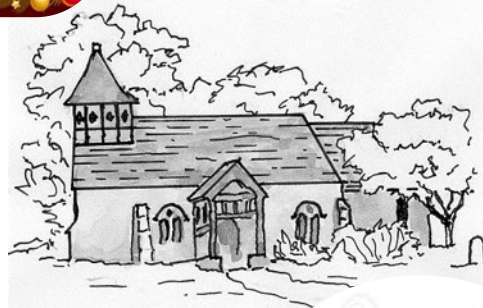
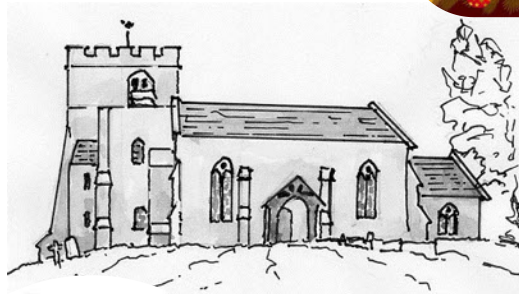


# FROME VALLEY NEWS

The Parish Magazine for Acton Beauchamp, Bishops Frome, Castle Frome, Evesbatch, Fromes Hill, Much Cowarne, Ocle Pychard & Stanford Bishop.



**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2019**  
**DECEMBER/JANUARY**



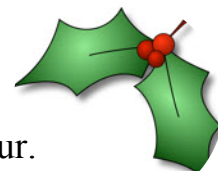
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## Editorial:

Lots of events and news - thank you to everyone who contributed  
If you lose your paper copy of the newsletter  
It's always available on the website where it can be seen in full colour.



**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy 2020**

[www.fromevalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.fromevalleychurches.org.uk)

Sarah (oldholbans@hotmail.com)

**FROME VALLEY NEWS  
COLLECTION DAY  
FOR THE February 2020 ISSUE**

Could volunteers from all churches kindly collect  
their new batch of issues  
from the Parish Office during the morning of

**Friday 31st January 2020**

If this time is not convenient please contact Eleanor  
at the office to arrange an alternative time.

**This advertising space could be  
yours!**

Contact Sarah Sevastopulo  
Tel: 01885 490896 email:  
oldholbans@hotmail.com

**£3.00 eighth page, £6.00 quarter page,  
£10.00 half page, £20.00 whole page  
Prices are per issue. 10 issues per year**



I am writing this on Guy Fawkes Day, which seems very appropriate given all the turbulence in parliament over the last few months and especially with a General Election coming up fast upon us. And all of this before Christmas, what a way to end the year! As a country I think we are more than a little exhausted after the events of the last 3 years, I can only pray that the election gives us a clear vision for the future and that whatever the outcome it will be one the country can come to terms with and that we can settle down to a period of peace and stability.



The lead up to Christmas will of course be busy for us all. Yet it is all the more important to remember those for whom Christmas can be a difficult and lonely time. I urge you all to look out for your neighbours who may be living on their own or in need of some company. Our busyness at this time of year can often mean that we are so focussed on our own Christmas preparations we might forget that neighbour or friend who does not have a family to share this special time of year with.

This magazine is full of announcements about carol services so I will not single any of them out other than the Crib Service at St Mary's, Bishops From on Christmas Eve at 3pm. At this service we encourage the children in the congregation to help build the Crib scene and to fill it with the characters of the Nativity. It really is a great way to start Christmas so if you can make, or have visitors staying, do try and make it along to this special service. There will, of course, be the usual services on Christmas Day and these are detailed at the back of the magazine. Christmas is a very special time of year but let us not forget the true reason behind our celebrations, the arrival of Christ into the world over 2000 years ago. Something to truly celebrate and give thanks for.



On a personal note I am now at the end of my 3 year curacy in this Benefice. However the Bishop has agreed that I can continue to serve you as an Associate Minister now that I am no longer on 'probation'. To that end I will be licensed to the Benefice at a special service on Sunday 8th December by the Bishop of Ludlow. This will take place at St Mary's church, Much Cowarne at 10am and it would be wonderful to see you there as I start the next stage of my ministry with you.

Finally can I take this opportunity on behalf of Steven, myself and our families to wish you and your families a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Blessings  
Richard

Dear All  
A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, helped or bought books at the coffee morning we held today at St Mary's church. You raised over £300 which will be donated to St Peter's Night Shelter in Hereford. My profound thanks for your generosity  
Richard

### *Pastoral Group*

The Group consists of Judy Orgee, Angela Lewis, Richard Allaway and myself. If you would like a pastoral visit please contact one of the group. All visits are confidential.

**Rev Steven Baggs:** 01885 490582  
**Rev Richard Allaway** 07969 69270  
**Judy Orgee:** 01531 640525  
**Angela Lewis:** 01885 490203

## Conquest Theatre

### Folk in the Foyer

Dec 13 The Julie July Band 7.30 pm  
Jan 10 Edwina Hayes 7.30 pm

### Live on Stage

Dec 7 Bromyard Choral Society A Christmas Cracker 7.30 pm  
Dec 14 Climb That Tree (Family show supported by Arts Alive) 3 pm  
Dec 20 Bromyard Symphonic Windband 7.30 pm  
Jan 7 Oddsocks Pinocchio 7.30 pm  
Jan 18/19 A Garland for Sylvia (tribute to Sylvia Silver) 7.30 pm  
**Feb 15-22 Conquest Productions - Treasure Island (family Pantomime)**

