

South Marston Community News

Santa's Visit and SMILE

By Lionel Cave-Ayland and Hazel Andrews



Twas a cold and frosty evening when Santa came to town, accompanied by his trusty friend Rudolph. They stopped at various points within the village to meet, greet and give out treats. Then, all too quickly, they had to leave to prepare for their big night.

Special thanks to Aldi at Rodbourne, for sponsoring the children's treats.

SMILE time

The latest South Marston in Lights Event saw the village all over looking lovely with great displays of Christmas lights for everyone to enjoy.

The main village thoroughfares provided a myriad of magical light experiences, for all to enjoy when travelling through and around the village.

Our judges commented on the lovely little groups of displays in some of the side roads too, making the village look even more magical and their job much harder to do!

In particular, they loved the groups of lights in Bell Gardens, and Rawlings Close.

Continued overleaf



They did eventually choose a winner, with 'Best in Village' for SMILE 2022 going to 1 Pinehurst Cottages, Thornhill Road.

They wanted to award everyone a 'highly commended' but sadly had to narrow it down to 3.

After much deliberation, prizes were awarded to the 3 highly commended displays:

A magical display of lighting at 4 Pinehurst Cottage, Thornhill Road;
 Colourful and elegant lights at 6 Bell Gardens
 Stylishly decorated light display at Manor Lodge, Thornhill Road.

All winners received a goody bag of Christmas chocolates and biscuits, mince pies, and games to keep the family entertained over the holidays. These were delivered on Christmas Eve in time for the festivities.

A big thank you to the F and E Harris Memorial Trust who donated the prizes.





Happy New Year from everyone at Tots and Toddlers!

We've enjoyed a busy term with lots of exciting crafts and play opportunities. Mosaic craft was a particularly big hit with the adults who found sticking the foam squares quite therapeutic! The children also enjoyed role play with an ice-cream trolley, cars and petrol pump.

Our end of term party was really special as we had an amazing bouncy castle, fabulous bring and share party food and a visit from Santa who had presents for everyone.

It was also, sadly, the last session with Fran at the helm and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of all of the families who have benefited from her dedication to running this welcoming, friendly group for such a long time. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours, Fran.

We look forward to having lots of fun - learning, playing and singing together during 2023.

Emma and Rachel

Tots and Toddlers

9-11 Wednesdays term time only

£2.50 for up to 2 children

(50p for each additional child)
Snacks and drinks provided



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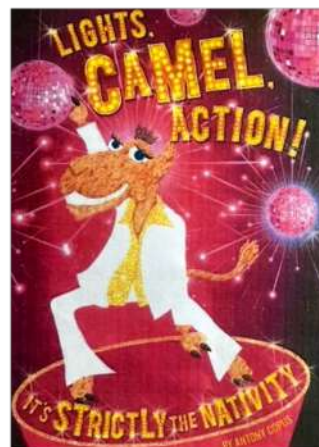
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Christmas with the Church in South Marston

by Diane Whitford

On the 4th of December, our Christingle Service in St Mary Magdalene church was full with children and their families. All the children were given a Christingle and these were lit during the singing of the Christingle song and carefully blown out afterwards for the children to take home. There was a special performance from the South Marston School choir who sang Silent Night and Ding Dong Merrily on High, beautifully. At the retiring collection, £82 was raised for the Children's Society.

The School's next appearance in Church was for rehearsals and then the final performances of their Nativity play on the 13th of December. The play was performed by the younger members of the School, with each child having a part to play in telling the story of the Nativity, but with a very different slant in the form of Strictly Come Dancing. There were brilliant performances from the children and the usual Strictly panel with very recognisable members. Again the attendees gave generously, this time towards the heating of the church.



As well as church services during December, a Craft Fayre was held on the 10th of December in our Village Hall, with lots of stalls selling beautiful hand crafted items with Christmas in mind.



Coffee and delicious cakes were served with the proceeds of £71 going towards the church to help support our beautiful building.

