

TOCKENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

Bevirs template here.



January 2025

“New Years Bumper Issue”

From the editor.

By the time you read this we'll be into a new year full of hope, apprehension and anticipation.

We can't end 2024 without sending our thoughts and condolences to Bobby and Sarah for the loss of their beloved father and our dear friend David Strange. The church service was on the 18th December, held at St Giles and taken by our lay preacher Mandy Cook. It was fitting tribute to his passing, with the church packed to over full with people wanting to pay their respects.

Some of you will have pulled your hair out on Christmas Day around lunchtime when all the electricity went out !! Good timing hey ? Still the Dunkirk spirit prevailed with uncooked meals being whisked away to ovens in far away places in order to save the day. More than 1 large sherry was needed by the end.

With all the imponderable things awaiting us for 2025 I find it best to concentrate on ones own world whilst keeping a small eye on the news. Most of us are aware the news media has a mission to make most things as dramatic and alarming as possible, masters of hyperbol.

Chin up as we march into a new year with courage and optimism.

Our Priest is retiring.

Rachma Abbott formally resigned from her role as Incumbent of the Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill on December 1st. Her last Sunday will be Candlemas, February 2nd 2025. There will be one Benefice service at St Laurence's Hillmarton at 1030 am that day, this being where her ministry began in 2015.

There will be an interregnum while a new Vicar is selected during which time Reverend Richard Holness and Reverend Jonathan Beach will continue to assist the Benefice with their ministry. Mandy Cook will continue with her occasional Morning Prayers but as her position is voluntary and she is not ordained, she cannot lead all the services.

Thank you Tockenham

What makes Tockenham such a great in which place to live? The people who live here, of course! So, as we start another year, I would just like to send a very huge Thank You to our many volunteers.

- To those who serve on our Village Committees - the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Village Hall Committee and the Village Fair Committee.
- To everyone who helps in so many ways at our Village Fair
- To our wonderful Mower-men - both in the Park and along the end of Orchard Lane
- To our lovely Coffee Morning ladies
- To those who organise the great events in the village - and who run the bar every Saturday
- To the team editing and printing the Parish Magazine - and, of course the ladies who distribute it.
- To those now getting involved in the Tockenham Emergency Plan

I am sure that I have forgotten someone - but you know who you are. Thank you!

A heartfelt Thank You to one and all - for making Tockenham the wonderful community that it is.

Diana Kirby
Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

(I'm sure I speak for the village when I say Diana herself is responsible through her boundless hard work and diplomacy for much achieved in the village over the years. Thank you Di. - Ed)

Poets Corner

New Year 2025

Big Ben strikes twelve midnight so clear,
That now we are all set for the next year.
A wonderful fireworks display beside the Thames is seen
It's Londons celebrations that heralds in the New Year so keen.

We all wonder what will be in store for this year
And resolutions made this night are so clear.
The family have raised their glasses high.
With singing Auld Lang Syne as the opening cry.

What plans do we have ahead of time?
It's to visit friends and relatives on line.
And make contact with all you know
To have a friendly chat and let memories flow.

Designs with ideas for house and garden space.
And choosing a holiday in time is a race.
Deciding to continue ones fixed activities each week.
With secret plans of which we cannot speak!

A big thank you from Hope for Prospect Music Fest 24

Sinead and I would like to thank our wonderful village for all the support we had for **Hope for Prospect Music Fest** on a beautiful cold night in November, whether you were playing or singing, helping with the bar or the raffle or being part of the amazing audience which made the whole evening such a lovely experience. Christ Church was packed full, the raffle raised over £1000.00 as did the bar and although we still don't have a final figure we know we hit the £7000.00 mark and we just want to say THANK YOU. If you still feel like donating there is a link below, otherwise have a wonderful Happy New Year.

[Sinéad Nolan-Martin and Ellen Travers-Gaisford is fundraising for Prospect Hospice \(justgiving.com\).](https://www.justgiving.com/Sinead-Nolan-Martin-and-ElLEN-Travers-Gaisford)

Benefice Services, January 2025

Sunday 5th January:

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Sunday 12th January:

Communion, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

Communion, **Broad Town**, 10.30am

Sunday 19th January:

Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 10.30am

Morning Prayer, **Tockenham**, 9.00am

Sunday 26th January.

