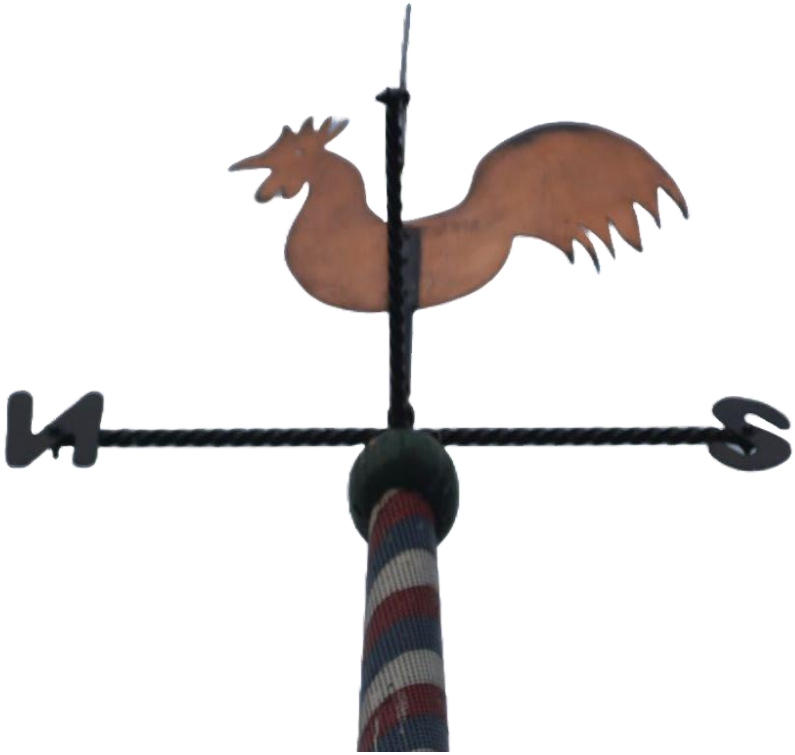
OFFENHAM

CHURCH AND VILLAGE MAGAZINE

June 2025



Parish & Church News - Local Groups – Events

Offenham Wake

Neighbourhood Plan

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.

For inclusion in the July issue please send your content by 15th June

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

Letter Of The Month For June

Something Old, Something New.

Dear Friends: at the time of writing this, we have just celebrated VE Day, and the election of Pope Leo XIV has been announced. Did you notice the traditional ways in which these events are signalled -the multicoloured bunting wrapped around lamp posts and pillars, church bells being rung, and the white smoke rising from the chimney of the Sistine chapel in Rome, all sights and sounds that have been used to mark these extraordinary times reaching way back over the years – centuries even. Of course there are innovations, new ways of doing things, new ways of thinking that bring fresh insights and interest – but it can also be good to have a sense of continuity, to know what is worth holding on to. This is true for us as individuals, for the friendships and relationships we build with each other, and it is true for our communities, organisations and businesses.

I've also been spending quite a few evenings recently talking with couples who are getting married in one of our churches this summer. Each year we hold a "Wedding Information" event on the Saturday nearest to St Valentines's Day, when we get all this year's wedding couples together so they can meet me, (and each other), hear from Church wardens, bell ringers, get some info about banns etc. It's always lovely to chat with them and get the ball rolling on arrangements for dates etc – and each time it is great to see the variety of people and the stories that lie behind their decision to get married, and married in church.

Fast forward to about now, and the wedding prep conversations are in full swing. Before we meet, I email each couple a set of questions, asking them to have a go at answering the questions separately before comparing their answers. When we meet, they have the opportunity to tell me how they got on, as well as planning the actual wedding service during our meeting. The conversations are always really interesting -and generally bring up all sorts of insights and stories that help me get to know them better, so that each service will be unique and special - and exactly right for each couple. Some want to hold on to tradition ("Yes to an organist playing a classical wedding march - and we want the hymn that Mum had at her wedding"), others go for a Spotify playlist on our Bluetooth system, and a poem written by the Best Woman about how the bride never remembers to turn the office light off.

But each couple will use an almost identical set of things to tell me about their relationship. They tell me how they trust each other, how they often know what their partner is thinking, or feeling. They tell me how they have learned to give each other space when it is needed, how they know when to listen and when to speak, how they have grown to appreciate each other's skillsets and qualities, fitting together. I hear all this and think about the way that healthy loving relationships have worked like this over the centuries, for every generation. Times change, and bring new ideas, new ways of doing things, new ways of thinking, (and many of those are long overdue!) – but it's always good to be able to keep hold of the things that hold us together, that enable us to know that we belong, that remind us of who we are and why we are here. In the words of the most popular Bible reading at a church wedding "Now faith hope and love abide, and the greatest of these is love."

We face change in our villages all the time, and some changes we worry about or protest against, some we look forward to and celebrate. The old and the new rub up against each other, and we are always in the middle, picking our way through carefully, hopefully, with love.

