

Charlton Parish Chat

*December 2025 and
January 2026*

HOW TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT AT MPCC

1

REQUEST ONLINE



Visit www.malmesburypcc.nhs.uk or use the NHS app to request an appointment!

- ✓ Submit a request any time between 6am and 6pm, Mon - Fri
- ✓ Choose which GP you see
- ✓ Pre-book at times that suit you



2

CALL 01666 825825

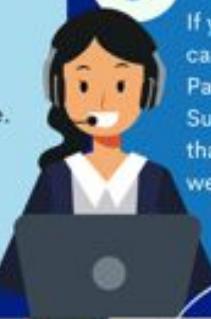
Book routine appointments a few weeks ahead with your GP of choice.



You can now book ahead; call later in the day when the phone lines are quieter!

3

IN PERSON



If you're visiting the surgery you can book with one of our helpful Patient Advisers at the desk. Suitable for routine appointments that will be booked up to a few weeks ahead.



URGENT APPOINTMENTS

Urgent appointments are available every day for clinically urgent symptoms, where harm may be caused if you're not treated within 24 hours. These are telephone calls in the first instance. You may be advised to see a clinician or service who is better placed to help you quickly. Call 01666 825825 to book.

THE RIGHT CARE AT THE RIGHT TIME

The NHS funds many amazing local services offering specialist help, including Minor Illness Clinics, Community Pharmacies and Urgent Eye Care. Our Patient Advisers are trained and knowledgeable in the best way to get you the care you need, fast.

Malmesbury Primary Care Centre **NHS**

Submissions for the next issue of the Chat

Next Chat “deadline”: Input would be appreciated by 10th January, but can probably be accepted a few days after this date - please check with the editor.

Please email articles to the editor at charltonchat@yahoo.co.uk or by post/hand delivery to Peter Holland, 25 Park Street, Charlton, or phone 01666 823719.

Do you know anyone outside the village who would like to receive a copy of Charlton Parish Chat? Annual subscription - £5. Call Marion Adkins on 07909 911753.

Small ads ... Charlton Chat accepts adverts from local people, businesses and organisations. Per issue, a small display box, approx. a twelfth of a page costs £1; Up to £20 for a full page. Contact the editor, or Marion Adkins.

Next 4 Years – ‘What can the PC do for you?’

- In the last Parish Chat the PC asked all residents ‘What can the PC do for you over the next 4 years?’ ie until the next PC elections.
- Only one response was received.
- This response was all about the B4040 and the Stonehill area; about limiting heavy lorry traffic through Stonehill and having a speed limit (lower than the current 50mph) there.
- The PC decided it was necessary to wait for the B4040 Speed Limit Review (see below) to report, as what it recommends would have direct impact on the requests in the one response.

B4040 Speed Limit Review

- There is, taking place right now, a Wilts Council review of the speed limits that should apply along the B4040 between Malmesbury and the far side of Leigh. This review is conducted by the highways contractor Atkins appointed by Wilts Council, and is funded by Malmesbury Area Board with 30% contributions (£320 each) by the 4 Parish Councils involved – Charlton, Minety, Ashford Keynes and Leigh.
- Charlton PC put forward 3 aspects to be highlighted to the Review for particular attention:
 - o The Stonehill area.
 - o Noah’s Ark junction – lack of visibility to the east when waiting at the junction to join the B4040.
 - o The whole length of the 50mph limited area west from the village, i.e. approaching Noah’s Ark junction and through the bends to the de-limit sign beyond.
- We await the report.

Village Hall Request for Grant

- The Recreation Centre Committee asked for a grant to help with their plan to replace the lighting in the Village Hall and to repaint the Hall.
- The PC agreed to contribute £1500.
- It’s worth noting that this money effectively comes from the Community Benefit money that we receive annually from the Battery Energy Storage Systems at Upper Stonehill – not all of them, just those on land belonging to Sir Richard Needham (MP for Chippenham, and then North Wilts, in the 1980s and 1990s), it having been his initiative to offer the money in the first place.

