



Charlton Parish Chat



*October and November
2025*

Pet Services

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER - 10.00am All Saints Church, Crudwell

2.00pm St Leonards Church, Minety

4.00pm All Saints Church, Oaksey

*Come and join us in celebrating all of God's
creation.*

*Well behaved owners welcome!
The service will last just half an hour.*

REFRESHMENTS



Join us @ Café Church

First Saturday of the month

11am - 12.30pm
Hankerton Church



*Coffee &
Lovely Snacks*

PRAYER PRAISE & STORY

pps. I love you

an informal service for the
whole braydon brook community

4.30PM HANKERTON CHURCH
EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Submissions for the next issue of the Chat

Next Chat "deadline": Input would be appreciated by 10th November, but can probably be accepted a few days after this date - please check with the editor.

Please email articles to the editor at charltonchat@yahoo.co.uk or by post/hand delivery to Peter Holland, 25 Park Street, Charlton, or phone 01666 823719.

Do you know anyone outside the village who would like to receive a copy of Charlton Parish Chat? Annual subscription - £5. Call Marion Adkins on 824684

Small ads ...

Charlton Chat accepts adverts from local people, businesses and organisations.

Per issue, a small display box, approx. a twelfth of a page costs £1;

a quarter page £5;

a half-page £10 and

a full page £20.

Contact the editor, or Marion Adkins 824684

What would you like Charlton Parish Council to do for you over the next 4 years?

The Parish Council (PC) was elected this year for a 4-year term.

The PC would now like to know what residents, both in the village and in the wider parish, would like the PC to achieve for them over these 4 years.

If there's something you would like to suggest, please just pop it on an email addressed to the Parish Clerk.

[Parish Clerk email addresses clerk@charltonnorthwilts-pc.gov.uk, or mrbgl@outlook.com if you find that easier]

Or – there will be a facility on the PC website where you can simply write it in there.

[PC website is www.charltonnorthwilts-pc.gov.uk]

Or – if you don't have an email connection, or if you simply prefer pen-and-paper, then write your thoughts on paper and post to Charlton Parish Clerk, Coombe Cottage, SN16 9DR, or even just deliver the note to any Parish Councillor who will ensure it reaches the Clerk.

Important – you must include your name and address including postcode on any reply.

Final thought – we can't do everything but at least we may know who to tackle about it.

News from the Bell Tower

August has been a busy month and September will not have been much less so. We had three lots of visitors, one of the best parts of bell ringing, visiting other towers, particularly for the first time, particularly for a "Tower Grabber" like me. Some of our visitors didn't have to come very far, the Malmesbury band had not had an Outing since before Covid, and they decided to start them up again, and not too ambitiously to begin with. We also had a visit, arranged by a lady who rings at Littleton Drew, who has moved full time to there, having previously been living in Richmond, Surrey whose band came down for the Bank Holiday weekend. They also came to the Dauntsey Festival of Transport & Country Show, where we had a Mobile Belfry to encourage visitors to have a go, as a way of recruiting new ringers, which was very successful with 20 signing up to be put in touch with their local tower. We have gained one, possibly two potential recruits, which I will report on next time.

That exercise at Dauntsey, was also for the purpose of making people aware of bell ringing. Here at Charlton, everyone who comes into the Church when we are ringing, see people on the end of a rope, and when we have the CCTV camera on, they get to see the bells and wheels rotating 360 degrees and back again. The majority of towers, the ringers are hidden up in a Ringing Room,

like at Minety, so it is not surprising that plenty of people can be forgiven for thinking that it is a recording, and those that go to Services at Hankerton will hear a wonderful recording of 12 bells pealing out, when they have in fact an unringable 4. And I gather Crudwell will now have the same, but there are 5 bells there that were only ever hung for chiming, and interestingly, they were cast at Whitechapel on the same day as Big Ben, using up the extra bell metal that was in reserve.

The most important visitors we had, were members of the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Youth Team, who came on an Outing, but it was more of a continual training opportunity, as they visited another three towers that day. Getting young people to realise the positives to learning to ring bells, is the most important task we have at present. If we do not address this soon, we are in future, likely to not have a critical mass that provides the competent ringers to teach anyone. Bell ringing is best and easiest learnt, when you are still at the stage of your life when you can learn cognitive skills. Please help by encouraging young people to at least have a look at something that if they go off to University, are likely to find a social group that they can join on Fresher's Day.

