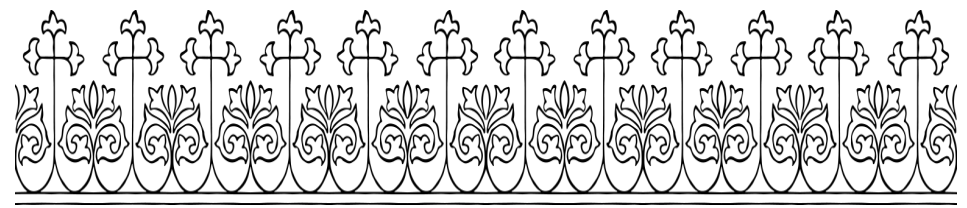


Benefice Contacts		
VICAR	Rev Elaine Jones	revelainejones@hotmail.com
Church Admin	officepawdd@gmail.com	07935 590033
Wick	Suzy Britton	wickchurchwarden@gmail.com
Doynton Warden	Elizabeth Copping	elizabethcopping1@gmail.com
Dyrham Warden	Peter Highway	pete.highway@googlemail.com
		07753986430
Wick URC	Linda Byrne	lindabyrne7@yahoo.co.uk
		0117 239 8382
	Sue Hickmore	suehickmore@gmail.com
		0117 937 4396
Wick Benefice	www.wickbenefice.net	



Parish News

Wick, Doynton, Dyrham and Hinton



From the Registers



March 2026

In a world that can often feel unsettled and uncertain, many of us are conscious of the weight of difficult news, conflict across nations, rising living costs, and increasing division within society. Closer to home too, life brings its own struggles and concerns. It is easy at times to feel discouraged.

Yet as we look around our villages, there are also signs of hope. Spring is beginning to unfold. The days are lengthening, flowers are emerging in gardens and hedgerows, and fields are once again alive with newborn calves and lambs. Creation itself seems to speak of renewal and fresh beginnings.

It is into this season that we celebrate Easter which is at the very heart of the Christian faith. The Good News of the gospel, that we rejoice in, is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter message reveals that through his death and rising to new life, God has opened the way for forgiveness, peace, and a living hope for all who turn to him in faith.

This is not simply a message for the past, but Good News for today, it's a reminder that light overcomes darkness, that love is stronger than fear, and that new life can be found in Christ.

Across our parish churches, we will be gathering to worship, pray and celebrate together, and you would be most warmly welcome to join us. Whether you come regularly, have been away from church for some time, or are simply exploring the Christian faith, there is a place for you among us.

We begin Easter Day with a sunrise service in Brockwell Park at 6:20am, a simple and beautiful act of worship as we greet the new day and hear again the story of the empty tomb. Later, there will be Easter worship in Wick at 10am, and also in Pucklechurch where we enjoy an Easter egg hunt for families and children. You may even meet a small lamb as we celebrate the joy of the season together.

Easter invites us to share together in celebration, as the prophet Isaiah writes, "the trees of the field will clap their hands." So, let's lay aside our burdens for a while, to encounter the risen Christ, and to discover the hope and new life he offers, as we celebrate the Good News together.

News from St Bartholomew's

The World Day of Prayer last month was a lovely, peaceful and thought-provoking afternoon, full of stories from our sisters in Nigeria which were very moving. Some cracking music, too! And a lovely spot of tea afterwards. Our grateful thanks for the invitation from the Chapel to join them for this.

The Alpha course came to an end with a lovely supper and some very interesting and enlightening discussions. If you get a chance to go to an Alpha meeting, I highly recommend it.

The daffs in the churchyard put on an amazing show last month - there are still some later varieties waving their golden heads about. Remind me in September to get some more late ones planted, it is SO lovely to see them all! I did plant the bluebells and snowdrops I told you about last month, so fingers crossed we see a little haze of blue next month and a sprinkling of white next Feb. Now that the weather is cheering up, (*glorious sunny day as I write this*) we will have recommenced our grass mowing - I can reassure you all that the chap that does it is very sympathetic to our wildflower ambitions, knows where and when not to mow, so we are looking forward to more colour, more insects and happy bats.

