is better than where we were on Christmas Eve. They all went off to the Crib Service in the Midlands, arriving in good time but the service was quite late starting. At last, one of the Churchwardens appeared and said the Vicar must have become muddled as he has nine churches and the Crib Service could have fallen off the edge of his radar screen. 'Never mind,' she went on; 'I'll have a go at leading and I'll give it my best shot.' Half an hour later and her 'best shot' had been pretty good; the crib had been built, the animals positioned in the stable (including a warthog, a rhino and a penguin), Mary had given birth successfully and had laid her baby safely in the manger. The congregation went off to the pub nearby and, recounting the difficulties to the landlord, discovered that the

poor Vicar had died the previous day. No wonder he wasn't there - and people began to regret their first thoughts that included 'late lunch', 'too much lunch' and 'liquid lunch'.

The Guvnor made some New Year's resolutions. I'm not sure why, because after many years of failure to carry any of them out I thought he had given up even trying. Not so this year. He proudly announced that he would be giving up alcohol for the whole of January, abstain from Terry's Chocolate Oranges and not

eat fudge until he had lost the weight he had put on over Christmas. I was dubious to say the least and, sure enough, by lunch time on the 1st of January he was waving a glass of red wine around, telling people about all these things he had given up and declaring, 'It has been the worst twenty minutes of my life.'

Now he's saying the Christmas weight gain is actually useful because as it has been so windy it has made him feel more stable on his feet...

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CHANGING TIMES

THE RED LION HEYTESBURY

Pub Quiz, Fireworks Host, Christmas Tree all will continue as The Red Lion has changed hands.

A family team have taken over the pub in the village. The family team, mum, dad and two of their three children, each have their allocated jobs within the pub.

Mum, Lorraine will look after the rooms and bookings and the high standard will continue.

Kelly has taken responsibility for the bar and she is a wonderful, gregarious host,

Sam has taken over the Kitchen. He trained on the job in another pub, his story is quite fascinating in that he was doing a waiter's job in another hostelry, when the chef suddenly quit. The management team were in trouble, but Sam stepped into the breach learnt on the job and made the venue a success, so when the opportunity came to run his own place he jumped at the chance.

I asked Sam his first impressions and he was blatantly honest with me. He said the Lion was interesting, different and scary. The last word intrigued me and Sam revealed the responsibility of having their own place was scary to start with, but his fears were soon overcome because

of the fantastic, welcoming people of a Heytesbury and the surrounding villages.

Some of the people I met in the bar gave the following quotes about the Red Lion:

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YOUNG VOICES

Hello, my name is Emily Firth, I live in Heytesbury and I am an 18 year old currently on a gap year before going to medical school in September 2017. I went to Sutton Veny primary school followed by Kingdown where I took my GCSE's and A levels. Our family have lived in Heytesbury most of my life.

As part of my gap year, as well as volunteering locally for Jacobs ladder (an after school club for special needs children) and at an elderly care home, I decided to apply for an overseas voluntary placement with the International Citizen Service (ICS). ICS works with communities that have specifically requested their help and also aims to inspire young people in the UK and overseas to become active citizens

I have recently been selected by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) to partake in a 3 month voluntary placement in Loitokitok, which is a Maasai community in rural Kenya. Our small team of UK volunteers will be teamed with local Kenyan volunteers who we will live with in

host homes in the local community. Our project is primarily focused on raising awareness of the livelihood opportunities available to the people in this community, mainly young people and those with disabilities, as well as promoting inclusive education for girls.

The first stage of my volunteer journey is to raise £1500 towards the work

that VSO does in this and many other communities across the developing world, and to enable more volunteers to go on placements in the future. When I return from my placement, I am also required to share my experiences and raise awareness of VSO, ICS and the work we do, particularly in the project I was involved in. I am due to depart towards the end of April so between now and then I am fundraising towards my target. Initially, I am therefore, advertising my availability as a babysitter towards this cause, as this is something I have done for a number of years and feel would be appropriate and in demand. I have my own transport, am CRB checked, and I am also first aid trained due to my part time job as a lifeguard.

Should anyone wish to support me and the work that VSO do, please visit my just giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Emily-Firth2>

If anyone wishes to contact me regarding babysitting or any other jobs / fundraising opportunities, please contact me either by email or by mobile.

emilyfirth@live.co.uk, 07950680364

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COFFEE AND CAKE IN CODFORD

Ever heard of the Tuesday Café in Codford? They meet every Tuesday between 10 and 12 during school term time at Greenlight, the last green painted building immediately behind The School and Caterpillars in Cherry Orchard, Codford.

They are a lively and very welcoming group of people who live in Codford and other nearby villages. They are completely independent of other groups and come from all walks of life. They just drop in to meet up with each other for a friendly chat, a cup of tea, a scone or a slice of delicious home made cake. You don't have to be a member so you can just turn up and be assured of a

warm welcome, a relaxing couple of hours, meet new people and generally catch up on local news and happenings.