### Event Cinema

Dec 10 ROH Coppelia  
Dec 18 Exhibition on Screen In Search of Beethoven 7.30 pm  
Dec 31 Berliner Philharmonic LIVE New Year's Eve concert 4 pm  
Jan 4 André Rieu - 70 years young 7 pm  
Jan 11 NY Met Wozzeck 5.55 pm  
Jan 14 Exhibition on Screen: Lucian Freud A Self Portrait 7.30 pm  
Jan 16 ROH Sleeping Beauty 7.15 pm  
Jan 21 Matthew Bourne's Romeo & Juliet 7.30 pm  
Jan 29 ROH La Boheme 7.45 pm  
Jan 30 Exhibition on Screen In Search of Mozart 7.30 pm

### Films

Dec 6 Rocket Man 7.30 pm  
Jan 3 Lion King 7.30 pm  
Jan 24 Downton Abbey 7.30 pm

See web site for full details [www.conquest-theatre.co.uk](http://www.conquest-theatre.co.uk) or call 01885 488575

## BISHOPS FROME VILLAGE CENTRE

*Are you planning a party or a meeting?*

**Don't forget your Village Hall.**

**The Main Hall can seat up to 120 people at tables or 140 for conferences and meetings.**

**For smaller events the Conference Room can seat about 40 people, a few less at tables.**

**More details and hiring charges online at**

**[www.bishopsfromecentre.co.uk](http://www.bishopsfromecentre.co.uk)**

**To have a look or to book, contact**

**Wendy in the Shop or  
on 01885 490496 or 490327**

**email: [bishopsfromecentre@aol.com](mailto:bishopsfromecentre@aol.com)  
& find us on facebook**



**Lisa's Mobile Dog Shop**



We can come to you at home so you can choose from our huge range of items. Only healthy and tasty food and treats. Large range of equipment. Have advice on equipment and food and free fitting. Also, at the various venues when classes are taking place. For more details of those venues contact us

For more information please contact:  
Lisa Jacksons Dog Training Services Ltd  
Tel: 01905 828398 Mobile: 07817 887319  
[www.lisajacksonsdogtraining.co.uk](http://www.lisajacksonsdogtraining.co.uk) email: [lisa@lisadogs.co.uk](mailto:lisa@lisadogs.co.uk)

**Childline: 0800 1111**  
**Samaritans 116 123**  
**Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247**  
**Mind 0300 123 3393**  
**Age UK 0800 169 6565**

## ST MARYS CHURCH BISHOPS FROME

Today is Remembrance Sunday, we had a moving and meaningful service conducted by the Reverend Richard Allaway. As always we progressed to the lynch gate – our memorial to those from this parish who lost their lives in the two world wars -young men who gave their all for the freedom we enjoy today. John read out their names, the Last Post was sounded, the flag flying from the church tower, we stood in silence each with our own thoughts, part of a ritual taking place all over the country in churches great and small.

The previous Sunday 'All Souls', we commemorated all those from these parishes who have died during the past year. As each name was read out a candle was lit on the altar in their memory and we sat in the flickering candlelight reflecting on their lives. A very emotional service. Thank you to those who served and provided us with tea and cakes. On Saturday an arts and crafts exhibition was held in the church. What a wealth of talent lies in this locality. The weather that day was most inclement so it was a welcome respite to browse in the comfort of the church, enjoy refreshments and marvel at other people's work. Thanks to Maggie McGladdery who arranged it, to those who contributed and for the lovely tea and cake. Our church lends itself so well for these occasions.

Earlier in the month of October we celebrated Harvest. As always, the church looked splendid. Thank you to all who spent so much time in arranging flowers and fruits.

This month in the run up to Christmas, there are so many events taking place here. Carol service, Nativity plays, Black Adder's Christmas, Burley Gate School performing their Christmas production and the crib service. All advertised elsewhere in this magazine – please come and enjoy.

As the year is drawing to its close, it is good to thank all who contribute in any way to the life of the church and its' smooth running. To those who read lessons, take prayers and prepare for Sunday service – thank you. There are so many tasks to be done – church cleaning, churchyard maintenance, refreshments provided - to each and everyone thank you.

There is plenty of call for anyone out there who feels they could help in any way. Please contact our church wardens you will be very welcome.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this magazine and to it's Editor.

Especial thanks to our Vicar Steven, to our Curate Richard, to Catherine Percival who has taken our Evensong, to our choir and our organists who do a magnificent job.

We look forward to 2020 – keep up the good work.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Heather Partridge





## HOPE IN ADVENT – A QUIET DAY

Richard Allaway is planning to hold a Quiet Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December between 10.30am and 2.30pm at Lower Court, Ullingswick. Using poetry, music and prayer we will consider the subject of hope particularly in the context of advent and the run up to Christmas.

Tea and Coffee provided, please bring your own lunch. Contact Richard if you wish to attend on 07969 699270



The poster features two men in a snowy, medieval-style setting. The man on the left is wearing a dark, patterned tunic and has a serious expression. The man on the right is wearing a yellow and white tunic with a head covering and looks slightly downcast. The background shows a snowy street with buildings and trees.

Our Star Theatre Company Present

# Blackadder's Christmas Carol

Thursday 5th December at 8pm  
St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Frome

Tickets £8  
ourstartheatrecompany.com | 07742 878329  
in person from Bishops Frome Community Shop

Our Star  
Theatre Company

# Ocle Pychard Church Carols by Candlelight Service

on  
13<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm

Followed by mulled wine/cider and hot mince pies



## Ocle Pychard Church News

Dear Friends,

Here we are right at the beginning of Winter and the season of frosty mornings, brisk winds, fallen leaves and, hopefully, some sunshine. All the bird visitors who came to enjoy our summer months have migrated to warmer climes and we welcome those feathered guests who prefer our shores during the winter months. The hedgerows are laden with berries at this time of year and will be a banquet for our over-wintering birds and creatures.

It is now that we turn our human thoughts to events that take place in our communities over the next few months.

**The first event** of the Autumn/Winter at Ocle Pychard Church was our Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper. This always brings a smile to people's faces as we celebrate the richness and diversity of the foods harvested from gardens and farms in our parish.

