OFFENHAM

CHURCH AND VILLAGE MAGAZINE

September 2025

Parish & Church News - Local Groups – Events

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 October issue please send your content by 15th September

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 September 2025

	9.30am	11am	Other Services
7th September 12th After Trinity	Badsey Morning Praise	Offenham Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	
14th September Education Sunday	South Littleton Morning Praise with baptism	Bretforton Eucharist	7pm St Nicholas, North and Middle Littleton Taizé
21st September UN day of Peace	Offenham Morning Praise	Badsey Eucharist Cleeve Prior Morning Praise	
28th September St Michael		South Littleton Benefice Patronal Eucharist	4pm Offenham School Messy Church

Letter Of The Month For September

September…. a new school term…a new school year…and for some of our children there will be a big upheaval as they move to a new place of learning. Some of them will begin school, some will move to middle school, some to high school, and some will head off to university for the first time.

Calendar years, financial years, academic years, church years… there are several new beginnings in every twelve months. But after teaching for 25 years before being ordained it is the September-August cycle which still looms large with me.

For a number of us – and certainly for our children and grandchildren– this month will bring change. Some of us approach change of any kind with a sense of trepidation and fear but I am reminded of the line in the well-known hymn, 'Abide with me'. The second verse says,

'Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.'

There may be change on the horizon for many of us…new jobs, new homes, new relationships…but there is one thing of which we can be sure. In the newness, in the change, in the unpredictability, God remains constant, as the hymn reminds us. He will be with us and if he is our companion on the journey we need have no fear.

May God's peace be with you always.

Canon Susan Renshaw
(retired priest in the East Vale and Avon Benefice)

The church is open every day from 10:00am until 4:00pm.

For more details please go to offenhamchurch.com

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Pat Chamberlain (25), Erin Nightingale (61) and Ann Davey (66)

The next draw will be on Sunday 7th September during Time for Tea in the Church

Maypole Club

Outing: Monday September 15th Ledbury and Hereford 9am, £10

Meeting: Wednesday September 24th. Robin McEwan Tv Capers Comp 'N'

Contact Edith on 01386 45247 for full details

Time For Tea

Time for Tea will take place on Sunday 7th September in Offenham church from 2.30 to 4pm. Refreshments, including home made cakes, are free and any donations received will go towards the upkeep of our village church. Everyone is welcome.

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 10:00am
at 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.

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.

Bell Ringing

We are always happy to welcome people who visit our practice on a Tuesday evening, whether it is to find out what it is all about or to 'give it a try'. If you are curious, please come along.

If you would like a lesson please contact Claire (07903 963233). More information at www.Offenhambells.com.

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.

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 10th and 24th September.

CHURCH HEATING

Offenham Church is undertaking a major project to replace the ancient oil-fired heating system with modern eco-friendly electric heating. We will be installing 9 3kW infra-red heaters which will cover the nave and the kitchen and seating in the north aisle. These will provide zoned, almost instananeous heat which will be much more efficient and economic and allow much more flexible use of the building.

It is estimated that this part of the project will cost about £22,000 in total, all of which needs to be raised via grant applications and fund raising. If you would like to make a donation towards this important step in keeping our church building viable in the 21st century you can do so in the following ways:

By Cheque: payable to 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	Offenham PCC
Sort Code	09-01-51
Account Number	64169407
Reference	Heating

Please look out for details of a JustGiving page in the near future.

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).

We appreciate that times are hard and people are thinking carefully about donating to charity, and we may not be your choice. However, if every household who received this magazine gave £32 we would reach our target.

Any money raised in this appeal wil be restricted to this 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 Chuurch is excepted from registration with the Charity Commisoin, 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 Commission.

Offenham Parish Council

Chairman:	Ian Graham
Members:	Sheila Briers, James Moclair, Marc Farmer, Marcus Taylor, Matthew Rea, Sam Muxworthy, Martin Penny, Claire Allen.
Clerk:	Becky Bowser (info@offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)
District Councillor:	Vacant
County Councillor:	Hannah Robson: 07730 262031 hrobson@worcestershire.gov.uk
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 1st September at 7.30pm in Offenham Village Hall. Any organisation or individual wishing to attend, please contact the Clerk.

OFFENHAM PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGER OF THE YEAR 2025

Celebrating the people who make Offenham a better place to live

Do you know someone who:

- Goes above and beyond for neighbours?
- Volunteers their time for community events?
- Improves our environment, facilities, or village life?
- Inspires others with their dedication and community spirit?

Nominate them for Offenham Parish Council's Villager of the Year Award!

How to Nominate:

- **Download** a nomination form from: **www.offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk**
- **Or request one** from the Parish Clerk:
  E: info@offenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk
  T: 07887 536 934

Deadline for nominations: Friday 10 October 2025

Winner announced: Annual Parish Meeting – 15 November 2025

The winner will receive a commemorative certificate and their name on our Honour Roll.

Let's celebrate the people who make Offenham shine!

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 Police' Facebook page. Please follow Evesham Police 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 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 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.

A quiz from A Rocha UK

A Rocha UK are a Christian charity working to protect and restore the environment. This quiz round is about habitats and flowers. Test yourself to see what you know.

