

The Valley & Valence Parish Magazine for

Winterborne St. Martin · Winterbourne Steepleton · Winterbourne Abbas · Compton Valence





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## **OCTOBER 2024**

# The Valley & Valence Parish Magazine for

Winterborne St. Martin Winterbourne Steepleton Winterbourne Abbas Compton Valence









#### NEWS & ARTICLES FOR THE V&V PARISH MAGAZINE

It would be much appreciated if copy is supplied electronically as a text doc. (Microsoft Word etc.) with any accompanying images as JPEG files to the address BELOW.

ALL COPY MUST REACH ME BY 5pm on 15th (LATEST) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH in order to be included in that issue.

#### ADVERTISING IN THE V&V PARISH MAGAZINE • Rates and Contact details

Current rates & specifications enquiries, and advertisement copy for each month's issue to:

Graham Herbert, 1 Cowleaze, Martinstown, DT2 9TD

Tel: 01305 889786 or email: info@valleyandvalence.co.uk





THOUGHTS FROM THE DESK of...

## Rev. Teresa Stewart-Sykes

When Fr. Keith asked me to write an article for the V&V Parish Magazine about myself. I never imagined it would be this difficult: reflecting on who I am and where I have come from has led me down several philosophical and emotional rabbit holes, and I have emerged from this process not a whit wiser but certainly intrigued by the course of my life and what has influenced it.

Having been a fundamentally shy and anxious child growing up in the conservative Cotswolds, I am surprised to find that 'change' has had a fundamental influence on my adult life. Mahatma Gandhi famously said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world', and I guess that's what I was doing when I was one of the first cohort of women to serve as clergy in the Church of England. I was ordained Deacon in St Albans Abbey on 1st July 1989 and thereafter, for the first four parishes I served I was the first woman to wear a collar and to minister at the altar and in the pulpit. What an exhilarating, challenging, and transformational experience ministry in the Church has been - in total 8 parishes, two of which were overseas! And gosh, if I was changing the world the world was certainly changing me! What incredible people I have met, whose lives and faith have changed my view of how living the Gospel message should be accomplished; their names are written on my heart and certainly their names are written in heaven!

The 'Service' of parenthood and marriage is also part of the golden thread that weaves its way through my life. God blessed me with three children and the easiest multiple pregnancy and birth I could have wished for. They are now 26 years old and make me proud and drive me crazy in equal measure! God also blessed me with a second chance at marriage, and you will know when you meet my husband Jon, what a blessing he is. Together our blended family includes five adult children, now all scattered across the country pursuing various careers and unusual interests. From time to time, they may pop up in the villages, which they all know well having grown up in Dorchester; and you will certainly hear Jon and I talking about them, because serving our children as parents has been our greatest joy (though I can hear Jon rumbling 'and the greatest challenge'!).

The sparkling core of the golden thread that runs through my life, is of course the presence of God. I gave my life to God at the age of twelve and made a covenant then to serve God's purpose for the rest of my life. How simple it sounded when I was twelve, but my goodness how

continued on page 5

#### •

#### The Parishes of the Winterbournes & Compton Valence

Team Rector - Rev'd Keith Magee (07766 645135)

The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Ministry Team

Team Vicar - Rev'd Teresa Stewart-Sykes (01305 549252) - from 5 September

Associate Priest - Rev'd Jo Lacv-Smith (01305 889476)

Licensed Lav Minister - Allen Knott (01305 267217)

Permission to Officiate - Peter Wilkinson (01305 889077)

#### Organists

Nigel Power - Martinstown (01305 889910)

Peter Wilkinson - Winterbourne Steepleton (01305 889077)

Laurie Reading - for music at Winterbourne Abbas (01305 889693)

For Compton Valence please contact the Church Wardens

#### The Parish of the Winterbournes

There is a single Parochial Church Council for Martinstown, Steepleton and Abbas but each parish church retains its own local church committee.

