

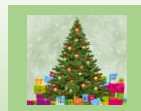
December 2024 / January 2025

KINGTON ST MICHAEL NEWSLETTER

Funded by the Parish Council and distributed by village volunteers.

Editor: Avril Balmforth, deputy editor: Linda Durno.

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🎄 YOUR VILLAGE SHOP CHRISTMAS NEWS 🎄

The shop team would like to thank all customers who have been patient during the changeover to the new computerised till. The shop now has a specific till co-ordinator who supports the volunteers with training, as well as troubleshooting any issues as they come up. The new till is helping the shop to improve the way it serves customers, as well as providing important data about how products are selling.

Christmas meat orders for turkeys, turkey crowns, ham, gammon, etc from Allington Farm, must be placed by Monday 9th December, for collection on Monday 23rd December. It's a good way to avoid the queues and support the shop - and the price is the same as at Allington; a deposit is payable when placing your order.

Village shop Christmas hampers make a great, personalised gift. You can select your products, or specify a price and a general idea of what you would like in the hamper. There are Tracklements local preserves, quality wines, local honey, Jeremy Clarkson's Hawkstone beers, luxury chocolates, Artisan candles, and many other treats; last orders for Christmas by Friday 20th December.

The shop has new Christmas cards and gift wrap from Whistlefish, in addition to a wide range of birthday and occasion cards at reasonable prices. It also stock Christmas stamps and stamps of most denominations.

The village shop very much needs your support to stay open. It's vital for those villagers who cannot easily get out of the village and who rely on it being here, as well as being an asset to community life. If villagers can change their habits and divert £5-£10 of their usual weekly budget to spend in their community shop, for example on milk or eggs, it can help to ensure that it survives. The shop has much more than the basics, so if you haven't been in for a while, please drop in and have a look.

Get regular updates about new products or offers by following the shop on Facebook and Instagram. If you are interested in finding out about volunteering behind the scenes or on the counter, please email hello@kingtonstmichaelshop.co.uk.



BOOK RECYCLING SCHEME

The 80th donation of £50 from this scheme goes to Kington St Michael CE School. The scheme is run from the shop foyer and books are only 50p each.

Village organisations that would like to be considered for a donation should contact

Linda Durno:

kingtonstmichael@btinternet.com

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KINGTON ST MICHAEL CHRISTMAS FAYRE



The village hall Christmas Fayre is the perfect place to get into the Christmas spirit.

There will be a mix of community and small business stalls – perfect for those stocking fillers! It's also a great place to catch up with friends and family over a cup of tea, hot chocolate or a mince pie.

If you have any unwanted presents at the back of your cupboard that you would like to rehome, please donate them to our tombola stall by dropping them off at Linda Mills' house – 81A KSM (to the left of the pub), or email ksmhalltreasurer@gmail.com
Thank you!

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Christmas is different for everyone, whether you are busy with the hustle and bustle of a family Christmas, or finding this is a more difficult time for you with memories of times past. The church community warmly welcomes you to join them at your village church, where there is a lot happening this month, or to call in at other times to enjoy the peace.

Sunday 1st December, 9.30am: Morning Praise Toy service.

Now is the time to bring new unwrapped gifts for children and young people; these will be taken to local families in need by The Salvation Army. If you would like to give a gift but can't make the service, there is a large box for donations in the porch, until Friday 6th December. Thank you for making another family's Christmas brighter.

Sunday 8th December, 9.30am: Holy Communion.



Sunday 15th December: A Day of celebration!

Village groups have been asked to make a tree that represents them and shows all the different things going on in KSM. The church will be open from 11.30am to see the trees; festive refreshments will be on sale. From **1.30pm - 3.30pm** there will be free Christmas craft activities - take the children along or join in and try something creative yourself! At **4pm** there will be Carols by Candlelight, accompanied by the Chippenham Town band. Mince pies and mulled wine included.

Thursday 19th December, 10am: Holy Communion.

Tuesday 24th December, 9pm: Christmas Eve Holy Communion.

A chance to pause, be peaceful, and to reflect on the joy of Christmas.

