

The Bridge

February 2026

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



Get your bids in at the Silent Auction, get a grant, sup up at a Soup Lunch, join the Corsley PC, get chatty at some coffee mornings, get some support for Prostate Cancer, be crafty in the afternoon, there's lots to do in February...



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The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Articles

Please submit articles either by email to paradisefound86@icloud.com or by hand (legible handwriting please!) and take them to the drop-off locations at Barbers Plant Centre, Chapmanslade, or Acres Supply Garden Centre, Corsley by the deadline – and with the fee!

News, reports, updates, thank you's, etc, from individuals or local organisations are free – the more the merrier – keep 'em coming!

File types

Save your files as .doc – please don't send .docx files – I can't always open them successfully.

Advertising:

Small ads are £1 for each item whether 'For Sale' or 'Wanted'.

Events/local organisation ads (churches, clubs, playgroups, etc) are £2.50 per month for a boxed advert.

Full page ads cost £8, are subject to space availability and cannot be guaranteed,

If you are advertising, don't forget to take the fee – cash or cheque in a sealed envelope please, to either of the drop-off points (Barbers Plant Centre or Acres Supply). We can also take BACS transfers – please email the Editor for all the info.

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

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Parish Council briefing
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Deadline

**Deadline for articles
or adverts for the next
issue of The Bridge is
4pm 19th February**

**Please note that no
items will be accepted
after this date**

Diary Dates



February

Wednesday 4th

Coffee Morning (run by the Lite Bites team) – 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Tuesday 10th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Wednesday 11th

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Thursday 12th

Corsley WI meeting – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Thursday 19th

Community Church Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Friday 20th

Deadline for submission of application and covering letter for co-option onto Corsley Parish Council

Wednesday 25th

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Wednesday 28th

Tackling Prostate Cancer Together – 11 am to 1 pm, Thomas Arnold Hall, Warminster School

Lite Bites Soup Lunch – 12.30 pm to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Deadline for submission of forms for grants from Corsley Fayre

Silent Auction – 7 for 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

March

Wednesday 4th

Coffee Morning (run by the Lite Bites team) – 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Tuesday 13th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Thursday 19th

Community Church Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

London Mountain Film Festival – 7.30 pm (doors at 7 pm), Corsley Reading Room

Saturday 21st

Brick Church – 10.30 am to 12 noon, St Philip & St James' Church, Chapmanslade

Rural Police Community Drop-In – 2
to 4 pm, St Philip & St James' Church,
Chapmanslade

Wednesday 25th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch – 12.30 pm to 2 pm,
Corsley Reading Room

April

Wednesday 1st

Coffee Morning (run by the Lite Bites team) –
10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Tuesday 14th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am
to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Wednesday 22nd

Lite Bites Soup Lunch – 12.30 pm to 2 pm,

Amendment

Please note that the new dates for the
8-day Moroccan trek on page 32 of the
January edition of The Bridge are **14th
November to 21st November**

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For up-to-date information such as
occasional parish council meetings,
church services, previous editions of
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Wednesday 4th March

Wednesday 18th March

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Wednesday 29th April

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Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches

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Bob's bafflers

- 1 Who was the British General who began the Boy Scouts Association?
- 2 What is the highest number on a roulette wheel?
- 3 What is Elon Musk's space company called?
- 4 Blood is classified into four main groups. A, B and O are three. Name the fourth.
- 5 X and which other letter are worth eight points in the English version of Scrabble?
- 6 In which museum would you find the painting of the Mona Lisa?
- 7 Who wrote "The Fortunes and Misfortunes of Moll Flanders"?
- 8 How is the Elizabeth Tower in London more commonly known?
- 9 Who served as US President between Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan?
- 10 Which organ in the human body produces insulin?
- 11 In which year did the Berlin Wall fall?
- 12 Which sign of the Zodiac starts with the same letter as of one of the months it covers?