Bob Blanden

Charlton Church Opening

A big **thank you** to those who have volunteered and kept the church open every day since the beginning of July.

The launch of the **Athelstan Pilgrim Way** has increased the number of visitors and their comments in the visitor's book reflect their pleasure at finding the church open.

The PCC have agreed that the church will continue **to be open every Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm during the winter**, that is from November to March.

When possible, the church can be open at other times by prior request. Please contact the churchwarden for further information 07909 911 753.

October's Message from the Ministry

The sun is setting sooner, jumpers are coming out of the wardrobe, and evenings are more likely to be spent in front of the fire than on the patio. As I write this, it's a beautiful, sunny day, but I can already feel autumn nipping the air. I love this season, because it feels like anything could happen. It's a season of change, not just in nature, but in so much in our lives. Many of our young people have moved on to the next step in their lives – new schools, university, the 'real world'. A visit to any supermarket will tell you that Christmas is on the horizon, and approaching fast. The summer holidays are fast becoming a distant memory, and thoughts focus on harvest and the end of growing season for many crops.

Change is something that, as humans, we can struggle with. For some of us there's the excitement of new challenges and adventures, but for many there is a sense of trepidation entering into the unknown, especially if change is thrust upon us. In my role as church warden, I'm in the privileged position to be involved in many of the services that mark key events in people's lives. Christenings, marriages and funerals all represent big changes, not just for the individuals concerned, but for family and friends too. Whether it is a beginning or an ending, we can feel overwhelmed by the possibility of change. I've been involved in several meetings in the last few weeks, with both adults and young people, where we have focused on what has been happening over the summer. The sheer volume and magnitude of variety in those answers has really struck me. From the big events, fancy holidays and community projects to loss of someone close, the upheaval of moving house, or mundane everyday life, these experiences all share one thing in common – God is there in all of them. I am reminded of the poem, Footprints (based on a poem by Mary Stevenson)

*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
Especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
There was only one set of footprints.*

*This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
There was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you especially during your most difficult times.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*

Whatever life throws at us, whatever changes come our way, and however we feel about them, God knows what's in our hearts and he understands how we feel. He longs to be there for us, to clear our minds and bring us his peace and comfort, to strengthen us for the fight or to sooth us to rest – he is our ultimate cheerleader, perfect parent, and all-knowing Lord. We can rely on him completely – he carries us.

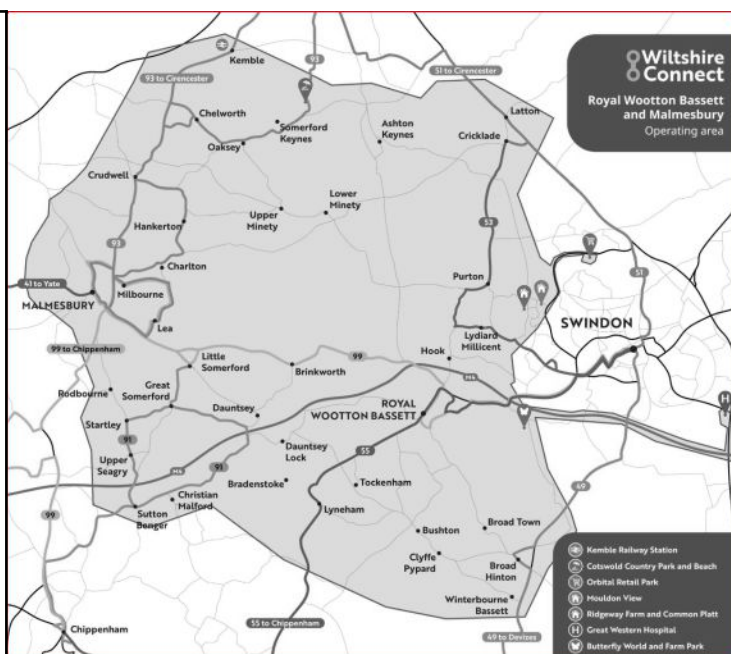
If that sounds like something you want, and you'd like to know more, come to church – we don't bite, and we'd be happy to talk. Or contact any of the ministry team – you can find out details on the last page. Whatever the change is that's coming your way, you don't have to go through it alone.

