OFFENHAM

CHURCH AND VILLAGE MAGAZINE

February 2026

'If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant'

Anne Bradstreet

How Do I Get Something In The Magazine?

This magazine is produced by the Offenham PCC supported by the Parish Council to communicate local church and village events and news to the Offenham community. If you have a local event or news please send to the editor, including how long you would like your advertisement to run for, by the 15th of the month prior to the issue you would like your content included.

Please **email offenhammagazine@gmail.com**

For inclusion in the March issue please send your content by 15th February

Advertising rates are as follows:

- **Full Page £22.00, Half Page £12.00, Quarter Page £8.00, Separate Flyer £28.00**
- **Changes to your advert during that year are at the discretion of the editor.**
- **Discounts may be available, 10% discount applies for full year adverts.**

We reserve the right to adjust the design of any advertisement to fit the size constraints of the magazine.

Benefice website: www.eastvaleavon.com Church website: www.offenhamchurch.com

Offenham Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Jo Fielding revjo.eastvale@gmail.com - 01386 339669

For enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact the Benefice Administrator: Faith Quin – eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council:

Secretary & Churchwarden:	Debbie Harrison	dh1971@hotmail.co.uk - 07933 212680 52 Myatt Road, Offenham WR11 8SD.
Treasurer:	Claire Penny	clairepenny99@btinternet.com - 07903 963233 Mock Morris, Boat Lane, Offenham, WR11 8QZ.

If you have a safeguarding concern contact Lisa Farmer on 07846 473894 lisaboreham_@hotmail.com or Rev Jo Fielding.

PCC Members: Angela Guoite (Churchwarden); Amanda Taylor; Debbie Newman; Kathryn Kerr

Useful Phone Numbers

Offenham CE First School	01386 442038
Bengeworth CE Academy	01386 442047
Prince Henry's High School	01386 765588
The De Montfort School	01386 442060
Evesham Community Hospital	01386 502430
Worcestershire Trading Standards	01905 922799
Action Fraud	0300 123 2040

Police

Emergency: 999

Non-emergency: 101

East Vale and Avon Benefice

Services for February 2026			
	9.30am	11am	Other Services
1st February Candlemas	Badsey Eucharist	Bretforton Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	
8th February 4th After Epiphany	Bretforton Eucharist	South Littleton Eucharist	4pm Littleton School Messy Church
15th February Sunday Before Lent	Offenham Morning Praise	Badsey Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	7pm Cleeve Prior Taizé
18th February Ash Wednesday	South Littleton Morning Praise	Bretforton Morning Praise	
22nd February 1st Sunday of Lent St Milburgh		Offenham Matronal Benefice Eucharist	

Offenham church is open every day from 10:00am until 3:00pm.
For more details please go to offenhamchurch.com

From the Parish Registers

Interment of Ashes: 11th January Beryl Audrey Fryer

Letter Of The Month

I am writing this at the beginning of January as we approach what is supposed to be the most depressing day of the year – 19th January. No idea who decided that and why! But the decorations have been put away for the year and the weather is dreadful, although I would have liked what the rest of the country seem to have at the moment – snow! So this time of year can be a bit of an anticlimax after the excitement of Christmas.

It is the time when we naturally look back on the year that is past as well as looking forward to whatever the new year has in store for us. We look ahead and wonder what 2026 might hold for us. For those who have lost friends and relatives this past year, let us hope and pray that 2026 will be a better year and that you will cherish the memories you have.

It's a time for those New Year's resolutions again also! I can't even remember the ones I made last year, let alone whether or not I kept them! Must do better this year! Each year we make our resolutions with every good intention but somehow, as the weeks and months go by, they fade into the recesses of our minds. Most of us fail year after year.

The good news about God is that he doesn't mind if we fail. He helps us to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off…and start all over again, as the song says. Each day we are given a new opportunity to do better than the day before, to be better people and to help to build a better world. Most of us don't have a very wide sphere of influence but if we all try to make our corner of the world a better place, eventually all the corners will join up to form a big circle! If only we could get that message out right across the nations, what a wonderful world this would be. (I seem to be speaking in song lyrics this month!)

