

Charlton

Village



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News

Quarterly Edition | December 2025

For the latest local news...

Visit: www.hugofox.com/community/charlton-parish-council-12680/home | Follow:  Charlton Community Chat

Get Ready, Charlton... Big Events Are Just Around the Corner!


Cllr Chris Donnelly, shares a festive message and village updates

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A letter from Revd Alex - A warm reflection on community, Advent's meaning, and the hope in Christ's birth.

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 Sign up to our Email Alerts

Want to be the first to hear about local events, updates, and community news? Sign up for our email alerts and get the latest from Charlton Village delivered straight to your inbox.



Welcome to the...

Winter Edition of the Charlton Village Newsletter!

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, Charlton is gearing up for a season of community, creativity, and celebration. This winter promises to be full of heartwarming moments—from twinkling festive lights and joyful carol singing to local gatherings that bring neighbours together.

Whether you're joining in the merriness or simply soaking up the seasonal spirit, there's something for everyone to enjoy in the months ahead. We hope this edition helps you stay connected, inspired, and informed as we head into the most magical time of year.

Wishing you warmth and joy, The Charlton Village Newsletter Team.



Get your sparkle on - Charlton's festive fun starts now!

🌟 CVCA Christmas Market & Lights Switch-On | Saturday, 30th November 🌟

Join us for some festive fun as Charlton's CVCA Christmas Market returns, starting at 3pm and finishing at 6pm. Browse seasonal stalls, enjoy delicious treats, and soak up the holiday spirit.

At 5pm, the official 'Lights Switch-On' brings sparkle to the village, by the magical display at Sunnyside Close.

Come along for our much-loved Christmas and lights celebration. With twinkling lights, joyful cheer, and something for everyone - **it's a heartwarming event you won't want to miss!**



👁️ What's On at The Royal Oak...

The Royal Oak in Charlton is pulling out all the stops this season with a packed calendar of events to keep you warm, entertained, and connected through the holidays and into the New Year. Whether you're in the mood for festive fun, community connection, or a good old-fashioned pub night, The Royal Oak has something for everyone. Here's what's coming up:

Breakfast with Santa – Santa's making three special visits to The Royal Oak! Join us for a festive breakfast on 6th, 13th, and 21st December. Tables are bookable via our website - don't miss the magic!

Mingle & Jingle – On Saturday 13th December, enjoy live music from the fabulous Steph Boulton, starting at 8:30pm 'til late. A perfect night to dance, mingle, and soak up the seasonal cheer.

Christmas Quiz Night – Our legendary quiz returns on Sunday 14th December at 7pm. Gather your team and test your festive knowledge!

New Year's Eve Neon Disco - Say goodbye to 2025 in style! This year's Neon-Themed Disco invites you to don your brightest disco gear and party into 2026. Fancy dress is encouraged, with prizes for the best outfits - so get glowing!

And if you're already thinking ahead—2026 has plenty in store! Take a look...

🚗 **Classic Car Nights** - Hosted by the Phoenix Car Club, these popular meets take place on the last Monday of every month (excluding December) from 7pm to 10pm. All are welcome—bring your Classic, Modified, or Interesting car and join the conversation.

☕ **Macmillan Coffee Mornings** - Join us on the last Wednesday of each month from 10am for a warm cuppa and good company, all in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

📺 **Live Sport** - Catch all the action—including TNT Sports—on our indoor and outdoor screens. Whether it's football, rugby, or something else, we've got your viewing covered.

