



Rev. Jane Durham tel: 01458 223417 Mobile: 07421 700 242 email: rev.jane.durham@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston  
Mrs Rachel Willcox 07966 873 660

Lydford on Fosse  
Mr Ralph Berry (01963) 240164

Barton St David  
Mrs Carolyn Giddings (01458) 851617

Lay Ministers: Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237 Jan Jones (01458) 851608  
Benefice Administrator, Jo Oubridge – Email: wheathillbenefice@gmail.com

Web Page : wheathill.org Parish Magazine Editor – Email: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com



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faith, baptism, marriage, challenges or something else?



Jane will be in Newlands Farm Shop Cafe,  
Keinton Mandeville  
On

Wednesday, 15th April at 2:30pm

Come and join her there for tea/coffee and a chat



**Dates to Note:**

18/4 Wessex Singers\*,  
19/04 Tea & Talk\* - MAF,  
24/04 Moviola\*,

**Contents Guide**

Benefice Services;	Page 2
Rev. Jane's Letter;	
Henry Livius Trust;	
KM Church Openers;	Page 3
Benefice Churches open;	
Church Car Parks;	
Transport to Church;	
Model Railway Open Day*	
K.E.G. Update;	Page 4
KM Open Gardens Date;	
Barton Scouts	Page 5
WPCT Update	
Lydford P. Hall Notes/Events	Page 6
KM Knit & Natter Group	
Benefice Choir Notes	Page 7
KM PC Defibrillator Info	
Chat Map Picture	
St Peter's Church Notes	Page 8
Walters & Pope Trust;	
Lydford Welcome POPin Cafe	
Lydford PC notes;	Page 9
Lydford NHW;	Page 10
Lydford 3rd Tuesday Group	
LDGC Notes	Page 11
KM Methodist Church;	Page 12
Wild Roots Wellbeing Group;	
Mid Wessex Singers Event*	
Easter Chat Map	Page 13
Barton History Club;	Page 14
Barton Plant Sale Date	
KM Table Top Games;	
Church Organist Wanted Advert	
Bishop's Letter;	Page 15
Lydford Scrap Bags;	
KM WI notes;	Page 16
KM Meet Up Group;	
Lydford Moviola details*	

**Barton St David Plant Sale**

As we prepare for our village Plant Sale on May the 16th –

We are hoping that some of you may be willing to donate any garden bric-a-brac (tools, pots, old ornaments, jugs, buckets, cans, seed trays, planters etc), or any gardening books/magazines and cookbooks you now longer use?

If you have items in good condition that you're willing to pass along, we would be very grateful. Your contributions help support our local church and community – Thank you so much.

Please contact Jo Oubridge,  
wheathillbenefice@gmail.com or call 07731 862797.

**Keinton Mandeville Village Hall**



Keinton Mandeville Village Hall is your unique focal point for village events, functions, sport on the MUGA, gatherings on the playing fields and for hire: for weddings, parties, exhibitions, meetings and social groups.

The Trustees are delighted to announce the installation of a new kitchen by local contractors, which should be ready for use in the middle of April. This has been made possible through the generosity of a local benefactor and, combined with an upgrade to the bar area in the committee room, means the hall will be a great venue for all occasions.




Visit our website <https://keintonmandevillevh.co.uk/> to see what's planned, check our bookings calendar for hall vacancies, or get in touch with us via [kmvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:kmvillagehall@gmail.com) or with any of the hall Trustees for more information.

We have recently recruited a new member to the team and, if you too have time to spare and would like to get involved in running this great facility, please do get in touch. More help will be very welcome.

Deadline for MAY 2026 magazine \*\*09:00 am THURSDAY 23rd April \*\*

Items to the Editor – VIA EMAIL PLEASE: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com

## Wheathill Benefice Church Services – April 2026

Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Services
2nd Apr Maundy Thurs		7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, Barton St David	
3rd April Good Friday		2:00pm Good Friday At the Foot of the Cross Kingwes	
5th Apr Easter Day	10:30 am	Easter All Age Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse	
12th Apr Easter 2	10:30 am Benefice Holy Communion Barton St David		
19th Apr Easter 3	Morning Prayer Barton St David	Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	3:30pm Tea & Talk Lydford Village Hall
26th Apr Easter 4	Morning Prayer Lydford on Fosse	Baptism Barton St David <b>APCM</b>	4:00pm Faith n'Fun Keinton Mandeville
3rd May Trinity	Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville	Morning Prayer Lydford on Fosse	Lydford on Fosse <b>APCM</b>



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### ‘ I love Easter ’



It's not just about the chocolate! It is also about the new life emerging all around, flowers, leaves, blossom, bird song, insects, seeds germinating, the signs of hope and life.

Those signs are an excellent reminder of the event at the heart of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus. In the book of Acts Peter said:

*‘God raised him (Jesus) up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.’ (Acts 2:24)*

Jesus died because that was the only way that God could forgive and rescue us.

But he did not need to die, so once dead the power of death was broken and he rises from the dead, leaving his grave cloths behind and discovering new life for us for all time.

What does that mean for us in the face of war, financial uncertainty, increasing oil prices, fears for our future and concerns as to what is going to happen next? We certainly live in strange and challenging times, where we're not quite sure what is going to happen next.

