

THE APPLETON WITH EATON

# Advertiser

PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

APRIL 2026

NUMBER 704



## APPLETON COLOUR RUN

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25th**

Venue: Appleton Sports Field, OX13 5QW

Gates open at 2pm - Run starts at 2:30pm

**800M FUN RUN! MUSIC & ALL AGES**  
**2km for keen beans! 🎵 DANCING WELCOME!**

Entrance fee **£8** per child  
includes paint, colour pouch, medal & drink

Organised by Appleton School PTA

<https://friends-of-appleton-school-association.sumupstore.com/>



## **In at the Deep End – Making an Easter Splash**

This Easter, I write especially to those of you who don't believe in God, and who probably believe that that is a very good reason for not going to church. It may not, however, be the great big Get-Out-Of-Church-Free card that you might imagine.

You would discover, first of all, that shades of belief are already wonderfully varied in an average congregation. That, after all, is what the Church of England is historically for, to enable those of irreconcilable religious opinions to be reconciled, so that we no longer reach for the firelighters and chuck our more eccentric neighbours on to the blazing pyre, as we did in less tolerant times.

This is why the Prayer Book is written in such deliberately broad terms. What you mean by 'on the third day he rose again' might be significantly different from what your neighbour means. These are, after all, among the most interesting and challenging questions ever to excite the human mind. They are at the heart of the history of England and of much of the world. They are certainly worth exploring in an occasional visit to church. (Or to the pub! See below!)

Gathering with others in a beautiful building to share in a cultural activity is good for anyone's body and soul. Whatever one's theology, to participate with neighbours in this kind of activity can excite the mind, gladden the heart and calm anxieties: surely a good way to spend an hour or so every now and then.

And what better time to begin than at Easter, when through the rituals of the Church, and the seasonal renewal of the earth, all are invited to enact the age-long battle between death and life. Across the globe, Christians proclaim Christ's rising, not to agree with words written on parchment twenty centuries ago, but because, even in the midst of life's present destructive chaos, we discover that Christ is alive. When we fall silent in prayer; or encounter the beauty and goodness of people and places; or when we seek the life and meaning that we most deeply desire, we discover that he is alive, and we seek with all our hearts to be made equally alive ourselves.

### **IN AT THE DEEP END**

Enjoy a philosophical drink with the Rector in The Plough, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, from 6.30pm.

Getting to such a point takes time, but it is possible to participate in this great drama without having already reached a position of final faith. It is enough to recognise hope's triumph over despair, love's superiority over hate, and life's ultimate vanquishing of death. So take the plunge into the deep end of the eternal questions, and dare to take your place, even occasionally, in a community that lives with them every day.

And if that all feels like a bridge too far, then let me invite you instead to an evening of conversation in the pub. Come along and discuss philosophy or theology. Ask all the questions you've ever meant to; challenge the Church; and challenge yourself. And if none of that appeals, just come and enjoy a fairly quiet drink. **The first of these discussions will be in the Plough on Easter Tuesday, 7 April, from 6.30pm.**, by kind agreement of the Landlord. I hope a few of you might come along. Happy Easter!

Wealands Bell

*Rector of Appleton and Eaton with Besselsleigh*



**SAT 2 &  
SUN 3 MAY**

**10.30AM – 5.00PM**

**APPLETON  
VILLAGE HALL  
OX13 5JS**

**'ART TRANSPLANT'**

**APPLETON BARN, SOUTH LAWN,  
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## **Appleton History - The Sellwood Family of Eaton**

I have outlined this topic some years ago but new matters have arisen. The Sellwood family lived in Eaton – in Bye's Cottage – renamed "Harvest Moon" by the Griffins in 1958 when they bought the house. In 1620 there were two Selwood brothers – William and John - who by some means left Eaton and found their way to London; maybe via family or religious connections. Here they managed to enter Companies – this recognised them as skilled workers enabled to work and trade in the City of London; this was a very great privilege.

They set themselves up as clockmakers after apprenticeships in 1633. They started with a workshop called the "The Mermaid"- marked by a sign of a mermaid; as most folk were illiterate shop signs were always distinctive. This is now at the rear of The Bank of England. Quite how they created this very skilled and successful business is yet another mystery; they were one of the very first in London.