Churchwardens - Ellie Sturrock (07980 089470), David & Joy Parsons (889611)

PCC Hon. Secretary - John Crawford (01305 889377) PCC Hon. Treasurer - Tom Webb (01305 889097)

The Parish of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Compton Valence

Churchwarden & Treasurer - Jeremy Russell (01308 482227)

Churchwarden & Secretary - Peter Steel (01308 482782)

Dorchester and The Winterbournes Team Website: www.dorchesteranglican.info

Any of the above can be approached in the first instance for Baptism, Marriage, Home Communion or just a visit and they would welcome being told when anybody has been bereaved or is ill. They have answerphones for you to leave a message.

If you want us to remember anything or anyone in the public prayer of the Church, we would be glad to do this as long as permission of the person involved is assured.



THOUGHTS
FROM THE
DESK of...

Rev. Teresa Stewart-Sykes

#### continued from page 4

complicated, elusive, enthralling and heartbreaking the Christian journey has turned out to be! My husband often says, 'Every day is a school day' and I think even the saintliest Bishop would find this is true. The more we know about our God, how we are to pray and to serve God's people, the more we realise we are as innocent and spiritually naïve as the disciples in the Upper Room not knowing whether to hug or to worship the Risen Jesus standing before them. We know that leaving the Upper Room, those disciples were changed immeasurably, served unquestioningly and sacrificed much and this is the pattern for ministry in the Winterbournes.

As I come to live amongst you and minister in partnership with you, I pray that 'change', 'service' and a life of searching faith will continue to characterise my life.

God's blessings to you and your families,

Rev Teresa x





### CHURCH SERVICES during...

#### **OCTOBER** 2024

SUNDAY 6TH	•	19TH AFTER TRINITY
10.00		Holy Communion – Winterbourne Abbas
11.00		Holy Communion – Martinstown

#### SUNDAY 13TH • 20TH AFTER TRINITY

8.00	Holy Communion (BCP) – Martinstown
9.30	Holy Communion – Compton Valence
11.00	Holy Communion - Winterbourne Steepleton

#### SUNDAY 20TH • 21ST AFTER TRINITY

10.00	Worship Together - Winterbourne Abbas
11.00	Morning Prayer - Martinstown
7.00	Church @5 - Martinetown

#### SUNDAY 27TH • 22ND AFTER TRINITY

11.00 Worship Together – Martinstown



## Dorchester Poverty Action Annual Open meeting

"Magna Support Services - protecting our vulnerable customers"

Speaker -

Ian Wood, Specialist Services Manager for Sheltered & Support Services at Magna

on Tuesday 1st October at 7pm in the Dorford Centre

Everyone welcome

For more information about the work of **Dorchester Poverty Action**go to

www.dorchesterpoverty action.org.uk



#### Find us on Facebook

Did you know that the 3 churches in the Winterbournes Parish are now on Facebook? You can 'like' and 'follow' for news and photos from St Michael's, St Mary's and St Martin's.

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We've had a defibrillator in Martinstown for 5 years. It is located by the front steps on the outside of the Village hall, easily accessible to all. Alan Harding wrote an very informative article for The V & V magazine recently explaining its use, which is simple: the key message is to 'phone 999. The emergency services operator will explain really clearly what to do and if the use of the defibrillator is needed.

Dick Corbett Winder was the far-sighted person who led the fundraising and organised the purchase and installation of the defibrillator. The money to buy it was raised from the Village – some of the funds came from organisations, including the Church and the W.I. and some came from generous individuals: local businesses, including MJ Fry Ltd, contributed, and Andy Whitty Ltd made a donation-in-kind by installing it without charge. We're very lucky to live in such a community minded place.

Defibrillators need a constant supply of electricity in order to keep the cabinet in which they are housed lit and at a steady temperature. The Village Hall committee agreed when it was first installed that, although it is not 'owned' by the Village Hall trustees, the cost of the electricity would be seen as part of an on-going commitment to keep it going for the good of all.

