

May 2019



Beenham



Midgham



Woolhampton

Aldermaston and Woolhampton Benefice

Dear Friends

As I write this Easter is almost upon us – in a few days we will be celebrating the Resurrection of Christ. That journey through the Triduum will be over. Once again you can take up the chocolate, biscuits or wine that you have perhaps given up for Lent; put away the Lenten reading that you meant to do but didn't get beyond page 4; the roast lamb will be consumed; the Easter eggs eaten. Life will return to normal. Is that it?

It certainly wasn't like that for those first disciples. For them, nothing would ever be the same again. Jesus, the man they had faithfully followed, the man who had perplexed them, the man who had died – had now risen from the dead. As he said he would. How can life ever be the same again for them?

And how can it ever be the same again for us. We who follow in the footsteps of Peter, John, Mary and the other disciples – can our lives return to 'normal' – I hope not! We are Resurrection people – living out the Gospel message of the Resurrection – of hope. So, do we carry on and soon forget about Easter – when is the next Bank Holiday? Or do we truly live out our faith as Resurrection people for:

'the resurrection, ultimately, is for people who are hungry for life. It's for those who are prepared to come alive to the vast, embracing love of God, to the glory and tragedy of the world, to the potential of Christ within each of us.

But without the resurrection, we would never have known...'

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

With blessings

Jane

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

From the Register:

Baptisms and Services of Thanksgiving

7th April	Jude Michael Barber	Wasing
28th April	Willow Harriet Foster	Woolhampton

Weddings, Renewal of Vows and Blessings of Marriage

13th April	Oliver Stevens and Katherine Welch	Wasing
25th April	Alex Johns and Rebecca Birkett	Wasing

Funerals, Burials and Burial of Ashes

27th March	John Lionel Watson	Woolhampton
29th March	Andrew (Andy) Hall	Aldermaston
8th April	Sharon Akehurst	Brimpton

All details correct at time of going to print.

**GODPARENTS SUNDAY – 5TH MAY, ST MARY’S
ALDERMASTON, 10.45AM**

This year we will be setting apart Sunday 5th May to celebrate Godparents Sunday, a time to give thanks for our godchildren, godparents and all those who have helped us deepen our relationship with God. It is an opportunity to ask God’s blessing on godparents and godchildren everywhere, so whether you’ve been baptised in one of our churches or elsewhere, please come with your godparents and godchildren and take time to give thanks for this special relationship.



Details of how we will be coming together, as a Benefice, to pray will be available soon. Watch this space!



**Join us for Rogation Sunday
26th May 2019
9.15am St Mary’s, Beenham
9.15am at St Matthew’s,
Midgham
10.45am at Manor Farm,
Brimpton
10.45am at St Nicholas’ Wasing
11am at St Peter’s, Woolhampton
For further details contact the
Rector
on 0118 9712891**

SERVICES FOR APRIL



5th May	Easter 3	
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
9th May	Thursday	
Midgham	09:30	Monthly Communion
12th May	Easter 4	
Aldermaston	10:45	Holy Communion
Beenham	09:15	Family Communion
Midgham	09:15	Family Communion
Woolhampton	11:00	Family Communion
19th May	Easter 5	
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
26th May	Easter 6/Rogation Sunday	
Beenham	09:15	Family Rogation Service
Brimpton	10:45	Rogation Service
Midgham	09:15	Family Rogation Communion
Wasing	10:45	Family Communion
Woolhampton	11:00	Family Rogation Service
2nd June	Sunday after Ascension	
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

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

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter and your little one's enjoyed the break. As spring turns into summer we can look forward to lighter days and warmer weather, and lots of exciting things happening in our churches. Families and children are welcome at all our services, with these being of particular interest:

Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark is now twice a month, 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:

3rd and 17th May

7th and 21st June

5th July



Godparents Sunday

CELEBRATING AND
GIVING THANKS
FOR GODPARENTS
AND ALL THOSE
WHO ENCOURAGE
AND SUPPORT OUR
CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

St Mary's Aldermaston,
10.45am

5th May 2019

ALL ARE WELCOME



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It is hoped that between 30th May-9th June during the 11 days between Ascension and Pentecost, people will pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' to deepen their friendship with Jesus, and will pray for others to know Jesus too. You can also find out more by going online and exploring the website -

<https://www.thykingdomcomeglobal>



Family Communion with children's activities

Aldermaston and Beenham have a slightly shorter, family friendly communion, during which children can go and explore the Bible story with activities.

