

THE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

St. Andrew's Church Chippenham with St. Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas



Gavin MacRae

St. George

Thank You from
Rod and Sue

ChatGPT's
reflections on
summer and God

Memories –
sweet or bitter?

All of your
favourite regular
features and
updates

www.standrewschippenham.org.uk

No. 54
June 2023

THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Parish Priest:

Vacancy

Curate

Anton Campbell
revanton@outlook.com

Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945

Gavin Macrae 659922

Deputy Churchwardens

Margaret Harrison 652148

Maurice Chadwick

Mauricechadwick25@gmail.com

Church Administrator

Jen Corton 655947

Organist and Music Director

Paul Fortune 652643

Paulandmyra25@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Remy Osman

remyworldpeace@hotmail.com

The Church Office

Market Place, SN15 3HT

Tel: (01249) 655947

Open Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri
Morning for general enquiries
and Monday 6pm-6:30pm for
Wedding and Christenings
enquiries

To get in touch or book the Hall,
please email us at kingalfredhall@gmail.com



Photo: Barry Hayward

Living the life of the Easter people

What a challenge it is to live the life of the Easter people! And that, of course, is what we are called to be, the people who live in the newness of Jesus Christ's Risen life.

It was easy to feel the joy, in the sunshine of Easter Sunday this year. The church was full of colour and light and after the service, children searched enthusiastically for mini eggs in the churchyard. It was harder to hold onto that joy as we said goodbye to Rod and Sue at the end - our farewell celebrations for Rod and Sue were indeed happy and joyous – yet, very much mingled with sorrow that this really was goodbye. We could not but be conscious that we are moving into a new stage in our life at St Andrew's. Newness always signals change and that's something all of us find hard if we're honest. However bold and ready to embrace change we think we are, there's always something we feel nostalgic for - things, places, and people that we miss.

King Charles' coronation followed our farewell to Rod and now already lies behind us. New challenges await our country as we enter a new era. New life, new ways of doing things beckon but we still carry the past with us just as we do in our personal lives, where moments of joy and sadness often mingle so very randomly. Joy and euphoria raise our spirits, as we experienced during Rod's farewell service and as we greeted King Charles' accession with splendid liturgy and pageantry. It's easy to spot and rejoice in the signs of new things to come, as we wave our flags and shout our hurrahs but how does all this fit with our daily round – how can we be an Easter people as “life goes on”?

I take heart from the experience of Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection. At first, like us, they didn't know whether they were coming or going. Yet they believed Jesus' promise that they would receive God's Holy Spirit and that this would strengthen them to live the new life of change and challenge which lay before them. The Holy Spirit which came at Pentecost enabled the disciples to take on the world spreading the Good News of God's love wherever they went. As Pentecost draws near, we believe that the Holy Spirit will continue to encourage, sustain, and inspire us in all that lies ahead.

Eryl Spencer

A big “Thank You!” from Rod & Sue

I've just ridden home on a shiny new Top of the Range electric bike - and it's fabulous!

Your incredibly generous gift has meant that as well as this beauty, we've been able to get a shiny second hand one for Sue as well - so we'll be off exploring the lanes together in this lovely weather.

Thank you so much for such a generous gift and for all the good wishes you've sent us.

We miss you all very much!

Love from

Rod and Sue xx



On Saturday 20th May Barry & I visited Sue & Rod at their new home. Such a beautiful homely and comfortable “Post Box Cottage” (Victorian Red Post Box in the wall outside their home) – the semi-detached cottage is built in the lovely mellow Hamstone. It was good to know where Rod & Sue are and feel sure they will settle down very happily there, it is a really rural spot with very narrow lanes to travel around and very few passing places!! Naturally, they are missing Chippenham and the people of St Andrew’s, but are gradually getting used to retirement. They have worked hard on their sheltered garden – lots of planting and some new fruit trees. Next door to them is a beautiful Naish Priory (not habited at present) but Rod & Sue took us for a walk round the extensive gardens there. We also called into their nearest church, St Michael’s at East Coker where there is a memorial corner to the poet T.S. Eliot, whose ashes are interred in the churchyard as his ancestors came from East Coker.

Ros Harford



Memories – Bitter or Sweet?

