OFFENHAM

CHURCH AND VILLAGE MAGAZINE

July 2026

Paper bag party time at Offenham First School.

See page 4

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 July issue please send your content by 15th August.

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 Hobbs – 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); Debbie Newman; Kathryn Kerr; Amanda Taylor

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 July

	9.30am Service	11.00am Service	Other Services
5th July 6th Sunday after Trinity	Badsey Morning Praise	Offenham Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	
12th July 7th Sunday after Trinity	Bretforton Morning Praise	South Littleton Eucharist	7pm South Littleton Taizé
19th July 8th Sunday after Trinity and Volunteers' Sunday	Offenham Morning Praise	Bretforton Eucharist Cleeve Prior Morning Praise	
26th July 9th Sunday After Trinity and The Feast of St James		Badsey Benefice Patronal Service	

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:
26th May David Rollinson
28th May Christine Joy Parkinson

Letter Of The Month

Paper bag party time!

Hello!

Did you enjoy team games at school or avoid them whenever possible? Maybe you still love them and play whenever possible. As a child, I was often ill at home – and even when I was at school, I was very small for my age – and rubbish at PE, which meant that I was usually last to get picked for team games. Years later I am still not super keen on anything involving running around on a court or a sports field – but the experience – combined with a bunch of other stuff that I value – has also meant that I try to make sure that everyone can feel invited and included as much as possible in church, and events across each week.

Sometimes we get it badly wrong –sometimes despite the best of intentions – or because we make assumptions that turn out to be way off the mark. But now and again, we try something new – and it works brilliantly. When I first started visiting our schools, one of them had a tradition of holding a service of Holy Communion occasionally, but I noticed that when we did, none of the children and only one staff member wanted to receive anything. Instead, everyone sat through the service without much enthusiasm, and seemed uncomfortable with what was going on. It did not feel good! So I wondered: could we do this better? What could we do to enable everyone – adults and children – feel happy to be there, and to understand what we were doing, and feel absolutely included and even enjoy it?

Then I remembered something from a summer festival communion service, and went shopping…. On the day, they sat in multi-year groups where they talked about what they thought was going on in a painting we looked at, and explored the links between that and the story of Jesus using a child's picnic lunch to feed a massive crowd. We sang some of their favourite songs. And then after hearing about the last party meal that Jesus shared with his friends, the oldest child in each group opened a bright coloured paper bag to find a bottle of water, some little cups, and a pack of iced biscuits, one for each child or adult in the group – and we ate the biscuits and drank our water all together. I could see and hear how much everyone was enjoying it – smiles all round, empty biscuit packs in the bags and "When can we do this again?"

Church services – weddings, baptisms, Sunday services can feel really uncomfortable for anyone who isn't used to them. Strange books, unfamiliar music, weird words, invitations to stand or sit at random times. Readings from words written in another language over a thousand years ago. For some people, this is all deeply familiar and comforting – but for others, it can feel very strange – like we don't belong here. But my job as your vicar – and the job of anyone else in our churches – is to find ways of making everyone feel included and welcome. Why? Because Jesus spent his whole life doing exactly that.

He told stories about God's love, he shared meals with anyone who invited him, and spent time with the people who were ignored by others. He knew that God's love is offered to everyone. This is not always an easy thing to remember – especially when we think about some of the terrible things that happen around us. But hard or easy, it is still true – and Jesus left very clear instructions that his followers should keep right on with that invitation to anyone who needs to hear it or see it. I hope you hear and feel that welcome if you are at anything that we do – whether it is a mid-week coffee morning, after-school club like Story Explorers, a wedding or a Sunday service. We are all welcome.

Rev Jo Fielding.

Offenham Church & Offenham Cricket Club
165th anniversary celebration

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 10 July 2026

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

Bar, Fun, Raffle, Heads & Tails, Prizes

£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

Time For Tea

Time for Tea will take place on Sunday 5th July at 2.30pm in Offenham church. Refreshments are free of charge and any donations received will be used for the upkeep of our lovely church.

