

# Voice

## of the villages

Hunningham, Offchurch, Weston, Wappenbury, Eathorpe

## Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024



Editor: David Wray ([wraydj@gmail.com](mailto:wraydj@gmail.com))

The VOICE website  
[www.villagevoice.org.uk](http://www.villagevoice.org.uk)

# Practically Perfect Ceremonies

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244



## VALENTINE'S DAY

*Valentine's  
Day*

*February 14th*

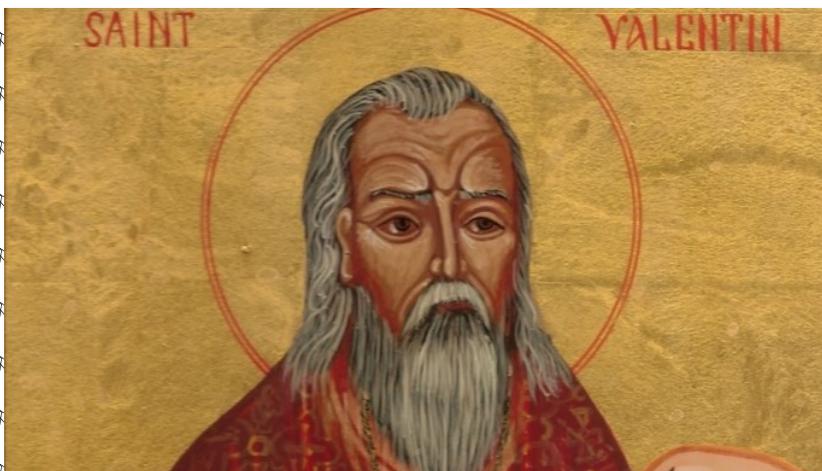


Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14th each year, has its origins in both ancient and medieval times. It has evolved over centuries into the widely recognized celebration of love that we know today.

One popular theory is that Valentine's Day began in ancient Rome. It probably developed from the mid-February celebration of Lupercalia, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture. It involved rituals and ceremonies aimed at ensuring health and fertility. During the festival, young men would draw the names of women from a jar. These couples would remain together for the duration of the festival, and, apparently, this would often lead to marriages.

The Christian connection to Valentine's Day is often attributed to a Roman priest named Valentine. Emperor Claudius II had banned marriages for young men, believing

that single men made better soldiers. Valentine defied this decree and continued to perform marriages for young couples in secret. When his actions were discovered, he was arrested and later executed on February 14th. As a martyr, he was made a saint 200 years later.



*A popular image of Saint Valentine*

In the Middle Ages, February 14th was linked to the beginning of the birds' mating season, adding to the romantic symbolism of the day. Valentine's Day became associated with courtship, leading to the production of many romantic poems and other writings. The exchange of love notes and tokens of affection on Valentine's Day gained popularity in England during the 17th century. The tradition spread to the American colonies, and by the 19th century, the first mass-produced Valentine's Day cards were being produced.

## **WESTON BABIES and TODDLERS WEEKLY GROUP**

**EVERY FRIDAY 9.45am -11.15am  
(Except 16th February due to half-term)**

**VENUE: Weston Village Hall**

Come and let the little ones have lots of fun and meet other Mums, Dads, Grandparents, and Carers.



Further information contact Hazel Taylor 01926 632428

## **WELCOME**

Hello everybody! This is Ludo. The newest addition to our family. In the photo, he was just 11 weeks old but already established as a family member you just cannot ignore!

The late, great Terry Pratchett once said that you could never trust a dog with orange eyebrows, but that's a quote we hope will not be accurate in this case! Although those eyebrows do make Ludo look a bit cross all the time. Luckily he's not!



# Offchurch Flower Club

Meets at Offchurch Village Hall 7.30-9.30 on the second Wednesday of the Month.

