

March 2019



Beenham



Midgham



Woolhampton

Aldermaston and Woolhampton Benefice

Dear All

I was asked the following question recently 'What does the word Lent mean?'

The word Lent is derived from the Old English *lencten*, which means "lengthen." It refers to the lengthening of the daylight hours that occurs in the northern hemisphere as spring approaches. It is in this period of transition from late winter to early spring that the season of Lent falls.

But what is Lent about for us as followers of Christ and how can we use that time fruitfully? Lent reminds us of the forty days that Christ spent in the Wilderness, coping with the temptations of the world and spending time in prayer and contemplation preparing himself for his ministry.

So how for us today can we use this season of Lent? We are unlikely to be in a position to go off for 40 days, tempting as that might seem, and anyway, I would want somewhere much more comfortable than a Wilderness. For many, Lent is a time to give up something like chocolates or wine. But although that is a good discipline, it is not very productive unless you use the money you have saved for a good cause. Lent is rather a journey of self-discovery, an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, to take time out to read the scriptures, read a spiritual book, spend time listening to God, soak in the wonders of his creation. In the benefice there will be the opportunity to join the Lent course as we explore in greater depth the prayer Jesus gave us; come and spend an hour or so on the Benefice Quiet or perhaps join us at A Time to Pray on a Thursday morning.

So, as we begin that journey turning away from the crib towards the cross let us find time in all the busyness of life to deepen our relationship with God and to experience the abundance of his love for each one of us.

I wish you a truly fruitful and blessed Lent.

Yours in Christ

Jane.

Don't forget to visit the Benefice web site:
www.awb.org.uk

From the Register:

Baptisms and Services of Thanksgiving

17th February Poppy Anne Bell Wasing

Weddings, Renewal of Vows and Blessings of Marriage

19th February Chris Hart and Kerry Keating Wasing

Funerals, Burials and Burial of Ashes

13th February Rosemary Ann Quenault Woolhampton

26th February Maisie Eugene Smith Wasing

All details correct at time of going to print.

**You are warmly welcome to join us
at one of our Mothering Sunday
services
On Sunday 31st March**



9.15am at St Mary's, Beenham
9.15am at St Matthew's, Midgham
10am at St Mary's Aldermaston
11am at St Peter's, Woolhampton

The services will be an opportunity
to give thanks to all who care for us
and the blessing of the Simnel cake

Praying through The Lord's Prayer



**Come away for a while to a Benefice Quiet Day
on Saturday 6th April between 10.30 – 3pm
at St Matthew's Midgham**

Come for just an hour or two and be still

For further details

please contact the Rector

Hot drinks provided throughout the day

SERVICES FOR MARCH



1st March	Friday	
Midgham	14:00	Women's World Day of Prayer

3rd March	1st before Lent	
Aldermaston	08:00	Holy Communion BCP
Aldermaston	10:45	Family Service
Beenham	09:15	Holy Communion
Brimpton	09:15	Holy Communion
Midgham	09:15	Morning Worship
Woolhampton	11:00	Morning Worship

6th March	Ash Wednesday	
Aldermaston	19:30	Holy Communion
Midgham	11:00	Holy Communion

10th March	Lent 1	
Aldermaston	10:45	Holy Communion
Beenham	09:15	Family Communion
Midgham	09:15	Family Communion
Woolhampton	11:00	Family Communion

14th March	Thursday	
Midgham	09:30	Monthly Communion

17th March	Lent 2	
Aldermaston		
Cedars School	10:45	Family Communion
Beenham	09:15	Morning Worship
Brimpton	10:45	Morning Worship
Midgham	09:15	Holy Communion
Woolhampton	11:00	Holy Communion

24th March	Lent 3	
Beenham	09:15	Family Service
Midgham	09:15	Family Service
Wasing	10:45	Family Communion
Woolhampton (Elstree)	09:45	Elstree

31st March	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	
Aldermaston	10:00	Family Communion
Beenham	09:15	Family Communion
Midgham	09:15	Family Communion
Woolhampton	11:00	Family Communion

7th April	Lent 5 Passion Sunday	
Aldermaston	08:00	Holy Communion BCP
Aldermaston	10:00	Benefice Communion

WALKING IN LONDON 2019

Come and join us for an interesting walk in Merton, Morden and Wimbledon in London. It is a circular walk of approximately 7.5 miles and takes place on Saturday 27th April 2019, 9am to 5pm. It's an excellent day's outing for all the family, as there is so much to see and learn, including a questionnaire to test the brain and your observational skills!

This is a sponsored walk that is educative, enjoyable and helps to raise funds for a small charity, "Unlock", which spreads the Christian message in deprived inner city areas. As you walk you will learn about Unlock's work to spread the Gospel, not just in inner London, but also in Hull, Liverpool, Glasgow, Sheffield and beyond.

It will visit different denominational churches en route, which provide rest stops and refreshments, as well as an insight to their strengths and their problems.

The walk is the main fundraising event for this charity. Lots of people take part, so you won't be alone! If you can, please join us, we could do with lots of moral support, if you can't then please sponsor us! We plan to travel from stations on the Newbury line using group bookings. For further details contact Margaret Davison, 3, Angel Mead, Station Rd, Woolhampton.

Tel: 01189712810. E-mail margaret@cheese.org.



