

The Littleton Link



July 2026

Editor's letter

Dear All

Welcome to the July edition of The Littleton Link.

I'm writing this on 21 June, the summer solstice. In the next few days we're expecting high June temperatures, plus humidity. Not the weather that I like at all. A couple of months ago the RSPB told us all to stop feeding the birds in order to help stop the spread of disease. During the hot weather of summer though we need to remember to keep our birds and other wildlife hydrated. If you have a birdbath try to remember to keep it topped up, otherwise leave a dish of water out if you can. It's not just the birds that need the hydration, hedgehogs, bees and other insects will appreciate your care too.

In this edition we've got updates from our regular contributors and more dates for your diary. Hopefully you'll find something to interest you and to get involved in. Whatever you get up to this summer keep safe and hydrated.

Kind regards,
Mary

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day & Date	Event	Time	Location
Wed 1 Jul	Wednesday Club	2 to 4 pm	Village Hall
Fri 10 Jul	Freedom's Anniversary Party	10:30 to 3 pm	Bretforton Community Club
Fri 10 Jul	South Littleton Parish Council meeting	4pm	Littleton Bowls Club
Fri 10 Jul	Quiz night	7:30pm start	Offenham RBL Club
Sat 11 Jul	Strawberry Cream Teas	2:30 to 4:30 pm	Scout Hut
Tue 14 Jul	Littletons WI	7 for 7:30 pm	Village Hall
Wed 15 Jul	N&M Littleton Parish Council meeting	7 pm	Village Hall
Tue 28 Jul	Mobile Library	10:40 to 11:15	various
Wed 5 Aug	Wednesday Club	2 to 4 pm	Village Hall
Wed 2 Sept	Wednesday Club	2 to 4 pm	Village Hall
Sat 5 Sept	Summer Community BBQ	4pm to 7pm	Recreation Ground
Tue 8 Sept	Littletons WI	7 for 7:30 pm	Village Hall
Sat 26 Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning	10:30 to 12:30	Village Hall

The Littleton Link is also available online on both Parish Council websites

Deadline for entries for August edition is Fri-17-July

PIZZA POP-UP

Friday 17th July



Pre-orders open 5 days before event: www.plushpizza.co.uk

Littleton Scout Hut - 4pm to 8pm



**Offenhams Church & Offenhams Cricket Club
165th anniversary celebration**

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 10 July 2026

**Venue: Offenhams Royal British Legion Club
Time: 7:30pm until 10:30pm
(Bar opens at 7:00pm)**

Bar, Fun, Raffle, Heads & Tails, Prizes

£5 per head

To book a team (max 6 people per team)

**Call Debbie or Andrew on
01386 442844 / 07598 794917
OR EMAIL: akharrison63@gmail.com**

LITTLETON WEDNESDAY CLUB

For our June meeting we welcomed Gary Farmer from Vale Landscape Heritage Trust (VLHT). We all sat and listened as he gave us a very interesting and entertaining talk about his work with the Trust. Gary was so enthusiastic he was a pleasure to listen to and we hope he will come back again at a future date. Before leaving Gary sampled some of the cake and tea that was served to round the afternoon off.

Future meetings:

July 1 Afternoon tea

August 5 Carvery (delivered to us by the Round of Gras (last date for orders 15-July)

September 2 Teams4u Christmas Shoebox appeal

We're here for just 2 hours per month, on the first Wednesday, in the Village Hall from 2 to 4pm. We're here for anyone seeking a bit of company and a chat with someone different. We have no age restrictions on attendees and welcome both men and women to come in and take a look and join in. The 2pm start is emphasised to enable organised activities to be on time and we finish by 4pm so we can get home in the daylight and enjoy any evening activities.

We would like to express our thanks to the Parent & Toddler group who meet on a Wednesday morning for generously putting tables and chairs in place for us. It is really appreciated.