Answers on page 40



Corsley Fayre Grants

Some years ago the Corsley Show Committee created the Corsley Charitable Trust with a view to supporting local charities and other organisations deemed to be of benefit to the inhabitants of the parishes of Corsley, Chapmanslade and Horningsham.

To benefit from grants from the trust, these charities and organisations must have their focus on the following objectives:

- Community development
- Advancement of arts, culture and heritage
- Advancement of amateur sport
- Advancement of education to all ages in the rural community.

The trust would like to welcome applications from any qualifying charity or organisation for a grant of up to £250.

To receive an application form for a grant please email corsleyshowtrust@btinternet.com
Completed application forms must be received no later than the 28th February.

Maud Davies Close, Corsley

One remaining house!

Read on for more information on obtaining the last house...

These Wiltshire Council shared ownership homes offer an excellent opportunity for buyers, with a local connection to Corsley, looking to step onto the property ladder. There are three 2-bedroom shared ownership homes for sale on the new Maud Davies Close development. These properties, in a rural setting, offer generous room sizes, separate downstairs cloakroom, own private gardens with patio areas and allocated parking. Built to 100% NDSS (Nationally Described Space Standard), the homes are net zero in operation, featuring air source heat pumps and highly insulated fabric within the structure. To promote environmental diversity and sustainability, bat and bird

boxes are installed on the houses, and EV chargers to encourage the use of electric vehicles. Additionally, PV panels are installed on roofs, offering energy savings. Under a shared ownership, you buy a 'share' of the property on your affordability and pay rent on the remaining share. You can then buy further shares in the property at the market value when this becomes affordable or stay at your current level of ownership. As further shares are purchased, the rent is reduced proportionately. To register your interest and find out more information, please email: residentialdevelopmentteam@wiltshire.gov.uk or call Rachael Swann on 07858 818949.

FOR SALE

4 Maud Davies Close, Corsley, BA12 7FF



This remaining 2-bedroom Wiltshire Council shared ownership home at the full market value of £230,000 is available to buy from **£23,000.00 with a 10% share!**

The property offers an excellent opportunity for buyers, **with a local connection to Corsley and the surrounding parishes** looking to step onto the property ladder.

The home is in a rural setting, offering generous room sizes, separate downstairs cloakroom, own private garden with patio area and allocated parking. The home features air source heat pumps, PV panels, highly insulated fabric within the structure and an EV charger to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

For information about Wiltshire Council's shared ownership scheme please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/housing-shared-ownership-properties or contact ResidentialDevelopmentTeam@wiltshire.gov.uk



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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

The PC met at the Village Hall on 8th January with five councillors present and two members of the public. Cllr Phil Holihead chaired the meeting. There were no public questions made against the items listed on the agenda.

Planning applications

Discussed in closed session by the councillors: **PL/2025/09774 Listed Building Consent for amendments and alterations to the kitchen/dining room in Wheelwrights House, 63 High Street.**

No objections were raised.

Matters arising

Cllr Holihead had written to National Highways expressing continued concerns over safety at the A36 junction to Thoulstone following the serious accident last November and the increase in use and licencing at Thoulstone Park. To date there has been no response.

Actions have now started to hold a workshop for Emergency/Resilience Planning across the parishes, facilitated by SAFE-HOUSE, during the first quarter of 2026. Details to be published once set but it is likely to be a mid-week event at the Village Hall.

Finance

An updated position and forecast for the end of the fiscal year (31st March) was discussed, and the precept for 2026/2027 confirmed. Councillors were aware that the financial situation would be tighter than in the previous couple of years and that even greater scrutiny of expenditure would be necessary.

The Clerk's salary was agreed.

The purchase of a new PC-owned laptop for the Clerk's work was agreed.

