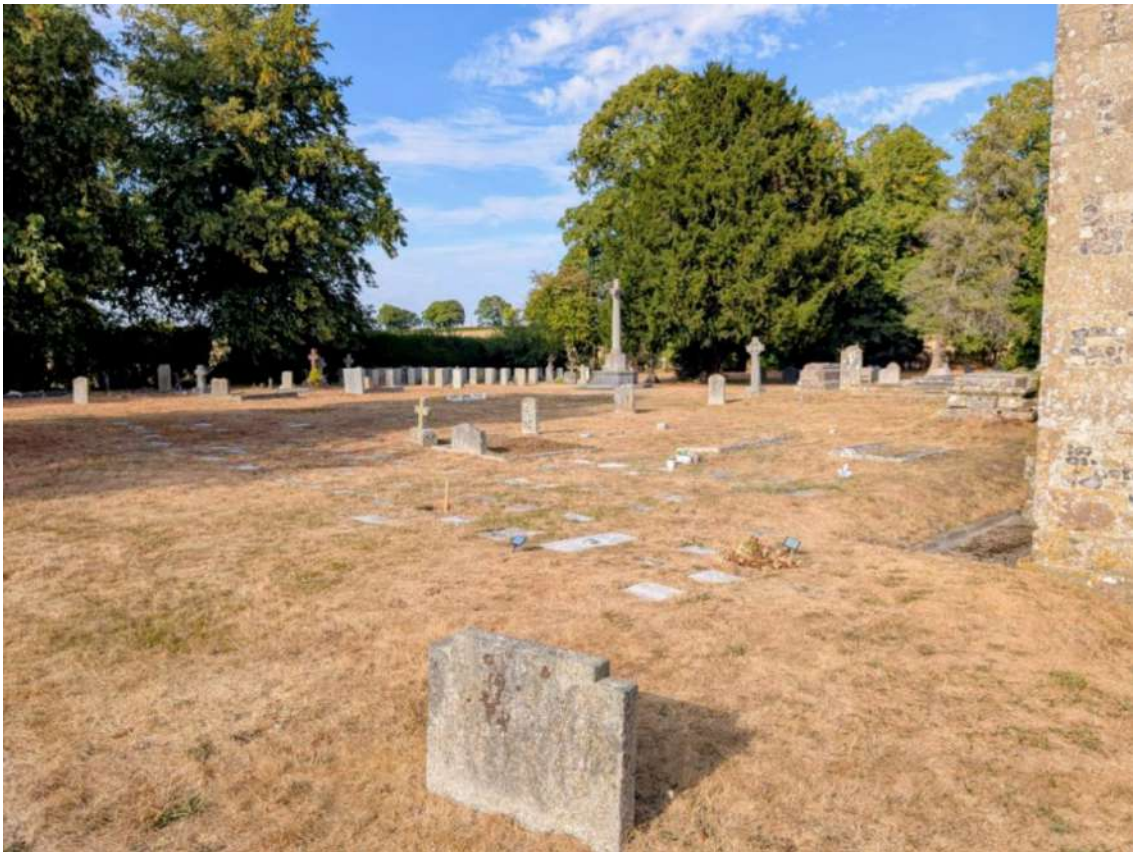


St Lawrence, Stratford sub Castle Parish Magazine September 2026

Delivered free to every house in Stratford sub Castle



St Lawrence churchyard pictured in August after several weeks of little or no rainfall. Is the shortfall due to climate change? See p18 for details of an informative film evening in the Reading Room about this very subject.



Parish Team

Vicar: *Vacancy*

Associate Priest for Stratford sub Castle

Revd Suzie Allen **701333**

07401 191957

Suzie's day off is Monday

email: revsuzieallen@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Jeff Long

324421

Chris Lush

324681

Safeguarding Officer &
assistant priest (retired):

Revd Sandra Williams

07754 605647

stlawrencechurchsafeguarding@gmail.com

PCC Secretary & Admin Officer

Ella Liversage

ella.liversage26@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Nigel Afford

07825 887152

Organist

Helen Lucas

320169

Captain of Bell Ringers:

Alison Clayton

446634

Reading Room

John Walsh (Chair)

07913 867109

Heather Balston (Bookings)

411628

Ted Uren (General & Defects)

331766

Steve Mayall (General & Defects)

411337

Publication Team

Editorial coordinator:

Heather Platt

416946

IT coordinator:

David Balston

411628

dmbalston@gmail.com

This month's editors:

Rosemary Winson & Terry Ereira

Magazine Advertising:

Karen Baxter

07930 507506

Cut-off date for next issue:

18th September

stlawrencestratfordmag@gmail.com

View a digital version of the magazine at www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk

Charity Comm. regn. 1144745 Reg. Address – 'Portway Fosse',
The Portway, Stratford sub Castle, Salisbury, SP1 3LD

Church duties for September

Church Opening:

Revision to August rota
30th John Walsh

Church Cleaning Rota

1st half: Ted & Veronica Uren
2nd half: Jenny Stone & Jane Miller

September

6th Francis Horn
13th Chris Lush
20th Steve Mayall
27th Andy Baxter

Church Flower Rota

6th Sarah Best
13th Sarah Best
20th Judy Villiers
27th Judy Villiers

Magazine Preparation for October

Editors: Heather & David Balston
Printers: Liz & John Waterman

Dates for your September Diaries

- 3rd School New Beginnings Service, St Lawrence Church, 09.15 see p10
- 5th Community Show, St Francis Church, 14.30 see p31
- 6th Church in the Park, Victoria Park, 10.00 - noon see p13
- 6th Stratford Summer Café, Reading Room, 14.30 - 16.30 see p28
- 9th Mobile Library, Castle Keep, 11.00 - 11.25
- 9th 50s & Beyond, Meet at the New Inn 17.30 for drinks, + optional dinner, pub quiz see p25
- 9th Guild, Reading Room, 19.30 Miranda Pender '*Censored*' see p26
- 10th Ladies Together, 4 Victoria Road, 10.00 Carrie Walsh '*150 years of the Mothers' Union*' see p18
- 23rd Mobile Library, Castle Keep, 11.00 - 11.25
- 24th Garden Club Reading Room, 19.30 Laura Hall '*Creating Sustainable wildlife features in your garden*' see p24
- 27th JDMSS 20th Anniversary Service, St Francis Church 10.30 see p13

