

# TOCKENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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October 2024

## **From the editor.**

It seems we're experiencing a clash of old ways and new. I'm talking about dog walking. Who would have thought 30 years ago that walking a dog in the countryside without a lead would be frowned upon, even illegal, along a country lane. But like smoking in public and wasting natural resources it is now a taboo. As we learn more from science and in this case the dangers of dog faeces the more we, as dog owners, should take this information seriously. Please read Dianas piece further on and take note. If you should see an untethered dog being walked or defecating without the owner "picking up" you might want to consider politely reminding them of the law or that local landowners in this area are requiring them to remove their dog waste for the sake of their livestock.

### **In an Emergency ..... Are you prepared?**

I am sure that you are all aware that Tockenham Parish Council are in the process of preparing an Emergency Plan in order to mitigate the impact of any emergency situation we may face as a village.

But, just food for thought, how prepared would your household be in the case of a problem?

Please see attached a suggested list of supplies that could just see you through a crisis. (This is not an exhaustive list!)

We will be contacting you all soon with more news on the Plan - but please do take time to go through the supply list.

Kind regards  
Diana Kirby  
Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

## **Parish Council – Highways Information.**

We are very grateful to and thank Andrew Gaisford for recently cutting some verges between the main village and the A3102. It seems an appropriate time to remind residents of Wiltshire Councils (WC) policy regarding cutting of verges in rural areas. WC state "on rural highways we start visibility splays on junctions and some bends plus along some narrow lanes from May and then throughout the Summer. Leaving the remaining verges uncut until September enables wildflowers to set seed and spread more widely in the verge. We recognise that some people like grass to be cut neatly whilst others prefer to let it grow to encourage wildlife, so while it is not possible to please everyone, we try our best to manage these differing views".

Please note that whilst the WC verge cutting season does start in September, we must manage our expectations as to how long it will take before Tockenham receives its cut, which last year was as late as early December although the programme was affected by the Autumn storms. I have however asked that due to the damage to the verges the late cut caused and the affect that had on our roads that consideration be given for an early cut.

**Drainage work** – The Parish Council asked WC to investigate this year as to why the gullies from the main village on the road leading to the Wessex sewage plant have been blocked. Following investigation, major works are required which will involve road closure in that area at some point during the Autumn/Winter.

**New Passing Bay** - The new formal passing place at Rowley Copse that we hoped would be constructed before the end of the year has now been delayed until May 2025. This has already been approved and funds allocated.

Kevin Woolnough – Tockenham Parish Council

## Harvest Supper Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.00pm

An opportunity to enjoy the fruits of the harvest with a delicious supper amongst friends and neighbours, followed by the traditional auctioning of produce with proceeds to the church and Swindon Food Collective. Tickets are £10.perperson from Julie Marshall (07956107239) and any offers of help or food to Sara Cutler (07789842330).

### Village Hall Coffee Morning

The next Village Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday, 1st October from 10.30 am until 12 noon - everyone welcome. This will be 'raffle month', therefore it would be much appreciated if you could donate a small prize from home. November's coffee morning will be held on Tuesday, the 5th.

### Important notice - Tockenham Parish Council.

Unfortunately, dog fouling continues to be a problem in the village, so, we would like to stress that it is illegal for dogs to be "off lead" near or on the highway. However well-behaved you feel that your dog may be, you are not in full control of its actions whilst it is running free. So, we are politely requesting that, when on the roads of Tockenham, your dog is kept firmly on a lead and that you pick up after it.

We would also like to remind everyone that the Play Area is totally out of bounds to dogs. There are clear notices to this effect - so please adhere to them.

We thank you for your co-operation in this.

Diana Kirby  
Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

## A3102 / Abattoir junction

Members of Tockenham Parish Council met up with our Wiltshire Councillor, Allison Bucknell, and 2 members of Wiltshire Council's Highways contractors, Atkins yesterday.

They explained, in detail, the changes that they intend to make to the junctions at Tockenham Corner and Tockenham Wick- with a view to improve safety at these locations.

You will find below more details of the A3102 scheme, and attached, a map of our changes.