CIL funding

An update of the Integrated Energy Project for the Village Hall was given. With sufficient grant funding now in place orders have been placed for the Solar PV system and a new electrical distribution system to make the Hall more electrically resilient and efficient. Further orders for an air source heat pump and a new ventilation system are in the pipeline. The PC remains fully committed to this work which should bring a new lease of life to the Hall as well as make it more suitable as the community emergency hub and has provided the majority of the remaining CIL funds to see it to completion.

Other

Policies for Approval – a further group of new and updated policies had been prepared and were agreed by councillors. Policies will be updated on the PC website and will be reviewed on an annual basis. Councillors thanked those who had done the work of making rather long and detailed specimen documentation more Chapmanslade-relevant and felt that having these policies in place provided better guidance to the PC.

Next PC meeting

The next PC meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm at the village hall on Thursday 12th February. Items for the agenda to the Clerk to: clerk@chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of all PC meetings can be found at www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Phil Holihead

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

A report on the latest happenings at the hall

Here we go into 2026. Getting through a largely grey January by turning our mind to events in the coming months. For March we are again joining with the London Mountain Film Festival to show a selection of inspirational films about mountain and outdoor activities. Keep the date and get your tickets in good time...

Thursday 19th March at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £8 in advance from corsleyreadingroom.org.uk (see full page ad elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge) or it's £10 on the door if available. Great value either way for an evening to raise your spirits and take you to the great outdoors!

Hope to see you there!

We've been talking about the village Emergency Plan with Martin Travers and others from the Parish Council. Of course we're hoping we won't have any emergencies, but its good to be prepared and the grant for installation of the UV panels and battery at the Reading Room was given with the understanding that the stored electricity generated offers some back up for the village if there is a power outage.

There's lots to do, so I'm just saying again we would really like to recruit more people to help with the tasks of running the Reading Room. If you don't like committees but would be prepared to lend a hand when extra hands are needed, we would love to hear from you. It's a great way to get to know people in the village and contribute to the community events we all value so much. Do get in touch with anyone on the committee if you would like to know more.

*Liz Garret
Secretary*

Booking the hall

Please use the website form or email crrbookings@gmail.com. Corsley residents get a discount on our published prices! So please do use the hall; Dee Crossland is keen to help with your booking.

Contact via
chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk.

See website

www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk
for up-to-date information and more.

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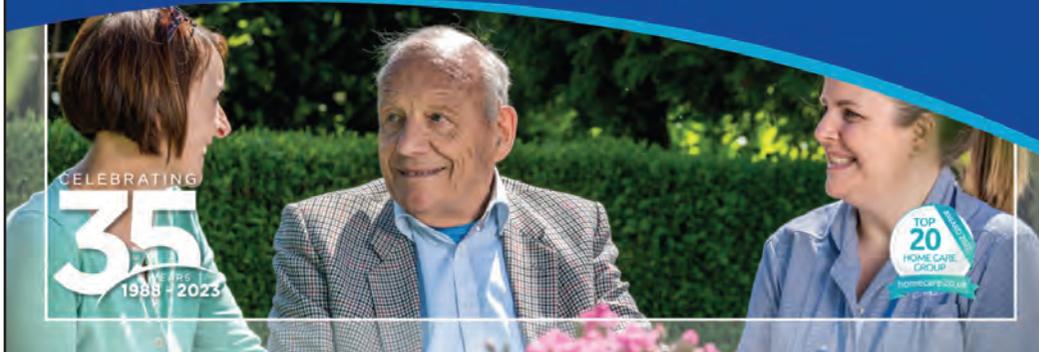
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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

The PC Clerk rounds up the PC's activity in January

Since the last report the Parish Council (PC) had met twice; November and January.

The main issues from these meetings were:

Two planning applications had been considered:

PL/2025/07554 (*Listed Building Consent removal of non-original stud wall between two first floor bedrooms to form one larger bedroom at: Little Thatch, 49 Whitbourne Moor.*)

The PC had no objection to this application and it has subsequently been reported that the planning authority approved the application.

PL/202509936 *Proposed second floor extension at 111 The Hollow.*

The PC had no objection to this application.

