

THE APPLETON WITH EATON

DECEMBER 2025

NUMBER 700

Advertiser

PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

OH NO!
IT'S A BLOOMING
CHRISTMAS

QUIZ NIGHT

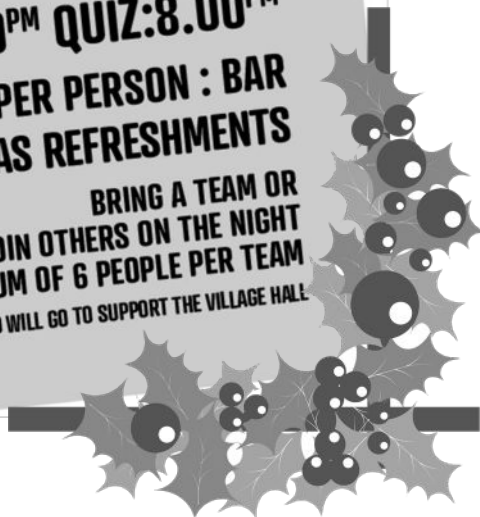
SAME OLD QUIZMASTER : SAME MIX OF QUESTIONS
ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL MUSIC ROUND

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER
APPLETON VILLAGE HALL

DOORS: 7.30PM QUIZ: 8.00PM

£3 PER PERSON : BAR
XMAS REFRESHMENTS

BRING A TEAM OR
JOIN OTHERS ON THE NIGHT
MAXIMUM OF 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM
MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO SUPPORT THE VILLAGE HALL



BABY, LOOK AT YOU NOW

Wealands Bell – *Rector of Appleton, Eaton and Besselsleigh*

Few stories have captivated an audience quite as completely as the Christmas stories. Written decades after the events they describe, they should not be read as factual reports from the maternity ward. Rather, St Matthew and St Luke (and only they) weave epic and symbolic stories, laced with references from the Jewish Bible, to explain who Jesus is, and what God means by sending 'his only Son' to be the Saviour of humankind.

People's reaction to the story is especially interesting when it comes to distinguishing between eternal truth and historic accuracy. Some readers get very upset if you suggest that the Nativity story is not a blow-by-blow historic account of what happened in a Bethlehem shed on 'that first Christmas Night.' Others say it is precisely the mythical quality of the stories (a star, angels, a virgin conceiving a child through divine intervention) that convinces them that the whole Christian project is 'a tale told by an idiot, ... signifying nothing.'

Perhaps the safest way through the woods is to abandon the false distinction between truth and myth, which is about as useful as the equally false stand-off between science and religion. The fact is that cultures have always told vast, over-arching stories precisely to tell the truth about themselves; and the fact that such stories are not historically accurate as we would understand the term, does not in any sense limit their truthfulness. A love poem is not deficient, simply because it is not a book about anatomy or psychology.

It was common, in ancient biographies, to assume that the birth of someone who turned out to be great must itself have been noteworthy. It was like saying, *You must have been a beautiful baby coz, baby, look at you now!* Augustus and Alexander had typically miraculous births, while the Buddha was born from his mother's side and, when he took his first steps, lotus-flowers sprang up in his path. So the fact that two of the four gospels give us a magical story about Jesus' birth should not surprise us.

But what might it mean? The birth of God-as-man is a steeple-shaking piece of news, a big deal for heaven as well as earth, and it's not surprising when angels pitch up and start to sing their carols. No-one is to be left out. You can be as poor as a shepherd, or as exotic as a 'wise man' from a far-flung place. There is room for absolutely all of us in this story, and in the loving heart of God. Without exception.

That said, increasingly in Europe we keep Christ at a distance. When he was born among us, we pushed him into an out-house, and we have done our best to keep him there ever since. We know that if we start believing it might all be true, then we'll have to think and act a whole lot differently, and that's a tall order, even with God's promise of abundant new life! It's far easier just to pour another *glühwein*, keep calm, and carry on.

Maybe. But if you find the story getting under your skin more than usual this year, don't panic. Come along and say hello. Bring the grand/kids to the Santa Claus look-alike on Sunday 7th. Or, on Christmas Eve, bring them to the Crib Service; bring your friends to the magical, candle-lit Carols. Details on the back page. I can't promise that Christ won't catch your eye and change your plans, but hey. Why not live a little? And have a very happy Christmas when it comes.

