



Aynho  
The Apricot Village

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2017



*Spring really is  
just around the  
corner!!*



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**ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE**

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2017**

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

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**Sunday:**

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

4<sup>th</sup> before Lent

**AYNHO 11.0am Communion**

(Sidesperson: J.Pusey)

Farthinghoe 9.30am HC Hinton 11.0am MP

Evenley 6.00pm **TAIZE**

**Sunday:**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**

3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent

**AYNHO 11.0am Communion**

(Sidesperson: A.Bellamy)

Croughton 9.30am HC Farthinghoe 10.00am FW

Evenley 11.0am HC Hinton 6.00pm ES

**Sunday:**

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**

2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent

**BENEFICE at FARTHINGHOE**

**10.0am**

**Sunday**

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday before Lent

**AYNHO 11.0am Communion**

(Sidesperson: T.Sutton)

Croughton 9.30am HC Evenley 11.00am FW

Hinton 11.00am FW Farthinghoe 6.00pm ES

**PCC Meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **in the Village Hall**

**Home Communion**

to be announced 11.00am 15 The Square

**Bible Study Group**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Mrs.Kirby, 4,The Butts

**Prayer Group**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm 15 The Square

**Church Cleaning**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 9.45am .....onwards

**Choir Practice**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 1.45pm in Church

**Bell Ringing** Tuesdays 7.30pm Evenley 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Sutton 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> **Aynho 3<sup>rd</sup>** Croughton 5<sup>th</sup>

**Forthcoming:** Women's World Day of Prayer – **3<sup>rd</sup> March** 2.0pm St.Michael's Aynho.

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**Information** about the life of our church - baptisms or wedding enquiries from:

**Revd.Simon Dommett** Tel:01869.810903 [Email@the.revd.simon@gmail.com](mailto:Email@the.revd.simon@gmail.com)

**Assistant Curate:** Revd Shemil Mathew 07401 587151 [revshemil@gmail.com](mailto:revshemil@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 Warden:** Graham Gibbs 01869 819727

Items for March 2017 by or before Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to:

Sybil at 32, Roundtown Tel:810692 Email: [syban@btinternet.com](mailto:syban@btinternet.com) Vol.611

or any comments re Newsletter to Sybil or Rev.Simon Dommett.

**This Newsletter is issued by ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH AYNHO  
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## **Rector's Ramblings for February**

Last month we looked back to give thanks for the past year and to look forward to the year to come and reflect on what God might be asking of us. At the Midnight Service, Shemil our curate, shared the news that for him the future was in his new appointment as the chaplain for the Oxford Brookes University. This means he will be leaving us on 12<sup>th</sup> March which is much earlier than anticipated, but we pray that God will bless him in this new service for the kingdom in the coming years. More details of Shemil's leaving will appear in next month's news letters.

For the parishes, life will go on much as usual. In March we will start our preparations for Easter with our Lenten observances. Lent has traditionally been a time of self examination, prayer and preparation. In our parishes we will be holding our Lent Cuppa and Chat or Bible study groups, where we explore, share and encourage each other in our faith. These groups are for everybody, you cannot know too much or too little, you don't have to have come before or to know your bible, everybody will find a warm welcome. If you have any questions this is a place to start looking for answers.

As part of my preparation I have been given a book called Dethroning Mammon written by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. ISBN 978-1-4729-2977-8 I haven't read it all yet, but the first couple of chapters have already started to raise a few questions. In the book Justin, who had a career in industry, reflects on the role that money and wealth has on our world images. He reflects that we give value to those things that we can see. That the people that we see around us we value more than those we don't know on the other side of the world. One of the phrases that struck me was a quote from archbishop Helder Camara who said, "when I feed the poor they call me a saint; when I ask why they are poor, they call me a communist". The quote reflects the difference between the seen and unseen. Justin reflects that we need to see the world through Jesus' eyes to value people and things as Jesus does.

Justin then goes on to suggest that we value what we can measure. That if we can measure a person's wealth, then we value them, and further more he suggests that what we can measure then can control us. He looks at the power of economics and our financial system and the way that our lives become controlled by this. Inflation, depression, sales figures, profit, loss, living wage, interest rates, the best deals, Martin's bargains... This can be quite a challenging thought and certainly gives me something to think about.

This is also the time of year when we begin to think about the structure of the church, namely the PCC or Parochial Church Council. These are elected members of the church congregations who have a role in running the church with the church wardens. PCC members serve for three years and church wardens are elected on an annual basis. For the correct running of the church these structures need two churchwardens and six PCC members. These members will be elected in March and April, but now is a good time to think who you want to represent you in the coming year, or maybe could you be the representative for others? What value do we put on service, those who have served us and what value serving others brings?

