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From the Editor

There's lots going on this month. As you'll have seen from the front cover, 2nd Cricklade Scouts are holding their Annual Duck Race on Saturday 13 June from the Thames Bridge at the junction of High Street and North Wall. See the article on page 21 for race times and details of how and where to "buy" your duck.

This Scout troop is in the news again on page 3 of this issue, as they have been presented with the Community Group of the year award by the Town Council. Thomas Ashbee-Dobbins of the Sampson Explorer Unit was awarded Young Person of the Year, and Anita Barratt won the Community Award for her many years working with Cricklade Bloomers.

St Sampson's Church is hosting a concert of Rutter's *Requiem* and Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* on 27 June. See page 30 for details.

Also at St Sampson's, the tower will be open

on 6 June to intrepid visitors willing to attempt the 120 steps to the top. See page 27 and bring appropriate footwear.

The Friends of St Mary's are holding a Summer Garden Party on Sunday 21 June at Mount House, High Street.

That's the imposing building opposite the Council Offices, which is one of the places to buy tickets. Let's hope for fine weather for them on the longest day of the year. See page 28 for full details.

The Royal British Legion branch is holding a fundraising curry evening at the ever welcoming Kavali restaurant on the following day (Monday the 22nd). Details are on page 29.

There are more events in the Diary on page 46. Whatever you decide to do, don't let too much water pass under the bridge ... especially without ducks in it!



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The deadline for the July 2026 issue is Monday 1 June 2026

Contacts

Items for publication to the Editor: Rick Dixon, RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com, 01793 759123 or by post to 19 North Wall, Cricklade SN6 6DU.

Commercial Advertising: Helen Dixon, CrickladeAdverts@gmail.com, 07976 546 825

Distribution Enquiries: Pam & Miles, p.mking@yahoo.com 07724 759151 or 07595 617071

Website: Cricklade.org

COMMUNITY CONTACTS: All 01793 unless stated or emergency. This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

Churches see centre pages
 Cricklade Town Council 751394
 Latton P/Council ... clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk
 MP (South Cotswolds) 01285 300555
 roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
 Wiltshire Councillor 752501
 Wiltshire Council hub 0300 456 0100
 Emergency Services 999
 Non-Emergency: Police 101
 Non-Emergency: NHS 111
 Doctors: Purton Surgery 770207
 Green Gables Surgery 752633
 Cricklade (De Silva) 750645

Boots Chemist (100 High St) 750226
 Gas leak reporting 0800 111 999
 Library (113 High St) 750694
 Link Scheme transport 07421 018 499
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 Household Recycling Centre 778205
 Samaritans FREE: 116 123
 Schools:
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 Cricklade Manor Prep 750275
 Bradon Forest 770570

Cricklade Town Hall

To book your event at Cricklade Town Hall, please contact our Bookings Secretary, Mrs Nicola Fry on 07977 758 389 (before 9pm please) or via email at crickladetownhall@hotmail.com for further details, or Facebook for photos and other information: www.facebook.com/crickladetownhall



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Richard Hickman, Chairman, Cricklade Jenner Hall Community Trust

Cricklade Jenner Hall (Parish Hall) "Save It Club"

In the Monthly Draw held on the 30 April the lucky winners were :-

1st Prize	Christine Russell	£32.70
2nd Prize	Sue Craig	£21.80
	Jenner Hall Funds:	£54.50

To Join the Jenner Hall "Save It Club", please contact Paul Marley Tel: 752851.

The Subscription for the "Save It Club" is only £12 per year.

Subscribers are encouraged to pay a year's subscription of £12 by Standing Order.



Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

- Monday 1 June** Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee
- Monday 8 June** Premises & Finance Committee
- Monday 22 June** Full Council
- Monday 29 June** Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee



All meetings, commence at 7pm, and are held in the Council Chambers, 113 High Street. Press and members of the public are welcome and have an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of each meeting.

Our **2026 Community Award Winners** at the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026. Many thanks to all who attended – we hope you found the evening useful. A date for your diary – **next year the meeting will be on Tuesday 20 April 2027.**



Young Person Award
Thomas Ashbee-
Dobbins



Community Award
Anita Barratt

Community Group Award
2nd Cricklade Scout Group



Cricklade in Bloom

Councillors will be out and about judging the Cricklade in Bloom competition between 18 July and 2 August 2026.

The categories are: Best Garden, Best Hanging Basket or Container, Best Front Door and Best Commercial Property on the High Street. No need to register – we will be out and about looking at all properties.

Grants

Not for profit organisations based in Cricklade serving the community, subject to criteria, can apply for small grants from both the local Area Board at Wiltshire Council or Cricklade Town Council. Both Area Board and Cricklade Town Council grants are open year-round and will be reviewed at the next applicable meeting. For more information, please see our website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk

Parking in disabled bays

Please can we remind everyone that there is ample parking in the High Street for those lucky enough to be able bodied. Please allow the members of the public who are not so fortunate the five designated disabled spaces on the High Street. For those needing the disabled spaces, may we remind you of the legal requirement of putting your blue badge and clock in the window. This will help to prevent anger from other disabled badge users who may not be able to get into the spaces provided.

Livestock Worrying

We would like to remind everyone, dog owner or not, of the dangers of livestock worrying. Wiltshire Rural Crime Team are asking you to apply the following: -

- Keep dogs on short leads and clean up after them, this will help keep cases of Neosporosis and Sarcocystosis to a minimum. It will also prevent any exuberant behaviour on the part of your dog, which may cause distress to herd animals.
- Do not tamper with fencing or signage, they are there to keep everyone safe.
- Please remember to leave gates as you found them, and follow the instructions on signs and gates.
- Take your rubbish home or to the nearest bin. Your actions can affect the livelihoods of other people, and their animals.