There are some on-going costs involved in the upkeep of the defibrillator: a small 9v battery has to be regularly checked and replaced if necessary: this is a very small cost. The pads which are attached to the chest of a person have to be replaced every 2 years or after each use. Two new sets of pads costs £110. The main battery which provides the life-saving charge has to be replaced every 5 years and is due for replacement this Autumn at a cost of £220. VAT of £66 is added but shipping is free.

The matter of funding for the upkeep of the defibrillator has been raised at Parish Council meetings, but the fact that no one person or group 'owns' the defibrillator is seen by some PC members as anomalous and it appears that no financial support for this potentially life saving

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piece of equipment is available from Parish Council funds.

A total of £396 has been paid by a villager, and a replacement battery + 2 sets of replacement pads have been received. We have decided to make a direct appeal to villagers to help to cover these costs. If you would be prepared to share in this expense, please would you place your donation in an envelope marked Defib and either leave it at the shop or let us know, and we'll arrange collection. If you would like to see proof that this money has been spent in this way, please ask to see the order forms, despatch notification and receipt.

The contact is Jan Griffiths, 01305 889738.











#### THIS MONTH'S NEWS FROM

### **Martinstown Women's Institute**

The title for our talk in September was "A Spotty Tale" – who would have thought that a talk about Smallpox could be so entertaining! Dr Peter Tate, retired GP and author, recounted his experience as a ship's doctor on a P&O cruise in Australia when one of the ship's crew was found to have a rash which was diagnosed as smallpox - one of the last 3 cases in the world. This resulted in 1800 passengers having to be vaccinated and inspected every 12 hours for 7 days. Eventually the ship was allowed to sail from Darwin to Brisbane where the infected crew member was taken off the ship which then proceeded very slowly on to Sydney. The happy ending to Peter's story was that he met his future wife on the ship.

Next month on **Wednesday 9th October at 7 pm** Phil & Roelie Newman will be giving a presentation on **"Ethiopia: What you know but probably didn't realise"**. This will be an open meeting and all friends from the village are very welcome. **Entrance fee £3**.

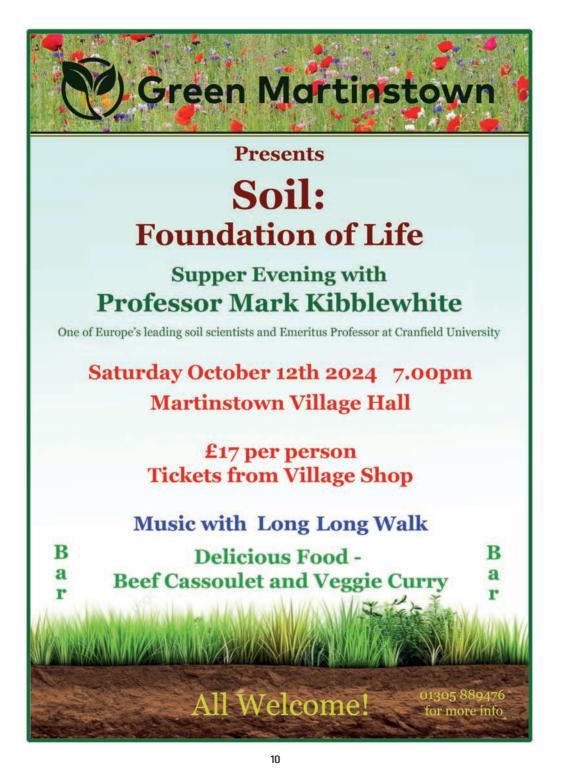
Angela Barrett - Secretary











V&V OCT 24.indd 10





# MARTINSTOWN Regular Group Meetings

Anne Tate - 01305 889506

#### **MONDAY**

Martinstown Playgroup 10 - 12 noon Louisa Shephard - 07585622699

Beavers, Cubs & Scouts 5:30 - 7:30 pm Sue Gower - 01305 889388

2:00 - 3:00 pm WI Garden Club 3:30 - 4:30 pm Anne Tate - 01305 889506

(1st Monday in month)

