



Holly and mistletoe Trees all aglow

Candles burning Children yearning for presents and snow

Church bells ringing Carols singing



Baby Jesus to us JOY bringing





ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014

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

Sunday: **December** 7th

AYNHO 11.0am Holy Communion

(Sidespersons: Mrs.Pusey. Mr.Sutton) Farthinghoe 9.30am H.C Hinton 11.0am Morning Worship Croughton 4.0pm Christingle Praise **TAIZE Worship at EVENLEY 6.0pm.**

Sunday: December 14th

(Sidespersons: Mrs.Kirby Mr Leigh)

AYNHO 9.30am Holy Communion

Evenley 11.0am Family Toy Service Croughton 9.30am H.C. Farthinghoe 10.0am Family Christingle



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday December 21st

Avnho 10.0am Communion **AYNHO 5.0pm. Carol Service**

(SidespersonsMrs.Bellamy Mrs Gray.Mr.Cheney.Mr.Leigh) Croughton 6.0pm Carol Service. Evenley 3.0pm Carol Service Farthinghoe 6.0pm Carol Service Hinton 6.0pm. Carol Service

Christmas Eve

AYNHO 5.0pm Carols on the Green Croughton 3.30pm Family Carols. **Evenley 11.0pm Midnight Communion** Farthinghoe 5.0pm Crib Service

Christmas Day

AYNHO 11.0am Holy Communion

(Sidespersons: Mrs Kirby Mrs Pusey Mr.Croft) Croughton 9.30am Family Communion **11.0am All Age Service Evenley** Farthinghoe 9.30am Holy Communion Hinton **11.0am Holy Communion**

Sunday December 28th Benefice H.C. at Hinton 10.0am

Choir Practice	Friday	28 th /11 & 19 ^{th/}		
Home Communion	Monday	22^{nd}	10.30am	3 The Butts
Prayer Group	Thursday	11^{th}	2.30pm	15 The Square
Bible Study	Monday	15^{th}	10.15am	32, Roundtown
Church Cleaning	Thursday	18^{th}		nwards (with Christmas decorating)
Bell Ringing – Tuesdays at 7.30pm		1 st Evenley 2 nd & 4 th Kings Sutton 3rd Tuesday Aynho.		

Information about the life of our church or baptisms or wedding enquiries from our Rector -Revd.Simon DommettTel:01869.81090 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 Warden: Graham Gibbs 01869 819727 Items for January 2015 by Monday December 8th to Sybil at 32, Roundtown Tel:810692 Email: syban@btinternet.com Vol.586

Christmas Letter from your Rector

This month we will hear the words 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy Christmas ' many many times.

We will also be reminded about the Joy of Christmas in the message the angels gave. Now why do I mention this you may wonder, well a while ago the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, talked about the difference between joy and happiness in relation to the economic situation that we are in and many people's fears about Christmas. Would they be able to afford Christmas? Would it be a happy or Merry Christmas?

The thing that struck me about his words was the world of difference there is between Joy and Happiness. Happiness is like a passing emotion, you can be happy one moment and sad the next. Many people strive after happiness in their lives but because of its temporal nature, although people may catch hold of it now and then, they can never keep hold of it for long.

Joy on the other hand is a much deeper feeling and possesses the inner self. You can have a sense of joy even when things look bleak, it is almost like being an eternal optimist. And as I thought of happiness and Joy, I was reminded of the words of the angels when they brought 'joy to the world, the saviour comes, the saviour promised long'. They brought a message of Joy rather than happiness. They also brought the message 'do not fear, do not be afraid'. This message appears 365 times in the Bible one for each day of the year.

And so in this time of an uncertain financial future I would want you to be happy but much more I would want you to be joyful, full of the joy of Christmas, not all the commercial pressure to spend more for the economy, but the joy of knowing that you are loved and valued by the one who we remember at Christmas. Knowing the joy of loving somebody else, and knowing the value of any gift given is not dependent on the price tag.

So may we all this Christmas be thankful for what we have, in friends, family and health, rather than worry about what we have not or may not be able to buy. For surely the current economic situation reminds us all that you cannot buy joy or happiness with money.

So may you all find true joy at this time of year and have a Joyful and Christ filled Christmas. And I look forward to seeing you at the many Christmas and carol services this Christmas time.

God Bless Simon



Posada or Travelling Cribs Posada is a Spanish word for 'inn'.

