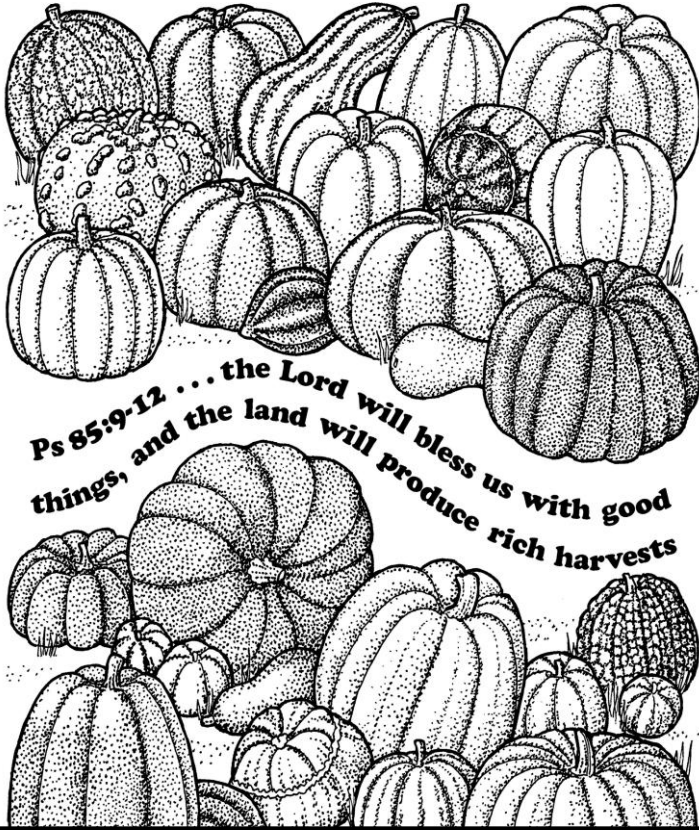


Charlton St. Peter, Rushall & Upavon
TOGETHER
Church & Village News

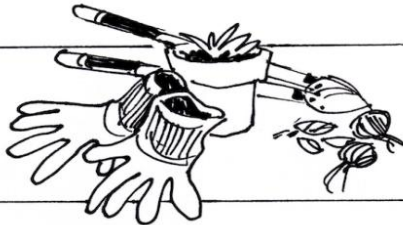


Ps 85:9-12 ... the Lord will bless us with good things, and the land will produce rich harvests

UPAVON VILLAGE HALL - CALL TO ACTION

See inside

October



2025

WHO TO CONTACT:

Team Rector: Revd. Canon Rhona Floate, The Rectory, Pewsey, SN9 5DL (day off Friday) Tel: 01672 705130 rhonafloate@aol.com

Team Vicar: Revd. Mark Windsor, The Vicarage, Wilcot, Pewsey, SN9 5NS (day off Thursday), Tel: 01672 564265 markwindsor923@btinternet.com

Associate Priest and Rural Dean: Revd. Canon Gerald Osborne, Tel 01672 563459 gerald.osborne@lawnfarm.co.uk

Team Vicar for Community Outreach & Mission: Revd. Hazel Davis, Tel: 07393 116123 revhazeld@gmail.com

Assistant Curate: Revd. Matthew Haynes; Tel: 07884 070173 mhaynes100@aol.com

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Anne Mantle 01672 564252 annejmantle@gmail.com

PEWSEY TEAM OFFICE: Bouverie Hall, Pewsey 01672 562221

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 11am to 3pm; Wednesday 12noon to 3pm.

EMAIL: team.office@valeofpewsey.org website: <http://www.valeofpewsey.org>

Churchwardens

Upavon Dr Bill Coker 01980 630803

Rushall Mr Richard Wohanka 07920 067563

Charlton St Peter Mrs Rosie Cunningham 01980 630321

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Mr Bill Bracher 01980 630173

Hospital visits - If you need a visit in hospital or know someone who has been taken in who would like a visit, please contact a member of the clergy.

Home Communion If you know someone who is unable to get to church and wishes to receive Communion, please contact Bill Bracher on 01980 630173 and he will make arrangements for this to happen.

