

**Market Lavington & Easterton
Church & Community News**

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 16th January 2026

Market Lavington Community Centre

7p.m. for 7.30p.m.

A night to tickle your mind and lift your spirits

TEAMS of 4 £20

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January 2026

News from Dauntsey Academy Primary School

December was full of festive events here at DAPS and was thoroughly enjoyed by staff, pupils and parents. Our 'Dressing the Tree' event took place at the beginning of December and as always, ignited that wonderful Christmas feel. The children had made some creative masterpieces, with which to adorn the tree, and we all enjoyed some Christmas carols which were necessary to warm our hearts in the bitterly cold weather! The younger members of DAPS took part in a nativity play 'Lights, Camels, Action' which involved some impressive singing, dancing and performances. Festive Friday started with a Christmas jumper day throughout the school and our Christmas fete followed with all sorts of stalls from teddy bear lucky dip to a high stakes tombola and everything in between. A huge thank you goes out to all those in the community that supported the event, either with generous donations of prizes or by renting a table to share your business with us. We made an incredible amount of money that will all be invested into future events and wonderful opportunities for our DAPS pupils. Our final week at school included a delicious Christmas lunch, class parties and a carol service at All Saints Church to get us ready to enjoy the holidays with our friends and families.

Following a restful holiday, we now look ahead to a new year of learning and growth. We hope everyone is ready for a fun-filled and exciting start to 2026. Our staff have all been working hard to prepare for another successful year at DAPS and our POD (People of Dauntsey's) team are busy planning for another year of enjoyable events for our children too.

September 2026 will be here before we know it! With applications needing to be submitted by the Wiltshire Council deadline of 15 th January 2026, a gentle reminder that we always welcome meeting prospective new pupils and we would love to share our wonderful school with you. We understand how challenging it can be to choose the right school for your child, so it's always best you come and experience our wonderful learning environment for yourselves. We also currently have spaces in most year groups.

Please call on 01380 813373 or email admin@daps.equamead.org to arrange a visit.

Market Lavington & Easterton Church and Community News

St Mary's & St. Barnabas Church (Anglican)

Rector: Vacant

Address: Vacant

Benefice Office lavingtonbenefice@gmail.com.

Church Wardens

Market Lavington

Amanda Newbery - 07710-149066

Ben Bannister - 07587-691963

Easterton

Sue Allen 813603

More information can be found on our website www.lavingtonchurch.org

Trinity United Church (Methodist/URC)

Minister: Rev. Gary Gotham, 69 Queens Road, Devizes, SN10 5HR

Tel: 01380 724264 / gary.gotham@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Liz Pike

c/o St. Arbucks Cafe, Church St., Market Lavington, SN10 4DT

Tel: 07790 910 968 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

Market Lavington Parish Council

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Clerk to the Council

Tanya West 07770 679697

clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

<https://www.marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Easterton Parish Council

Chair:

R. Brooks

Clerk to the Council

Sarah-Jane Bullock

clerk@easterton-pc.gov.uk

This magazine

Edited by Colin Osborn 01380 812450 colinosborn@compuserve.com

Treasurer, Fran Armstrong churchandcommunitynews@gmail.com

Printed by Jamprint Design & Printing

Bishop Andrew's letter for January.

Rebecca and I spend New Year with a group of friends on the Devon coast who have developed the custom, common in such parts, of taking an invigorating dip in the ocean on the morning of New Year's Day. For many years I eschewed what seemed to me a reckless and unnecessary practice, preferring to stay on the beach, safely swathed in several layers of wool. For some daft reason, last year I decided to join the bathers and (as I write, sat cosily by a log fire) am currently weighing up whether to do so again. Needless to say, it was breathtakingly cold but also huge fun.

Taking the plunge into something new always takes a measure of determination and mutual encouragement, I think. It helps if others are doing it alongside us, and things are no different when it comes to our faith. A step forward – perhaps being Confirmed, as so many have been in recent months – or into a new church responsibility, is a fine and necessary thing to do if we consider ourselves to be Christians. For Christ is the 'way' and those who follow him are called to a pilgrim's progress through life.

What fresh new thing might the Lord be asking you to consider in the months ahead? This may mean shedding or leaving behind something that is no longer right. In the light of this season, then, may we encourage one another to join and enjoy 'the new', knowing the Lord goes ahead, calling us forward.

