

GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

June 2026

Welcome to the final Parish News.

We have a report on the very successful annual duck derby, as well as the AGM of the Social Club and pictures of the much improved décor and furniture following a lot of hard work by the members. Lots going on there too and plans for a coffee bar in the daytime.

Sovereign Network Group have funded the salary of a Community Organiser for Lambourn and the Lambourn Valley. More details about Hayley Warrick's role in this in an article and a link to just some of the organisations in the Valley which Hayley is promoting and which you may like to get involved with.

I am grateful to David Jennings the editor of Chaddleworth Parish News for sharing some articles on local activities. This includes information from The Dogs Trust which may be of interest to you if you would like the company of a dog, but not the long term commitment.

It is likely that details of events in the Parish going forward will be placed on the Parish Council's website - the village no longer has a community website. Their website is much easier to navigate than the last community one, so worth taking a look from time to time. [Great Shefford Parish Council - Home](#)

Thank you to all those who have contributed articles for the news over the years, no doubt, like me, you will be relieved not to have to find something to write about each month.

It is not too late for someone to step forward and take on the baton for this job - email: gtsheffordnews@gmail.com for more information.

EVENTS CALENDAR JUNE

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday 1st	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Friday 5 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 6 th	10.00 a.m.	Churchyard Working Party	St Mary's
Sunday 7 th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
Wednesday 10 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Friday 12 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 13 th	12-4	Chaddleworth Village Fete	Chaddleworth
Saturday 13 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo	Social Club
Sunday 14 th	?.	Sunday Funday - Football theme	Social Club? Rec?
Wednesday 17 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Friday 19 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Sunday 21 st	10.15 a.m.	Café Church	St Mary's
Wednesday 24 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Friday 26 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Friday 26 th	8.00 p.m.	Cheese Club & Chase The Joker	Social Club
Saturday 27 th	8.00 p.m.	It's a Knock Out	Social Club
Sunday 28 th	4.00 p.m.	Prayer & Praise	St Stephens - S.W.

SHEFFORD CRAFT CLUB

This month's activity stretched over two sessions. For the first week we made "seed paper" This involved shredded cardboard egg boxes mixed with water to make a paste. This was mixed with various seeds and pressed and flattened into moulds of various shapes. The shapes were then left to dry out completely over the next few days. The



following week we completed our cards using stamping and colouring techniques and attached our seed paper shapes. We placed instructions for planting on a sticker on the inside of the card. You will see from the picture that we were lucky to be able to use "seed paper" made from a green egg box as well as the more normal beige, but apparently you could use food colouring to get the colour of your choice.

Very best wishes from all at the craft group.



LAMBOURN VALLEY COMMUNITY ORGANISER

Hayley Warrick, a former resident of Great Shefford, was appointed Lambourn Community Organiser in January 2026. The role is funded by a community grant from [SNG](#) (Sovereign Networks Group). Her role extends from Upper Lambourn along the valley to include Great Shefford.



The Community Organiser role follows a national model and has been created to strengthen links within the Lambourn community and across the wider Lambourn Valley. At the heart of the role is a commitment to listening to local people and ensuring that their voices shape what happens in the villages. The aim is to make sure that residents are aware of the organisations, groups and services that already exist, and that they can more easily access support close to where they live, without feeling that help is distant or difficult to reach.

A central part of Hayley's work as Community Organiser is spending time in the community, listening to residents, and understanding what people feel would make the biggest difference to their lives. Rather than assuming what is needed, the role is about building relationships, hearing concerns and ideas, and identifying shared priorities. Where the community has expressed a desire for particular services or activities, Hayley will work with local groups and partner organisations to help bring those services into Lambourn and the valley or to adapt existing provision so that it better meets local needs.

A Community Conversation Workshop was held in Lambourn Memorial Hall in the middle of February and some examples of the initiatives and ideas proposed by residents of the Lambourn Valley included Suicide Prevention Workshops, Work Experience Placements, Adult Reading and Writing Support, Support for parents of SEN children, provision of First Responders, First Aid Courses, Lambourn Valley History Trail, a Repair Café, After School Café/Homework Club and Friendship Benches. Running and Walking groups have already been set up and meet every Wednesday at Lambourn Sports and Social Club in Bockhampton Road, setting off at 6.15 and 6.30 p.m. respectively. If you are interested just turn up on the evening.

