



Aynho
The Apricot Village

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2014



Are you one of those who
sends a Valentine?
Perhaps one or two -
without a name?
Is it, to you, a little game!!



Why not send one with name
love and kisses
Even is it is just to the "Mrs"!!



If you love them why not tell
them so,
It could mean so much you know.

ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2014

AYNHO-CROUGHTON-EVENLEY-FARTHINGHOE-HINTON-in-the-HEDGES with STEANE

Sunday: AYNHO 11.0am Communion
February 2nd (Sidespersons: Mrs.Grey Mrs.Pusey)
Presentation of Christ Farthinghoe 9.30am Communion
Hinton 11.0am Family Worship
Evenley 6.0pm TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday: AYNHO 9.30am Communion
February 9th (Sidespersons: Mrs.Bellamy. Mr.Leigh)
4th before Lent Croughton 9.30am Communion
Evenley 11.0am Communion with Baptism
Farthinghoe 10.0am Family Worship
Hinton 6.0pm Evensong

Sunday: BENEFICE 10.0am at EVENLEY
February 16th & Pizza Praise at Evenley 4.30p.m
3rd before Lent

Sunday: AYNHO 11.0am Matins
February 23rd (Sidespersons: Mr.Sutton Mr.Cheney.)
Croughton 9.30am Communion
Evenley 11.0am Family Service
Farthinghoe 6.0pm Evensong
Hinton 11.0am Ccommunion.

Home Communion Monday 24th 10.30am 15, The Square
Bible Study : Monday 10th 10.15am The Bothy
Bible Chats Wednesday Jan.29th 7.30pm & Friday 7th Feb. 10.0am both @ The Rectory.
Prayer Group: Thursday 13th 2.30pm 15, The Square
Church Cleaning : Thursday 20th 9.45am onwards
Choir Practice Friday 21st
Bell Ringing –Tuesdays at 7.30pm 1st Evenley 2nd & 4th Kings Sutton 3rd Tuesday Aynho

From the Parish Registers: 19th December
Holy Matrimony: Victoria Eleanor Napier Copas – Alistair Robert Lumley South

St.Michael's Christmas Collections.
The cash collections for Katharine House Hospice and the charity "Crisis" amounted to £382.30. £200 has been sent to each charity.Thank-you to you all.

Information about the life of our church or baptisms or wedding enquiries from our **Rector** - Revd.Simon Dommett Tel:01869 810903.Email:the.revd.simon@gmail.com
Sign up for our weekly service news and updates with "Pews News" on the subject line or just write in the message and be put on our weekly mailings.
Church Wardens: Graham Gibbs 01869-819727 Anthea Cowley 01869-810629

Items for March by Monday February 10th to
SYBIL at 32, Roundtown. Tel: 01869 810692 E-mail: syban@btinternet.com
Vol 576

RECTOR'S LETTER

Over Christmas and January we have celebrated the Good News of our Lord's birth. And now in February we can celebrate the exciting news that our Benefice of villages is to have a new curate in the summer. A curate is in simple terms a parish priest in training. In the past our Benefice has trained several curates and it is exciting that this tradition will continue. Our assistant curate will be Shemil Mathew, who is currently an ordinand, studying in Oxford to finish his Theology degree in the summer.

He will then be ordained by our Bishop to be a deacon, this is normally the first step in the Anglican tradition to priesthood, but it can also be a permanent role as well. In the Anglican or Church of England tradition people are first ordained Deacon, then priest and finally Bishop if they progress that far. Shemil Mathew is 31, married with two children and is looking forward to coming and serving and learning among us. In his training we will all have a role to play so that he becomes an effective parish priest in the church. Please pray for Shemil and his wife Becky over the coming months as they prepare for this next step in their lives. Revd Simon Dommatt

TAIZE SERVICE back on Sunday February 2nd

Come and experience the atmosphere of Taize worship 6pm at St. Georges Evenley. The **Taizé Community** is an [ecumenical monastic order](#) in [Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France](#). It is composed of over a hundred brothers, from [Protestant](#) and [Catholic](#) traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by [Brother Roger Schutz](#), a [Protestant](#). The community has become one of the world's most important sites of [Christian pilgrimage](#). Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation. They have developed a unique style of quiet worship and prayer that you can come and experience.

CANDLE PRAYERS Returns for February

simply means your local church will be open from 7:30-8:00pm, lit with candles, giving you the opportunity to come and enjoy the peace of these special places. You may want to light a candle for somebody or a situation, or just sit on your own for a few minutes.