The pendulum clock had not then been invented. A horizontal wheel that oscillated back and forth marked the time – driven by a heavy weight. Such clocks were not very accurate but the best that could be; thus clocks had just one hand. Their business thrived and they were well regarded.

A Sellwood clock has just come on the auction market in Clevedon, Bristol. It is described – Charles I brass lantern clock –

'William Sellwood at ye Mearemayde in Lothburi'

It was bought for £4,100 – which was a great bargain for the buyer.

John EVANS



appleton  
village  
cinema

... THIS SPARKLING LITTLE GEM TAKES  
THE FAMILY ROAD MOVIE TO UNHOPED-FOR  
HEIGHTS OF HILARITY AND HUMANITY.

# LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

[15] 2006 102 MINUTES



APPLETON  
GELATO



**Appleton Village Hall**  
**Thursday 23 April**  
**Doors: 6.45<sup>pm</sup> Film: 7.30<sup>pm</sup>**

The village had a lovely little surprise just before Christmas with two little Santa clad ponies, Enzo and Max, ambling through with villagers Lisa and Kim in search of anyone who would welcome a 'pony to pat' to give some festive cheer! Christmas cards and chocolates were given out as a few of our more senior residents had their doors knocked upon and received a personal visit!

The ponies quite literally stopped traffic and were very well received and cuddled by lots of children and adults alike!

Lisa and Kim are planning to make this an annual Christmas event, but in the meantime, there may be hints of Easter Bunnies making an appearance in the village hoping to start collecting for the charity SAFE 'Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines', which is where Enzo and Max came from. They were abandoned by the roadside at 3 months old with Max having severe pneumonia and having to be carried onto the trailer. Had it not been for SAFE, these ponies may not be here today.

Lisa and Kim will post on our Facebook page a date for the pony Easter walk, nearer the time, so keep an eye out for that.

If you know of anyone who would welcome a personal visit, please email Lisa Fogden on [lisa.fogden@bayer.com](mailto:lisa.fogden@bayer.com) or Kimberley Rennie on [kr@meluchat.com](mailto:kr@meluchat.com)

### **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)**

### **Litter Pick**

A really big thank you to all those who turned out to pick litter on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March.



As you can see, we collected a huge amount of litter, rather worryingly the majority of which were empty alcohol cans and bottles. We managed to clear the majority of rubbish between Eaton Village and the A415 beyond Fyfield. Can we respectfully ask that everyone take their litter home and put it in the bin or preferably, where suitable, the recycling? It is so easy to do.

On the other hand, it takes a large group of people a long time to clean it up, and in the meantime, it is both unsightly and potentially hazardous, particularly to wildlife. Many thanks.

### **Thanks to the Friends of Jubilee Park**

The Parish Council would like to thank the Friends of Jubilee Park for all of their work. The recent Bingo event raised over £1000 for the Park! The Parish Council is very grateful for all of the fundraising and work they do to keep the Park looking lovely for all and advising the Parish Council on any issues needing attention.

### **Annual Parish Meeting date**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm in the Village Hall. The Clerk will be contacting village organisations regarding this as well.

Refreshments will be served - we hope to see you there!

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the  
13<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7:15pm, Appleton Village Hall.

## **Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club**

### **Membership renewal from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026**

If you are an existing member you should have received an email about renewing your membership from 1<sup>st</sup> April. The gate padlock code will also be changing for the new membership year; please see your email or the Members' area on the club website for the new code.

If you would like to join our friendly tennis club, please email the club on [appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:appletonwithheatontennisclub@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). You can see our membership fees on our website under the "Join us" tab.

### **Weekly coaching sessions run by Head Coach Bart**

**(Term time only – restarting after Easter week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> April)**

Adult Tennis Coaching Beginners Course	Monday evenings 6.30 pm
Adult intermediate Tennis Coaching (pay & play)	Monday evenings 7.30 pm
Cardio Tennis (non-members welcome; pay & play)	Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am
Junior Tennis Coaching Course	Thursday and Friday afternoons

Courses bookable via the coaching tabs on: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub>

For more information on pay & play sessions, please email:  
[appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com)

### **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.

### **Dates for your diary**

28<sup>th</sup> June – Club Tournament Finals Day

Our very popular Junior Coaching program will restart for the Summer term on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April.

