

# YARNTON VILLAGE NEWS

We wish all our  
readers a very  
happy, healthy and  
peaceful  
New Year

# JANUARY 2026

## **Editorial Committee:**

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[www.facebook.com/Yarnton Village Community Group](https://www.facebook.com/YarntonVillageCommunityGroup)

## CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

## **Scouts - all open to both boys and girls**

Mondays	Cubs aged 8-10, 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesdays	Explorers aged 14-18, 8.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m.
Fridays	Beavers aged 6-8, 5 p.m. – 6.15 p.m.
<b>Girl Guiding</b>	Scouts aged 10-14, 7 p.m. – 8.45 p.m.
Tuesdays	Guides aged 10-14, 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesdays	Brownies aged 7-10, 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany Sunday, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 11 a.m. Parish Communion with Junior Church, St. Bartholomew's
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Indoor Bowls Club, Village Hall, 10 a.m. ( <i>and every Monday</i> )
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Community Drop In, Village Hall, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. ( <i>and every Monday</i> )
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Yarnton Band, 7.30 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. ( <i>and every Monday, except Bank Holidays</i> )
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Yarnton Band Learners and Training Band, 6.45 p.m. - 7.25 p.m.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Band, 7.30 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. ( <i>and every Thursday</i> )
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	W.I. Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Copy date February Village News
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club, Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Evening Worship, St. Bartholomew's, 5 p.m.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parish Council Budget Meeting, Village Hall, 6.30 p.m.

## St. Bartholomew's Church

### ***Regular services***

Sundays	8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 11 a.m. Parish Communion, with Junior Church, followed by coffee
Wednesdays	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Morning Prayer	Monday – Thursday, 8.30 a.m.
Evening Prayer	Monday – Thursday, 5.30 p.m.
<b>On Facebook</b>	Sundays, 9.30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist

## Advertising Rates

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***If you contact any of our advertisers, please tell them you found them in the Yarnton Village News.***

Donations towards our running costs will be gratefully received at any time. The bank details are: Yarnton Village News, Sort code 09 01 54, Account No. 42646089.

### Copy Deadline for February Issue

Material for inclusion in the February Newsletter should be received by midday on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January**.

Copy should be e-mailed to: [ruth@astall.com](mailto:ruth@astall.com) and [maryclarke2305@googlemail.com](mailto:maryclarke2305@googlemail.com)

or delivered to Mrs. Ruth Astall, 19 The Spears, tel. 372637.

The Editorial Committee reserves the right to cut, edit, or omit articles, or refuse advertisements for reasons of space limitation, suitability, etc. Their decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

Copy date for the March issue is **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**.

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### Yarnton Bowls Club

Yarnton short mat bowling was started over 20 years ago by Mr. Brian Haddersley, a village resident. It is held every Monday morning 10 a.m. – 12 noon (except Bank Holidays) in the Village Hall, and welcomes members new and old.

It offers gentle exercise combined with lots of laughter. We have a short break mid-way through the morning for a cuppa and a biscuit or two, where more socialising continues.

We are a friendly group and just play for fun and do not belong to any leagues, etc. Anybody who would like to join us should just pop in and give it a go. We have spare bowls; you don't need to own or purchase any.

It would be great to meet some new prospective members from the village.

Ann Warne

*This item was sent for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition in November, but unfortunately went into Junk and so was missed. Our apologies to Ann for the omission. Editorial Committee*



## Yarnton Netball Club

Is the New Year a time to take that step back to netball? The Yarnton Netball club is a substantive club within our county with developing squads of seniors, youth and children. Whilst the aim is for competitive squads to play league at the Oxfordshire centre, recreational netball at the local weekly training is also offered and encouraged. The senior's session recommences on 13<sup>th</sup> January and new members are invited to come along at 7 p.m. We then train weekly on Tuesdays at Rutten Lane, Yarnton 7.30 p.m. until 9 p.m. with school years 10-13 preceding at 6.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.

The younger age groups meet on Wednesday evenings – school years 4-6 are 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and school years 7-9 are 4.40 p.m. to 5.40 p.m. For further information please make contact by email: [yarntonnetballclub@outlook.com](mailto:yarntonnetballclub@outlook.com) or [yarntonyouthnetball@gmail.com](mailto:yarntonyouthnetball@gmail.com) or via Facebook.

