



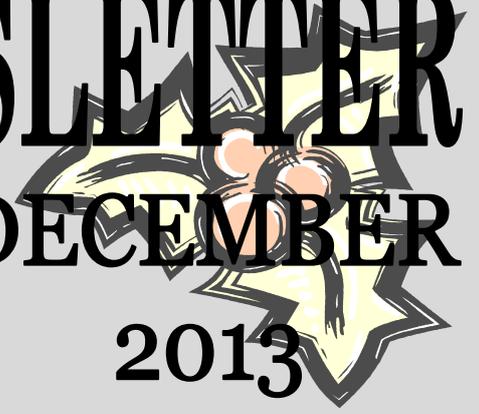
Aynho

The Apricot Village

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2013



It's not the tinsel or the glitter

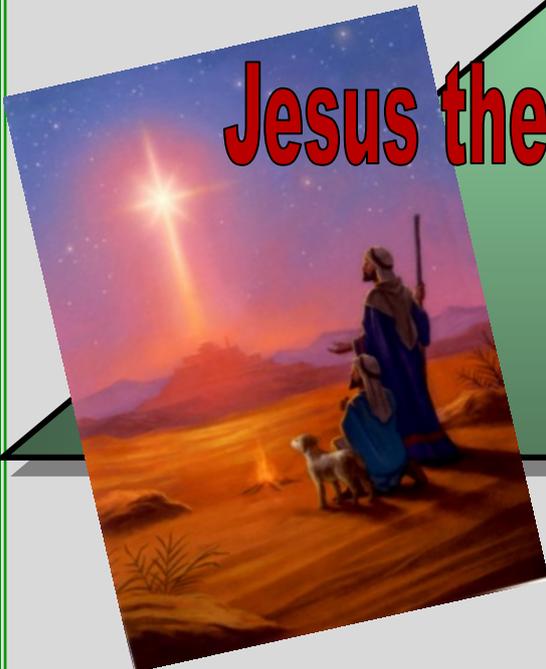
that makes our Christmas Day

The wise men and humble shepherds

show us the way

They followed a Star and a Babe did find

Jesus the Saviour of all mankind



ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2013

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

Sunday: **AYNHO 11.0am Communion**
December 1st (Sidepersons: Mr Cheney Mr Croft)
Advent 1 Farthinghoe 9.30am H.C. Hinton 11.0am Family Worship
Evenley—Benefice TAIZE Service 6.00pm

Sunday: **AYNHO 9.30am Communion**
December 8th (Sidepersons: Mrs Pusey Mr Leigh)
Advent 2 Croughton 9.30am Communion & 4.0pm Christingle Praise
Evenley 11.0am Family Worship Toy Service (see note)
Farthinghoe 10.0am Family Worship

Sunday: **BENEFICE at Evenley 10.0am**
December 15th **Hinton CAROLS at 6.0pm**
Advent 3

Sunday: **Communion at Croughton 9.30am**
December 22nd **CAROLS at 3.00pm Evenley**
Advent 4 **4.30pm Croughton**
6.00pm Farthinghoe
AYNHO 5.0pm (Sidepersons: Mrs Bellamy.Mrs Grey.
Mr Cheney. Mr Sutton)

CHRISTMAS EVE **AYNHO — Carols on the Green 4.30pm**
Farthinghoe CRIB SERVICE 5.0pm
Hinton MIDNIGHT MASS 11.0pm



CHRISTMAS DAY **AYNHO 11.0am Communion**
(Sidepersons: Mrs Kirby. Mr Leigh.Mr Sutton)
Croughton & Farthinghoe 9.30am & Hinton & Evenley 11.0am

Sunday **BENEFICE at AYNHO—10.0am**
December 29th (Sidepersons: Mr Croft.Mr Cheney)

Home Communion at 15 The Square—to be announced

Bible Study: Monday 9th 10.15am @ 4 The Butts **Prayer Group:** Thursday 12th 2.30pm

Church Cleaning: Friday 20th 9.45am onwards **Choir Practice:** Friday 20th 6.30pm

Bell Ringing—3rd Tuesday 7.30pm **Wedding:** 19th December 1.0pm & Christmas Services

PARISH REGISTERS: Burial of Ashes: 16th October Irene Margaret Reason

Holy Matrimony: 2nd November Charlotte Parker & James Morrell

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 January by Wednesday December 11th to SYBIL at 32 Roundtown

Tel: 01869 810692 E-mail: syban@btinternet.com

Vol 574

Rector's Christmas Letter

"Christmas comes but once a yearAnd when it comes it brings good cheer."

