

STEEPLE ASHTON NEWSLETTER

GREAT HINTON

APRIL 2022



Steeple Ashton Village Hall, Saturday 12 March

These are just some of the volunteers and Village Hall Committee members who responded to a quickly-arranged coffee morning to help the people of Ukraine. Due to their work, and the generous gifts of cakes, biscuits and raffle prizes plus the amazing response of residents in and around the village, a sum of over £1,600 (including donations) was raised in two-and-a-half hours! Well done to all concerned.



Steeple Ashton Village Shop

Opening Hours - please see page 12 for the current shop opening hours.

Shop telephone: 01380 871 211

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Editorial

Hello everyone - I'm sure that all those who supported the Ukraine coffee morning were amazed at the generosity of our villagers. It should have been a 'cake morning'! Our thanks go to all those who donated - time or money or goodies and again to the Village Hall committee. We can all appreciate our splendid hall - a delight to use.

Open Gardens feature in this newsletter. The village looks a treat at the moment in this wonderful sunshine - I have a feeling it will not last until the end of May. However, we know that visitors enjoy coming to our village, even if it is raining and we are preparing not only gardens but also cream teas, snacks, Pimms and, of course, the plant stall on the village green.

Helen

Newsletter Deadlines for 2022

April 19th; May 24th; June 21st

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 19th April**. They should be sent to Mrs Helen Montague-Smith, 1A Butts Lane, Steeple Ashton or by email to **helenmontaguesmith8@gmail.com**

All published items solely express **the views of the author** and are the copyright of the author and the newsletter unless otherwise stated.

The Editor would like to remind you that it is up to you, the readers, to supply all news and copy for the newsletter. The sender's name and address need to be received before printing. Telephone 01380 871285.

Inquiries for advertisements in the newsletter should be made to **Sarah Blake** on 01380 502648 email: adverts4steepleashton@gmail.com

Please send your ads by email if possible.

Please note, we do not deliver flyers for advertisers.

STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Website

The new Parish Council website is now live. Please do take a look at <https://steeple-ashton.co.uk/>.

Local groups and associations are invited to send any information they would like to see included on the website to the Parish Clerk – clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk.

Annual Parish Meeting – 2022

Our annual get together where the Parish Council and other community organisations report back to the village on their activities in the preceding year. This is an informal event and dates back to medieval times when Parish Councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community.

The Annual Parish Meeting for Steeple Ashton will take place on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All residents and local organisations are cordially invited to attend and formal invitations will be issued shortly. The meeting is the opportunity to find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the last year and receive reports from local groups. Refreshments will be provided!

Parish Council comments on Planning Applications

PL/2022/01553 - 7 CHURCH STREET, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EW - T1 - Cherry tree - reduce by 3m and re shape
Reason for works - causing too much shading and overcrowding buildings
– No objection.

PL/2022/01717 - 1 ST MARYS, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EN - Two storey extension to side of existing house to include double garage at ground floor and two bedrooms at first floor – It was agreed to defer the application for consideration at the April meeting, given its late receipt and the reduced number of councillors in attendance at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council Planning Decision

PL/2022/00298 - Pear Tree Cottage, 15 Dark Lane North, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EY - Demolition of rear entrance lobby, construction of two storey extension with juliet balcony on first floor, gazebo to cover existing Jacuzzi in timber construction, reduction of tree canopy to facilitate new extension and proposed solar panel array - Approve with Conditions

Grant Applications 2022

The Parish Council is now offering community grants by way of an application process. Local groups who would like to apply for funding are invited to contact the Parish Clerk for an application form.

Village Litter Pick March 2022

The PC extends its thanks to Mrs Buffery King, Mrs Beaven and their team of helpers for organising the recent litter pick. Many thanks also to the residents who volunteered their time to help keep our parish looking spick and span.

Wild Flower Planting

The PC is looking into developing some wild flower areas in the parish. If you would like to suggest any areas which you think would be suitable for wild flower planting please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Steeple Ashton Recreation & Community Development Group

The working group is now meeting regularly on the second Monday of each month in the Skittle Alley at the Village Hall from 7.00 pm. Members of the public are most welcome to attend. The group is discussing how to enhance the recreation areas at St Marys and Newleaze and copies of the agendas and minutes for the meetings can be found on the PC website.

Parish Council Vacancies

Your Parish Council currently has only seven members out of its normal compliment of nine. We would welcome the support of more community minded residents; especially, but not limited to, those who could represent the views of residents in Ashton Common, Common Hill, Holmeleaze, Newleaze and Elmsgate/Raydown.

New members can be co-opted to the council through a simple vote, there is no need to go through an election process. You do need to be over 18 years old and have lived or worked in the parish for the past 12 months.