12th May, 9th June, 14th July at Beenham,
9.15am

19th May, 16th June at Cedars School,
Aldermaston, 10.45am

21st July, St Mary's Church Aldermaston
10.45am

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

Wedding and Baptism Administrator

Samantha Cave, who has been our Wedding Administrator for the past five years, is relocating. We are, therefore, looking for someone to take her place.

The role involves liaising with our wedding couples (we undertake an average of 50 weddings per year) from their first enquiry through to the actual wedding; liaising with clergy and Wasing Estate; organising banns and the wedding preparation days.



The work will also include supporting our baptism ministry, with the administration and liaising with the clergy. This is a new and exciting part of the role.

We need someone with good administrative and interpersonal skills who is willing to be flexible.

The paid job is part-time and homebased. A laptop is provided and training given.

If you are interested, please contact the Rector, The Rev Jane Manley on 0118 9712891 or email jmanley.awb@gmail.com



ST MATTHEW'S CAFÉ

This month only at Brimpton

Do come and join us on the first Thursday of the month for tea and cakes, chat and a story. Date - 2nd May

AT ST PETER'S BRIMPTON

6th June Place – St Matthew's church, Midgham

Time- 3 pm to 4.30pm For more information or if you need transport : Rev Janice Macdonald 0118 9813590 jmacdonald.awb@gmail.com





THE REVD JOHN LIONEL WATSON

Revd Watson was our Rector from 1977 to 1995.

The Reverend John Watson joined Elstree School in September 1974 in the dual capacity of Chaplain and History Teacher.

St Peter's had a seven year interregnum and each time a candidate came to fill the appointment, he or she was rejected by a small but powerful group. (The Misses Blyth –Currie). Finally the Bishop lost patience and appointed John Watson in 1977 to be Vicar of St Peters, to the dismay of Elstree who did not want to lose him and to the chagrin of the powerful group who were disappointed in him because he was not as much under their thumbs as they'd hoped. When Midgham lost its incumbent it was added to John's duties. The opposition came to the fore again when John was appointed to take over Beenham as well .

John and his wife Hazel did a great deal in the parish with prayer groups and Sunday School, together with busy pastoral care. He was a cheerful, friendly and helpful character.

When he retired from ministry he moved to Crawley near Winchester in Hampshire, here he continued to take services where needed in his local churches and was able to indulge his great interest in antiques and fine art.

He died at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital on Thursday 7th March 2019 aged 80 years. He leaves a wife, Hazel, sons Peter and Mark and daughter Anna, and five grandchildren.

He was buried in St Peter's Woolhampton churchyard on Wednesday 27th March with a simple graveside service. This was followed by a Thanksgiving service at St Mary's church Crawley, Hampshire the same day at 3:00 pm.

Dwelling in the Word

A chance to listen to a passage from the Bible, in quiet and peaceful contemplation

Wednesday, 8th May at 2:00pm for less than an hour
at Kiln House, 22a The Street, Aldermaston, RG7 4LN

WOOLHAMPTON

ST. PETER'S WOOLHAMPTON 'INSPIRED' FUNDRAISING APPEAL



The 'Inspired' Appeal has been launched to raise funds to repair the spire and refurbish the bells of St. Peter's Church, Woolhampton. The Church has been at the heart of our community since the 13th century and as custodians, it is important to continue to care for it as the generations before us have done.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CONCERT

Sunday 30th June at 6.00 p.m. drinks & canapes 7.00 p.m. Concert in St. Peter's Church. This will not be a ticketed event, but donations would be gratefully received.