These words, used in a traditional mummer's play sum up for many the spirit of Christmas, a time of cheer and encouragement.

For those not familiar with mummer's plays, they are an old rural form of street theatre telling stories of heroes and death and resurrection.

To me, the lighting up of Christmas trees, the laying of our Christmas Cribs,

The gatherings together of family are times of cheer and encouragement.

It cheers and encourages me when our communities get together in a spirit in good will for all, when the old are cared for and the stranger invited in.

When we hear again the incredible Christmas story, as we gathered together to share in the singing of Carols to celebrate Christmas in our communities.

This may all be a bit rosey eyed for some, those who don't get invited in, for those where there is no time or room. For those who will be sleeping under canvas or on street corners. But even those things remind us of Jesus' birth, born in a stable because there was no room in the inn, and then soon after his birth, his family were force to flee to Egypt fearing for their lives becoming refugees. So let us not forget them in our celebrations.

The true Christmas, away from the piped carols and glitter of the high street store may seem very remote to many, yet for others the circumstances couldn't be closer and the glitter of the high street a joke.

But I hope and pray that as the Christmas lights shine out from our homes and churches into the darkness, they will be signs of hope and encouragement and of Christmas cheer to all who see them and maybe in our good will we might invite them in to share in this most precious time. For Jesus came to invite everybody to share in the celebration, we may only hear of shepherds, angels and wisemen in our carols. But the invitation today is the same as it was then, it is for you as much as for me to come and see the wonder of the Christ child, the saviour of the world.

Happy Christmas One and All

Simon

Evenley Toy Service 8th December Evenley

'We shall be collecting toys, games and books for the Children's Centres in Banbury again this year. Any donations which are new or nearly new in good working order would be very welcome. The centres mainly support families with children up to the age of 5, though many will have older brothers and sisters.

Our gifts are used as Christmas presents and for use in the centres all year.

If an item needs a battery please do put one with it and we are not able to accept any soft toys.

Please bring your gifts to Evenley church for the Family Toy Service on 8th December at 11am or contact Carrie on 01280 702300. I shall be delivering the toys on the Monday immediately after the service. Thank you Simon

ST MICHAEL'S CHARITABLE GIVING

Each year we support a number of Charities.

At Christmas: Carol Service and Christmas Day our collections go to our neighbouring Katharine House Hospice and Crisis. What does Crisis do?

Alone, lonely and no home! Crisis supports those in this unfortunate position, not only at Christmas but all year round, giving:

A warm welcome and good company. Three nutritious meals on Christmas Day. A chance to shower, freshen up and get clean clothes. A health check and treatment from doctor, optician and dentist. Advice on housing and employment and any additional problems. All year round services for training and support.

The Childrens Society— "Carols on the Green" see separate note.

WHAT'S ON



AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Ian presented the November programme featuring a variety of interesting lesser known works with an intriguing and reflective reference in the second half to the conflict of war. The first half featured

Rachmaninov's 'Symphonic Dances' followed by songs by Mendelssohn and Puccini sung by Angela Gheorghiu. The haunting sounds of the Clarinet Concerto by Spohr and Saint-Saens Piano Concerto ended the first half. Walton's 'Spitfire Fugue' and Elgar's 'Nimrod' played by the Black Dyke Band was followed by the 'Armed Man Mass for Peace' and 'Luminosa' by Prizeman. An altogether imaginative programme. Next meeting December 4th at 7.30pm.

