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Church & Community News



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Saturday 10th October 2026

Doors & Bar open 7pm & curtain up 7.30pm

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www.eastertonvh.org

October 2026

Easterton Village Hall 100 Club

We're now up to **89 tickets**. So, please nudge your friends, neighbours and family and let's get to **100**.

This is great way for you to support us whilst having a bit of fun! £3/month or £36/year

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

August Draw

1st Prize Susan Lane

2nd Prize Anne Blagborough

September Draw

1st Prize Richard Firth

2nd Prize Tony Sully



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!

Built in the 1950's the hall and field are held in trust for the village and is managed by a Board of Trustees.

The Main Hall for up to 100 people seated or 150 standing, a stage, kitchen and bar area, level access and direct parking.

The Garden Room, with a capacity of 50 seated or 70 standing. A smaller kitchenette, and sliding doors to the playing field and children's play area.

The Garden Room is modern and well equipped to be configured as a classroom or seminar venue.

Market Lavington & Easterton Church and Community News

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

Rector: Reverend Sam Park

Address: 25 White Street, West Lavington, SN10 4LW

Benefice Office admin@lavingtonchurch.org

Reverend Sam Park revsam@lavingtonchurch.org

Reverend Caroline revcaroline@lavingtonchurch.org

Church Wardens

Market Lavington

Amanda Newbery - 07710-149066

Ben Bannister - 07587-691963

Easterton

Sue Allen 813603

Pat Morrison

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

Chair Mrs Chloe Stevens 07917 098001

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

Who would do this?

On Sunday night, 6 September 2026, somebody decided to break into St Barnabas Church by smashing the six foot long window panel and forcibly entering the double doors into the side lobby, seriously damaging the doors and resulting in shattered glass both inside and outside the building. The other window has been very badly cracked, so we have had to have the whole lobby boarded up.

The PCC, the church committee, gathered to stock check to see whether anything had been taken from the church. One large picture had been taken - a portrait of King Charles III wearing his naval uniform as Admiral of the Fleet. The break in and theft were reported to the police and PC Sam Higton, from the Rural Crime Team, attended the scene. He conducted house to house inquiries to ask residents if they had heard or seen anything during the night. None had, so no culprit has yet been found.

Later in the week, preparing for the bin collection, we found the King's portrait undamaged in the black bin outside the church!

Although the incident is bizarre, it will be very costly to replace the windows and doors, so in the meanwhile the lobby has been securely boarded up.

Ride and Stride 13 September 2026

Every year in September this event takes place. St Barnabas took part as a 'host' church, allowing those who walk, or ride on horseback or bicycle around the churches in Wiltshire calling in to host churches for refreshment. Those taking part gain sponsorship from their friends to raise funds for the Churches Heritage Trust and their own church. Several people took part this year. Watch out for the adverts next year and please think about taking part.

October's Services

The pattern of church services for October will be published in October's Easterton Echoes and in the Church and Community News magazine.

Sue Somerville,
St Barnabas Church Secretary
01380 812538

Nothing to do with me, of course. Project Spire, that is. It's not as if Baptists are being asked to chip in to a £100 million fund to provide redress for the evils of slavery. The Church of England is going to do that all by itself. Aw, bless.

Although I'm not exactly sure why they are bothering. Evangelical Anglicans were at the forefront of the campaign to abolish slavery, including the preacher and former slave-ship captain John Newton and the politician William Wilberforce.

Plus, there are a number of problems with this conscience-salving project. As historians point out, Africans weren't simply victims of the abominable slave trade. Some were willing participants. They rounded up men, women and children from different tribes and sold them to European slave traders. Will the descendants of African participants in the slave trade be having a whip-round for the benefit of the descendants of those who were transported to the sugar plantations? We'll see. After all, where does it end when it comes to reparations? If you are all in favour of Project Spire, I'll have you know that I am Welsh. The Anglo-Saxons drove my Celtic ancestors out of nice places such as Bath and forced us to relocate to the likes of Blaenau Ffestiniog. I mean, have you ever been there? It's so grey and desolate, it's like you've taken a wrong turn off the A470 and ended up on the Moon. Visit, and you'll be sure to agree that if ever reparations were in order, the Welsh should have their cut. I accept cash, cheques or BACS payments.

