

THE APPLETON WITH EATON

FEBRUARY 2026

NUMBER 702

# Advertiser

PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

## Green Appleton Repair Cafe

Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> 10am to 1pm

## Appleton School

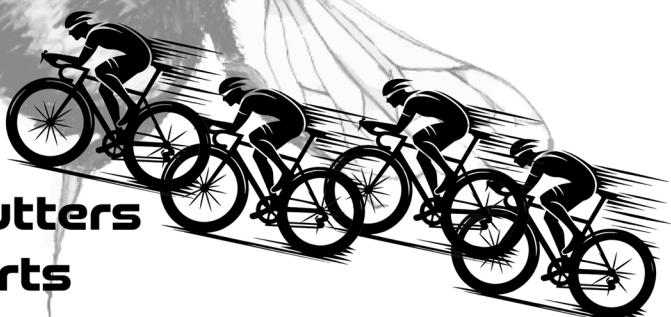
Any questions contact  
[greenappleton2021@gmail.com](mailto:greenappleton2021@gmail.com)



Photography  
Competition Judging  
Have you entered  
your photos yet?

*Repairs ☀ Cake ☀ Activities*

Abingdon  
Carbon Cutters  
Bike Experts



## **Golden oldies, to enlighten the nations!**

I never knew my grandparents. Three of them had shuffled off their mortal coils a while before my birth, and although my father's father did at least live long enough to see me, he took one look, and promptly decided that here was nothing to detain his exit further.

I remember them at this time of year as, on 2 February, the Church ends Christmastide by celebrating Candlemas, the occasion on which Jesus' parents took him to the Temple in Jerusalem, to give thanks for his birth. Here they met two very elderly souls: a prophet called Anna who spent her entire life in prayer; and Simeon, a righteous man full of God's Spirit who announced that, having finally seen this baby, he was more than ready to depart the world in peace. For this child is the Christ, God's glory shown to Israel, and a light by which the whole world might live. In Jesus' arrival and Simeon's dramatic departure, there's a sense that, as Tennyson puts it, 'The old order changeth, yielding place to new.' For Christians, the coming of Christ is the wonderful fulfilment of all that has gone before.

But not all of life's changes are so warmly welcomed. The present as it rushes into view can leave us longing for the certainties of the past, and it is often grandparents who help families to navigate their difficulties, not only through the wisdom they have acquired in life, but by standing at one remove from the seat of family authority. Whereas parents must occasionally mete out the demands of justice, grandparents can normally confine themselves to a ministry of mercy, with a kind word here and a bar of chocolate there. In addition to the practical support they give, it is perhaps this sense of perspective, and the preservation of family memory, that are the really vital gifts they bring. They know what to do because they've seen it (or something quite like it) before. Simeon recognises Christ because first he understands the Temple and the Law of Moses.)

So too with nations, and the global changes we encounter. As each day threatens its own fresh hell and dose of malign madness, we look for support to our elder statesmen and women, and to our historians – or to as many historians as we're still permitted by an education system obsessed with maths and science. It is their wisdom and perspective, and their understanding of the past, that enable them to guide us clearly in the present, and to be skilful midwives to a better future.

As the wax and wicks of Candlemas proclaim the even longer perspective of eternity, your Church will be praying for grandparents everywhere, and that Christ's way of love will continue to enlighten the families of our parish, and of all the world, in ways of justice, mercy and peace.

Wealands Bell

*Rector of Appleton and Eaton with Besselsleigh*



# ALL AGE BINGO!

APPLETON VILLAGE HALL  
SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
DOORS 4.00PM • EYES DOWN 4.30PM

TICKETS £12.00 ADULTS £8.00 CHILD  
TO INCLUDE A HOT DOG OR BURGER

PRIZES!  
TICKETS AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY SHOP  
AND ONLINE VIA THE APPLETON COMMUNITY  
FACEBOOK PAGE

49 63 75 80  
52 66 75 80  
59 63 75 80  
62 67 77 82  
59 60 70 80  
PAYOUT BAR AVAILABLE  
TO ASSIST WITH THE CATERING PLEASE COULD TICKETS  
BE PURCHASED BY FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

EVERYONE WELCOME



## **The Comet Minibus to Abingdon**

**On Monday mornings, the minibus picks up on Eaton Road near the school and then at the war memorial, leaving Appleton at 10am and returning from Abingdon at 1pm.**

This has been a popular service over many years but sadly the number of Appleton passengers using the minibus has dwindled over the last year. The minibus still picks up people in Fyfield but we do need to encourage villagers from Appleton to use the service.