If you would like any further information, please contact us:

Mary or Graham 01386 830273 or Marion Brighton 01905 909125



FREEDOM DAY CENTRE

JULY 10th | 9th ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

TIME: 10.30-3



**ALEX CRAWFORD
MAGICIAN**



**PARTY
GAMES**



KARAOKE



**CHRIS BEARD
SINGER**



DISCO



**FREE
BUFFET**



TOMBOLA



RAFFLE

VENUE:
Bretforton Community Club
60 Main St, Bretforton
Evesham WR11 7JH

LITTLETONS WI

For our June meeting Marguerite introduced our guest speaker for the evening - Nicky Newcombe, a singing and piano teacher, who runs the company Vivo Voce. Nicky explained her love of music and singing began at the age of 6 when she started piano lessons, later adding in violin lessons at age 8. She went on to study at Exeter University and in Birmingham before working in mainstream education teaching music. In 2013 Nicky set up her business teaching all ages and all genres of music. Her belief is that music can enhance our lives improving posture, lung capacity and more importantly our mood. Some of her clients include those with dementia and Parkinson's disease.

Nicky demonstrated correct breathing control and sounding of vowels and consonants with our members joining in. There was great hilarity as we practised some diction. We then sang a Folk song in three groups joining together which our members enjoyed.

Refreshments were enjoyed by all. The competition of a piece of your own embroidery was won by Lynne, second was Lou with Sally and Fiona sharing third place.

Our next meeting is on July 14th when we will be playing Handbag Bingo.

Our open September meeting is on the 8th when Simon Gulliver will be revealing the Secret Life of Trees.

Please contact littletonssec@wfedwi.org for more information.



STRAWBERRY CREAM TEAS

Cost: £5 for Adults / £3 for Children

When: 2:30 to 4:30pm

Saturday 11 July

Where: The Scout Hut

**Long Hyde Road, South
Littleton**



**All proceeds in aid
of St Michael's
Church, South
Littleton**

Blackminster Middle & Littletons First School Scientists

Mrs Barrett and Mrs Jones from Blackminster Middle School's science department had a lovely time at The Littleton's First School this week. They went along with trays of equipment (and two of our lovely Year 8 students!) and worked with Littletons pupils. They made an indicator from red cabbage, and used it to test all sorts of substances to see whether they were acids, alkalis or neutral.



It's a pleasure to work with our friends in our partner first schools, and we believe it's a great thing for pupils who will be coming to us in the future to have already worked with Blackminster teachers (and students!).

Thank you, Littletons, for having us - we hope you enjoyed being scientists for the morning!





Peter

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NORTH & MIDDLE LITTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Items discussed at the June meeting

Neighbourhood Plan: This is being progressed.

Village Survey: This was included within the June edition of the Link. All households within the parishes of North & Middle Littleton are requested to complete this to enable a true picture of our parish to be established. If you didn't receive a copy or have lost yours please contact the Clerk: clerk@northandmiddlelitleton-pc.gov.uk

Telephone Kiosk – Middle Littleton: Discussions are taking place regarding the future of this kiosk.

Parking in School Lane: This is a continuing problem with vehicles being parked on the roadside. Vehicle drivers are requested to respect the private driveways of residents when using School Lane.

Bench – North Littleton: As reported last month a new seat has been placed on East Side. However, it has been noted that vehicles are parking on the area of grass verge in front of the new bench. Parishioners are requested to be mindful of the people using the seat and refrain from parking on the grass verge.

HGV transport: Concern was again expressed regarding the number of large vehicles using Blakes Hill/Pebworth Road. This has been reported to Worcestershire County Council and we are still waiting for a response.

Fish & Anchor: Following an accident occurring on the bend by the Fish & Anchor a request has been made to Worcestershire County Council

for the chevrons on the bend to be reinstated for safety reason. We are still waiting for a response.

Hedges: Landowners who have hedges near footpaths or the roadside are requested, where possible, to cut back overhanging branches and brambles.

VA Signs: The data from these were discussed. Vehicles are still exceeding limits in the village. These are excessive and drivers are requested to reduce their speed when travelling through the parish.

Street Lighting: As the parish is now part of the Worcestershire County Council lighting initiative, any street lighting issues can be reported direct to them. Either telephone 01905 763763 or the fault can be reported online via the county council website. The other alternative is to contact the clerk with the details of the fault and position of lamp.

Clerk: Marion Brighton clerk@northandmiddlelitleton-pc.gov.uk

Parish website: <https://www.northandmiddlelitleton-pc.gov.uk/>

Parish Councillors: James Haywood, Martin Burge, Ian Jones, Sandra Jackson, John Taylor, Marsha Wilkins and Paul Fernandez.

Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**



LITTLETON SCOUT HUT
Long Hyde Road, South Littleton
Current regular activities include
Monday: **Scouts** 6:30 to 8 pm
Tuesday: **Cubs** 6:30 to 8 pm
Wednesday: **Beavers** 6 to 7:15 pm
If you're looking for a local venue with
kitchen facilities please email
littletonscoutenquiries@yahoo.com for availability and costs





THE IVY INN

Authentic Indian Cuisine

LUNCH/DINNER

Live Sports

sky sports

TNT SPORTS

Bar Timing

Monday to Thursday

12:00pm to 10:00pm

Friday to Saturday

12:00pm to 11:00pm

Sunday

12:00pm to 10:00pm

Food served

Monday to Thursday

12:00pm to 9:00pm

Friday to Saturday

12:00pm to 9:30pm

Sunday

12pm to 6pm

ARROW LANE, NORTH LITTLETON WR11 8EF

CONTACT: 07487566236 - 07477560848

theyellowinn@yahoo.com



SOUTH LITTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

As we move into July, the Parish Council continues to focus on maintaining and improving our village facilities, supporting community projects and planning for the months ahead.

PLAY AREA AND RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Over the last few weeks, we have carried out maintenance work on the willow tunnel within the Recreation Ground playground. Further maintenance work has also been scheduled for the willow tunnel at South Meadows. While we were there, we gave our orchard some TLC so all the trees are looking great and are thriving.



We have also recently replaced the safety matting on top of the play tunnel within the playground to ensure it remains safe and accessible for all users. Unfortunately, we have had to remove the rope from the climbing ladder due to health and safety concerns. A replacement rope has already been ordered and we hope to have this installed as soon as possible.



In the meantime, we would ask all parents, carers and children to take extra care when using the playground and to let us know if you see anything else requiring attention.

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE TIDY

As always, it is wonderful to see our shared spaces being well used throughout the summer months. However, this often brings an increase in litter.

We would kindly ask everyone to help keep our village looking its best by taking any rubbish home or using the bins provided. A small effort from each of us makes a big difference to maintaining the appearance of our village for everyone to enjoy.

The Parish Council will also be organising a number of community litter picks over the summer. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for dates and details of how to get involved.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are always grateful for volunteers to assist with upcoming planting and maintenance days throughout the parish.

Whether you can spare an hour or a full morning, your help makes a real difference to the appearance and wellbeing of our community. If you would like to get involved, please email

clerk@southlittleton.org.uk .

COMMUNITY BUILDER

The Council is continuing to explore the introduction of a Community Builder role aimed at strengthening connections across the village and supporting residents of all ages.

Working in a flexible and responsive way, this paid, part-time role would focus on bringing people together, supporting local activities and helping to reduce isolation. This could include informal support for residents, helping to organise community gatherings such as coffee mornings and improving communication across the parish.

The role would also encourage volunteering, identify local skills and community assets, and support ideas or initiatives that help enhance village life. By working closely with residents and local groups, the aim is to build a stronger, more connected and inclusive community.

If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity, please email clerk@southlittleton.org.uk

SUMMER COMMUNITY BBQ

We are delighted to confirm that our **Summer Community BBQ** will take place on **Saturday 5 September** from **4pm to 7pm**.



CLERK VACANCY

Following the resignation of our Clerk, Sean Arble, the Parish Council is now recruiting for a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

This is a key role within the Council and an excellent opportunity for someone looking to support their local community and play an important part in parish life.

If you would like more information about the position, please contact Shannon Cawood at shannon@southlitleton.org.uk

We would like to thank Sean for his contributions over the past 5 years and wish him well for the future.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

To keep up to date with council news, events, consultations, volunteering opportunities and community information, please follow the South Littleton Parish Council Facebook page.

We regularly share updates and announcements that may be of interest to residents.

NEXT MEETING – PLEASE NOTE DATE & TIME CHANGE

Our next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Friday 10th July at The Littletons Bowls Club, commencing at 4:00pm.**

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and thank you for your continued support.