If you would like to find out more about joining the parish council, please contact our clerk Nicola Duke via phone (01373 864127 / 07971 987806) or email (clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk).

Parish Council minutes

Copies of the minutes of the Parish Council meetings are published on the website and can be found at <https://www.steeple-ashton.co.uk/parish-council/parish-council-minutes>

Parish Council meeting dates 2022

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall:

Monday 4th April 2022

Wednesday 27th April 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 5th May 2022 – Annual Council Meeting

Monday 6th June 2022

Monday 4th July 2022

August – Council recess

Parish Council Office: (2 St Mary's School, High Street)

The Clerk is no longer attending the Parish Office on Wednesdays and can be contacted on 01373 864127 / 07971 987806 or email clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk. All Councillors have live @steeple-ashton.co.uk email addresses which are also posted on the website.

Find us on Social Media! Through the **Parish Council page** and **Steeple Ashton Village Discussion Group**, we cover many topics of interest to our residents. Please be assured that this page is monitored regularly, and we take all requests seriously, actioning where appropriate. We also have a group called '**Steeple Sells**' for those of you that would like to buy and sell things locally – this is not a page that is part of the Parish Council policy or procedure, just a natural extension of social media activities. We would love you to get involved – search for 'Steeple Ashton' on Facebook. If you are a village group and need help with your social media or village event promotions, please get in touch with Pippa at pippabirch@steeple-ashton.co.uk or 871578.

~~~ [www.steeple-ashton.co.uk](http://www.steeple-ashton.co.uk) ~~~



**Dates for your diaries:**

**\* OPEN GARDENS 2022**

on SUNDAY MAY 29th 11am – 6pm

Advance Tickets available from Village Shop and

Online via Ticket Source soon.

**HOG ROAST**

Saturday August 6th



## Steeple Ashton Village Hall

**APRIL 2022**

Our regular classes continue in the hall and meetings and events are regularly booked. Maintenance and repairs are ongoing, with the heating system replacement proving a challenge.

But since the last Village Newsletter, the world has changed in so many ways and on 24 February, Russia invaded Ukraine, where, as I write this, war is raging, Ukrainian civilians are dying and cities are under constant bombardment. This has led to a grave humanitarian crisis, with over 3 million people fleeing into Poland and other neighbouring European countries.

The people of the UK, along with Europe and many other countries around the world have galvanised into action, collecting much needed items and money to help the refugees. Our village community, as ever, came together to support a Coffee Morning for Ukraine, held in our Village Hall on 12th March. Apart from pre-donations of money and home made cakes, the amazing sum of £1649.49 was raised and has been donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukrainian Appeal fund. It just shows what a community can do when it gets together and we would like to give heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped in so many different ways.

Our AGM is to be held on Friday 6th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and we welcome villagers who would like to attend. If you would like to join the committee and help to continue improving this excellent community space for future generations, please do contact us, you will be most welcome.

**Marian Little**

**BOOKINGS:** Sandra Stevens 07827 291945 or email:  
steepleashtonvh@hotmail.com

**SECRETARY:** Marian Little 01380 871161 or email:  
secretary@steepleashtonvh.org.uk

**Please feel free to contact us at any time with any queries**



## **Steeple Ashton's Jubilee Celebrations**

### **Thursday 2nd June**

St Mary's Playing Field 1900-2200 - Sing-Along: a medley of popular songs from seven decades of Her Majesty's reign with Steeple Rocks. The lighting of the Jubilee Beacon. Barbeque and bar - free food.

### **Friday 3rd June**

Acreshort Park - We're hoping to organise a Children's Fun Afternoon with 5-aside football, games and bouncy castle and refreshments, but we need volunteers to make this happen

### **Saturday 4th June**

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' performed by the Girl Guides in the afternoon in Acreshort Park with refreshments, and early evening in the village hall. Evening event at the Longs Arms, TBA

### **Sunday 5th June**

Street Lunch Parties at various locations around the village. *\*if you are organising a party, please get in touch with the Parish Council so we can send you a risk assessment form*

**We're having a final Jubilee meeting at the village hall on 14th April at 1930. All welcome**

**Volunteers required: if you would like to help with any of the events, we'd love to hear from you**

**Francis Ash**, Steeple Ashton Parish Council  
franciswilliamash@gmail.com  
01380871306

## **Bryan Writes...**

The front-cover photo, by Robin Sewell, supplied by the Village Hall Committee, was taken at the Coffee Morning for Ukraine in the Village Hall – and is a tribute to those who organised this successful event. The £1,649.49 raised shows the kindness and generous response of the residents of Steeple Ashton and surrounding area in times of crisis. The village has always ‘stepped up’ when a combined effort has been required to provide aid for communities, fund projects or improve village facilities.

