Feb 2026

Issue 18

Welcome!

Hello all, and welcome to February!
We made it, despite all that awful rain that January gave us, flooding our roads and villages. We do hope you stayed dry and safe.
Here are some interesting facts this month, starting with 4th February 1926 when Malcolm Campbell set a new world land speed record of 174 mph in Wales.
Parking meters first appeared on the streets of London's exclusive Mayfair district on 5th February 1958
Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne on February 6th, 1952, where she reigned until her death in 2022.
The great English landscape gardener; Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, died on 6th February 1783, his work lives on today throughout the great estates of England, including our own beautiful Milton Abbas!
9th February 1964, 73 million Americans tune in to the Ed Sullivan Show to watch four lads from Liverpool appear for the first time – The Beatles!
11th February 1975, Iron Lady Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman leader of the British Conservative Party.
Valentine's Day is the 14th February for all you romantics out there.
15th February 1971, Pennies, Bobs and Half-Crowns all disappear as Britain goes decimal.
16th February is our lovely Phil Ford's Birthday.
Pancake Day is Tuesday 17th February and the Chinese New Year begins on February 17th, the Year of the Fire Horse.
19th February 1897, The Women's Institute is founded in Ontario, Canada, by Mrs Adelaide Hoodless.
21st February 1804, British engineer Richard Trevithick demonstrated the first steam engine to run on rails.
22nd February 1797, Over 1,000 French troops attempted to invade Britain, landing on the Welsh coast. The brave ladies of Fishguard saved the day!
25th February 1570, England's Queen Elizabeth I is excommunicated by Pope Pius V.
26th February 1797; The Bank of England issues the first ever one pound note, in part a result of the panic in London caused by the French invasion of Fishguard.

One of the most famous people to be born in February was inventor Thomas Edison, who was born on February 11th. He's responsible for the phonograph and the lightbulb, as well as countless other creations!
Charles Darwin was born on February 12th and is considered the father of the theory of evolution.
February is also the birth month of the vinyl record, at least at its 45RPM standard.
Famous musicians born in February are Nina Simone, Rick Astley and Alice Cooper. February is the birth month of Facebook and it is even Barbie's birthday! The Readers' Digest celebrates its 100th birthday in February this year and the Boy Scout movement first emerged in the US in February 1910.
February 1938 is also when Disney made a big breakthrough with their ground-breaking animated movie 'Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs'
February flowers are primroses and with violets.
Let's enjoy those signs of spring popping up everywhere around us, daffodils, crocuses, snowdrops and the early green shoots of bluebells and wild garlic.

Plus the evenings are becoming lighter!

Stay safe everyone,
Best wishes
Mrs Ed x

Computer Cafe

Got an issue with your computer or mobile phone?

Come along to the Reading Rooms on a Thursday between 10am and 12 noon and we will see if we can help. We ask you to buy a drink and a piece of cake for £2 to cover our costs.

Jennifer

MA Football

MA Football kicks off on Friday evenings @ 6:30pm. We play on Milton Abbas Sports Field where we can see the sea and play on an excellent small sided pitch to suit 5,6 or 7-a-side games.

Our aim was to gather players of 50+ and get a little bit fitter each week. In truth we have some players in their 40's and had some younger ones too in their 20's as occasional visitors supporting their Dad.

Would you would like to play Football on Fridays? You don't need to be super fit and only need trainers with a grip for the grass pitch.

Contact Martin Kelly: Tel: 07802 260393

WhatsApp or Email: martin@redmailer.co.uk

Milton Abbas Riding for Disabled Group offer therapeutic horse riding to young disabled children on Tuesdays 5-6.30pm and Fridays 10-12 noon in term time. We are a charity (Reg. no. 1177691) entirely run by volunteers and we raise our own funds to enable us to operate.