South Littleton Parish Council

Chair: Shannon Cawood

Councillors: Sally Ashwin, Shannon Cawood, Debbie Jones, Roger Jones, Hannah Robson, Helen Quigley-York, Victoria Sevier, Tim Ward and David Wootten

INTERESTED IN GROWING YOUR OWN?

There are a few half plots now available on the South Littleton allotments. The rent is a modest fee of approx £30 per half plot, per year, plus insurance and water. Although located in South Littleton the allotments are open to residents of North & Middle Littleton too and newcomers will be very welcome to this friendly and healthy pastime which our village is fortunate enough to rent from Wychavon under the Parish Council.

We are a happy bunch of diggers enjoying exercise, company and healthy fruit, vegetables and flowers.

For more information or to take a look please contact Roy or Di Wilson (Secretary, South Littleton Allotment & Garden Association) on 01386 830159 or 07946 474757 or email: dilesleywilson@me.com



THE BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

Runs from Friday 17 July until Sunday 9 August 2026

A nationwide citizen science survey organised by Butterfly Conservation. It aims to track the numbers and species of butterflies and day-flying moths in the UK, providing crucial data on biodiversity and environmental health.

To take part simply spend 15 minutes counting the butterflies and day-flying moths you see. Participants can repeat counts in different locations or with different groups. You can do your count anywhere outdoors, including gardens, parks or out for a walk. Then simply log your results via the App or visit the website:

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/> where you'll also find more information.





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North and Middle Littleton Parish Council



The June edition of *The Littleton Link* included a questionnaire for residents to complete. The questionnaire forms part of the parish Neighbourhood Plan.

This is your chance to shape the future of the parish. If not already done so, please complete the questionnaire. It will only take a few minutes.

The closing date for completion has been extended, it is now: Friday 31st July 2026.

**(if you have mislaid your copy please email:
clerk@northandmiddlelittleton-pc.gov.uk)**

North and Middle Littleton Summer Trail

Thank you to everyone who helped make the June event such a resounding success.

Trail maps were collected from the church before visitors set off around the villages to explore the seven properties that were open, including stunning gardens, a smallholding with ducks and Paxo the turkey, a



dovecote and a cider mill.



It was wonderful to see families walking around the village and chatting with homeowners, and everyone taking part enjoyed the occasion in warm, dry weather.

Together, the open gardens, plant stall, tombola, lucky dip, teas and cakes raised over £400 for St Nicholas Church.

Thank you to all the villagers who supported the event.



A black poster for a Karaoke Night Party. At the top, three white four-pointed stars are arranged horizontally. In the center, a large purple circle contains the word 'KARAOKE' in white bold sans-serif font, with 'NIGHT Party' in white bold sans-serif and script fonts below it. A teal triangle is behind the circle. Two teal vintage microphones on stands are positioned on the left and right sides. In the center, the text 'YOU'RE INVITED' is in white bold sans-serif font. Below that, 'Saturday 25th July' is in white bold sans-serif font. Two more white four-pointed stars are on the left and right sides. At the bottom, a purple horizontal band contains the text 'The Ivy Inn, North Littleton Wr11 8ef' in white bold sans-serif font, flanked by two white four-pointed stars. Below the purple band, a black horizontal band contains the text 'Book ur table: 07487566236/07477560848' in white bold sans-serif font.

KARAOKE NIGHT *Party*

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

**Saturday
25th July**

***The Ivy Inn, North Littleton
Wr11 8ef***

Book ur table: 07487566236/07477560848



SOUTH LITTLETON
— PARISH COUNCIL —



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

South Littleton Parish Council is proud to let you know that Victim Support West Mercia offers free, confidential and independent support to anyone affected by crime.



OUR
COMMUNITY
SUPPORTS
RESIDENTS
AFFECTED
BY CRIME



Victim Support West Mercia provides **FREE, CONFIDENTIAL** and **INDEPENDENT** support for:



Victims
of crime



Family members
and friends



Witnesses



Anyone affected by
a traumatic incident

Support is available whether the crime happened recently or some time ago, and whether or not it was reported to the police.



NEED TO TALK?