In addition to the human catastrophe brought upon Ukraine itself, as we are all well aware, this appalling conflict is set to exacerbate an existing series of worrying developments here – of rising prices, an energy crisis and some shortages of food and other goods.

I am reminded that just over 100 years ago, the nation faced similar difficulties and concerns over our essential needs – and that, in a small way, there was some local response.

Less than one week after the First World War had ended, our squire, the Right Hon Walter Hume Long MP, stood in the Village Hall to address the residents of Steeple Ashton – most of whom would have been his tenants. At the outbreak of war, he had done so to make a grave but rousing call to arms to a crowd so large, some people had to listen from the street outside through the hall’s open windows. Now, four years on, Walter Long was standing in the hall to make a more peaceable plea.

The meeting, held just five days after the Armistice, concerned the reconstruction of village life in the wake of the conflict. Two days later, on Monday 18 November 1918, a report of this “largely attended” event appeared on page three of ‘The Times’. The article – ‘Revival of Village Life’ – said of WHL’s address:

*They should set up, he said, committees to organize village life and increase its productive power. They must not be so dependent on outside supplies as they were on the outbreak of war. Every village should prepare a census of its mouths to feed, showing the amount of produce required, what the village could produce, and what it could send outside to help to support the people in the towns. They could then develop any one particular crop or industry, and make village life more real and self-supporting than when the war overtook the country. They should have a butcher’s shop in each village: many products would be available if they slaughtered in their local shops, instead of going to the towns for their*

*supplies – to say nothing of the loss of time involved in fetching what was wanted from the towns. The Prime Minister had spoken that day of the tremendous amount spent every year on produce imported into this country, all of which we could grow if we liked. Mr Long especially referred to poultry-keeping and egg production and the keeping of bees; he regretted that bee-keeping had almost become extinct as an industry. He was not in favour of land nationalization, nor of too much outside interference in the management of land. He was in favour of the matter being dealt with not only by owners and occupiers, but by committees including those who knew the land, and whose suggestions might lead to its being brought to a higher standard of production. They should have more pride in their communities and local industries. They should strike out new lines and improve old ones, and see if there was not enough brain power in every village to give it a more active and more comfortable life.*

*It would seem that a few of the squire's desires for Steeple Ashton, at least, were taken up. A returning soldier, Mr George Austin, set up a butcher's shop at No 7 Church Street (the property's low, front shop window, with its curved red-brick sill, can still be seen today). George developed a successful business, making deliveries both in the village and many miles around. A little later, after marrying a neighbour, he moved his shop to No 9. Decades afterwards, Mr Austin's much younger business partner, Mr Graham Chappell, took over, and moved the shop to ex-farm buildings in Butts Lane. Graham's butcher's shop continued until 1986. It is now the home of Helen Montague-Smith – this newsletter's editor.*

One local farmer began delivering daily milk to 'housewives', served with a ladle from a bucket hanging from the handlebars of his bicycle. Steeple Ashton's existing bakeries, in two of the three village shops, managed to keep going, despite shortages of flour.

Walter Hume Long was elevated to the peerage in 1921, becoming 1st Viscount Long of Wraxall. He died just three years later, in 1924.

Following the 1st Viscount's death, the family estate was broken up and sold off in lots during 1930 – with all the tenants being given the option to purchase their homes and businesses. This would have enabled many local producers, tradesmen and women to carve out their own way through the difficult years between the wars. It seems that most succeeded, as many were still serving and supplying local residents in the 1950s.



**George Austin, 'butcher's boy' assistant & deliveries cart, outside his Church Street butcher's shop, 1920s**

At the time of the estate sale, Herbert Smith – Rosie Brett Green's grandfather – was running the estate-owned smithy next to the Longs Arms. He managed to purchase it along with a cottage in Church Street (No 4). Eventually, Rosie's father Ivor continued as the village blacksmith – and today, the smithy is the base from which Rosie's youngest son, Christopher, runs his mobile farrier business.

**Bryan & David Berrett**

**Graham Chappell  
outside his  
butcher's shop in  
Butts Lane**



## **FORGET-ME-NOTS CLUB**

Before the business side of the 16th March meeting got underway, members listened to a fascinating talk by Steve Oakes on “Tropical Birds of Costa Rica”, illustrated by slides.

Steve is a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds”, and obviously knows his stuff, as was shown by his knowledgeable talk, as he described some seventy different beautifully plumaged birds, just a small fraction of the tropical birds that call Costa Rica home.

The Chairman then welcomed members to the meeting, and gave them the sad news that Hazel Sullivan, a valued member for many years, had passed away on Saturday 19th March.

