

Village Diary for February

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Events planned for later in the year – make a note now in your diary

March 28th and 29th Scarecrows Weekend
July 11th Queen Tribute Concert

Church services for February

Sunday, 2nd February Candlemas

10.30am Holy Communion at Christian Malford

Sunday, 9th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

10.30am Coffee, Chat and Craft Christian Malford

Thursday, 13th February

9am Morning Prayer at Christian Malford

Sunday, 16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

10.30am United Benefice All Age Service at Seagry Launch of the Lent Challenge

Sunday, 23rd February Next Sunday before Lent

9am Holy Communion at Christian Malford

Wednesday, 26th February Ash Wednesday

12.30pm Service of Holy Communion with Ashing at Sutton Benger.

Thursday, 27th February

9am Morning Prayer at Christian Malford

Children's Choir will meet on Tuesdays, 4th, 11th and 25th February, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March at 5.15pm in Sutton Benger Church. All welcome. Contact Rev Alison Love for further details 720619.

Wiltshire Home Library Service.

The Wiltshire Home Library Service - Bringing the Library to you The home library service is there for people of any age who are blind or partially sighted, disabled in some way, suffering a long term illness, recovering from an operation and in need of short term help, elderly and frail, unable to carry library books, carers who cannot easily leave home or experiencing mental health problems A member of library staff will talk to you about what you like to read. They will then visit you at home with a library volunteer and bring you some books. Every few weeks the library volunteer will call at a time to suit you and exchange your books. There are no fines or charges for this service and you can request items too. Contact your local library or telephone the Access and Volunteer Manager on 01225 713706, or email libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk 2.

Waste Collection dates

Household waste and black box - Thursday, 6th and 20th February

Garden waste - Thursday, 6th and 20th February

Blue lid bins - Thursday, 13th and 27th February

The latest information can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days>

Christian Malford Village Website, Gives details of village events, clubs and societies There is a notice board and a list of useful telephone numbers and local services. To include your event within the village diary send your item to email: parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk.

QUEEN

Tribute Band Concert

Saturday, 11th July in the recreation ground

An event for all the family

Make a note in your diary now

PANCAKES AND COFFEE

Join us for an early pancake day with pancake challenges

Tuesday, 18th February 10am – noon in the village hall

Free admission – raffle. Children especially welcome

Proceeds in aid of the church tower repairs

The Luncheon Club, The club will meet on Tuesday, 11th and 25th February at 12.30pm in the village hall. Contact Angela Hamilton on 721091 or Shirley Palmer on 740627

Homeworkers' Pub Lunch Enjoy a light lunch with a warm, friendly group of other homeworkers on Wednesday, 12th February at 12.30pm at the Wellesley Arms, Sutton Benger. Just come along - a chance to network and discuss work dilemmas.

Next Parish Council Meeting The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday, 4th February in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.45pm. See below for report of last meeting.

Easter Lilies in Christian Malford Church As in previous years, we hope to have some arrangements of beautiful lilies in our church this Easter. If you would like to purchase a lily, in memory of a friend or loved one, the cost will be £2.50 per stem. There will be a box in the village shop for requests and payment, or your order may be given to Pam Carter at 5 The Nurseries. Please note the name/s of those to be remembered, and it would be helpful if you could include your name/contact number, just in case of a query. Thank you.

Mobile Library: The Mobile Library van will visit on Thursday, 6th February stopping at the village hall from 2.15pm - 2.45pm. The library offers story tapes, CDs and videos as well as books for adults and children. The van has wheelchair access and users can reserve items not on the van. Details of the Mobile Library route and visit dates can be seen at <http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/MobileLibrary>.

CHRISTIAN MALFORD SCARECROW TRAIL

28th - 29th MARCH 10AM - 5PM

Theme

The theme this year is cartoons. We are looking forward to some fun scarecrows that all the family will enjoy.

Scarecrow entries

It is free to enter a scarecrow and there is prize money of £100 for the winner! There is no need to live in the village, we will find somewhere for you to put your scarecrow. Please email Laura Sidhu (laura.sidhu@sky.com) to enquire about

entering. All scarecrow entries must be in by 24th February but the scarecrows do not need to be built until 28th March!

