

Local Talk Back

DECEMBER 2025

<http://actonturville.info/talkback/>

ISSUE 566



CAN YOU SEE SANTA YET? THE DOVECOTE AT LITTLE BADMINTON. PICTURE BY PIERS TALALLA



A MAGAZINE WITH NEWS, VIEWS AND REPORTS FOR THE RESIDENTS
OF ACTON TURVILLE, BADMINTON AND LITTLE BADMINTON

EDITORIAL DECEMBER 2025

And so another year draws to a close. 2025 will be remembered for its glorious summer, one that just seemed to go on and on. The Met Office described it as the “hottest on record”, but rather than the searing temperatures that characterised the heatwaves of 1976 and 2022, the dominant feature this year was an extended period when it was “persistently warm.” From the beginning of June, we went for months without rain, and while the sun shone from skies that were clear and blue, the temperatures rarely ventured into the unbearable region, meaning the railway lines didn’t buckle, hosepipes were not banned, and, in the main, it was still just about possible to sleep at night. It made such a change to be able to plan ahead, safe in the knowledge that the weather wouldn’t suddenly turn the moment you set foot on Weymouth’s soft and golden sands, or started loading the barbeque with juicy burgers.

Locally, there was plenty going on, kicking off with the first of three open garden events at a very sunny Badminton House in April. These events are always popular, but this year we were somewhat taken aback by the number of visitors. The immaculate gardens deserved to be seen by as many people as possible though – they looked quite spectacular, and wandering around in the warm spring sunshine, admiring the colours, was a very special way to spend a day. The gardens would continue to draw the crowds when they opened later in the year, and each time they would look just as spectacular.

It wasn’t just the gardens of Badminton House that put on a good show. In June, St Mary’s Church in Acton Turville held its very own Flower Festival & Open Gardens event to raise money for essential repairs to the church bell. Organised by a team described in Talk Back as “small but enthusiastic”, the weekend-long event was centred on the historic church which was completely transformed with a whole series of stunning floral displays, all created by members of the community including children from Trinity School. Away from the church, a dozen gardens were opened to the public by proud villagers who welcomed visitors with open arms. This being the first time the organisers had embarked on such a venture there was some trepidation about how it would go, but the success of the event exceeded even their most optimistic expectations, and deservedly so.

Sticking with churches, the Badminton Benefice organised something a bit different in 2025. Promoted as a Festival of Music, it held a series of innovative events every month between May and September at five of the Benefice’s churches. Those events ranged from singing workshops to displays of modern art to musical recitals, and they were all carefully designed to complement the beautiful venues in which they were held. The response from visitors was universally positive and it was great to see the excellent level of support from the local communities.

Back at Badminton, there were real concerns that the nice weather might have come too early. If only it could stay like this for the horse trials. Guess what? It did, and many were of the opinion that the 2025 Horse Trials was one of the best events for many years. Last year’s winner Ros Canter, once again on Lordships Graffalo, headed the top-class field which set out to compete on a course that could only be described as immaculate. By the time the showjumping started on the final day it was all still to play for with several riders in with a chance of victory, but it was Canter who jumped clear and once again received the MARS Badminton trophy, much to the delight of the huge crowd.

Inevitably we were saddened to lose some cherished members of our community this year, in particular some who were taken far too early, and we offer our thoughts to all those who will be spending Christmas without a loved one for the first time this year.

Leaving us for pastures new were some local stalwarts, namely local postman Steve Hamilton and Wayne & Lesley Rees from Drewett’s Stores. Steve hung up his postbag after serving Acton Turville, parts of Badminton and Tormarton for a slightly surreal 30 years. As a mark of the respect in which he was held, local residents organised a surprise party for him at the Compass Inn, leaving him genuinely (and quite uniquely) speechless. There was very genuine sadness when Wayne & Lesley’s departure from Drewett’s Stores was announced, bringing to an end their 33-year stint running this Badminton institution. During that time they had woven themselves into the very fabric of the community, and for several weeks the shop seemed to be permanently full of people wishing them all the best for the future.

