

# St Lawrence, Stratford sub Castle Parish Magazine May 2026

Delivered free to every house in Stratford sub Castle



The flower team decorated the church beautifully for Easter - this welcoming arrangement was in the church porch.



## 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](mailto:revsuzieallen@gmail.com)

Churchwardens

Sue Thomson 782340

Jeff Long 324421

Safeguarding Officer &  
assistant priest (retired):

Revd Sandra Williams 07754 605647

[stlawrencechurchsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:stlawrencechurchsafeguarding@gmail.com)

PCC Secretary & Admin Officer

Ella Liversage

[ella.liversage26@gmail.com](mailto:ella.liversage26@gmail.com)

Treasurer:

Nigel Afford 07825 887152

Organist

Helen Lucas 320169

Captain of Bell Ringers:

Alison Clayton 446634

Reading Room, Bookings:

Heather Balston 411628

Reading Room, General & Defects

Ted Uren 331766

Chris Lush 324681

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View a digital version of the magazine at [www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk](http://www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk)

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The Portway, Stratford sub Castle, Salisbury, SP1 3LD

## Church duties for May

### Flower Rota

3<sup>rd</sup> Glenys Westmacott  
10<sup>th</sup> Glenys Westmacott  
17<sup>th</sup> Carrie Walsh  
24<sup>th</sup> All (for community  
weekend & Pentecost  
two weeks)

### Church Opening:

3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Sheppard  
10<sup>th</sup> Ted Uren  
17<sup>th</sup> Chris Lush  
24<sup>th</sup> Francis Horn  
31<sup>st</sup> John Walsh

### Church Cleaning Rota

1<sup>st</sup> half: Heather Balston & Karen Baxter  
2<sup>nd</sup> half: Heather & Jim Platt

### Coffee/Tea Rota

3<sup>rd</sup> Carrie & John Walsh  
10<sup>th</sup> Heather Balston & Judy Villiers  
17<sup>th</sup> Chris Lush & Jenny Stone  
24<sup>th</sup> Glenys & Peter Westmacott  
31<sup>st</sup> Jane & Tony Miller

### Magazine Preparation for June

Editor: Rosemary Winson  
Printers: Alix & Jon Smith

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## Dates for your May Diaries

- 6<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library, Castle Keep, 11.00 - 11.25
- 13<sup>th</sup> Stratford Guild, AGM followed by '*Britain a Place in the Sun*'  
speaker Chairman Ian Budniak. Reading Room 19.30 see p29
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ladies Together, Guided Walk in Cathedral Close, 10.00 see p32
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library, Castle Keep, 11.00 - 11.25
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Weekend - Demos, Games, Bouncy Castle, Food.  
10.00 - 14.00 Reading Room & church see p4 & 21
- 24<sup>th</sup> Community Weekend 15.00 'Songs of Praise' outside the church  
see p21
- 28<sup>th</sup> Garden Club, '*Climate Friendly Gardening*' speaker Sally Morgan,  
Reading Room 19.30 see p33

### Defibrillator

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

## The Revd Suzie Allen writes:

### Celebrating the Heroes Among Us: A Community Shaped by Love

Every village has its stories. Some are told often - we think about Easter perhaps that was marked only recently, or Anzac day being marked on 24<sup>th</sup> April this year. Others are quieter: the neighbour who checks in on someone living alone, the volunteer who always arrives early to set up chairs, the parent who somehow finds time to bake for the school sale, the person who notices when someone is struggling and steps in with kindness. These are the stories that weave a community together.

This May, St Lawrence Church is delighted to be hosting our first **Community Weekend**, a chance to celebrate the life we share and the people who help it flourish. It's a weekend full of colour and laughter - live demonstrations, games, a bouncy castle, food, and space simply to be together. But at its heart lies something deeper: gratitude for the local heroes among us.

In the Christian faith, we often talk about "the body of Christ" - the idea that each person has a part to play, each gift matters, and no contribution is too small. St Paul writes that "the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you'" - a reminder that community is strongest when everyone is valued. You don't need a title or a platform to make a difference. Sometimes the most Christ-like acts are the ones no one sees.

Our village is full of these quiet saints. The ones who drive neighbours to appointments. The ones who pick up litter on their morning walk. The ones who listen without judgement. The ones who give their time, their skills, their patience, their humour. They may never think of themselves as heroes, but they are the ones who make this place feel like home and so special.

So why not come along to our **Community Weekend**. We have the school starting us off on the afternoon of **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** with a special service marking '**Inspiring Heroes**'. Then on the **Saturday** we have the main event – **10am to 2pm** come on down to the Reading Room and the Church grounds – there will be a café, barbecue, art and sculpture to see as well as a demonstration of some amazing stone carving. There will be games and a bouncy castle, as well as some stalls.

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We will then finish our weekend with a **Songs of Praise** service (hopefully outside, weather permitting) at **3pm** on the **Sunday**.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of this... (*see the poster on p21*).

The Community Weekend is our chance to honour that spirit of community and to say thank you. To enjoy one another's company. To remember that community isn't something we attend - it's something we build, one small act of love at a time.

*Revd Suzie*



**Saint Lawrence Church**  
Stratford sub Castle

## **NOTICE OF ST LAWRENCE CHURCH APCM** **17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 11.30am**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is an important annual gathering where church members review the past year and plan for the future.