Defibrillator

In case you need to access the defibrillator urgently, please use the code C123X

The Revd Suzie Allen writes: The Gift of Learning Again

In 2026, I've been able to learn intentionally from others' teaching and wisdom. It's something I haven't been able to access for one reason or another for about fifteen years - and I've relished it. Being exposed to new ideas and fresh knowledge has reinvigorated me, and it's made me wonder why I ever stopped wanting to actively learn.

Of course, we all learn new things every day: through small nuggets of wisdom, mistakes we make, or simply stepping out in faith. But sitting behind a desk, choosing to learn, and letting someone else teach you - that's a different kind of gift. One I had forgotten I needed.

The Bible has a gentle way of reminding us that learning is not just for children or students. It's a lifelong posture. Proverbs puts it simply: *"Let the wise listen and add to their learning."* (Proverbs 1:5)

Learning, in Scripture, is rooted in humility - the willingness to listen, to be shaped, to grow. It's also communal. We learn best from one another: from neighbours who share their skills, from friends who speak honestly, from people whose experiences differ from our own. As another proverb says, *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*

This year has reminded me that intentional learning changes us. It stretches our thinking, refreshes our imagination, and sometimes even rekindles parts of ourselves we thought had gone quiet. And it's something we can all access, whatever our age or stage.

Perhaps as we move through the rest of the year, we might each ask: What could I learn? What are the gaps in my life where I could do with some more knowledge? What are my interests? What added value could there be to get back into an educational setting? Or maybe we need to ask - could I teach, and if so, what?

Learning isn't just about gaining knowledge. It's about becoming more open, more connected, and more alive to the world around us. And that, I think, is a change worth embracing.

Every blessing.

Revd Suzie

September Services at St Lawrence Church

6th Trinity 14

10.00 Parish Communion Streamed

Readings:

Ezekiel 33: 7-11

(Carrie Walsh)

Matthew 18: 15-20

(Barry Goldsmith)

Intercessions: Chris Lush

Celebrant and Preacher:

Revd Adrian Burholt

13th Trinity 15

10.00 Together in Worship

Reading:

Matthew 18: 21-35

(Gwynneth James)

Intercessions: Suzette Sheppard

Officiant & Preacher:

Revd Mary Terry

18.00 Evensong

Readings:

Ezekiel 20: 1-8, 33-44

(Susan Carey)

Psalms 119: 41-48 (Officiant)

Acts 20: 17- end (Officiant)

Officiant:

Mr Peter Westmacott

20th Trinity 16

10.00 Parish Communion Streamed

Readings:

Jonah 3: 10-end of ch. 4

(Chris Lush)

Matthew 20: 1-16

(Sarah Wilson)

Intercessions: Judy Villiers

Celebrant & Preacher:

Revd Sandra Williams

*Streamed services are only available
to those who have requested a link.
If you would like to attend a service
online please contact*

Jim Platt

stlawstreaming@gmail.com

Lay Pastoral Assistant is available for pastoral care
Jenny Stone - 07511 226828

September services at St Lawrence Church *continued*

27th Trinity 17

08.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Parish Communion

Readings:

Ephesians 4: 1-6

Luke 14: 1-11

(Ted Uren)

Celebrant:

Revd Suzie Allen

*09.45 Breakfast Church
in the Reading Room
with Revd Suzie Allen*

Streamed

Readings:

1 Peter 2: 4-10

(Heather Balston)

Luke 10: 1-9

(Carole Long)

Intercessions: Esme Hopkinson

Celebrant & Preacher:

The Venerable Barney Hopkinson

Barney Hopkinson

The Venerable Barnabas John (Barney) Hopkinson is celebrating 60 years since he was ordained Priest by leading a service in St Lawrence Church where he was the vicar from 1987 to 1998. He is remembered with affection by older inhabitants in Stratford. Barney was born in 1939. After an exciting career handling wild animals in Africa, he went to Trinity College Cambridge and Lincoln Theological College before being ordained in Manchester. He held posts in Langley, Cambridge, Charterhouse School and Marlborough. After a stint as Rural Dean of Marlborough he became rector of Wimborne Minster (1981-1986), Archdeacon of Sarum (1986 – 1998) and Archdeacon of Wilts (1998 - 2004). Both were senior appointments within the Salisbury Diocese.

While Archdeacon of Sarum he also became the vicar of St Lawrence. The family lived in the middle of the village in Russell House and Barney and his wife Esme became well known in the community, even appearing in *'All in an April Evening'* a musical event held in the Reading Room for many years.

Barney's time as the vicar here is commemorated on the tenor bell in the church tower. He dedicated the bells which were installed during his incumbency. Every hour it is the tenor bell which is struck to call and proclaim. A priest's ministry is, at heart, a call to proclaim - which Barney has done for 60 years.