Internationally, the end of this packed and exciting season looms. December saw a test series against Jamaica – the Sunshine Girls, at the CopperBox, London. And in January our England Roses face South Africa in Johannesburg; three matches on 29<sup>th</sup> (4p.m. GMT), 31<sup>st</sup> (3 p.m. GMT) and 1<sup>st</sup> Feb (2 p.m. GMT) – seek out live television coverage on SKY, YouTube – or you never know – maybe BBC, unless you've booked the flight! These are expected to be very competitive matches and the last for the Roses until the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July.

Whilst netball settled in the Commonwealth Games a couple of decades back – I remember the call to arms then – it is still excluded from the Olympics. Australia are leading the bid to get netball included in the Olympics which they host in 2032 – please link to <https://netball.sport/back-the-bid/> to add your voice.

Sue Blackshaw



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## Rutten Lane Play Park - save the date

As you may be aware a new volunteer group was formed recently to lead a major project to fully renovate and, where needed, replace the play equipment at Rutten Lane Play Park. Much of the equipment dates back to the mid-1990s.

In the coming months the group will be working hard to fundraise, and to help towards this we are organising a Village Fete/Fun day on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026** at Rutten Lane Park. If any local organisations are interested in running a stall to promote their group and raise money for their organisation please email [yarntonparkrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:yarntonparkrenewal@gmail.com) *Lynne Whitley*

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The charges for hiring the **Main Hall or Back Room** are, per hour unless stated:

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Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at St. Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock, OX20 1JL, 2.15 p.m. for 2.30 p.m. speaker.

Our November speaker was Jessica Bouwer from the charity Wild Oxfordshire, who gave an extremely informative and interesting talk on Hedgerows. She detailed the important role our hedgerows play in supporting wildlife. Jessica also gave us an insight into what makes a good hedgerow and how they should be maintained.

December's speaker was Anna Beer, an author and historian, who gave a fascinating historical talk about Beth Throckmorton, known as Bess, the wife of Sir Walter Raleigh. She was a remarkable woman and the force behind Sir Walter Raleigh's achievements. When Queen Elizabeth found out about their secret marriage and the birth of their son, they were both imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Our speaker on 8<sup>th</sup> January will be Anna Boucher from the Burnside Partnership, who will talk about wills and probates. Visitors £3 to include tea and biscuits.

The speaker in February will be Timothy Walker, a lecturer, botanist, author and gardener. The talk is entitled 'How to be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Gardener'. Visitors £3 to include tea and biscuits.

Please note that in 2026 there will be a change to the meeting time. Our new meeting time will be **2.15 pm for 2.30 pm speaker**.

*Sian Wallworth*

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## YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Councillor Vacancy

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As a Parish Councillor, you will work with fellow Council members to help improve community facilities, consider planning matters, support local initiatives and help make Yarnton a better place to live.

No previous experience is required – just an interest in local issues, the ability to listen to residents and work collaboratively to help improve local issues.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please either contact the Clerk via the contact us page on our website, or attend the next Parish Council meeting.

For further information, and to find out more please visit [www.yarnton-pc.gov.uk/become-a-councillor](http://www.yarnton-pc.gov.uk/become-a-councillor)

**[www.yarnton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.yarnton-pc.gov.uk)**

### CombeMill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, OX29 8ET

We would like to thank all the visitors who came along to support Combe Mill during 2025 - all are welcome back again for 2026; we're looking forward to seeing you again. Our Riverside Tea room will be open every Wednesday from 7<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30 a.m. till 3 p.m.; call by and enjoy a slice of cake and a cup of tea. You all are very welcome. 15<sup>th</sup> March: Themed 'Mill In Steam'. Combe Mill will be opening again to welcome all to our late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Grade 11 Listed Building, which in its day was the workshop to Blenheim Palace Estate. The Tea Room and BBQ will be open. Adults £9.50. Seniors £7.50. accompanied children u15 free.

### Reporting Flooding Incidences

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# YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: [clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk), telephone: 01865 378476, website: [www.yarnton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

All correspondence sent by letter or email to the Parish Council must include the sender's name, address and telephone number. The Parish Council is unable to discuss correspondence received without these details. Please note that the Parish Council office is open to residents by appointment only as the office is not staffed full-time.