Valley Club 7:45 - 10 pm Ange Schulke - 07788858935

(3rd Monday in month)

**Monday Meeting** 

#### **TUESDAY**

**Botanical Art** 9:30 - 12:30 pm Pat Allen - 01308 862063

(term times only)

**Sequence Dance Group** 2:30 - 4:40 pm Ann Matthews - 01305 889248

**Badminton** 7:30 - 9:30 pm Juliet Rose - 07969292973

#### **WEDNESDAY**

**Chair Based Exercise** 10:30 - 11:30 am Suzanne Fellows-Jovce - 01308 281882

W.I. Rosie Duke - 01305 889555 6:45 - 9:00 pm

(2nd Wednesday in month)

**Beginners' Dance** 8:00 - 10:00 pm Ann Matthews - 01305 889248

#### **THURSDAY**

**Poundbury Art Group** Teresa Blades - 01305 889947 10:00 - 1:00 pm **Sequence Dance Group** 2:30 - 4:30 pm Ann Matthews - 01305 889248

6:00 - 7:30 pm Gemma O'Beirne - 07821593314 Yoga

#### **FRIDAY**

**Keep Fit class** 10:15 - 11:45 am Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - 01308 281882

Bingo (every other Friday) 7:00 - 9:30 pm Ann Matthews - 01305 889248

> Chairperson - Chris Evans Bookings - Ann Matthews - 01305 889248 or email ronann.matthews@htinternet.com









I draft on 12th September - I think this important for context of what follows. In the past weeks we have seen the best and worst of our Parish. The best with the turnout for the Celebration of Sgn Ldr Symonds life, so brilliantly organised by Deborah Follet, and the return after 4 years of the Martinstown Garden and Craft Show pulled together by Richard Benson and his team. To my mind it is events like this, and the countless volunteers who manage assets such as the Village Hall, or organisations such as the Women's Institute or Valley Club, that bring our community together. The worst (which isn't saying much given the near idyllic environment) is demonstrated by the vituperous commentary that followed reports of parking blocking footpaths needed by disabled parishioners and children, and by recent incidents involving younger people causing criminal damage, or hurt to animals whilst cycling on pavements.

On the upside the PC was pleased to have supported the restart of the Village Show with a grant from S137 funds and it was pleasing to see that so many people took the trouble to enter and /or attend. This, like all the Parish Council's money is yours and we are now in the process of beginning to spend Community Infrastructure Levy monies. Every proposed expenditure is described in our Agendas, so you have the opportunity to comment prior to decisions being made in Council, or indeed give us ideas on things you'd like to see it spent on. We will, by the time this is published have reinforced our CIL system capturing all previous decisions to spend ready to report later this year. On the downside the PC will continue to respond to and report incidents that affect residents, be it to Dorset Council in the case of footpaths not being maintained or being blocked by electric fences, or to the Police where a criminal offence might

be, or has been, committed – such as parking obstructing pavements. If you are one of those who disagrees with this approach, please see my comments below about getting your voice heard.

Changing the subject, this year's expenditure comes into focus in the coming months as we must propose our Precept to Dorset Council early in the new year. The precept is based on our proposed budget which is usually published prior to and debated at November's meeting. My analysis is, that with rising costs, we cannot continue to support current levels of activity without an increase, and again in my view we must make tough decisions about what to spend where and how much we must, could or should do to enhance the Parish. You can be part of this debate by attending meetings or better still by joining us on the Council - we are not all "busy bodies" in fact I'd say we are all genuinely trying to maintain or enhance our community. However, I have previously pointed out that or PC is not properly representative of our parishioners, with no female representation and a shortage of younger folk generally. We know how hard it is to juggle complicated and particularly working lives, but we can only represent you if we know your views.