Maypole Club

Birthday Outing: Wednesday 22nd July, 9am

Bewdley for coffee, then across to Chaddesley Corbett for a Carvery & Sweet at The Fox Inn

£10 mem. £15 non- mem

St Mary & St Milburgh Church, Offenham

100Club

The winners of the June draw of the 100Club were:

1st Ann Davey, 2nd Edith Peters, 3rd Bill Newman.

The next draw will be on Sunday 5th July at Time for Tea.

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.

Magazine goes online

The magazine is now available online. If you would like to receive a copy please go to offenhamchurch.com to sign up.

For the next few months you will continue to receive a paper copy, but by January 2027 you will only receive a paper copy of the magazine if you have requested one. Full details will appear in the August edition.

As well as helping the church meet its environmental targets (printing the magazine for the village takes nearly 6 reams of paper each month), it will save the PCC about £700 a year.

OFFENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Offenham Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Ian Graham (Chairman), Cllr Marc Farmer (Vice Chairman), 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

Notice of Offenham Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of Offenham Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th July 2026 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:

- Roundabout
  A new accessible roundabout has been installed at the playpark which we hope your children will enjoy.
- Councillor Vacancy
  We currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please register your interest with the clerk on the details above.
- Grants
  The council awarded grants to the following at their meeting that was held on 1st June 2026:
  - Offenham First School - £4500 towards the school's project to create a MUGA on the school field to allow all year round, all weather competitive sport.
  - Offenham Royal British Legion Club - £1000 towards an eco unit to work alongside their existing cellar cooling unit.
  - Citizens Advice - £500 towards running costs
  - Offenham Wake - £747.90 to cover the cost of the insurance.

  Local organisations can apply for grants by requesting an application form from our clerk.

CHURCH HEATING

Exciting News! We have received a grant of £2,000 from the Benefact Trust towards the installation of the electric heating. Although we have not yet met our fundraising target we are now in a position to move on, and Offenham PCC are delighted to announce that installation will start on 3rd August. The church will be closed to visitors while the work is carried out, more details next month.

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to this appeal. We have received £4,062 from individuals and £7,646 in grants and gift aid. We still need to raise £10,000 to meet our target, so if you have any amazing fund raising ideas please let us know.

If you would like to make a donation you can do so:
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).

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

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.

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.

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 1st, 15th and 29th July.

OFFENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Offenham Neighbourhood Plan (ONP) – Steering Committee continues to meet monthly in the British Legion. Following the 'Call for Sites' initiative we received 12 detailed submissions that will now be judged against the draft policies that were adopted by the Parish Council at their June meeting.

Our next steps are assessing Site Submissions, Adopting Policies and 'Making' the Neighbourhood Plan. While we do the groundwork, the legal mechanism to formally "make" a Neighbourhood Plan is a multi-step statutory process. The ONP Steering Committee will continue to meet monthly to advance the plan following the laid down legal process. Regular reports will be made to the OPC and at various stages they will be asked to formally adopt the polices and the final ONP.

You can access the results of that feedback on the website alongside the agendas, minutes of meetings and other information and updates - www.offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/offenham-neighbourhood-plan.

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

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

Offenham Coffee Club

Every Tuesday from 10am at the Royal British Legion
* Tea * Coffee * Raffle *

Toddler Group - Village Hall

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

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Local Team
Your local Neighbourhood Police Officers are PC Alex Prentice, PC Shaquille Lakin and PC Eve Marshall. Your local Police Community Support Officers are PCSO Jasmine Hill and PCSO Lee Stirling. Please feel free to contact the team via email, eveshamrn.snt@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.

Speed Enforcement
TruCam has officially arrived in Evesham, Pershore and the surrounding villages. Your local Safer Neighbourhood Officers are now fully trained and equipped to use this speed enforcement device as part of ongoing efforts to keep our communities safe.

What you need to know:
TruCam is used to detect vehicles exceeding the speed limit
Offences are recorded digitally
Data is downloaded automatically
Anyone caught speeding will receive a ticket by post

Sign up to 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 Neighbourhood Matters. 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/ring/text individual officers if a crime has happened, this needs to be reported officially through the correct channels.