*For St Thomas Church events - see page 8

Parish Council Updates

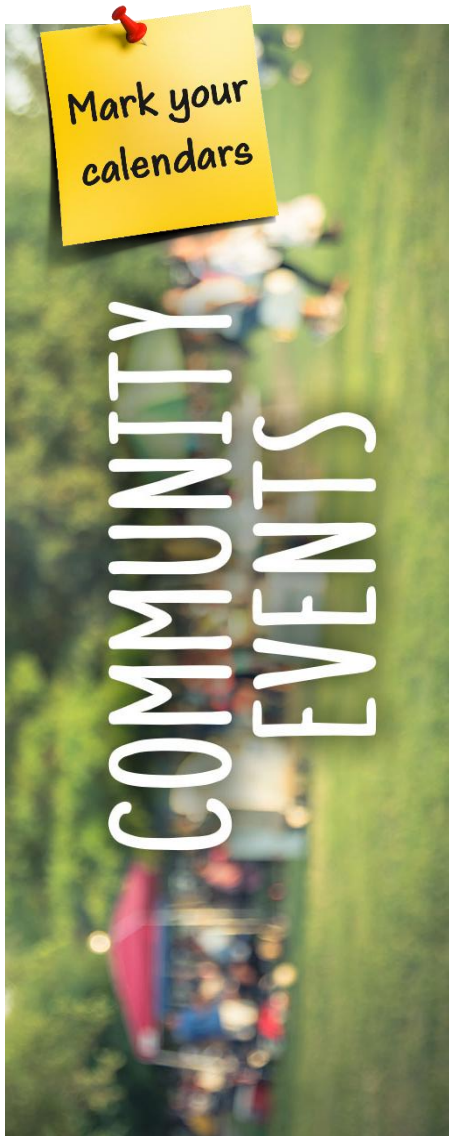
☀️ Charlton Village Community Association – AGM Highlights & 2026 Plans

The Charlton Village Community Association held its Annual General Meeting in October, confirming that the Association remains financially sound and that its Constitution has been reviewed and reaffirmed.

Last year was a resounding success, with both VE Day (8 May) and Community Day (5 July) drawing enthusiastic crowds from Charlton and across the Borough. Huge thanks go to the Committee for their dedication and countless volunteering hours - they continue to be the backbone of our community events.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Committee has proposed a fantastic line-up of events. However, these can only go ahead if we rally enough volunteers. The 'old guard' has done us proud, but it's time for a new wave of helpers. Especially younger residents... so if you are interested, please step up. Planning and organising are just as important as helping out on the day, and every bit of support makes a difference. Below is just a few highlights.

Remember, all Charlton residents and supporters - around 1000 households - are members of the Association. We're hopeful that at least 20 new volunteers will join us next year.



🎵 Spring & Summer Highlights

Date	Event	Details
25 Apr	Music in the Park	Celebrating St George's Day (23 Apr); Beacon lighting, disco, live music, open mic. Likely ticketed. Suggestions for performers welcome!
4 Jul	Community Day	Similar format to previous years; new volunteers will be supported by experienced organisers

🍂 Autumn Possibilities

Date	Event	Details
Autumn Half Term	Outdoor Cinema	Proposed for church grounds; dependent on funding and volunteer support. Updates via social media, website, and Notice Boards

🎄 Winter Festivities

Date	Event	Details
29 Nov	Christmas Fayre	St Thomas Church
30 Nov	Christmas Market	3-6pm at St Thomas Church; stalls and bouncy castle
19 Dec	Lights Switch On	5pm at 4 Sunnyside Close
19 Dec	Carols Round the Tree	St Thomas Church

A full list of events are to be confirmed and we will be shared in the new year.

📍 Volunteer Drop-In Evening 📍

Monday 12 January 2026 | St Thomas Church | 5:00-7:30pm

Come along, show your support, and sign up to help!



Community Hub Update: Plans Shift, Vision Remains

The proposed Community Hub for Charlton will no longer be built on the Salto Car Park, following Salto's decision not to host the building. This marks a disappointing turn, especially after earlier conversations with Salto had been encouraging and constructive.

Despite this setback, the vision for a dedicated Community Hub remains very much alive. The Parish Council is now in early discussions with Test Valley Borough Council to explore alternative locations and next steps. The commitment to creating a welcoming, multi-use space for Charlton residents continues to be a priority.

Updates will be shared via social media and posted on Village Notice Boards as plans evolve. Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work toward a new home for our community.



Keeping Charlton Tidy – Join Our Litter Picking Crew!

Charlton's dedicated litter picking community continues to meet regularly to keep our village looking its best.

These friendly gatherings are a great way to connect with neighbours while making a visible difference to our shared spaces.

 **Upcoming Litter Picking Dates:** 10th January 2026 and 14th February 2026


 **Meeting Point:** 9:30am at the village bus stop

 **What's Provided:** Hi-vis vests, bags, and pickup tools

Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or just curious to give it a try, all are welcome. It's a small act of care that adds up to a big impact.

Future dates will be posted on Charlton Chat and on Village Notice Boards, so keep an eye out and come lend a hand!



