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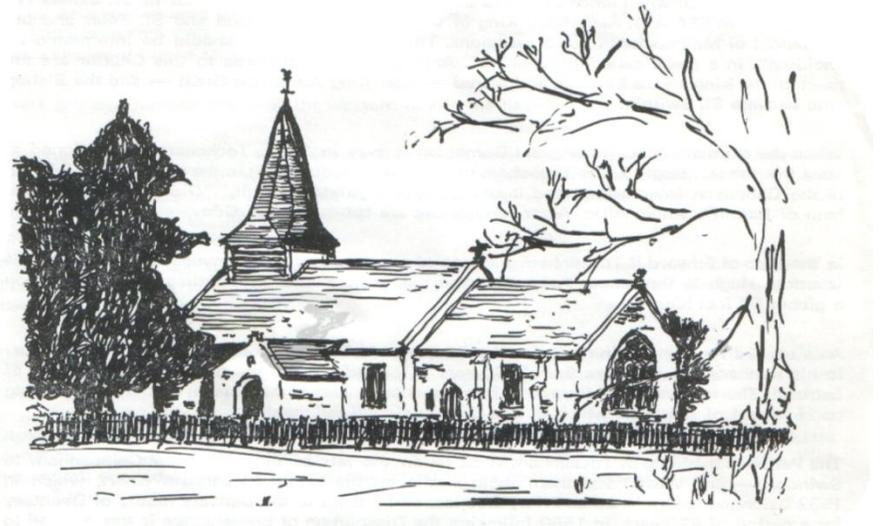
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# Tockenham *parish magazine*



*December 2017*

## On the threshold December 2017

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”*

*And he replied:*

*“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.”*

These words from Minnie Louise Haskins 1875-1957 poem were used by George VI in his Christmas broadcast in 1939. To me this connection came through the film *The King's Speech*. For some Christian communities and churches December holds a new year moment at its beginning as well as the end. This is because the year's pattern of readings begins on the 3 December with Advent.

The Advent season is a threshold moment – as if we were standing at a doorway, expectant and curious about what might be on the other side for us to encounter. A period of waiting for a refreshed and deepened understanding of God which will be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus and is celebrated in the Christmas stories and school nativities and celebrations of Christmas with friends and families.

Each time I stand in a doorway and knock; or answer my own there is a moment when I wonder if joy or sorrow, peace or conflict are on the other side of the door.

The waiting of a police officer or a grandchild, of the delivery driver or the much wanted are all different. Each threshold moment of a new year or a new job can bring anxiety or adventure; one may wait with fear and trembling or with joyful excitement.

My hope at this season for us all is that whether we anticipate the unknown at the gate of the year with excitement or trepidation we will find the hand of God to lead us, in the hands of friends and neighbours and in the baby in his crib.

The Vicar is Revd Rachma Abbott,  
Vicarage, Wood Lane,  
Clyffe Pypard.  
01793 731134  
reverendrachma@gmail.com



A BIG THANK YOU to the box holders and everyone who gave so generously to the PROSPECT HOSPICE and Prospect at Home nursing service, I was able to take £122.79 to them. If anyone would like to give to this charity, please contact Rosemary 852513

THANK YOU

Michael and Rosemary will not be sending cards, but wish all their friends and neighbours in Tockenham a Very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year. We will donate to a charity.

St Peter's, Clyffe Pypard  
CHRISTMAS FAIR

Village Hall  
8<sup>th</sup> December  
6-9pm

Meet friends old and new over a drink and Christmas food, browse the stalls and just enjoy yourselves. Children's area with good as new toys, books and a racing piggies game !  
Pre – order poinsettias which will be collected for you from the grower (Pinewood Nurseries) just before the event – red £5, pink, cream or red with yellow fleck £5.85.

No draughty warehouses or supermarket foyers for these plants ! Last orders by 5<sup>th</sup> December please.  
Contact Barbara Davis 01793 739017

**Mobile library**  
Thursday once a month ,  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
1145 to 1220 outside the church

Forward your Parish Magazine entries

by the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month to:

Email: [dpsstill@aol.com](mailto:dpsstill@aol.com)

Church key holder: Ken Arnold

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

### Forthcoming events -

**Grand Christmas Draw - Saturday 16th December at 8 pm. Great prizes to be won and an ideal opportunity to have a Christmas drink with friends and neighbours.**

**New Years Eve - the bar will be open, there will be music and "Bring and Share Nibbles" on the night - (good way to get rid of those naughty treats before the diets start!)**