May God be with you all at the beginning of this New Year and may you know his blessing, his peace and his love in your hearts and homes. Let's hope 2026 is a good year for us as individuals and for the nations worldwide.

Every blessing

Susan (retired priest in the benefice)

Offenham Craftaholics

We are a group of ladies (although we would love to welcome some men!) who meet fortnightly to knit, sew, make cards, etc. We meet 7:00pm - 9:00pm on Wednesday evenings at the British Legion and would welcome new members. We know it's sometimes hard to walk in somewhere on your own but we really are a friendly bunch. Come and join us on 11th and 25th February.

WANTED: EDITOR FOR THIS MAGAZINE

Do you have an interest in what is going on in Offenham?
Do you have good skills with Microsoft Word or a publishing package?
Do you have about 8-10 hours a month spare?

The magazine editor works independently, but closely, with Offenham Parish Council and Offenham PCC. You will collect and organise content (including illustrations), liaise with the printers and meet deadlines to ensure the magazine is ready on time. You will need your own computer and software package. You will be reliable, pro-active, and have good communication skills. You will not have to deal with advertising queries or distribution.

If you are interested in editing the Offenham Church and Village Magazine please contact Claire Penny clairepenny99@btinternet.com

Offenham Cricket Club
presents

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 14 March 2026

Venue: Offenham Royal British Legion Club
Time: 7:30pm until 10:30pm
(Bar opens at 7:00pm)

Trophy, Bar, Fun, Raffle

£5 per head

To book a team (max 6 people per team)

Call Debbie or Andrew on
01386 442844 / 07598 794917
OR EMAIL: akharrison63@gmail.com

Toddler Group - Village Hall

Every Friday during term time, 10:00am - 11.30am.
£2.00 per child, card payment available online.

Maypole Club

Meeting Weds 25th February 2.30 in the Legion.

Subs are due (£5)

B&B & Bingo. Comp 'Q'

Monday 16th March, Cirencester. 10am £10

Contact Edith on 01386 45247 for full details

Offenham Coffee Club

Every Tuesday, from 10:00am at Royal British Legion Tea * Coffee * Raffle

Time For Tea

Time for Tea will take place on Sunday 1st February at 2pm in Offenham church. This is a good opportunity for new residents to meet their neighbours and make new friends while enjoying a free cup of tea, coffee and cake. Hope to see you there

What's On

Offenham Royal British Legion Club

Saturday 7th February- A Night of Comedy- 3 Comedians and Compere for your enjoyment £25pp 8pm Start

Friday 13th February- Legion Open Night- The Legion needs your support as closure is on the cards.
Please come along and take a look around the facilities and talk to us about how you feel we can improve the Club to stay open.
We don't want to lose another village amenity.

Saturday 7th March- An Evening of Mediumship with Danielle Salsbury £10pp 7.30pm start

Offenham Village Store & Post Office

Just to let people know if you are struggling to get out of the house, we are more than happy to drop some groceries off to you. Just give us a ring and if we can accommodate, we will always do our best.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 7:30am-8:00pm
Saturday 8:00am-7:00pm
Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm

If anyone is struggling don't hesitate to give us a ring, you won't be a nuisance and we will do our best to help you.

AFTERNOON TEA BOOKING FORM

NAME……..

EMAIL……..

PHONE ……..

NUMBER OF GUEST @ £10 PER HEAD ……..

Cash/Chq eclosed for £…….. for _____ tickets
(Cheques payable to Offenham PCC)

ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS/ALLERGIES?

……

……

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Are you happy to share a table with other groups?

OFFENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Offenham Neighbourhood Plan (ONP) – Steering Committee continues to meet monthly with the current focus on the Community Survey.

The survey was open to all residents from the beginning of December 2025 through to the end of January 2026. At the time of going to press we have received **120** completed surveys and the analysis will take place after the closing date of 31 January.

Once we have analysed the survey responses, we will be holding a number of follow up consultations including with businesses and stakeholders in the village as well as holding a presentation of the findings at a public event.
At that event we will also reveal the winning entries in the Photography Competition that was held towards the end of last year.

The next open meeting of the ONP will be in February 2026. The date will be confirmed at the meeting on 22nd January, so please look out for the date on the parish noticeboards and on social media.