Meeting Point met on the third Saturday of December as usual when, along with refreshments, we welcomed extra stalls full of more crafted items, allowing for last minute shopping. A most enjoyable morning.

On the 23rd we gathered at the church to sing carols and hear lessons in celebration of Christmas. The Crib Service was on Christmas Eve and families came to hear the story of the birth of Jesus and see the baby placed in his crib. Then at 9pm we celebrated our Christmas Communion.

All our services have been very well attended and we are grateful to the people of South Marston who have come to these and supported our Village church, and to those who have given generously in other ways.

The Harris Trust hampers deliver the spirit of Christmas



Every year, for many years, the F & E Harris Memorial Trust has provided a very welcome Christmas hamper to the village 'seniors'.

The tradition has gradually changed over the years. In the early years, it was an actual 'hamper' box full of a variety of Christmas goodies which had to be assembled and packed, stored and made available for people to collect on a set day before Christmas.

In recent years, it was recognised that recipients may benefit more from being able to choose their own Christmas fare. This is never more so than in the current climate where the cost of living means that some are having to be careful about managing their finances and the feedback received shows this is much preferred.

As a result, this year's Harris Trust gift focused on giving Sainsbury's vouchers so recipients could choose their own, personalised 'hamper'.

It was accompanied by the first Harris Trust Christmas card, specifically designed to reflect its support for the community. It was wonderful to see one of the projects, the new Witches Hat play equipment on the Rec, pictured with Christmas decorations!

For the first time, distribution of the hampers took place inside the Carriers Arms. Many thanks to Amanda and the team at the Carriers for ensuring we had a place for people to keep warm, sit, chat and enjoy refreshments whilst wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. The experience helped with the introduction of the 'Warm Space' initiative that the Carriers is now offering (see page 8 for more details).



Parish Council Information Event

3 - 7.30pm, Thursday 2nd March

Village Hall

Have your say

by Sylvia Brown, Vice Chair

This will be your opportunity to have a say on a number of plans to improve road safety in the village, add new attractions to our local green spaces and provide more play equipment on the Recreation Ground.

Traffic Calming : proposals for a 20mph zone in the central village area

Many residents will remember previous work done on this. At the time, the cost was too great for the Parish Council to do this alone, but now Swindon Borough has some government funding to support this kind of work.

Road humps of the kind that littered residential streets in the past were disliked by both drivers and residents. Different ways of reducing traffic speeds are now more common, whether by chicanes and build-outs or vehicle activated signs. There are rules and regulations about the kind of street 'furniture' that can be used and where they can be located. A draft scheme, drawn up by the Borough officers, will be on show at this event and residents will be able to input comments to the final design. The Officer will be at the event, so can answer any questions that arise.

Oxleaze Wood - renovating and adding attractions for visitors

Oxleaze Wood was created nearly 30 years ago. It is owned by Swindon Borough, but is now in need of some renovation. Ash dieback has led to many dead or dying trees, hedges have not been maintained and trees that were originally planted too close together have little space to thrive.

It is one of our important local woodlands, so the Parish Council has taken on significant work to improve it. Our 'open space volunteers' and the regular volunteering days we have run with local companies and organisations have all helped to do a fantastic job in clearing dead wood, pruning trees and creating wildlife habitats.



'Planning obligations' money associated with the Magdalene Close development has now made funding available for local Community Forest areas. Although the work at Oxleaze Wood will be authorised by the Borough, the Parish Council has been the driver of proposals to make best use of this funding. We now have the approval of Swindon's Community Forest officer to take our proposals further

Items requiring improvement include renovation of the gateway and continuing to manage the trees, but we also want install a wetland area and improve the pathways.

One element is how to improve its amenity spaces. Whereas it is very well used by walkers, we want to do more than offer what amounts, at most, to a 15 minute walk around the circular path. By creating open areas to stop, with seating and woodland attractions, we hope that families will get more value from a trip. We want to hear your ideas and preferences for what we can offer.



