


The Bridge



Worton and Marston
Parish Magazine

January
2017
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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins
giles.collins@btinternet.com

Poppy Collection

This year's House to House Poppy Collection in the villages raised the magnificent sum of £719.74. May I, on behalf of The Royal British Legion, thank everyone for their splendid generosity towards this most worthy of causes. And a particularly warm thank you to those who gave their time and energy to do the collecting.

Robin Shercliff

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Thank you to all who donated to our veg stall outside Ivy House. Our surplus fruit and veg over the months raised £210, and I have sent a cheque to Cancer Research UK. Particular thanks to our regular customer (you know who you are). See you later in the year.

Mike & Pam Woods

Save the Date

Worton Village Hall
brings you a

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Saturday 4th March, 8pm

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more info next month

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Pastoral Letter

There was a time when New Year's Day heralded the start of the January sales, but for retailers it is the dreaded 'Boomerang Day', when Christmas gift returns will reach their peak. More than 30 million unwanted or ill-fitting presents are expected to be taken back, with a value of around £600m. I find that rather sad, don't you? I am sure that you, like many other people, will have spent a lot of time trying to decide what gifts to give friends and family for Christmas. We've gone to all that time and trouble because we love these people and we want to give them the perfect gift.

At Christmas in churches all over the world, millions of people celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ; God's greatest gift. A gift that he gave to each one of us because he loved us. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life". However, Jesus was rejected. John 1:11 tells

us that Jesus "came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him." It's as if the world put the present back under the tree, or wrote "return to sender" on the Christmas card envelope and put it back in the post-box.

What will you do with God's gift? Will you allow Jesus to be part of your life or will you turn your back on him and reject the greatest gift ever given?

Liz Starling
(Licensed Lay Minister)



SERVICE CALENDAR

January

January

Sun 1st CHRISTMAS 2

8.00am CHRIST CHURCH
Holy Communion

9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
Family Service

6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
Rev Gary Gotham
Covenant Service with
Holy Communion

Sun 8th BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
Parish Communion

6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
No Service

Sun 15th EPIPHANY 2

9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
Matins

6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
Rev Cathy Arscott

Sun 22nd EPIPHANY 3

9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
Parish Communion

6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
No Service

Sun 29th EPIPHANY 4

10.00am CHRIST CHURCH
Informal service jointly
with St Mary's, Potterne,
following breakfast at 9.00am

6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
Rev Wendy Tucker

February

Sun 5th 4 BEFORE LENT

8.00am CHRIST CHURCH
Holy Communion

4.00pm CHRIST CHURCH
Christingle Service

6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
No Service



There was one Funeral at Christ Church in November for Graham Richard Cox.

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk

CHURCH ROTAS

Sidesmen – January 2017

Sun 1 st	8.00am	Mr R Shercliff	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Mrs J Mason, Ms L Hale	Family Service
Sun 8 th	9.30am	Mrs S Courth, Mr L Courth	Parish Communion
Sun 15 th	9.30am	Mrs S Nixon, Mr P Witcher	Matins
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	Mrs A Cross, Mr T Brewer	Parish Communion
Sat 29 th	10.00am	Mrs A Pratt, Mr T Harwood	Joint Service

Sidesmen – February 2017

Sun 5 th	8.00am	Mrs J Buckley	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Mr T Walker, Mr R Boyns	Christingle

	Altar Flowers	Brass Cleaning	Church Flowers
Sun 1 st	Mrs Walker	Mrs Mason	Mrs J Mason
Sun 8 th	Mrs Francis	Mrs J Wright	Mrs L Phillips
Sun 15 th	Mrs Brewer	Mrs Lane	Mrs P Wright
Sun 22 nd	Mrs Smith	Mrs Hailstone	Mrs M Brewer
Sun 29 th	Mrs Walker	Mrs Mason	Mrs A Gill

Church Cleaning

Sun 8 th	Mrs Wright	Mr Wright
Sun 22 nd	Mrs Harwood	Mr Harwood

GARDEN SERVICES

General garden maintenance.
All jobs considered!