I know that with Easter being at the beginning of April, you may not have had chance to get to any of the special services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday etc. The forecast for the 5th, Easter Sunday, is "dry but cold" so if you plan to go to the Sunrise Service, led by the lovely Jane Gillis, be prepared to wrap up warm! Church will be nice and warm, and beautifully decorated,

and I'm sure Steve Burgess will have a really good celebration planned. Do think about coming along to the most glorious day of the church year.



Doynton Parish Pump

The next **memory café** will take place on **Thursday April 2nd**, 2.00–4.00 p.m., in the village hall, with an Easter theme and a performance by a local children's choir. Anyone living with dementia or memory loss is welcome to attend with a family member or carer, free of charge. Crafts, games, puzzles, shared memories, chats with our volunteers, tea and home-made cakes are a feature of every café. We have lots of information and guidance available for those with a new diagnosis of dementia and their families, and many of our volunteers have experience of someone with dementia among their own family or friends. For more information, see our Facebook "The Memory Cafe at Doynton", email mcdoynton [at] gmail.com or call/text 07817 311001, or pages 22 and 23 of this issue.

Doynton Village Market: come and enjoy on the first and third Saturdays of each month, 10.00–11.00 a.m., with eggs fresh from the farm and regular supplies of local fresh and frozen meat, fruit and vegetables, fresh flowers and plants. Also available: home-made sweet and savoury treats, including gluten-free – buy scones and preserves for your afternoon tea later in the day. Choose a gift or treat yourself from one of the craft stalls which include collectable novelties, sewn and knitted items for all ages, essential oils, wax melts and scented sachets, free from harmful chemicals, also greetings cards and paintings. Orders can be taken for the food stalls and commissions are welcome for bespoke items from all the craft stalls. And before you leave, well stocked before the next market, relax with a drink and a biscuit or cake while chatting with friends. **Next markets April 4th (Easter Saturday) and 18th**. See you there!

Many thanks to everyone who attended the **Lent lunches** and those who made soup, cakes, etc. and helped out each week. It was greatly appreciated. We made £283.00, which will be split between the charity Jamie's Farm and Holy Trinity Church, as a contribution towards the new heating system.

The **seed swap and plant sale** on March 14th made almost £1200 for the Hillfields Community garden in Bristol. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

The March meeting was an energetic one for the members of **Doynton and Wick WI**, as they tried out Seated Zumba to music with Philomena Connelly [*I ached for two days – Ed.*]. It's a safe yet challenging

workout, especially for people who aren't too steady on their feet, and certainly caused a lot of laughter. At the next meeting on April 8th (7.30 p.m.), Lou Ruddell will give a talk on sharks. The competition is "a fishy item" – interpret that as you will! All welcome at Doynton village hall.

Please donate any packets or tins of food you can spare to the **Doynton foodbank and North Bristol and South Glos foodbank** basket in the church porch. The foodbank always needs staples such as tinned meat and vegetables, long-life milk, fruit juice and squash, but also toiletries such as shampoo and soap. The need is as great as ever – in the week before Christmas, 881 people were referred for emergency food support, compared with the previous record of 681. Please help if you can.

If you want to visit the local waste **recycling centre at Mangotsfield**, you now have to pre-book a slot online. Go to <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/book-recycling-centre/> to book a slot up to two weeks in advance.

If you don't have a car or are unable to drive for any reason, Green Community Travel may be able to help you with transport to hospital or other appointments. See <https://greencommunitytravel.co.uk/>, email admin [at] greencommunitytravel.co.uk or phone 01454 228706.

The **Warm Wednesdays community café** takes place every week in the village hall between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. Come along for tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits galore. Everyone welcome.

Doynton village hall bookings: Suzanne Carten – email doytonvillagehall[at]mail.com or tel. 07986 636611.

Visit the Doynton village website, www.doyntonvillage.org, for news of upcoming events, Doynton history and useful local links. To publicise a Doynton event, email doytonvillage [at] live.co.uk.

A happy Easter to you all!