The Council's first point of contact is our Clerk and proper Officer at clerk@ winterbornestmartin-pc.gov.uk. As a reminder we try to publish everything pertinent on our website www.winterbornestmartin-pc.gov.uk/community/winterborne-st-martin-parish-council-18643/home/ so if you are interested in what we are dealing with please visit the website and subscribe for updates.

**Cllr David Hutchings** 





#### Web: greenmartinstown.org.uk

I am taking great delight from watching the young blue tits on the garden bird feeders this autumn. I like to think that that they emerged from one of the nest boxes made at a Green Martinstown event last year, when families could put together a bird box and take it home to put up in the garden.

Putting up nest boxes creates spaces for hole nesting birds to make nests and lay their eggs – birds like blue tits, great tits, coal tits and nuthatch use nest boxes. Providing birds with opportunities to successfully build a nest is just one way we can make space for nature.

Overall it has been a tough breeding year for birds with success affected by the wet and cold spring and long periods of heavy rain. Cold springs result in less insect food being available as their numbers are reduced by the cold. At our next member meeting there will be talk about bird ringing in the local area. Bird ringing helps us understand what is happening to our bird populations.

As I write this I can hear rooks calling through the valley. The rooks are the gregarious, noisy

#### Email: greenmartinstown@gmail.com

black birds with the patch of featherless skin around the base of the bill. They nest in the tops of trees throughout the Martinstown. They seem to be everywhere but since 2020 the number of rooks in the UK have decreased by 20%. Experts are unable to explain why but the loss of grassland and livestock-based farming might be a factor. The numbers of rook nests counted each year in the South Winterborne valley seems to be about the same so hopefully our population of this nationally declining bird might be stable. Seeing and hearing rooks in the village and knowing that they are under pressure and have a declining population in the UK makes me rather proud of living in Martinstown.

Our next public meeting is on 12 October in the Martinstown Village Hall, Professor Mark Kebblewhite, Emeritus Professor at Cranfield University will be leading the evening exploring The Soil, the foundation of life.

If you would like to know more about Green Martinstown and our activities please contact Colin Tracey 01305 889476 colintracey66@ qmail.com

## Why not advertise in this magazine?

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Graham Herbert - Valley and Valence Editor

Tel: 01305 889786 or email: info@valleyandvalence.co.uk



#### WINTERBOURNE ABBAS VILLAGE FETE

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather and attended the Winterbourne Abbas Village Fete on Sunday 1st September. Despite the fact that we had to pack up two hours early due to what felt like a tropical rainstorm, we had a fantastic turnout and a good time was had by all. A huge thank you to all the local businesses who supported us with amazing raffle prizes, they included Winterbourne Abbas Tyre and Auto services, Londis supermarket, Redefine hair, Poundbury, Cook in Dorchester, The Fridge in Dorchester, The Coach House Inn, The Brewers Arms, and Dorchester Collection. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped, baked, sorted, stored, sourced prizes, ran games and stalls, then stayed to clear up even through the torrential rain storm.

The money made will go towards the maintenance of St Mary's Church Winterbourne Abbas.



#### Palestinian Peace Plea

Will you dance with me and share the tune? Will you hold my hand? Come! Do it soon. Will you listen to the notes we'll share Will you sing with me then be aware.

The song my people sing with tears Is one of pain for many years. And whilst we struggle hard to cope Our melodies seek signs of hope.

Some sing their songs of bread and wine Some songs are sung before a shrine Our anthem rings 'It is no crime

Our homeland is called Palestine

Let's make music. You and me. Create a holy symphony Let's beat the drums and sing out loud Let's harmonise all standing proud.

Will you dance with me and share the tune Let's sing the words: 'Yes there is room Enough in this sacred land. If we sing this chorus, hand in hand.'

© Allen Knott August 2024





#### 2024 Garden and Craft show.

The traditional garden and craft show was a popular event in the village calendar but due to Covid and hall renovation work it was not able to go ahead for three years and was considered to have come to the end of its life.