The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open, except Bank Holidays:

Monday to Friday 10.00 - 16.00 hrs (Closed 12.30 - 13.30 hrs)

Tel: 01793 751394 E-mail: admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

What's On? - Broader Area

■ **Snowdon Sunrise Charity Walk** (for Guide Dogs and other local charities)
Cirencester Round Table plan a charity guided walk up Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) starting at 00:45 on 28 June. Registration for the walk concluded on 17 May, but you can donate to the cause using this JustGiving QR code.



■ The Wessex (male choir)

Summer Concert at Christ Church, Swindon SN1 3HG – Saturday 27 June at 7pm (doors open 6.15pm), with guests Great Western Chorus from Bristol.

Tickets available price £15 (u-16s £7.50) from ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir

■ Swindon Choral Society

Concert on **Saturday 11 July at 6.30pm*** in **St Michael's Church, Highworth SN6 7DA.**

Programme to include "A Little Jazz Mass" by Bob Chilcott and "Mass in Blue" by Will Todd.

Further details on website, www.swindonchoral.org.uk [*time changed since last issue]



Wiltshire Perspective

Nick Dye, Councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey

Surgeries

Talking to fellow councillors around Wiltshire, they have said that a number of residents have taken up the opportunity to talk informally about things that are worrying them but not sure if it's something we can help them with. With that in mind I hope to try to set up a regular open session at least once a month for people to come and chat, either to see

what can be done or perhaps I might be able to signpost them to an organisation that would be better placed to help them.

Either way, for Latton I already try to get to them on the first Saturday of the month in the Village Hall and in Cricklade I hope to be in the Club at least once a month. I'm hoping to set up the last Friday of the month, so starting 29 May hopefully from 10 in the morning. Feel free to just come up and chat if you like and we can see if I can help with anything that troubling you.

Traffic feedback

In the March Chronicle I asked for your thoughts about reducing the speed limit to 20mph. Not everyone was in favour, but there was a strong majority looking to try to make the change, as well as making sure that it's enforced. In April a new policy was published to simplify the process to implement the change. The details are still being ironed out, but the first step is to get the backing of each of the councils before it is progressed. Your opinions, although the participants self-selected, did show a majority with which to inform each Council when next they meet. So many thanks for your feedback. Without it I would not be able to represent your views.

Flooding

I'm hoping that we're in the middle of a blissful summer as you read this, but it wasn't long ago that we were suffering one of the wettest winters, with over double the long term average rainfall. One of the extra jobs I do for Wiltshire is that I'm the portfolio holder for flooding and water quality. That comes with a place on an organisation I'd not heard of before, called the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. It only meets four times a year, but it prioritises and manages work on flood 'Assets' across a very large area, from the Jurassic Coast to the Severn estuary and all of Wiltshire and other intervening counties. It certainly gives one a wider perspective of other people's problems, with very few of the Wiltshire homes comprising the 268 properties flooded in Wessex last winter.

Nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501

Cricklade Library is above the Town Council Office at 113 High Street. The entrance is through the gateway and there is a lift as well as stairs to the library level. Current opening hours are: *(Closed Bank Holidays)*

Mon: 2–4pm	Wed: 2–4pm	Fri: 2–5pm	Sun: Closed
Tues: 10am–1pm	Thurs: 2–7pm	Sat: 10am–1pm	

Purton Surgery Patient Group

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



News about the group

Are you be interested in finding out about the work of your surgery? Would you like to be a part of its support? There is currently an exciting opportunity to join the PSPG committee so, if you are interested, we have information packs available from reception at both surgeries. We will also be at the Purton Community Day on 13 June to discuss face to face what being a member involves! We look forward to meeting you.

200 Club

New members to the 200 Club are always very welcome. It's never too late to join! It costs just £15 a year, paid by standing order. Every month, we award two prizes – one of £100 and another of £15. All proceeds go toward buying equipment for the surgeries that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at reception if you wish to join.

Our lucky May winners are

First Prize of £100 Andrew & Val Knowler (no. 54)

Second Prize of £15 Christine Rawlings (no. 71)

The draw was made by our Care Co-ordinator Teresa Philpot. Congratulations to the winners!

Future Information evenings

Our information evening in April about looking after your kidneys was well attended and expertly led by Mel and Carly from the GW Hospital. If you have an idea of a topic that you would like future evenings to cover, there is a suggestion box in Purton Surgery, and you can leave a message at Green Gable reception too. We would like to arrange suitable events that appeal to you and will endeavour to find the relevant speakers if possible.

Tabletop and Book donations

Please hand in any good quality books and items for sale at the surgeries. Again, funds raised through these donations provide all the 'extras' needed. Thank you for your donations to both!

As always, your support is much appreciated.

Roz Savage MP

Roz Savage, MP for the South Cotswolds, is holding regular constituency surgeries to support residents with their concerns. Following parliamentary advice, these surgeries are now by appointment only.

Where possible, appointments will be held virtually. However, Roz is also hosting less frequent in-person surgeries at various locations across the constituency to ensure accessibility for all residents.

To book an appointment, please email roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk or call her office on 01285 300555. If you have specific accessibility needs, please let the team know when booking.



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Parent feedback May 2024



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Spaces Available

Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup

Our experienced, well-qualified and friendly staff offer play experiences to meet children's individual learning needs. Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup believes that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met.

Our Services

- Cricklade Pre-School, Bath Road, Cricklade, SN6 6AT
- Open 9.30am-4pm Every weekday in Term time
- Funded, flexible hours from 2 years - primary school age
- No extra charge for breakfast - all included in funded hours
- Situated behind the Cricklade Fire Station
- Registered Charity Number: 1136796
- Early Years Alliance Number: 17136
- Ofsted Number: EY426355



"Parents speak extremely positively of the care and education their children receive"

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www.crickladepreschoolplaygroup.com

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HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN A LIFE-SAVING SKILL

We also run **holiday intensive courses** during the school holidays, helping children progress quickly and build confidence in the water.