We all have our memories - the “recollection of experiences from the past”. Do these recollections become more vivid as we progress on into old age? I have never been a “stick in the mud” person dwelling in the past, but I think they do. Our memories, “recollections of experiences from the past” are part and parcel of what we have been, and still are. Family, or other episodal experiences in our lives, make us what we now are. I believe they form part of our character – the way we think, and to a large extent our likes and dislikes (prejudices).

Leaving aside the precious and intimate family memories, I want to talk about the more mundane, but nonetheless, significant memories of my childhood and youth, and how they have shaped my life. I think and talk about these often – do you talk about yours? There is a whole wealth of them locked away in our brain and ready to be released. How do they compare with the present and how do we see the differences from then to the present day? – bitter or sweet? One period, in particular, often occupies my thoughts - the musically informative years of my life. There are, of course, other memories, maybe less prominent, but still special to me.

As an engineer I strived to be progressive, always looking for innovation. And in my more pensive moments, I think about this period, from apprentice to senior management, with some sense of satisfaction that I have played my small part. But the most graphic memories go right back to my boyhood and as a young man living in the “Black Country” in the Midlands. And I think of the “Kids that were kids” when I was a kid. Those were the days when we made our own amusements and pastimes. Nothing came easy or “off the shelf” or the “internet” – it hadn’t been invented. We made our kites, fishing rods, bows and arrows. We played conkers and made fire cans!! These days, Elf & Safety would have a fit! Have you ever made a fire can? (tell me about it) – great fun and dangerous! And we made little boats that we sailed on the pond in front of the GWR signal box. Sometimes, the signalman would let us go up into the box. Then we had a “birds eye view” as the trains were “pegged” through. In winter we made our own sledges – any old pieces of wood and a few nails would do. And in my thoughts, I do wonder what, in years to come, the young people of today will have to think back on. We were poor, but our lives were a rich tapestry of activity – always something to do.

But the memory, of which I have constant reminders, is my time from the age of seven years in the church choir – fourteen singing boys (with a waiting list) altos, tenors and basses and a whole library of wonderful music. It was there that I developed my love of music – from plainsong to the Tudors and more modern compositions of the period. It was a time, in the church, when we sang hymns (unsanitised) not songs, and we didn't have drums, bongos and wah wah pedals. Not that there is anything wrong with those – in their place. My choir master used to say to his boys "there is nothing wrong with popular music – enjoy it. However, in worship, our offering to God must be of the very best we have to offer". But now, the church is adapting worship to the spirit of the age – aka dumbing down. Here, I quote from an article written by a churchman (oops!) (not from St. Andrew's) who, when in London, attended a Palm Sunday service at a famous church: -

"It was packed full of people. The form of Service was not recognisably Anglican. The hymns were all very jolly, but not very familiar. There was a special Palm Sunday hymn containing the following profound words".

*We have a King who rides on a donkey'
We have a King who rides on a donkey.
We have a King who rides on a donkey
Early in the morning.*

Set to the tune of "What shall we do with a drunken sailor"!!!

A little while ago, a very good engineer friend of mine passed away and I was asked to give a eulogy. I resorted to "recollections of the past" – memories. And I also took away a memory – we were singing "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven. I didn't have to look at my service sheet for that, I must have sung it and played it a thousand times and was in full flow when, suddenly, I realised that I was not singing what others were singing – the hymn had been thoroughly sanitised. My memory signalled to me how sad – the bitter part of "bitter or sweet".

These are the memories that have shaped my life. I accept that, not all will hold with some of my views expressed here, which are a comparison with my treasured memories / recollections from the past - my sentiments, call them nostalgia, in a world that is now so different.

Geoff Oldnall

May 2023

PCC Sub-committees 2023

Children & Youth Committee: Eryl Spencer

Communications Committee: Convenor Jenny Norris

Fabric Committee: Convenor Denise

Friends of St Andrew's: Convenor Jenny Norris

Hall Committee: Convenor Jenny Norris

Organ rebuild: Convenor Mary Pennel

Social Events Committee: Convenor Dorryta Hayward

Social Responsibility Committee: Convenor Dick Spencer

Standing & Finance Committee: Convenor Jenny Norris

Worship and Pastoral Care Committee: Convenor Margaret Harrison

To St Andrew's PCC,

Please accept a small donation to purchase a plant or shrub for King Alfred's garden in remembrance of our 17yrs as tenants in Church Flat and the work both Bill and I did to make a garden out of the derelict piece of waste ground that greeted us in 1998. We have shared many happy times with parishioners over the years – barbecues, Christian Aid days, parties and Night Prayers around our fire pit. May it rise again as a beautiful community space.