That just leaves space for all of us here at Local Talk Back to wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year, and all the very best for 2026, whatever that shall bring.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

Items for Local Talk Back email to: localtalkback1975@gmail.com Tel: 01454 218267

To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH JANUARY 2024.
(THERE IS NO LOCAL TALK BACK IN JANUARY). THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

December 2025

Tues 2 nd	Chipping Sodbury Music Society, Serenata Guitar Trio, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 7.30pm
Fri 5 th	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Sun 7 th	Advent Choral Service, St Mary's, Acton Turville
Mon 8 th	Acton Turville Parish Council meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 10 th	Senior Citizens Lunch, Fox & Hounds
Thurs 11 th	School Carol Service, St Mary's, Acton Turville, 5.30pm
Fri 12 th	Fireside Carols, Fox & Hounds, 7pm
Fri 12 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sat 13 th	Christmas by Candlelight, Badminton House, 6.30pm – 9pm
Wed 17 th	Magic Show, Badminton Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sat 20 th	Community Police Van, Fox & Hounds car park, 4pm-5pm
Sun 21 st	Village Carol Service, St Marys, Acton Turville, 6pm
Wed 24 th	Christingle Service, St Mary's, Acton Turville, 4.30pm

January 2026

Fri 2 nd	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Fri 9 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Wed 14 th	Senior Citizens Lunch, Fox & Hounds

February 2026

Tues 10 th	Chipping Sodbury Music Society, Francisco Correa & Asaka Quartet, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 7.30pm
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***Check with venues before setting off**

Please let Local Talk Back know if you're planning an event and we'll add it to our dates for the diary.

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We received two very kind anonymous donations this month

In addition, £60.00 was generously donated in the shop collection boxes.

We really do appreciate all donations as it helps to keep the Local Talk Back being delivered to your doors.

There are Local Talk Back collection boxes in Acton Turville Stores and the new Badminton shop.

To donate by cheque, please make payable to

LOCAL TALK BACK

and send to:

**The Treasurer, Local Talk Back,
6 Hollybush Close, Acton Turville,
Badminton, South Glos, GL9 1JJ**

Thank you!



The Community Police Van is visiting!!

Our local community Police team is visiting Acton Turville on Saturday 20th December. They'll be in the Fox & Hounds car park between 4-5pm. Why not come over to say hello. They'd be really pleased to see you.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE **100 Club**

WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 2025

Matthew Butler

Rebecca Rennie

Richard Felix

Congratulations!

Local Talk Back is printed by

SPRINT PRINT, 22 STATION ROAD, YATE, BS37 4PS

Tel: 01454 852255 or email: info@sprint-print.co.uk

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 12th December 2025

To receive full details of the films being shown each month by the Didmarton Film Club, simply join the club by filling in a form which will be available on film nights – membership is free, just provide your name, email address and mobile number to join.

Members are allowed to bring guests to the film shows, which will continue to be held on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Didmarton Village Hall. Whilst there is no charge for entry, all those attending are expected to make a donation (suggested amount £5).

The bar will run as usual.

Non-members may contact the organiser, Jenny Body, for the title of this month's film.

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

Please let us know in advance if you intend attending so we can ensure that sufficient seating is available

jenny.body1@gmail.com



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 10th December

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

*The Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch
is held in the 2nd Wednesday of every month.*



BADMINTON ESTATE

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

13TH DECEMBER 2025, 6.30PM – 9PM

The Bristol Ensemble presents an evening of festive Christmas classics, celebrating the joy and warmth of the season through music. Step into the magic of Christmas in The North Hall at the historic Badminton House becomes the setting for an unforgettable evening of seasonal favourites. Illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight, the acclaimed Bristol Ensemble will fill the air with melodies that capture the spirit of this most wonderful time of year.

Spaces are limited, book early to secure your place and celebrate at Badminton.