*Since we began in September membership has increased to twelve. Everyone is growing in confidence and very much enjoying being creative using the 'themed' programme agreed by members. We are learning from each other and appreciating different styles, each on our own budget.*



## **Meeting Dates**

- Feb 14th Title 'All That Jazz' free interpretation.
- March 13th 'Imposed Arrangement'
- Everyone has the same materials to work with.
- April 10th 'Spring' free interpretation.



Your first meeting is free, thereafter a quarterly subscription of £3 per month payable in advance. There will be occasional additional expenses when professional demonstrators are invited.



All further enquiries to [mandhhartog@googlemail.com](mailto:mandhhartog@googlemail.com)



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[www.coolbreezetechnologyservices.co.uk](http://www.coolbreezetechnologyservices.co.uk)



## **Messy 2024 dates for your diary**

We have planned a number of dates for Messy Church gatherings in 2024. Pop the dates in your diary or on your calendar and look out for more information.

**10 March: a combined Messy Church and Mothering Sunday at Weston**

**18 May : Pentecost**

**20/21/22 August: Messy Summer sessions**

**12 October: Messy Harvest**

**14 December: Messy Christingle**

We do hope you can join us for all or some of these.

*The Messy Team*

Messy Church is for families of all shapes and sizes.

For more information contact Jane on 07850 4442316 or email [off-churchmessy@gmail.com](mailto:off-churchmessy@gmail.com)

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

Can anyone please help us? We need help in our home once a fortnight, and help in the garden once a month.

We live in Offchurch , if you think you could help our phone no. is 330528. Thank you, David & Denise Boswell.

## **CHEESE AND WINE EVENING IN HUNNINGHAM**

**SATURDAY 2 MARCH**

An invitation to everyone in Hunningham!



There will be a cheese and wine evening at 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd March in St Margaret's Church in Hunningham.

The idea is to get together with our neighbours to have a fun evening whilst enjoying some liquid refreshments and nibbles in this historic building.

More information to come in the next few weeks.

Contact Moira Rawlings [moirarawlings@btinternet.com](mailto:moirarawlings@btinternet.com)

## **OFFCHURCH AFTERNOON CLUB**

The Afternoon Club will meet on Monday 12th February at 2.30p.m. in the Village Hall for the Annual Meeting followed by tea.

## EATHORPE LIGHTS 2023

We have lived in Eathorpe for 25 years now and, as in all communities, we have seen several changes - new houses, new people, a brand new village hall and so on. But Eathorpe Christmas Lights have always been part of our experience of this village at Christmas. And the experience of lots of other people too, it seems. Village residents this year put up their lights around December 9th and they were lighting up the December sky until just after News Year's Day.



We don't really count the visitors we get but there were plenty - every night! With Christmas Eve being the busiest, when I estimated we had at least 200 people walking up and down Main Street. We don't charge people to come to visit the Lights - the intention is to have a gentle, FREE, celebration which all families can visit as they wish.

Some households do have charity boxes outside though. And it looks as if we have collected about £1500 in total this year, which will go to a variety of charities, tending to focus on those aimed at helping children.



So to those people who visited us over the Christmas period, we'd like to say "Thank You!" And - see you again next year.

## GOODBYE TO TWO MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

We are sad to have to say GOODBYE to two members of the HUNNINGHAM COMMUNITY:

JOHN HANCOCK – of Snowford Hall Farm, and CHRIS FOYER – of School Lane, both died in December.

They were both big supporters of Events at Hunningham. Both had lived in Hunningham for decades!!

There will be more about both of them in the March Magazine. We miss them both, and send our love to all their Family.