Keep Charlton Village Beautiful: In keeping with the spirit of  volunteering, the Association hopes to launch a new initiative: Keep Charlton Village Beautiful. While our litter-picking group is going strong, we'd love to hear from residents willing to help with strimming, cutting, and general upkeep of our lovely village spaces.

If you have time, tools, or enthusiasm—please get in touch!



Bra Recycling Update – Service Temporarily Paused

With the opening of the new Premier shop in Charlton, we've had to make a small change to one of our community recycling initiatives. Unfortunately, the shop no longer has space to host the village's Bra Recycling Box.

As a result, the service is currently suspended while we look for an alternative location. We know many residents have supported this initiative and we're hopeful it can resume soon.

If you have suggestions for a new host site or would like to help keep this project going, please get in touch. Updates will be shared via Charlton Chat and on Village Notice Boards.

Thank you for your continued support in making Charlton a more sustainable and caring community.

LOCAL INFO

A list of useful contacts

Playgroup – Gov Funding from 3yrs

Mon, Wed, Fri | 9am – 12:20pm

Tues, Thurs | 9am – 3:30pm

Contact: Mrs S Hartley

Telephone: 07979 841318

Rainbows

Wednesdays | 5pm – 6:15pm

Contact: Miss A Turner

Telephone: 07794 323293

Thursdays | 5:45pm – 7pm

Contact: Mrs E Taylor

Telephone: 01264 394322

Brownies

Tuesdays | 5:45pm – 7:15pm

Guides

Wednesdays | 6:30pm – 8pm

Contact: Miss K Ryder

Telephone: 07917 697558 or

01264 316807

Keep Fit (all levels)

Thursdays | 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Contact: Mrs E Taylor

Telephone: 01264 394322

Slimming World (Andover Rugby Club)

Tuesdays | 7pm – 8:30pm

Contact: Kate Evans

Telephone: 07568 622189



Charlton Waterside, One of our village's loveliest spots!

Situated next door to Tesco, this little spot is perfect for relaxing or having a picnic... however, it needs regular TLC to keep it looking nice.

If you could commit to this please pass your names to clive.wardcvca@gmail.com

Let's keep Charlton Waterside a place we're proud of!

**"Join us for the
upcoming
parish council
meeting.
Everyone is
welcome!"**

Parish Council Meetings

These meetings are a great opportunity to raise any questions you may have, learn more about what's happening in our community, and find out how you can get involved. Your voice matters, and we'd love to hear from you!

Our Parish Council meetings take place in the village Church, St Thomas. **Everyone is welcome!** Every third Monday of the month, at 7:00pm.

19 Jan | 16 Feb | 16 Mar | 20 Apr | 18 May | 15 Jun | 20 Jul

The agenda will be posted on our website and notice boards. You can also get it by contacting the **Parish Clerk, E Attwood** (see below).

**MAKE A
CHANGE
BECOME A
COUNCILLOR**

Are you passionate about making a difference?

We're seeking dedicated individuals to join our Parish Council, especially younger residents who can bring fresh ideas!

Why Join? Make a positive impact - Gain valuable experience - Engage with your community.

If you're ready to take an active role, contact **Councillor Clive Ward**

Contact details for your Parish Council members

Position	Name	Telephone No.	Email Address	Role & Responsibilities
Chairman	Clive Ward	07538 596 344	cllward@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Neighbourhood Plan, Speed watch, Traffic, Communications, Charlton Lakes, Community Hub, Planning, Footpaths & Rights of Way
Vice Chairman	Norman Woods	07799 408 978	cllwoods@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Book Exchange, Emergency Planning
Parish Councillor	Keith Wilson		cllrwilson@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Speed Watch, Traffic, Communications, Environment & Trees, Footpaths & Rights of way, Charlton Waterside
Parish Councillor	Tracey Tasker		cllrtasker@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Planning
Parish Councillor	Peter Summers		cllrsummers@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Community Hub, Planning, Neighbourhood Plan, Charlton Lakes
Parish Councillor	Aaron Brown		cllrbrown@charlton-pc.gov.uk	
Parish Councillor	Emma Curry		cllrcurry@charlton-pc.gov.uk	
Parish Councillor	Jayne Mockford		cllrmockford@charlton-pc.gov.uk	
Parish Clerk	Eveline Attwood	07534 336 756	clerk@charlton-pc.gov.uk	

Contact details for your local Borough Councillor:

Linda Lashbrook	01264 773588 07766 708 061	cllrllashbrook@testvalley.gov.uk
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Contact details for your local County Councillor:

Christopher Donnelly	07738 289 858	Chris.Donnelly@hants.gov.uk or cllrndonnelly@testvalley.gov.uk
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Cllr Chris Donnelly's festive message

Councillor Chris Donnelly, Hampshire County Councillor for Andover West reflects on a busy year of local challenges and progress—from potholes to public transport—and sends warm Christmas wishes to Charlton residents, with hope for a brighter, more connected 2026.