See <https://www.badmintonestate.com/events/>
for full details



Chipping Sodbury Music Society Forthcoming Events

SERENATA GUITAR TRIO

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 – 7:30pm

Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

The Serenata Guitar Trio present a widely varied programme of works ranging from the Baroque of England and Italy, the Classical charm of Haydn, Mozart and Schubert, the expressive atmosphere of France and Latin America, plus a selection of Christmas music for the Festive Season.

FRANCISCO CORREA & ASAKA QUARTET

Tuesday 10th February 2026 – 7:30pm

Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

Prizewinning Asaka String Quartet joins international guitarist Francisco Correa for an exciting and hugely varied programme ranging from Boccherini's "Fandango" quintet, to newly premiered Wynwood Walls by celebrated Welsh composer Stephen Goss. Programme also includes Mendelssohn quartet Op. 12 in Eb major and Tarrega's Fantasia on themes from La Traviata.

For full details and to purchase tickets, visit the Chipping Sodbury Music Society website at
<https://csmusicsociety.co.uk/>



Acton Turville, nr Badminton, GL9 1HW
01454 218224

Christmas Menu

STARTERS

Prawn & Smoked Salmon Cocktail
with Mary Rose sauce

Chicken & Apricot Brandy Terrine
with homemade pickle

Homemade Winter Broth Soup
topped with toasted chestnuts

Warm Crispy Camembert Wedges
with chilli jam

All served with Crusty Bread

MAIN COURSES

Traditional Roast Turkey
with all the festive trimmings

Sea Bream
with a chive & lemon butter

Roasted Rib of Beef
with shallots & red wine sauce

Wild Mushroom, Brie & Cranberry Wellington
with a madeira sauce

All the above served with new, roast potatoes
& fresh vegetables

DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas Pudding
with brandy butter

Orange & Marmalade Steam Pudding

Christmas Cheesecake

Red Cherry & Amoretti Eton Mess

Cheese Board
£3.00 extra

£35.50 per head

A non-refundable deposit of £10.00 per person is required at time of booking
Christmas Menu booking forms (available from the Bar) must be returned 10 days prior to your booking

Village Agent Update

New Village Agent for the West of England Rural Network (WERN)
Serving the communities of the Cotswold Edge

Hello Everyone,

My name is Andy Hiscox, and I am the newly appointed WERN Village Agent for the villages of Wickwar, Horton, Little Sodbury, Acton Turville, Hawkesbury Upton, Badminton and Little Badminton.

I have been in post since June 2025, and my role as a Village Agent is to support residents to stay as independent and connected with their local community for as long as possible.



VILLAGE AGENT

Covering Wickwar, Hawkesbury Upton, Little Badminton,
Acton Turville, Badminton, Horton & Little Sodbury



Free confidential
one to one
support



Help to
connect with
others



Signposting to
information and
professional
services



Provision of
foodbank
vouchers



Help with financial
concerns
(including claiming
of benefits)



Advice on
transport to
medical
appointments



HOW TO ACCESS THE SERVICE

- You can reach your local Village Agent by:
- 07795442272 Call, Text or WhatsApp
 - Emailing andy@wern.org.uk
 - Or by visiting www.wern.org.uk/southglos-village-agents

This service is available for anyone over 18 years old

This can be achieved through various means whether it be by accessing local services, supporting care givers, or simply to give free confidential advice on matters that you may require help with.

Having previously worked with homeless Armed Forces veterans and other Armed Forces charities, I understand the importance of having someone locally who can give assistance when times seem challenging. So, please do not hesitate to contact me should you, or someone you know, require any help or advice.

I very much look forward to supporting our great, resilient and diverse rural communities that make living in them so worthwhile.

You can contact me on 07795 442 272 or email andy@wern.org.uk

Further information can be found here -
<https://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents>



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ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 10th November. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the Parish Council's website <https://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org/documents/minutes>. Matters discussed included:

Planning. There were no new planning applications to discuss since the previous meeting.