During the APCM, various reports are presented, including:

- The financial accounts of the church.
- A review of the church's activities over the past year.
- Updates on safeguarding measures to ensure a safe worship environment.
- The election of new PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives.

Our APCM will take place on

**17<sup>th</sup> May 11:30am at St Lawrence Church**, after the 10am service.

Accounts will be available on the Church website  
[www.saintlawrence.org.uk](http://www.saintlawrence.org.uk) for viewing from 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Anyone who lives in the parish is able to vote for the Churchwardens for our Church. You would be most welcome to join us at 11.30am and have your say!

*Revd Suzie*

## May Services at St Lawrence

**3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> after Easter**

**10.00 Parish Communion**

**Streamed**

Readings:

Acts 7: 55-end

(Sue Thomson)

John 14: 1-14

(Barry Goldsmith)

Intercessions: Jo Harrison

Celebrant and Preacher:

Revd Sandra Williams

**10<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> after Easter**

**10.00 Together in Worship  
(Baptism of Ernest & Albert)**

Reading:

John 14: 15-21

(Gwynneth James)

Intercessions: Carole Long

Officiant & Preacher:

Revd Suzie Allen

**18.00 Evensong**

Readings:

Zechariah 8: 1-13 & Psalm 87

(Judith Kennard)

Revelation 21: 22- 22.5

(Officiant)

Intercessions: Prayer Book

Officiant:

Mr Peter Westmacott

**17<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> after Easter**

**10.00 Parish Communion**

**Streamed**

Readings:

Acts 1: 6-14

(Chris Lush)

John 17: 1-11

(Sarah Wilson)

Intercessions: Ted Uren

Celebrant & Preacher:

Revd Sandra Williams

*Note - This service will be followed by the APCM - see p5 for details.*

*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*

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## May Services at St Lawrence *continued*

### 24<sup>th</sup> Pentecost

#### 10.00 Parish Communion

##### Streamed

Readings:

Acts 2: 1-21

(Joy James)

John 20: 19-23 TBC

(Heather Balston)

Intercessions: Revd Suzie Allen

Celebrant & Preacher:

Revd Suzie Allen



#### 09.45 Breakfast Church

in the Reading Room  
with Alison Clayton

#### 15.00 Songs of Praise

Outside weather permitting

Officiant:

Revd Suzie Allen

*See poster on p21*

### 31<sup>st</sup> Trinity Sunday

#### 10.00 Celtic Communion

##### Streamed

Readings:

Psalm 8 TBC

(Peter Westmacott)

Matthew 28: 16-20

(Pam Dixon)

Intercessions: Carrie Walsh

Celebrant & Preacher:

Revd Adrian Burholt



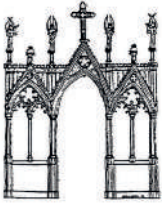
**Lay Pastoral Assistant** is available for pastoral care  
Jenny Stone - 07511 226828



## Morning Prayer

in the Reading Room  
on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 09.30

Evensong



All are welcome at St Lawrence Church  
for our  
**Evensong Service**  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 18.00



**Ascension Day**  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 07.30  
**Benefice Service of Holy Communion**  
at Old Sarum  
See poster on p15 for further details

## Celtic Spirituality



At St Francis Church there will be an Evening Communion service from the Iona Community on  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 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.

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.

## Palm Sunday

Summer time arrived with the beginning of Holy Week and despite the lack of an hour's sleep, crowds of families arrived at Stratford school for the procession to the church with donkeys provided by Lady Chichester.



We all marched into the church waving palm crosses and singing *Give me joy in my heart*, to find orders of service and hymn books already in the pews. All were welcomed by Revd Suzie Allen who then blessed the donkeys.

The service continued with our saying sorry for all the things we had said, thought and done during the past week and continued with Revd Suzie coming into the congregation to hear from those present about what they were thankful for. The reading was very appropriately taken from the Lion Storyteller's Bible's rendition of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem.

Now it was time for the 'talk' and we were asked when we had last been in a crowd – football club, O2, school assembly and airport were some of the



answers. Then we were asked to form a crowd down the aisle – all participated, young and old. Then Revd Suzie asked us to chant '*Care for the Earth*', time and time again. Then we were asked to chant '*We love Marmite*'! Do we really? Some in the crowd did as asked; in fact, the majority did. Were they thinking about what they were doing or just following the crowd?

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## *Palm Sunday continued*

Back to the reading. When the crowd assembled in Jerusalem for the Passover Festival, they were excited to see this man they had heard about. Was this the saviour who had come to save them from Roman tyranny? But this was a man of peace, not wearing a crown or on a war horse. Were they trying to make Jesus into what they thought he should be? This was an upside-down Jesus who was dealing with the heart, justice and mercy. Were these the same people who would be calling for his killing a few days later? Do we stop and think - What would Jesus have done?