The Abingdon market is held on Monday mornings and some users manage to tie in visiting the doctor's or dentist's surgeries whilst they are there. Mostly it's a chance to shop with no worries about parking, have a coffee in town, meet friends etc.

All we ask is that you donate £3.00 towards the return cost of your journey. There is a money box on the Post Office counter that can be used for the donations. The additional running costs of running the service are met by Appleton with Eaton Parish Council and Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council.

If you have any questions about the service, email: [marymcarey@btinternet.com](mailto:marymcarey@btinternet.com)

The service is available to everyone in the village, whatever age you might be!

## **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.

## **Cricket**

Appleton Cricket Club winter nets have already started; there will be at least two more sessions, on Sunday 1st and Sunday 14th February, at St Hugh's School sports hall, on the road to Swindon, just beyond Southmoor.

They start at 6 pm and finish by 7.30 pm.

For further information, and potential lifts from Appleton, please contact Chris Jones, or Roger Gilkes (07766-483077).

## **Meetings**

The morning was a bright and sunny day with a soft breeze blowing around the quad. One hundred medical delegates came from all corners of the globe – abroad and at home in the UK – all eager to participate in what could well be an interesting day of exchanging news, views, notes and research findings in an everyday medical problem – prostate cancer!

Smart suits, polished shoes and gleaming and worn briefcases full of papers on the subject – results from patients in hospitals, clinics and homes and their own surgeons – and findings all adding up to knowledge, treatment and cures.

Technology and audio equipment at the ready, translators and the press all geared up to report developments as they arose. Papers laid out, water bottles filled and whiteboards all in place. All that was needed now was the eminent speaker and specialist to take his/her place at the front desk!

I stood at the Lodge entrance – in my best suit, with paper and pen and papers – ready to greet whoever was appointed to come and address the large gathering.

Workshops, discussion groups, plenary sessions were all planned in the programme with time allotted for coffee, lunch and tea before all left to go back on their various journeys. But where was the speaker?

A taxi turned up – nothing unusual in that – and out stepped a little man in t-shirt, shorts and sandals. It was July after all. In my usual professional manner, I tried to direct him to the College Lodge who were then reception for College members and visitors, but no, he stopped me in my greeting spiel and said "I am the speaker at a conference here today"!! No words came!

Barbara Bunyan

True story!

# I NEED A NEW HOME

Well known local dog

Doobie (11 years old) is home alone as his owner Michael is now, after a fall, in a care home.

Despite the best efforts of a group of villagers to feed, walk and care for him there is little doubt that he would be better off with more company and a loving home.

Doobie is a big, strong fella but friendly and good natured.

If interested in finding out more please ring 01865 863681 or contact anyone in his 'friendship group':