If you would like to consider regular volunteering with us, please contact Sue Hodder on 07739 469946 or suehodder01@talktalk.net

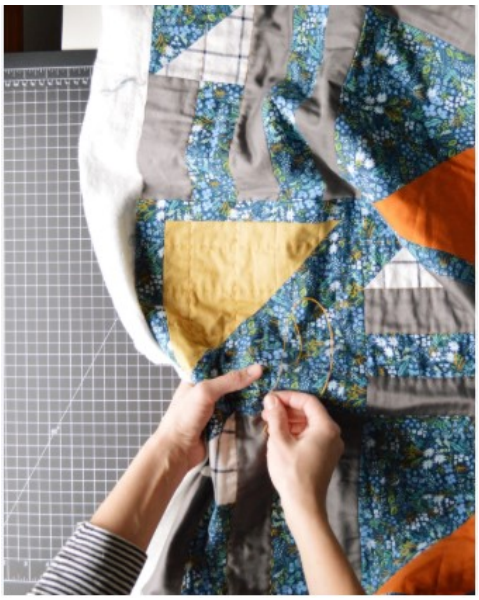
Thank you so much.

https://rda.org.uk/

You can also find us on facebook:-

https://www.facebook.com/p/Milton-Abbas-Riding-for-Disabled-Group-MARDA-100067613680731/?locale=en_GB

Friday Quilters!



Fridays from 9:30 to 12:00 in the Milton Abbas Reading Room.

You do not have to be a quilter!

Bring your knitting or anything else that you are currently working on.

We stop for coffee, tea & biscuits or, if you are lucky, a piece of cake! We will be very pleased to see you.

Further details from **Anthea - 01258 269348**

Milton Abbas Surgery

NHS App

At Milton Abbas Surgery, we're always looking for ways to improve our service and make the best use of our time, especially as GP practices are under increasing pressure. Each week, many hours are spent by our admin team handling medication requests, sharing blood test results, and answering referral queries. This is time that could instead be used to support our GPs and clinicians in caring for patients.

To help with this, we'd like to encourage our patients to sign up for the NHS App. The app gives you easy, 24/7 access to a range of NHS services on your smartphone, computer or tablet, including booking and cancelling appointments, ordering repeat prescriptions, viewing parts of your health record, and receiving test results - all in one place. Using the NHS App not only makes things quicker and easier for you, it also allows our team to spend more time caring for patients and supporting those who can't use online services.

You will need to sign up to Systmonline to be able to access the NHS app. To do this, you will need to bring in two forms of ID into the surgery – one needs to be photo ID and the other a utility bill showing your address – and then one of our admin team can set you up.

If you need help to set up and use the app, please contact Anna one of our Social Prescribers at the surgery who will be happy to talk you through it. We will also be running some support sessions in our surgery waiting room in the near future.

Medication Orders and Collections

Just a reminder that we ask for patients to please allow 3 full working days before collecting your medication from our Dispensary.

MEDICATION ORDERING

DAY ORDERED	READY TO COLLECT
MONDAY	FRIDAY
TUESDAY	MONDAY
WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY
THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY	THURSDAY
SATURDAY	FRIDAY
SUNDAY	FRIDAY

AT THE MOMENT WE ARE ASKING FOR PATIENTS TO PLEASE ALLOW 3 FULL WORKING DAYS BEFORE COLLECTING

This chart includes ordering online. If ordering medication through the post, please use the above chart and allow 2 extra days from the date posted. We make deliveries Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. If you receive your medication via delivery, please bear in mind that it may take longer. If you have any queries, please ask at reception and we will be happy to help.

Milton Abbas Surgery

Dispensary hours are: **8.30am – 1.00pm and 2.30pm – 6.00pm**

We are also open most Saturday mornings from **8.30am – 10.30am**. Please double check the website to confirm that we are open if you need to visit us on a Saturday.

MSK Practitioner

Do you have a problem that affects your neck, back, bones, joints or muscles?

At Milton Abbas Surgery you can see a specialist MSK (Musculoskeletal) practitioner instead of the GP. This gives you faster access to expert diagnosis and you will leave with the advice you need to start tackling the problem. They can also refer you on to hospital services where necessary and order tests. GPs cannot order MRI's whereas MSK Practitioners can.

Kerry works with us on a Wednesday. Please speak to one of our receptionists to book an appointment.

Are you ready for change?

Many of us come out of Christmas and jump straight into New Year's resolutions, setting ourselves tough, often unrealistic, health goals. We want to be in control, for everything to be perfect.

But change is about progress, not perfection. Taking small, achievable steps is more likely to lead to success than quick fixes or fads.

LiveWell Dorset supports thousands of people to lead a healthier life, not just for a month, but for as long as it takes, with 1-2-1 coaching, slimming club vouchers, smoking quit kits and activity plans.

