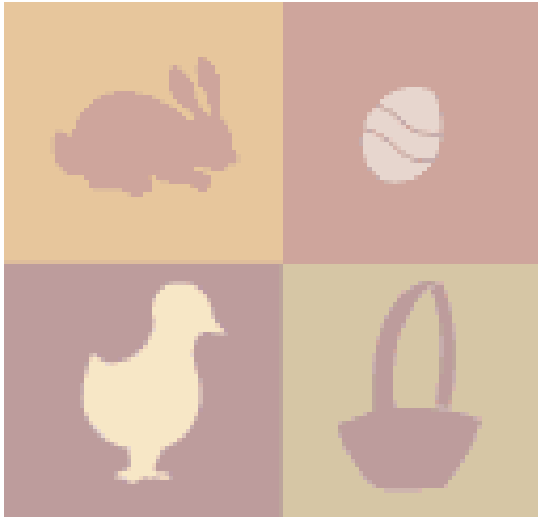


Tower & Tap

April 2011



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April 2011

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|-----|
| | | | | 1 <i>Mixed Plastics Wheelie Bins Green Waste</i> High Five Service 10 am | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Gardening Club 7.30 Village Hall | 5 All Sorts SM School 1.30 - 2.45 | 6 Tots 'n' Toddlers 9-11am Village Hall | 7 South Marston Enterprise meeting 7.30 | 8 Youth Club 6.30 pm Village Hall | 9 Meeting Point 9.30- 12 Village Hall Saturday Scene 4 pm Village Hall | 10 |
| 11 Youth Club 6.30 pm Village Hall | 12 Friendly Club 2 pm Village Hall | 13 Craft Company 2 pm | 14 | 15 <i>Mixed Plastics Wheelie Bins Green Waste</i> | 16 Conservation Site Working Day | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Parish Council 7.30 pm Village Hall | 20 | 21 | 22 Youth Club 6.30 pm Village Hall | 23 | 24 |
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Dear Friends,

Do you know the old folk tale about the three trees? It tells how three young trees dreamt of what they would be when they grew up. The first wanted to be a treasure chest encrusted with jewels, the second wanted to be a strong ship that would cross oceans and the third wanted to grow to be the tallest tree in the world pointing to heaven so that when people looked at her she would point them to God. Eventually they grow up, the first was made into a manger but realised when baby Jesus was placed in him that he held the greatest treasure in the world. The second tree became a simple fishing boat not the strong sailing ship he had dreamt about. One day a violent storm breaks out and he feels so weak and afraid, but a man stood up, stretched out his hand saying 'Peace' and the storm stopped. The second tree realised he was carrying the King of Heaven and earth. The third tree shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her—she felt ugly, harsh and cruel but when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy she knew that God's love had changed everything and every time people thought of the third tree they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

What are your dreams for the future? Some people have the central belief that life is just an endless cycle where one generation is born, grows old, dies, another one comes along, and so it goes on without any meaning or purpose. Within this framework, society becomes a frightening place with battles for dominance, violence and life has no value; elimination of the weak and infanticide become acceptable. But the Bible tells something different. 'In the beginning God...' and throughout its 66 books it tells us of Gods desire for intimate relationship with each one of us.

This Easter why not seek out that relationship made possible by Jesus at the first Easter? *'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* John 3:16

At the foot of the cross is where dreams come true.

God Bless you with the knowledge of his love for you,
Vicky Fleming

Church News



The next **High Five** service for children up to 5 years will be on Friday 1st April at 10am— with a mini-egg hunt!

Saturday Scene meets on 9th April in the Village Hall 4-5.15pm. An exciting church event for young families. Stories, songs, crafts, games and food. Contact Donald Page on 825693



‘Craft Company’ we are meeting again at Dryden House on Wednesday **13th April at 2pm**. Last month some of us had a go at making items with self-drying clay. More details from Mary or Vicky Fleming

The Celebration Fellowship Supper

We had a great supper with a choice of hot meals and followed by sumptuous deserts and all washed down with a glass of wine. We watched a Powerpoint presentation celebrating last year—a lot of banter about the pictures ensued! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the food, setting up and clearing up - and to those who supported the evening.