## **Parish Council Chairman:**

Mike Groves: [mike.groves@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:mike.groves@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

## **Parish Council Vice-Chairman:**

Fiona Mawson: [fiona.mawson@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.mawson@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

## **Other Parish Council Members:**

Debbie Behan: [debbie.behan@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.behan@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

Ian Middleton: [ian.middleton@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.middleton@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

Samuel Smith: [samuel.smith@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:samuel.smith@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

Joe McEneaney: [joe.mceneaney@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:joe.mceneaney@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

Lesley McLean: [lesley.mclean@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.mclean@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

Dorothy Walker: [dorothy.walker@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:dorothy.walker@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

## **Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:**

David Thornhill: [clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk)

## **District Councillors:**

Jean Conway: [jean.conway@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:jean.conway@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

Lesley McLean: [lesley.mclean@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.mclean@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

Dorothy Walker: [dorothy.walker@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:dorothy.walker@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

## **County Councillor:**

Lesley McLean: [lesley.mclean@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.mclean@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Planning:**

Any members of the public who wish to comment on or object to any of the following planning applications can either contact Yarnton Parish Council via the Clerk's office or Cherwell District Council via the planning portal here:

<https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/>

## **Planning applications:**

25/02881/CLUE. Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Development: Existing below-ground foul drainage installation comprising a new 450 mm inspection chamber and connecting pipework located within the approved plot for the detached dwelling permitted under planning permission 22/01283/F. The chamber and drain serve the proposed new dwelling only and are not connected to the existing dwelling known as 'The Paddocks'. These works represent the first stage of the approved development and constitute material operations sufficient to establish lawful commencement under Section 56(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Paddock, 192 Cassington Road, Yarnton, OX5 1QD.

25/02881/CLUE. Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Development to demonstrate that planning permission 22/01283/F has lawfully commenced through installation of below-ground foul drainage. The Paddock, 192 Cassington Road, Yarnton, OX5 1QD.

25/03050/OUT. Outline planning application for the erection of up to 58 dwellings with All Matters Reserved except for access, OS Parcel 2935, north and to the rear of The Grapes (The Turnpike), Woodstock Road, Yarnton, OX5 1PJ.

25/02696/F. First floor rear extension. 52 Merton Way, Yarnton, OX5 1NW.

25/02434/F. Replace existing asphalt roof covering with profile metal insulated roof panels and installation of surface mounted photovoltaic panels on front and rear elevations. Yarnton Village Hall, The Paddocks, Yarnton, OX5 1TE.

## **Parish Councillors:**

There are currently vacancies for two Parish Councillors. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please either contact the Parish Clerk for details or attend the next Parish Council meeting.

## **Future meetings:**

The next ordinary Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30 p.m. at Yarnton Village Hall. The Parish Council Budget meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30 p.m. at Yarnton Village Hall.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings for all or part of the meeting. Members of the public who wish to speak need to contact the Clerk 7 days in advance of the meeting giving notice of what they wish to say; any person will be limited to 5 minutes, and the total time for public contributions is limited to 15 minutes. Members of the public wishing to speak on any other matter or to be involved in the Councillors' general discussion may only do so at the discretion of the Chairman.

# YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

## The Community Orchard update

Some villagers may have already said hello to Tara, our Gardener, when she has been working in the Orchard over the last few months. Yarnton Parish Council hired Tara in 2025 to manage this community area and implement some suggestions from Wild Oxfordshire, who were commissioned by the Parish Council to provide guidance on how best to help assist nature in the area. Tara has been very busy getting to know the Orchard, understanding what needs to be done and has come up with a gardening plan for 2026.

To date the compost and brown bins have been reconfigured, and work continues to revitalise overgrown areas. The apple trees have been given lots of TLC, and have all been re-staked and mulched, and well watered during the hot summer. Pruning will take place after Tara attends a specialist fruit tree pruning course at Waterperry Gardens, who hold the National Apple Collection.

Also being done is a general tidy up which has been undertaken across the Orchard in preparation for winter. In the last week of November there have been several thousand daffodil, narcissi, snowdrop, bluebell and muscari bulbs planted around the orchard with further bulbs planted in the cemetery. Thank you to the volunteers who helped Tara with this mammoth task; we will all be looking forward to seeing a wonderful floral display in the coming Spring.