Scarecrow sponsorship

We are looking for one more main sponsor and individual scarecrow sponsors. The costs are £250 and £30, respectively. If you would like to promote your business and support your local community please email us on: christianmalfordscarecrow@outlook.com

A Christmas Story. On Christmas Eve a gentleman of the road, David, came into the village en route to the promise of work in Warminster. Not wishing to be a nuisance, he sought permission to sleep in the church porch. When villagers became aware of his presence they provided him with food and hot drinks and, to make his night more bearable, a pillow, hot water bottle and blankets. The following morning, having been provided with breakfast, David remained for the Christmas Day service and enjoyed the company of those present. He was given money to pay for his accommodation in Warminster and two members of the congregation drove him to Warminster. His story was one of loss, losing his business and losing his wife and ending up homeless. Hopefully, the promise of work materialised and that, coupled with the kindness he received from the villagers, will give him the encouragement to draw a line on whatever happened in his past life and to look forward to the future with renewed optimism.

Following on from this story, there are a number of very worthy local charities which provide support for homeless people.

Surviving Winter, Wiltshire Community Foundation, Sandcliff House, 21 Northgate Street, Devizes SN10 1JT www.wiltshirecf.org.uk This charity provides help to 30,000 people who live with fuel poverty in Wiltshire.

Doorway Wilts Ltd which provides shelter and food for homeless people in Chippenham You can donate through Localgiving.com

St Mungos Ending homelessness, rebuilding lives info@mungos.org

The Big Yellow Bus Project Cirencester. This is a bus which provides somewhere for people to sleep. If you look at the website there is lots of information and also how to donate.

Women's Institute At the meeting on Thursday, February 20th in Christian Malford Village Hall at 7.30pm, Richard Rickett will give a talk on 'The Amazing Honey Bee.' He is editor of BeeCraft, a beekeeper magazine. He started his career in film and television production but his hobby of beekeeping has completely taken over. All our information and club activities can be found on the notice board outside the Christian Malford village shop. New members are always welcome. Phone Shirley for any queries on 01249 740627

Church news.

Care of the church If you would like to support one or more of the groups who care for the church, the cleaning group, the flower ladies, the brass cleaners, please contact Pam Carter on 720810. pam.carter2@btinternet.com

Eco Church The church is working towards becoming an Eco Church which means we are aiming to make the church as environmentally friendly as possible. From switching to china crockery and eco friendly cleaning products to eco light bulbs and 100% renewable energy (for which we have an SSE Green Certificate) there are many areas to be considered, so this is an ongoing process.

The Church Tower. The church dates from the 13th century but the tower was added in the early part of the 17th century when the church underwent restoration. The belfry within the tower is a sight to behold, being a confusion of beams, bells and timbers. The Hunchback of Notre Dame would have had a wonderful time up there! The tower requires some remedial work to be undertaken to keep it safe. We will not be running an appeal because the work needs to be undertaken promptly but if anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost (about £4k) our churchwarden Roger Carter (720810) or our treasurer Janna Keating (07952 012417) will be very pleased to hear from you.

LENT CHALLENGE

Will you join our 6 Week Lent Challenge?

24th February – 12th April

How can we care for our world – God's Creation?

Have a go at the daily challenge and make a change

Free booklet available in our churches and via our website: <https://draycot.weebly.com>

Follow on Twitter @DraycotChurches

Share on Facebook with DraycotChurches

Come along to the Launch Service on Sunday, 16th February,
10.30a.m. St Mary's Church, Seagry

Together we can make a difference

Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme. Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme (DVLS) is a good neighbour scheme of volunteers covering Foxham, Christian Malford, Dauntsey and Brinkworth. DVLS help take people to the doctors, hospital, dentist appointments etc. It is funded by donations from the users who perhaps cannot drive or have no-one to transport them. All volunteers are cleared by Wiltshire Council. If you need to use the scheme, contact the co-ordinator on 07563 769549 and a driver will take you, stay and bring you back.

We are always wanting new volunteers. Please phone if you can spare a couple of hours a month'

Probus Club The next meeting of the club will take place at The Foxham Inn on Thursday, 6th February starting with coffee from 11am. The meeting will start promptly at 11.30am to cover any business. This will be followed by a talk by Tony Yates on Prostrate.

Should anyone wish to join our friendly band please contact one of the following committee members for details. Nigel Fairley 721278; John Webb 720216; Steve Purkiss 720077 or Ray Stockall 720676

2018 Village bonfire and firework display. Despite the appalling conditions last November and the need to postpone the event from the original date, the event went ahead and the comments received have shown a high level of appreciation for the display and the efforts of the band of individuals who were determined that the event should go ahead. Unsurprisingly, the attendance was about 50% down on the previous year and the anticipated profit was all but wiped out, a profit of £340 as against an anticipated profit of £20k+ Nevertheless, the event went ahead and was well received so well done to all those who worked so hard to make it happen. The firework display was exceptional and remains the best display for miles around.