"It's hard to believe that we are on the threshold of Christmas already. I must confess, I don't particularly like the night's drawing in, the cold and the wet. In addition to that, if you work for a local authority, the winter marks the advent of the dreaded pothole season, where no sooner is one filled than it returns somewhere nearby, as if it pays rent on the street.

2025 has been another very busy year in both Charlton and at County Hall.

January and February saw us start the year with very high groundwater levels following a wet winter. This led to Southern Water placing tankers on the road to Penton which caused severe disruption. Trials of a new pipe sealant to prevent groundwater ingress, and remove the need for 'over pumping' have gone well in the southern parishes and I am hopeful that Penton and Charlton will be next. So far, Southern Water seem to be willing to do it.

April saw new bus routes rolled out by Stagecoach for Andover, which pleased some and annoyed others. The reason for this is because Stagecoach had to make the routes commercially viable as developer contributions from Picket Twenty, Picket Piece and Augusta Park had run out. This meant that they needed to get as many people as possible on one route, which has led to the changed routes. I dealt with many requests from residents for help and information on these, particularly those accessing the War Memorial Hospital.

The Charlton beacon which was forged for the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee has once again shown its value, and looked spectacular at the VE80 commemorations in May. Charlton Parish Council are one of the most proactive in the county division and I know how much the events which they organise are appreciated and enjoyed by all of us.

In June, I made myself rather unpopular with some county colleagues for voting against the proposal to merge Test Valley with Southampton and Eastleigh, on the basis that it would expose us to £1b of un-ringfenced debt and raise the possibility of even more houses being forced upon our already fragile ecosystem. Local Government Reorganisation is not our choice and in my view is an unwelcome distraction from the bread and butter business of delivering and improving local services, but it is vitally important that we get this right. It is my duty to represent you, the electorate, and I have yet to meet a single person who supported such a merger, so I had no choice but to make a stand. Instead, I supported the alternative proposal of a Test Valley – New Forest – Winchester – East Hants authority, which is more rural and financially sustainable.

July saw our new MP, Caroline Noakes, and I stand in the rain for the Charlton Community Day and speak to many local residents and hear their concerns. It's always good to get some face-to-face time to talk in more detail with people and despite the damp weather it was lovely to see so many familiar faces. I also enjoyed meeting the therapy goats, £3 well spent.

The biggest question in my inbox this year from Charlton is "When will you resurface Foxcotte Road?" Well hopefully, by the time you read this, it will have been done during November. I recently wrote to the Director of Highways to raise the issues around the roundabout, particularly one example of where two repairs had been done leaving a pothole in the middle. Things like that make us look daft, and the quality control over contractors needs to improve.

We now finish the year, hopefully in a better position than last January, but aware that there are challenges ahead. Christmas for me is a time when I enjoy attending the local carol services, the various villages switching their Christmas tree lights on, and meeting old friends. My mum is a lay preacher up in a small village in Peeblesshire, and so my Christmas will be spent decorating the church, calling in on some of our more isolated villagers, and watching my favourite Christmas programme, Carols from Kings, which has such beautiful music and readings, and is one of the annual 'markers' which are so important to the rhythm of our lives. I will also try to exercise some self-restraint when it comes to eating and drinking, I have lost some weight this year and I do not want it to reappear any more than the cursed potholes.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas, particularly if your family or friends are far away, and I hope that 2026 brings us hope, happiness and prosperity in this beautiful part of Hampshire."

Cllr Chris Donnelly - Hampshire County Councillor for Andover West





Your Community Updates

Stories, pictures and updates shared by you...