**The second event** was Remembrance Sunday at Ocle Pychard Church on November 10<sup>th</sup>. This was a joint service with Much Cowarne and we remembered all the fallen from both parishes.

**Then the run up to Christmas** will start with the Carols by Candlelight Service with the Pax Singers on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. This is an event not to be missed as it is followed by mulled wine and hot minced pies.

**The final event of the year** will be The First Communion of Christmas at 8.30pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Finally many thanks** to all the volunteers and clergy who keep our lovely old church functioning.

We wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year

Ocle Pychard PCC





# St James Stanford Bishop

Carol Service by candlelight

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm

We look forward to Christmas Eve and our 6pm Carol Service. During our service we create our Nativity Scene where we invite the congregation to assemble our display.

After the service we invite you to join us for mince pies and warm fruit punch.





# Village Carol Singers Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

December 6- 9:30

This year we are collecting for 2 brilliant charities:



Macmillan Cancer Support –

Following the great success of the national coffee morning, including Burley Gate shop's own event.



African giant pouched rats are bred and trained to sniff out landmines. The animals are not heavy enough to set the explosives off themselves and are rewarded with their favourite food when they find a device.

Over the past 20 years the rats have found more than 100,000 mines, giving back almost 25 million square miles to a million people who had previously lived in fear. The rats, when ready to retire from their life saving work have an on-site retirement home of their own.

So gather your friends & neighbours and we will bring some Christmas cheer to the party. Or dust off your festive hats, wrap up warm, bring a torch, and come and join the carollers.

To invite the carollers to call, or to join the singers please ring/ text Julie on 07435967500 or email [moretonviewnurseries@btconnect.com](mailto:moretonviewnurseries@btconnect.com)



## ST MARY'S CHURCH MUCH COWARNE

Sunday October 13 was a beautiful autumnal day, perfect for our harvest celebrations. We were again pleased to welcome Catherine Percival who gave us a meaningful and enjoyable service. A hearty homemade Harvest lunch of cottage/shepherd's/fish pie followed by a variety of desserts was served at Burley Gate Village Hall. There were attractive prizes in the harvest-themed raffle organised by Diana Parker and David Bayliss' quiz provided a popular additional feature. Many thanks to all those who set up the hall, cooked, served and washed and cleared up making this a relaxed and most enjoyable occasion.

A Coffee morning and Book Sale was held in the Church on Saturday November 9 to raise money for St. Peter's Night Shelter in Hereford. Despite the heavy rain and cold an encouraging number of people turned up to enjoy coffee and cake, a chat with others and to browse the wide selection of second hand books which were for sale. The total of donations raised was over £300, an excellent amount for a very worthy cause. Thank you to all those who braved the weather and came to help and to enjoy the company. Some of the books not sold are still in the church and anyone is welcome to swop or take books - please leave a donation in the wall safe in the church. Our service on Sunday December 8 will see the licensing of our Curate, Richard Allaway, by Bishop Alistair and we look forward to welcoming members of the other churches in the Benefice as we celebrate this important occasion. Drinks and light refreshments will be served following the service.

The first of the Christmas services is our annual Candlelight Carol Service which will be held in the church on Wednesday December 11 at 6.00pm. We are pleased that we shall again be joined by a choir of children of Burley Gate who will be making their own contributions to the service. We hope that as many parents and friends of the school as possible will join us for this happy occasion and stay on to have mulled wine (or non-alcoholic drinks) and mince pies following the service. On Christmas Day we have Holy Communion at 10.00am and hope to see as many parishioners and friends as possible, whether confirmed or not, joining us for this joyful service. As we come to the end of the year, the PCC of Much Cowarne would like to thank the loyal friends of our church who have helped in 2019 by cleaning and maintaining the church and its churchyard, by providing flowers and decorating for special services, by being on the rota for opening and closing the church and by planning, organising and carrying out the social and fundraising events which have benefitted not only our church but also other charities. We would also like to thank everyone who has attended these events and to encourage you to offer ideas for the future and, if possible, a little of your time to help where you feel you can do so.

We shall shortly begin to plan our social and fundraising events for 2020; we shall be holding a Race Meeting at The Plough in Stoke Lacy on Friday 6th March, details of this and other events will be in the next Frome Valley News and on the usual notice boards.

**Finally: a joyful Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year to everyone.**





Much Cowarne PCc

# CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 11 Dec 2019, 6.00pm



St. Mary's church, Much Cowarne

including contributions from the children of burley gate school

followed by mulled wine & mince pies

All welcome



# *Stanford Bishop News*

Dear All,

We are now in the last month of 2019, and fast approaching the time of festivity, nativity plays, caroller's voices echoing in the night. The arrival of the Christmas tree to be adorned with twinkling lights and colourful baubles. Children awaiting the arrival of a special visitor, the Christmas day feast that awaits most homes, turkey, Christmas pudding and Christmas cake which have been nurtured until the cutting when all the Christmas flavours can be enjoyed.



**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service 6pm** – please join us at St James' to enjoy carols by candlelight, while the nativity story is assembled. Followed by hot fruit punch & mince pies.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – Snowdrops & Soup at Stanford Bishop

12 Noon-1.30pm, your welcome at St James' to admire our beautiful snowdrops, afterwards your welcome into the church to enjoy warming homemade soup with fresh crusty bread £5.00 per person.

Stanford Bishop PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support in 2019 hopefully to be continued in 2020, thank you to everyone who has kept our church looking beautiful inside and out.

A Big thank you to Tony for playing the organ, to Eleanor for all her hard work in the church office and to Sarah for her excellent organizing of the Frome Valley News.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and wish you the very best for the New Year.

There will be **NO** 8.30am service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019.

Next 8.30am service 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020.