For details on the sessions and to book a place go to our website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub/Coaching/Junior>

**For more information see:** <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub/> or email [appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com)





# FUN DOG SHOW

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR VILLAGE AMENITIES

A very enjoyable event was held five years ago. We are aiming to repeat this— with lots of light hearted and fun events for dogs, children and accompanying adults!

**AND** we are hoping that other village organisations will join the village hall community in organising the event.

PLEASE CONTACT

SARA WITHERS - [SARAKWITHERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SARAKWITHERS@GMAIL.COM)

JULIET CARTER - [JULIETCARTER@ME.COM](mailto:JULIETCARTER@ME.COM)

**MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST**  
**APPLETON SPORTSFIELD**

LOOK OUT FOR FULL DETAILS

## EVERGREEN CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Friday 10th April at 2pm. There will be tea and cakes as well as a talk by Toni Keaney (ex Appleton resident) about aspects of Blenheim Palace where she worked for many years. All welcome.



### 'Doobie' The Dog

For the past 4 months a dedicated group of villagers have been looking after 'Doobie' after his owner, Michael, went into a care home. You'll be pleased to know that through The Blue Cross, Doobie has now found a permanent home in the countryside and is enjoying lots of attention and walks.

## April 2026 Appleton Community Shop news

April is here, and with Easter coming up, the village shop is in full preparation. You'll find a range of Easter chocolate eggs, Easter cards and small treats. As well as hot cross buns and Spring influenced cakes and tray bakes.

As the weather (hopefully) improves, we're also carrying more grab-and-go options - snacks, drinks and picky tea items.

And as always, the everyday essentials are here: milk, bread, newspapers, and those last-minute bits, or forgotten items you don't want to travel far for.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those that donated to the Food Bank appeal over the Christmas period. We have used the money to buy much needed items from our wholesaler, and the items have now been delivered to Abingdon Food Bank.

### Easter opening hours

Good Friday: 8am to 11am

Saturday: 8am to 1pm

Easter Sunday: 8am to 12 noon

Bank Holiday Monday: 9am to 11am – note that the Post office is closed on this day and newspaper collection only (no deliveries)

**Post office** open Tuesday 7th April 9am to 1pm

### 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	£24,055
Feb	£24,144	£22,477	£21,380
March	£26,109	£25,360	
April	£24,762	£24,843	

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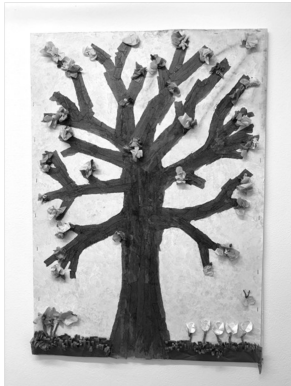


SCAN TO LEARN MORE

## News from Appleton School

A short but very busy spring term has been filled with an array of fun and exciting activities at school.

One of the most notable of which was the 'Art at Appleton Day' in February.



The day proved to be a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork and house spirit! The children were given the exciting challenge of creating a tree representing a different season within their house groups, while also designing and making their own individual birds complete with unique, carefully crafted feathers. This built on work the children have been doing around the RSPB's Big Birdwatch. The level of detail and imagination on display was truly impressive, and the children were judged not only on the quality and intricacy of their artwork but also on the teamwork shown within their houses.

It was heart-warming to see siblings supporting one another and our team captains and vice captains confidently leading discussions and sharing ideas. Everyone worked incredibly hard, and the results now form a fantastic display in the corridor between the hall and the EYFS classroom.

Father Bell kindly agreed to judge his favourite design, but his decision wasn't without controversy. I can report that the competitive spirit was high - not only amongst the children; it turns out some teachers are very competitive too! Despite cries of foul play, the winning team were however rewarded with a special house treat!

In other news from school I am pleased to report:

Our new allotment area is almost ready for the planting/growing season.