Courses run over four to five consecutive days at £39.60 per course.

Swimming lessons at **Cricklade Leisure Centre** help children build confidence in the water while learning essential life skills.

Lessons are available for toddlers, children and adults, with structured stages that help swimmers progress at their own pace with the support of experienced instructors.



Speak to our team or visit our website to find the right class for your child

email: swimlessons@crickladeleisure.co.uk

Call 01793 750011 [f](https://www.facebook.com/crickladeleisure) [crickladeleisure](https://www.crickladeleisure.co.uk) [crickladeleisure.com](https://www.crickladeleisure.com)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

CRICKLADE LEISURE CENTRE Registered Office: Sunes Lane, Cricklade Wiltshire SN6 6JW. Reg Charity No:125605

Notes from Dance Common

Second Epistle to the Dancenes



It may be of interest to people to hear about the sights and sounds of the Common in the month of June.

There are two brown butterflies that can be seen in our grassy areas sometimes, in good years, in spectacular numbers. These are Meadow Browns, probably Britain's most numerous butterfly and Ringlets, named for the eye spots on the undersides of their wings. Ringlets are little toughies and will fly in deep gloom and even drizzle.

One bird that you will probably come across on the Dance is the Common Whitethroat. Amazingly they have made the long flight here from Sub-Saharan Africa, flying through the night and navigating by the stars. Both sexes do have white throats and are usually



seen bobbing in and out of cover. Their song is not imposing, a flurry of rather scratchy sounds, but it would be unreasonable to expect Les Mis after that journey.

friendsofdancecommon@gmail.com

Whitethroat (photo © Dave Curtis)

Parkinson's UK

At Cricklade Hotel & Spa, Common Hill SN6 6HA : 10.30am - noon

Join us for coffee, cake and chat on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. There you will find plenty of level parking, good access and an accessible loo! Contact: *parkinsonscafecricklade@gmail.com* or call 07951 944 760.

The volunteers team looks forward to seeing you there!

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
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This month's news: Garden@91 has been entered into the Royal Horticultural Society's *In Your Neighbourhood* initiative – a welcome recognition of the volunteers who have transformed the rear garden at the Old Police Station, and a chance to receive expert advice from the judges as the garden continues to grow.

Garden@91 – Open Daily

Tucked behind the Old Police Station, Garden@91 is Cricklade's newest outdoor community space. Whether you want a quiet moment, a chat, or a shortcut to and from the High Street, the garden is open for most of the day during business hours, with occasional closures for events.

While visiting, you can also explore the Elizabeth II Walkway heritage displays, celebrating the life of the late Queen and Cricklade's High Street of years gone by.

Free Community Use

Community groups are welcome to use the garden – from a small corner for a meeting to a larger area for stalls, workshops or fundraising. For simple hires this summer, the space is free of charge for community groups. We want Garden@91 to be a sociable, shared space at the heart of Cricklade.

Join CDF

New members are always welcome.

- A £50 community share gives you membership and a vote at our Annual General Meeting.
- Larger investments of £2,500+ can earn 3.5% interest per year (still one vote), suitable for those in a position to make an altruistic investment that supports and enhances community life while receiving a fair return. There may also be inheritance tax advantages too.

Contact Information

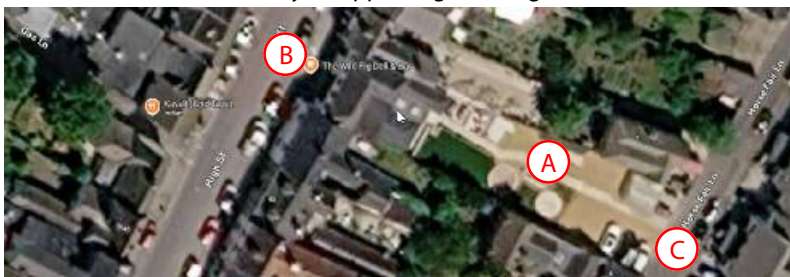
If you would like to use the garden, volunteer, or become a member:

Phone: 07902 421 756 Email: contact@crickladedevelopment.org.uk

Website: www.crickladedevelopment.org.uk

Find us on Facebook for updates. We would love to hear from you!

Your Society – Supporting Your High Street



How to find us:

A - the garden | B - entrance from High Street | C - entrance from Horse Fair Lane

Pre-loved fashion donations needed for Bag A Bargain



DONATIONS are needed for a pre-loved sustainable fashion event aimed at raising vital funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Good quality pre-loved designer and high street clothes are needed for The Bag A Bargain event, held at Deverill Storage on Manor Farm, Longbridge Deverill, near Warminster, which has earned a reputation for having a wide range of nearly new designer clothes, accessories and jewellery.

The two-day sale begins at 10am on Friday, 4 September from 10am to 6pm with tickets at just £7. The sale continues on Saturday, 5 September from 9.30am to 2pm and entry is free.

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust works with Wiltshire Police to protect over 60s and people aged 18 and over with a disability in their homes by fitting security devices free of charge. It also operates a Stay Safe Online team of volunteers who provide free cyber security advice through home visits and talks to groups.

Director Jennie Shaw said: "Each year this event seems to get better and better, thanks to everyone who donates some beautiful clothes and to all the people who come along and support us. Last year was a really nice occasion because lots of people came to meet friends and share a light lunch and a drink at our pop-up café and licensed bar.

"There is such a buzz about the sale because it is an opportunity to add some sparkle to your wardrobe at fantastic prices, and on the second day we have some amazing discounts and BOGOF offers. I'd advise everyone who comes to come prepared and wear a base layer, so our personal shoppers can help them shimmy in and out of different outfits to find the perfect look."

