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Welcome from the Editor

Exciting news, folks! It's a Leap Year!

I know it might seem like a weird thing, but adding an extra day every four years is simply to keep our calendar aligned correctly with the astronomical seasons. As you know, a year in our calendar has 365 days, whereas a year of our earth travelling around the sun is approximately 365.25 days. So you can see that without the 29 February every four years our calendar and the seasons would gradually get out of sync.

You might think it's even weirder that I'm getting excited about a leap year, but the way I see it we get the joy of an extra day. A whole 24-hours bonus.

So what will you do with your extra day?

In times past, 29 February was also known as 'Ladies Privilege' as it was the one day when women were free to propose to men... so now's your chance, girls! Or maybe the sun will shine and you'll get out and about since, according to folklore, the weather always

changes on Friday in a leap year. Maybe that'll give you farmers some hope. You even have one extra day to read this issue of LINK magazine!

I'm going to plan to do something lovely, something that means 29 February 2024 isn't just another ordinary day. Why don't you join me and make the day count by meeting up with someone you've not seen for a while? Or maybe take a new route home from work or shopping, surprise a stranger with a gift, or start a new hobby. Whatever it is, let it be joyful.

And happy birthday to you leaplings (people who are born on 29 February)! Are there any of you out there?



Rachael

Front Cover image: Staff at TT Linnets say farewell, story page 5. Keith Davidson Photography

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For more information and tickets contact
Ken Winslow
Email: rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com
Phone: 07710 22697

An event organised jointly by the Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown and the Inner Wheel Club of North Wiltshire. All the proceeds will go to **Wiltshire Treehouse (Reg charity No. 1159719)** which offers bereavement support for children and young people in Swindon & Wiltshire. Wiltshire Treehouse believes every child and young person should have access to support during their grieving process. It enables those in our local communities to improve the coping strategies, skills and confidence needed to better manage daily life.

FIRST THOUGHTS

Winner!....

You need never fail! You can always be ultimately victorious. That sounds presumptuous, but this is a revelation from the One who built this universe. Read this: 'Now thanks be to God who *always leads us in triumph in Christ...*' (2 Corinthians 2:14)

God wants you to ultimately triumph in every situation in your life, but He does that by leading you. If you want to be on your own rather than being led by God then this article is not for you. However, if you are willing to be led by God then this is exciting! No one can lead you unless they have your mind focused on them and that's exactly what God asks of us, to focus our minds on Him and not our problems. Consider this:

'You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.' (Isaiah 26:3)

The word translated peace is the Hebrew shalom. It implies welfare, health, joy and prosperity. God will do this if we stay (focus) our minds on Him. Staying your mind on God is achieved by constant meditation on

scripture. To meditate is to mull over something, in this case the scriptures.

You are what you think. If your thoughts are gloomy, griping, and grumbling you will get the corresponding results! However, if you spend time reading the scriptures and meditating on them God guarantees you ultimate victory.

Let me close with this scripture:

'...But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree... And whatever he does shall prosper.' (Psalm 1:2-3)

Meditating on God's word produces faith, obedience, prayer, and power.

Happy New Year.

*Rev'd Joseph Riberio
Highworth Methodist Church*

Success for Highworth Cider Project

Thank you to everyone who bought cider and cider vinegar at the 2023 Christmas Light Switch on. We sold so much cider that we were able to buy a second-hand 40-litre press and replace the rubber bladder in our 80-litre press, plus we made a donation of £150 to the Highworth Community Shed

Richard, Cecilia and Zara presented the cheque to Sue (Chair) and Gary (Shed Manager) who explained that the donation would alleviate the pressure of covering higher insurance costs and other Shed outgoings.

Watch out for us selling cider at the May Day festival and check out Highworth Shed's Facebook page and Eventbrite for courses running now.

If you wish to make an order for cider just scan the QR code to find us. If you know of any events where we can have a stall, then let us know – more cider sales means more community money!



Highworth Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1 February, 7:30pm, at Warneford School where Anna Steven will be our demonstrator, speaking on 'Seasonal Splendour'.

Doors open at 7pm with plenty of space for parking in the school car park. Visitors are welcome at an entry price of £5 and we look forward to welcoming you.

07798 817249 (Michelle)
www.highworthflowerclub.co.uk

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or visit
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Farewell to a Highworth Gem

I have had occasion to photograph many emotional events over the past years, but this must be among the saddest of those.

Highworth has been fortunate, for the past six years, to have been home to one of the most welcoming social venues that I have ever known. Not just what I consider to be the best coffee served in Highworth, but a place for meeting and socialising with a wide variety of people. From the warm welcome to the large, shared space tables, this has been a major part of Highworth's heartbeat.

I refer, or course, to TT Linnets. A gem of a place which sadly closed its doors for the last time on 30 December 2023. I can't quite put my finger on it but, for some reason, this place just worked. Whether it was the coffee, the cake, the décor, or the atmosphere engendered by just the right mix of staff, I don't know. But it simply did. A clientele from across the social



scale met and chatted in a most relaxed atmosphere whilst succumbing to the contents of the cake cabinet or the waft of warm cheese and ham croissants coming from the kitchen.

Lindsay built a superb team of baristas for whom nothing was too much trouble. Kelsey, Marie, Caleb, Summer, and Sophie, ably supported by Brian. Always a friendly greeting and, even in the busiest of times, a smile and a look that made you feel as though you were the only customer being served.

I first heard of the impending closure back in July and was optimistic that a buyer could be found to keep the heart beating. Sadly, this has not happened, and we must thank and say goodbye to Lindsay and her crew, wishing them all the absolute best for the future.

Perhaps, by the time this goes to print, I will have had a lottery win and bought this beating heart!

Keith Davidson Photography



Snowdrops at Cotswold Farm

Join us for our Open Weekend from Saturday 17 to Sunday 18 February, 11am to 3pm.

We are also open every Monday, 11am to 3pm, throughout February.

Cotswold Farm is a beautiful Cotswolds Arts and Crafts garden in a stunning location overlooking a quiet valley on descending levels with a terrace designed by Norman Jewson in the 1930s. We have an established snowdrop collection with over 80 varieties, named and naturalised, in the borders and along the woodland paths. A winter step garden with

scents and textures leads down to the magical bog garden with streams and waterfalls.

£7.50 adult entrance (cash or contactless), children can enter free of charge. Refreshments are available and snowdrop bulbs can be purchased.