The next meeting on 20th April will be the Easter Bingo with cakes, when prizes for the lucky winners of the twelve games will be either a large Easter Egg, a pamper gift, or a bottle of Prosecco, so .... very well worth while attending and keeping fingers crossed that you are one of the winners!

The Extraordinary Annual General Meeting will take place on 18th May, and as this is a very important meeting the Chairman and Committee ask members to make a special effort to attend. There will also be a talk on “Donkeys”, which should be most interesting.

For further details contact either **Gloria Philpott** (Chairman)

### **Friends’ of Steeple Ashton Oil Scheme**

We are changing arrangements for the oil scheme!

It will take a few months to get acclimatised I’m sure so don’t worry about getting it wrong for a month or two.

There is a new email address [sahntonfoil@gmail.com](mailto:sahntonfoil@gmail.com) – the nearest available to S. Ashton oil, I’m afraid. The telephone number is the same 01380 870119 and, of course, a note through the door at 9, Church St gets the same result.

Please can you order the week you receive your newsletter for delivery the following Thursday. This will make it easier for those of us who forget until the last week!

The scheme was begun to reduce lorry deliveries to the village, to be a member of the scheme (£2pa) you must be a member of the Friends of Steeple Ashton – also a gift at £2pa – subs due now.

If you’d like the job of being secretary for the scheme get in touch as above.

**Rosie and Colin**

## **Not a Boring AGM**

The Annual meeting of the Steeple Ashton WI was held on March 9th following the short business section of the ordinary monthly meeting.

Most enjoyable reports were received from the president secretary and the representatives of the WI on various village organizations. The retiring treasurer Val Latch had circulated her report before the meeting and invited questions. Val has done a magnificent job for ten years, so there were no questions only thanks from the president on behalf of us all. The President's Cup was presented to secretary Marian Little who has been a stalwart of the institute throughout the pandemic doing a great deal of extra work to keep the WI going through a difficult time.

Ann Hunt continues as President for another year and as no other candidates came forward the committee too continues.

The members retired to an early coffee, biscuits and lots of chat.

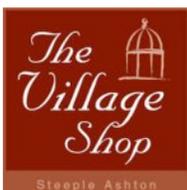
The April meeting will be an open meeting. Anyone and everyone will be welcomed. The speaker is Audrey Phillips who taught textiles at Clarendon school so her 'old' pupils living in the village have been invited and we do hope they will attend. Audrey's subject is miles away from textiles. It is the amazing story of her late husband's war – a true adventure story almost too incredible to believe. So come along, men women and teenagers you are bound to enjoy the tale. She will also bring along some of her books for sale.

The competition is for WW2 memorabilia, so have a hunt through family treasures and dust them off.

There will be no charge for visitors – come and try us out. **Rosie**

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## **STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP**



**Opening times:**

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30 am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**



## **The Friends of Steeple Ashton**

Greetings to all. A reminder for your diaries that we plan to hold our 2022 AGM at 7 pm on **Friday 20th May** in the Village Hall. The meeting will be followed at 8 pm with a talk by Richard Osgood, the MOD's Senior Archaeologist based on Salisbury Plain who recently featured on TV in 'Digging for Britain'. The title of his talk and further information on the evening will be published in the May edition of the Newsletter, and we hope to post the AGM agenda and other read-ahead documents on the Friends' element of the revamped village website.

At the time of writing Spring is in the air, and in these troubled times we can perhaps draw some comfort in doing what we can to support the annual rebirth of our wildlife and flora. A special plea has gone out regarding our visiting swifts, swallows and house martins, who rely on humans to help provide their nesting sites. House repairs that block access for swifts, or plastic soffits that deny mud adhesion for house martins, can for example be mitigated by the installation of artificial nesting boxes. Bird nesting season as identified by Natural England is now underway (1st March – 31st July) and during this period we should actively avoid hedge and tree trimming that might disturb nesting. Garden access for foraging hedgehogs can be easily facilitated through creating a gap under fencing – I am delighted that by doing just that we now have hedgehogs visiting our back garden.

I recently attended a talk at the Bratton Historical Society about the pill boxes and other inland invasion defences built in Wiltshire during World War 2. Nearby Semington was a key defensive area, utilising the obstacles created by the river and canal, and a number of the defence ruins still remain – some now protected through Historic England listing. Many 'Cold War' sites across the country are also being listed, as well as industrial sites with an important story to tell. As an when we develop our parish Neighbourhood Plan, we should aim to identify all the varied heritage and environmental aspects of our community that we consider are worthy of protection.

**Mike Beard**

## NATURAL HISTORY CLUB News

Weasels, Red Kites and Brambling. Just some of the wildlife seen locally and reported at our first meeting for almost two years.