Evensong



**All are welcome at St Lawrence Church
for our Evensong Service
Sunday 13th September at 18.00**



The BCP Communion Service

All are welcome at this traditional reflective service
at 08.00 on Sunday 27th September
in the St Lawrence Chancel

Celtic Spirituality



At St Francis Church the next
Evening Communion service from the
Iona Community will be on
Sunday 27th September at 7pm.
There will be singing, silence and symbols
to express our faith
in a simple and short service.
All are very welcome to attend.

Forthcoming Weddings at St Lawrence



12 th September	Lucy Moors & Phillip Ireland	13.00
12 th December	Sarah Best & Grahame Dailey	TBC

A reminder that the church is open for core hours from
10am to 4pm.

You may find it open outside these hours, depending on the opener.

St Lawrence Church Calendar - 2026

School New Beginnings Service	3 rd September 09.15
Church in the Park, Victoria Park	6 th September 10.00
Wedding of Lucy Moors & Philip Ireland	12 th September 13.00
Ride and Stride	12 th September all day
Juba School 20 th Anniversary service St Francis	27 th September 10.30
Harvest Festival followed by Ploughman's Lunch	4 th October 11.00
Animal service	11 th October 10.00
Remembrance Sunday Service	8 th November 10.00
Wedding of Sarah Best & Grahame Dailey	12 th December TBC
School Christmas Service	17 th December 14.15



Families and Children at St Lawrence

Sunday 13th September
10.00 Together in Worship

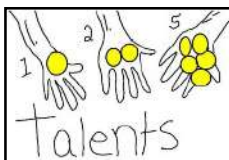
Sunday 27th September
Breakfast Church
09.45 in the Reading Room
with Revd Suzie Allen



Breakfast Church - 27th September

Come and join us as the new season starts on Sunday 27th September. There will be a yummy breakfast with fruit, muffins, Danish pastries etc.

Our theme will be Talents



and centred around Harvest.



Children's Corner

The letters in the words below have been mixed up. Can you sort them out and write the words correctly?

dselif _ _ _ _ _

hruhcc _ _ _ _ _

sub _ _ _

olhocs _ _ _ _ _

rryol _ _ _ _ _

odar _ _ _ _

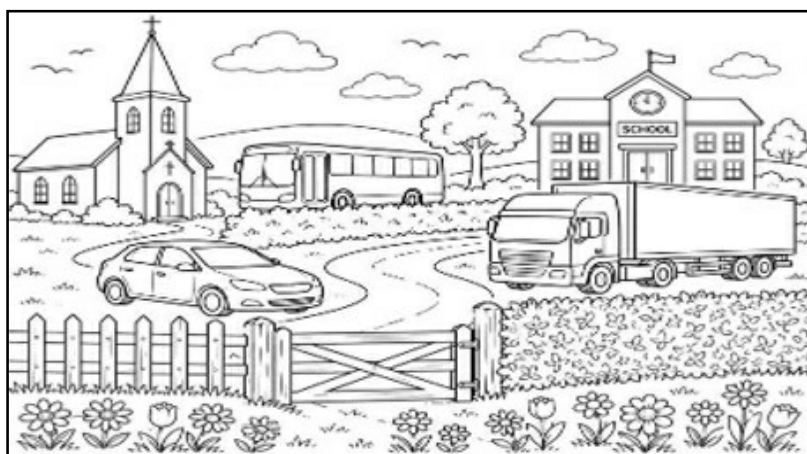
rac _ _ _

deegh _ _ _ _ _

etag _ _ _ _

cfnee _ _ _ _ _

lorwsfe _ _ _ _ _



Hint - the picture may give you some ideas if you find this tricky!

Colour it if you have some crayons or pens.

The answers are on p16

Breakfast Church



During the summer holidays the team decided to rest from our usual style of meeting and offer our usual attendees a social opportunity. So, on 26th July we ran a Faith and Nature Trail from the Reading Room. Families on our WhatsApp group were told to equip themselves with a pen, water and sun cream, and meet us for instructions. Off they went with directions and led activities to do on the way. (They were encouraged to open up their awareness and senses to the world around them as they journeyed to the final destination where Revd Suzie waited for them with a story.) All adventurers made it, and refreshments and games were enjoyed in Hudson's Field.

Breakfast Church resumes with its usual food, activities and story on Sunday 27th September at 09.45 in the Reading Room where everyone is welcome!

Revd Suzie

New Beginnings Service

The autumn term will begin at Stratford sub Castle Primary School on Thursday 3rd September with a 'New Beginnings' service in St Lawrence Church at 09.15 to mark the occasion. During the service, all the children new to the school will be welcomed by name.



The St Lawrence bell ringers will be ringing the church bells to welcome everyone to the service.

All parents and families are invited to join in the service which will be followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.



Saint Lawrence Church
Stratford sub Castle

ANIMAL SERVICE

11th October - 10 am
St Lawrence Church

Bring your pets - all species welcome!

Join us to give thanks for your furry friends. We will have a guest speaker from the Dogs Trust and there will be a collection in aid of their work.



2026 Patronal Festival at St Lawrence Church



A 50-strong congregation celebrated the life of its patron saint St Lawrence, in good voice on Sunday 16th August.

The Revd Suzie Allen led the service and the Revd Sandra Williams gave us a

thought-provoking sermon. It was based on one of the readings of the morning, John 12: 24-26.

The reading very much mirrored the life of St Lawrence, which was giving away and sharing what he and the Church had, with the poor.

When Lawrence was asked by the Romans to bring out the treasures of the Church, he brought out the poor, the sick and the marginalised, saying '*THEY were the true treasures of the Church*'.



The Romans wanted money and gold, but it had been given away to the needy. So this brought about the martyrdom of Lawrence on a gridiron, in 258 AD.