More importantly—and this may still count for something—there is scant support for the idea that one generation must atone for the faults of another in the Bible. Take a look at Ezekiel 18, which explicitly states that we are responsible for our own actions, not for those who have gone before us. We had best avoid repeating the sins of our forefathers, but we can't be expected to repent of them. The £100 million committed to Project Spire is a tidy sum. But atonement for sin can't be bought with money: "you were ransomed... not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18–19).

Here's an idea. Why not use the £100 million to fund Christian mission at home and abroad? Where Anglican congregations are growing, they tend to be of an Evangelical stamp. Invest the dosh in those kinds of fellowships. I'm sure they'll know what to do with it. Like training an up-and-coming generation of preachers, planting new churches in places where they are needed, or revitalising churches that are in danger of fizzling out. Not to mention investing in the spread of the good news of Jesus overseas. Money on its own can do none of those things, but none of them can be done without financial support.

But, as I say, nothing to do with me. Forget I even mentioned it.

Guy Davies

www.pbc-ebc.org.uk

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

Saturday 8th August the marriage of Lauren Bone and Brody Broom at St Barnabas, Easterton

Saturday 26th September the marriage of Kereen Jones and William James at St Mary's, Market Lavington

Friday 10th July the funeral of Peter Andrew at St Peter's, Great Cheverell and burial within the churchyard

Wednesday 15th July the funeral of Michael Nock at West Wiltshire Crematorium

Monday 20th July the funeral of Marian Eccles at St Mary's, Market Lavington followed by a burial within the churchyard

Thursday 13th August the funeral of Stephen Westley at West Wiltshire Crematorium

Friday 25th September the funeral of Margaret King at West Wiltshire Crematorium followed by a Service at Thanksgiving at All Saints', West Lavington



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TRINITY CHURCH OCTOBER



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 OCTOBER - Trinity Church Sector Service
with Communion Led by Rev'd. Gary Gotham***

***11th OCTOBER - United Church Service
 Led by Rev'd. Gary Gotham***

***18th OCTOBER - Trinity Church Service
 Led by Margaret White***

***25th OCTOBER - United Church 'Harvest'
Service
 Led by Rev'd. Tom MacMeekin***

***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

An apology from the magazine team.

There was no magazine in September because having sent prepared copy to the printer it got lost at their end. The magazine often arrives late because of problems with the delivery so it was September 7 before we got worried. We tried phoning Jamprint, but no one answered the phone and their answerphone was so full of messages that we couldn't leave one. Our treasurer was able to contact them and discovered that they had not realised that there was a magazine to print. By then it was too late to print, deliver and distribute them so the printer was told not to print them.

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Salisbury Playhouse & The Salberg Studio

Salisbury Playhouse is composed of the Main House auditorium, The Salberg studio space and a friendly coffee bar in our foyer, alongside several rehearsal and community spaces.

Salisbury Arts Centre

Salisbury Arts Centre is a beautiful deconsecrated church, which is home to a vast performance space, a selection of meeting rooms and a studio space.

<https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/whats-on>

A listing of events, including
activities and workshops, for all ages, theatre, crafting & creative
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Whether swimming for fun or lane swimming our club caters for all. Using the lovely Dauntsey School 25 metre Swimming Pool we swim in term time and have two separate offerings, that of Tuesdays and Sundays and that of Thursday mornings.

Autumn TERM started Sunday 6th September 2026 and includes 12 Tuesday swims and 11 Sunday swims. The last swim being Tuesday 8th December 2026

The club swimming times are Sundays, 3:30 to 5:30pm. Tuesdays, 7:15 to 8:45pm

Membership fees for the term:- £45 for individual and £90 for a family.

For further details about joining this offering please contact Alison Andrews Membership Secretary on Lavingtonswim@gmail.com

Morning Swimming starts Thursday 3rd September 2026 and is from 6:30 to 7:30 both Tuesday and Thursdays. Membership fee for the term is £45 for one session or £90 for both.

For further information about the morning swimming please contact Phil Richardson Membership Secretary on ladscmorningswim@gmail.com

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Based in central Wiltshire, our helicopter can reach anywhere in Wiltshire within 11 minutes – and the centre of Bath in just four.

So far in 2026, we have attended 595 missions, including 28 missions in Devizes and the surrounding areas.

February was our busiest ever, making it the first February in our history to respond to more than 100 missions.

