



Aynho

The Apricot Village

# NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2020



*Enjoy the peace of  
St Michael's Churchyard or ...*



*... sit and wonder at  
all the returned traffic!*

**Thank you for these kind  
donations that add to  
Aynho's ambience.**

## **Pastoral Letter July 2020: Rev Sue Cooper writes**

Hello to you all.

We have just passed the longest day of the year, and the best thing about this time of year for me is the long, light evenings. The annual rhythms are reassuring, but this has also felt like the longest year in history. So much turmoil in our everyday lives that it has been a struggle to keep up. This is where there is comfort in resting in the knowledge that God never changes. God is the one person we can look to and know that, whatever else is going on in the world, or in our lives, ultimately we are in God's hands.

I wonder how you are all doing individually. As lockdown restrictions lift there is more freedom for many of us, but this is not without some risk as Covid-19 has not disappeared. I am concerned however for the wellbeing of those who are still not able to mix in society due to their vulnerability, which hasn't changed. It has been incredibly isolating these past few months for all of us, but there will be many for whom nothing has changed and they cannot leave their house. Let's all be aware of them, and not leave them behind.

Our Churches are open for private prayer, and each Church has its own arrangements depending on ability to adhere to the regulations. I am thrilled that we are able to enter the buildings again, and welcome you all back.

The strange thing during lockdown has been how much we have come to realise that we have taken our Church buildings for granted. I am as guilty as anyone for often having said, "The Church is the people of God, not the building". But in these past few months of restriction, a renewed appreciation has developed in many folk for our Church buildings. It is no secret that Churches are places of profound peace, but what is less known to many folk is the feeling that is experienced, when you take time to sit in a Church; the feeling of the weight of the years of prayer and spirituality that has been absorbed into the very fabric and stones of the building; you really do feel God's presence in a way that is hard to put into words.

In the Church we have Sacraments, and a Sacrament is something that is an ordinary everyday thing that takes on Spiritual significance when it is set apart for God. So ordinary things like, bread, wine, water and oil become symbolic of something sacred. We all have things at home that have tremendous value to us, and which take on a significance far greater than the item itself because they have been given to us by someone we care greatly about. For example, a simple cup given or received as a gift comes to represent times spent over a cup of tea chatting with a treasured friend and so the cup becomes almost sacred; it's not that the cup is anything particularly special, it is what it represents. This is what happens with our Church buildings. They have been standing open in our communities for 100's of years and they represent the prayers and lives of the people all throughout those years, with all the history that has gone with them, and they stand as a Spiritual presence which holds a far greater significance than the Stones and mortar that hold them together. They are Sacred, and one can find great peace and encouragement after time spent in them.

Whether we are in Church or not God hears our prayers always, and that is a huge comfort to know. God bless you all,

With love Rev Sue.

***Deut 33.27 "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."***

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**Information about the life of Aynho church - enquiries from:**

**Rev. Sue Cooper** – [revsue.cooper@gmail.com](mailto:revsue.cooper@gmail.com) Tel: 01869 810903 or  
**Church Warden** - Graham Gibbs 01869 819727

**Items for July 2020 - before or by JULY 22<sup>nd</sup> please to:**

**Sybil at No.32 Roundtown Tel:810692 Email: [syban@btinternet.com](mailto:syban@btinternet.com) (Vol.651)**



## **Our Village Hall..... Entertainments**

### **AYNHO GARDENING CLUB 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm** **Gardening Club News**

Our July meeting was to be an evening visit to Primrose Garden in Steeple Aston to see Richard Preston's garden that he told us about in January. It is a great shame that we are unable to visit the garden this year but we have put it in the Gardening Club Programme for next year, so we all have something to look forward to on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021!



It is hoped that **A VERY DIFFERENT AYNHO GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW** will take place on the village playing fields on **Saturday 22nd August**. More about this in next month's Newsletter, on the Village Website and on the Aynho Community Facebook page. Watch this space.....

**Contact: Annabel Bellamy 810847**

### **WRITERS GROUP 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10.0am-12.30pm**

Once again this month we submitted our contributions online, read them on the day and sent our comments. There were some cliffhanger stories and vivid memories of "Stormy Weather" and similar efforts on "Love is in the Air". In July we will use the same method and write about "Life with Animals", and "Break Out". These will be due on Saturday 11th July.

**Contact: Keith McClellan 810346**

### **AYNHO W.I. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm.**

If you might be interested in joining the WI please telephone Barbara Watkins for further information.