Guttering News

At the March Meeting Point we held a raffle in aid of the guttering and with extra donations raised £73.50. Thank you so much for supporting this. We are thinking about putting together a **village cookbook**—do you have a recipe and maybe a local story to go into this? If so please send it to Vicky Fleming at the Vicarage or email it to revs.fleming@tiscali.co.uk. Raising the money we need is going to be a long haul but we don't want future generations to have to deal with the larger problems damp and water damage bring. The church building is part of our heritage and is used by many people other than those who worship on a Sunday. Will you help us?

Celebrating Easter



20th April Holy Week Meditation at St. Margaret's, Stratton

22nd April, Good Friday

10am Family Service at St. Margaret's, Stratton
2pm An hour round the cross
St. Leonard's Stanton Fitzwarren

24th April Easter Day

8am Holy Communion BCP
9.30am Family Communion
6.15pm Holy Communion, St. Margaret's, Stratton

Come and receive His love

The Meeting Point

Coffee morning with table top sales

(Please book your table by 6th April: £5 for people who live in the village, £10 for those outside.)



9th April from 9.30 –12 noon

In the Village Hall

Refreshments provided by South Marston Church

Those who come often remark about the enjoyment of sitting down with a neighbour they haven't seen for a while with a cake in one hand and a coffee in the other.

We look forward to seeing you

Church Services

(at South Marston Church unless otherwise stated)

| | | |
|------------|---------|----------------------|
| 3rd April | 11.00am | Family Service |
| 10th April | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| 17th April | 9.30am | Morning Worship |
| 24th April | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| 1st May | 11.00am | Family Service |
| 8th May | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| 15th May | 9.30am | Morning Worship |
| 22nd May | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| 29th May | 10.00am | TEAM SERVICE Stanton |

Church Office

South Marston Church is part of Stratton Team Ministry. The office is located at St. Margaret's Centre, Kenwin Close, Stratton St. Margaret and it is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am to 12 noon. Email: stmargaretsoffice@tiscali.co.uk or tel: 826505.

If you would like to talk to a priest or book a Christening or Wedding please contact Rev Vicky Fleming on 827021 between 6 and 7pm any evening except Thursdays or Sundays.

Members of the team:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Team Rector | to be appointed | |
| Team Vicar | Rev. Vicky Fleming | 827021 |
| Asst. Priest | Rev. George Fleming | 827021 |
| Asst. Priest | Rev. Richard Burston | 822403 |
| Lay Minister | Mrs Christine Burston | 822403 |
| Lay Minister | Mr Dan Read | 763016 |

South Marston Parish Council News

Village Expansion

Swindon Council Road Show - 12th April

Swindon Borough Council have published the revised draft Core Strategy that will govern the expansion of the town to 2026 and beyond. It includes an amended Eastern Development area plan and specific outline plans for the expansion of South Marston. Responses are required by 24th May.



They will be holding a Road Show in the village hall between 5 and 9 pm on the 12th April. Some issues are proving more controversial than we expected. In particular Swindon's proposals to expand the existing school and retain the fields behind Bell Gardens as open space do not appear to fit with the aims of those who have applied to give the Playing Field Village Green status.

We anticipate mounting a display as a reminder of the work already done by the village in developing its own Plan, which will implement the outline in the Core Strategy. Villagers are encouraged to get involved in the process.

Working Group: The village working group has met and submitted comments on Swindon's plans to cope with existing and future traffic problems in the South Marston area. We are promised a meeting with the local Environment Agency representative to discuss how the increased flood risk will be addressed.

At the next **Meeting Point on the 9th April** the Parish Council are planning to hold the second of three "**Councillor Corner**" sessions. These have been designed to allow for an informal dialogue between the Parish Councillors and residents on any issues that effect village life. Please feel free to drop in and talk to one of the councillors over a cup of tea.



To keep informed of all the latest Parish Council news, including minutes of Parish Council meetings, please go to www.southmarston.org.uk and visit the 'Parish Council' section.