Hayley's role involves bringing together practical support in response to what people say matters to them. This may include access to advice and information, health and wellbeing support, opportunities linked to jobs and skills, and activities that help reduce loneliness, increase confidence and build social connection. By working collaboratively with voluntary organisations, councils,

health services and local groups, Hayley helps ensure that services are shaped by the community and delivered in a way that feels relevant, welcoming and accessible.

Hayley brings a strong and relevant mix of community facing experience, organisation and relationship building that fits well with the role of Community Organiser. In recruitment, local government and hospitality roles, she has consistently acted as a first point of contact, building trust quickly and responding to a wide range of needs with warmth and professionalism. Her experience handling enquiries,

supporting people through complex processes and maintaining positive working relationships shows her ability to listen, coordinate and follow issues through.

Through this role, Hayley will help Lambourn and the valley villages remain a supportive, inclusive and connected community, where people feel heard, can access the support they want locally, and are able to play an active part in village life.

Hayley can be contacted by email at hayley.warrick@lambournjunction.uk or call 01488 505050.

GREAT SHEFFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

April and May have been really busy months at the social club. The renovations are almost complete and the place is looking fantastic. We have seen the addition of two new screens meaning you can see the sports from every chair in the club no matter which way you face.



This will be brilliant for the upcoming World Cup - we will be showing all the England games along with any others that are showing while we are open.

We also welcome not one but TWO darts



teams that now play for the social club. This means we are now also open Thursdays.



We held our AGM earlier in the month and it was well attended with 4 new members joining the committee who have already proven invaluable to us. After 15 years Sandra Lodge resigned and stood down from her voluntary duties for the club. We thank her for all her time, support and hard work that she has dedicated to the Social Club and hopes she enjoys her new found time travelling the world and spending time with her family. We welcomed Nick Annetts as our new treasurer and Stuart Cope remains our Chair. Steve Wade was elected as Vice Chair and Amy Wade as Secretary.

Just this week our new furniture arrived and has made a huge difference to the social club. If you have not seen the recent transformation please pop in. There is a lovely buzz about the place and it's so nice to see so many more families enjoying our space.

Our next big project is the replacement of the carpet. This is going to be the biggest expense for us so we will continue to run our monthly events. Bingo - second Saturday of each month

Cheese Club - last Friday of each month
It's a knock out competition- last Saturday of each month
Chase the joker - every Friday.

What's coming up: Well there's the World Cup of course and we will be holding a Sunday Funday on the 14th June 2026. This will be a football themed fun day for all ages. There will be a BBQ and lots of fun games to join.

We are now open Wednesday to Saturday 7.30 to close and Sundays 12.00-4.30.

We hope to see you all there soon

Your club committee



Dogs Trust Newbury

Dogs Trust Newbury, located in Hamstead Marshall, is urgently appealing for more dog lovers to come forward to volunteer as foster carers. The appeal comes as the charity continues to receive over 700 enquiries a week from people facing the heartbreaking decision to rehome their dogs.

It said foster carers have "all the joys of having a dog without the long-term commitment and with the flexibility to take a break whenever needed".



Natasha Tarrant, Rehoming Centre Manager at Dogs Trust Newbury, said: *"With so many dogs needing our help right now, foster carers are absolutely vital. By offering a temporary home, you're giving a dog safety, comfort and love at a time when they need it most."* She added: *"We know that many dogs don't cope well in a kennel environment, so Dogs Trust Newbury is focusing on fostering as an alternative for those that would find kennel life hard. Fostering is such a rewarding experience, and a way to make a real difference without a long-term commitment."*

Foster carers open their homes to dogs on a temporary basis until they are

matched with their forever families, whether that's for a few days or a few months. Dogs Trust also shares its training expertise with foster carers, helping them to build confidence and gain a deeper understanding of dogs and their behaviour. All costs are covered by the charity, including food, bedding, grooming, and vet treatment. Ideally homes would be adult-only but the charity said it would consider applications from homes with children aged 10 and over.

It would also need volunteers to be within "reasonable" distance from the Berkshire rehoming centre or others run by the charity because foster dogs might need to go to a vet, a training team for support or meet potential new families.

To find out more or to apply to become a Dogs Trust foster carer, please visit www.dogstrust.org.uk/foster

Visits to Dogs Trust Newbury are now by appointment only. If you would like to apply to adopt a dog, please fill in our online application form and, if a match is found, the charity will arrange an appointment for you to meet them.

www.dogstrust.org.uk/newbury





CHAD FEST 2026!

