

Uley, Owlpen & Nympsfield

February 2025

Village News

Supporting Church, Community and Local Business



uleyvillagenews@gmail.com

Uley Parish Council

Adam Biscoe | clerk@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Melanie Paraskeva (Chair)	m.paraskeva@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	07929 360221
Juliet Browne (Vice-Chair)	j.browne@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	01453 860710
Jo Dee	j.dee@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	01453 861566
Geoff Keen	g.keen@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Tracy Mason-Fayle	t.mason-fayle@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Tony Mills	t.mills@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	07753 739636
Sean Sage	s.sage@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	07484 302871

District Councillor

Martin Percy	cllr.martin.percy@stroud.gov.uk	
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County Councillor

Wendy Thomas	wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
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Stroud District Council - Neighbourhood Warden

Andrew Beamish	andrew.beamish@stroud.gov.uk	07834 419332
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Volunteer Footpath Officer

Bill Bramley	bramley@fastmail.fm	01453 861249
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Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Tony Martin	anthony.martin@gloucestershire.police.uk	
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Community Wellbeing

Email: communitywellbeing.stroud@nhs.net Tel: 0345 863 8323

Uley Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. You are very welcome to attend. Details of the meetings can be found on the notice boards at either end of the village or on the Uley village website at: www.uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



The February edition of the Messenger is available to download from:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/#messenger>

Please note, articles submitted by individuals do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Church and / or Parish Council.

Uley Parish Council

Robin Bus Service

At the January 2025 Cllr Wendy Thomas reported back about progress with the Robin Bus Service (your bookable bus service) funded by GCC (see <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/>). Uley residents can alight a bus from outside the Community Shop. The idea is that you can book in advance (by phone or, once you have registered, on-line) a ride to any one of the many stops in the Berkeley Vale. UPC would like to hear from residents about their experience of using Robin Bus Service.

Flooding

Don't let it rain (for a while, at least). UPC are encouraging GCC and SDC to take a joined-up approach to flooding in the Uley Valley. Recent Highways Department resurfacing on Lampern Hill was undone by flooding. Cllr. Juliet Browne (Flood Warden) is urging GCC to adopt a long-term approach to flood prevention before undertaking highway repairs.

The Council again want to publicly thank Robin, Sally and Bobby Coates for their extraordinary efforts to keep highways clear during recent heavy rainstorms. Robin reported that he had to change out of wet clothes five times in one day. If you see them or anyone else working around flooded areas, please either find another route or pass with extreme care so that you do not create a wave which hamper their work or could endanger them.

Devolution

You may have seen reports of the Government's plans for the devolution of power in England. This could have significant implications for who does what in Gloucestershire. You can find out more about the role of Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council on P5 of <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local-government-structur-634.pdf>

Church Letter

Welcome to February!



In the Birmingham Museum Art gallery we can discover this painting by Benjamin Williams with the title “February Fill Dyke”. It depicts a rural scene in the midst of a wet and dismal day. Its title comes from a saying “February fill dyke, be it black or be it white”, referring to the way the dykes traditionally fill with either water or snow in this month. Although the painting was hardly noticed when it was initially displayed, it has since then become very popular and a much-loved painting. The dank and water covered fields in the foreground give way to a cheerful cottage, obviously inhabited because smoke is rising from the chimney and behind that the Parish Church with its solid tower. All this is flanked by a sky touched with gold, suggesting the sunset perhaps.

I wonder why the picture speaks to so many people. It is after all an ordinary

rural scene; nothing special, you may say? Perhaps it is because of its very ordinariness that people can relate to it. It encourages them to ponder on what gives people hope and security in the midst of their lives at times.

We think about those three subjects. At its best a home is a symbol of relationship, of warmth and succour from the storms of daily living, a place to rest. The Guardian newspaper has been running a series of articles where people have described what home is for them. For most it wasn't so much the house they lived in, but the place where they felt they could be true to themselves. I wonder what that word “home” means to you? Where do you find relationship, and where you can be true to yourself?

The church, at its best is a symbol of continuity – I suggest that this building has been there for centuries. It is also a continuing and silent reminder that there is more to life than the day to day. A place and a people offering strength in times of joy in birth and marriage, as well as in times of sadness, in death. A place in which the deep truths of the Christian faith of birth and death, forgiveness and resurrection have been celebrated for hundreds of years.