South Marston Enterprise (SME) Group

This small group of villagers has been meeting to talk about and share experiences of being in business for about 18 months. We come from a variety of backgrounds and our experience of being in business varies from a few months to several years; but we all have something to contribute.

In 2010 the group members were able to share knowledge and skills on subjects as diverse as business processes, presenting your business and time management. It's not a formal group – we meet in each other's homes, chat and usually indulge in something good to eat and drink.

We'd like to invite anyone with an interest in business or enterprise (you don't have to run a business) to join us at our meetings, which take place on the first Thursday of each month. You don't have to commit to every meeting and it costs nothing.

At our March meeting we took a tour around Facebook and saw how it can be used to promote businesses, social enterprises and interest groups. We were given some valuable information about the legal issues surrounding the use of the site in the workplace. It was good to welcome a new face to the group too.

In **April** we will be getting **Serious About Service**, considering how we can give good service to customers and other people our organisations serve. We will meet at **7.30pm on Thursday 7th April at 3 Ash Gardens**. If you'd like to come please call Hannah Jones on 01793 823035 or e-mail her at

hannah@bluekitecoach.com

Village Green Application Update

Objections to the Village Green application have been received by Swindon Borough Council and we now await the response.

Having read the objections, I would like to allay the fears/concerns that some villagers have regarding usage of the recreation ground if Village Green status is granted:



- Ownership and management of the recreation field would not be affected
- SMRA will not be prevented from carrying on their much appreciated good work
- Fund-raising activities can still place
- Grass can still be cut by volunteers and there is no necessity to employ contractors to do this
- Sports / Football teams can still play on the land (money raised assists SMRA to manage the site)

- Children, dog walkers, joggers and families can all use in the same way as at present
- Village Green status is the strongest protection against development (There is no covenant upon the land to prevent this.)

Through DEFRA I have contacted a Village Green expert who has confirmed the above points.

For those who are unfamiliar with the detail of the case submitted, the car park, the "cage", the changing rooms, the land between them and the land behind the changing rooms are not included in the application.

The only thing this application seeks to achieve is prevent development of the land for the foreseeable future in order that we can all continue to enjoy it. Thanks again to all those who have aided and supported the application. Please feel free to call me on 820823.

Jill Little, South Marston

Property Level Protection Applications

The Environment Agency have informed Swindon Borough Council that DEFRA have agreed they can ring-fence £2million nationally, for property Level Protection schemes in the financial year 2011/12. Property Level Protection is available to residents who have endured flooding in South Marston.

There are tight timescales for submitting applications. Residents who feel they qualify and wish to apply for a funding grant to protect their property should send an expression of interest to highwayasset@swindon.gov.uk **before 8th April 2011**. Applications will then be processed by Swindon Borough Council through the Environment Agency on your behalf.

Key points:

- ⇒ Tight timescale for submitting applications. Expressions of interest to highwayasset@swindon.gov.uk **by 8th April 2011**.
- ⇒ Swindon Borough Council will be informed of successful applications by **5th May 2011**.
- ⇒ Schemes to be finished and money claimed by **31st March 2012**.
- ⇒ Grant allocation is £4,250 per property (to include £500 on administration, no limit on survey costs).

For more information, please email: propertyprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk or visit the South Marston website where further details will be posted.

Friendly Club

Recent Events

On Tuesday, 8th March a demonstration and talk on *curing meat* was given by **Jasper Aykroyd** who cooked cured pork for us to sample. It was roasted at 150°C for 3 hours, fat-side up so that the fat runs down and bastes the lean meat, then allowed to rest for at least half an hour. He also cooked cured bacon for us to sample. We were shown various salts, tasted them and chose a salt to use by voting. The range of herbs he uses for curing was explained to us and a selection chosen to cure the belly piece.

The piece he cooked was a whole Back or Loin, and was par-cured with salt, muscovado sugar, and in order: cinnamon, coriander, caraway, fennel, clove, ginger and nutmeg. Both that and the belly



which we cured as a collective group came from Helen Browning's Eastbrook Farm in Bishopstone. She has the largest herd of Saddlebacks in Europe, but those are breeding sows.