The service drew to a close with prayers of intercession. In these prayers Chris Lush read the following:

### ***St Lawrence Parish Prayer***

*Dear Lord,*

*May we be a community which is open and welcoming.*

*May we commit to being a worshiping, learning and growing community together across the generations with respect and love for one another.*

*May we serve, care and reach out to our local community and have a heart for all those from further afield.*

*May our beautiful church building, soon to be further enhanced with the Easter decorations, continue to be a focal point for worship, prayer, community service now and for generations to come.*

*Amen*

*Heather Platt*

# St Lawrence Church Calendar - 2026

Ascension Day	14 <sup>th</sup> May 07.30
APCM (in St Lawrence Church)	17 <sup>th</sup> May 11.15
Pentecost	24 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00
School Leavers Service	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 09.00
Patronal Festival	9 <sup>th</sup> August 10.00
Wedding of Sarah Hannaford & Joseph Pasquier	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 13.30
Wedding of Laura Vokins & Scott Ragley	28 <sup>th</sup> August TBC
Wedding of Lucy Moors & Philip Ireland	12 <sup>th</sup> September 13.00
Juba School 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary service St Francis	27 <sup>th</sup> September
Harvest Festival	11 <sup>th</sup> October

## Forthcoming Weddings at St Lawrence



2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Tamsin Britton & Matthew Gavin	13.00
22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Sarah Hannaford & Joseph Pasquier	13.30
28 <sup>th</sup> August	Laura Vokins & Scott Ragley	TBC
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Lucy Moors & Phillip Ireland	13.00

## Forthcoming Baptisms at St Lawrence



10 <sup>th</sup> May	Ernest & Albert	10.00
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Please pray for these wedding couples and the baptism candidates, as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

**Adult baptism! Are you interested in getting baptised?**  
*Perhaps you weren't as a child and would like to find out more about it. There is a short course being planned in May. Do email Revd Suzie to express interest or find out more - [revsuzieallen@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzieallen@gmail.com)*

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

## Breakfast Church



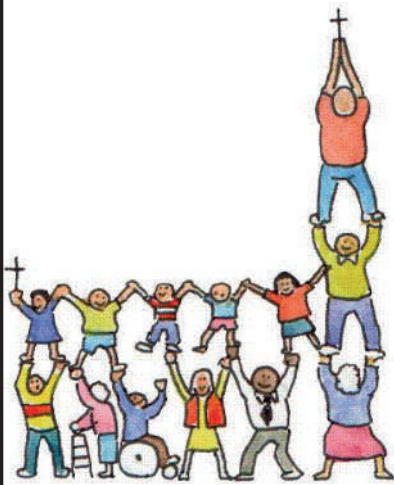
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 9.45am -10.45am in the Reading Room

Come along to May's Breakfast Church where we will be marking the Church's birthday (Pentecost).

Come ready for a party with Alison!



### Families and Children at St Lawrence



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
**10.00 Together in Worship**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**  
**09.45 - Breakfast Church**  
**in the Reading Room**  
Pentecost  
&  
**15.00 outside the church**  
**Songs of Praise**

## Breakfast Church - March



The Breakfast Church family came together for our usual feast of food followed by our story from the Bible. On this occasion it was the Parable of the Sower. Each table had an environment in which to think about how a seed could/would grow - there were different responses as you would imagine - who could grow a seed effectively in amongst thorns? or on rocks? or on a path?

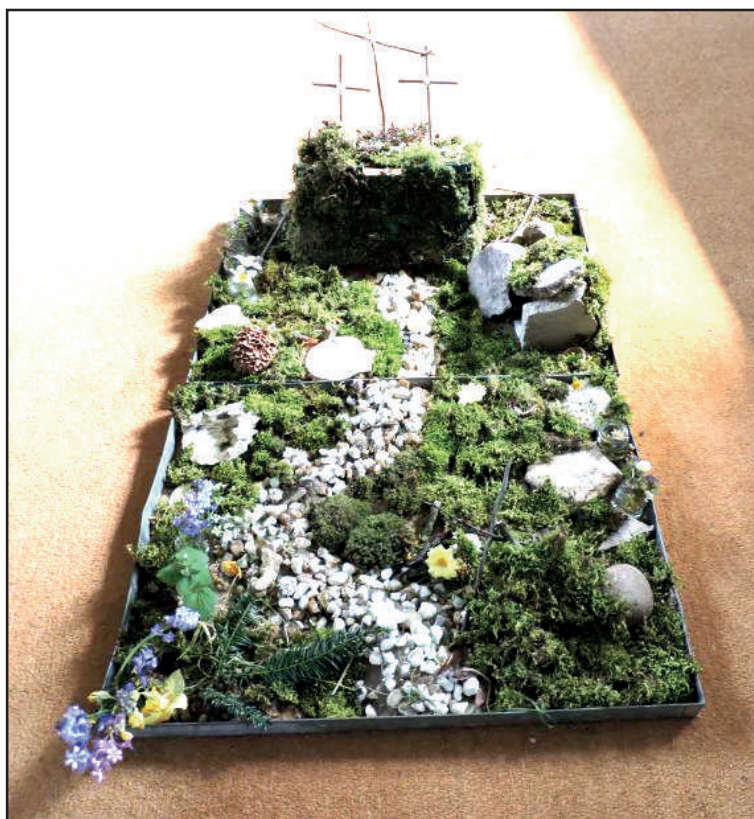
We thought about the different environments that affect the growing of our faith and what might hinder it. We ended the session planting a sunflower seed to take home to remind us to think about what kind of soil we are in - are we growing in our faith... are there changes we need to make?



*Revd Suzie*

## Making the Easter Garden

After the solemnity of the Last Hour Service on Good Friday it was a joy to welcome the children with their parents and grandparents into the chancel



of the Church at 4pm to create their version of an Easter Garden.

Revd Suzie set them the task of searching the churchyard for flowers, moss, sticks and greenery. The children ranged in age from two to 13 and were accompanied by their adults, being careful not to go on to the graves. When they had enough material there were little vases, pebbles and rocks to work with and it was lovely to see how even the youngest was able to contribute.