Philip Larkin wrote a poem called "Church going" in which he goes into a church in a cynical frame of mind, but as he looks around he stops and thinks. The last verse reads: "A serious house on serious earth it is, In whose blent air all our compulsions meet, Are recognised, and robed as destinies. And that much can never be obsolete, Since someone will forever be surprising A hunger in himself to be more serious, and gravitate with it to this ground...." I wonder what your local parish church means to you? How would the nature of the town or village be changed if it just wasn't there anymore?

And thirdly the sunset. A symbol of our dependence on the regularity of day and night. At this time of the year, as the days begin to draw out, and daylight becomes stronger we can look forward to warmer days. I wonder how often I take it granted that when the sun sets in the west, that it will rise in the east giving us hope. In the memorable words of Scarlet Ohara "Tomorrow is another day!"

From the dismalness of the foreground we move to the hope of home, to hope in God's loving purposes and to the source light and heat. I need to notice these and give thanks – even on a dark February day!

Rev David Vonberg



Preliminary Notice

St. Giles'
Summer
Holiday
Club

July 21st - 25th 2025

The background of the notice is a vibrant, artistic illustration of rolling green hills under a blue sky with soft clouds. In the foreground, there is a field of colorful flowers, including white daisies, yellow and orange poppies, and purple and pink blossoms.



St Giles Church, Uley
presents
Music for a
Sunday Afternoon
featuring
The Lace
String Quartet
Sunday 16th February
3pm

A free informal concert in church
followed by refreshments & a chance to chat
Donations welcome for the upkeep of the church

The background of the notice is a warm, golden-brown color with a pattern of swirling, abstract lines and musical notes, creating a textured, artistic effect.

Church News

Spring is nearly here, and on the 14th February we celebrate St Valentine's day. We are fortunate in the Parish to have the joy of celebrating quite a number of weddings. This year we have 24 weddings/ blessings. The majority are at Holy Cross in Owlpen, but we do also have some in both St Giles and St Bartholomews. Given this number of weddings, you probably realise that not all of the couples are local. If this is the case, the couple do have to attend church at least 6 times prior to their wedding. This gives us all a great opportunity to get to know each other, and hopefully show them what a welcoming congregation we are. We do have a small team of people who assist at the weddings. If you would like to join us, please let us know. It is a privilege to be involved, and can be good fun.

You may have heard that Rev Jane Wood has moved from the Benefice. This is what Jane wrote to us:

Dear Friends, at the beginning of this New Year, we look forward to a new season of ministry in the Ewelme Benefice and all that it holds.

With mixed emotions, I write to say that this is also time for a new season of ministry for me. After six and a half years of ordained ministry among you and several years previously at St James, I shall be leaving at the end of January. Thank you to each of you for the privilege of serving you, in times of great joy and sadness and for everything we have shared. You are a wonderful community, and I count my blessings to have been part of it!

My last service in the benefice will be on 26th January.

The details of my new post are still to be finalised, but as I am not moving from my home in Cam, I hope I will still see many of you out and about.

With my thanks, love, prayers and every blessing for the future.

We wish Jane every happiness.

Finally. I hope you've got your tickets for the Quiz Night on 8th Feb, 1900 at the Village Hall, and look forward to seeing you there.



The Uley Playing Field and Pavilion

The committee of Uley Playing Field and Pavilion would like to thank publicly our outgoing Chair Jonathan Dembrey and Vice Chair John Hyde for all their hard work and achievements over the many years they have been involved with the charity. Both have done more than their fair share to keep the place running as smoothly as it does and we will be forever grateful.

We are pleased to announce our new Chairman - Tony Mills, Vice Chair - Jo Dee, and our continuing Treasurer - Tony Seymour and Secretary - Harriet Dembrey. The rest of our committee is made up of willing participants representing various areas of the village.

Whilst we have your attention, we have a 100 club, simply pay £1 (or more) a month and be entered into the monthly lottery to win £15 or £10 every month. Surely worth the risk for those odds! The 100 Club is run by our committee member Rachel Davidson, contact her directly to join up. You could win a prize and you will certainly help us keep the Uley Playing Fields and Pavilion running.