Additional Open Garden Weekends in 2024 include 1 and 2 June, and 31 August to 1 September.

Supporting National Garden Scheme (NGS) and A Rocha.

Swindon and District Samaritans Turn Blues into Brews

Brew Monday is a Samaritans takeover of Blue Monday – the third Monday in January which is often dubbed the most difficult day of the year (although there's no scientific evidence to back this up). We're encouraging everyone to get together for cuppa and a catch-up at any time, not just in January.

At Samaritans we know there's no such thing as Blue Monday and that feeling low isn't just reserved for Mondays, so we're saying out with the blue and in with the brew!

For Brew Monday 2024, Swindon and District Samaritans is inviting everyone to hold a Brew Monday to catch up over a cuppa – it's such a lovely way to check in with the people you care about. It doesn't matter if it's a Monday morning or a Saturday night, or if you're drinking green tea, black coffee or orange juice! It also doesn't matter if you catch up in person, virtually, or over the phone. If you're sharing a cuppa and listening, then you're helping to make a difference in beating the winter blues.



As well as reaching out to family and friends for a cuppa and a chat it's also possible to raise vital funds for Swindon and District Samaritans to help ensure there's always someone there for anyone who's going through a tough time.

People can donate whatever feels right to them. If they want to, they can bring their own cuppa and cake whilst donating what it usually costs. A donation of £5 is all it takes to cover the costs of Samaritans answering a call for help.

If you need to know more, please reach out: swindon@samaritans.org

Samaritans are always here every hour of every day of the year – talk to us any time you like, in your own way, about whatever's getting to you.

Telephone 116 123 – calls are free
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Highworth Climate Talks

The Future of Food

As a country we rely on a complex collection of farmers, importers, distributors, and retailers to feed us all. In our next talk, What might a sustainable food system look like? Local organic farmer Jamie Carr will argue that this is not only a fragile arrangement which promotes short-term profit over long-term health and sustainability but that there are lots of better ways forward.

Drawing on over ten years of working in the organic vegetable industry, he will lead discussion on topics such as short supply chains, how much land do we really need to feed everyone and, crucially, how much will all this cost? We will also cover how different systems have radically different outcomes for the planet and what might happen if we don't change soon.

We will meet on **Thursday 22 February** at Highworth Methodist Church on Lechlade Road, Highworth, from 7:30pm to 9pm. There is limited parking, refreshments are available, and it is free to attend the talks.

Helen Harris



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However, it may well be worth using the HMRC benchmark rates for employees/directors who are required to travel abroad. These benchmark rates give the daily rates for food and accommodation (not travel costs) that you can claim, without needing to keep receipts. The benchmark rates, for various cities/countries, are available on the HMRC website.

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Start a New Year, a New Hobby or a New Skill

With the start of a new year, many people make New Year resolutions to realise a personal goal. If this is something that appeals to you, how about starting a new hobby or learn more about your local history?

The National Trust's Buscot and Coleshill Estate SN6 7PT, which has only recently been fully opened to visitors, is within easy local reach of Faringdon, Highworth and Lechlade.

One of the biggest draws for visitors to Coleshill is the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre showcasing expert craftspeople who can teach people about the skills that created and restored great houses and estates like Coleshill. This is where you can start the new year with a new hobby or learn more about bygone heritage conservation skills with a beginner's or hobbyist's course on blacksmithing, lime plastering or carving (wood or stone).

Tom Ball is one of the Estate's expert craftspeople and a Lead Woodcarving Lecturer at City and Guilds of London Art School. In November 2023, he won the Heritage Crafts Woodworker of the Year Award 2023

and received his £2,000 prize and trophy at a presentation at St George's College, Windsor Castle.

Coleshill's Old Carpenters Yard – aptly named for the trade that was historically carried on here – features a

second-hand bookshop, café and welcome centre. The bookshop offers a wealth of interesting pre-loved books where book lovers can easily spend a whole day browsing round the well-stocked shelves. The newly renovated café has recently been taken over by Blakes Kitchen, well-known for baking their own bread every day and offering delicious sweets and savouries.

The Buscot and Coleshill Estate is somewhere new to go for coffee, breakfast or lunch, sign up for a new hobby or skill, or have an enjoyable family day out.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/oxfordshire-buckinghamshire-berkshire/heritage-and-rural-skills-centre



Tom Ball, woodworker



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Celebrations for Southfield Girls' Team

Against stiff opposition from girls' football teams from Swindon primary schools, Southfield Girls smashed through to earn their place in the Wiltshire tournament where they will play against teams from around the county.

The girls' training has paid off and they are so excited to be representing Swindon as they move forward in the tournament. A mix of year 5 and year 6 students, the girls say the best thing about football is the fun they have and working as a team. Training once or twice a week with Neil, their 'Inspired Football' coach, the girls were quick to praise him explaining, 'He's different to other coaches. He's calm, not mean!'

Head of School Mrs O'Sullivan said, 'This is the first all-girls team Southfield have had in almost 20 years. We're so proud of all our students and the whole school is backing our girls' team as they head to the next part of the tournament.'

'Southfield isn't a competitive school, we're not trying to be better than each other. We all get to be part of a



Photograph: Neil George

game and win together,' said one player. 'And don't be scared to play football.' ('Cos you can beat the boys!')

Special thanks to Richard James estate agents for kindly sponsoring the school football kit which both the girls and mixed teams love wearing to represent Southfield.

Fairford and District Choral Society Delight Audience

The concert on Saturday 2 December 2023 took us on a journey through oratorio excerpts through the ages. With helpful and carefully researched introductions to each item read by James Chute, the choir treated us to music ranging from Vivaldi, Bach, and Handel to Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Fauré.

The contrasting styles and moods made for a pleasingly varied programme and the choir's enthusiasm transmitted itself to the audience, despite the temperature in the church. The choir's conductor, Marysia Gorska-Saj, in this her final concert, did much to encourage the musical lines, and careful attention had been paid to speeds and dynamics.



Ian Crabbe

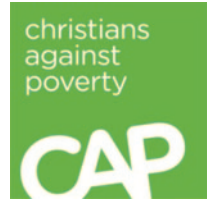


Marysia Gorska-Saj

The choir was ably accompanied by organist Ian Crabbe who contributed further variety with solos by Bach and César Franck. The final item, a spirited rendition of the Hallelujah chorus brought the evening to a rousing conclusion. The smiles told of a concert well received.