Much love and thanks,

Sue Reed xx

Bexhill, April 2023

Mothers' Union Update

Our speaker in May, Janet Donnelly, told us about the Kingsmeadow@MadeForever Community Hub. It is a registered charity aimed at preventing isolation, reaching out to those already in isolation and enhancing wellbeing to all ages. Janet, a Mothers' Union member for 50 years, talked about the various activities that take place at the centre in Kingswood, which has several deprived areas within the community. It has its own building where individuals and families can be helped by a dedicated team to identify and take control of challenges they may be facing, be it emotional or practical. Their work includes providing food parcels as well as cooked meals, hygiene kits, clothing, household items, baby care products and food bank vouchers. Our members brought various items of toiletries to the meeting to give to Janet to take back to the centre. It gave us thought as to the support we could give within our local community of Chippenham.

In June, the meeting will be an afternoon cream tea at the branch leader's home in Calne. Put the date in your diary, **12th June, at 2.30 pm**, cost £5 with profits going to support AFIA (away from it all scheme giving a day out to those families who cannot afford to go to the seaside), and MU funds.

If you would like to come along please advise me by 5th June. (email: denise.addison@gmail.com or telephone 07808571875)

Denise Addison



George of Lydda – a martyr

Many people think St. George is an Englishman, but this is not the case. He is prominent in Eastern Orthodox devotion, especially among his fellow Palestinians. His story isn't that easy to get hold of as it is surrounded by legend. But when the English Crusaders were in the land 1099-1291, they believed he was fighting on their side and giving them victories. They took his name, his fame, and his flag home with them so that he became England's Patron Saint, in place of King Edward the Confessor.

We do not know when George was born, but probably around 250 AD. But he was born in Lydda (Lod), and his secretary, Pasicrates, is credited with the first narrating of his story. He tells us that he went from Lydda 20 miles NW of Jerusalem, to Tyre, another 80 miles up and on the coast of Lebanon. He went to claim his coming-of-age rights (his father having died when he was ten). There he was confronted with a demand to sacrifice to the pagan gods and a deadly array of instruments should he refuse. This was under the Emperor Decius, 249 - 251, who was violently against Christians. George refused to sacrifice saying, "Among men my name is George. But my name before all else is Christian." His execution may have been immediate or he was subjected to protracted threats, which explains the legend of him "dying numerous times." Two servants brought his body by ship to Jaffa and buried him in Lydda. After Constantine became ruler in 313 A.D he ordered a great church to be built over his tomb, the remains of which can be seen to this day. He was among the youngest of faithful martyrs. There are many churches and cathedrals dedicated to him. Among them is St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem.

In the years not long after local Christians, against the word of their bishops, added local legends to George's life saying that by witnessing he fought the dragon the Devil and won. This still persists to this day.

Revd. Laurence Hubbard

Sentence Mark 13.11. Jesus said, "When they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak but the Holy Spirit."

Collect Lord, hear the prayer of those who praise your mighty power. As you strengthened your martyr George to follow Christ to suffering and death, so we ask you to strengthen us as we seek to follow Christ in our lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Readings Psalm 119: 33-40, Isaiah 43: 8-13, Philippians 3: 17-21 or Acts 12:1-11 John:15:17-16.1.



A charity which helps people improve their reading skills in Wiltshire is looking for volunteers.

Read Easy North and West Wiltshire needs more coaches to ensure it continues to meet demand for help with literacy.

Coaches normally meet the reader they are working with twice a week for around half an hour.

The key characteristics required include empathy, because most readers have had a difficult experience at school, and will have had to summon up courage to return to reading – but also flexibility.

The charity is also keen to expand the number of volunteer coordinators organising its work in the north and west of the county.

The role involves meeting new readers and matching them to coaches, and helping with ongoing training.

To find out more about volunteering as a coach or coordinator, contact Sue Williams on

07367 100 936 or email nwwrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk.

To find out more about how Read Easy can help you or someone you know, contact Heather Morris on 07367 100 936 or email nwwcoordinator@readeasy.org.uk .





