



Aynho
The Apricot Village

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020



DESPITE COVID
THE
HARVEST GOES ON!



**ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE CHURCH CALENDAR -
SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

September 6th Aynho Holy Communion 11.0am

September 13th Aynho Family Worship-Lay Led 9.30am

September 20th *No Service at St Michael's*

September 27th Aynho Harvest Thanksgiving 11.00am

Church Cleaning: Thursday 24th 9.45am onwards (more help always needed)

Information about the life of Aynho church -

enquiries from: **Rev.Sue Cooper** – revsue.cooper@gmail.com Tel: 01869 810903 or
Church Warden - Graham Gibbs 01869 819727

NB - Performing at Stowe School – August Bank Holiday in an Arcadian Opera one of our ex villagers and St. Michael's Church Choir Boy – Russell Grant.

Do you have any interesting “Lock-Down” tales to tell – if so, why not share them with our readers. We would love to hear from you – please send to Sybil at syban@btinternet.com

Items for October 2020 - before or by **September 22nd please to:**
Sybil at No.32 Roundtown - Tel: 810692 - Email: syban@btinternet.com
and any comments re Newsletter to Rector – Church Warden..... or Sybil.

(Vol.653)

This Newsletter is issued by:
“ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH” AYNHO

Dear Friends, what an interesting summer this has been. In Aynho some of the folk got very creative with their ideas as the annual Church Fete had to be cancelled. This did not stop them from thinking of ways to raise funds for St Michaels and they created 'Pop up' Fete' stalls, selling all manner of wonderful goods and produce, from cakes and jams to fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers; it really has been a treat. The hardworking folk have raised the huge sum of £2,500, which is incredible. A massive thank you goes out to all who have worked on this throughout the summer and thank you to all of you who have supported the events. But a special thank you must go out to Amanda Limb and Annabel Bellamy for all they have done to make this happen. Thank you ladies; it has been marvellous. You really are a pair of Saints.

As I write this letter I am just about to take two weeks annual leave. I am looking forward to spending some time in the Rectory Garden with my Husband Nic, and going down to London to visit my Mum, and my Brother and Sisters. Usually when I am on leave I take some days out visiting towns or cities, or other interesting places. This year, everything feels different and there are places we are not able to go still.

My Husband works at Stowe School, and last summer we had the pleasure of taking my Father in law and his wife for a visit to Stowe House and Grounds. I worked there some years ago too, and I was looking forward to visiting again. I had a very happy time working at Stowe, but the strange thing was that, it all seemed different to how I remembered it. I was now seeing Stowe as a visitor. We had a tour guide take us around to explain the history of the place, and it was as if I was seeing Stowe for the very first time. Although I had worked there and knew the place well, I was now seeing it through "new" eyes, and I was surprised and delighted. It made me think about revisiting other places to see what else I had missed. Revisiting places is a good thing, but it is also good to revisit our thoughts and ideas because, with the passage of time, things change; and we change as we get older too.

It greatly saddens me when I speak to folk who are not prepared to revisit their thinking about God, and the Church. Some don't believe in God and sadly some of them have had a bad experience of Church or Christians and so are not willing to 'revisit' them again. But what has surprised me even more than this is how many people I speak to who have made up their minds on preconceived ideas about Christianity. They are people who have had no personal knowledge or experience of God, or Church, or Christians to base their understanding on, and so they are basing their understanding and judgement on what they have heard, or been told by someone else, and even on television portrayals of Church and Christians, which are greatly misrepresentative. However, just like any other organisation or institution, the Church has changed greatly in recent years. It was not too many years ago that it would have been unthinkable for a woman to be a Priest or Bishop in the Church of England.... but now, here I am. Some folk I have spoken to sadly have a mental image of Church that involves the Vicar scowling at them from the Pulpit breathing threats of hell fire and brimstone, and they cannot conceive of a message of hope and love and grace that would bring joy and peace to their busy stress filled lives, and this is a great shame.

