

Tower & Tap

**December 2011
&
January 2012**



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December 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 SME Group Quiz 7.30 pm Carriers Arms	2 Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	3 Conservation Site Working Day 10am - 1pm	4
5 Gardening Club 7.30 pm Village Hall Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	6 All Sorts SM School 1.30 - 2.45 Friendly Club Warneford School	7 Tots 'n' Toddlers 9-11am Village Hall	8	9 <i>Mixed Plastics</i> <i>Wheelie Bins</i> <i>Green Waste</i>	10 Meeting Point 10am - 2pm Village Hall Saturday Scene Christmas Party 4 pm Village Hall	11
12	13 All Sorts SM School 1.30 - 2.45 Friendly Club Christmas Lunch Barrington Arms	14 Tots 'n' Toddlers 9-11am Village Hall Craft Company 2 pm Dryden House	15	16 Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	17 5 pm Carols and Village Nativity on the Glebe	18
19 Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	20 Parish Council 7.00 pm Village Hall	21	22	23 <i>Mixed Plastics</i> <i>Wheelie Bins</i> <i>Green Waste</i>	24 Christingle Service 4 pm First Communion of Christmas 11.30 pm	25 Family Communion 10 am
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Dear Friends,

The advent of a new arrival in the family causes great excitement and, we must acknowledge, some fear. Is everything going to be ok? Are we ready? There is usually a big clean, perhaps some decorating and then some shopping! The Christian season of Advent is no different. As we prepare once more to celebrate the birth of our Saviour we do a bit of spring cleaning in our hearts, we decorate our houses in preparation for the big celebration, and we shop for one another, buying presents we hope will be wanted and appreciated.

We are celebrating a new beginning. God came to live with his people (Emmanuel means 'God with us') so that we can have a relationship with him. That's the best present ever and it lasts for eternity with no need to buy batteries because the power never dies. To think that we can call Almighty God "Father" never fails to excite me. When we acknowledge Jesus as our Saviour he gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we can know, deep in our hearts, that God loves us and he enables us to follow his example. The price of this wonderful gift—the ultimate—the laying down of a life—his life.

As we move into the New Year, another new beginning, we often make 'resolutions' but how often do we manage to keep them? I know that it is so difficult and the phrase 'pull your socks up' doesn't have the power to make a difference. There is only one thing that 'changes everything' - love. God's gift of love, given to us at Christmas, if we accept and receive it, also brings freedom and power to change. It's a genuine 3 for 1 offer and the cost to you is nothing. All you have to do is ask Jesus into your heart and God, the Father and the Holy Spirit come too giving you a new beginning of your own.

George and I wish you every blessing this Christmas and for the New Year.

Vicky Fleming

Church News

The High Five service for children up to 5 years meets again on **18th January at 10am** We would love to see you there!



‘**Craft Company**’ We will be meeting on **Wednesday 14th December** at 2 pm at Dryden House, and then on **11th January** at 12 noon at Blunsdon House for lunch. . If you love crafting then join us for inspiration and encouragement as well as good company. More details contact Vicky Fleming



Saturday Scene for young families
meets on
10th December for our Christmas Party and
14th January in the Village Hall 4pm to 5.15pm
Contact Donald Page on 825693



The 7.30 Club
for 10 to 16 year olds from Stratton, Stanton &
South Marston
Held on alternate Sunday Evenings
7.30pm to 8.45pm at St Margaret’s Centre
Please call the St. Margaret’s Church Office for more information

Baptisms and Weddings



As we get very booked up please contact Rev.
Vicky Fleming for details
as soon as possible.



When you are thinking about Christmas gifts don't forget that
South Marston Church Tea towels are still for sale
£3.50 or 2 for £6, 4 for £10—contact Vicky
Fleming .

Bargain!

Christmas at South Marston Church



17th 5pm Carols and Village Nativity on the Glebe.
*Come dressed as angels, shepherds, kings, or any of
the characters from the nativity story*

18th 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols with mince pies and mulled wine

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service raising funds for The Children's Society
11.30pm The First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day

10am Family Communion

If you would like to give a special donation towards the Church Fabric
this Christmas you will find an envelope enclosed which may be
bought to any Christmas Service or handed to Rev. Vicky Fleming,
Donald Page or Richard Sansum. Thank you.

The Meeting Point

Coffee morning with table top sales

(All the tables have been booked for December—you may book for
January—free Telephone Vicky Fleming 827021)



Scouts post and stamps (20p) available

Come and enjoy good company and refreshments.