All proceeds from the event will go towards the running costs of the Bobby Van service. "We need to raise £425,000 a year to maintain it, so events like this really help," said Jennie.

"We'd like to say a huge thanks to John Robins for allowing us to use the venue, and all our organisers and volunteers."

Tickets can be booked at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events. Find out more about the work of the charity at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk.

Contact Susanna Thorpe of the charity about donations at susanna@WBVT.org or call her on 07500 652 055.

For further details contact Gary Lawrence on 07866 422308 or gary@meadowcomms.co.uk



A shopper at last year's Bag A Bargain fundraiser at Longbridge Deverill for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust



Duck Race



2nd Cricklade Scout Group will be holding their famous Duck Race on Saturday 13 June from the Bridge at Thames Hall. This lovely family friendly annual event is our largest fundraising event of the year and all proceeds go directly to providing opportunities for the young people of Cricklade and surrounding areas. Last year our fundraising was used towards purchasing all new archery and shooting equipment as well as supporting the costs of the unit.

You can purchase Duck Race tickets for just £1 each from Cricklade Town Council, on the High Street each weekend and of course on the day.

This year we have increased the prize fund as follows:

First Prize £100

Second Prize £50

Third Prize £25

The event will open at 11am where you can enjoy tea, cakes or savoury treats while we have free activities for young people.

The first Race will be setting off at 12 noon and will follow with heats throughout the day with the final winners race at 3pm. We look forward to welcoming you on the day and thank you for supporting our group.



Cricklade Open Door

*The Jenner Hall
Bath Road, Cricklade
Tel: 07599 987 851*

... would love to see YOU!

We welcome folks of all ages.



Pop in for a coffee, chat or join in with an activity and enjoy being part of a friendly group. We enjoy guest speakers, guest musicians, bingo, exercises, pub lunch outings and anything else (feasible) that members suggest.

MONDAY MORNINGS - Knitting/Crochet/Sewing Group and Coffee and Chat.

AFTERNOONS - Seated Exercises followed by refreshments and chat!

TUESDAY MORNINGS - Coffee, conversations and chat, Scabble, Triominos.

AFTERNOONS - Mixed bag of quizzes, games, speakers etc.

THURSDAY MORNINGS - Coffee, conversations and chat.

AFTERNOONS - Fun Bingo

Lunches can also be booked before 10am on all three days

Prospect Hospice

A local support group for Prospect Hospice is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 27 June starting at 10am in Cricklade United Church Hall, Calcutt Street. There will be Refreshments, Cakes, Raffle and Tombola. All proceeds go to Prospect Hospice.

In Memoriam

■ **GIORGIO MECCARIELLO** (formerly of Airola, Italy)
26 November 1945 – 19 February 2026

On behalf of Giorgio's family in Italy and my family here, I would like to thank everyone who sent such kind messages and cards, and to all who came to the funeral on 23 March. Your kindness and support have meant more to us than words can say.

I would especially like to thank Russell at Blackwells for his care, compassion and gentle guidance throughout this time. Thank you also to Revd Dr Shirley Danby for such a warm and thoughtful service, to Celia and Sarah at C & R Family Grocers for the beautiful flowers, and to The White Hart for the lovely refreshments afterwards.

A special thank-you to the people of Cricklade for welcoming my mum and Giorgio so warmly when they made their home in Cricklade after leaving Stow-on-the-Wold. It meant a great deal to them both. Giorgio and Joyce worked for Lord and Lady Kimberley at Hailstone House for many years, and later Giorgio worked for the Town Council, taking pride in keeping it looking its best.

In memory of Giorgio, a collection raised £265, which will be donated to The Open Door, Cricklade.

Pauline Clapton (Joyce's daughter)

A Message of Thanks

■ **JOAN STUBBS**

The family of Joan Stubbs would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all who joined us at St Sampson's Church to say goodbye to her, and to everyone who has supported us with their kind words, memories, and thoughtful gestures. We are also grateful for the donations made in lieu of flowers to Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue, a cause close to Joan's heart.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Revd Dr Shirly Danby for leading such a warm and comforting service, and to A. Slade and Son for their care, professionalism, and support throughout.

Your kindness has been a great comfort to our family.

Richard, Victoria, Richard and Christina

Sailability Curry Night

Toby and Antony would like to thank everyone who supported them at the Kavali on Monday 27 April. They raised over £1000, which will be an amazing help getting them to European championships in Germany and world inclusive sailing championships in Portugal. A special thank you to Kavali for all their help and support.

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden



As I write this at the end of April, I look out on my front garden, missing the birds. I have taken down the feeder, as advised by the RSPB. This is to prevent the spread of the highly contagious disease *trichomonosis*, between 1 May and 31 October.

Thank you to all those who supported us at the Fritillary Tea Rooms; funds raised matched last year and thank you to all those who came to help plant up the summer lamp post baskets. You may have noticed that St Sampson's flower beds and those at Saxon's Rest are looking bare. This is because we are doing some major replanting in the autumn – meanwhile we are working on them to be weed free.

Tickets for our annual performance by the Mikron Theatre are available for purchase at £16 from the Town Hall Office. This year's production is called 'Wensleydale Whey, The Great Cheese Quest'.

What else can we gardeners do to help the bird population in the summer? Plant teasels for seed feeders and put a bell on your cat to reduce by a third the 50 million birds they are estimated to kill in the UK every year (*David Attenborough, Secret Garden*).

Cricklade Memory Café

As I write this, we have been enjoying some glorious weather, and a bonus is that 'North Meadow' has reopened allowing us to enjoy the beautiful fritillaries.