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE

Open Mic Night with Sion Whiley From 6pm - Late

Bands, singers, musicians and performers of all kinds are invited to come along and get involved.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE

Chaddleworth Fete / 12-4pm

The classic village fete with something for everyone including Fun Dog Show, BBQ & Bar, Raffle & Silent Auction, and lots games!

Post-Fete Party / From 6pm - Late

Live music from The Station and The Precious Lies, followed by a Silent Disco to finish the night!

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

Soul on Sunday | 12-6pm

Bar open from 12pm, with folk singalongs and an open-air Sunday service at 3pm with Rev Mike West Downland Benefice.

Great Shefford Under Fives

(Registered Charity 1033744)

My husband and I had a wonderful day out at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, to represent **Great Shefford Pre-School**, thanks to a nomination of a parent from Chaddleworth. I was very proud to represent our small charity and the contribution it makes to the lives of our families and community. Thank you!



What a wonderful half term we have enjoyed! On the back of the Artemis 11 mission we have enjoyed making rockets and stories based on trips to the moon.

Anouska our music teacher visited with her 'boom whackers' for a fun musical session. We also walked to the church and met Judith the organist who played for us as we danced in the aisle with ribbons.

The weather has been kind for our outdoor learning. Everyone has loved to see the lambs in the fields, climbed trees and had afternoons in the woods. We are now on half term holidays but looking forward to a busy last term before summer.

Best wishes, **Denise Herrington**

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk

River Baptism

Great Shefford welcomed an exciting new event at St Mary's Church. The day was beautiful, albeit a bit chilly, with a few passing showers. Gathered together at the church, the enticing aroma of BBQ filled the air, accompanied by a gentle waft of smoke. A lovely service followed with *Bishop Mary*, the Bishop of Reading, along with *Rev Mike and Rev Matt*.

We were gathered to celebrate as eight people from the congregation, were to be baptised. Each shared their heartfelt journey to faith, making for an emotional experience for them and for the listening congregation.

Following the service and enjoying some rousing singing in church, still singing everyone made their way down to the River Lambourn led by Bishop Mary, Rev Mike, and Rev Matt.

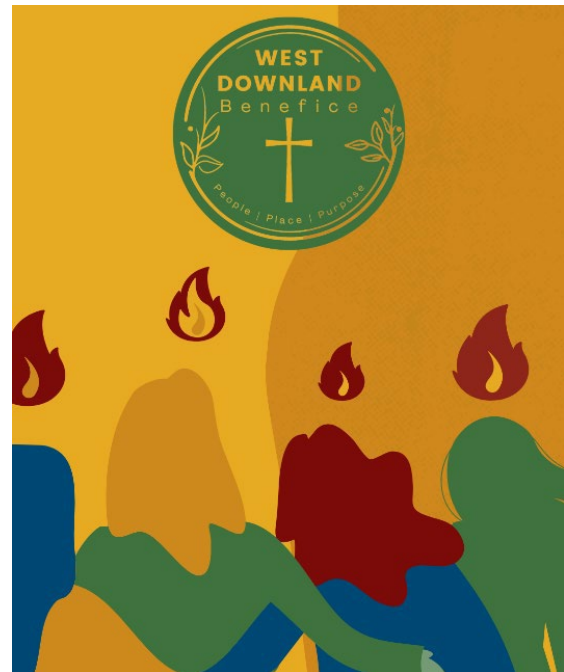
An area had been



prepared to welcome everyone, with kind permission from Dominic & Miranda Armstrong. After warming up by the fire, Bishop Mary, Rev Mike, and Rev Matt hesitatingly stepped into the river. Then, eight people were baptised with a full immersion in the river!

Everyone then returned to the church for a cosy cup of coffee they finished the service before heading outside for a wonderfully prepared BBQ and drinks, socialising, and to enjoy the lovely afternoon sun. *Denise Herrington*

NEWS FROM WEST



DOWNLAND BENEFICE

Dear Friends,

Pentecost is one of those moments in the church's year that never quite lets you settle back comfortably into your seat. The rushing wind, the flickering fire, the sudden, startling discovery that people from every corner of the known world could hear and understand one another - it's a story that insists community is not an accident. It is something given, something grown, and something we are all invited into.

Over these past few Sundays, we've been sitting with the theme of Together - exploring what it really means to be a community of faith that has room for everyone. Not just in theory, or in the kind of polite way we might nod along to in church, but genuinely, practically, warmly. The kind of togetherness where you actually know your neighbour's name. Where the person who's been coming for thirty years and the person who wandered in for the first time last

week are both made to feel that this place has something for them.