10th December

From 10am until 2pm with a visit from Father Christmas

14th January

from 10am –12.30 In the Village Hall

South Marston Church serving the community

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 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

Church Services

(at South Marston Church unless otherwise stated)

4th December	11.00am	Family Service
11th December	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Holy Communion
18th December	6.00pm	Lessons and Carols
24th December	4.00pm	Christingle
	11.30pm	Holy Communion
25th December	10.00am	Family Communion
1st January	10.00am	Team Holy Communion-Stratton St Margaret
8th January	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Holy Communion
15th January	11.00am	Team Service - Coleview
22nd January	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Morning Worship
29th January	9.30am	Morning Worship

South Marston Parish Council News

A new notice board has been installed on Thornhill Road by the Playing Field entrance. If any one has any notices they wish to display, please contact the Clerk.

Please note that the December Parish Council meeting will be held at the earlier time of 7pm on Tuesday 20th December.

**The Parish Council would like to wish everyone
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Parish Council Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There is an “Open 10 Minutes” section at the start of the meeting where you are invited to ask questions or discuss an agenda item. It would be helpful if you could inform the Chairman at the start of the meeting of any items that you wish to raise or discuss. All agendas are published on the village website and on the village notice boards, prior to the meetings.

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

The Clerk can be contacted on 01793 820529 or email: clerksmpc@aol.com

OUTREACH SAPLINGS CHILDRENS CENTRE - Come to an **All Sorts** session where you Stay and Play with various activities, enjoy a healthy snack, sing songs and rhymes:



South Marston All Sorts

at South Marston Primary School
 Children 0 to under 5yrs. Expectant mums welcome
 Tuesdays 1.30 pm - 2.45 pm (Term Time Only)
 Drop in, no need to book. 50p charge per family
 For further details please call
 Saplings Children's Centre on 829996

South Marston Youth Club



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

December/January dates:

DAY	DATE	VENUE
Fri	2 December	Village Hall
Mon	5 December	Village Hall
Fri	16 December	Christmas Party, Village Hall
Mon	19 December	Christmas Party, Village Hal
Fri	13 January	Village Hall
Mon	16 January	Village Hall
Fri	27 January	Village Hall
Mon	30 January	Village Hall

Saturday 10 December 2011 - Meeting Point Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall 10-2.00pm - The Youth Club are running their Tuck Shop as usual and also Tombola.

Gardening Club



Recent Events

On Monday 3rd October we were entertained by the amusing Eric Barnes who enlightened us on the history of Catsbrain Farm. With his 73 years at the farm he witnessed many changes, from the beginning with no gas, no electricity and no running water, to present day automation. Life it seems wasn't always better in the good old days!

Future Events



Our next meeting will be on Monday 5th December at 7.30pm. A festive evening with a talk by Pamela Clement on "Christmas Yesterday".

On Monday 9th January is our Annual Social Evening starting at the earlier time of 7.00pm. Please bring along a plate of food to accompany the drink and entertainment for the evening.

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kirstyfeline@hotmail.com

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great selection of:**

- * **Old fashioned sweets**
- * **Belgian chocolates**
- * **Christmas gifts including
baskets, tins, etc.**



50 High Street

Highworth

Tel: 763217



Village Hall Bookings

To make it easier for villagers to book the Village Hall, an updated **Village Hall Bookings Page** has been launched on the South Marston website.

The new page now includes:

- a calendar so that people can check hall availability at a glance
- a link to the full terms and conditions
- a form that people can use to make bookings and make queries

To book the hall, go to <http://southmarston.org.uk> and click on the Village Hall image, this will take you to the booking form.

CONWAY & LAKER ESTATE AGENTS

Are you thinking of selling your property?

Do you want a professional Estate Agent specialising in Village properties **working with you** to sell your property?

If so please call us on: **01793 762200**

or email us at: **info@conwayandlaker.co.uk**

or come in and see us at: **32 High Street, Highworth**

www.conwayandlaker.co.uk



Friendly Club

Recent Events

Tuesday 8th November - the club social event to chat and get to know the many new members was well supported. We had a Christmas themed quiz, bingo, refreshments and a table top sale. Our Christmas hamper was on display together with a Swindon Town football team shirt signed by team members; both items will be raffled separately and will be on display at the December **Meeting Point** for members of the public to buy raffle tickets. The raffle will be held at the Barrington Arms Hotel in Shrivenham on 13th December after our meal.