The Owl's Nest

Welcome to the news for April

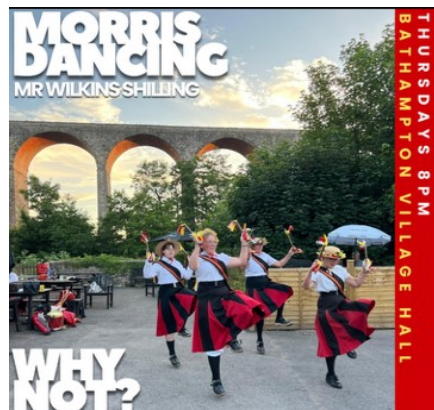
Please email
wickparishmagazine@outlook.com
with your news items for the May
edition no later than Monday 20th April

Please send copy containing artwork/logos etc as a .png or .jpg file, thank you



Guides have enjoyed another busy term making bird feeders as part of the RSPB bird watch; celebrating Australia day with a BBQ and boomerang competition; a trip to Cardiff with 5000 other Guides for a giant treasure hunt and earning lots of

badges. Next term we are looking forward to a sleepover, County camp in the New Forest in our fantastic new tents, and boating down at the docks. We meet in Wick on a Monday eve and would love interested girls age 10-14 to come and join us. We have an open evening for girls and adults on Mon 20th April when Mr Wilkins Shilling, a local morris dancing team, are running a taster session for us. Do come and join us.



Contact bwinterson@hotmail.com for more info

Can you play the piano?



We are looking for people with experience of playing the piano or keyboard, to join our team for informal family services.

If you can help, or would like more information, please contact Rev Elaine at revelainejones@hotmail.com

STOP PRESS!

Wick Café is now open!
Doreen Hargraves cut the ribbon on Sat 28th. Pop along and show your support, and grab a cuppa and a slice of something yummy!



Anthea Watts writes:

Members enjoyed their workout with Philomena in February - with some relieved to have a cuppa at the refreshment break!

On 6 March a walk was arranged and led by Cheryl in the Warmley area, visiting the Neptune statue and the forest. The walk ended at the Hideout cafe for a light lunch.

Future meetings

23 April - Read All About It! - Claire Mills

28 May - Discussion of resolution for AGM with cheese and wine. Possibility of outside skittles, weather permitting.

Forthcoming events

A walk and visit to **Keynsham Abbey** has been arranged for Mon 20 April.

A visit to play **ten pin bowling** will be arranged for May.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to join our happy and friendly group who enjoy talks, walks, crafts, tea/coffee/cakes and much more. If you and/or a friend are interested in joining us then please come to a meeting where you would be most warmly welcomed. Please feel free to contact our President, Wendy Haynes, on 07930 851582 for more info.



With thanks to all the families in the parish who support girl guiding, we are pleased to be asking for help to run our Brownies unit. Our numbers are up, and we need more hands! Why not let 2026 be the year you give something back? Come and be part of our community group.

The Guide and Brownies movement has been running for over 100 years. It's been manned by generous volunteers. There is no pay but there is a lot of reward. The girls get so much out of being in Brownies. Anyone who joined in as a child will hopefully have some very happy memories of a time being part of a huge world wide community, of millions of people and the opportunities that can open up from that. So why not come and join us?

Email 2ndwbrownies@gmail.com for more information, we run on a Monday evening at the church rooms (next to the church) from 5 to 6.30. There would also be an opportunity to join us on some fun day trips and camps on the occasional weekend. (no, more than 2 or 3 times a year).

Want to get involved with volunteering? Join us at: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-your-interest/>



Dyrham & Hinton Diversions

Women's Institute

For our March meeting members enjoyed a shell crafted evening led by our in-house talented member Lyn. Following step by step instructions of applying PVA glue, single sheets of napkin designs edged with metallic edge paint, members created some stunning decorative shell trinket dishes.



Future meetings: (Meetings 2nd Thursday every month 7pm Dyrham & Hinton Village Hall)

- **9th April** - Country Dancing led by Country Dancing caller Alan Holder
- **14th May** - Pam's Baskets talk by chief basket weaver Pammy Pontin on her small business venture of crafting hand-woven, functional and durable baskets

See opposite page for details of our Spring Craft Fayre on 9th May.

Dyrham & Hinton WI Book Club (Read Between the Wines):



Read Between the Wines Book Club members are due to meet up on Wednesday 16th April at a member's house to discuss their latest read Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff. This contemporary novel structured like a Greek tragedy exploring a 24-year marriage from two contrasting sides utilising themes of fate, vengeance and hidden secrets.