Contact: Bob Mann 810264

PHOTGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Our next meeting is on December 4th when the Society's founder Philip Rigby will give a presentation 'From beginners to R.P.S. Accreditation' and on January 8th all our members are invited to show 'My best image of 2013'. Both meetings are at 7.30pm at the Cartwright Hotel. Everyone is invited, do come along you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Contact: John Branton www.adandd.co.uk



GARDENING CLUB

Happy Christmas to you all.

You can now put your tools away until the New Year!



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It's CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!

Friday December 6th

Contact: Barbara Watkins 811152

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

Return to *TODAY* for Christmas Festivities.

See you all in the New Year

Contact: Rupert Clark 810603 ru.clark@btinternet.com Peter Cole 811261



LINE DANCING - Do come along and join us on a Monday afternoon 2.0—3.0pm. We are a small group and beginners are welcome.

Contact: Carol on 810346



BELLY DANCING for BEGINNERS!

Learn the elegant art of Egyptian dance. Suitable for women of all ages, shape and sizes. Excellent for core conditioning, all round toning, confidence building, fun and friendship. Classes in Aynho Village Hall Thursdays 7.30—8.30pm. £24 for 4 week course or £7 per class. **Contact: Imogen**

07801 966198.

Imogen@phonecoop.coop or facebook [imogenwheaver.bellydance](https://www.facebook.com/imogenwheaver.bellydance)

BIODIVERSITY GROUP

December has seen the arrival of our winter visitors – fieldfare, redwing, siskin and brambling may well be spotted in your garden, and if you are fortunate, a waxwing may provide a striking addition, particularly if you have planted rowan or hawthorns. It is essential that bird feeders and tables are meticulously cleaned at this time of the year. You may use a mild disinfectant, but always wear gloves and do not bring the feeders indoors. Needless to say, wash your hands thoroughly when you have finished cleaning.

However, do not forget that water is just as essential as food for birds, therefore make sure that bird baths have clean water on a regular basis, and if it looks like a sharp frost, place a ball in the water then remove it in the morning to reveal the unfrozen water.

This is also a time when shrubs can be pruned and cut back, but remember to leave some fruit on trees, such as the occasional apple, as these will provide valuable food for our birds.

Bird of the Month

The Brambling

The brambling is a finch whose plumage changes considerably between summer and winter. In the winter (which is when you may be lucky enough to see one) the male and female look very similar. They have a black head, orange breast, white rump with mainly black upper parts mingled with orange and at first glance can be mistaken for a chaffinch. They arrive from Scandinavia to as far afield as Western Siberia from mid-September and stay until March or April. They eat mostly seeds and berries (beech mast is a particular favourite) moving further south when their food source is exhausted or making use of feeding stations in gardens. They breed between April and June. The female builds a deep cup shaped nest and lays between 5 – 7 eggs, which she incubates for 11 – 12 days. Both parents then feed the chicks on a diet of insects until they fledge 13 or 14 days later. The maximum recorded life span is 8 years and 7 months but it is thought they can live to over 14 years.



Did You Know?

- They are the most highly migratory of all the finches.
- In winter this bird forms vast flocks wherever its food is particularly abundant.
- The largest recorded gathering of any bird in the world was when over 70 million bramblings roosted in Tun, Switzerland in 1951.
- The brambling has also been called the Cock O' the North and the Mountain Finch.



WINTER LUNCH CLUB

In the back room of the Village Hall 12.15pm-1.30pm

December dates: Thursday 5th, 12th and 19th December 2013

On Thursday 19th December we will probably use the Main Hall to allow for larger numbers.

There will be Christmas goodies to eat including mince pies and mini Christmas cakes, for children there will be hot chocolate and Christmas biscuits to decorate.

NO lunch on 26th December 2013 or 2nd January 2014. – back again on **Thursday 9th January**

Other January dates in next Newsletter and on Village Hall Notice Boards. Amanda Limb



A MESSAGE from KAY

I am just letting villagers know that I intend to take a year off from village activities and the Café in 2014. Various events of late have made me rethink my priorities and I need to spend more time with my family and elderly relatives. I will still be managing the Pavilion bookings, however, all other events will have to be run by someone else, I'm afraid.