At various stages there were hot cross buns, juice and hot chocolate to keep them going. When all was complete, they gathered in the choir pews to hear the Easter story from the children's bible read to them by Revd Sandra.

*Heather Platt*

### **An account by one of the children who took part**

To make the Easter garden you definitely need to trust the process! We start with a base of pebbles and everyone goes around the churchyard looking for lovely things to add to it like moss and pretty flowers! I was in charge of filling all the little flower pots with water and little by little I think it ended up looking amazing!

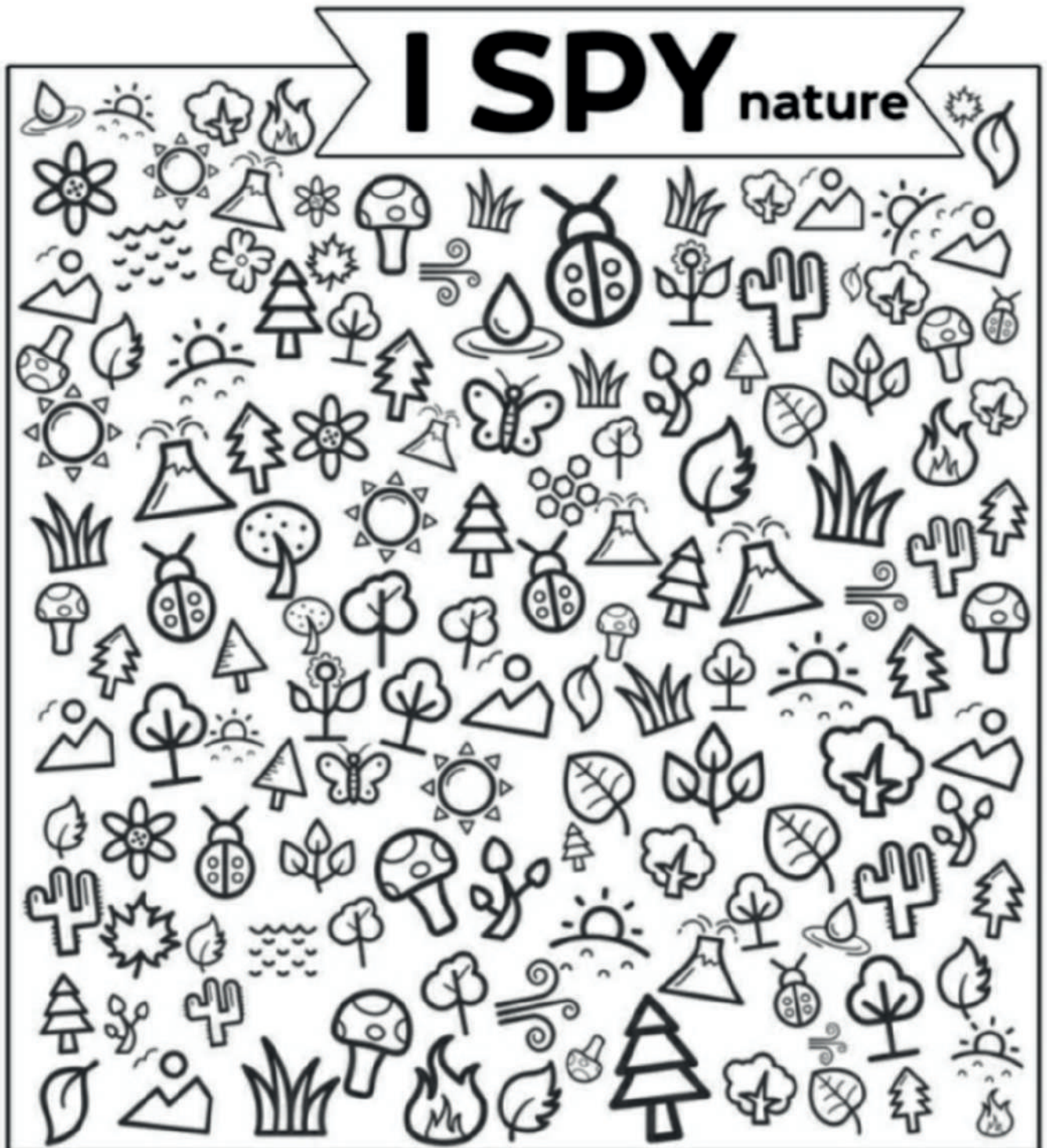
My favourite bit was eating some lovely food after creating the Easter Garden and walking around the churchyard with my granny!

*Isabelle*

# Children's Corner

You will need your 'Eagle Eyes' this month! Colouring pens may help too. Hint: fill in the matching shapes with the same colours, then count them to check you've found them all. The ladybirds will need more than one colour.

- |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 |  | 4 |  | 4 |  | 2 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 5 |  |
| 1 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  |
| 3 |  | 2 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 2 |  | 7 |  | 3 |  | 9 |  | 6 |  | 3 |  |





## *St. Lawrence Church*

# Ascension Day

in the benefice of St. Francis &  
St. Lawrence Churches

A service of Holy Communion to celebrate Ascension Day  
will be held in the grounds of

**the Old Cathedral Ruins at Old Sarum**

on

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

at

**7.30am**

The service will take place come rain or shine.  
Bring a fold-up chair if required.