## THE PILGRIM PUPPETS

### FUTURE EVENTS

Sunday 4th Feb COME 2 WORSHIP service at HUNNINGHAM CHURCH 11.00am

Sunday 11th Feb PUPPETS & PANCAKES Hunningham Church 4.00pm

Sunday 3rd March COME 2 WORSHIP service at HUNNINGHAM CHURCH 11.00am



For your Diary:

Sunday 10th March MOTHERS DAY WESTON CHURCH 11.00am

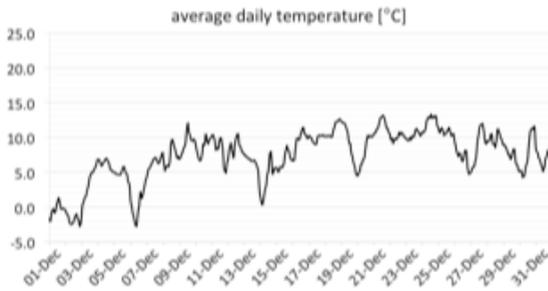
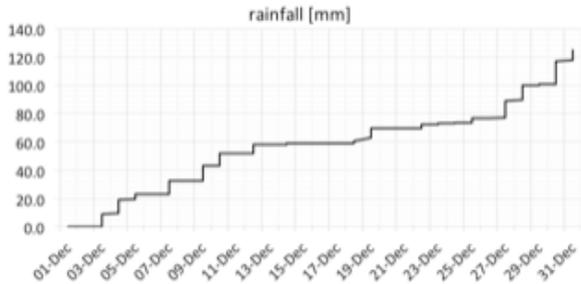
For information about the Pilgrim Puppets, please have a look at [their web page](#) .

[https://www.villagevoice.org.uk/?page\\_id=1069](https://www.villagevoice.org.uk/?page_id=1069)

Ring Hazel Taylor 01926 632428 if you are interested in our Puppets being part of your events.

# WEATHER WATCH: DECEMBER 2023

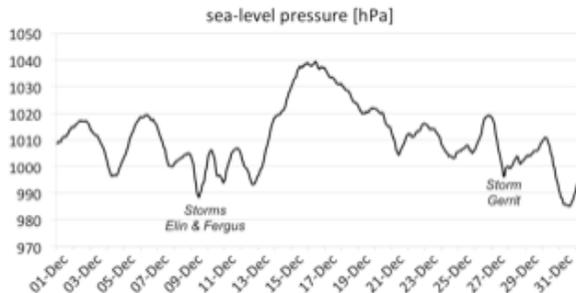
This December was a record-breaking month with 125 mm of rain locally. This was 209% of the 25-year average of 60.9 mm and contributed to an overall total of 787 mm (30.9") of rainfall for the year. This is the fifth highest yearly total since records began in 1998, the highest being 819 mm (32.2") in 2012.



In spite of all the rain it was another month with above average temperatures of 7.1°C, which is 2.1°C above the average for the area. This was also despite the month starting quite cool with four air frosts and six grass frosts, the sharpest frosts being minus 2.9°C on the 2nd and

6th. The highest temperature was 13.6°C on Christmas Eve!

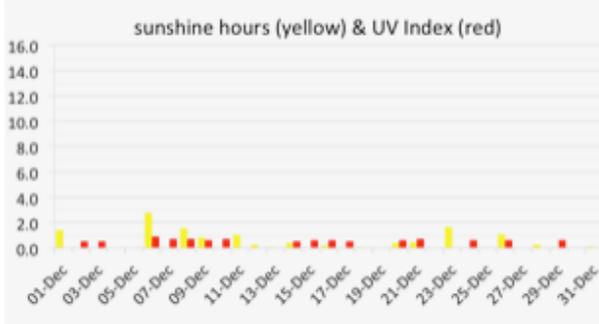
Three named storms, *Elin* on the 9th, *Fergus* on the 10th and *Gerrit* over the 26/27th, were mostly responsible for the month's high rainfall. The atmospheric pressure fell to 987 hPa on the 31st, which actually preceded another storm at the beginning of



2024, but more on that next month. We again missed most of the high winds associated with these storms, experiencing maximum gusts of 35 mph on the 21st. Early on in the month the winds were northerly but turned southwesterly by the end.