It was also reported that Application No **PL/2025/03210**, Permission In Principle for phased development of up to 2 self build dwellings at Lane End, which had been refused by the planning authority was now the subject of an appeal.

Grants/donations

Following the agreement by the PC that it would again make grants/donations to village organisations and the subsequent notice to this effect being put in The Bridge, two applications had been received. Grants were made to both these organisations; The Corsley War Memorial Playing Field and the Corsley and Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council.

Resignation/Co-option

Councillor Helliard had tendered her resignation from the PC prior to the November meeting. After following the procedure required with such events; and subsequently being advised by Wiltshire Council that it was not necessary to hold an election to fill the vacancy the PC agreed that they would fill the vacancy by co-option. (See the notice on page 17 after this article detailing the process if anyone is interested).

Parish Precept

Wiltshire Council require the Parish precept to be confirmed by the end of January. A report had been circulated detailing the current financial position of the PC and the known and estimated requirements for the remainder of this financial year. Following detailed discussion regarding the expenditure for the following year, it was agreed that the precept for 2026/2027 should be 2.5% higher than that of the current year. (It should be noted that this increase is less than the current inflation rate.)

Roads

The PC continues to engage with the highway authority on a number of issues. Discussions regarding the weight limit restrictions on the A362 through Corsley have been ongoing and the process to make the restrictions both ways through the village and the weight limit reduced to 7.5Tt from 18T has been initiated. However, villagers will be aware that this

going to be a slow process. Funding has been agreed for signage to try and prevent the use of the narrow lanes in the village by HGVs and the like leading to the issues that villagers may be aware of with vehicles being stuck and having to be towed out. (A vote of thanks must go to David Helliar of High House farm for his considerable assistance with this.)

A metro count of vehicle numbers and speed has taken place on Geys Hill and the results are awaited.

Household Emergency Management Guides

Work on the village emergency plan continues apace. A report detailing the progress to date was circulated at the November meeting and a

draft preparedness guide for distribution to all villagers has been agreed.

Leonard White Trust

The Parish Council, acting as the Trustees of The Leonard White Trust, agreed that the trust should be wound up and the trust monies donated to organisations that had similar aims to the trust; Little Cuckoos, The Corsley War Memorial Playing Field, The Thynne and Keyford Educational Foundation.

Dates of next meetings

Monday 2nd March

Meetings to be held in the Lower Room at Corsley Reading Room and will begin at 7.30 pm).

Co-option to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council

Following the resignation of a Parish Councillor, Wiltshire Council have advised the PC that it is not necessary to hold an election to fill the vacancy arising.

The PC has agreed that it will seek to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Candidates should be registered electors in the parish area, or if during the whole 12 months before co-option they have owned or been a tenant of any land or premises in the parish, or if their principal or only place of work has been in the parish, or if they have resided in the parish or within 4.8 km of it. Candidates should also be over 18 at the time of co-option, should not be bankrupts and have not been in prison in the last five years.

Candidates who are interested in co-option should apply, by email or post, to the Parish Clerk, John Willcox. Candidates should attach a covering letter detailing relevant experience and some explanation of why they wish to

join the PC. The closing date for applications is **Friday 20th February**.

Prospective candidates are welcome to contact the Clerk, the Chair of the Parish Council, John Phillips Neil Carpenter or Olly Hares who are current member of the Parish Council for an informal discussion about the responsibilities and time commitments involved.

Contact details

John Willcox t. 01373 832171
e. corsleypc_jdw@aol.com

a. Little Orchard, Court Lane, Lyes Green,

John Phillips e. corsleypc.jfp@aol.com

Oliver Hares t. 07973 884319

Neil Carpenter t. 01373 83234

*John Willcox
Clerk to Corsley Parish Council*

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Six Open Doors

Dear everyone,

As someone who struggles with winter, I am always pleased to see the early signs of spring appearing as we move into February. I particularly love the emergence of the snowdrops, so beautiful, so delicate and yet tenaciously determined as they push their way through the hard, cold winter soil to bring such beauty, joy and hope. What an example and inspiration! Perhaps all the more appreciated just now as actually February can still be cold, the vagaries of winter are far from over.