Our pavilion is available to hire and has been used for weddings, parties, sports clubs and our fundraisers. We are spoilt for views and it's a perfect spot in the summer (on a good weather day!) to open

the doors and enjoy the field like it should be. Contact Harriet Dembrey if you are interested in hiring the facilities.

We are the base for both Uley Football and Cricket Clubs, they train and play their home matches onsite. We also have public footpaths running through and therefore get a lot of visitors on foot walking their dogs. Can we remind anyone who visits to please pick up their mess, there are bins conveniently placed around the field's outer edges for your bags.

For more information check out our website which has recently been revamped.

We have had great support on our last two fundraisers – thank you, and we have two events planned for this year. A VE Day Celebration on the 5th May and the return of the Uley Hooley in September! Keep your eyes peeled on the socials, in the Village News and shop for more information.

Our contact information:

100 club – 100clubuley@gmail.com

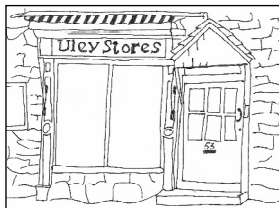
Hires – hire.uleypavilion@gmail.com

Website - www.uleyplayingfield.co.uk

ULEY COMMUNITY STORES

has a vacancy for a

VOLUNTEER BOOKKEEPER



- Do you have experience in bookkeeping including software such as Sage and/or Quickbooks?
- Would you like to be involved in the running of our village shop but, perhaps, from home?

UCS is looking for an experienced bookkeeper.

This is a volunteer role.

Laptop with accounting software provided.

Once a month it involves entering data from the daily sales sheets, suppliers' invoices, bank payments and monthly journals, as well as preparing bank reconciliations and quarterly VAT returns. This takes about 8 hours a month.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact Angela Haddrell on 07900 55 22 97 or email accounts@uleycommunitystores.co.uk.

Uley Community Stores & Post Office Diary

Tel Shop: 861592 | Tel Post Office: 860203 (Ailsa, Sadie and Angela)
www.uleycommunitystores.co.uk | Run by Volunteers

The lovely Christmas hamper was won by a delighted Murray McCuster from Dursley. The Volunteers hamper was won by an equally delighted Tess Jackson (well worth being a volunteer. That and the Volunteers Party this month).

Thinking of going for some winter sun? Or getting on the slopes? Order your currencies from the Post Office. Euros are always in stock.

Feeling the love? Valentine's Day February 14th, get your card(s) and some yummy goodies for your loved one from the shop. Then move over to the Post Office to post them. Heads up, March 3rd Shrove

Shop is open: Monday to Friday
8 - 5.30 / Saturday 8 - 1 / Sunday 9 - 12
Post Office is open: Monday to Friday
9 - 5.30 (Closed for lunch 1 - 2)
(Wednesday closes 4.30)
Saturday 9 - 12.30 / Sunday closed

Tuesday "Pancake Day" all the items you will need are in stock, apart from the frying pan.

If you have any suggestions for any new items you'd like stocked in the New Year please let us know.

Dami Davis

From the Registers

24th December: Burial of Eric Cookes ashes

12th January: Baptism of Joe Thomas Proctor at St Giles

Year's Mind in February

David -Alexander White, Gwen Valentin, Anne Goldingham, Barbara Gallie, Cynthia Anderson, Anne Brooke, Basil Blackwell, Ron Baker, Vera Reynolds, Richard Smith, Ivy Bailey, Austen Robinson, John Bowden, Charles Poultney, Andrew Blackler, Peter du Feu, Maureen Inglefield, Pat Stopford, Bryan Davies, Cynthia Jones, Priscilla Wathen, Catherine Russell, Bryan Harris, David Wakefield, Jeremy Chapple and David Powell.

Banns of marriage in February

Tom Armitage & Ruth Grace Bahissi-Mapangou
Tom Lindsey & Mollie Marshall
Simon Russell & Emily Goodall

Garden Notes for February

Thoughts about Biochar

As a gardener, I'm always looking to improve the soil and am bordering on evangelical on the benefits of homemade compost. However, this is a constant activity that our own three-bay system cannot fully support. Enter Biochar!