Wiltshire Connect - Connecting Wiltshire

Since April there has been a valuable new bookable and flexible bus service in our area - **Wiltshire Connect**.

To use it you can download the app - or telephone the booking team if you prefer on [01225 712900](tel:01225712900). It is an on-demand service where you book your ride up to 7 days in advance or on the day with 30 minutes notice (subject to vehicle availability).

I understand that in general you can book a ride between any two locations (usually existing bus stops) within the shaded area shown on the map. While the maximum journey length that can be booked is about 15 miles, some journeys, for example to GWH, will be longer and these can be arranged through the booking team. However where a timetabled bus service is already available for your journey it will direct you to that (as I found when trying to book a lift to GWH recently!)



In addition, flexible pick-up and drop-off options can be arranged for passengers with mobility problems or for those living in isolated locations, and I have already arranged for two new stops to be set up for residents.

Please do send me any feedback as there will be some hiccups and I want to hear how you have got on and to help the service to improve. It really should be an asset to our communities.

elizabeth.threlfall@wiltshire.gov.uk

CHARLTON RECREATIONAL CENTRE



We have definitely entered autumn, however I'm pleased to say that the work carried out clearing the car park bank, front of the hall and tidying up the playground area are still looking good as we enter the season. The Hall committee are still looking for some new volunteers to help keep on top of this communal project for next season. If you are green fingered and have a little time to help maintain this area, please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of the committee members (we'll even take you if you aren't green fingered.....!).

Whilst there has been an improvement in dog owners picking up after their pets, we have been informed that there are still a few people who aren't. We do not want to stop people from walking their dogs on this private facility, so we kindly ask that everyone please pick up after their pets.

There are still spaces available for the charity horse racing night at the hall on the 27th September. It is organised by the Chippenham rotary club and everyone that attended the Lea event a few months ago had an amazing time. If you can't make this event we have another hall quiz night on the 15th November. Advance tickets are required, they are a bargain at £15 per person and can be purchased from any of the hall committee members or by emailing charltonhall22@gmail.com. Doors will open at 7pm with the event starting promptly at 7.30pm. There will be a hot supper included

in the price with a prize for the winning team and possibly one for the gallant last place winners.....

The committee is still open to ideas on how we can continue to raise funds for the hall, children's playing area and field. Please don't hesitate to send us your ideas!

Due to your continued financial support and a few grants from the local Malmesbury Area board, we are pleased to announce that we will be replacing the entire hall lighting system towards the end of this year. On completion of the electrical work we are also looking to give the hall a new paint of coat. You will not be surprised to hear that this is a great undertaking and as such we are having to close the hall for the first two weeks of January 2026. We thank you in advance for your patience, however I'm sure that future users will be very impressed when we reopen.

There has been an uptake in tickets for the Charlton 150 club, however there are still a few spaces available. This is an easy but extremely important way of ensuring that we maintain funds to keep the hall and surrounding areas open for your usage. If you haven't got your ticket yet, please send an email to 150clubcharlton@gmail.com.

We are pleased that the Avonvale United football club will still be using the field for their junior section this coming winter. Keep an eye on our hall website for their dates and come down to support the next crop of international players!

We look forward to seeing you at the next few hall events.

Doz James

Coffee Mornings @ Charlton Village Hall

Funds raised support Charlton Recreational Centre 279819



10.30am on Mondays:

6th October, 3rd November

and 1st December

All are welcome, young or old.

£1 Charge

Do ring me if you want a lift.

Anne 823719

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Hi there again, this is Cathy Carroll writing on behalf of North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club. In September we had our AGM followed by an excellent talk from Andrew Tolman on unusual gardens he has visited. It is called "Off the Beaten Track".

Then in October because Sally Taylor is unwell we have Jayne Morriss to demonstrate for us. Her talk is on "This and That". Jayne has offered to help at Malmesbury Abbey. What a great job she is doing there.



We are folk who love flowers and while some are expert, many are not so please feel free to join us. There is plenty of parking and free tea/coffee and cake at the evenings end. Remember your first visit to the group is free.