MIRACLE ON 34th STREET STREET

[U] 1947 96 MINUTES

appleton
village
cinema



with
mulled wine
& mince pies

Appleton Village Hall
Thursday 11 December
Doors: 6.30pm Film: 7.30pm



Tickets on door £6 / U16s £4



Charity Christmas Concert

*Friday 12th December - 7.30pm
St Laurence Church, Appleton*

*A short concert of Christmas music and carols
with Claire & Stephen Barratt and the*

Appleton Community Choir

*All proceeds to
helping to prevent men's suicide and save lives*



*Concert followed by mulled wine or hot chocolate and
mince pies*

Please contact Claire for tickets:

07767 400419 or cbarratt28@gmail.com

Tickets £10 - Children free



Discover the stories that shaped our village

In recent years, Appleton with Eaton History Group has produced a series of *AwEsome Histories* booklets containing short articles about the history of our local area as well as special issues on the War Memorial and the Church Bells. Have you got them all?

In the latest issue, you can find out about Elinor Fettiplace after whom Fettiplace Close is named, discover what happened when the 2mph (yes, two mph) speed limit through the village was exceeded, read the story of Appleton's pig clubs (no porkie pies, honest!) and much more besides.

These excellent Christmas stocking fillers are on sale in the Appleton Community Shop and also at the Appleton Christmas Fayre on December 4th, with prices ranging from £3 to £5.

The next meeting of the History Group will be on Thursday 8th January in the committee room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Why not come and join us? We meet every two months to discuss and share the things we've found out about past times in the Appleton, Eaton, and Besselsleigh area, and in the summer we have an evening guided history walk. With so much still to discover, we always welcome new members.

A very happy Christmas to you all from the Appleton with Eaton History Group!



Escapee

I was alone that evening! I was about twelve years old and my parents had gone out for a social evening.

My reading was suddenly interrupted by a crash in the farm buildings and a huge roar and my back shivered with fear. I crept out to the cowsheds and peeped over the door to see that the door of the end-most loose box was smashed to pieces and its occupant, a very heavy mature Hereford bull, was nowhere to be seen! He had a wild temperament but he had a good pedigree. Nonetheless, what to do now?

The three farm gates were all open to the road so I had to act! The telephone! The nearest person to our herdsman was a neighbour across the road from his bungalow, so I needed to phone him. Good luck – he was in and said he would go across the road and alert Fred. This was done and fortunately very soon Fred and some pals from the local pub came en masse, rounded up the escapee and coaxed him back to another secure loose box for his and everybody else's safety. Phew! I watched from a distance and was so relieved it was all done and no one was harmed.

We didn't keep him long after that. His work was done and a new AI scheme from

Faringdon had just been launched and was now being offered to various breeds – more practical, efficient and effective, but not much fun for the recipients!

Addendum: W. Oxon Farm 1930–1972 160 acres – average for farms at that time. Dairy and arable – Shorthorn cross Hereford cattle – 80 head and followers plus bull!

Barbara Bunyan, Nov 2025



Green Appleton

We held our fifth **Repair Cafe** on 25th October at Appleton Village Hall.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all those that attended and made it such a success. We had some interesting repairs again and we were delighted with the number of people that had their items repaired and enjoyed a cuppa and piece of cake in the cafe.

We have some exciting news! We are delighted to say that our next Repair Cafe will be held at Appleton School. We feel that children play a key role, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to the Headteacher and staff for making this possible. **The date is 7th February 2026.** Please make a date in your diaries and watch out for more information in the New Year.

In the meantime, here are our stats for October:



PS Don't forget:

Autumn/Winter photography competition! There is so much beauty in nature at this time of year. You'll find the rules on our website:

Greenappleton.org.uk

As always, if you have any questions please email us at:

greenappleton2021@gmail.com

St Laurence, Appleton PCC

Invite you to make a

Star

of Remembrance

for the Christmas Tree in church

Purchase your Star from the Shop - £5 per star

Write on your own personal message

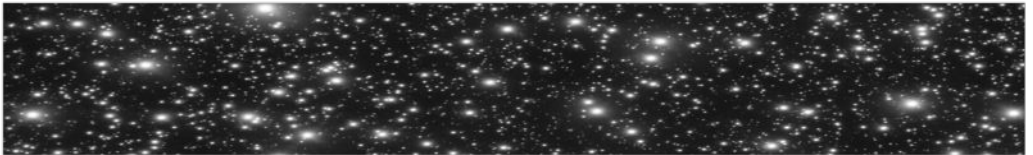
**Either leave the star in the box and one of our team
will hang it for you, or please feel free to take your star
to the church and hang it on the tree yourself.**

