



AYNHO,
THE APRICOT VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER
MARCH

4th March - Enjoy Pancake Day

30th March - Mothers' Day and
Mothering Sunday - so many to be
thankful to; so much to be thankful for!

Welcome a new Play Group

Aynho Village Lottery
relaunched



CHURCH CALENDAR - March 2025

ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE

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

Sunday March 2 nd Candlemas	11am 9.15am 10am 6pm	Aynho Farthinghoe Evenley Hinton	Communion Communion Morning Prayer Evensong
Wednesday March 5 th Ash Wednesday	9.30am 7.30pm	Croughton Farthinghoe	Ashes Services
Friday March 7 th World Day of Prayer	11am	Aynho	Special Service
Sunday March 9 th 1 st of Lent	10am 9.15am 11am 11am 5.30pm	Aynho Evenley Croughton Hinton Farthinghoe	Morning Worship Communion Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Sunday March 16 th 2 nd of Lent	10.30am	Evenley	Benefice Communion
Sunday March 23 rd 3 rd of Lent	9.15am 9.15am 11am 11am 5.30pm	Aynho Farthinghoe Croughton Hinton Evenley	Communion Morning Prayer Morning Prayer Communion Evensong
Sunday March 30 th 4 th of Lent Mothering Sunday	10.30am 9.15am	Aynho Farthinghoe	Morning Prayer Communion

Church Information: about the life of our church, or enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals or burials –

Please contact the Rector on 01869 810903 or by email to office@astwickvalebenefice.org

Bell Ringing in February – Alternate Tuesdays at 7.30pm

St Michael's Church Cleaning – Wednesday 23rd March (8.45-10am)

April Newsletter - items by **25th March**

SAVE THESE DATES FOR 2025

Friday 28th March - Pop up Pub (South Africa theme)

Saturday 5th April – Quiz and Curry Night

Sunday 20th April – Easter

Friday 25th April - Pop up Pub in the Village Hall

Monday 28th April – Annual Village Meeting

17-21st May – Oxfordshire Art Week in St Michael's

(Vol:706)

(If you want a digital copy please download it direct from the village website – www.aynho.org)

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

I remember the very real fear that gripped me the first time I left my house wearing my new clerical collar. I tried to push down my nerves, the impostor syndrome, and walked out into the village. Almost every priest has had to face the day after Ordination where you have to go out into the world dressed as a vicar, and feeling utterly unsuitable and exposed. On this day I was halfway down the road when I was stopped by a man I didn't recognise. He wanted to tell me how much he had enjoyed the wedding service I had taken the other month. This was a very kind thing of him to say, and very supportive. I was rather sad to have to tell him that, as I had only been ordained the day before, I hadn't taken any weddings ever, and certainly not the one he had been to. After a bit of talking and thinking we were able to identify the priest who had taken the service. As it happens I did know them, the Reverend Pelly (known as Lulu to her friends), a kind, engaging, very thin lady in her later 60s.

I learnt something very important that day, more often than you might expect, people only notice the collar. I have been mistaken for other priests who are different ages, genders, and races (sometimes all three) simply because I am the person in a clerical collar vaguely in the space that they are expected to be. This is an aspect of being a priest that has always made me smile. We wear collars as a visible sign of the life we are called to lead, so that whether we are doing good, ill, or just buying a paper, we can be easily identified as Christians who are trying to live according to the teachings of God.

This month we begin our Lenten Journey. It will lead us from the ashes - if not the sackcloth - of Ash Wednesday, through 40 days of self-denial, self-restraint, and self-examination, before we reach Holy Week, the crowds, the trial, the injustice, the cross, and then the tomb. Few people look forward to Lent, but it is a useful time. Societies and individuals who can train themselves to deal with hardship and scarcity, as well as plenty (we have feast days as well) find it easier to manage the ups and downs of life. It is a good habit for us all. It is also a time when we are asked to consider what we really need - what is really important to us - and to realise when something, some false idol, has snuck into our lives and begun to take over. For many it has been a shock to realise how much that chocolate cake or cigarette is key to their daily pattern, or how hard it is to actually make sure we do spend time with family or loved ones. In Lent we look at our lives and ask what it is that is really important to us, and what we wish to prioritise.

