

TOCKENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Giles Church, Tockenham



March 2025

From the editor.

The 1st March is St Davids Day so congratulations to our Welsh friends. It also brings to mind Daffodils and of course when we see all the beautiful daffodils in the village many of us we be reminded of lovely “Aunty June” Strange. Most of the daffs you see by the roadside were planted in her memory.

Village Hall Coffee Morning

This will be held on Tuesday, 4th March from 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon in the village hall, to which everyone is invited.

If you are unable to join us in March, our next coffee morning will be on 1st April.

Thank you everyone for your support – and do come along and join us for coffee/tea, biscuits and a chat – we look forward to welcoming everyone.

Allotment News

By now you have ordered all you need for seeds
And prepared the ground by getting rid of weeds.
Already some sown veg are showing green.
Which gives a satisfying feeling when they're seen.
To my fellow allotment growers I wish you all the best
With crops so good that they will pass the yearly test!
Ernestine

Tockenham Village Fair - Saturday 21st June

This year we are anticipating being very low on support from the Village in running stalls, games, car park manning and gate entry. If you can spare some time to help the Fair Committee please contact Ali Bennett 07932 732861, Diana Kirby 07765 644704 or myself 07570 657986. The setting up and taking down requires a lot of time and a huge effort. So, if you can commit to helping with that it would be much appreciated.

Kevin Woolnough – Chair Tockenham Fair Committee.

Poets Corner

Weather

We have all kinds throughout the year,
With rain sleet and snow without a fear.
And then comes sunshine to make us feel bright,
Followed by thunder and lightning to give us a fright. ,

Clouds move silently overhead forming images so clear.
And gathering together ready to release like the start of a tear.
Small rain drops appear followed by some more,
The heavens open and torrential rain is the score.

Macs, wellie boots and umbrellas protect us from the rain,
And all the water channels flow down towards the drain.
Big puddles appear beside and across the road so fast.
That flooding is declared on a local radio broadcast.

At times we get a forecast that hail, sleet and snow will fall,
So hail is made of ice and can be large or small .
And sleet is a mixture of snow and rain which melts away.
Whilst snow layers present a picturesque display.

We can have tornados and gale force winds as well to bear
Causing great damage that makes us aware.
So our village has a back up plan for us all
Which comes into play at just one call.
Ernestine



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Live Music

Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall

Tuesday 4 March 2025, 2.00pm - 4.00 pm



Celebrating Age Wiltshire are delighted to present our musical trio Bob on guitar, Pete on keyboards & Duncan on lead vocals.

Come and enjoy a wide range of sing -along favourites for everyone's tastes from folk to pop at this lively music event.

Refreshments will be served after the concert from 3pm.

This is a free event, but booking is required.
Please contact Pat Hughes on 01793 772382, or email patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com

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www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/CAW

Tockenham Highways news.

For many years the Parish Council have attempted to address residents' concerns that vehicles travelling through the main built-up area of the village ought to be travelling at less than the advisory maximum speed limit of 30mph. Two metro count assessments over the last five years failed to determine that Tockenham were eligible for a reduction from 30 to 20mph. This had hindered our attempts to look at alternative measures to slow down vehicles i.e. a Speed Indicator Device. Speed bumps were also not an option as we do not have streetlamps. We enquired whether there was an option of being able to reduce the approach road speed limits to the main village from 60mph to 40mph. We were advised this was not something that could currently be considered.

Last Autumn, as a final attempt at a solution, we sought further advice from an expert engineer from the Wiltshire Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG). At his suggestion we would set up simultaneously three new metro counts at different sites on the road through the main part of the village. This took place in November. Results recently issued showed drivers reduced their speeds considerably down from 30mph showing that in their view the reduced speed is what they consider to be safe and acceptable. The seven-day average speed of between 20mph and 24.8 mph mean that with these results the Parish Council could now apply to LHFIG for a 20mph assessment. The Parish Council will discuss this at its March meeting. Should it agree, a formal application will be submitted. An assessment would then be conducted with a quote for LHFIG approval. Tockenham PC would then need to accept the 25% contribution towards the cost before works can commence.

Managing our expectations I would hope that by the end of 2026 we will see a 20mph speed limit through the main built-up area of the village.

Kevin Woolnough – Tockenham Parish Council (Highways Rep).

Website Links

Tockenham Parish Council - Tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tockenham Village info - Tockenham.org.uk

Editor Contact – martin@marmoy.com

Benefice Services, March 2025

Sunday 2nd March:

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 10.30am

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

Wednesday 5th March:

Communion, **Hilmarton (48, Poynder Place)**, 2.00pm

Sunday 9th March:

Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 9.00am

Communion, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

Morning Service, **Broad Town**, 10.30 am

Sunday 16th March.

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 9.00am

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Morning Prayer, **Tockenham**, 10.30am

Sunday 23rd March

Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 9.00am

Communion, **Broad Town**, 10.30am

All-Age Service, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

Sunday 30th March

Communion for Mothering Sunday, 10.30am

March Reflection

March sees the coming of the spring equinox, this year on 20th March. It is the astronomical first day of spring where the length of the day is more or less equal to the length of the night. Lent extends through much of the month.

The word 'lent' means spring and may well have derived from the word 'lengthen'. In farming communities ploughing and sowing begins during a period in which stocks from last years harvest are low. So, the beginning of growth and hard work involved in preparing the soil and planting fits in with the traditional abstinence and spiritual growth of Lent.

Christians are called at this time, to read and reflect, to be patient and be contemplative. To embark on a spiritual journey, an inner pilgrimage, to connect with God and try to understand what their faith means to them and the world around them as the weeks pass towards Easter.

Whatever your personal faith our spiritual lives are, necessarily, bound up in the way we live. Just as there is a balance between the light and dark of the equinox, so we are more balanced if we pay attention to our outer and inner lives.

As we look forward to seeing the lengthening of the days, the brighter spring light and the signs of nature awakening all around us this March take time to enjoy and reflect.

News From St Giles

Interregnum

We said farewell to our vicar Rachma Abbott in February and are now in a period that is referred to as an 'interregnum'. This means that there is a gap between the ministry of the previous vicar and the start of a new ministry. It is a period of time when the church community thinks carefully about the ways in which God might be calling the Benefice. What are the most important areas to focus on and how we would like to maintain and develop our Christian community, support and outreach in the future.

This period will last at least for a year and perhaps longer. Meanwhile the services, pastoral care and missional outreach will be maintained by the Parochial Church Councils, the lay (not ordained) members of the church trained to lead worship and work pastorally, retired or voluntary ordained clergy as well as the Benefice curate who will continue training and serving with us. Overseeing and advising will be the Rural Dean, Jane Curtis, who is also the vicar of Royal Wootton Bassett.

Several meetings have already been set up by Jane for us to understand the next stage of the process and settle initial organisational issues. In future months next steps and progress will continue to be reported in this magazine.

Church Electoral Roll

Change is a central part of an interregnum. Decision making is shaped by the Diocese, the Parochial Church Councils and the communities of the Benefice. Every six years the Church Electoral Roll is formally updated and this falls in 2025.

The Church Electoral Roll is the parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the *civic* Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on *church* matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. Being on the roll allows you to shape decisions and have a voice about the church.

It is, however, not required for 'membership' of the church. The church welcomes everyone who would like to worship, visit or support the church in any way.

If you are already on the Electoral Roll you will be contacted to see if you would like to continue being on it. If you are new to the village or have just not thought about it before please contact Ruth Phillips or Mandy Cook.

Church contact: Mandy Cook 01793 853504

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