

# Downton

September 2020

## Parish News



St. Laurence Church

Free

## **St Laurence Church Downton**

**Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, or requests for pastoral visits, should be made to  
The Team Rector, Rev Frank Gimson.**

**Tel. 01725 510326 Email: [fateamrector@outlook.com](mailto:fateamrector@outlook.com)**

**Churchwarden:** Mr Ken Parsons 01725 512738

**Parish administrator:** Mrs Jo Parsons 01725 512738

**Director of Music:** Mrs Elaine Hicks-Arnold 01722 710341

**Sunday School:** Dr Janet McGee 01725 513869

**Church Flowers:** Mrs V Ekins D. 510233 & Mrs J Truscott D. 510733

**Church website:** [www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)



[www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton](https://www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton)

**For our latest news see our website and Facebook page.**

**If you would like to receive the Vicar's reflections  
during this current situation, please email him at**

**[fateamrector@outlook.com](mailto:fateamrector@outlook.com)**

*"St Laurence Church explores & builds the Kingdom of God through  
prayer, learning together & serving the local community"*

St Laurence is part of the Forest and Avon Team of Churches,  
together with St Birinus, Morgans Vale; St Mary, Redlynch;  
St Andrew, Landford; St Peter, Bramshaw; St Peter, Plaitford.

Downton Parish News is usually published 10 times a year.  
Information for contributors and advertisers will be found at the  
back of the magazine.

*From Revd. Ron Hart, a retired priest in the Forest & Avon Team, who lives in Downton.*



Dear Friends,  
Creddy and I hope you are keeping well.

One of the early lockdown instructions sent by the Bishop to clergy concerned the over 70's. We were not to be used, and we were told to stay in and self-shield. Like many others, we suddenly found life changing, and some of the things that gave shape and meaning to life were at least temporarily no longer possible. No taking services, no sharing in worship and in various meetings, no visiting. We had to let go.

This learning to let go is anyway one of the tasks of retirement, in the case of clergy as you move from 'captain' to a rower in a boat someone else is steering. It brings its own blessings, not least the chance to have time with family and with God. It is also a time to remember that our identity is founded not on what we do but on being a loved child of God. Paul, who had had an esteemed position in Jewish society, had to leave it behind when he became a Christian - yet he could say 'I count all things as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord'.

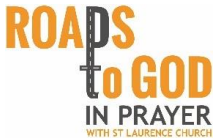
'I can't breathe' has become one of the memorable cries of recent months. I can't breathe because your knee is on my neck, and I am the victim of racial prejudice. I can't breathe because I have Covid and need help. I can't breathe because my grief chokes me. Maybe Jesus on the cross thought 'I can't breathe' because the consequence of crucifixion is death by asphyxiation. I can't breathe has become a metaphor for all that is wrong or sad. I can't breathe because of toxic fumes from the factory in India, I can't breathe says the fish, the water is polluted, I can't breathe because our society denies me the opportunities that it gives to others, says the BLM movement.

Breath is a sign of life. God breathed life into Adam, and the breath of God breathed life into the church. As breath came back for a while to the countryside and cities in lockdown, lost vistas returned, and wildlife has thrived. The spotlight has come in a new way on the problems of sickness, pollution, racism and inequality, and people have been saying "I can't breathe".

*Continued on next page >>>>>*

We ask, where is God leading us in all this? We have been forced to slow down, and in the process many have found a new love for God as they gave Him time. And we have been forced to see the ills around us in sharper light, and perhaps we are being challenged to work with renewed concern for a better and more just world. Like the Jews at the time of the Exodus, there has been a stopping to encounter the God who tabernacles with us, but also the awareness that the cloud of glory is calling us to a new place.

Love and prayers, Ron



In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community, during September we will be offering prayers for:

### **High Street and The Borough**

In the present situation we are unable to deliver our usual prayer cards.

Requests for particular prayers can be made:

by telephoning Reverend Frank Gimson on 01725 510326 or

emailing [info@stlaurencedownton.co.uk](mailto:info@stlaurencedownton.co.uk)

Any such requests will be kept confidential.

You can request prayers at any time – not just when your road is on the monthly list.

### **Roads to God Prayer Group**

The Roads to God Prayer Group usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month in St Laurence Church.