I don't have the answers, but I think that it means that God is with us amid all that is happening. Jesus' resurrection means that he can be everywhere all the time, by his Spirit. So that means we can come to him with our anxieties at night, our surprises (both the ones we are thankful for and those that alarm us) during the day and pray, hold the anxieties and give thanks.

In a letter to the Romans Paul tells us that when we don't know how to pray then the Spirit will pray for us, so even if all we can do is sit, stand or walk we can allow God to listen to our thoughts and hold them before him, and in the Risen Jesus he will hear and respond.

So however you celebrate Easter may you know the reality of God with us in the risen Jesus.

**Jane**

### The Henry Livius Trust

The Livius Trust has two distinct aims: providing items, services and facilities at Keinton Mandeville Primary School; and advancing religion in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the Parish of Keinton Mandeville.

The Trustees are open to any proposals that accord with the Trust's aims.

**Rev. Jane Durham (01458) 223417**

Deborah Whittingham (01458) 224057    Belinda Simson (01458) 223470

### Keinton Mandeville Church Openers – April 2026

Should you need to swap, please could you let Emma know as well as the person due to hand the key onto you. If anyone else would like to help with the locking and unlocking of the church, please call 223344.

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Alan Lines	07919161501
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr – Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Joanne Wallwork	07757704221
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr – Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Locke	224287
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr – Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Bain	223314
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr – Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Graham & Lynne	07718125505 07866279447

### Benefice Churches – Churches open for private prayer

The churches of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston and Lydford on Fosse are now all open daily for private prayer with *the exception for Lydford during Mid June and mid September due to local conditions.*

### Church Car Parks

In Keinton, Kingweston and Lydford it is now possible to give when you visit using the QR codes found on noticeboards or at the door. *If you use the churchyards or car park please do consider making occasional or regular donations towards their maintenance and their ongoing place in the lives of our communities.*

### Transport to Church

An understanding has been reached with **Wheathill Priory Community Transport** for people who need lifts to Church Services. WPCT will try to assist on Sunday mornings, if this applies to you or someone you know **call 07799 487 719**, preferably 48 hours in advance. *Thank you WPCT!*

### Model Railway Open Day

Come along and see a working copy of the Lyme Regis branch line taking in all the scenery and buildings of the late 1950's and early 1960's with period rolling stock, signalling and sidings. And.... after that walk through into the working world of Nethercreech Junction based on the late lamented Evercreech Somerset and Dorset Railway, showing multi rail workings, rolling stock, buildings and railway lines. ***Enjoy an historic step back into the railways of the past.***

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## Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

The window is now open for our programme of Spring Wildflower Planting. Because our previous attempts to plant directly with seed have not met with complete success, we are now producing "plugs" from seed. Just contact us if you'd like advice or help on how to grow your own plug plants, or to use some of the ones we have prepared.

### Adding Natural Colour to Keinton

KEG's theme and target for this year is "Adding Natural Colour to Keinton" and we would welcome ideas, possible sites and volunteers to help us achieve this. We would particularly like to work in co-operation with other groups in the village, including the School, gardeners and anyone else interested in making Keinton a more colourful, healthy and pleasant environment in which to work and live.

### Community Copse

If anyone would like to "adopt" any of the trees in the Community Copse do get in touch - adopting a tree will not cost anything other than a little time every now and then to check on your tree and make sure it is healthy and free from weeds. We are in the process of re-cataloguing and updating the list and map of the trees in the Copse, so do contact us for a plan if you'd like to adopt one.

We are continuing our programme of presentations which we use for fundraising to support our various projects around the village. Our next talk will be given by Hayley Warrens, Vice Chair of Somerset Climate Action. The date is to be confirmed but will be either 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> April and we will let you via social media and village notice boards when it has been confirmed. Needless to say other events are in the pipeline for later in the year.

### Future Meetings

Our meetings are open to anyone to attend and we'd love to get more people involved in what we do. KEG's meetings are usually on the second Wednesday of each month, but -

*due to a clash with April's Parish Council meeting*  
we have put ours back to **Thursday 9th April at 6.00pm in the Quarry Inn**

Email: [info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk](mailto:info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk)  
Facebook: (5) Keinton Environment Group (KEG) Facebook

**Save the Date -**

**Keinton Mandeville Open Gardens**

Our last 'open gardens' in Keinton Mandeville was in 2024

**We have booked Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

**From 1:00 pm - 5:00pm to repeat this lovely event**

*So, dust off the secateurs,  
order the seeds,  
and start planning this year's display.*

**We would love to have 10 - 12 gardens for everyone to see.**

Please don't feel they have to be pristine, in fact a messy garden is good for the wildlife. We want lots of different sized gardens which reflect the owners love for plants be they conifers, shrubs, perennials, vegetables, wildflowers or bedding plants.

So, if you have a courtyard, a vegetable plot, topiary, a wildlife corner or anything else please think about opening for this year's event.

We would love to hear from you - contact details below.

**All proceeds from this event will go to help maintain our ancient church.**

Contacts: **Neill Thomas 01458 22361**  
**and Debbie von Bergen 07774 784008**



### A Statement from Barton St David Scout Group

We had some super feedback last month when our Scout Group apologised for being extremely active, slightly messy but suspiciously enthusiastic in all weather conditions. Here is a recent highlight from each section which may explain more.