January services.

Sunday 5th January, 9.30am: Morning Praise.

Sunday 12th January, 9.30am: Holy Communion.

Thursday 16th January, 10am: Holy Communion.

Sunday 26th January, 4pm: AllTogether@4. All ages worship with activities and refreshments followed by optional Holy Communion at 5.30pm. Come for as long or short a time as you like, at Bybrook Primary School, Yatton Keynell.



*Wishing you all the joy and peace of Christmas and a happy new year
from everyone at St Michael & All Angels*

VILLAGE

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Saturday 1st March, 2025

This is a fun evening where people have starter and main courses in various host houses throughout the village. The evening ends with everyone coming together for dessert, cheese courses and drinks, in KSM Club.

The supper is raising money on behalf of Kington St Michael & All Angels church, to go towards the restoration of the Saxon porch.

Tickets will be available to buy in the village shop from early January, so look out for posters advertising this very popular, fun village event nearer the time.

If you would like to be involved and are able to either host a course or provide a dessert or auction prize, then please contact Lyn North on **07796 666867**.



Village Link



Village Link is an amazing organisation which is in desperate need of volunteer drivers.

As a volunteer you can:

- decide on your availability, stipulate days/times/periods you are available, as well as deciding on a case-by-case basis.
- You will be covered by Village Link's own insurance to protect volunteers against public liability, and paid a mileage allowance, which is currently 45p per mile.
- you will NOT be contacted directly by clients; drivers are only tasked by our coordinators.
- you will be DBS checked, as this is a legal requirement. This is straightforward and nothing to worry about; it will be renewed every three years at no cost to the volunteer.

Village Link is run entirely by volunteers to provide a transport service by drivers, using their own cars, and typically provides client transport for people to visit GP/Dental Surgery appointments, attend luncheon clubs, attend outpatient appointments, collect library books, visit friends or relatives in hospitals/care homes, collect prescriptions, or attend vet appointments.

If you are interested – please call: Liz Banister on (01249) 782117 or email liz@banister.co.uk.

KSM QE2 FIELD

Bonfire night on Saturday 2nd November was a roaring success – almost a sell-out; the weather was kind and those attending were treated to a spectacular fireworks display, and a **whopping £2,606** was raised! These funds will go towards future QE2 Field enhancement projects. All in all, it was a great evening run by village people and enjoyed by our village community.

Thank you to the volunteer team which helped to organise the event, planning months in advance and working hard on the day/night. From ticket sales, bonfire and gazebo set up, cooking, food and bar service, fireworks, marshals, ticket entry and more, this teamwork contributed to another successful event.

Thanks also go to KSM Parish Council, with a special shout out to Viv Vines (Clerk to KSM Parish Council), KSM Club, Kington St Michael Village Shop, Kington Café, Chippenham Pallet Company, MJ Church and Merv Singer and team, for supporting this event. And of course, thanks to everyone who bought tickets and came along – we hope you had a great night.

KSM COMMUNITY PUB GROUP

"We are still awaiting news about the Community Ownership Fund; the Government is giving full consideration to existing commitments on COF and will confirm its intention in due course. In the meantime we are researching other grants and looking at fundraising ideas, so

Stuck for gift ideas for loved ones? Why not buy one of our stylish Jolly Huntsman tankards and help us to fundraise at the same time? We're selling them at a special price of £25 each to local folk, and don't forget that we have the lovely Kington St Michael landmark map mugs at only £10 each, Christmas cards and more.

We'll be at the village Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December, so hopefully see you there, or please contact Alex Hall on (01249) 750602, alex.hall@kington-st-michael.com, or Linda Durno on (01249) 750514, kingtonstmichael@btinternet.com. Other great items are available from our online shop: www.ksmpub.co.uk and we can produce bespoke items for you too!

We are planning to hold a promises auction as a fundraiser in spring 2025 and are collecting promises or donations of services and items. If you are able to help out by offering a service or an item, such as dog walking, babysitting, grass cutting, baking a cake, providing a "tip run", a hamper of goodies, etc, then please contact Alison Curran on (01249) 914100 - alison@curran.org.uk, Gerry Gamble on (01249) 750234 – gerrygamble@hotmail.com, Neil White on (01249) 750499, or email kingtonstmichael@btinternet.com - all donations will be gratefully received."