1. Hedges are important for wildlife and the climate. Our word for hedge comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “haeg” – what does “haeg” mean?

2. Trees release chemicals called phytoncides that can boost what?
a. Our happiness
b. Our appetite
c. Our bank balance

3. What percentage of freshwater habitats in the UK (including rivers, streams and lakes) are in good ecological condition?
a. 54%
b. 34%
c. 14%

4. The pedunculate oak is one of the most common tree species in Britain. How tall can it grow?

5. What is the most reliable carbon-sink on land in the UK? (a carbon sink is a type of natural environment viewed in terms of ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere)
a. Moorland
b. Woodland
c. Grassland

6. The dandelion, a common lawn weed, gets its name from the French name dent-de-lion. What is the meaning of dent-de-lion?

7. What percentage of the UK’s wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s?
a. 27%
b. 67%
c. 97%

8. The UK coastline hosts many different animal and plant species. How many?
a. 500
b. 1200
c. 1500

Answers on page 12

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Offenham Neighbourhood Plan (ONP) – Steering Committee met for the third time on 21st August 2025 in Offenham Church.

There were 13 people present and the meeting started with an update from the Chair followed by a question-and-answer session during an open forum.

Chairs Update

Area Designation - Following the July Offenham Parish Council Meeting we have submitted our request to Wychavon District Council for the Neighbourhood Area designation and have had a reply from Andrew Ford, the Principal Planning Officer (Policy), for Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils. "Thank you for sending this through and we will action the Neighbourhood Area designation and get back to you soon to confirm it has been approved. In the meantime, initial progress on the neighbourhood plan can continue." As at the date of the meeting we are still awaiting confirmation of the approval.

Finance – The Parish Council have agreed to fund the production of the plan with an estimated budget of £10,000. The Committee is now looking to Wychavon District Council to fund a further £10,000 to create an overall budget of £20k.

Initial Progress on the Plan – this has continued with a Stakeholder List being compiled; outline for the Overview section of the plan designed; an agreement to develop 'Street Champions', and a meeting with planning consultants to assist with the next stages of the plan.

Open Forum

During questions from the open forum is was discussed that the next key elements of the plan were to produce a detailed timeline for the production of the plan, and to design and carry out a Community Survey. Once details are available they will be publish on the new website page for the ONP.

The meeting closed with a request for other people to come forward to join the Committee to support the work on the ONP, and a number of people volunteered to either join the Committee or assist in other ways.

The next meeting of the ONP will be on **Thursday 18th September at 7pm**; venue to be confirmed.

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

Dr Martin Penny
Chair ONP Steering Committee

A quiz from A Rocha UK

ANSWERS

1. It means ‘enclosure’ (Hedgerows are important as they support 30% of UK butterfly species and 50% of our mammals).
2. a) Happiness (phytoncides can boost our mood and scientists believe they can also boost our immune system, as well as having other health benefits too)
3. c) 14%
4. Up to 30 meters
5. Grassland. Grassland is not only the UK's largest carbon sink in terms of area, but sequesters (removes) carbon more rapidly than trees, and does so much more securely.
6 Lion’s tooth
7. c) 97% of the UK’s wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s (largely through changes in farming practices, land development as well as changes to gardening practices)
8. b) 1200

Did you know that with their Partners in Action programme, A Rocha UK is working hard to support twenty five habitats, groups and species that are struggling with the effects of climate change, habitat loss and pollution. More on those in coming magazine issues.

OFFENHAM VILLAGE HALL

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or call in at our Thursday Coffee Morning

See website for further details www.offenhamvillagehall.org.uk

NEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

WOMEN'S GROUP COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY 17 Sept 2025 10am - 12

Come along a for free coffee / tea and chat at this inaugural meeting

First meeting to dicuss the group's set up & activities

www.offenhamvillagehall.org.uk

Volunteers required to help at our Coffee Morning contact 07986 255739

OFFENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Your Venue For Your Community

Activities At The HALL

Tuesday 10.30 - 11.30am	Gentle Yoga with Wendy	07969 68940
Tuesday 12 - 1pm	Silver Swans with Helena	0757 2042164
Tuesday 1 - 2pm	Tap Dancing with Helena	helenajanedance.co.uk
Tuesday 6.30 - 7.30pm	Zumba with Kerry	07745 336199
Wedneday 6 - 7pm	Pilates With Ibby	Ibbyfitness@gmail.com
Thursday Coffee Morning 10.00 - 12.00pm		All Welcome
Thursday 6.30 - 7.30pm	Zumba with Tracey	07566 204910
Thursday 7.45 - 9.45pm	Aikido Martial Arts with Tony	07443 480694
Friday 10.00 - 11.30am	Play & Stay Play group	Facebook Evesham NCT
Friday 1.30 - 2.30 pm	Tai Chi with Sally	07736 564498

Other Activities Include

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

Dates & times may change please check with group

MEN'S GROUP COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY 10 September 10am – 12

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No.4 Three Cocks Lane, Offenham.

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.

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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 2025-2026. 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 SEPTEMBER as the Trustees will be meeting at the beginning of October 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.

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)