



Aynho

The Apricot Village

February

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

*"Fill Dyke" when all the
fields are flooding
Snowdrops pop up
their pure white heads all a-
bobbing.*



14th

Valentine's Day

*All this year - have you
been missing lots and lots of
hugs and kissing?*



Why not send a card or two.

I'm hoping to get one ... are you?

16th Feb

Shrove Tuesday

Mmm ... lemon and sugar that's the best.

Maybe syrup is the next.



*Yummy pancakes, they are the way
we celebrate Shrove Tuesday - hooray!*

ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE CHURCH CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2021

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

Worship in our Church Buildings

Message from the Rector:

“As many of you will know, the PCC’s and myself have taken the decision to suspend public worship in our Church buildings for the time being, for which we have Bishop Donald’s permission. During this time I will be taking a Sunday Service via Zoom every Sunday at 10.30am. The service sheet and link will be sent along with my messages on the day before, and I will keep you all updated about the situation, and of any changes.”

For those villagers who do not receive messages from the Rector, information will be available on the Church page of Aynho’s website www.aynho.org or contact Rev Sue by telephone as below if you would like to be added to her email list.

*The Church is open for Private Prayer
10.0am – 3.0pm on Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays.*

There will be Church Cleaning - Thursday 18th 9.45am onwards.
If you decide not to come in view of the current Government restrictions we will understand.

Information about St Michael’s Church, Aynho

Contact: Rev.Sue Cooper – revsue.cooper@gmail.com or Tel: 01869 – 810903

Items for March 2021 Newsletter - preferably before or by **February 22nd** please to:
Sybil at No.32 Roundtown Tel:810692 Email: syban@btinternet.com (Vol.658)

**This Newsletter is issued by “ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH and
Locally printed in Aynho by “CICERONI TRAVEL”**

Pastoral Letter February 2021: Rev Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends,

I hope you are keeping your Spirits up as the long dark nights of winter begin to recede slightly. The first signs of spring lift us, and show us that new life is beginning again all around us, and this brings us new hope and fresh energy. And this year we really need it, as news of the new variant of Covid knocked us all sideways, but we must pick ourselves up and keep going. We are a very resilient lot; digging in and finding strength when the odds are stacked against us.

On Wednesday 17th February, we enter the season of Lent, which is a 'penitential' season in Church. And Lent gets a bad press by people who don't really understand it.

Essentially Lent is about putting things right; firstly between ourselves and God, and then between ourselves and others. Being penitent means that we are sorry for our sins; and these are the things we say, do, or think, that put a barrier between ourselves and God, and others. Putting things right between ourselves and God is relatively easy, because Jesus came to earth to make this possible for us. This is what we celebrate at Easter, that Jesus died on a cross to save and redeem us from our sins. Part of being penitent involves us recognising and acknowledging what Jesus did for us, and asking his forgiveness, and offering him our committed service; but also in Lent Christians review their lives to recognise where we might be falling short in our efforts to love God and love our neighbour, and we seek forgiveness and renewal of heart.

Getting right with God is very easy because of His great love and mercy towards us. And the Parable of the Prodigal Son is a good example of how God treats us as a loving Father (*see Luke ch15:11-32*)

It's much harder to put things right between ourselves and others because mostly we don't like to admit that we may have been wrong, and pride gets in the way. But if there's something that we have all learnt this past year it is that life is precious, and that life is short. We have also learnt that many things lose their appeal when you cannot share them with family, friends and neighbours. Life really is too short to hold grudges.

Saying sorry is hard, and many songs reflect this, but it is the way to freedom and peace.

If you need to put things right between yourself and God this Lent, don't hesitate. God loves you and is waiting with open arms to receive you. If you need to put things right between yourself and someone else, don't hesitate; life really is too short and you will be relieved that you have done it. God bless you all.

With love

Rev Sue.

Luke 15: 20-24 "So he got up and went to his Father. But while he was still a long way off, his Father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

OUR VILLAGE..... ENTERTAINMENTS

ARMS-Aynho Recorded Music Society.

Contact: Bob Mann 810869

Still no sign of bringing us together “in harmony”!