*Juliet Carter,*

*Adrian & Libby Willett,*

*Nick & Sara Withers,*

*Jerry & Ros Uren,*

*Mark & Mary Blake,*

*Gabby Brown, Fiona Davis,*

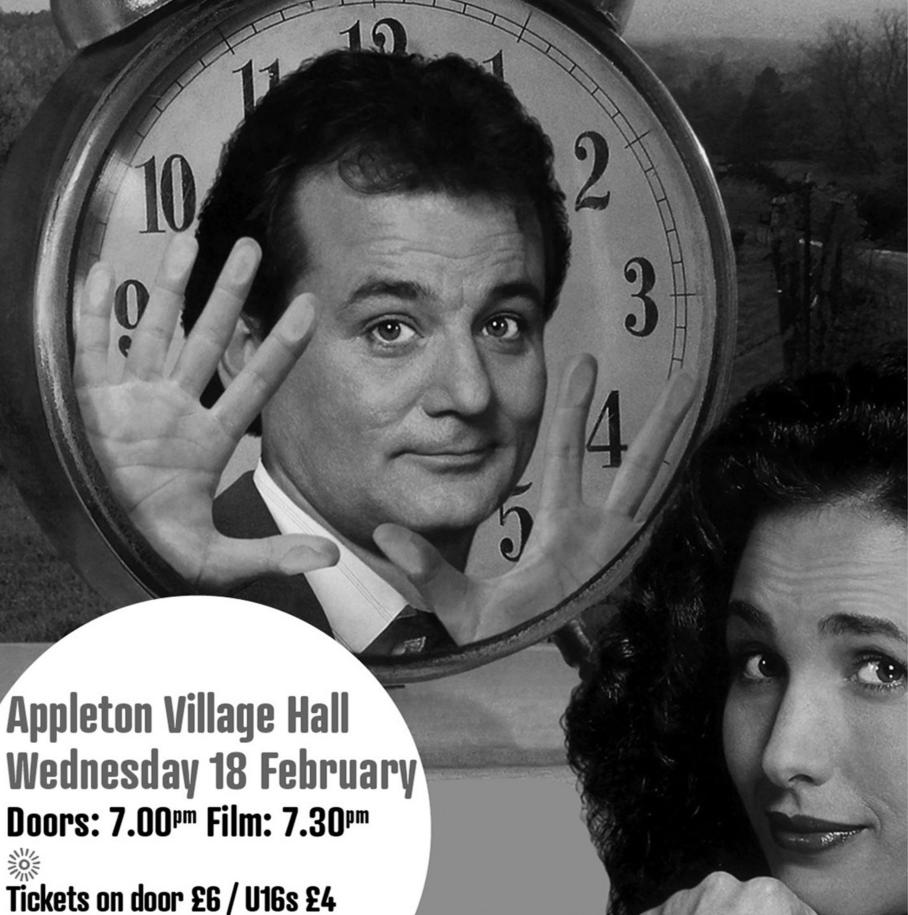
*Jennie Haynes or Jane Cranston*



# GROUNDHOG DAY

appleton  
village  
cinema

[PG] 1993 101 MINUTES



**Appleton Village Hall  
Wednesday 18 February**

**Doors: 7.00pm Film: 7.30pm**



**Tickets on door £6 / U16s £4**

## February 2026 Appleton Community Shop news

### Your local bank!

A reminder from your Postmistress that you can use the post office instead of a bank. Using your debit card, you can withdraw and pay in cash as well as depositing cheques.



### Valentine's Day

Don't forget the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month, when appreciation for your loved one is obligatory. We have cards (to be sent anonymously or signed as you wish!), fabulous chocolates and other treats – there is no excuse to forget!

### Free from

We have extended our range of "Free from..." products to include breads, flours, pastas and snacks.

### Lunch munch

If you are feeling peckish at lunch time, or want to pack for later, remember that as well as delicious ham for DIY sarnies, we have a wide variety of baguettes, sandwiches and samosas, as well as hot food (pasties and sausage rolls), as well as crisps and other savoury and sweet snacks.

### Did you know ...

... That you can get things photocopied and/or laminated at the shop ?

### 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](mailto:appletonship@gmail.com)

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

| 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 | £24,547 |
| Dec                   | £27,354 | £26,525 | £24,005 |
| Jan                   | £24,690 | £23,937 |         |
| Feb                   | £24,144 | £22,477 |         |
| March                 | £26,109 | £25,360 |         |
| April                 | £24,762 | £24,843 |         |



## **WHAT'S NEW IN APPLETON?**

Fancy trying a new sport? Pickleball is fun, accessible and a great way of keeping active.

It is one of the fastest growing sports in the world and you can now play it in Appleton.

## **WHAT IS IT?**

Pickleball is played on a court about one third the size of a tennis court, using solid paddles that are bit like a large table tennis bat. It is usually played as a doubles game and it's very easy to get started.

## **WHERE AND WHEN CAN I PLAY?**

In Appleton, there are sessions in the village hall on:

Tuesday afternoons, from 2 to 3.30pm.