The first half of the year has been a busy time for us, welcoming new members and visitors. Sadly, we have recently lost two members who joined us at our very first café back in February 2024. They helped shape the café to what it is today and are greatly missed.

In May we enjoyed the company of some 'young' friends from Thames Pre-school; they are always a delight and bring lots of smiles, a real 'tonic' for us all.

We have a varied programme planned throughout the year and hope to run an outing in the summer.

We are able to welcome people with any type of memory change and also carers and family members. We start the morning with a cuppa, cake, chat and run a raffle. Sometimes we have visitors and usually finish the morning with music, singing and dancing which is always popular.

We meet new people at the door to ensure they feel welcome and supported in finding somewhere to sit and make introductions.

If you would like to join us, come along to the Town Hall Annexe on the first Wednesday of the month, 10.30 to 12.30. We look forward to meeting you.

For further information, support, please contact Vona 07896 723 794.

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

7 June

Trinity 1

- 8am Holy Communion at St Sampson's
- 10am Holy Communion at Holy Cross
- 10am Morning Worship at St Sampson's with music group & children's activities in church
- 10am Morning Worship at St John the Baptist, Latton
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

14 June

Trinity 2

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion at St Sampson's

21 June

Trinity 3

- 8am Holy Communion + breakfast at St Sampson's
- 10am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Latton
- 10 am Morning Worship at St Sampson's
- 10am Informal Morning Worship "Around the Table" at Holy Cross
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

28 June

Trinity 4

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP at Holy Cross
- 10am Holy Communion at St Sampson's
- 10am Morning Worship at St John the Baptist, Latton

Thursday morning prayers in St Sampson's:

8.30am for coffee & catch up, prayers from 8.45 and finish by 9.30am.

Everyone is welcome.

Zoom Monday morning prayers – contact David Tarr

The Upper Thames Benefice

Cricklade St Sampson's, Latton St John the Baptist, Ashton Keynes Holy Cross and the Leigh All Saints

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Canon Debbie Dewes - email: vicar@upperthames.org.uk tel: 01793 752718

Associate Vicar: Revd Shirley Danby - email: revdshirleyd@gmail.com tel. 07980 548844

Parishes Administrator: Jane Eyles - email: admin@upperthames.org.uk tel: 01793 979304

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Funerals

9 April Joan Stubbs at St Sampson's

St Sampson's Bell Ringers

From the new year, St Sampson's bell ringers practice night has moved from Wednesday to Monday evening 7.45 to 9pm.

Also we welcome new recruits. If you are interested, please contact Brian Danby: bdanby21@gmail.com

2r in Cricklade & Latton

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times 9.30am on Sundays
10.00am on Fridays

For notices please see the noticeboard on the railings of St Mary's.
Parish website www.stthomasparishfairford.org.uk.

Father Michael Robertson can be contacted on 01285 712586 or by email *michael.Robertson@cliftondiocese.com*

The Friends of St Mary's website with more details of the history of the church is at www.crickladedstmary.org.uk

Cricklade United Church

Calcutt Street, Cricklade

Minister: Revd Sarah Simpson, tel. 01666 826866, Email: sarahsimpson14@btinternet.com

As a United Reformed / Methodist Church, we are part of the URC North West Wiltshire Pastorate and the Upper Thames Methodist Circuit. Please have a look at our website for all the current information regarding our services, dates, times and other events.
crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk

Sunday morning services during June - all at 10.30am

7 Jun Rev Sarah Simpson

14 Jun Rev Sarah Simpson – service includes Holy Communion and this will be Sarah's last service with us before her retirement on 30 June.

21 Jun Rev Shirlyn Toppin

28 Jun Mike Dearsley

Bounce and Rhyme

Bounce and Rhyme - a group for babies and toddlers plus their parents, grandparents and carers takes place every fortnight at the United Church Hall in Calcutt Street from 1.45pm - 3pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

The dates this month are **2 June** and **16 June**

Do come along for nursery rhymes, story time, refreshments and a chat. There is no charge we are delighted to welcome you.

Cricklade Breastfeeding Friends

We run at the same time as Bounce and Rhyme alongside the free music group to offer friendly supportive infant feeding and parenting advice. We're non-judgemental and offer a safe space to talk about anything on your mind and signpost to other services and resources to help. A private space is available to talk in confidence.

Friday Coffee Cafe

All welcome to come along to the weekly Coffee Cafe **each Friday** at the Cricklade United Church Hall, Calcutt Street from 10am to 11.30am. Come along for a coffee and a chat.

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



We enjoyed an excellent meal at Kavali in April and raised much needed funds towards our church refurbishment project. Many thanks to the Kavali staff and to all who supported us on the night.

A huge thank-you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events or donated towards St Sampson's Church's new heating system. We have had numerous delays in getting the new electric boiler switched on! We appreciate your patience when the church has been even colder than normal!

Our next steps are:

- Installing PV panels and batteries later this year to help offset some of the costs of electric heating and as part of our commitment to sustainability. We are in the process of applying for permissions. The PV panels will not be visible from the ground.
- Raising funds to repair the North Aisle and North Transept roofs so they are watertight before we start on the internal refurbishment.

Fundraising target for the roofs: £200,000 (includes contractors, materials, scaffolding, professional fees, and VAT, which we now need to pay on everything because the Listed Building VAT Reclaim Scheme has unfortunately finished.) There are grants we can apply for but we need to have raised 50% of the funds first.

Thank you in advance for your support for our fundraising events and for your donations. We are very grateful.

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the April 2026 draw was Nigel Massey who won £33.
St Sampson's Church benefited by £66.

