

ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



Easter approacheth and, as at Christmas, we have the magazine suggestions on exactly how we can enhance the season. With, of course, the possibility of personal injury.

Tying glass jam jars with ribbon, filling them with water and fresh flowers and hanging them from various structures, for example. (Well, I don't know whether you have ever tried to tie a ribbon around the neck of a glass jar, but in my experience it either hangs at a drunken angle, spilling the contents on the ground beneath, or, more likely, the ribbon slips off, plummeting the jar earthwards. So, if, foolishly, you follow the suggestion to hang these from 'sparse' branches, don't imagine a peaceful contemplation of the glories above, unless you believe that concussion provides a quiet interlude).

However, if you favour something a little more grounded (deliberately grounded that is) a galvanised bucket filled with Spring blooms provides an informal centrepiece for al fresco dining. (Apart from the cost of a galvanised bucket which isn't necessarily something immediately to hand - filling with blooms is a costly exercise. Please don't think that you can get away with the odd catkin and a 'sparse' branch brought down by the weight of the jam jars. And somehow (and this is personal of course) a galvanised bucket doesn't seem to be a particularly elegant centrepiece for dining. Al fresco or otherwise. Also lifting it, filled with water and all those hefty blooms, is likely to give you a back injury).

Somehow, I feel that a lightweight chocolate egg is safer. A Happy Easter to you all.

Barbara and Kevin

email: editor@elkstoneparish.gov.uk

Deadline for the next newsletter - 20 April 2026

Regular Village Hall Activities		
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday, 7.30pm	Ronnie Bury - 870493 or Martyn Wylie - 870441
Art Club	Every Thursday, 9am - 1pm	Penny Casewell - 07775 941876
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.00 - 11.00am	Emma Lowther - 07967 215569

Other dates for your diary		
Waste & Recycling	Recycling boxes, recycling bags, refuse, food caddy and garden waste	Friday 3 April Friday 17 April
	Food Caddy only	Friday 10 April Friday 24 April

Easter and April Church Services

Sunday 29 March

PALM SUNDAY at North Cerney Church

Meet at 10.30am at the Village Green in North Cerney Village and walk to North Cerney Church. Service starts in the church at 11.00am.

Easter and April Church Services (cont)

Friday 3 April	Good Friday Pilgrimage	(see feature below)	
Sunday 5 April	EASTER SUNRISE Service at 6.30am. Meet at Stratton Cemetery Car Park at 6.15am for the short walk to The Ridge behind Stratton Church. Followed by breakfast at Stratton Church		
Sunday 5 April	11:00 am	EASTER SUNDAY	Easter Communion at Elkstone Church
Sunday 12 April	11:00 am	Benefice Service	Stratton Church
Sunday 19th April	11:00 am	Holy Communion	Elkstone Church

Good Friday Pilgrimage Friday 3 April

A Good Friday pilgrimage, with a short meditation at each of our churches, takes place on Friday 3 April. Please join for all, or any part of the walk.

The approximate timetable is:

Morning. Meet 8:45am at Colesbourne Church and travel for the start at Coberley 9:00am. The walk starts at Coberley Church at 9:00am, walking to Cowley Church for 9:45am, up through Cowley Woods arriving at Elkstone Church 10:45am, via Olive's Walk to Colesbourne Church at 12:00 midday (then travel by car to Rendcomb Church and luncheon).

Afternoon. Start at Rendcomb Church at 1:00pm, North Cerney Church at 2:00pm, Bagendon Church at 2:30pm, Baunton Church at 3:30pm, finishing at Stratton Church at around 4:30pm. All the churches will be open for the expected times of arrival.

EASTER Sunrise Service at 6.30am

Meet at Stratton Cemetery Carpark at 6.15am for the short walk to The Ridge behind Stratton Church. Followed by breakfast at Stratton Church, please contact me if you'd like breakfast, as we need to make sure there are enough pastries and croissants for everyone.

Carole - carolebury@hotmail.com

Easter Sunday

St John the Evangelist Church, Elkstone

Sunday 5 April 11am Easter Communion

Do come along and celebrate Easter with your friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome. Followed by Refreshments and our Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard and Church.



7.30pm Wednesday 29 April at Rendcomb Church

Our new Vicar is Revd Julian Wilson, and his Licensing Service is on Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7.30pm at Rendcomb Church. The Bishop, working with the Archdeacon, Patrons and Parish reps are delighted to announce the appointment of the Reverend Julian Wilson as the new Rector of the Churn Valley Benefice. Everyone is invited to the Service to welcome Rev Julian to our Benefice. Rev Julian and his wife will live at the Rectory in Stratton. Please do pray for Julian at this exciting time!

9.30am Saturday 2 May - Elkstone Village Hall - Parish of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

A Public Meeting for the election of churchwardens will be held in Elkstone Village Hall at 9.30am on Saturday 2 May.

This meeting may be attended by —

1. the persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish; and
2. the persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.

