OFFENHAM

CHURCH AND VILLAGE MAGAZINE

June 2026

Picture by Fran Holder. Winner of the ONP photo competition

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 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); 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 June

	9.30am Service	11.00am Service	Other Services
7th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Badsey Morning Praise	Offenham Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	
14th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity	Bretforton Eucharist	South Littleton Eucharist	7pm South Littleton Taizé
21st June 4th Sunday after Trinity	Offenham Morning Praise	Badsey Eucharist Cleeve Prior Morning Praise	
28th June 5th Sunday After Trinity	South Littleton Eucharist	Bretforton Eucharist	

From the Parish Registers:
Wedding: 24th April - April Keitley and Kudakwashe Kumire

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

Magazine goes online

We have started the process of putting the magazine online. We need people to test this, so if you would like to be involved, please email offenhammagazine@gmail.com and we will add you to the list

Letter Of The Month

June brings warm days and our gardens are abuzz with bees and butterflies as the flowers are in full bloom. It is a time when we gardeners can take our time enjoying things but as our summers get warmer it may be a time that we spend watering our gardens more. We are urged to be more aware of the world and its natural resources. Water is very important not only for our gardens and crops but for some areas of the world it means survival. We take it for granted that we have clean water coming from our taps, but we know that isn't the case elsewhere in the world.

When I lived in Zambia you could smell the rain before it came. We went months without rain, but it was SO welcome when the rains did come. It was so very hard the rainwater filled the 6ft storm drains in minutes, and the thunder and lightning were spectacular and scary at times. The parched orange earth sprouted with new flora which was often spectacular and heavy with scent attracting the insects.
I follow a photographer from Derbyshire on social media, and she posts some wonderful scenes from my home county. Recently she posted a picture of a wood with a stream running through it and she recorded the sounds along with that scene. You could hear the blackbirds singing and the sound of the stream passing over the waters bed, it was so calming, and reminded me of the 23rd Psalm, 'He makes me lie down in green pastures and He leads me by still waters.'

There are many references to water in our bible. From Noah and the flood to Moses' story of being found by the River Nile and then the crossing of the Red Sea. In the first Psalm there is reference to 'Streams of Living Waters'. In the story of Jesus at the well when the Samaritan woman came to fetch water, He refers to himself as the Water of Life. When Nicodemus wants answers to his question of 'how can an old man be born again', Jesus answers 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God'. Water was offered to travellers in Jesus' world to cleanse before entering a house. Jesus was often by the large lakes of waters when events like feeding the crowd with fish and bread, or when the disciples got into trouble in their boat and Jesus came to their rescue. There are references to washing away our sins. Jesus stood in the Jordan to be baptised with water in the Jordan (there is a wonderful window in St Leonard's church showing this) and water is used at every baptism. We use the phrase springing to life when someone changes their ways.
Water is still as important to us now as it was in past times. It is such a wonderous world and from insects to humans we are interdependent on each other, and we all need water to survive.

Each season is worth rejoicing but as you water (hopefully) sparingly this June take some time to reflect on the water you are using, and how important it is both physically and spiritually to our lives and this world we live in.

Margaret Pye – LLM with East Vale and Avon Benefice

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

Maypole Club

Meeting Weds 24th

Outing: Monday 15th June, Weston. 9am cost £15

Contact Sue 01386 641620 for details

St Mary & St Milburgh Church, Offenham

100Club

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

1st Doug Keitley, 2nd Gordon Smith, 3rd Pat Chamberlain.

The next draw will be on Sunday 7th June 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.

New Brass Players Wanted! Bret Prep Training Band is seeking new members to join their friendly Sunday morning rehearsals (10.30am–11.15am). We are especially looking for cornet players, but all brass players (approx. Grade 3+) are welcome. Instruments can be provided for free.

We are also recruiting for **Bret Set Go**, our group for absolute beginners, which meets at 10am. Come and join a sociable local hobby and perform at great local events like the Pershore Midsummer Brass and the Bretforton Village Proms!

Interested? Please contact Laura for more information: **laurahunt24@hotmail.co.uk**.

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

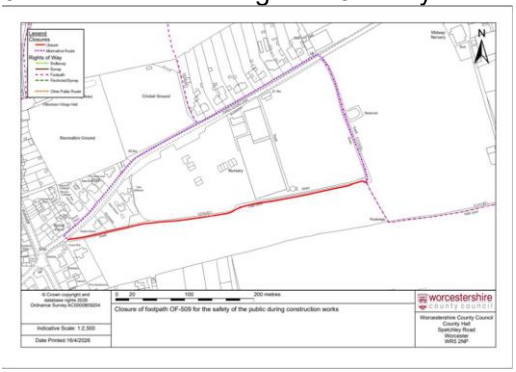
Mr Daniel Hinde – Email: info@offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Notice of Offenham Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of Offenham Parish Council will be held on Monday 1st June 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:

- **Footpath Closure**
  Please note that footpath 509 as indicated on the below map will be closed for 6 months commencing the 28th May



- **Councillor Vacancy**
  We currently have a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please register your interest with the clerk on the details above.