*[www.saintlawrence.org.uk](http://www.saintlawrence.org.uk)*



## Thank you from Alabaré

The April magazine included an article about the Lent Lunch held in March. Donations amounting to £680 were collected and split between the Foodbank and Alabaré. We have received the following from Gill Turner-Callis, Senior Chaplain at Alabaré:

*“I write on behalf of Alabaré to say a sincere thank you for your very generous donation, received yesterday.*

*84p? 86p? - (I'm afraid I only heard this yesterday and can't quite remember which it is) pence of every pound goes directly to our beneficiaries – goes towards enabling a fulfilling life for those we support. The remaining (16p) pays for the back-room staff who keep the show on the road - essential workers in their own right.*

*Just this morning, a friend messaged me, asking how she could help a vulnerable homeless woman she'd met outside a charity shop in Warminster (beyond buying her a coffee, which she did). I told her about Warminster's homeless support hub, then directed her to Alabaré's drop ins in Salisbury and Chippenham and listed the support offered there. I found myself sending multiple messages as I recalled more sources of help, available through Alabaré.*

*It's amazing to me (even given I'm in the middle of it) that we offer so much support in addition to what we're contracted to do – because of the money we get from people, organisations and groups like you.*

*You can be sure therefore, that your donation will make a real difference in someone's life. Thank you.”*

*Heather Platt*

**Alabaré Emporium at Unit 2, Warminster Road, Wilton SP2 0AT** is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am - 4.30pm with over 6,000 square feet of curiosities to peruse including a wide range of new and vintage clothing, bric-a-brac, garden items, furniture and bicycles to buy. Everything is under one roof, with ample customer parking and easy access for dropping off donations. If you have similar items to donate, they would be welcomed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between 10am and 3.30 pm. Enquiries 01722 744111

## 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 59.2 kg and were gratefully received.

Everyday basic items make such a difference to those people who rely on the Foodbank for support. The following items are requested this month:

Long Life Fruit Juice	Rice Pudding or custard
Biscuits	UHT Milk
Tinned Vegetables	Toilet Paper
Tinned Fruit	Sponge Puddings
Tinned Meat/Meals	Coffee

*Heather Platt*

## Alabaré thank you



During the course of the month four bags of food and toiletries were taken to Alabaré as well as a large holdall of winter outdoor clothes. This is in addition to the financial donation as a result of the Lent Lunch. Very many thanks for continuing to support their work.

*Heather Platt*

### Food

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

### Toiletries

Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Shower Gel  
Handwash

### Clothing

Hats, gloves, scarves  
men's coats

## Easter Morning at St Lawrence

Holy Week has been a roller coaster for our Church. After the Good Friday service of quiet reflection we left St Lawrence in silence – and as we left, the promise of triumphant Easter brought in the Pascal candle, the fine gold altar frontal, and flower arrangements for every window niche.



The children crowded in to build our imaginative Easter Garden with the three crosses and the cave tomb with door stone ready to roll aside. A rough cross beside the lectern was the focus for our Easter Sunday service as welcoming bells rang out over the sunny but

chilly morning of an English spring.

We enjoyed familiar Easter hymns and Bible readings, with Revd Suzie using the Gospel reading as a script for young volunteer actors and congregation participation. The congregation joined her in re-enactment of the wonderful message of Easter – rolling aside of the tomb entrance stone, the stunned entrance guards, and Mary Magdalene's desperate search for Christ's body. Suzie then astonished us all by appearing in costume as an Easter Egg, making the point that we are celebrating new life in all its aspects. A loud shout of '*Jesus is Alive*' rang across our church as the final underline to her powerful talk.



We then continued on more familiar ground as we gathered at the altar rail to celebrate Easter Communion, to remind us all of the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples in 33 CE. As we dispersed to enjoy the day with family and friends, children were engaged in an energetic Easter egg hunt in the churchyard, the Good News of Easter carried forward into 2026 CE.

*Ted Uren*

## Evensong with Bishop Andrew

We were privileged and delighted to welcome to Stratford, Andrew, Suffragan Bishop of Ramsbury who took our service of Evensong on the showery evening of 12<sup>th</sup> April.



His genuinely friendly and open manner embraced us all, parishioners and clergy from St Francis and St Lawrence. His poetic delivery imbued the (in my opinion archaic) but beautiful language of the Common Prayer Book service with a relevancy that was apt and affecting.

Readings from Susan Carey and Ted Uren illuminated the stories of Daniel in the Lion's Den and the first Easter morning. The congregation sang, lustily supported by Helen's organ playing and the choir from St Francis.

The inspiring sermon was delivered from our magnificent Jacobean pulpit "best in Wiltshire" (see Trip Advisor!!) and its theme was the special and unique quality of Easter. Colin Reed's intercessions were thoughtful and pertinent, praying for the present World situation and thanking God for music of all kinds, mentioning guitar playing priests and bishops, which made our guitarist-visitor smile.



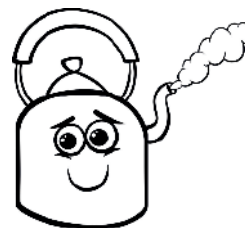
Revd Suzie thanked Bishop Andrew for coming, saying that this visit had been a long time in the planning and that we were lucky that he could fit us in just before he takes up his exciting new post as Diocesan Bishop of St Albans.