The Bristol Ceilidh Quartet in Seend

At The Seend Centre in Rusty Lane, on the evening of Saturday the 31st of January, they present The Bristol Ceilidh Quartet. Possibly the most fun you can have on two legs. Take along yourselves, and any friends and family, for a traditional knees up. This is now the third annual ceilidh in Seend, and they very much welcome experienced dancers, as well as first timers of all ages. Everything will be explained by expert caller, Alison Rowley, and the dance floor is guaranteed to be full. Bristol Ceilidh Quartet are a top band with a unique sound; you won't be disappointed.



Easterton Sewing Bees
wish you a
Happy New Year!
2026



We have lots of new plans and ideas for workshops and crafting to get us motivated and creative in the year ahead.

We meet at the Village Hall in Easterton on a Wednesday evening from 7-9pm.
It is £3 and there are refreshments.

If you would like to find out more about what we do please contact:

Helen Hardman: 07584060644

Judy Boyt: 07860242836

Or come along to see us,
Or message us via our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/eastertonsewingbees>



TRINITY CHURCH January



We meet in the Community Hall, Market Lavington every Sunday morning at 10.30am unless stated otherwise.

We welcome all visitors to our informal style of worship in the United Reformed Church/Methodist tradition. All services are accompanied by refreshments.

4th JANUARY - Trinity Church Service

Led by Abigail Perrow

11th JANUARY - United Covenant Service with Holy Communion

Led by Rev'd. Gary Gotham

18th JANUARY - Trinity Church Service

Led by Rev'd. Gary Gotham

25th JANUARY - United Church Service

Led by Abigail Perrow

*Church Minister : Revd.Gary Gotham: 69, Queens Road, Devizes,Wilts.
Tel: 01380 724264 email: gary.gotham@gmail.com*

Church Secretary: Liz Pike

Tel: 07790 910 968 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

Postal address: Trinity Church Secretary, % St. Arbucks Cafe,1 Church Street, Market Lavington, Wilts SN10 4DT

TRINITY CHURCH PIANIST

We are looking for a pianist on a Sunday morning. This could be as little as once a month (or less). This would take the pressure off our current pianist and cover when she is away.

If you, or someone you know, is willing to play the grand piano, in the Community Hall, from 10.30am until about 12.00 on a Sunday please contact:- Janice on 07740720434.

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Ebenezer Baptist Church

A Christian Country?

Some local councils (not ours, thankfully) have changed their Christmas Festivals into Winter Festivals. On seeing that people often roll their eyes and mutter, 'Isn't Britain meant to be a Christian country?' It depends on what you mean by that.

Has the Christian faith had a massive effect on our country's history and culture? Yes. Does Christianity have an official role in the political constitution of our land? Again, yes. The King is also supreme governor of the Church of England. Anglican Bishops have seats in the House of Lords. The Monarch is crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Does that mean that each individual citizen of the United Kingdom is therefore a follower of Jesus? Clearly not. According to the latest census, people identifying as Christian are now in a minority. We live in a society where people of many faiths and no religious faith manage to rub along together. A good thing too.

As a Baptist I believe in the separation of Church and State. I don't think that the monarch should be supreme governor of a branch of the church or that Anglican bishops should be appointed to the House of Lords *ex officio*. Yes, Christians may be involved in politics at a local or national level. It's also right for individual believers to exercise influence on society, but of course others are free to do the same.

We can't link Christianity and national citizenship because the church is composed of people 'every nation, and tribe and tongue'. A Christian is a person who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for our sins and rose again from the dead. A Christian acknowledges that Jesus is Lord of their lives. A church is a local gathering of believers who seek to bear witness to Jesus and serve him in their daily lives. No one is a member of the church because of where they were born, but on the basis of whether they have been born again.

Guy Davies www.pbc-ebc.org.uk

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday services at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments.



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Easterton Church Tree Festival 2025

Trees and their Rhymes

1. M L Museum –Humpty Dumpty
2. Easterton Village Hall – Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
3. M L & E WI – Oranges and Lemons
4. M. L Surgery – Animal Fair
5. Sewing Bee – Sing a Song of Sixpence
6. The Hub – Mary Mary Quite Contrary
7. Tuesday Club – Old McDonald
8. St, Barnabas School – Hey Diddle Diddle
9. Guides – Baa Baa Black Sheep
10. Trinity Church – Jack and Jill

Market Lavington Youth Council

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone that supported our cake sale in December at which we raised £342.37. Our ambition was to buy a bench, and thanks to your generosity, we're actually able to buy a wheelchair / pushchair accessible picnic table with bench. We have to seek approval for the exact position, but will let you know where as soon as possible.