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Whilst Christ Church is in a period of interregnum, if you need the services of a priest, or help with general church matters, please contact: -
Margaret Armand-Smith: 01380-729248 or
Heather Walker: 01380-725785

From Christ Church:

Thank you:

To all those who attended the Coffee Morning at the end of November. It was a very pleasant social gathering, with the added attraction of some gift stalls. Donations were sent to Devizes Food Bank and The Children's society

To Norah Brierley who has recently retired from overseeing the flower arranging in Christ Church for the last 40 years. Norah was presented with a Voucher for "High Tea for Two" as a thank you for her dedication over the years. We hope you enjoy it Norah!

Also, to John and Mandy Fielding who kindly donated the Christmas tree to Christ Church, which the Toddlers and helpers decorated during time spent in Church, making decorations, and hearing the Christmas Story and singing some Christmas songs.

And to all of those who helped in any way with our Christmas preparation and Services, in particular to Renée & Liz for taking the Services.

We now look forward very positively towards 2017.

So a reminder of two Family services coming up:

January 1st - New Year's Day - 9.30 am

February 5th - Christingle Service at 4pm

And on January 29th there will be a Joint Service with St Mary's Potterne at Christ Church at 10am, preceded by breakfast at 9am.

Please see separate article about the Newcomers Party - January 27th

Heather & Margaret, Churchwardens, Christ Church

ERLESTOKE PRISON Volunteers are urgently need to help with the Children's Play Corner during visiting time.

They help make the prison visits more useful, and caring for the children helps them enormously while their mothers or relatives have time to talk to the prisoners.

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LACK OF FAST BROADBAND IN WORTON

As you will be aware despite a large part of the village being upgraded to faster broadband last year, there still remains approximately 39 houses (at the eastern end of the High Street and Gaisford Chase) who are without effective broadband. You may also be aware that Worton Parish Council and some of the affected residents have been campaigning to get the situation resolved.

The present poor state of the broadband is so bad that those people who work from home are prevented from effectively doing so, if on-line work is part of their business.

To this effect I held a meeting with Matthew Lloyd of BT Community Fibre Partnership, a delegation of Worton residents, Parish Councillors and Devizes MP Claire Perry at my home on 19 August 2015, where BT explained why only part of the village had been upgraded to broadband.

At this meeting it was explained the 39 houses in Worton that were missed out on the upgrade, were unfortunately connected to cabinet 3 in Potterne (3 miles away) rather than cabinet 21 which is only a 100 yards away in Worton High Street.

It was also explained that even if cabinet 3 in Potterne was upgraded, the 39 houses in Worton are so far away that it would have no benefit to Worton. (Indeed, since the recent Open Reach upgrade of cabinets in Potterne, it has had the opposite effect and Worton broadband connectivity and speeds have got worse for those houses!)

The option that was discussed at the meeting was for the 39 houses in Worton to be connected to cabinet 21 in Worton High Street. BT said it would carry out the survey work for this during the end of 2015 and work to upgrade the 39 houses would take place during 2016.

Now that we have reached the end of 2016 without any sign of improvement I recently contacted BT again to seek assurances that the 39 houses were still to be connected as per the original meeting. Please see below the recent response from BT:

Dear David,

Many thanks for your letter and apologies that you are having to wait a little longer than originally envisaged for the delivery of fibre broadband into Gaisford Chase. The Chase is still part of the ongoing Wiltshire Online programme to extend the coverage of fibre broadband across the county but it's taking longer for some areas to get covered than others. This isn't unusual in such a massive civil engineering programme of this type but can be clearly frustrating for those impacted. The current expectation is that the FTTP (Fibre to the Premise) delivery for the Chase is scheduled to complete in the next quarter (i.e. Jan – March) and so should be with you in Spring 2017 as it currently stands.

Matthew Lloyd, BT Community Fibre Partnership

29 November 2016

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation along with local residents who are affected. If by the end of spring 2017 there has been no action we will pursue the matter further and investigate if there are alternative technical means of resolving the situation.

Cllr David Johnson, Worton Parish Council, Dec 2016

You can keep in touch with Wiltshire Online on their website www.wiltshireonline.org



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WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

The November meeting was a general get-together to discuss the 2017 programme. Teresa has booked/arranged dates and speakers for most of the year with just a couple of months to fill. Our first outing will be on January 25th when we will have our Christmas Dinner (traditionally we always have it in January) and this will be at the Raven in Poulshot. I will be contacting you all in the coming weeks for firm numbers.