FLAT5/10 Footpath to Rear of Hollybush Farm. The Parish Council received several reports that this footpath had been blocked with electric fence where it crossed land owned by the Badminton Estate. The reports were forwarded to the South Glos Public Rights Of Way (PROW) officer who was dealing with the matter.

District Councillor Reports. Cllr Romaine reported that, despite increasing council tax by the maximum-permissible 4.99%, the draft South Glos Council budget contained a number of proposals for reducing costs which, if implemented, would have a significant impact on local residents. These included an increase in the "green bin" charge from £63 to £75 (it was £30 a year ago), cuts to services such as meals on wheels and pest control, and reduced spend on flood prevention measures. The PC would be kept informed of the budget's progress.

Community Police Van. A reminder that the next visit from the Community Police van will be Saturday 20th December between 4pm and 5pm at the Fox & Hounds Car Park. Please come along and meet the local team!

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th December 2025 @ 7.00pm

Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168,
Sally Smith 218510, Mark Studden 07885 791314, Melanie Greggain 07878 636674

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: actonturvillepc@aol.com Website: www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

Sudoku

December's challenge set by Neil Fozard.

To solve the puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

EASY !!

	5	6						
		4	1					6
1					8			
			4			5		
2	8	9						
	4	3			1			9
			9	5			2	3
9			2	4				8
6	3			1		9		

NOT SO EASY !!

5			9		6	4		
	1	4	2		5		3	
			7			8	4	
	6							
8		7	3		9	5	2	
9			5			2		
				3		7		
		5	1				8	

Answers to the November quizzes:

'Easy'

7	2	3	8	6	1	4	9	5
5	8	9	4	2	3	1	6	7
6	4	1	5	9	7	2	8	3
4	5	2	9	1	8	3	7	6
9	3	6	7	4	2	8	5	1
1	7	8	3	5	6	9	4	2
8	1	4	2	7	5	6	3	9
3	6	5	1	8	9	7	2	4
2	9	7	6	3	4	5	1	8

'Not so Easy'

3	5	4	7	2	8	9	1	6
1	2	9	3	6	4	5	7	8
8	6	7	9	1	5	3	4	2
5	4	1	2	3	7	8	6	9
9	3	2	8	4	6	7	5	1
6	7	8	1	5	9	4	2	3
2	8	3	4	7	1	6	9	5
4	9	6	5	8	2	1	3	7
7	1	5	6	9	3	2	8	4

From the Archives

In last month's Local Talk Back we reprinted an article by Les Edmonds from February 2010 in which he shared his early memories of life in our villages. It was great to hear from several readers who said how much they enjoyed reading about those times, and how the articles chimed with their own recollections of life when they were growing up. This month we have a second article from Les, one that fittingly has a Christmas theme. We hope you enjoy it just as much. Maybe it'll inspire some other readers to send in their own memories of days gone by?

The Ghosts of Christmases Past by Les Edmonds (with apologies to Charles Dickens)

When my parents left school, all they had to do was pass the "Labour Exam" – whatever that meant - so some left at the age of 11 years while others left as 12, 13 and 14 years. We were the "next generation", and as both Acton Turville and Badminton schools were Church of England (meaning they were funded by the church), so religion played a big part in our education. In fact it was the first lesson every morning. Miss Pring was the Head teacher at Acton Turville, and she ruled it with her cane. I did not know her of course – Miss Cox was our Head teacher – but we were told all about her. We had to go to church every Sunday – Morning Service, then Sunday school in the afternoon, and back again for the evening church service. At Christmas time there was a party in the school and a present was given to all the children from Sunday School. Whist drives and dances were held in the school to pay for it every year.

After joining the choir at Badminton church, I used to attend church twice on Sundays – morning and evening - and one day a week for choir practice in the evening. The bells in the church were only tolled twice a year, once on the Duke's birthday and once for the Christmas Day service. It took three men to ring the bells on those occasions, one on each bell. For the rest of the year, Jim Cross rang them by pulling the hammer against the bell, which he could do on his own. Acton Turville's bell gave out a doleful "Boing-Boing-Boing" sound, unlike the "come to church – come to church" of Badminton's! Incidentally, all church bells were silenced during the war, as they were only going to be used if we were invaded so they were silent for almost six years. Even signposts were taken down, and pill boxes set up at strategic places for the Home Guard to man.