After the service refreshments were kindly laid on by Heather Platt and Veronica Uren, when everyone was able to have a friendly chat.

*Jo Harrison*

## 'Kettle's On' 2026

On behalf of the village I would like to say thank you to this season's hosts for 'Kettle's On': Lynne Pender, Sarah & John Wilson, Heather & David Balston, and Pam Dixon.



The coffee mornings were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The venues for next year will be listed in the December 2026/January 2027 magazine. If you would like to host - nothing elaborate just coffee and biscuits - or if you need any more information, please contact me.

Christine Goldsmith  
01722 332169

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## Christian Aid Collection 2026



*'Where hardship means hunger...urban farmers can grow hope.'*

Christian Aid week is 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May. You will find a Christian Aid envelope with this magazine.

Intense urban poverty in Nairobi, Kenya, is robbing mothers of the ability to protect their children from hunger. But with tools and training from our partner, 'Beacon of Hope', Fridah is farming vegetables in a small city plot to feed her family and earn an income.

Please fill the envelope and deliver it to either myself or Nigel Afford. The addresses are on the envelopes. Or you may wish to go online to [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) and follow the link to Christian Aid week where I saw a hopeful short video about the work that your donation will support and where you can also donate.

Jenny Stone

### **Community Weekend - see poster opposite & article p4,5 HELP NEEDED!**



Could you come and help set up Gazebos, tables & chairs on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 9-10am? If so, please send an email to me [revsuzieallen@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzieallen@gmail.com) or phone 07401 191957

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH PRESENTS

# VILLAGE WEEKEND

*Bringing Our Community Together!*

23rd May, 10am - 2pm

LIVE DEMO'S

FUN GAMES

BOUNCY CASTLE

STONE CARVING DEMO

CRAFTS

FOOD AVAILABLE



*Songs of Praise Service  
Sunday 24th May at 3pm*



## This Magazine

It is nine years since David Todd died. For 27 years, with the help of his wife Mary, he edited and printed this magazine, which is distributed free to all the houses in Stratford and to a lot of people outside.

Today we have six teams who produce the magazine – three teams of editors and three teams of printers. Each editorial team is responsible for one month every quarter. Similarly, the printers print once a quarter. It takes a morning to print and distribute the normal print run of 300 copies even with our state-of-the-art printer. In addition, we have nine people who deliver to your door. This system seems to be working very well and we are very grateful to everyone who participates in this rewarding activity.

We hope you are happy with the document that arrives eleven months of the year. Although it is the St Lawrence church magazine it aims to cover community news as well as church activities. Thank you to everyone who contributes articles providing the diverse reading that people seem to enjoy. Many thanks also to those who take the trouble of writing to the editors to express their appreciation of the magazine.

We have tried to make the magazine self-financing. However, expenses have risen substantially with, for instance, printer copy charges going up 15% last year. It costs about £1.50 per copy to produce. Advertising covers about half of this (*so please mention the magazine if you contact an advertiser*) and the remainder comes from readers who contribute to the magazine fund.

Could we ask that those who appreciate receiving the magazine make a contribution of what it is worth to you.

Nigel Afford (PCC Treasurer) will be pleased to receive donations at:

Sorviodunum Cottage, Stratford Road, SP1 3LQ  
or by BACS to Lloyds Bank sort code 30 97 41  
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Many thanks  
*Editorial Team*

## Stratford sub Castle Summer Sunday Café

3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2026 (2.30pm to 4.30pm)



Our season of Summer Sunday Cafés is about to start and we hope that, whatever the weather, you will come along and join us at the **Reading Room, SP1 3LL** (opposite St Lawrence Church) where there is ample car & bicycle parking. (Dogs on leads are welcome in the garden area only, where we have water and treats for them.)

Don't miss out on our delicious homemade cakes, cream teas, or savoury equivalent, before bagging a bargain pre-loved book and/or something from our garden/kitchen produce table. (**Cash Payments only please**)

To boost our summer café supplies, we would appreciate your donations of 'good as new' paperback novels, as well as produce items, so please liaise with contacts listed below, or bring items along on the day at the start of the café.

### CONTACTS

BOOKS:           BRYAN JENNICK     Tel: 07546 365616  
PRODUCE:       JUDY VILLIERS         Tel: 01722 500173

All proceeds from the May café will be donated to our chosen charity **Wilton Riding for the Disabled**, who enhance the lives of disabled children and adults through engaging activities centred around horses. They specialise in providing therapy, fostering fitness, nurturing skill development, and creating opportunities for personal achievement.

As always, café information will be available in the monthly Parish Magazines or on our village noticeboard and at any time on our village website [www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk](http://www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk) (under Groups).  
Next month our café will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, when all proceeds will be donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

We all look forward to seeing you, whether it's your first visit or you are returning again to our great Summer Sunday cafés.

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

**Stratford sub Castle Guild**  
**Worldwide Forensics:**  
**Travels of a Forensic Dentist**

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dr John Sinclair Robson**

*This review contains references to disasters and death, which some may find distressing.*

Forensic dentistry is not an occupation with which many people are familiar. Forensic pathology is better known as a result of programmes such as Silent Witness and, for those with longer memories, Quincy ME. Forensic dentistry is most often important in establishing the identity of victims of large-scale disasters where the nature of the injuries make such identification difficult. The chaos following an aircraft crash or a large fire was graphically depicted in photos screened by Dr Robson. Pieces of aircraft, fragments of luggage, clothing, personal effects and, sadly, body parts scattered over an extensive area make identification very difficult. The heat of fires can completely destroy a body apart from the teeth which are the hardest and most durable part of the body. Hence the importance of an expert in dentistry when identification is impossible by other means.