I have been reflecting quite a lot this year on what it means to 'winter well', and the importance of winter seasons. As always, I have appreciated afresh how the natural world and the seasons of nature have so much to reveal and teach about the seasons of the soul and the workings of the Divine too.

Such as how fallow, quiet seasons are necessary for renewal and growth. How dormancy is not death, but an opportunity for a deep work beneath the surface. How stillness, slowness, darkness, are important for the growth of new life, new fruit. How strength is often formed in seasons that can feel plain, quiet and hard. How beautiful and to be treasured those all too rare crisp, cold but clear winter days are.

Winter is the time when roots strengthen. When trees conserve energy. When leaves rot to fertilise the soil. When seeds lie hidden underground, in the dark, doing invisible work. In order that they might sprout and blossom afresh when the time is right. So too with our bodies, minds and soul.

In so many ways the emergence of the snowdrops and their magnificent, gorgeous appearance is a wonderful reminder of and celebration of all of that. As well as of the irrepressible life and creativity of nature. Including us. Despite it all.

This is of course, or should be, the truth at the heart of faith. For this is what the story of Jesus is really about. God's ongoing, always present, always ongoing work of creative, life and love. A work that continues and is sometimes at its most profound through times of darkness and winter too.

But for all of us, whatever and wherever our faith journey may lie, as we travel through these last weeks of winter, and particularly with all that is going on around us in the world just now, February still provides an opportunity to dig deep, renew our hope, and look for those glimpses of love, goodness, beauty that we see around us.

As we look at the snowdrops, let's take heart that all that goes on in the darkness, unseen, carries within it the hope of new beginnings, creative love.

Go well,
Marian

February Church Diary

Sunday 1st February: Epiphany 4

10 am Eucharist, St Margaret's, Corsley

8 am BCP, Kingston Deverill

10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 8th February: 2nd before Lent

10 am Praise & Worship, St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill



Sunday 15th February: Sunday before Lent

11 am Matins, St Margaret's, Corsley

10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill



Sunday 22nd February: Lent 1

10 am Eucharist, St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill

Pastoral Visiting

If anyone would like to receive a visit or Home Communion, please contact

Rev Marian Curtis 07761 853000

Church and Community Events in February

Corsley Coffee Morning

Wednesday 4th February – 10 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Rooms

Crafternoon

Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 25th February – 3 to 5 pm, The Three Horseshoes

Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 19th February – 10 am – to 12 noon, The Three Horseshoes

Silent Auction

28th February – 7pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall (see advert for details)

Brick Church

Saturday 21st March – 10.30 am to 12 noon, St Philip & St James' Church, Chapmanslade



Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

First contact for anything related to Corsley and Chapmanslade please contact Sue Fear at suefearpcc@gmail.com

Lay Pastoral Assistants	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
Pastoral Visitor	Barbara Hughes	01373 832273
Churchwardens: St Margaret's St Philip & St James	Vacant Ian Buick	01373 832318
Deputy Churchwardens: St Margaret's St Philip & St James'	Amy Holley Janet Aylesbury	01373 832212 07808 565878
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Ian and Janet Buick	01373 832318
Tower Captain	Mike Attenborough	01373 832777
Electoral Roll	Vacant	
50/50 Club	Sue Fear	01373 832074
Time to Think	Trudi Hopkinson	01373 832393
Lite Bites Lunches	Maureen Willcox	01373 832171
Benefice Administrator	Vacant	
Benefice Webmaster	Mike Palmer	mjp.mikepalmer@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Sarah Humberstone	cleyhillbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