When it came to cooking Christmas dinners, our parents must have done a marvellous job using the open fire ranges – no regulo, no temperature gauge, merely hot cinders that were pushed under the oven to create heat in the oven. All the rest was down to guess work and the skills they had been taught. The chicken would be in the oven, with the various saucepans balancing over the fire with all the trimmings to make it a meal to be remembered, including the Christmas pudding of course. On Christmas Day I remember we lit a fire in the front room and we all sat down together. There would be sprigs of holly on some of the pictures, and perhaps a decoration or two, but as lighting was still by oil lamps, great care had to be taken to avoid anything catching fire. The postman delivered mail, mostly Christmas cards, and would receive a drink to "keep the cold out" on Christmas morning. We had to make our own amusements as we had no wireless, and there was no television, so and we would play games, either cards or board games, until tea time. After that we played the various card games or board games that we had been given as presents. Unlike today, those presents would not have been wrapped – no one wasted money of paper or string which would have just been burnt or thrown away.

We would then have sandwiches and pickles etc, and a glass of ginger wine. As a family we really enjoyed ourselves.

In the New Year all the children from Badminton, Acton Turville and Little Badminton were invited to the Duchess of Beaufort's party. This was held in the Servants Hall. I remember all the antlers and deer's heads that were displayed there on all four walls. After the meal we went upstairs to one of the "waiting rooms" where presents were stacked. We had to select which one we wanted and Her Grace the Duchess presented them to us. I can't remember if it snowed on those days at Christmas, but I do know it was very cold. We suffered from chilblains on our hands and feet, and father used to cut an onion in half and rub it on them. I remember how painful that was!

From the Christmas Archives

People often say how nice it would be if events like the village firework display or the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch could be restarted. What they invariably fail to appreciate is how much effort goes into organising such events. We found this from February 2002 which brings home the enormity of putting on the annual Valentine's Club Christmas Dinner. If anyone's still keen to take it on after reading this, please get in touch with Local Talk Back!!

THE VALENTINE CLUB

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This is a belated report on the Senior Citizens Christmas party which now seems a very long time ago. We hope that you all enjoyed the party as much as we did. This was our 22nd party and what a surprise that the photographer from The Sudbury Gazette turned up. Did you all see the photo? Everything went very smoothly which must come from a lot of practice. We served up a hot Christmas lunch again this year and many thanks must go to the Chefs - Pat Nettles for cooking the Turkey and gravy, Brian Noble for the sausages and stuffing, Sheila Neal for the Veg. and the Fox and Hounds for cooking the roast potatoes for us, Brenda Tripp for the soup and Christmas Cake and Elsie Andrews for the apple pies. Of course many more of our ladies made trifles, done the shopping for the day and decorated the hall and laid up the tables. We then had our regular 'washer uppers' Cyril Bubb and Herbie Sharp along with other helping hands. Marino Biagioli was a great help 'waiting' tables along with the girls. We could not put the party together without the help of many husbands and we are very grateful to them for all their hard work. Not everyone who helped has been mentioned by name but thanks must go to every member of The Valentine Club for their continued work through the year to make sure that the day is a success.

We also must thank all the people who helped with the expenses of the day. We received donations from The Duke of Beaufort, The Acton Turville Village Association and a few others and the sherry from Badminton Village Club. We really do appreciate all their help. Many thanks to anyone else who helped in any way and apologies if you were left off the list.

