



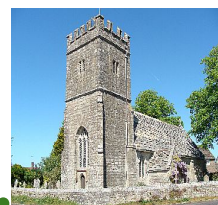
Introduction:

Hello everyone and welcome to September's edition of Oyez! A huge thank you to everyone who came along to the Quiz Night in aid of Julia's House. Thanks to your fantastic support, an incredible **£900** was raised. Well done and thank you to Sian and Jaquie for organising such a brilliant evening. As summer starts to wind down, there's still plenty to look forward to, with Race Night, Ride & Stride, social drinks evenings and even a few festive plans already on the horizon. So, grab a cuppa, have a read, and see what's coming up in the village this month.

Upcoming events...

- The race night is galloping into view as we enter the first furlong of September (sorry couldn't resist it!). The race night will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday the 26th of September, starting at 6:30 p.m. **Entry is free.** Proceeds will go to the defibrillator battery replacement. A hogget roast and bar will be available.
There will be 4 races each race having 6 riders – people holding hobby horses! Riders will negotiate a course with progress dependant of a roll of a single die. Bets will be £1 (or multiples of £1) with cash prizes to the winners and second places. So, bring lots of £1 coins please. Race-goers are encouraged to dress “for the races”: Top hat and tails; flamboyant and creative hats; tweed and trilby; jockey silks, etc.
- Yes, Christmas may seem ages away however the preparation has already started for the village Christmas party. It is on Saturday 12th of December at 7pm in the village hall. There will be a hog roast, bar, raffle and live music. Prices stand at adults-£20, kids-£10 and under 5s free.
- **Ride & Stride 2026**
If you like cycling, horse riding or walking, Dorset Historic Churches Trust's Ride & Stride may be for you. This annual sponsored event encourages people to visit as many local churches as they can in one day (**Saturday 12th September**). Money raised is divided between Dorset Historic Churches Trust and the individual's chosen church. If you would like to take part on behalf of St. Andrew's more details are available from Kaye on 01305 268641 or kaye.kerridge@gmail.com

Church news...



MORNING PRAYER

Every Tuesday at 9.30am - all welcome.

PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION

The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm.

HOME COMMUNION

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, then please contact Revd Cora Yarrien. Gluten free wafers are available.

September Services

6th - 10.30am Morning Prayer, 13th - 9am Holy Communion, 20th - 6.30pm Holy Communion, 27th - 6.30pm Evensong

Churchyard Working Party

Please come along on Saturday 5th September at 10am to help with the Autumn gardening work. Refreshments will be provided but please bring your own tools.

Coffee & Chat - Saturday 12th September from 10am to noon. All welcome - “Riders & Striders” will be passing through!

Church Contacts

Vicar - Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421 revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

Secretary - Janet Ranger-Dennis 07752 634773 janet.ranger@yahoo.co.uk

Dates for your diary...

Saturday 12th September – Ride & stride 2026

Saturday 26th September – Race night

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance and Roast

Friday 13th November 7:30 pm - Village Precept meeting

Saturday 5th December – Christmas market

Saturday 12th December – Christmas party

Social drinks...

I am sure you know that the Village Hall has been hosting social drinks evenings from 6pm onwards in the wake of the pub closing. September dates are:

- **5th:** Saturday
- **10th:** Thursday
- **18th:** Friday
- **24th:** Thursday

Bring your own drinks and snacks and enjoy a fun social evening with friends and family. Everyone is welcome!

Village Traffic-calming gateways...

The KPC funding has been secured for traffic-calming gateways on both approaches to West Stafford. The white, recycled-polymer gateways will meet DCC Highways standards, with surveys, preparation and landowner approvals complete.

Eastern approach: Two 1-metre-wide gateways will be installed 0.45m from the road edge, approximately 100m east of the existing village sign. They will display WEST STAFFORD, with “thank you for driving carefully” on the reverse.

Western approach: A gateway will be installed on the right, with a white post on the left where the verge is too narrow. It will be positioned around 10m further out to ensure the existing bend warning sign remains visible.

The gateways will not alter existing speed limits or 30mph zones but are intended to encourage drivers to slow earlier.

Installation is expected before the end of 2026, with minor traffic disruption for one day. Further updates will appear in Oyez. A computer-generated impression is on the Village Hall noticeboard. Questions should be directed to Monty Woolley.

Local Historic Fact...

After back-to-back sunshine this summer, I’m sure everyone is enjoying seeing some rain. The 18th of July 1955 holds the title of Britains “wettest day,” with 2 inches of water falling every hour! Analysis suggests that the greatest total of rain fell in Winterbourne Abbas. It is estimated that an area of 200 miles received over 5 inches of rain in one day!

Riddle of the month...

Last month’s riddle was “I’m tall when I am young and short when I’m old what am I?” The answer was a candle!

This month’s riddle is:

“What has hands but cannot clap”

Thank you so much Team Oyez and everyone who reads the newsletters!