To join the 100 Club, contact Sharon Smith: tel. 751375 or email
sharonjsmith54@hotmail.com

How to give: Cash or cheques (made payable to St Sampson's PCC No. 2 Account) in the donations box in church or send to Adina Grace (Church Warden and Treasurer), 24 North Wall, Cricklade, SN6 6DU. For further details please contact Adina on 01793 380583 or email janda.grace447@outlook.com

Online donations can be made by scanning the QR code (right) or visiting donate.giveasyoulive.com.



Cricklade Foodbank

Open every Friday 10am to 11.30am in the Jenner Hall, Bath Road

If you are in particular difficulty, please call the Helpline (01666 826982) and speak to a volunteer.

For those able to get there, please remember to ring ahead of your arrival, so they will be expecting you.

Our donation boxes are in their normal places: Tesco, pet shop, Culverhay Stores, Town Council Office, St Sampson's School (during term times) and the local churches.



St Sampson's Church ***Tower Open***

Saturday
6 June & 5 Sept
2pm-4pm

Enjoy the wonderful views
of Cricklade and beyond



Cakes
& drinks
available



Please make a donation for the church appeal. Note: weather dependent. There are 120 steps. Proper shoes required. Minimum age: 8.



SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Mount House, 23 High Street, Cricklade

Sunday 21st June 2026 • 1pm – 5pm

BBQ, Cream Teas & Live Music

Children's Activity Area & Garden Tours

Craft Stalls & Live Auction – 3.30pm

Tickets in Advance: £10 Adults • £5 Children (6-12) • Under 5s Free

Includes garden entry and BBQ

Tickets available from Animal Fayre, Cricklade Town

Council Office, St. Mary's RC Church

Anita Barrett – 07540 328281

Cricklade Garden Club

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall Annexe. Tea and cakes are served from 7pm. Speaker starts at 7.30.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 9 June** when our speaker is Nicola Hope. Her talk is entitled:

No Dig and Polyculture

We are delighted to welcome Nicola back. All who heard her talk last year will remember her as an inspirational speaker. She is an enthusiastic vegetable gardener and will convey that enthusiasm and knowledge to inspire all of us, even those with the smallest gardens, to grow our own vegetables. We hope she will assure us that with the "No Dig" philosophy, this means no more back breaking, double digging in heavy clay soils. Allotment holders, do come along and give us the benefit of your own practical experience in growing vegetables.

Our Plant Fair on 23 May was, as always, a great occasion with lots of plants and lots of happy customers!

For information about the club, upcoming events and trips please look at our excellent website www.crickladegardenclub.org.uk

Membership is £25 p.a. We are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies (www.gfgs.org.uk)

Visitors welcome at £5 a session – come and give us a try. Queries to Bizzie 07876 347 973 or Janet 07765 276 534.

We look forward to seeing you!



Kavali
RESTAURANT

In aid of Royal British Legion, Cricklade Branch

Kavali Curry Night

Monday 22nd June 2026
at 7pm

QUIZ, RAFFLE & LOTS MORE
£25* per person

* to include Quiz & Raffle. Drinks extra

PLEASE CONTACT
Di and Cherryl on 01793 751683

Royal British Legion Curry Evening at Kavali On Monday 22 June at 7pm

Please do come along and support your local British Legion Branch.

You don't need to be a member or even have any connection to the military. Just come along and bring your friends for a good social evening.

Tickets are £25 and that will include the 2-course meal, raffle tickets and a quiz.

Tickets are available from Di and Cherryl on 01793 751683. (Please do not try to book direct with the restaurant.)

Bingo4U

Come along on Wednesday afternoons at the Jenner Hall – anyone welcome.

£2 entry. Eyes down at 2pm.

Contacts: Chris 07500 871 680 or Liz 07780 473 024

Beautiful choral music with instrumental accompaniment in the atmospheric setting of St Sampson's Church.

RUTTER'S REQUIEM

PLUS FAURÉ'S CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE

*Directed by Mark Lee, Director of Music
at Bristol Cathedral*

27th June 2026 at 5pm
St Sampson's Church, Cricklade

Tickets available from
Ticketsource
or scan the QR code



£12 (to include a glass
of wine/soft drink)

Cricklade W.I.

We hope you all enjoyed visiting us at the Coffee Morning at the Plant Sale last month.



Lots of events in the offing now summer is here in Cricklade we are so lucky to live here, and on that subject Cricklade WI has plenty to offer. May saw us enjoy a fascinating talk by Kady Chapman from the Bradford on Avon branch of Saxon Riding for the Disabled. They provide therapeutic horse riding for adults and children with physical and learning disabilities. This includes dressage, endurance events and show jumping and the charity is completely run by volunteers. Fascinating insight into the good work they do.

Thursday 18 June at 7.30pm will see a talk from Margie Hoffnung about Historical Landscapes. Margie completed a Horticulture degree after working at Westonbirt Arboretum. She worked with Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House. (Rosemary was a wonderful gardener who wrote many books, I always remember seeing her in the garden in twin set and pearls, fabulous rings and hands deep in the compost). Margie also worked at Highgrove and manned stalls at Chelsea and Hampton Court. The talk will cover the pressure historic landscapes are under from all kinds of issues however there are many ways to overcome these problems and Margie will present the broader view. This event is open to guests at £5 a head (to include refreshments and delicious cake!) Doors open at 7pm.

July will see members enjoy a craft evening led by one of our very talented members.

Coffee & Chat takes place on the first Tuesday of every month the next two are on Tuesday 2 June and Tuesday 7 July at 11am – everyone welcome.

We also have several outings arranged for members over the coming months.

So ladies if you are interested in giving the Cricklade WI a visit, please speak to one of our members or contact our secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or viennetomkins@btinternet.com. There is always fun, friendship and of course cake at all our meetings.