Spring has quickly arrived this year. Anyone seen a Swallow yet? It seems incredible that the winter has been so mild that some didn't bother to make the 6000 mile trip back to South Africa. Not so long ago that would have been impossible.

We hope to start having local outings such as 'bird song' walks and Bat identification walks. These outings will be made available to the villagers in general. So look out for advertisements in the Newsletter.

Soon we will have an entry on the new Parish website with lots of information regarding local wildlife including identification charts and emergency numbers for found injured birds/mammals.

In the meantime, please report anything of interest such as sightings of animal / bird / insect activity etc. Or unusual or rare plants. Is there something you can't identify? Contact David Culverhouse, 01380 871621 42anchor@gmail.com or Roger Ferguson 01380 870860 r.ferguson550@btinternet.com If we can't answer your question then we probably have a member who can.

**Roger Ferguson**

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## Steeple Ashton & Great Hinton Newsletter' In April 1975...

### STEEPLE ASHTON ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE - MIDSUMMER WEEK-END AFFAIR

As many people may know now, the Horse Show/Gymkhana is not being held this year. In its place, the Entertainments Committee, in conjunction with the Gymkhana Committee, is proposing to hold a "Midsummer Week-End Affair", consisting of various events on Friday, 6th June and Saturday, 7th June. At the moment, there are obviously a lot of details to be finalised, but a Donkey Derby is planned for the Friday evening. Several well-known National Hunt jockeys have agreed to ride the donkeys and a well-known television commentator has agreed to give a commentary.

On Saturday afternoon, it is hoped to hold "It's a Knockout", with teams participating from local organisations and neighbouring villages.

A Darts Tournament is also planned for teams of four. There will be a first prize of £20 and a second prize of a barrel of beer.

The usual side-shows are also planned for Saturday afternoon, perhaps in greater number than before; and any other events which the Committee can dream up in the meantime.

Contact is now being made with local organisations, to ask for their help to make this Week-End enjoyable and profitable for the Village Hall Fund. However, if anyone has any bright ideas, perhaps they would like to come to the next meeting of the Entertainments Committee, in the Village Hall on Monday, 14th April at 8 pm. If this is not possible, do please contact Guy Bagnall at 16, High Street (Keevil 395) or any other member of the Entertainments Committee.

In particular, if any individual or organisation would like to enter "It's a Knockout" or the Darts Tournament, would they get in touch with Brian Revell, 3, Dark Lane (Keevil 624) or Alan Dell, The Rose and Crown (Keevil 553).

**David Berrett**

**Ministry Team for the Benefice of  
North Bradley, Southwick, Heywood  
and Steeple Ashton**  
[www.threeinonebenefice.org](http://www.threeinonebenefice.org)

**Fr Oliver Learmont** (Vicar)  
The Vicarage, 62 Church Lane, North Bradley, BA14 0TA.  
Tel. 01225 774845, 07464 795590  
[fr Oliverlearmont@gmail.com](mailto:fr Oliverlearmont@gmail.com)

**Fr Tony Longdon**  
Tel. 01225 754771 07951 703187  
**Richard Havergal** (Licensed Lay Minister)  
Tel. 01225 762668 [rhavergal16@gmail.com](mailto:rhavergal16@gmail.com)  
**Churchwarden of St Mary's, Steeple Ashton**  
**Michael Moore**  
Tel. 01380 870280

***The Pew News can be downloaded from the Benefice website.  
If you donot have access to the internet, do consider letting us  
have your postal address so that we can post/deliver you a copy.***

**Worship and Prayer in the Benefice  
in the month of April**

*The services of Holy Communion scheduled below include a  
sermon/homily (or Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday).*

**Sunday, 3rd April**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

|         |                      |                                  |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9.15 am | Holy Communion (CW)  | St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL) |
| 11 am   | Holy Communion (BCP) | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)   |
| 6.30 pm | Evensong (BCP)       | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)   |

**Wednesday, 6th April**

**Feria**

|       |                     |                                  |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10 am | Holy Communion (CW) | St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL) |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------------------|

**Sunday, 10th April**

**PALM SUNDAY**

|          |                                                                                         |                                |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10.15 am | Palm Sunday procession departs St Nicholas', North Bradley<br>for St Thomas', Southwick |                                |
| 10.30 am | Family Service                                                                          | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (RH) |
| 11 am    | Holy Communion (CW)                                                                     | St Thomas', Southwick (OL)     |

**Monday, 11th April**

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

|      |          |                                |
|------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 7 pm | Compline | St Thomas', Southwick (TL)     |
