

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

MAY 2026

EDITOR: BRIDGET PYNE



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the June issue edited by Tony Holmes.

Issue	Deadline for contributions
June	17th May
July	14th June

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are very welcome. Please send us your letters, reports from village clubs and societies, articles, tips and advice, photos, suggestions etc. Please always include your name, address, and (in case clarification is needed) your phone number. Without names, we will usually not print an item at all. The editor reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required.

Please send your contributions by email to:
editor@draytonchronicle.net

Advertisement requests should be sent to:
advertising@draytonchronicle.net

If email is impossible, please place your contribution, typed or handwritten, in the Chronicle box outside Vickery's Hardware Store on Drayton Green, or post to Vickery's. 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 4JA. After the deadlines, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed, or delivered directly to the editor, by the Wednesday following the deadline.

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Double-sized adverts (approx. 9cm X 9cm) are charged at twice the above rates. All advertising MUST be paid for in advance, either electronically, in cash or by cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at, or sent to, Vickery's.

Requests for advertisements should be emailed to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**, or placed in the box at Vickery's.

TO AGENTS

Note that our next issue (June) will have a leaflet inserted into each copy. Please ensure that the leaflet is delivered along with each issue.

WELCOME

Welcome to our new recruits! The advertising team has been joined by Stuart Payne, Polly and Julian Bennett and Nigel Billingham. Our editing team has been joined by Gaston Legris. We look forward to working with you.

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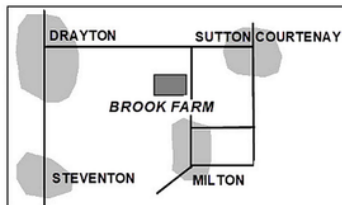
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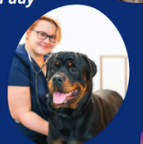
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ST PETER'S CHURCH



Rector: Revd Helen Kendrick
Administrator: Alison Bampton (01235 847179)
Curate: Rev Dov Whittle (07586 969985)
 Email: rector@damascusparish.org.uk, or
 admin@, or curate@

SERVICES INFORMATION FOR MAY

The church open daily (Sun -Sat, 10:00am - 4:00pm).

Sun 3rd	9:30am	Holy Communion
Thurs 7th	9:45am	Holy Communion
Sun 10th	10:30am	DAMASCUS Parish Holy Communion at All Saints' Sutton Courtenay. No service at St Peter's.
Thurs 14th	9:45am	Celtic Prayer
Sun 17th	8:00am	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
	9:30am	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Thurs 21st	9:45am	Holy Communion
Sun 24th	9:30am	Morning Praise Service for Pentecost
Thurs 28th	9:45am	Holy Communion
Sun 28th	10:30am	DAMASCUS Parish Holy Communion at All Saints' Sutton Courtenay. No service at St Peter's.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

For online updates about services and events.

Search: St Peter's Church, Drayton, Abingdon or scan the QR code.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

First Monday	2:00pm	Knit & Natter No need to be a knitter, if you'd just like a natter
Monday	7:30pm	Bellringing practice
Tuesday	2:30pm	First Tuesday Connections All welcome for a cuppa & chat
Wednesday (term time)	10:00am	Pebbles Baby & Toddler For more information contact Katy or Cheryl: Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com

YOU STAY WE PRAY

26th Apr – 2nd May Manor Close; The Green
3rd – 9th High St; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close; Elgrove Gardens
10th – 16th Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent
17th – 23rd Chestnut Drive; Holly La; Walnut Way; Willow Way
24th – 30th Furlongs; Plough La; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close
31st – 6th June Lockway

St. Peter's Church Drayton Plant Sale



There will be a plant sale at
St. Peter's on
Saturday 16th May
10.00 am to 12.00 noon.
Do come and join us!
Refreshments available.
We look forward to seeing you



Funeral

23rd March
Daphne Pointer

8th April
Jean Acott

Burial of Ashes

3rd March
Ann Webb



St. Peter's
Church

Church and Churchyard Tidy Up

Saturday 6th June
10.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Do come along and help;
many hands make light work!

If anyone can spare just half an hour,
it would be much appreciated!

Refreshments provided.

ST PETER'S LETTER

During May, the church celebrates Pentecost. This is the day when the Holy Spirit was sent by God. It is an incredible event recorded in the book of Acts (written in around the late 1st century) when the room the Apostles were meeting in was suddenly filled with 'a sound like the rush of a violent wind' and 'divided tongues, as of fire... rested on each of them'. The Apostles were then able to speak in many different languages. When they left the room, all who heard them were amazed and asked, 'what does this mean?'. Peter provided an explanation that told the people listening all about how Jesus was God's rescue plan.