Please contact a member of the clergy to discuss Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confirmation, the Blessing of your home, Service of Prayer and Dedication, Renewal of Wedding Vows. To visit in hospital, and the dying at home or in hospital. The clergy are here to help and serve, with our Lay Pastoral Assistants

Catholic Parish Priest: Father Saji Mathew 01980 622177

Services at Christ the King, Lords Croft, Amesbury SP4 7EP

Weekday mass 10.00 am; Vigil Mass 6.00 pm Saturdays; Mass 11.00am Sundays

Methodist Minister: Revd. Stephen Skinner 01672 512457 rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com

Pewsey Methodist Church, Sunday services 10.30am

Upavon Baptist Chapel Contact: Mary Jarvis 07876193640

Services 2nd Sunday of each month at 3.30 pm

UPAVON RUSHALL & CHARLTON LINK

07501 004349

TOGETHER MAGAZINE ADVERTISING AND REVENUE and items of news or notices for the next issue, please contact stef.cascarini@gmail.com by the 14th of the month.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

UPAVON VILLAGE HALL - CALL TO ACTION

With huge regret, the current committee of **Upavon Village Hall** will be stepping down at the next Annual General Meeting, scheduled for February 2026.

Urgent Need for Volunteers

New volunteer committee members must be found by 31 December 2025.

If we are unable to appoint a new committee by this deadline, the Village Hall will close following the AGM in February 2026.

Why Step Forward?

Welcoming new committee members will bring fresh perspectives, renewed energy, and new ideas to the management of the hall—ensuring it continues to be a valued place for community events and gatherings.

- Can you see yourself joining the new committee?
- Do you have time to help make a real difference in your community?

Please don't let the closure happen.

The Village Hall is a vital part of **Upavon's** community life, regularly hosting residents and providing a space for all to connect. Losing it would be a significant blow to village life.

Volunteer Deadline

The deadline to volunteer is 31 December 2025.

If you are considering to step forward, don't wait—take action now!

Get Involved

To express your interest or learn more about becoming a Trustee, please contact Lesley at 07545543861 or email upavonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com.

The Clergy Letter

Harvest Reflections: Gifts That Endure

After a long stretch of dry, hot weather, the cooler, wetter days have arrived—a welcome change, especially as green returns to our gardens and fields. The land breathes again.

As harvest thanksgivings begin, we pause to assess the season's yield. This year has been mixed: some crops have flourished, others faltered. Gardeners and growers have seen similar results—pears have thrived, while apples have often been small or spoiled on the tree. A reminder that nature rarely offers uniformity.

But harvest is more than food. For Christians, it's a time to reflect on how we've used our time and resources to further God's kingdom. What have we done to show love and care for those in need—not only those lacking food, water, or shelter, but also those longing for understanding, a listening ear, education, guidance, or comfort? What has been the fruit of our faith?

Each year, I look forward to a special service held at the end of October in The College Chapel at The Duchess of Somerset's Hospital in Froxfield. Sarah, Duchess of Somerset, who died in 1662, left behind a remarkably detailed will that funded 50 almshouses for clergy widows—a legacy that continues to this day. For the anniversary of her death, October 25th, a group of ladies from The College travel to Westminster Abbey to lay a posy at her tomb during a short service, arranged by former pupils of Tottenham Grammar School. Though the school has since closed, the tradition endures—another testament to the Duchess's far-reaching benevolence.

Her will remembered many: those who had served her, and those facing hardship. Today, her generosity lives on in the beautiful homes provided to the ladies of The College, who remain deeply grateful—just as the clergy widows once were, having lost their homes upon their husbands' deaths.

The Duchess's compassion for people she never met is extraordinary. She brought comfort, joy, and peace to many. While we may not have her resources, we each possess gifts that can bring hope and healing to others—gifts that require no financial means, only a willing heart. I hope you recognise yours.