Recreation Ground Play Equipment - the second phase

The new Witches Hat and climbing frame have been a great success, and SMRA are now planning for the next phase which will also be funded from the Magdalene Close development 'planning obligations'. We know further work needs to be done on draining the 'kick about' area, but will have sufficient money to also install further equipment.

The current provision for the 5 to 8 age range is reaching its end of life, so that should be a priority, and the swings have seen better days. SMRA want to display various options at the event, and get your ideas on what would be of most value.



The Information Event will be held on 2nd March.

Keep a look out for updates on Facebook, South Marston website, village noticeboards and our new roadside notices



Warm Space at The Carriers Arms

by Anne Featherstone

Friday afternoon meets continue, with both people and dogs attending. The warm welcome, free tea, coffee, and biscuits were thought to be such a treat, and all said they would come every Friday and let others know.

Some younger people expressed an interest in coming in out of the cold, particularly as they seem to have a shorter school day on Fridays. They are very welcome.

Amanda and her daughter, who run it, are keen to have some organised activities on occasions and a change of refreshments. Ideas so far include a game of bingo, and a sing-along to an accordion. We do seem to find lots to talk about!!

Barry Thunder has kindly provided 100 paper cups and a small budget has been requested from the Parish Council to help with the cost of refreshments.

The feedback from everyone is very positive. Well done to The Carriers!

South Marston Friendly Club

The club organises monthly social events and talks with refreshments in the Village Hall for village residents and those aged over 50 in the nearby community.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 10th January at 2pm

'A Social Afternoon' with bingo, quiz & mince pies

Tuesday 14th February at 2pm

'Meet our Community Police' - A team dedicated to serve the local community

Tuesday 14th March at 2pm

'A Year in the Life of an Owl' - Photographs and talk by Philip Male

Tuesday 11th April at 2pm

'Interesting Firsts and the Oldest Surviving Examples' - A presentation by Chris Brooks

For more information about the club, please contact Sheila on telephone number 828545 or email – smfriendlyclub@gmail.com.

SMRA Update

by Jenny McEwen

Volunteers on the Management Committee would have liked a break over Christmas, but it was not to be. Major issues erupted with water leaks in the changing rooms and toilets on the Recreation Ground. Valiant efforts over a period of days by Colin and Lionel Cave-Ayland to stem the flow only resulted in more problems being identified elsewhere in the pipe systems. By the time you are reading this, we have hopefully had all the repairs done. However, it shows how SMRA is struggling with facilities that are reaching the end of their life, but are not worth replacing when brand new facilities will be provided, hopefully in a couple of years, as a result of the housing development in the village.

Our efforts to insulate the Village Hall have been largely completed, which will benefit all users as well as reduce the size of the increase in utility costs. We are very grateful to the Harris Trust for ensuring this work could take place before the worst of the winter weather. Modern technology has also helped - Rachel has a phone app through which she can control the heating without actually getting out of bed!

Looking forward to 2023, SMRA is supporting the efforts of village volunteers who are planning the Coronation celebrations in May. As our contribution, we will be providing the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground facilities at no charge, overseeing the financial transactions and providing insurance cover.

After years of patching up the old canvas marquees, we have been lucky to acquire a modern one, thanks to a local donor and spare parts purchased with a grant from the Harris Trust. So, if it rains on the weekend of May 6th, we can all keep dry whilst continuing our festivities.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK FOR THE VILLAGE BY JOINING OUR 100 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW. If you already have a number, get another and increase your chances of winning. See page 10 for details.

Finally, many thanks to those involved with erecting the magnificent Christmas Tree outside the Hall. It was donated by Viv Drayton as it was getting too big for his garden. The helpers had quite a fight with it because it was so large, and putting the lights onto such a big tree wasn't easy either. Thanks go to Steve and Gareth Case, Liam Northeast, Brian Cornes and Reg Kilfoyle, and to Mary and Rachel Case for the lights.