Colin Dowdeswell

Five Ways to Change Your Mindset on Money and Reclaim Control



Build a budget

We all have so many things to pay for and with a mix of bills, food, treats, subscriptions and unexpected costs, managing money can feel overwhelming at times. Building a budget can help you see your financial situation more clearly, meaning you'll be able to make decisions about where to cut costs and feel more in control. There are lots of free budgeting resources and tips available online, including www.capuk.org/budgeting.

Talk to others

Struggling with money can be an extremely isolating experience. This can become a vicious cycle as we're less likely to seek help and support when we feel alone. By sharing our worries and experiences with another person, we start to take back control and lessen the burden that we've been carrying alone. If you'd rather speak to someone impartial, you might find it useful to contact an organisation such as Samaritans (call 116123) or SHOUT (text 85258).

Set goals

Having a goal to work towards can make us feel more

positive. Even a small amount of progress bit-by-bit gives us something to celebrate and feel proud of. Choose an aim that's realistic, such as saving up to go out for a meal or buying a new pair of shoes, and remember to set a new goal once you've smashed it!

Have fun for free

There are tons of free and cheap activities and days out available in communities across the UK. Find out what events are going on at your local church, and keep an eye on www.capuk.org/blog where you can find useful tips and tricks throughout the year.

Get support

Everyone needs help at times. It's nothing to be embarrassed or ashamed about. If you're struggling with your finances, support is available for free from a range of charities and organisations including Christians Against Poverty (CAP). CAP provides expert debt advice, guidance on finding work and money education. To find out more, see www.capuk.org/help.

Carols on the Podium

Undeterred by the looming rainclouds, crowds gathered in Highworth's Market Place for an outdoor community carol service in late December. Piloted by Phil Goodey and Matt Ford from Highworth Churches Together, Christmas carols, both traditional and new arrangements, rang out. A special Christmas choir of around 30 people, led by Kathryn Ford, created a joyous event.

Fun and solemnity combined leaving those gathered in no doubt as to the real meaning of Christmas. A member of the crowd commented, 'There was almost a tangible shift in the atmosphere. Something changed when they spoke about what Christmas is all about.'

Photography: Keith Davidson Photography



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Obituary: Wendy Barbara Ratcliffe (1945 to 2023)

Wendy Ratcliffe, who passed away on the 1 October 2023, was well known to many in the town, particularly for her commitment to St. Michael's Church for many years. Her funeral was held on 17 October 2023, led by the Rev'd John Martin, and attended by many former parishioners, friends, and relatives.

When the family moved to Highworth they joined St. Michael's Church and it wasn't long before Wendy was PCC Secretary and an assistant to the vicar, Richard Dent. She was very active in those days with Highworth Churches Together and helped organise the holiday club which was offered to all children in the town in the summer months.

This led to her close friendship with Jean Ashton who persuaded her to help with classroom work in Southfield Junior School. After a few years, Jean guided Wendy to apply for a vacancy in Warneford School to be on the staff as a learning support assistant in a department led by the late Alice Hignett. She later studied at college and qualified to teach after-school classes improving literacy



and numeracy, until her retirement.

Her husband Keith received many cards mentioning Wendy's inspired leading of individual journeys into deeper faith and her deep biblical knowledge and wonderful example of faith in action.

Wendy worked with Arthur Randall to help set up the first Christian bookshop (Lighthouse Bookshop), in those days working in a room above Silk's grocers (which is now Two's Company).

Keith has been supported by his daughters, Jaine and Helen, guiding him through the practical and legal formalities after Wendy's passing. Jean Ashton has also been very helpful at this time.

Wendy will be missed and remembered by many. She faced the end of her earthly life with confidence and peace. She is now with her Saviour in a much better place where we hope to meet her again one day.

Mair Huband

Obituary: Janet Vockins (1933 to 2023)

Janet was born in Southampton to parents Ronald and Ann Gould. Ronald owned Gould's Garage which was unfortunately bombed at the start of WWII, and the loss of his business saw him finding work at Vickers. During this time, the family became somewhat nomadic as Ronald continued to find new jobs and Janet was evacuated to Castle Carey in Somerset, which she really enjoyed.

After the war, Janet's father accepted a full time position as Head of the Flight Shed at Vickers South Marston and so the family moved to Swindon.

As a teenager, Janet attended the Commonweal Grammar School where she met her future husband, Alan. Together they moved to a detached house in Cleeve Lawns, Swindon, and were thrilled to see three of their children (Ian, Susannah and Janetta) born there. Their fourth child, Shaun, was born in Barra Close, Highworth.

In her youth, Janet enjoyed ballet



and keep fit classes, but she particularly loved her car and was known as a courageous driver. Indeed she was very proud of her Advanced Driver Certification status.

Later in life, Janet became an active member of three local choirs and was very keen to serve the community by volunteering as Chair of the Highworth Guides and Brownies, President of the Highworth Evening WI, and as a member of both the South Marston Friendly Club and the Floral Art Society. Whilst living in Sevenhampton, Janet also served as a church warden and was a proud member of The Wrens, being Chair of the Swindon branch for seven years. As a Leading Wren she had served on the Thames in London on HMS President.

Later in life her increasing lack of mobility did not stop her enduring passion for gardening, a pastime which gave her hours of pleasure.

Known as a loyal friend to many and a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Ian Vockins

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Stuart Lloyd Gould Goes Nuts at Westrop School!

We were very lucky to have a local author, Stuart Lloyd Gould (a former Westrop pupil), visit us to share his fabulous book 'Nuts'.

We loved finding out about all the animal characters including a Squirrel, Otter, Owl, Beaver and Fox. Stuart read us the story and then answered some of our questions about what it is like to be an author.

We are still enjoying Stuart's story book as it's one of our recommended reads in the school library.



New Dates for Shrivenham Park Social Groups

The Social Putting Group enjoyed their Christmas traditional lunch. 15 people sat down to the meal which completed a pleasant morning's entertainment of seasonal music by both the Shrivenham St. Andrew's handbell ringers and Graham Wiltshire, keyboards.