This short meeting will be followed by the The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Elkstone Church. The last year has seen some challenging changes in our small Village Church and all support and interest from the Village is very welcome. Our new Vicar, Revd Julian Wilson will be joining us at the meeting, as we face the prospect of a year without a Churchwarden and a very small PCC. Please come along to our meeting and give encouragement to the very small committee of volunteers who keep this historical building and worshipping community alive.

Carole, Elkstone Church

Village Hall News

The old chairs and tables have gone, and the Hall now has new chairs on a hanging trolley. We are now waiting for the trolley to house the folding tables.

Painting has started on both toilet areas and the front lobby, so the Hall will be out of action for at least the first week in April.

Again, we would hope that the village will want to maintain the new state of the premises so that the upgrades will last for many years. Thank you all.

You may have noticed the new backing to the Noticeboard. Many thanks to David Kearney and David Collins for all their work and to the Parish Council for giving the funds for the new backing material.

At the time of writing Stuart is repeating his rejuvenation work this time on the bench outside the Village Hall. Thank you so much for this, Stuart, it is looking brilliant and very 'sit-able'.

Villager News



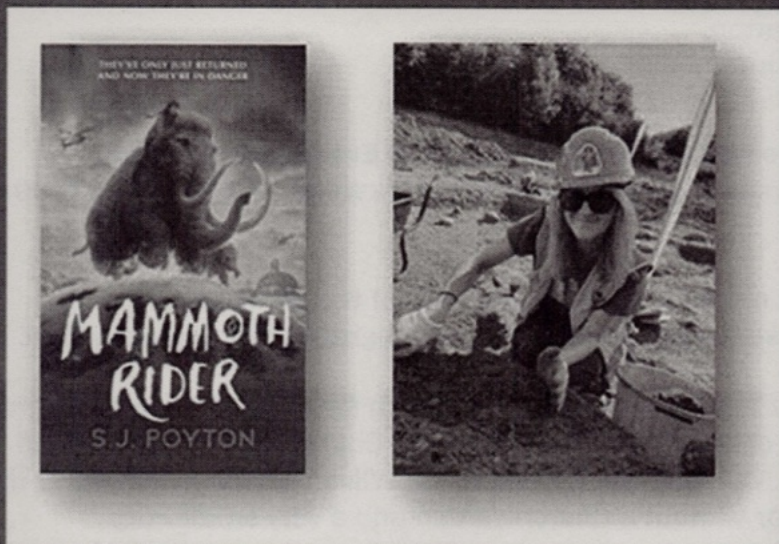
Matt Hobbs took a break from lambing and chairing the Parish Council to appear on Britain's Got Talent on March 21st, where, with The Hawkstone Farmer's Choir, he stole the spotlight and earned a Golden Buzzer from judge Amanda Holden. This sent the choir straight through to the semi-finals.

The group of 32 farmers and agricultural workers from around the country were initially brought together by Jeremy Clarkson and have been performing since 2024. The choir, who range in age from 27 to 74 performed a brilliant version of Elbow's 'One Day Like This'.

Congratulations to Matt and the choir and we'll look forward to seeing him, and supporting the choir, in the semi-finals (date to be advised).

<https://www.itv.com/britainsgotalent/articles/the-hawkstone-farmers-choir-get-amanda-holdens-golden-buzzer>

Mammoths back at Corinium Museum for Easter



A new family gallery trail is launching this Easter based on the recently published book *Mammoth Rider* by Sally Poyton. Sally was the artist and illustrator behind our very popular Mammoths at the Museum gallery trail last February, and *Mammoth Rider* is her first children's novel. In the book, mammoths have returned, brought back by scientists to help combat climate change. Ash Grimes, born and raised at the Arctic Research Centre, dreams of becoming a Mammoth Rider, just like her dad. With a trophy hunter threatening the safety of the herd, Ash, along with best friends Ruby and Jack, must race across the tundra to save

their families, the rare calf, and the very future of the mammoths. In the gallery trail, launching on March 28, young visitors can use a code to decipher the passwords found in the museum galleries to allow Ash and friends to move through the Arctic Research Centre. Or, for under-fives, spot the snowflakes around the museum.

Sally is also coming to the museum on April 12 to hold a very special author workshop. Come and be introduced to Ash Grimes and her enormous, extraordinary companions – the newly-returned mammoths – and discover how this thrilling adventure blends bold science, brave characters and big ideas about climate, conservation and courage.

Packed with interactive storytelling, mammoth facts, cloning and de-extinction insights and behind-the-book secrets – this event invites you to think about how STEM and imagination can shape a better future. You'll get to see a real-life baby mammoth's tooth, ask questions about writing and research, and uncover what it *really* takes to protect a baby mammoth in Sally's tundra suitcase.

Ideal for ages 8+. There will be opportunities for book signings and a Q&A session.

The workshop is on April 12 at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £3.00 and are available from the museum website.

Nature Notes

The Swallow season should be here this month and the sound of them brings happiness and a sense of relief that they have arrived safely. They weigh about 20 grams and have flown around 10,000 kilometres to return. An incredible journey for them.

We once saw far more of them around here swooping over the fields but fewer of them have come back to nest in the place of their hatching. I hope that numbers will increase again in this neighbourhood, for they bring such joy for a miraculous homecoming.