#### Regarding the Explorers (14–18 years)

Yes, we took them skiing in Italy. No, it was not the Winter Olympics. Despite rumours, none of them attempted a triple axel off the hotel steps, and we are pleased to confirm that all returned safely. They demonstrated courage and resilience, all vital Scouting skills. The leaders are now resting in bed.

#### The Scouts (10–14 years)

Meanwhile the Scouts participated in a character-building muddy East Somerset District hike. When we say “muddy,” we mean the sort of mud that future archaeologists may one day study. The Scouts embraced it wholeheartedly and boots now weigh at least 4kg each. This was intentional. It builds strength.

#### The Cubs (8–10 years)

The Cubs are honing navigation skills. If you see them striding around consulting maps with great seriousness, they almost certainly know where they are. They’ve also been conducting science experiments and celebrating Chinese New Year with creativity and impressive artistic flair.

#### The Beavers (6–8 years)

Beavers have mastered night hiking by bravely venturing forth with torches, boundless energy, and snacks. With the Cubs, they took part in a rather wonderful lantern parade at Wells Cathedral. We like to think we added a certain sparkle to proceedings.

And now, with great anticipation, all sections are looking forward to *Easter crafts and, most importantly, the annual Easter Egg Hunts*. We assure you that these are conducted with the utmost seriousness, strategic planning, and competitive spirit. No chocolate is left behind.

Apart from the mud, maps, skis, lanterns and occasional glitter, Scouting remains what it has always been: fun; busy; occasionally loud but always purposeful and professional. If you hear laughter in Barton hall, focused young people in reflective jackets or spot a group studying a map upside down, rest assured, that’s just us.

If you want to join the adventure and occasional mild, manageable mud please email me or fill in the joining form on our website. We are always delighted to welcome new child and adults in our Group.

*Building skills for life (and occasionally cleaning them off afterwards)*

**Vega Sturgess, Group Lead Volunteer, Barton St David Scout Group.**

[gslbarton@yahoo.com](mailto:gslbarton@yahoo.com)

### Wheathill Priory Community Transport – WPCT

We are a volunteer driving service for the residents of Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford and Barton St. David. If you are a resident of our villages, do not drive or have your own transport, or you find public transport (*if it is available*) difficult to access, you may be eligible to use our Community Transport Scheme for journeys up to 25 miles each way to:

- the doctor, dentist, hospital (*if free transport is not available*), post office, shops,
- friends or relatives (*including when in hospital*)
- local bus stops, bus stations or railway stations for onward journeys.

If you wish to use our Community Transport scheme please call us 48 hours in advance and we will do what we can to help: Contact is: **07799 487719**

*We are always interested in drivers who can spare a few hours a month to join our team, if you would like to help please call our coordinator on the above number.*

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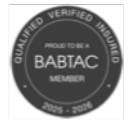
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## Lydford on Fosse Parish Hall

There's a lovely buzz around the parish this month as all our regular groups spring back into action. Yoga with Jill continues to offer a calm mid-week stretch, while the ever-sociable Scrapbags ladies meet again for stitching, chatting, and plenty of laughter. Our Gardening Club are off on an away trip to Brimsmore, where discounted plants are sure to test everyone's willpower. The Royal Enfield Group will gather as usual, and the Parish Hall Management Committee meets to keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes.

The 3rd Tuesday Group are hosting a craft evening - *a friendly chance to try something new*, and Welcome & Pop-In returns to its usual coffee-and-bakes format now that the winter soups have retired for the season.

Our Sunday Tea and Talk this month focuses on **MAF - Mission Aviation Fellowship**. Their work is extraordinary: flying doctors, nurses, medicines, and relief supplies into some of the most remote corners of the world. They say one of their planes takes off or lands every six minutes, bringing help where roads simply don't exist. It promises to be a fascinating and humbling insight into a charity making a real difference.

And of course, the Parish Council will meet as usual but this month also brings *our Annual Parish Meeting*, where all our social groups are invited to share their news from the past year. It's a brilliant snapshot of everything that makes our village vibrant, caring, and connected.

So whether you're stretching, stitching, sipping coffee, crafting, riding, gardening, listening, or simply cheering others on, there's something for everyone. Here's to another month of community spirit at its best.

### User Events for April 2026

Thur 2nd	Scrapbags Yoga	2 - 4pm 7:00pm	Sociable Fabric/Wool Crafts Local Yoga group with Jill
Wed 8th	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>  <b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>  <b>7:00pm</b>	All welcome, Listen/join in.  Join in and hear about local groups, share any concerns
Thu 9th	Yoga	7:00pm	Local Yoga group with Jill
Mon 13th	Royal Enfield Owners Club	7:30pm	Members and guests of Club
Tues 14th	Lydford & District Gardening Club	<b>6:00pm</b>	Early Start, Brimsmore visit
Wed 15th	Parish Hall Committee Meeting	7:00pm	Planning events, Maintenance and future upgrades
Thu 12th	Scrapbags	2:00pm	Sociable Fabric/Wool Crafts
Sun 19th	St Peter's Tea and Talk	3:30pm	MAF -Mission Aviation Fellowship, worldwide aid
Tues 21st	3rd Tuesday Group	7:30pm	Arts & Crafts, Ladies Evening
Fri 24th	Lydford Moviola	7:30pm	<b>The Choral</b> , Ralph Fiennes and Roger Allam
Thu 28th	Welcome & POPin Cafe	10:30am	All welcome for coffee and home bakes
Thu 30th	Yoga	7:00pm	Local Yoga group with Jill

### Knit & Natter, Keinton Mandeville

At Knit and Natter, we are always happy to receive donations of wool which are used for community projects.