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 10.30am

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

All Age Service, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

January Reflection

Christmas has seen a lively season within the whole community of Tockenham. We prepared for Christmas with many social occasions amongst our households reaffirming, creating and further building bonds of friendship and companionship. We came together to organise village events such as the Christmas light switch on (sadly cancelled due to the weather), the Christingle, Carol Service and New Years Eve Village Hall event, as well as individuals also being moved to offer activities to enrich the village such as the wreath making and the carol singing. All things that encourage and strengthen our sense of belonging and community spirit. We also support each other by lending, gifting and selling within the community as well as offering help and information via WhatsApp and e mail ensuring an inclusive and thoughtful feel to our community.

This has been extremely uplifting and heartwarming, reminding us that light, hope and love exemplified in the Christmas story is alive and being lived out in ordinary lives throughout our community. So, as we cross the threshold into the new year and journey into January and the promise of the year ahead, let us step out with courage. Let us be strengthened by the grace that is revealed when people reach out to each other, trust, respect and give and receive with humility. Happy New Year!

News From St Giles

Saying Goodbye

Rachma Abbott, who has been our vicar for ten years, formally resigned from her role as Incumbent of the Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill on December 1st. Her last Sunday will be Candlemas, February 2nd 2025. To celebrate Rachma's time with us and say goodbye, there will be one Benefice service. This will take place at St Laurence's Church, Hillmarton at 10.30 am that day, this being where her ministry began in 2015.

There will then be a period without a Vicar, officially known as an Interregnum. During this time representatives from each Parish in our Benefice (Tockenham, Hillmarton, Lyneham with Bradenstoke, Broad Town and Clyffe Pypard) will create an advert and job specification and work with the Bishops to select a new vicar.

Meanwhile the Reverend Richard Holness, Reverend Jonathan Beach and occasional other ordained clergy will continue to assist the Benefice with their ministry alongside the lay worship leaders, administrators and Parochial Church Councillors. Mandy Cook will continue with her monthly Morning Prayer at Tockenham, pastoral work and funeral ministry. Mandy has been trained and Licensed as a Lay Minister by the Diocese of Salisbury, which is a voluntary, unpaid role which does not include presiding over sacraments such as baptism, marriage or communion.

Robert Cutler Chair Parochial Church Council

Thank You

During the Christmas season St Giles hosted worship occasions that were enjoyed and appreciated by many villagers and visitors. It has been powerful and affirming to worship, pray and sing together in our beautiful church. Popular services were the Christmas Eve candlelit carol service and the Christingle service. Some events included raising money for other charities charity and revealed just how generous our community can be:

Light hearted general info.

"In The Middle"

As the inauguration of the 47th US President (and its 45th Chief Executive) takes place, how have the middle names of presidents been doing in the years since four-times winner Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

It is a mix of the well-concealed to the emphatic. On the 'loud and proud' side we have two types. First, those whose middle name mattered so much they were known by just three initials. These are Roosevelt himself (FDR - Delano being the middle name); Kennedy (JFK - Fitzgerald); Johnson (LBJ - Baines). Then there are the three who emphasised the middle initial - Dwight D. Eisenhower (D for David); George W. Bush (W for Walker; but also known as just 'Dubya'); and Harry S Truman (Christmas quiz question: what did the 'S' stand for?).

Beyond these two types, there are the ones whose middle names were well known, but not quite so emphasised - William Jefferson Clinton; Barack Hussein Obama; Richard Milhous Nixon.

And then, there are the out-and-out 'concealers' - they all had middle names but these were seldom if ever used in reference to them. Here we have Jimmy Carter (middle name Earl); Gerald Ford (Rudolph); Ronald Reagan (Walton); and George Bush senior (Herbert Walker). Of course this last became "George W. H. Bush" - but only when his son became the 43rd President.

Which leaves Donald Trump. That is how he is generally known, which would make him a 'concealer'. But he is also known as Donald J Trump and the J is fairly well known to be John. So he doesn't quite fit into one group as the others do.

Author - Andrew Thomson

Next steps -

- > Training for remaining Support Group
- > A Practice Exercise to be carried out.
- > Defibrillator Awareness Training to be held in January
- > Further First Aid Training to be investigated
- > Self-Resilience within the community to be encouraged
- > Communication improvements to be investigated.
- > Further Equipment to be purchased (hopefully through another SSEN grant)

Many thanks for the help and interest that we have already received for this project. Should you have any questions or suggestions - please do contact any of the Emergency Co-ordinators.