A new committee was formed and enthusiastically worked hard to put the show back for the villagers to enjoy. The number of entries was quite low but the standard was high. Judges had a difficult job in some cases finding a winner but many people went home clutching a trophy.

There will be another show next year on **Sunday** 

# MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB DRAW

#### **Martinstown SEPTEMBER Draw**

£25. Sue /Stu Nuttall £10. Dawn Clift £5. Nigel Power **17 August** and there will be cider and fruit gin contested so now is the time to start making your own ready for next year.



#### **JOB VACANCY**

Winterbourne Valley First School are urgently seeking a Clerk to the Board of Governors. The role is predominantly secretarial and is for 10 hours per month. The pay is £12/hr.

Apply to Chair of Governors, **office@** winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk











\* Correct at time of printing

#### **OCTOBER 2024\***

#### For more information contact: www.dorsetforyou.com/recycle

3rd (Thursday)	- recycling and food	10th (Thursday)	- rubbish and food
17th (Thursday)	- recycling and food	24th (Thursday)	- rubbish and food
31st (Thursday)	- recycling and food		

9th (Weds) - qarden waste 23rd (Weds) - qarden waste





### The First Bus X51service...

First Bus's new bus timetables show the trial of the X51 is continuing and remains unchanged apart from very minor alterations to the times of the **Bridport to Dorchester**Mon-to-Fri schooldays only bus that comes through Martinstown just after 0800 hrs.

While this news is most welcome, if the bus is not well used, we face it being cut once more. So... **USE IT, OR LOSE IT!!!** 

#### PLEASE NOTE - First Bus WILL NOT be running an X51 Sunday Service

<b>X51 BUS MINI-TIMETABLE</b>	Re	Red = School Days only			Blue = Non-School Days			Updated 01.09.24	
Monday to Friday - Westbound				NSD	SD0				
Weymouth King's Statue		0914	1112	1314	1322	1519	1722		
Dorchester Trinity Street	0756	0941	1138	1343	1351	1547	1750	1903	
Martinstown Post Office	0814	0959	1157	1402	1410	1606	1807	1920	
Bridport West Street	0841	1032	1231	1434	1446	1639	1834	1948	
Lyme Regis Square	0923	1122	1321	1520	1536	1723	1913	202	
Axminster Railway Station	0950	1150	1350	1550	1604	1750			
Monday to Friday - Eastbound		SD0							
Axminster Railway Station			0815	1015	1215	1415	1620	1815	
Lyme Regis Post Office			0841	1042	1240	1440	1643	1835	
Bridport West Street	0649	0739	0928	1133	1327	1529	1729	1915	
Martinstown Post Office	0719	0804	0958	1204	1357	1558	1756	1939	
Dorchester Hospital Bridport Rd.	0732	0816	1011	1217	1410	1611	1808	1950	
Weymouth King's Statue			1048	1258	1451	1658		2025	
Saturday - Westbound									
Weymouth King's Statue	0731	0923	1115	1313	1522	1711			
Dorchester Trinity Street	0757	0948	1144	1342	1551	1740	1904		
Martinstown Post Office	0815	1006	1202	1401	1609	1756	1920		
Bridport West Street	0847	1039	1236	1435	1640	1824	1948		
Lyme Regis Square	0926	1125	1323	1522	1724	1907			
Axminster Railway Station	0950	1150	1350	1549	1750				
Saturday - Eastbound									
Axminster Railway Station	0815	1015	1215	1415	1615	1815			
Lyme Regis Post Office	0838	1039	1238	1439	1637	1835			
Bridport West Street	0927	1130	1326	1526	1722	1920			
Martinstown Post Office	0954	1156	1353	1552	1751	1946			
Dorchester Hospital Bridport Rd.	1003	1205	1402	1601	1802	1953			
Weymouth King's Statue	1039	1241	1441	1636		2027			

For a full X51 BUS TIMETABLE visit: www.firstbus.co.uk/wessex-dorset-south-somerset/plan-journey/timetables







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