*New members are always welcome to come along and join us. We meet Monday afternoons 2:00 - 4:00 p.m in the Methodist Church rooms.*

*For further details please contact Emma Stevens 01458 223344*

## Wheathill Benefice Choir

"We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song." (Pope John Paul II)

Members of the choir joined together on Mothering Sunday in Barton St David, and it was a joy to make music together at this lovely service. It is hoped that it will be possible to support our Easter Sunday worship in Lydford at 10:30am on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

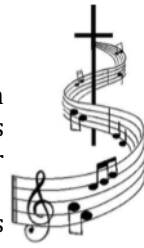
The Benefice Choir is still looking for that special person who is an occasional organist/s and could also lead the choir, so if you think you can help, please don't hesitate to get in touch with:

**Rachel Willcox** ([r.kaywillcox@gmail.com](mailto:r.kaywillcox@gmail.com));

**Claire Harding** ([betweenlanes@live.co.uk](mailto:betweenlanes@live.co.uk)) or;

**Rev Jane Durham** ([rev.jane.durham@gmail.com](mailto:rev.jane.durham@gmail.com))

We would be very glad to hear from you.





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## Keinton Mandeville Parish Council

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### New emergency Defibrillator for the Village

The Keinton Mandeville Parish Council is pleased to announce the funding and installation of a second defibrillator within our village.

The device went live on the 999 emergency system  
on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

It is located on the front wall of the Quarry Inn.

As with the device outside the primary school, the emergency access code can only be provided by the emergency services, if deemed appropriate.

At both locations, there is also an emergency bleed kit. No special codes are required to access these.

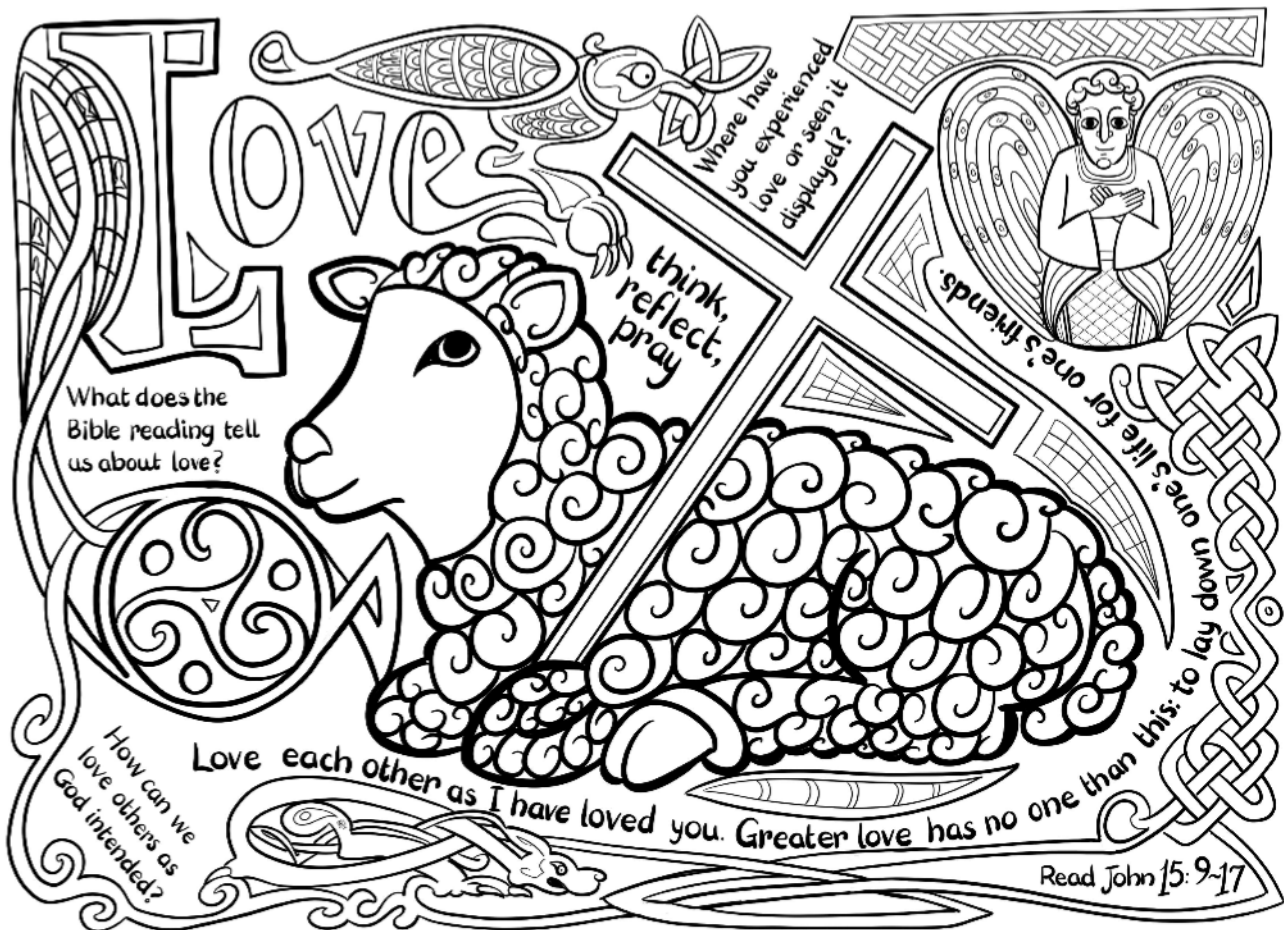
The Parish Council are very grateful to **AJ and Helen Hashmi** for their support for this new device, **also to DM Electricals** for its installation.