Music Festivals Next Year

- For your diaries – whether you want to attend the festivals or to get away for those weekends – these are the dates of music festivals to be held in Charlton Park next year:
 - o Shindig – 21-24 May.
 - o Gem Festival – 11-14 June.
 - o Existance Festival – are not returning.
 - o There is also David’s Tent – a religious festival, not a music festival, and all action contained in a big tent – 28-31 August.

News from the Bells – Plus TOILET talk!

That's a different headline than usual, so hopefully grabbing your attention. Well first we will just cover the bells aspect. We have been training a Ukrainian couple, Natalia & Serhii who live in Cleverton, and work at Malmesbury School, who have made brilliant progress and are nearly ready to ring with others. We rang a Quarter Peal to celebrate the 90th birthday of Joyce Smith, former Church Warden. And we rang, as we always do, half muffled (leather pads on one side of clapper) for the Remembrance Service.

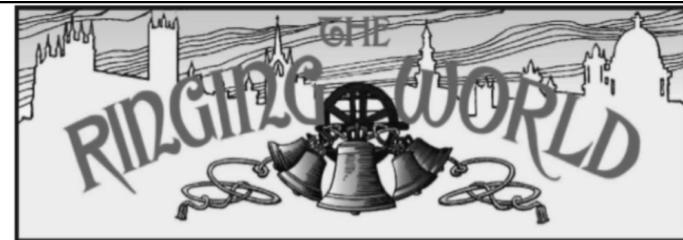
Now moving on to important matters!

The World Record that we set back in May, was a fund raising event, in which we managed to raise £1,500, which was a good start in what will become a major project for the Church and community. This was instigated by an offer by the bellringers to start some fund raising for improving the facilities in the Church.

As a group, we spend a considerable amount of time in the church, and therefore we will benefit from the proposed improvements, but so will all visitors to the church.

So, what are the proposed improvements to our lovely 12th century Church with its magnificent, in my opinion, Suffolk window, and other features of interest. Well as the 'Headline' states, an accessible Toilet for the use of all, visitors on the Athelstan Pilgrimage route, attendees for weddings (often with babies & young children) and funerals, our regular congregation and of course bell ringers (local & visitors, some for training). After every service and bell practice, tea & coffee and biscuits are on offer, currently water has to be carried to the church. We need a kitchenette, so that also allows for the washing up afterwards.

The proposed site for the toilet, is in the North Porch, which currently houses the now 30 year old LPG fuelled boiler with a blown air system, that needs replacing. That gives us the conundrum of needing to raise a substantial amount of money for just those three items, and there are other requirements such as lowering the outside ground levels, to reduce the internal damp problem. Also, after an extensive Accessibility Review, kindly carried out by David Owen, who moved into Park Street last year, we have some considerations regarding that.



Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association

On Thursday, 9 October 2025 in 42m

Charlton by Malmesbury, Wiltshire

St John the Baptist

Tenor: 12-0-14 in G

1260 Grandsire Doubles

2 x 240 2 x 120 1 x 60

- 1 Steven Hunt
- 2 John C Sheppard
- 3 Alan R Woodward
- 4 Bob Blanden
- 5 Christopher Daws (C)
- 6 Jos Binns

Rung to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Joyce Smith, former Churchwarden here.

Contd...

At the moment, there is a subcommittee of the PCC, that has started to get the ball rolling, with successful investigations into bringing water & drainage to the church, looking at heating options, etc. We really need to build a team of people with different skills to progress this project in a similar way to the Millenium Bell Project. If you feel that you would like to assist us in achieving a positive outcome, be it from fundraising, public relations, some building/heating experience, or just a desire to improve this community asset, then please do not hesitate to contact me. In anticipation, many thanks.

Bob Blanden – Tower Captain & Member of PCC
Tel: +44(0)7860689391 Email: bob@blanden.co.uk

Charlton Church Opening

The church will be open at weekends from
10am until 4pm during December.

If you wish to visit the church during the week please ring 07909 911753



**St John the Baptist,
Charlton**

Village Carol Service

**Sunday
21st December
at 6pm**

All are welcome to come and hear in word and song the joyful Christmas story, and afterwards enjoy mulled wine and seasonal treats.

*Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
Oh, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!*

December's Message from the Ministry

The other night on my way to a meeting in Minety, I had what can only be described as a scary driving experience.

Without warning, my car lights suddenly went off!

There were no streetlights in the village I was driving through, and it was too early for the Badger Moon to help me. I gingerly pulled over to the side of the road and hit the hazard warning lights!

No light. No journey. I was stuck in the dark.

Thankfully, the light switch eventually responded to my urgent prayer and prodding.

My journey could continue.

By the time you get this, we shall be in Advent, the season of light, in which we reflect, with eager anticipation, on the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, the true *'Light of the World.'* The candles on the Advent wreath will be lit. Our churches and schools will be retelling the story of Jesus, and His remarkable birth into this chaotic and dark world.

During Advent, I encourage you to listen to the words of the carols, so often played to us while we're shopping. I encourage you to read and reflect on the familiar nativity story in Luke 1&2, or in Matthew 1&2; or in John's prologue 1:1-14. As you read the instantly recognisable story or hear, '*While shepherds watched their flocks by night,*' for the umpteenth time, try to put yourself into the story..

What do you see? How are people responding? Which of the characters do you most identify with? What do you smell? What do you hear? How are you responding?

As we do this, we can get a fresh insight into the story of '*The Light of the World*' (John 8 vs 12) who stepped down into darkness, to be our light and Saviour.

Praying a blessing over you and yours for this Advent & Christmas season.

Rev'd Bob

P.S. A warm welcome awaits you at each of our Benefice Churches, not only at Christmas.

Reverend Richard Maslen

We are very sorry to write that the Reverend Richard Maslen died on Monday 3rd November. Richard, along with Margaret, has been an important part of our church life in Charlton for many years.

He often led our joyful Easter and Christmas celebrations and Remembrance Sunday services as well as supporting all the Benefice churches during times of vacancy. Richard's stories and personal recollections always made his sermons memorable and evidenced his strong Christian faith. We will miss him.

Charlton Community Speed Watch Update

Recruitment

Two people applied to join the team in response to our appeal at the APM in April. They have both completed their training, and in September Roy Evans and Anne Holland both took part.

The team would welcome further new members, including those interested in doing an hour or two at the weekend, as this would enable us to regularly hold more sessions then. If you are interested or would like to know more about the team, please contact Anne Hodgkins:

email: annedhodgkins248@btinternet.com
or James Robbie jamescroggie@gmail.com

Speed Watch Results

September's sessions took a total of 10 hours. 2724 vehicles were counted and of these 143 were recorded as speeding (including 1 tractor). Around two-thirds were driving at between 36 and 39. Six vehicles were recorded at 45 mph or greater, with the highest speed being 55 mph (twice). The team will be out again in November.



Enforcement Activity

The data that the County's CSW teams submit is used by Wiltshire Police to decide where they can best deploy their Speed Enforcement Officers. In the last 6 months, Highways Officers have been deployed in Charlton on five occasions. These visits resulted in 23 motorists being either offered a Speed Awareness Course or, if appropriate, receive a £100 fine and 3 points.

Anne Hodgkins

When did you last visit the library?

Local libraries offer a warm and welcoming space for anyone to spend time in during colder months, where people can relax, read, get online, access information and advice, or simply have a chat. Many host activities throughout winter, including crafting groups and digital support, and Malmesbury hosts a 'public living room' every Tuesday afternoon 1.30 – 4.30pm for people to meet over a cup of tea.

As well as a huge range of books, audiobooks, e-books and e-magazines, Wiltshire libraries have Wi-Fi and printing and scanning facilities.

Among more unexpected things, they also offer thermal imaging cameras to borrow for free for residents to assess their homes for heat loss. Similarly some libraries (including RWB) offer blood pressure monitors and activity tracker watches to help people stay healthy.

They are well worth a visit.

Happy Christmas!

Elizabeth.Threlfall@wiltshire.gov.uk

Coffee Mornings @ Charlton Village Hall

Funds raised Charlton Recreational Centre 279819



10.30am on Mondays:

1st December, and 3rd February



NOTE: there will be no Coffee Morning in January due to Hall re-decoration.