- **Community Speedwatch**
  The Parish Council are looking for a volunteer to join the community speedwatch programme. All training and equipment will be provided. If you are interested please contact info@offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Offenham Parish Council, Chairman's Report April 2026

My first full year in the Chair has been one of many changes. First and foremost, our Parish Clerk of 18 years' unbroken service, Diane Cox, decided it was time for her to retire, and we also said goodbye to James Moclair, who stepped down after 9 years as a councillor. I would sincerely like to thank them both for their service and contribution to the village. Dan Hinde is now our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

There have also been changes at County and District level, with Hannah Robson being elected as our County Councillor back in May, and Matthew Winfield winning the by-election for District Councillor later in the year.

The projects this year have been the installation of the pétanque court on the Rec, which is available for all to use, and the impending installation of an accessible children's roundabout in the playground. Both of these have been funded by Section 106 money from Wychavon District Council. A further session was run by Delta Sports in September to instruct local children in how to get the most out of the MUGA.

Over the past year, Offenham Parish Council has donated to the Wake Committee to cover insurance to hold events throughout the year, the Maypole Club, for a contribution to costs of outings, Citizens Advice South Worcestershire, for a contribution to their advice service in the village, the Village Hall Committee to help with costs of the new kitchen extension, and Offenham Cricket Club for a contribution towards a new terrace in front of the clubhouse. We continue to fund and maintain the defibrillator unit on the front of the Village Hall, and there is now a new website for the Parish Council and the village to give us better visibility in the digital age.

We were successful in campaigning for a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph along the B4510 through the parish (Offenham Road, Evesham Road and Newtown). Our solar-powered Vehicle Activated Signs don't just provide advice to drivers by indicating what speed vehicles are travelling at – they also gather data on overall speeds. This, along with active campaigns by West Mercia Police and data collected by WCC Highways devices, demonstrates that, while there is a perception of excessive speeds being commonplace in the village, this is not the case, with the exception of a small number of "outliers". The Community Speedwatch project has struggled getting over the hurdles required by the police, but the Parish Council remains committed to implementing the scheme to provide reassurance to villagers that this is something that we take very seriously. More volunteers are always needed – please contact the Clerk for details.

The Parish Council have supported the entry for Offenham in the Parish Games again and held the annual garden/container and Good Villager Competitions.

We have continued to participate in the Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman Scheme, which is now carried out by Marcus Taylor.

As well as all of the above, the Parish Council reviews and considers all of the planning applications that are submitted to Wychavon District Council planning department from the village, and others in neighbouring parishes which may impact on Offenham. It is worth noting that while we are a statutory consultee on planning applications, the opinions expressed by the Parish Council don't hold any more weight than those put forward by any individual, so it is important that villagers also comment when applications come in.

Despite our best efforts at every meeting of the Planning Committee, we haven't been able to convince the Local Planning Authority that the proposed developments on Three Cocks Lane (the first phase of which you will already have seen) and Laurels Road are not in sustainable locations, and the recent lack of housing land supply in the District has meant that the default decision has been approval. This will change with the imminent final approval of the reviewed South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), which has identified sufficient allocated sites for new housing up to 2041.

The other way in which we can determine what type of development happens in our village is by having a Neighbourhood Plan, and I am grateful to the members of the Offenham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Martin Penny, Sharon Graham, Claire Henderson, Claire Penny, Marc Farmer, Doug Keitley and Catherine Elliott) for the immense amount of time and effort that they have invested in the past year, in driving this project through to the policy drafting phase. Thanks also go all the villagers who responded to the Community Survey in December and January, which provides the evidence needed to populate the plan – it was a great response. Watch this space for updates and for more important opportunities to have your say.

There are many volunteers who donate a significant amount of their time and energy in supporting local organisations and events in the village, and we thank all of them, who are too many to mention.

We are in a time of uncertainty at the higher levels of local government, and we don't know at present what the reorganised structure will look like in a couple of years' time, but one thing we can be sure of is that Offenham Parish Council will still be here, working for the best interests of the whole village. On behalf of my fellow Councillors (who are all volunteers) and the Parish Clerk, I thank you for your support.

Dr Ian Graham
Chairman, Offenham Parish Council

CHURCH HEATING

Thank you so much to everyone, individuals, organisations and businesses, who have donated to the heating appeal. Although we are still short of the full amount needed we are now confident of reaching the target required to install the heating. Installation should take place in July/August and your Church will be a much warmer and more eco-friendly place this winter.

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@btinterent.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.

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 3rd and 17th June.

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 10am at the Royal British Legion
* Tea * Coffee * Raffle *

OFFENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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

The Offenham Neighbourhood Plan (ONP) – Steering Committee continues to meet monthly, and on Thursday 21st May we held a final Stakeholder Consultation Meeting to give other stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to the plan. This followed a successful Public Consultation Meeting held on Sunday 26th April when almost 100 people reviewed the draft policies and planning maps, and left us many useful and insightful comments about the draft policies.

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

The plan is now moving towards its first full draft stage.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Local Team

The team have had some changes. 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

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. 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.

Time For Tea

Time for Tea will take place on Sunday 7th June 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.

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.
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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.

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