It's a vision worth holding onto - especially in village life, where it can sometimes feel as though community exists mostly in the past tense. But we don't think that's true. We see it in the people who turn up to help without being asked, in the conversations after services that spill out into the car park, in the quiet acts of neighbourliness that rarely make it into any newsletter. Community is alive here. It just sometimes needs a little encouragement to believe in itself.

So this is that encouragement. If you've been wondering whether there's a place for you in the life of this benefice - there is. Whether you're a lifelong churchgoer or someone who hasn't darkened a church door in years. Whether you're confident in your faith or full of questions and doubts. Whether you're young, old, settled here, or newly arrived. The door is genuinely open, and the welcome is genuinely meant.

Community, of course, is not only about what we receive - it's about what we

bring. Each of us carries something the rest of us need. A skill, a perspective, a willingness to make the tea or stack the chairs or simply show up. Togetherness is built in those small moments as much as in the big ones.

And speaking of big moments - we have a wonderful one coming up. On Saturday 27th June, our own Rev Matt will be ordained as a priest at a service in Reading Minster. This is a significant and joyful occasion, and everyone is warmly invited to come along and celebrate with him. Details of the service will be shared closer to the time, but please do put the date in your diary. It will be a day well worth making the journey for.

With my love and prayers,

Office

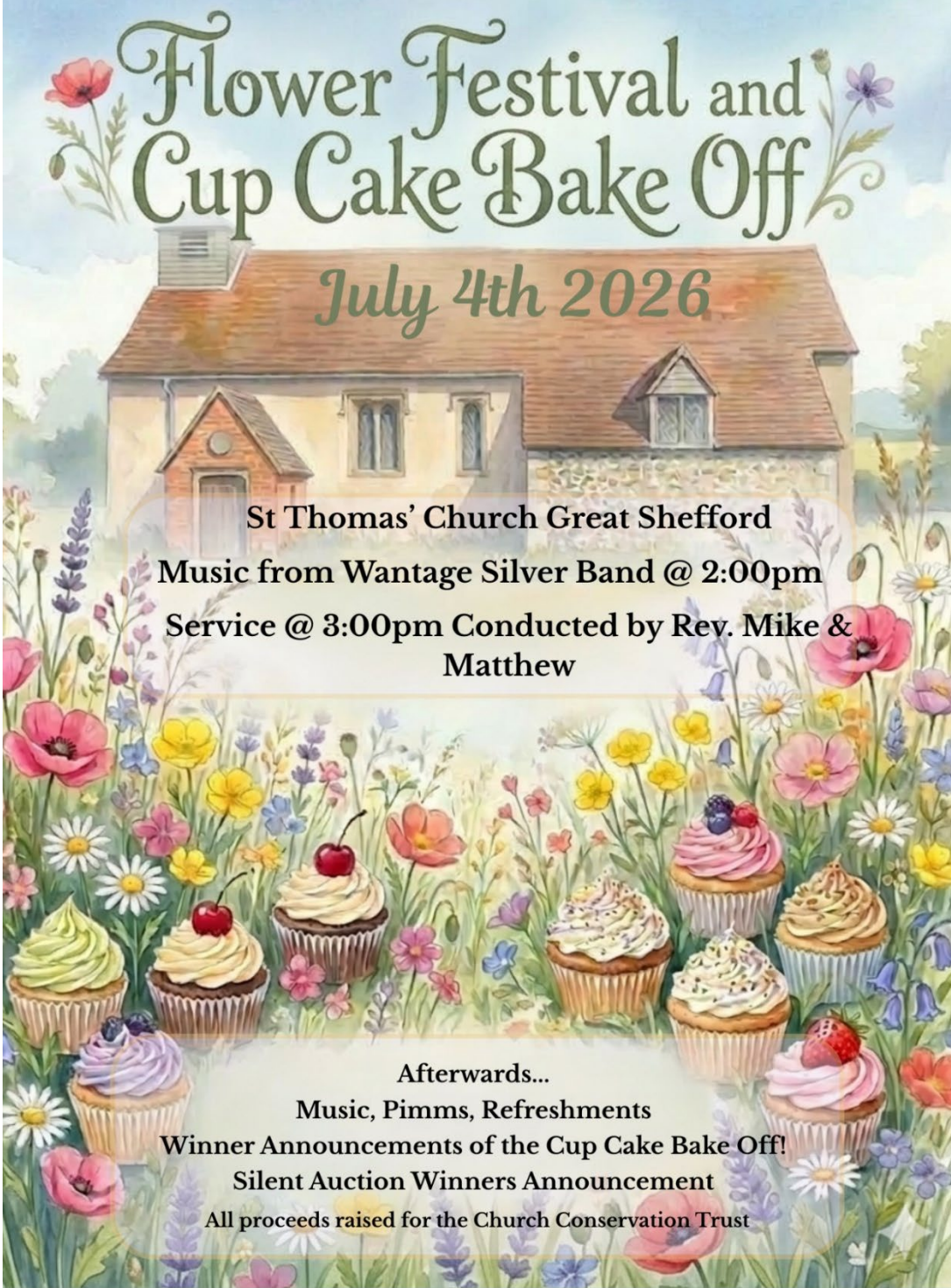
Contact

Details

www.westdownland.co.uk

office@westdownland.co.uk

Telephone **07954 117093**



Flower Festival and Cup Cake Bake Off

July 4th 2026

St Thomas' Church Great Shefford

Music from Wantage Silver Band @ 2:00pm

**Service @ 3:00pm Conducted by Rev. Mike &
Matthew**

Afterwards...

Music, Pimms, Refreshments

Winner Announcements of the Cup Cake Bake Off!

Silent Auction Winners Announcement

All proceeds raised for the Church Conservation Trust

DOGS WELCOME BUT MUST BE ON A LEASH

Chaddleworth St Andrew's and Shefford C.E. Federated Primary Schools

We have all been so incredibly busy with our learning and all the opportunities it has brought us. The Red Kite's residential and the whole school trip to Sheepdrove were a great way to bring the term to a close.

Well done, and thank you, to everyone; children, school staff, our families and school community!