Please note the church is open all day from 9am to 5pm

All proceeds from the stars will go to the

Oxfordshire Homeless

Movement



St Laurence Church PCC warmly invite you to

Carols under the Stars



Wednesday 17th December

Mulled wine, juice, hot chocolate and mince pies in the village hall – 6.30pm

Carols around the brazier in the village hall car park – 6.45pm

All donations to Oxfordshire Homeless Movement

December News – The Importance of Soil Seasonal Spotlight

Winter can be quite a harsh time of year for much of our wildlife, but for some species it can offer a bit of respite from the harsher, colder climates further north. Winter is a fantastic time to see many bird species that we won't see in summer such as redwings and fieldfares. Birds such as starlings start to flock, forming impressive murmurations in the sky. Why not visit your local nature reserve on a winter's day and see what new species you can find?

The Yellow Wagtail Partnership

We wanted to bring a bit of colour to this winter's month by mentioning one of our main projects is the Yellow Wagtail Partnership. The Yellow Wagtail is not a species one would think about at this time of year as by now they will be back in the wintering grounds in sunny West Africa. Wild Oxfordshire have partnered with Earth Trust and Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm to collectively manage four-miles of wet grassland along the River Thames from Clifton Hampden to Shillingford. The aim of the project is to sustainably manage these grasslands for the benefit of wildlife including the Yellow Wagtail but also in a way that is economically beneficial for the partnering businesses.

However, this project is not just about the Yellow Wagtail, we want to increase the plant and insect diversity and abundance as well. This in turn will increase the amount of food available for many species of bird including House Martins, Swifts, Snipe and Lapwings. Check out our website for more information. <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/action/yellow-wagtail>



Tips for looking after wildlife this winter:

Always move your burn piles before you light them! The best habitat piles are usually created on nature reserves and to the untrained eye, these look a lot like burn piles. The wildlife thinks so too and so many creatures use burn piles to sleep in, including hedgehogs, frogs, voles, and lizards. To avoid burning hibernating wildlife, you must move burn piles before lighting them.

Crack ice on your bird baths, water dishes and ponds so that our winter wildlife can still drink. Who knows which birds you might see enjoying a sip.

Leave area(s) of your garden undisturbed to allow hibernating wildlife to sleep in peace and unharmed. Some invertebrates hibernate in hollow stems of

grassland and scrub species such as cow parsley and other umbellifers. Avoid cutting these as they might be home to sleeping beetles, bees, spiders or even ladybirds.

Log piles are well sought after for both people and wildlife at this time of year. If you can, try to leave a pile outside untouched to allow hedgehogs and other hibernating wildlife to sleep in it over winter.

If you find a sick or injured hedgehog or other wild animal, please call Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital on 01844 292292

To find out more about **Wildlife friendly gardening** - head over to the Wild Oxfordshire website at www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk and have a look in guidance.

World Soil Day

The 5th of December is **World Soil Day**, held annually to highlight to importance of healthy soil and its sustainable management. Soil is vital for plant growth and therefore food production. Healthy soils filter and store water, reducing the risk of flooding. Soil can even help mitigate against climate change by storing carbon from the atmosphere. In addition, soil provides a habitat for many different species including bacteria, fungi, worms, invertebrates. It is estimated that a single teaspoon of healthy soil can contain more living organisms than there are people on Earth - that's over 7 billion microbes! We can all do our bit to support healthy soils. This can be in your garden through reducing the amount of chemicals you apply, composting and mulching, or turning your lawn into a meadow. We can also do our bit by supporting farmers who are working to improve their soil quality through sustainable farming practices – when you can, buy organic or directly from the farmer.

Sophie Cunnington, Wild Oxfordshire Yellow Wagtail Partnership Officer

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>



Appleton Trust Hardship Fund

The Appleton Trust has some funds available to help those individuals or families in immediate hardship with no other means of support.

Please apply to the Trust Clerk by email at

ClerkAppletonTrust@yahoo.com

Or Mrs Sue Halliday at 12, Netherton Road

The Appleton Trust takes your privacy very seriously and will not pass your personal details on to anyone

December 2025 Appleton Community Shop news

Christmas is coming

As the festive season draws near, there's no better place to embrace the spirit of Christmas than at our own village community shop.