Thank you once again.

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<https://saintarbucks.org.uk/welcome/>

New Look

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Painting Get Together in Urchfont

On Saturday the 10th of January, between 10am and 1pm, a Social Painting Get Together takes place in Urchfont Village Hall. It's organised by The Lawrence Arts Society, and is a social painting, sketching, and drawing get together, which you can enjoy in an informal environment. The cost is £3 per head, to include tea and coffee, and you pay on the day. The maximum number is twenty, so please email info@lawrenceartsociety.co.uk in advance if you would like to attend. There is plenty of parking at the Village Hall, but you are asked to car share where possible.

Blood Donor Session at The Corn Exchange

There's an NHS Blood Donor Session on Tuesday the 27th of January here in The Corn Exchange. Donations are strictly by appointment only. You must be already registered as a donor. To register as a donor, or to book a session, please visit blood.co.uk or download the NHS Give Blood app. Be someone's lifeline, donate blood.

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**Our lecture on January 21st in the The
Corn Exchange, Devizes, is:
“Brave New World – The Festival of
Britain”.**

Please be in your seats for 10:45 am. Lecture starts at 11 am through to 12 noon. Coffee is available beforehand.

The 1951 Festival of Britain was an inspiring event designed to put Britain back on its feet after the ravages of the Second World War. Marc Allum looks at its legacy and effect on post-war Britain through the development of design, architecture and art.

Marc Allum is a freelance art and antiques journalist, writer and broadcaster based in Wiltshire. He has over 25 years as a specialist on the BBC Antiques Roadshow under his belt and has appeared on numerous television and radio programmes. Marc regularly writes for mainstream magazines and has a passion and reputation for divining the unusual through ‘a desire to connect with history through the interpretation and pursuit of objects and their origins’.

Membership of The Arts Society Devizes is £50 for monthly world class lectures October through to July 2026.

Alternatively come to this lecture as a guest - £8.

Please email us first at theartsocietydevizes@gmail.com.

To join the Society, go to www.theartsocietydevizes.org or search Facebook for The Arts Society Devizes.

Supporting Men's Mental Health in The Nursery

Man Down meets on Thursday the 8th and 22nd of January, between 7pm and 9pm at The Quakers' Friends' Meeting House, at Sussex Wharf in The

Nursery. Man Down is a men's, eighteen plus group, dedicated to removing the stigma of men's mental health, getting men talking, and reducing male suicide. Their Devizes group meets fortnightly. Just turn up, it's free to attend, and there's no need to book. Listen, or join in and share, it's up to you, and there's no pressure. They offer peer support from lived experiences. It's a safe, non-judgemental, supportive, and completely confidential group.

For further information, please go to mandown-uk.co.uk.

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and 19th when we'll be
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Agreement made on proposals to cut costs and improve the sustainability of waste and recycling services.

Wiltshire Council's cabinet has agreed proposals to cut future costs and improve the sustainability of waste and recycling services.

Key proposals agreed (affecting people in Market Lavington and Easterton):

Maintain the current kerbside system for dry recycling, as improvements at the Material Recovery Facility will boost recycling rates without changing household collections. This avoids extra containers, keeps things simple for residents, and saves unnecessary costs. Residents will be provided with extra single-use bags for flexible plastics to go into their existing recycling bin.

To seek public feedback in early 2026 on moving household waste collections from fortnightly to three-weekly in 2027. With food waste and plastic bags removed, black bin waste will drop significantly cutting carbon, reducing costs, and boosting recycling.

Introduce a phased rollout of a Household Recycling Centre (HRC) booking system. This is to help reduce queues, cut emissions, and make visits easier and quicker for everyone, especially at sites where residents have told the council congestion can be a significant problem and is causing safety issues on the highways. The council will use the feedback on how the HRCs are used currently to help shape the future plans.

Further information is available at

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/agreement-made-on-proposals-to-cut-costs-and-improve-the-sustainability-of-waste-and-recycling-services>.