Lent is a time that is about substance rather than appearance. The collar, like any uniform, like Lent, does not make us suddenly better or different. We are asked what it is we wish to be, what is important to us, and then given time to strive towards living up to that uniform, to that calling, living up to Lent. You see, Lent and its fasting and denial is not an end in itself, the end comes at Easter, when God shows us the love that can overturn the grinding pessimism of the world, forgive sins, turn slaves, fishermen, and bigots into leaders and lovers of faith, and leaves the tombs empty. That is the end of Lent, and the beginning of new life.

Lent asks us to look beneath the superficial, to what is underneath. What is important to you, really? Once you know that, look at your life and ask where is the clutter, where am I focused, and where is God? He is there.

Reverend George

Notes from George:

There will be 2 Lent Courses run in the Benefice during Lent. One to take place in Croughton during the day, led by the Reverend Terry Richards. The other to take place on Tuesdays in Lent at St. Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe, at 12noon. Those interested in joining either to please contact me.

For anyone who would be interested in helping the church go into our schools to tell bible stories in a fun and engaging way, there will be a demonstration of Open the Book held at St. Michael's Church, Aynho, at 7pm on the 27th March. An opportunity to see what it is, hear from those who have done it in other parishes, and ask any question. No obligation to join if you attend. Tea and coffee + cake provided.

Friday 7th March 11am in St Michael's Church

World Day of Prayer (previously called Women's World Day of Prayer)

This year it falls to Aynho to host the above Service which is just one of many taking place around the world. The Service is written by Christian women from a different country each year and 2025 is the turn of the Cook Islands. This tiny island nation, only two thirds the size of the Isle of Wight, has an exclusive economic zone in the surrounding sea, seven times larger than that of New Zealand.

There are North and South islands, fifteen in all, with great distances in between but they remain one country in the centre of the Polynesian triangle. The first Christian missionaries arrived in 1821 and made a huge impact on the traditional ways but these have been preserved and blend in with the islander's Christian faith. 84.2% of people identify as Christians and Sundays are widely observed as days of worship and rest.

The Service will be led by women from around the Benefice but everyone is welcome to come and join in and learn something new. It should be very interesting and a little different.

Kathy

NEW Aynho Village Lottery
The revamped/relaunched Park Club Draw
Now Revitalised
See – Back Page and Insert to “Join in and Win”

IN YOUR VILLAGE HALL

(Bookings Secretary: Shirie Beaumont **Contact: 07878 430705**)

Village Website

Keep an eye of www.aynho.org

it has the up to date and/or corrected news and events throughout the month

NEW! AYNHO PLAYGROUP

Contact Dayra Brito – 07429 294048

I am setting up a new “Come and Play” group for babies and toddlers as a regular weekly event from 22nd April when the Village Hall becomes available after the school holidays on Tuesday mornings (9.30 to 11.30). In the coming month we shall try and do two try out mornings on **Wednesday 19th and 26th March.**

Please come along – I will need your support!

Initially please contact me on the phone and then I will set up a WhatsApp group for the details.

Dayra

WINTER LUNCH CLUB

DATES FOR MARCH: Thursdays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th (final date for this Winter!)

Winter Lunch Club is an opportunity for any villager to come along to the Mary Cartwright Room in the village hall, 12.15pm-1.30pm on a Thursday, enjoy a simple home cooked meal from a choice of soup, baked potato with filling, pudding, tea/coffee, at very reasonable cost during the winter months. No membership required! I run WLC for the community along with a great team of volunteers, any profit made (after hall hire and ingredient expenses) will go to supporting our Village Hall.