**Contact: Mrs Barbara Watkins 811152**

### **AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY - Last Wednesday 7.30pm**

**Any queries to Peter Cole 01869 811261 or Keith McClellan 01869 810346**

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

Contact: Anne [Hunsley@msn.com](mailto:Hunsley@msn.com) [www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)

### **KNIT & STITCH 2.0 – 4.0pm 2, Portway Gardens.**

If interested please:

**Contact Glenwys on Tel: 810880 or Sybil on Tel: 810692**

### **HEALTH WALKS - usually each Thursday 10.0am from the Sports Field**

Up to date news will be placed on the Aynho Website.

**Contact: E-mail [kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com](mailto:kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com) or phone No. 810418**

## SCHOOL AT HOME



On March 25<sup>th</sup> I wrote my first blog post entitled “Teach me the way I should go”. In this little article I explained how, despite being a teacher before I was a priest, I felt entirely unqualified to supervise my son’s education at home. Three months have passed since I wrote that blog and I am now even more certain that this is the case.

Both my husband and I are deemed to be key workers, my husband is a police officer and presently works day shifts but I can work from home so we chose to keep our son

with me. From day one of “school at home” I joined thousands of others trying to do their job whilst helping a twelve year old to simplify fractions. You may not be surprised to hear, that I quickly discovered, it is impossible to do both these things well at the same time.

I have friends who home school their children and they are quick to point out that what us thousands of parents have been asked to do is not home-schooling. Real home-schooling involves huge amounts of time outside or out and about; at museums, in forests, socialising with other home-ed families. Parents who home-school are not finding this easier than those of us who usually send our kids to school.

What parents with kids at home all day are doing is actually some extreme form of parenting. And, in my opinion, if you have an only child it’s even more extreme. Because not only are you their “education supervisor” you are also their sole companion, day in day out, at least five days a week.

I came to the conclusion back in March that I wouldn’t be able to teach my son much but that he would learn *something*. I strongly suspect that when he looks back at this time, when he’s an adult with his own family, he won’t remember so much what *he* did as what *my husband and I did*. I still hope as I did back in March that he’d learn from us that it’s OK to be scared but not to be scary and that challenging times present us with the opportunity to learn something new. Three months on I am scared deep down that this time away from school has slowed his intellectual development. I feel sad that my decision to prioritise work sometimes has meant that I haven’t given his education the time it needed. But on the other hand these challenging times have presented us all with the opportunity to learn new things. I can now make videos and he can mow the grass. There’s more to life than simplifying fractions.

All of us can keep on learning and these times have much to teach us. If our children are to learn kindness, calmness and openness of mind, then we will need to show them how.

*“I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”*

*Psalms 32:8 New Revised Version (NRSV)*

(This article is contributed by Rev Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge, St Bees Priory, St Bees, Cumbria. She is also the daughter-in-law of Graham and Deborah Gibbs, residents of Aynho. We hope it resonates with some of you struggling parents!)

**Please note:**

**The Post Office** continues to run in the back room of the Village Hall on Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.30pm. There is a one way system set up to maintain social distancing for everyone's safety.

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**Office to Rent - Upper Aynho Grounds**

**Courtyard Office Suite 1 – 812 sq ft** Part of The Great Barn estate – a beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> century venue set in 250 acres between Aynho and Souldern.

These single storey former farm buildings have been converted into 4 individual eco offices, with natural slate roofs and timber, brick and stone facades. The interior is open plan with separate kitchen and WC's, as well as ample car parking.

**For further information, contact:**

**Jerry Stephenson 01869 810823 [jerry@adayinthecountry.co.uk](mailto:jerry@adayinthecountry.co.uk)**

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## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



The Church is now open for private prayer between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week until further notice.

Rev Sue says, "After conducting a risk assessment we have put measures in place for your safety and that of others who will come here. There is a very limited access and only a few pews are in use. Use the hand sanitiser provided.

Please adhere to the arrangements inside and above all think of your social distancing responsibilities – watch out in case someone else is in the Church – and if you sit down to pray please mark that seat with the "Seat Marker" provided – this helps the daily cleaning team to identify what has been used.

**Enjoy the peace and quiet for your visit. God always hears our prayers."**

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## THE FETE POP-UP STALLS

You may have noticed that on Friday afternoons, starting at 2pm, there are two Pop-Up stalls, one on Blacksmiths Hill and one in The Square.

These will continue weekly (**weather permitting**) selling bunches of seasonal flowers and produce (herbs, lettuce, raspberries, cakes, jams, chutney, elderflower cordial).



All proceeds go to St. Michael's Church, Aynho.

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