TREASURER NEEDED!

Could you use your expertise to help your local community in a varied and interesting role?

Kington St Michael Village Shop is looking for a new treasurer to replace our current treasurer, who is down standing after several years. You don't need to be an accountant but you need to be familiar with Excel.

For more information please email Kevin Henderson:

ksmshoptreasurer@yahoo.com



**Rural Arts Touring:
Reflections for Solo Flute
- Klio Blonz**

**Kington St Michael Village Hall,
Friday 13th December, 7.30pm**

International flautist, Klio Blonz, presents her solo programme, "Reflections" - a compelling dialogue between the great Baroque masters, C.P.E. Bach, M. Marais, Telemann, and composers of the present day such as Barry Mills, Neil Lockett, and Catherine Hoover. Beautiful melodies of the past and present, entwining with texts and poems.

Find out more at poundarts.org.uk and visit klioblonz.com.

Tickets: £10 Adults,
£8 Concessions/Under 18s – from the village shop or on the door.

What's on at Kington Café?



December

Sunday 1st: Closed for a private Christmas lunch booking.

Wednesday 4th: Open 11am - 3pm.

Thursday 5th: Closed for a private Christmas lunch booking.

Friday 6th: Open 11am - 3pm.

Saturday 7th: Open 9am - 3pm.

Tuesday 10th: Open 11am - 3pm.

Wednesday 11th: Closed for Christmas lunch

Thursday 12th: Open 11am - 3pm.

Friday 13th: Open 11am - 3pm.

Saturday 14th: Open 9am - 3pm.

Sunday 15th: Closed for a private Christmas lunch booking.

Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th: Closed for Christmas lunches all week.

Saturday 21st December 2024 - Monday 5th January 2025:
Closed for Christmas & New Year.

January

Tuesday 6th January: Closed for essential maintenance.

Saturday 11th: Open 9am - 3pm; Pizza Night 5pm - 8pm.

Sunday 26th: Open 10am - 2pm, serving lunch from 12noon - 2pm. Pre-booking is advised.

Opening hours are subject to change depending on staff availability.

Follow the café on Facebook & Instagram for updates.

Email: orders@kington-café.co.uk Telephone: (01249) 750212.



Roz Savage, MP for the South Cotswolds

Roz is holding regular constituency surgeries to support residents with their concerns. Following parliamentary advice, these surgeries are now by appointment only.

Where possible, appointments will be held virtually. However, Roz is also hosting less frequent in-person surgeries at various locations across the constituency, to ensure accessibility for all residents.

To book an appointment, please email

roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk, or call her office on (01285) 300555. If you have specific accessibility needs, please let the team know when booking.

KINGTON ST MICHAEL WI

2024

Sunday 8th December:

Drinks & Nibbles for the over 60s, 12pm - 2pm in the village hall. If you are over 60, live in Kington St Michael, and haven't received an invitation, please contact Denise Whale:

kingtonsmpres@wiltshirewi.org.uk.

Tuesday 10th December:

Wreath making with Tracey Goodall.

2025

Tuesday 14th January: Viv Penney talks about her trip to Antarctica.

Tuesday 11th February: Pots for the patio, with Maureen Hinton.

Tuesday 11th March:

"Love & Marriage - a Registrar's Story", with Anne Ewing.

Next Newsletter

The deadline for the February/March newsletter is noon on Friday 24th January. Please send your articles to Avril at kingtonnews@gmail.com



NEW RULES FOR KEEPING POULTRY

As of 1st October 2024, all poultry, **including those kept as pets**, must be registered with the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA). This new law applies to everyone; it doesn't matter how many birds you own. It's part of a wider effort to control the spread of avian diseases like bird flu.

To register your birds, go to customer.registration@apha.gov.uk. Failure to register could lead to enforcement action, fines or other legal consequences.