Please remember to book your place for any Thursday by noon on Monday of the relevant week, this is because I have to shop for ingredients and do some advance preparation! Please also kindly let me know if you have booked a place and you are then unable to attend. Payment is by CASH only.

Amanda – 01869 810341

POP UP PUB (PuP)

Next... is Friday **28th March** in the Village Hall - from 5pm. Our South African born community volunteers will be giving us some great tastes to enjoy. The profits are all going to Community Fund, whose next big project is supporting another set of volunteers who are starting up a weekly Playgroup in the Village Hall from April.

AYNHO WRITERS' GROUP **Contact: Keith McClellan at keithcarolmac@gmail.com**

Aynho Writers meet in the Mary Cartwright Room in the Village Hall from 10.00 am to 12.30pm on **Saturday 8th March**.

We had interesting articles on our suggested titles of, "The Road Not Taken" and "In Uniform". Titles for March are either "A Story Told Backwards" or "Handwriting", 700 words maximum. If interested come along and listen or bring a piece of your own. It needn't be either of the above titles.

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB - 2nd Wednesday **Contact: Annabel Bellamy 810847**

On Wednesday 12th March, Harriet Rycroft, a new speaker to our Club, will be giving a talk on 'Pots for Hot Spots and Shady Corners'. Harriet's speciality is ornamental gardening, and her talk will be full of planting ideas and practical tips. Now that the weather has finally got a little warmer, we can all think about getting out into our gardens – hopefully this will give you some inspiration to put on your gardening gloves! The talk will start promptly at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If you would like to bring a guest to a talk, please do, the cost is £3 for the evening.

For those of you who were unable to pay your Annual Subscription last month, Linda and Johannah will be there ready to receive your £12.50 and give you the 2025 Programme.

AYNHO LADIES GROUP 3rd Wednesday **Contact: Jill Wightman 811206 or Email: jayrw10@gmail.com**

Wednesday 19th March at 7.30pm. Women's Rights and the UN by Tess Deco-Young

Last month's talk on The Grand Tour by Tom Duncan was really enjoyable and informative. He described not only how these 17th century tours were organised but what the travellers saw and did illustrating all using paintings by well-known artists. If you are interested Tom recommended a book on the Grand Tour by Christopher Hibbert. Thank you, Tom, for a fascinating talk and to Stephen for his technical input.

Our next meeting on the 19th March – **back to our evening time of 7.30pm** - will be with Tess Deco-Young, another local resident, who will talk about her work as a volunteer, connected to the UN. Tess travels widely giving help, information and advice on Woman's Rights. This talk is very appropriate as it is "International Women's Day" this month. We look forward to seeing you on the 19th. Till then take care and keep looking towards the Spring.

COFFEE MORNINGS: 5th and 12th March, 10.30am – 12 noon at the Village Hall

These are open to everyone so you can come to either or both. Contact Jill for more information.

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY **Contact Helen Mackenzie (07866 044985)**

The first meeting of the History Society is scheduled for 23rd April. We are delighted to be welcoming Steve Dimmer, a well-known and entertaining speaker. More details will follow....

There will be 6 meetings this year held on the fourth Wednesday of the month in April, May and June and recommencing September, October and November. Owing to the increased costs of speakers we have had to increase our charges for entry to £4.00 on the door. Still excellent value for a highly interesting evening as well as a chance to meet other village residents!

Our calendar of speakers will be available at our next meeting - please come along and join us. You will not be disappointed!

AYNHO QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT - **Saturday 5th April**. Please contact Michael Johnson at mjohanson.deepdale@gmail.com or 07585 616747. Tickets (£15pp) available for the 2025 Aynho Quiz & Curry Night. Max of 4 in a team. Corkage £10 per table where applicable.

All proceeds towards PAPYRUS - Prevention of Young Suicide.

This year, at the **Annual Flower and Vegetable Show**, Saturday 16th August, there will be a Children and Parents Class (No.64) **'Grow a small Sunflower in a pot'**. Little Gardeners and their parents who wish to take on the challenge of growing the best sunflower, please contact Amanda or Annabel to receive your seeds and instructions.