The group is looking forward to the 2024 season when we meet each time from 10am to 12 noon at a cost of £2 each session (includes a hot drink and biscuit or savouries). The dates for the next meetings are 12 and 26 January, 9 and 23 February, and 15 and 22 March. From April the Social Putting Group will be back on the putting green and meeting from 2pm until 4pm. Everyone is welcome. Do come and meet us if you

want to join a new group this year.

Parkies Pals meetings continue to be held at the golf club. The group meets once-a-month on a Tuesday, 10am until 12 noon, at a cost of £3. The upcoming dates are 6 February and 5 March, and newcomers are always welcome.

Carole Lee

Lechlade History Society

On Monday 19 February, our speaker will be Bill King who will tell us the fascinating story of the bicycle, titled 'On Two Wheels'.

The bicycle can be considered as one of the greatest inventions, providing mobility to millions of people across the world and providing the basis for the development of motorcycle and the motorcar. Bill's broad non-technical talk outlines its development over the last 180 years and considers its sociological impact in modern culture as the ecologically-friendly, green alternative for urban travel.

Join us at The Memorial Hall, Lechlade, GL7 3AY, at 7pm (tea and coffee) for a 7:30pm start.

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Busy Christmas for Westrop Primary School Choir

Christmas saw our choir busier than ever with many performances around the Highworth community.

At the end of November, the choir sang at the Highworth Christmas lights switch-on and also gave a performance at the Lechlade Garden Centre. We returned to the WI for

our annual visit to sing at the Methodist Church for their Lunch Together group, entertaining members of the community who enjoyed a meal together. After the performance, the children stayed for a drink and chat with the audience. Another favourite event was singing at Newburgh House – it gave the choir great pleasure to see the residents joining in with their favourite carols. (And it was a bonus being treated to a bag of sweets as a reward too!)

It always adds to the atmosphere when the children sing at our annual school Christmas Fair. The choir performed in the library area where many relatives watched after purchasing refreshments from the staffroom.



Our last event was held by the Highworth and Shrivenham Good Afternoon Choir, with Westrop School Choir as their special guests. The children were able to listen to the adult choir sing before their own performance and then the choirs joined together to sing carols with the audience.

Mrs. Humphreys, choir teacher, said, 'I am so proud of every member of the choir. They have worked hard learning a lot of new songs and their dedication shone at each performance. A big thank to parents too for their continued support – we really couldn't do it without you.'

Highworth and District Probus Club



Our annual Christmas lunch was again held in the Wrag Barn Dining Room with its welcome bar, and members, wives, and friends thoroughly enjoyed a superb menu. It's a bit early for outside trips but our Social Secretary will be busy investigating some exciting purely optional days out.

We have a lot of new talks coming up in 2024. 5 March is 'Artistry of Mosaics' and on 19 March we have 'St. Helena Airport Construction'. Both will be very interesting talks by professional speakers.

We are still inviting retired gentlemen from Blunsdon and Highworth to come and check us out at one of the meetings mentioned above, with no obligation, but hope that you enjoy our club enough to become a member. 14 May will be our annual Ladies Day, so members are pleased to invite wives and partners to enjoy a special day.

Thursday Kitchen St. Michael's Church

All welcome to join us for a hot meal on the 3rd Thursday of each month during 2024 (excluding December), starting on Thursday 18th January 2024

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Knees-up at the Market

Saturday market shoppers and stall holders were delighted to see Chris and Heather Newnham back in action on 16 December with their legendary fruit and vegetable market stall.

We'd missed them for a few weeks while Chris recovered from surgery on his pesky knee. And now he's back!

It's a long day for them driving their van from Somerset to Highworth, via the Bristol Market, in good time to set up for 8am. I've lived here since 1994 and, as far as I can recall, they were trading here then. Over the years they have given countless youngsters their first job.

Chris and Heather, we salute you for the long service you have given us and the tonnes of delicious fresh fruit and vegetables you've put on our tables.

Adrian Young, story and photo



Celebrations, Elves and Authors at Eastrop Infant School

Our Little Acorns recently learned all about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. They had a lot of fun making rangoli using coloured rice as well as diyas (tealight holders). The children loved decorating the nursery and dancing to some music. We used the book *The Best Diwali Ever* to help the children learn about all the various customs used to celebrate Diwali around

the world. We noticed that there are lots of similarities with some of our customs too!

We are really proud of our Shooting Stars who attend our after-school club. This year they decided to become Santa-gram elves

and make gifts and cards to be given to seniors in the community who would not otherwise receive anything at Christmas time. They were visited in late November by a chief elf who officially certified them as Santa-gram elves!

On Wednesday 29 November, Years 1 and 2 had a virtual visit from the author John Dougherty, who spoke to the children about writing stories and books. The children really enjoyed listening to him talk and also had the opportunity to ask him lots of questions. He has written many books which we love at Eastrop, including the Stinkbomb and Ketchup-Face series as well as *There's A Pig Up My Nose!* and *The Hare Shaped Hole*.



The Lighthouse

For many years the Lighthouse Bookshop has been a 'light on the High Street'. It was established in the early 1980s when John Silk, a former Highworthian and son of Jack Silk the grocer, inspired retired butcher, Arthur Randall, to set up a Christian book distribution system for Highworth and the surrounding villages.

Ironically, Arthur was not an avid reader of books but felt a calling to make Christian books readily available to those who did not have easy access to a Christian bookshop. The business was launched from Arthur's spare bedroom and saw mobile bookcases placed in churches around the area. As sales increased, the business was registered in 1983 as a charity, 'The Seekers Light Trust'. As trade improved, Arthur was able to move the base from his house to a room above Silk's grocer's shop in the High Street.

The business continued to grow and in 1990 Arthur retired and handed it over to Tony Chapman. Again, trade increased and in November 1993 ground floor premises were secured at 40 High Street. Customers would travel into Highworth from a wide area, many of them taking the opportunity to spend some money in the local cafés! Still bookcases were being sent out to the village churches and they continued to supply Christian conferences with bookstalls.

When Tony retired, Malcolm and Val Swift took over managing the business. The irony was that Malcolm had become a Christian after reading a book given to him by

Val, called 'A Whole New Ball Game' written by Gerald Williams, the BBC tennis and football commentator. So, in taking on the bookshop, both Val and Malcom knew the potential for people's lives being transformed through reading a Christian book!

Over the years, the Lighthouse has indeed proved to be a real resource for Highworth and the surrounding area. People loved being able to find the latest Christian books and music locally and to obtain a Bible that suited their needs. In addition, the Lighthouse did a roaring trade in greetings cards and gifts, and it always carried a range of materials suitable for children.