Upcoming Road Closures

by Barry Thunder

Highworth Road in South Marston (Northerly from Old Vicarage Road to Supermarine Road) will be temporarily closed from Monday 13th of February 2023 until Friday 3rd of March 2023.



The closure will be required to allow for Thames Water, Openreach and Scottish and Southern Electric (SSE) to carry out works.

We have been able to combine these works to avoid their being conducted over 3 separate road closures and ensure that the closure starts at the School half term holiday, thereby minimising the disruption as much as possible.

The road will be closed to allow for the following works:

- SSE access to install new electricity cable
- Thames Water to carry out sewer repairs and reduce risk of flooding
- Openreach access to telegraph poles to provide fibre cabling

Well Done Winners!

Congratulations from South Marston Recreation Association to our November and December winners.



NOVEMBER

£10 No. 55 Ros Liddiard
£10 No. 26 John Woodward
£10 No. 54 Pam Jackson
£10 No. 73 Barbara Rudnik

DECEMBER

£100 No. 38 Terry Sansum
£10 No. 37 Arthur Rimmer
£10 No. 28 Jenny McEwen
£10 No. 2 Isabella Clark
£10 No. 65 Hailley Phillips

The 100 Club is an annual subscription of £12 with the chance of winning £10, £30 or £100. All profits are used to support the maintenance of the Recreation Ground and the Village Hall. SMRA would like to thank all the participants and Club collectors for their continued support, especially in these difficult times.

If you are interested in supporting the SMRA, please contact Julie Hatherall on 07749211867 or Angela Newton on 07789068340 to obtain a number and participate in the monthly draw.

Exciting upcoming events at the Carriers Arms !!!

Saturday 28th January Bee Skas at 9pm—This is now to be rescheduled for later in the year. Look out on our Facebook page or our advertisements on this very popular 6 piece Ska band.



Saturday 25th February – 8.30 / 9pm 'Pulse' mother and son duo.

Saturday 22nd April – 9pm, Chelsea Millard, solo performer covering artists such as **Bruno Mars, Bonnie Tyler, Amy Winehouse and Brian Adams.**

Check our Facebook page for our latest updates, upcoming St Patrick's Day in March.



Real ale on tap.

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Lambing
8th - 11th Feb!
-see website for more dates-

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*from Feb half term, extra charge applies.

South Marston Gardening Club

by Angela Newton

2023 MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMME

All our events are held in South Marston Village Hall from 7.30pm - 9.30pm unless otherwise stated. We don't meet in January or February, so our first meeting will be our AGM in March.

Join the Gardening Club for £12, annual membership or £3 on the door as a visitor.

Dates for your diary;

- Monday 6th of March - AGM & Annual Registration, and Speaker Mandy Bradshaw 'Finding the Angle at Chelsea'
- Saturday 25th of March – 2pm to 4pm, 'Seed Swap'
- Monday 3rd of April - Speaker Lynda Warren 'A Spoonful of Herbs'
- Monday 8th of May (1st Bank Holiday) - Speakers Pete and Bob Biggs 'Early Summer Colour'
- Monday 5th of June - 6.30pm - 8.30pm, Plant Sale
- Monday 3rd of July - Speaker Anne Luder, 'Naturally Native'
- Saturday 19th of August - Annual Flower and Produce Show (for classes and timings please refer to the Schedule)
- Monday 4th of September - Speaker Sonia Wright, 'Autumn Garden'
- Monday 2nd of October - Speaker Harriet Rycroft 'Planting Pots for Winter Interest and Spring Joy'
- Monday 6th of November - Workshop
- Monday 4th of December - Social Evening

Here's a sneaky peak of a few of the categories in our Annual Show in August.

Cakes, Bakes and Preserves

Our 'flavoured' cake this year is 'Dorset Apple'.

We've added Salsa and Relish, along with chutney and Piccalilli.