There were 14 days with no sun at all, and the total for the month was only 12.1 hours. This is just 23% of the December average. To put this desperately low total

into context, the last week of November enjoyed 11.9 hours of sunshine!



*What a year 2023 was weather-wise!*

July to December 2023 was the wettest period on record in the UK since the archives were created in 1890 [1]. Despite both November and December being very wet in Offchurch, with just 463 mm, this was only the fourth wettest six-month period of our 25-year archive, the wettest being in 2000 with 485 mm.

The UK experienced seven ‘named storms’ between last September, the start of the current period of storms and the year-end. This is the highest number in this period since naming storms started in 2015. They were *Agnes, Babet, Ciarán, Debi, Elin, Fergus and Gerrit*. These storms caused severe flooding in many parts of the UK, largely because they came in such quick succession, saturating the ground so that the river catchment areas could not dispel the water before the next storm arrived.

The increase in global air surface temperatures in 2023 to a record value of 14.98°C [2] from the previous 2016 record of 14.81°C reflects the exceptional heat experienced around the world, with for example the devastating forest fires across parts of Europe. A 1°C rise produces 7 per cent more moisture in the atmosphere, meaning storms generate ever-greater amounts of rainfall. Moreover, this additional moisture leads to greater cloud cover with correspondingly less solar radiation reaching the ground. This is seen by the number of sunshine hours measured and was particularly evident last December with just 12.1 hours across the month, as detailed above.

The total number of sunshine hours for 2023 was 1,421, as shown in the table below. This was just 90 per cent of the average for any year in our area. The annual average temperature locally of 11.2°C was 5 per cent above that for the area. September was the warmest month due largely to warmer nights and the highest daily maximum, exceeding June by 0.1°C at 31.8°C. The

atmospheric pressure remained quite high throughout the year but especially last February, which had a monthly average of 1029 hPa. High pressure often gives clear, dry, warm days and is reflected in February's low rainfall of just 7.2 mm.

Finally, while the UK does not suffer very high ultraviolet radiation values compared with, say, the Mediterranean or Australia, where the UV Index can rise above 11, precautions (i.e. hats and sunglasses) should be used here for any UVI reading over 3: any month from late March to early October, especially between 11am and 3pm BST.

### Summary for Year 2023

Monthly totals	Avg temp °C	Rainfall mm	Pressure hPa	Sunshine hrs	UV Index (max)*
January	3.3	52.8	1015	72.9	1.1
February	5.2	7.2	1029	90.5	2.1
March	6.7	92.8	1008	62.9	3.6
April	9.0	51.8	1017	138.7	4.2
May	14.5	49.8	1024	185.9	5.6
June	18.8	75.0	1019	193.9	7.8
July	18.4	78.4	1011	199.8	7.3
August	18.0	37.0	1014	160.2	6.7
September	19.4	51.0	1015	142.2	5.6
October	11.9	112.2	1008	92.3	3.0
November	4.8	59.6	1005	69.3	1.6
December	5.4	125.0	1011	12.1	1.0
Totals for 2023	n/a	786.6	n/a	1420.7	n/a
Maximum	19.4	125.0	1029	199.8	7.8
Minimum	3.3	7.2	1005	12.1	1.0
Average	11.2	65.6	1015	118.4	4.1

[1] The Times Newspaper, accessed 7 January, 2024

[2] The Times Newspaper, accessed 9 January, 2024

For local weather details and forecasts go to: <http://offweather.hopto.org>

Richard Seaton  
[rkseaton@outlook.com](mailto:rkseaton@outlook.com)

# THE COMPUTER PAGE (or Language)

## A DOZEN TEXT ABBREVIATIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW

OMG! IMO, texting abbreviations are the GOAT! If you have absolutely no idea what that means, it might be time to brush up on your texting abbreviations. These collections of letters, short for a single word or group of words, are so common in texting that many have moved beyond text conversations, migrating into spoken conversations. Understanding texting abbreviations like TL;DR is no longer just a technology tip—once you know them, you'll be finding them in everyday life!