Biochar is an organic material carbonised slowly at high temperature with almost no oxygen (pyrolysis). The farming system (Terra Preta meaning Black Soil) was developed in the Amazon by indigenous people over a 1000 years ago to sustain their population on poor, acidic soil.

Biochar's main function is supporting aerobic, healthy soil ecosystems which lead to improved plant health and vitality indirectly. Positive evidence is building for its use in agriculture and climate change worldwide though scientific research is ongoing.

Pros

- One application only
- Sequesters carbon
- Due to its highly porous nature, it is water and nutrient retentive, good for drainage and soil aeration which in turn saves on fertiliser, irrigation and reduces CO₂. Helpful for heavy clay soils.
- It is a fixed carbon, therefore not releasing greenhouse gasses as conventional compost alternatives do
- Highly stable, so one application remains effective for hundreds/thousands of years
- Improves plant health and crop yields

- Adding Biochar to compost heaps after turning can help reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions

Cons

- Its expensive, however so is buying in mulch and compost
- Depending on the source of Biochar, it can add alkalinity raising the soil PH where acid loving plants are being grown. Check PH of your own soil and that of your supplier of Biochar.
- Can raise already high PH alkalinity to unhelpful levels - see above
- If not 'charged/enriched' it can lock up nutrients in the short term (as would an application fresh wood chips) depriving plants from nitrogen uptake.
- Biochar production needs to be organic agricultural or forestry waste rather than monoculture products
- Scaling up for global use could lead to misguided production methods

How to apply Biochar in your garden

Know your source - are they FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified? Check with your supplier if it is already charged/enriched/inoculated. Read their application notes.

There are a number of ways to charge your biochar but here's what I'm doing: Put biochar into a container or wheelbarrow. Add plenty of water (its very absorbent). Mix in the nutrients of your choice/availability - homemade compost, manure, liquid seaweed, worm cast liquid, comfrey and nettles. Leave for AT LEAST 3

DAYS or longer if possible. This allows the biochar to fully take up the mix and offset any chance of nutrient depletion. Apply after worst of winter rains. **Then thats it - never again!**

OR mix into your compost heap as you turn it in February to allow a month or so before applying in the garden.

Agriculture

Given worldwide depleted soil health, Biochar has the potential to make a move, from chemical fertilisers and pesticides, to fostering soils rich in microbes - a shift from an antibiotic to a probiotic approach. I think a pig just flew by...

Caroline @awalledgarden


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Uley Village Hall
Fridays (term time) 5pm to 6pm
£3 per week




Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



Coaley Peak Nature Tots

9 Jan

13 Feb

13 Mar

Join us at Coaley Peak with your pre-school little ones to explore the nature reserve and enjoy some fun wildlife-themed activities.



Time: 10.00am - 11.30am
Cost: £4.00 per child



For more details and to book a place, please visit our website or scan the QR code

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0-5 years
(Uley toddlers)

Parents Grandparents, Carers
children's group
all welcome



Every Thursday

10.00 – 12.00
£5.00 per family

Uley Village Hall

ULEY WI PROGRAMME 2025

www.facebook.com/Uley-WI-111405133802934

Contact Secretary: Belinda on 0774 975 9075 or email secretary.uleywi@gmail.com

VISITORS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, usually in Uley Village Hall.

COMMITTEE:

President: Ann Warrender

Secretary: Belinda Williams

Treasurer: Tania Lee

Other Committee Members: Linda Walters, Catherine Day, Ruth Littlehales, Gail Oliver, Trudy Messenger.

Meetings are a great opportunity to meet and chat to other members over coffee, hear talks, join activities and outings organised by members and link up to different interest and hobby groups. Best of all, the meetings are about making friends and getting to know one another better, so try to come along whenever you can.