Future Events

Tuesday 6th December – Warneford School, 2 pm. Names have been submitted of members attending the Highworth Warneford School annual Christmas concert to meet the deadline date.



Saturday 10th December

At Meeting Point in the Village Hall we will be selling raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper and the Swindon Town player signed football shirt.



Tuesday 13th December – Christmas Lunch. Our Christmas Lunch will be at the Barrington Arms Hotel in Shrivenham. Arrive at 12.00 noon for a 12.15 pm start. We will be entertained by the Highworth Songsters. Our Christmas raffle will be held at this social event. See comment above in recent events

Thursday 15th December – School Concert, 2 pm. South Marston School will be putting on a concert for our entertainment. The effort made by the children and adult helpers is very much appreciated.

Tuesday 10th January, 2 pm, Village Hall. A talk will be given by Lewis Lawton on "The Terracotta Warriors".

Tuesday 14th February, 2 pm, Village Hall. A talk will be given by **Alix Booth** on "The history of Punch and Judy"



The F & E Harris Memorial Trust

Christmas Hampers to be collected on Thursday 8th December 2011
from Westwinds between 2.00 pm and 4.00pm.

Contact Mary Cooper 823530 or Terry Sansum 823684 for queries.

South Marston School News

We have been as busy as ever here at our village school.



This term our Year 1 & 2 children really enjoyed a visit to the Swindon and Cricklade Railway. The children, staff and parent helpers really enjoyed having a journey on the train and even got to see the controls in the driver's cab. We would like to thank the staff for their very warm welcome.

We have also enjoyed running parents information sessions on times tables, phonics and reading this term. The sessions seem to have been enjoyed by all who attended, including many parents from our village.



We are now proud to have our very own school football team! The team is coached by 3 of our fantastic Dads who we would like to thank for their brilliant enthusiasm and support for the team. They practise and compete on our village recreation field. The team have already competed in a number of matches as well as their weekly training session and we are very proud of their teamwork and commitment.

Finally we would like to wish everybody a

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy Healthy New Year!**



MAD MARCH HARE

**It's the 5th Anniversary of the Mad March Hare
on Sunday 25th March 2012**

**Applications are now open for the walk or run 5km and 10km
events for fun or serious participants.**

For information and to enter, visit www.madmarchhare.org.uk

South Marston Enterprise (SME) Group



Have you got the brains to beat the Business Eggheads? Have you always got the answers to those TV quiz shows? If so, come and show off your knowledge at the **SME Group Christmas Quiz**.

We would like to invite you to enter a team to the **SME Group Christmas Quiz**. You don't have to be a business genius to take part – it's just a bit of fun. The quiz master has set questions with a mix of trivia and festive cheer.

We're asking for a small donation of £10 per team of 4 and we're giving the proceeds to South Marston School and Preschool PTA. We'll also be running a raffle on the night. We'd like to give them a Christmas present of £100.

SME Group Christmas Quiz

Thursday 1st December 7.30pm at The Carriers Arms

If you'd like to come please call Hannah Jones on 01793 823035 or e-mail her at hannah@bluekitecoach.com

Police Surgeries

Every three months priorities are set based on what the local community tell us are their concerns. You can raise your concerns or talk to us about anything else by attending one of the meetings listed below or by contacting us at anytime using the contact details provided below.

Venue	Date	Time
Castle Eaton - Village Hall	15/12/2011	10.00 – 11.00am
South Marston – Village Hall	10/12/2011	11.00 – 13.00pm
Stanton Fitzwarren – Village Hall	10/12/2011	03.00 – 04.00pm

Residents are welcome to come to any of the locations stated above. If you need to speak with one of the team before the dates above please contact us on the following email address: swindonnorthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or via Wiltshire Police's new non emergency telephone number 101; or alternatively visit www.wiltshire.police.uk and click on 'policing in your area'.

PC Marc Jackson

PCSO Juliet Evans

**COME AND MEET
FATHER CHRISTMAS
AND HIS REINDEER
at the**

**SOUTH MARSTON
MEETING POINT**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th 2011
12 - 2pm
in the
VILLAGE HALL**

(Meeting Point starts at 10.00 am)



Come and have coffee and a mince pie
and support your local community

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU THERE!**

**RAISING FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE HALL
& RECREATION GROUND ON BEHALF OF S.M.R.A**

100 Club Winners

October 2011

£10 Clare Williams
£10 Mandy Hancock
£10 Sylvia Brown
£10 Bernice Procter

November 2011

£10 John Lester
£10 S Simpkins
£10 Jim Sansum
£10 Hayley Phillips



Congratulations to all winners and thank you for your continued support.