As well as our everyday stock of household staples, milk, bread, fresh fruit and vegetables, and meat, we will be adding our Christmas range of mince pies, chocolates, new cheeses, Christmas cards, stamps and wrapping paper.

Look out for Christmas tray bakes, tubs of chocolates, and festive preserves.

Order your Christmas deliveries from us

As per previous years we will be offering our Christmas Order Form for meats, cheeses, bread and pastries, fruit and vegetables.

Thank you ...

To everyone who drops their spare change in the Sobell House charity tin – to date we have raised over £900 for this important charity.

New ham

We have sourced a delicious new ham from Hedges to sell in packs of 6 slices, and we hope you'll agree that it is not only tasty, but also great value – so do try some! (It's in the sandwich cabinet by the till).

Shop opening hours

Monday-Friday: 7am–6pm

Saturday: 8am–1pm

Sunday: 8am–12noon

Post office Mondays and Thursdays, 9am–1pm

Shop telephone: 01865 863191

Email: appletonship@gmail.com

Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/appletoncommunityshop>



Christmas Opening Hours

Wednesday 24th December: 7am to 12noon

Christmas Day: CLOSED

Boxing Day: CLOSED

Saturday 27th December: 9am to 1pm

Sunday 28th December: 9am to 12noon

Monday 29th December: 9am to 1pm - Post office open 9am to 1pm

Tuesday 30th December: 9am to 1pm

New Year's Eve: 9am to 1pm

New Year's Day: 9am to 11am - Paper collections only, no deliveries: Post Office Closed

Friday 2nd January: 7am to 6pm

Shop monthly turnover

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
May	£27,338	£27,718	£26,869
June	£29,347	£28,268	£28,376
July	£28,208	£30,582	£27,256
Aug	£24,841	£25,678	£24,839
Sept	£24,479	£25,345	£23,608
Oct	£26,318	£26,522	£25,290
Nov	£26,600	£26,224	
Dec	£27,354	£26,525	
Jan	£24,690	£23,937	
Feb	£24,144	£22,477	
March	£26,109	£25,360	
April	£24,762	£24,843	

SOCIABLE COFFEE MORNING

- open to all

Come and join us on Wednesday 3rd December 10.30 - 12.00 in the Village Hall. It's less than 3 weeks to Christmas Day so there might be the odd mince pie as well as good coffee. Festive jumpers optional!





WHAT IS IT?

A minibus service to Abingdon

WHEN DOES IT RUN?

**Monday mornings only, leaving Appleton 10am
and Fyfield at 10.10am.**

Return from Abingdon at 1pm.

WHO CAN USE IT?

Anyone — its not just for the oldies!

All we ask is that passengers donate £3.00 for each return journey, for which there is a money box kept by the PO counter.

**If you would like more information, please contact
Mary Carey on 07812 354496**



Appleton CE Primary School

Could You Spare an Hour to Help a Child Read?

Every Monday afternoon during term time, as a reading volunteer, I look forward to hearing small children take

their early steps to become young readers. Over each term, it is so encouraging to hear and experience at first hand, the progress young pupils can make towards becoming fluent readers.

With Appleton School's own wonderful child friendly library, pupils can then begin to choose for themselves, from a collection of colourful picture books as well as a range of age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction!

The School is always looking for volunteers to support one-to-one reading with pupils. Giving just one or two hours a week with a particular year group can make a real difference, helping children grow in confidence and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Volunteering in school is a highly rewarding experience. You'll get to know the children, share in their progress, and play a helpful and enjoyable role in our school. Knowledge of phonics is helpful, but online guidance can be provided, as can the required safeguarding training.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a reading volunteer, the school would be delighted to hear from you. Your time could encourage a lifetime love of books for a new young learner.

School Email: office.3850@appleton.oxon.sch.uk

School Tel No: 01865 862794

Liz Gilkes

Appleton School Volunteer

Appleton Voluntary Transport Scheme (AVTS)

We try to arrange transport to medical and dental appointments in Abingdon, Oxford, Witney and Wootton for residents of Appleton, Eaton, Fyfield and Besselsleigh, who have no other means of transport. The contact telephone number is 07503 447884. Leave a message if your call is not answered and we will get back to you.

Please note that

- Covid safety measures remain in force and masks need to be worn
- We need at least 48 hours notice of an appointment
- There is a small charge to cover the driver's costs.

Demand for our service is picking up again, but we are very short of drivers. If anyone would be happy to help, please do contact us.