Physiotherapy
Acupuncture
Massage
Podiatry and Chiropody
Reflexology

25% off
your treatment with this advert

Unit 8 Syms Yard, Bumpers Way,
Bumpers Farm, Chippenham SN14 6LH

To find out more or to book online
visit www.ckclinic.co.uk or call us on

01249 324166

Letter from Uncle Eustace: *Beware the church microphone*

My dear Nephew Darren,

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does not necessarily want to do so.

I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound. But for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

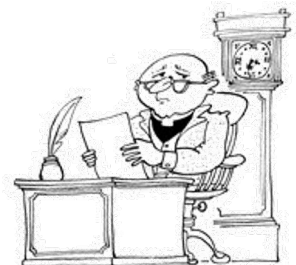
Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth..." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the verger dash outside to check if yet another medieval gargoyle had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

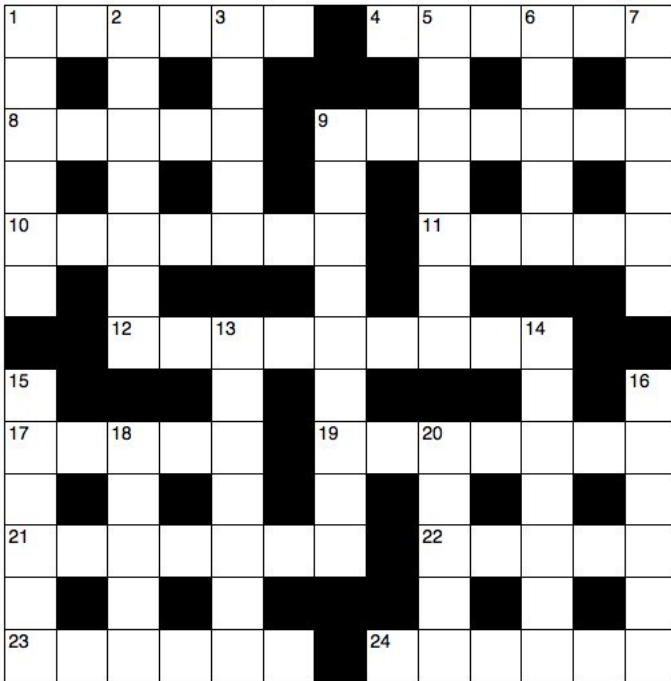
I was also not convinced that the 16th century workmen who had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing.

Whoever fixed the fencing failed, and later that night all 43 cows in the field escaped, and ended up in the Colonel's flower-filled front garden, where they spent a comfortable night slicing his velvet turf with their sharp cleats, and chomping everything in sight.

Your loving uncle, Eustace
(The Rectory, St. James the Least)





Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

11 th June	<i>Evensong with Communion</i>	6.30pm
25 th June	<i>Holy Communion</i>	9am

Sheila Laurence

01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 20 £40: 63 £25: 53

Margaret Harrison

A successful quarter peal was rung...

Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association
St Andrew's Chippenham, Wiltshire

Sunday, 14 May 2023 in 45m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Morley Bray	2 Jane Ridgwell
3 Sara Bye	4 Carole Simpson
5 Richard Iles	6 Andrew K Woolley (C)

Rung for Evening Service

EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

Saturday 10 June 7.30pm

North Wilts Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 17 June 7.30pm

The Village Singers - Summer Concert

*The programme will include: A selection of Bruckner Motets
Magnificat (attrib. Durante) - Pergolesi Beatus Vir - Monteverdi's
Vespers and Les Miserables, a Musical Medley*

Tickets: £10 - U16s go free

www.villagesingers.co.uk

Saturday 24 June 7.00pm

Concert in Aid of Julia's House Hospice

Saturday 1 July 7.30pm

Chippenham Male Voice Choir

Saturday 8 July 7.30pm

Wessex Concert Orchestra

Saturday 15 July 7.30pm

CLOGS

Who's Who?