About the 100 Club

Anyone is welcome to join the **100 Club**. Contributions are £1 per month, collected as £12 annually. There are 4 x £10 prizes each month, with an additional £30 every quarter and £100 in December.

The **100 Club** is effectively the village lottery, with profits going to South Marston Recreation Association (SMRA) and used towards the upkeep of the playing field including grass-cutting and hedge trimming, and the purchase of new benches etc. It also helps to raise funds for the upkeep of the Village Hall.

At present the co-ordinator is Rachel Case, tel 01793 832719. She will be delighted to give you a number for the draw and arrange for someone to collect your 100 Club money.

We have 6 collectors at the moment - Jill Comley, Mike New, Richard Sansum, Joan Hayes, Rachel Case and Jenny McEwen. If anyone else would like to help with this (not too time-consuming a task!) please let us know.

Good Luck!

Tower & Tap

Please email items for the Tower & Tap to kaylong@btinternet.com.
The deadline for February 2012 issue is 15th January.

Want to advertise your business in Tower & Tap?

Our rates are:

For a one-off ad:

£25 for a full page; £15 for a ½ page; £8 for a ¼ page.

For a year's ads (10 issues):

£75 for a full page; £45 for a ½ page; £25 for a ¼ page

Please email kaylong@btinternet.com for more details.

Walk of Memories



If you have plans to get active in the new year, then Prospect Hospice's first fundraising event for 2012 might be the just the ticket.

Prospect Hospice's Walk of Memories takes place around the scenic Cotswold Lakes on Sunday 26th February 2012. This five-mile sponsored walk is an opportunity to remember a friend or loved one, or simply to enjoy a peaceful and reflective walk with your family in support of your local Hospice.

The circular walk, from the Four Pillars Hotel, will take around 2 hours to complete, following the footpaths and bridleways that run around several of the lakes in the area, including the picturesque Thames and Severn Canal, before ending back at the Centre, where there will be a hot drink waiting.

Please be aware the walk is on varied terrain and not suitable for push-chairs or wheelchairs. Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a lead.

Registration costs £8 per adult and £2 per child. To register, please go to www.prospect-hospice.net/walkofmemories



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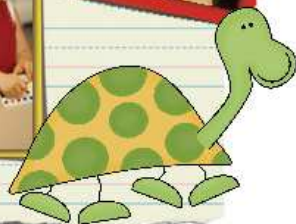
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or email aswgardening@hotmail.co.uk**

TOTS 'N' TODDLERS



abcde



We are a Parent and Toddler group that meet up every Wednesday Morning (term time) for a play session and a craft table, coffee and a chat

Please come along and join in the fun!
At the South Marston Village Hall
On Wednesdays at 9.00am - 11.00am
Under 4 Years
£1.50



Contact me 'Rachel Case'
T: (01793) 832719
E: totsntoddlers@sky.com

January 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	31					1
2	3 All Sorts SM School 1.30 - 2.45	4 Tots 'n' Toddlers 9-11am Village Hall	5	6 <i>Mixed Plastics</i> <i>Wheelie Bins</i> <i>Green Waste</i>	7	8
9 Gardening Club Annual Social Event 7 pm	10 All Sorts SM School 1.30 - 2.45 Friendly Club 2 pm Village Hall	11 Tots 'n' Toddlers 9-11am VH Craft Company lunch 12 noon Blunsdon House	12	13 Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	14 Meeting Point 10 - 12.30 Village Hall Saturday Scene 4 pm Village Hall	15
16 Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	17 All Sorts SM School 1.30 - 2.45 Parish Council 7.30 pm	18 High Five Service 10 am Tots 'n' Toddlers 9-11am Village Hall	19	20 <i>Mixed Plastics</i> <i>Wheelie Bins</i> <i>Green Waste</i>	21	22
23	24 All Sorts SM School 1.30 - 2.45	25 Tots 'n' Toddlers 9-11am Village Hall	26	27 Youth Club 6.30 Village Hall	28	29

Useful Contacts: South Marston

<http://southmarston.org.uk>

Parish Council Chair	Neil Burchell	T 827009
Parish Council Vice Chair	Stuart Young	T 828775
Clerk to the Parish Council	Gemma Cheal	T 820529
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
Village Hall Bookings	Alison Charnock	T 762093
St Leonards Church Wardens	Liz Hillman	T 762935
	Sue Mackenzie	T 765538