### 1. LOL

This is perhaps the most ubiquitous texting acronym. Short for “laughing out loud”, LOL is now used to express even the mildest amusement. You can respond “LOL!!” when your friend tells you a funny story, but you can also just say

something like “I forgot to have breakfast today, LOL.” It’s something of a catch-all reaction. NB: LOL does not stand for “lots of love”. In the early days, when texting abbreviations were becoming mainstream, plenty of people made this LOL-worthy mistake.

### 2. ROFL

You’re most likely not literally “rolling on the floor laughing” when you use the abbreviation ROFL, but it’s still a bit stronger an indicator of mirth than “LOL.” Usually, it’s a standalone response to something funny. Add exclamation points and laugh/crying face emojis as you please.

### 3. BC

In texting terms, the second and third letters of the alphabet don’t refer



to the time “before Christ.” BC is, instead, short for “because”. Often, texting abbreviations like these won’t even be capitalized. You might see something like “Wanted to see how you were doing bc I haven’t heard from you in a while”.

#### **4. LMK**

This one translates to “let me know,” and it’s useful in all sorts of situations for nudging or putting the ball in someone’s court. Trying to plan a group event when one person doesn’t know if they’ll be able to make it? Just tell them “LMK when you know”—and hopefully they will in good time.

#### **5. NVM**

Two words, three letters: NVM is short for “never mind.” You’d use it in much the same way you use the phrase in real life: “What was that restaurant we went to last week???” \*five minutes later\* “NVM, I found it!”

#### **6. ETA**

Who has time to text out “estimated time of arrival”?! In fact, you’ll certainly hear this abbreviation spoken out loud quite a bit too. You’re just as likely to hear “Looking forward to seeing you tonight, what’s your ETA?” spoken as you are to see it in a text.

#### **7. TMI**

This is another one that’s quite popular beyond the realm of texting. When’s the last time you heard someone say all three words: “too much information”? If your friend or a friend shares every last detail of their bout of food poisoning on Facebook, the simple three-letter response “TMI!” says it all.

#### **8. GOAT**

This texting acronym doesn’t have anything to do with four-legged horned mammals. GOAT, almost always preceded by “the”, means “greatest of all time”. GOAT can be used to praise a friend (“Did you see Michelle’s gym programme? She’s the GOAT!”) or a superstar in a particular field (“Saw the GOAT himself, Simon Rattle, conduct an orchestra last night!”).

## 9. TLDR

“TLDR” means “too long, didn’t read” and is a common response to long-winded, rambling opinion pieces. Next time your co-worker uploads a six-paragraph status about the condition of her daily reports, try commenting “TLDR, but I hope you get it all done!” Writers also often try to get ahead of TLDR too. In more formal, journalistic writing, or in a lengthy, original social media post, you may see “TLDR” (often formatted as TL;DR) followed by a quick summary, so impatient readers can still get the gist.

## 10. FWIW

Consider FWIW one of the most snarky-but-still-polite text abbreviations out there, because it’s a great opener, translating to “for what it’s worth”. It’s a kinder way of preambuling a strong opinion and can be used in situations like “FWIW, I never liked your husband anyway”.

## 11. IIRC

IIRC stands for “if I recall correctly” and is the social media equivalent of showing receipts. It’s a little argumentative, but useful when you need to say things like “IIRC, you promised me so much more. Here’s a screenshot to prove it.”

## 12. IMO/IMHO

Another one that can cause the recipient to brace themselves, IMO means “in my opinion.” The strength/controversy of that opinion can vary vastly, though. IMHO is a variation meaning “in my humble opinion.” With the addition of almost-always-sarcastic humility, IMHO is usually a little edgier, as it were.