GOOD FRIDAY MESSY CHURCH

on FRIDAY 19th April 10 – 11.30am

Crafts and activities to make and do

Help make and plant an Easter garden

Songs and the Easter story Hot cross buns

This year's Good Friday Messy Church will once again be held at Aldermaston Parish Hall.

Come and join us for crafts and activities to explore the Easter story.

Suitable for all ages, children please bring an adult.

No need to book, just turn up, or for more details please contact Cara Smart - csmart.awb@gmail.com or Revd Jane Manley - jmanley.awb@gmail.com



Let's talk theology NEW SERIES

An opportunity to explore theological questions in an informal way
EXPERIENCING GOD Through Serving March 13th 7.45pm, at the Parish Room, St Mary's, Sulhamstead RG7 4ED

Facilitated by Derek Spears (dspears.awb@gmail.com)

and Hugh Boulter (hugh.boulter@virginmedia.com)

Spiritual Development Group BRADFIELD DEANERY

Children and Families Events, Aldermaston and Woolhampton Benefice - March 2019

Spring, spring, spring, spring! It's beginning to look beautiful and full of life again outside, half term has been and by the end of the month the clocks will go forward, making for lighter evenings once more. Children and families are welcome at all services, but may particularly enjoy these...

Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark is increasing! From this month Noah's Ark will be on the **first and third** Fridays of the month, in Aldermaston Parish Hall, RG7 4LW, 10-11am. There are toys to play with, a craft activity, snack, songs and a bible story. Please come along and join us. The next few dates are:

1st and 15th March

5th April (19th April is Good Friday Messy Church)

3rd and 17th May



Messy Church

Our next Messy Church is for **Good Friday, 19th April, Aldermaston Parish Hall, 10-11.30am**. There will be a variety of crafts and activities to join in, including making Easter Gardens for the churches, refreshments including hot cross buns, and then hearing the Easter Story together. All welcome.



Benefice Pancake Party!

Come and join us for pancakes, races and an hour of fun at Beenham Victory Hall. Shrove Tuesday, 5th March, 6-7pm.

Shrove
Tuesday



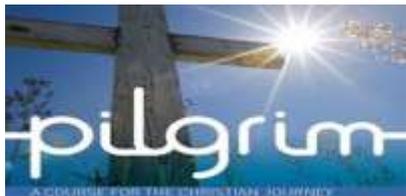
Children, please bring an adult. Contact Revd Jane Manley for more details.

Fairtrade Bake-Off!

Every year, the Fairtrade Foundation encourage awareness by celebrating fairtrade fortnight. On 3rd March, Aldermaston Church will be bringing back the very popular fair trade bake-off! Bring your entries to church before the start of the service (10.45am) and try and get as many fairtrade ingredients as you can, you'll need to write them down. Stay for coffee, tea and to find out the winners after the service!



If you'd like any extra information, see our website www.awb.org.uk or please contact:
Children's Work Co-Ordinator: Cara Smart – childrenswork.awb@gmail.com 01189811885
Rector: Revd Jane Manley - jmanley.awb@gmail.com



'Happy are those whose hearts are set on the pilgrim way' Psalm 84.5

As we journey through Lent we will be looking at one of the greatest treasures of the Christian faith – the prayer we know as the **Lord's Prayer**. One of the early Church Fathers said that the whole of the Christian gospel – the whole of the good news – is in the Lord's Prayer if we truly understand it.

Come along and take the opportunity to discuss and learn from each other.

At the Rectory, Wasing Lane, Aldermaston RG7 4LX at 7.30pm

Tuesday 12th March, Tuesday 19th March, Tuesday 26th March, Wednesday 3rd April and Tuesday 9th April

At 1 Church Lane, Brimpton, RG7 4TJ at 2pm

Friday 15th March, Friday 22nd March, Friday 29th March, Friday 5th April and Friday 12th April

For further details please speak to the Rector or any other member of the Ministry team.

Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes 6th March



11am at St Matthew's, Midgham

7.30pm at St Mary's, Aldermaston



5th March 6 - 7pm

Come and join us for pancakes, races and an hour of fun at Beenham Victory Hall

For further details please speak to the Rev'd Jane Manley 0118 9712891

We are looking for an editor with graphic design skills, to help with our new combined magazine (11 issues per year) to start in July. The hours will be approximately 10-12 per month and remuneration is offered. If interested, please contact our Benefice Administrator Brenda Scott awb.benefice@gmail.com

REV PAT'S FAREWELL

It was with heavy hearts that we said a fond farewell to Revd Pat and Anwar at a Songs of Praise Service on Sunday 27th January. The service was followed by tea and lots of cakes!



Pat has been a huge inspiration to us all during her five years of ministry within the Benefice. Alongside her considered way of spiritually fulfilling us each week, her calm nature, her caring ways and that she always had time to stop and listen will be remembered by us all.

It was a great pleasure to present her with a framed painting of St Matthew's Church, Midgham a camellia and money to purchase further plants for her garden that she is looking forward to working on during her retirement.

We all wish Pat and Anwar a very long and happy retirement.