| 7 pm | Compline | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL) |

**Tuesday, 12th April**

7 pm Compline

7 pm Compline

**Wednesday, 13th April**

7 pm Compline

7 pm Compline

**Thursday, 14th April**7 pm Holy Communion (CW), Stripping of the Altars and Vigil  
St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)7 pm Holy Communion (CW), Stripping of the Altars and Vigil  
St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (TL)**Friday, 15th April**

12 noon Service of Reflection St Thomas', Southwick (OL)

12 noon Service of Reflection St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (RH)

2 pm Veneration of the Cross & Meditation  
St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL, RH)**Saturday, 16th April**

8 pm Service of Light (CW) St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)

**Sunday, 17th April**

9.15 am Festival Communion (CW) St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)

11 am Festival Communion (CW) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (TL)

11 am Festival Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick (OL)

**Sunday, 24th April****THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8 am Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)

10 am Family Service St Nicholas', North Bradley (RH)

11 am Holy Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick (OL)

CW - Common Worship, Order 1 (contemporary language);

BCP - Common Worship, Order 2 (traditional language).

OL - Fr Oliver; TL - Fr Tony; RH - Richard Havergal

\*\*\*

On account of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in consideration of those around you, you are strongly encouraged to maintain physical distancing; use hand sanitisers; and wear a face covering - unless you are exempt from doing so.

**Morning Prayer is said at St Nicholas', North Bradley,  
Monday - Wednesday at 9.30am.**

*"We lift up in prayer the people of our Benefice each morning; please let us know if you would like us to include in our prayers any particular person or cause." All are welcome!*

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**St Mary's is open for individual prayer during the day.**

*Please visit the Benefice website [www.threeinonebenefice.org](http://www.threeinonebenefice.org) for details of services, which may be subject to change - and for a range of information about the Parish and the Benefice.*

### **Other Notices**

#### **Headstones in the churchyard, St Mary's, Steeple Ashton**

If you happen to be responsible for the maintenance of a headstone that has been laid flat for safety reasons (i.e. heir-at-law), please let us know without delay that you are content that the memorial should remain as it is, or that you would be prepared to refund its refixing.

Please also note that any repair or refixing of a headstone may only take place *after prior consultation with the Vicar, churchwarden and PCC.*

**The Vicar, churchwarden and PCC.**

#### **Occasional offices**

For baptisms, marriage services and funeral services in church, please *contact Fr Oliver.*

#### **Vacancies for church officers at St Mary's**

There are currently vacancies at St Mary's for the role of churchwarden and PCC treasurer and PCC secretary.

*If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact Fr Oliver.*

**Dear All,**

We enter Passiontide at the beginning of April this year. As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death. The final two weeks of Lent are especially poignant this year in the context of the terrible suffering endured so near at hand, on our own continent, by the men, women and children in Ukraine...

Through participation in the sequence of services in Holy Week and on Easter Day itself we share in Christ's own journey from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter Morning. (*Please see details of services nearby.*)

The Procession of Palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, we recall at St Mary's at our Family Service on **Palm Sunday**. We include, too, a short form of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated – *and please let Richard Havergal know if you would like to take part!*

The quiet and reflective evening service of Compline on the **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** of Holy Week is a helpful preparation for the *Paschal Triduum* - that is, the three days that run from the evening of Maundy Thursday to Easter Day.

When we gather in church on the evening of **Maundy Thursday** we dwell on the theme of humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet; and we record the institution of the Eucharist. Afterwards the church is stripped of all decoration, bare and empty, and vigil is kept for a while as we recall the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

At 12 noon on **Good Friday** we hold at St Mary's a Service of Reflection; and there is an opportunity then for the churches of the Benefice to come together at 2 pm for the Veneration of the Cross and Meditation that will take place at St Nicholas', North Bradley. There is no liturgy that day as there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. Yet within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

The Benefice Service of Light and Vigil, to be held at 8pm at St Nicholas', North Bradley on **Easter Eve**, leads into the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Christian baptism is a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, a dying to sin in order to be reborn in him, and the Easter Vigil was from early Christian times a preferred occasion for baptism. It is fittingly a time when those who are already Christians may repeat with renewed commitment the promises of their own baptism, and strengthen their sense of incorporation into the royal and priestly ministry of the whole people of God.