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Children's Section Ages 0-16 years

- Class G - 5 years and under, a potato print picture
- Class H - 6 to 8 Years, a potato head
- Class I - 9 to 11 Years, 4 x cupcakes and decoration
- Class J - 12 to 16 Years, a baked cake (any size or flavour)

Usually the rules state 'Only one entry per class per person'. This year we are trialing unlimited entries, so you will be able to enter each class as many times as you like.

For instance, if you have several different fruit jam flavours, you will be able to enter all in the class No. 52 - soft fruit jam. This change applies to all Classes 1 - 74.

The two Photography Categories this year are;

- 'Wildlife' (not zoo animals)
- 'A recognisable building in South Marston'

Resident photographer Stacy Woolhouse has provided examples to the right, together with some photography tips below.

"When taking wildlife photos, always make sure you have the eyes of the subject in focus and sharp, and also try to get light in them to give it life. Think about composition! The light!"

"For example: have the subject looking into the frame, or directly at you. A silhouette. Think out of the box to make that photo stand out from the crowd."

"On the subject of a building in the village or a recognisable subject, think about how you can make the subject look different to how you would see it with your own eyes!"

For more information or for a copy of the 2023 Show Schedule, please contact Angela Newton on 07789068340 or email angelanewton01@gmail.com.





by Colin McEwen

Flood Risk - maintaining the flood storage lagoons

As noted in previous issues, we have been trying to get the Borough to implement a recorded inspection and maintenance regime for the floodwater storage lagoons upstream of the village following the 2007 floods.

Amended plans for the ex-Honda site have been submitted by Panattoni, with the Borough's drainage officer insisting on more details to prevent flooding. It's good to know that the risks to the village are being taken seriously.

As a result of having badgered the Borough about our concerns, an inspection of the flood storage lagoons is being carried out and the report is expected in the Spring. A drainage officer has now forced his way to the Keypoint lagoon, which is a Borough responsibility, but it was too overgrown to make an inspection. Contractors are to be requested to clear the undergrowth sufficiently for the inspection to take place.

The officer also looked at the lagoon to the north of Highworth Road and is contacting the site owners to ask that silt is cleared.

HHT major development at South Marston and Rowborough

Yet another raft of documents has appeared on the Borough's Planning Portal. It is clear that the Taylor Wimpey development to the south of Magdalene Close is being built ahead of, and largely separate from, the other development parcels. The effect of this is that the eventual conversion of the construction road between Old Vicarage Lane and Thornhill Road to a Highway for public use may be delayed for some years after the Taylor Wimpey site is completed.

We are therefore looking at how these developments along Old Vicarage Lane can be fitted in with building work, given that some of the infrastructure and connections that they will benefit from will be done at a later date.

The only certainty we have is that the A420/Carpenter's Arms signalled junction has to be completed ahead of any occupation of housing. This will offer better access out of the village for cars and reduce traffic at Pound Corner. However, it will not be suitable for pedestrians or cyclists and so we are also pushing for the bridleway through to Morses Lane to be made up to provide a useable cycle and pedestrian route for both existing and new residents.

Hedges and hedge-cutting in the village

Following the Borough's decision to withdraw from regular maintenance work a few years ago, the Parish Council uses its powers to ensure that most hedges on village roads and footways are cut. However, there are some hedges belonging to third parties that we do not have the power to cut and we have to encourage landowners to see to them instead.

We would like to thank the resident at Cambria Cottage who has cut back the hedge at Pound Corner and made a significant difference to the sight lines at the T junction.

Traffic Calming

The Borough has revised our 20mph zone plans from 2013 and I am (again) optimistic that we may see these implemented shortly.



Getting Highway issues on the radar

There is an easy to use phone 'app' called '**FIX MY STREET**' on which all defects to the road surfaces and signage can be reported by any resident. It doesn't guarantee the local Highways Authority will take immediate action, but officially logging it is one way of ensuring the problem is, and remains, visible to all. It is also much easier than using any other reporting system (including writing to the Parish Council!).

If anyone would be prepared to regularly check the main village roads for defects and report them, it would be a great help to us and other residents. If you are interested, please either just do it, or contact our clerk Kevin to put it on a semi-formal basis.