The lessons were ably read by Sarah Wilson and Chris Lush. The Revd Suzie remarked on how lovely the church looked, adorned with beautiful floral decorations in the colours of St Lawrence, yellow and red.



Jo Harrison gave us some thoughtful prayers in the Intercessions.

Afterwards, drinks and nibbles were provided in the church. Lots of chatting ensued, with the feeling we had honoured St Lawrence and all he had stood for.

Very many thanks for all those who helped to make the occasion a successful celebration of the life of St Lawrence.

Glenys Westmacott

‘Church in the Park’ - Victoria Park - Sunday 13th September 10.00 - noon



This event will look a bit like a fete but will show that we are wanting to love our community.

There will be stands/stalls with activities, a story, message and sung worship, with adverts of what we offer at our individual churches in the Benefice of St Francis, St Lawrence and Hope Church.

Carrie and John Walsh, and Nigel Afford, have kindly offered to attend this event to represent St Lawrence Church. Look out for them at the ‘St Lawrence Gazebo’.



**JDMSS 20th Anniversary Service - Sunday 27th September at 10.30
at St Francis Church, Beatrice Road, Salisbury SP1 3PN
To be followed by a light sandwich lunch.***

Please let Jenny, JMDSS Sponsoship Assistant know if you plan to stay for lunch/have any allergies. Tel 07765 952854

Blister Pack Recycling

A community Initiative is underway to recycle EMPTY blister packs – we have been asked if St Lawrence Church would take part in this.



The NHS alone produces 150 million blister packs per year and these end up in landfill. They are not recyclable by local authorities – and take centuries to degrade.

There are two UK companies that offer a blister pack recycling process. You may have seen the collecting box in Boots.

From 1st September there will be a box in the porch of St Lawrence Church for your empty blister packs. When it is full, the contents will be taken to Boots.

Jeff Long - Churchwarden

St Lawrence Church Porch Giving Basket

There is always a box in the porch of St Lawrence Church. Please feel free to add donations for both the **Foodbank** and **Alabaré** at any time. They will be collected and delivered to the appropriate charity.



Thank you so much for your latest donations to the Foodbank which amounted to 31.3 kg and were gratefully received.

The following items have been requested this month:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tinned meat/meals | Tinned fruit |
| Fruit juice (long life) | Deodorant |
| Coffee | Shower gel |
| Biscuits | Toothbrushes |
| Tinned Potatoes | Chocolate |

Heather Platt

Alabaré thank you

Your continued generosity enabled me to take three heavy bags of food and a warm coat to Alabaré in July.



Carole Long

- Food
- Tinned Meals - stews, mince etc.**
- Tinned soups/baked beans/vegetables**
- Coffee, sugar**
- Long Life Milk, Cheese/Butter**
- Pasta sauces**
- Cooking sauces (sweet & sour, black bean, casserole type)**

- Toiletries
- Deodorant**
- Sunblock**
- (no other toiletries requested this month)*
- Clothing
- Hats, gloves, scarves**
- men's coats**



Saint Lawrence Church
Stratford sub Castle

JOIN US FOR A

HARVEST *festival*

4TH OCTOBER – 11AM
ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Followed by a lunch in the Reading Room.
Please RSVP for this to Chris Lush:
pittcairn@hotmail.co.uk 01722 324681

Tickets for the lunch are free, with an opportunity to make a donation to cover costs if you wish.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Salisbury Food Bank during the service and there will be a chance to make a financial donation to Juba School in South Sudan.

Stratford sub Castle Reading Room - Way Forward



The Stratford Reading Room, which is the equivalent of a village hall, is opposite St Lawrence Church. It is a great community asset available to all.

A glance at the Village website www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk gives an instant flavour of all the activities which go on there,

ranging from yoga to the Stratford sub Castle Guild, Stratford sub Castle Garden Club and much more besides.

The Hall is run by a small committee of residents who organise the bookings, repairs, gardening and the other activities which need to go on to keep things ticking over.

One of the members of the committee is Heather Balston, who has been active in the Stratford Community for many years. In the last 10 years she has organised the bookings for the Reading Room. It is time she was allowed a well-earned rest, so I am hoping that someone, perhaps recently retired or just wishing to make a contribution to our community, will consider taking on this role.

As the Chair I take the view that no one should do more than three years unless they are happy to, so no one need feel it is a life sentence if you volunteer. Heather has a job description and can be contacted on 07803 132154 or on email: hbalston@gmail.com for a chat.

*John Walsh
Chair of Reading Room Committee*

Answers to Children's word scramble on p9

fields, church, bus, school, lorry, road, car, hedge, gate, fence, flowers

Well done if you found them all!

Young People improve a local footpath

Many of you, particularly dog walkers, will use the public footpath (SALS6) that runs from The Portway past the small football pitch and then across the fields towards St Lawrence Church.

At its best the section nearest The Portway is uneven with hazardous bricks sticking up through the surface and after heavy rain, it turns into a quagmire.



Today (18th August) I watched a group of teenagers, supported by two adults from the charity **Seeds4Success** and with the guidance of Alex Howson from Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way & Countryside department, starting to lay a large amount of gravel which they transported in wheelbarrows from the beginning of The Portway up to the footpath.

It was quite heartwarming to see these young people working so hard for the benefit of our village. It will take more than one day to complete this work and two more visits have been planned.

Seeds4Success <https://www.seeds4success.org.uk> is a youth work charity based in Mere, which provides opportunities for young people living in South West Wiltshire to develop practical skills, conserve the natural environment and strengthen local communities. The young people are rewarded with points for time spent, effort etc which they can use to attend outings of their choice organised by the charity, and which they enjoy.



