

TOCKENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE – January 2022



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This photo of the sunrise over Tockenham on the morning of the winter solstice reminds us that there is always light to shine on our darkness.



The arrival of the light of the world is the essence of our Christmas message, and we need to carry this forward in our hearts and minds as we travel through what may be tough times ahead, with the dreary winter days, lack of opportunity to be outside, or the further spread of the pandemic. In our personal situations there may well be things that worry us or impinge on our ability to live life as we would wish. Let us keep in mind the promise given to us at Christmas and let the light of Christ shine in our hearts today.

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NEWS FROM ST GILES' CHURCH



It was wonderful to see so many of us gathered outdoors for the carol singing and Christingle at the beginning of December, and the carol service on 24th (Christmas Eve). In spite of the weather the plans for Christmas Eve went ahead, using the cover of the yew tree to protect from the rain. Thank you to all who took part and especially those who worked hard to make these service happen in spite of all the obstacles.

Our next event is on New Year's Day:

New Year's Reflection



The church will be open and heated on New Year's Day for private reflection and prayer from 1.00pm and throughout the afternoon. At 4.00 pm there will be a short, informal service of prayer and reflection to which you are warmly invited if you would like to join others to reflect on the past year and look forward to the new. If you are unable to attend but would like a particular prayer to be said for you, either in name or anonymously, please pop them in Mandy's post box.

Later in the month

As you will have seen from the list of services, there are two scheduled for January in St Giles' Church - Communion at 10.30 am on Sunday 9th, and (subject to confirmation) another service on Sunday 16th. We will send reminders round on the village email.

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The full list of January services for our benefice is here, and we are all welcome at any of these. Naturally all events and services are subject to any Covid guidance in force at the time.

Please note all arrangements are subject to changes if the availability of clergy alters or if different Covid requirements are introduced. Meanwhile please bring your mask and wear it inside the church buildings.

2nd January	Holy Communion	Lyneham	10.30am
9th January	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Tockenham Lyneham Hilmarton	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am
16th January	Holy Communion Holy Communion Service to be confirmed	Bradenstoke Lyneham Tockenham	10.30am 10.30am tbc
23rd January	Holy Communion Holy Communion All-Age Service Evening Worship (Lay led) 5pm	Clyffe Pypard Lyneham Hilmarton Broad Town	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 5pm
30th January	Holy Communion	Broad Town	10.30am

The church continues to be open on Wednesdays for private prayer, and the box for the Swindon Food Collective will be available.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Rector Revd Rachma Abbott by phone or email if you wish to do so: reverendrachma@gmail.com - phone number 01793 731134.



BUSY BEES - for Toddlers and their parent/carers

The Benefice group for parents, carers and their babies and toddlers has now restarted in Lyneham. This is held fortnightly on a Tuesday morning between 9.00 and 10.45. As well as the usual toys, story, music, company and refreshments, themed activities include sensory play for babies, arts and craft activities and imaginative, exploratory play activities for toddlers and youngsters. The next two sessions will be on 11th and 25th January. Families from the whole Benefice are very welcome, no need to book.

For more information or queries please contact Mandy Cook 01793 853504 or 07798801681

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Coffee mornings

The next Village Hall Coffee Morning will take place on Tuesday 4th January 2022 - 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon.

Everyone is welcome.

Welcome to Tockenham

Welcome to two new families who moved into Tockenham during December –

Paul and David Campbell at Whiteacres, 40 Greenway and

Angie and Sean Billins at 37 West Tockenham

We do hope that you will be happy in our little village.

Village Hall Events

After a very uncertain year, the Village Hall Committee were able to hold their first event in November – a very successful Quiz and Chips Night. Many thanks to Kris and Jane for the quiz – and to the Lyneham Chippy for the lovely food.

Then in December, we held an equally successful Cheese and Wine event – with a Christmas Draw. Many thanks to Ali Bennett for organising the wonderful spread – and sorting the wonderful decorations.

We were hoping to do a Cocktail Night to celebrate the New Year – but with further uncertainty of more restrictions, we will now just be opening the bar with “Bring and Share” food. Hopefully a lot of villagers will attend – or just pop in to wish neighbours a Happy New Year.

At our next meeting in January we will start planning the first events for 2022 – so watch this space. A Cocktail Night will be a favourite introduction!