Remembrance Poppies in Charlton

Each year, the sight of Poppies adorning Charlton's lampposts ahead of Remembrance Day, brings a deep sense of pride to many in our community - especially our veterans. Syd Kassim shares:

"Myself and I'm sure many other veterans feel so proud when we see the Poppies that are installed around Charlton's lampposts by the Parish Council every year prior to Remembrance Day."

This year, with the Parish Council's support, Syd and fellow veteran Alan Blowers took the initiative to temporarily and carefully install additional Poppies along Mercia Avenue. Their thoughtful contribution adds to the village's tribute to those who have served, and serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made.

Thank you to Syd, Alan, and all who help keep the spirit of Remembrance alive in Charlton.

Mercia Avenue's Winter Wonderland Returns — With Double the Cheer!



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... and Mercia Avenue is once again transforming into a sparkling Winter Wonderland!

Thanks to the incredible efforts of residents and the growing tradition of festive lights, this magical display has become a seasonal highlight—not just for Charlton, but for families from across Andover and beyond.

Each year, more and more visitors make Mercia Avenue part of their Christmas celebrations, strolling through the twinkling displays and soaking up the joyful atmosphere. In response to the overwhelming support and generosity of previous years, we're delighted to announce that this year there will be two charity collection boxes along the avenue.

The chosen charities for 2025 are:

- Alzheimer's Society
- Countess of Brecknock Hospice

Whether you're a local or a returning visitor, we invite you to enjoy the lights, share the festive spirit, and support these two wonderful causes. Your donations—big or small—make a real difference.

Let's light up the season with kindness and community!

20TH ANDOVER GUIDES CHRISTMAS FAIR 2025

Wednesday, 3 December
5.30pm - 8.00pm
St Thomas's Church,
Charlton, Andover
SP10 4AN



VISIT SANTA IN HIS GROTTTO

- Meet Santa and his cheerful elves
- Snap an 'Elfie Selfie!

*** Pre-booking is essential for the grotto – reserve early!**



FESTIVE STALLS

Handmade gifts, crafts, and Christmas goodies
All created and run by our amazing Guides



BAKES, TREATS & REFRESHMENTS

Warm drinks, festive bakes and sweet delights



SWEETIE SHOP & CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA

Fun for all ages with tasty prizes and festive surprises

+

ALL MONEY RAISED SUPPORTS THE 20TH ANDOVER GUIDES' 2027 TRIP TO SWITZERLAND!

+

Come along for a cozy, joyful evening – bring your friends

Help us make this a night to remember!



St Thomas, Charlton

ST THOMAS' CHARLTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025

12.30 pm - 3.30 pm

Soup & Roll lunch 12.30 - 1.30

Tea & Coffee etc. 1.30 - 3.30

Father Christmas 1.00 - 1.45

and 2.30 - 3.00

FREE ADMISSION!

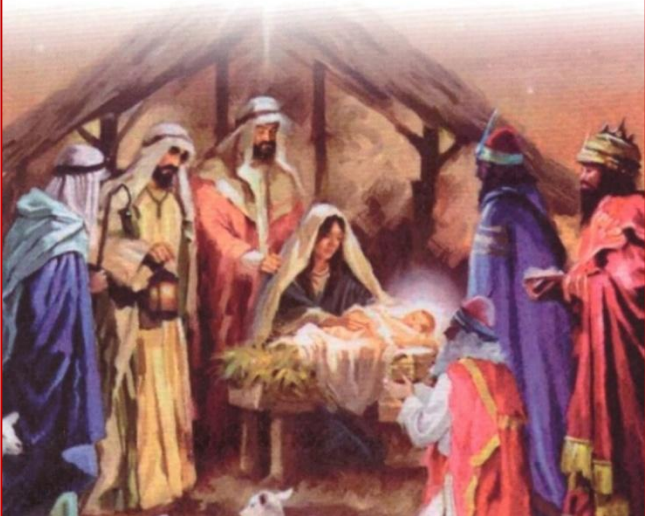
Books, Cakes, Tombola, Jigsaws,
Toys & Games, Christmas Gifts...

Contributions from 10am (please - no jumble)

Music from **Test Valley Brass!**

CHARLTON CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 21 st	3.00pm	Christingle
Wednesday 17 th	7.30pm	Carols around the tree
Wednesday 24 th	3.00pm	Carol Service
	5.00pm	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 th	10.00am	Christmas Service
Sunday 28 th	10.00am	Parish Communion



If you would like to sign up to our weekly
newsletter **Grapevine**
email eventsadmin@pastrowfamily.org.uk

SERVICES & EVENTS - ST THOMAS

All services and events at St Thomas, unless stated otherwise.