Youth Club

The children of the village still remain without a Youth Club. The structures remain ready to be picked up and support is available from both the Parish Council and the Borough. If you might be interested, please contact our Clerk Kevin or a Councillor.



PLEASE COME ALONG!

One of the problems with representing the views of the community is knowing what those views are. We are always pleased to talk to residents at our 'open ten minutes' before our formal meetings that start at 7.30pm each third Tuesday of the month. We also hold periodic information events.

I hope that you will be able come along to our upcoming Information Event at the Village Hall on **Thursday 2nd March** (see pages 6 & 7), and give your opinions on the topics, or just for a look and a chat!

Village Activities and Projects

by Chris Brooks and Barry Thunder, Open Spaces Working Group

As a volunteer group of the Parish Council, we are involved in the ongoing development and maintenance of the green spaces within the Parish.

The focus last year was in Oxleaze Wood. Many of the ash trees there are suffering from ash dieback and require removal before they become unsafe to the public. At the same time, we are also coppicing the many hazels as part of routine maintenance.

Our small group of village volunteers together with teams from STERIS have felled some 40 ash trees and cut back many of the hazels. This has freed growing space within the wood, and as such has allowed us to replant a variety of new tree and bush species that our research has indicated will manage long term healthy growth, capable of coping with our changing climatic conditions.

Looking forward, to take account of the coming changes to village housing numbers, we have put together plans to add to the woodland with possible extensions to the pathways and seating features.

In other areas we are planning improvements to the Village Garden / War Memorial planted area and fencing. At Oak Tree Corner, along the Highworth Road, the two wooden bridges and wildflower area require maintenance. In St. Julian's woodland, we will be planting a variety of flowering climbers around the Gazebo and clearing parts of South Marston Brook.

Soon we expect to be involved in developing the field adjoining the Recreation Ground and a wider footpath / cycleway network.

To achieve all the above, we are looking to expand our volunteer group.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Chris Brooks at wtmh1@gmail.com or Barry Thunder at barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk.

We are planning volunteer work days in January, February and March. Please contact us for specific dates.



Heritage Garden Springtime Visit

by Lionel Cave-Ayland

We hope to pay a return visit to celebrate the cherry blossom and spring bulbs. This will be mid week, around the end of March, but sometimes nature changes the timings, so the date will be confirmed nearer the time.

We will meet at the gardens and have a short walk, then travel to the Carriers Arms where tea and coffee can be purchased. We hope to be able to provide complimentary cakes.



Last year, over 30 of our village seniors (eligible for Xmas hampers) enjoyed our summer visit. Any village seniors who wish to join us, please register your interest by leaving your details via the following options: phone 01793 828091, text 07811 394789 or email to caveayland@aol.com

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What is this?

by Sylvia Brown

This magnificent 'Ark' artefact is proudly sitting on a window ledge in the corridor of the old part of the School. It is notable not just for its craftsmanship, but its design with the church-like building and spire atop a sailing vessel.

Apparently, until recent years, it was located in the Library area of the School.

Does anyone know its history? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Email editor@southmarston.org.uk and let's find out more about it!

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South Marston Family Walk and Treasure Hunt

by Lionel Cave-Ayland



What better way to start the year than with a short walk and treasure hunt. Over two dozen hardy parents and children braved the elements to enjoy each other's company, the fresh air and the challenge of answering ten treasure hunt clues. Ages ranged from fifteen months through to pensioners.

Starting at the Glebe in front of the Church, we continued through the village, passing the School and new housing development. Travelling down the bridleway, children enjoyed the many large puddles. We passed one of the oldest houses in the village, then back across fields to venture into St Julian's Wood. Finally, we ended up at the Village Hall for refreshments and treats, provided by Claire Fleming, Travel Planning Officer for Swindon Borough Council. The children also completed a jigsaw featuring a picture of the Heritage Garden, which was the 'Treasure'.