News from Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWEPC)

Possible Merger between Appleton with Eaton Parish Council and Besselsleigh Parish Meeting

AWEPC considered the response to the above consultation at its meeting on the 10th November. There were 57 respondents with 35 in favour, 15 against and 7 indifferent. Based on the results, the Council resolved to write to the District Council asking them to proceed with a referendum.

Once the Council has more information on the referendum, we will communicate that. All residents on the electoral roll will have an opportunity to vote. If there are questions, please feel free to contact the Clerk and/or the District Council.

Jubilee Park

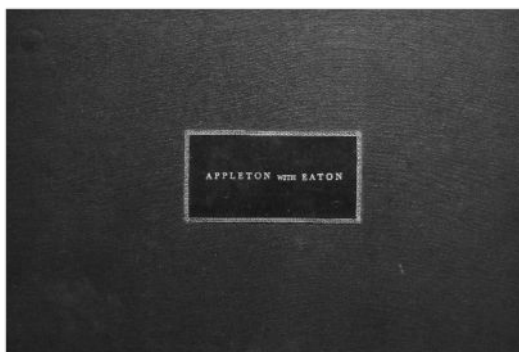
Adopt a Flower Bed!

The Parish Council is looking for people to adopt a flower bed. The flower beds in the Park provide a lovely environment and we hope to keep them going with your help! The Parish Council will provide the plants but is looking for residents to care for a flower bed. If you are interested/able to help, please contact the Clerk.

Thank you!

The Council and Friends of Jubilee Park would like to thank John Page and Roger Gilkes for the refurbishment of a bench in the Park. Volunteers make all the difference, and it is much appreciated!

Help Conserve Our Village History Album



Many residents will be familiar with the large village history album compiled and donated by **Vera Porter**, former Chair of Appleton with Eaton Parish Council, to mark the **centenary of the creation of parish councils**. This remarkable volume is an irreplaceable record of our shared heritage, capturing stories, photographs, and memories that belong to all of us.

After many years of careful handling, the album has now become **too fragile and heavy to be safely used**, and professional conservation is urgently needed. The proposal is to **repair, conserve, and rebind the material into two high-quality, more manageable volumes** to ensure it can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.



The Parish Council are seeking **donations** to help cover the cost of this important work. Any contribution—large or small—will make a meaningful difference to preserving this unique piece of village history.



The total cost will be in the region of £850.

If you would like to donate or learn more about the conservation project, please contact **Allison Leigh, Parish Clerk**

Thank you for support

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the
8th December 2025, 7:15pm, Appleton Village Hall.

All are welcome!

The Council wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Allison Leigh, Parish Clerk

07767 596 650 / parishclerk@appleton-eaton-pc.gov.uk

Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club

Christmas Drinks and Awards Ceremony

All members are welcome to come and celebrate the achievements of our Club Tournament winners and junior players and enjoy a Christmas drink together, on 12th December from 7-8pm in the Village Hall.



Car parking at the tennis club

Please walk or cycle to the tennis club if possible, particularly on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings, which are our busiest times. If you need to drive please park considerately in our car park and surrounding streets.

White Horse Tennis Centre Indoor tennis sessions (members only)

Escape the rain and frost by playing indoors on the first Wednesday of the month from now until March. Court availability is limited this year, so unfortunately there will be fewer spaces available and booking is essential. Join the Wednesday social session WhatsApp group to book your place before each session.

Cardio Tennis (non-members welcome)

Keep fit through the Winter with Cardio tennis run by our Head coach Bart, on Thursdays from 10.30-11.30am. You are welcome to join in whatever your standard. You must sign up before each session on the WhatsApp group and pay as you go with cash (£10). Rackets available to borrow. Email appleton-witheatontennisclub@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the Cardio WhatsApp group.

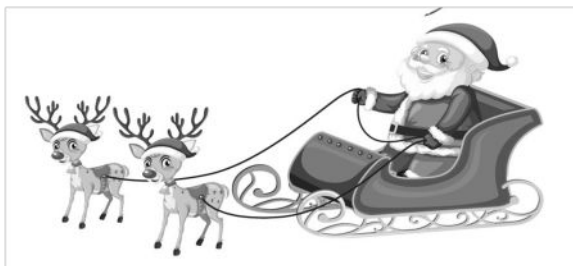
Half price membership from now until end of March 2026!