For the latest timings... visit www.pastrowfamily.org.uk

Come join us everyone is welcome!

Weekly 10am Holy Communion - St Thomas, Tangley

December

Saturday 6th	10 am Julian Prayer meeting - Hatherden
Sunday 7th	10 am Pastrow Family Gathering inc Holy Communion - Hurstbourne Tarrant
Friday 12th	1.30 - 3.30 pm Cosy Café
Sunday 14th	10 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th	7.30pm Carols around the Christmas Tree
Sunday 21st	3 pm Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	3 pm Carol Service 5 pm Carol Service 11.30 pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10 am Christmas Morning Service
Sunday 28th	10 am Holy Communion

January

Sunday 4th	10 am Pastrow Family Gathering - Hatherden 4 pm Said Holy Communion - Penton
Friday 9th	1.30 - 3.30 pm Cosy Café
Saturday 10th	10 am Julian Prayer meeting - Hatherden
Sunday 11th	10 am Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	10 am Family Service
Friday 23rd	1.30 - 3.30 pm Cosy Café
Sunday 25th	10 am Holy Communion 3.30 pm Family Craft and Play 6.30 pm Encounters with Jesus

February

Sunday 1st	10 am Pastrow Family Gathering - Hatherden 4 pm Said Holy Communion - Weyhill
Saturday 7th	10 am Julian Prayer meeting - Hatherden
Sunday 8th	10am Holy Communion
Friday 13th	1.30 - 3.30 pm Cosy Café
Sunday 15th	10 am Café Style Family Service
Sunday 22nd	10 am Holy Communion 6.30 pm Encounters with Jesus
Friday 27th	1.30 - 3.30 pm Cosy Café



A letter from Revd Alex

As we move through this season of remembrance and anticipation, Revd. Alex Randle-Bissell offers a heartfelt reflection on the power of community, the enduring significance of Advent, and the profound hope found in the story of Christ's birth.

His message invites us to pause, 're-member', and rediscover the deeper meaning behind our traditions—reminding us that even in a world that often feels fragmented, love, compassion, and shared humanity continue to unite us.

"Dear friends,

At the time of writing this, the nation has been remembering the bravery of those who gave their lives in the service of others. I was overwhelmed by the amount of people who chose to mark the centenary of World War I, and especially the amount of young people who participated in acts of remembrance so wonderfully and with such respect. It certainly felt like those gathered had come to 're-member' – to join together to realize that not only are we encouraged to never forget but also to reflect on the notion that some things are far bigger than ourselves, no matter how individualistic society seems to have become.

We are now in the season of advent, a time expectation and preparation, and the countdown to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The Latin word adventus literally means 'coming' and traditionally advent was a time of solemn fasting and with violet or even black liturgical colours. How times have changed! The countdown to Christmas certainly doesn't chime with fasting nowadays, apart from perhaps those who want to lose a few pounds in a vain attempt to balance out the pounds gained during the festive madness (I've tried this before, and no it doesn't work for a vicar either for two reasons; firstly, people around here like to show their generosity through food and make too many mince pies, and secondly, and perhaps far more crucially, I am very, very fond of mince pies...)

Thankfully nowadays, the colours of advent have been replaced mainly by blue, which represents one of my favorite words...hope. I was listening to a radio programme as I was travelling around the parishes some time ago about a professor who was trying to convince listeners that hope was a useless concept for human beings as it took away the power that an individual has for rectifying or dealing with a situation themselves, and hope in this context represents a rather fanciful notion that things might just get better in the future. I was staggered at the limited perception of this theory as he omitted to mention in his arguments that hope is simply not about dreaming of an optimistic outcome but is something far more powerful. Yes, there is our desire to hope for, but as the season of advent demonstrates, the far more significant focus is what we put our hope in.

As we remembered last month and uttered the words 'Lest we Forget', I would also encourage us during this month to not forget of the incredible hope that is to be found in the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Such humble and difficult beginnings, but this moment in time continues to resonate with the past, present and future of our shared humanity. His message of love, compassion, equality and mercy have inspired billions of us to cherish hope as one of the binding forces that helps us to 're-member' by demonstrating those qualities in our human capacity to do good and love others.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our services this month to 're-member' this astonishing truth, and I hope in the love of Jesus Christ you have a very blessed Christmas.