Many people came into the shop to post Scout Christmas Cards or to purchase tickets for local events. In addition, the Lighthouse acted as an Information Centre for visitors to the town. Others came into the shop just in need of someone to talk to.

Over the years, the management have been supported by a great team of volunteers.

Sadly, following the Covid epidemic and the decline in the reading of books, sales began to drop. This was not helped by people finding it easier and cheaper to purchase their requirements online.

As a result, the trustees recently took the decision to close the Lighthouse from the 31 January. This is truly an end of the era for an establishment that has been a key part of the High Street for nearly 40 years.

Phil Baker

Highworth Historical Society

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 28 February when our speaker will be Seren Kitchener. Seren is the Project Manager of the National Collections Centre at Wroughton – this is part of the Science Museum, with half a million of their records held there. She will look at the history of the site from its use by the RAF to the present day. The museum will be opening to the general public later in 2024.

For those new to the Highworth, we meet at St. Michael's Hall on Lechlade Road. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Visitors are always very welcome for a small charge of £3 cash on the door. There is always tea and coffee and a display of some of our collection of items. Our books are also on sale.

Many of you will be pleased to know that our popular annual Open Day will be held at Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers on **Saturday 16 March** from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free, but donations are always welcome. Our theme this time is based on our latest book, Highworth Through Time. We are aiming to take you on a journey into Highworth's past through displays and photos. If you have any questions you would like answered, or information about an item that you have found, we will do our best to help you.

More details in next month's Highworth LINK magazine and on our website.

www.highworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk

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Highworth Lights Up

It was a seasonably chilly day as stallholders and townspeople melded together in the centre of Highworth. Along the High Street, the Market Place and in the welcome balminess of St. Michael's Church, shoppers could find the best that local crafters had to offer. Thankfully there was plenty to warm up with as festive cakes, hot savouries and soothing drinks were in abundance. Such friendly joy continued to fill the streets as day made way for the darkness of the evening, and with that arrival came the switching on of the lights!

Mayor Keith Smith did an excellent job of hosting the



whole day from the Podium (special thanks to Mike Wilson for all his technical support with sound) and as a town we thank the team from Highworth Town Council for organising another splendid event.






Photographs: Keith Davidson Photography

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Highworth has been given an exciting opportunity to develop its own community radio show to be broadcast on Swindon 105.5FM.

Are you interested in being involved? Perhaps you have some ideas for programmes. Email Rachael at editor@highworthlink.co.uk with any thoughts, suggestions, or questions and we'll connect you with the team that is putting together a plan.

Schools, businesses, churches and community organisations, this is your chance to get creative! We're looking to promote all the town has to offer, from local shops and businesses to the creativity of school children, nothing is out of the question. Or perhaps you have a talent for recording or producing. Give us a shout – we need your skills!

Highworth is an amazing community and we want the world (or at least Wiltshire) to know!

Testing
Testing
One-Two
One-Two



Scouts Christmas Post

Thanks for all your support once again. We sold 4152 stamps which was down by 129 on 2022, but deliveries were very slightly up at 3573 cards. After deduction of a few costs we will have raised a little over £1300 for group funds. As always a huge thanks, for the last time, to Malcolm, Val and the all the volunteers at the Lighthouse Bookshop for selling the stamps for us over the past few years. They first helped us when we were let down at the last minute and we could not have done it without them ever since.

Look out for a new location for buying your stamps for Christmas 2024.

Scouts Scarecrow Trail 2024

As mentioned in the last edition of Highworth LINK magazine, the trail will run between the 30 March and 14 April. This year's theme is Animated Films.

You can find details of registration on the events section of our website or you can email us. Details below. Please do not start working on your scarecrow until you have confirmation that it is has been accepted – the earlier you register the better the chance of getting your choice accepted.

Further details such as where you can buy the trails and cost etc. will be in a future edition.

David Roblin
scarecrow@highworthscouts.org.uk
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Change Ahead for Highworth and District Lions Club

Things may feel different in our charity shop over the weeks ahead as member and volunteer Susan Bodman resigns from her work in the shop.

Sue has decided to leave the Highworth and District Lions Club for ongoing future work plans and the Lions Club team offer our thanks and best wishes going forward. Sue has volunteered with us since February 2022 and has made a great impact on the Lions Club as a whole, particularly on the relaunch and restructuring of the charity shop. Sue has become personally known to many through the shop operation and will be missed by all.

We are a small team of people who rely on volunteers from all walks of the community to be members and to help run the shop and other Lions Club projects to raise funds for local, national, and international disaster projects. If you are interested in committing some of your time, skills, or knowledge to support our local community interests then please get in touch.

As most of you would have seen, we again had the pleasure of having Santa join us on our yearly Christmas fundraising event. We would like to thank everyone who came out to meet us as well as for the kind donations. We enjoyed meeting everyone and really loved people bringing their dogs to see Santa as he



assures me they are on the good list too!

Also, a huge thank you to all the businesses and volunteers that assisted us, from storing our sleigh safely all year round to towing the sleigh on events, and helping us raise vital funds for those in need this coming year.

Christmas is our busiest fundraiser of the year and a lot of time and effort goes into it (we have a lot of fun along the way too). If you would like to know more about volunteering with us please do get in touch.

*Norman Little, President of Highworth & District Lions Club
highworth@lions105sc.org*

Christmas Memories from Bourton

2023 was the year that Bourton's own choir, Village Voices, was founded by Sue Hayes and the choir gave performances at the Bourton Club, the village hall, and also at the Christmas Eve service at the parish church.

The concert in the Bourton Club was really well attended and the club kindly gave a large donation to the church as they were so pleased with the venture. Lisa, from the club, thanked everyone who had supported them this year and wished everyone a happy New Year!

Look out for more events at the club later this year.

The second concert was on a smaller scale but relived memories of past years when local talent was on show. Finally, the Christmas Eve service at St James' Church, Bourton, was well-attended, and Nimrod the pony put in a guest appearance when Edna the donkey proved too shy to attend!

Our church services welcome everyone and are family-focused. We will be meeting at 10am on Saturday 3

February and Sunday 18 February, and also Saturday 2 March and Sunday 17 March. Everyone is welcome to attend and share coffee and a chat after the services.