I felt that I should make a donation to support this charity and hope that some of you, especially if you use the footpath, will donate as well:
<https://localgiving.org/charity/seeds4success>

Graham Wickham

Ladies Together

Gently and beautifully led by Revd Suzie, the Ladies Together group enjoyed a quiet reflection using flowers, art and poetry when they met at the Riverside in Harnham in August. With stunning views over the river towards the cathedral the ladies were able to enjoy relaxing outside on arrival, but the heat was simply too much for the planned stroll round the gardens later! With grateful thanks to Revd Suzie.

The next gathering of Ladies Together will be on Thursday 10th September at 10.00am at 4 Victoria Road, SP1 3NG. Carrie Walsh will be sharing the secrets and celebrations of 150 years of the Mothers' Union. All welcome.

Group co-ordinators: Glenys 01722 697309 Jan 07919 050798
Jane Miller jane.e.miller@btinternet.com

A Date for your Diary – Friday 23rd October

Many of you reading this will have views on Climate Change. Maybe you are a bit sceptical, maybe you are concerned but confused, maybe you are like the majority of the British public and want the government to do a bit more about it, maybe you are wondering what you can do. This year's record-breaking heat-waves certainly brought the topic to the surface.

Last November there was a large meeting in Westminster addressed by a number of scientists and experts, and about 1200 MPs, peers and leaders from across UK society heard the facts, not just the stuff that fitted a particular political stance, but the stark facts. A film was made, summarising the key messages from the day, and fronted by Chris Packham. I thought I knew quite a bit about climate change and related environmental issues, but I found a lot that was new to me.

I am putting on a showing of the film “People’s Emergency Briefing’ on Friday 23rd October at 7.30pm here in Stratford, in the Reading Room. Whatever your views, however much you know, or don't know, this is a very important film, on a very important topic, and well worth an hour or so of your time. It is free to attend, but please reserve a place, so I know how many are coming.

Richard Death RNDeath@hotmail.com

Summer Café

Open for Cream Teas & Cakes

Garden/Kitchen Produce & Pre-loved Books



**The Reading Room
Stratford sub Castle, SP1 3LL**

SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

2.30pm – 4.30pm

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO
OLD SARUM & LONGHEDGE COMMUNITY PANTRY**

(NOTE - CASH PAYMENTS ONLY PLEASE)

**A FUNDRAISING EVENT by
The Friends of St Lawrence Church
Registered Charity no.1063271**

Friday 2nd October 2026 at 7.30 pm

**in the Reading Room, Stratford Road,
Stratford sub Castle, SP1 3LL**

“Can we make Stratford sub Castle a Blue Zone?”

A Blue Zone is defined as an area of the world where people live longer, healthier lives – often reaching 100 years and beyond.

Join local resident Clare Waddell for an engaging and practical talk on how simple changes in diet and lifestyle can make a major difference to both physical and mental wellbeing.



Clare holds a First-Class degree in nutrition, as well as a State Registration in Dietetics, and has worked in nutrition for 30 years.

=====

**Tickets: £10 FOSL members, £15 non-members
(includes wine or soft drink after the talk)**

**Please contact: Alix Smith 07590 260096
or email alix.smith@me.com**

The Village Noticeboard (2016 – 2026)

You might have noticed that the village noticeboard has been out of use for the past couple of weeks. The noticeboard is 10 years old this September and the perspex cover was almost opaque. It was time for restoration.

The noticeboard was funded by the Stratford sub Castle Guild (aided with a grant from the Salisbury Area Board). Timbersource Ltd donated the materials.

Steve Mayall offered to lead the project. He designed the noticeboard and enlisted fellow resident, Bob Winson, to help him with the construction and erection phases.



It was built in Steve's back garden in August 2016, with the gracious acceptance of Steve's wife, Barbara (Guild Chair at the time), since it involved digging two large holes in their lawn.



Once constructed, erected and tested, Steve and Bob completely dismantled everything so each separate part could be safely transported to the Reading Room car park. With the help of Guild members, David Balston and Terry Ereira, the noticeboard was rebuilt and erected outside the Reading Room.



Continued on next page

continued from previous page

The noticeboard was officially opened on September 14th before the first Guild meeting of the 2016-17 season, by 100 year old long-term resident and Guild member, the late Yvonne Fox (Judy Villiers' mother).



Centre - Yvonne Fox cutting the ribbon accompanied by Cllr Mary Douglas & Cllr John Walsh, members of the Guild Committee and other residents.

14th September 2016

In July this year, the Guild decided to fund the noticeboard's refurbishment. Steve kindly agreed to lead the project again, with the same original team.



The front cover was carefully removed and taken to Steve's garden. The framework was cleaned and sealed and a new cover inserted. The fully restored front cover was then refixed back onto the noticeboard on 14th August.



The new Guild season starts on Wednesday 9th September, before which the renovated noticeboard will be officially 'unveiled'.

Steve has a full set of plan drawings and over 50 photos of the construction phase. If anyone would like to see them, please contact him.

Terry Ereira

Photos courtesy of David Balston & Barbara Mayall.

Stratford sub Castle Guild - New Programme

September 2026 – June 2027

Wednesdays 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Reading Room
except Thursday January 14th and February 11th (2pm start).

2026

September 9th: Miranda Pender - Censored

The intriguing tale of Norah James and the obscenity trial of 1929.

October 14th: Philip Whitemore – Unsung Heroes: Animals in War
Stories of how animals have served the Armed Forces in wartime.

November 11th: Dr Martin Radford – Swallows and Amazons and the Russian Revolution

Arthur Ransome's colourful life as a reporter working in Russia.

December 9th: Christmas Social

2027

January 14th (2pm start): Robert Bone – The History of Magic

With techniques revealed, magic from his professional repertoire and lively audience participation.

