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# Tockenham *parish magazine*



*September 2017*

## 2017 September On letters to treasure

When I arrived in these villages just over 2 years ago I was told that I was expected to write a piece for some of the village newsletters. All I knew was that these newsletters were for everyone in those villages, whether they were members of churches, chapels, synagogues, mosques or simply people who lived in the villages. My main hope was that people might feel from reading them that the vicar was someone it might be ok to get to know, to meet with or to talk to if anyone ever felt they needed to do so. I was daunted by this task, because I don't find writing easy.

Words have enormous power to transform. They can be used to build people up or to 'cut them down to size'. Spoken or written they can harm or heal. Letters can be treasured long after the writer has died because they speak of love and comfort shared.

Some years back the gift of a book with blank pages was intended to act as a place to record words of encouragement: here I record the letters that have helped. The kindly card when I've been down or unsure; the little notes that have encouraged me, when things have gone wrong, to have another go. The invitation to a conversation face to face to work out why people might have different ideas about how to serve the same purpose.

This book is called a Barnabas book and it is so named after a friend and companion of Paul, for Barnabas means 'child of encouragement'. However, as far as we know Barnabas didn't write letters, or at least none have come down to us, although his friend Paul was a great letter writer. Paul wrote several letters to encourage the small communities of people who had begun to follow Jesus in the years following his life, death and resurrection, and today Christians still read and value his letters even though many of them are challenging in what they say. Christians also argue about how we should use and understand these letters, and that also reminds me that words can also be weapons. As another biblical letter writer says: "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.\*"

Letters can be treasured and they can also be hoarded and used to reignite the pain and upset caused by their words.

Although we have some of Paul's letters we do not have the replies. But many of his letters include the promise that he will come and meet with his correspondents in person so that difficulties can be cleared up and misunderstandings sorted in order that the whole community can be built up to serve God. Even when Paul is disappointed in these early Christian gatherings he gives thanks for them and reminds them that they are loved and valued, and sends farewell greetings written in his own hand.

These days my hope for these strange little newsletter snippets that I write is that even when people find them disappointing they will know that I give thanks for the people of these villages and hope to respect, value and learn to love them.

\*The etymology of Barnabas is quite complex as it may also mean 'son of the prophet' and 'encouragement' here is a word that includes comfort and challenge and consolation.

The Reverend Rachma Abbott  
Priest in Charge Woodhill Benefice  
01793 731134



## VILLAGE FOOTPATHS

There are several wonderful footpaths running through Tockenham.

Some years ago, Michael Knight produced a very good leaflet detailing them all.

If you would like a copy, please contact Michael on 852513 or email : [35knights@talktalk.net](mailto:35knights@talktalk.net)

This year's WI craft and produce show will be held on Saturday 9 September rather than the first Saturday in September. The schedules of the different classes are available now, so you can start planning what you'd like to prepare.

We hope that you will find lots to interest you in the 2017 schedule. Previous exhibitors should all receive one. If yours doesn't arrive or if you haven't entered the Show before and are interested in looking at the different classes, please contact Jan (01249 890726 / [jan\\_hargrave@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jan_hargrave@yahoo.co.uk)) or Pauline (01793 854157). New entrants are always very welcome. So that you can get started, the photography subjects are: • Happiness • Stormy weather • Pattern in nature • Through the window • A bird or birds .

## Mobile library

Thursday once a month ,  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
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

**Defibrillator awareness training – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>  
November 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

I have booked a course with South Western Ambulance Service Trust called “understanding your village defibrillator.” We are fortunate that this course is sponsored by the Village Lottery Fund. The course will last 1.5 hours. I still have a few places available, please let me know if you would like a place or have any queries. You can contact me by email: [amanda@gillingham.me](mailto:amanda@gillingham.me) telephone:01793 852061 or in person at Becketts House, Tockenham.

With thanks to the Village Lottery Fund organisers for their support, Amanda Gillingham

**About our defibrillator**

**Our Village defibrillator is located on the outside wall of the Village Hall by the door and is in a locked cabinet code: C2589X**

**If you make a mistake inputting the code just start again with C, pressing C resets the locking mechanism. You then need to turn the black button on the front of the box anti-clockwise. (We would be grateful if you could keep the code safely as we need to ensure the defibrillator is not at risk from vandalism or theft.)**

**Benefice of Woodhill  
Worship for August 2017  
Tockenham in Bold**



Sunday 3 September

**10am Tockenham Benefice Communion for St Giles' Day**

Sunday 10 September

**10am Tockenham Communion**

11am Hilmarton Word and Worship

6pm Broad Town Evensong

Sunday 17 September

10am Hilmarton Communion

11am Broad Town Communion

6pm Clyffe Pypard Evensong

Sunday 24 September

8am Clyffe Pypard Communion

11am Hilmarton Communion

4pm Broad Town Tea and Harvest Thanksgiving

6pm **Tockenham Evensong**

Sunday 1 October

**10am Tockenham Harvest Thanksgiving**

10.30am Lyneham Communion for St Michael's Day

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 the next page.

## *News from St Giles' Church*

There's quite a lot happening in the next few weeks so here's a summary.

On Sunday 3 September it is St Giles' Day so we are all gathering from our 4 'benefice' churches (ours, Clyffe Pypard, Hilmarton and Broad Town) to celebrate with a communion service at 10am. Refreshments afterwards – we'd love to see you there.