God bless you

Rev. Jo Fielding

Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com Tel 07561823135

THE BENEFICE OF THE EAST VALE & AVON CHURCHES

Services For June 2025

Please do take the opportunity to share fellowship and enjoy worship in any of the parish churches in our benefice.

	9.30am Service	11.00am Service	Other Services
1st June 7th of Easter	Badsey Morning Praise	Offenham Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	**5.30pm** Bretforton Asparagus service The Fleece
8th June Pentecost		South Littleton Benefice Pentecost Eucharist	**7pm** Cleeve Prior Taizé
14th June			**1.30pm** Wake Flower Service Offenham
15th June Holy Trinity (Fathers' Day)	Offenham Morning Praise	Badsey Eucharist Cleeve Prior Morning Praise	**3pm** Cleeve Prior Churches Count on Nature
22nd June 1st After Trinity	South Littleton Morning Praise	Bretforton Eucharist	
29th June Peter and Paul		Offenham Benefice Eucharist	

The church is open every day from 10:00am until 4:00pm.
For more details please go to
offenhamchurch.com

Evesham Community Choir

Saturday 31st May 2025
At St Mary & St Milburgh Church, Offenham 7pm
Tickets £7 available from
Debbie 07933 212680
Lisa 07846 473894

All proceeds to The Friends of St Mary & St Milburgh Church.

Tea/Coffee/biscuits included.
Raffle available.

A night in the West End

JOIN US ON SAT 5TH JULY 2-4PM OFFENHAM CHURCHYARD

RECONNET WITH NATURE IN YOUR CHURCHYARD
SEE WHAT WILDLIFE AND PLANTS WE HAVE AND HELP US SEE WHAT THRIVES

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
DONATIONS WLCOME

Time For Tea

Thank you from Time for Tea.

Last month, the church commemorated VE Day, along with millions of people across Britain and the world, by holding a street party themed Time for Tea event in our village church. This was well attended and prizes were given to all who wore something of the 1940's era. Sandwiches and cake were served, with tea (or coffee), and the table and church were adorned with bunting. Thank you to Claire for taking a photo of the event and to Debbie H for uploading it to Facebook.

The accounts of the five men of Offenham who died in WWII, and whose names are on the memorial cross in the churchyard, were central to the VE Day display in church. As the information is of historic interest to the village, and their descendants, it has been put in a book along with the young men of Offenham who died in the Great War.

The next event will take place on Sunday 1st June in church from 2.30 to 4pm. Everyone is welcome and refreshments continue to be free, and any donations received will go towards the upkeep of our village church.

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.

Hello!

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!

Maypole Club

Meetings: Wednesday 25th June 2:30pm Legion Club. Details to be confirmed

Outings: Monday 16th June.Weston-super-mare. 9:00am £10.00

Contact Edith on 01386 45247 for full details

Offenham Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council are establishing a committee to produce the Offenham Neighbourhood Plan (ONP).

With the implementation of the Localism Act local people can now have a major say in helping to shape the development of the areas in which they live by putting together a Neighbourhood Plan. Once adopted by Wychavon the ONP will become part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and will form part of the basis for determining planning applications in that area. This statutory status is important as it means neighbourhood plans have more weight than other local documents.

The ONP will be prepared by the parish council and will deal with the development and use of land. These plans usually cover the next 20 or so years and set out the amount and type of development needed, and where it should go. The ONP must support the strategic needs set out in the Local Plan and can shape and guide development by identifying sites or by shaping development criteria on layout, design, materials, garden and parking requirements, or deciding on infrastructure priorities. It can also identify areas for protection such as open spaces valued by the community, or green spaces that meet Local Green Space criteria set out in national policy. The ONP can direct development to certain locations and away from others.

We want to engage with the wider community right from the beginning of the plan-preparation process, to make sure it genuinely represents the range of wants and needs in the local area. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact the Chair, Martin Penny or come and talk to us about any aspect of the ONP at the parish council stall at the Wake.

Toddler Group - Village Hall

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

Offenham Coffee Club

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

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

Congratulations

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

Debbie Newman (90); Angela Guoite (91) and Barbara Keitley (86)

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

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.

Offenham Old School Education Trust – Advance Notice

(Charity No: 1049265)

Application Forms for an Education grant for those over 18* years of age and resident in the Parish of St Mary & St Milburgh, Offenham will be included in the August magazine.

The Trustees of the Trust are pleased to be able to offer grants for those in Education and training for the academic year 2025-2026. This includes Higher Education Courses and Apprenticeships

(*consideration will be given to 16 & 17 years olds in full time apprenticeships).

The deadline for applications will be 30 September

Neighbourhood Alert

Who are your local Neighbourhood Officers for the 'Rural North' area?
Your local Neighbourhood Officers are PC Alex Prentice, PC Ben Trowman and PCSO Luke Harris. They can be contacted by email, alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk, ben. trowman@westmercia.police.uk and luke.harris@ westermercia.police.uk.