Under the present circumstances we are unable to meet in church. However, we will be asking members of the prayer group and wider congregation to set aside a time of prayer for both the particular roads in our prayer cycle and indeed the whole village at:

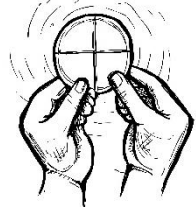
**10.30am Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

For more information, please see our Roads to God page on our website:

[www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)

## ST LAURENCE CHURCH SERVICES

We are continuing to hold Sunday services in Church. There is one service of **Holy Communion on Sundays at 10.30am**. It is a short and simple service without hymns. If you wish to come to a service - and you would be very welcome - please let us know by emailing [fateamrector@outlook.com](mailto:fateamrector@outlook.com) or calling the Vicar on 01725 510326 or Jo Parsons on 01725 512738. Then we can have some idea of numbers and make the necessary arrangements.



We will maintain proper physical distancing and hygiene procedures will be observed, especially during the administration of communion which will be wafers only. Full guidance on what to expect was set out in [the August issue of this magazine](#) and is also on our website [www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk), but please note one change: **face coverings must now be worn**. The Church of England has issued [detailed guidance](#) about wearing face coverings, if you wish to read more about this.

Our service in church is an opportunity for those who feel able and ready to attend, and no one should feel under pressure to do so. We will continue to record services for each Sunday, which are available to watch through the church website.



Morning Worship is being said by the Vicar at 10.30am on Wednesdays in church. This is not a public or recorded service, but he will ring the church bell at 10.30am as a call to worship and you are encouraged to join him in a time of prayer from your own homes. On the third Wednesday of the month he will incorporate our Roads to God prayers (see page 2).

Immediately following Morning Worship on Wednesdays, the Church will be open from 11:00am to 12:30pm for private prayer. This gives 72 hours between Wednesday and Sunday openings. A member of the Church will be present at all times as a steward, and everyone will be asked to maintain physical distancing and to leave their contact details.

*Continued on next page >>>>>*

## ST LAURENCE CHURCH SERVICES - continued

There are service sheets on the website for all recorded Sunday and some other services which can be viewed or downloaded, enabling those at home to join in with prayers and responses. If you would like to follow the readings for the Sundays in September they are:

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020      Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading    Romans 13:8-end  
Gospel          Matthew 18:15-20

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020      Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading    Romans 14:1-12  
Gospel          Matthew 18:21-35

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020      Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading    Philippians 1:21-30  
Gospel          Matthew 20:1-16

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020      Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading    Philippians 2:1-13  
Gospel          Matthew 21:23-32

For latest news & any changes log onto [www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk)



## **Woodfalls Methodist Church**

The Ridge, Woodfalls, SP5 2LH

There will be no services at Woodfalls Methodist Church during September.

In October and November, there will be Sunday worship at 10.45am on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, Sunday morning worship will be at St Birinus' Church.

No Monday morning worship is planned until December at the earliest.

For pastoral contact or information about worship on the internet,  
contact Graham Tanner, telephone 01725 512648;  
email [atanner.gtanner@btinternet.com](mailto:atanner.gtanner@btinternet.com)

## **Roman Catholic Services**

Church of the Good Shepherd  
Barford Lane, Downton, SP5 3QA

The Catholic chapel is now available for private prayer.  
The congregation hold a weekly Eucharist Service by Zoom,  
and a Mass by Zoom about every three weeks.

If you would like to join us  
please contact John Elliott on 01722 711665.

St Osmund's Church TV system  
can be accessed at: <https://salisburycatholics.org/church-tv>

More details at [www.salisburycatholics.org](http://www.salisburycatholics.org) or  
St Osmund's Church, Exeter Street, Salisbury SP1 2SF

Telephone: 01722 333581 Email: [office@salisburycatholics.org](mailto:office@salisburycatholics.org)



## **Downton Baptist Church**

South Lane, Downton, SP5 3NA

### **Current Services: Sunday Mornings at 10.30am:**

In the event of good weather,  
the Service will be held in the Church Field.

In the event of bad weather,  
the Service will be held indoors with limited numbers.

The Service will be live streamed.  
Online Services are on the Downton Baptist Church website.