### **Mark's Gospel chapter 10 verses 43-45**

*Jesus said, "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

### **Charity Soups**

Do you have a charity you support? Do you like home soup making? Would you like to put the two together? During Lent (March and April) on Friday lunch times at the Reading rooms in Croughton. Various people are offering home made soups and bread with tea/coffee and sharing any money made between the Reading Room (now with its new heating system) and the charity of their choice. If this sounds like you then come and talk to Rev Simon for more details. If you just want to enjoy a good home cooked meal come along and eat. Fridays in Lent 12:30-1:30pm.



## CAROLS ON THE GREEN 2016

Thank you to all those who came out on Christmas Eve to join in our very well attended annual carol singing.



Our particular thanks go to those musicians who endured the cold wind. The total raised for 'The Children's Society was **£141.92.**

St.Michael's Church -

Christmas Charity Collections:

**CRISIS - £250.00 & Katharine House Hospice - £250.00**

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### BIODIVERSITY GROUP

The Big Garden Bird Watch helps build up a picture of garden wildlife across the UK. This year it is on **28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January**. Why not join in and be part of the world's largest wildlife survey!

#### Bird of the Month: The Dunnock

The dunnock is similar in size to the house sparrow with a light and dark brown streaked upper body, plain brown tail and a blue-grey head and breast. The black bill is finer than that of a sparrow and when on the ground it moves in a jerky way often flicking its wings and tail. It does not breed in pairs but in groups. The most common is two females to two males but it can also breed in groups of up to three males and three females. The female builds a cup shaped nest in dense shrubs and hedges and lays 4 – 6 bright blue eggs which she incubates. Both parents then feed the young often assisted by the other male birds. It is mostly a ground feeder searching for insects, beetles, ants and spiders in the leaf litter although in autumn and winter it will also eat berries and seeds. The dunnock is the preferred host of the cuckoo. Chaucer made notes on this referring to the dunnock as hegesugge which means 'flutterer in the hedges'. They can have 2 – 3 clutches a year and live for about 8 years.



#### Did You Know?

- It has a variety of names including Irish nightingale, hedge sparrow and hedge accentor (which means one who sings with another).
- The name "dunnock" comes from the Ancient British *dunnākos*, meaning "little brown one".
- Although they look like a sparrow they are in fact more closely related to the thrush.
- During the 1970s and 1980s their numbers dropped by 50% (possibly caused by changes in woodland management) and although their numbers are beginning to recover, they are not stable yet so have been given the conservation status of Amber.

# **ALL FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT**

## **Why don't you come along to the Village Hall Management Committee**

**A.G.M - Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (Committee Room) and see how your Village Hall is managed. All welcome.**

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### **ARMS (Aynho Recorded Music Society). 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm Village Hall**

Our first meeting of 2017 was hosted by Lee Simmonds and what an entertaining evening of nostalgic music he gave us! The programme was an eclectic mix of old favourites plus some lesser-known works. All were carefully researched and interspersed with amusing background and anecdotes from Lee's long association with the music industry.

The programme kicked off with Calling All Workers and the Warsaw Concerto. It then branched out into works by Wagner (Bridal Chorus), Bizet (Torreor Song) and Beethoven (Hallelujah Chorus). Artists such as James Galway (Annie's Song) appeared alongside George Jones (He Stopped Loving Her Today), Dean Martin (Return to Me), Nat King Cole (I Remember You) and Matt Munro (Walk Away). A really comprehensive selection! There was something for everyone in the programme and this enjoyable evening was also supported by a number of new faces from Croughton and we hope they will come again. Thank you Lee.

At our next music night Keith Morgan will be the presenter.

**Contact: Bob Mann 810264**

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm at the Cartwright Hotel.**

At this meeting Paul Brewerton will give a presentation on "A short journey through Alaska and the Yukon". The February workshop on the 15<sup>th</sup> will be on "Basic Computing for Photographers (Window based)" All meetings at the Cartwright Hotel.

Everyone is most welcome to attend, just come along and meet us all.

**Contact: Paul Brewerton [www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk) Tel: 01295 276949**

### **AYNHO GARDENING CLUB 8<sup>th</sup> February Village Hall 7.30pm**

It was lovely to see so many of you for the start of our 2017 Gardening Club programme when Malcolm Moodie who was passionate about his subject – Orchids – gave us an interesting and colourful talk.

At our next evening on 8<sup>th</sup> February the talk is by Stuart Mabbutt and entitled 'Wildlife Gardening' and should be an interesting and thought-provoking subject.

For those of you who were unable to come to the meeting last month, we can renew your Membership card on 8th February; the annual subscription is £10. This covers the entrance fee for the evening talks. Guests will be charged £2. Do please encourage newcomers to come along and see what we offer; we are always delighted to welcome any new Members or guests.

**Date for your Diary:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Chris Beardshaw of Gardener's World fame will be talking at the school in Middleton Cheney. Details to follow.