To see agendas, minutes of the meetings and other information and updates please see the OPC Website - www.offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/offenham-neighbourhood-plan

Updates are available on the ONP Facebook Group and you can contact the Steering Group on the following email address: ONP@offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Offenham Wombles

We are a group of Litter pickers who meet on the second Sunday of every month at 10:00am at the corner of Boat Lane and Mill Lane. We always welcome new pickers and provide all required equipment. Everyone is welcome, we only do an hour so if you can help, we would be really grateful, the more pickers we have the bigger area we can cover.

If you'd like to do some litter picking or keep your part of the village litter free, but can't come on a Sunday morning then we can provide you with the equipment and you can go out when it suits you.

100Club

The winners in the December draw of the Church 100Club were:

Martin Penny (40), Mark Allard (99) and Debbie Newman (90)

The next draw will be on Sunday 1st February during Time for Tea in the Church

Dressmaking

Do you have a sewing machine sitting at home collecting dust? Whether you are new to dress making or have experience you would be welcome to join us. We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month between 1.30pm and 4:00pm at the Village Hall in Offenham. Numbers will be limited to 12, (You must be member of U3a in order to attend.)

If you are happy to work from a commercial pattern, I will guide you how to get the best fit from your pattern, and examples being insert zips and adding pockets. If this is of interest to you please contact me, denise.crossman@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCH HEATING

I am afraid that there is still no news regarding the installation of electric heating at the Church. We are waiting for the Diosecean Chancellor to review the application and approve it.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our heating appeal. If you are able to give anything towards keeping our beautiful church functional you can make donations in any of the following ways:

By Cheque: payable to St Mary & St Milburgh, Offenham PCC. You can give it to any member of the PCC or send to the treasurer (Claire Penny, Mock Morris, Boat Lane, Offenham, WR11 8QZ). Please write 'church heating' on the back of the cheque.

By Internet Banking: Please use the following details

Account Name	St Mary & St Milburgh, Offenham PCC
Sort Code	08-92-99
Account Number	67465866
Reference	Heating

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please complete a Gift Aid form which can be found at the back of the church or downloaded from the website (www.offenhamchurch.com).

Any money raised in this appeal will be restricted to the heating fund. In the event that there is money remaining after the entire project is finished this will be held in the restricted Fabric Fund which pays for emergency and general maintenance of the fabric of the building.

If you have any questions please contact Claire (clairepenny99@btinterent.com 07903 963233), or ask a member of the PCC.

Offenham Church is excepted from registration with the Charity Commission, but is still regulated by them. Fundraising done by or on behalf of Offenham Church must comply with charity law and the code of practice laid down by the Fundraising Regulator.

Who are your local Neighbourhood Officers?

Your local Neighbourhood Police Officers are PC Alex Prentice and PC Shaquille Lakin. Your local PCSO's are, PCSO Jasmine Hill, PCSO Lee Stirling, PCSO Kyle Westwood and PCSO Karen Kempton. The email addresses for each of them are first.surname@westmercia.police.uk

The team is known as the Evesham and Pershore Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team. The team have 2 Facebook pages, 'Evesham Police' and 'Pershore Police'. Please follow these to keep up to date with our activities and to see when our local drop in/engagement sessions are.

Drop-In Sessions and Neighbourhood Matters

Drop-in sessions are held weekly around the patch. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please pop along to one of these sessions. These sessions are advertised on the Evesham and Pershore Facebook page as well as Neighbourhood Matters. **The next session at Offenham is 14th February at 10am outside the Village Shop.** Neighbourhood Matters is a free service which allows you to receive updates regarding crime in your area and also allows you to message your local officer. Take a look at the website for further information: https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/.

Please feel free to come to any session you see advertised, you do not have to live in the village to attend. If you know people who do not have access to the internet, please feel free to share the information. The more people who know about these drop-ins, the better!

Reporting Incidents

Please remember to report crime and any incidents via 999, 101 or on the West Mercia website. Please do not email individual officers if a crime has happened, this needs to be reported officially through the correct channels.

Rogue Traders

We are aware of reports within our rural villages of rogue traders. Rogues Traders involve: uninvited doorstep calls, poor quality or unfinished work, unnecessary repairs, pressure tactics and demands for upfront cash and targeting elderly and vulnerable residents. Rogue traders can be very convincing, often quoting low prices but later demanding more money. Some may even insist on contracts being signed. Please protect yourself and others.