**And a wonderful way to see in the New Year without worrying about the taxi home!**

### Exciting ideas being considered for 2018 -

**Chinese New Year Night**

**Quiz with Fish and Chips**

**Spring Ball**

**More details to follow.**

**And remember, the bar is open every Friday and Saturday from 8 pm. Pop along one night.**

**we'd love to see you. The bar is run by volunteers - and we are always looking for new people**

**to get involved. If you might be interested, please contact Brenda on 852383 in the first instance.**

**For information, the winners of the October Village Lotto were:**

**Roy Guest of Grittenham - £20**

**Edd Walter of Trow Lane - £10**

TOCKENHAM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

## Benefice of Woodhill Worship for December 2017 Tockenham in Bold



Sunday 3 December

10.30am Clyffe Pypard Benefice Communion

5pm Hilmarton Songs for Advent

*Sunday 10 December*

**10.30am Tockenham Benefice Communion**

*Thursday 14 December*

6.30pm Broad Town Carol service

Sunday 17 December

10.30am Broad Town Benefice Communion

**3pm Tockenham Christingle and nativity service**

4pm Clyffe Pypard Crib service

6pm Hilmarton carol service

*Sunday 24 December – Christmas Eve*

10.30am Hilmarton Benefice Communion

**6pm Tockenham Carol service**

11.15pm Clyffe Pypard Midnight Mass

*Christmas Day 25 December (Monday)*

10.30am Communion, Broad Town

10.30am All-age service, Hilmarton

*Sunday 31 December*

**10.30am Tockenham Benefice Communion**

**If you'd like to know more about what any of these services involve, please ask Rachma the Vicar, or Kim the churchwarden – contact details on a following page.**

## *News from St Giles' Church*

The new leaflet with all the service times for the coming 12 months is now available, and your copy should be delivered with this magazine. If not, please pick up a copy from the church. The services, when we are in a 'normal' pattern rather than Advent and Christmas, will be at 9am, 10.30am, and 5pm or 6pm. Keep an eye on notice boards and the magazines for full details.

The news this month is mostly about Advent and Christmas. Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas and our services reflect this. We recognise people are busy with their own preparations – cards, presents, visits to family and friends, so we have just one communion service a week in the benefice, plus all the carol and nativity services that we so much enjoy. We begin the Advent season with the annual service of songs and readings, marking the progress through darkness to the light of Christmas – this year it will be in Hilmarton church and will be at 5pm on Sunday 3 December.

On Tuesday 5th December at 10.30 in the village hall we will be having our Christmas coffee morning. This will be the last one to be hosted by Kim Gough – many thanks to Kim for the initiative in starting this some years ago and for keeping it running since then. This is a very good reason for coming to this one to show our appreciation for the work done by Kim.

On Saturday 9 December we are gathering at Angus Ivory's, Greenway Farm, for an informal evening of carol singing and seasonal refreshments starting at 6pm. Do come! If you were there last year you'll remember what an enjoyable time we had, and hope to see you there again.

Here in Tockenham we will be hosting the benefice communion on Sunday 10 December at 10.30am, and also the service on New Year's Eve, Sunday 31, also at 10.30am.

We will be decorating and cleaning the church in time for the Christingle on 17th so watch this space – details of time to be circulated later; your help is very much appreciated.

Hello! December again – where has the year gone? With winter clearly on the horizon, our thoughts turn to colder weather and how to keep warm. Many health problems are triggered or worsened by cold weather: dry skin and cold hands and feet are annoying, aching joints, colds and sore throats are almost expected, but serious, life threatening conditions such as asthma, norovirus and heart attacks are also exacerbated by the cold weather. The advice, of course, is to wrap up warmly and keep the heating going at home, which can be expensive. There is much that can be done to help with the costs of heating – switching supplier for electricity and gas or joining an oil purchasing consortium. Prevention is better than cure, so could your home use better insulation? For those who are really struggling with costs, small grants are available. Applications start mid November and the criteria are:

To be eligible for a grant someone must;

be considered to live in fuel poverty (*spend more than 10% of their annual household income on fuel to keep their home warm and in a 'satisfactory' condition*)

be in receipt of eligible means-tested benefits

And fall into one of the categories below;

be pensionable age and affected by fuel poverty

be of working age with a disability or a long-term health condition which affects their ability to keep warm

be in receipt of Better 2gether childcare funding for their 2 year old

Please get in touch if I can help with any of the above.

As ever, I am around for general help and support on a wide variety of issues including transport, mobility and safety around the home and reducing the feeling of loneliness. Give me a call on 07557 922020 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Ellen Blacker

Health and Wellbeing Champion

### *CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR*

We would like to thank everyone who came to the village Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair on 11th November and hope that you were all delighted with your purchases. During the course of this village event we also raised a total of £ 30 to donate to the Brighter Futures GWH Charity - thank you. Jean and Edd

**50/17. Neighbourhood Area Plan Update to be received from Councillors,**

**Continuing to amalgamate the NEW-V and Tockenham chapters to one new Plan Communication with the Link Officers is being made to continue the work.**

**51/17. Play Area – GC reported that the play equipment has been repaired, the Council was also reminded that the Annual inspection is scheduled for 2 weeks' time.**