Posada celebrations originated in Mexico where two young people would be chosen to dress up as Mary and Joseph. They would travel around their village telling people about the forthcoming arrival of Jesus, and asking if they would give him a room. Today we do not send two young children around the village, but we send the nativity figures of the Holy Family to visit your homes, also known as Travelling Cribs.

They are looking for somewhere to stay each night in December until Christmas

Travelling Crib: During December the nativity crib figures will travel around our village. These figures are very colourful and sturdy and suitable for all ages, even very small children. Please contact Helen Boswell to book the date you would like to welcome them into your home.

An invitation to children:

Please come to the Carol Service in Aynho church on Sunday December 21st at 5.0pm. dressed as one of the characters in The Nativity. If you wish to borrow a costume there will be a rack of clothes available in church on the evening, or contact Helen Boswell to collect a costume earlier. There will be an opportunity during the service for the children to lead worship around the Crib and to sing "Away in a Manger"

Contact: Helen Boswell Tel: 01869 810224.

POPPY APPEAL: How generous you are! Thank you for all the contributions to this appeal in what has been a special year of remembrance across the country. We have raised $\pounds 720$ through our house to house collectors covering the whole village and in our collecting point at the Cartwright Hotel, plus $\pounds 176.50$ from Sunday's church collection. Thank-you to all the collectors for their efforts. This year Aynho's contribution was up 10%.



"Live on to the memory of the fallen and the future of the living". If anyone would like to volunteer to be a collector in their part of the village please contact: **Andrew Bellamy 810847.**

What happens on Wednesday nights :

ARMS (AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY)

A most impressive programme was presented by Ian. He led us in a well structured and erudite manner from the Baroque to Classical and from there to the Romantic and finally to the Modern. He incorporated Palestrina and Allegri from the Baroque era with Mozart and Beethoven from the Classical period, followed by Verdi and Dvorak representing the Romantic to Shosatakovitch and Britten of the Modern. Many other composers were included and 18 items in all were played. Altogether a prodigious programme. Our next meeting will be December 3rd.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY -

The next meeting of the Society is on 3 December, when Anne Sutcliffe will give a presentation entitled 'Annie's land.' This will be followed on 7 January with a presentation by members of 'My best images of 2014,'and on 21 January there is a Workshop on 'Night time photography and long exposures.' All meetings are at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Please come along, everyone is very welcome.

Contact: John Branton www.adandd,co.uk

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB -

It was good to see so many of you at the AGM and final Gardening Club evening of this year. I will now look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 14th January 2015 for our January talk entitled 'This Gardening Year'. The talk will start at the earlier time of **7.30pm** but we will be ready to re-new your annual Membership prior to the talk.

In the meantime the Committee wish all the Members of the Aynho Gardening Club a Very Happy Christmas. With best wishes Annabel Bellamy

Contacts: Annabel Bellamy Tel:810847 or Kath Arnold Tel: 811868

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE – Christmas Party FRIDAY December 5th

Contact: Barbara Watkins Tel:811152

Next Knit and Stitch Tuesday 2nd December at 2 Portway Gardens, 2-4 pm. Contact Glenwys 810880 for details.

Forthcoming:

AYNHO QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT



(non-curry option also available)



Licenced Bar. Aynho Village Hall Saturday 28th February 7.30pm. Tickets available from Michael Johnson 27, Blacksmith Hill. Tel.01869 811175 – Charlton Post office & Park Club Draw Collectors. Maximum 4 in a team. £10 per person. Price includes Meal & Quiz Entry. All proceeds towards the Aynho Sports & Recreation Association.

Looking for a Christmas gift for your children? "Maddy's Companions" is a professionally published book of stories set in Aynho. The adventures of a group of toys who come to life. Written by the grand-father of Madeleine Lawson 7 Portway Gnds. £6 with £1 per copy going to a children's reading charity. Please contact Madeleine.



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PILATE CLASSES

Aynho Village Hall Thursdays 2.30-3.30pm Contact:ANGIE 01295-258851 or 07756 689327





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Careers Practitioner DBS checked. Careers Information - Advice & Guidance. 07842 230753 Tel: 01869 810040 Mobile



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For more information please call VANESSA MILLS on 07751 435805 or email vanessa@estervan.com

WINTER LUNCH CLUB

Thursday 4, 11 and 18 December 2014 in the back room of the Village Hall 12.15pm-1.30pm



No 'membership' required, anyone can come (young or old) and hopefully enjo home-cooked lunch in a warm, friendly place at very reasonable prices. Choose from soup, baked potato, another hot main dish such as Macaroni Cheese or Risotto, a hot pudding with custard, or a biscuit with tea and coffee. On 18th December we will have a few Christmas treats as this will be the last Lunch before Christmas. We then have a break over Christmas and will be back on Thursday 8th January 2015. The number of regulars coming to Lunch seems to have increased this year. If you plan to bring a few friends/family on 18th December or at any other time please let me know so that I can prepare enough food!