The group was established twelve years ago and has been meeting regularly ever since. They make a small charge of £1.00 for your cuppa and 50p for a slice of cake but out of the funds they raise in this way they manage to send significant sums to various charities. Recently they sent £500 to The Air Ambulance, another £500 to Julia's House Children's Hospice and when I dropped in, they were well on their way to their next £500 for another worthy cause - and they have been sending suitably filled shoe boxes at Christmas to

orphanages in Bulgaria for years.

The meeting was hilarious. Sue Poolman shared some good stories about grandchildren and their grandparents. Here are a couple that made me laugh. "How old are you Grandpa?" "Not quite sure" came the teasing reply. "If you look at your underpants you can find out" advised the small boy. "I'm 4-6" he confided. Where does Granny live? "Well" said small grandperson, "Granny lives at The Airport. When we want to see her we go and collect her and when she's had enough we drop her back home again."

For further information telephone Sue Poolman on 01985 850490 or email davidpeters158@btinternet.com or, better still, just turn up one Tuesday morning in term time and join in.

TF



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CODFORD

Village news

REFUGEE FAMILY IN CODFORD

In March this year Codford will be asked to welcome a Syrian refugee family under the Government's Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme. A property has been inspected and approved by Wiltshire Council, on behalf of the National Scheme, to provide accommodation for the family.

It is emphasised that the family selected for Codford will not be economic migrants such as seen on television at the

"Calais Jungle". They will be authentic refugees drawn from authorised Refugee Centres in Jordan or Turkey and are registered with the United Nations as bona fide vulnerable people from Syria. As well as being approved by the United Nations, before they can become eligible for adoption under the Government's Scheme, they are thoroughly vetted by the Home Office.

Wiltshire Council has, so far, accepted about 30 Syrian refugee families, as part of the Government's programme,

and they have settled in various locations across the County without any major integration problems.

A member of Wiltshire Council will be attending the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th February 2017 at 7.30pm to provide further information about the Refugee Resettlement Scheme. Everyone interested is welcome to attend the Meeting and hopefully give their support to this humanitarian initiative which has the backing of the Parish Council and both Parochial Church Councils.

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A VIEW OF HEYTESBURY, IMBER & KNOOK PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council lost a valued and respected member in December. Councillor Lynn Frost died after a short but serious illness and leaves her husband, Andy, and all her many friends in Heytesbury, devastated. Lynn worked hard in her role as the Parish Council's link with Wiltshire Council and its Parish Steward and organised the very successful Litter Pick Up morning last April. She was often seen

walking around the Parish and had an eagle eye for dangerous trees, broken railings and other matters that needed council's attention. She was passionate about the cricket field and the Sassoon legacy with all the lovely old trees on that land.

Lynn will be greatly missed in our community. This month's report is dedicated to her memory. *SB Nov 2016*

HEYTESBURY OPEN PLACE (Church Community Project)

The month of December was very busy with a successful Christmas Fayre and an excellent Advent Service to start the festive season. There was a magnificent Christmas tree in the church, which was donated by a local resident and decorated by a band of volunteers. This tree had to be removed a few days before Twelfth Night when those same volunteers had time and, also, to create more space for a Thanksgiving Service attended by over 300 people.

Meanwhile a bat survey has been carried out and the repair of the nave roof is on schedule for this spring. On the subject of roofs, a drone landed on the

chancel roof over Christmas, luckily missing the stained glass windows. Everyone is asked not to fly drones anywhere near buildings because of the risk of damage.

The heating in the church is a major priority now and the Building Group are investigating various options, including "green" alternatives to oil such as wood pellets.

Various events for 2017 are now being planned and will be on the website: www.heytesburychurch.org If you would like to receive regular updates by email then please contact: info@heytesburychurch.org

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REFURBISHMENT AT ALL SAINTS

We are in an excellent position to refurbish our Church. It will be done over a number of years but the most important part has been nearly completed. The roof has been renovated and the Church is now watertight. Once the walls have dried out we shall redecorate and improve the lighting. Other work includes major repairs to the Norman tower, which has a

crack in it. It is thought to be the first repair to the tower in 800 years. The bells will be rehung so that they can be rung again. The oldest bell is 400 years and was cast locally. Mains water is to be piped to the church, which will allow a kitchen to be constructed as well as a toilet. The path from the Lytch Gate to the Church will also be lit for the darker evenings. An ancient Church will become a multi-functional building.

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A Dry January has little appeal in Rectory Cottage; on a dank grey day like today a glass of cheer is fairly necessary. However we have days when a glimpse of beauty never ceases to amaze, days that are clear and crisp under a bright sky. Days of mist too. Walking in the Great Ridge recently the sky lightened and pale winter sun gleamed through the trees silver as the moon. The wind held its breath and outlines melted away.

What shall I say about Bert Imber who died on New Year's Eve, just short of his 94th Birthday in February? I remember his 90th, when there was standing room only at no 25! Bert had lived at no 25

all his life, and his parents Albert and Elizabeth before him. An hour or so in his company passed in a flash, listening to memories of village life as it used to be. As a boy he cycled to school in Trowbridge. As a young man he was an RAF Apprentice and so gained a first class technical education. He and his first wife Elvira had three children, Elvira died before she could enjoy grandchildren. Bert was a widower for many years until a friend from the past returned from Australia. They married and with Rosemary there were to be seven happy years. So many memories: the Old English Sheepdogs he loved and re-homed; some-

times there were 4 in the house! Wheelbarrows of vegetables arrived at the church door at Harvest Thanksgiving and the church glowed with dahlias, daffodils at Easter too. The choir used the house to change for services and Bert raised money for the church selling the products of his wood turning, a skill he came to late in life. I remember he built the extension and the garage at no 25; initially it was painted overall a rather challenging pink, quite a talking point!