ELECTORAL ROLL

2019 is a year in which a new roll has to be prepared rather than the existing roll revised. Therefore, everyone who is currently on the electoral roll will automatically come off and you will need to complete a new form for inclusion on the new roll. Our Electoral Roll officers will be organising this in each of the churches during February and March in time for our Annual Meetings in April. If you qualify to be on the roll please do ensure that you complete a form, which will be available in each of the churches. If you have any queries, please do speak to your Electoral Roll Officer. They are:

Aldermaston and Wasing
Beenham
Brimpton
Midgham
Woolhampton

Cathy Jones
Chris LeBlond
Catherine Bamford
Francine Gibbs
Margaret Davison

ST MATTHEW'S CAFÉ

Do come and join us on the first Thursday of the month for tea and cakes, chat and a story. Date - 7th March 4th April

Place – St Matthew's church, Midgham Time- 3 pm to 4.30pm

For more information or if you need transport : Jane Manley 9712891
jmanley.awb@gmail.com





Organ Recital

on the renovated

Midgham Church Organ

Roy Woodhams

Oxford Diocese Organ Adviser

**will play works by JS Bach,
Mendelssohn, Stanford, Vierne
and others**

**Saturday 16th March 2019
6.30 pm**

**Admission free. Retiring collection
Refreshments after Recital.**

**St Matthew's Church, Midgham
RG7 5UW**

QUARTER PEAL

A quarter peal was rung before the special leaving Sunday service on 27th January.

Midgham, Berkshire St Matthew

Sunday, 27 January 2019 in 41m (5-0-9 in C#)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 John Manley
- 2 Diana M Bridle
- 3 Helen Pratt
- 4 Joanne A Waller
- 5 Ben Waller ©
- 6 Marcus Allum

Rung as a farewell to the Rev. Pat Bhutta prior to her last service, with thanks for all her work during the last five years and to wish her well in her retirement.

FROM COTTAGE HOSPITAL TO CORONARY CARE

Back in 1960 I was in Newbury Cottage Hospital to have my tonsils and Adenoids removed. This followed my prolonged absence from school in the months before, with several bouts of tonsillitis. Our family doctor back then was Dr. Munro Ashman, at the Chapel Row surgery, who had prescribed treatment with penicillin – at least until my tonsils had become so enlarged that removal was the only option.

This was brought to mind by my recent heart attack, and an operation to install some scaffolding (“stent”) in a blocked artery. The difference between now and 1960 was much more of a surprise, as I woke up one morning with what I thought was “wind” somewhere in my chest. Classic! Here again though, the operation has been successful – although like many, I now have a good collection of tablets to take.

A major difference between the two events has been my transport to hospital. In 1960, from Midgham this involved a bus journey – or maybe a taxi – with my parents, and then following the different coloured lines on the floors of the corridor to the hospital ward. In 2018 I was an emergency, and I was flown by helicopter to the specialist cardiac centre in Blackpool. In the 70th anniversary year of the NHS, I have even more reason to be grateful for the service. Ironically, my room number at Blackpool Victoria Hospital was No. 9 – the last address we lived at in Berkshire was 9 Midgham Green.

In 1960s Newbury, I think today how difficult it may have been for my parents, with even a small distance between home and hospital, and limited access to transport. That said, the removal of my tonsils and adenoids did not prevent me from becoming a member of St Matthews church choir – but I can’t vouch for the quality of my singing!

Today, distance has also been something of a difficulty for my own family, but the care and treatment I received then, as now has been second to none, and happily on the mend from my latest experience.

Happy birthday NHS – and thank you.

Rodger Bradley

Midgham Village Hall



Last Wednesday every month

10am ~ 12 noon

Please drop in for a cuppa and a chat.
See YOU there!

Contact: Claire Norris 07786 195666
email: claire@eventive.org.uk

BEENHAM

BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our whole school topic this term is called 'Around the world in 80 days'. Our topic launch visit was to visit the steamship SS Great Britain in Bristol. Phileas Fogg would have travelled on a ship similar to this on his journey. One of the children has written about the visit.



“On Monday 28th January, the whole school went on a trip to the SS Great Britain in Bristol. We split into groups and then some of us went into the museum and some of us onto the ship. In the museum we saw parts of the ship and could steer the wheel. We also saw some of the passengers’ belongings and portraits of the captains. Before we went onto the ship, we went underneath it. You can go down some stairs and come out underneath some glass with a thin layer of water on it and be right next to the ship. Then we went aboard and below decks. We saw the cabins (which were tiny) and some wax figures that were like the people aboard

the ship many years ago. Some of them even talked!

“I liked the museums best as the ship was a bit disgusting,” Sophia said.

All in all, it was a very interesting trip and very enjoyable.



ST MARY’S CHURCH, BEENHAM ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING DAYS! ON FRIDAY 12th, and SATURDAY 13TH APRIL FROM 10AM – 2PM

Ahead of Easter celebrations, two Spring Cleaning Days are being organised on Friday April 12th and Saturday April 13th from 10.00am.

For most of the year we rely on a team of volunteers to keep the church clean and tidy – at ground level, for weddings and funerals as well as church services.

Once a year we ask for extra help from younger villagers (including men!) to reach the high places and more difficult jobs we cannot normally do.

Your help would be much appreciated.

Just turn up when you can Tea and coffee provided.

Please contact Katrina Alderton, Church Cleaning Organiser for more information 0118 971 3331

BEENHAM WALKERS

We have changed our day to alternate Monday mornings.

Our provisional schedule for the spring is:

February 25th – bus (9:32) to Paices Wood Country Park; walk back to Beenham via Wasing Estate and The Rowbarge (coffee)

March 11th – circular walk from Bradfield Southend Village Hall

March 25th – to be decided

April 8th – to be decided

April 15th – note this is one week after the previous walk, due to Easter next week – Pangbourne to Goring; either catch train back or walk back to Pangbourne.