We use all the resources of the church – music, flowers, bells, colours – to celebrate Christ’s resurrection. The ‘Alleluia’, and the ‘Gloria’, which have been silent throughout Lent, return. The Easter Gospel is proclaimed with all the joy and splendour that the church can find.

**Easter Day** Festival Communion takes place at St Mary’s at 11 am, and is followed by an Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard.

Over the fifty days that follow, the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

“Triumphant in his glory now,  
his sceptre ruleth all,  
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,  
and at his footstool fall.”

*(Fulbert of Chartres)*

We cannot know when the horrors of war will come to an end in Ukraine - or indeed elsewhere in this world - but in our faith we know that we are all Easter people, and that the destiny for us all is to share in the new life of Christ’s resurrection.

**Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Easter, Fr Oliver**



### **The Stonemason**

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Steeple Ashton Village Hall

AGM

Friday 6th May 2022

7.30pm

Village Hall



**The Village Hall set up for the recent Ukraine coffee morning.**

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It was a real delight to see so many of you at our Spring meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> at our beautifully refurbished Village Hall – the first SAGE meeting in over 2 years!

We watched a presentation of SAGE outings organised for this year by Jennie and Kathryn and thoroughly enjoyed Gardeners Question Time, with our experts helping answer all the various queries. Our thanks go to Gerry Oughton, Matthew (The Nursery, Hilperton) and Alexandra Gray (Alexandra Gray Garden Design) for their excellent input.

Roz Thompson won the fabulous 'Gardeners' hamper in the raffle.

### **SAGE 2022 Outings – please see opposite page for full details.**

- Thursday 28th April - Peto Garden, Iford Manor, Westwood
- Thursday 7th July - Bishop's Palace Gardens, Wells
- Thursday 22nd September - Broadleas Gardens, Devizes

### **Village Flower & Produce Show – postponed until August 2023**

We regretfully have to inform you all that, due to the many very busy village activities this year, we have chosen to postpone the return of the Village Flower and Produce Show, which would have been held on Sat Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. This will now be held in August 2023. Huge apologies to all those gardeners who have started to grow their winning entries.

**Next SAGE meeting: 'Summer'** - Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm, Village Hall.

### **Jobs to do this month – one for each week:**

- 1) Sow sweet peas, potatoes, and tomatoes; divide perennials and prune dogwood.
- 2) Prep your veg garden, make a seed bed and plant lettuce seed & basil; Control weeds.
- 3) Divide and move herbaceous grasses; plant lilies in pots; plant summer flower bulbs.
- 4) Plant up hanging baskets; feed hungry shrubs & roses; dead head rhododendrons.

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2548517398732853>



## **SAGE 2022 group 'Outings' details:**

### **Thursday 28th April - Peto Garden, Iford Manor, Westwood**

We meet at 09.30am when the owner William Cartwright-Hignett will start our tour of the garden, plus a tour of the families private walled garden (not open to the general public). The Grade 1 listed garden is set in a stunning location where you will see wonderful examples of Harold Peto's design of Italian and Japanese influences. After the tour, around 11am, time will be at leisure for tea/coffee and cake, paid individually on the day. **Please note due the geography of the gardens it is not suitable for people with poor mobility.**

**Cost for the entrance, tour of the garden and private walled garden is £16.50pp.**

### **Thursday 7th July Bishops Palace Gardens, Wells**

We arrive at the Bishops Palace at 11am in readiness for our tour of the 14acre gardens at 11.30am. As well as an Arboretum there are 5 different gardens too see, including the Wells Garden where you'll see reflections of the Cathedral in the well pools, where Wells got it's name! After the tour you'll be able to take refreshments at The Bishops Table, the onsite cafe.

**Cost for the entrance and tour is £8.75pp**

### **Thursday 22nd September, Broadleas Gardens, Devizes**

This visit is booked for a 10.45am arrival in time for the talk and tour of these gardens by the head gardener which starts at 11am. The main attraction is the small valley reminiscent of Cornish gardens.

**Cost for entrance, tour, tea/coffee & cake is £15pp**

Please note all these trips are **self-drive**, and numbers are limited.

If you are interested, please contact Jennie Willis at [jennie.willis@btinternet.com](mailto:jennie.willis@btinternet.com)

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## **Keevil CofE Academy Scarecrow Trail**

**Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May 2022**

After two years off, on the weekend of 14th and 15th May, Friends of Keevil School (FOKS) will be hosting its Scarecrow Trail this year. The theme for this year is 'Colours' so the village will be decorated with 40 wonderful scarecrows, each of which will have a colour in its name! There are great prizes to be won; most correct answers wins £100 cash and best scarecrow wins £50. A children's trail will be available too with fabulous prizes, so there's something for everyone.