There is a full year plan for the Orchard next year starting with a few of the winter and spring jobs:

**January** – Continue clearing overgrown areas to support a balance between tidy and wilder areas. Manage areas of dense elder, while retaining some elder for wildlife value. Implement wildlife habitat – e.g. dead wood piles in shaded and sunny areas. Label tree species.

**February** – Dormant prune fruit trees. Clear areas around fruit trees to reduce competition for water and nutrients. Nettle, ivy and bramble management.

**March** – Feed apple trees. Set-up bird boxes and wildlife habitats using logs and fallen branches, plant wildflower patches for butterflies and early species of solitary bees.

**April** – Plant shade tolerant herbaceous plants in the north-east corner, monitor trees for pests and diseases, and an Easter egg hunt!

**May** – Tend wildflower areas by cultivating the flowers we want and removing the ones we don't, introduce secondary wildflower patches (for the butterflies, bees and birds) along the north wall border and plant summer flowering naturalised bulbs.

Watch this space for more spring and summer activities later in the year!

If you would like to volunteer to get involved with any of the above projects, please get in touch with Tara via the YPC office by emailing [clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk).

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### News from the Manor

#### RE TREAT - EQUIP - STUDY



### January

Happy New Year!

2025 has seen some significant changes and developments for us here - most notably the opening of our Tithe Barn Library, which, in time, will hold around 30,000 theological books.

See below for more of a snapshot of life at Yarnton Manor in 2025

**10,000** books already catalogued and on the Library shelves

**15** different nationalities of guests and residents

(plus those we've probably forgotten!)

**210** trees recorded during our tree survey

**24** academic seminars given on theology, philosophy, AI, history, prayer and more

**1000+** guests from our local area welcomed during our Easter, Christmas and Open Doors events

**1** Victorian greenhouse restored and put to use

**100+** different species of birds recorded

Want to know more? Sign up for our newsletter by using the QR code or check out our new website: [yarntonmanor.org](http://yarntonmanor.org)



## One year on.... Why reporting flooding matters for Yarnton residents

Flooding is becoming an increasing concern for many communities, and Yarnton is no exception. In September and November 2024, many homes in our village experienced flooding, yet only 25 properties officially reported it. This lack of data has serious consequences for all of us.

### Why reporting is crucial

Flood Re, the government-backed scheme designed to make flood insurance more affordable, relies on accurate data to assess risk and allocate grants. If flooding incidents go unreported, Yarnton appears less affected than it truly is. This means fewer resources, less funding, and limited eligibility for grants that could help protect our homes in the future.

Reporting flooding isn't just about water inside your home. It includes:

- Driveways
- Gardens
- Outbuildings
- Any external areas impacted by floodwater

Every report strengthens the case for Yarnton to receive support, and ensures that insurers and local authorities understand the real risk we face.

### New developments increase risk

With new housing developments possibly being built near our village, the risk of flooding can rise due to increased hard surfaces and changes to drainage systems. Accurate reporting helps planners and councils make informed decisions and implement proper flood mitigation measures.

### Transparency when selling your home

It's equally important to be honest about flooding history when selling your property. Misrepresenting or omitting details, whether the flooding occurred inside the house or on surrounding land, can lead to legal action for misrepresentation. Buyers have the right to know the full history, and failing to disclose it could result in costly disputes later.

### What you can do

- Report any flooding to Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Water for any issues with foul sewage overflows, and your insurer, even if it seems minor.
- **Keep records** of dates, photos, and any damage.
- Share information with neighbours to encourage accurate reporting across the community.

By working together and being transparent, we can protect our homes, increase our chances of securing future funding, and most importantly, maintain trust within our village.

Let's make sure Yarnton's real flood risk is recognised, because without accurate data, we all lose.

*From a village resident who experienced flooding in 2024*



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## Having the Builders in Part 2. Managing the job

You've found a builder and agreed a formal building contract - the price, duration, payment schedule, and start date are all set. But even with everything in writing, a construction project remains a major challenge. Delays and unexpected problems are almost inevitable. This article looks at ways to help ensure your project is completed as quickly and efficiently as possible. Before work begins, your builder should prepare a construction program - ideally a project management bar chart. Arrange a meeting to go over this in detail, discussing how the job will be managed, including timelines, potential disruptions, and safety protocols. Clarify who is responsible for what to avoid confusion and ensure accountability. Build extra time into the schedule to account for possible weather delays. You should also confirm which areas of your property will be worked on and when, what tasks will be carried out at each stage, and how long they'll take. Find out if utilities will be disrupted or whether parts of your home will be uninhabitable during the works. Check your home insurance to see whether it covers building work and what types of projects are included.