**St James' Stanford Bishop**

# **Snowdrops & Soup**

**Saturday 8th<sup>th</sup> February**

**12 Noon to 1.30pm**

Join us at St James' Stanford Bishop  
To admire our wonderful carpet of snowdrops  
Afterwards your welcomed into our beautiful church to enjoy  
rich warming homemade soup served with fresh crusty bread.

£5.00 per person.

**Advent Service by Candlelight : 6pm on Sunday 1st December**

Join us for this special choral service

**St Mary's Church**

**Bishops Frome**



# Castle Frome Dec 19 / Jan 20

## News, Views & Muse



### Hilary's Nature Diary

Does it take two to tu whit, to-who?

In Love's Labour Lost, Shakespeare pens; *'The nightly sings the staring owl: 'Tu-who; Tu-whit, To-who' - A merry note'*. I sat in the churchyard the other evening listening to the hooting of a male tawny owl. It was probably a young owl setting up his territory, as they do this time of year. His hoo hoo hoo came from a tree beyond the churchyard but there was no 'tu-whit' just a 'hoo hoo'. I listened for the characteristic 'kee-wick' contact call of a female tawny but none came. So, the question is - was Shakespeare wrong? Do male tawny owls ever 'tu-whit to-who' or do they just hoo and is the 'tu-whit' actually the female's 'kee-wick'?

Hilary



### Communion Service

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
8.00am

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January  
8.00am



### Family Service

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
4.00pm

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January  
10.00am

This is a reverent and informal service for the family of the Church. All are welcome. Coffee, tea and squash served at the close of the service, offering a time to socialise.



## Carol Service

Sunday 22<sup>rd</sup> December  
4.00pm  
At  
Castle Frome Church



## Quiet Evening

To be arranged for January



WISHING YOU ALL  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



Regrettably there will be NO Carol Singing around the Village this year



Find us on:  
**facebook**

Like our Facebook Page

St Michaels Church, Castle Frome



## ACTON BEAUCHAMP PCC

On October the 6<sup>th</sup> we held our Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service.

The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables.

A very big thank you to everyone who donated all the flowers and produce. Thank you, very much, to all the ladies who decorated the Church. The Church looked lovely for the Harvest Service.

An Auction was held after the service and £85 was raised for The British Heart Foundation.

Thank you, also, to everyone who came along and supported the Auction.

On October the 27<sup>th</sup> we held our Harvest Lunch at Bishops Frome Village Centre. Many thanks to all the ladies who provided the Cottage and Apple Pies. Thank you, also, to those who provided the refreshments. A thank you to everyone who set out the hall so beautifully. Many thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes and those who gave donations. A thank you to those who persuaded us to part with our change and buy the raffle tickets.

Last, but definitely not least, a very big thank you to everyone who supported us.

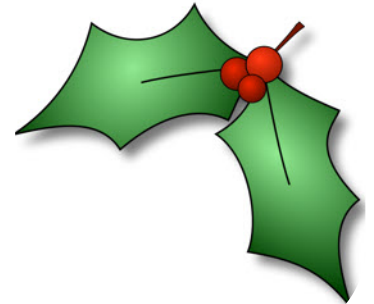
### THE REMAINING EVENTS FOR 2019

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER THE 13<sup>th</sup>.

Carols by Candlelight, at 7pm, St. Giles' Church, Acton Beauchamp.

Sherry and Mince Pies to follow the Service.

WRAP UP WARM and BRING A TORCH.



#### SUNDAY DECEMBER THE 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Christmas Party, at The Grange, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Antony Blackwell.

A get together, with neighbours, to ease you into Christmas.

The party starts at 7.30pm.

There will be Christmas Carols, food and refreshment.

£5 for adults.

10 years old and younger free.

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME.

For further information ring Sally on 01886884727.



#### CHRISTMAS DAY.

Family Communion, at 11.30am, St. Giles' Church, Acton Beauchamp.

EVERYONE WELCOME to celebrate Christmas Day.

The PCC for St. Giles' Church, Acton Beauchamp would like to say THANK YOU, VERY MUCH, to everyone who supports our Church, giving their time and talents so generously.

THANK YOU also, for all the support, we are given, when holding our fund raising activities.

We would like to wish you all A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and all the very best for THE NEW YEAR.



## Carol Service

with St Mary's Church choir  
in Bishops Frome

Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Please come along to both listen and join in

## The Hidden Talents of the Frome Valley Art Show A review by Olivia Kirk

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November St Mary's Church in Bishops Frome was the venue for this annual art show now in its fifth year. This show was definitely the biggest and the best yet and was well attended both by exhibitors and visitors who came along in good numbers to see the wonderful arts and crafts on display as well as do a little bit of early Christmas shopping. The exhibition raised money to support both the village centre and St Mary's church. At the time of writing the final figure is still to be confirmed but it will be very close to £750 which is a wonderful amount. Maggie



McGladdery who is the driving force behind this show says "It has always been my belief that there are many people creating beautiful things behind closed doors. It has been my intention, since starting the Hidden Talents exhibitions, to encourage these artists, not only to show everyone just how talented they are, but also to encourage others to have a go too! This year's exhibition did not disappoint, containing great quality of work and a wider variety of media.

Some advice of which I am particularly fond is the following;  
'How to get started: Rule no 1 - MAKE A MARK!'

A date for the 2020 exhibition is already in the diary, Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> so if you want a treat come and see for yourself the amazing work of the talented people who live in our valley, you won't be disappointed. The coffee and cakes are good too! Also if anyone in the valley is creating behind closed doors and would like to join us as an exhibitor next year please contact either myself or Maggie on the contact details below. We look forward to meeting you.