Thanks to Claire for her original concept of a winter walk and continued support for projects involving South Marston. Janet and I have enjoyed designing the walk and associated treasure hunt, and we look forward to working with Claire again.

Thoughts from the vicarage

Happy New Year

Traditionally it is the time when we all make New Year's resolutions; we will do more exercise, eat a little less, lose weight, spend more time with family, carve out more me time, etc.

How long do these resolutions last for you I wonder? Last year mine involved joining a book club which met once a month on Zoom. Though I managed to read all but one book (just couldn't get into it), I didn't make all the meetings. I would call that an 80% win.



Now here is the rub. When we set these new resolutions do we aim for 100% success? Well, that probably sets us up for failure as no-one (except Jesus) is perfect! Perhaps we all need to settle on aiming for good enough and give ourselves a well done, even if we only managed 50% success. After all what do we do with children? We constantly cheer every little success, first step, finishing their plate, doing a shoelace up, and so on. Maybe if we cheered ourselves a little more for simple things like making our beds we'd all be better off.

The reality is though the 80% rule can be applied to a lot of things; often it's the 20% or less that do 80% or more of the work! Which brings me to my dear volunteers who have worked so hard over the Christmas period, decorating and cleaning the churches, flower arranging, stewarding, service planning, rehearsing, and welcoming visitors, and often this is the same person doing all these things!

My deepest thanks go to these people without whom I couldn't do this role, without whom there would be no church.

Now the very serious bit, which is a cry for help. If you want to see your church open, if you want your church to be around for your children and grandchildren and their grandchildren, to get baptised and married in, then we need your help. You don't have to come to church regularly to help us, we would just love you to be involved, be that weeding our churchyards, doing a bit of dusting, or learning a new skill like bell ringing. We need you.

Thank you again my dear volunteers - you are all fantastic.

Elveen

Stratton Team Ministry

Seeking, Sharing and Serving God Together

Stratton Team Ministry will be conducting Sunday Morning services at South Marston St Mary Magdalene Church (Unless otherwise stated).

15th January	10.30	Team Service at <i>Stratton Methodist Church</i>
5th February	10.00	All Age Worship
12th February	9.30	Holy Communion
19th February	11.00	Team Service at <i>Coleview Community Centre</i>
5th March	10.00	All Age Worship
2nd April	10.00	All Age Worship
9th April	9.30	Holy Communion

Please Note up to date Covid guidance from the Government and Church of England is followed.

Saturday Scene offer a very friendly welcome and give an informal space for children to explore together in a Christian environment. Join us in St Margaret's Centre at 4pm on Saturday **14th of January, 11th of February & 11th of March 2023.**

Getting in touch

We are very happy to hear from you if you have any questions about the church, our timetable of services and events, or if you need support.

Church Office:

☎ 01793 826505

💻 stmargaretsoffice2@btconnect.com www.strattonteamministry.co.uk

South Marston Churchwarden:

Diane Whitford ☎ 01793 824339

St Mary Magdalene Church is open daily and Stratton Team Ministry is pleased to welcome you for Private Prayer.

MEETING POINT



St Mary Magdalene Church, South Marston

The 'drop in' is for all members of our community

Come and Join Us for Coffee

in the Village Hall, from 10.00 - 12.00

on Saturday 21st of January and 18th of February
and every 3rd Saturday in the month

Enquiries or reservations please call 831473.

Upcoming Fundraising

by Lara Hill



This year sees the return of two of the most popular fundraising events for Prospect Hospice – the Spring Run and Starlight Walk.

The Spring Run takes place on Sunday 12th of March at Stanton Country Park, with 3 options to choose from: a 2.5km fun run, a 5km or a 10km multi-terrain route, both of which are chip timed.

All runners will receive a medal, with entry costing £7 for the 2.5km run, £15 for the 5km run, and £18 for the 10km run.

The Starlight Walk also makes its return on Saturday 24th of June, with 10km and 15km routes and a 'festival fever' theme. Signing up before 1st of April gives you the early bird price of £12; after this, entry is £15.