It is a rescue in that, by Jesus dying and rising back to life, each of us can reconnect with God, our creator. We believe this to be true because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in and around us which allows us to know and see God's presence in our lives and in the world. This gives us comfort, strength and wisdom to live the life that God would have us live and to face life's challenges. More than that, it gives us hope for what is to come beyond this life.

With all that happens in life and is happening in the world, it seems to me that holding onto hope is very important. Otherwise, it can be difficult to find the inspiration and courage we so often need. This is what faith and our worship of God can help us with.

Pentecost, despite not being as big a festival as Christmas and Easter, is a really important moment in the church calendar. It is a wonderful time to give thanks to God for the hope that we have through what Jesus did and for the presence of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to know more about the hope of Pentecost, you are warmly invited to our Pentecost service on Sunday 24th May or any other of our Sunday and mid-week services around the Parish.

With prayers and best wishes,
Reverend Dov Whittle

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GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

Drayton resident Lisa Hale has achieved a Guinness World Records title at the London Landmarks Half Marathon.

Running dressed as a pair of ovaries, Lisa (also known as “Wonder Wombman”) set the record for the fastest female half marathon dressed as a body part. The day was made special by the incredible support along the route, including fellow Drayton runner & friend Nic Lester, as well as Lisa’s brother, who played a vital role capturing all the official photographs required for the Guinness submission.

While the record itself is a huge achievement, the challenge has always been about something much bigger — raising awareness and funds in aid of Target Ovarian Cancer in memory of Lisa’s mum, Patricia, and in support of others affected by cancer. Thanks to the incredible generosity of friends, family and supporters, Lisa has now raised over £4,500.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who donated, came along to cheer, or supported from afar – a special thanks goes to Oxon Conversions, Digipress, Acute Homes, Blackrock Electricals, The Cow Shed and Luke White – all local companies and people who funded the (crazy!) costume - it truly made the day so special and will help make a real difference.

Donations are still open via Lisa’s fundraising page, helping to support vital research, awareness and services for those affected by ovarian cancer.

JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lisahale-1760958695063>

Scan the QR code to donate:

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GARD

GARD's summer campaign is beginning. See this as a NEW CAMPAIGN, as Thames Water move towards their Planning Application in November. We can still stop the Reservoir, as our banners state.

JOIN GARD and work towards a full opposition at the DCO hearings early next year. We can show them that democracy works – three MPs, Oxfordshire County Council, the two District Councils, the town and parish councils: all these oppose the Reservoir plans. Add your name to the list of GARD members and be part of that opposition. The joining link is on the website: **<https://groupagainstredevelopment.org>**

Come forward and volunteer – we shall be delivering leaflets to all the affected villages and we are planning events too. There are jobs small and large, active and more routine. Please get in touch at gard.secretary@gmail.com

Advance notice of the AGM: Friday July 3rd.
Derek Stork

WHAT'S ON

Don't forget about our village event on 3rd May. Our map (see below) is ready and will be unveiled on the day, by our eminent village resident, Andrew Bax.

Everything has come together now, and there will be a band and the village choir courtesy of Kay Davies; there will be tea and walnut cakes courtesy of my lovely volunteers; and there will be races, treasure hunt, drawing competition and tree planting for the children.

Come along from 3.00 until 5.00 for an afternoon of family fun and entertainment.

CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE

Caudwell Day Centre booking contact details have changed to:

Email: caudwelldaycentre@gmail.com
Telephone number 01235 531627

THANK YOU DANES!

As Friends of Drayton School Association (FODSA), we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Danes Convenience Store for their continued support and commitment to our local community.

Danes is an integral part of our much-loved FODSA Scarecrow Trail each year, selling over 200 maps, all while continuing their busy day-to-day work. This event simply wouldn't be possible without them. Beyond this, they support us throughout the year with items for events, always going above and beyond to help.

We were truly overwhelmed by their generosity in nominating FODSA for a charity donation through their partnership with NISA and MADL, contributing £171 this year, following an incredible £730 last year. FODSA supports Drayton Community Primary School, with all funds going towards enhancing and enriching the education of more than 220 local children. This support allows us to do even more for the pupils, and it makes a real difference.

Danes is so much more than a village shop, it is a valued and supportive part of the community, always ready to get behind local events and good causes. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do.

We would also like to extend our thanks to The Red Lion and Vickery's Hardware Store for their help in collecting in maps at the end of the trail, your support is always greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the children and the entire FODSA committee: thank you!