WEST MERCIA VICTIM SUPPORT



01905 726 896

Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm

24-HOUR SUPPORTLINE



08 08 16 89 111



www.victimsupport.org.uk

➔ OTHER WAYS TO GET SUPPORT FROM VICTIM SUPPORT ➔



Free 24/7
Supportline
08 08 16 89 111



24/7
Text Relay
via Relay UK app



Free live chat
on Victim Support
website (24/7)



British Sign
Language (BSL)
contact available



Request support
via Victim Support
website



Helping people feel safer,
informed and supported.



Scan to request support
or visit Victim Support
website for more
information.



For emergencies
always call **999**.



For non-emergency
police matters call **101**.

Working for
our community



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jcsmotors@gmail.com

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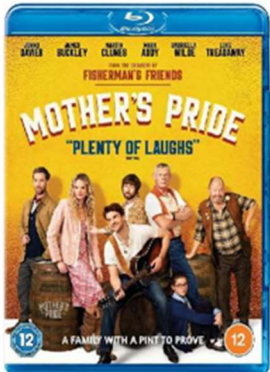
We also offer a free local collection and return service if required.
Over 40 years in the trade!



Honeybourne Village Hall

July Film Night





Saturday 18th July
Doors open 7pm
Tickets £5.00 pp
Refreshments and Raffle on the night
Tickets available on the night or online at
www.honeybournevillagehall.org

From the team behind 'Finding Your Feet' and 'Fisherman's Friends' comes Mother's Pride, a story about the Harley family who after losing their matriarch, must come together to save their pub and village through the art of beer-brewing.

12A



LITTLETON FOOTBALL CLUB

After a competitive season Littleton finished in third place in the Hummel Herefordshire Football League. As yet we have not been notified of the league Littleton will play in next season.

Friendly fixtures are being organised before the beginning of the 2026/2027 season and these will be advertised when known.

We will be promoting the club during the closed season and look forward to volunteers joining the existing group who work tirelessly for the club.

Youth teams were also playing this season under the umbrella of Littleton FC. Their home fixtures have been played at Blackminster Middle School on Saturday mornings.

We'd like to extend a plea for volunteers to join the team who carry out the essential everyday tasks of the club to proceed in competitive football. These tasks are not onerous but to enable the club to flourish they are an important part of the structure of the club.

If you'd like to support the club in a financial way you can sponsor the team in many ways. This can be done by sponsors for match day balls, home games, players, pitch side advertisements. Your name/company would be promoted on a sponsor board.

For any information regarding volunteering or sponsorship please contact Marion Brighton on 01905 909125 or email littletonfc@outlook.com who will be pleased to help.



LITTLETON FOOTBALL CLUB

MORE DEVELOPMENT. MORE GROWTH

As Littleton FC continues to grow, we're committed to providing the very best opportunities for our players at every age group.

That's why we're delighted to be working in collaboration with Next Phase Goalkeeping, bringing specialist goalkeeper coaching to the club for aspiring young keepers aged U7-U16.

This is another exciting step forward for Littleton FC as we continue to invest in player development across our boys', girls', junior and senior sections.

From new teams and pathways to specialist coaching opportunities, we're creating an environment where players can learn, develop and enjoy their football.

 Every Thursday

 5pm-6pm (U7s-U12s)

 6pm-7pm (U13s-U16s)

Come along & get involved!!



GOALKEEPER COACHING

LITTLETON F.C. IN COLLABORATION WITH NEXTPHASE GOALKEEPING

AGES U7 TO U16 ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

- BUILDING BETTER GOALKEEPERS**
Professional goalkeeper training focusing on technique, confidence and mindset.
- CONFIDENCE & MINDSET**
Helping young goalkeepers gain confidence, improve technique, and develop the mindset needed to perform under pressure.
- TECHNIQUE DEVELOPMENT**
Shot-stopping, handling, footwork, positioning and decision making.

EVERY THURSDAY

5:00PM – 6:00PM
U7'S – U12'S

6:00PM – 7:00PM
U13'S – U16'S

COMMAND YOUR BOX. CONTROL YOUR MIND.

07852 129 233
LITTLETON FC - WR11 8QL

NEXTPHASE GOALKEEPING

Who are your local Neighbourhood Officers for the 'Rural North' area?



The Local Team

Your local Neighbourhood Police Officers are PC Alex Prentice, PC Shaquille Lakin and PC Eve Marshall. Your local Police Community Support Officers are PCSO Jasmine Hill and PCSO Lee Stirling. Please feel free to contact the team via email: eveshamrn.snt@westmercia.police.uk.