Become a Speedwatch Volunteer Speeding through our village is of real concern You can help by becoming a speedwatch volunteer. Your commitment can be as little as an hour every 3 weeks. Please e-mail join@christianmalfordcsw.co.uk for further information. There are a number of villagers who are ex CSW volunteers who are registered but do not presently undertake any sessions. We would be delighted if you would like to return to the team. Contact details as above.

Christian Malford Community Speed Watch Summary. In December the CSW Team carried out over 10.5 hours of by-the-road side speed watch sessions across 2 areas in the village reporting 31 speeding vehicles. During 2019, our team of volunteers gave over 150 hours by-the-road-side reporting 460 speeding vehicles from the 18,338 vehicles counted. It is an amazing effort from such a dedicated small team and we should all be thankful in the village helping keep our roads safer. If you think you could help, that can be as little as an hour every 3 weeks, please see advert above.

Parish Steward for Christian Malford The Parish Steward, Adrian Moss, visits our village each month to address a wide variety of minor highway defects and needs. To ensure that we do not lose this valuable service, provided by Wiltshire Council, we need to ensure that he has plenty of work to do.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? - By reporting any of the following tasks for the Parish Steward to undertake:- Hand cleaning of small grips, rodding of small culverts and manholes, filling small potholes, hand cleaning of road gully tops, hedge trimming around road signs to maintain visibility (but not wholesale hedge cutting as this needs to be done by the landowner), washing highway signs, over-run damage, strimming of grass verges for visibility at junctions and of highway signs, siding out overgrown vegetation obstructing footways, clearing debris and leaves (but not litter) and painting railings away from water. Please report tasks, with as much detail as possible to:-

Cllr Ian Patterson ipatterson@btinternet.com or
Linda Roslyn, parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk or 07982 030973 (answerphone)
All other highway matters should be reported to Wiltshire Council.

Reporting Issues to Wiltshire Council It is really easy to report issues in the village to Wiltshire Council using their app on your smartphone - you can report things like flooding, potholes, fly-tipping, dog mess, fly-posting, graffiti, litter, hedges & weeds, street lighting, anti-social behaviour, abandoned vehicles, and more.....

The MyWiltshire app is available to download at both the App Store (for iPhones and iPads) and from Google Play™ (for Android phones) You can attach information such as photos or videos and pinpoint the location of your report using the mapping software on your phone. You can also report matters via Wiltshire Council Highways / Street Care Service: 0300 456 0105 localhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-download

Village Hall 100 Club

December non-winners draw. £20 Mrs S. Palmer, £10 Mr and Mrs Hinton.

December draw at the 100 Club lunch. £50 Mr and Mrs Hartnell, £40 Mr and Mrs Wicks, £30 Mr K. Bolter, £20 Mr A. Walker and £10 Mr and Mrs Shepperson, Mrs S. Barrington and Mr. P. McPherson.

January draw. £40 Mr and Mrs Walker, £20 Mr and Mrs Candy, £15 Mr and Mrs Copland
And £10 Mrs S Ault.

Friends of Christian Malford School is a member of EasyFundraising. This means if you shop online please do so via EasyFundraising, if the retailer is a donator. The retailer will then pay a percentage to FoS at no extra cost to you! We have raised £62 with very little effort over the last six months which is great! Here is the link for Friends of Christian Malford School, so you can register as a supporter and you are good to go!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/focms> Any problems/questions please contact Friends of the School.

Table Tennis Thursdays in Christian Malford Village Hall. 7.30pm 'til 9.30pm (except third Thursdays in the month) £1.50 per session. Two table tennis tables, bats and balls provided. Any age but 12 to 16 year olds must be accompanied at all times by a parent. Average standard play, but we are good fun teachers if you are a beginner. Dates: February 6th 13th 27th March 5th 12th 26th For further information contact Sally Purkiss 720077

Fouling by dogs

This is a problem that shouldn't exist in the 21st century – everyone should be picking up their dog's mess in public spaces and disposing of it responsibly - but unfortunately the problem still exists in this village.

Health Risks

As well as being filthy, dog mess is also unhygienic and a health hazard. All faeces contain bacteria that can cause stomach upsets if ingested. Dog mess can lead to Parvo, which is a potentially fatal disease which is transferred between dogs. However, the greatest risk to public health from dog faeces is toxocariasis.