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SCARECROWS 2026

FODSA would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone for your incredible involvement in the Drayton Village Scarecrow Trail. Whether you made a wonderful scarecrow or bought a map to take part in the trail, you have helped to raise over £500 to help enrich the lives of the pupils of Drayton Community Primary School.

We are delighted to announce our winners:

1st Place- Danger Mouse in his amazing Yellow car (number 3)

2nd Place- Delilah the Dog (number 34)

3rd Place - Deep Sea Diver (number 9)

The winner of the prize Draw is Sharon Dawson

A big congratulations to our winners and we will be in touch about your prizes very soon. Well done to everyone who participated - you have all helped to make this event such a success.

We are already looking forward to next year









PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Council met on April 13th.

Walnut Meadows

We are pleased to report that there has been no evidence of any further vandalism or unauthorised visits to the site following a recent police visit.

Temporary lighting from the car park area to the MUGAs has been installed, along with a temporary walkway along the same route. Rubble and waste has also been removed from the car park area. There is some further work to be done on drainage on the pitches and the sports contractor is working on the perimeter track around the sports pitches, but once that is completed, we will look at removing the Heras fencing around the site. The pitches have had their first cut and look spectacular. Once the booking software is available, we can open the MUGAs for use.

An initial meeting of the Walnut Meadows advisory group took place on 23rd March. It is hoped that some members of the the advisory group, which is predominantly made up of Drayton residents, will go forward to become trustees for the organisation that will run and manage the facilities. If any Drayton resident is interested in becoming involved in the Advisory group please contact Jon at jon.fowler@draytonparish.gov.uk

Sutton Wick

OCC have commissioned an upgrade to the 'carrier pipe' so hopefully this work will be completed soon. We are still looking for a contractor to undertake dredging of the badly silted pond.

Planning

Land to west of Little Smiths Farm
As many of you will already know, plans for 31 additional houses at Halls Close were originally rejected by the Vale of White Horse, however the developers have appealed this decision.

The Parish Council objects to the plans. The full plans and comments can be found on the VOWH website. The Parish Council will, if requested provide evidence as an 'interested party'. We will attend the start of the inquiry on 7th July and will be able to give our views at the discretion of the Inspector.

Celebration

Everyone is welcome to the Village Green (opposite the Happy Shopper) on May 3rd at 3pm for the unveiling of the Drayton map and planting of a dwarf Walnut Tree.

Achievement

Finally, we would like to recognise the achievement of our own Drayton Wonder Wombman Lisa Hale. Lisa has achieved a Guinness World Record for fastest female half marathon runner dressed as a body part- ovaries. Lisa ran the London Landmarks Half-Marathon and raised a substantial amount of money for Target Ovarian Cancer in recognition of her Mum who died from ovarian cancer. Lisa, you're awesome and we're proud of you.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on May 11th, 7pm at the Caudwell Day Centre.

We have vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you are interested, please contact the clerk@draytonparish.gov.uk or come to a meeting to see what we do.

Elaine Wade

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LOCAL GROUPS AND NEWS

DRAYTON YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

We are pleased to announce the launch of Drayton Youth Football Club, bringing junior football back to the village after many years.

Affiliated with Drayton Men's Football Team, we will have teams competing locally at U10 and U14 level for the 2026/27 season, as well as launching an U6 training squad, preparing to compete in the 2027/28 season.

All squads are open to new players. Please get in touch if you have children going into Year 1, Year 5, or Year 9 this September.

As a brand-new club, we are starting from scratch and facing a number of initial costs, including goals and nets, equipment, kits, pitch maintenance and training venue hire.

We are currently seeking community sponsors to support us with these costs and would be very grateful to hear from any local businesses interested in supporting the club.



Secretary.draytonyouthfc@gmail.com

COMMUNITY WALK

Are you ready for the challenge? Then grab your walking boots, bicycle or wheels, and join us for our annual Flexicare Community Walk. Meeting on **Sunday 18th May** at Snells Hall, East Hendred, OX12 8LA.

Bring your family, friends, dogs and determination; and join us at Snells Hall to start between 8.30am and 10am. A range of walks are available at 10 miles, 7.5 miles, 5 miles and 3 miles. Our 3 mile walk and village stroll are wheelchair and buggy accessible. Homemade cakes and refreshments provided! To register please visit www.flexicare.org/news-events

This event is free entry for all to enjoy but if you would like to help raise funds, your generosity will help us to provide our unique, vital sitting service for families with a disabled child. Flexicare is an Oxfordshire charity providing a specialised sitting service for families with a disabled child in Oxford, Abingdon, Wantage and surrounding villages for 40 years. Your generous donations help us to continue to provide this unique, vital service

DRAYTON W.I

The April meeting was both engaging and entertaining, as we welcomed guest speakers Paul and Michelle Gregory, who shared their experiences of living in Hong Kong.