April 22nd – Easter – no walk

April 29th – circular walk around Mortimer

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or would like more information, please contact John Newitt at walking@newitt.plus.com or phone 9713580

BEENHAM SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2019

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing, the theme for this year's Scarecrow Festival is "Space travel". Will you decide on Neil Armstrong, Buzz Lightyear or Dr Who? Superman or a Cyberman? Just let your imagination go!

If you would like to take part in the Scarecrow Festival, all you need to do is to make your scarecrow, on the theme of Space travel, and ensure it is able to survive life outside for at least a week or so. Then display it in your front garden by the 1st June in time for the judging which will take place over the following few days. We hope to award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize this year and the winners will be announced at the village fair on 22nd June.

If you plan to make a scarecrow and would like it to be included in the judging for the John Thurley Cup, please email me your name and address, with "scarecrow" in the subject box, by 2nd June. It would be helpful if you could also email a photo of your scarecrow once it is in position. And please **don't** send your entry via Facebook!! Thank you!

Lesley McEwen lesleymcewen@btinternet.com



A4 junction

As you may know, there was another accident at the A4 junction with Beenham Hill recently, and several people have mentioned near misses in the last few weeks. If you haven't already done so, please can I ask once more that you sign the petition asking for the junction to be improved.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/make-beenham-s-a4-junction-safer>

I hope to present the petition to West Berkshire Council very soon and use my 5 allotted minutes to tell them how dangerous it is!

Thanks – Lesley McEwen

Art Group

A friendly group of amateurs meets every Tuesday 9.45- 12.15

Contact Sunny 9712255

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

This month we have celebrated one year of being Makaton Friendly and we remain the only mainstream pre-school in Berkshire to have this award. We are very proud of our work with Makaton sign language with all of our children and we



have certainly seen how it can support communication in the early years (not only for those with a hearing impairment or communication disorder).

We are holding termly evening Taster Sessions for parents/carers and we are happy to host members of the Beenham community (and beyond) so if you would like to know more about Makaton please do get in touch.

Having had lots of fun in the snow and learning about animals who live in our environment in winter and those who live in colder faraway places (we are now experts on the Arctic and Antarctic!) we have ended the term with some work on our “emotional literacy”... thinking about how we are feeling, how those around us are feeling, and what we can do to help someone who might be feeling sad, angry or unsure. The children are all hoping for more snow so our snowy resources have not gone too far to the back of the cupboard just in case!

We are now full in many sessions having welcomed some more new faces at the start of January. A number of our children are now benefitting from our extended hours under the government’s 30 hours scheme. We continue to offer a variety of activities such as WriteDance, PE, Active AM, Music, Baking and more. We benefit hugely from our site shared with Beenham Primary and our children regularly visit the Reception Class of the Primary school getting used to the school environment as preparation for their journeys onward to local primary schools.

We are already taking bookings for the 2019-20 year so please do look at our Facebook page and Twitter feed (@beenhampre) if you would like to see more of what we have on offer and do get in touch if you would like to come and meet us! To book a visit or to learn more please contact our Manager, Paula Read:

Telephone: 07793 116937 Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

Greyfield Wood Open Day – Sunday 28th April!

On **Sunday 28th April**, we invite you to a family afternoon out, exploring **Greyfield Wood** in Beenham Village.

We are hosting our annual **Open Day**, between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm, and you are invited to join us.

With a guided **Wildlife Walk**, **self-guided bluebell walks**, **woodland craft demonstrations**, **a children’s craft activity centre** and **refreshments available**, this is an excellent opportunity to walk off your Sunday lunch and to re- discover your local wood.

Please note that limited disabled parking **only** will be available and there is no admission charge for this event.

If you require additional information, please contact Ken Ewen on 0118 9712856, or via email pilotdad200@gmail.com

BEENHAM CLUB

The Club is available to hire for private parties/functions, you get the venue, Bar staff and LED lighting backdrop.

We can also assist in planning your event if required. We have our own Karaoke equipment which is available at extra cost.

Just let us know your requirements and we will try to accommodate you. We can be contacted via Email, webpage "contact us form", telephone, visit the club or Facebook

Our Live Music & Acoustic Nights continue to go from strength to strength - Do you play an instrument? Sing? Enjoy a relaxed evening listening to others? Then this is the evening for you! We welcome anybody to come along, join in and show us your talent. Usually **3rd Saturday of every month** – check website or Facebook for any changes.

FORTH COMING EVENTS:

Sat 23rd March FUNK SOUL REBELS – Reading based funk band whose talented and highly experienced band members resurrect hits from classic artists

Sat 27th April HIGHWASTERS - A three piece band with influences from the late seventies and early eighties, a lively and energetic band who play with attitude and passion.

BEENHAM WI

We welcomed Toni Kent to our February meeting to share her fascinating life experiences in a talk entitled 'From Council House to Corporate to Comic' which included readings of her own witty poetry. It's easy to see why she is such a popular speaker at local WI's. Next month's meeting will be our AGM with cheese and wine. In April we'll be starting our new programme of speakers and activities for the year ahead as well as beginning to plan our centenary celebrations in 2020.