SUMMER FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 3rd July 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at Douai Pavilion. Lindsey Kitchen of The White Horse Flower Company will lead the workshop and Jill Houston of Little Park Flowers will supply locally grown flowers. Limited number of spaces available. £70 per person.

TEDDY SLEEPOVER + PET SERVICE

Saturday 6th July – Sunday 7th July. Children associated with the parish to bring their teddies for a sleepover in St. Peter's Church on Saturday afternoon. £2 per teddy to the Inspired Fund. Teddies to be collected at 11 a.m. on Sunday at the Pet Service. Do bring your dog, cat, hamster, guinea pig, pig, pony, goldfish!

RIDE + STRIDE

Saturday, 14th September. Berkshire Churches Trust organise the county event. 50% of funds raised in the parish will be allocated to St. Peter's Church. www.rideandstrideuk.org

For further information on any of the above events, please contact Catherine Lovell on 0118 971 3234 or catherine@monksmead.co.uk

WOOLHAMPTON LITTER-PICKING INITIATIVE

Well, that was an incredible result! Twenty intrepid residents set out on 7th and 8th April (9 and 11, respectively) with the mission to rid Woolhampton roads (including our section of the A4!) of as much litter as possible. And 35 bags were filled, plus sundry large items recovered; yes, there is still some litter around but nowhere near as much, and hopefully the area looks far cleaner than it did. West Berks Council provided litter pickers, bags, hi-vis vests, etc., and collected the filled bags and items. Very many thanks to those who participated on either of those two days, or indeed on any other day as I am told some individual efforts were also made, and on behalf of Woolhampton Village, Well Done.

VILLAGE MARKET

The next Market is on Saturday 4th May in the Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Despite the unpredictable weather, Spring rapidly becomes Summer these days, so pop along to the Village Hall to enjoy this event whatever the season. The Market is a great event to come and chat to whoever will listen, and even to buy many of those things that you never knew you wanted until you saw them (cakes, household wares, pet and bird food, jewellery, stationery, local history, plants), all over a nice cup of tea, coffee or orange squash, or whatever. To fully appreciate what's on offer, just come along and see for yourself. There's even a stall for soft goods on behalf of the Air Ambulance. All of this and no entry fee. Lovely!!



WOOLHAMPTON AND MIDGHAM WI

At April's meeting of Woolhampton and Midgham WI 17 members thoroughly enjoyed a talk on " Encouraging the Young in School " by Lin Instone. This was an entertaining and amusing insight into her experiences as a school teacher and the hour talk flew by. The competition for a decorated egg in a nest was won by Liz Hogben. Next month's competition will be for anyone to bring a plant or flower from their garden beginning with the letters M A Y. The meeting closed at 9.30 after members had enjoyed a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and home made cake with time for a chat.

Woolhampton and Midgham WI meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Woolhampton Village Hall. starting at 7.45. We have many good speakers and outings organised during the year. Anyone wishing to join the WI can contact the chairman Beryl Smith on her e-mail berylsmith6@btinternet.com

The May meeting will be The Resolution and in June there will be a garden visit followed by supper provided by the Committee. In July the talk will be given on "Guide Dogs for the Blind" by Julie and her Dog.

NATURE NOTES

I had a report at the end of March that a nightingale had been singing in Woolhampton from one of the lamp standards. I don't think it was April 1st! Now to the end of May is nightingale time, so listen carefully for his wonderful song. He can be heard during the day as well as at night, but when this magazine comes out there will be many other springtime voices to confuse the issue – all very lovely, of course.

I remember saying last year that ivy is good for many things, including the holly blue butterfly. On April 4th I was delighted to see a holly blue dancing over the ivy in the sunshine. It was early, even for a holly blue, but the weather has been so topsy-turvy I like to think it was the child of the one that prompted me to write about it last year. April is also the month when Robert Browning wrote 'the brushwood sheaf round the elm tree bole is in tiny leaf'. Every year still the tiny leaves of the elms appear in our hedgerows, but sadly the trees succumb to Dutch elm disease after a few years. I still hope that given time, there will be elms again.