- Ask for ID before letting anyone in
- Check credentials, including a permanent business address and phone number
- Ask questions, request references, and see examples of work
- Don’t sign anything on the spot – get at least three written quotes
- If in doubt, ask them to leave

The simplest way to stay safe: Do not engage with doorstep sellers. Politely ask them to leave.

If you have concerns or spot suspicious activity, report it to us and to Trading Standards.

OFFENHAM VILLAGE HALL

1931 - 2026
95th Anniversary Year

Aiming to constantly improve our Village Hall for the residents of Offenham and all our users

Offenham Village Hall is a great venue for any family occasion.
Clean, modern & warm with its classic style main hall &
is perfectly equipped for a small party (10) or a large party (100).

Also Business meetings, Exercise & Dance classes, Large events, and most group activities,
Fund raising events & **A Shared Profit Scheme for Village Organisations.**

Why rearrange your home to cater for a family get together when we have it all.
A Fully Licensed Bar is Available On Request.
Saving you time & money buying the wrong drinks & hiring & washing glasses
We can also clean up for you for a small charge.
Simple plug & play sound system complete with radio mics, party Lights & projector.
Low level stage, dance floor, kitchen, comfortable seating.
Large Outside Illuminated Terrace & Large Car Park.
Why not arrange a viewing to discuss your event requirements at our Thursday Coffee Morning
Reasonable hire fees.
Go to www,offenhamvillagehall.org.uk for a booking form & details
Ring bookings 07519 033287 or email bookings@offenhamvillagehall.org.uk
For general & car park enquires email contact@offenhamvillagehall.org.uk

Events For February
Men's Group 11 February 2026 10am - 12pm
Women's Group 18 February 2026 10am -12pm
Exercise classes for everyone
Check www.offenhamvillagehall.org.uk for details

Can you help us with our BAR?
We are a fully licensed premises and want to open
our bar up more often for our
Friends & Family Nights, Movie & Theatre Nights,
Football & World Cup Matches and
the occasional private party
So we need 2-3 volunteers who
could run this between them raising funds
If you are interested call
Martin on 07986255739

Volunteers Required
Would you like to meet people
& get involved with Village Life?
Then we have few roles available
you might be interested in?
We are looking for person (s) who
could help with our Website, Advertising
and Importantly
help with Fund raising

ELECTRIC CAR CHARGER AVAILABLE
At A COMPETITIVE RATE

PUBLIC MEETING
MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2026
7.30 Start Open to all
To discuss the proposed Meeting Room , Changing Room & Showers
On The Agenda
Do we still need a Changing Room & Showers Facility?
If we do how to take it forward?
If the facility is not needed what to do?
Shall we change plans for another fully equipment meeting room, function room and training room?

Our Busy COFFEE MORNING
is on THURSDAYS
10am - Midday
Coffee / Tea
with bacon & sausage sandwiches.
New for 2026 add a poached egg
Open to everyone
Mums & Dads with children
& well behaved Pets welcome
Bring a friend

Our Annual General Meeting is on Monday March 9th 2026
7.30pm
New Trustees & Treasurer Needed

OFFENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Offenham Parish Councillors are:-
Cllr Ian Graham (Chairman), Cllr Sheila Briers, Cllr Marc Farmer, Cllr Martin Penny, Cllr Matthew Rea, Cllr Marcus Taylor, Cllr Claire Henderson, Cllr Samantha Muxworthy

Contact Details – through the Clerk
Mr Daniel Hinde – Email: info@offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Minutes of Past Meetings are to found on the Parish Council Website
www.offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

District and County Councillor Contact Details
District Councillor – Matthew Winfield - matthew.winfield@wychavon.net
County Councillor – Hannah Robson - HRobson@worcestershire.gov.uk

Notice of Offenham Parish Council Meeting
The next meeting of Offenham Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7.30pm at Offenham Village Hall and will be held according to standard Parish Council Meeting regulations

The council would like to take the opportunity this month to bring the following to your attention:

Section 106 Funding
We are pleased to announce that the Clerk has secured funding from Wychavon District Council's Section 106 fund, which is made up of contributions from housing developers across the District. This has paid for the newly-installed pétanque court on the Rec and will fund the purchase and installation of a children's roundabout in the play area, hopefully in time for Easter.