The proportion of missions attended by a critical care doctor has increased from 61% in 2025 to 65% so far this year. That means more patients can receive advanced procedures and lifesaving interventions at the scene, bringing hospital-level care directly to the patient.

Get involved

There are many ways you can help support your local air ambulance. Whether you join us at one of our events this year, host your own community fundraiser, take part in our raffles, leave us a legacy, become a volunteer, or support us in one of the many other ways available, we are incredibly grateful for every way our supporters help us.

Find out more about our Charity: wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk



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The dates for
October are
2nd and 16th.



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When: Friday 16 October 2026

**Where: Odd Down Sports Ground, Chelwood Drive, Bath
BA2 2PR**

How much: Registration costs £7.50 for children and £10 for adults. Aim to raise £50 (adults) or £25 (children) to support your local hospital.

Sign up at ruhx.org.uk/events/glow-run/

Market Lavington Museum Dates for your diary

3rd November 2026 : AGM in The Old School 7pm

28th December 2026 : Christmas opening 2-4pm

2nd January 2027 : Christmas opening 2-4pm

White Horse Opera

WHO are performing Verdi's La Traviata at the Wharf Theatre Devises on Tues 27th, Wed 28th and Fri 30th October at 7.30pm and on Sat 31st October at 2pm.

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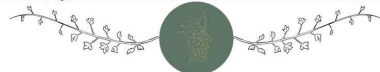
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**A Message from Cllr Dominic Muns
Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons**

Over the last few months there has been no shortage of debate about Wiltshire Council's new HRC booking system. The new system now requires residents to book a slot online before visiting the tip. Cabinet argues that the changes will help "manage demand, improve efficiency and reduce queues". Critics (like me) have questioned whether the extra faff, on top of the move to 3-weekly black bin collections, will lead to an increase in fly-tipping.

Nobody enjoys arriving at the tip to find a long queue, so if technology can improve the experience it's worth exploring. However, I have literally never seen anyone queuing at Devizes HRC so why make it more complicated than it needs to be? DEFRA is clear - the harder you make it for people to legally get rid of rubbish, the greater the risk that some of it ends up in a lay-by or country lane. I'll await the evidence, although I have already been told data on queue times, number of vehicles on the road outside and accurate visitor numbers has never been recorded, so quite how they intend to prove the system benefits us is anyone's guess.

In positive local news, you may have seen recent coverage of Lavington School which continues to go from strength to strength. There is a tendency for politicians to talk endlessly about "supporting young people" while overlooking one of the most important ingredients of a thriving rural community - having an excellent local school. Lavington School has quietly built a reputation that extends far beyond the villages it directly serves. The school's sixth form, which I wrote to the Education Secretary to support in 2024, started its second academic year in September, allowing more young people to continue their education locally rather than travelling elsewhere. This month Lavington School ranked as the most oversubscribed non-selective secondary school in the county with 205 applications for 168 Year 7 places. Oversubscription is a strong sign that a school is doing things right; families are voting with their feet and choosing where they want their children educated. Coupled with above average GCSE results, Lavington is flying high, but with any successful school comes challenges, car parking being an obvious one. I remain encouraged by the Headteacher's dedication to working proactively with the community and a plan is in motion.

Lavington's achievements belong not just to the leadership team and teaching staff but also to generations of pupils, parents, governors and supporters who have helped build the school's reputation over many years. It is easy to take local institutions for granted until we lose them. At a time when so much public debate focuses on what is going wrong, it is important to take a moment to recognise what is going right. Across The Lavingtons we are fortunate to have five fantastic schools that attract families from across the wider area. Even households without school aged children will see a benefit due to the increased desirability of our villages due to the huge number of families who choose where to live based on the presence of highly rated schools.

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on 07585 394 178.



Elles Bailey is one of the most distinctive voices on the British roots scene, known for her gritty, soulful vocal and deeply personal songwriting. Blending Americana, blues and country influences, she has spent the past decade building a reputation as a fiercely independent artist whose music explores resilience, connection and self-discovery.

Easterton Sewing Bees

Autumn is a time for new plans and inspiration.
With the approaching festive season
and the change in the weather and
autumn colours, all can
create that desire to plan and achieve.