The Evesham Safer Neighbourhood Team are actively now more than ever involved with our Evesham SNT Facebook page. Please follow Evesham SNT to keep up to date with our activities and to see when our local drop in/ engagement sessions are.

As you may know, we do frequent engagement sessions in each of the areas. We are always open to listening to the public if they believe the engagements with the public should be done differently. Please, if have any ideas on how we can better engage with the public, please let us know by emailing the above email addresses. For example, coffee mornings, fete's, village gatherings. Engagement dates will be sent out in advance on Neighbourhood Matters. This 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/. We are trying to book these in advance as much as possible and will send out weekly NH Matters posts with the schedule of drop in sessions. These will also be advertised on our Facebook page. 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! Some of the regular sessions we do are coffee mornings in the villages, outside village shops, in village halls (incl car park), coffee shops, meetings with the local farmers and rural community and school visits

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.

Crime Prevention

Please make use of the drop in sessions provided by officers if you want crime prevention advice. Officers are able to address concerns and offer crime prevention advice, such as handout of leaflets around home security, cctv, vehicle security, various signage for properties, shed/garage/bike security etc. We also have faraday pouches to provide to people who have keyless entry vehicles.

Offenham Parish Council

Chairman:	Ian Graham
Members:	Sheila Briers, James Moclair, Marc Farmer, Marcus Taylor, Matthew Rea, Sam Muxworthy, Martin Penny, Claire Allen.
Clerk:	Diane Cox: 07714 869946 (also street light faults.)
District Councillor:	Hannah Robson: 07730 262031 – hrobson@worcestershire.gov.uk
County Councillor:	Alistair Adams: 01789 721227 - adams.pebworth@gmail.com
Highways Issues:	Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765
Public Footpaths:	Roy Betts - metro.roy100@gmail.com. (NOT pavements)
Planning:	Full details at www.wychavon.gov.uk/planning

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 2nd June at 7.30pm in Offenham Village Hall. Any organisation or individual wishing to attend, please contact the Clerk on 07714 869946.

- Offenham Parish Council is pleased to announce that the great Evesham-based charity "Claus For a Cause" (aka Kyle Hotchkins) has included us in their campaign to locate Bleed Control Kits in as many locations as possible in the area. These kits are designed to be used by first responders to stem serious bleeding injuries, no matter how they are caused, until an ambulance can get there. If you need to use one, call 999 for an ambulance, and the call handler will direct you to our defibrillator cabinet (on the front wall of the Village Hall) and give you the code to access it. Many thanks to Kyle, and to Dan Curry from Millvale Building Services for providing the sponsorship.

- The annual garden and hanging basket/container competition will be judged by our two expert councillors in early August, so make sure your displays are looking at their best.

- Nominations are invited for the Villager of the Year award, to be presented in October. Please email the Parish Clerk (dkc.cox@gmail.com).

- We will have a stall at Wake Day, where you can meet your Parish Councillors, make suggestions for projects in the village and volunteer your time (e.g. supporting the Neighbourhood Plan team)

- Offenham Parish Council is launching a new website which will replace the one which was hosted by the County Council, it is currently accessible but not yet fully complete, a new contact email address will be added shortly.

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Offenham Village Hall is a great venue for all family occasions
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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

VILLAGE HALL PROJECTS

Are you interesting in quoting for the following projects?
Painting the ceilings & rafters in the Main Hall
New kitchen extension (Planning Application Approved)
New meeting room with changing rooms & showers
(Planning Application Approved)
Email your interests to projects@offenhamvillagehall.org.uk

Weekly Activities At The HALL

Tuesday Yoga with Wendy, Silver Swans. Tap Dancing, Zumba with Kerry
Thursday Coffee Morning, Zumba with Tracey, Aikido Martial Arts
Friday Play & Stay Play group, Tai Chi for better health with Sally

Other Activities Include

Offenham Flower Club, Offenham Parish Council, Dress Making Classes,
Offenham Youth Club, Quilt Making Classes, Men's Group,

www.offenhamvillagehall.org.uk

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY & ST MILBURGH CHURCH

Scarecrow Trail & Fete

Saturday 30th August 2025
10am – 4pm

In the churchyard and around the village

More details in the July magazine or on the website
www.offenhamchurch.com

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The Offenham Community Charities

'The Offenham Community Charities' is an Offenham village charity set up originally to help individuals or groups in need, hardship or distress.

More recently, it helps individuals or groups that would benefit from small grants to provide services, facilities or other items.

If you are an individual or run a group that would appreciate a helping hand, please provide the amount required with a brief overview of the project and who it will benefit to:

Andrea Evans, (Trustee)
Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham WR11 8RW

or by emailing andreaevans54@gmail.com

All requests are confidential.

CALL 07875564893

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