Well done to everyone for a great Christmas season. Special thanks to Lisa and the Bourton Club, to Sue for having the vision of forming a choir, and to choir members. Great camaraderie, and a splendid way to end the year on a high note!

Carole Lee

An advertisement for Headlines Hairdressing. The text is set against a background of a hairbrush and a hairbrush. The text reads: "Headlines HAIRDRESSING", "We are now able to offer more hairdressing appointments, alternatively 'walk-ins' may also be available", "01793 762 929", and "35 High St, Highworth, SN6 7HL".

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The Arts Society Upper Thames

You are welcome to join us as a visitor at our February lecture on Thursday 8 February, 2pm, where Susan Kay-Williams will discuss 'Imperial Purple to Denim Blue – the Colourful History of Colour in Textiles'.

This lecture explores the fascinating story of how dyes were discovered, made and used from the earliest time to the end of the 18th century. It will show the social importance of certain colours including red, blue and purple, and tell the story that travels from Europe to India and the Americas, a story of exploration, invention, war, the church, money, power and sex.

Amongst her other achievements, Susan is Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace, and has a longstanding interest in textiles, especially colour. Her first book, *The Story of Colour in Textiles*, was published in 2013.

We meet at Lechlade Memorial Hall. If you wish to attend please register first at info@tasupperthames.org.uk.

Recreating Van Gogh with Highworth Artists' Society

We have two group activities to tell you about this month!

Firstly, as promised, our painting taster session held on 4 November 2023. Visitors tried out oils, watercolour, pastel, and acrylics, helped by members of HAS. All very different subjects but a great way to try out different media, especially if you have no experience! We had such a busy time that there are no



Highworth Community Cinema

The film for Friday 23 February is a drama about the power of human connection during turbulent times, set in a cinema in the early 1980s, and stars Olivia Colman and Micheal Ward.

We meet at St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, SN6 7HQ at 7:45pm (doors open at 7:15pm).

'Empire of Light' is set in and around a faded old English coastal town in the early 1980s. It follows Hilary (Colman), a cinema manager struggling with her mental health, and Stephen (Ward), new employee, who longs to escape this provincial town in which he faces daily adversity. Both Hilary and Stephen find a sense of belonging through their unlikely and tender relationship and come to experience the healing power of music, cinema, and community.



115 mins Cert 15

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photographs – you'll just have to come and see for yourself next time!

Our next group activity for members was a fun session repainting Van Gogh's *Wheat Field with Cypresses*. Of course, we had no idea that was what we were recreating, each of us with a small segment of the original. Fortunately this was done before the mulled wine was dished out along with our Christmas bring-and-share lunch! What do you think of our finished result? All answers treated confidentially!

Hilary Sinclair

Highworth Camera Club Annual Presentation Evening

Highworth Camera Club invited friends and family to join them for their end-of-year Christmas party and presentation of trophies and certificates for club competitions run throughout the year. Highworth's mayor, Keith Smith, was invited to join us and present the awards. He was also invited to judge a competition of colour prints taken by members. The first place winner was Peter Osbourne with an image taken at Autumn Mop fair held this year.



Print Of The Year, as voted by members, was an image of a great spotted woodpecker, taken by Steve Fowler. Other first place trophy winners were Neil George, Peter Crane, Pauline Godwin, Kevin O'Donoghue and John Kennedy. A special presentation was made to Angela Kennedy for her support to the club. Congratulations to all certificate winners and especially to Lorna Legg as the club's rising star. After the presentations we enjoyed a quiz, refreshments and raffle. The Camera Club meets on the second Tuesday of every month and holds competitions, both prints and digital images, for the members.

We have a varied programme throughout the year including speakers on different photographic topics, external judges who give useful feedback, monthly competitions, and discussions aimed at helping us improve our photography. The club also participates in competitions with other local camera clubs. If you would like to join us, do come along to Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers, SN6 7PQ, at 7:30pm, on the second Tuesday of the month.

Hilary Beach

www.highworthcameraclub.com

Facebook: Search 'Highworth Camera Club'



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What I did at Christmas

On Christmas Eve, we went for our traditional walk in the lovely countryside to collect reindeer moss. After that, my family prepared for Santa to leave presents in the stockings and under the tree.

What do you do on Christmas Eve?

Christmas Day in my house was brilliant. (Apart from not being able to sleep as I was so excited!) Once we had all woken up we unwrapped all our presents from

the stockings, then we all got dressed in our Christmas jumpers before having breakfast. I had the potato from my stocking! After that we unwrapped the rest of our presents.

I had so much fun that day and can't wait for next year.

Have an excellent February and I'll see you in March.

Constance Davenport

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Swindon Croquet Club

Dressed in festive attire, 21 hardy Swindon Croquet Club members braved the elements just before Christmas to compete in the annual Sausage Sizzle tournament. Competitors were paired with the format being the best of nine hoops, i.e. the first pair to win five hoops, with everyone playing four games.

Teresa Hill and Jeff Hannath were in top form, dominating throughout to remain unbeaten and win the tournament. Social Secretary Sharon Smith did a super job serving hot dogs and trimmings along with liquid refreshments. A very enjoyable, fun event.

The club is currently closed until 1 April for the grounds team to work their magic and restore the lawns to their immaculate best for the 2024 season.

If you would like to give croquet a try please see our website, find us on Facebook or email for more information.

swindon.croquet@outlook.com
www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk
Beverly Briggs



Chairman Clive Smith (centre) with winners Jeff Hannath and Teresa Hill.



A new season dawns

Wrag Barn Golf Club

The start of the New Year is always an exciting time as the days are getting longer and signs of spring are beginning to emerge as the snowdrops and aconites come into flower. There were long spells of wet weather in 2023 which meant we were able to see the benefit from the improved drainage of several fairways and the new paths which helped improve accessibility for golfers needing a trolley or buggy. As always, there is more to be done. One positive outcome from the rain was the opportunity for the green keepers to work on repairing the drought patches from 2022, and with the purchase of new machinery the outlook for 2024 is bright. As always in February, we say thank you to the previous year's Captains and welcome the new team-in-post. The Captains and their committees are responsible for the smooth running of competitions throughout the year and I would like to thank Ash Green, Suzanne Hunt, Jack Arkely and Ollie Webb for their wonderful leadership in 2023. This year we welcome Shaun Judd, Suzanne Hunt (for a second term), David Brownsell and Louis MacDiarmid to their Captain's year and look forward to an entertaining mixture of social and serious golf. For anyone from the age of four upwards whose New Year's resolution is to take up something new, we have an amazing team of pros who give individual and group coaching. For more information, contact the pros shop and start the process towards a new hobby.