The population of Sherrington has changed so much over the years as is the case in all villages. With the passing of Bert we have lost another of the dwindling number of originals. *BL*

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Village news

SURGERY PATIENT GROUP

The Avenue Surgery Patient Group is holding a series of short presentations in Warminster and the villages at which we aim to surprise you with facts about the Avenue Surgery, explain some of the current issues with GP practices, take a brief look at the new website, and talk about the Patient Group. Finally, this is not all one way! As a Patient Group, we

are there to listen as well as to talk so there is an opportunity to feed back your views to the Practice.

All patients of the Avenue Surgery are welcome but this presentation is also of general interest to all who use a GP practice. Your local event is at Sutton Veny Village Hall on Thursday 23rd February at 6.30 pm

THE NEW BOOKSHOP

The new Book Shop at Sutton Veny Church has got off to a good start. A corner at the back of the church has been transformed to our reading corner with two bookcases, now full with lovely books, many new titles among them.

Why don't you pop in and have a browse, take your time, put on the reading light and make your choice from the many books on offer.



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CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

5th Candlemas	Heytesbury Codford St Mary Norton Bavant Sutton Veny Upton Lovell Codford St Peter	8.30am 9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Parish Communion Candlemas Family Service Parish Communion Taizé	<i>Choir</i>
12th 3rd Sunday before Lent	Boyton Codford St Peter Sutton Veny Codford St Mary Knook Upton Lovell	8.30am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sunday Celebration Parish Communion Parish Communion Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)	<i>Choir</i>
19th 2nd Sunday before Lent	Codford St Mary Tytherington Norton Bavant Codford St Peter Heytesbury Sutton Veny Upton Lovell Codford Village Hall	8.30am 8.30am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Parish Communion Matins Parish Communion Messy Church	<i>Choir</i>
26th Last Sunday before Lent	Sutton Veny Codford St Peter Heytesbury Boyton	8.30am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Family Service Parish Communion	<i>Choir</i>

WEEKDAY SERVICES every week

We welcome you to share in prayers for the Church, the Nation, the World, the Sick, and for others as well as ourselves.

Tuesdays	Heytesbury	8.00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	Codford St Peter	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	Codford St Peter	9.00am	Holy Communion
Thursdays	Sherrington	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Fridays	Sutton Veny	8.30am	Morning Prayer

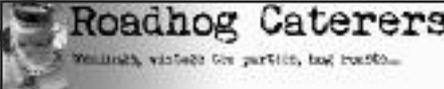
HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN, HEYTESBURY CHAPEL SERVICES

Sundays	10.30am Eucharist with hymns
Wednesdays	10.00am Holy Communion(1662)

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BOOK REVIEW

BEYOND THE SNOW : THE LIFE AND FAITH OF ELIZABETH GOUDGE A BIOGRAPHY by CHRISTINE RAWLINS

If you read The Little White Horse as a child, or The Dean's Watch or Green Dolphin Country you may have memories of an uplifting story, of modest heroes or heroines working out their lives in beautiful landscapes or a Cathedral Close, often laced with fantasy, usually leading to a happy ending. There might be themes of redemption, conversion or healing, which would not be obvious to, but absorbed by, the young reader. As well as fiction for adults and children, Elizabeth Goudge published anthologies like The Book of Comfort, with extracts from favourites C S Lewis, T S Eliot, Donne et al. These were popular books in the 40s, 50s and 60s.

Born in 1900, the only child of the vice-principal of Wells Theological College, who was later principal of Ely, and then professor at Oxford, Elizabeth Goudge grew up in quiet clerical surroundings. She studied art for a time, moved to Devon after her beloved father's death, where she had to care for her invalid mother, continuing to write when she could.

Rawlins builds up a picture of the confined but inspired life of a twentieth century spinster, one in which she was always writing. She does quote heavily from Goudge's own words, as they expressed her faith, and show how her books could teach without moralising or spoiling the enjoyment. Her love of nature had an almost mystical awareness, and music she saw as a way of praying:

"Devotion has found its most satisfying expression not in formal prayer but in art, in the building of the great cathedrals, in much painting, sculpture and in such an outflowing of heavenly music that must have stopped evil in its headlong course."

She was a founder member of the Romantic Novelists' Society and had a strong following in other countries, answering many fan letters. Her fame grew, especially after Green Dolphin Country was filmed. After her mother's death, Goudge was able to spend her last happy thirty years of life in a cottage in Peppard, Oxfordshire, with companion/helper and dog. It's a long read, deeply researched and very interesting, though not easy, I found, to review from a Kindle! The paperback, I believe, is attractive but costs £22.90. C H

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