

TOCKENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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St. Giles Church, Tockenham

February 2025

From the editor.

Well, we're off and running into the new year. If you're anything like Wencke and me you'll be glad that the (relatively) warm weather has kept the boiler quieter than usual for this time of year thereby keeping the heating bills less painful.

We should start to see a slight lengthening of the days during February which gives a glimmer of hope for better days to come.

Village Hall Coffee Morning

This will be held on Tuesday, 4th February from 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon in the village hall, to which everyone is invited. We will be holding our first raffle of 2025 and it would be much appreciated if you could donate a small prize from home please – thank you.

If you are unable to join us in February, our next coffee morning will be on 4th March

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.

Self Resilience.

Well, Tockenham has certainly been shown the importance of being self-sufficient over the last couple of months! More flooding and several power cuts to endure - even on Christmas Day!

So, just a gentle reminder to get armed with batteries, power packs, water etc. (Refer to the list from the November magazine.) and, just an added thought -why not try a Camper or Car Kettle that you can plug into the adapter in your car. At least you are guaranteed a cuppa!
Stay safe everyone.

Diana Kirby
Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

They are also a great source of energy for the emerging queen bumblebees.

It is thought that it was pilgrims who first brought the bulb to our shores and the first known cultivation was in 1597. However, it was the Victorians who enthusiastically planted them in churchyards and cemeteries as a symbol of purity and hope.

In many of our churchyards around the Benefice as well as in the woods, verges and hedgerows you will be able to see clumps of snowdrops as you walk along. Perhaps prompting reflections around strength and fragility, the circle of seasons and life, the nature of joy and hope and the wonder of creation.

Church contact: Mandy Cook 01793 853504

Have a chuckle – it helps

Have you heard about the guy who stole the calendar?! Well, he got 12 months

Why did the car get a flat tire? Because there was a fork in the road!

Evening news is where they begin with “Good evening,” and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

I was at the park wondering why this frisbee kept getting bigger... and then it hit me

My wife and I laugh about how competitive we are. But I laugh more.

Benefice Services, February 2025

Sunday 2nd February:

Communion & Rachma's leaving service, **Hilmarton**, 11.00am
Followed by Bring and Share lunch at the Community Rooms
Hilmarton.

Wednesday 5th February:

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

Sunday 9th February:

Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 9.00am
Communion, **Tockenham**, 10.30am
All-Age Service, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

Sunday 16th February.

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 10.30am

Sunday 23rd February

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am
Communion, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am
Morning Prayer, **Tockenham**, 10.30am

February Reflection

As we move into February and the days seem to lengthen a little, we often start to look around for signs of growth and spring. In these days of climate change this does often seem to arrive earlier and earlier. One of the first flowers to emerge is the snowdrop, often to be found in naturalised clumps in our churchyards. With their shy but beautiful heads bending towards the earth and their delicate colourings, markings and petal shapes they always seem a sign of hope and wonder reminding us of the power and promise of creation.

Snowdrops have many different local names, some of them being: dew drops, Eve's tears and February fair maids. In the Middle Ages Candlemas Day (2nd February) was the day when everyone in the Parish brought their candles to church to be blessed and snowdrops were gathered to decorate the church as a symbol linked of light, life and hope. In those times snowdrops were also used to treat headaches but still have a place in modern medicine in the research to develop a dementia drug.

Poets Corner

Childhood Memories

My early memories on our farm
Is one of joy which was so calm.
Lots to watch and explore each day
It was a hive of activity by the way.

Going into a really big shed later in the year
And tickling the cows tummies without any fear.
Leaving my footprints on the rolled land to see
Then jumping between dried mud in our pond by the tree.

Exploring a shallow stream in wellie boots so clean
To seeing owlets in their nest with eyes sharp and keen.
Playing amongst the bales of straw in the barn
And sitting on the tractor seat pretending I was in command.

Collecting chicken and ducks eggs each day
And being around at harvest time to smell the fresh cut hay.
Searching hedgerows to see the birds nests and lots more
Like fields of wild flowers and butterflies by the score.

Waking to the sound of the cockerel crowing
And dad on the tractor mowing.
Mooing cows, bleating sheep and dogs barking all the way
This was the beginning of each blissfully happy day.

Village Hall Events

A few dates for your diary -

- Saturday 22nd February - Games Evening
- Saturday 15th March - Bingo
- Saturday 12th April - Greek Night (including food!)
- There will also be a village walk in May and a Summer Event in August.

More details to follow on all events.

Village Hall Committee

Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner unveils new Police and Crime Plan to enhance safety across the county

Wiltshire's residents can now download a refreshed strategic policing blueprint for the county as the Police and Crime Commissioner unveils his latest police and crime plan. Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 runs until April next year. PCC Philip Wilkinson is ensuring the next plan is readily available to the public to show how Wiltshire Police will continue to deliver policing across the county from 2025-29.

The new plan - which reflects detailed consultation and engagement with residents, operational advice from policing, local stakeholders and commissioned services - aims to tackle key safety challenges while ensuring an effective, efficient, frontline policing service which is highly visible, protects the vulnerable and encourages greater trust and engagement with communities.

The four strategic priorities of the Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 include:

1. **A Police Service that meets community needs** – emphasising responsive and visible policing with a focus on public trust.
2. **Reducing violence and serious harm** – proactively tackling domestic abuse, sexual violence, and serious organised crime and violence.
3. **Tackle crimes that matter to local communities** – including anti-social behaviour, rural crime, and road safety.
4. **Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice** – ensuring victims feel supported throughout the justice process.

The plan sets out how Wiltshire Police and the OPCC's commissioned services for victims will continue to contribute to Making Wiltshire Safer, such as investment, where necessary, to improve 999 and 101 response times, increased visibility in all communities, especially rural ones, and a comprehensive package to tackle serious violence and reducing knife crime, alongside enhancing satisfaction among victims of crime.

Got something to say or ask ?

Each month we print stuff which people have sent in so we, the burghers of Tockenham, are made aware. But we also like to include just ordinary observations and things of interest as well. So if you've got something you'd like to tell us about or get off your chest then why not email me or drop a note through my letter box and we'll try and include it. Want to buy or sell something but don't do the smart phone WhatsApp thing ? here is your channel. martin@marmoy.com

Website Links

Tockenham Parish Council -
tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tockenham Village info -
tockenham.org.uk