Thursday afternoons, the first session starts at 5.30pm.

## **IS THERE A COST?**

Your first taster session is free and after that it is £5 per session. Bats and balls are provided and please wear non-marking trainers.

Any questions, email [marymcarey@btinternet.com](mailto:marymcarey@btinternet.com)

## **JUST TURN UP AND GIVE IT A GO!**

### **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

## **Roll on Spring!**

The snow is falling swiftly, coming like little bits of goosedown floating aimlessly through the trees and shrubs. There are occasional rays of sunshine, but it is so cold! I know it's only winter, but how I, like many others, long for the Spring and the first bits of green growth.

As a girl growing up on a farm, I remember well the first primrose and many more growing on the banks of the brooks and streams running through the fields along the hedgerows. Tiny heads of "snake flowers" as I called them, swaying alongside the primroses – white and yellow mix. Wood anemones offered more white delicate flowers against the dark green leaves, and purple wild violets crawled between the growth making their way into the light.

Soon we shall have bluebells making their appearance alongside flowering nettles and blue and pink forget-me-nots – what a joy to behold! I love the honeysuckle crawling along the tops of the hedgerows with flowering crab apple trees, elderberry bushes, wild plums and nut bushes – all scrambling for position in the sun.

Fields too produce a lovely mix of plants – red and white clover, for instance, daisies galore and yellow buttercups and celandines – not forgetting the occasional wild orchid – not to be trodden underfoot!

Among edibles growing freely and wild were large areas of watercress and bunches of sweet, mild mint with water irises and many other which the slow worms enjoy as they lay curled up in the sun on the banks

How lucky we were to know such a natural, interesting environment in which to grow up, plus the freedom to enjoy it all!

Barbara Bunyan, Jan 2026.

### **EVERGREEN CLUB**

Our next meeting will be on Friday 9th February at 2pm. It will be a 'crafty' meeting - just in time for Valentines Day!

### **SOCIAL COFFEE MORNING** - open to all

A warm welcome and warm Village Hall awaits you on Wednesday 2nd February from 10.30 - noon. However a donation towards the overheads will be much appreciated and ensure good coffee!



## **Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club**

**Cardio Tennis (non-members welcome) – Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am**

Keep fit through the Winter with Cardio tennis run by our Head coach Bart. All standards welcome. You must sign up before each session on the WhatsApp group and pay as you go with cash (£10). Rackets available to borrow. Email [appletonwitheatontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:appletonwitheatontennisclub@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the Cardio WhatsApp group.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Reduced 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](mailto: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).

## **Annual General Meeting Friday: 19<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**

Please come along to the AGM on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Come along to find out more about how your club is run and get involved. Free refreshments!

## **Club Tournament Finals Day: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Finals day for the Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club Tournament will be on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Early rounds will be played during the spring and early summer with all finals played on finals day. Look out for more details on how to enter.

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

## **News from Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWEPC)**

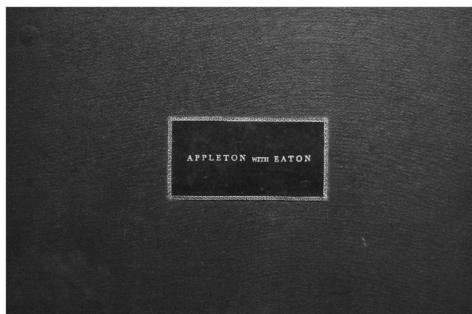
### **2026/2027 Budget**

The Council met in January to consider the 26/27 budget. As you all know, we are continuing to work on the project of refurbishing the Pavilion. In the early stages, the Council is looking at key items, some of which arose from the surveys, such as supplying WiFi to the Pavilion, upgrading and moving the oil tank and replacing the windows. The Council is working on applying for grants for all 3 items, but there will still be some residual cost.

These costs will yield a much larger than normal increase in your precept which we will lay out in the March Advertiser. In terms of the amount per year, it will be small, but the percentage is significant.

The 26/27 budget will be on the website by the end of February at the latest along with further detail in the March Advertiser.