Alex

Revd Alex Randle-Bissell

Phone: 01264 512161 **email:** revalex@pastrowfamily.org.uk



The Pastrow Family...

is a benefice or collection of churches in and around the villages of Andover, North Hampshire.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pastrowfamily

Website: Www.Pastrowfamily.Org.Uk, or simply scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Judith Appleby, Benefice Administrator, 07999 352585 admin@pastrowfamily.org.uk



In other news...

Andover Rugby Club – Rugby and a warm welcome on your doorstep

If you've ever walked the dog past the pitches, heard the cheers from the clubhouse, or thought "I should pop in one weekend" – now's the time.

Andover Rugby Club is right here on your doorstep, and whether you want to play, watch, socialise or support, you'll be welcomed like an old friend.

We're a proudly local, community-driven club running three Men's senior teams, a growing Women's team, a spirited Vets (Over-35s) side competing in the John Sneezum Cup, and a talented Colts team in the Hampshire Colts league. Our 300 or so Minis & Juniors (U6-U18) train and play on Sundays, building confidence, skills and a love of sport.

Match days are the perfect stop-off on a weekend walk – entry is free, the bar is open, there's food on offer, and the atmosphere is friendly, relaxed and family-oriented. Well-behaved dogs on leads are not just allowed... most of them are regulars. Pop by, warm up with a drink, watch some rugby and soak up some local spirit. If you want to drive, parking is free too.

The clubhouse is also a brilliant local venue for hire – ideal for birthday parties, family gatherings, meetings and community events, with a licensed bar and flexible space.

Want to get involved?

- Join a team – new, returning and social players welcome
- Drop in as a supporter – even for 20 minutes mid-dog-walk!
- Volunteer – bar, events, coaching, admin, social media
- Become a sponsor and support grassroots sport in your area

You don't need to know the laws to enjoy the fun. Just come as you are. We're your local club, and we'd love to see you.

For fixtures, membership or clubhouse hire, see the club website, our social media (Facebook and Instagram) or call 01264 339518.

Out for a dog walk this weekend?

Drop by – kettle's on, bar's open!



© Paul Campbell

Home Fixtures at Andover RFC – November & December

Please check the club website for final KO times or any late changes.

November

- 22nd November – Men's 1st XV, home v Portsmouth 2.00 KO
- 23rd November – Ladies, home v Crowthorn 2.00 KO
- 29th November – Men's 1st XV, home v Basingstoke 2.00 KO

December

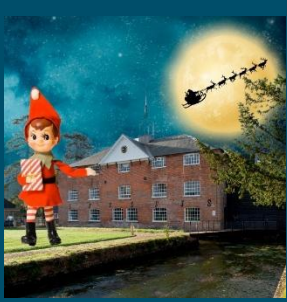
- 6th December – 2nd & 3rd men's XV, home both v Farnham 2.00 KO
- 13th December – Men's 1st XV home v Winchester 2.00 KO

January (First 2026 Home Game)

- 10th January – Men's 1st XV, home v Gosport & Fareham 2.00 KO.



What's on...



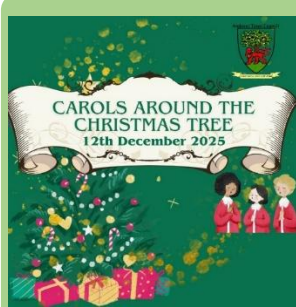
☀ Elf on a Shelf Trail

Whitchurch Silk Mill, 28 Winchester Street, Whitchurch.

Join us for an Elf on the Shelf adventure at the Mill on Saturday 6th December from 10.30 am to 12 noon and 1.30 pm to 3 pm!

Make your way along the trail and find activities for the whole family. Take part in the 10 elf-themed activities around the site and collect your chocolatey reward.

Prices are £6 per trail which includes an Elf on the Shelf trail sheet, a set of elf ears and dairy or Free From* treat bags.



🎄 Carols Around the Christmas Tree

From 4pm, Friday 12th December. On Andover's High Street... join in for a magical family event filled with festive cheer!

Enjoy beautiful performances from local choirs, get creative at our family crafting station, and warm up with a mulled wine and mince pies.