On Saturday, 9th March at 7.30pm we're running a **Quiz Night with fish and chip supper** at the Victory Hall. All are welcome. Teams will be made up of 6 to a table with the cost per person being £12.50. Bring your own drinks, glasses and cutlery. Tickets may still be available so do call Marion James on 9713094 to find out.

Have you recently moved to the village? Becoming a member of WI is a great way to meet the locals and make new friends. We enjoy a range of interesting speakers and activities at our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month as well as pub outings and other social events. We organise daytime outings, run a monthly book club and 'knit and natter' sessions. If you'd like to learn more, contact our president Margaret Grannum on 9713944 or secretary Rosemary Maslen on 9713824.

EASTER DECORATIONS

We will be decorating St Mary's Church on Saturday 20th April starting at 10 30 a.m. Margaret Wheatley would be pleased to know of anyone wishing to donate a lily for Easter. For further information please call Margaret on 0118 9710260.



***BEENHAM'S TEA PARTY ***

Come along for a chat, cup of tea or coffee and a delicious slice of **cake**.

ON: Tuesday 26th February and then Tuesday 26th March and Tuesday 30th April

IN: Beenham Club, Picklepythe Lane, RG7 5NT

FROM: 2 – 4pm Everyone from 0 – 100+ welcome

If anyone would be willing to offer to help with the tea party it would be lovely to hear from you. It takes a few hours on the last Tuesday in the month from 1pm – 4pm.

Don't stay at home alone! call Pat on 07947 478840 for a lift



SCOTTISH DANCING AT THE VICTORY HALL

Scottish Dancing is on Monday evenings at 7.30pm for beginners and for step practice, with dancing from 7.45pm.

Do come along and see what we do. You don't need a partner and the music is great. We promise you a warm welcome.

For more information contact Katrina on 0118 971 3331 or Sue Burbridge on 01635 581222. To check other clubs in the area see <http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk>

BEENHAM VILLAGE SUMMER FAYRE

June 22nd 2019 in Beenham Primary School From 12.00pm to 4.00pm

Where did 2018 go to!

Beenham Village Events Committee are busily planning the Summer Fayre.

The Fayre is a fun filled afternoon with a superb band, a delicious BBQ and brilliant bar by the Six Bells.

There will be loads of activities for adults and children alike - including a bouncy castle with a slide, a mobile zoo, a children's entertainer, Tutts Clump Cider, plant stalls, tombola and local crafts people selling their wares, as well as the very popular Dog show and even more popular raffle.

There will be a tug of war competition this year so we will be looking for willing, or not so willing, teams – could you make up a team?

We are also looking to expand the number of classic vehicles displayed, so if you know of anyone who would like to join us please let us know.

We would love to hear from anyone who'd be like to have a stall, whether it is crafts, food, plants or a game, or anything of local interest.

If you have any time to volunteer to help for a couple of hours on the day, setting up, running a stall, or helping to clear up afterwards that would also be wonderful.

On the other hand if you are willing to be part of the team managing the Fayre we'd love to hear from you too. This might mean attending some meetings, usually at the pub, planning ahead and working with others to help make the Fayre a success.

If there are any young people, who may be used to go to Beenham Primary School, and are willing to help by running stalls at the Fayre we'd love to hear from you too. If you could contact Mrs Clark at the school that would be fantastic.

It's a great chance to meet lots of people in the village and have the pleasure of being part of a successful community venture, with the money raised being used to support our Beenham Village organisations.

Please get in touch if you would like to help or for more information.

Phone Pat Owen on 0118 9715860 or email patowen0@hotmail.com

AUCTION OF PROMISES 2019



Two years ago we had a wonderfully entertaining and successful auction of promises to raise money for the project at St Mary's Church, Beenham, raising about £2,500.

So many of you generously donated items or skills to auction, so as we are now planning **Auction of Promises 2019**, we would like to ask once again if anyone has skills or items that we might be able to auction please?

A few ideas: lifts to/from the airport, a couple of hours gardening or ironing, baking a cake, flight in an aircraft, use of a holiday home or caravan etc.

Do put the date in your diaries and come and join us for a fun, enjoyable evening.

**AUCTION DATE: SATURDAY 30TH MARCH AT THE SIX BELLS,
BEENHAM 7.00pm for 7.30pm**

Any offers or questions to Janette Hammond: janette@janettehammond.co.uk

07917 818283 or Pat Owen patowen0@hotmail.com 07947 478840 Thank you ☺

On 30th you will be greeted with a complimentary drink on arrival and a little bit of food for sustenance, so do come and join us for a fun evening at The Six Bells. We'd love to see you there!

BEENHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB



- * Are you over 55?
- * Are you looking for a friendly local social club that meets once a month?
- * Are you also looking for the opportunity to go on day trips in the summer?

Then look no further! Come and try us.

We are a friendship group that meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

From April to September our monthly get together is a coach trip, and destinations this year will include Hatfield House, Beaulieu, Abingdon to Oxford Boat Trip, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bournemouth and Bourton on the Water.

In October we resume our monthly meetings at the Victory Hall in Beenham, for a chat and refreshments, entertainment or guest speakers starting at 2 p.m.