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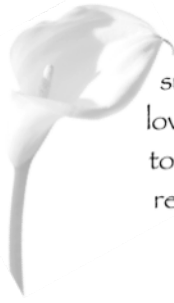
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### St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse

The church services are listed on page two of the magazine.

#### April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Saturday Easter Garden and Egg Hunt

We will be planting the Easter Garden and holding an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30am by St Peters church, light refreshments will be available in the church.

Do bring your children to help plant up the garden and then go on an egg hunt in the churchyard, whilst you have a tea or coffee and socialise for an hour.

#### Bell Report

As reported last month a small committee from the PCC and bell ringers has been fund raising towards the cost of maintenance work required on the bells of St Peters church and we would like to update you on the progress we have made so far in raising those funds. We are pleased to report that, since the launch of the appeal in early March, £9,000 has been raised towards our target of £12,000 and are absolutely delighted with the response to date, many thanks to those who have supported us. We are close but just need a bit more help and generosity to achieve our goal.

May we respectfully ask, that if you are considering donating, or are able to donate, that you visit our Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stpeterschurchrestoraionrepairappeal>



#### For more information:

<https://lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk/2026/03/07/st-peters-church-west-lydford-bell-restroation-repair-fund/>

or on The Lydford on Fosse Parish Web site.

*Thank you and very best wishes*

**Ralph Berry, Church Warden, St Peter's, West Lydford**

#### Tea and Talk, 19<sup>th</sup> April at 3:30pm in Lydford Village Hall

This Month we have *Andrew Steele from MAF, Mission Aviation Fellowship*, coming to talk on their work flying humanitarian aid to many remote parts of the world.

#### (MAF)

This is a Christian organisation and the world's largest humanitarian air operator. For over 75 years they have been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, swamps and deserts. They *enable more than 1,500 aid, development and mission organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief and long-term development to the most inaccessible areas of the world.* Their pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines - everything that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air.

Do come along and hear how they make a vast difference to the lives of so many living in remote areas of the world and also those requiring help after major natural disasters.

#### The Walters and Pope Trust Fund (Lydford-on-Fosse)

- ❖ **HELP!** Do you know anyone in Lydford who needs help and/or support?
- ❖ It may be help with buying books for university.
- ❖ It may be help with buying tools or equipment for a new job.
- ❖ It may be support for someone who is ill, or who is caring for someone.

The Walters and Pope Trust Fund has a small annual income – the Trustees would like to spend this money, fairly and discreetly, for the benefit of anyone who lives in Lydford. If there is anyone who would like assistance, please contact the Trust in confidence: *Secretary, Caroline Seehra tel: 07926 488190*

#### Welcome and POPin Cafe

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April in Lydford Parish Hall**

**From 10:30am to 12 midday**

This month we are returning to our coffee mornings with coffee/tea (decaff available) and homemade biscuits or cakes (gluten-free also available).

Come along to enjoy these delights, have a chat and perhaps take away a book or two from the selection offered. There are no charges and everyone is welcome!

*On behalf of Walters & Pope Charity*

## Lydford on Fosse Parish Council *(clerk@lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk)*

The next month's meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April** in the Parish Hall, starting at the **earlier time of 6:00pm**.

Please Note that **Lydford on Fosse Annual Parish Meeting** will be on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm**.

### At the Parish Council's March meeting:

- A new member was co-opted on to the Parish Council: *Cllr Robin Everson will take over the Highways portfolio with immediate effect.*
- Funding was agreed to purchase tools to reduce the clogging by sedge of the River Brue and Mill Race within the Parish. It is also hoped to conduct a Volunteers' Day to remove Himalayan Balsam along the watercourses to reduce the associated risk of bank erosion.
- A donation of £1,000 was also agreed towards the refurbishment of the Church Bells.
- Grant funding has been sought from Somerset Rivers Authority to install a Flood Bund at Bridgefoot; a decision on this is expected by the end of March.
- A report on a site visit with the Somerset Council Highways Manager was presented. This covered installing Village Gateways and Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), extending the 30-mph restriction on the A37 to the north, and restoring the 'keep clear' road marking opposite the entrance to Chapel Lane (*which was agreed and will be restored in the summer*).
- The hazard of Pavement Parking was also raised, and we hope to further progress this through Somerset Council too, ideally with the support of other local Parishes with similar problems.

### Annual Parish Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Starting at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall**, this should be a great opportunity to promote your working group or club, recruit new members and/or secure assistance from the Parish Council.

- It is **not** a Parish Council meeting, *but a meeting for all Parishioners – everyone present has a right to speak, to propose a vote and to take part in any that are proposed.* It is also a lovely way for the community to get together with drinks and nibbles to talk about what really matters in our parish and what more could be done.
- Initially, Parish Council members will outline the work that they have done on behalf of the community over the last year, and their priorities for the coming year. Then representatives of the wide range of groups in the Parish will talk about their activities too.
- We also anticipate having our Somerset Council 'ward councillor,' *Claire Sully*, present, and she is keen to hear Parishioners views and take their questions too.