Dr Robson explained how he had become a Forensic Dentist. Having completed his medical training at Guys Hospital, where his chosen speciality was dentistry, he joined a practice in Somerset and continued to practise throughout his career. However, when he saw an advertisement offering training in forensic dentistry he decided to apply. Following training he became attached to one of two companies which specialise in search recovery, family assistance, repatriation of bodies and liaison with the media following large-scale disasters anywhere in the world.

His first task was to attend an air disaster in Colombia in 1995. An aircraft had crashed in a mountain area and most of the 155 on board had died. The bodies of the deceased were laid out in rows and the relatives were invited to walk round and identify their own family member which they could then take away for burial. This method relied on facial recognition so beloved of writers of television dramas. Dr Robson pointed out that facial recognition is an unreliable method of identification and illustrated this by showing photos of Marilyn Monroe in life and one after death. The latter was unrecognisable as Marilyn Monroe.

Sadly, this proved true in Colombia as the following day several of the next of kin returned the bodies they had taken, having discovered it was the wrong one.

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Dr Robson travelled to many different locations including Indonesia, South Africa, the Asian Tsunami in 2004 which caused the deaths of 290,000 and was the biggest mass fatality in recent history. In this country he attended the site of a multiple vehicle accident in Somerset which resulted in a large fire, the heat of which fused cars to the road. He was called to identify victims of the Grenfell Tower fire where his dental identification skills were vital because of the intensity of the fire. His last job was in Addis Ababa in 2018 where a plane crashed six minutes after takeoff. In fact, it was possible for most of the identification to be by DNA, but this is not always possible. DNA can be destroyed by extreme heat as in the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Whilst he visited many exotic locations in the course of his work the accommodation offered could be grim or even bizarre. For example, on one occasion he and his colleagues were placed in a brothel. Conditions for examining bodies were often chaotic and without basic equipment even water. Bodies might be stored outside with little protection in hot and humid conditions resulting in rapid decomposition. On one occasion Dr Robson required a dental X-ray machine, but none was available so he flew back to England to collect a spare one from the dental practice where he worked. When he returned to the cockroach infested mortuary with electric wires hanging off the walls, the bodies had to be propped in a chair in order to use the X-ray machine.

Despite all the difficulties encountered in his forensic work Dr Robson retained a delightful sense of humour which was evident in his excellent presentation which was much appreciated by those present.

He concluded his presentation with these words:

*“We help the living by working with the dead”*

and *“Success is a funeral”*.

The next Guild meeting will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a short AGM.

Then our Chairman, Ian Budniak, will give us a short talk about Britain's involvement in the Spanish War of Succession during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

*Judith Kennard*

# Summer Café

Open for Cream Teas & Cakes

Garden/Kitchen Produce & Pre-loved Books



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

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY**

**2.30pm – 4.30pm**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO  
WILTON RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

**(NOTE - CASH PAYMENTS ONLY PLEASE)**

## Proposed changes to Wiltshire parking charges

The proposed changes include:

- An average 20% rise in parking charges in 2026, followed by a further 5% rise in 2028
- Extending parking charges operating hours to 7am-7pm
- Aligning Sunday charges with weekday tariffs
- Reintroducing on street Sunday charging in Salisbury
- Adjusting season ticket and permit fees in line with any tariff changes.

**For full details of the proposed changes go to:**

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/troconsultations>

Then click on TRO consultation to pay & display parking on the RH side of the page. Then click on notices and click on Salisbury Journal.

Details may be seen at Salisbury Library Monday 10am – 7pm, Tuesday, Friday 9am – 7pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday 9am – 5pm until 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Cllr Martin Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: *"Parking charges in Wiltshire have not changed since 2022, despite significant inflationary pressures during that time, so we feel that these proposals are fair and that they remain in line with charges in nearby authorities. No decision has been made on this, and we really do want to hear people's views. Please do take the time to take part in the consultation"*.

**The consultation closes on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026.** Comments must arrive before 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026. You must include your name and address and quote reference: HKB/TRO/Parking - without these, comments cannot be accepted.

There are three ways to comment on this proposal:

1. By post to Traffic Order Team, Sustainable Transport Group, Highways & Transport, County hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN
- 2 By email to [trafficorderconsultations@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:trafficorderconsultations@wiltshire.gov.uk)
3. By completing the TRO consultation form online on the Wiltshire council website - you need to register for an account!

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It is interesting to see other local area parking charges:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parking-trowbridge>

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/parking/parking-and-car-parks>

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/travel-transport/find-and-plan/find-parking>

<https://www.totalguidetobath.com/lifestyle/the-best-car-parks-in-bath/>

<https://www.dorsetguide.com/bournemouth-car-parks/>

**Please take the time to send in your comments on the proposed changes to Wiltshire parking charges before May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

*Terry Ereira*

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## **Stratford sub Castle Garden Club**

Our next meeting is on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Sally Morgan – her talk is entitled “Climate friendly gardening”.

This promises to be both popular and topical.

The meeting is in the Reading Room as usual at 7.30pm.

We have one more meeting in this season on 25<sup>th</sup> June. This will be our AGM – please plan to attend this meeting. We are in need of Committee members to avoid the closure of the club.