Register online: www.livewelldorset.co.uk or call free: **0800 840 1628**. Alternatively, if you would like to speak with one of our Social Prescribers at the surgery about support available locally, please call the surgery on **01258 880210.**

Thought for the Month

Every year, as winter begins to loosen its grip and hints of spring appear at the edges of our fields and gardens, the Church enters a season called Lent. It's a time of reflection, simplicity, and renewal - a kind of spiritual early-spring clean. Lent lasts for forty days (not counting Sundays) and invites us to pause and take stock of our lives.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, one of the most ancient and moving services of the Christian year. During the service, those who wish to receive "ashing" come forward to have a small cross made of ash marked on their forehead. The words spoken are simple but profound: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." They remind us of our humanity - our fragility, our limits, and the preciousness of the life we have been given.

This year our service at St James is at 7pm on Wednesday 18th February. The ashes themselves are made by burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. There's something beautifully cyclical about that: last year's celebration becomes this year's sign of humility. It mirrors the turning of the seasons in village life - how last year's growth becomes this year's soil.

But Ash Wednesday is not meant to be gloomy. The purpose of the ashes is not to make us feel guilty or small, but grounded and honest.

They remind us that we do not have to be perfect, polished, or sorted.

Lent offers an opportunity to step away from the pressures of busyness, achievement, and constant noise, and instead to make space for prayer, kindness, and reflection. People observe Lent in different ways. Some choose to give something up - a favourite treat or a habit that's become unhelpful. Others choose to take something on: a daily walk, a moment of quiet, a small act of generosity each week. The tradition is flexible; what matters is not the rule but the intention.

As we journey through Lent together, may we discover moments of stillness, honesty, and renewal. And may Ash Wednesday's gentle reminder of our shared humanity draw us closer - to God, to one another, and to the hope of new life already stirring beneath the surface.

Blessings
Rev'd Lewis

The View

We are located at the Milton Abbas Sports Field and offer a welcoming spot with scenic Dorset views. We have a cosy indoor space, and beautiful expanding covered outdoor area sheltered from sun or rain, dogs are very welcome!

With a menu featuring hot and cold food, pastries, toasties, and unique treats. Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options are available. We also sell Jurassic Roast coffee, Clipper teas, and local Piddle Brewery beers. There is free parking, a bike rack, and family-friendly sports field.

WINTER OPENING HOURS

MONDAY: 10AM-3PM
TUESDAY: CLOSED
WEDNESDAY: CLOSED
THURSDAY: 10AM-3PM
FRIDAY: 10AM-3PM
SATURDAY: 10AM-3PM
SUNDAY: 10AM-3PM

Find us on our website: www.theviewcoffeeshopma.com or our social media pages

---

Steeptonbill Farm Shop

Selling beautifully fresh, locally-grown produce all year round!

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday: Closed

Friday to Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

Contact Steve at steeptonbill@gmail.com for all your seasonal produce

Coffee Stop

Every Tuesday St James Church opens up its south aisle to welcome villagers and passers-by in for a cuppa and a slice of cake

All are welcome!

It is a great way to meet other villagers and catch up on things.

The coffee stop runs from 11am until 12 noon and we charge just £1 for a drink and another £1 for a slice of cake!

All proceeds go to the up-keep of our beautiful church.

Milton Abbas Lunch Club

The February Lunch Club will be on **Weds 11th February at The Reading Rooms.** All villagers over 55 are welcome, and we provide something warming and hearty to fill your tummy!

Freddie is cooking Cottage Pie and Paula is cooking a Brioche bread and butter pudding

The cost for the meal will be £5 per head, payable to Trevor Payne on the day.

To book your place, please email Jennifer by 6th February:

hrrssnsup@aol.com

Milton Abbas Local History Group

As befits a village with such a long and exciting history as Milton Abbas, one we are lucky enough to experience every time we walk through it, there is a group that has formed to further the knowledge we have and bring the past to the present.