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There will be two Photographic Classes (65 & 66) at this year's show: **'Spring'** and **'Wildlife in Your Garden'**. Cameras to the ready!

VILLAGE "OUTSIDE" ACTIVITIES

Aynho Apricots Cycling Club **Aynho Apricots Running Club** and **Social Dog Walking**

See January Newsletter for info.

Faraz Shibli 07742 906780 Email: faraz.shibli@oxon.org

Bridge Circle

Contact: Kevin D'Silva email: kevinds@salusinvest.com

Almost 30 bridge players and their partners recently descended on the Pickled Ploughman for the annual bridge dinner – another very jolly evening of fun with friends old and new (and a little bridge poetry).

We meet at the Pickled Ploughman in Adderbury at 7pm on the second and fourth Mondays of every month, confirming in advance via WhatsApp. We are a very social group and welcome players of all abilities, including complete beginners, for whom we occasionally run coaching sessions.

AT YOUR SPORTS FIELD & PAVILION

Well-Being Walks - from The Pavilion Thursdays 10am

Contact: Dawn on 07929 322949

There are two walks led by qualified walk leaders. One walk is a leisurely stroll for approximately 2 or 3 miles and lasts just over the hour or longer if needed. We walk at the pace that is comfortable for all. The second walk is more challenging covering an average of 6 miles and lasting up to 2 hours. There is no need to pre book. We are a friendly bunch and welcome all new walkers. However, the walks are not suitable for pushchairs as we often go across fields. We meet at the Sports Field Pavilion and set off at 10am every Thursday morning, rain or shine. On returning to the Pavilion there is tea, coffee and a tempting selection of cakes for sale. There is no fee for the Health Walks but we do ask for a voluntary 50p to cover the running costs of the Pavilion. All you need is some sturdy footwear. Hope to see you there.

Aynho Cricket Club - ECB All Stars Cricket is returning!

Aynho Cricket Club will be running the **ECB All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds** for a third year. Sessions will be on Saturday mornings between 10.00 and 10.45 at the Aynho Playing Fields **from 17th May for 8 weeks**.

The course will be led by members of the Club who have been trained by the ECB. Sessions are designed to be fun, inclusive and to give children an introduction to the basics of cricket. For more information, please visit ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars.

We have space for 24 children and the course has proved very popular in the first two years. We would love to see as many from Aynho as possible so please register interest on the All Stars website to be given early access to book from **5th March**.

For the first time this year, Aynho Cricket Club will also be running an extension course for 8 and 9 year olds progressing from All Stars. Sessions will also run on Saturday mornings between 10.00 and 10.45 with the aim of building up to a local 8 a-side tournament. Please do get in touch if you are interested.

If you have any questions, please contact Nick Montgomery at **nick_montgomery@hotmail.com**

Aynho Parish Council (APC) – News

The first Parish Council meeting of 2025 was held on 3rd February at Aynho Village Hall. Current planning applications were discussed, and details are available on the PC website. (clerk@aynho-pc.gov.uk) Usage and hire of the Pavilion and playing fields was debated and hire costs are to be standardised at an hourly rate. Cllr Rees is establishing a working party to gather the village's opinion on the Sport Field, Pavilion usage, availability of grants and village club's liaison on fund raising activities. This was an informal group and Councillors could voluntarily contribute. Please contact him for *your* input.

The Council wished to express their gratitude and thanks to Stephen Brook the retiring RFO who has been an active PC member for many years providing much support and guidance. The role of RFO would be assumed by the current Clerk.

STOP PRESS – other news

Neighbourhood Watch – several acts of vandalism had recently occurred. Please could residents be vigilant and report any events to the Police via 101, Talk-in or Facebook. There is a zero policy on vandalism in Aynho and establishment of a Watch Scheme is still being investigated.

Aynho Village – Wharf pathway – the verge is being widened to provide a pathway.