Good pre-project planning should cover any need for temporary partitions, doors, screens, or barriers to separate construction zones from living areas. These help contain dust and stop children, pets, or guests from accidentally entering potentially dangerous areas. Label off-limits areas clearly and use high-visibility barriers. Make sure builders keep access points to these zones securely closed when not in use.

Take steps to protect your belongings from damage or theft. Move furniture and valuables out of the work area completely - dust sheets alone are not enough. Store small valuables and important documents off-site or in a locked safe. Consider installing security cameras to spot unapproved visitors. Limit access to keys if builders will be working in your home when you're not there. Once the job is finished, change the locks.

Once building work begins, expect your home to become chaotic - builders, plumbers, electricians and others coming and going, an unbelievable amount of dust which somehow manages to get everywhere, and constant noise. The project will feel endless. For larger jobs, it can be less stressful to move out, perhaps into a rented static caravan if space allows. Builders can then work more efficiently, and you won't be constantly trying to get out of the way by 8 a.m. or spending all evening tidying up. Help the job run smoothly by removing any potential barriers to progress. Set aside a designated area for material storage, make space for delivery vehicles to unload, and allow room for the skip.

You have every right to expect your builder to arrive on time, dress appropriately, and keep the site clean. Tradespeople should show up as scheduled and complete work within the agreed timeframe and budget. A good builder minimises mess and leaves the area clean and tidy at the end of each day. If problems arise - and they will - a good builder identifies and resolves them quickly and professionally, ideally face to face. Hold regular progress meetings - weekly or bi-weekly - to track progress, adjust schedules, and deal with issues early. Your project timeline should be a living document, flexible enough to adapt but clear enough to keep things on track. When milestones are reached, recognise the builder's hard work and efforts - it helps keep morale up and motivation high.

On completion of the building work, take time to inspect the finished project thoroughly. Ensure all work meets the agreed standards and specifications. Address any snags promptly. Once satisfied, make the final payment, update your home insurance, and enjoy your transformed home, ready for you to settle back in.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc.

## Oxford Bus and Morris Motors Exhibition

### A new vehicle acquired with a view to restoration

After the excitement of the New Year's Day running event with the Christmas Jumper Competition, January is a quiet month for visitors. However, the workshop volunteers are busy. Restorations continue and our South Midland minibus is having a new engine fitted in preparation for the 2026 season. Our 1948 Morris 10 Series M's full restoration is nearing completion and it should emerge from the workshop in 2026.

Some museum volunteers have clubbed together to buy, and therefore save, a 1944 Morris Post Office series Y van, GXK 685. It arrived at the museum on 8<sup>th</sup> October to be stored until restoration starts. The first task is to fit four new tyres so it can be moved more easily.



The Morris series Y 100 cubic foot vans were first used for postal work in 1939, when two were purchased. They had an 11.9hp side-valve engine and a 10cwt semi-forward-control with an all-steel construction. Interestingly, the engine was positioned to one side, allowing the driver to sit beside it with no room for a passenger.

GXK 685 is a Cowley-built Series Y van and one of a batch of 350 supplied in 1944 to Royal Mail. We understand that it spent its early years in rural Cumbria before being sold to a carpenter in Nottinghamshire where, it is believed, it was used in his business for the transportation of coffins. It was last used in 1964.

About twenty years ago, GXK685 was purchased by a local collector with the desire to save it, because it is thought that only two other Royal Mail versions of this type have survived. On learning that it was still awaiting restoration, a syndicate of seven museum members have joined together with the aim of restoring it to its original condition for the Museum.

Watch this space.

*Frank Collingwood*

# Chris Lord

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## Kidlington & District Historical Society

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, when our speaker will be Dick Richards, whose talk is entitled 'The Commonwealth War Graves Commission'. The meeting is held at Kidlington Baptist Church, OX5 2DS. Doors open 7.30 p.m. with meetings starting at 7.50 p.m. Visitors £5. Ample car parking.