To take part costs just £5 per entry sheet for the main trail, and £2 for the children's trail.

It's a great, fun, family event. This year will see a bar, BBQ, tea and cakes, locally sourced ice-cream and other food stalls on sale in the school grounds, plus refreshments in the village hall. We'll also have a tombola, raffle, stalls and games on offer throughout the weekend.

The trail is open from 10am – 4pm over the weekend.

The event is run entirely by volunteers and all the money raised goes back into Keevil CofE Academy to enhance the children's learning and experiences. Each year we donate 10% of our profits to local charities. Charities we have supported in recent years have included the Keevil Community Shed team, St Leonard's Church in the village, Cancer Research UK and Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

For all our latest news, follow us on Facebook (Keevil School Scarecrow Trail).

The 'Friends of Keevil School' Scarecrow Committee

**Steeple Ashton Fading Memories.**

**Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Pantomimes and Shows.**

**POSTPONED**



**Some of the cakes which raised money for Ukraine and must have raised the cholesterol levels of half the village!**

## **Easter Lilies**

If you would like to contribute a lily for the altar flowers, in memory of a loved one, please let me know by 8th April. The cost is £3 per stem.

**Kay King 870 078**



## **Useful Information**

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April 6th; April 20th; May 4th

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## Easter Message

**“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with great singing” Zeph 3:17**

## Lenten greetings!

Our Gospel reading from John 20:1-18 today, gives us two forms of revelation of God - absence and presence. For the two men who went into the empty tomb, they “saw and believed— for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.” For Mary that was not enough!! She did not follow them, but wanted to find the body, she needed evidence, she didn’t believe in what seemed to be impossible. However, as we know, she found evidence not of death, but of life, life beyond all she could have imagined. This was the revelation that changed her disbelief into belief, her grief into joy, which she had to share with the others- she couldn’t keep it inside.

For those on our Christian journey we experience Jesus in different ways- sometimes through pain and desolation like the situation in Ukraine and other parts of the world; in bewilderment and confusion when we find an inner peace and know that we are not abandoned and alone.

At other times, we experience light awesome-moments or amazing “God-encounters” and we just have to share our joy; we cannot keep it in. Wherever we are on our journey, whatever we are going through, the Resurrected Christ reveals to us the every present love of God for each one of us.

And as we continue to reflect at the horror that is going on in Ukraine, sometimes we are feeling the hopelessness and helplessness.

Like Mary, she believed in what was impossible but to brave every odd and attend to the situation that seemed like hopeless and helpless. What is it that we can do to share with the Ukrainians that are refugees and having lost all what they had because of human error?

So this Easter Day and during the season to come, may the Holy Spirit bring us all peace, hope and joy, no matter what our circumstances.

The Lord bless and keep you. With love and prayers **Rev Peggy**

## CHURCH DIARY

|               |      |          |                                   |
|---------------|------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday        | 3rd  | 9.15 am  | Ed Colling                        |
| Sunday        | 10th | 9.15 am  | Rev. Gary Gotham – Holy Communion |
| Good Friday   | 15th | 11.00 am | Izzie Smears                      |
| Easter Sunday | 17th | 9.15 am  | John Williams                     |
| Sunday        | 24th | 9.15 am  | Izzie Smears                      |

## **CATHOLIC NEWS**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE & ST BERNADETTE'S  
WESTBURY (incl VILLAGES).**

**PARISH PRIEST FR TOM FINNEGAN**

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[www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk)

Diocese of Clifton Registered Charity No 1170168

**Please see below the usual weekly  
timings of our Masses: but please  
check newsletter for changes.  
St John the Baptist - Trowbridge**

### ***Sunday & Weekday Masses:***

Saturdays 12noon & 6pm (Vigil Mass)

Sundays 10.30am & 12noon

Monday/Weds/Friday 9am (First Friday  
of the Month 6pm) Tuesday 6pm

### **St Bernadette's - Westbury.**

Mass times will be:

Sunday 9am

Thursday 10am

Pope Francis has invited the whole Universal Church  
to walk with him towards a Church Synod in 2023.

Resources to help engage with this process can be found at  
[www.cliftondiocese.com/synod](http://www.cliftondiocese.com/synod)

### **Live streaming:**

All masses are streamed live on  
[www.Churchservices.tv](http://www.Churchservices.tv) or on  
You Tube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

### **Parish Newsletter:**

This is available weekly on the Parish website  
[www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk)

The logo features a stylized cross above the text 'ST MARY'S STEEPLE ASHTON PRESERVATION TRUST'.

# Steeple Ashton Open Gardens

Sunday 29th May 2022

11am - 6pm

Refreshments & Cream  Teas

Plants & Flower Sales 

Raffle & Tower Draw

Pimms on the Lawn 

 Advance Tickets from:

The Village Shop - £7.50

[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) - £8.00

Tickets on the day - £10.00