Zebra crossing/Highways – a crossing is being installed outside the Village Hall.

Highways are placing several VAS cameras throughout the village.

Speedwatch is back! - from 31 May – 28 June. Calling all volunteers to give 1 hour of your time to help! Further details to follow.

Note for your diary:

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 3rd March at 7pm in the Village Hall. Please come along; we look forward to seeing you.

Annual Village Meeting – Monday 28th April

ABILITY – Your Local, On Demand Minibus Service

For more details and to register visit: <https://abilitycic.org.uk/register> or telephone Ability between 9am & 2pm: 01327 604123 **ABILITY SPECIAL TRIPS OUT Mid March 2025**

TUESDAY 4 TH MARCH	OXFORD CITY	FREE
TUESDAY 11 TH MARCH	MARKET HARBOROUGH *Due to the distance this will be some time on the bus	£20 FARE
THURSDAY 20 TH MARCH	MILTON KEYNES	FREE
TUESDAY 4 TH MARCH	OXFORD CITY	FREE
TUESDAY 11 TH MARCH	MARKET HARBOROUGH *Due to the distance this will be some time on the bus	£20 FARE
THURSDAY 20 TH MARCH	MILTON KEYNES	FREE
TUESDAY 4 TH MARCH	OXFORD CITY	FREE



AYNHO VILLAGE LOTTERY (formerly known as Aynho Park Club Draw)



The Stephenson family have taken on the running of the Aynho Village Lottery (formerly known as the Aynho Park Club Draw). Richard & Diane live at 3 The Butts, and Jerry and Anna live at Upper Aynho Grounds.

The Draw has been running for 30 years and helps fund the maintenance of the pavilion, sports field and children's playground for the village. It also gives every player a chance to win each month. The more people who play, the bigger the prize pot (we are hoping for £50 a month). Your entry will make a difference.

How it works:

- The lottery will operate from April 2025 - March 2026, annually thereafter
- It costs £20 for the year
- All subscriptions must be in by 1st April 2025 and then subscriptions will be closed until the following year
- Numbers will be drawn around 25th of each month and winners notified by email or phone and will be announced in the next newsletter (with the first draw being 25th April 2025)
- You can have as many numbers as you like
- If you are a past participant, you may keep your original numbers
- Payment can be by standing order, bank transfer, cheque or cash. The easiest and most preferable option is by Standing Order. (When paying by bank transfer please put your surname and first line of your address in the reference box)

If you would like to enter, please fill in the form in the newsletter and return to 3 The Butts, Aynho or email jerry@adayinthecountry.co.uk

For those who may not have received a Subscription form, we will be going door-to-door over the coming weeks distributing more and collecting any subscriptions. But the easiest way to pay is by bank transfer or standing order.

Please email jerry@adayinthecountry.co.uk if you have any questions.



AYNHO CRICKET CLUB UNVEILS NEW KIT WITH LEAD SPONSOR THE CHERWELL AGENT

The Cherwell Agent Announced as Lead Sponsor for Aynho Cricket Club

Aynho, UK - February 2025

Aynho Cricket Club is delighted to announce The Cherwell Agent as its new lead sponsor for the upcoming season. This exciting partnership marks a significant milestone for the club as it continues to grow and develop within the local community.

To celebrate this collaboration, Aynho Cricket Club has unveiled a brand-new kit, proudly displaying The Cherwell Agent's logo. The fresh design embodies the club's spirit, tradition, and ambition.

"We are thrilled to welcome The Cherwell Agent as our lead sponsor," said Paul Duncanson, Club Chairman of Aynho Cricket Club. "As Aynho's local estate agency, they have long been a valued part of our community, and this partnership strengthens our shared commitment to the village and its people. Their support is invaluable in helping us maintain and enhance our facilities, provide top-quality coaching, and nurture local cricketing talent. We are particularly excited about the launch of our new kit, which represents a new era for the club and the close ties we share with The Cherwell Agent."