The thing is...God hasn't changed, and neither has the gospel of good news in Jesus Christ, but Church has changed; and yet there are still many people who are stuck with an idea of a Church that existed over 50 years ago. I guess the point I want to make from all this is....are you holding any preconceived ideas about God, Church, and Christians, that you could revisit in the Spirit of open mindedness? Or has something that happened in the past put you off, and given you reasons to hold onto ideas about God and Church that may be outdated and which could be revisited now?; because Church has changed, and you are a different person now too. This year so many things are having to be completely revisited and seen with 'new' eyes because things have changed. Maybe it's time to open your heart and mind to discover, or rediscover, the things of God, Church and faith for your life... and you would be most welcome to join us at any of our Churches.

God bless you, with love Rev Sue.

St. Michael's Church News

APCM

The postponed Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th September at 2.30 pm in St Michael's Church. It will elect church wardens and PCC members, receive all the reports for 2019 and discuss the activity of the church going forward into the next year during these COVID-19 times. Two metre distance will be kept at the meeting but please bring your face coverings too.

“POP-UP” STALLS

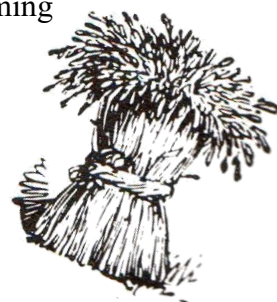
Over the past couple of months the Fete 'Pop-Up' stalls have taken place in Blacksmith Hill and in The Square. All the proceeds raised are for St. Michael's Church and through your generosity, £2,500.00 has been raised. A **HUGE** thank you to you all for your support.

FATE of the FETE

It was announced in early August that the Fete organisers have faced the reality of COVID 19 and have decided that the Fete cannot be organised and run in the grounds of Aynhoe Park on Sunday 13th September as had been made possible by James and Sophie Perkins. Despite the willingness of volunteers and contributors we know the safety of all Fete goers and providers could not be guaranteed nor managed easily enough – so, like all similar outdoor events we have cancelled it for 2020 and keep our fingers crossed that we can hold a Fete in June next year. The Church community is very grateful to all those who put so much effort into organising and running of the Fete stalls and activities and which raises the funds to support the St Michael's Church at the heart of the village. Thank you to you all – and to all who come and support, all those who bring family and friends, and all who donate, gift, and bake, make and cook. It is greatly appreciated. Fingers crossed that 2021 will allow the adventure and fun to continue.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The harvest thanksgiving service is at **11am on Sunday 27th September** - its purpose to thank God that the harvest is in from the fields and our gardens after a very different year - so warm and dry in the early months of lockdown and so wet and windy in what should have been our lovely, sunny summer holidays. Nevertheless we are the lucky ones and we have plenty. There are many people even in our locality who are not so lucky and indeed in Brackley many needy families and individuals depend on the food bank just to survive. So this year at the harvest thanksgiving service we are only collecting dry and tinned goods so that we can give it all to the Brackley food bank from the parish of Aynho. St Michael's Church will hopefully be decorated in harvest's typical and traditional beauty but whether coming to the service or not please bring your donations in bags or boxes so we can gather them all together that Sunday before delivering them to Brackley by the end of the month. If you plan to come to the service please come in your 'bubbles' and wear face coverings as they are mandatory in the church.



Our Village..... Entertainments

Aynho Village Hall

We are pleased to announce the hall will open on 1st September 2020. There are, however, major restrictions on capacity and other Covid security measures. Please contact the new Bookings Secretary Lorraine at bookingsaynhovillagehall@gmail.com for a copy of our current Covid policies and procedures which will also be on the aynho.org website under the village hall information. Please be aware that these are changing frequently so do check before you book so you are aware of legislation as the hall committee has a legal responsibility to comply.