At the Village Hall in Easterton,
the Sewing Bees are busy working on lots of
exciting and innovative crafts.
Why not visit to see what they are up to
and gain that push to complete or
begin your own project.

We meet every Wednesday evening
from 7pm for 2 hours, for £3 in
Easterton Village Hall.
(includes refreshments)

For more information please contact:
Helen Hardman: 07584060644

Penny Sully: fotopentoes31@gmail.com or message

You could also just turn up on the day
or send a message to us via our facebook group:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
eastertonsewingbees](https://www.facebook.com/groups/eastertonsewingbees)

Friendship Fridays

10 - 12.15 every Friday.

The Old School

Drop in for chat, tea/coffee and biscuits

An Unexpected Landmark

It was great news recently that Easterton did so well in the Best Kept Village Competition. As a resident of the village I admit to a certain bias when I say that I think it was well deserved! I also think that we have a secret weapon! I live on the corner of Oak Lane and Haywards Place. Across from my back gate is a small Royal Mail post box. I regularly see people approaching it, camera in hand, looking, trying different angles and then taking their photographs. And the reason? Balanced and attached to the top of the box is a knitted scene. And not just one knitted scene, these change regularly and are seasonal. At present we have bees and flowers, around Remembrance time we had poppies and servicemen, all in immaculate and correct uniform, marching across the top, we have had a tennis match complete with strawberries and champagne, hearts and flowers in February. Always seasonal, appropriate and meticulously constructed. For a while it was a bit like having our own Banksy because they would appear and no one knew quite where from. However, this is a village and you can never keep a secret for long. The whispers started, someone in Hayward's Place?, is it Babs, she knits? Shall we ask her? Well we did and it was! So Babs Smith, you are outed and thank you, you give a lot of people much pleasure and the scenes are fabulous, the workmanship is awe inspiring and the village is the richer for it.

Who needs a Banksy when we have a Babs!!

Fairport Convention

Wiltshire Music Centre, Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1DZ
Tuesday 20 Oct 7:30pm

Fairport Convention have been entertaining music lovers for over half a century, with 2026 being their 59th anniversary! During that time the band that launched British folk-rock has seen many changes, but one thing has remained the same – Fairport's passion for performance.

This year's Autumn Tour will present a mix of long-established Fairport favourites and some surprises from albums old and new. Fairport Convention have won a BBC Lifetime Achievement Award and Radio 2 listeners voted their ground-breaking album *Liege & Lief* 'The Most Influential Folk Album of All Time'.



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Lavington & District Gardening Club

We would like to thank everyone that either helped, entered or came along to the Annual Produce Show in August. It was wonderful to see the display of fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants despite the challenging growing conditions. It was also great to see examples of the amazing talent in our community, including crafts, photography and baking, and entries from our young people. In total, nearly 400 entries. The afternoon is always very special with people catching up with each other over tea and home made cakes baked by our members.

We'd also like to thank local businesses that generously donated raffle prizes: Ask Alice, Bramblerose Designs, Caroline's Nails, Duck St honey, Gemini Hairstylists, Hilpertons Nursery, Perfect Presence, Roses, Rusty Ravens, Rutts Cider, Simone Health & Beauty, The Churchill, The Courtyard Farmshop, The Green Dragon, The Royal Oak and Vibrant Art by Ellen, and of course our members.

Details of the club can be found at lavingtongc.co.uk

MARKET LAVINGTON CHRISTMAS COUNTRY FAIR



We're back! The fifteenth annual CHRISTMAS COUNTRY FAIR in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund will be held on Saturday November 14th at Market Lavington Community Hall from 10am to 2pm. Start your Christmas shopping with us! You're bound to find the perfect present from lots of stalls featuring handmade crafts and produce, including jewellery, textiles, home decor, glass, wood, greeting cards, preserves, Christmas cards and decorations. Plus a Tombola and refreshments! Profits from the Fair will help the ABF to help soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families. We have so far raised nearly £16,000! Entrance is free to the Fair, but a £1 coin (or more!) in one of our buckets as you come in would make all the difference!