Cricklade Art Group

Cricklade Art Group welcomes you to our 20th Anniversary Summer Exhibition. There will be a wide range of art on display, from those starting out on their artistic journey, to our more established artists. Please come along and enjoy the artwork along with homemade cakes.



Summer Exhibition 2026

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June 2026
10am to 4pm at Cricklade Town Hall
Free entry. All are welcome

To learn more about the Cricklade Art Group, and the artwork likely to be on display, please visit our website www.crickladeart.co.uk or www.facebook.com/CrickladeArtGroup.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe from 7.30pm-9.30pm Contact crickladeartgroup@gmail.com for further information.

Sing 4/4 Community Choir presents

The music of

**Stage
and
Screen**

**SATURDAY 11TH JULY
7.00PM**

**Join us for an evening of varied music
featured in film & TV, and some favourites
from the stage!**

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PURTON
3 CHURCH END, PURTON, SWINDON SN5 4EB

TICKETS £8.50

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

UNDER 12S FREE

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CRICKLADE TOWN
COUNCIL OFFICES, PIPS CAFE IN PURTON, CHOIR
MEMBERS, AND ON THE DOOR.
RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
PURTON.**

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM
www.singfourfour.org.uk

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- **Sinusitis (Adults & Children aged 12 years and over)**
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- **Earache (Children & young Adults aged 1 year to 17 years)**
- **Infected Insect Bites (Adults & Children aged 1 and over)**
- **Impetigo (Adults & Children aged 1 year and over)**
- **Shingles (Adults 18 years and over)**
- **Urinary Tract Infections (Women aged 16 to 64 years)**

So, if you or a family member have any of the above symptoms, please come in and speak to our Pharmacist. They will be there to offer help, advice and possible treatment. There is no need to make an appointment.

Our Pharmacy team can also offer NHS services for the following:



NHS Blood Pressure Check : For anyone over the age of 40 years, and with no previous high blood pressure history or diagnosis.



NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: You can get your oral contraception medication without the need to visit the GP.

Boots in Cricklade is more than just a place to pick up medications. We are a community resource, committed to supporting your health and wellbeing. Whether you need a quick consultation or just friendly advice, we are always here to help.

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Cricklade Petanque Club

Our pistes are at Cricklade Hotel and Spa, SN6 6HA

Although pétanque is played all the year round, with the arrival of summer there is a definite buzz on the piste. With many of our members playing both in our internal competitions and external competitions, not to mention the fiendish singles ladder, the club is a hive of activity.

We look forward to hosting the Pétanque England National Junior Doubles Competition this month. Although our club membership tends to be more mature in age we have recently been delighted to welcome some young people who have really enjoyed the game. If there are any young people in the area who would like to have a go please come up on one of our regular playing days or ring Helen (07976 546 825) who is one of our DBS checked PE registered coaches.

If you would like to have a go at pétanque, do come and join us ... we have spare boules available! You will be welcome on any of our playing days as below.

Our playing days are: Mon 2 - 4.30pm Tue 7 - 9.30pm
Wed 2 - 4.30pm Sat 10am - 12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are: Wed 10 - 11.30am (ladies) Fri 10 - 11.30am (mixed)

Please arrive 10 minutes before start to avoid delays in play!

www.crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk Facebook Cricklade Petanque Club

email: info@crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk

Cricklade Bowls Club

We hold our regular Club Nights every Friday during the summer season. If you would like to join us to see what the game is about, just pop along. We have social roll-ups starting from 6pm. It's best if you come around 5.45pm so we can sort out teams and coaching.



You will find us at the Bath Road green, next door to the Fire Station, and opposite St Sampson's school. We have a Coach, fully qualified with Bowls England, who will show you how to play and we have spare bowls you can use. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes on the green itself.

First year membership costs £20. Full membership thereafter is £85 p.a.

For more information about the club, please contact:

Roy Phillips (Secretary) roy2308@btinternet.com or 07751 201 793

Paul Coleman (Men's Captain) colemanpaul1@hotmail.com

Margaret Essex (Ladies' Captain) margaret.essex@sky.com

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Cricklade Historical Society

Friday 5 June – Evening Walk – 7pm

A walk to discover our transport links on land, rail and water.

The walk will start at Saxon's Rest, Waylands and finish at the Museum, where refreshments will be available.

Wednesday 17 June – Extraordinary Wiltshire Women.

Speaker – Ruth Butler.

Ruth will tell us the story of Wiltshire women who have shaped our county and nation's history – from Medieval heiress Ela of Salisbury to 20th century queen of speed, the Hon. Mary Bruce, via pioneering writers, campaigners and educators.

All meetings are held at the Town Hall Annexe, doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments available from 7.15pm.

Cricklade Camera Club

Are you interested in photography, or do you just want to take better photographs?



If so, why not come along to Cricklade Camera Club. Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome – you don't even need a camera. Everyone is welcome. Come and try us out, your first evening is FREE. To help you improve your photography, you will have the option to work with a mentor on a one-to-one basis. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website crickladecameraclub.org/program

On **Tuesday 2 June** at 7pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe, is the Club's Annual Competition. Members will have entered digital and printed images in a variety of genres, and they will be assessed by an external judge on the night. Even if you haven't entered any images, come along; it's a great way to learn what makes a great photograph.

Look out for posters advertising the Cricklade Photo Competition this summer – open to all ages.

For more details see the website crickladecameraclub.org

Over the summer there will be several opportunities to meet up and go on photography days out. Check the website to find out more.

For more information contact: clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org

Cricklade Computer Club

On the first 'working' Monday of the month, we will be available from 10am to 12 noon in the Leisure Centre café. We try to help anyone with problems with computers, tablets, phones etc. We are volunteers and there is no charge for any help we are able to give you.

Even if you have no particular problems, you could always pop in for a coffee, a cake and just a general chat!