As you may know, I have taken on the role of temporary Chairman. We have a new booking secretary Lorraine Sockett and a new maintenance person David Icke. Next we need to recruit a potential new treasurer. If you have finance, accounting or even just good Excel and internet banking experience we would love to hear from you. Maybe your circumstances have changed recently so that you now have a small amount of time to devote to our community? The role does not require a huge amount of time but the facility is a significant one for our village and we need committed villagers to help us ensure it remains viable and fully sustainable now and in the future.

Can I also ask if anyone is interested in volunteering on an ad hoc basis (not as part of the formal management team) to help us with grant applications, building projects or development work. For this you need not attend regular meetings.

We have taken the opportunity to undertake a few maintenance and decor jobs in and around the hall while we have been unable to use it fully and the new management team will be presenting a five year plan for discussion when we meet at the AGM on October 12th. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Finally it just leaves me to say, on behalf of the village, a very big thank you to the village hall committee officers who have recently stood down after many years dedicated service. In particular to Amanda Limb as bookings secretary, Keith McClellan and Doug Ward as former Chairs, Carol McClellan as Secretary and Amby Hitchcox as Treasurer. As agreed at the AGM in March, former trustees have stepped down but continue to represent their user groups. We would like to thank them for their time in attending meetings over the years and their support and we hope to see them again soon when life returns to normal. Please contact me, Andy Anderson on either andycrawf1954@gmail.com, my mobile 07768 294775 or landline 0330 113 6008 to discuss or answer any questions.

ARMS-All being well, 'We'll Meet Again' on Wednesday the 7th of October in the Village hall. Hope to see our loyal group there.

Contact: Bob Mann 01869 810264

Aynho History Society

We are still in existence but until the Village Hall becomes available for us we cannot meet in our usual manner. We hope that by October things may improve.

Contact: Peter Cole 811261

AYNHO WRITERS GROUP continue to send each other their contributions online, This month we had some wide ranging accounts of those teenage years including a fascinating story set in Belize by Barbara who has just produced a book of her childhood in Belize which we are all looking forward to. The other topic was anything involving masks and again some interesting stories. Having considered meeting again in the Village Hall we found it would not suit our activity so we will continue to email next month on "Heatwave" or "My very first job". We are also hoping to produce our usual book of our work for the end of the year.

Contact: Keith McClellan 810346

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB – Please See Back Page

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

We are pleased to announce that the Health Walks will restart at 10.00 am on Thursday 3rd September. Numbers will be restricted to a maximum of 6 people including a Walk Leader and everyone should meet outside the pavilion. The car park will be open as usual. Facilities will be limited until we see how everything goes. Unfortunately, as I write this I am unable to lead any walks but I have a great deputy in Dawn so the "show will go on" as they say. Any questions please feel free to contact me on 01869 810418 or kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com.

AYNHO W.I.

Yes we did finally have our annual Garden Picnic but sadly, as it was such a very wet and windy day, it had to be held in Val's splendid garage instead of her garden. Never to be deterred by the weather we had a splendid turn-out and thoroughly enjoyed the whole occasion. Of great importance though, we did present Barbara Watkins, who is leaving Aynho in September, with a garden voucher as our sincere thank-you for her very enthusiastic and successful Presidency over the last 20 plus years; also bunches of flowers were given, not only to Barbara but to Hazel Croft as well, as she is also leaving Aynho after many years with the WI and lately a Committee member. We all wish them well for their future moves and we are also happy to welcome Jill Wightman and Fiona Hughes as our new Joint Presidents.

Unfortunately this Covid 19 problem is still with us so there is nothing definite to report on future meetings though it is hoped that maybe some from the 2020 calendar will be able to make 2021 and there are still thoughts for the visits to Arlewas and Chatsworth, mentioned in last month's article. At our meetings we like to have several 'charity' talks and there were two for this year : the Macula Society and Blood, Bikes & Babies. The former we had previously donated to and we are able to report that we have also made a donation to the latter. As said before there is no future meeting fixed at the moment but the Village Hall is due to open again shortly so maybe October might see a change as there are other ideas in the pipeline – coffee at "The Cartwright" for one. Till such time do continue to take care of yourselves, keep in contact with your friends and keep safe.