We welcome new members; ladies can attend one meeting without any obligations. For further information please contact us at:

dyrhamandhintoncommitteewi@gmail.com

Please send any contributions for the next Dyrham & Hinton Diversions to Angela Griffiths (angela.dahparishnews@gmail.com) by 18th April.



Dyrham & Hinton Common Land Review

Thank you to the residents who attended the informal meeting on the 25th February and the online meeting on the 4th March. A very positive discussion was had, with a number of exciting suggestions to discuss with the Parish Council. The top five areas discussed were; Speed awareness, Village white gates, Commons verges - hedge cut back, Commons wetland and paths, More trees and plants.

If you were unable to make the meetings, but have ideas, suggestions or even concerns regarding the above, please do not hesitate to email me at dyrhamandhinton@cdmpc.co.uk. All feedback is welcome and essential to ensure community wide involvement. Stephen Dallow

News from your Parish Council

Village News for Wick & Abson www.wickabsonpcgov.uk

- **Parish Clerk email contact:** wickabson_parishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk
- **New Parish Council website:** to comply with a raft of new government regulations that focus on IT data security, the PC is required to commission a new website with official email accounts for all councillors. This includes 8 new policies that were adopted at the February meeting and may be seen on the current website. (*Gripping reading for insomniacs! - Ed.*)
- **Potholes:** Parish Councillors and an SGC asset manager toured the parish reviewing the damaged road surfaces. They were told that the focus will continue on the main roads rather than country lanes. Since the meeting, some repairs to the seam on Naishcombe Hill have taken place but nothing else. (*Please keep reporting potholes, we can't be ignored forever – Ed.*)
- **Litter picking:** many thanks to the litter picking volunteers who have been active along the verges, footpaths and roads over the last weeks since the rain stopped. If anyone needs pickers, bags, hoops and gloves, or wishes to join in keeping the parish tidy, please contact Cllr James Williams.
- **Planning applications:**
P26/00412/F 67 Church Road, Wick: 1no dwelling with garage removal and associated works (resubmission of P20/13749/F) – *no comment.*

P26/00413/F Hartwood Farm, Oldbury Lane, Wick: 3 livestock shelters and 4 storage containers (retrospective) – *no objection.*
P26/00415/F Hartwood Farm, Oldbury Lane, Wick: 1 no self-build rural workers dwelling and car port – *no objection.*

P26/00440/HH 77 Naishcombe Hill, Wick: single storey front extension + garage – *objection: over-development of site, harm to the street scene.*

P26/00548/HH 17 Parkers Avenue, Wick: single storey rear extension, roof lights for loft conversion – *no objection.*
- **Next Parish Council meeting:**
7:15pm Thursday 9th April 2026, Wick Village Hall. All welcome.

News from the Chapel

There was a disappointing response to the World Day of Prayer afternoon on 6th March. Such a pity because, as always, it was an uplifting service which highlighted the problems and worries of the people in Nigeria. Next year a group of people from a different country will compile the service.

We are enjoying the Lent meetings with friends from the local churches. These sessions always encourage much discussion around the buffet table. Thank you to those people who lead the sessions.

Our services over the Easter weekend are as follows:

Good Friday: Short service starting at 10.30 led by Linda Byrne and followed by Hot Cross Buns and coffee/tea.



Easter Sunday at 10.30 am – Easter Praise followed by refreshments.

Do join us for one of the most important dates in the Church's diary.

The Spring Fayre held on the 14th March raised almost £600. The money will be given to the Melon Mission School where Nikki will be volunteering over the Easter holidays. The school is a much-needed haven for vulnerable children. Nikki and two friends will be supporting families with SEND children. We wish her well.

This month we have been advised that, like St Bartholomew's, we have two areas in the Chapel roof which are showing daylight – more money.