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Buffy Revamped

Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7RA

Telephone 01722320333

<https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/book/instance/602001>

Presented by James Seabright,

written by Brendan Murphy

Thursday 22 October

Main venue

Salisbury Playhouse

Tickets £28.50 – £32.50

Ages 14+

Duration

1hr 15mins (no interval)

This fast-paced gem brings you the entire 144 episodes of the hit 90s TV show, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, as told through the eyes of the one person who knows it inside out... Spike. *Buffy Revamped* tours the UK following its award-winning Edinburgh Fringe premiere in 2022, having since played international seasons in Ireland, Australia, Canada and the USA alongside several sold-out UK national tours.

Funny, satirical and bursting with 90s pop-culture references, it's the perfect parody for *Buffy* aficionados and those who never enrolled at Sunnydale High alike.

Created by comedian Brendan Murphy whose last show *FRIEND (The One with Gunther)*, won Best Play at the World Wide Comedy Awards.

Buffy Revamped

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The Elisha Field Closing Times

October	3	6.41pm
October	10	6.26pm
October	17	6.11pm
October	24	5.57pm
October	31	4.43pm
November	7	4.31pm



CLOCKS FALL BACK 24/25 OCTOBER

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

Planning Applications

Market Lavington

PL/2026/04792 Land at Freith, Agricultural storage building of standard agricultural construction. (Extension to recently constructed structure)

PL/2026/04829 Kyrle House, 59 High St. SN10 4AG. T1 Cedar - Reduction of over extended limbs to reduce by 2-3 metres back into canopy shape.

T2 Acer - 1 - 1.5m formative prune. T3 Cherry - 1 - 1.5m reduction to a more manageable height. T4 Douglas Fir - Deadwood crown.

T5 Cherry - Lower over extended canopy to bring back into natural tree shape.

PL/2026/05347 St. Mary's Church, Rowan tree - 2 metre lateral reduction and 2 metre horizontal reduction.

PL/2026/05189 Hazeldene, Ledge Hill, SN10 4NW. Front and rear extensions with the addition of a new roof refurbishment.

PL/2026/05686 1 Canada Rise SN10 4AD. T1 - Copper Beech tree - reduce entire crown by 1m-2m.

PL/2026/05710 14 Canada Rise, SN10 4AD. T1 & T2 Beech reduce by 2-3m remove rubbing crossing branches and deadwood throughout canopy.

PL/2026/05790 Conversion of footpath WORT33 public footpath into agricultural track and extending into Market Lavington.

Easterton

PL/2026/05177 Dairy Cottage, Eastcott, SN10 4PJ. Proposed two-storey domestic extension and regularisation of the extent of the domestic curtilage.

<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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Calendar of Services – August 2026

The Lavingtons, Cheverells and Easterton

4th October		11th October	18th October	25th October	1st November
		9.00 am West Lavington Breakfast Church (Service @ 9.30am)	10.00am Welcome to Worship St Peter's, Great Cheverell	9.30 am Praise and Worship West Lavington all Saints	
Benefice Service with Baptism St Peter's, Great Cheverell	10.30 am	United Service with Trinity & St. Barnabas @ The Community Hall	Benefice Service Communion Harvest Service All Saints', West Lavington	United Service with Trinity & St Mary's @ The Community Hall	Benefice Service Communion Harvest Service St Peter's, Little Cheverell
		10.30 Harvest Service St. Peter's Great Cheverell		11.00am BCP Communion St Peter's, Great Cheverell	
				6.00pm Harvest Service St. Mary's Market Lavington	4.00pm Celebration of All Saints All Saints', West Lavington

Every Thursday, Morning Prayer at 8.00am in All Saints' Church

Friday 30th October

6.00pm All Souls Service, St Barnabas, Easterton

Regular worship in our sister churches:

9.00am Sunday and 9.30am on Mondays Mass at St Joseph's Roman
Catholic Church

10.30 am Trinity Church in the Community Hall, Market Lavington

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.



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Remembrance Sunday Curry Lunch

Date: Sunday 8th November 2026

Time: from 12noon - Doors & Bar open;
lunch served from approx 12:45pm)

Venue: Easterton Village Hall,
Kings Rd. Easterton. SN10 4PS.

Tickets: *(available online from 3rd Oct)*

- ❖ £16 (adults/aged 12+)
- ❖ £8 (children aged 11 & under)

Bar available to purchase alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks *(card/cash accepted)*

! Want to sit together as a group?
See 'Events' page for more details

**For more details &
Ticket Purchases:**

- go to 'Events' page at
www.eastertonvh.org

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