### **Help Conserve Our Village History Album**



Many thanks to the Appleton with Eaton History Group and the Appleton Trust for their kind donations to the Village Album. We are pleased to say that the cost of the conservation and rebinding into two volumes is now covered!

The Parish Council is looking to raise funds for proper storage boxes to keep it dry and properly preserve it. These will cost in the realm of £1100. The Council will be putting more information about this on our website in due course.

Thank you all for your support!

### **Highways/Fix My Street**

The Parish Council would like to ask for anyone interested to volunteer to be a Fix My Street superuser. Superusers will be provided with training and subsequently paint, high vis, etc and will be able to action repairs directly. If you are interested in

this, please contact the Clerk.

It is helpful if any residents seeing issues on our roads could report them via the Fix My Street website (FixMyStreet (oxfordshire.gov.uk) Photos are very useful as are pictures that show the nearby roadside/ hedges etc.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the

9<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, 7:15pm, Appleton Village Hall.

All are welcome!

Allison Leigh, Parish Clerk

**07767 596 650 / [parishclerk@appleton-eaton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@appleton-eaton-pc.gov.uk)**



### **Green Appleton**

Our next Repair Café is swiftly approaching, so gather up your beloved broken objects and bring them along to see if they can be repaired – you can always have a piece of cake, even if they are beyond repair!

It's a new venture this time – we're working alongside Appleton School, and the café will be held in Appleton School Hall, so don't go toddling off to the village hall!

We also have a team of bike experts coming from Abingdon Carbon Cutters, so please bring your bike along and they can inspect it, tweak it and let you know if anything major needs doing to it. They can advise you on how to keep it roadworthy, but they can't carry out major repairs – that would mean carrying a huge range of spare parts around, and it would take too much time.

The deadline for our latest photographic competition is midnight on Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, and the winners will be announced at the Repair Café, so why not have a go and get some photos together? Adults and children aged 11 and under will be judged separately, and photos need to be of the natural world in Appleton. There's plenty of signs of spring around, and it might stop raining eventually. Send your entry to [greenappleton2021@gmail.com](mailto:greenappleton2021@gmail.com), and good luck!

**See you between 10am and 1pm, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb,  
Appleton School Hall**

# Advertiser

Deadline for March issue:  
19th February

## 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



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## 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:andyphthomas@hotmail.co.uk



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[Samuelsgardening.co.uk](http://Samuelsgardening.co.uk)

## Appleton Village Hall

Suitable for meetings, parties, dances  
and wedding receptions.

[www.appletonvillagehall.com](http://www.appletonvillagehall.com)



St. Laurence Church website  
[www.stlaurenceappleton.org](http://www.stlaurenceappleton.org)

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Appleton

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Lane, Appleton. Email:  
[accounts.advertiser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 – FEBUARY 2026

|                           |                |   |
|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 1st</b>         | <b>8.00am</b>  | <b>Holy Communion (BCP said)</b>  |
|                           | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>All Age Service for Candlemas</b><br>(Presentation of Christ in the Temple)<br><b>and Bring your Grandparents to Church Day</b><br><i>35 minutes, with refreshments from 9.40am</i><br><b>Eucharist of Candlemas</b> (a short, said service) |
|                           | <b>5.30pm</b>  |   |
| <b>Sunday 8th</b>         | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Parish Eucharist</b>   |
|                           | <b>4.00pm</b>  | <b>Evensong (BCP)</b>   |
| <b><u>Sunday 15th</u></b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Parish Eucharist</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 18th</b>     | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Eucharist (said) – with imposition of ashes</b>  |
| <b>Ash Wednesday</b>      | <b>7.00pm</b>  | <b>Eucharist – with imposition of ashes</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 22nd</b>        | <b>10.00pm</b> | <b>Parish Eucharist</b>   |
|                           | <b>4.00pm</b>  | <b>Evensong</b>   |
| <b><u>Sunday 1st</u></b>  | <b>8.00am</b>  | <b>Holy Communion (BCP said)</b>  |
| <b><u>March</u></b>       | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Parish Eucharist</b>   |

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jane@cranstonjane.co.uk); or  
Pete Day: 01865 862671; [phm.day202@btinternet.com](mailto:phm.day202@btinternet.com)