### Updated National Planning Framework.

The Government is currently making a number of significant changes to the Planning Process. Their aim is to make it easier for developers to build in order to address the national housing shortage.

However, the Parish Council believes that there is a risk that some of the proposed changes will diminish local input to development decisions and could fundamentally alter the character of our Parish for the worse (*we have seen local examples of this already*).

**There is some action that we could take as a community** to maintain greater influence in development decisions, and this will be outlined at the Parish Meeting. *It is important to understand however that this is not something that the PC can do on its own.* It would need the input of the whole community, and ultimately its support to be effective.

**We're therefore keen to get a good turnout and hear everyone's views.**

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**East Lydford - Church Lane (A37 side) – Ian Poynter 01963 240424**  
**Church Lane (Castle Cary side) Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092**  
**West Lydford**  
**South of the Brue – Ann Parkhouse 07977 260110/Mike Pauley 01963 240469**  
**North of the Brue – Linda Foote 01963 240336**  
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### Home Security Talk

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 10:00 am  
 Lydford on Fosse Parish Hall

In conjunction with the Parish Council village residents are invited to a *talk and Q & A* by PCSO Natalie McIntosh – the main focus of the meeting will be to give guidance and support on how to protect your home and belongings to avoid becoming a victim of burglary.

Please do come along to discover simple ways to keep your property safe.

### Lydford Third Tuesday Group

In February, we welcomed back Jane and Jim Frampton for another of their travel talks, this time about their “*Travels in Antarctica*”.

Jim kicked off the evening with enthralling accounts of the “*Heroic Age*” of Antarctic exploration. He told us about some of the key expeditions, discoveries and extreme conditions faced by the explorers. And of the achievements of key figures such as Cook, Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton, highlighting their different preparations, equipment and contrasting styles of leadership.

Jane and Jim then entertained us with the story of their own (*somewhat more comfortable*) journey to Antarctica. We were treated to a series of stunning photographs showing vast icy landscapes and the remarkable wildlife they encountered, including whales, seals and a plethora of penguins! Many thanks to Jane and Jim for their informative and entertaining talk, which gave us a wonderful sense of this unique and special place..

**Next Event : A social evening with an “Arts & Crafts” theme  
 Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7:30pm  
 In Lydford Parish Hall**

We will be having two informal talks by members: Lesley and Daphne will introduce us to the magical process of creating cyanotypes and Ann will tell us a bit about the meticulous art of bookbinding!

You are all invited to bring along an item that you have made (*or a painting/sketch, or poem/piece of prose*) and tell us a bit about the item and your craft if you wish. Or, if you prefer, just come along to enjoy the evening and catch up with friends!

*Women Visitors from Lydford and surrounding villages are welcome to ALL our events usually held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall, West Lydford (unless otherwise stated).* For details of this year’s programme/for more information at : [lydfordthirdtuesday@gmail.com](mailto:lydfordthirdtuesday@gmail.com) or take a look at our website at <https://thirdtuesday.wixsite.com/thirdtuesday>





## Lydford and District Gardening Club

There is an increasing tendency to make everything in life into a competition. The halcyon days of the 1970s, when flares and Slade took centre stage in the theatre of life, have long gone and with them has also flown the relaxed attitude that meant weekend cricket and rugby matches were friendlies, certainly in theory, and things were done simply for their intrinsic pleasure rather than financial gain or the satisfaction of knowing that one has bested or indeed beasted one's rivals. Television competitions, with 'celebrity' or more ordinary competitors now include ballroom dancing although the current craze for 'Strictly' becomes less of a modern concept if the fore-runner, 'Come Dancing', is considered. Please excuse this next diversion from the basic thread of the article but after considerable research, the list of presenters of the aforementioned show is full of people who are remembered, mostly fondly, by many of us. Apologies for the following drift down memory lane but mental images of these people will be more meaningful than any ideas of mine. Peter Dimmock and McDonald Hobley: these two probably for the even older ones amongst us. Angela Rippon; Frank Bough; Michael Aspel; David Jacobs; Peter Murray; Judith Chalmers; Peter West; Charles Nove; Brian Johnston and, of course, Terry Wogan! What a constellation of BBC stars that is!

Now almost every television programme is a competition of some kind and currently skills are being filmed and tested in many different areas including baking, cooking more generally, knitting, sewing and dress making, portrait painting, landscape painting, pottery, make-up artistry, glass-blowing, blacksmithing, flower arranging and many, many more!

And so the Gardening Club has made a brave attempt to join the modern world, although I am not aware of any plans to televise matters, and excitement is increasing about the **2026 Potato Growing Competition!** The staggeringly industrious Club Secretary, Lynne Mitchel has spent considerable time and effort researching and implementing this venture and *all members of the Club have been given the opportunity to chance their arms at growing the heaviest crop from two seed potatoes* to be judged on the last Saturday in June. Everyone has been given a growing bag in which to perform this horticultural alchemy but the choice of growing medium has been left up to the individual. Compost of some form will be the general option but what variety will prove to have the winning formula? Will 'Jack's Magic' outdo Durstons' finest or will B&Q 'Verve' peat-free multi-purpose take Supagrow organic garden compost to the cleaners?