Stella Nesbit

Woolhampton Village Hall – May 2019

Art Group	Monday	13,20	2.00pm
Bowls	Friday	3,10,17,24,31	3.00pm
Coffee morning	Wednesday	8	10.30am
The Fitness League	Thursday	9,16,12,30	10.00am
HIIT	Monday	13,20	7.25pm
Lunch Club	Wednesday	1,22	12.30pm
Market	Saturday	4	10.00am
Parish Council	Tuesday	21	7.30pm
Pilates (morning)	Wednesday	1,8,15,22	8.45am
Pilates	Monday	13,20	6.35pm
Seniors Social Club	Wednesday	22	2.30pm
Stroke Care	Tuesday	7,14,21,28	9.45 am
Tea dance	Thursday	9,23	2.00pm
Toddler Group	Monday	13,20	9.30am
Whist	Thursday	tbc	2.00pm
WI	Tuesday	14	7.45pm
ZumbaFit	Monday	13,20	5.45pm

For contact details of the above groups or to hire the hall, please contact Emma Smith on 0118 9714062 or loreall975@hotmail.com (Woolhampton residents receive reduced charges for party bookings.)

WOOLHAMPTON ANNUAL SHOW 2019

No doubt you have already highlighted the date in your diary but in case you haven't, it's Saturday 10th August. The organising committee is already preparing for this much-anticipated informal event and hopefully you've already started to think which vegetables and flowers you will grow for the show (it's a bit too early to think about cakes and cookery but practice makes perfect!).



For you photographers, the classes this year are: 1) Insect, 2) Arches, 3) Single flower bloom, 4) Pair of photos depicting "large and small" with common theme, 5) One main colour – red, green, etc., any subject.

Please remember the photos are maximum size 7 x 5 inches and unmounted. There will be a varied selection of classes for the handicraft category including knitted garment, cross stitch sampler, final details to be provided soon.

WOOLHAMPTON ON WEDNESDAYS COFFEE MORNING

The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 8th May, again from 10.30 a.m. to midday and we would love to see more visitors but please feel free to spend as long or as little time as you wish. Just enjoy yourselves!



MIDGHAM

Midgham Village Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Midgham Village Hall will be held on **Tuesday 21st May, 2019 at 7.30pm** within the Hall itself on Church Hill

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Acceptance of Previous Minutes
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Financial Report
6. Resignation of current Committee
7. Election of incoming Committee
8. Any other Business

All members of Midgham Parish are welcome to attend

All members aged 18 and over are eligible to vote

If you wish to make a nomination for a position as one of the Midgham Village Hall Charity Trustees then please let Claire Norris know by **7th May, 2019**,

via claire@eventive.org.uk or **07786 195666**

We look forward to welcoming residents of Midgham Village on the 21st



OPEN GARDEN

**“The Dell” woodland garden
will be open on
Monday 27th May
3.00pm - 5.30pm**

in aid of
St Matthew's Church, Midgham

Lindens, Carbinswood Lane, Upper Woolhampton
for sat-nav use RG7 5UB

Donations of £5 or more. Children free

No dogs please

Tea will be served

For more information contact Tony Billington on 0118 9713158

CONGRATULATIONS

Nathaniel Booth collecting the cup for Midgham once again after raising the most money for the Ride and Stride in which he rode ten miles.

Congratulations also go to Nathaniel for winning a choral scholarship from Winchester cathedral where he will be joining as a probationary chorister from September.



ORGAN RECITAL

Our fourth recital on the restored Midgham organ was given on Saturday 16th March 2019 by Revd Roy Woodhams. About twenty people braved the stormy weather to hear him and they were rewarded with a treat. Roy is an organ adviser to the Diocese of Oxford, and as such he authorised us to go ahead with our restoration work. Now he was able to delight us with the result of the decision to do so.

As a full time priest (he is Rector of Cranleigh in Surrey) as well as a regular recitalist and accompanist, Roy was able to entertain us not just with his musical artistry but also with his real life experience of combining the roles of priest and organist. He preceded each piece or group of pieces, with a short talk about them and their composers, setting them in the context of the time, which augmented our appreciation of the music.