The party on 8th December was very well supported. We saw many new faces and hope that the party lived up to expectations. Sherry was handed out on arrival and then guests sat down to a three course meal with wine. We then had the first of our entertainment which was a talk by Pam Clements on 'Christmas's Gone By'. This was followed by a tea break with Christmas cake, which had been cut by Elsie and Melvyn Saunders who were celebrating their Golden Wedding on the day. Next came the musical entertainment with songs from the 50's and 60's. The younger ones amongst the guests would remember these from their teens. A free raffle was held and every household went home with a hamper. More drink to follow with a mince pie and a visit from Father Christmas with a small gift from his sack. This concluded the day's festivities and we all went home for a well earned rest.

We are often asked how we fund the party and how we organise it. This is a rough calendar of our year.

- From the beginning of the year our talent scouts are out looking for the entertainment.
- In July the proceeds from our Garden Party got the funds under way.
- In the summer we held a raffle on our boat trip and added this to the fund.
- Our first party Committee meeting is held about September.
- We then have one or two bingo evenings at the village hall to raise the main funds.
- Begging letters are sent out to see if anyone else is willing to help and we appeal in the Local Talk Back for Bingo prizes.
- More Committee meetings take place and shopping lists are made.
- We persuade the husbands to help and organise the delivery of tables, crockery, Christmas tree, curtain and lighting for the stage etc.
- Shopping trips take place throughout Yate and Macro
- Brenda makes the Christmas cake.

THURSDAY BEFORE THE PARTY -- At our meeting we wash the cutlery and china, make the table decorations and wrap the boxes for the hampers while the men are putting up the roof and stage curtains and lighting. (We do partake of a little drink along the way).

SATURDAY MORNING 10AM -- Lay up the tables, decorate the Christmas tree and hall, prepare all other food not mentioned above.

The party is very much down to teamwork and wouldn't be possible without so many helping hands but having said that, we all have a good time and enjoy meeting you all. It is a good way to start the Christmas season. We hope to see more of you in 2002.

From the Christmas Archives (cont'd)

The Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner 2006



Whilst looking through some old issues of Talk Back recently, Yvonne Nettles was surprised when a wallet containing the photos you see here fell to the floor. Taken at the 2006 Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner, Yvonne spent the next hour or so trying to put names to faces, and remembering what great events those dinners were. Back in those days the Fox & Hounds was managed by Mary and Tracy who can be seen in the top left picture, alongside Sally Smith, with the floral bouquets they've been given to thank them for organising the event. We think the gentleman in the next picture down is the ever-popular entertainer Mac, who frequently performed at the luncheon club dinners. Who else can you recognise?

It also looks like the camera spent some time submerged in somebody's pint so apologies for the blurry special effects, we like to think they help capture the atmosphere of the event!!

Bristol Upside Down House

Upside Down House is an interactive photo attraction that welcomes people of all ages, whether you're a content creator or a family planning your next day out. Let your imagination run wild as you capture mind-blowing memories! This is certainly an experience you won't want to miss! Family or friends? Our Upside Down House will accommodate you all.



Whether you are falling from the ceiling or sticking your head inside a toilet, staff will assist you in capturing every moment!

SCAN HERE TO BOOK YOUR VISIT NOW!



To enquire about arranging a group booking or private hire, please contact our Customer services team.

You can see this very quirky house in Anchor Square on Bristol Harbourside. It raises money for WORLD CHILD CANCER so they can help children undergoing cancer treatment across Africa and Asia. They believe every child with cancer should have equal access to treatment and care.

They are showcasing the artwork the children do to help them through their cancer, and they make sure the children have all they need to be able to keep painting etc..



When you go inside the house you will be standing on the ceilings and all the furniture and furnishings will be hanging upside down, from what is the 'floor' above you. A small spiral staircase leads you up from the bedrooms to the living room.

Now this looks all weird but THE REAL FUN OF IT IS AMAZING. If you take a photo of you standing you're your arms up in the air and then flip the photo, it will look as if you are hanging by your feet from the ceiling. The staff there are happy to help you get some very funny poses. You can touch anything you like and your imagination can go wild. And maybe if you do visit you would share your photos with Talk Back. But hurry, we were told the house will be demolished in February ready to move on to another town.