At 7:30 there will be a short opening prayer for those who want to join in followed by a time for personal space, then at about 7:50 there will be a short quiet closing prayer for those who want to join in.

You are invited to come for as much or as little as you like, I just want to offer you some peace and space for prayer, private reflection or just enjoying the beauty of the place.

10th February Monday **St. Michaels, Aynho**
18th February Tuesday **Most Holy Trinity Hinton-in-the-Hedges**
26th February Wednesday **St. George Evenley**

March Dates for your Diary

Shrove Tuesday 4th March

The Rector and his wife (Simon and Heather) invite you to come to an Open House and Pancakes at the Rectory, Aynho Court, Croughton Road, Aynho, OX17 3BD. Please feel free to drop in any time from 6pm to 8pm and sample freshly cooked pancakes and Rectory hospitality. Warning of advanced numbers welcomed but do just drop in if you can. Looking forward to seeing you, Simon & Heather 01869 810903

Quiet Day.

In the busy rush of life getting some quiet can be hard to come by, yet we all need space and time to reflect and get our breaths back. I invite you to join me for a day of quiet reflection and refreshment on Monday 31st March (10am-4pm approx) at Stanton House, near Oxford. There are twelve (12) spaces for the day at a cost of £22 (payable on the day) includes refreshments, lunch and afternoon tea. Please let Simon Dommatt 01869 810903 or Carrie O'Regan 01280 702300 know if you would like to book a place ASAP. Plenty of lifts available just let me know, Simon

CAROL SINGING ON THE GREEN

A very big thank you to everyone in the Village who came along to join in this event on a very windy Christmas Eve. Again the children thoroughly enjoyed it – particularly letting off steam in the Village Hall afterwards – and I hope the grown-ups did too!

May I also thank those of you who helped with the event and add an extra thank you to The Cartwright Hotel who kindly donated those tasty mince pies.

The amount generously donated to the Children's Society was **£144.52**. This amount will provide much needed support to help children from all sectors of society look forward to a brighter future.

Deborah Gibbs The Children's Society Hon Local Secretary



OUR CHURCHYARD

A kindly reminder to all those who put flowers on graves. PLEASE if unable to take home cellophane wrappers, plastic bags, pot plants or glass jars – please do not put them in the green bin – they go in the BLACK Bin. The church bins are the same as our home recycling bins, so please keep us out of trouble with the Council. Thank you

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

You do not need to be a regular church-goer to arrange flowers in church. If this is an art you enjoy, or even wish to put flowers to remember a birthday or anniversary, then why not contact JENNY on 01869 819377 for more information.

For your MUSICAL DIARY - FIORI MUSICALI are once again bringing their sacred Baroque Music to St. Michael's Church on Friday **16th May**.

Further details on the programme and ticket purchases to be advised next month.

ST.MICHAEL'S ANNUAL CHARITY SUPPORT – "WORLD VISION"

World Vision is the world's largest international childrens' charity. It brings real hope to so many children suffering terrible hardship through wars, famine and natural disasters. Poverty, conflict and disaster hit children harder than anyone. Many children have no one to turn to for help having lost both parents and often their siblings. It is in response to this that World Vision work, in order to help children in dire circumstances and those living in poverty, where staff live and work alongside children and their families, helping to change it for good. Many children have now found sponsors who, by donating each month enable the sponsored child to receive a decent education and whose family are encouraged to become self sufficient by growing their own vegetables and rearing chickens and goats.

ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH sponsors a boy, KAGISO, who lives in an area of South Africa called Kodumela. Over many years our sponsorship has enabled Kagiso to attend school, with enough money to also buy food and clothing. He has benefited greatly from this and says that eventually he would like to become a doctor.

Last year St. Michael's also supported World Vision by sending a donation to help the families suffering after the Philippines Typhoon disaster.

Finally a quote from "World Vision" - Our Faith.

"World Vision's Christian identity underpins everything we do and we are committed to following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ in his identification with those who are poor, vulnerable and forgotten.

Pat Stubbs.

What happens on Wednesday nights in your Village Hall

A.R.M.S. (Aynho Recorded Music Society) Wednesday February 5th 7.30pm



At our December Meeting a wonderful programme was presented by Douglas, who began the evening with The New College Oxford choir singing “Torches” by Joubert and Harold Drake’s “In the bleak mid-winter”. In contrast we listened to Elgar’s “Intro and Allegro for Strings”, John Tavener’s “The Lamb” and the Sonata No.1,2nd,3rd and 4th movement by Leos Janáček. This was followed by Mozart’s “Piano Concerto No.24”, Saint-Saens “The Swan”, sung by Jack Topping’s treble and the Albion Band played “The Postman’s Knock” which brought the first half to an end.