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Sport continued on page 35



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Nathan Barnes finishing strongly last year

Highworth Running Club

With February now here, attention will soon enough be on St. Valentine's Day, then in a blink or two Easter and after a blink or two more we'll have that familiar trio of events to distract us: the Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race, the Grand National, and the London Marathon – the latter making us all feel a bit guilty about not trying our luck in the ballot. Well, the Highworth Running Club can help offset that guilt by offering every reader of the Highworth LINK Magazine (aged 15+), the opportunity to enter the town's annual springtime 5 Mile Race. On **Sunday 7 April** every Titan-of-Tarmac entered will begin their campaign on the rural, one-lap course at 11am before flying down Fresden Lane, cantering along Coleshill Road and embracing Eastrop Hill with their most stoic of smiles. After reaching the summit, all Pavement Protagonists will shoot down Shrevenham Road before finishing on Warneford School's playing fields amidst a cacophony of well-wishing spectators. Every finisher receives a memento to honour the day's efforts and the Highworth Running Club will welcome you home with plenty of home-made refreshments back at the School. All information on how to enter is on the club's website, as too are its training sessions to tease anyone out of retirement or coax a newbie to 'give it a go'. We very much look forward to seeing you in the not-too-distant future and remember, entries to the race are now...OPEN!

www.highworthrunningclub.co.uk
Jason Daniels

Shrevenham Park Golf Club

There were many different activities at Shrevenham Park Golf Club this past year. Juniors enjoyed their Christmas party in December with plenty of party food. As well as playing traditional party games the youngsters were also entertained by a member who became a conjurer! What fun! The other activities over Christmas were the Ladies Christmas traditional roast lunch, the Seniors 18 hole Texas game (when the Ladies were invited to play) and the Club Texas Scramble.

Junior coaching has been a great success during the year with our coach, Jim Boyes. We are eager to commence the 2024 year with further coaching dates being **10 and 24 February and 9 and 23 March**. The cost for the one hour coaching session is £5. Juniors, when proficient, are encouraged to put in

their cards for handicaps, and various competitions are planned for them. Coaching is open to all youngsters and we will be holding a Junior Open this Summer in August as part of a fun week. Do get in contact for more details. We look forward to welcoming you in 2024.

07467 657 964
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Carole Lee



Photo courtesy of the SPGC Facebook group

Swindon Robins Speedway

It is of course with quite a melancholy state of mind I put fingers to keyboard when thinking about the Swindon Robins Speedway and 2024. Growing up on the Western edge of Highworth meant my memories of Saturday evening's were filled with the periodic rumblings of strange noises being carried in the night



Photograph courtesy of www.swindon-speedway.com

air as heroes piloted brakeless rockets around the 410 yards of Blunsdon Abbey Stadium's cinder track, all in the name of sport and in search of spoils. Once of an age to comprehend these heroics, my first attendance opened my eyes to the intoxicating insanity of Speedway, watched by many holding a plastic pint glass and polystyrene tray of chips. A four lap, fifteen-heat

motor sport that brought icons to your doorstep and left an unmistakable aroma of spent methanol fuel in your nostrils for the journey home. The Robins were founded just after the second World War and during their existence won many, many trophies, even winning the SGB Premiership as recently as 2019. It is therefore with a huge amount of sadness that the economics of sustaining such a sport, the challenges brought with an unprecedented viral pandemic and the expectations of housing development conspired to ensure all great things must, after 73 glorious years come to an end. Reading many online forums there is certainly huge interest in a Robins' renaissance and a relocation to a more prosperous, universal venue, but so far, nothing concrete (if the pun can be excused) has materialised. When or if that day happens, many fan's hearts will beat a little faster again and give joy back to a part of the town that has maudlinly missed it. Every Robin needs to fly of course, so here's hoping!

Jason Daniels

Highworth Town Football Club

HTFC ended the year in sixth place in the Hellenic Premier Division 1; out of the play-offs but with games in hand. The year ended with two big wins, 3-1 away at Royal Wootton Bassett Town and a calendar year's best by thrashing Worcester Raiders 5-0 at home. 13 January saw us visit SCEL (Southern Counties East League) side Holmesdale in Bromley in the last 32 of the FA Vase. Another tough away draw but given the performance at St Austell in December hopes were high of further progress.

As always, the Worthians would love support when playing at home so please do look up our fixtures and come along and give a cheer.

www.pitchero.com/clubs/highworthtown
Derek Lloyd

Photograph courtesy of the HTFC Facebook group.



Highworth hit three past Hereford

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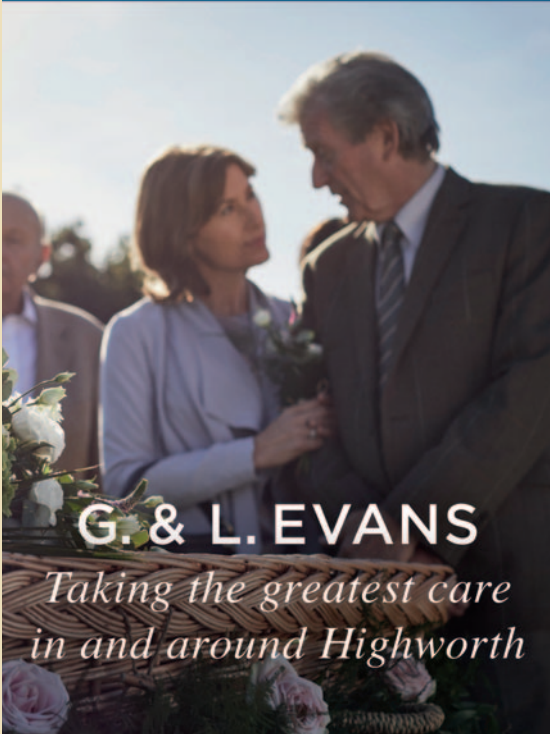
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4th Café Church – Are you OK?
11th Rev Joseph Rjbeiro
18th Mark Dowling
25th Phil Bunce

Refreshments
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Tuesday Afternoon Communion 6th @2pm

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www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch

3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat

Wednesday, 14th
2.30pm





Highworth Market

Are you a stall holder who would be interested in having a stall at our Saturday Market? We are keen to expand our market and are looking for new stall holders .