He opened with probably the best known piece of classical organ music, the toccata and fugue in D minor by JS Bach. Although written, and normally played, on a much bigger instrument than ours, the music's majesty was nevertheless portrayed by Roy through subtle changes of registration to provide contrast. He followed this with a charming set of variations on a chorale tune by Sweelinck who was born in the mid-sixteenth century. We then jumped two hundred years to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and to some English composers, Walond, Stanford and Parry, and French ones, Daquin, Vierne and Dubois. In between we were treated to a German composer who was an anglophile, Felix Mendelssohn, and to his Prelude and Fugue in C Minor. Roy shared with us that he had had second thoughts about choosing this work as it required some deft footwork in the upper region of the pedalboard which is not easy on our organ as the pedals are straight (where the standard is concave) and the position of the swell pedal is restrictive. He need not have worried.

Roy travelled from Cranleigh to give us a delightful recital, in the process missing a concert that his daughter and her newly-formed choir were giving in London. His and her loss was our gain and we are extremely grateful to him for honouring his commitment to us and giving us such a delightful evening which was made all the more so by Midgham PCC's generous food and drink which followed.

Richard Foster



Organ Recital
on the renovated
Midgham Church Organ

Chris Bragg

St Andrew's University, Fife

Friday 31st May 2019
6.30 pm

Admission free. Retiring collection
Refreshments after recital

St Matthew's Church, Midgham
RG7 5UW

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

RAISE MONEY FOR ST MARY'S PROJECT EVERYTIME YOU SHOP!

We have been asked by several people how to use easy fundraising to raise money for the building project at St Mary's church.

Once registered you raise money every time you shop online (notably Amazon) and the shops you visit will contribute to the cause.

Here's the link to begin raising money:

Go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryschurchbeenham/>

We'll be extremely grateful for all your contributions

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

We have 2 sessions planned with training provided by Heartstart Thatcham, the training being free of charge. Minimum age is 10 years but must be accompanied by an adult (18+).

For the sessions to run we need a minimum of 8 people and a maximum of 18.

26 June 2019

Beenham Victory Hall 10am-1230pm Full course, to include:

- CPR & defibrillator
- heart attack
- choking
- bleeding
- recovery position

If you would like to book a place, please contact Jane Liming.

Leave a message on 0118 971 0425 and I will reply.

VILLAGE CELEBRATES SPRING WITH MAYPOLE DANCING

ON: Saturday May 4th 2019 FROM: 2pm – 4pm

ON: Beenham Recreation Ground

Spring has arrived so come along, bring a picnic and join in the fun
Pimms and cake will be available

Maypole Dancing will be led by Anne Garrison

(Anne is a teacher of traditional and historic dance in schools,
museums and at other events)

Country dancing by the Brownies Join the family scavenger hunt

Everyone welcome

Organised by BVE (Beenham Village Events)



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 in Beenham Primary School From 12.00pm to 4.00pm

The planning for Beenham Village Summer Fayre is continuing to develop.

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.

If you would like to have a stall please contact us as we still have a few left. In particular we are still looking for a stall selling fresh bread; flowers in pots and/or hanging baskets or a game. We are also looking for someone who is able to facepaint or apply glitter tattoos.



Tug of war teams – we have a few but a couple more would be great!

We now have some classic motor bikes coming along to be displayed! If you have a classic vehicle you would be willing to display please get in touch.

Beenham Village Events (B.V.E) is also offering a range of advertising and sponsorship opportunities. If anyone, or you know of anyone, who would like to advertise in our programme or sponsor one of our key attractions, please get in touch for more details.

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 welcome you warmly. 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 maybe 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 9615860; 07947478840 or email patowen0@hotmail.com

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 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

PEA STICKS AND BEAN POLES - FROM GREYFIELD WOOD BEENHAM

For all gardeners, we are now able to supply pea sticks. These are silver birch and/or hazel and cost £5 per bunch. In addition, we are also taking orders for hazel bean poles. These are 9 feet long, in a bunch of 15 poles, at a price of £10 per bunch. All items will have to be collected from Greyfield Wood.