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Corsley WI

January news

Maggie Wobey rounds up the January meeting



Despite the promise of high winds and possible snow the first meeting went ahead with a good turnout. After New Year greetings and a short business meeting where members voted on their own choice of resolution to take to National WI, the group listened to a short talk and request from Lesley Hooper who started a small grassroots charity in 2016. The aim was and still is to support some youngsters who are not able to access basic toiletries. The work achieved by Refresh Frome helps with children's self-esteem and school attendance as well as transitions between schools. Frome Rotary supports the charity financially and any funds or donations given within Frome stay within the local branch of the charity. Individual bags are made up for children of various ages and given to eight schools, six times a year, with each school deciding how the bags are distributed. Corsley WI has already collected items for the charity and will continue to do so during 2026. Donations of shower gel, shampoo, deodorant and bubble bath for both boys and girls of primary and secondary age can be delivered to Superdrug in Frome.

The main event of the evening was a talk by Eli Payne who was able to come at short notice and talk about women's health and movement. Eli has a background in cardiology and some seven years ago decided to have a new start and trained in fitness becoming a personal trainer. She took the group through

the how and why of the importance of fitness for women of all ages, with the basic premise of all women being able to stay fit enough to live in their own home, being able to dress, shower, bath and cook independently. We need to maintain our prime peak by keeping body and mind in good working order and it is never too late to start exercise. She gave us the 'bad' news with good humour telling us that our prime peak is 30 years of age and then we lose our body strength by 1% per year with reduced flexibility, loss of bone mass and retaining less water which is why we should aim to drink two litres of water per day. Changes in hormones have their effect with the loss of oestrogen impacting on osteoporosis. Eli explained that regular daily exercise supports our emotional well-being, improves our self-esteem, and helps our hormonal balance. In terms of keeping fit, we can improve flexibility and balance by dancing, playing bowls or skittles and improve strength through exercising two to three times a week. Doing this will impact our cardiovascular health and being fit enough to get out and about supports our social interaction.

Eli also explained that women's heart attacks have different symptoms to men. Women should be aware of tiredness, fatigue, shortness of breath and nausea as opposed to traditional chest pain.

After the talk Eli took us through some

simple but effective exercises both sitting and standing that can easily be incorporated into daily life and achieved at home with stretches, balances using a chair as a support, heel to toe walking, and exercises (with or without tins of beans, and using a kitchen unit or a wall!) ensuring none of us felt any discomfort, pain or dizziness. The meeting finished as always with the 'healthy' option – coffee, cake and a chat with others!

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th February at 7.30pm in The Reading Rooms. For further information contact Alice Helliard on 07989339632

church news

News from the pews

An update from the Church Parish on the search for a new vicar

The search for a replacement vicar for the parish of Corsley and Chapmanslade is on a new course following two years of vacancy. Bishop Andrew Rumsey and recently appointed Archdeacon Louise Ellis have breathed new life into the process by agreeing that the post should be full time rather than the previously advertised shared role. We have just completed an update of the document called a parish profile, which describes the Benefice of Cley Hill Villages, comprised of our parish and the Parish of the Deverills and Horningsham, as well as who and what we are looking for in our new priest. This is currently being reviewed by Louise, prior to the post being advertised during the month.

Another critical part of this process has been a major rethink by the Church of

England in the way parishes pay for their priest and the other administration costs of the central services we receive. It is not widely understood that as a parish, we do not normally receive any financial support from Salisbury Diocese. In the past we were presented with a total amount calculated by the diocese, with limited detail.

The new method, however, clearly lets us know how much we are being asked to pay to the diocese in respect of our priest's cost as well as another figure calculated from the size of our congregation. It is no secret that we in this parish have not been able to fully meet the figure being asked for since 2020. The diocese and Church of England in general have reacted to this and some central funds are available to help us embark on a process towards meeting the figure in the future.

It is worth letting everyone know the size of the challenge we face every year. The parish is being asked to find just over £36,000 this year, more than 50% of which is comprised of priest's costs. In addition to this, we have to raise the funds to run, maintain and develop our churches.