All are welcome, young or old.

£1 Charge

Do ring me if you want a lift.



Anne 823719

CHARLTON RECREATIONAL CENTRE



By the time you are reading this we will have had the hall autumn quiz night. I'm sure it will be as good as all of the others we have put on: your continued support of these evenings is greatly appreciated as they provide a vital revenue stream for the maintenance of the hall and surrounding playground and field. The committee would like to thank everyone who played their part in organising and running the event.

Speaking of which in December we are finally replacing the hall lighting system for an updated and more energy efficient system.

As previously mentioned we are also taking the opportunity to repaint the entirety of the inside of the hall. All of this work is due to be completed by the middle of January. We apologise for any inconvenience this work has caused regular users of the hall, however we hope this will future proof it for at least another 10 years.

We should also have had the latest addition to the children's play area by the end of the year. A wooden walking board with rope will give the youngest users of the slide mound some fun and assistance to climb to the top.

We hope you all enjoy the festive season and look forward to seeing you in and around your hall and playing fields in the new year!

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at Charlton

Baptism

15th November

Thea Scarlett Rose Beaumont

Funeral & Burial

26th November

Peter Bryan Charles Baker

Charlton Village Hall Hire for parties, events, business hire, etc.

Special Events Package: All day booking, plus access to the premises from the middle of the previous day to 10.00am the following day. Use of all Hall facilities and a roped off area outside.

Children's Parties: 4 hours access to the Hall.

Friday and Saturday Evenings: Access to the Hall from 6.00pm to midnight. All other event and party bookings are chargeable by the hour. The hirer should request a booking that covers their total occupancy of the Hall (including setting and clearing up).

Event Type	Deposit	Charge (Local*)	Charge (Other)
Special Event	£100	£450	£550
Children's Party	£50	£35	£55
Friday or Saturday Evening	£100	£100	£150
Other Events	£50	£10 per hour	£15 per hour

The Local rate is available to residents of Charlton, Hankerton & Garsdon

To enquire about using the Village Hall or Playing Field, whether for a one-off event or regular booking please email us on enquiries@charltonvillagehall.co.uk or call Tracey Hobbs on 07557 124628.

See: www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk/bookings/ for details of the current bookings and a copy of the booking form and terms and conditions.

Charlton Recreational Centre - 150 Club Monthly Prize Draw Winners

October		November	
1st	A. Holland	1st	Sue Roberts
2nd	E.Williams	2nd	B.Kibble
3rd	T.Fernandez	3rd	B.Warner



Our thanks to all those who have bought a ticket for 2025/6.

To those that have not yet signed up please consider joining us!

If you use the field to walk your dog, play ball games, fly kites or have taken your children or grandchildren up to use the playground or whizz on the zip wire; if you have used the hall for a children's party, exercise class, joined us for the Coffee mornings or come to one of our Quiz nights then please subscribe to a ticket to support the upkeep of these important community resources.

An annual ticket is £20, and your number will be entered into each monthly draw for a chance to win a £20, £30 or £50 prize.

So if you would like to join in then please email

150clubcharlton@gmail.com

or call Tracey on 07557 124628 to reserve tickets.

JOIN THE FUN THIS Christmas DOWN ON THE FARM



Down on the Farm, Wilts



Enjoy a morning helping the Elves in

Santa's Workshop creating lovely

Christmas crafts followed by playing in
our Stay & Play, with Christmas themed
areas.