Please contact Adrian Stacey (0118 971 2153) or Ken Ewen (0118 971 2856) to place your order

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.

If you are interested in finding out more then do please ring Tina on 01635 826154 or Robin on 0118 9713715 who will be happy to help.

ART GROUP

A friendly group of amateurs meets every Tuesday 9.45- 12.15

Contact Sunny 9712255

AUCTION OF PROMISES

With a fabulous array of lots, some sealed bids and planned telephone bidding, the auction was set to be another profitable and entertaining evening. Guests were greeted with a glass of bubbly and seats were taken as the fabulous auctioneer, Alan Wilkes took up his gavel. Alan, looking very suave in his dinner suit (and scruffy boots?!) began the bidding with the promise of a summer hanging basket. Working our way through various hampers, experiences, a holiday home and useful services, we arrived at the mid point of the evening when some yummy hot food was served and drinks replenished.

Part two began with some telephone bidding for one of two beautiful watercolour paintings, very generously donated by Pauline Brown. Bidding progressed through the remaining items, ending with a bid for £100 for a legendary Six Bells pie.

Our very grateful thanks to Glynis and Chris for hosting this event again; to Alan for being our entertaining auctioneer; to all the generous donors for offering their skills and services; to all the people who bought the items and raised a fantastic £2,500 for the project at St Mary's Church, Beenham. Thank you all.



**Beenham Village Market 11th May Following on from the Car Boot Sale
1.30pm - 3.30pm for your Tea and Cakes**

I know I'm jumping ahead of myself but 'Copy date' was too early to tell you about April's fabulous Market and how popular our new stall "The Lonely Lentil", run by Lydia, was on the day, see below for Lydia's products. So just to give you a heads up for the June Market, we have a Pop Up, LJM Allsorts, selling some named brand silk scarves, hand bags and accessories, at very reasonable prices, so put it in your diary.

We hope you will come and join us to indulge in our stall holder Karen's pastries both sweet and savoury and cakes. Louisa will be back selling her delicious cupcakes and I hope you will come to try both our ladies tasty treats. We will also have our hugely popular 'green' stall Thatcham Refillables. The Lonely Lentil sells a wide variety of nutritious staples for your pantry, from rice and pasta to nuts, dried fruits and spices and much more, so don't forget this is another waste-free enterprise so bring along your empty containers to buy as much or as little as you want, sharing her delicious recipe ideas!

Our regular stall holders including Hazel's household goods and pet food now providing a small selection of preserves, eggs and cakes. 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 Halls'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 the 8th June, to which all are welcome.

***BEENHAM'S TEA PARTY ***



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

ON: Tuesday 30th April
And then Tuesday 28th May and Tuesday 25th June

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 07947478840 for a lift

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL



What a fantastic end to the Spring Term as we hosted our first ever Spring Concert. The event opened with our traditional Easter Bonnet Parade followed by the older children who performed a dramatisation of one of our favourite books (“What the Ladybird Heard”). They were then joined on stage by the younger children for some Singing and Signing of some Easter and Spring tunes with the finale of “The Rainbow Song”. We were so impressed with the confidence and talent on show, with children as young as 2 getting on stage and taking part. Well done to everyone involved!

Our theme for next term will be The Environment as we consider how lucky we are to be in such a beautiful rural setting but also think about what we can do to protect it ... everything from recycling our crisp packets to closing gates. If anyone in the local community would like to help us with our recycling efforts as we try to encourage all of our families to explore ways of recycling their everyday waste then please do get in touch. We can't wait to see what the children will come up with and how they will direct their own learning.

With 2 new families joining us after Easter we are now full in most of our sessions. 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**. 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**.

If you require additional information, please contact Ken Ewen on 0118 971 2856, 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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

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

Fri 17th May THE CHRIS DUNNE BAND – Amazing Country band. Gerry Hogan has played the Pedal Steel Guitar all over the world, if you have not seen him then this is something you need to experience. Guaranteed to give us a fantastic evening of music – a real club favourite

Sat 8th June The SOULTONES – 7 piece modern soul band with many years of experience, playing old school classic dance hits from the likes of Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Chaka Khan and many more.