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## Yarnton W.I.

Happy holiday season to all! I hope you're all feeling full of good cheer and ready for a Happy New Year ahead. We were all looking forward to our seasonal craft evening in December and enjoying the company of our friends. We created new festive specialties whilst sipping on warming mulled wine and munching on treats. We listened to jolly Christmas music and competed to win the special prizes in our holiday raffle. I'm sure I will be wearing my newly crafted sparkling earrings well into this year!

Have you seen our circus themed post box topper? If not, you are missing a special treat. The toppers in the past have been amazing, but I am sure you will agree that this one is truly remarkable! We are anxious that this may be our swan song as the new style post boxes cannot accommodate our toppers. We will see what the future brings as many villages will be missing their distinctive toppers.

We are looking forward to the speaker coming to our January meeting on 8<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy Sharp will tell us about the effect of the Holocaust on his family. I'm sure we will be educated, and sympathetic to his personal story. You are welcome to join us in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. to hear this speaker.

We have many exciting speakers and events to look forward to in 2026. We look forward to meeting you at one of them!

*Best wishes, Judy Blake, President*



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## Woodstock Methodist Church, Oxford Street, Woodstock Kidlington Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Kidlington

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**Local Contact Woodstock:** Mrs Sue Beuzeval, tel. 01865 849696, Email: [sue.beuzeval@woodstockmethodists.org.uk](mailto:sue.beuzeval@woodstockmethodists.org.uk)

**Local Contact Kidlington:** Mel Snelling, [mel.snelling@kidlingtonmethodists.org.uk](mailto:mel.snelling@kidlingtonmethodists.org.uk)

There are no Methodist churches in Yarnton, but you will find one in both Woodstock and Kidlington. Details of forthcoming services are below, but there are also various midweek activities, details of which can be found on the appropriate website.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us at any time.

### Services in January

*'Local Arrangement' invariably means instead of a 'live' preacher you can watch a pre-recorded service on screen at church.  
Go to [oxfordmethodists.org.uk/worship.html](http://oxfordmethodists.org.uk/worship.html) where details can be found of various recorded services*

#### Woodstock

4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Rev. Paul Carter <i>Covenant Service</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Local Church Group
18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Gillian Dodds
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	United Service at Bladon

We also have a Junior Church which meets every week at 10.30 a.m. and ranges in age from two to early teens. The first part of the morning is shared with adults in church before we then go round to the church hall to share in our own activities. We are always delighted to see new members, whether with or without their parents!

#### Kidlington

4 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m.	Rev. Jean King <i>Holy Communion</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m.	Rev. Michael Sawyer
18 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m.	Rachel Blainey
25 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m.	United Service at Bladon

Every Thursday we meet at 10.00 a.m. for a short informal time of prayer followed by coffee. On the third Thursday of the month, this incorporates a celebration of communion. All Welcome!  
The Kidlington church also runs a Junior Church and crèche on Sunday mornings.



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## Yarnton Gardening Club

The speaker at our January meeting will be Chris Day, who has moved from Buckingham Nurseries to Alban Hill Nurseries at Sherington, near Olney, whose appropriate talk for the beginning of the year is entitled 'Twelve Months of Colour'.

Subscriptions will be due at the meeting so please remember to bring your money with you. If you'd prefer to pay by bacs then the bank details are on your programme card. At the time of writing we haven't held our A.G.M. where there was discussion about increasing the subscription to either £20 or £25. If you were at the meeting, you will know what we decided, but if not, then please come prepared for either.

A full report of the decisions made at the A.G.M. will be given in the February issue.

We are now down to six committee members, following the resignation of Pamela Tingay, who moved to Witney and is finding it difficult to commit to activities in Yarnton any more. Several of those who have served for a good many years only continue because they don't want to let the club down. So this appeal for new committee members is become more urgent. Do please consider joining the committee if you can, and bring new ideas and allow others to take a well-earned rest. Many thanks.

*Ruth Astall*

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# Budgens OF YARNTON



Wishing you all a very Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas filled with festive cheer. Thank you for your incredible support throughout 2025 - we can't wait to welcome you back in the year ahead! Here's to another fantastic year together.