### **Ministers: Rev Philip Rhoades and Rev Katy Ulliyatt**

More details of all events from Rev Philip Rhoades:  
Telephone: 07468 491143. Email: [rhoades470@btinternet.com](mailto:rhoades470@btinternet.com)

**Church Office:** 01725 512971 or **Email:** [office@downtonbaptist.org](mailto:office@downtonbaptist.org)

**Website:** [www.downtonbaptist.org](http://www.downtonbaptist.org)



# Prayer Diary for September

- 1 Our Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwardens
- 2 Those starting at a new School or College
- 3 All key workers
- 4 St Birinus – our Church built to the glory of God
- 5 Growing through God's Word
- 6 Those made redundant or unable to find work
- 7 Our Team Rector and family
- 8 Our children and young people
- 9 Those who produce our Parish magazine
- 10 All who minister to the sick
- 11 Our Parochial Church Council (PCC)
- 12 Barford Day Centre
- 13 Our Church School
- 14 Churches Together in Downton
- 15 Those at work worried about social distancing
- 16 The Bereaved
- 17 Charities struggling to continue their work and fundraising
- 18 All ministers in the village
- 19 Medical staff: in hospitals, GPs, Care homes, research laboratories
- 20 Peace in the World
- 21 St Matthew - using our gifts in God's service
- 22 All visitors to our Churches
- 23 All who assist with our services
- 24 Politicians and their advisors
- 25 School Governors
- 26 Trafalgar School at Downton
- 27 Those in Residential and Nursing Homes
- 28 All who rely on food aid
- 29 St Michael - passing on God's message
- 30 Our Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)



Please use this diary as a part of your own prayers. In this way we can pray together as a parish for our common concerns.

If you have any suggestions for inclusion in this diary, please have a word with the Team Rector.



\*\*\*\*\*

[illegible]

Callers to the line are welcomed with a short new greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

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Hilary Mace

**Tel: 07760 415818**

Email

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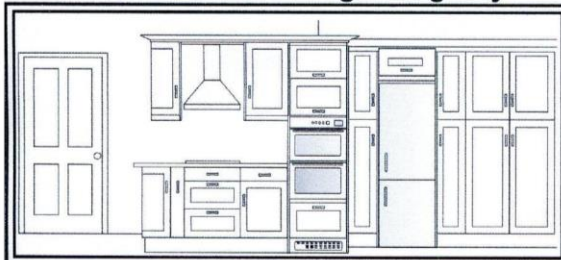
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**M: 0782 5004258 or Tel: 01425 654741**

## **Update & Guidelines for Visiting Downton Surgery - September 2020 (Including Flu Clinics)**

Coronavirus is once again on the rise. It remains important that we all stay safe and continue to control the virus and we appreciate your help in doing this; we kindly ask that you only attend the surgery if invited to do so by a doctor or nurse, or to collect a prescription. Please continue to use telephone and online services whenever possible. If you are attending in person please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Please wear a mask or face covering for all appointments.
- Please respect the social distancing guidelines - allow people plenty of space to pass by at a safe distance.
- Please sanitise your hands on the way in and out of the premises – dispensers are available throughout the building.
- We are double disinfecting / cleansing all surfaces between patients – personal items such as handbags and coats can carry all sorts of virus particles; please leave your belongings safely at home or in your car if at all possible rather than bringing them into clinical rooms.
- Please attend on your own if able, leaving other family members at home or in the car to wait; children should be left with an alternative carer if at all possible.

We will also be doing our part to protect the population in line with NHS guidelines and issuing up to 4000 flu immunisations, hopefully starting from 22<sup>nd</sup> September; we will be doing it by age group, please look out for website information / text and letters from us shortly. There will be online booking which we encourage you to use if at all possible and a dedicated phone number to try to keep lines free for patients who require more immediate assistance.

*Continued on next page >>>>>>*

## **Update & Guidelines for Visiting Downton Surgery (*continued*)**

Clinics will look a little different this year and we are grateful for the use of the Cuckoo Fair gazebos which will be making an appearance for the occasion in the grounds by the surgery. We would like to do our bit to protect the planet, and for those of you who do not already have several reusable wash and wear masks, you will soon see a mask tree outside the surgery. If anyone would like to make reusable masks for the surgery we will offer them to our patients for free or a voluntary donation, which will support various local community schemes, such as a carers' café; a gardening project; fitness initiatives; etc. This will avoid up to 4000 masks going to landfill, as you will be asked to wear one when attending for the flu clinic in the same way as you would for an appointment in the Surgery.

If anyone would like to offer assistance with marshalling for the flu clinics we would be happy to hear from you – preferably by email for attention of our Social Prescriber, Carol Baker.

Once again, do not hesitate to contact us - we are always happy to hear from you and help where possible.

