

TOCKENHAM
PARISH MAGAZINE



December 2024

From the editor – martin@marmoy.com

As we conclude another year in Tockenham, many things have happened around the world since this time last year which may have alarmed and concerned us. However, we can be consoled that Tockenham has remained true to its long standing principles of help and kindness to others. This is clearly evident in all levels of village life, from the political to social matters. We have one of the most cohesive and effective parish councils in this geographical area as well as regular “simple fun” social events, including walks in the countryside, quiz nights (very competitive !) and invaluable coffee / tea mornings. We’ve all experienced when out for a walk, how long it can take to get from our front doors to where we want to go because of stopping to chat to neighbours and friends – all things easily taken for granted and yet so warming to the human condition. Tockenham may not be as beautiful a place as Castle Combe etc but we are certainly fortunate to have many generous people doing lots of good work for the benefit of us all. Long may it remain that way. Finally, if Christmas is your thing I hope you have a spiritual and uplifting time. If its not, well you can guarantee they’ll be showing “The Guns of Navarone” on the tv again, so put your feet up and try to stay awake.

Christmas tree lights switch on. 6.30pm Friday 6th December.

As the festive season approaches, we look forward to switching on the lights to the village Christmas tree so please come along, sing some carols and enjoy some complimentary mulled wine and mince pies.

Kevin Woolnough – Tockenham Parish Council.

Defibrillator awareness training session

WHEN: 13th January 2025 at 14.00 hours – approximately 2 hours long

WHERE: Tockenham Village Hall

BOOKING: amanda@gillingham.me telephone 01793 852061

WHY: **Find out or refresh your knowledge on the use of a defibrillator and CPR. Either one can be a life saver!**

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Chair Diana Kirby – Overall responsibility – complaints, admin, queries, etc.

Vice Chair Kevin Woolnough – Highways.

Richard Walker – Environmental issues.

Julie Marshall – Park play area.

Nick Polkinghorne - Rights of Way.

In addition, we have a Parish Clerk who ensures legal procedures are followed and who is our financially responsible officer. We thank our recent retired Clerk, Rita Harris for all her hard work and welcome her replacement, Emily Bourne.

All our Councillors will need to step down April next year and re-apply for their positions if they wish to do so. Elections will take place in May which the Parish will have to fund.

Please visit our website www.tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

This is regularly updated and gives information on our meeting dates with agendas, minutes and useful information.

Tockenham Parish Council.

From Rosemary & Michael Knight

- A big “Thank You” to Mike Cook and Martin as well as all the distributors of this magazine. It’s good to receive it each month. *(thank you from the Ed and Mike)*
- Tockenham mobile library visits the village every 4 weeks. Next visit is December 3rd See notice board for further dates or contact Rosemary.
- We collect empty aluminium cans to raise money for the Wilts and Berks canal restoration. So if you have any please leave them by the garage door of Well Cottage.
- We have just been to see how the recently planted Tockenham trees on Mr. Webbs land are doing and its lovely to report the majority are doing well. Many thanks to Mr Webb and Keven.
- Michael and Rosemary wish everyone is Tockenham a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year. We will be donating to charity instead of giving cards.

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Parish Council Information.

The PC would like to give everybody an update on recent achievements and current projects.

The Parish Council lease the Village Hall and have approved damp proof work which has been organised by the Village Hall Committee.

In the Spring we expect the installation of the new passing bay opposite Rowley Copse which we hope will make the bend safer to negotiate for all who use the Highway. The addition of 'No Parking – Passing Bay' signs already installed has, we hope, improved the driving experience on the C120 between the main Village and the A3102. Despite having to contribute 25% of these the costs to Wiltshire Council (WC) for these projects we are pleased to announce that we hope to freeze the 'Precept' for April 2025 – 2026.

We hope completion of works at the A3102/Primrose Hill junction will make us all feel safer when exiting /entering the Village. The problem of the buses parking and taking breaks on the A3102 restricting residents view when exiting the C120 appears to have been resolved.

We negotiated a considerably earlier 'Verge cut' from WC than last year which has helped maintain the general condition of our Highways. Once again, we thank Andrew Gaisford for doing some of the work a little in advance.

We thank Steve Bennett for being quick to clean the roads after the Maize cutting and appreciate the 'mud on road' signs were up nice and early to warn us.