But in summary, a) the lower junction on the RWB side will remain an entrance only junction. You will no longer be able to join the A3102 at this point. This will be done at the upper junction beside the abattoir.

b) They will be adding a "turn right" lane on the A3102 as you turn into Tockenham Corner from Lyneham, and c) also a "turn right" lane on the A3102 as you turn into Tockenham Wick from the RWB direction.

These extra lanes seem to be very sensible changes.

We are expecting work to commence on this quite soon.

Kind regards

Diana Kirby

Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

### Is it worth continueing ?

This revised version of the Tockenham Parish magazine has been running for 2 years. It was relaunched because at that time several parishioners weren't able to access social media and / or emails and the magazine was their window on the parish "goings on". However, there are now a plethora of village communication channels (WhatsApp x 2, Village email, Tockenham Web site plus the notice board) so do we actually need this magazine ?

Your views on this question will help us to decide the future of this publication. Please email [martin@marmoy.com](mailto:martin@marmoy.com) or text 07471890312 or drop a note through my door at 33 Greenway, Tockenham with your thoughts . Thank you. Martin

## **Benefice Services October 2024**

### **Wednesday 2nd October**

Communion, **Hilmarton**, 2.00pm

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Communion, **Tockenham**, 10.30am

Communion, **Broad Town**, 10.30am

Harvest All Age Service, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Harvest Evening Service, **Bradenstoke**, 5.00pm

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30pm

All Age Service, **Hilmarton**, 10.30

Harvest Evening Service, **Clyffe Pypard**, 5.00pm

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 10.30am

Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 10.30am

Harvest Service, **Tockenham**, 10.30am

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Harvest Service, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

Evening Service, **Broad Town**, 5.00pm

### **October Reflection**

#### **Seed Time and Harvest Time**

In this season of transition our thoughts turn to thankfulness for the harvest of foodstuffs but also the harvest of everything that we have experienced and enjoyed throughout the Spring and Summer.

A retreat community in Dorset begins each day with a gathering named 'Seed Time', which is a quiet, contemplative time where seeds or ideas for reflection for the coming day are shared. At the end of the day comes 'Harvest Time', a guided reflection on the things learnt, perceived or gained throughout the day. The principle of "Seed Time and Harvests" therefore is not just an agricultural concept but a profound spiritual and life principle deeply.

It teaches us about sowing with care, patience in waiting, the multiplication of blessings, reaping what we sow, and the spiritual application of this principle in our lives.

As we navigate this month when the nights grow darker and the weather chillier, may we be mindful of the seeds we sow in our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Let us strive to plant seeds that result in reaping a bountiful harvest of joy, fulfilment and blessings to warm and nourish our hearts this autumn.

### **News from St Giles**

#### **Bread Workshop Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm**

This year our harvest bread workshop will be based around Focaccia Bread Art, a fantastic way to celebrate all the bounty of the harvest! We will be making focaccia bread decorated with sliced vegetables and herbs to share at the harvest supper and to take home. Ingredients and instruction will be provided, along with refreshments. No experience is necessary as we will help each other and experiment together. This is a great opportunity to have fun, cook with others and let your creativity flow. Please book a space by contacting Mandy Cook at [mandy.cook@talktalk.net](mailto:mandy.cook@talktalk.net) or 07798801681

#### **Harvest Service Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30**

All are warmly welcome to share this service of celebration by giving thanks and reflecting on the Harvest, our farming community, the beauty of nature and our many blessings. Our focaccia bread art will be displayed, and the service will be followed by refreshments. Donations of food and toiletries for the Swindon Food Collective will be welcomed. These can be brought to the service or dropped off at the church in the preceding week. The collective are particularly in need of tins, jars, bottles or packets of: potatoes, meat, fish, tomatoes, soup, vegetables, fruit, puddings, pasta sauce, cereals, small jars of coffee, tea (40 bags), small bags of sugar (500g), biscuits, 1L bottles of squash, washing up liquid, toothpaste, laundry pods, 2 in 1 shampoo & conditioner, deodorants

#### **Churchyard Tidy Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am**

All help will be gratefully received to take part in a churchyard tidy up. We are particularly keen to weed the path, clear ivy from gravestones and tame some wilder parts of the churchyard. Refreshments provided.