OFFENHAM VILLAGE HALL
1931 - 2026 95th Anniversary Year

Offenham Village Hall is a great venue for all occasions. Clean & modern facilitates with it's classic style main hall. Perfectly equipped from a small (10) or a large (100) party.
Also Business meetings, Exercise classes, Large & Village events, Dance classes & group activities.
Having a party or family meal? Having to rearrange your home and protect your carpets?
Then why not Hire the Hall with or without our Fully Licensed Bar? Saving time & money buying or running out of drinks. Decorate the hall to your requirements. We can also clean up for you for a small charge. Simple plug & play music / sound system. Complete with Radio Microphones and Flashing Party Light, Low level stage, dance floor, kitchen, comfortable seating & projector.
Large Outside Illuminated Terrace & Large Car Park.
Arrange a viewing and discuss your event requirements at our Thursday Coffee Morning.
Go to www.offenhamvillagehall.org.uk for a booking form & details.
Bookings 07519 033287 or email bookings@offenhamvillagehall.org.uk
For general & car park enquires email contact@offenhamvillagehall.org.uk

Events for June
Men's Group 10 June
Women's Group 17 June
Activities & exercise classes for all

Volunteers Required
Would you like to get involved with your Village Hall? Could you help with our Website, Advertising and help with fund raising. Or become a Trustee.

Can you help us?

We are a fully licensed premises and want to open our bar more often for Friends & Family Nights, Movie Nights, Football World Cup Matches, the occasional private party and fund raising events.
We need another volunteer for our team to help mange this important task and help the hall raise important funds towards the **KITCHEN EXTENSION**
If you are interested call Martin on 07986255739

We are pleased to announce the *NEW KITCHEN EXTENSION* will start in July.
The cost of the project is £90,000
Grants have been secured from the
National Lottery Awards for All.
Offenham Parish Council
The Garfield Weston Foundation
We are still waiting confirmation from other grant providers for the £24,000 short fall.
If you would to help raise funds to build this much need improvement to the hall please contact Martin 07986255739
IMPROVING YOUR VILLAGE HALL FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Our Community Coffee Morning
Every Thursday 10am - 12pm

Tea, Coffee, Bacon, Bacon & Sausage, and a poached egg.
All at a very low price.
All Welcome. Mums, Dads & Families & Well Behaved Dogs

We are recruiting volunteers to help with our Coffee Mornings.
Due to holidays & unforeseen circumstances we find ourselves at certain times short of help.

Interested Call Martin on 07986255739 for details

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.

ST. JAMES CHURCH, BADSEY

EVERY MONDAY TERM TIME

8:45am - 11am

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Offenham Old School Education Trust

(Charity No: 1049265)

Application Form for an Education grant for those over 18* years of age and resident in the Parish of St Mary & St Milburgh, Offenham

The Trustees of the Trust are pleased to be able to offer grants for those in Education and training for the academic year 2026-2027. This includes Higher Education Courses and Apprenticeships *(*consideration will be given to 16 & 17 years olds in full time apprenticeships)*

Please complete the details below **and enclose either proof of acceptance to commence the course or proof of satisfactorily completing the previous year of the course.**

If you do not yet have proof of your acceptance, for instance you might be awaiting exam results, then please submit this application form without such proof **and forward a copy of your letter of acceptance when it arrives.**

PLEASE NOTE: - No grant can be made before proof of completion/acceptance has been received.

Please return your completed application form to 12 Myatt Road, Offenham, WR11 8SD by the END OF AUGUST as the Trustees will be meeting at the beginning of September to consider this year's grants.

If your application arrives after the date of the meeting then we may have already allocated the whole of our budget for the academic year. Please note that we will not discuss your grant with your parents, carers or other third parties as this can cause confusion and could be construed as a breach of confidentiality.

Name: _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Email address: (please print clearly) _____

Home address: _____

_____

Date of Birth: _____

Age on 1st September this year: _____

Name of Educational Institution: _____

Name of Course: _____

Length of Course: _____

Year of Course which you are now entering: _____

Date when you expect to complete course: _____

Have you received a grant from the Old School Educational Trust for this or a similar course in the past?
If so, please give details. **(NOTE – you can apply annually for each year of your course if on a multi-year course)**

Any other information you think may be relevant (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

I CERTIFY THAT ALL THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS TRUE AND CORRECT AT TIME OF SIGNING.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(NOTE: The level of individual grants may vary from year to year depending on number of applications received)