Advance notice: at our meeting on 22nd February, at 8pm in the Village Hall, there will be a talk on 'Wills and Power of Attorney'.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our cake stall at the Bazaar. We made a total of £126.60 split between the Village Hall and Ladies Group funds.

Last week Primrose and I visited our old member Sheila Hale who has been in Bath Hospital recently but is now back home in Avonmead. She was very pleased to see us and greeted us with a lovely big smile. We spent about an hour with her, Prim reminiscing with her about the shows they put on when Sheila was Madonna and another time dressed as a fairy. We took her a little gift and card for Christmas from us all at Ladies Group.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Pam Woods



JANUARY BOOK SWAP

Saturday 14th January
10.00am - 12 noon
at Westview House, 109 High Street
(hosted by Sally Collins)



Advance notice:
Saturday 11th February
at Park Farm House, 39 High Street, Worton
(hosted by Judy Shercliff)

Generous bookworms contributed £157+ during the year to The Children's Society, interestingly within £10 of the amount contributed each year ever since we started, in 2010. Many books swapped & read, cups of coffee enjoyed & friends new & old chatted to/caught up with, do come & join us.

‘Merry Christmas! ... What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented against you? If I would work my will ... every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas," on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart’.

‘I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round - - apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that -- as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on their journeys’.



CHARLES DICKENS, *A Christmas Carol*

Just a thought.....

If villagers wore hi-visibility jackets when they walked along the High Street, perhaps through traffic would slow down.....??

		1	3				6	
9				6	7		3	5
3			5			8	4	
	4			8		7		3
		8	4		1	2		
1		5		2			9	
	1	6			4			9
2	5		1	7				4
	7				8	5		

4				1		8	7	6
6			8	2	5			
3			7		4			
		6	3		1		5	
7		2				1		9
	3		2		7	6		
			5		9			1
			6	4	8			5
5	9	8		3				4

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Worton Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

The Steering Group would like to thank everyone who attended the village meeting on 7th December. A total of 65 residents, 4 parish councillors and 7 steering group committee members (which includes an additional 2 parish councillors) joined together to learn more about two potential housing proposals in the village.

A lively debate ensued and over the course of the evening 32 questions were raised by residents. The Q&A have been noted by the steering group and are currently being verified by the two presenters. Once they have been agreed then they will be available for all to see on the Neighbourhood Plan section on the Parish Council website.

Your steering group continues to gather data about potential development sites, your views about housing and impact on the village. In February a Housing Needs Survey will be undertaken by Wiltshire Council. This is a vital part of the neighbourhood planning process that will have a direct impact on the Worton Neighbourhood Plan. So please could you complete the survey and return in the pre-paid envelope supplied. The more returns we get then the better your needs will be represented in the plan.

For the avoidance of doubt we would like to state that the two current potential developments in the village are being progressed independently of the Neighbourhood Plan. As stated above your committee is gathering data, working out what the village wants and needs. Looking at potential sites is a later stage in the process, however if you were unable to attend the meeting and have a view or question about either site then please let us know.

The steering group meets on the second Sunday of every month at the Rose and Crown, 7pm. You are welcome to come along and join in the debate, your views are very important to us.

Copies of our minutes and other documentation can be found on the Worton Parish Council website, worton.org.uk

Malcolm Powell



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**Worton & Cheverell FC (Youth)
'The Badgers'**



We have 2 highlights for the month. After 18 months as a Youth only setup, WCFC have now achieved the FA Charter Club status. The **FA Charter Standard** is a kitemark, which recognises and rewards high quality levels of provision in club football. The kitemark is awarded to clubs that are well run, sustainable, which place child protection, quality coaching and safety paramount.

Also this month, Finlay Kiddle from u10 enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience and walked out on the Wembley pitch as a champions league mascot for the Tottenham vs CSKA Moscow match.

Team updates:

Our younger age groups are still looking for more players to join in and have fun whilst learning and developing skills, so please get in touch if your child (boys and girls) would be interested.

U5s/6s. Still training on a Friday night new players needed so come along for fun and football.

U7s and U8s still training on Friday, outside at Northbrook starting at 5:30pm. Teams are beginning to play better together and looking forward to more games in the New Year.