**[Downton.surgery@nhs.net](mailto:Downton.surgery@nhs.net) (please add subject: For example; FAO Social Prescriber / COVID Feedback / Etc)**

**Stay Safe, from all the team at Downton Surgery.**

### **Action on Hearing Loss**

#### **Hearing aid maintenance drop in service – batteries and information**

Our hearing aid maintenance drop in clinics are suspended for the time being due to the corona virus, but I can still post hearing aid batteries to you if you are a Salisbury hospital audiology patient. This is a free service. At this time I'm not posting out tubing but I can help you with information on how to get the best from your hearing aids, including daily cleaning and information on hearing loss. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Gill Drayson. Telephone 01722 580014, mobile 07570 670 643,  
or email [Gillian.drayson@hearingloss.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.drayson@hearingloss.org.uk)

## The Memorial Centre is now open

The Trustees are pleased to announce that the Memorial Centre can now be used again for certain activities as long as government regulations are adhered to.

These vary as to the type of activity. For example, any group activity, such as yoga or Tai Chi must keep to 2 metre distancing. Public events such as markets or fairs, like shops, can have 1 metre plus distancing when other mitigation, such as wearing of masks, is followed.

The space used in the Centre will be sanitised after each use. The cost of this extra cleaning will, unfortunately, have to be passed on to hirers but the Trustees hope to keep this to a minimum. In the short term, no private parties will be allowed and use of the kitchen will be limited.

Please contact either Susan Barnhurst Davis, Chairman, (07875 036879) or Hilary Mace, Booking Secretary, (07760 415818) with any enquiries.



## Downton Christmas Festival

Sadly the DCF cannot be held in the church this year in the usual way; however, we are developing plans for an exciting new format to take place over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December.



We will be inviting Downton residents to submit photographs of their decorated tree, wreath, table centre, nativity scene, garden tree, or even whole house (wherever your imagination takes you) to form a virtual Village Christmas Trail, available online. We intend to include some music, activities for children and even virtual cake. After what has been a very difficult year for many, larger entries that can be viewed from the street will be included in a physical Downton Christmas Trail to cheer up the whole village.

We hope people will still be willing to share Christmas goodwill by making a donation which this year will be for a mental health charity. Fuller details will be available in the next issue.

## Parish Council Meeting



The meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 as a virtual meeting using Zoom. This was permitted under new legislation contained in the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Five members of the public were present.

**Wiltshire Council matters:** Cllr Clewer gave the following report:

- More work was being done to clear the cycleway between Downton and Salisbury and this task would be added to a list for regular maintenance.
- The pedestrianisation of Salisbury's streets was proving to be 'interestingly contentious' and he suggested that the Council should follow its progress.
- On the matter of anti-social behaviour issues, he said he was satisfied that everything was being done which could be done by the relevant departments at Wiltshire Council which were dealing with the issues.

**Amenities Committee:** Cllr Brentor gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which:

- It was agreed that the planters for Downton In Bloom should be ordered and installed with winter bulbs.
- The potential cost of replacing street name signs was considered and the numbers required with the view that funding would not be sought from the Community Area Transport Group.
- Work to maintain the overgrown boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground was agreed.

**Vacancies:** There are currently seven vacancies for councillors on the Parish Council. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a councillor, please contact the Clerk.

The next meeting of the Council will be held virtually on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30 pm. Please see the published Agenda or contact the Clerk for the login details.

**Bev Cornish. Clerk to Downton Parish Council**  
**West View, Slab Lane, Downton, SP5 3PS. Tel 01725 513874**  
**Email: [clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**  
**[www.downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**  
**Facebook: Downton Parish Council**



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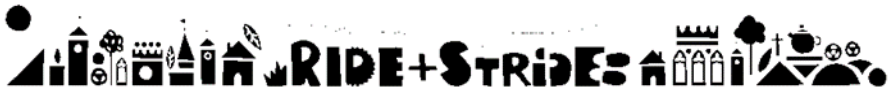
**01722 412391**

**[www.favonius.co.uk](http://www.favonius.co.uk)**

## Friends of St Laurence

FOSL activities have been suspended during lockdown and the pandemic prevents us planning any events at the moment. Sadly we cannot even open the church as a place of serenity and spiritual sustenance.

However, the church yard is still accessible (though NOT through Church Leat, please) and as beautiful as ever. Our new trees seem to be growing well, as is the new grass. Of course the weeds and brambles enjoy the hot weather and rain just as much. We are not holding working parties in the churchyard at the moment but if anyone would like to enjoy the peace and quiet as a lone gardener or in a household group then please contact Mark Merrill on 01725 512175 for suggestions as to what needs doing.