Given the farming nature of our community, I was hoping we might be able to get



some help putting the final finishing touches to this area. Specifically, we could use 3-4 tonnes of soil/compost to fill the raised beds and maybe 2-3 tonnes of wood chips to cover the paths separating the vegetable beds. Additionally, we are looking for a ride on mower to enable us to better maintain our school field. If anyone has recently upgraded to something

'newer and sportier' and would like a home for their old machine, we would be very happy to help. Alternatively if you work in the industry and might be able to help in any way, we would be very keen to hear from you.

So please do get in touch either through the school office or by emailing me directly at [head.3850@appleton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3850@appleton.oxon.sch.uk).

Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter.

Zaheer Ahmed

Headteacher Appleton CE Primary School

01865 862794 [head.3850@appleton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3850@appleton.oxon.sch.uk)

### **Appleton with Eaton History Group**

A special date for your diaries: **Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Dr Jane Harrison, director of the Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project, will be giving an illustrated talk, "*The Final Dig*", about the remarkable conclusions from the recent finds discovered at the Besselsleigh Manor site.

Dr Harrison has been the leader of the excavations at the site over the last five years.

The talk starts at **7.30** pm in Appleton village hall,

Drinks available and entry is £4.

N.B. Date of next History Group meeting: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May in the village hall at 7.30 pm.

All are welcome! Come along and find out about our new projects.



Evenlode river near college farm, Bledington (David Gasca) March 2021

Wildlife corridors: living tapestries woven together to produce a natural passage connecting fragmented habitats. These vital tapestries allow animals to safely migrate, find food, reproduce, and adapt to environmental changes while keeping our landscape functioning as a single, connected system rather than a scatter of isolated fragments. Thus, migration is the key behavioural adaptation that allows nature to thrive.

But with increased development of land, through housing, road building, and agricultural activity, the mobility of wildlife has become restricted, areas isolated, and the genetic diversity of our ecosystems reduced.

And this extends to our rivers and waterways. These waterways, which are so key to providing vital habitat for freshwater wildlife, now find themselves confined and carved apart by human pressures. Strengthening both land and river corridors restores the weave of the landscape. It rebuilds the very connections that allow ecosystems to function, species to thrive, and nature to adapt in an ever-changing environment.

### **The call for wilder river corridors**

At the Evenlode Catchment Partnership (a collaboration of over 20 organisations and many more individuals, united by a shared commitment to improving the water environments within the Evenlode catchment, hosted by Wild Oxfordshire), we value the role of these corridors as lifelines that connect segregated habitats, while championing the benefit to communities when local green and blue spaces are cared for.

We have developed innovative approaches to river restoration, such as the creation of wetlands, ponds, and fish passages, alongside natural flood management efforts

like the installation of leaky woody dams and storage bunds. These interventions not only restore natural habitats but also reduce flood risks, benefiting local communities. Additionally, intensive farming practices rely heavily on fertilisers and pesticides, and that dependence comes at a financial cost to farmers, poorer water quality, and shrinking space for wildlife. When fields are pushed to produce more, the landscape loses the complexity and breathing room that rivers, insects, birds, mammals, and soil organisms need to function well.

Sustainable farming offers a different path. Across Oxfordshire and the Evenlode catchment, farmers are being supported to adopt approaches that work *with* natural processes rather than against them.



### *Dorn river restoration – Wild Oxfordshire*

#### **What's possible?**

Even occasional involvement helps build bigger, better-connected habitats. Here are some examples to get you started:

Join a local Friends of the River group, hedgerow planting days, Riverfly surveying and monitoring, pond creation, or organise litter picks along local streams and rivers.

Report pollution or blockages using:

The Environment Agency incident hotline or visit [Report an environmental problem - GOV.UK](#)

[Thames Water's pollution reporting page](#)

The Canal & River Trust for fly-tipping using their contact form

## **Appleton WI**

When you read this, Appleton WI will have celebrated their 100th birthday, elected a new committee and president, and will be looking forward with great interest to the year ahead.

Our next meeting will be held at Appleton village hall on Thursday, 16th April at 2pm when Hayley Scott will tell us about The Forensic Experience. I expect it's a little different from all those programmes on television. Sounds fascinating.

There will be a raffle and a bring and buy stall. Do pop in, you'd be very welcome.