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Keith McClellan 810346

All events still postponed until further notice

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Annabel Bellamy 810847

Lockdown may carry on but we can still enjoy preparing our gardens for the Spring. The bulbs are beginning to show and brave buds are appearing on the pruned roses so although this pandemic halts many things, luckily our gardens will continue to give us joy. In February the Gardening Club usually has the seed swap, so this year, why not share a packet of seeds with a fellow gardener and see what you can achieve?

The production of your AYNHO GARDENING CLUB 2020 Membership Card will entitle you to a 5% discount on plants at the Preston Bissett Nurseries. (It used to be a 10% discount but 5% is better than nothing!) Things have been re-organised at the Nursery and the car park has been changed. They still have a wonderful selection of plants and are managing to do take-away tea/coffee and cakes. Worth a visit.....

AYNHO W.I.

Contact: Jill Wightman 811206 & Fiona Hodges 369122

We are getting there, albeit more slowly than we probably anticipated and initially hoped, but definitely getting there. A lot of us will have already had our first injection and hopefully by the time of the March issue, we will all have had both – well let’s think positively. At least we have time to perfect our newly acquired crafts and cake baking skills – sounds like a challenge is on its way! Happy to report that a few of you returned your forms for a future WI Resolution; these will be forwarded to Head office for further discussion and debate. Our Northamptonshire Head Office has very simply reported that they are looking forward to normality as even with no income they are still having to pay for the area Office, though the staff are part of the government ‘furlough’ scheme. All that can be said is “Keep Calm, Keep Safe” and look forward to Spring, which judging by all the green shoots appearing in the garden is not far away and, of course, there’s always our next meeting.

AYNHO WRITERS GROUP

Contact: Keith McClellan 810346

Aynho Writers are still having enjoyable email meetings on the second Saturday of the month. In January we had lots of contributions about the weather, and some interesting ones about clothing. For **February** we shall continue with “*New Beginnings*” or “*The Little White Lie that Grows Out of Proportion.*”

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

“Aynho Health Walks are currently suspended due to the high levels of Covid –19 all around us. The situation will be reviewed during the latter part of February.

Updates can be found on the Village website or by contacting Kathy White on 01869-810418 or by email on kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com”

Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

Contact: Anne Hunsley www.addphoto.co.uk

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HAPPI PILATES – weekly classes in Village Hall (or Zoom) and/or personal one to one private sessions in home studio. **Contact Sarah on 07841617320** or email sarah@happipilates.com

VACANCY – AYNHO ALMSHOUSE

The Trustees of the John Baker Charity, which manages the village Almshouses in Bowmen's Lea, Aynho, are advertising for a new resident to occupy an unfurnished, one-bedroom dwelling. The dwelling is being refurbished now and will be available from April.

The Almshouses are for single occupancy and the Trustees are required to seek potential applicants: single men or women aged 50 or above who are able to live independently, and who have a need which the Charity can support. A connection with Aynho or the parish of St Aldate's, Oxford, is the main requirement for any prospective applicant but, where no applicants have any connection, the Trustees prioritise based on need. They do not want good houses to be left unoccupied. The weekly maintenance charge (rent) for the dwelling is £52.50 per week (£2,730.00 per year).

Viewings can be arranged and applications should be submitted as soon as possible in February. Interviews for prospective applicants will be notified.

Enquiries or initial applications should be made by email to contact.almshouses@aynho.org or by post to Mrs Amanda Leigh at 12 Bowmen's Lea, Aynho, OX17 3AG, Tel. 01869 810843. She will provide information on the next step

Marmalade for sale



January isn't quite the month for 'Pop-Ups' but it is the month for making marmalade and, with this in mind, if you would like some **home-made marmalade** now is your chance.....

The jars of marmalade are for sale at £3 a jar with all proceeds going to St. Michael's Church.

Either, take a chance and knock on the door at 6 The Square or telephone with your order. You can pay by cash or card (just like the Pop-Up's during the summer months).

Annabel: 01869810847

"My Advent Marathon

I am delighted to report that despite the bad weather conditions and flooded track, I succeeded in reaching my target of walking 26.2 miles during the Advent Season. It took me 16 hours and 17 minutes so Mo Farah has nothing to worry about. I would like to thank you all for having faith in me. Your support and encouragement kept me going and helped me to achieve my target and beyond. The total raised was £1,030 for which St Michael's Church was most grateful.

Norman White"