For more information on both of these events and more, visit our website at www.prospect-hospice.net.

BARNES COACHES

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London Overnight
Sun 12th Feb 2023
2 Days: From £189pp
Includes Tower Bridge
Experience & Thames Cruise!



Paignton Winter Warmer
Mon 20th Feb 2023
5 Days: From £349pp
Includes winter warmer
entertainment: bingo, quiz,
nightly entertainment etc.



Eastbourne
Mon 6th March 2023
5 Days: From £419pp
Includes visits to Arundel,
Brighton, Alfriston &
Chichester!



Weymouth
Mon 6th March 2023
5 Days: From £389pp
Includes visits to West Bay,
Christchurch, Lyme Regis,
Swanage, Corfe & more!



Isle of Wight, Sandown
Sun 19th March 2023
6 Days: From £469pp
Includes visits to Alum Bay,
West Cowes, Ryde, Shanklin
& Godshill.



Bournemouth All Inclusive Spring Sun
Mon 20th March 2023
5 Days: From £429pp
Including Beaulieu, New
Forest, Christchurch & more!



Jersey by Sea
Thu 6th April 2023
6 Days: From £539pp
Including full-day island
coastal tour!



Easter Mystery Holiday
Fri 7th April 2023
4 Days: From £439pp
Includes an Easter egg
& Easter Sunday lunch
carvery!



Jurassic Coast, Sidmouth
Tue 11th April 2023
5 Days: From £469pp
Includes visits to Exeter,
West Bay, Lyme Regis,
Dawlish, Teignmouth &
Wells!



Scarborough, Coast & The Yorkshire Moors
Mon 17th April 2023
5 Days: From £489pp
Including North York Moors
Railway & Private Tour of
Burton Agnes Hall!

Home pickup & drop off service available on all tours 4 days & over! See website for full details.
REQUEST YOUR FREE 2023 HOLIDAY BROCHURE TODAY & START PLANNING YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY!

Useful Contacts

South Marston Parish Council: clerk@southmarston.org.uk 686150

Wiltshire Police Community Support: PCSO Jocasta Bennett 07825658418

Neighbourhood Watch: martinhoffen@smsinternet.co.uk 823513

South Marston Church: via Stratton Team Ministry 826505

Church Warden: Diane Whitford 824339

Parochial Church Council (PCC): William Hiscocks, Diane Whitford,
Mary Crichton and Dorinda Balchin

Meeting Point: Richard 831473, **Saturday Scene:** Pat England 826505

South Marston Church of England Primary School: 823379

SMRA: Julie Hatherall 07749211867, Jenny McEwen 07770633362

Village Hall hire: Rachel Case on rcase@sky.com 07741549393

Youth Club: clerk@southmarston.org.uk 686150

Tots and Toddlers: racheljones878@gmail.com, emmalouiselarge@hotmail.com

F&E Harris Memorial Trust: Robbie Taylor 823757

Gardening Club: Angela Newton angelanewton01@gmail.com, Mike New 827807
07789068340

Friendly Club: smfriendlyclub@gmail.com Sheila on 828545

Facebook page (South Marston): Sharon editor@southmarston.org.uk

Swindon Dial a Ride: 521123

Swindon Streetsmart 445501 or streetsmart@swindon.gov.uk

Editor's note

Happy New Year! Following another success of SMILE and a visit from Santa, we now look ahead to more events in 2023, including the popular Gardening Club Annual Produce Show in August.

If you would prefer to receive Community News by email, please send a request to editor@southmarston.org.uk. Alternatively, read it on the Community News page of the village website at <http://southmarston.org.uk/latest-posts/community-news>.

With best wishes, Sharon

About Community News

South Marston Community News is produced by the Communications Working Group of South Marston Parish Council. Although funded by the Parish Council, the Editorial Board of Community News operates independently and aims to produce an impartial, community focused magazine of interest to all residents.



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