Your views on these changes, both positive or negative, should be sent to Cllr Paul Samle, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate and Waste paul.sample@wiltshire.gov.uk

With a copy to our Councillor dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Wiltshire Museum (Devizes)

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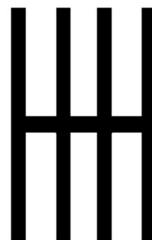
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January

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by Rosalyn M. Carroll



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kevinpreen58@gmail.com

Foot health practitioner

Hannah Joyce Dip FH, MCFHP MAFHP

Visiting practice

Please call 07831960688



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'I use egg boxes for seeds...they biodegrade too.' – Nicky

'I reuse the plastic packaging that fruit like blueberries and raspberries come in as little seed trays.' – Faith

'I upcycled old containers and a tea tray.' – Victoria

'Two-litre milk bottles can be cut to make a superb compost scoop, or bird seed scoop. They also work if you cut them up to make plant labels. Smaller washed milk bottles are great for spray watering. Put a few small holes in the lid, fill bottle with water, replace the lid, sprinkler.' – Niki, The Two Fingered Gardener

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Upcoming event:

'The Plant Doctor'

*...a talk by **Roger Hiron**.*

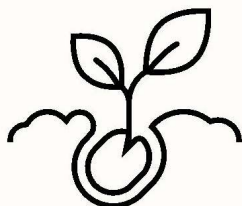
With a wealth of plant knowledge, Roger has lectured in garden design, he is a published author and trained at Pershore College.

Come and join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable and informative evening! Existing and new members always welcome.

Also feel free to enter our competition on the night - this month please display: a fragrant winter flower!

Wednesday 21st January 2026, 7:15pm
(for 7:30pm start)

West Lavington Village Hall, SN10 4HL



Find us online at
lavingtongc.co.uk

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Facebook: **Lavington &
District Gardening Club**





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Gardening with children

Toilet roll pots

Sweet Peas and Broad Beans can be
planted in January for planting out later.
Fill an empty ice cream tub with upright
toilet rolls

Fill the toilet rolls with seed compost.

For sweet peas: Carefully place two
seeds on top of the compost of each
tube. Gently push both seeds 4-5cm
down into the compost.

The broad beans: Place one broad bean
seed halfway down each tube.

Gently water each tube, put them in a
frost free place and keep them damp.

When 5cm tall pinch out the tops to
make them grow side shoots.

In April plant the tubes out in your
garden, where they will rot down and
allow the roots to spread.

Rights of Way Working Group

The working group will resume clearing footpaths in January by cutting back brambles, overhanging vegetation etc. The footpaths were neglected for some time, so our aim is to gradually cut back to fence lines reinstating footpaths to a minimum 1.5m width.

We also plan to complete labelling all Rights of Way with their MLAV number.

If you spot a Rights of Way that needs attention, please email footpaths@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk with the path number and as much detail as possible.

Many thanks in advance from the team.



A HOME FOR THE MUSICALLY CURIOUS

<https://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/>



PCC Parish Column: Keeping Communities Safe Amid Uncertainty

As we move into 2026, the challenges facing policing and the wider Criminal Justice System remain significant—and they affect every community, including yours.

Financial pressures continue to bite. Rising costs and tight budgets mean police forces and partner agencies are working hard to maintain services with less flexibility. This impacts everything from neighbourhood policing and crime prevention to victim support and it's a reality we cannot ignore.

The Home Office's much-anticipated Policing White Paper, which was expected to set out a clear vision for policing reform and investment, appears to have been delayed further. Without this strategic direction, forces are left planning year-to-year rather than building for the long term, whilst navigating much speculation in the media of what reform could look like, including the suggestion of a reduction in the number of police forces and implementing regional ones. But without that white paper, clear direction from the Home Office and long-awaited detail, speculation is all we are left with.

I also continue to be concerned about the lack of commitment or confirmation from the Home Office on what funding will look like from March for key national initiatives that we deliver locally, such as the Serious Violence Duty and ASB hotspot policing. This poses a real risk to continuity of services that make a tangible difference in our communities—such as street wardens, increased Wiltshire Police patrols in ASB hotspots, and specialist early intervention schemes aimed at supporting those at risk of committing serious violence.

These programmes are designed to divert individuals away from crime and help them make better life choices. Without clarity on future funding, these vital efforts could stall just as we are starting to see them having a positive impact.