## Wild Bean Coming Soon to Yarnton

Great news—**Wild Bean** is arriving at our **Yarnton store**! Customers will soon be able to enjoy **top-quality coffee, premium pastries, and a tasty selection of hot food**.

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As we prepare to welcome Wild Bean to our **Yarnton store**, we'd like to apologise for any disruption caused during the upgrade works this January.

We truly appreciate your patience and understanding as we make these improvements, and we can't wait to share the finished results with you soon.

**WILD BEAN**  
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**Website:** [www.ybsbenefice.org.uk](http://www.ybsbenefice.org.uk). Facebook: @yarntonchurch.

### Special Services:

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January** Epiphany Sunday – 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 11 a.m. Parish Communion with Junior Church

The celebration of Epiphany falls 12 days after Christmas, and is a special celebration in the church year. We keep it two days early on the nearest Sunday. Epiphany recalls the visit of the magi (or wise men) to the infant Jesus, with their prophetic gifts. Their epiphany is to recognise Jesus, the child of Mary, as the new, divine King. Recorded in Matthew's gospel (chapter 2, v.1-12), this is the occasion where Jesus was revealed as divine to those not just from his native land but to the whole world: the magi from the east are understood to represent the nations of the earth. They present their gifts and worship him, thus recognising and honouring his divinity. It is an encounter that changes their lives, diverting them from the brutal king Herod to carry their news back to their native lands. We read that '*having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route*' (Matthew 1.12).

As we move beyond the twelve days of Christmas and into a new year, Christians believe that we are invited to keep reflecting on our encounter with the child Jesus, and follow in his way of self-giving love, and the new directions it may lead. A prayer for Epiphany is below:

*O God, who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.*

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January, Yarnton Evening Worship, 5 p.m.

Our monthly evening service brings together the St. Bartholomew's community, with friends from Yarnton Manor and Wycliffe Hall. We offer a traditional Holy Communion service, accompanied by contemporary worship music, offering worship that is ancient and new. The service is contemplative in feel with a slightly longer sermon than our morning worship. All are welcome, and we are grateful for feedback from our community.

### Thank you

Thank you to all who attended our Christmas services and events in December. Special thanks to the wonderful playing of Yarnton Band at our Carol Service and Crib Service. We are extremely grateful also for the hospitality offered by Yarnton Manor following the Carol Service. Thank you to our many volunteers and helpers.

We wish all villagers a Happy New Year!

### Regular Services and events

Sundays: 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer), 11 a.m. Parish Sung Communion with Junior Church, followed by coffee.

9.30 a.m. Benefice Online Service (St. Bartholomew's Facebook page).

Wednesdays: 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Little Sheep (term time) – for under 5s and parents/grandparents/carers – crafts, songs and a story.  
*(Not 1<sup>st</sup> January)*

We welcome enquiries for Christenings and Weddings.

## Remembrance and annual concert – Yarnton Band



*The Band on Remembrance Sunday - photo Richard Jurd*

In the photo Mark Sherratt is conducting the band by the War Memorial on Rutten Lane, and a few minutes later Daniel Pye gave a superb rendering of The Last Post.

Our annual concert saw a packed Village Hall, and the following cups were awarded: Training Band most improved player - Nancy Isles, and Senior Band most improved player - Thomas Stroud. The Chairman's cup in memory of David Hoffler was awarded to one who has made a major contribution to the Band, and went to John Carr. John comments: "I started with Yarnton Band around 39 years ago. It was just after Alex had joined and I got encouraged to come along and join in, although at that stage I could neither play a brass instrument nor read music. Quite a challenge." Alex Stroud is John's daughter and is now a professional French Horn player. Thomas Stroud is John's grandson, and granddaughter Lucy also plays in the band, so does that make a Band dynasty? All those years ago John started to play, so there's room for any reader to do the same, age is no barrier!

At the concert our soloists were Oscar Norman (percussion), James Pye (Eb Bass) and William Pye and Thomas Stroud (trombones). Congratulations to Daniel Pye on being selected for the National Children's Brass Band, thus joining his two brothers. I doubt if any other band in the country has three players from one family.

If you'd like to support the band when shopping online, go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/yarntonband](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/yarntonband) - it covers many retailers. Doing that won't cost you a penny more but it will help the band! *Peter Hewis*

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