## POETRY PAGE

One of the mistakes people sometimes make with poetry is to think of encounters with it as needing to be deliberate - the notion that you have to mean to pick up a book of poetry and read verses as if you needed to study them for whatever purpose. But my experience has rarely been like that. I did "study" poetry when I was at University, and some of those poetic encounters have certainly stuck with me ever since. But for most of my life encounters with poetry have been accidental, and fortuitous. I read a few lines, or hear them sung, and I find I need to hear more of that particular poet because something in what he/she wrote or sung has triggered something in me.

As an example of this, like many people, I was completely captivated by a fairly recent TV series about people searching for ancient artefacts using metal detectors. Mackenzie Crook and Toby Jones were the stars in *The Detectorists*, which I suspect is the most archetypal English comedy series ever - gentle and thoughtful and episodes you want to watch dozens of times to relive the warm feelings of English understatement. A highlight of the series was the theme music, a haunting song beautifully played by a newcomer to me - Johnny Flynn.

*Will you search through the loamy earth for me  
Climb through the briar and bramble  
I'll be your treasure*

*I felt the touch of the kings and the breath of the wind  
I knew the call of all the song birds  
They sang all the wrong words  
I'm waiting for you, I'm waiting for you  
(Mmmmmm)*

*Will you swim through the briny sea for me*

*Roll along the ocean's floor  
I'll be your treasure  
I'm with the ghosts of the men who can never sing again  
There's a place follow me  
Where a love lost at sea  
Is waiting for you  
Is waiting for you*

Because you only get a snatch of this during the TV show, I didn't quite realise just how poetic this was but it seems to me now to be an almost perfect matching of words and music and the themes of the TV series. I think I could listen to it for hours!

But who was this Johnny Flynn? Where did he come from? A  
And what else has he done?

Well, recently I've been watching *Digging for Britain* - a series in which Alice Roberts (of the pink hair) takes us around some of the many important archaeological projects in Britain. The background, intermittent music to this sounded familiar so I did some research. And there again, it's Johnny Flynn (this time in partnership with Robert Macfarlane) singing poetry accompanied by the most distinctive and haunting guitar playing. The theme song is called "*Coins for the Eyes*".

### ***Coins For The Eyes***

*We dig for the gods that leave no bones  
For the ship that sailed in the sunken sea  
The vessel aloft in a sky of storms  
The famine road, and the merchant's quay*

*Come and search, for we who search  
And looking for us scar the land  
Turn the soil, weave the dream*

*Thread the river, rake the sand  
And dig for those whose stories lie  
With buried pasts and futures won  
And dig for us as we have done  
To lay the dead out in the sun  
To lay us dead out in the sun*

*Coins for the eyes and keys for the door  
Fortress, grave goods, chambered tombs  
Abandoned villages, rumours of war  
We dig for pattern, read the runes*

*And so a clue to who we are  
And where we were and why we will  
Inheritors of knowledge now  
And ancestors to those who still  
Might dig for those whose stories lie  
With buried pasts and futures won  
And dig for us as we have done  
To lay the dead out in the sun  
To lay us dead out in the sun*

As a song for a set of TV programmes, this is remarkably apt and thought-provoking. But it's more powerful than that. Poetry indeed! Lovely!

*Johnny Flynn*



Talking about accidentally reading poetry, I bumped into the following Linda Pastan poem and it seems to me that she has captured my life here in a few short lines. I've spent my life trying to be perfect - and always not quite making it.

### THE MYTH OF PERFECTABILITY

I hang the still life of flowers  
by a window so it can receive  
the morning light, as flowers must.  
But sun will fade the paint,  
so I move the picture to the exact center  
of a dark wall, over the mantel  
where it looks too much like a trophy—  
one of those animal heads  
but made up of blossoms.  
I move it again to a little wall  
down a hallway where I can come upon it  
almost by chance, the way the Japanese  
put a small window in an obscure place,  
hoping that the sight of a particular landscape  
will startle them with beauty as they pass  
and not become familiar.  
I do this all day long, moving  
the picture or sometimes a chair or a vase  
from place to place. Or else  
I sit here at the typewriter,  
putting in a comma to slow down  
a long sentence, then taking it out,  
then putting it back again  
until I feel like a happy Sisyphus,  
or like a good farmer who knows  
that the body's work is never over,  
for the motions of plowing and planting continue  
season after season, even in his sleep.