👶 Santa will be joining us: Don't miss your chance to say hello and have a picture with old Saint Nick himself!



Christmas at Oaktrack

A Celebration of Local Food and Homemade Festivities

With Christmas just around the corner, Oaktrack is embracing the season with its signature focus on local food, provenance and sustainability.

Oaktrack's ethos has always been about providing quality, locally produced food with authenticity — and this Christmas is no different. The team have been busy preparing a delicious range of farm-made festive favourites, perfect for celebrating the season or gifting to friends and family.

Rearing and raising their own beef, lamb and pork, Oaktrack takes pride in knowing exactly where its food comes from. Alongside their own produce, they've been creating small-batch pickles, chutneys and preserves, as well as traditional Christmas puddings, mince pies and Christmas cakes — all lovingly made on the farm by the Oaktrack team.

Oaktrack is proud to be working with other local suppliers too, offering free-range bronze turkeys from a Hampshire farm, Berkshire Trout for fish lovers, and fresh fruit and vegetables from local greengrocer Kenyons.

It's not just about food, either. In the run-up to Christmas, Oaktrack will be hosting a series of festive workshops with Steph from Floral Rebellion, a Wiltshire-based florist and willow weaver. Visitors will have the chance to get creative and make their own Christmas wreaths and decorations, adding a personal, handmade touch to their celebrations.

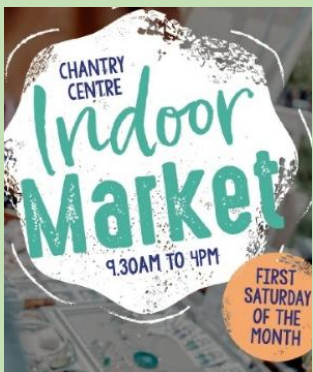


Tina Wells, owner and smallholder at Oaktrack, said:

"Christmas is a time for sharing, giving and coming together, and for us that means celebrating the incredible food and craftsmanship found right here in our community. We are very fortunate to have fantastic local producers and craftspeople in our area."

To find out more about Oaktrack's Christmas offerings and festive workshops, visit...www.oaktrack.co.uk

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9.30 – 10.30am: All Levels

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Hello, I'm Kim, your local funeral celebrant - you can find out more about me on my website/socials.

What is a Funeral Celebrant? A celebrant officiates at a funeral ceremony. We only get one chance to say goodbye so I will work diligently with you and your family to ensure it's a perfect ceremony.

Did you know? You can contact me directly should the need arise. Or, when you go to see your chosen funeral director you can let them know that you have already chosen me to support you.

Planning ahead? If you are considering setting out your wishes in advance, I can offer you sensitive support and guidance. We can talk about your life story and how you would like it to be told as well as think about music/reading/poem choices. I will capture and preserve your personal wishes for you to share with the important people in your life, easing the burden and lessening the load when you eventually pass away.

A little bit about me...

I've lived in Charlton since 1999 with my husband and three daughters. I trained as a celebrant in 2023 because I wanted to do something where I could use my integrity, compassion, empathy, creative writing, public speaking and professionalism whilst helping people through what is often one of the most difficult things they'll have to face.

What can you expect from me?

The ceremony will be as unique as your loved one was. There are no fixed rules when it comes to funeral ceremonies. You can choose to honour, celebrate and say goodbye in whatever way feels right for you. No two services are ever the same, each one is bespoke.

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CHARLTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Your village newsletter is created and distributed by wonderful volunteers and printed by Bulpitt Print Ltd. The printed **quarterly edition is delivered free of charge to over 1000 homes**, and can be downloaded from the village website - see below.



Have you got a story to share?

We believe that each of you holds a unique story, a cherished memory, or an exciting update waiting to be shared. That is why we invite you to be a part of our upcoming village newsletter. Whether you have a heartwarming tale, a fascinating experience, a new project, or any news you'd like to share, simply get in touch by emailing...

editor@charlton-pc.gov.uk

Your stories and updates hold the power to inspire, connect, and bring us closer together as a community.

*Acceptance of all advertisements, and articles are subject to availability of space and at the discretion of the Editor.

You can find all the links we've shared in the online version of this newsletter. It, along with all previous editions, is available on our website

www.hugofox.com/community/charlton-parish-council-12680/home