The team is known as the Evesham and Pershore Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team. The team have 2 Facebook pages, 'Evesham Police' and 'Pershore Police'. Please follow these to keep up to date with our activities and to see when our local drop in/engagement sessions are.

Speed Enforcement

TruCam has officially arrived in Evesham, Pershore and the surrounding villages. Your local Safer Neighbourhood Officers are now fully trained and equipped to use this speed enforcement device as part of ongoing efforts to keep our communities safe.

What you need to know:

TruCam is used to detect vehicles exceeding the speed limit

Offences are recorded digitally

Data is downloaded automatically

Anyone caught speeding will receive a ticket by post

Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters!

Drop-in sessions are held weekly around the patch. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please pop along to one of these sessions. These sessions are advertised on Neighbourhood Matters.

Neighbourhood Matters is a free service which allows you to receive updates regarding crime in your area and also allows you to message your local officer. Take a look at the website for further information: <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>.

Please feel free to come to any session you see advertised, you do not have to live in the village to attend. If you know people who do not have access to the internet, please feel free to share the information. The more people who know about these drop-ins, the better!

Reporting Incidents

Please remember to report crime and any incidents via 999, 101 or on the West Mercia website. Please do not email/ring/text individual officers if a crime has happened, this needs to be reported officially through the correct channels.



Freedom Fields Festival returns 25-26 July! Two days of live music, delicious vegan street food, talks, workshops, yoga and a kids' area. All here on the farm, surrounded by our 600+ rescued residents. Find out more here: <https://thefarmanimalsanctuary.co.uk/event/freedom-fields-festival-2026/>



THE LITTLETONS VILLAGE HALL

School Lane, Middle Littleton, WR11 8LJ

Current regular bookings for the hall include:

- Monday: Table Tennis
Tuesday: Table Tennis / U3a Quilters on 2nd & 4th
Wednesday: Parents & Toddlers (term-time only) / Craft (evening)
Thursday: Craft / Table Tennis
Friday: Available for booking up to 5:30pm / Pilates from 5:50pm
Weekends: Available for booking

A venue for social, educational and sporting activities. We have a fully equipped kitchen/cooking facilities and are an ideal venue for weddings and all family celebrations.



Please contact our Bookings Secretary on 07577 416681 for availability and costs.

LOCAL HONEY



A member of Evesham & British Beekeeper associations' we are offering local, pure, natural honey directly from our bees. Local delivery available.



1.2kg - £15
454g - £6

650g - £8
Propolis drops (30ml) - £8

Contact: ivomasica@gmail.com or call Ivan on 07859 078093

BENEFICE OF EAST VALE AND AVON VILLAGES

The parishes of North & Middle Littleton and South Littleton are both members of the United Benefice of East Vale and Avon Villages. The Priest in Charge of the Benefice (Badsey, Bretforton, Offenham, The Littletons & Cleeve Prior) is the Revd Joanna Fielding who can be contacted on 07561 823135 (WhatsApp & phone) or 01386 339669. Please get in touch with Jo directly for any enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals across our group of parishes. Alternatively, you can contact our administrator, Faith, on eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com For more details visit the Benefice website: www.eastvaleavon.com where you will also find all the services available.

Information from St Nicholas Church at North & Middle

St Nicholas Church is available for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. Before all bookings a dedicated team of volunteers make a thorough clean of the facilities.



Information from St Michaels Church at South

For general enquires relating to St Michaels Church, please contact the Churchwardens Robert Johnson 01386 831504 or Sue Jinks 01386 831553. For more information on St Michael's please visit our web site: www.southlittletonchurch.co.uk



Date	Service	Time	Location
12-Jul	Eucharist	11:00 AM	St Michael's, South
12-Jul	Taize	7:00 PM	St Michael's, South
26-Jul	Benefice Patronal Service	11:00 AM	St James, Badsey

From the Parish Registers – May 2026

Baptisms	
Badsey	Elsie Thomas
Weddings	
Badsey	Beth Roden and Sam Green Patricia Wilkinson and Graham Wilkinson
Bretforton	Josie Tate and Sam Levine
Funerals or committal of ashes	
Badsey	Beryl Osborne

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library service normally visits the Littletons on the **4th Tuesday** of the month. The next scheduled visit will be on **28 July** at the following times:

- 10:40 to 10:55 – North Littleton, The Ivy
- 11:00 to 11:15 – Middle Littleton, Village Hall
- No longer visiting South Littleton due to lack of use



Enquiries about this service should be made by contacting: TEL: 01905 822722 or emailing mobilelibraries@worcestershireshire.gov.uk

Paper bag party time

Hello!