Wick Football Club



After a spate of bad weather, games will now come thick and fast as the season reaches the final third. Our first team are now pushing for a top six finish with two players in the league's top 12 goal scorers. Cory Langdon is leading the way with sixteen goals in twenty appearances and George Lloyd scoring nine goals in eighteen appearances. The reserves have reached the final of their league cup, which is due to be played on Wednesday 15th April, KO 7:30pm at Mangotsfield FC and are in a two-way league title fight. Our vets team are challenging for honours this season, the Over 45's remaining undefeated in the league with four games remaining. The Over 50's have one game remaining in the league and are top and undefeated. They also have been drawn away from home against Red Star Over 50's in the cup semi-final, due to be played on Sunday 19th April at Saltford FC. The Sunday team, Wick Sunday, continues to dominate their league and cup competitions. We have welcomed several new supporters to our games, which is great, so if you haven't been to the ground, why not

Wick Sports Ground

As always, work continues bit by bit to improve our facilities, so help always welcome. With the better weather coming (fingers crossed), why not make use of our picnic area, which is open on matchdays, and at other times as a walk to destination. If visiting, please help us to keep the sports ground clean and tidy.

Want to join us? If interested please contact Matt on 07977 510352.

Friday Night Opening – Our last Friday in the month opening is still proving popular. Not only does it provide a warm welcoming place for locals and friends to meet, it helps to fund our continual development of the Sports Ground.

It's Friday 24th April, doors open from 5pm. Come and join us.

UP THE OWLS!



April Fixtures

First team (KO 2pm) MGCL

04/04	H	Broadwell Amateurs
06/04	H	Bishops Cleeve Dev (KO 6.30pm)
09/04	A	Bromley Heath Utd (KO 6.30pm)
11/04	H	Ruardean Hill Rangers
15/04	A	Broadwell Amateurs (KO 6.30pm)
18/04	A	Quedgeley Wanderers
22/04	H	Tytherington Rocks (KO 6.30pm)
25/04	H	Hanham Athletic

Reserves (KO 2pm) B&D Div 3

11/04	H	Bradley Stoke Town Sat A
15/04	A	Bristol Boys Res (KO7.30pm) Trophy Final
18/04	H	De Veys Reserves

Sunday Team (KO 10.30am) Bristol Premier Sunday

02/04	A	Henbury & Rockleaze (KO6.30pm)
05/04	A	Hambrook Sunday
12/04	A	Bristol Academia
19/04	H	Heritage United

Vets (KO 10.30am)

Over 45's Div 1

Vets Over 50's Div 1 (KO10.30am)

19/04 A Red Star 50s Cup SF

Clubhouse & 3G Multi-Games Area For Hire –

If you are interested in hiring the clubhouse or/and the outdoor court for birthday parties, pool/darts competitions, quiz nights or any other events please contact Matt on 07977 510352 for availability and costs. We have a sound system and disco lights that can be used

New Assistant Linesman Needed – This season, the club are looking for an assistant linesman for all first team games. There are generally around thirty games a season; this is a paid role and if you are interested, please contact Matt Davis on 07977 510352.

Sunday Services April 2026

2nd April - Maundy Thursday

HOLY TRINITY DOYNTON

7.00pm **Maundy Thursday Service** Rev Elaine Jones

3rd April - Good Friday

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S WICK

10.00am **Good Friday service** Rev Elaine Jones

ST PETER'S DYRHAM

2.00pm **An hour at the Cross** Rev Elaine Jones

WICK CHAPEL

10.30am **Good Friday** Linda Byrne
followed by Hot Cross buns and coffee

ST THOMAS'S PUCKLECHURCH

2.00pm **An hour at the Cross** Omar Beg

5th April - Easter Sunday

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S WICK

6.20am **Sunrise Service** Jane Gillis
10.00am **All Together** Steve & Cathy Burgess
Easter Celebration