**maggiemcgladdery@whiteplanet.co.uk**  
**olivia@oliviakirkgardens.com**

<b>Friends of Frome churches Lottery</b>				<b>Friends of Frome churches Lottery</b>			
<b>November 2019</b>				<b>December 2019</b>			
£25.	414	Sophie Hyde	HP	£25.	217	Ben Price	DH
£20.	120	John Lee	PP	£20.	84	Adrian Mason	PP
£15.	154	Isabel Aitken	GW	£15.	58	Yvonne Berry	YB
£10.	462	Francis Southall	JS	£10.	6	Ray Thorpe	PB
£10.	439	Simon Badnan	HP	£10.	420	Albert Higgins	MH
£10.	502	Chris Bandfield	BH	£10.	73	B. Day	PB
£10.	36	Liz Mackie	MH	£10.	115	Hilda Leese	HL
£10.	88	Mark Russel	MH	£10.	4	Mrs K Knotley	JS
£10.	101	Tracey Meekin	DH	£10.	418	David Mackie	MH
£10.	490	Jean Garlic	GW	£10.	129	Jade Davies	HP

The All New  
**Hop Pocket Foodhall**

We have combined our food and wine shops to create a wonderful, new Foodhall that stocks fine and wonderful things to eat and drink. We have a focus on our amazing local suppliers that send us FR eggs, meat, chocolate, fudge, crisps, ice cream to complement the local preserves, beer, cider, wines, gins & liqueurs that we are well known for. We have fresh meat and pies from Wallers Butchers, fresh bread and pastries from Peter Cook's bread, as well as fruit and vegetables, cheeses, smoked fish and pates. Everything to make your mouth water!



# BURNS NIGHT

*Saturday Jan 25*



At Bishops Frome Village Centre

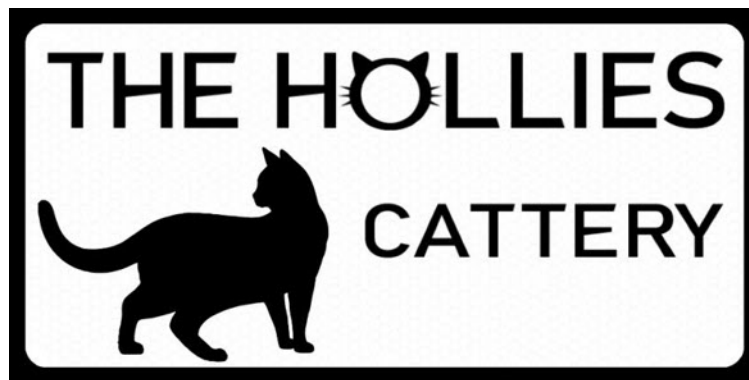
*Further details to follow,*

*and see*

*bishopsfromecentre.co.uk*

*and Facebook*





- ⊗ Sixteen fully licensed double units
- ⊗ Custom-built luxury central heated accommodation
- ⊗ Special diets or additional requirements happily catered for
- ⊗ Set in beautiful Herefordshire countryside at Burley Gate
- ⊗ Licensed by Hereford Council : ANB48
- ⊗ Viewing welcome : By appointment only

For booking enquiries, prices or additional  
information, please contact us on  
01432 820066

or email us at [theholliescattery@gmail.com](mailto:theholliescattery@gmail.com)  
Find us on [www.facebook.com/theholliescattery](http://www.facebook.com/theholliescattery)  
[www.theholliescattery.com](http://www.theholliescattery.com)

### St Mary the Virgin Bishops Frome Looking Back, Looking Forward

In the southern side of the churchyard, there is an upright monument that is mounted on top of a layered stone base each layer having a different coloured stone. It has been hidden for years beneath a mass of climbing growth which has now been cleared to reveal this very old stonework. It is believed this could be a preaching cross. These were erected in churchyards to serve as stations for outdoor processions and to designate a *preaching* place. If you are walking through the churchyard take a few moments to have a look for it and perhaps consider how it was used by local people centuries ago.

Looking forward, the church is hosting another theatrical production on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019. This time it is Blackadder's Christmas Carol written by Richard Curtis and Ben Elton and being performed by Our Star Theatre Company. Tickets cost £8 and will be available from the Community Shop or can be booked online at <https://www.ourstartheatrecompany.com/what-s-on>.

### ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH FROMES HILL

To All,

We have managed to secure the funds we needed to carry out repairs to the guttering and surface water drainage system at St Matthew's. It is hoped this work will begin in the New Year so watch this space!

This was not an easy task, with many hoops to go through and with my limited computer skills. However, my Granny had a saying she used when faced with what seemed an insurmountable problem, "the Lord helps those who help themselves", so with lots of encouragement from the PCC and Congregation at Fromes Hill I set about the task and sure enough when I needed help it came with the technical bits from our Architects, Simon Whaley from the Diocese, and a friend here in Fromes Hill. There were, of course, others who helped in many ways, thank you all.

Jill Southall ( Church Warden )



**Sean Kelly**

**M: 07510400705**

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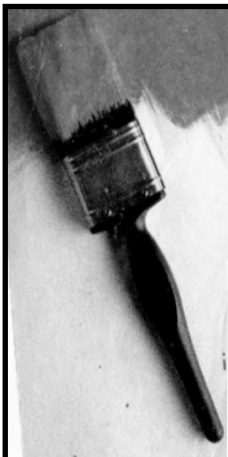
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11.30am    'Fitsteps Fab' Lower Impact  
6.30pm    Advanced Ballet  
7.45pm    Adult Beginners Modern Dance