The Boars are Large whites. Crossed, they create a pig for meat which has just a nice amount of fat and flavour, and have a mottled grey hide, which gives them their name of "Blue" pigs.

The very fatty bacon that he cooked is from a different herd owned by a friend near Fernam, and those are fluffy pigs from Hungary, called Mangaliza pigs: the preferred meat of the Viennese court in days of yore. (If you saw the programme *Great British Food Revival* on BBC 2 on Wednesday 16th March you would have seen the pigs which from a distance look like sheep.)

Future Events

Tuesday 12th April. –Village Hall, 2.00 pm.

A talk will be given by **Linda Warren** on the subject
“The Wartime Kitchen”



Tuesday 19th April.

Our first outing this year will be to **St Fagans, National History Museum, Cardiff**. The coach will leave from outside the school at 9.0am and returning at approx 6.30pm.

Tuesday 10th May. – Village Hall, 2.00 pm.

A talk will be given by **Jean Campbell** on **India**



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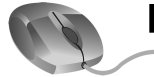
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Tower & Tap

Please email items for the Tower & Tap to kaylong@btinternet.com or drop any article in to The Maples, South Marston (next to the Vicarage).

The deadline for May 2011 issue is 15 April



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Police News

A speeding operation took place in South Marston between 8 and 10am on 11 March in conjunction with the pupils from South Marston Primary School. The children were working on a project in relation to speeding and were given the opportunity to use the camera and also pose questions to some motorists who were stopped for speeding and who would normally have received a verbal warning. During the operation, one fixed penalty ticket was issued which will result in a fine and three points, a second person was reported to summons to court due to excessive speed and accumulation of driving points.



PC Jackson said the operation was a great way for the community to become involved in an issue affecting the village. He was pleased to see how much the children enjoyed themselves and he said it was interesting that the drivers the children spoke to were residents of South Marston.

The NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team) are currently liaising with the Highway Agency about weight signage affecting 7.5 tonne HGVs with a view to repositioning the signs in a more prominent position in the vicinity of the village. If residents notice any heavy goods vehicles driving through the village, please could they note down the registration number of the vehicle and also the company name and pass the information to the NPT either via email swindonruralnorthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or by telephoning 0845 4087000.



Over the past two weeks there have been two burglaries in rural north villages, one at Castle Eaton, the other at Hannington. It is highly probable these are connected. Both break-ins have occurred during the afternoon, when the properties were empty. Please ensure when you leave your property all windows are closed, all doors are locked and to take all precautions to stop opportunists from entering. Also please report any suspicious persons or vehicles in the villages to the telephone number or email address above.

Could we please remind all allotment owners in South Marston to ensure their sheds are secure and no valuable equipment is left in them as there has been an increase in allotment break-ins across Swindon and this is likely to increase with summer fast approaching.

The police surgery this month in our area is a street meeting outside the church in Sevenhampton at 3 to 3.30pm on 9 April. If residents would like to speak to an officer they are welcome to go along to this meeting or alternatively an officer is usually present for the first 15 minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting which is an open session for residents. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on 19 April in the village hall. If no officer is present then if appropriate, please pass the information to a Parish Councillor who will ensure the message is passed on to the police.

The crimes figures for February 2011 for South Marston village are 1 traffic related offence and 3 thefts (fuel from ESSO garage and South Marston industrial estate).

Your local

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| | |
|--|---|
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|--|---|

01380 735555

handihelp@ridgewaycommunity.org.uk

LITTER IN OUR VILLAGE

I walk my dog in areas of our village regularly throughout the week and I am astounded by the ever increasing amount of litter being thrown around it. I constantly see cans plastic bottles large fast food bags and contents and other litter that has just been chucked down. It is making our village look dreadful. It is bad at the top end of the rec near the hotel car park and the hotel car park is dreadful as well with lots of broken glass at times which poses a hazard to animals and children Who is doing this and can they please stop or if anybody witnesses this kind of behaviour to report it to our local police officers. Also can I urge everyone if they see litter to pick it up and dispose of it so we are all taking pride in our village where we live as well as caring for the environment. I as well as my family regularly collect lots of rubbish on our dog walks, but within days there is loads more again. It is very disheartening, but we will continue doing this to keep our village tidy as well as to protect the environment. Please help to do the same and better still don't throw it down in the first place. Take it home or use a bin. Also remember to recycle what you can.