After refreshments, which included mince pies, we heard excerpts from Handel’s “The Messiah” which was portrayed by DVD and featured Kings College Choir and the Brandenburg Concert Orchestra. A most enjoyable evenings entertainment. **Contact: Bob Mann Tel:810264**

Photographic Society Wednesday February 5th 7.30pm

Meet at the Cartwright Hotel – do come and join us.

Peter Sheasby will give a presentation on “Wild Flower Photography”

Contact: John Branton www.adandd.co.uk.



Gardening Club - Wednesday 12th February .8.00pm



Tony Clear will be coming to give us an illustrated talk about the Wildlife we may find in our gardens – a light-hearted look at the many and varied visitors we may come across. This is the first talk he will make at the Gardening Club but he comes with a great deal of gardening knowledge having been involved in horticulture for over 45 years. He was Assistant Gardener at Spetchley Park Gardens for many years and more recently has been the gardener at Brook

Cottage Gardens. We look forward to an interesting evening.

We had a good turn-out at the January meeting and would be delighted to encourage more new and returning members this month. Do come and join up. (The Membership is £5.00 for the year and 50p on the evening. Guests are most welcome - £1for the evening)

.Any queries please get in touch with **Annabel Bellamy (810847) or Kath Arnold (811868)**

Women’s Institute – Wednesday February 19th 7.30pm

This will be an OPEN MEETING (gentlemen invited) with non-members paying £2.50.

The speaker is Jeremy Gray speaking on the subject “**Food in art**”

Your tea hostesses are Ms.June.Alsford & Mrs.Lis Mann.

Contact: Barbara Watkins Tel:811152



Aynho History Society – Wednesday February 26th 7.30pm

Speaker: Mr.Pete Chivers- “Nothing much happened in Bicester apart from.....!??”

Contact: Rupert Clark Tel:810603 ru.clark@btinternet.com .

Peter Cole Tel:811261

THIS NEWSLETTER is issued by ST.MICHAEL’S CHURCH and printed by

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WINTER LUNCH CLUB

On Thursdays in the back room of the Village Hall 12.15pm-1.30pm
Dates in February Thursday 6th, 13th (half term), 20th and 27th February



The Winter Lunch Club provides a warm, friendly place to meet for a simple home cooked lunch in the back room of the Village Hall on a Thursday during the winter months. All are very welcome. After expenses (hire of village hall and ingredients) any profit will be shared between St Michael's Church, Village Hall, tennis court on the Playing Field and Myeloma UK.

Amanda Limb

DO YOU USE HEATING OIL?

If you do, then perhaps you might like to join the Aynho group which has been registered on www.oil-club.co.uk by Pippa Clark. There is no membership fee, it is easy to join, just go to www.oil-club.co.uk, find The Aynho Heating Oil Club on the register and ask to join. You need your own email address as you effectively open your own account within the group. Although there are many other such clubs, we have found it simple to use and there are savings to be made even if a relatively small quantity of oil is ordered as The Oil Club buys in bulk putting orders from the same postcode/area together. They find the best price once they have sufficient orders going to one area. The more people who join, the greater the saving and faster time between placing an order and it being delivered. All necessary information is given on the website: www.oil-club.co.uk

Amanda Limb



AYNHO QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT – Aynho Village Hall

Saturday 8th March 7.30pm doors open 7.15pm Licenced Bar
MAXIMUM 4 persons per table. £10 per person includes meal & quiz
Tickets available from:

- Michael Johnson, Blacksmith Hill.(Tel:01869 811175)
- Charlton Post Office
- Park Draw Club Collectors

All proceeds towards the **Aynho Sports & Recreation Association (ASRA)**

Adderbury Village Morris Men ___ **Want to be part of a great local tradition?**

Adderbury Village Morris Men, as seen at the annual Day of Dance and on stage at the Cropredy Festival and featured in the film "Way of the Morris", are recruiting new dancers from Adderbury and local villages. Practice sessions for beginners will start shortly. No previous experience necessary

.Interested? Contact John on 01869 811741 for more information.