With every blessing,

Ann Massey

Church Services at Upavon, Rushall and Charlton St Peter

5 October (Trinity 16)

St Mary's, Upavon, 9.30am Informal Worship

12 October (Trinity 17)

St Mary's, Upavon, 9.30am Parish Communion

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Holy Communion BCP

St Peter's, Charlton St Peter, 6.00pm Evensong

19 October (Trinity 18)

St Mary's, Upavon, 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Parish Communion

26 October (Last Sunday after Trinity)

St Matthew's, Rushall, 11.00am Matins BCP

St Peter's, Charlton St Peter, 6.00pm Parish Communion

From The Registers

Funerals

Susan 'Sue' Lawrence

Funeral on 21st August at North Wilts Crematorium

Weddings

Abigail Smith and Stephen Povall

Married on 26th July at St Nicholas, Huish

THE ST TIMOTHY FOUNDATION

LATEST UPDATES AND EVENTS

Greetings from the St. Timothy Foundation!

Prayers for Peace in South Sudan

Please, if you can, intensify your prayers as tensions are rising in South Sudan since the Opposition leader was arrested and accused of treason, murder and crimes against humanity by the President. This may result in civil war as the opposition leader's supporters retaliate to defend their leader against the President. Added to this are 100,000 people displaced through flooding. Kidnappings of aid workers has also increased, disrupting humanitarian aid. Archbishop Samuel continues to work at reestablishing the Peace Agreement made in 2018.

Our next event is the Skittles Evening in the Scout Hall, Pewsey – 10th October:

Tickets are available at £12 per person and include a Sausage, Mash and Baked Beans supper. They can be bought on-line at www.sttimothy.org.uk and at 'Around the World'. Guests are invited for 7pm. If you encounter any issues buying a ticket or want to learn more about the event, please contact Mike on 01672 564024. We look forward to seeing you!

Bookings for the Christmas Wreath Making – 9th December 9.30am at The Tennis Club in Pewsey are open. There are only 10 tickets so please book early either by getting in touch with Ann (details below) or via the website. Tickets remain at £40 per head and include coffee/tea during the morning. The event concludes with a relaxing lunch. All materials are provided and included in the ticket price.

Thank you to all our supporters for all you are doing for the children and women in South Sudan. Your help and encouragement is so important for hope of a better future, especially at this time when there are so many difficult challenges facing them all. If you are interested in joining our small group of helpers or feel that you could become a trustee then please do get in touch with me for a chat.

All good wishes, Ann

The St Timothy Foundation

01980 630256

info@sttimothy.org.uk

www.sttimothy.org.uk

Rushall & Charlton St Peter Village Hall

We have a most comfortable hall with under-floor heating, a large fitted kitchen, off-street parking and Wi-fi.

Morning, afternoon and evening sessions are available to book so please get in touch. Why not come and see us at one of our Hall Fund Raising Events.

For all enquiries and bookings regarding the hall please contact us on:

Email: RCVH2000@gmail.com

Phone: [07407 216763](tel:07407216763)

Website: www.rushallcharltonvh.org.uk or

Facebook: [Rushall & Charlton Village Hall](#)

Macmillan Coffee Morning

St Mary's Church Upavon

Saturday October 25th.

10-12am



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, RUSHALL

Come Join Us For A Talk By
Lieutenant General David Leakey
Black Rod 2010 – 2018, on
‘The Sagas and Secrets of Black Rod -
behind the Scenes in the Palace of
Westminster’

Thursday, 6th November 2025, 7.00pm

The talk will last for approximately 50 minutes followed by a question and answer session. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

Tickets will cost £15 payable in advance.

Payment Details:

Account Name: PCC Rushall

Account No: 01724895

Sort Code: 30 92 63

Reference for the payment: Your name plus the word 'TALK'

Note! Please advise Sophie Radiguet (sophie@wohanka.org) if you are interested in attending copy to richard@wohanka.org

SATURDAY 18th October 2025



Come along to this fun packed evening of light hearted quizzing.



Have up to 6 people in a team

For tickets contact Paula Baker on
01672 851393/07702 339877
bakerhousehold2@btinternet.com

All proceeds to Hilcott Village Hall /
Barnard Meadow
& St James's Church

Ploughman's
Supper

Bring your own
bottle

£10.00 per person

7.00pm – 10.30pm
(Doors open at 6.30pm)

Rushall Village Hall
SN9 6EN

**Good Luck
and have fun!**

Upavon Village Hall

Large, well maintained hall available for hire

Competitive hourly rates: village residents £8.00 per hour
(non-residents £9.00)

Suitable for large gatherings for up to 60 people with ample
plates, cups and saucers etc.