With help from Bill Moore, we have invested much time in working on the Tockenham Emergency Plan (All Parishes in Wiltshire are being encouraged to do this) which is now in its advanced stage. A support group to the PC has now been formed. Further details on this project will be announced soon.

For those not aware we have Five Councillors who together cover areas of finance and planning and also have their own individual areas of responsibilities.

Christmas Poets Corner

Father Christmas

Today I went to see Father Christmas at a store.
He had a red cloak and a long white beard and more.
Next to him was a sack of presents wrapped in paper,
And he gave me one to open later.

It was so exciting to see him and all the decoration,
Where was his sleigh and reindeer are they at the North Pole station?
Yes they are waiting to make their trip around the world so vast
So they can drop by every home and leave presents very fast.

I had been told to be good and put out a drink and mincepies
But getting to sleep took lots and lots of tries!
The thrill of waiting for him to arrive was so great
That I wanted to stay awake!!

Oh my goodness there's a stocking on my bed,
He has actually been and left me presents like he said.
Dashing downstairs there's parcels under the tree,
Yippee Christmas will be a happy time for me.

Here's wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year
Ernestine

Village Hall Christmas Coffee Morning

It's that time again!

Our Christmas Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday, 3rd December, from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Do come along and join us for coffee/tea, a mince pie and a good chatter. We will also be having our free, Christmas Raffle (no prize donations required this month thank you), so come along and see what you can win. We look forward to seeing you all.

Village Hall Coffee Mornings are held on the first Tuesday of every month from 10.30 am until 12 noon - do come along and join us, you will be made very welcome.

Benefice Services December 2024

Sunday 1st December

Communion, **Tockenham**, 10.30am
Communion, **Broad Town**, 10.30am
All Age Service, **Lyneham**, 10.30am
Advent Music, **Bradenstoke**, 5.00pm

Wednesday 4th December

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.00am

Sunday 8th December

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am
All Age Service, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am
Evening Service, **Clyffe Pypard**, 5.00pm

Sunday 15th December

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 10.30am
Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 10.30am
Christingle Service, **Tockenham**, 3.30pm
Carol Service, **Lyneham**, 4.00pm

Thursday 19th December

Carol Service, Broad Town, time tbc

Sunday 22nd December

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am
Carol Service, **Hilmarton**, 4.00pm

Christmas Eve

Carol Service, **Tockenham**, 6.00pm
Midnight Mass, **Hilmarton**, 11.00pm
Midnight Mass, **Lyneham**, 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 10.30am
Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 10.30am
Communion, **Broad Town**, 10.30am
Sunday 29th December, Communion, 10.30am

December Reflection

Christmas can be one of the most joyful but also the most stressful times of the year. It comes laden with expectation and, for some, overshadowed by difficult memories and emotions. It can also be a time where we have extra demands on our time and our busy schedules and to do lists seem increasingly difficult to balance.

But Advent, in the church year, is traditionally a season of reflection on hope, peace, love and joy as the arrival of the anniversary of Jesus's birth draws near. This is helpful to gain some quiet meditative time in which to savour the season and reflect on what it is about Christmas that really matters to you. Some practical and fun ways to slow the Advent season down comes from Stephen Cotterell's book, Let it Slow:

- Make a Christmas wish list of things to believe in and hope for.
- Dare to find some time to stop, be still and do something that gives you joy or comfort.
- Give an old friend a ring, spend some quality time with family or friends, make something Christmassy with others.
- Walk in nature and regain some childlike wonder at the beauty around.
- Have a conversation with someone you hardly know.
- Laugh, enjoy, approach things less seriously.

Blessings, hope, peace and grace be with our special community of Tockenham this Advent and Christmas.

Christingle Service 3.30pm Sunday 15th December

This is a fun, family friendly start to Christmas in support of the Children's Society who support children, young people and families throughout the UK.

Our church will be transported to long ago Bethlehem and there will be music, singing, making, storytelling, candles and sweets, finishing with a Nativity Scene to join in with.

Find out what happens to a star who couldn't wait to finish his training and becomes a STAR-nav that leads the wise men to Bethlehem. Children are invited to come dressed up as a character from the Nativity story. This will be followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.

Carol Service 6.00pm Christmas Eve

Everybody is warmly welcome to begin Christmas together by singing favourite traditional carols, interspersed by readings of the Christmas story. Our beautiful church will be candlelit and decorated for Christmas. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