*Over 55 and fancy a FUN AFTERNOON meeting new people,
drinking tea and tasting different chocolates?*



BEENHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR TEA AND CHOCOLATE (FREE TASTING) ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2019 @ 2PM @ The Victory Hall, Beenham (£2 on the door)

For further information please contact Tina on 01635 826154 or Robin on 0118 9713715

CHARITY EVENTS IN LONDON – 27TH and 28TH APRIL 2019

On Saturday 27th April, members of St Mary's Beenham will be walking in aid of the church charity “**Unlock**”. This year the walk is around Wimbledon, Merton and Morden (details at: http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php)

Do come and join us. It's an interesting and fulfilling day out in an area of London you may not know. Alternatively, please sponsor us. The form and map will be available in St Mary's Church or from Katrina Alderton, Brambley Hedge, The Green, Beenham.

On Sunday 28th April, Lottie Hings from Beenham is hoping to run in the London Marathon in aid of “**The World Horse Aid**” charity.

Lottie is raising her entry money by selling home-made items (candles etc) and would be grateful for direct sponsorship money.

This can be given using the internet, via **ukvirginmoneygiving.com** by just clicking on the “Make a donation” button and search for Lottie Hings name,

BEENHAM VILLAGE MARKET 9 MARCH 2.00PM - 3.30PM

We were delighted to see so many new faces at the February Market, supporting both Hall and community spirit. Please keep it up!

We hope you will come and join us to indulge in our new stall holder Karen's pastries both sweet and savoury and cakes. We had a new stall holder in February, Louisa will be back selling her delicious cupcakes in April and I hope you will come to try both our ladies' tasty treats. Lottie will be back selling her fragrant handmade candles in various sizes, great for presents or to treat yourself whilst soaking in the bath!! We will also have stalls supporting the Church extension and our hugely popular 'green' stall Thatcham Refillables and our regular stall holders including Hazel's household goods and pet food now providing a small selection of preserves and eggs. Pre-loved jewellery, Alan's DIY, Sylvia's Crafts and Maureen and Dave's stall of handmade cards and knitted toys have joined us along with the Hall's Bric a Brac stall run by Frances as regular pitches. Our young helpers also continue to tempt us with their homemade cakes, teas and coffees whilst you meet up with your friends for a chat.



All help is greatly appreciated to keep this village event going, including helping to set up and pack away, contact Nola for set up times. So come along to meet the new faces, arrange to catch up with your friends and neighbours for conversation, coffee, tea and cake. Browse the new and regular stalls for a bargain or buy some treats for Sunday tea. Don't forget the raffle, a selection of fun prizes usually including a bottle of wine!

New stall holders are always welcome, the only charge is 10% of stall holders' takings to Village Hall funds, no sales no charge. Please contact Nola Rice-Wood on nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk or 9714822 for details or to arrange a booking for all kinds of parties, events or meetings. We thank you for supporting your Village Hall and look forward to seeing you at the subsequent market on April 13th, to which all are welcome.

Beenham Wind Orchestra We rehearse every Friday in term time from 7.30pm to 9.45pm in Beenham School. Do join us if you play a wind instrument (string bass or percussion). For more information: Simon Witcomb 01635 869869 (work) 0118 9712210 (home) or simon@witcombs.co.uk



Woolhampton C of E Primary School
'Enabling all to Flourish'

“There is music in every child. The teacher’s job is to find it and nurture it”

Frances Clark (1905-1998)

Last week, every child in our Year 4 and 5 class proudly performed for the school and parents. The entire class has been learning to play the cornet under the supervision of class teacher and music lead Mrs Lester alongside George Sandford, a brass teacher at Berkshire Maestros. Known as

a ‘First Access Project’, each pupil was supplied with a cornet and sixteen weekly lessons, with many choosing to take the instrument home to practice. For some, the thought of 25 cornets being played by 8, 9 and 10



year olds for the first time would be an interesting concept, however, all children persevered and showed great enthusiasm for the instrument and the notion of playing a tune collaboratively!

The school are keen for children to continue learning the instrument and the idea of starting a school band becomes a little closer to reality with several pupils already taking flute and cello lessons.

On a similar note (no pun intended!), Mrs Lester has been busy practising with the school choir for a junior school music festival at The Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke at the end of the month. Every year, schools come together to celebrate and perform a variety of songs. It is amazingly uplifting for our children to sing in such a large group and we would like to thank Berkshire Maestros for giving our school both these opportunities and inspiring a love of music.

Nikki Jordan, Chair of Governors

WOOLHAMPTON ANNUAL SHOW 2019 (SATURDAY AUGUST 10TH)

Last chance for entering ‘Potato-growing-in-a-container’ Competition

This is a fun competition and if you do not want to miss out on this popular class, please register either at the Village Shop or with Cathy or Terry (tel. 9713637, email terry.vallis@outlook.com). If you are new to the village and/or would like more details on this competition, see posters on notice boards around the village, or contact Terry (as above). Closing date for entries is 16th March.

Woolhampton

Annual Parish Assembly
to be held in the Village Hall

Tuesday 2nd April at 7.00pm
There will be refreshments available

HOME FARM TODDLER SESSIONS

Come and join us on 21st March from 9.00am - 10.30am for a range of activities, a music session, story time and playtime in our Early Years Garden.

If you would like to come with your toddler, please contact Sarah George on sgeorge@elstreeschool.org.uk



LENT LUNCH

A Lent Lunch is being held on Wednesday 13th March at 12:00 noon in Woolhampton Village Hall after the monthly coffee morning. Delicious home-made soups will be served with crusty bread, with a choice of fruit to follow. Do Join Us.