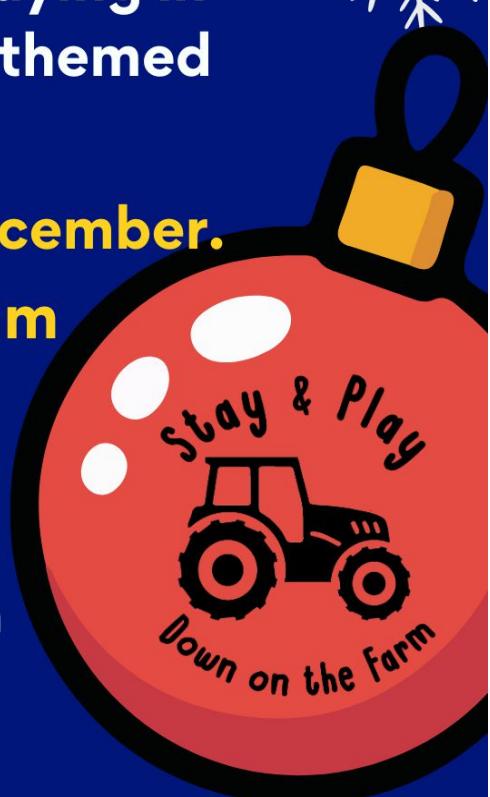


Saturdays and Sundays during December.

Craft sessions start at 10.30am



£20 / child
£18 / sibling
(includes the day in
Stay & Play)



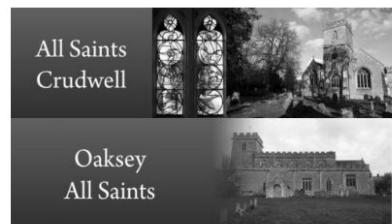
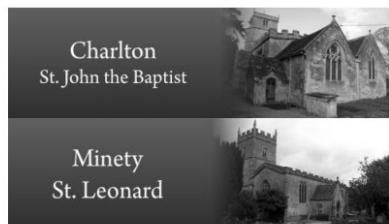
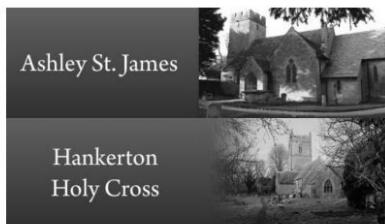
Booking for craft sessions is essential.
Please email downonthefarm24@gmail.com

LITTLE LYPE FARM, MOOR LANE, CHARLTON SN16 9DR



Christmas

Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice



Date	Services in Church			Additional information	
Sunday 7th December	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Hankerton			All Day Tree Festival @ Minety	
	10am, Friends & Family Nativity Play @ Crudwell				
	11am, Nativity Service @ Oaksey				
	6 pm Evening Prayer @ Ashley				
Sunday 14th December	10am, Benefice Service @ Hankerton				
	5 pm, Carol Service @ Minety				
Sunday 21st December	11am, Holy Communion @ Minety				
	5pm, Carol Service @ Hankerton				
	6pm, Carol Service @ Charlton				
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	3pm, Children Friendly Service @ Minety			4pm Carols @ The Potting Shed, Crudwell	
	6pm, Carol Service @ Ashley				
	11.30pm, Midnight Holy Communion @ Crudwell				
Thursday 25th December Christmas Day	9.30am, Shortened Communion Service @ Charlton				
	9.30am, Shortened Communion Service @ Hankerton				
	11am, Service of the Word @ Crudwell				
	11am, Service of the Word @ Minety				
	11am, Shortened Communion Service @ Oaksey				
Sunday 28th December	10am Benefice Service @ Minety				
Tuesday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom		
Wednesday	10th December (2nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell		
	Weekly	2.00pm	Women's Discussion Group 1 Days Court, Crudwell		
	Weekly	7.00pm	Men's Bible Study 1 Days Court, Crudwell		
Thursday	11th December (2nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety		
Friday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom		
Saturday	6th December (1st Sat)	11am – 12.30pm	Café Church @ Hankerton		
Saturday	6th December	11am- 4.00pm	Christmas Fair@ Crudwell Village Hall		
Saturday	20th December	5.00pm	Carol Service @ Oaksey		

Please visit our website www.braydonbrook.co.uk and **Braydon Brook Churches Facebook Page** to find out more

January Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

All are welcome to attend any of the services taking place across the Benefice



Date	Services in Church	Additional information
Sunday 4 th January	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Hankerton 10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell 11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey 6pm, Evening Service @ Ashley	
Sunday 11 th January	10.00 am, Benefice Communion @ Oaksey	
Sunday 18 th January	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Charlton 11am, Morning Praise @ Crudwell 11am, Holy Communion @ Minety 11am, Matins @ Oaksey 4.30pm Prayer, Praise & Story @ Hankerton	
Sunday 25 th January	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley 9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton 11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell 11am, Morning Praise @ Minety 10.00 Kids Club and 11am, Family Service @ Oaksey	

Mid-Week Services and Events

Tuesday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	14 th January (2 nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
	Weekly	2pm	Women's Discussion Group 1 Days Court, Crudwell
	Weekly	7.00pm	Men's Bible Study 1 Days Court, Crudwell
Thursday	8th January (2 nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	3 rd January (1 st Sat)	11am – 12.30pm	Café Church @ Hankerton

Please visit our website www.braydonbrook.co.uk and **Braydon Brook Churches Facebook Page** to find out more.

North Wiltshire Villages

Flower Club

Hi there, Cathy Carroll again from North Wiltshire Flower Club. After our successful Open evening in Malmesbury Town Hall. We are meeting at the Ship Inn for our Xmas lunch on December 17th. In January we have a meeting with someone from the Tetbury Flower Company for a talk on Dahlias. Should be interesting. Do join us.

We meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Crudwell Village Hall we meet at 7pm for 7.30. There is plenty of parking space. And we have free tea/coffee and cake afterwards and your first visit is free.

We are a group of people who love flowers and are certainly not expert, although some are. I repeat again, do join us.



Holiday cottages available
for short breaks,
weekends and
weekly bookings.

Contact Ruth Baker
01666 577274

James Hutton Auto Repair

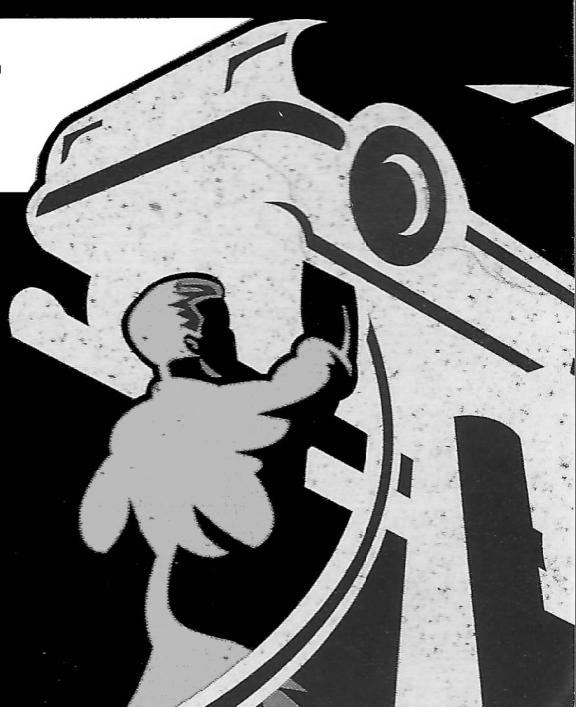
James Hutton

Motor mechanic

Email: james13.hutton@outlook.com

Cowage Farm
Foxley, SN16 0JH

Tel: 07568193062



The Dragonfly Café and Nature Centre

Situated on the Lower Moor nature reserve overlooking Cottage Lake is the newly built but already becoming firmly established Dragonfly Café and Nature Centre.

Since 2007 the reserve has been home to a plethora of wildlife from insects to otters and offers the opportunity to get lost in the nature we endeavour to protect.

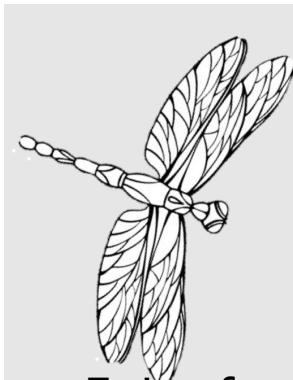


Open all year round, the Dragonfly Café and Nature Centre is the perfect spot to sight otters, herons and (of course) the many species of dragonfly, ideal for professional and amateur wildlife photographers and passionate nature enthusiasts.