The Milton Abbas Local History Group (MALHG) works to unearth, understand, transpose, collate and archive the recorded history of Milton Abbas, and there is a group of expert volunteers working on various aspects of this. Anyone is welcome to join in these activities, but for those interested from a more general aspect, there are monthly meetings where you can either be welcomed at the Reading Rooms, or join on Zoom for a talk on some really fascinating elements of our history. We meet on the last Weds of the month

All welcome to join, either in person or remotely, and we would be delighted to discuss with you all that the group has done and continues to do to preserve our local history. We would also be welcome to ideas about how we could support other activities and events that are going on locally.

Contact Simon Martin - simonmartin@btinternet.com for more information.

MA Art Group

The Milton Abbas Art Group meets on **Monday evenings** in the Reading Room.

The artists bring along whatever inspires them between 7pm and 9:15, they work on their creations whilst chatting and sharing ideas.

An 8 o'clock cuppa and biscuits (or cake if they are lucky!) gives time for a peek at what each person has achieved so far!

If you are interested in joining the friendly and relaxed group, please contact one of the committee members via our contacts below.

We always welcome new members.

You might also like to follow us on Instagram: **miltonabbasartgroup1**

Email: miltonabbasart@gmail.com

Website: www.miltonabbasart.wixsite.com/miltonabbasart

Instagram: miltonabbasartgroup1

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MiltonAbbasArtGroup

Pews News

February 2026

Services in February

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
9am - Turnworth (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Morning Worship)
10:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Communion)

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
9am - Winterborne Stickland (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Milton Abbas (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Clenston (Prayer Book Communion)
4:30pm - Winterborne Houghton (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
9am - Milton Abbas (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Communion)
11:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
10:30am - Winterborne Houghton (Communion)
10:30am - Turnworth (Morning Worship)
6pm - Milton Abbas (SoulSpace)

Services in March

SUNDAY 1ST MARCH
9am - Turnworth (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Morning Worship)
10:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Communion)

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH
9am - Winterborne Stickland (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Milton Abbas (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Clenston (Prayer Book Communion)
4:30pm - Winterborne Houghton (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH
9am - Milton Abbas (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Communion)
11:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH
10:30am - Winterborne Houghton (Communion)
10:30am - Turnworth (Morning Worship)
6pm - Milton Abbas (SoulSpace)

PALM SUNDAY
29TH MARCH
10:30am - Turnworth (Benefice Service)
2:30pm - Messy Easter

Bible Readings

Sunday 1st February - Candlemas
1 Kings 17. 8 - 16/John 2 . 1 - 11 (white)

Sunday 8th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent
Genesis 1. 1 - 2/Matthew 6. 25 to end

Sunday 15th February - Sunday next before Lent
Exodus 24. 12 to end/Matthew 17. 1 - 9

Sunday 22nd of February - 1st Sunday of Lent
Genesis 2. 15 - 17, 3. 1 - 7/Matthew 4. 1 - 11

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday
St James MA 18th Feb at 7pm

Reading of the Gospel of John
Saturday 7th March 10.30am in the Old School Room Whitechurch

The Chosen Season 5
Dates: Thursdays 26th Feb, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March
⏰ Time: 7:30pm-9pm
📍 Location: The Rectory Winterborne Stickland
Please let Lewis know if you'd like to attend

Valley Walk
14th March Lyscombe Nature Reserve. Meet at the church in Houghton at 10am

Important Notice

After 13 years as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Angela D'Silva has decided it is time to step down. We are immensely grateful for all that she has brought to this role which has gone through so much change over the years.

I am very pleased and grateful that Debbie Albery has agreed to take over this role. All of our safeguarding posters and website are being updated with this information and Debbie can be contacted on 07748 358700 should you have a Safeguarding concern.

Rector - Rev'd Lewis Pearson
reviewispearson@gmail.com - 01258 880482
Chaplain to Milton Abbey School - Tuesday
Day Off- Friday

Admin & Pews News - Jennifer Harrisson
wvmabenefice@gmail.com

www.wvmabenefice.co.uk

January Picture Quiz Result:

Last month's photo was of the lamp at The Maltings (Number 60)

Baz Towers was first in with the correct answer :)

Well done Baz!

February Picture Quiz:

Do you know where this was taken? Recognise the image?

Drop us an email and let us know!

The first correct responder gets their name in next month's MA Bulletin.

Articles and Feedback Gratefully Received:

MiltonAbbasBulletin@GMail.com

or contact:
Paula Driver
Stuart Driver