WICK CHAPEL

10.30am **Easter Praise**

ST THOMAS'S PUCKLECHURCH

10.00am **Holy Communion** Rev Elaine Jones

ST JAMES'S ABSON

10.30am **Holy Communion** Rev Gillian

12th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S WICK

10.00am **Holy Communion** Rev Elaine Jones

DOYNTON/DYRHAM

10.00am **Café Church**

WICK CHAPEL

10.30am **Breakfast Club** Worship Group

ST THOMAS'S PUCKLECHURCH

10.00am **Morning Worship** Omar Beg

19th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S WICK

10.00am **Morning Worship** Steve Burgess

ST PETER'S DYRHAM

10.00am **Morning Prayer** Steve Burgess

WICK CHAPEL

10.30am **Family Sharing** Linda Byrne

ST THOMAS'S PUCKLECHURCH

10.00am **Café Church** Rev Elaine Jones

ST JAMES'S ABSON

8.45am **Holy Communion** Rev Elaine Jones



26th April - 4th Sunday of Easter

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S WICK

10.00am **Community church** Jane Gillis

HOLY TRINITY DOYNTON

10.00am **Holy Communion** Rev Elaine

WICK CHAPEL

10.30am **The Holy Shed**

ST THOMAS'S PUCKLECHURCH

10.00am **Holy Communion**

Steve Britton



Rev

3rd May - 5th Sunday of Easter

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S WICK

10.00am **All Together** Suzy Britton

HOLY TRINITY DOYNTON

10.00am **Morning Worship** Steve Burgess

WICK CHAPEL

10.30am **Morning Worship** David Miles

ST THOMAS'S PUCKLECHURCH

10.00am **Holy Communion** Rev Elaine Jones

ST JAMES'S ABSON

6.00pm **Evensong** Steve Burgess



VILLAGE AGENT

Covering Marshfield, Doynton, Dyrham, Cold Ashton,
Tormarton, Pucklechurch & Wick



Free confidential
one to one
support



Help to
connect with
others



Signposting to
information and
professional
services



Provision of
foodbank
vouchers



Help with financial
concerns
(including claiming
of benefits)



Advice on
transport to
medical
appointments



HOW TO ACCESS THE SERVICE

You can reach your local Village Agent by:

- **07985018550** Call, Text or WhatsApp
- Emailing **sharon@wern.org.uk**
- Or by visiting **wern.org.uk/southglos-village-agents**

This service is available for anyone over 18 years old

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN NEW SKILLS?



WORKSHOP • COMMUNITY • CONVERSATION

- 📅 Regular weekly sessions on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings
- 📍 Wick Village
- 👤 Open to men aged 18 and over



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

- Build, fix, and create in a fully equipped space
- › Share skills and learn new ones
- › Enjoy good company
- › Work on personal or community projects

Whatever you're interested in, we'll give it a go!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

stufowell@hotmail.com or mike.93.1955@gmail.com



it's not just about making things—
it's about *making new friends.*



The first Saturday of each month at Wick Village Hall

Please note, there isn't an event in April or August 2026

Donations are accepted between 8:30am and 9:15am on the day of the event, or between 1:30pm and 2:30pm the day before the event (Friday) in Wick Village Hall
Doors open for shopping from 9:15am until 11am

The only cost is your entrance fee!

Adults: £5 each / under 18s are free when accompanied by a paying adult!



Whether you're looking for something specific or just fancy coming along to see what you can find, we believe there's something for everyone at Wick Community Free-Cycle!

Thanks to the large generosity of our local community, every month is different!



We're looking for volunteers to between 10:45am and 11:45am, to help us pack up the event

Bringing the community back together and reducing landfill ♥

Contact: @wickcommunityfreecycle on Instagram / Wick Community Free-Cycle on Facebook
wickcommunityfreecycle@gmail.com / Proceeds go to Wick Pre-School



Please read this ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE FOR APRIL

if you live in Wick, because unlike other villages we still have **BUSES**

Please don't stop reading because you use a car.

What about if you can't drive one day? Think about what a lifeline it is for some people to be able to get to Kingswood or Bath or Yate.

It may not be the more frequent bus service we would like, but we have it. Two routes pass through Wick, the 35 from Marshfield to Kingswood and the 620 from Stroud/Yate to Bath.

Suggestion - don't just grumble about the bus service, but value it and look at the possibilities. Try getting to the train in Bath with no worries about parking, using the bus to start a walk somewhere new, saving one car journey for the sake of the planet. Sure, it takes a little more planning and you may have a few minutes of peaceful contemplation at the bus stop in the fresh air. But if more of us use the buses we are less likely to lose them.

You can check the departure times at your nearest bus stop or look up bustimes.org

Hint - Always plan to be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is due, so if it is a bit late you know you didn't just miss it.

Has anyone used the WESTlink on demand bus service? Share your experience via wickparishmagazine@outlook.com

Cathy Burgess

Marshfield Gardening Club – Join Us!