Paul, a former police officer, spoke about his work and the unique challenges and insights that came with policing in such a vibrant and densely populated city. His perspective offered a fascinating glimpse into daily life from a professional standpoint, highlighting both the cultural differences and the common threads that connect communities.

Michelle complemented this by describing family life in Hong Kong, where she raised their two young daughters. She spoke warmly about adapting to a new environment, the opportunities it provided, and the memorable moments they experienced as a family. The couple also shared the story of adopting their son, which added a deeply personal and touching dimension to their talk.

Together, Paul and Michelle painted a vivid picture of life in Hong Kong, covering everything from day-to-day routines to broader cultural experiences. Their talk was not only informative but also filled with humour, as they delighted members with several funny and light-hearted stories from their time abroad.

The meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all, offering both insight and laughter, and providing a wonderful opportunity to learn about life in a very different part of the world.

Our May Meeting will be a talk on Tax And Wills by Bruce Wakeling. We always welcome visitors, so please do come along and see us if you can. Our meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane

Georgina Arnold
Drayton WI Secretary



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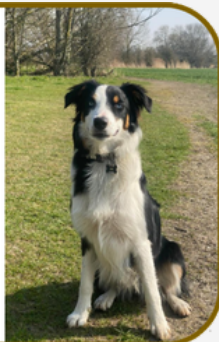
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FROM WESTMINSTER

Spring is a beautiful time across the constituency, with warm sunshine at last, and so many roadsides and woods enhanced by daffodils and bluebells.

In recent months, I have been engaging in many local community campaigns, including the sudden closure of East Hagbourne Post Office. During a visit to the East Hagbourne Community Shop, I met with the shop's dedicated volunteers. They explained that the post office closure limits residents' access to essential services and risks the future of the community shop. This small establishment brings so much value to the community; its loss would be felt significantly. Having already met with the national Post Office organisation directly, I will continue to work with the East Hagbourne community and raise this case with government to find a solution.

Trump's illegal military actions in Iran have caused significant death and global disruption to gas and oil supplies, which rural areas have felt the brunt of. Many constituents have expressed concerns over tripling oil prices and the need for urgent support for rural communities, many of whom are dependent on heating oil for warmth. I signed an Early Day Motion to introduce a three-month zero rating of VAT and price caps to help alleviate some of this financial burden. The government must take action to protect rural residents vulnerable to sudden price rises.

In Parliament I raised concerns about local government funding, road safety, and improving women's health. In a debate on the condition of rural roads, attended by MPs representing dozens of counties all frustrated by the state of their roads, I spoke about the need for better approaches to road design, maintenance, and repair across the country. Funding to maintain our roads must be spent both on fixing potholes, and on long-term, preventative work, such as drainage improvements and surface dressing.

Back in the constituency, I have spent time with some incredible community organisations, education facilities, and local businesses. I had a beautiful tour of the nature reserve at the Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, near Milton Park, run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), which educates the community about protecting nature and local wildlife. In addition, I answered questions from Year 12 Politics students at Wallingford School.

I had a fascinating visit of Moderna Innovation and Technology Centre, a biotechnology company manufacturing vaccines based on Harwell Campus, and learnt about Infinis, based in Sutton Courtenay, who are turning gases from landfill sites into renewable energy.

After an excellent lunch at the White Hart in Harwell, I spoke with the publican about ongoing pressures on the local hospitality industry. I have joined Liberal Democrat colleagues in calling for a 5% VAT cut for hospitality, and against government policies on business rates and employer national insurance contributions, which are making life very difficult for our hospitality sector. I also attended Wantage and Grove Street Pastors on an evening patrol, engaging with the local community.

These constituency activities help me understand the day-to-day challenges faced by people and organisations in the local area, and I will continue to hold the Labour government to account and push for change at a national level.

Olly Glover,
olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk

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DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Time for the Hall C'tee AGM, Monday May 18th, 7.30. Our last appeal for more help was a great success (thx to Debbie and Kathy), and as it seems that longterm c'tee stalwarts Fred & Sue will be stepping down, as and when some suitable new blood appears (?), we shall indeed be needing those new volunteers. COULD YOU PLEASE HELP? See the back page for contact details.

It's another ANTIQUES Fair, Sunday May 3rd, 9am to about 3pm, and a few new stalls apparently, that's plus Kathy running her great value cafe for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast!). Another one on June 7th too.