BEENHAM WI

The speaker this month was Mike Brook who kindly saved the day at short notice when our planned speaker was unable to join us. Mike's talk, entitled 'Top of the Greasy Pole', was full of amusing stories relating to past Prime Ministers from Walpole through to Blair. Amongst very many fascinating anecdotes, we discovered that Disraeli, on becoming PM declared, 'I have reached the top of the greasy pole' which accounts for Mike's use of the term. His wide ranging talk was also full of interesting insights into the characters of the past PM's. We're looking forward to our birthday meal in May so our next meeting, which will be open to visitors for the small fee of £3, is on 12th June at 7.30pm in the Community Room. We will be welcoming a speaker from The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust. The aim of the Trust is to increase awareness of the signs and dangers of depression amongst young people and to encourage those who may be depressed to seek help. 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.

WILDLIFE HAVEN AT BEENHAM ALLOTMENTS: PART 2

The sun is just about reaching the ground where I am standing now, I have my back to the rays although it is chilly I can feel the warmth on my neck which is welcoming. The soil is clinging to the weeds as I dig which makes it a lot slower than I would like it, the soil is quite heavy where it is very damp but it is breaking up alright. I throw a few worms forward as I go along the row and then out of the



corner of my eye I see my friend hop on to the ground and fly off with a small worm in its beak. I have had to put wooden planks along my un-dug ground where I am standing, if I did not I would be treading in the weeds that I had not yet dug making the job even harder and making my boots inches higher.

We all pay the same fees at the allotments to have the pleasure of growing our own produce, but as I walk and look it amazes me to see how some allotment holders do so little while others put mine to shame, but at least most of us have a go. One or two appear to be letting their plots go back to nature, which is up to them, whilst others although not the growing season, are nicely dug waiting for the first signs of spring when planting can begin. The red kite is again circling above the adjacent field and then I see a second one a little higher. I stand and watch as their tails swivel and twist to keep them gracefully gliding and soaring in the morning sunlight.

As I carry on digging my mind drifts back to last year's successes and failures.

As I remember it was a testing time for us gardeners. When it was time to plant it was exceptionally wet and then we had the heat wave during the summer which we should not moan about, but a lot of watering had to be done. Tap water is not the same as rainwater the plants seem to know. The potato plants struggled in the dry weather resulting in a crop of smaller than usual potatoes, when I dug mine the ground was like concrete. The runner beans suffered the same fate. I watered mine regularly but my crop was still below standard to the previous year.

I am on my own this morning but usually other allotmenters would be here which is great we all get along well the only trouble with that is I usually don't get a lot done. I say I am just listening my wife says it is me gassing. There is so much knowledge up there if one of us doesn't know the answer to a gardening problem or what bird or insect you find or see, you can guarantee another person will. I suppose it is more like a social but we do get some work done in between chats. It is also amazing how many seedlings or plants you get offered where a gardener has grown more than they need. This also applies to produce that is not needed we all share it around or ask other allotmenters to help themselves, we also ask others to water our plots if we are going away it is like one big family.

If you'd like to join Beenham Allotments we have plots available for hire. Contact Helen on 01189714465 if interested.

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, please contact Simon Witcomb on 01 635 869869 (work) 0118 9712210 (home) or simon@witcombs.co.uk

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 have now got a date in May to present the petition to West Berkshire Council and I will use my 5 allotted minutes to tell them how dangerous it is!

Thanks – Lesley McEwen

BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children were excited to be able to perform at both the Royal Albert Hall and the Anvil this term. They joined other boys and girls from West Berkshire in presenting the musical “Rats”. As well as singing, the Beenham children performed an additional drama/dance movement that was unique to them. It stole the show! We were all so proud of the children. The movement was choreographed by Sarah our Street Dance teacher and it was very contemporary and extremely professional. It included music from the films Ratatouille and Mission Impossible.