**52/17 Area Board – Update on last meeting to be received from Councillors.**

**Report from Area Board was given by DK**

**It was also noted that Tracey Canter is now the Footpaths and Right of Way contact in Tockenham area. She is the footpath Champion in the area all direct contact details will be made available in the Parish Magazine and Parish Noticeboards.**

**Date of Next Meeting – The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 7.00 p.m.**

**Special services: Sunday 17 December at 3pm – this will combine the Christingle and a nativity play – and we do hope you'll come along to enjoy a fresh look at the Christmas story. Tea in the hall afterwards. Then there is our traditional service of readings and carols by candlelight at 6pm on Christmas Eve – mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.**

**We continue to wait for approval to replace the church heater. We will let you know if any services are moved into the hall so we can keep a bit warmer.**

**Busy Bees for pre-schoolers and their carers will have their fortnightly meetings in Tockenham village hall on Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 12 noon. For details of both Busy Bees and coffee mornings please contact Kim Gough on 07850 933344. .**

**Church contact details: The Vicar is Revd Rachma Abbott, and she lives at the Vicarage, Wood Street, Clyffe Pypard. Her phone number is 01793 731134, and her email address is reverendrachma@gmail.com . Our churchwarden is Kim Gough, 07850 933344.**

**To keep in touch with the times and dates of services, Busy Bees, coffee mornings and other activities, please look at the google calendar on the Tockenham village website: <http://www.tockenham.org.uk/> An electronic version of this magazine also appears on the village website.**

**If you aren't sure what the services are going to be like and are interested in coming to any of them, please do ask; phone numbers for Rachma and Kim are above. Normally in Tockenham we have a communion service on the first 2 Sundays of the month where we remember the Last Supper and share the bread (usually a thin wafer) and wine. The last Sunday of the month is an evening service where we use the traditional book of common prayer language. At all the services we sing a few hymns, pray together and listen to a talk.**

# TOCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Present Councillor Mrs D Kirby (Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Still and G Cowling.

Clerk: Danielle Crawford and Wiltshire Cllr A Bucknell

### ORDINARY MINUTES

Public Question time: No questions were received

Reports from Wiltshire Councillor: No reports received

43/17. Apologies for absence: Cllr M Marmoy

44/17. Declarations of Interest – in accordance with the Parish

Council (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 and revised (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007:

None received

45/17. Minutes: Members had previously been circulated with the Minutes:

The Council received, approved and signed as a true record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September Cllr G Cowling proposed, Cllr Mrs S Still seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

46/17 Clerks Report: The following items were received

a. Wiltshire Local Plan Review 20.11.17 in Royal Wootton Bassett (received and noted Cllr Mrs D Kirby and Cllr G Cowling attending)

b. Cllr Waymans' Highway Newsletter (received and noted)

c. Chance to get involved in commemorating the centenary of the end of WW1 – Free Trees for Communities. (received and noted but Council decided against involvement as we own no land of our own)

d. Agenda for Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, Wednesday, 8th November, 2017, 6.00 pm (Noted)

e. Grants for winter fuel (received and noted, the Council will put this in the Parish Magazine and Noticeboards)

47/17. Planning: None Received

48/17. Finance and Administration – The Parish Council considered financial matters and received notification of Invoices for payment

Council Budget Report and Council Budget for 2018/2019 were discussed and provisional figures decided. 2018-2019 precept was also discussed with provisional figure set." The following payments were considered and approved:

i) Clerks Salary – October and November 2017 £183.33

ii) HMRC Clerk PAYE – October and November 2017 £41.21

iii) Clerk Stationery, Paper and printing costs £30

iv) RBL Poppy Appeal 17/18 £17

v) Mower Petrol £6.53

To note Bank balance as at 14.9.17 to be £15,442.35

Proposed Cllr G Cowling and Cllr Mrs S Still and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the above payment.

49/17 Highway Matters –

a. Parish Steward Feedback Noted

b. Road Closure Notification – Spittleborough Farm to roundabout 13-24 November 2017 Noted

c. Fast cars at MOD Lyneham – These are arranged, organised and permissive via the MOD all details are provided online and via the MOD noticeboards.

d. Signage Review at junction of A1302 and Tockenham Wick Cllr Kirby to incorporate with issue concerning reduction of speed limit along A3102 and submit as one combined issue Noted

e. Clearance of verge/shrubbery from Junction at Tockenham Wick bus stop Noted

f. Update on potholes at Inlands/outside Tangle – This will be reported via the 'My Wiltshire' hub as an issue

g. Section 96 Licence – need to reapply – New Form requested, to be sent to Clerk to be completed with Council.

h. New flexible bollards along bank opposite 37 West Tockenham Noted AB to pursue"

i. Raising issue of 30mph limit from Tockenham Corner through Primrose Hill – This was discussed but it unfortunately does not meet the 30mph criteria and is not viable option at the moment.