February 12th	Children Achieving Lifelong Movement: CALM	Sarah & Andrea
March 12th	From Medals to Metal (Livery Companies)	Marc Begg
April 9th	Round the World in 23 Days	Martin Hudson
May 14th	Life and Times of an Adult Learning Tutor'	Sue Dove
June 11th	To be advised	
July 11th	To be advised	
August 13th	Summer Party	
September 10th	Clipper Around the World Yacht Race	Andrew Harper
October 8th	Maintaining Health & Wellbeing	Bev Horner
November 12th	(AGM)Tropic Skin Care	Gemma Fletcher
December 10th	Christmas Party	

Subscription renewal due in April (£46)

Uley WI Diary – January 2025

A group of us attended the Slimbridge Wetland Centre and, from the comfort of the heated Peng Observatory, listened to the reserve warden's live commentary and watched as she fed the huge numbers of wintering wild birds on Rushy Lake. We could see the over 60 Bewick swans close up and marvelled at their epic journey from Arctic Russia to spend their winter at Slimbridge.



We also welcomed back Steve Tilley as our guest speaker at our January monthly meeting. Steve gave us a fabulous talk featuring highlights from his solo coastal walk around Wales and England

For more information on Uley WI please contact our email address: secretary.uleywi@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at 'Uley WI'.

featuring many wonderful photos and amusing anecdotes. What an inspiration he is.



January also saw a visit to the award-winning Bristol Zoo Project. More about that next time.

The next few weeks will see a new season of our Supper Club where small groups will meet to share food together. As a newcomer to the village I am very much looking forward to this opportunity to join in and enjoy the friendship that this will offer.

Ruth Littlehales

Cobalt is making a difference across Gloucestershire, and you can help! Whether you host your own event or join one of ours, your support changes lives.

Make A Will Month – April 2025

Ensure your wishes are clear and support Cobalt this April. Partner solicitors are donating their time to write or update straightforward wills in exchange for a suggested donation:

- £150 for a single will
- £200 for joint mirror wills

In 14 years, this initiative has raised over £130,000 for vital services and equipment. While leaving a gift to Cobalt is optional, even a small gesture makes a big impact.

Places are limited—don't wait! Visit our website or contact us at 01242 535922 or helen.tomes@cobalthhealth.co.uk for more information.

Special thanks to Willans, Davis Gregory, Langley Wellington, Dee & Griffin, and Sewell Mullings Logie for their support.

Upcoming Events

Join us for these fantastic events and help make a difference! Full details:

www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/support-us/supporter-events/

- **Walk for Cobalt** – 22nd March 2025.
Explore Cheltenham's history on a family-friendly walk, including tales of a circus elephant! Starts at 10 AM.
- **Quenington Open Garden & Rare Plant Fair** – 13th April 2025.
Stroll riverside gardens, browse rare plants, and enjoy homemade treats. Entry £8 (cash only). Open 11 AM – 4 PM.
- **Snowdon Sunrise Trek** – 16th May 2025.
Climb Snowdon under the stars and witness a breathtaking sunrise, all for a great cause.

Learn More

Discover how Cobalt is changing lives: www.cobalthhealth.co.uk, fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk, or call 01242 535922.

Your support makes all the difference!

Uley Sport

Uley Cricket Club are a friendly, single-team club who play their home games at the Uley Playing Field. We play league cricket in the Stroud District Leagues so all of our games are local. We have a strong social side with regular team meals, trips to sports fixtures and golf days.

New Members:

We welcome all new players of all abilities, age and gender, who want to play on a regular or casual basis at one of the most friendly and beautiful cricket clubs in the area. There is no expectation to commit to playing every week.

Winter Nets:

Our indoor pre-season net sessions are starting again on a weekly basis from Sunday 2nd March at Rednock Sports Hall at 12-1pm.

Contact:

If you are interested in joining the club or would like to come along for a training session please contact club captain Alex Hewett on 07891547855.

The Uley Society

Registered Charity No: 295000

Established 1974

www.theuleysociety.co.uk

**Thursday 20th February
@ 7.30pm in Uley Village Hall**

WESTONBIRT: Introduction to the gardens and the Holford Legacy

Speaker: Margie Hoffnung
Former gardener to the King and to
Rosemary Verey

Tea & coffee afterwards
Non members welcome (fee £3)

The next

Uley Bury Working Party

is on

**Saturday 15th February
from 10am to 12noon**

Please meet at the bench.