BRISTOL UPSIDE DOWN HOUSE
ANCHOR SQUARE, BRISTOL

info@upsidehouse.co.uk

Tickets £6.95 (children 3 or under free)

Will be moved to another site February.
Look on website for details.

*Let your imagination run wild and
FLIP THAT PHOTO!!*



Trinity School Update

Message from Mr Hutton, Headteacher

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.'*

We have spent time during collective worship in the last two weeks ensuring that our pupils have a full understanding of the importance of marking Remembrance. Using resources from the Royal British Legion, stories like 'A Poppy Is To Remember' (Heather Patterson) and 'Where The Poppies Now Grow' and 'The Christmas Truce' (Hilary Robinson), we have thought about duty, service, war, loss, friendship, courage and compassion. The pupils have shown great engagement, asked and answered insightful questions and have demonstrated a deep understanding.

I am so proud of how they represented the school at our act of Remembrance at the church.

Remembrance Service

On Tuesday 11th November the staff and pupils of Trinity CE Primary School made their way to St. Mary's Church, Acton Turville for the annual Service of Remembrance.

A few Year 6 pupils were at the front holding our poppy wreath, walking with their reception buddies followed by the remaining pupils. We listened to some beautiful and moving readings, poems and prayers from our Year 6 pupils. In line with tradition, two children laid the wreath and a pupil from each year group, as well as our four school ambassadors, placed small wooden crosses by the gravestone.

We were so proud of all the Trinity school pupils who showed our core values of respect and compassion incredibly well.



We would also like to thank the Royal British Legion, Alastair Gilbert, Matthew Butler and St. Mary's Church for their help and support. Thank you very much for helping with the Poppy Appeal, will be able to let you know the total raised in due course.



WHAT'S ON



MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wide Selection of Tracklements products

FROM EVERYONE AT
THE STORES
ACTON TURVILLE
(01454) 218264

Great Value Wine Range

Great Range of Christmas Goods & Spirits

Selection of Ready Made Hampers
Or
Come in and make up a Hamper of your choice

Padded Envelopes & Posting Boxes For Sending Gifts

Collect and return Amazon Parcels
With

POST OFFICE

Open Boxing Day
8am—12 noon

amazon hub



FIRESIDE CAROLS

Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville
Friday 12th December
7:00pm
Step into Christmas!

That's Magic!

You can't have failed to notice how popular magic shows are just now, with illusionists making regular appearances on TV and delighting audiences at venues up and down the country. However, there's nothing like watching a top magician at close quarters - surely you'll be the one that's able to spot their sleight of hand or work out how they achieve the seemingly impossible, won't you?

Well why not find out on Wednesday the 17th December at 7.30pm when the Badminton Village Hall hosts an evening of magic and illusion.

The event is being organised by Badminton resident Rebecca Thomson as part of her fundraising efforts for Save the Children which will culminate in her running the 2026 London Marathon in April.

Tickets cost just £10 for what promises to be a great evening, so why not come along, knowing you'll be supporting a very worthwhile cause as well as being spellbound by one of the country's top magicians?

Let the magic begin!

MAGIC SHOW

Wednesday Dec 17th, 7.30pm, Badminton Village Hall.



Mind reading, impossible illusions and jaw dropping magic hosted by Magic Circle magician Jack Thomson

Tickets £10 a head. To book email: rebecca_lindsay@hotmail.com or click here

All proceeds go to Save the Children



Church Matters

December 2025 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

Last month I wrote about having faith in God, or in a Holy Presence or Spirit. Many people I speak to seem to believe there is some Spirit 'up there', which is unknowable and far removed from them.

One of the most contentious things that Jesus said, was that we could call God 'Abba' which means Father, or more intimately even, 'Daddy'. Because sometimes the religious leaders made out that God was very distant from the everyday person. And that you had to do certain things in order to enter His Presence. No - we can call God, Daddy! He is that close to us.

He also said: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends". So, it always strikes me as sad, when a person tells me that they do not think they can speak to this Higher Being. As if they are not good enough, or that God is not interested in them.