U9s have stopped for Xmas but will reconvene in January. Both teams are playing well despite some nasty weather of late. They are holding their own in matches and playing friendlies when not in a league match.

U10 numbers growing all the time and wins still keep coming. Training will continue in New Year on Friday 6th January 6pm.

U11 have completed first half of first season together and have put in some excellent performances. Player enjoyment and confidence improves week on week as well as having some great fun at training they are enjoying opposition from the major towns across the area.

U13 Progressing well in U13 Green league.

U14 maintaining a good position in top U14 league.

We have spaces in the following teams and would welcome any new joiners (boys and girls) who are interested in learning, developing and playing football. Please contact managers.

U5/6 – Mark Goddard – 01380 816160 U7 and U8 – Sharon Black 01380 818193
U11 – Neil Black – 01380 818193 U13 – Stewart Swann - 01380 812329

Steve Dagnall 01380 727976



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A Message from Richard Gamble

Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division

Have you made your resolutions? Eating more healthily, perhaps? Drinking less alcohol, maybe? Keeping tighter control of the family budget?

Managing finances is important for all but a fortunate few and January can be a little gloomy if you have over-indulged at Christmas or if you have taxes to be paid by the end of the month.

In Wiltshire, the Council has had to find savings of over £25 million in the financial year 2016/17 owing to reduced government grants and increased demand. The biggest pressure comes from caring for the most vulnerable in the community.

One challenging area is Children in Care. The fact is that children at risk can't be ignored and it is the duty of the Council to protect such children from risk and exploitation.

Another pressure comes from providing transport for children and adults with special needs and disabilities. Costs have risen thanks to government changing the criteria without giving additional funding to cover the cost. Again the fact is that disadvantaged residents can't be ignored. It is the duty of the Council to assist these residents to improve their life chances.

The growing costs of care for the elderly are a problem for all Councils with this responsibility. The Social Care Levy allowed by the government has alleviated but not resolved the problem. The NHS has exactly the same financial pressures, especially as winter approaches, but, unlike Councils, is bailed out by the government every year.

Despite these demands, Wiltshire Council is within sight of being able to balance the budget by March.

It is no pleasure to cite the figures for other Councils but it does serve to demonstrate that the issue of care costs is universal. For example The Greater Manchester Combined Authority has applied to the Treasury for an extra £214m to cover social care costs. Somerset is predicting an overspend of £22 million. Devon has a predicted shortfall of £7.5 million.

So as you tighten your belt, remember Mr Micawber's advice: *"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery. The blossom is blighted, the leaf is withered, the god of day goes down upon the dreary scene, and—and, in short, you are for ever flooded. As I am!"*

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on **07762 018209**.



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Five Lanes Women's Institute

Well, that is another year passed for the Five Lanes WI group. We finished 2016 with a Xmas meal prepared and cooked by "Bill and Gerry" of Pop-Up Kitchen in Worton fame. Along with their wives, Sandra and Dot, as well as Gerry's niece, and with the kind permission of landlords Bill and Jackie, they commandeered the Rose and Crown kitchen to provide us with a wonderful feast.

There was a great choice including salmon, and the traditional roast turkey. I really liked my meal of turkey, with sprouts, red cabbage, potatoes, parsnips and stuffing. And my Christmas Pudding was lovely, but I could easily have enjoyed the trifle provided as well. Overall, it was a lovely evening and over too quickly. Thanks to Bill and Gerry and helpers for doing this!

Our next meeting is Tuesday January 10th in Worton village hall, at 8pm. We will be having a talk from Liz Froud on the children's hospice, Julia's House. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Have a happy 2017!"

Jane Loveys, President



Worton and Marston Newcomers Party

We welcome all villagers, and especially those who have moved in during this past year, to the

**Newcomers party on Friday January 27th
in the Village Hall**

Tickets available from:

Jean Lane 722069 Heather Walker 725785

Ali Pratt 726868 or PCC members

£5 per adult, under 10 years old free,

family ticket £10

(Newcomers free)

Price includes a glass of wine
and good food!

It's always a great evening, do join us.



Rose and Crown Worton

01380 724202

	Lunch time opening	Evening opening
Monday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Tuesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Wednesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Thursday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Friday Coffee Morning	10.30 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Saturday	12.00 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Sunday	12.00 - 2.30	7pm -11.00pm

Rolls and sandwiches available.