We have finally come to the end of our whole school topic “Around the world in 80 days!”. This too had a dance and drama focus, also concentrating on creative arts too. We held an end of term performance “Around the world in 80 minutes”, where the children performed their singing and dance/drama and then invited their parents to join them in their classrooms to view an exhibition of the different countries they had studied. There was also food tasting and I think the Indian food was a great hit!



New trumpet lessons for year 3 are also proving to be a great hit and the children's level of expertise is coming on nicely. The children also continue to enjoy weekly guitar lessons.

We finished the term with a wonderful Easter service at the church. The children told the Easter story through the eyes of the donkey in Brian Wildsmith's story of Easter. Their singing was outstanding. Thanks to Mrs Russell for preparing the children so well.

When we return to school after Easter, our new topic will be called “Healthy me!”. It will have a science and PE focus. The term will begin with a fun topic day where we are going to challenge the children to work in mixed aged groups to build a new wife for Dr Jekyll . . . a sixth form drama student from Theale Secondary School is coming to help us out with this workshop! We will also be having a fun focussed PE week and a visit from a Paralympian. Mrs Godfrey is also going to be starting a gardening club. We want to try and grow our own vegetables again. We would be grateful for any donations of seeds or plants or your time to work in our garden. Please let us know. Telephone the school office 01189 713397 to volunteer.

Sue Butcher Headteacher

GENERAL INTEREST



Plant Sale **Saturday 4 May** **10am-12**

St Peter's Church Brimpton
Bedding plants, potted plants of many varieties
ready for planting
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Any donated plants, labelled and potted, gratefully received can be left in the church porch - preferably the day before the event.
Proceeds towards church refurbishment fund

SAVE THE DATE St Peter's Church, Brimpton
Kennet Opera Concert
7:30 pm 16th August 2019 Refreshments
More details to follow

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 29th April** at 8.15pm, there will be a talk entitled "Protecting Berkshire's Historical Gardens". This will be an introduction to the Berkshire Gardens Trust by Janet Fuller.

On **Wednesday 8th May** at 6.30pm there's an **OPEN EVENING** at Cottismore Garden Centre.

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.

May 14th – Helen Picton is the speaker with her talk "Daisy Days."

Nursery: Old Court Nurseries

June 11th – Matt Biggs delivers his talk "Lessons from Great Gardeners"

Nursery: Paul Barney, Edulis Plants

New members are always welcome, contact Elspeth Ewen

elspethewen@gmail.com 0118 9712856.



BRIMPTON FETE

29th June 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Brimpton Recreation Ground



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Teas, Barbecue and Bar
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Competition Schedule and Entry Form
available from:

Brimpton Primary School
Brimpton Church
The Traveller's Friend, Crookham

Or online at

Brimpton Parish Council website (search for Brimpton Fête)
<https://www.brimptonparish.org.uk/local-info/brimpton-fete-2019>

Car Boot Sale

Car boot sale in Beenham Primary School on Saturday 11th May 2019
from 8:30am - 1:30pm

Seller entry is from 7:30am

Cars £7
Van £10
Trailers £3

Hot and cold food & drink available
to purchase throughout the day.

Buyer entry from 8:30am

Entrance fee:
£2 between 08:30 - 9:00am
£1 after 9:00am
50p after 12:30



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chairbeenham@hotmail.com

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Kate Alexander 9712067
katepalexander@hotmail.com

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CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton

For details of services provided, requests and offers to help ring:

0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)

between 9.30 and 11.30 am,

Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Woolhampton Surgery Run:

Tuesdays—pick up points:

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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 May 1st & 22nd
Stoneyfields 3.30-4.15

Woolhampton:

Wednesday May 15th
Watermill Ct 10.25-11.10

Midgham:

Wednesday May 15th
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
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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

**WEDNESDAY 15th MAY
12 noon at the latest**

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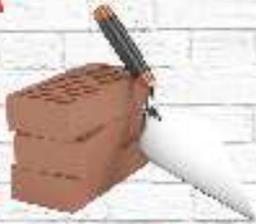
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