Mandie Olive



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CONSERVATION SITE UPDATE

The sun shone on a few hearty volunteers on Saturday 19th March. We had two new volunteers for the morning (Karen and Julie). Many thanks to everyone who was able to turn out.

We were able to empty all the bags of stone to build the new path area that Ray has finished laying out. It's looking really good now and will soon be walkable from the pavement. However, we are a few tons of stone short and we are therefore looking for funds to help with the purchase of more stone.



A great deal of hard work went into clearing the hedgerow of weeds and digging the trench in which to plant new hedging. The clearance is approx two thirds completed and the trench is just over half way. We were able to plant approx 80 new hedging plants complete with rabbit guard and cane. We have 70 plants left with 50 rabbit guards and canes remaining. We will need to purchase some more plants, guards and canes in order to complete it. All donations readily welcomed.



We were unable to do more work on the pond site due to lack of volunteers on the day. Whilst we have been given a pond liner we are having to dig out the hole to put in into.

The Parish Council has again supported our work with £500 toward the cost of the materials required to develop this site. However we still have to make grant applications for the larger amount of money required to complete the work to the winning designs from the village competition.

The next volunteer date is Saturday 16th April from 2.00 - 4.30 pm.

We do need more people to help us develop what will become a peaceful spot in the village. There are a few people consistently working hard on this project, but we do need more. Even if you can only spare an hour or so it will be very much appreciated. We will also need native plants, and of course money, to help us build two bridges, develop the pond and bog garden and many more ideas. See our plans on the village web site.

Why not come along and find out what we are trying to build.

Call Barry on 826697 if you would like more details.

SMAWL — South Marston Assisting Wildlife

South Marston C of E School News

We have once again been very busy this term!

The week beginning the 28 February was our book week and the children really enjoyed the religious storyteller as well as visits from parents and members of the local community who generously gave up their time to come and share their favourite books and love of reading with the children. A great big thank you to all those who took part!



As part of their topic on Spring, Class 2 have been spending time at Oxleaze Woods looking for signs of Springtime. They have been enjoying looking at the catkins, seeing the animals and having fun being outdoors!



Class 4 have also started a project with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for St Julian's Close. They have been

pond dipping in the school pond, discovering minibeasts and looking at them more closely using the digital microscopes. The children then worked with an artist commissioned by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to make detailed pencil drawings of the minibeasts. The children's drawings will be used in a mosaic that will be used as a table top for a table and bench that will be placed in St Julian's Close nature area in the village.

We are very lucky to have a school in a village with beautiful surroundings and also lovely school grounds. As part of our School Improvement for the next three terms we will be endeavouring to use the outdoor environment to a greater extent. If there are any members of the community who are knowledgeable about plants and wildlife who could assist us then please let Mrs Lowe know.

South Marston Youth Club



For more details please contact Julie or Steve Hatherall, e-mail: hatherall24@yahoo.co.uk tel: 07923 441 296. April dates:

| DAY | DATE | VENUE |
|-----|---------------|--------------|
| Mon | 11 & 25 April | Village Hall |
| Fri | 8 & 22 April | Village Hall |

ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET INTO YOUTH WORK BUT HAVE BEEN LET DOWN BECAUSE YOU LACK THE EXPERIENCE?

Do you want to develop Youth Work knowledge and skills in a fun environment?

Then South Marston Youth Club can help.



We are passionate about supporting you in gaining the experience you need, to enhance your prospects of landing your dream Youth Work job. We are seeking an enthusiastic and creative person to join our dedicated team, working with children and young people aged 8 -11 years.