AGE IS AN ISSUE OF  
MIND OVER MATTER. IF  
YOU DON'T MIND, IT  
DOESN'T MATTER.

**Mark Twain**

Having just hit another birthday (74!) I am cheered by this quote from Mark Twain.

Although not quite as much as by the following sign seen in the Cotswolds!





# PUPPETS AND PANCAKES



**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**4.00PM**

**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH,  
HUNNINGHAM**

This is a popular, annual, fun event.  
Come and enjoy the Pilgrim Puppets and delicious  
pancakes made on the spot!  
No age limit and no charge!



# Joint Parish Council

Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch & Wappenbury JPC

## Working Together as a Community

### Joint Parish Council Meetings

Our next meeting is scheduled for 19th March, 2024 at 7:30pm and is being held at Eathorpe Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings. Residents can email or phone Parish Councillors if they have issues to raise.

For further information or an emailed copy of the meeting Agenda or minutes please contact the Clerk on [Clerk.jpcehow@outlook.com](mailto:Clerk.jpcehow@outlook.com)

### The meeting dates for 2024

The dates below follow the usual JPC pattern of meetings.

January	16th	Eathorpe Village Hall
February	No Meeting	
March	19th	Eathorpe Village Hall
April	No Meeting	
May	21st	Eathorpe Village Hall
June	No Meeting	
July	16th	Eathorpe Village Hall
August	No Meeting	
September	17th	Eathorpe Village Hall
October	No Meeting	
November	19th	Eathorpe Village Hall
December	No Meeting	

# Warwickshire Mobile Library



**Eathorpe Village Hall**

**12.00 - 12.20**

**Offchurch Village Street**

**9.15 - 9.30**

The mobile  
library will be  
available on:



**February 2nd**  
**March 1st**



## **CONTACT THE TEAM**

**01926 851031**

[mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk)

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries)

## CHURCH SERVICES

**FEBRUARY 2024**



Sunday 4th	11.00am – Come2Worship + Zoom	St Margaret's (Hunningham)
Sunday 11th	10.00am – Holy Communion + Zoom	St Gregory's (Offchurch)
Sunday 11th	6.00pm - Evensong	St Michael's (Weston)
Sunday 18th	10.00am – Sunday Worship + Zoom	St Gregory's (Offchurch)
Sunday 25th	10.00am – Holy Communion + Zoom	St Gregory's (Offchurch)

## PUPPETS and PANCAKES

### Hunningham Church

Sunday 11th February At 4.00pm.  
Come and join us for our annual fun time with our Puppets, and join us for delicious Pancakes. We look forward to seeing you there.



## CHURCH WARDENS

***Church warden details are as follows:***

Graham Douglass 07754 350614 [grahamdouglass@Hotmail.com](mailto:grahamdouglass@Hotmail.com)

Mandy Lewis 07864 359988 [amanda.e.lewis@btinternet.com](mailto:amanda.e.lewis@btinternet.com)

## COMMUNITY CAFE

**The Community Café 'Drop In' is now seasonal.**  
Everyone welcome for refreshments & a chat at the café.

*During the Winter months ...*

On the last Wednesday of **September, October, November,  
January, February**

Do come and join us for **HOMEMADE SOUPS**, conversation and  
company..

It saves making lunch!

**In Offchurch Village Hall**

**NEXT SOUP LUNCH – 28th February 2024 12.00 noon**

We hope to see you there. If you need a lift please contact Hazel  
Taylor 01926 632428

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**Tel. 01926 428752**

## ABOUT OUR VILLAGE HALLS

### **Eathorpe Village Hall Eathorpe CV33 9DE**

A well-equipped village hall, ideal for activities from table tennis to dancing, from art classes to wedding receptions.