Watch this space for continuing reports on progress across the parishes and be prepared for tales of sabotage and midnight raids as hints emerge as to where bumper crops might be found! Will some people resort to buying and burying supermarket produce in their bags as the day of judgement gets closer?

### March

After the announcement of this solanum tuberosum tumult, the speaker for the month had her hands full in trying to gain the attention of the audience. Whilst Ms. Willis was trying to achieve the focus on her chosen subject of roses, many minds were wandering on to the topic of the fertilising potion that might be concocted in order to grow prolific potatoes, superb spuds, tremendous 'tatties' or multitudinous 'murphies'! The attention of the members was rounded up and pointed in the right direction and roses in all their forms were introduced and discussed, with especially useful and beautiful varieties being given prominence. Ms. Willis is to be thanked for and congratulated on her effort as she was a late replacement on the evening for Lindsay and Stephan Lister whose knowledge of pollinators will, momentarily, have to remain under wraps.

**April** – the meeting of the Gardening Club is **The Annual Visit to Brimsmore Garden Centre, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April** – but do note the *earlier start time of 18:00hrs*. A cup of coffee and inferior biscuit will be offered, largely to confirm the superior quality of the refreshments produced when on home turf, before a bit of a talk about plants which are looking good at the moment and then, in a frenzy reminiscent of the 'end of term' rush to the school gates, members will be allowed to buy whatever they will at a discount of 25%!

The clever money this year is being put on the chance that potato fertiliser shelves will be totally and thoroughly denuded. March is – something to which we should all look forward!

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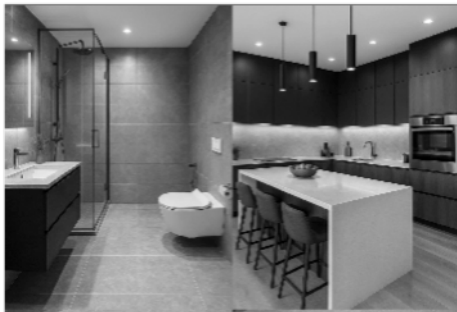
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**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 3:00pm Easter Day Holy Communion Rev Collin Moore**

### Talks and Supper

In a change to the programme, Rev Collin Moore spoke on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>, about links between KWQ Zulu-Natal and here.

It was a fascinating and enlightening talk about the historical events that we share with South Africa. Thank you Collin for such an informative and humorous evening!

### Next Talk

Our next talk will be on **Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>** when *Brigadier David Morgan O.B.E* will be speaking about his time with the Gurkhas during the Falkland War in 1982, and the Battle for Tumbledown. The Brigadier commanded the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles and will give a vivid description.

We would like to express our thanks to all who come along regularly to our talks – it makes an enormous difference to the funds we need to keep our Chapel going.

And **very many thanks** to the wonderful team who do the cooking, bar and raffle and a multitude of other jobs in the background – the talks could not continue without **You !**

### Regular Groups

Our regular groups continue at the hall –

**Knit and Natter** meet every Monday :00pm – 4:00pm.

**Toddlers** meet every Tuesday 10:00am – 12noon.

*All are welcome to join these groups!*

### Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Group

*Mondays 10:30 am - 1:00pm at Catsham Nr Baltonsborough.* Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Project welcomes people who are keen to get outdoors, learn new skills, share their skills or just have the opportunity to spend some time in a peaceful environment. Our main emphasis is on horticulture and rural craft activities which take place in our large vegetable, fruit and flower growing area. Maybe you need an excuse to get out of the house or just want to dip your toe into being around other people again. Whatever it is you're looking for we can always find gardening related activities to suit your mood and energy levels on the day. We are a Covid secure site and we will be working outdoors in a socially distanced way. With two covered open sided sheltered areas and a large poly-tunnel we can cater for whatever the British weather throws at us!

If you want to find out more please contact Ursula Casey at: [ursula@wilderwoods.org](mailto:ursula@wilderwoods.org).

Booking is essential and spaces will be limited to keep the group small.

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### Wessex Singers Majesty in Music



The Somerton's Wessex Singers, under the direction of Ed Jenkins, are looking forward to entertaining you at our Spring Concert which will take place on:



**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**

**At the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Somerton.**

The varied programme, entitled '*Majesty in Music*', will include works by composers ranging from King Henry the Eighth and William Byrd to Roger Miller and Coldplay. It will include the popular anthem 'Zadok The Priest' and will feature Mozart's Coronation Mass. Tickets priced at £12 (free for aged 16 or younger) to include interval nibbles, will be available from Cobbs in Somerton or choir members. *If any are left they will be on the door for £15 but be advised – our recent concerts have been sold out, so buy yours now!*

[www.midwessexsingers.co.uk](http://www.midwessexsingers.co.uk) and [info@midwessexsingers.co.uk](mailto:info@midwessexsingers.co.uk)

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### Keinton Mandeville Table Top Games Group

If you would like to come along for a drink and a chat or have a coffee/tea while playing table top games like Scrabble, Boggle, Rummikub, Logo, cards, chess etc then why not come along to the group which meets in KM Village Hall. We chat, drink tea and coffee and play table top games. If you would like to come along just for a coffee and a chat without playing any games then you will be made just as welcome. There is no charge as the sessions are funded by KM Parish Council.