February 11th (2pm start): Patrick Kempe – Lights, Camera, Action

How films about the local area are made.

March 10th: Ruth Newman – The young Turner (artist) in Salisbury

Local historian, Ruth, delves into the Salisbury life of the young Turner.

April 14th: Ian Budniak – Britain ... A Place in the Sun

Britain's 18th Century involvement in the Balearics.

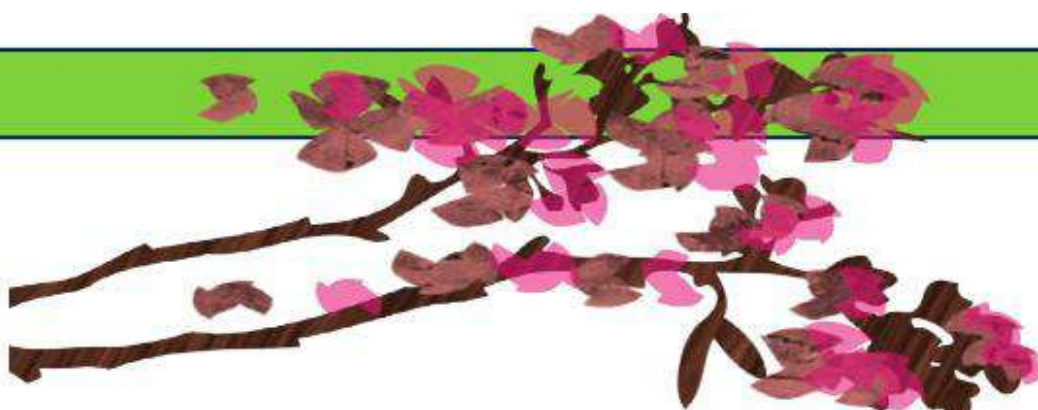
May 12th: AGM followed by Peter Westmacott - Growing up in the 50s

Peter takes us back down memory lane through stories and news.

June 9th: Summer Social

Enquiries: Jenny Stone

Tel: 07511 226828 Email jstraceystone@hotmail.com



STRATFORD SUB CASTLE GARDEN CLUB

‘Creating Sustainable Wildlife Features in Your Garden’

Laura Hall

(Laura showed off her garden for the June Open Gardens)

**THURSDAY 24th September 2026
7.15 pm for 7.30 pm**

Reading Room, Stratford sub Castle SP1 3LL
opposite St. Lawrence Church

TEA AND BISCUITS WILL FOLLOW.
VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS, ALL WELCOME

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 29th October 2026

For more information or help getting to the event Contact:

Rob Barclay 07867655642 or
robbarclay1@googlemail.com



WILTSHIRE CHURCHES' OPEN DAY

Join us on a bike, on foot or on horseback to
keep Wiltshire's historic churches, chapels and
meeting houses looking beautiful and open for
the future by raising money for your own church
and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.



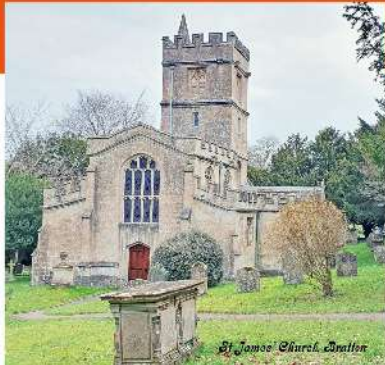
Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust
Supporting Wiltshire's Churches since 1953
Charity Number 1075598



Contact:
whct.rs@btinternet.com
www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk
01380 831199



Your Local Organiser:
Chris Lush
01722 324681



St James Church, Andover

50s and Beyond

Please join in one of our upcoming 50s and Beyond events. Don't forget to invite family, friends and neighbours; the more the merrier!

Wednesday 9th September 5:30pm -7:30pm

Meet us for Drinks at the New Inn 41-43 New St, Salisbury with options to stay for dinner and/or the Pub's Quiz night beginning at 7:30pm.

No need to book, just drop by. For more information, call Kris Richardson Smith at 07963 500331 or email kris@richardson.net

We are a St Francis based fellowship and service group, focused on people 50+ in age. The events are open to all.

To find out more, or to be added to the email distribution list, contact kris@richardson.net or any of the organisers.

Stratford sub Castle Guild

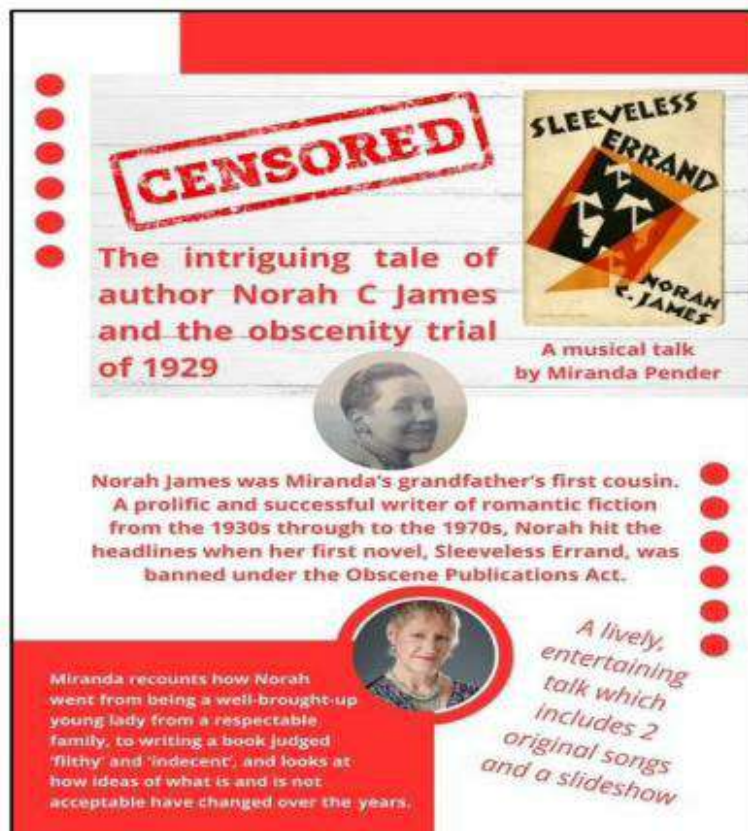
The Guild's new 2026-2027 season begins on

