

STEEPLE ASHTON  
**NEWSLETTER**  
GREAT HINTON  
**JULY 2022**



The spectacular lighting of the Beacon in Steeple Ashton and the amazing transformation of the post box in Great Hinton were some of the sights to be enjoyed over the long Queen's Jubilee weekend. More photos inside.



**Steeple Ashton Village Shop**

**Opening Hours** - please see page **11** for the current shop opening hours.

**Shop telephone:** 01380 871 211

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## Editorial

Hello everyone - The lovely colour photo on the cover of children watching the Beacon being lit was taken by Caroline Mackay. I thought it summed up a wonderful village evening where we all got together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The ladies of Great Hinton did one of their amazing crochet and knitted decorations for their post box. The 'throne' is so lovely - corgis on a royal cushion, gold decorations and the crown to top it off - all being guarded!

The Open Gardens was also amazing - not just the amount raised but also the number of people involved who put so much time and energy into the day. Also, the people who came - and were so complimentary about the gardens - it was a delight to talk to them - if very tiring!

**Helen**

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## Newsletter Deadlines for 2022

**July 19th for August and September; September 20th; Oct 25th**

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 19th July**. They should be sent to Mrs Helen Montague-Smith, 1A Butts Lane, Steeple Ashton or by email to **[helenmontaguesmith8@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:adverts4steepleashton@gmail.com)

Please send your ads by email if possible.

**Please note, we do not deliver flyers for advertisers.**

# **STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Election of Vice-Chair**

At the June meeting of the Parish Council Cllr Jon Tapper was elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

## **Exercise of Public Rights to Inspect the 2021/22 Accounts**

The dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights are as follows:

### **Commencing on Monday 13th June 2022 and ending on Friday 22nd July 2022**

Any person interested has got the right to inspect and make copies of the accounts to be audited and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to them. For the year ended 31st March 2022 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to the Parish Clerk.

The period of inspection is 30 working days. This year it commences 13th June and ends 22nd July.

The internal audit report and other relevant documents 2021-2022 are available for inspection. The paperwork has now been sent to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP 1 Westferry Circus London E14 4HD. The external auditor's report will be published when completed.

## **Community Grants 2022/23**

The Parish Council's community grant pot for 2022/23 is now open for applications. Local groups and organisations are invited to contact the Parish Clerk for an application form.

## **Community Speed Watch**

The necessary survey to authorise the re-invigoration of community speed watch has now been completed and the CSW are able to commence sessions. A team of volunteers is in place and training will be organised shortly. Any residents interested in joining this group – as volunteers are always needed! – is invited to contact the Parish Clerk.

## **Wildflower Verge**

The experimental wild flower verge on land adjacent to Lopingier Farm has now been planted. Residents are reminded not to park on the verge! The Parish Council thanks Mr Wakely for his kind sponsorship. Further wildflower verge planting will be considered in the future.

## **Parish Council comments on Planning Applications**

**PL/2022/03728** - The Hawthorns, Southbrook Lane, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6HW - Proposed Portal Frame Building to provide

stables, tack, fodder & Bedding storage and secure storage of agricultural machinery, existing stables to be demolished – No objection.

**PL/2022/04171** - Orchard End, 5, Dark Lane North, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EY - Cherry Blossom tree (dead) - fell Holly tree (dead) – fell – No objection.

### **Wiltshire Council Planning Decisions**

**PL/2022/01792** - 42 NEWLEAZE, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EF - Erect front extension; undertake adaptations to existing open topped enclosure to form covered storage and entrance area; and install oil container with enclosure and soft landscaping - Approve with Conditions

**PL/2022/01812** - 41 Newleaze, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6EF - Demolition of existing lean-to utility area and construction of extension to kitchen and formation of a toilet facility adjacent to front door - Approve with Conditions

### **Parish Council meeting dates 2022/23**

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

August – Council recess

Monday 5th September 2022 – Full Council

Monday 3rd October 2022 – Planning only (if required)

Monday 7th November 2022 – Full Council – Budget setting 2023/2024

Monday 5th December 2022 – Planning only (if required)

### **Parish Council Contact:**

The Clerk can be contacted on 01373 864127 / 07971 987806 or email [clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk](mailto:clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk). All Councillors have live [@steeple-ashton.co.uk](mailto:@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](mailto:pippabirch@steeple-ashton.co.uk) or 871578.

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

## **St Mary's & Newleaze Working Group**

Where we are so far...

A group of us have been meeting every month. We have discussed a lot of different topics and are gradually bringing our ideas together with a view to delivering a formal parish consultation before the end of this year. Broadly, the key areas we have covered are as follows:

**Priorities** – One of the first things that became apparent is that we have to prioritise. We cannot deliver an amazing park overnight, the project is going to take time and will happen in stages. As such we have prioritised St Mary's initially, as it is the larger space and has very limited facilities at present. Newleaze has not been forgotten but is likely to happen later.

**Money** – we currently don't have a lot of it, so we have been looking at ways to fundraise. We have agreed we will be predominantly applying for grants to raise funds. We are also looking at passive fundraising using companies, like the Amazon Smile scheme. *We have acknowledged that the fundraising that has taken place in the past, which has been directed towards the development of our beautiful Acreshort park, may impact on our ability to fundraise directly from parishioners again – there's only so many parks you will want to fund!* We also felt that grants will be the simplest way to raise the scale of funds we will need to deliver our plans for such a large space.

**Community** – initially when we talked about parks, we thought of children's play areas, but this has evolved to include ideas for every aspect of our community, the people, pets and wildlife of Steeple Ashton. We've been thinking about how the whole village would like to use the space and how to make it enjoyable for everyone.

### **What's next...**

We are planning to consult with some of the local schools, to engage with the children in the village to decide on play equipment.