T.J.PERSONAL TRAINING at AYNHOE PARK

One to one and small group training available
Within the stunning House & Grounds of Aynhoe Park.
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Contact: **TREVOR** 07876 337752 or
trevorgjoseph@gmail.com www.tipersonaltraining.com

Library Van

Friday February 7th
11.40—12.00 at The Butts

BIODIVERSITY GROUP

February is seeing the days getting longer so why not find the time to visit a local nature reserve. We are very lucky in Aynho to have a variety of reserves on our doorstep. The reserve in Farthinghoe is a former landfill site. This small, amazingly diverse site consists of developing woodland, open grassland and ponds. Information can be found at: <http://www.wildlifebcn.org/reserves/farthinghoe>

The reserve at Ardley Quarry is a rich mix of different habitats including scrub, woodland and grassland.

Information can be found at <http://www.bbwt.org.uk/reserves/ardley-quarry>. However, although further afield, the wonderful Otmoor, information on <http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/o/otmoor/> has many winter visitors and is to be highly recommended at this time of the year. A small group from the Aynho Biodiversity Group visited in January and were rewarded with sightings of hares, short eared owl, water fowl and a spectacular starling roost.

February is an excellent time to view many species of geese and duck before they return to their summer breeding grounds in the north. Don't forget your camera, as you may be rewarded with a wonderful sunset!

Much closer to home, look out for the female peregrine falcon which has been seen hunting water fowl on the flooded fields between Aynho and Clifton.

Bird of the Month

Blue Tit

Blue tits are easy to recognise, with their blue cap and yellow breast. The sexes are similar but the female is paler and the young have yellow cheeks instead of white. In February both birds start looking for nesting sites choosing anything from a hole in a tree, a nesting box, pipes or letter box. The female makes the final choice of site and builds the cup shaped nest from moss, dead leaves, spiders' webs, wool and down. She may also add aromatic herbs such as lavender, mint and curry plants which research shows reduces the number of bacterial species living on the chicks. Young in these nests grow faster, have a higher proportion of red blood cells and a better survival rate. The female then lays 7 to 13 eggs which she incubates while the male feeds her. He also defends the territory around the nest thus protecting the available food they will need for their chicks. Blue Tits eat mostly caterpillars and seeds but in springtime they also feed on pollen, nectar and sap, and in the autumn on berries. They are one of the most agile birds, and will entertain for hours by hanging upside down from feeders, branches, etc. They are noisy, sociable and inquisitive birds. Their average life span is 2 - 3 years with the longest life span known in the UK being just over 9 years.



Did You Know?

- The yellowness of a male blue tit's breast is an indication of the number of yellowy-green caterpillars he has eaten, and a brighter breast is more attractive to females.
- In winter, family flocks join up with other tits as they search for food. A garden with four or five blue tits at a feeder at any one time may be feeding 20 or more.
- It is not unusual for a single bird to feed the chicks in the nest at a rate of one feed every 90 seconds during the height of the breeding season.
- Blue tits used to open milk bottle tops for the cream. They stopped when semi-skimmed milk became popular!
- Blue tits are very protective of their young and will hiss and bite anything invading their nest earning them the nickname of 'Little Billy Biter'



AYNHO HEALTH WALKS – THURSDAY MORNINGS

Aynho Health Walkers held a lunch to celebrate their second anniversary on 16th January.

The walks are increasingly popular. There are three walks each week. All three start at the sports pavilion at 10.00 am on Thursday mornings. **The Long walk** lasts about 2hrs and covers approximately 6 miles. Leaders Brian Croft, Keith McClellan and Ian Wilson. **The Short walk** lasts up to an hour and a quarter and covers approximately 3 miles. Leaders Kathy White, Nigel Porter, Sue and Derek Hales.

The Track walk covers as many laps of the track in the sports field as the walkers feel able to do.

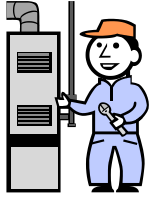
Leaders from short walk leaders

All walkers return to the pavilion for tea or coffee and a cake or biscuit and a chat. All walks have trained and qualified walk leaders and back up leaders. Other qualified leaders are available should they be needed. Leaders have emergency kit with them and risk assessments have been carried out on all the walks. If you want to enjoy some regular exercise, lovely countryside and friendly companionship come to the pavilion at 10.00 on a Thursday. No charge, no pre-booking, just stout footwear and warm clothing.



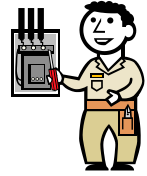
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PILATE CLASSES
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 Contact: **ANGIE**
 01295-2588551 or 07756 689327
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