### Ride and Stride for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

St Laurence Church will again participate in the annual 'Ride and Stride' on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September in aid of the [Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust](#). It will take a very different form this year as St Laurence Church will be unable to provide hospitality and toilet facilities for walkers and riders visiting the church.

Our Treasurer, Mark Merrill, will again walk between a number of churches around Salisbury and hopes that many will sponsor him to do so. Because of the social distancing rules he will travel alone, but he encourages others to make their own journeys between churches either on foot or by bicycle. Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust has issued some detailed [guidance for walkers and riders](#) so please either contact Mark or download the instructions from the website if you intend to participate.

St Laurence has been a beneficiary of two significant grants from WHCT in recent years: firstly to pay for part of the cost of the roof alarm for the lead roof and secondly for part of the cost of the repairs to the west wall and the wall of the south transept.

**Sponsorship money can be Gift Aided by completing the declaration on the next page and returning it to Mark, with your donation, at his address written below the declaration.**

## Ride and Stride for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

**Sponsor declaration:** If I have ticked the box below marked “please claim Gift Aid”: I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust to reclaim tax on the donation detailed below, given on the date shown.

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By giving my name and address I agree to the Ride+Stride Administrator holding this data. It will not be passed to any third party.

I understand that a Privacy Notice is available on the WHCT website.

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**Please return to:**

**Mark Merrill, 142 The Borough, Downton, SP5 3LT**

**[mark@merrill.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:mark@merrill.eclipse.co.uk)**



## The Downton Moot Needs YOU

For many people in the village the outside space of the Moot has been a perfect place to visit for exercise and recreation during lockdown, either with their dog, family or both. It is easy to underestimate the merits of this historical public garden, open 365 days of the year, and free to everyone – other villages and towns are not so lucky.

Wandering round recently we admired the fruits of the hard labour of volunteers; the borders and the pond looked truly magnificent. However in spite of the volunteers' work, the Moot desperately needs funds to cover the unavoidable fixed costs.

It may not be common knowledge but the maintenance and safety of the Moot requires a minimum of £10,000 per annum to keep the gardens open to all. This has been just about achievable through fundraising events and donations. The former, due to Covid-19, have been impossible and this could be the case for the coming months. In June we had thought the annual Dog Show might be a possibility in September, however it would not be the right thing to do under the current circumstances. Donations have been on the decline over recent years as donors have moved on or passed away, and generally regular donations have not been forthcoming.

We want the future generations of Downton to be able to enjoy this historic outdoor village asset, which has benefited us all, whatever age, whether for a picnic, a walk or a bit of sledging in the snow!

All we ask is that you sign up to make a regular donation, whether £10 a year, or £5 per month. Every little bit goes to the Moot and nowhere else – so you will see exactly where your money goes.

### **So please HELP OUR MOOT NOW**

- Go to this link:  
<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/charity/the-downton-moot-preservation-trust-limited> or
- Google *Moot Total Giving* or
- Hold the smart phone camera over the QR code and you will be offered the option of clicking on the Total Giving Website where it will give you the opportunity to make a one-off donation or set up a monthly, quarterly or annual donation.



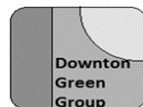
## Autumn Green Fair Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2-4pm, Downton Memorial Hall

The Green Group were unable to hold their Spring Fair due to the lockdown, so are hoping to run an Autumn Fair instead (unless of course there is another coronavirus spike).

The main stalls and activities are:

- **Fruit, Veg and Plant Swap** – bring your spare produce or buy for a donation.
- **Blueberry Den ZERO WASTE Shopping** – on sale will be cleaning products and dried foods. Please bring your own clean bottles for liquids. Paper bags provided for dried foods. A list of the products they sell can be found at [blueberryden.co.uk](http://blueberryden.co.uk). Payment by Card only please.
- **Garden Tool Sharpening Service** – [thesharpening.co.uk](http://thesharpening.co.uk). Bring your blunt tools to be sharpened ready for next Spring.
- **Cycle repairs** – discuss your problems with local cycle specialist.
- **Updates on other local Green Initiatives**
  - The Avon Bridge project – See the model and map of the proposed route
  - Plastic Free Downton
  - Lover Repair Café
  - Information on Rewilding
  - Reusable Face Masks, Beeswax Wraps and Shopping Bags.
- **Hot drinks and homemade cake** – Bring your own **MUG!**