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1. And lo, there came three wise men following the Star.
2. "Ruddy satnav" sayeth one, for they were exceeding lost. "You can't trust these blinking stars."
3. "I began to get worried at Birmingham," sayeth another gloomily. "There should be shepherds in the fields abiding, and we saw them not."
4. And although they saw some sheep, for they were in the Valley of the Frome, there were indeed no shepherds. "There was that young couple in the field outside Ledbury, but I'm not sure that what they were doing was abiding."
5. But they came across an inn, and were exceeding glad. "Behold," sayeth the first wise man, this must be the inn there is no room at, as foretold in the scriptures."
6. And indeed it was very crowded and convivial, for it was the Dragon, and lo, it was the Green one. And they parked the camels outside, and entered in.
7. And the welcome was as warm as the blazing log fires therein.
8. And among the company was a beauty called Candida. "Cool kaftans" sayeth she. "And crazy aftershave."
9. "Thanks, 'tis frankincense actually. Hast thou seen perhaps a man and woman with a donkey? Or a nearby manger? Or a host of angels singing 'Peace on Earth, goodwill to all men'?"
10. And they had not, saying they all thought they would have noticed that sort of thing.
11. And they knew then that it was the wrong inn. And yet it was a cracking one.
12. "Let us abide here, for the beer is wondrous, and the atmosphere is great. We can begin our search again after we have enjoyed the evening here."
13. "Good choice", sayeth Candida.
14. "They don't call us the three wise men for nothing", said the first wise man. And he winketh.
15. Next day they set forth again. "Good luck with finding all that peace and goodwill," said the regulars.
16. And the wise men replied "I think we already found a lot of it here at the Green Dragon."

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**St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree - Thursday 28th November - 5.30pm**

**Lyde Arundel, Lyde – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 2.30pm**

**St Michael & All Angels Church, Kingstone – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 4pm**

**St Francis Roman Catholic Church, Ross – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 6.30pm**

**St Michael's Church, Brimfield – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 6.30pm**

**St Francis Xavier Church, Hereford – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 7pm**

**St Peter & St Paul's Church, Weobley – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm**

**Café Morso, Colwall – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – 6pm**

**St Mary the Virgin Church, Marden – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 11.15am**

**Steiner School, Much Dewchurch – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 3.30pm**

**Methodist Church, Bromyard – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 4pm**

**St Andrew's Church, Hampton Bishop – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 4pm**

**St Mary's Church, Kington – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 5pm**

**Leominster Methodist Church – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 5pm**

**St Mary the Virgin Church, Burghill – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 6.30pm**

**St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – 6.30pm**

**Hereford Cathedral – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – 5.30pm**



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## Laughter Yoga:

**If you're in need of a chuckle or a belly full of titters, St Michael's Hospice has a slightly different approach which may lighten your mood this winter.**

Free monthly Laughter Yoga sessions are taking place at the Hospice in Bartestree.

Laughter Yoga is proving popular around the world with many suggesting it's a good workout, as well as putting people in a happier mood.

'It's a combination of laughter and breathing exercises which are good for the body, mind, spirit and soul,' said Elaine Pawley, the Lead Social Worker at St Michael's who runs the sessions.

'It taps into our inner child by encouraging us to be playful and laugh at the everyday.

'It can be applied as a non-medicinal approach to assist with pain relief, mood, immune system and relaxation.'

The public can attend one session or as many as you wish.

They take place on the final Friday of each month at 11.30am, starting on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at the Hospice in Bartestree (HR1 4HA).

**For more information, contact Elaine on 01432 852 628 or email [epawley@smhospicehereford.org](mailto:epawley@smhospicehereford.org)**



St Michael's Hospice  
Always a place of light and love

## Mobile Information Point:

The miles covered by the St Michael's Hospice Mobile Information Point continues to grow.

The vehicle is visiting communities across Herefordshire and beyond, helping raise awareness of the wide range of services provided by the Hospice.

The vehicle has a number of monthly locations it visits which are listed below. Other dates can be found by visiting [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/informationpoint](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/informationpoint)

If you would like the Information Point to visit your community, call Michelle Havard on 01432 852 621 or email [mhavard@smhospicehereford.org](mailto:mhavard@smhospicehereford.org)

## Monthly venues:

Kington Co-op: First Thursday of the month

Leintwardine Surgery: Second Tuesday of the month

Hay-on-Wye Surgery: Second Thursday of the Month

Ledbury Co-op: First Friday of the month

Bromyard Co-op: Last Friday of the month

Hop Pocket Shopping Village: Second Friday of the Month

Ewyas Harold: Last Wednesday of the month

Asda Hereford: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (2019), Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July (2020)

**For more information contact Paul Broome, Communications Officer at St Michael's Hospice, on 01432 852 643 or email [pbroome@smhospicehereford.org](mailto:pbroome@smhospicehereford.org)**

Dear All

Although you'll all be aware that I'm standing in the General Election, I don't think it would be fair to use this column to talk about that – so I won't! I'll focus on the local issues that I continue to work on as your ward councillor.

The last Full Council meeting was held on 11th October. We had lots of members of the public attending again, which is always good to see! Councillors agreed to set up a review of governance arrangements to make decision-making more informed, transparent and efficient. I hope this will conclude that we should move to a more open and inclusive committee system. We also agreed to establish a new 'Mental Health Awareness Day' in January. (My son recently did a sponsored head-shave in aid of Mind, the mental health charity, so this is a cause close to my own heart).

The Council meeting also debated the Alliance's decision to pause work on the Hereford bypass while a full review is done. I fully support the 'pause' – indeed I think the proposed bypass is a waste of money. Building roads simply encourages more driving, and that's not compatible with tackling the climate emergency. Plus it won't actually address congestion in Hereford. I cycled to the Council meeting from the outskirts of Hereford (I left my car in the Aylestone Park 'park and choose' site) and I rode past 69 vehicles just on Aylestone Hill; all except 4 were cars, not lorries, and at least two-thirds of them had only one person in them, the driver. That's the real issue – too many single-person car journeys. To address congestion, we have to make it much easier for people to share cars, walk, cycle, and use public transport.