More info from Janet . Tel 860236



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kordyscarpetoutlet@gmail.com

Unit 5/6, Wisloe Road Business
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Just off the A38



We're planning a summer getaway to Greece and I'm worried we'll forget something important, which could ruin the holiday. What steps can we take to make sure we're fully protected and prepared if anything goes wrong?

Booking a holiday can be overwhelming, especially if it's been a while since you last went away. It's unlikely anything will go wrong, but we've prepared a simple checklist to make sure you can relax into your holiday knowing you're protected from the unexpected.

Check your passport is in date - especially for EU travel

Renewing your passport can take several weeks and isn't something to leave until the last minute. Check the validity of your passport for your trip on GOV.UK by finding out the entry requirements of the country you're travelling to.

If you're heading to Europe, bear in mind EU countries don't accept passports more than ten years old. This includes passports issued pre-Brexit, which may have longer expiry dates. Just remember, the golden rule for EU travel is: if your passport was issued over ten years ago, you'll need to get it renewed.

Know your rights if something goes wrong

If your flight's delayed long enough - usually two to four hours, depending on the journey - your airline must provide access to food and drink vouchers, phone calls and emails, and accommodation if you're delayed overnight. If it's cancelled, you're legally entitled to a full refund or replacement flight to help you get to your destination. You're also entitled to compensation if your airline delays, loses or damages your checked-in luggage.

Get travel insurance

Although it's an extra expense, travel insurance can cover many of the things already mentioned, like flight delays and lost luggage, but also things like a holiday cancellation and medical emergencies.

Citizens Advice recommends getting insurance as soon as you book a holiday to make sure you're covered right away - but always check first to see if an existing insurance policy, or your bank account, covers what you need for your holiday. There's no need to double up if you're already covered!

The chances are your holiday will be problem-free, but early planning and preparation can make all the difference. If you need advice on a consumer problem, head to the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk



The Uley Playing Field and Pavilion

Available for regular hires, parties, weddings and more!
The Pavilion has all the facilities you need in the picturesque playing field in Shadwell.

Contact us on hire.uleypavilion@gmail.com or
07771 526082 for more information.

Don't forget about our 100 club too - monthly prizes up to £25 with an input of just £1 a month! Contact 100clubuley@gmail.com to sign up.

Find us on facebook and instagram or www.uleypavilion.weebly.com



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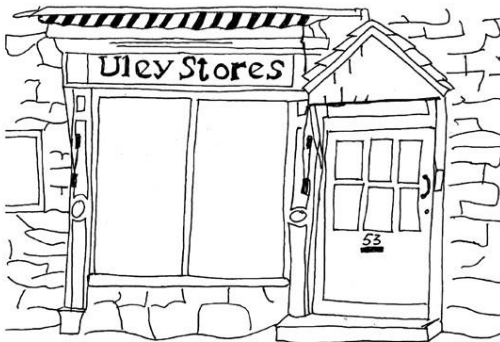
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Electric Dave



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I can do all the smaller jobs that others can't be bothered about.

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Call **01453 840127** or e-mail at **cots.curts@gmail.com**

Opening hours

Tuesday – Thursday 10am to 4pm, Fridays 9am to 1pm and Saturdays by appointment
Mondays, Saturdays and before 10am and after 4pm (1pm on Fridays) each day are reserved for measures and installations.

Appreciate our work at **www.cotswoldcurtains.co.uk**



The Ewelme Benefice

Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield



Rector: Revd Juliet Jensen 01453 350810
Churchwarden: Moya Wallis 01453 619270

February 2025 Services

**Sunday 2nd February - Presentation of Christ
St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield**

Parish Holy Communion

**Sunday 9th February - Epiphany 4
St Giles, Uley**

Parish Holy Communion

**Sunday 16th February - 3 Sundays before Lent
St Giles, Uley**

Parish Holy Communion

**Sunday 23rd February - 2 Sundays before Lent
St Giles, Uley**

Benefice Holy Communion

Church opening times

St Giles, Holy Cross and St Bartholomew's are open daily

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms

Please contact Clare in the Benefice office
ewelmebeneficeoffice@gmail.com 01453 549280

Friends of St Giles quiz - 8th February, 7pm, Village Hall