Road closure
Three Cocks Lane will be closed to through traffic from 3rd February 2026 for up to three days, for the installation of a new customer connection by Severn Trent Water. Diversion route is via Main Street, Laurels Road and Newtown.

Planning
We as a parish council have recently been consulted on the following planning applications and these were discussed at the last meeting on 5th January 2026:
Application Number – W/25/02618/FUL
Location – Sunrise, Leasowes Road, Offenham, Evesham, WR11 8RQ
Description – Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of Planning Permission Ref.W/24/02416/FUL (Demolition of existing barn, and construction of dwelling, garage and all associated works including change of use of agricultural land to garden area/amenity space for dwelling (in lieu of existing Class Q consent).
The parish council submitted a response to Wychavon district council of an objection based on the grounds that this is a inappropriate development of the greenbelt and an exploitation of Class Q consent.
Application Number - W/25/02357/OUT
Location – Bennetts Hill Farm, Long Hyde Road, South Littleton, EVESHAM, WR11 8TH

Description - Outline application for the construction of up to 9 no. residential dwellings, with all matters reserved except access to/ from the public highway. The parish council raised an objection to this application as the proposed access, which is the part of the application site which lies within the civil parish of Offenham, is relatively close to Blackminster Middle School. OPC also objected on the grounds that insufficient consideration had been given to the water management within Offenham

Useful Contacts

Whilst the parish council has many roles and responsibilities in the parish they have no powers over the following and therefore the following contacts should be used:

Roadworks – Details of roadworks can be found at https://one.network/
Should you wish to contact somebody about any road or footpath issue (including blocked drains) you should use the Worcestershire County Council - https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways

Graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs – please use www.fixmystreet.com; and you can also use https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/report-it

Planning – The parish council is only a consultee on planning applications and should you wish your comments to be taken into account by the planning officer you should submit them on the Wychavon District Council website - https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/

ST. JAMES CHURCH, BADSEY

EVERY MONDAY TERM TIME

8:45am - 11am

DROP IN

FREE CUPPA

TOYS ~ MUSIC ~ BABY CHANGING FACILITIES

Interior & exterior decorating

Friendly, Reliable Service that's Fully Insured and Guaranteed

Paper Hanging, Coving, Skirting, Architrave, Dado-fitting, Wooden furniture converted to a superb painted finish and laminate floor fitting.

Free, no obligation, quotes available.

Evening and weekend quoting not a problem! For a free quote call now!

on 01386 830892 or 07818 033081

carl.icke@gmail.com

JCS Motor Engineer

Offering a full range of garage services in Offenham

Servicing, Brakes, Clutches, Diagnostics, Exhausts, Tyres, Timing Belts, Suspension, MOT Preparation and Repairs, Competitive Prices, Free local collection & return.

Over 40 years in the trade!

M: John on 07977333719
E: jcsmotors@gmail.com
Location: rear of TJ Auto Electrics, Crossleigh, The Cross

EVERGREEN GARDEN MAINTENANCE

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- HEDGE CUTTING
- TREE PRUNING
- TURFING
- GARDEN CLEARANCE

No job too small.

Local references available.

For a free quote please phone

Tony

01386 854797/ 07752 613814

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- BRICKWORK
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- CONCRETING
- SEWER REPAIR

ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE WORK UNDERTAKEN

CALL US FOR A QUOTE TODAY

Tel: 01386 423005 Mob: 07776 202359

info@marcustaylorandsons.co.uk
No.4 Three Cocks Lane. Offenham.

We're here so your loved one can stay home, where they want to be. Where things are safe and familiar and they have the best chance to live a full and meaningful life.

Whether it's everyday companionship or everyday errands, Live-in Care or Home Care visits, our highly-trained Care Experts will give your loved one the support they need to live in the place they feel best: home.

See how we can *support you*.

It's good to be *home*

Find out more

Call us on

01386 575800

Or email

worcesterandwychavon@bluebirdcare.co.uk