DEFIBRILLATOR FOR AYNHO – Along with WLC profit and some very kind donations, the amount raised towards the Defibrillator and Cabinet as at 14th November has reached £1,329.29. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported this fundraising so far. We have a little way to go to reach the target total

of approx £2,500 (defibrillator c£1,000 + external cabinet c£1,500) so if you would like to contribute please be in touch with me or Andy Anderson (Parish Council). Amanda –Tel:810341

From your Parish Council

Gigaclear - Ultra Fast Broadband for Aynho

The presentation by Gigaclear was held on 24 November. At the time of writing the village has nearly met its target of 30% of the residents registering their interest. However there is still time to do so - please visit <u>www.gigaclear.com</u> and register your interest which is without obligation. The new village website (<u>www.aynho.org</u>) will be kept updated with the current progress of this important project.

The Glebe to remain within The Conservation Area

South Northants Planning Committee visited Aynho on 14 November to consider the proposal that The Glebe and the new houses which form part of College Fields should be removed from the Conservation Area. After viewing both areas the Committee decided that they should remain within the Conservation Area. Thank you to everyone who sent in a representation to SNC.

Are you doing a Duke of Edinburgh Award??? If so and you would be interested in doing some volunteer work around the village please contact Sadie

Interested in being a Parish Councillor? APC have a casual vacancy. If you are interested in finding out more and joining us please contact Sadie

A new website for Aynho The new website is now live. Please go to <u>www.aynho.org</u> to see it.

Contact details: Sadie Patamia is the Parish Clerk and can be contacted on Mondays and Thursdays from 3pm – 6pm on 07887548774 or <u>aynhopc@gmail.com</u>. The postal address is 25 Brackley Road, Croughton, NN13 5PP, or you can find us on Facebook and Twitter (@aynhopc)

Aynho Parish Council take this opportunity to wish everyone

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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BIODIVERSITY GROUP—Plants of the Month: Holly, lvy, Mistletoe Holly

There are about 400 species of holly which can grow up to 15m in height and live for 300 years. It produces either male or female flowers but it is the female that goes on to produce red berries as long as there is a male within a 2 mile radius. A lot of wildlife rely on the holly tree. It provides dense cover and good nesting opportunities for birds, while its deep, dry leaf litter may be used by hedgehogs and small mammals for hibernation. The flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects, the leaves are eaten by caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly, as well as various moths while the smooth leaves found at the tops of holly trees are a source

of food for deer in winter. The berries are a vital source of food for birds in winter, and are also eaten by small mammals such as wood mice and dormice.

Enalish Ivv

English Ivy has dark green glossy leaves which have 3 or 5 lobes (like a maple leaf) on young stems and heart shaped on flowering ones. In September/October time it produces yellowish-green flowers in small clusters which are followed by ripe fruit from November to January. Ivy's late flowering season makes it a valuable source of nectar for many insects before they hibernate particularly bees and butterflies and the berries provide an abundant food source during the most severe winter months when there is little else to eat. As ground cover in woodland it greatly lessens the effect of frost and growing on trees it provides hiding, roosting, hibernating and nesting places for animals, birds and insects.

Mistletoe

Mistletoe has evergreen leaves which are elliptical in shape. It is a parasite living on trees and penetrating their vascular system sucking out nutrients and water. It is slow growing, however, and a healthy tree can usually cope with some mistletoe although it may weaken it. The most common host tree in the UK is the apple but poplar, lime and hawthorn are also used. There are centuries of superstition attached to the mistletoe. To the Ancient Greeks it was sacred while the Druids hung sprigs outside their doorways as a protection against thunder, lightning and other evils. In Norse Mythology, Baldr, one of their gods was killed

by a weapon made out of mistletoe. His father Frigg's tears became the pearlescent berries and he decreed that instead of being punished, mistletoe should become a symbol of peace and

friendship. Some think this was the origin of kissing under the mistletoe!

Did You Know?

 Holly: The use of holly as a symbolic winter decoration goes back in history to the Celtic peoples of Northern Europe, who decorated their homes with it during the time of the winter solstice, or Yule.