We look forward to seeing you at these last two meetings of the season.

*Jeff Long  
Programme Secretary*

# Stratford sub Castle Guild

Join us for the next Guild meeting on

**Wednesday 13 May**

at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room

**Our AGM**

Followed by

**‘Britain ... A Place in the Sun’**

**Speaker: Our Chairman Ian Budniak**



**Ian will give us a consideration of Britain's involvement  
in the Spanish War of Succession during the  
18th Century.**

Visitor & new member enquiries:  
please contact Jenny Stone 07511 226828  
View the Guild's latest programme on  
[www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk](http://www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk)

# SAVE THE DATE

STRATFORD SUB CASTLE GARDEN CLUB  
SUNDAY JUNE 14th 2026

WHY?

**STRATFORD SUB CASTLE OPEN GARDENS**

THERE WILL BE SIX VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN  
FOR YOU TO EXPLORE

**2.00PM – 5.00PM**

**TICKETS: ADULT £5.00, Under 16s FREE**

Cream Teas / Cakes / Tea and Coffee will be available.



## **Desdemona**

### **a Play about a handkerchief**

This play is Pulitzer and Obie Award Winning playwright Paula Vogel's take on the three women in Othello, moving them from the side-lines to centre stage.

Meet Desdemona, Emilia and Bianca but not as you think you know them from Shakespeare.

It's funny and poignant and bawdy with adult themes and content.  
Age guidance 14+

This dark-comedy drama runs from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** with all performances at 7.30pm till 9.30pm.

Tickets at £15 or £8 (for 16 -14 years old) are available from Salisbury Information Centre on 01722 342860 or on-line at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/studiotheatresalisbury](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/studiotheatresalisbury)

## Sudans Day 2026

**St Francis Church, Salisbury SP1 3PN  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May - 10am to 4pm**



Updates on current development, political and security initiatives in Sudan and South Sudan and the work of our medical, educational and deanery partnerships.

Our emphasis this year will be on humanitarian needs, and our keynote speaker will be Patrick Watt, CEO of Christian Aid. Other contributors will be drawn from international organisations and from within the Diocese.

Attendance is free but donations would be gratefully received on the day. Free tea and coffee will be available, and do bring a packed lunch.

**Please email us if you plan to come:**  
[sudansecretary@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:sudansecretary@salisbury.anglican.org)

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

### **Room needed from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

Tina and Esther Biggs are visiting Birgitta Line in Castle Keep for these two weeks in July to meet Felicia and Carlos and their children who are over from Mexico. The house will be full and Tina needs to be able to work online in a quiet location from 9am to 3pm each day.

Would anyone be able to offer a room with Wi-Fi and a desk, and a double bed or two twin beds in their house for that period? We are happy to pay an Airbnb rate- all offers considered.

We will be eating all meals with Birgitta so won't need breakfast.

Please contact me if you can help  
Tina Biggs Tel: 07906 041439 email: [cmbbiggs@gmail.com](mailto:cmbbiggs@gmail.com)

## Ladies Together

The Ladies Together group met on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April in the Young Gallery (above the library) for a very informative talk by curator Dr Emily Dunbar about the origins of the gallery, and particularly about Edwin Young, Robin Tanner and author John Creasey.



One of the paintings on display was a watercolour by Edwin Young of a farmhouse in Stratford sub Castle painted in 1899. Young's work, in the school of Constable, is exhibited in Gallery 1, with Galleries 2 and 3 displaying modern pieces as well as community work.

The gallery is free to visit and is open Monday to Saturday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm. <https://www.younggallerysalisbury.org.uk/>

With grateful thanks to Emily for making the group so welcome. Afterwards the ladies enjoyed coffee and tea cakes at Jenny's in Market Walk.

The next gathering of Ladies Together is on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Meet at the Bell Tower café in the Close at 10.00 am for a short, guided walk of some of the houses, kindly led by Glenys Westmacott. All ladies welcome. You do not have to have come along before. It's just an opportunity to meet one another and enjoy coffee and cake.

Co-ordinators: Glenys 01722 697309, Jan 07919050798  
and Jane [jane.e.miller@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.e.miller@btinternet.com)

### Quiz Night Reminder - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

Tickets are still available for the fundraising Quiz Night at Salisbury Rugby Club to help two local scouts Tilly (Stratford Road) and Fred (St Lawrence Close) attend the **26<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree Poland 2027**. Tickets £6 from Abi 07968 758309 (Tilly's Mum) or Zoe 07808 313413 (Fred's Mum). Further details in the April magazine p 34.



# STRATFORD SUB CASTLE GARDEN CLUB

## **‘Climate Friendly Gardening’**

**Sally Morgan**

---

**THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> May 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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Gardens Open Day Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2pm-5pm**

For more information or help getting to the event Contact:

Rob Barclay 07867655642 or  
robbarclay1@googlemail.com

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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](mailto:karen.baxter64@yahoo.co.uk)

or

07930 507506



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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 (ex December) 19.30 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month September to June 19.30 (except January & February 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk) which features up-to-date Local News incl road closures; Bin collection dates; Planning Applications; Local Events; Lost & Found; Photo Albums; Walks & Local History. And much more. Contributions welcome.

### Defibrillator Guardian Rota : May

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

Teresa Jennick 07485 649975 [teresajennick@gmail.com](mailto:teresajennick@gmail.com)