Some of the stalls will be outside and some inside the hall so please remember your **MASK**. Contact details will be taken if you go into the hall. Please adhere to social distancing throughout. [downtongreengroup.org.uk](http://downtongreengroup.org.uk)

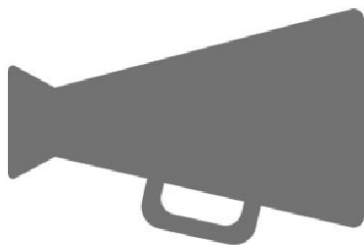


### Downton's Mobile Post Office - Every Friday Morning

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The Bull car park: 10.05 am till 11.05 am

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## Downton Horticultural Society

We have been asked to provide some information about taking and propagating Fuchsia cuttings. They are one of the easiest of all plants to take cuttings from and will root very easily under the correct conditions. Cuttings can be taken as softwood cuttings in spring, or semi-hardwood cuttings in summer or early autumn. Cuttings taken in spring will root in two to three weeks and flower by the summer. Cuttings taken in summer or autumn will need protection over winter.

To take Fuchsia cuttings you will need a sharp knife or secateurs, a clean pot or seed tray of free draining compost (made with one part sharp sand or grit and two parts potting compost), a dibber and a small planting widger or fork. The general method is as follows:

1. Choose a healthy donor plant with fresh shoots at least 8 cm (3 in) long and take an 8 cm cutting just below a leaf joint of a non-flowering shoot.
2. Place on a flat surface and cut away the lower leaves with a sharp knife.
3. Dust the base of the cutting in hormone rooting powder or gel/liquid.
4. Pot them in a free draining gritty compost mix, inserting them about 3-6 cm (1-2 in) apart so the leaves are not touching.
5. Water well and place the cuttings in a propagator or cover with clear plastic to retain high humidity.
6. Place in a well-lit position but not in direct sunlight at a temperature above 18°C (65°F) and keep moist.
7. After 2/3 weeks once roots start to form, open the propagator vents and gradually remove the lid until the plants become acclimatised.
8. Once a good root system has developed prick out the new plantlets into individual small pots of general potting compost, and use liquid tomato feed to encourage flowering shoots.
9. Harden off and plant out once all danger of frost has passed in May.
10. Once the plants have grown three or four leaf joints, pinch out the tips to encourage bushy growth.

I hope you are successful if you try this, and I would like to acknowledge the [Seasonal Gardening](#) website.

Gordon Bishop (01725 511475)

## Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society



On a beautiful sunny morning in July a small group of us went to visit Highclere Castle, the setting for Downton Abbey and the real home of the Carnarvon family. It was a lovely trip, with the added bonus of us enjoying everything amongst restricted numbers of visitors. The house and garden didn't disappoint, with most of us eating an alfresco lunch and an ice cream to finish off an enjoyable day. Whilst there it was easy to forget that we have been amidst a pandemic, and the visit was a reminder of how good it is to do normal things again. Let's hope we might be able to plan and enjoy another trip sometime next year - fingers crossed.

In September we shall begin to take steps towards getting our members back to enjoying and experiencing their love of flowers. It will be a careful process, and will mean that we shall be restricted to numbers and 'members only' meetings but we know this will ensure the continuation of our Club for the future. Let's hope that with time we shall be able to share the fun, friendship and love of flowers with others again. Until then, I shall keep you up to date with what we are doing and hope you will get back to some of the things you too enjoy.

Martina Coleman (Chairperson) 01725 512556



## Courgette soup

*Based on a Delia Smith recipe, this was sent to the editor when all gardeners seemed to have too many courgettes ...*

Sauté 1 chopped onion, and garlic if wished. (If you sauté in butter it comes out creamier.)

Add 1lb courgettes and 4 oz of potatoes, both diced. Cook gently.

When really soft, add 1.5 pints stock, season to taste if needed, and cook for another 10 minutes or so, then liquidise.

It freezes well, and you can add cream or yoghurt before eating.

The posh version has a spoonful of green pesto swirled in it!

## Downton Band

Downton Band has been silenced for a long time by lockdown - but we will be back!

We'd like to thank the village for their support - without your generosity through this time, and particularly as we regroup, the Band would not be able to survive.

The DCMS (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) advice up until 14<sup>th</sup> August explicitly prohibited any brass, woodwind or singing in groups in public or in private - so Downton Band was completely shut down - unable to rehearse let alone perform for the longest period ever in our 147 year history. However this advice has now been changed and we're finally able to restart limited activities, with small rehearsals a possibility and even outside performances possible soon.

