

AYNHO, THE APRICOT VILLAGE
APRIL NEWSLETTER



HAPPY
EASTER

CHURCH CALENDAR - April 2025

ASTWICK VALE BENEFICE

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

Sunday April 6 th Passion Sunday	11am 10am 5.30pm 6pm	Aynho Evenley Farthinghoe Steane Chapel	Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Evensong
Sunday April 13 th Palm Sunday	10.30am	Hinton	Benefice Communion
Tuesday 15 th Thursday 17 th	9.30am 9pm	Aynho Aynho	Communion Compline
Sunday April 20 th Easter	11am 5.58am 9.15am 9.15am 10am 11am	Aynho Farthinghoe Farthinghoe Evenley Croughton Hinton	Communion Dawn Service Communion Communion Communion Communion
Sunday April 27 th St George	9.15am 9.15am 11am 11am 5.30pm	Aynho Farthinghoe Croughton Hinton Evenley	Communion Morning Prayer Morning Prayer Communion Evensong

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 April – Alternate Tuesdays at 7.30pm

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

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

SAVE THESE DATES FOR 2025

Sunday 20th April – Easter Friday 25th April - Pop up Pub in the Village Hall

Monday 28th April – Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall

Wednesday 30th April – Annual Parochial Church Meeting

10th May - VE Day celebrations

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

Saturday 21st June – Village Fete on the Sportsfield

This Newsletter is issued by St Michael's Church and tries to include all Church and Community news. It is printed by locally in Aynho by "Ciceroni Travel".

(Vol:707)

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

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

It all started in a Garden.

As I sit in my study, I can see out into the little orchard by the side of the house. The trees are bare, but circling around their bases are halos of daffodils - which I planted last year - are bursting out. All but two are facing away from my window, but you can't have everything. Whilst the apple and plum trees are completely bare, the apricot tree by the side of the house, also without any leaves, is pushing out a profusion of delicate pink blossoms. How something that has sat through the winter looking like a pile of dead sticks can suddenly prove the strong life within it by bursting out in flower is beyond me.

As I write, we are still in Lent, and from here it feels like it will be Lent for a good while yet. However, on the 20th April comes Easter. Easter is the great day in the Christian calendar, so holy that it has hallowed every Sunday since in its memory. The women who followed Jesus go to his tomb in the garden, and find it empty. It is the miracle at the heart of the Christian faith.

I knew a gardener who said that his work amongst plants helped him to ground his understanding of Easter. After all, he said, nothing in a garden stays dead for very long. Even the stuff that is cut off, or dug up, or withered, goes to compost, and is full of such life that it is used to help grow other plants. I have often thought of the bulbs, planted only to burst out with life. Perhaps the apricot tree is another part of creation that can point us to our creator.

Perhaps it is just a miracle: like many things, and like nothing at all.

We celebrate Easter because in that Garden the tomb was empty, and God - mistaken variously for a teacher, a carpenter, a corpse, and a gardener - reaches out with scarred hands to embrace creation, and to tell us that the sin that had clung to us from Eden, was gone. We are free, and may choose what to do with that freedom.

We celebrate Easter not just because Jesus' tomb was empty, but because he has emptied our tombs, and given us life, hope, and love. The worst in life, in humanity, or in the world cannot blot out the light of Easter.

It all started in a Garden.

Reverend George

Good Luck at the Quiz and Curry Night on 5th April in the Village Hall

Art in Aynho

9 varied artists exhibiting in St Michael's Church
for Oxfordshire Artweeks 17th to 21st May inclusive (10am – 4pm).

Preview Friday May 16th 5-8 pm.

A warm welcome to all. Refreshments available.

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

FREE COVID 19 JAB – No Need to Book

Saturday 19th April – In the Village Hall: 10am – 4pm

(West Northants Public Health Mobile Vaccination Service)

**If you are 75+, or between age 6 months and 74 with weakened immune system,
or a resident in a care home for older adults**

AYNHO PLAYGROUPE

Contact: Dayra Brito – 07429 294048

Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am 22nd and 29th April

Please come along and play with your toddler(s) – I run for the whole 2 hours but drop in as it suits you; there are refreshments. Initially please contact me on the phone and then I will set up a WhatsApp group for the details. Welcome to families nearby in other communities. Dayra

POP UP PUB (PuP) – last Friday in the month

Next... is Friday **25th April** in the Village Hall - from 5.30pm. A huge thank you to the South African born community volunteers (Brian, Sam, Julie and Leigh) for providing the delicious “bobotie” at the last PuP.