On November 19th we have our Open Evening with Katherine Kear (National Demonstrator). These evenings are usually very well attended and good fun beginning with bubbly and canapes and lots else besides including a chocolate tombola and a raffle for Katherine's arrangements. Do put the date in your diary.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at Charlton

Betrothal Blessing

22nd July

Mark Sheppard and Shivani Bhatt

Funeral & Burial

5th September

Caroline Susan Hawkins

Charlton Village Hall Hire *for parties, events, business hire, etc.*

Special Events Package: All day booking, plus access to the premises from the middle of the previous day to 10.00am the following day. Use of all Hall facilities and a roped off area outside.

Children's Parties: 4 hours access to the Hall.

Friday and Saturday Evenings: Access to the Hall from 6.00pm to midnight. All other event and party bookings are chargeable by the hour. The hirer should request a booking that covers their total occupancy of the Hall (including setting and clearing up).

Event Type	Deposit	Charge (Local*)	Charge (Other)
Special Event	£100	£450	£550
Children's Party	£50	£35	£55
Friday or Saturday Evening	£100	£100	£150
Other Events	£50	£10 per hour	£15 per hour

The Local rate is available to residents of Charlton, Hankerton & Garsdon

To enquire about using the Village Hall or Playing Field, whether for a one-off event or regular booking please email us on enquiries@charltonvillagehall.co.uk or call Tracey Hobbs on 07557 124628.

See: www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk/bookings/ for details of the current bookings and a copy of the booking form and terms and conditions.

Charlton Recreational Centre - 150 Club Monthly Prize Draw Winners

August		September	
1st	J.Walker	1st	S.Baffour
2nd	L.Hobbs	2nd	E.Hatton
3rd	S.Williams	3rd	D.Craven



Our thanks to all those who have bought a ticket for 2025/6.

To those that have not yet signed up please consider joining us!

If you use the field to walk your dog, play ball games, fly kites or have taken your children or grandchildren up to use the playground or whizz on the zip wire; if you have used the hall for a childrens party, exercise class, joined us for the Coffee mornings or come to one of our Quiz nights then please subscribe to a ticket to support the upkeep of these important community resources.

An annual ticket is £20 and your number will be entered into each monthly draw for a chance to win a £20, £30 or £50 prize.

So if you would like to join in then please email

150clubcharlton@gmail.com

or call Tracey on 07557 124628 to reserve tickets.



Christmas Farm Fayre

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 6PM - 8PM

DOWN ON THE FARM

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SN16 9DR

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Down on the Farm, Wilts



October Services across the Braydon Brook Benefice

All are welcome to attend any of the services taking place across the Benefice

Ashley St. James



Charlton
St. John the Baptist



All Saints
Crudwell



Hankerton
Holy Cross



Minety
St. Leonard



Oaksey
All Saints



Date	Services in Church	Additional information
Sunday 5 th October	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Hankerton	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
	10am, Friends & Family @ Crudwell	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Oaksey	
	6pm, Evening Prayer @ Ashley	
Sunday 12 th October	10.00 am, Benefice Communion @ Charlton	
Sunday 19 th October	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Charlton	<i>Harvest Festival</i> <i>Harvest Festival</i>
	11am, Holy Communion @ Minety	
	11am, Matins @ Oaksey	
	11am, Morning Praise @ Crudwell	
	4.30pm Prayer, Praise & Story @ Hankerton	
Sunday 26 th October	9.30am, Holy Communion @ Ashley	
	9.30am, Morning Praise @ Charlton	
	11am, Holy Communion @ Crudwell	
	11am, Morning Praise @ Minety	
	10.am Kids Club @School and 11am, Family Service @ Oaksey	

Mid-Week Services and Events

Monday	Every other week	10am	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	8 th October (2 nd Wed)	10.30am	Coffee & Chat @ Crudwell
	Weekly	7.30pm	Men's Bible Study 1 Days Court, Crudwell
Thursday	9 th October (2 nd Thu)	9.45am	BCP Communion Service @ Minety
Friday	Weekly	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Saturday	4 th October (1 st Sat)	11am – 12.30pm	Café Church @ Hankerton
Saturday	4 th October	10am	Pet Service @ Crudwell
		3pm	Pet Service @ Minety
		4pm	Pet Service @ Oaksey

Please visit our website www.braydonbrook.co.uk and Braydon Brook Churches Facebook Page to find out more.

The details of Services for November were not available at the time the Chat went to print. They will be posted on notice boards when available.

Remembrance Sunday in Charlton



9th November 2025

9:30 am Holy Communion service in church.