You might hear small groups from the Band rehearsing in outdoor spaces around the village in the coming weeks. If you do, we apologise in advance for all the wrong notes - we're a bit out of practice - but please give us a wave from a safe distance!

We hope to have a small band out for the Remembrance celebrations in whatever form that may take this year, and we're starting to plan for as much socially distanced Christmas Carolling as we can manage. More will be on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/downtonband>) and website (<http://www.downtonband.org.uk/>) as soon as they are finalised, so please contact us with any questions or anything we can do.

Thank you. We look forward to being out and about, making music for the village as soon as we can.

Mike Ricketts - [mike@downtonband.org.uk](mailto:mike@downtonband.org.uk)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Rainfall in July



July was dry with only 1.06 inches of rain which is unusual for this month. As a matter of interest, the amount of rain that fell during May, June and July was only 3.18 inches, the lowest total for these three months in the last 27 years that I have lived in Wiltshire. M.C.



## WHAT A WONDERFUL COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN

With your help & generous giving  
the '**Lover Remote Repair Centre**' has raised over  
**£2000**

To help and support NHS Staff at Salisbury General Hospital

Our 'Drop Off & Pick Up' service continues every Wednesday and Friday morning between 10.00 am and mid-day. The most popular items at the moment are repairs to garden equipment & garden furniture, with TV's & table lamps coming a close second.

Meanwhile our Clockman is busy not only with clocks but all things mechanical from re-brassing a house sign to repairing a giant dragonfly (!). Never forget:

### **“DO NOT BIN IT, WE MAY FIX IT”**

Please remember, this is the routine for 'Drop Off & Pick Up':

- a. Come to the Drop-Off Sign in Vicarage Road, Lover
- b. Park on the field side of road
- c. Come in, using the sanitiser on entry
- d. Check with a helper that we can accept the job
- e. Log job in at the window
- f. We will contact you when the item is ready for Pick-up
- g. We are also available to give advice on any repair problem

**We follow all current Government Guide Lines  
regarding social distancing etc.**



Contact Paul on 01725 510753 for further details  
PS Follow us on [facebook.com/loverrepaircafe](https://www.facebook.com/loverrepaircafe)

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## **Redlynch and District Local History Society**

A meeting of most of the Committee has been reviewing the future of the next season of talks.

Firstly, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel our September meeting and our speaker has been postponed until next year; it was just not practical to organise a meeting by that date.

The members have been asked for their views on:

1. coming to a talk which would be held under both Government and Hall Committee social distancing and cleanliness restrictions.
2. at what point would you feel happy to attend such a meeting?
3. would you feel happy to attend our Annual Exhibition as a 'photographic only' exhibition under current guidelines?

All current members should have their membership extended until October 2021, as we will have missed several meetings this year. Membership will be automatically renewed in 2020 and there will be no subscription to pay. Fortunately, we have a healthy bank balance and are able to cover expenses during the coming year.

Looking forward, from September we intend to issue a monthly Newsletter, in which we can detail any changes and also include articles and links to other local societies and videos that we feel may be of interest.

For information about our Society and future meetings visit our website [www.redlynchlocalhistory.org](http://www.redlynchlocalhistory.org) or phone Carolyn Birch on 01725 511583.

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### **RAF Stoney Cross. Part 1**

Stoney Cross was originally planned to be a secret airfield devoid of the usual facilities and heavily camouflaged aircraft dispersal areas. Chattis Hill and Marwell Hall (now Marwell Zoo) were actually completed in this concept and were mainly used for aircraft assembly, the large sheds being hidden by trees. However in the case of Stoney Cross it was decided to make it an advanced airbase and emergency airfield due to its nearness to occupied France.

*Continued on next page >>>>*

## **RAF Stoney Cross. Part 1 - *continued***

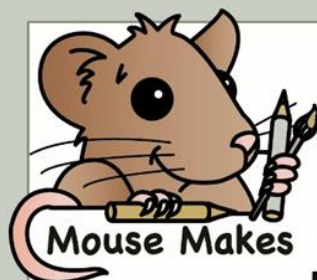
Work commenced in 1942 and was still being finished off in 1944. Despite this, aircraft arrived in January 1943 and the airfield was operated by Army Co-operation Command RAF. Squadrons at various times in early 1943 were 239, 26 and 175, all operating the early Allison engined Mustang. This was a very fast, long ranging aircraft at low level and ideal for the reconnaissance and strafing role. Whilst operations were undertaken over France much time was spent working on exercises with the Army to prepare for D-Day.