I've continued to do a lot of day-to-day ward work in Bishops Frome and Cradley, dealing with issues like bin collections, planning enforcement, highways issues, drainage, and a few housing-related cases too. I can't always promise to resolve everything immediately, but I will always try my very best!

It's always nice to be able to contribute to fixing a problem. Sometimes all it takes is a phone call saying 'I'm the Councillor for X, calling on behalf of Y, and I'm deeply concerned about Z'. One example is a recent case where I helped get a housing association to finally fix someone's leaking roof. Sometimes there's an endless trail of emails, and no quick solution; for example my on-going efforts to improve road safety at Ridgeway Cross. But it's a privilege to be able to try to help, at least, and I always do my best.

As you all know, one of my big concerns is road safety. We've made some progress towards setting up the Community Speed Watch Scheme in Bishops Frome, as the first few volunteers (including me!) signed up a few weeks ago. We do need more volunteers to make it work, though, so if you can spare a little time to help make our roads safer, please get in touch with Richard Ward-Williams: 07498 295152. Thank you!

This time of year always seems to bring a wonderful new David Attenborough series! Together with my kids I've been really enjoying 'Seven Worlds One Planet'. David Attenborough is an inspiration – as time has gone on, his environmental message has got stronger! As he says, we simply have to stop climate change, and protect nature. We can all make changes in our own lives, but we also need system-wide change: investment in the renewable energy, zero-carbon buildings and transport solutions that we need to build a better future. And the recent flooding has reminded us of what will happen if we don't stop climate chaos...

As the days draw in, I wish you all a peaceful festive season – warm inside your homes, hopefully not too wet outside – and a joyful Christmas and happy New Year!

Very best wishes,  
Ellie

Drop me a line: [ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk)  
Give me a call: 01531 670729, 07950 714947, or 07792 882053

I'll be at two Parish Council meetings  
on Tuesday 10 December: Cradley at 7pm and Bishops Frome from about 8pm. Come and say hello!

Also, instead of formal 'surgeries', I plan to drop in to local pubs and various events (Christmas Fairs etc) to chat with people over the coming weeks. Do let me know if there's something you'd like me to come to, and I'll do my best to be there!





# FROME VALLEY GROUP SERVICES in DECEMBER 2019

	1st	8th	15th	22nd	24th	25th	29th	Carol Services
<b>Acton Beauchamp</b>	11.30am Holy Communion SB					11.30am Holy Communion SB		13 December 7pm SB
<b>Bishops Frome</b>	10.00am Holy Communion SB  6.00pm Advent Carol Service SB		10.00am High Mass SB/RA		3.00pm Crib Service RA 11.30pm Mass SB		10.00am Holy Communion SB	17 <sup>TH</sup> December 7pm SB  2pm Burley Gate School Nativity
<b>Castle Frome</b>		8.30am Holy Communion SB		10.00am Family Praise Lay Led		10.00am Holy Communion SB		15 <sup>th</sup> December 4pm RA
<b>Evesbatch</b>								24 <sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm SB
<b>Fromes Hill</b>	10.00am Matins Lay Led JS/JR		11.30am Holy Communion SB			10.00am Holy Communion By Extension		20 <sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm SB
<b>Much Cowarne</b>		10.00am Licensing Service Bishop Alistair		10.00am Holy Communion RA		10.00am Holy Communion RA		11 <sup>th</sup> December 6pm RA
<b>Ocle Pychard</b>	8.30am Holy Communion SB				8.00pm First Communion Of Christmas RA			13 <sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm RA
<b>Stanford Bishop</b>					6.00pm Carol Service SB			24 <sup>th</sup> December 6pm SB
	Advent 1 Purple Psalm 122 Romans 13.11-14 Matthew 24.36-44	Advent 2 Purple Psalm 72.1- 7,18,19* Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12	Advent 3 Purple Psalm 146.4-10 James 5.7- 10 Matthew 11.2-11	Advent 4 Purple Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-25	Christmas Eve/ Day Gold or White Titus 2.11- 14 Luke 2.1-20	Christmas Eve/ Day Gold or White Titus 2.11- 14 Luke 2.1-20	Christmas 1 White Hebrews 2.10-18 Matthew 2.13-23	

# The Frome Valley Group

## JANUARY 2020

	5th	12th	19th	26th	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb
<b>Acton Beauchamp</b>					11.30am Holy Communion
<b>Bishops Frome</b>	10.00am Holy Communion RA	10.00am Holy Communion SB	10.00 am High Mass SB	10.00am Holy Communion SB	10.00am High Mass
<b>Castle Frome</b>		8.30am Holy Communion SB		10.00am Family Praise Lay Led	
<b>Evesbatch</b>					
<b>Fromes Hill</b>	10.00am Matins Lay Led JS/JR		11.30am Holy Communion SB		10.00am Matins Lay Led JS/JR
<b>Much Cowarne</b>		10.00am Matins RA		10.00am Holy Communion tba	
<b>Ocle Pychard</b>	8.30am Holy Communion RA		6.00pm Evensong SB		8.30am Holy Communion
<b>Stanford Bishop</b>				8.30am Holy Communion SB	
	Epiphany Gold or White Psalm 72.10-15 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Baptism of Christ White Psalm 29 Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 3.13-17	Epiphany 2 White Psalm 40.1-12 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42	Epiphany 3 White 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 Matthew 4.12-23	Candlemass Gold or White Psalm 24.[7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40

### ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BISHOP'S FROME

DATE	READER	PRAYERS	COFFEE
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Angela	Maureen	Sheila & Angela
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Licensing Service with Bishop Alistair at St Marys, Much Cowarne 10.00am		
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mike C.	Liz	Celia & Vera
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Maureen	TBA	N/A Midnight Mass
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	Liz	TBA	Jill
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Martin	Maureen	Sue & Martin
Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tony	TBA	Jill
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila	Liz	Celia & Vera
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Angela	TBA	Sheila & Angela
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Liz	Maureen	Sue & Martin