If you would like to join our friendly tennis club, please email the club on appletonwitheatontennisclub@gmail.com or turn up at one of our club sessions (Saturdays 10 am-12 pm, Wednesday 7-9 pm, or Thursday 1.30-3.30 pm).

For more information see: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub/>

<https://www.instagram.com/appletonwitheatontennisclub/>



Advertiser

Deadline for December issue:

12th December (a week earlier than usual to get it printed before Christmas)

Notices for village organisations

All printed copy to the editor - just post it through the letterbox—or by email to editor.advertiser@gmail.com before the deadline. Please email if you can!

No formal payment is required but we ask for a donation towards the running costs of the Advertiser: between £5-50 depending on the length and frequency of entries. Liaise with Wanda Todd to agree an appropriate donation.

Advertisements

To book advertising space:

email Wanda Todd: accounts.advertiser@hotmail.co.uk

2012 Advertising charges per issue

●Listing:

30p per word of 3 letters or more and a minimum of £3.00 per advert. Each telephone and email address is to count as a word

●Display adverts:

£25 for a quarter page

Please indicate whether you want (1) a display advert or (2) a listing. If you want a listing the charge is made per word so please either supply the text or say how many words. Note that payment is required in advance, and for long-term adverts we would like 3 months in advance.

Cheques payable to Appleton PCC

and sent to Wanda Todd, 12 Badswell Lane, Appleton OX13 5JN

EVERGREEN CLUB

This month's meeting will be a Christmas Lunch at the Plough in Appleton.

Date will be confirmed with the landlord when the renovations are completed.

If you weren't at our wet November meeting and would like to join us, we would happily add you to the list.

Appleton WI

We shall be meeting at 2pm on Thursday, December 18th in Appleton village hall for our Christmas party. It will be a bring and share tea, and Cumnor Community choir will join us to lead singing of Christmas songs and carols.

As a follow up to our fund raising for Women's Aid, we shall hear about the work of women's refuges. There will be a raffle and a bring and buy stall.

Visitors are always welcome.

Elaine Flint

01865 861838



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

To all our readers







FIELD | FAMILY | FORK

Farm Shop Farmhouse Kitchen Garden Centre Flower Market Café Falconry Centre Fishing Lake	The Beach Pick Your Own Loads of events! Beauty Within Farm Zoo Sprouts Play Barn
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www.milletsfarmcentre.com





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Tel. 01865 390740



DAVIDSON-DECORATING

Interior and exterior work.

References available.

Siobhan 07765780672

davidsondecorating@gmail.com



APT HARD LANDSCAPING

Paving: Fencing :Stone walling:

Brickwork :Turfing:General garden
maintenance

Andy:07887778784

email:andyphomas@hotmail.co.uk



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Appleton Village Hall

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and wedding receptions.

www.appletonvillagehall.com



St. Laurence Church website

www.stlaurenceappleton.org

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accounts.advertiser@hotmail.co.uk

NOTE: This newsletter is also available on
the Parish website. If you do not wish
your item to be displayed online, please
inform the Editor. All items are included in
good faith, and the Appleton with Eaton
Advertiser cannot take responsibility for
any content.

St Laurence Church Appleton with Besselsleigh

SERVICES – DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP said)
	10.00am	All-Age Celebration of St Nicholas – child-friendly, with prizes for the best Santa Claus lookalike <i>40 minutes, with coffee and pastries from 9.40am</i>
	5.30pm	Eucharist (a short said service)
Sunday 14th	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	4.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
Wednesday 17th	6.30pm	Carols under the Stars – at the Village Hall with mulled wine
Sunday 21st	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	5.00pm	Carol Service at St Lawrence Besselsleigh
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service
	6.00pm	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Christmas Day	10.00am	All-Age Festal Parish Eucharist
Sunday 28th	10.00pm	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 4th January	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP said)
	10.00am	All Age Epiphany Christingle Service – child-friendly <i>40 minutes, with coffee and pastries from 9.40am</i>
	5.30pm	Eucharist (a short said service)

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated every Wednesday at 10.00am
(a quiet, peaceful service lasting 30 minutes)

The church building is open every day 9am to 5pm for all to visit

Contact us:

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care and home visits,
please contact the Rector, The Revd Wealands Bell: 01865 599003;
rector@stlaurencechurchappleton.org

For matters concerning the church building and churchyard, please contact one of
the Churchwardens: Jane Cranston: 01865 863681; jane@cranstonjane.co.uk; or
Pete Day: 01865 862671; p.h.m.day202@btinternet.com