Wednesday 9 September

at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room

Speaker: Miranda Pender

**"Censored – The intriguing tale of Norah James
and the obscenity trial of 1929"**



CENSORED

The intriguing tale of author Norah C James and the obscenity trial of 1929

SLEEVELESS ERRAND
NORAH C. JAMES

A musical talk by Miranda Pender

Norah James was Miranda's grandfather's first cousin. A prolific and successful writer of romantic fiction from the 1930s through to the 1970s, Norah hit the headlines when her first novel, *Sleeveless Errand*, was banned under the Obscene Publications Act.

Miranda recounts how Norah went from being a well-brought-up young lady from a respectable family, to writing a book judged 'filthy' and 'indecent', and looks at how ideas of what is and is not acceptable have changed over the years.

A lively, entertaining talk which includes 2 original songs and a slideshow

Visitor & new member enquiries:
please contact Jenny Stone 07511 226828

View the Guild's latest programme on: www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk

Stratford sub Castle Garden Club

The first meeting in the 40th year of the Garden Club is on Thursday 24th September 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

Our speaker for this first meeting is Laura Hall – her talk is entitled “Creating sustainable Wildlife Features in your garden”. Laura is a gardener and garden designer – as many of you will know if you visited her lovely garden during the June Open Gardens event. The meetings following this are:

October 29th “Putting the garden to bed for winter” Speaker Roger Hirons

November 26th “Walled gardens”

Speaker Phil Broomfield

December - No meeting

2027

January 28th “Square metre gardening”

Speaker Claire Hart

February 25th at 2.30pm “The thin brown line”

Speaker Pauline Weeks

March 25th “The making of two gardens”

Speaker David Haselgrove

April 29th “The land of Frankincense”

Speaker Michael Bowyer

May 27th “Scents and Scentability”

Speaker Kari-Astri Davies

June 24th AGM

The membership fee is £20.00 and Visitors £5.00 – this includes tea/coffee and biscuits of course!

Please note that the February meeting is at 2.30pm not 7.30pm – we hope that this will encourage you out in the depths of winter!

Jeff Long



**A reminder that the
Midnight Walk organised by
Salisbury Hospice Charity
will take place on
Saturday 19th September.**

See details in the full page poster on p22 of the August magazine or check their website www.salisburyhospicecharity.org.uk

Stratford sub Castle Summer Sunday Café

6th September 2026 (2.30pm to 4.30pm)



WOW! Our August café was like no other before.

Yes, we have had glorious weather before, but never before have we had so many customers that we ran out of cakes and seating. People cheerfully settled for sitting on the steps of the Tomkins Room, on the grass and on chairs on the gravel, all without tables, because they were enjoying the friendly atmosphere.



There were so many bargains to be had on our produce table, which was overflowing with plants, cut flowers, jams and early fruit: book worms had a great time browsing our huge selection of novels. We were, of course, all delighted that our cafés are so popular and are bringing such pleasure to so many.

At the same time, the proceeds were another record-breaker amounting to £640, which has been donated to Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance.

Our **6th September café** to be held in the Reading Room, SP1 3LL, is the last café of the summer season, so make sure you don't miss out. We will be stocking up on our famous cream teas, savoury alternatives and delicious homemade cakes and there will be more bargains on our seasonal garden and kitchen produce table, and our pre-loved books table.

(Cash payments only please)

continued on next page

Proceeds from our September Cafe will be donated to Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Pantry, which is a 'food waste' project run by volunteers, offering support to over 300 households in need by providing reduced cost food items.

Café information is available at any time on our village web site www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk (under Groups) where there are also photos plus details of our donations to charities.

CONTACTS

BOOKS – Thank you, but we do not require any further donations of books for this year.

PRODUCE – JUDY VILLIERS Tel: 01722 500173

We all look forward to seeing you soon.

Barbara Mayall
Café Co-ordinator (Tel: 01722 411337)

Kettle's On Coffee Mornings 2027



Kettle's On is a friendly coffee morning held on the third Wednesday of the month from January to April, 10.00 am until 11.30 am approximately.

Although it is organised by the congregation of St Lawrence Church, the morning is for the whole village community. It is a lovely way to meet new people in an informal and friendly way.

The dates next year will be: January 20th
 February 17th
 March 17th
 April 21st

If anyone would like to offer to host, just tea/coffee and biscuits, or wants to know more, please contact Christine Goldsmith on 01722 332169.

On behalf of past and future hosts, it would be great to see you.

Christine Goldsmith

We are pleased to welcome a new advertiser to our magazine this month, Jackie Edmett, who will be hiring the Reading Room for her classes. Jackie introduces herself below.

Fitness Pilates with JaXFit – Feel Stronger, Move Better, Live Well

Hello, I'm Jackie, a qualified Fitness Instructor, Personal Trainer and Fitness Pilates instructor, and I'm delighted to be bringing my Fitness Pilates class to The Reading Room in Stratford sub Castle.