The group is open to anyone who would like to come,  
you don't need to live in Keinton Mandeville.

Future Dates are Wednesdays: April 15<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup> all between 10:00am & 12 noon. There is no need to book just come along if you can. We look forward to seeing you and the kettle will be on!

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**Fiona Gibson, who will be  
Bishop of Taunton, April 2026**



Living the story. Telling the story.



**Grace, truth, love and courage**

Guilt, shame, mercy, and forgiveness. Four words all linked with Easter, which we shall celebrate this month.

The last two of those seem to be in short supply at the moment. The 'gods' of social media are ready instantly to punish all offenders, now and in the future.

People often offer George Orwell's nightmare vision of Big Brother as a way to understand our times. I'm more drawn to the image of Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon – a building where a watchman could observe all the inhabitants at all times but without the inhabitants knowing whether or not they're being watched – which ensured compliance. When we hear about online data harvesting it can feel as if everything you say, or do, can be recorded and held against you, ready to be brought out and used if needed.

Where's the mercy or the forgiveness in that? Where's the grace that understands we all make mistakes and need second chances? There's no possibility of wiping the slate clean and beginning again.

Which is where the astounding grace and mercy we celebrate on Good Friday and Easter Day comes in.

Mark Greene of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity highlights how the wonder of Easter speaks words of grace and hope to our unmerciful world:

All this judgement serves to highlight the majestic, counter-cultural grace of the Christian gospel. Yes, God is a God of justice, opposed to the degrading of any human on any grounds. Yes, he has seen our every furtive action, picked up every sly whisper, logged every darkling thought ... yet his mercy flows from the cross like an ocean, drenching the universe. As today's media Pharisees rage, God's offer is 'mercy, mercy, mercy' to all who would repent and receive him. And our watchwords: *grace, truth, love, and courage.*

May this encourage us all as we continue through Lent, experience Holy Week, and finally reach the joy of Easter.

**+Bishop Fiona**



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*We meet in the Parish Hall, West Lydford, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month between 2:00pm – 4:00pm*  
For which we all pay a small fee.

**My contact details are: Phone: 01963 240435 or 07484 612828**  
**Email: annefleming1@btinternet.com**

Anne Fleming

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**Keinton Mandeville WI**

Long Sutton WI were with us for the first of our annual joint meetings on February 19th, and it was a packed hall which welcomed professional artist and inspirational speaker *Liam O'Farrell*. He took us through his journey to become an established watercolour and oil painter, and the influences of others on his work; encouraging all to have a go at painting! *He very kindly donated a beautiful watercolour of Barton St David Church for a free raffle with those present - a lucky Keinton Mandeville member bagged the prize!* Everyone then enjoyed the extensive buffet of delicious savoury and sweet treats.

Our March meeting's theme was very appropriate, as *Bel Deering of Somerset Rivers Authority* talked about our unique landscape here and the history of how flooding across The Levels has been managed. We also learned about the causes of, and methods to prevent, flooding and how we can protect homes and businesses.

**April's meeting** will see author Sally Smith giving a talk about the intrepid women who have made significant journeys around the world.



We are always delighted to welcome new members and visitors to our meetings. You are very welcome to come along too - we look forward to seeing you! Please contact Sarah on my new email address at :[commsskmwi@gmail.com](mailto:commsskmwi@gmail.com)

 **Keinton Mandeville Meet Up**   
*(includes surrounding villages)*

We guarantee a warm welcome for **Carers, the Cared for** and anyone who would benefit from getting together for fun, company, information on hot topics - Fraud, Fire Prevention etc. and availability of local support.

We welcome attendees suggesting ideas for future speakers/topics. Everything is free including refreshments.

**Where:** Keinton Mandeville Village Hall TA11 6ES.  
**When:** First Wednesday of the Month **Time** - 11:0am to 12:30pm.  
 For further information contact: [jane.carers@outlook.com](mailto:jane.carers@outlook.com).

 **Lydford Moviola** 

The next Moviola screening at Lydford Parish Hall  
**Will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**  
**The tickets are £8.00 each**  
**The doors open at 7.00pm with a bar available until 7:30pm**

The film will be ***The Choral (2025) 15***, starring **Ralph Fiennes and Roger Allan**.  
*"Ramsden, Yorkshire, 1916. The chorus master and most of the men of the ambitious local Choral Society have Volunteered for the front, so under the direction of the demanding, driven Dr. Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls. Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency of desire as the new boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army.*

To reserve tickets or for more information please contact:  
 Linda Foote on (01963) 240336, 07504867587

**Our Parish Magazine is Produced by the Wheathill Benefice Parochial Church Council and printed by Snell Print**

The Parish Magazine continues in printed form but is also be available on the Benefice Website: [wheathill.org](http://wheathill.org) plus linked via [kingweston.net](http://kingweston.net) and [lydfordonfosse.co.uk](http://lydfordonfosse.co.uk) and [bartonstdavidparish.gov.uk](http://bartonstdavidparish.gov.uk) Copies are also emailed to contacts on Facebook.

We continue to deliver a free copy to every house in the villages of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford on Fosse and Wheathill by our much valued volunteers. *"Whilst the Benefice includes advertisements within the magazine this does not mean their endorsement or otherwise of any of the contractors/ advertisers, however please do let any business you may use from the adverts, know that you found them in the Wheathill Benefice Parish Magazine".*