And well done to all our year 6 children who approached their SATs assessments with a positive attitude, super perseverance and great resilience - we are all very proud of you!

Ms Munday, Headteacher
www.csfschools.org



Red Kites Residential

The year 5 and 6 children have had a fantastic adventure over at Grittleton House with every single one of our Christian values put to use...

▮ **Community** - supporting and helping one another

▮ **Compassion** - showing kindness and care to those around us

▮ **Trust** - in each other, the Grittleton staff and ourselves to be able to stay away from home and join in with all the activities on offer

▮ **Perserverance** - keeping on going, even when tired, and trying our best in everything we were doing

▮ **Thankfulness** - appreciation to everyone around us and for the opportunities during the residential

▮ **Courage** - to stay away from home, to spend time with different people and try out new things

A huge thank you to Mrs Chrimes, Reverend Mike and Mrs Chapman for their support and care for all of our children, and each other, through the week.

Please take a look at the Red Kites blog to find out about the different activities and adventures throughout the week...

www.csfschools.org/learning/classes/red-kites-yr-5-6/red-kites-blog/



Newbury Spring Festival

Robins, Kingfishers and Owls were treated to a performance in the Oak Hall at Sheepdrove Organic Farm. A picnic lunch was enjoyed in the beautiful grounds before experiencing the musical presentation of the story of 'The Firebird'. We are grateful for this kind offer that came from the Trustees of the Sheepdrove Trust, Mr Peter & Mrs Juliet Kindersley of Sheepdrove, Lambourn and their daughter Rosie.



CHADDLEWORTH VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
CHADDLEWORTH VILLAGE HALL
FROM 12-4PM



**BBQ
& BAR**



**BRASS
BAND**



**FUN FOR
ALL THE
FAMILY**



**FUN DOG
SHOW**



**SILENT
AUCTION &
RAFFLE**



**+ MUCH
MORE**





St Thomas' Cupcake Competition

Entry is free!



DATE & VENUE: Saturday 4th July
At St Thomas' Church

Entries must be presented by **11:30am**



REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:

- Full Name
- Age if under 16 years
- Contact email/Contact Number



THE BAKE:

- Please produce and display **8 decorated cup cakes &** a post card size label with your name only on one side and for the under 16s your age on the other.

This is to be placed in front of your cakes on the day.
Name down!



JUDGING: Blind judging at **12:30pm** by Ruth from Priscillas and the winner from each category will receive a small prize.

After judging, the cakes will be offered alongside the teas & coffees at the event.



Happy Baking...