• Holly: Holly extracts have been used in folk remedies for dizziness and hypertension. Today, holly leaf preparations are used in alternative treatments for coughs, digestive problems, jaundice, joint pain, swelling, hypertension, and to boost heart health. But health experts note that very little scientific research has been published to verify the health benefits of these remedies, and that those pretty red berries are known to be poisonous if swallowed.

Ivy: Wearing a wreath of ivy leaves around the brow is supposed to prevent drunkenness!

• Ivy: All parts of the ivy plant are toxic to humans.

Mistletoe: Some skin cosmetics, shampoos etc. contain mistletoe though it is rarely mentioned on the main label. Look out for it in the list of ingredients under its scientific name 'Viscum Album'

Mistletoe: The proper etiquette for kissing under the mistletoe: **1.** The man can only kiss the girl on the cheek. 2. When he does so he removes one berry from the sprig. 3. When there are no berries left the kissing stops!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year











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THE BENBOW FAMILY would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the cards, flowers and tributes we were given when we lost our amazing son Terry so suddenly to meningitis on Sept. 30th We had lived in Aynho for 28 years so it felt right to have his funeral in St. Michael's church. The funeral had to be arranged at very short notice and the family were numb with shock, so we offer our heartfelt thanks to The Rev. Simon Dommett and The Rev. Frank Ultsch who took the service so beautifully between them, and helped along with Sybil to sort out the order of service and the hymns. The music, the flowers, the food, the signage, and the transport did not arrange themselves, and neither did we, so we thank everyone who stepped in and somehow made it all happen. The church was overflowing with love that day and we appreciate how lucky we are to have lived in Aynho and had been a part of that supportive community for all of those years.

Terry began 1st Fritwell Scouts as a beaver at the age of 6 and went on through cubs, scouts, venture scouts and eventually became a Scout Leader. Frank and Sheila Ultsch along with the other scout leaders became Terry's second family and were a great influence in his life. He rarely missed a meeting or a fundraising event and gave up lots of holiday and weekends to take the scouts on outings. They will miss him greatly as young Scout Leaders are hard to come by these days. Terry's last fundraising event was the collection at his funeral which so far has amounted to £800 giving a much appreciated boost to funds. Terry would be very proud and grateful for this gift to a very worthy cause.

We had a family discussion many years ago about organ doning so we all knew when the time came that Terry wanted to be a donor. I would recommend that all families do this so that they are aware of their loved ones wishes before they have to make a decision during a time of extreme emotion. Life goes on and even after death Terry gave the gift of life to six others through organ doning, and a gift of sight to two blind people through donating his corneas. We have been advised by the transplant team that all the transplants have gone well and some of the recipients have already left hospital and gone home. I wish with all my being that it hadn't had to be my son that died but, knowing that his last wish was granted, and a 30 year old woman with a new heart can now be a mother to her children, somehow makes it seem just a little less futile. It does not lessen the pain of losing a son, a husband, a brother or an uncle, but it does offer a glimmer of comfort. If any of you are thinking of becoming a donor please remember that Terry was only 30 years when he died suddenly so don't put it off until it is too late.

On behalf of Terry, his family and his Scout Group I would like to thank you all for your kindness, support, generosity and love. Yours truly Angie Benbow.

.St.Michael's Charities:

Congratulations to Jenny Pusey on raising £85 through sponsorship for her walk on "Ride & Stride" day in September.

During the month of December our charity support turns to three projects:

The Children's Society with Christmas Cards & Carol Singing on The Green.

Katharine House Hospice. (Collections at Christmas Services)

CRISIS at Christmas (Collections at Christmas Services)

An amount of £21.62 reserves a place at Christmas for a homeless person, giving them 3 hot meals, shower and change of clothing, hair cut and health check, plus advice on housing and employment etc. CRISIS also operates all year round.

CAROL SINGING ON THE GREEN

Wednesday 24th December 2014



Meet 5.00 pm (outside the Cartwright Hotel)

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

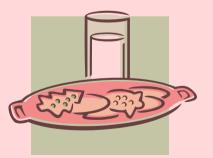
ALL WELCOME

(Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Finish in the Village Hall for

Donations in aid of Children's Society

Thanks to the Cartwright Hotel for sponsorship



This NEWSLETTER IS ISSUED BY St Michael's Church, Aynho and printed by HAMPTONS Estate Agents, Market Place, Deddington.