Parish Priest:

Vacancy

Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945

Gavin Macrae 659922

Deputy Churchwardens

Margaret Harrison 652148

Barry Hayward 653322

Church Administrator

Jen Corton 655947

Organist and Music Director

Paul Fortune 652643

Paulandmyra25@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Remy Osman

remyworldpeace@hotmail.com

Head Server

Ruth Harvey 654214

Sacristan (at St. Andrew's)

Brian Elliot 463230

Sacristan (at St. Nicholas')

Elizabeth Sexton 660235

The Church Office

Market Place, SN15 3HT

Tel: (01249) 655947

To make arrangements for Baptisms, Marriage, Reading of Banns etc or to Book the Hall or Church for concerts and events, please email us at st.andrewschurch@zen.co.uk

PCC Secretary (St. Andrew's)

Pip Higman 247269

Pip@higman.eu

PCC Secretary (St. Nicholas)

Sheila Laurence 740687

PCC Treasurer

Chris Norris 812945

chris_norris51@hotmail.co.uk

Assistant Treasurers

Brian Elliot 463230

Sue Wood 650478

Treasurer (St. Nicolas')

Wendy Reeves 650622

Weekly Notice Sheet

Ros Harford 812190

Care Group Co-ordinator

Eryl Spencer 651565

Gift Aid Officer

Sue Wood

Giving Officer

Gavin Macrae 659922

Electoral Roll Officer

Ros Harford 812190

Parish Safeguarding Officer

standrews.safeguarding@outlook.com

100 Club

Margaret Harrison 652148

Vineyard Card Sales

Jackie Hannis 443779

Parish Hall Committee

Jenny Norris 812945

Groups and Organisations at St. Andrew's

Robed Choir and Singers

Paul Fortune 652643

Paulandmyra25@gmail.com

Bell-ringers

Caroline Emerson 658708

Prayer Circle

Eryl Spencer 651565

Flower Arrangers

Dorrryta Hayward 653322

Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

Caroline Emerson 658708

Mothers' Union

Denise Addison 814843

denise.addison@googlemail.com

PCC Sub-Committees

Fabric Committee

Denise Addison 814843

Social Events

Dorrryta Hayward 653322

Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

Organ Rebuild Committee

Mary Pannel

Youth and Children

Eryl Spencer 651565

Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

Communications Committee

Paris Hall Committee

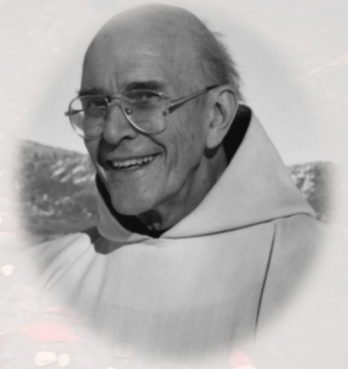
Friends of St. Andrew's

Jenny Norris 812945

When You Pray

We rarely think of the air we breathe, yet it is in us and around us all the time.

In a similar fashion, the presence of God penetrates us, is all around us, is always embracing us.



Thomas Keating
(1923-2018)

Founder of Centering Prayer

A Final Word

It was quite late as I finished editing this edition of the *Herald* so as an experiment – and as a historic first - I have decided to use ChatGPT, the Artificial Intelligence tool to write this concluding remark. I prompted it to reflect upon summer, as I had enjoyed the lovely photos of Chippenham under wonderful blue skies recently:

Summer, with its radiant sun and warm embrace, serves as a gentle reminder of the abounding joy that surrounds us, a joy that resonates deep within our souls. It is during this vibrant time of year that we find solace in the beauty of creation, and our spirits are uplifted by the wonders of God's love. So, as we embark on the summer's journey, let us carry with us the ever-present reminder that joy is not merely a fleeting sensation but a divine gift that flourishes within our hearts, connecting us to our Creator. May this season be filled with countless blessings, drawing us closer to the source of all joy and reminding us of the profound connection we share with God.

Remy Osman – Editor (with the help of ChatGPT!)

Church Services

St. Andrew's Parish Church, Chippenham with St. Nicolas' Tytherton Lucas

St Andrew's Church Chippenham

9am Eucharist

Alternating between traditional and contemporary language, this is a said service.

10.30am Eucharist

The main Parish Eucharist with singing and congregational hymns. Led by our robed choir on the 1st, 3rd and some 5th Sundays and the singing group on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Evensong

6:30pm Second Sunday of the Month

St Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas

Evening Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

3.30pm during the winter months October to March

6.30pm during the summer months April to September.

Please see inside on page 16 for more details.