### ST JAMES THE GREAT, OCLE PYCHARD

Date	Day	Time	Service	Reader	Sidesman	Flowers/Cleaning
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Advent 1	8.30am	Holy Communion	S Ridler	J Ridler	
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	7.30pm	Carols with The Pax Singers	Churchwardens		
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve	8pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Communion of Christmas	J Oliver	Churchwardens	All please
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas 1	10.00am	Group Holy Communion at St Marys, Bishops Frome			
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion	S Ridler	G Hicks	M Evans & I Hicks
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 3	6.00pm	Evensong	R Meredith	G Hicks	M Evans & I Hicks
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Candlemass	8.30am	Holy Communion	J Ridler	S Ridler	M Evans & I Hicks

### ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MUCH COWARNE

Date	Day	Time	Service	Reader	Sidesman	Flowers/Cleaning
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Advent 2	10.00am	Licensing Service	T Hunt	Churchwardens	T & G Hunt
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service	6.00pm				
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Advent 4	10.00am	Holy Communion	M W Hewitt	M R Hewitt	
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day	10.00am	Holy Communion	J Cooksley	D & M Brown	Everybody please
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas 1	10.00am	Group Holy Communion at St Marys, Bishops Frome			
Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism of Christ	10.00am	Matins	M W Hewitt	M R Hewitt	B.Bowler & M.Bradbury
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 4	10.00am	Holy Communion	Jean Parkes	Ted Parkes	

### ST JAMES THE GREATER, STANFORD BISHOP

Date	Day	Time	Service	Reader	Sidesman	Flowers & Cleaning
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service	6.00pm				Mrs Hawkins &Volunteers
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 4	8.30am	Holy Communion	Rachel & Jetta	Hawkins	



## WHAT'S ON AT BISHOPS FROME VILLAGE CENTRE

Visit [bishopsfromecentre.co.uk](http://bishopsfromecentre.co.uk) for much more information

and find us on [Facebook](#)

<b>Mon</b>	10.00 – 12.00	<b>Internet Café</b>	Drop in or call 01531 640981 All welcome, help available
	14.00 – 16.30	<b>Board Games, with tea, cake &amp; chat</b>	Susanna 01885 490440 First Mondays, next 6 January
<b>Tues</b>	09.30	<b>Pilates Body Design</b>	Sally 01886 880956 Prior booking essential No classes during December
	12.30 for 13.00	<b>Over 60s Lunch Club NOT EVERY WEEK</b>	Joan 01531 640587 Advance booking is essential
	19.30 to 20.30	<b>Zumba Have fun and get fit.</b>	Bev Hughes 07900 640467
<b>Weds</b>	10.00 to 10.45 <b>TERM TIME, CHECK FIRST</b>	<b>Circuits Class Fun fitness-building sessions</b>	Kate Brooks, Qualified Personal Trainer and Nutritional Advisor 07815 502202 <i>facebook.com/motivatedbykate</i>
	14.00	<b>Needlecraft Group</b>	Beryl 01531 640359
<b>Post Office Outreach Service</b> in the small office by the main entrance			Monday 13.45 to 16.45 Tuesday 13.00 to 14.30 Wednesday 9.00 to 12.00 Thursday 9.00 to 12.00
<b>Is your class or club looking for a venue?</b>		Our Main Hall is a great space for clubs, games or fitness activities, and don't forget the Conference Room for smaller groups. We try to keep Friday and Saturday evenings free for one- off events and private parties. See our charges on <a href="http://www.bishopsfromecentre.co.uk">www.bishopsfromecentre.co.uk</a>	
<b>Date for your diary</b>		<b>Saturday 25 January BURNS NIGHT</b>	
<b>TAKE-AWAY FOOD IN THE CAR PARK –</b> Wednesdays – Butlers Fish & Chips, 5pm to 8pm 07572 665531			

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### Funerals

The Funeral of Geoffrey Godsall who died on 27th September 2019, aged 94 years, took place on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at St Mary the Virgin, Bishop's Frome.

The Funeral of Rachael Seabright who died on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019, aged 45 years, took place on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at St James the Greater, Stanford Bishop.

The Funeral of George Orgee who died on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, aged 74 years, took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 at St Mary the Virgin, Much Cowarne.

May They Rest in Peace.

**VICAR**

Rev. Steven Baggs tel: - 01885 490582

e-mail: stevenbaggs@me.com

PLEASE NOTE: Monday is Steven's day off.

**ASSOCIATE PRIEST**

Rev. Richard Allaway tel:07969 699270

email: rja5204572fco@gmail.com

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**PARISH SECRETARY**

Eleanor Morris tel - 01885 490229

Office open for routine matters

Wednesday & Friday 9.15am-11.45am

**CHURCH WARDENS**

**ACTON BEAUCHAMP**

Sally Wall 01886 884727

Jane Allan 01531 640227

**BISHOPS FROME**

Gill Lynch 01531 640305

Tony Davies 01885 490394

Heather Partridge (Deputy) 01531 640157

**CASTLE FROME**

Charles Pudge 01531640309

**EVESBATCH**

Richard Kuehn 01886 880259

Diana Harrison 01531 631813

**FROMES HILL**

Jill Southall 01531 640288

Joan Rose 01531640587

**MUCH COWARNE**

Jean Parkes 01432 820402

Martin Hewitt 01432 820282

**OCLE PYCHARD**

John Ridler 01432 820328

**STANFORD BISHOP**

Rachael Hawkins 01886 884250

Jetta Hawkins 07973 239778

**FROME VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES**

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**LAST COPY DAY for the February 2020 issue of**

**THE FROME VALLEY NEWS is: Monday 13th January '20**

**And the collection date will be : Friday 31st January '20**