There will be a retiring collection for Water Aid.

Stella Nesbit

NATURE NOTES

Last year we had the Beast from the East and this year we have had the Pest from the West. Can that possibly be the end of winter? As I write it is mild, and the flowers that were blooming before the snow came are re-asserting themselves, but we shall see. Our resident birds are posturing in their bright spring plumage, and the pre-migratory dawn chorus is already very joyful, with thrushes being among the loudest. I don't think they are in decline round here. I love to watch the tits take sunflower seeds from the feeder into the hazel tree, where they split them open, devour the kernels and come back for another. The hazel itself is interesting. It doesn't seem to sleep as long as other deciduous trees; before it has shed its leaves – later than others – its catkins are swelling. They begin to shed pollen in January, and the tree may take a brief nap before its buds are swelling again. Amazing!



Stella Nesbit

WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL – MARCH 2019

Art Group	Monday	4,11,18,25	2.00pm
Bowls	Friday	1,8,15,22,29	3.00pm
Coffee morning	Wednesday	13	10.30am
The Fitness League	Thursday	7,14,21,28	10.00am
HIIT	Monday	4,11,18,25	7.25pm
Lunch Club	Wednesday	6,27	12.30pm
Market	Saturday	2	10.00am
Parish Council	Tuesday	19	7.30pm
Pilates (morning)	Wednesday	6,13,20	8.45am
Pilates	Monday	4,11,18,25	6.35pm
Seniors Social Club	Wednesday	27	12.30pm
Stroke Care	Tuesday	5,12,19,26	9.45 am
Tea dance	Thursday	14,28	2.00pm
Toddler Group	Monday	4,11,18,25	9.30am
Whist	Thursday	7,21	2.00pm
WI	Tuesday	12	7.45pm
Zumbafit	Monday	4,11,18,25	5.45pm

For contact details of the above groups or to hire the hall, please contact Emma Smith on 0118 9714062 or loreal1975@hotmail.com (Woolhampton residents receive reduced charges for party bookings.)

VILLAGE MARKET

The next Market is on Saturday 2nd March in the Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. You're assured a warm welcome whatever the weather, although hopefully the worst of the winter will be over by then. (Apologies to anyone who tried to get to the Market last month but as you will have realised, the weather and road conditions made cancellation inevitable.) Notices of the types of merchandise on offer are always placed around the village on public noticeboards (new noticeboards at the Church and Sun Hill layby) and in supporters' gardens. But it's just as easy to drop in to see for yourselves. There is no admission charge so just come along, relax, enjoy a nice cup of tea and chat to friends and neighbours (even get to know your neighbours if you are new to the village).



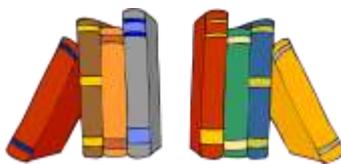
Due to a stallholder's holidays, sickness etc., an occasional replacement vendor would be very welcome (provided there is not already similar products available). So if you have a hobby for which you require an outlet, or you know of someone who does, please give Cathy a call on 9713637 to discuss.

**MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT
IN ST PETER'S CHURCH, WOOLHAMPTON
FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2019 AT 7:00PM**

Everyone is welcome to attend Music by Candlelight, a presentation of choral music through the seasons performed by the Elstree School Choir and with refreshments served afterwards at the School. Free admission but places do need to be booked in advance by emailing office@elstreeschool.org.uk or by phoning the School Office on 0118 9713302.

WOOLHAMPTON ON A WEDNESDAY (COFFEE MORNING)

Next month's meeting will be on Wednesday 13th March (always the second Wednesday of each month) from 10.30a.m. to 12noon. No format, no pressure, stay as long as you wish (or are able to). Plenty of reading material or just read your newspaper with a cup of tea or coffee - maybe chat with someone you have never met before and make new friends. Your opportunity to find out what really goes on in your village!



WOOLHAMPTON LITTER-PICKING INITIATIVE

With all the current national publicity about clearing litter and the national 'litter-picking month' running during March and April, it would be encouraging if Woolhampton residents could do their bit to tidy up our village. If there is sufficient support, we could approach the council to get litter pickers, bags, etc., and arrange for collection. Please contact Terry or Cathy on 9713637 or email terry.vallis@outlook.com if you have an interest in helping.

WOOLHAMPTON SENIORS CLUB



The January meeting was the club's Christmas dinner which was held in the Angel and enjoyed by all. The March meeting is on the 27th and is a bring-and-buy sale followed, of course, by fresh sandwiches, tea and cake. New members always welcome and meetings start at 2.30 p.m. Any enquiries regarding membership, please contact Joyce on 9713432.

GENERAL INTEREST



SINGING FOR PLEASURE

in Brimpton Church

If you enjoy singing and would like to try out this new informal singing group, please join us on

Thursday 21st March at 2 p.m.

for about an hour

We plan to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month to enjoy singing together, and to explore different sorts of music

ALL VOICES WELCOME

so please come and join in!

Any questions, please contact Susanmoore50@hotmail.com

Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Bowling – Class 3 pupils took part in the Bowling Competition at Lakeside, Thatcham. Well done to all our pupils representing Brimpton School. We were delighted that the ‘A’ Team, Lilli, Tynisha, Sam, George and Warren won Bronze! Well done to everyone who took part. We have taken part in several sporting competitions over the past few weeks and have done well at all of them. Congratulations to all our pupils for all their well-earned medals and certificates.