Kathy is also running Coffee Mornings in Hall on WEDS mornings (10 to midday), all for good causes, not just tea, coffee and cake, but a well-filled bacon sarnie if you like!

Oh, and it's the annual Hamstershow again, May 9th, and they always run a class for assorted pet rodents, chance of a rosette?! Search online or F'book for the Midland & Southern Hamster Club, then the section for 'Pet entry'.

We also have a Charity Craft Fair, Sunday May 24th, 10am, and it's in aid of a terrific cause, SOBELL HOUSE. Search the local F'book page for more info.

Thanks to all those who bring clothes (and/or shoes) for the charity bin (in aid of the Child's Air Ambulance, a very good cause). BUT – partly due to the OCC's new and much criticised policy at recycling centres, we see bags dumped when the bin is full – and that's officially 'fly tipping'! The Hall gets charged to REMOVE them – which affects the community. OTHER CLOTHING bins are in the village, at the Red Lion and the 'Danes/Mace' shop, the local Tesco stores have them, and also at the Gainsborough Green shops. You can also put clothes out, in a carrier bag, by your green recycling bin (& in passing, small electricals in a bag on black bin day!).

Now, a shout out for our TODDLER GROUP (Thursday mornings), leader Tracey tells me that she has space for a few more little customers! Our Friday exercise classes continue, KEEP FIT with FAYE, (11am for an hour --- seated if you prefer!). And mustn't forget PILATES (Tues mornings, Alex, she's been with us for ages), contact info on the back page.

And Sabrina should be returning, in record time after becoming a mum (well done!), with her Karate classes!

Tony Holmes



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DRAYTON DIARIES

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated. To book the Hall email bookings@draytonvh.co.uk or call on **(01235) 531180**. See the website: www.draytonvh.co.uk

Sat 2nd	9:30am	Private function (dog show)
Sun 3rd	9:00am	Antiques fair (til 3pm)
Sun 3rd	3:00pm	Drayton Map Ceremony
Wed 6th	10:00am	Coffee morning (weekly)
Sat 9th	10:00am	Hamster show
Mon 11th	7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Sat 16th	All day	Private function
Sun 17th	8:30am	Flexicare walk (E Hendred)
Mon 18th	5:00pm	Chronicle deadline
Mon 18th	7:30pm	Hall C'tee AGM
Sat 23rd	All day	Private function
Sun 24th	10:00am	Charity craft fair (til 4pm)

How to Book Other Drayton Venues:

To hire the Caudwell Day Centre, please contact Vicky Malin, caudwelldaycentre@gmail.com & 01235 531627. Or, for small meetings, the Church Hall may be OK, for their contact info see the St Peter's page in this edition.

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise. [## = Small Hall in Village Hall]

MONDAYS	
10:00am	Coffee Morning (2nd Mon - Caudwell)
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
4:00pm	Damascus Youth (taking a break)
7:15pm	Badminton (Looking for new players)
7:45pm	Bell-ringing for 1.5 hours (<i>St Peter's</i>)
TUESDAYS	
9:30am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 24892)
1:45pm	Drayton Art Group (<i>Caudwell</i>)
2:30pm	Tuesday Connect - 1st Tuesdays (<i>Church</i>)
6:30pm	Karate/'Dojang X' session (Sabrina 07938 537310)

WEDNESDAYS	
10:00am	Pebbles Baby Group (<i>Church</i>)
10:00am	Coffee Morning (for Good Causes)
1:30pm	Whist Drive (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
1:45pm	U3A Science/Tech, 1st Weds (07890 385931) ##
2:00pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday, most months) ##
2:00pm	Badminton
6:00pm	Brownies (term-time / Laura 07916 459435) ##
6:45pm	Short Mat Bowling Club (looking for new members)
THURSDAYS	
9:30am	Parent & Toddler Group
9:45am	Holy Communion (**) St Peter's Lady Chapel
11:00am	Baptist Café (to 1pm) NOW IN >> Caudwell DC
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
2:00pm	Crafts Group (2nd Thursday – run by U3A, but it's simple to join. Call Kate for info 01235 550486) ##
5:30pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##
7:30pm	Sequence Dancing (01235 531107 for info)
7:30pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs) Caudwell DC
7:30pm	Drayton Community Choir (2nd/4th Thurs) Call Kay for info 01235 204187 Church Room
FRIDAYS	
11:00am	Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)
4:15pm	Karate/'Dojang X' sessions (07938 537310)
SUNDAYS	
(**)	For all the latest info re their Services, please see our St Peter's Church page
6:00pm	Evening Service (<i>Baptist Church</i>)

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