Diana Kirby
Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

Mobile Library Dates

All dates are Tuesdays at 09.45

31 Dec 2024	25 Mar 2025
28 Jan 2025	22 Apr 2025
25 Feb 2025	20 May 2025
	17 Jun 2025

The Christingle Service

This year we recreated the Christmas story through the eyes of a star was enjoyed by many children and adults. The collection was in aid of the Children's Society that supports children and young people who experience pain, injustice and challenge. This year we raised £106.50 which beat last years total! Many thanks to all those who supported the service by attending, donating or helping.

Village Carol Singing

Our impromptu carol singing group got together just before Christmas and braved the extremely windy weather to sing in aid of Doorway, a Wiltshire charity that helps homeless people in various ways. We only got around the centre of the village but raised £225 in just over an hour!

Church contacts are: Reverend Rachma 01793 731134 or Mandy Cook 01793 853504

Tockenham Village Fair 2025

This years Fair will take place 21st June 2025.

A meeting to plan ahead will take place Thursday 16th January at 7pm in the Village Hall.

If you would like to join the Committee or simply like to be involved in next years planning, please come and join us. New faces will be very much welcomed.

Kevin Woolnough – Chair Tockenham Fair 2025.

Bob, Sarah, Naomi, Kitty and Sophie would like to thank everyone in the village for all their kindness and help for David Strange's funeral.

Tockenham Emergency Committee And Contact Hub.

All Parishes in Wiltshire have been encouraged by Wiltshire Council to create an Emergency Plan for their area - in order to safeguard residents from harm in an emergency situation. In the light of recent weather conditions, this sounds a sensible move! The first action of the Parish Council was to divide the parish into 6 sections with a Co-ordinator responsible for each. Initially we only had 4 available Councillors, so we recruited two volunteers, who live in suitable locations, to assist in this.

The Areas are -

West Tockenham - from Becketts, then including all properties on that side of the road, to 22 West Tockenham.

Co-ordinator - Diana Kirby contact 07765 644704 or dkirby@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Central Tockenham - Bungalows on C120, all terraced houses, then 33 - 37 West Tockenham

Co-ordinator - Julie Marshall - 07956 107239 or jmarshall@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

South Tockenham - all of Orchard Lane, then Hillview to 4 West Tockenham

Co-ordinator - Kevin Woolnough - 07570 657986 or kwoolnough@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Greenway - all of Greenway up to The Binal

Co-ordinator - Richard Walker - 07739 638350 or rwalker@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tockenham Corner - to include Primrose Hill and Tockenham Wick

Co-ordinator - Jon Battista - 07928 807112 or j.battista@talktalk.net

A3102 - to include The Hillocks, parish houses on Bowds and Trow Lane and on C120 to Shaw Farm

Co-ordinator - Roland Wallace - 07711 177065 or rolandwallace44@gmail.com

We also have two Reserve Co-ordinators if needed - Nick Polkinghorne and Bill Moore

As communication will be key to any emergency situation, it is crucial that each Co-ordinator has the contact details for every household in their area, If you have not already provided this information, we would be grateful if you could do so - address, landline and mobile numbers would be perfect. We may set up a WhatsApp Group for each area, so please confirm that you are happy to be included.

After initially working to an Emergency Plan Template provided by Wiltshire Council, the Parish Council then accepted the kind offer of assistance from Bill Moore. This has proved invaluable.

Our progress till now has been -

- > We have recruited a Team of village volunteers as a Support Group. These are people of mixed skills and abilities - as well as having equipment useful in an emergency.

- > A Medical Team has been established - led by Jane Moore.

- > The Village Hall has been officially registered as an Emergency Contact Hub with Wiltshire Council. This will prove very useful in the case of an emergency - as we will have direct contact with essential services.

- > Two more Emergency Contact Hubs have been identified in the event of the Hall not being useable.

- > The Parish Council received a grant from SSEN with which they purchased 2 generators, medical and other equipment.

- > A special Emergency Locker has been built within the Village Shed for storing all Emergency equipment.

- > Initial training has started with the Support Group.