If you love gardening, or simply enjoy being around plants and like-minded people - come along to the **Marshfield Gardening Club**.



SPEAKERS LIST FOR 2025-2026 SEASON

April 7th

7.45pm

The Historic Front Garden

Dr Francis Burroughes

From the Castles built by the nobility in the Middle Ages to the 1930s 'Semi', the Front Garden has always provided an arena for display and eccentricity. Francis will talk about some of the most memorable and stunning examples of English gardening, some extremely grand, and some 'pocket handkerchief', showing style and originality.

MAY 5TH 2026 John Tucker 'Reach for the Sky,
Getting the best from your Climbers'

We're a friendly and welcoming group that meets on the **first Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in Marshfield Church Hall, Tormaton Road, SN14 8AJ**. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just getting started, there's something for everyone. Plus, every meeting includes **refreshments and homemade cakes!**



The hare - an iconic, elusive symbol of the our landscape

If you wander the fields of the Boyd Valley or the Cotswolds at dawn or dusk, you might spot a pair of long, black-tipped ears peeking above the grass. This is the Brown Hare, a creature that has inspired British myths for centuries. Unlike rabbits, hares never go underground. They live their entire lives in the open, sleeping in shallow dips in the soil called "forms."

During spring, you might see them "boxing." While it looks like two males fighting, it is usually a female punching away a persistent male. In folklore, hares were once linked to witches and the moon, but today they are celebrated as a symbol of the changing seasons.

- **Elite Athletes:** The Brown Hare is the UK's fastest land mammal, hitting speeds of **45mph**—the same as a legal gallop for a racehorse.
- **The Egg Legend:** The "Easter Bunny" was originally the Easter Hare. The myth that they laid eggs likely came from hares fleeing "forms" that actually contained the ground-nested eggs of **Lapwing** birds.
- **A Roman Import:** While the Mountain Hare is native, our Brown Hare was likely brought to Britain by the **Romans** as a ritual animal.
- **Thermal Ears:** Those iconic long ears aren't just for hearing; they act as **radiators**, helping the hare lose body heat during high-speed chases.
- **Panoramic Vision:** Their golden eyes provide a **360-degree view**, meaning they can see a predator approaching from behind without ever turning their heads.

Walter Wildflower

The Memory Café at Doynton is a relaxed, informal and **free** drop in café, providing support for people with dementia along with a family member, carer, or friend. The café meets from 2-4 on the first Thursday in every month and is open in Doynton Village Hall- BS30 5SY

Come along and enjoy the fun!

In April, we once again welcome the lovely children of the Emerson Green School choir. They are always a joy to see and listen to and are a firm favourite at our Café.

As we begin to look forward to what the Summer may bring, we welcome “Midnight Harmony”, a group with guitarists and vocalist who will entertain us with their rendition of sounds from the sixties, evoking memories of miniskirts and bellbottoms, crew necked sweaters and Twiggy.

Along with our main entertainment every session, there are always quizzes, colouring zigsaws and art activities that visitors can do as well as enjoy the refreshments which always include an

array of lovely cakes! A free book and jigsaw stall and an information table is always available for our visitors.

Each session always end with singing from popular songs from the 60's and the appearance of the
BIG RED BALLOON!

The Memory Cafe at Doynton

'The Memory Cafe in Spring!

Music and song will inspire our April and May cafés - on Thursday 2nd April our Easter themed café will see the return of the wonderful choir from Emerson's Green Primary School to sing for us. On Thursday 7th May the group 'Midnight Harmony' will play and sing songs from the sixties.

Our cafés, for those living with dementia and their family member or carer, take place from 2-4pm on the above dates at Doynton Village Hall.

Full details are on our Facebook page 'The Memory Cafe at Doynton' or email mcdoynton@gmail.com

A further date for your diary is our Annual General Meeting to be held from 10.30am on Friday 8th May at Doynton Village Hall. Come and hear about what we have been doing over the past year and our plans for the future!

If you know of someone who may benefit from attending the café, please do spread the word and if you are interested in knowing more or in volunteering with us, please do get in touch.