Free Wi-Fi

A well equipped kitchen

For enquiries or to book please email

upavonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com or call Lesley

07545543861

**We are always looking for new people to join our committee.
If you feel you could help please contact us!**

CHARLTON ST PETER 100 CLUB

(Licensed by Wiltshire Council for the Vale of Pewsey Team of Churches)

Our August 100 Club Draw took place after our Service on Sunday 24th August at
6pm.

Congratulations to the lucky winners:-

£100	N. Golding (Charlton) No.69
£50	C. Lacey (Charlton) No.12
£50	B. Stygal (Charlton) No.2
£25	T. Dixon (Charlton) No.7
£25	J. Dixon (Charlton) No.92

Our September 100 Club Draw will take place after our service on Sunday 28th
September at 6pm and published in the next edition of the magazine.

We still have a few numbers available, so if you are interested in purchasing
number for £5 a month, please contact Alma Fowle 07503 998979.

A Date for your Diary!

The Charlton Chats are back!

Tuesday 7th October at 7pm at Charlton St Peter's Church.

David Waters founder of the Great Bustard Group will be giving a talk on these fascinating birds reintroduced into our local area.

£5 payable on the door to include a glass of wine.

Everyone welcome!

Antelope Inn Quiz Night

We run a monthly quiz evening **every 1st Sunday of each month from 1800 hrs**. A professional quiz master will conduct the important business! Book your teams by calling 01980 630025 or pop into the pub.

Next quiz Sunday October 5th

Upavon Parish Council meeting dates

Dates of future meetings all at 7pm, Upavon Village Hall

- Wednesday 19th November 2025



R^oN

*After his induction, Harry met the
leaders of the other denominations*

ENFORD GARDENING CLUB



**“Flights of Fancy: Gardening for
butterflies and other stories”**
with Andrea Leaman

Tuesday 14th October 2025

Bring and buy plant stall, Raffle
Tea and coffee

7.00 for 7.15 pm Enford Village Hall
Entrance £5. Everyone Welcome!

Contact steve.stringer@outlook.fr Tel 07899 758222

The Arts Society Pewsey Vale October Lecture

The Arts Society - Pewsey Vale will be holding their next lecture on Tuesday 7th October at 2.30pm in the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey.

Lucrezia Walker will talk about **Andy Warhol: So Much More Than Just the Prince of Pop Art.**

Pioneer of Pop Art, his New York studio, The Factory, was the place to be in the 1960s and '70s. Illustrator, printer, filmmaker, manager of rock band The Velvet Underground, founder of Interview magazine, author of numerous books, creator of iconic pop images of Marilyn, Jackie and Elvis, the soup tin and coke bottle, as well as the coiner of the expression '15 minutes of fame', Warhol's own fame continues long after his death, as the Prince of Pop Art.

This should be a very interesting glimpse into the life of one of the artistic icons of the twentieth century. Please check our [website](#) for details on all our forthcoming lectures and events.

Doors will open at 2.00pm for refreshments and visitors are very welcome - £7 on the door.
We hope you can join us.

We didn't realise we were making memories, we just knew we were *having fun*



I'm leaving a gift in my Will to Julia's House so that seriously ill children have a safe place to have fun and create happy memories.

Write your Will for FREE using our Free Wills Service, simply visit juliashouse.org/alwaysthere

Registered Charity No. 1067125

always there

Eight-year-old Ziggy is a whirlwind of giggles and into absolutely everything – especially learning about weird and wonderful science facts, making new Lego creations, and playing games with his nurses at Julia's House.

Ziggy was born with an ultra-rare genetic condition called infantile hyperoxaluria type 1, which caused an enzyme to be missing in his liver.

At just four months old, Ziggy went into complete renal failure and needed to go on life support and constant dialysis. He would stay in intensive care for the next five months.

Ziggy needed years of dialysis and several high-risk operations before he reached the age of four. This included two liver transplants at just 18 months old, and a kidney transplant. Throughout everything, Julia's House has continued to be at the family's side.

When the Julia's House nurses come to look after Ziggy at our home, it means we can go for a cup of tea and just chat says Ziggy's mum, Jackie. It's a bit of time just for us. And we know the whole time, Ziggy is getting the best care and a huge amount of fun and 1:1 play, which is what he really craves.