As long as we have a vacancy, we are receiving some reduction. Once we achieve a new appointment, we will be moving into several years of recovery, where the diocese will be considering whether we can sustain a full time priest in the long term. This is fully dependent on whether we manage to raise the full amount requested each year by the end of the recovery period.

2026 is going to be a very busy year as we reach out to all of you in our wonderful villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade, as well as continue developing our churches into places every generation can fully use and appreciate. It is our mission for this community to be at the heart of everything we do.

Ian Buick
Church Warden and Joint Treasurer

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*Helen Buick (Barney), and
Kate Sandell (Wren)*

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When?

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Corsley Tennis Club News



So far 2026 has either been too cold with frost on the courts, or pouring with rain for much tennis, but I've no doubt the better weather is just round the corner. The small windows of opportunity to get on court are always taken advantage of by our enthusiastic players!

Our AGM was held back in December with 15 attendees. Val Sandoe, our new President, chaired the election of Officers and Committee and those who wished to stay on the committee were successfully re-elected. It was also agreed that Pete Hardy would take over the League arrangements from Jenny Bishop. Many thanks must go to Jenny for all her hard work arranging the League matches over the years. Thank you

also to Mark Richards who will not be staying on the committee but will continue to support the junior coaching administration as he does now. It was decided that the Chair will be elected at the first committee meeting on 23rd February and other committee roles will be allocated or confirmed at that time.

Lots more news to follow in the forthcoming months but I would like to end with a special mention to our officers and committee members who spend so much of their own time making sure our fabulous club runs smoothly. It wouldn't all happen without you!

Kate Jackson
Committee member

Rural Police Community Drop-In Come along and have a chat!

2 to 4 pm, Saturday 21st March, St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

We'd love you to pop by for a cuppa and a chat about what matters most in your area. This is a great opportunity to:

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- ✓ Get advice on farm and property security
- ✓ Learn more about what we're doing to keep our countryside safe.

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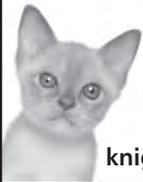
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Whitbourne Chapel

“O Lord; teach me your decrees...”
Psalm 119, verse 64

Let God fill you with His love

What is your favourite sandwich filling? When I worked in central London in the early 1980s, there were many sandwich bars. This was, of course, before the days of pre-prepared sandwiches from M&S. The sandwich bar opposite the office block I worked in was called ‘Peter’s’ where, unsurprisingly, Peter and his wife spent every working day making, probably, hundreds of sandwiches to order. The counter had on it bowls of every sandwich filling you could think of, together with a selection of bread and rolls to put your chosen filling in. As you can imagine, many people waited every lunchtime to select their filling and bread for that day.

The Bible speaks in different ways about ‘filling’. In Psalm 119, the writer says in verse 64: “The earth is filled with your love, O Lord; teach me your decrees.” This reminds us of God’s abundant, ever-present kindness, justice and mercy. The Psalmist says that the earth is “full of God’s love.” There is no space left; God’s hand is everywhere in creation, in God’s righteous acts and in His unfailing love for us, especially the sacrificial love shown through the coming to earth, death and

resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our only hope.

The Psalmist also asks that the Lord would ‘teach him His decrees’. This is a reference to the Holy Spirit, also referred to as the Counsellor or Helper. The Holy Spirit coming enabled the Apostles to go and start spreading the good news about Jesus. If we are those who have responded to the invitation to repent and have put our trust in the Lord Jesus, we too have received the Holy Spirit and are to be filled by Him, so that our whole life is spent praising, learning more about God, being obedient to His ways and leading in our lives.

In his letter to the church at Rome, the Apostle Paul says, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15, verse 13). Will you trust in God, through our Saviour Jesus and let the Holy Spirit fill you?

P.S. In case you were wondering, my favourite sandwich filling was always, and still is, cheese and pickle on white bread, closely followed by cream cheese and pineapple!