In April 1943 Wimpey, the contractors, were still finishing runways, taxi ways and dispersals when a Mustang crashed into a works lorry killing three civilians. This led to the aircraft leaving until work was completed. In the interim USAAF B17's appeared dropping off operationally exhausted USAAF air crew for Rest and Recuperation at Broadlands.

When completed the airfield had four T2 Hangars plus extensive support and accommodation. Accommodation was to the south and east sides of the airfield. The airfield was, and still is, very visible from the air and is quite distinctive with its unusual layout of three runways and their tightly wrapped taxi ways (perimeter track). This was necessary due to its location on a ridge with the ground falling away to the north, east and south. The current road to Lynwood is on the main east / west runway whilst the road from Nomansland toward Minstead is the eastern part of the perimeter track.

In August 1943 the airfield was judged ready for regular flying and 297 Squadron RAF arrived on 1<sup>st</sup> September with Whitley and Albemarle parachute-dropping aircraft which delivered commandos raiding St Valery that month. In November the squadron split into three, to form two additional squadrons, 299 Squadron at Stoney Cross and 298 at Tarrant Rushton.

In the autumn of 1943 US personnel arrived to start the assembly of Hadrian gliders as part of the invasion preparations. The rapid pace of change did not slacken as 299 re-equipped with Stirling IV aircraft for the paratrooper role and 297 undertook supply drops to occupied France. Paratrooper exercises continued night and day until mid-March when both moved to the Oxfordshire / N. Wiltshire area to free up Stoney Cross for USAAF use prior to D-Day.



The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

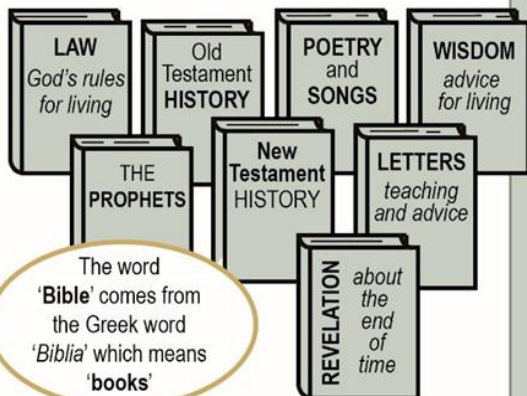
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



### BIBLE WORDS

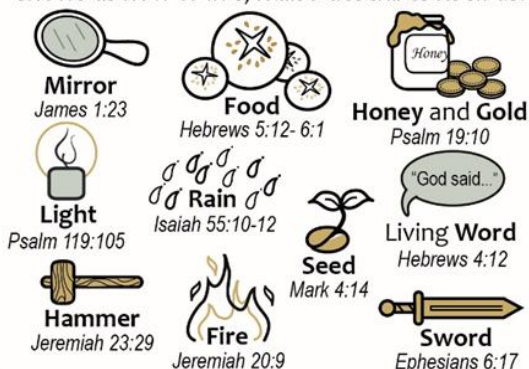
The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K  
R I O S I L G  
O G O N S W O  
P H K E D O L  
H T S W O R D  
E R L T M D O  
T E A E G O D  
S V W S E E D  
L E T T E R S  
T L W A N L O  
H A M M E R N  
O T I E H I G  
N I R N I R S  
E O R T S A B  
Y N O R T I I  
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The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '**Biblia**' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

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### **All box and line advertisements in this magazine are accepted in good faith**

The cost of a 30 word insert in this column is £2.50 per month (£20.00 per annum). Please send a copy of your advertisement plus cash to Mrs M Pitt, 11 Joanna Close, Downton (01725 510586) by 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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**Small ads:** In by noon on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month (10<sup>th</sup> of the month in February) to Marguerite Pitt (01725 510586)

### **Sending editorial copy**

Articles and notices of events for the **October** issue to be emailed to the Editor **by 14<sup>th</sup> September.** Please contact the Editor if you wish to submit a paper copy.

Articles will be shortened if space is limited; any received late may not be used. While the magazine is currently online, coloured clipart and photographs are welcome.

**Editor: Angela Jones (01725 512204)**

**Email:** [alovelockjones@waitrose.com](mailto:alovelockjones@waitrose.com)

Editorial enquiries may also be addressed to the Team Rector,  
Rev Frank Gimson (01725 510326)

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