Fitness Pilates is a fun, friendly, full-body workout that combines elements of mobility, strength, flexibility and functional exercise. It is suitable for both men and women, and exercises can be adapted to different fitness levels and abilities, so you can work at a pace that feels right for you.

The classes are taught to music and include standing and functional exercises, mat-based Pilates, mobility work, active and passive flexibility, and stretching. Whether you are new to exercise, returning after a break, or simply looking for a different way to keep your body strong and moving well, you'll be very welcome. **Classes are on Thursday mornings at 10am starting on 17th September.** Please see my advert on page 35 for further details. I'd love to welcome you along!

Jackie Edmett, JaXFit Dance & Fitness
jackie@yourdayyourdance.co.uk 07763 251153

CAN YOU HELP?

Our family is looking for a long-term rental 4+ bedroom house, preferably with a large garden, in Stratford sub Castle.

Are you able to help connect us?

If so, please contact Andy at 07351 127737.

Thank you for your help!

We would love to be a part of your community.

Andy & Kristy Henderson

Advertising in the Magazine

Greetings Stratford Sub Castle villagers, I'm wearing my twelve-year-old advertisers hat (can you believe it??) and asking:

Do you know?... ...Any businesses, trades people or service providers in the local area who might be interested in advertising in our wonderful magazine?

It might be yourself or someone whose work you would recommend to fellow villagers. If so, could you either give me their contact details or pass mine on to them.

Arranging advertising is straightforward and allows their integration into our community, the village supporting their companies with new and repeat business while they sustain our dynamic village life via the magazine.

Karen Baxter
07930 507506
karen.baxter64@yahoo.co.uk

A colorful poster for a community show. At the top, there's a banner with triangular flags in teal, red, and green with white polka dots. The title 'Community Show' is written in a large, blue, cursive font. Below it, 'Bake, Grow, Make, Show' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The date 'Saturday 5th September 2026' is prominently displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the date, the location 'St Francis Church, Beatrice Road, Salisbury' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. A bold, blue, sans-serif line reads 'Have a go, all abilities and ages welcome'. Below this, the event details are listed: 'On the day, doors open for viewing 2:30pm - Prize Giving 4:00pm' and 'Admission; Adult 50p, Children 10p'. A line of text says 'Enjoy refreshments, auction and raffle during the afternoon'. At the bottom, a white box with a blue border contains the closing date for entry forms: 'Closing date for entry forms Wednesday September 2nd 2026. Schedules available from St Francis Church, 1 Assisi Road or Castlemere Stratford Sub Castle. Email emmalsquire@yahoo.co.uk for a digital schedule or for more information.' The poster is decorated with illustrations of flowers and grass on the left side.

Community Show
'Bake, Grow, Make, Show'
Saturday 5th September 2026
St Francis Church, Beatrice Road, Salisbury
Have a go, all abilities and ages welcome
On the day, doors open for viewing 2:30pm - Prize Giving 4:00pm
Admission; Adult 50p, Children 10p
Enjoy refreshments, auction and raffle during the afternoon
Closing date for entry forms Wednesday September 2nd 2026. Schedules available from St Francis Church, 1 Assisi Road or Castlemere Stratford Sub Castle. Email emmalsquire@yahoo.co.uk for a digital schedule or for more information.

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Advertise your Business or Service

As can be seen we have a wide range of adverts and the magazine is delivered to all the residents of Stratford sub Castle

If you would like to be included contact Karen Baxter on karen.baxter64@yahoo.co.uk

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The Community in Stratford sub Castle

Listed below is the wide range of activities that are available to all, wherever they live. Each organisation welcomes new members.

The **Friends of St Lawrence Church** (Registered Charity no. 1063271) raises funds for the upkeep of our historic church and grounds through the sale of tickets for events and Gift Aided subscriptions.

Contact: Rosemary Winson (Membership Secretary) 01722 325183

The **Garden Club** is open to everyone interested in gardens, gardening and plants. It is especially useful if you are new to the area.

Details: Last Thursday in the month September to June 19.30 (no mtg December; February at 2.30pm) in the Reading Room. **Contact: Rob Barclay 07867 655642**

The **Stratford sub Castle Guild** is a friendly group of men and women who meet to hear talks on an eclectic range of subjects.

Details: 2nd Wednesday in the month September to June 19.30 (except January & February 2nd Thursday at 14.00) in the Reading Room.

Contact: Jenny Stone 07511 226828

The **History Group** came about partly because of the wealth of material left by long-time residents which needed cataloguing. But the rich history of our parish is a fertile topic for further research and talks are arranged from time to time.

Contact: Barbara Mayall 01722 411337

Join the **Bell Ringing** team, an activity that stimulates the brain, helps keep you fit and makes a glorious sound.

Details: Practice nights Mondays. 19.30 - 21.00.

Contact: Alison Clayton (Bell Ringing Tower Captain) 01722 446634

Come along to our **Summer Sunday Cafés** in the Reading Room and meet up with neighbours for tea/coffee, cakes and a chat. Better still, volunteer to help. All proceeds to local charities.

Details: Once a month, May to September plus a Christmas Special.

Contact: Barbara Mayall (Café Coordinator) 01722 411337

The **St Lawrence Flower Team** is a friendly group of flower arrangers who decorate our (St Lawrence) church in a sustainable way.

Contact: Carrie Walsh 07970 284629

Details of the above can be found on our informative **Village Website:**

www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk which features up-to-date Local News incl road closures; Bin collection dates; Local Events; Lost & Found; Photo Albums; Walks & Local History. **Contact** sscvillagewebsite@gmail.com

Defibrillator Guardian Rota : September

If you use the defibrillator or notice a problem with it please report it to:

Liz Waterman 01722 335691 elizabeth@waterman.org.uk