Chris Andrews
Occasional Preacher at Whitbourne



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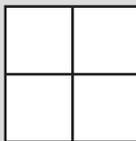
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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Spring has sprung!

Wow! Already things are altering, daylight by 7.30 and today although it's only 1°C the sun is up and it brightens my mood.

January was a mixture of dull, grey, windy stormy weather with the occasional sunny day, but most of them had a mix of all five.

Total rainfall for 2025 was 803.5 mm (31.63"), the lowest since 2016.

Although quite late, the winter thrushes, field fares and redwings have been seen and there are still lots of berries around for the blackbirds and our native thrushes.

It is important to feed garden birds for at least the next few months. The long tailed tits and gold crests are still in their family groups, until breeding starts again and you may well see more than one robin in your garden as they are pairing up (robins are normally solitary and territorial birds the rest of the year after breeding).

Rooks, ravens and crows are grateful for the slurry (farmyard manure) being spread on the fields; they enjoy grubbing out lots of the worms and bugs before and after the soil is ploughed.

Hedge cutting is keeping the contractors busy as they must get this job finished by the 30th April, before the nesting season begins.

The spring-calving cows are now starting to have their calves in open straw areas within the barns. This makes things easier for the dairyman as the low electric lighting allows

easy visibility to see what is going on both day and night.

Last year's dry summer is now causing concerns as the home-produced store of feed stuffs are running low. What we really don't want now is a wet spring.

Candlemas Day is Monday 2nd February, an important day in the farmer's diary noting that he should still have half his winter feed and bedding in store. Although we have now reached February, winter still has a long way to go.

Another thing to look forward to is the village in bloom. Our annual show of snowdrops seem to just appear from nowhere, brightening up the verges for over a month. There's already a show of daffodils, planted with financial help from the Parish Council and much backache from volunteers as they were planting them – what a lovely way to welcome in spring.

Lambing is nearly upon us, so please take extra care whilst out walking dogs. Dogs found worrying sheep may cause them to abort their lambs; the owner of the sheep has every legal right to shoot the dog.

So, enjoy the extra daylight hours in February, the lovely walks through the village with the early spring flowers, but don't forget we still have a way to go before we say goodbye to winter.

Judith Helliar

TACKLING PROSTATE CANCER TOGETHER

information, reassurance and support in Warminster

Have you recently been diagnosed?

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Event supported by:



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Small ads

£1 for EACH item for sale or wanted (cash only please) - at one of the two drop-off locations)

Please note: no cash, no advert!

WANTED

Cotswold tooled Bradstone blocks – any quantity. Please telephone **01373 832727**

Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Lord Robert Baden Powell
- 2 36
- 3 SPACEX
- 4 AB
- 5 J
- 6 The Louvre in Paris (if it hasn't been nicked by now!)
- 7 Daniel Defoe
- 8 Big Ben
- 9 Jimmy Carter
- 10 Pancreas
- 11 1989
- 12 Aries which covers the beginning of April as well as the end of March

Local organisation adverts

£2.50 per month for a small boxed advert or £8 for a full page. Full page adverts are allocated depending on space available and cannot be guaranteed. All monies must be at one of the two drop-off locations (Barbers Plant Centre or Acres Supply Garden Centre) by **4pm** on the **19th** of the month. Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Annual trade advertisements (12 issues, when space is available)

1 space	(69mm wide x 33mm high)	£24
2 spaces	(69mm wide x 66mm high)	£47
3 spaces	(quarter page - 69mm wide x 100mm high)	£68
4 spaces	(138mm wide x 66mm high)	£85
6 spaces	(half page - 138mm wide x 100mm high)	£120

Trade advertisement material should be supplied in print-ready format, to the chosen standard size and correct shape.

For trade advertising enquiries, please contact David James (Trade advert coordinator/Treasurer) at either thebridge832@gmail.com or 01373 832443.

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