The Cherwell Agent, a respected name in the local property market, is committed to supporting the community and fostering grassroots sports. "Chris Willmer, Founder & Director at The Cherwell Agent, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, "We are proud to be backing Aynho Cricket Club. The club forms a valuable part of the community, and we are excited to see how our support helps it thrive both on and off the pitch."

The newly sponsored kit will make its debut at Aynho Cricket Club's first home game of the season, where players and supporters alike will celebrate this exciting new chapter.

For more information about Aynho Cricket Club and upcoming fixtures,
please visit www.aynho.org.

For more information on The Cherwell Agent - Your trusted partner when selling
village & country homes visit www.thecherwellagent.co.uk



YOUR LOCAL TRADE PAGE (Cost of Advert £3 per month)

KATE HUME AESTHETICS – ‘The Natural Beauty Nurse’ medical facial aesthetics & prescription skincare– advanced nurse practitioner and independent prescriber with nearly 2 decades of experience.
<https://www.katehumeaesthetics.com> email: info@katehumeaesthetics.com
WhatsApp 07837 503421

NDM ELECTRICAL – N D Mobley, Brackley Tel: 01280 700905 mobile: 07922 005629
Domestic & Commercial Installation & Maintenance

SANDY BILLY (BSc.(Hons) (MRCPod) Private Podiatry/Chiropody Service, Deddington Health Centre.
Tel: mobile: 07792 212988 email: sandynbilly@yahoo.com
HP Registered. Clinic/Home Visiting, Nail & Diabetic Foot Care & Footwear advice. Insoles/Orthotics, Corns & Callus (hard skin)

ADAM 1ST CALL HANDYMAN “When you don’t have the time or energy to tick off all those annoying jobs” call Adam on 07768 398661 email: adam1stcallhandyman@hotmail.com
Based in Aynho and covering surrounding areas – call for free no obligation quotation

BULLS HEAD GARAGE (Souldern) Ltd. Tel: 01869 345281
Car & Light Commercial Vehicles – Repairs – Services – MOT

COMPUTERPRO - IT Support & Computer Repairs for homes and small businesses. Repairs & Upgrades. Phones & Tablets. Wi-Fi issues & installation. Online Security, New & Refurb machines
Tel: 01869 352002 email: hello@computer-pro.co.uk

C.F.ACCOUNTANTS Ltd. Friendly personal service. Sensible fixed fees for small businesses and taxpayers, with no hidden charges. For free initial, no obligation meeting
Contact Jason on 01869 345329 or 07975 589459 or email: jason@cockburnfranklin.co.uk

THE SYNERGY PRACTICE Physiotherapy & Sports Therapy / Massage – Sherry and Luke
the team at the Synergy Practice are here to help if you are in need of rehabilitation, physiotherapy, sports therapy & massage. Call 01865 803066, email: info@thesynergypractice.com or book online at www.thesynergypractice.com

KATE ANGELL Mindfulness Meditation and T’ai Chi Chih/Qigong Teacher. One to one and small group workshops and weekly classes.
Call Kate 07478 276891 or email: kate@calmerminds.co.uk for info/book.

HEARING CHOICES - with Lisa Summersell at Health Centre (Memorial Hall) Kings Sutton OX173PG. Expert independent advice; over 20 years’ experience. All your hearing needs: ear wax removal, digital hearing aids, tinnitus advice. Contact: 01295 574380 or 07942 641986 or email: contact@hearingchoicesuk.co.uk

KB ROOFING AND BUILDING for all roofing, soffit, gutter repairs, velux window installations and inspections. Local from Adderbury - can call round to estimate/quote. Call Kris on 07362 410376 or 07802 265864; email enquiries@kbroofingbuilding.co.uk

Brew Box @ Aynho Wharf - lovely canal side location offering speciality coffee, bacon butties, sausage rolls, paninis & cake. Check @brewboxcoffeeuk on Facebook or Instagram for opening hours.