Did you enjoy team games at school or avoid them whenever possible? Maybe you still love them and play whenever possible. As a child, I was often ill at home – and even when I was at school, I was very small for my age – and rubbish at PE, which meant that I was usually last to get picked for team games. Years later I am still not super keen on anything involving running around on a court or a sports field – but the experience – combined with a bunch of other stuff that I value – has also meant that I try to make sure that everyone can feel invited and included as much as possible in church, and events across each week.

Sometimes we get it badly wrong – sometimes despite the best of intentions – or because we make assumptions that turn out to be way off the mark. But now and again, we try something new – and it works brilliantly. When I first started visiting our schools, one of them had a tradition of holding a service of Holy Communion occasionally, but I noticed that when we did, none of the children and only one staff member wanted to receive anything. Instead, everyone sat through the service without much enthusiasm and seemed uncomfortable with what was going on. It did not feel good! So, I wondered: could we do this better? What could we do to enable everyone – adults and children – feel happy to be there, and to understand what we were doing, and feel absolutely included and even enjoy it?

Then I remembered something from a summer festival communion service and went shopping.... On the day, they sat in multi-year groups where they talked about what they thought was going on in a painting we looked at and explored the links between that and the story of Jesus using a child's picnic lunch to feed a massive crowd. We sang

some of their favourite songs. And then after hearing about the last party meal that Jesus shared with his friends, the oldest child in each group opened a bright coloured paper bag to find a bottle of water, some little cups, and exactly a pack of iced biscuits, one for each child or adult in the group – and we ate the biscuits and drank our water all together. I could see and hear how much everyone was enjoying it – smiles all round, empty biscuit packs in the bags and “When can we do this again?”

Church services – weddings, baptisms, Sunday services can feel really uncomfortable for anyone who isn’t used to them. Strange books, unfamiliar music, weird words, invitations to stand or sit at random times. Readings from words written in another language over a thousand years ago. For some people, this is all deeply familiar and comforting – but for others, it can feel very strange – like we don’t belong here. But my job as your vicar – and the job of anyone else in our churches – is to find ways of making everyone feel included and welcome. Why? Because Jesus spent his whole life doing exactly that. He told stories about God’s love; he shared meals with anyone who invited him and spent time with the people who were ignored by others. He knew that God’s love is offered to everyone. This is not always an easy thing to remember – especially when we think about some of the terrible things that happen around us. But hard or easy, it is still true – and Jesus left very clear instructions that his followers should keep right on with that invitation to anyone who needs to hear it or see it. I hope you hear and feel that welcome if you are at anything that we do – whether it is a mid-week coffee morning, after-school club like Story Explorers, a wedding, or a Sunday service. We are all welcome.

Rev. Jo Fielding
Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com
Tel 07561 823135

A gardener's guide to Bird Nesting Season



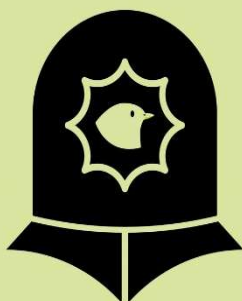
Surrey
Wildlife Trust



Season runs from March-August, but
some birds nest earlier or later



Avoid cutting your shrubs, hedges
and trees during this time



All wild birds are protected by law,
including gulls, pigeons and crows



Birds may nest in trees, shrubs,
hedges, ivy, roofs and eaves

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Editor information

Entries and enquiries for the next Link should be sent to Mary Keeling at:

littletonlinkeditor@gmail.com

Deadline for August entries is Friday 17 July

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- When emailing information please use **Word A5 format (not PDF)** or paste information directly into the email.
- Any pictures for front cover need to be **A5 Portrait .jpg**
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