Contact: Jill Wightman - Tel:811206

Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

Our next Club night is on Zoom on Wednesday 2nd September at 7:30 pm when we will have a presentation by Astrid McGechan on Landscape Photography titled- 'Feed the Land'. If you'd like to join in please contact the Society through our website.

Our monthly topic title for our own photographs for August is 'Garden Wildlife' when we get together on the third Wednesday of the month and share these images together, at the moment on Zoom, when we chat in a casual way about what we created, offering praise, advice and suggestions. Post meeting, the images are put on our website www.addphoto.co.uk for all to share. Take a look.

Contact: Angela Wild miggywild@me.com

AYNHO PARK CLUB DRAW

Whilst 2020 could hardly be considered a particularly 'lucky' year so far, nevertheless the village lottery which helps support our sports pavilion and field continues on and proves there are some winners in 2020!

Park Club Draw Winners so far this year are: January – A Bellamy; February – C Harper; March – G Smit; April – G Bagshaw; May – S Wardington and June – K Hendry. July and August will be drawn at next month's Parish Council meeting.

NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS

Most of the village are probably aware of these occasional visitors who go from door to door selling household goods at inflated prices. They say they are reformed ex prisoners on a training scheme and sometimes get quite aggressive and rude if you don't buy from them. Some people may not know that the purpose of their visit is not to actually sell goods but to suss out your property and who lives there. If you pay them in cash they can tell, by the musty smell of the notes apparently, if you have lots of them kept together. They report this information back to a central organisation who will then, at a later date, possibly target your property for burglary. This has happened before in the village in past years

not long after a visitation and they are rife up and down the country. They also appear to not take any notice of door signs saying you don't want cold callers.

The internet will give you more information on these callers but for those of you without internet access this is a brief summary so you are aware.

It helps the police if you report them to 101 as quickly as possible as they will try and move them on. This is difficult sometimes and reporting your sighting on the Aynho Community Facebook page can alert others very quickly. If you have vulnerable neighbours not on Facebook please try and advise them to be vigilant.

I don't know what can be done long-term about the problem but not engaging with them and not buying from them will hopefully deter them from targeting our village. It is of course your choice as to whether to do this or not but please be aware that they have been burglaries shortly after they were here in past years and the police have confirmed this is the case everywhere.

Kay Anderson

N.D.ELECTRICAL – N.D.Mobley – Brackley.

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AYNHO GARDENING CLUB

THE VERY DIFFERENT FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW 2020

Despite the continued efforts of Storm Ellen to disrupt proceedings, the annual Flower and Vegetable Show took place on the playing fields on Saturday 22nd August. The flowers, vegetables and fruit were displayed under the canopy of the Cricket Pavilion. Caroline Parkes and Tom Duncan kindly judged the classes for which the Committee was most grateful. We were delighted that so many people turned up on such a blustery day and thank you for your support and participation.

The winners all received a Certificate, inspired by the Certificate which was given to Edwin Bowerman's father in 1951.

Contact: Annabel Bellamy 810847

The winners were:

CLASS 1: Best Specimen Bloom

1st Prize: Gillian Reynolds, 2nd Prize: Vanessa Mills, 3rd Prize: Joyce Ashbrook

CLASS 2: Vase of flowers

1st Prize: Amanda Limb, 2nd Prize: Chris Tomlin, 3rd Prize: Joyce Ashbrook

CLASS 3: Best vegetable (3 of same type)

1st Prize: Paul Sherratt, 2nd Prize: Leslie Leighton, 3rd Prize: Edwin Bowerman

CLASS 4: Medley of 3 different vegetables

1st Prize: Andrew Bellamy, 2nd Prize: Brian Tomlin, 3rd Prize: Meryl Rimmer

CLASS 5: Plate of homegrown fruit

1st Prize: Chris Reynolds, 2nd Prize: Andy Embury, 3rd Prize: Martin Hudson