Despite these challenges, I want to reassure you: your concerns are heard. My office continues to press for timely funding and clear policy direction. We are working with the Chief Constable and her operational teams to ensure that, even under pressure, the focus remains on keeping our communities safe.

Please keep sharing your views, because strong community voices help us make the case for Wiltshire and Swindon and in January, I will be consulting with you on the policing budget for the next year and your local priorities for community safety.

2026 will continue to provide significant challenge across the criminal justice system but with a partnership approach I will ensure our parishes remain safe places to live and thrive.

Contact Information. Zara-Ann Prendergast, Strategic Communications Manager, Wiltshire and Swindon OPCC, Zara-ann.prendergast@wiltshire.police.uk



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Find out the difference you could make by leaving a gift in your Will at juliashouse.org/always-there

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Community Minded Person winner.

Jane Taylor.

For her contribution to the village through the phone box, library, rhyme time, youth Council and PROW Working Group.

Young Community Minded Person winner.

Indie Scruton.

For her commitment to making changes to the villages safety and improving facilities for all.

The Elisha Field Closing Times

January	3	4.12pm
January	10	4.21pm
January	17	4.32pm
January	24	4.43pm
January	31	4.56pm
February	7	5.08pm

<https://sunrisesunset.willyweather.co.uk>

JANUARY

Delightful display
Snowdrops bow their pure
white heads
To the sun's glory.

Paul Holmes. "Haiku Year."

Planning Applications

Market Lavington

PL/2025/09563 Land at Spin Hill, SN10 4NS. Use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes and the erection of a dayroom ancillary to that use

Easterton

PL/2025/09504 Plot between nos. 1 & 15 Brackland, Eastcott, SN10 4PJ.
Proposed domestic dwelling and garage

<https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/?tabset-167f1=3>

Or by visiting the council offices on the Devizes Library site

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Welcome to Easterton Village Hall 100 Club



A great way for you to support us whilst having a bit of fun! Here's how it works...

Any money collected will be put towards replacement of the ancient sewage system

We gained more members at the village fete and we're now up to 79. So, please nudge your friends, neighbours and family and let's get to 100.

CORRECTION. The winners of the October draw were

1st Prize Steve Hardman

2nd Prize Lesley Seymour



The winners of the November draw were

1st Prize Tony Sully

2nd Prize Gerry Hamilton



AND

The winners of the December draw with a **double Christmas bonus** were

1st Prize Debbie Ayde

2nd Prize Anne Blagborough



Well done and thank you to everyone for your support.

It's never too late to get your ticket!

Contact Helen Hardman: email 100club@eastertonvh.org

Claim your ticket number NOW!

Sunday Church Services in January

4th January		11 th January	18 th January	25 th January	1 st February
	9.30am	9.00 am Breakfast Church (Service @ 9.30am)		Praise and Worship West Lavington	
	10am am		Welcome to Worship St. Peters Great Cheverell		
Benefice Service Communion St Peters Great Cheverell	10.30 am	10.30 am United Service with Trinity, St. Barnabas & St Mary's @ ML Community Hall	Benefice Service Communion St Mary's, Market Lavington	10.30 am United Service with Trinity, St. Barnabas & St Mary's @ ML Community Hall	Benefice Service Communion St Barnabas, Easterton
	11am	Simple Celebration of Holy Communion Great Cheverell		BCP Holy Communion St. Peters Great Cheverell	

Regular worship in our sister churches:

9.00am Sunday and 9.30am Monday Mass at

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

4.30pm **Ebenezer Baptist Church** West Lavington.

On the 4th Sunday of the month we have 'Time for Tea +', a short service
followed by a traditional Sunday tea.

10.30 am **Trinity Church** in the Community Hall, Market Lavington



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Can you spare a couple of hours a month between May and October?

The museum is open on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2.30-4.30pm and there are always two stewards on duty so you won't be on your own.

Are you interested in the village?

Now is your chance to find out more.

The museum is running **a training day for stewards**

on Saturday 7th February 2026. 10-3pm

in The Community Hall Market Lavington.

There will be lots of friendly faces, support on what is expected of a steward, delicious food and a chance to delve into the village archives.

If you would like to book your place on the training day or you just want to find out more please contact Jackie Clark : 01380 813233 or

admin@marketlavingtonmuseum.org.uk

If you can't make the 7th February we offer other training opportunities.

The grant to support this training was awarded by Museum Development South West, with thanks to support from Arts Council England.