I hope to be back in 2015. If anyone is interested in taking over anything please let me know on 01869 810019. My grateful thanks to all those who have helped me over the past 13 years,

KAY ANDERSON

FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

A note to warn walkers and dog owners

It is that time of year again to expect to hear bird scarers. These are a necessary part of farming to prevent pigeons from feeding on newly planted crops. They will only go off in daylight hours and could be going from now until March.

Also could dog owners be reminded to keep dogs on a lead at all times when there is livestock present in fields. Dogs can frighten even a small amount of livestock in a field and it is important to remember this when enjoying the countryside.

Contact James Belcher on 01869 811860, Farming Representative

Dog fouling

APC have received several complaints recently about dog fouling. Please clean up after your dog. We have many bins in the village so there is no excuse not to.

APC are discussing the problem with SNC and would like to remind you that a fine is possible if you are caught not cleaning up.

Street Doctor

Please ensure that any hazards or issues within the village such as pavement and road repairs clearing blocked street gullies etc are reported to:-

NCC Street Doctor. This can be done online at -

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/streetdoctor/Pages/Step1.aspx>.

The more people that complain about these things, the more likely it is that something will be done.

Contact details

Sadie Patamia is the Parish Clerk and can be contacted on Mondays and Thursdays from 3pm – 6pm on 07887548774 or aynhopc@gmail.com.

The postal address is 25 Brackley Road, Croughton, NN13 5PP, or you can find us on Facebook and Twitter (@aynhopc)

OXFORDSHIRE AGE U.K. “TODAY!”

Based at 5, White Lion Walk, Banbury. Want to let everyone in Banbury & District know what they can do to help elderly people locally. See POSTER in Village Hall.

ROTARY CLUB – BANBURY “A FESTIVAL of CHRISTMAS MUSIC”

at St.Mary’s Church on Saturday December 14th 4.30-6.0pm.

Banbury Symphony Orchestra will feature music from the film “The Snowman”

Refreshments available. Tickets Adults £6. Children £3.



POST OFFICE don't forget service for December.

Tuesday 24th to Monday 23rd & Tuesday 31st to Monday 30th.

Opening times the same. Please use your Post Office as much as you can – Christmas post-ings, stamps etc.

MEDICINES from Deddington Health Centre

Thank you on behalf of the Centre and patients of Aynho to all the weekly volunteers

who have brought the medicines to our homes during 2013. Also thank you to those who have responded to be new volunteers for 2014.

POPPY APPEAL. A big thank you again for the generosity of all who contributed to the Poppy Appeal

this year. We raised £640 through our house-to-house collectors and in the Cartwright Hotel.

Contributions at the Remembrance Day Service on Nov.10th amounted to a further £175.

Wonderful generous support. Thank you to all the collectors this year. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a collector for next year please contact Andrew Bellamy 810847 The more collectors means smaller patches to be covered by all.



CREATIVE DIVERGENCE

Lis would like to thank the people of Aynho for supporting her Art Exhibition held in the Village Hall. £500 was given to two charities from the donations, raffle, teas and commission on sold works. I think you will agree this is an excellent outcome.

Lis Mann 01869 810264

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0775668927

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**This NEWSLETTER is issued by ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
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CAROL SINGING ON THE GREEN

Tuesday 24th December 2013



Meet 4.30 pm
(outside the Cartwright Hotel)

Come and join us for a festive sing-a-long.

ALL WELCOME

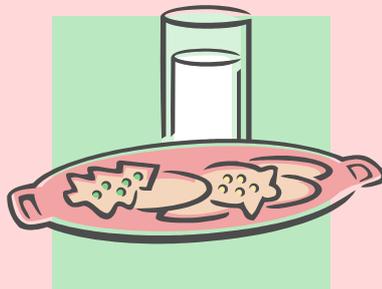
(Children must be accompanied by an adult)

**Finish in the Village Hall for
complimentary seasonal refreshments.**



All donations in aid of Children's Society

Thanks to the Cartwright Hotel for sponsorship



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