And if any of you would like to join the Committee – we would love to have you. Please contact John Gough on johngough@btinternet.com

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PARISH MAGAZINE UPDATE

As you may be aware, Sarah Still has been a dedicated editor of this magazine for many years - for which we give her our heartfelt thanks. However, the time has come for her to retire - and we have a new volunteer to take on the task from 1st February edition. Martin Marmoy will be our new editor - and he is looking to do things slightly differently. As well as the usual features from the church, Parish Council and Village Hall Committee, he will be looking for more of an input from the community.

Please see below the three areas that he wants to cover -

1. Why and how villagers ended up in Tockenham
2. What hobbies you have with a brief explanation of them
3. Any stuff you may have to sell / swap or give away.

Items 1 and 2 should be a maximum of 175 words and **sent in Word format** to Martin@Marmoy.com

Entries to be with Martin 14 days before month end.

Martin will be giving more of an explanation to this in 1st February edition - but I am sure he will welcome any entries before this.

This all sounds very exciting - and I am sure that we will all look forward to seeing Martin's first copy.

After a query to the village as to who would prefer to keep to an e-copy, it became obvious that hard copies would be preferable to the majority of folks – so we have decided to go back totally to this format.

*In the meantime, Happy New Year to you all from the current editors
– Diana and Pauline.*

TOCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

THANK YOU TOCKENHAM

From Diana Kirby, Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

2021 has continued to throw challenges at us all, but how comforting it has been to witness the strength of community spirit in our little village.

There are always people willing to give up their time for the good of others in Tockenham, so I would like to pass on a huge "Thank You" to various people -

> Those who represent our local organisations - the Parish Council, the Church Council, the Village Hall Committee and the Village Fair Committee. Although activities have been limited this year, work still continues behind the scenes.

> Those individuals who contribute so generously in other ways - - Julie and helpers for adorning the village in beautiful flowers - Stuart, Kevin, Andrew, Chris, Peter, Mike and Keith for keeping the park looking so neat and tidy. And not forgetting Edd who maintains the area at the end of Orchard Lane. – special thanks to Sarah for compiling the monthly magazine for so many years - Kevin for keeping the play equipment safe - Amanda for keeping the Village Defibrillator maintained and active - Rosemary for distributing Welcome Letters to newcomers - and for her and Michael's constant litter-picking - Jean and team who are thankfully now back to organising monthly Coffee Mornings again – Johnny and Lucy of Padmead for supplying the wonderful Christmas Tree for the Village Hall. And, of course, everyone I have forgotten. (Sorry!)

>And thank you all for being such good neighbours – looking out for and helping those around you.

This really is a wonderful place to live - and, of course, it is all down to the people who live here! Thank you Tockenham for your kindness and your amazing generosity of spirit.

Diana Kirby Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

VERGES

In the current wet and muddy conditions, our verges are starting to look a bit tatty! Remembering that our lanes are all single track, could we please request that everyone is considerate to other drivers, and, if necessary, reverse to a convenient passing place – rather than driving over the verges. That way, we can keep them preserved for Spring and new growth. Thank you for your help in this.

Diana Kirby, Chair of Parish Council

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Proposed meeting dates for start of 2022

Tuesday 11th January

Tuesday 22nd March

Tuesday 12th April (Annual Parish Meeting)

Tuesday 10th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Please note – official confirmation of meetings will be posted on Parish Notice Boards and on the Council website (www.tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk) three clear days before proposed meeting.

Rita Harris (Clerk)

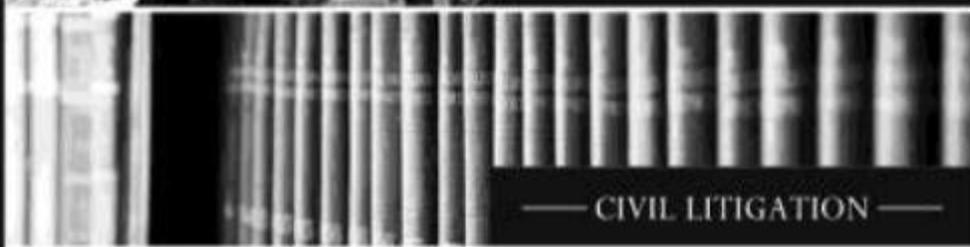
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