Roger Heafield

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Come and join us at Saxons Pétanque Club

Whether you're after a relaxed social afternoon or a competitive match, Saxons Pétanque Club has a place for you. We welcome everyone from seasoned pros to complete beginners, with four qualified coaches available to show you the ropes and plenty of spare boules to borrow. If you enjoy the game, full membership is a bargain at just £25 for the year.

You'll find us playing on the gravel pistes directly in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre on:

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm

Saturdays at 10am

Wednesday evenings at 7pm (May to August)

Please arrive 10 minutes early so we can get you settled.

Just pop over to say hello, check our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit saxonspetanque.co.uk for more information.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

We are looking forward to our forthcoming group meetings when the following talks will take place.

11 Jun *Nick Baxter*: From Slave Trade to Parliament

25 Jun *Brian Barber*: UN Peacekeepers – Not Fit for Purpose



Meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday meeting at 10.00 am for a 10.20 start at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group who enjoy keeping our minds active and socialising over a drink in the bar after the meetings. We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and look forward to welcoming new members to the Club.

For further information about our local club please contact the Honorary Secretary, Martin Chambers on 01793 751223. If you contact Martin and advise you would like to attend, which is free for the first few visits, you will be allocated a dedicated host who will introduce you to our members. Or just turn up on the day for a warm welcome.

For further details about Cricklade and District Probus Club and our scheduled talks for the year visit our new website at probus.org.uk/cricklade



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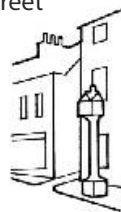
The Chronicle Diary – June 2026

- | | | | |
|----|----|---|--|
| 1 | M | 10am | to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre |
| | | 7pm | Town Council PC&T Committee, Council Chamber |
| | | <i>end of day</i> Chronicle copy deadline | |
| 2 | Tu | 1.45pm | to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 3 | W | 10.30am | to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe |
| 5 | F | 7pm | Historical Society guided walk from Saxon's Rest – see page 44 |
| 6 | Sa | 2pm | to 4pm: St Sampson's Church Tower Open |
| 8 | M | 7pm | Town Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber |
| 9 | Tu | 7pm | <i>speaker 7.30pm:</i> Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 11 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| 13 | Sa | 11am | 12 noon 1st race: Duck Races from Thames Bridge – page 21 |
| 16 | Tu | 1.45pm | to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Art Group at Town Hall Annexe |
| 17 | W | 10.30am | to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa |
| | | 7.15pm | for 7.30pm start: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe |
| 18 | Th | 7.30pm | Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe |
| 21 | Su | | Summer Solstice – longest day |
| | | 1pm | to 5pm: Friends of St Mary's Summer Garden Party – see page 28 |
| 22 | M | 7pm | Royal British Legion Curry Evening at Kavali – see page 29 |
| | | 7pm | Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber |
| 25 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| 27 | Sa | 10am | Coffee Morning for Prospect Hospice, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 10am | to 4pm: Cricklade Art Group Summer Exhibition, Town Hall |
| | | 7pm | The Wessex Summer Concert at Christ Church, Swindon – see page 4 |
| 28 | Su | 10am | to 4pm: Cricklade Art Group Summer Exhibition, Town Hall |
| 29 | M | 7pm | Town Council PC&T Committee, Council Chamber |

Every Week

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall
 Wednesday (2-4pm), Saturday (10am-noon) Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| M | 7.45-9pm | St Sampson's Bellringers |
| Tu | 6.30pm | Cricklade Walking Group - from Cricklade Leisure Centre |
| | 7-8pm | Rugby Mixed Tag at Fairview Fields |
| W | 1.45 for 2pm | Bingo4U at Jenner Hall |
| Th | 10 - 11.30am | Acorn Community Bank: in Tourist Information Office |
| | 1.30-4.30pm | The Paint Palette: Ladies' Art Group at Town Hall Annexe |
| | 7-8.30pm | Senior men's rugby training at Fairview Fields |
| | 7-10pm | The Cricklade Band rehearsal night, at Town Hall, visitors welcome |
| | 7.30-9.30pm | Sing Four Four choir rehearsal at United Church, Calcutt Street |
| F | 9.30am | Cricklade Walking Group - from Waylands/Saxons Rest |
| | 10-11.30am | Cricklade Foodbank at Jenner Hall |
| | 10-11.30am | Coffee Cafe at Cricklade United Church Hall |
| | 7pm | St Sampson's church choir rehearsal |



Moon Phases

June 2026

8th ☉

15th ●

21st ☾

30th ○

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The Final Word ...

Some years ago when I was Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, I used to go to club night reasonably regularly and a member called Bob would always come and ask me what I wanted to drink – I would reply a half of grapefruit and lemonade please (I don't really do alcohol – I don't like it). Bob would ALWAYS bring me a pint. And when I asked why his reply was 'God never made a half of anything'.

So here we are halfway through the year and I wonder what feels unfinished, or still to do in this year? With what hopes and dreams did you start the year?

It may be that whatever it is you thought you might do is already done, and doesn't that feel good?! Ticked off on the list. Job done.

It may be ongoing – I'm going to read more, scroll on my phone less, walk more, garden little and often, not eat so many... (You can fill in the blank!). In which case, at this halfway point it might be good to have a look and see how that ongoing choice is going.

It may be, and this is just real life, that whatever it was you hoped to do, be or try, has simply slipped out of reach because of time constraints, health issues, finances or whatever. And now is the moment to look at that goal and maybe move the goalposts to something more possible.

Whatever it is, God never made a half of anything, so let us be sure, at this halfway point of the year, to love to the full. As Jesus said in John 10v10, 'I came that you might have life and have it in abundance.'

Abundant life, no half measures.

Revd Canon Debbie Dewes, Vicar, Upper Thames Group



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