Harvest Thanksgiving is on 1st and 2nd October. We are gathering in the church from 9.30am on the morning of Saturday 30th to arrange the flowers and produce; all offers of help and of produce are welcome. The Thanksgiving service is on Sunday 1st October at 10am. The supper is on Monday 2nd at 7pm in the village hall. Tickets are £7 (£5 for under 16's and concessions) and are available from Julie Marshall, phone number 01793 852075. We will have the customary auction of the harvest produce after the meal. Can you offer to help with the food for the supper? Quiches, salads, puddings etc all welcome – if you would like to help in any way please contact Sara Cutler on either by email [sara@cutlers.online](mailto:sara@cutlers.online) or mobile (07789 842330). Thank you!

Looking ahead to November, we will be holding the annual Remembrance Service at the war memorial at Tockenham Corner on Sunday starting shortly before the 11am silence.

## **News from St Giles**

The church is open during daytimes for the summer – thank you very much to the volunteers who open and close it daily. This means that you can access the Food Bank box, so please place your gifts in it for the Swindon Food Bank. Any non-perishable items are welcome but please make sure there is still quite a way to go on the 'use-by' date.

The next coffee morning is on Tuesday 5 September at 10.30am in the village hall. Hope to see you there!

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. .

The Vicar is in our church most Mondays at 6.30 pm to say Evening Prayer. If you would like to join her please feel welcome. Occasionally this may not happen if unexpected events have to take her away from this routine.

Church contact details: The Vicar is Revd Rachma Abbott, and she lives at the Vicarage, Wood Lane, Clyffe Pypard. Her phone number is 01793 731134, and her email address is [reverendrachma@gmail.com](mailto: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**

### **HARVEST SUPPER**

**This year's Harvest Supper will take place on  
Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
in the village hall**

**Mandy Cook and I are getting together for a meeting  
on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm (at my house). If you  
would like to join us to discuss plans for the supper, we  
would really welcome your thoughts and help so please  
let me know if you are able to come –  
sara@cutlers.online or [07789 842330](tel:07789842330).**

**Any contributions of quiches, salads or puddings for  
the evening will also be very gratefully received!**

**Many thanks and best wishes**

**Sara**

**Cllr D Kirby (Chairman)**

**22 West Tockenham**

**Swindon**

**TEL: 01793 853861**

**Email: [kirbydrew@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kirbydrew@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Cllr G Cowling**

**Trelawny**

**Tockenham Corner,**

**Swindon,**

**Tel: 01793 852756**

**Email: [g-bc24@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g-bc24@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Cllr M Marmoy**

**WoodBine Cottage**

**33 Greenway**

**Swindon,**

**TEL: 017693 850842**

**Email: [martin@marmoy.com](mailto:martin@marmoy.com)**

**Danielle Crawford (Clerk)**

**72 Eider Avenue**

**Lynheham**

**Chippenham, Wilts SN15 4QZ**

**Email: [clerk@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

**Cllr Mrs S Still.**

**Hillview Cottage**

**38 West Tockenham**

**TEL: 01793 852082**

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

## **TOCKENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Since the North East Wiltshire Villages (NEW-V) Neighbourhood Plan was abandoned, I am very pleased to announce that Tockenham Parish has now been designated as a Neighbourhood Area in its own right. It is therefore the intention of the original Steering Group members to continue with the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Tockenham alone. The evidence acquired during the NEW-V consultations, supported by evidence collated from the Community-Led Plan and the Housing Survey are still valid and will be used as the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan. Further consultation will follow, starting with an informal consultation of the residents, businesses, visitors to village and outside statutory bodies, as required by the legislation. This consultation will allow comments to be made about the draft Plan and amendments made before the formal consultation by Wiltshire Council on the final Plan.

I am writing now to keep you advised of the situation and to assure you that we intend to be totally transparent in our dealings. There will be regular updates of what is happening with the process and notification of meeting dates, which will be open to the public. We will be aiming to hold most meetings during the day so that our Wiltshire Council Planning Representative (who is yet to be allocated) can attend - but questions/comments can be forwarded in advance of meetings if you are unable to attend. Meetings will be advertised on the notice-boards, on the village website and via the village email circulation system.

For information, Steering Group Members are - myself and Geoff Cowling for the Parish Council, Stuart Richardson for the Community-Led Plan Steering Group and Allison Bucknell as our Wiltshire Councillor. Reverend Rachma Abbott, who was previously on the NEW-V Steering Group, will continue to be involved in an advisory capacity and Mr David Barnes has agreed a similar role to achieve wider local representation.

Please look out for further notifications but, in the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Kind regards

Diana Kirby

Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

TEL: 01793 853861 Email: kirbydrew@yahoo.co.uk

## **THANK YOU**

I am sure that you have all noticed how attractive and well groomed our village has been looking this year. And I am also sure that you appreciate that this does not happen by magic! So, I think a huge "THANK YOU" is due to those responsible -  
- to Julie Marshall for buying, planting and watering the beautiful flower displays around the village, as well as others who have helped  
- to the team of grass-cutters - Kevin, Andrew, Gareth, Stuart, Philip and Drew - who tend so diligently to the park and surrounding verges  
- and to the allotment holders who keep their plots looking so neat and tidy.

It is a pleasure to live in such a caring community.

Diana Kirby

Chair of Tockenham Parish Council