The Dragonfly and Nature Centre caters for those with a sweet or savoury tooth presenting delicious homemade scones baked fresh every morning, fresh homemade soups and a variety of heavenly cakes including vegan and gluten free options.

With excellent locally roasted coffee and hot chocolate to warm you in winter as well as refreshing apple juice made from apples in Lower Moor orchard to cool you in summer, the Dragonfly can start your journey around the reserve or end it with a well deserved treat.



Dragonfly Café & Nature Centre

Lower Moor Nature Reserve
Oaksey, SN16 9TW



Enjoy freshly baked scones and cakes whilst watching dragonflies over Cottage Lake

Find us at: <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/dragonfly-cafe>
Or on Instagram follow us @dragonfly.cafe_

Lower Moor Nature Reserve is on the road between Oaksey and Somerford Keynes.



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call 07398278355-**



If you would like to advertise in the Chat, please see page 1....

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Heating Installation And Repairs

Bathroom Installations

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Tim Hibbard

Mobile 07966 462202

Email foxleyph@gmail.com

WELCOME TO



Dating back to the 16th century, The Horse & Groom is a grade II-listed pub in the heart of Charlton. Recently refurbished inside and out, the pub boasts 5 beautiful boutique bedrooms, stunning seasonal menus, and award-winning Butcombe beer behind the bar.

Book a table or room on our website, over the phone or via the Butcombe App.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Horse & Groom, The Street, Charlton, Malmesbury, SN16 9DL

horseandgroom@butcombeplc.com

butcombe.com/the-horse-and-groom-wiltshire

@horseandgroomcharlton

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Charlton Park Estate

Malmesbury, Wiltshire

SN16 9DG



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Who's who

Rector	Revd Bob Molton	848684
Associate Minister	Revd Sarah Wyman	577159
Licensed Lay Minister	Rachel Swatton	861035
PCC Churchwarden/Treasurer	Marion Adkins	07909 911753
Captain of bell ringers	Bob Blanden	860308
Secretary of bell ringers	Christopher Daws	824029
Church organist	Megan Mills	823840
Village Hall booking	Tracey Hobbs	07557 124628
Charlton newsletter	Peter Holland	823719

Charlton Parish Councillors:

Tom Blanden	charltonchairman@gmail.com	860308
Marion Adkins		07909 911753
Lord Suffolk	Earl.Suffolk@CharltonPark.Estate	
Philip Baffour		822721
Elizabeth Garforth-Bles		824380
David Rawlings		826654
Hannah Piet		824650
Philip Thompson		825482
Jonathan Branton		
Parish Council Clerk:		
Michael Bromley-Gardner	clerk@charltonnorthwilts-pc.gov.uk	07972 266767
	or mrbgl@outlook.com	

The Parish Office The Old Squash Court, Holloway, Malmesbury, SN16 9BA

Administrator: Kath Tallboys
Office: 01666 825019, opening hours:
Monday and Wednesday 9.00am -
4.00pm and Friday 9.00am -3.30pm
or: bbbandgb@gmail.com .

Rector: 01666 848684.
Associate Minister: 01666 577169.

Contact us for wedding or baptism inquiries
and other matters regarding the Braydon
Brook Group (Ashley, Charlton, Crudwell,
Hankerton, Minety & Oaksey).

Useful Websites:

The Village Hall website is at:
www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk

The Parish Council website is at:
www.charltonnorthwilts-pc.gov.uk

Charlton Church website is at:
www.braydonbrook.co.uk

Also see the Charlton Community
Hub on Facebook.

CRUDWELL'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

Many stalls for you to do
your christmas shopping,
kids & adults tombolas,
a raffle & festive refreshments.

Crudwell Village Hall

Saturday 6th December, 11am - 4pm

All donations gratefully received for the tombolas & raffle. Please
leave them at the back of the church behind the font. Thank you.

Café Church with
Advent Sale

Raffle, Bring & Buy, Cake Stall
All donations welcome

Saturday 6th December 10.30am- 12.30pm

HOLY CROSS CHURCH,
HANKERTON