Art Week - The week beginning 11th February was our arts week. The theme was ‘Caring for our Environment’ with a focus on pollution and recycling. During this week there were lots of exciting activities and workshops taking place including a creation of a stained glass window in the school hall, and an undersea scene made from various recycled materials. The children had a non school uniform day – wearing clothes that were recycled e.g. hand me downs or something from a charity shop.

Amazing things happen here..... I have had the pleasure of observing teaching across the school this week. Not only have I been as engaged as the children in all lessons but the sheer enthusiasm and effort that goes into making each lesson a precious part of our children’s learning journey is just commendable. I am so proud of our team; our children are very lucky.

FOB Film Night – The PTA (FOBS) organised an end of term film night for the children, which is always well attended and enjoyed by all.

If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School
Mrs Sarah Vockins 0118-9712311 / office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk
www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk

NEW WHEELS AS VOLUNTEER GROUP EXPANDS SERVICE

A new car converted to take a wheelchair has been acquired this week by the Carebus Volunteer Group (CVG) which provides transport for disabled and vulnerable people in Beenham and surrounding areas. It joins the group's two minibuses and another car to bring the fleet to four.

The new vehicle is a specially converted VW Caddy and will be used to take wheelchair users to hospital appointments, shopping trips, and other essential trips where other means of transport are not readily available. As with the other CVG vehicles, it will be driven by volunteer drivers, specially trained in its use.

The Carebus minibuses have sophisticated wheelchair ramps operating via twin rear doors, and can accommodate up to 10 passengers with three folded wheelchairs, or eight passengers plus another who travels in his or her wheelchair which is secured with special floor clamps and an inertia seatbelt for the user. The Carebuses are used by groups for a wide variety of outings, and also run two scheduled services each week from the villages into Reading and Newbury enabling non-drivers to get out and about with others in a similar position.

As well as running the four vehicles, CVG has a second team of volunteer drivers offering a similar service using their own private cars, for clients who are more mobile.

CVG was founded in 1986 and now serves the eastern part of West Berkshire. The services benefit over 1,250 people annually. It is funded by a modest mileage charge to users and through the support of local councils, charitable trusts, and private donations. The acquisition of the new vehicle was made possible with the support of West Berkshire Council grant aid and a discount from Gowrings Mobility.

If you would like to know more about CVG and its services, or can offer any help, please visit www.carebuscommunitytransport.org or telephone 0118 930 4837



Rose Reynolds, CVG chair, accepts the Caddy keys from David Hawkins from Gowrings Mobility of Newbury



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GARDENING CLUBS & EVENTS March 2019

Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

This is a friendly group who meet in the Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury. We meet for talks and outings. Members also receive discounts at several local nurseries.

On Monday 1st April there will be a talk entitled "Growing is Showing" with inside information from Richard Killings on how to succeed at the Spring show!

On Sunday 7th April from 2.30pm – 4.00pm is the SPRING SHOW. Show entries will be staged from noon with judging from 1pm – 2pm.

For more information please contact John Wright 01635 863429 or Vivian Ward 0118 9712581. New members are always welcome.

Bradfield Gardening Club

This club meets at Bradfield Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

There are talks and visits from April to September.

New members are always welcome, contact Elspeth Ewen

elspethewen@gmail.com 0118 9712856.

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Sarah Henderson 9713956

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Woolhampton

Kate Alexander 9712067

katepalexander@hotmail.com

Please send Word attachments in Times New Roman size 11 font with no formatting (i.e. tabs bullets etc)

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Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton

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0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)

between 9.30 and 11.30 am,

Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Woolhampton Surgery Run:

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9.30 am Watermill Court & The Angel

THE BEENHAM SURGERY RUN

Sponsored by the Parish Council takes patients from Beenham to Chapel Row Surgery on Monday and Friday mornings.

Please make requests for this service to the Chapel Row Surgery. The volunteer drivers also collect and deliver prescriptions to Beenham.

We would welcome anyone willing to offer their time as a volunteer driver.

If you are interested in becoming a driver please contact Marion Jameson 9713094 or email-mazjames16@outlook.com

MOBILE LIBRARY

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Wednesday **March 13th**
Watermill Ct 10.25-11.10

Midgham:

Wednesday **March 13th**
Goddard's Drive 9.45-10.10

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

The magazine is distributed without charge to homes and schools in the area. But financial contributions, however small, are gratefully received. If you would like to make a donation towards the magazine please contact Brenda Scott.0118 9713113 awb.benefice@gmail.com

Welcome

If you have recently moved into our community, we hope that you settle into your new home and surroundings quickly. Hopefully this magazine will help you to discover what's going on in the area. You are especially welcome to come to any of the church services as listed in the magazine, and do please contact Rev Jane Manley on 9712891 if you want to find out more.

**All advertising enquiries to
Brenda Scott 0118 9713113
awb.benefice@gmail.com**

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

**WEDNESDAY 13th
MARCH
12 noon at the latest**

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Wedding Administrator

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Sarah Henderson, 14 Hatch Close,
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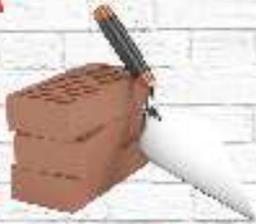
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