**10:50 Act of Remembrance, with two-minute silence
at the War Memorial.**

Malmesbury Branch of the Wiltshire Farming Club

On the second Tuesday of the month, the Malmesbury Branch of the Wiltshire Farming Club meet mainly in Charlton Village Hall, unless there is a visit that takes us out to farms, or as recently, Alvan Blanch Developments Ltd at Chelworth. and we are making plans for future visits.

In August, Dee Molton talked about her and the Rev. Bob's time in West Africa, including worryingly, the start of a Civil War! starting a Village Chicken Project to make funds for the Community. We have just had farmer's wife and Authoress, Sue Andrews, talk about building their pedigree flock of predominantly Texels, with international sales and visits, and also Sue's time as a groom for Pat Smythe, a leading Showjumper in the 60's & 70's.

The speaker for our October meeting on the 14th, is John Tuck, who farms between Brinkworth and Royal Wootton Bassett, whose going to talk about the 5 generations before him, since the late 18th century. Currently, he and his son Stephen, press a lot of apples as a diversification. In November, Joe Collingborn from Brinkworth, is going to show us a film (That apparently was shown at the Cannes Film Festival !) called 'The siege of Hill End farm', which was about Joe's father standing up against paying the ATB Levy. He will also tell us about their farming business, which has for a number of years been processing their milk into dairy products, mainly cheese.

You do not have to be a farmer to come to our meetings, in fact the only other clubs left, Marlborough and Poulshott, have changed their name to the Wiltshire Countryside Club, but we are keeping the farming connection, in our name. Everyone welcome.

Bob Blanden

September '25: Footpaths

Autumn fast approaching with those wonderful *"seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness...."*

Such a lovely time of year for walking.

On our last Charlton Footpaths Group (CFG) walk on Sat 16th August, 12 of us set out along Dog Trap Lane to the pretty Ravensroost Wood Nature Reserve, a pleasant picnic spot, returning over the high ground at Nineteen Acre Wood, the skylark meadow and the wonderful distant views (Walk 6 in the Charlton Walks booklet).

Sunday 7th September saw the opening of our Braydon Brook section of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way. 35 of us from the 6 benefices celebrated, with a truly lovely walk from All Saints Crudwell to Holy Cross Hankerton, for a Cream Tea followed by Evening Prayer. It is quite surprising to find these hidden gems on our doorstep.

You can obtain the Athelstan Pilgrim way walking (or cycling) guides from Malmesbury Abbey Bookshop (£4). There are 6 guides, Walking Guide 5 covers our Benefice. There is also a Passport available which you can stamp at each church, to record your journey.

Roy Evans

Holiday cottages available

for short breaks,
weekends and
weekly bookings.

Contact Ruth Baker
01666 577274

James Hutton Auto Repair

James Hutton

Motor mechanic

Email: james13.hutton@outlook.com

Cowage Farm

Foxley, SN16 0JH

Tel: 07568193062



The Dragonfly Café and Nature Centre

Situated on the Lower Moor nature reserve overlooking Cottage Lake is the newly built but already becoming firmly established Dragonfly Café and Nature Centre.

Since 2007 the reserve has been home to a plethora of wildlife from insects to otters and offers the opportunity to get lost in the nature we endeavour to protect.



Open all year round, the Dragonfly Café and Nature Centre is the perfect spot to sight otters, herons and (of course) the many species of dragonfly, ideal for professional and amateur wildlife photographers and passionate nature enthusiasts.



The Dragonfly and Nature Centre caters for those with a sweet or savoury tooth presenting delicious homemade scones baked fresh every morning, fresh homemade soups and a variety of heavenly cakes including vegan and gluten free options.

With excellent locally roasted coffee and hot chocolate to warm you in winter as well as refreshing apple juice made from apples in Lower Moor orchard to cool you in summer, the Dragonfly can start your journey around the reserve or end it with a well deserved treat.



Dragonfly Café & Nature Centre

Lower Moor Nature Reserve
Oaksey, SN16 9TW



Enjoy freshly baked scones and cakes whilst watching
dragonflies
over Cottage Lake

Find us at: <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/dragonfly-cafe>
Or on Instagram follow us @dragonfly.cafe__

Lower Moor Nature Reserve is on the road between Oaksey
and Somerford Keynes.



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If you would like to advertise in the Chat, please see page 1....