**For any queries, please get in touch with Annabel Bellamy (810847) or any other Committee Members.**



**KNIT & STITCH & a CUPPA!** at 2.0 – 4.0pm. @ 2, Portway Gardens.  
February 7th and 21st

For information: **Contact: Glenwys Wormald**  
**Tel:810880**

### **AYNHO W.I.**

**15<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm Village Hall**

Our second talk of this new year is to be given by Jenny Wightman (daughter of WI member Jill Wightman) on “The Chain of Hope”. Jenny was a producer involved in TV documentaries “Who Do You Think You Are” and others, and on various trips overseas became very much aware of how others lived. Jenny finally became involved with this charity, which was founded by Prof. Sir Magdi Yacoub in 1995 following one already set up by the French after it was realised that many children were born with heart defects, which if not treated correctly could prove life changing if not fatal. Jenny has worked in their London offices and their centres overseas so will be able to give us full “hands on” details of all aspects of the work of this charity.

**Contact: Barbara Watkins 811152**

### **WRITER'S GROUP - Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> 10.0am – 12.30 Village Hall**

We had another entertaining read through of Pantomime Experiences.

Crossroads stories and a piece now on the website about Books & Libraries.

Well worth a read.

Next time “Excerpts from a Diary – true or fiction”

**Contact: Keith McClellan 810346 or via Community Page**



### **AYNHO HEALTH WALKS January 12<sup>th</sup> 2016**

It was five years ago today that Brian Croft led the first walking for health walk from Aynho. Since then the walks have grown and split into the three levels we have today. After each level completed its walk we all gathered in the Cartwright Hotel to celebrate the first five years. The long walkers had welcomed a walker new to our walks, Maureen. We all hope she becomes a regular. The rain held off for the first hour as we took the black path and the

footpath across to Lower Walton Grounds. The mud was quite thick on the boots by this time but as we passed round the back of the farm buildings there were enough puddles to wash most of it off. This was fine if you were wearing wellingtons. We took the track through the valley and up through the old stone pits to reach Charlton. By now it was spitting with rain. We continued down through the village and up through Rainsborough Camp before following the path out to the Charlton Road. We followed this to second crossing, walked down to the lay by and crossed the field to finish at the pavilion. It was now raining lightly but steadily. We made our way to the Cartwright Hotel where we had the most wonderful lunch with excellent service.

Health Walks start from the Pavilion each Thursday 10.0am to suit all tastes & fitness.

**Warm up afterwards with delicious refreshments in the Pavilion**

See village website for walk descriptions. New walkers welcome.

**Contact: Keith McClellan 01869-810346 or Kathy White 01869 810418**



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## AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY - 25<sup>th</sup> Jan: & February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm Village Hal

**Jan. 25th.** 'Brackley's History from the Iron Age to the Wars of the Roses' presented by Rosemary Leeper

**Feb 22nd.** 'What happened to Britain when the Romans left?' presented by Elaine Rawlinson

**Contact: Rupert Clark 07808 763261** [rupert.ds.clark@gmail.com](mailto:rupert.ds.clark@gmail.com)  
or Peter Cole 01869 811261 [petercole39@outlook.com](mailto:petercole39@outlook.com)



### WINTER LUNCH CLUB

Dates for W.L.C. during February in the back room of the village hall will be

**Thursdays: 2<sup>nd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Time: 12.15pm-1.30pm. .

If you would like any further information contact

**Amanda tel:01869 810341**



**CINEMA - Croughton Village Hall – Fridays** Doors Open 7.30p Licenced Bar.  
Next showings 27<sup>th</sup> January & 10<sup>th</sup> March.



We are getting closer – so hurry now to book your table at the  
**AYNHO QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Licensed Bar. Maximum of 4 in a team.

£10 per person – price includes Meal & Quiz entry.

Tickets available from:

Michael Johnson 27, Blacksmith Hill. [Mjohnson.deepdale@gmail.com](mailto:Mjohnson.deepdale@gmail.com) 01869 811175 and  
Kay Anderson, 11, Portway [kaynho178@gmail.com](mailto:kaynho178@gmail.com) 03301136008

All proceeds towards Aynho Sports & Recreation Association

### REMINDERS



Library Van:	At "The Butts" 11.30am – 12.00noon
Aynho Post Office:	Tuesdays 1.30 – 3.0pm. in Village Hall Back Room.
Refuse Collection:	Every Thursday – alternating coloured bins
Milk delivery:	Mondays -Wednesdays – Fridays from "Milk & More"
Daily Paper:	See Advert page.

If you have not already disposed of them please keep the postage stamps from your Christmas cards, and any you may receive throughout the year and drop them off to Marlene at 10, Portway Gardens, or Sybil at 32, Roundtown and they will be taken to Katharine House Hospice. Each kilo is worth £11.00. It does take a lot to make up this quantity but if we all do it every little helps! Also received - foreign currency.



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Phone 0330 113 6008 (Aynho landline) or [kaynho@lineone.net](mailto:kaynho@lineone.net) or find us on

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**It's good to talk.**