Paradoxically, it is the sin of pride – to think that we are so dreadful that God would not be interested in us. Really - are you that bad? Wow!

God is not stupid. He knows what is going on in our hearts. And I do not think he cares about our excuses. But he does care about us being blind and missing out the wonderful gift of a relationship with Him.

So this Christmas, perhaps we can all put our excuses behind us, and find a way to approach him and offer our gifts of gratitude for all that He gives us, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus - born in Bethlehem. I heartily recommend it.

With my best wishes for a happy and festive Christmas,

Rev Richard Thomson, (vicar)

Badminton Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Home: 01454 606854/ Mob: 07717791858

Season of Joy

Advent musical family service

Sunday 7th
December 3pm

*O Antiphons sung
around the church*

Village Carol Service

Sunday 21st 6pm

*Mulled wine and
mince pies*

Christingle Service

Wednesday 24th 4:30pm

*Children's
service*

Please wrap
up warm



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

THERE'S JUST TIME TO JOIN OUR 100 CLUB!

**SUPPORT ACTON TURVILLE CHURCH AND ENTER THE
MONTHLY DRAW FOR CASH PRIZES!**

There are just a few places left in the 100 Club for the next twelve months, so why not join now? For just £12 you get to take part in our monthly draw with a regular first prize of £20, and other prizes as well. Best of all, the proceeds go to support our Village Church.

Forms have been delivered to every house in the village, and should be returned to Old Garage House or The Village Stores. New forms can also be obtained from Sue or Matthew Butler at Old Garage House, or e-mail matthew.butler8@btinternet.com, or you can download from our recent post on the Acton Turville Connect page on Facebook.

Good luck!

Sue and Matthew Butler

Church Services December 2025/January 2026

Church Services for December 2025

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
7 th December 2 nd Sunday in Advent	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Advent Service of Light	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Didmarton	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
14 th December 3 rd Sunday in Advent	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
18 th December	6.30pm	Leighterton	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
21 st December 4 th Sunday in Advent	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Carol Service	Rev P Setterfield
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Westonbirt	Community Carol Service	Rev P Cheeseman
24 th December Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Hawkesbury	Christmas Crib Service	Rev R Thomson
	4.30pm	Acton Turville	Nativity Service	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Lasborough	Carol Service	Rev S Abbott
	11.30pm	Didmarton	Midnight Mass	Rev R Thomson
25 th December Christmas Day	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Great Badminton	Christmas Service (plus optional HC)	Rev R Thomson
28 th December Holy Innocents	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson

Church Services for January 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4 th January The Epiphany	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
11 th January The Baptism of Christ	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Choral Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
18 th January 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young - Talk
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Matthew Butler
25 th January Conversion of Paul	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev J Hunnisett
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev J Hunnisett
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Sir Ian MacFadyen

See Benefice website for readings: badmintonbenefice.com

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Lest We Forget



Once again, our villages came together to pay their respects to those members of the armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedoms in conflicts around the world. Events organised by the Badminton & Hawkesbury Branch of the Royal British Legion were held in Badminton, Hawkesbury and Acton Turville, where the children from Trinity School held their own Service of Remembrance at St Mary's church.

"We are hugely grateful to everyone who took part in our local Remembrance events, and who donated so generously to support such a worthwhile cause" said Alastair Gilbert, pictured on the left alongside Sub Lieutenant Johnson Greening RN, who read out the roll of honour at both Badminton and Acton Turville. "We would like to thank all the local businesses who sold poppies on our behalf, as well as the Beaufort Hunt who very kindly held their own collection for the poppy appeal. I would also like to thank the British Legion members who gave up their time manning stands at the Leigh Delamere services on the M4. In total, our Branch collected the quite incredible sum of £13,696. Finally, I would like to thank all those members of our local community who supported our events, especially the children of Trinity School who showed the utmost respect and maturity throughout their Service of Remembrance."

We Will Remember Them



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