Not sure what the food offering might be at the end of April – all good ideas welcome!

With attendance at these PuPs settling at about 75/80 villagers it is a good chance for chat and catch up as well as raising a bit of money for the community fund and its projects.

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

Aynho Writers meet in the Dame Mary Cartwright Room in the Village Hall from 10am to 12.30pm on **Saturday 12th April**. We welcomed a new member to the March meeting before reading round, a few Stories Told Backwards and a few more on Handwriting, with some of the members' own creations. The work was at the usual high standard and entertaining. Next month we shall be writing about *The Committee* or *A piece Inspired by a Picture*.

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

Our next Gardening Club evening will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 9th April**.

The subject of **Chris Brown’s** talk will be ‘**Choice plants for your garden**’. Chris trained at Wisley and then worked at the Botanical Gardens in Cambridge; he is a new speaker to our group. He has worked with all sorts of interesting people, done some commercial work and is now mainly working in private gardens helping people develop their gardens and plant collections.

The talk will start at 7.30pm.

A Date for your diary: This year’s trip on **Wednesday 11th June** will be to **Coton Manor** – a delightful 10-acre garden with luxuriant borders set in the Northamptonshire countryside - about an hour away. The bus has been booked, there are limited places, so book early to avoid disappointment. The bus will cost £20 each and entry into Coton Manor is £11 each. Get in touch with Helen Mackenzie to secure your place.

For any queries regarding the Gardening Club, please get in touch with Annabel (810847).

AYNHO LADIES GROUP **Contact : Jill Wightman 811206 Email: jayrw10@gmail.com**

Wednesday 16th April – Anniversary Lunch at The Pickled Ploughman

Our sincere thanks to Tess Dico-Young who fascinated us with a brief outline of her career working initially with the UN and then free-lance as a humanitarian with a strong bias towards women’s rights and equality. She explained how she has been to many parts of the world as a Project Manager working for a variety of charities and aiming to improve living standards of the

local people. There was much food for thought.

Our next get together on the **16th April at 12.30pm** will be our annual celebration lunch at The Pickled Ploughman in Adderbury and marks the month we became the Aynho Ladies Group. Please let Jill know your menu choices if you have not already done so. Till then take care.

COFFEE MORNING: 9th April, 10.30am – 12 noon (just one this month)

Our next coffee morning has an Easter flavour and will be on the 9th April at the Village Hall. There will be a selection of homemade cakes and the cost will be £3 as usual. Everyone is welcome but if you would like to come to this one please can you book with Jill. Thank you.

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY 23rd April 7.30pm Contact: Helen Mackenzie (07866 044985)

Our first meeting this year is one with a difference! We are delighted to welcome **Steve Dimmer** to the Society who will entertain us with stories of the "*Tales and Legends of Northants*" where history is entwined with folk tales and fiction, with an Easter twist! Whilst Aynho is located on the very edge of this lovely County, members are certain to be interested in the tales of "The Brigstock Fox" and "The Bride of Broughton" as well as more locally "The Kings Sutton Faery".

Be sure to put a note in your diary to visit us on Wednesday April 23rd in Aynho Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Payment of £4.00 on the door. All are welcome!

Further meetings will be held in May/June/September/October and November on the 4th Wednesday of the month. We hope you can join us!

For further information contact Helen Mackenzie 07866 044985.

See March Newsletter '**GROW A SMALL SUNFLOWER IN A POT**'.
Little Gardeners and their parents – there is still time to sow and grow for the Show!
- please contact Amanda or Annabel to receive your seeds and instructions.

VILLAGE "OUTSIDE" ACTIVITIES

Aynho Apricots Cycling Club We meet outside the Cartwright Hotel at 9am on the first Sunday and third Saturday of every month for a group ride with a stop for coffee/breakfast, confirming in advance via WhatsApp. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Aynho Apricots Running Club We meet on Portway at 9am on Sundays for a group run, confirming in advance via WhatsApp. There are options for beginners and experienced runners alike.

Social Dog Walking We meet on occasional weekdays around lunchtime for on- and off-lead walks, choosing a time and place via WhatsApp. There is no pressure to commit regularly - just come along if and when convenient.

For all three of the above please get in touch with:

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

Bridge Circle

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

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.