Also look out for 'Bill and Gerry's' Pop Up kitchen signs when they come here and cook.

We have a pool table, darts and skittles.

We have a quiz on the last Sunday of every month.

We are hoping to get teams for pool and darts in the winter. Anyone interested, please contact:

Jackie and John in the Rose and Crown.

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Worton & Marston Village Hall

Village Hall Update

First of all thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Bazaar. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and raised a wonderful £500 for the Village Hall Loo fund, which, thanks to all the fund-raising events through the year, grants from both the Worton and Marston Community Funds; the Community Foundation; Devizes Area Board and donations, now stands at nearly £13,000.

In addition we have also recently achieved Hallmark two, a higher level to the kitemark we achieved earlier in the year. So a satisfying end to 2016.

Looking ahead, we have a maintenance day planned for **January 14th 10am-2pm**. There are lots of different things that require attention including cleaning, cutting back the hedges, and tidying the loft to name a few. So please come along and give us a hand even if you can only stay for a short while. We do try to have fun as well as work and this time we will provide soup at about 1pm for all those who help out...an additional incentive!!

Other dates for your diary: on **March 4th** we will be hosting a fundraising gig for the loo project. Look out for more information on this, and on **March 18th** we will hold our annual jumble sale, so please start to look out any good quality clothes or bric a brac to donate.

Finally the Trustees would like to thank you for your support in 2016 and wish you a very happy 2017. If you would like to join us and become a Trustee, please do get in touch with one of us. We have at least one vacancy and would be very pleased to talk to you about what is involved.

Veronica Franklin, Chair of the Trustees

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WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would like to be more involved in the life of the village, and have some time and energy to spare please get in touch with the Clerk. The Council meets on the first Monday of most months, at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

BT phone box on the High Street

BT are consulting the public on the removal of public phone boxes. The Parish Council considered the issue at their last meeting and agreed to the removal of the box. If you have a view on this, please contact BT.

Whatleys Playing Field

Planning approval has now been received and the Parish Council is preparing to lease parts of the Whatleys Playing Field for use as a children's nursery for the community. The Whatleys Playing Field will be closed for the works to build the community nursery facility on part of the field. Access to the field will be restored when the nursery is opened.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting of the Parish Council is on the 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Liz Read

www.worton.org.uk

clerk@worton.org.uk

Market Lavington Christmas Country Fair

A big thank you to everyone who came to and/or supported the Christmas Country Fair in Market Lavington Community Hall on November 12th. I do hope you all enjoyed it and found some great things to buy. I thought you would like to know that the Fair raised an excellent total of £1,050 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, which is our highest total. Thank you all very much! This money will help a lot of serving and former serving soldiers and their families who are in need.

Sue Bonney

‘The most important thing in life is to stop saying ‘I wish’ and start saying ‘I will’.’

‘Happiness is a gift and the trick is not to expect it, but to delight in it when it comes’.



CHARLES DICKENS
(1812-1870)

VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Meetings

In the Village Hall

- **Gardening Club**
3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug /Dec)
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**
2nd Tuesday 7.45pm
- **Worton Toddler Group**
Wednesday 10.00 am—Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**
Every Tuesday
- **Potterne Rainbows** (term time)
Tuesday 4.45-5.45pm
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston

- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
Last Tuesday (every odd month)

Various Venues

Announced Monthly

- **Book Swap**
2nd Saturday 10.00 - Noon

Mobile Library

Location: The School, 1.10 - 2.00pm

Next Dates

- Monday January 9th

Call Wiltshire Library Services on **01225 713727** for information

Forthcoming Events

- 9th Worton PC meeting
- 10th W.I.
- 14th Village Hall Maintenance
- 14th Book Swap
- 25th Ladies Group
- 27th Newcomers' Party

Devizes Farmers' Market

Next: Saturday 7th January

The Shambles Antiques Market

Every Tuesday

Kerbside Collections

Black box and Plastic bottle and card recycling:
Wednesday 4th & 18th January

Household waste:
Wednesday 11th & 25th January

Garden waste:
Friday 13th & 27th January



Worton and Marston Link

Need help getting to hospital appointments or visiting the doctor and dentist? Or maybe, need some transport to get you to the shops?

Call W&M LINK on 720207

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15th January 2017.
Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton
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