"The nurses understand what we're going through. They give me that little bit of strength to keep going. To be honest, I don't know where we'd be without Julia's House." Could you help us always be there for children like Ziggy by leaving a gift in your Will to Julia's House? To find out how visit juliashouse.org/alwaysthere

Forthcoming Events at the Bouverie Hall

Tuesday 7th October – Arts Society monthly lecture

Tuesday 7th October – Gardening Club

Thursday 9th October - Moviola - The Black Bag

Saturday 11th October - Alan Benson Exhibition and Sale

Saturday 11th October - Carnival Barn Dance

Saturday 18th October - Comedy Night

Saturday 25th October - Carnival Oktoberfest

Thursday 30th October - Carnival Bingo

Moviola at the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey

Black Bag

Thursday 9th October at 2.00 and 7.30. Tickets £6

From Director Steven Soderbergh, Black Bag is a gripping spy drama about legendary intelligence agents George Woodhouse (Michael Fassbender) and his beloved wife Kathryn (Cate Blanchett). When she is suspected of betraying the nation, George faces the ultimate test-loyalty to his marriage or his country.

The Penguin Lessons

Thursday 13th November at 2.00 and 7.30. Tickets £6

A disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976 finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach. Starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce.

For further details please see our website: <https://bouveriehall.co.uk>

The Duck Feast: Honouring Wiltshire's Thresher-Poet

Each year on the first Monday after the 1st of June, the village of Charlton in Wiltshire hosts an unusual but charming tradition — the Duck Feast — held at the Charlton Cat Inn. This annual event honours Stephen Duck, a farm labourer turned poet who rose from rural obscurity to royal favour in the 18th century.

Stephen Duck was born in Charlton in 1705. Despite his humble origins and limited formal education, Duck was determined to learn. After long days threshing grain, he taught himself arithmetic and read voraciously, even assembling a small library with a fellow labourer. His favourite works included Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Shakespeare's plays, and editions of *The Spectator*. Eventually, he began to write poetry, often reflecting on the toil and simplicity of rural life.

His literary efforts came to the attention of local clergy, and through a remarkable chain of patrons — including Lord Palmerston and eventually Queen Caroline, the wife of George II — Duck's work was introduced to royal circles. In 1730, his poems were published and widely read, drawing both admiration and ridicule. Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope mocked him, but Duck remained humble, admitting the limitations of his writing due to his lack of education. Nevertheless, his verse resonated with many, especially his poignant account of rural labour, *The Thresher's Labour*.

Queen Caroline rewarded Duck with a stipend, a house in Kew, and roles at court, including Yeoman of the Guard and keeper of the Queen's library at Richmond. He even became Governor of Duck Island in St. James' Park — a role more honorary than administrative, though the name added a fitting touch to his legacy. Duck was ordained in 1746 and became rector of Byfleet in 1752. Sadly in 1756, Stephen Duck drowned himself in a fit of depression in "the trout stream behind the Black Lion at Reading".

Despite his tragic end, Stephen Duck's memory lives on through the Duck Feast. It is thought the tradition began in 1734 when Lord Palmerston gifted land — known as Duck's Acre — to fund an annual dinner in his honour, but it may have started earlier. Originally intended for 12 local threshers and Duck himself, the feast continues today, albeit with some modern twists.

The "Chief Duck" wears a hat adorned with duck feathers. Attendees toast with the "Duck Goblet," and the spirit of celebration is very much in keeping with Duck's own humorous verse: "All eat enough and many drink too much."

The inn itself has a history almost as colourful as the feast. Originally the Red Lion, the pub's poorly painted sign led locals to dub it the "Charlton Cat." Rebuilt after a fire in 1821 and later known officially as the Poore's Arms, the name "Charlton Cat" endures in popular usage.

From humble beginnings in a Wiltshire field to the halls of Windsor Castle, Stephen Duck's story is one of resilience, learning, and literary passion. The Duck Feast remains a fitting tribute — a blend of reverence, community, and rustic joy — to the thresher-poet who once dared to dream beyond the furrows of his native land.

Bob McDonald