Toxocariasis

Toxocariasis can cause serious illness and can even lead to blindness. It is caused by a parasite, known as Toxocara Canis, also commonly referred to as Roundworm and is spread via dog faeces. A puppy can pass as many as 15,000 eggs per gram of faeces, and they are a major source of environmental contamination.

The parasites lay eggs, which are released via the infected dog's faeces. The eggs can remain active in the soil for many years, long after the dog mess has been washed away by the rain. If the eggs are then ingested, for example by a small child, they may hatch into larvae and thus lead to toxocariasis.

Who does toxocariasis affect?

Toxocariasis has been reported in people of all ages, and so everybody is potentially at risk from it. However, it most commonly affects children between the ages of 1 and 4 years old. Young children in this age range are, of course, the most likely age group to pick things up off the ground and put it in their mouths. Dog mess is also a potential health risk to livestock - it can affect them if you allow your dog to foul in farmers' fields or areas where livestock might pass through.

What are the symptoms of toxocarasis?

The symptoms of toxocarasis can be particularly nasty and include: Seizures, Stomach upsets, Sore throats Breathing difficulties, such as asthma, Eye problems – which can lead to blindness if not treated
How to prevent toxocarasis

Pick up your dog's mess & put it in the bins provided IMMEDIATELY

Take pride in your Community

Parish Council - Report from last meeting

Linda Roslyn, Parish Clerk

contact details – t: 07982 030973 Email parishclerk@christianmalford.org.uk

Planning – it was agreed to respond to the following planning application:

Dodford Poultry Farm, Dodford Lane, – Erection of 2 poultry buildings and associated infrastructure, following demolition of 4 existing poultry buildings. – No Comment.

Finance – The Precept for 2020-2021 will be £18,792.19, an increase to cover additional maintenance costs for the burial ground, cecreation ground and Malford Meadow and the purchase of a speed indicator device

Tree Maintenance – Following a visual tree assessment survey, Cllrs M Johnson and K Assinder will be putting together a plan of works for the trees at the burial ground, recreation ground and Malford Meadow.

Highways & Parish Steward - please see separate advert on how to report tasks for the Parish Steward to complete. The Parish Steward did not make the scheduled visit on 8/9 January and we are waiting for dates for 2020 but we do know he has been busy helping with the flooding on the B4069!

Speed Indicator Device – The Council, together with the Community Speedwatch Group, will be purchasing a speed indicator device in 2020-2021 in an effort to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in the village. The expected cost of this will be in the region of £4,000 and we are hoping to secure grant funding for the purchase and installation.

Enjoyment of Malford Meadow – The Meadow is there for all to enjoy – not just dog walkers. Please make sure you are aware of where/what your dog is up to and that it is not causing a nuisance to other users of the Meadow and remember to be polite to others – *thank you*.

Dog Waste – In 2019-2020 the Parish Council purchased 16,000 dog waste bags at a cost of £498.00 and it was agreed to reduce this to 10,000 for 2020-2021. ***The bags supplied by Christian Malford Parish Council should not be viewed as your own personal supply – they are for emergency use. If the dispensers are empty – this is not an excuse for you to leave dog waste on the ground. If you walk a dog, even one belonging to someone else, you are responsible for clearing up after it.***

Leaving your dog waste bags on the ground or hanging on a fence or in a tree is not only unpleasant for other people, it is littering, and you could incur a fine. Please take your waste home with you – you can dispose of it In your household waste bin, on a compost heap or By flushing it down the toilet (if it's a small amount)

'Branches' – this is an exciting tree planting project that is seeking the support of the Parish Council to plant saplings and more mature trees on the Malford Meadow and to create different mini eco-systems with wildflowers, bog plants, etc. and to engage with all residents, especially the younger ones, to 'get back to nature'. They also have plans for planting an orchard and keeping beehives on the Meadow. Cllr P Hines and B Kimber will be liaising with them on these projects.

Community Speedwatch Group – Report from 9th-29th December: Volunteers: 7 / Locations covered: 2 / Hours by the road-side: 10.5 / Total vehicles counted: 921 / Reported speeding vehicles: 31 / Average reported speed: 39.61mph / Capture rate: 3.37%. We need new volunteers! Contact Matt if you are interested in joining – e: join@christianmalfordcsw.co.uk.

Next Parish Council Meeting - The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday, 4th February in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.45pm.