News from the Friends of Wick Village:



FOWV held a very enjoyable Community Get Together and Film Show at Wick Village Hall on 12th March. It was lovely to entertain people from the Keep Fit Class, W.I, Church, Chapel, and Wick Widows, who enjoyed the Downton Abbey film with an interval of tea and home made cake.

Our grateful thanks to all the helpers and cake makers from FOWV and we look forward to inviting you to the next Community Get Together and Film show on Thursday 21st May at 2 pm in Wick Village Hall. Details of the Film will be in the May Parish Magazine.

We're busy organising **Party in the Park** which is taking place on 11th July - if you'd like a stall or are a local act that would like to entertain everyone, please email FOWV2024@gmail.com to express your interest.

Open Garden Gate Trail '26 – 25th May 2026.

Sadly, the decision has been made to cancel this event - only 3 people responded positively to the appeal for gardens to be open this year. Last year was such a lovely event, though, and at least one of the 3 this year was a new garden, so we are not downhearted, just considering making it an "every other year" event. Watch this space!

To keep up to date with the latest news on upcoming events, follow the 'Friends of Wick Village' on Facebook

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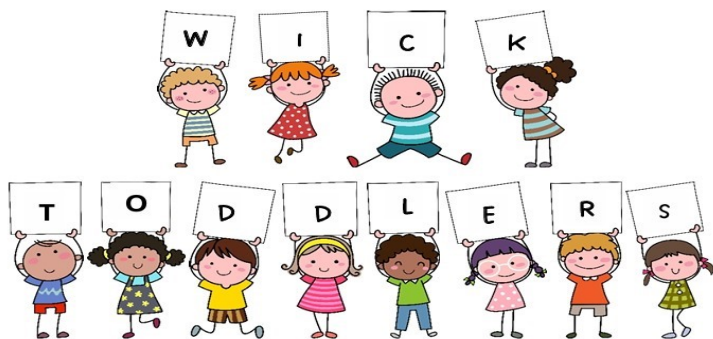
EASTER SUNDAY 6.20AM

Celebrate together as we listen to the dawn chorus, re-tell the resurrection story, sing, pray, toast hot cross buns over the fire, have a cuppa/hot choc, watch the sunrise, and top it off with an Easter Egg hunt.

Please text Jane if you are planning to come (for catering purposes) 07793243454

Easter Sunday Services

10.00am	St Bartholomew's, Wick - Easter Celebration
10.00am	St Thomas's, Pucklechurch - Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Trinity, Doynton - Holy Communion
10.30am	Wick Chapel - Easter Praise
10.30am	St James's, Abson - Holy Communion



Come along to our toddler group held in St Bartholomew's Church Hall every Tuesday from 10:00 – 11:45

'A fantastic group run by friendly, supportive and welcoming volunteers'

- Plenty of activities for the children to enjoy including painting, crafts, toys and singing
- Safe outdoor play area
- Snacks and refreshments for the children
- Teas and coffees for the adults
- A chance for little ones to play and interact whilst parents and carers can get to know one another

First visit is free - £1.50 per family thereafter

Open Door

Every Friday 10.30 – 11.30am Church Room St Bartholomew's, Wick. **All are welcome** to meet friends and neighbours. Coffee, chat and a short Thought for the Day. On 17th April, we have a guest speaker who will tell us how to access legal advice.



ROTAS APRIL 2026

WICK CHURCH FLOWERS

April 4-11 Tina Holbrook
18-25 Anne Reynolds
May 2-9 Monica Mumford



WICK CHURCH CLEANING

April 4th Jeannette Bailey
11th Monica & Barbara H
18th Suzy Britton
25th Cathy Burgess
May 2nd Mr & Mrs Fry



WICK SIDESPERSONS

April 5th Anne & Nick Reynolds
12th Mark Hudson
19th Jenny Lawrence
26th Jane Brookman
May 3rd Colin & Jeannette Bailey
May 10th Steve Butt



REFRESHMENTS

5th Steve & Cathy Burgess*
12th Anne & Nick Reynolds
19th Tina Holbrook
26th Sarah & Andy Hewett
May 3rd Colin & Jeannette Bailey (busy Sunday for them!)



* Easter Sunday, and Steve is leading the service, so see if Cathy needs a hand.

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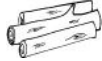
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