Whether you are studying Youth Work or are new to the field, you are welcome to apply and we will provide the necessary training you need to carry out this role as a volunteer Youth Worker. The Youth Support Worker (volunteer role) is a role where you can gain practical Youth Work skills and experience.

You must be available to volunteer fortnightly, on a Friday from 6pm until 8.30pm. We are looking for a Committed, Reliable and Enthusiastic person to join us. You must have Excellent Communication skills, The ability to engage with young people, Be approachable, Good Organisational skills.

If you are looking for a Youth Worker volunteer role in an exciting organisation, can commit to the evening and times mentioned then please contact Julie on 07923441296 or email hatherall24@yahoo.co.uk.

[Please note that you must be 18 or over to apply for this role]

Gardening Club



Recent Events

On 7th March we held our AGM. Most of the committee agreed to stand again and were thanked by the chairman for another successful year. Following the reports, we enjoyed a multi-sectioned quiz devised by Gloria Harmer.



Future Events

On **Monday 4th April** at 7.30 pm we will be having a talk entitled "Birds of Prey" accompanied by some special guests.

We are hoping to take a trip to Stourhead on **Saturday, 25th June**. Stourhead is a beautiful National Trust house and gardens. Anyone interested please contact Mike on 827807 or Arthur. Open to non-members.

Affordable Homes to Rent in South Marston



Wiltshire Rural Housing Association has 11 homes in South Marston for people wishing to live in the village but are unable to afford to buy a home here.

In order to be considered for a vacancy when it arises you must have local connections which can be current residency in the village, family members living in the village or employment in the village. All vacancies when they arise are advertised through Swindon Homebid and it is therefore necessary for you to register with them immediately so that when a home becomes available you will be able to be considered. Contact details are 01793 463181.

On your application form you will need to state your preference for South Marston, this will also help to inform the Council of the number of people waiting for an affordable home in this village.

Don't delay or you could miss out on the opportunity of renting an affordable home in the village. For further details please contact Wiltshire Rural Housing Association on Tel. 01380 850916 or visit our Website www.wrha.co.uk



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Useful Contacts: South Marston

<http://southmarston.org.uk>

| | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------|
| Parish Council Chair | Colin McEwen | T 825312 |
| Parish Council Vice Chair | Stuart Young | T 828775 |
| Clerk to the Parish Council | Gemma Cheal | T 820529 |
| Parish Council Project Co-ord'r | TBA | |
| SMRA Chair | Mary Case | T 826038 |
| SMRA Secretary | Julie Hatherall | T 826028 |
| Village Hall Bookings | Julie Hatherall | T 07857 310624 |
| Football Field Bookings | Chris Maull | T 824505 |
| Tots & Toddlers | Rachel Case | T 832719 |
| Youth Club | Julie & Steve | T 07923 441296 |
| Gardening Club | Mike New | T 827807 |
| Friendly Club | Brian McGlone | T 826243 |
| History Society | Darren Cook | T 832999 |
| Marston Minstrels | Maureen Withers | T 825660 |
| SM Football Club | Nigel Franklin | T 766590 |
| Spitfires Football Club | Bev Maull | T 824505 |
| South Marston School | Alison Lowe | T 823379 |
| Pre-School | Pre-School Staff | T 07847 590601 |
| Saplings Children's Centre (All Sorts) | | T 829996 |
| Swindon Borough Councillor | Doreen Dart | T 762033 |
| Member of Parliament | Justin Tomlinson | T 522123 |
| Team Rector | <i>to be appointed</i> | |
| Team Vicar | Vicky Fleming | T 827021 |
| Church Wardens | Richard Sansum | T 831473 |
| | Donald Page | T 825693 |

Useful Contacts Stanton Fitzwarren

Some useful contact numbers for Stanton Fitzwarren are shown below, which our readers may find useful:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Clerk to the Parish Council | Zena May | T 702869 |
| WI President | Margaret Parker | T 762065 |
| Village Hall Bookings | Alison Charnock | T 762093 |
| St Leonards Church Wardens | Liz Hillman | T 762935 |