We had so many great new stalls at our Christmas Event, it would be great to welcome some new traders on either a permanent or casual basis. Please get in touch!



HIGHWORTH Market

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In 2024 we are looking to expand our Saturday Market.

We are on the look out for new individual traders who would like to join us on either a permanent or casual basis.

If you would like to join us, send us an email expressing your interest and we will get in touch with you.

EMAIL US : ADMIN@HIGHWORTHTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK



Bell Restoration

In September 2023, the bell at the chapel was removed for restoration.

The work was carried out over a few weeks and we were pleased to see it reinstated at the chapel in October 2023



Highworth Allotments

Allotment Renewals are due 1st February 2024. You should have received your reminder by now. The cost remains unchanged, at £30 per plot.

Please ensure prompt payment and return your signed agreements having read the new Rules & Regulations.

We do have a waiting list, so if you wish to surrender your allotment please email us.



Thank you Highworth

I know Christmas seems a while ago but we wanted to thank the residents of Highworth and the companies of Highworth who amaze us year after year.

Our Christmas Event was a great success and the High Street was extremely busy from 10am through until the light switch-on at 5:30pm. Thank you to all those businesses who donated prizes, mince pies etc



News from Highworth's Mayor



Happy New Year everyone!

I feel rather like Janus looking both backward to the old year and forward to the new. The old year has been a journey like no other. I have met so many lovely people, enjoyed so many different events – it has been breathtaking – and yet

there's so much to look forward to.

Among the highlights were visits to our primary and infant schools. The council wanted to tell them of our plans to rebuild their play areas so that the apparatus is modern and accessible for every child in Highworth, and to ask their opinion of our proposed designs. I was so impressed by the way the children listened, asked their intelligent questions, and presented some of their ideas we had not thought about and which we are now looking to incorporate. I was also heartened by their genuine concerns for those children who are less fortunate than themselves. The town needs to nurture these young people and take the time to listen, young as they are.

Thank you Southfield, Eastrop and Westrop schools for accommodating us. We will be back!

What for the future? Only five months left before my term ends.

In August 2023, we were delighted to welcome the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Shirley Ludford, to our Arts and Literary Festival. Shirley is the manager of the radio station 105.5 fm. During her visit she invited us to put Highworth further on the map by producing a regular fortnightly or monthly broadcast. She is prepared to train residents in the secrets of broadcasting, help to produce the first programme, and offer expertise. This possibility is now being seriously considered by representatives from the council, Visit Highworth and Highworth LINK magazine. As they say, watch, or perhaps listen, to this space!

Keith Smith, Mayor

Note from editor: See page 23 for more information about the radio programme and for opportunities to be involved.

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

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St. Michael's Church

The church is open daily for private prayer.

10:15am Sunday Service

We meet in church and stream live at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or on YouTube by searching St. Michael's Church Highworth.

Morning Worship is held on the **first, third and fifth Sundays of the month**. Holy Communion is held on the **second and fourth Sundays of the month**.

8:45am Holy Communion

On the **first Sunday of the month**.

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers are held every **Tuesday morning** at 9am.

Friday Blessings are held every **Friday morning** at 9:15am.

Prayer Hour is held in the Church Room at 8pm on the **second and fourth Mondays of the month**.

We remember those we love and miss

Janet Vockins

Thomas Bolter

Audrey June Smith

Sybil Eileen Humphries

Praying for the roads in the town

4 February Brewery Street, Brookfield and Bute Close

11 February Bydemill Gardens, Cherry Orchard and Church View

18 February Coffin Close and Copper Beeches

25 February Cotswold Way and Crane Furlong

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

4 February Morning Praise, 9:30 am

11 February Family service (Elizabeth mother of John), 11am

18 February Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton, 10am

25 February Holy Communion, 9:30am

Stanton Coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 14 February** at Stanton House Hotel. We meet at 10:30am for coffee and a chat before our speaker begins at 11am, and we usually finish by 12 noon.

The church building will be open every Wednesday in school term time from 9am to 3pm, or telephone Liz and Roger on 01793 762935 to organise for the building to be left open for you to visit safely.

There may be changes to the programme. Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



With thanks to all those who have sponsored the floodlighting of St. Michael's Church



31/1/2024

Remembering a dearly loved husband and father – David Cox – from Shirley, Nicola and Neil

2 to 4/2/2024

*In loving memory of Jim Prew. Sadly missed.
From all the family*

9/2/2024

*In loving memory of Clive Angood.
Missed as always, Christine and family
We all miss you and talk of you often.
Lots of love, Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all your family xxxx*

22/2/2024

*In loving memory of Joan Prew. Sadly missed.
From all the family*

Floodlighting forms are available from the Lighthouse Bookshop or the Church website at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting. Your dedication will appear in this magazine.

IMPORTANT SUBMISSION UPDATE

Please note the submission to the Church Office date is changing to ensure floodlighting requests can meet the Link deadline. We now need submissions by the last Friday of the month, 2 months prior as any submissions must be with the Link on the 1st of the previous month with no late submissions now possible. It's hard to get that in writing so please do contact the Church Office on 01793 762702 if you need clarification.

Submission date: Friday 26 January for the March 2024 publication.

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Highworth Town Council	01793 762377
Swindon Boro. Council	01793 463000
Streetsmart	01793 445501

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

Highworth Surgery	01793 762218
Elm Tree Surgery, (Shrivenham)	01793 782207
Great Western Hospital	01793 604020

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

Highworth Pharmacy	01793 762220
Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392
Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

Eastrop Nursery	01793 763772
Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268
South Marston Pre-school	01793 823379

SCHOOLS

Eastrop Infants	01793 763772
Southfield Junior	01793 762210
Westrop Primary	01793 762897
Warneford Secondary	01793 762426

TAXIS

Veezu	01793 701701
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TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Disabled and Assisted Travel	08001 971329

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
Pest Control	08000 988652
Samaritans	01793 537373
Women's Refuge	01793 610610

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Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Bridge Centre.

Make sure you are writing for a general audience, not just your own organisation. News stories should not

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1st of the month before publication – news, articles, advertising, what's on and letters.



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