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WELCOME TO



Dating back to the 16th century, The Horse & Groom is a grade II-listed pub in the heart of Charlton. Recently refurbished inside and out, the pub boasts 5 beautiful boutique bedrooms, stunning seasonal menus, and award-winning Butcombe beer behind the bar.

Book a table or room on our website, over the phone or via the Butcombe App.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Horse & Groom, The Street, Charlton, Malmesbury, SN16 9DL
horseandgroom@butcombepubs.com
butcombe.com/the-horse-and-groom-wiltshire
[@horseandgroomcharlton](https://www.instagram.com/horseandgroomcharlton)
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Who's who

Rector	Revd Bob Molton	848684
Associate Minister	Revd Sarah Wyman	577159
Licensed Lay Minister	Rachel Swatton	861035
PCC Churchwarden/Treasurer	Marion Adkins	07909 911753
Captain of bell ringers	Bob Blanden	860308
Secretary of bell ringers	Christopher Daws	824029
Church organist	Megan Mills	823840
Village Hall booking	Tracey Hobbs	07557 124628
Charlton newsletter	Peter Holland	823719

Charlton Parish Councillors:

Tom Blanden	charltonchairman@gmail.com	860308
Marion Adkins		824684
Lord Suffolk	Earl.Suffolk@CharltonPark.Estate	
Philip Baffour		822721
Elizabeth Garforth-Bles		824380
David Rawlings		826654
Hannah Piet		824650
Philip Thompson		825482
Jonathan Branton		

Parish Council Clerk:

Michael Bromley-Gardner clerk@charltonnorthwilts-pc.gov.uk 07972 266767
or mrbgl@outlook.com

The Parish Office

**The Old Squash Court, Holloway,
Malmesbury, SN16 9BA**

Administrator: Kath Tallboys

Office: 01666 825019, opening hours:

Monday and Wednesday 9.00am -

4.00pm and Friday 9.00am -3.30pm

or: bbbandgb@gmail.com .

Rector: 01666 848684.

Associate Minister: 01666 577169.

Contact us for wedding or baptism inquiries
and other matters regarding the Braydon
Brook Group (Ashley, Charlton, Crudwell,
Hankerton, Minety & Oaksey).

Useful Websites:

The Village Hall website is at:

www.charltonvillagehall.co.uk

The Parish Council website is at:

www.charltonnorthwilts-pc.gov.uk

Charlton Church website is at:

www.braydonbrook.co.uk

Also see the Charlton Community
Hub on Facebook.



Malmesbury Abbey
Music Society



7pm Wednesday 8 October
Malmesbury Abbey
Papagena

Love, Legends and Lullabies

Papagena is an all female a cappella vocal group set up to explore the wealth of music from medieval times to the present day written specifically for women's voices, performing both in the UK and internationally.

The group's programming juxtaposes classical repertoire with traditional folk, medieval and contemporary music to create programmes that can span nine centuries, from 12th century abbess Hildegard of Bingen to Joni Mitchell, from Byzantine hymns and lilting Celtic ballads to Norwegian lullabies.

Love, Legends and Lullabies is a programme of music sacred and profane, ranging from Hildegard of Bingen and medieval motets to folk songs and lullabies from around the world, to contemporary ballads and works by classical composers including Purcell, Monteverdi and James MacMillan.

7pm Friday 21 November
Malmesbury Abbey
David Gordon

Americans in Paris

David Gordon is a polymath, improviser, composer jazz and classical pianist.

The programme celebrates and pays tribute to some of the many musicians – some of the 20th century's most individual and influential artists – who were attracted to Paris to learn with the exceptional French composer, conductor and musicologist, Nadia Boulanger.

Paris became a magnet, not only for contemporary 'classical' composers, but also for American jazz musicians and Argentinian tango musicians.

The recital will include music by Gershwin, Bernstein, Piazzolla and others, improvisations on request and beautiful original compositions. It promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable evening with something for everyone.

Tickets for both concerts may be obtained at:

www.malmesburyabbeymusic.com

(no booking fee) or in person at Caerbladon, 24 High Street, Malmesbury.

The 2025 to 2026 season will continue with a concert given by Orchestra Pro Anima under Michael Bochmann with David Campbell (Clarinet) on 11 February 2026. They will be joined by Malmesbury Youth Winds for two items.