A large hall with seating capacity for up to 60 people – more for buffets, plus a useful mezzanine level providing extra entertaining space. The hall has:

- A vaulted ceiling and lovely views over the orchard and river
- High Speed WiFi
- An excellent sound system, with screen and portable projector
- Recently installed solar panels and air source heat pumps, making us eco-friendly.

For more information about the hall and about Eathorpe, go to <https://www.eathorpe.org.uk/wordpress/> and follow the links.

## WINTRY TALES

Back in the mid-70s I had a colourful very long Doctor Who scarf, and as I rushed out to go to work one morning, I slammed the front door with the end of my scarf still inside. I nearly strangled myself trying to reach my keys to release me from my front door, then drove to work laughing!

In the winter we would put a ground sheet over my car to keep it from freezing up, using a heavy garden fork to hold it in place. One morning, having hurriedly pulled the ground sheet off, I drove to the office. When I got there a smiling colleague came out to meet me and I thought how kind ..... then she asked me why I had a garden fork on the bonnet of my car - I think I pulled it off like a Magician with a tablecloth at a children's party!

Wendy Green

## ANOTHER WINTER

As we begin February, we seemed to have missed any really serious weather so far (although Eathorpe did come very close to flooding at the end of December!) And I even saw snowdrops peeping out today ! But we always have to remember that the worst winter we have known in this area over the past twenty



years began in February 2018 with the advent of the “Beast from the East”. So we mustn’t get too complacent just yet!

## **MONDAY CLUB JANUARY MEETING**

### **Monday Club - January Post Christmas meal**

On Monday 8th January, members met at Wethele Manor for our traditional Post Christmas meal. We were warmly welcomed by the Wethele Team and drinks were shared on arrival. While everyone arrived, we spent time catching up with each other about the Christmas festivities and buying raffle tickets for a range of lovely gifts. Wethele Manor is an amazing venue and we were lucky enough to be seated in the conservatory dining room for our meal.

Once seated, we pulled our Christmas crackers, donned our hats and shared the cracker jokes with each other. Stephen was an excellent wine waiter and ensured that everyone received regular top ups! Lunch was served and we were not disappointed - thank you very much to everyone for providing such an excellent meal. Over coffee and mints, the raffle was drawn by Trudy and the lucky winners chose their gift. Thank you to those who donated these - it was a great range of gifts for the lucky winners to choose from.

Robert thanked the team at Wethele for the fantastic meal and service that was given to each one of us. Nothing was too much trouble and everyone felt truly pampered.

Trudy updated the group regarding the calendar of events that have been planned for 2024 - it looks like a great year ahead for us all.

Everyone had a great time and spent a lovely lunch in fabulous surroundings.

Our next meeting is on Monday 12th February in the village hall at Weston when the subject will be "Blood Bikers"

Happy New year to you all.

Robert Birkmyre

# OFFCHURCH GARDEN CLUB

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm**  
**at Offchurch Village Hall**

**‘Drought Resistant Plants’**  
A talk by Sarah Ridgeway of  
Hintons Nursery, Warwick



**Everyone welcome**

For more information  
phone Claire  
07568 500765

# Welcome to The Red Lion Hunningham



At The Red Lion Hunningham, food is made strictly for the soul. Bright, beautiful and mouthwatering, our food is a true sensation for the eyes and the belly. This is the kind of food that is cooked simply and cleverly while showcasing the great British palette at its culinary best.

We are positioned within the peaceful village of Hunningham, 3 miles to the north-east of Leamington Spa, yet inside the Radford Semele Ward. The Red Lion Hunningham offers enviable views along the River Leam while overlooking the spectacular Warwickshire countryside. We are open 7 days a week for food and drink.