Aynho Village Lottery – “Join in and Win”

Thanks to all those who have signed up (90 households!) – ideally we need another 30 to join to boost the monthly prize money. Open to join until Easter and then that's it until next year.

Please support!

Email: jerry@adayinthecountry.co.uk

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 - Aynho Cricket Club - Juniors Update

Thanks to all of you who have signed up for the All Stars cricket programme in Aynho. We have had a fantastic uptake from the village and local area and at the time of going to press have just 3 more places for All Stars.

As a reminder, All Stars is the ECB's programme for 5-8 year olds which aims to introduce them to cricket in a fun and inclusive way. All are welcome! If you would like to sign up then please visit ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars and search for your postcode.

We have also had lots of interest in the 'Under 9s' extension programme for 8 and 9 year olds which ACC is running this year for the first time. This programme will build on core cricketing skills and focus on small-sided games each week. Again, please get in touch if you are interested.

All Stars and Under 9 sessions begin on Saturday 17th May at 10.00 on the Aynho Playing Fields and run for 8 weeks.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Nick at nick_montgomery@hotmail.com

Aynho Parish Council (APC) – News

A full Council meeting was held on Monday 3rd March at Aynho Village Hall. Several documents were reviewed including Policies for the hire of the Pavilion and Sportsfield. Councillors were reminded both Council and Parish Council Elections were due on 1st May 2025 and those interested in standing needed to complete and submit nominations.

Cllr Rees noted the Cricket Club would commence rolling the sports grounds w/c 24th March and Cllr Stephenson informed the Council the Tennis Court was undergoing a 'tidy up'. Cllr R Willis had met with Highways who would be installing x2 extra lights in the village at their expense. Work on the 'rambling track' between Aynho and the Warf had been undertaken and a Litter-Pick along the route and throughout the village was scheduled for Sunday 13th April with offer of a 'happy hour' at The Great Western Arms on completion. (See Cllr Rees Facebook post)

STOP PRESS – other news

Speedwatch – 31 May – 28 June. Volunteers still needed. Can you give x1 hour of your time? This is an effective exercise at reducing speeding within the Village.

“Keep Aynho Beautiful” – litter-pick around the village; work on wildflower bank on Charlton Road and next to cricket ground; Wharf Pathway clearance.

(Half price drinks in GWA 3-4 pm for pickers!). Commencing @ Pavilion 12 noon.

Village Lottery – don’t forget to complete your subscription form – Lottery going ‘live’ in April!

Notes for your diary:

Parish Council Meeting 7th April 2025.

Annual Village Meeting Monday 28th April 2025.

Both meetings in Village Hall. All welcome.

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE

SPRINGING INTO ACTION

Whether you join us at an event, sign up to be a volunteer or shop with us – your support makes a difference! Without the generosity of our wonderful community, we couldn’t keep caring for local people when they need us the most. Thank you!

REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE

This month we have launched the return of our popular Rose to Remember event. You can remember a loved one by purchasing a beautiful yellow hand-crafted metal rose as a tribute to the life and memory of someone special. 500 yellow roses will form a stunning temporary installation in the hospice gardens from Tuesday 10 June to Sunday 22 June, but you will need to buy your rose ahead of the display. We have a limited number of roses available, so find out more and order yours here: www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember.

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 – April 2025				
TUESDAY 8 th APRIL	THAME *Due to the distance this will be sometime on the bus	FREE	A QUAIN MARKET TOWN IN OXFORDSHIRE.	THE MARKET WILL BE ON THIS DAY.
WEDNESDAY 23 rd APRIL	THE VALLEY, EVESHAM GARDEN CENTRE *Due to the distance this will be sometime on the bus	£20 FARE	A SHOPPING AND LEISURE DESTINATION IN THE HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE.	WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF EVESHAM COUNTRY PARK. PLUS A MINIATURE RAILWAY.
FRIDAY 25 th APRIL	BICESTER TOWN OR GARDEN CENTRE OR BICESTER VILLAGE	FREE	A TRIP TO BICESTER TOWN/GARDEN CENTRE OR DESIGNER SHOPPING VILLAGE	*Please advise which location you require*
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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
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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

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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.

KPTREECARE - contact Kevin from Middle Barton for all hedge and tree services (plus stump removal and site clearances) on 07788289344 and www.kptreecare.co.uk