Elaine Flint

01865 861838

## **Appleton Chapel**

Good Friday 5:00pm	Sit down meal
6.00pm	Devotional Service
Sun 5th April 3.00pm	Easter Family Service followed by refreshments
Sun 12th April 3.00pm	Family Service
Tues 14th April 7.30pm	Healing and Heart to Heart Fellowship meeting
Sat 18th April 2.30pm	Afternoon Teas and Stalls
Thurs 23rd April 7.00pm	Applejack Club
Dr Ken Stallard	01235 868304

## **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

## The Holt

Nowadays random words spark rambling memories. The Holt. And it was wartime, Appleton school and home. Once the days lengthened and we could play after school, we were through the garden fence, on to the track and in the little meadow tucked under the Holt within thirty seconds. Sometimes we played a version of rounders or cricket, some days we practiced jumping the stream into the wood trying not to miss the bank and get wet feet. Some days we would wade in the stream disturbing the stream life, (all creatures were sticklebacks it being the only name we knew at the time but they were probably Cadis fly larvae).

But mostly we walked in the wood, following the stream bank. We looked for the first primroses, early violets, wood anemones followed, then the bluebells. When we reached the bridge in Oakesmere at some point we could see over to the marshy area beyond, bright with kingcups (it was drained about thirty years ago) and the smell of wild garlic is with me now.

If we were really adventurous we would go through the Holt, onto the footpath and over the field to Tubney Wood. That was plantation and dull in comparison, but we could see the main road. We didn't go onto or over a road; unwritten rules. There was petrol rationing and very little traffic.

Summer came and the trees greened up, the meadow was out of bounds for a hay crop and we too moved on to explore the lane and down to the river. My brother says he remembers the Holt as the best place for hazel nuts in the autumn.

In recent years the early catkins along the Oakesmere boundary are enjoyed and catching a glimpse of the anemones through the hedge, walking in the woods is in the past.

The Holt is magical, heritage, deciduous woodland. Cherish it.

Sally Lawton nee Webb



# Advertiser

Deadline for May issue:  
19th April

## 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

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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

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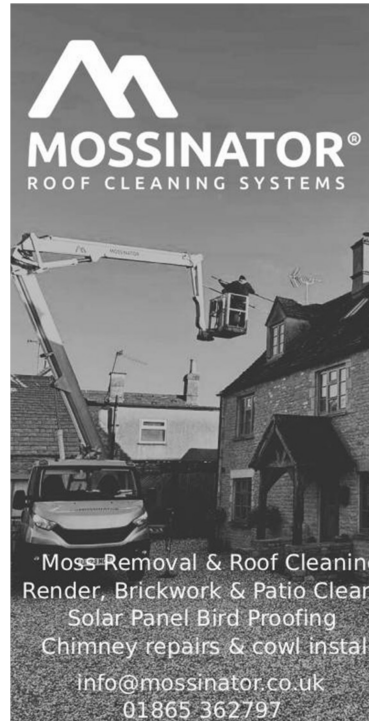
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## Appleton Village Hall

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



## St. Laurence Church website

[www.stlaurenceappleton.org](http://www.stlaurenceappleton.org)

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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 – APRIL 2026**

<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Week Eucharist (said) and Address</b>
<b>Thursday 2nd</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Eucharist in the 'Upper Room'</b> followed by silent <b>Watch of Prayer</b> until 10.00pm
<b>Friday 3rd</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Good Friday Liturgy</b> Reading of the Passion, Prayer at the Cross, Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 4th</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Easter Liturgy</b> New Fire, Easter Proclamation and Readings, Baptismal Promises, and First Eucharist; followed by a drink to break the Lenten fast
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP said)</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>All-Age Easter Day Festal Eucharist: Alive Again</b> with an Easter Egg hunt for the children
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Evensong (BCP)</b>
<u><b>Sunday 19th</b></u>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist: Good Shepherd Sunday</b> followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
<b>Sunday 3rd May</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP said)</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>All-Age Service of the Word: When I grow up</b> with refreshments from 9.40am

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

For further details: [www.stlaurenceappleton.org](http://www.stlaurenceappleton.org)

**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@stlaurenceappleton.org](mailto:rector@stlaurenceappleton.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; [p.h.m.day202@btinternet.com](mailto:p.h.m.day202@btinternet.com)