We have a wide variety of ideas that we are aiming to have drawn up into an interactive presentation for the village, with outline costs. We would like to use a democratic process to gain agreement from the village for the final designs. We will be starting to apply for grants once we have our outline design in place. There will be working parties, for gardening jobs and tidying. We will need your help!

It's never too late to join us, if you would like to come along, we meet in the skittle alley on the second Monday of each month, all are welcome.

ST MARY'S  
CHURCH ASHTON  
PRESERVATION TRUST

Village

# Hog Roast

Raffle

Bar



Acreshort Community Park  
Saturday 6th August 2022  
6pm

Tickets: £18 from the Village Shop

Tel: 01380 871211 to reserve

20 of the tickets sold will be 'Rain' tickets costing £15  
in case the event has to move into the Village Hall.

# Edington Festival Musical Supper

**Wednesday 24 August at 6.30 for 7pm**

on the Parish Field

(by kind permission of the Parish Council)

It's back! Come and enjoy a two course menu, featuring delicious home-made desserts, and hear the Festival Singers sing for their supper.

To give more space in the marquee, we will have a different table layout this year. Everything else will be as usual. There will be water on the table, but we don't provide wine, so please bring your own.

We are looking forward to welcoming back our regulars and meeting newcomers. The proceeds help fund local facilities (including the Parish Hall and the Three Villages Minibus).

**Tickets £25 each**

available after 1 July 2022

**from Hugh Hancock**

[musicalsupper@edingtonfestival.org](mailto:musicalsupper@edingtonfestival.org)

Phone: 01225 754626

or write to him at Dunge Farm, West Ashton, BA14 6AX

You can pay by BACS or send a cheque payable to Edington Priory Church Music Evening

*Please give any dietary requirements at the time of booking*



## Useful Information

### Postal Collections:

**Longs Arms** - Weekdays - 4.15pm; Saturday - 10am

**Newleaze** - Weekdays - 12noon; Saturday - 11am

**Mobile Library Visits - Wednesdays;** Longs Arms - 11.00 - 12noon;

Ashton Common Bus Stop - 3.35 pm - 4.00pm

July 13th; July 27th



## Steeple Ashton Village Hall

**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**

### WI Celebrating the Jubilee

Cream teas and friendship were the natural way for the WI to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen, a keen WI member, would have appreciated the high quality of the food produced by the members and the happy chatting.

The hall was suitably decorated and Union Jacks fluttered amid the table flowers which had been beautifully arranged by Andrea. Tea finished with a toast to her majesty and a video of morphed photos the queen through her long life.

The party was deemed a great success by all who attended.

Anyone wandering the village on June 21st would have thought it a very quiet place to live! The WI members, and friends, were away visiting Kew Gardens. Yet another event considered by those who were able to attend a happy successful trip. Well done Alison for arranging it.

The next WI meeting is on Wednesday July 13th at 7:30 in the village hall. The subject was to have been a fitting follow up to the Jubilee but sadly the speaker has had to postpone her talk and will come later in the year. At the moment we are not certain of the topic of the talk but we are assured it will be interesting and friendship will be a key element of the meeting. Be sure to come along to enjoy a pleasant evening.

**Rosie Brett Green**

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**KEEVIL DRAMA GROUP** is looking for new members in all capacities, so if you have a fancy to tread the boards, or help with set building, special effects or even fancy your chances being a director, we would love to hear from you.

> Please contact Geoff West on 01380 870425 or  
g.west3@pobroadband.co.uk if you are at all interested.



## STEEPLE ASHTON FILMS

After a great deal of thought and discussion, it is with great sadness that we announce that this is the last film we are presenting. Our wonderful projectionist, Paul, is retiring. Moviola are making changes in their organisation and will no longer be providing equipment or a projectionist. They have already stopped providing tickets and publicity. We have also been informed that the technology is changing rapidly and discs will become unavailable in the not too distant future. The rules and arrangements regarding streaming are complex and unclear and in view of dwindling audience numbers, we are unable to continue. We are grateful to all of you who have supported Steeple Ashton Films for many years. So, we are celebrating with **THE DUKE**, an amazing film starring two of our best known actors who have appeared in many of the films we have shown.



**JIM BROADBENT and HELEN MIRREN in THE DUKE**

**FRIDAY 7th JULY 2022 at 7.30 PM (PROMPT START!)**

**AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STEEPLE ASHTON**

**DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM FOR REFRESHMENTS**

**THE DUKE (12)** Directed by Roger Michell (perhaps better known for directing Notting Hill and My Cousin Rachel) and starring the much loved Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren. This is a true story presented as a comedy drama. The story surrounds the disappearance of the portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in 1961.

Tickets £6 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop.

For Reservations, please ring Alison on 01380 871345,

**e-mail [safilms268@gmail.com](mailto:safilms268@gmail.com) or look on Facebook.**

## FORGET-ME-NOTS CLUB

At the 15th June meeting members enjoyed four rounds of Bingo, with prizes for the lucky winners of either chocolate, toiletries, or £10.00 for a full house.

The Summer Lunch on 20th July will this year be Fish&Chips, followed by scrumptious desserts, with members being asked to bring their own drink and glass. Arrival time being 12.30pm to sit down to eat at 1.00pm. MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE : Kindly let Jennie know if unable to attend.

No meeting in August, resuming on 21st Sept with a get-together afternoon, and a Dutch Auction on 19th Oct.

Visitors very welcome, 3rd Wed of the month, 2.30pm Village Hall.  
A safe, relaxing and happy Summer to members and their families.  
To learn more, please phone Gloria, 01380 870593 or Glynnis, 01225 775681

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### Advanced Notice

There will be an evening wedding reception being held at Bartletts Mead on Friday 1st July which will mean extra cars parked in the village and live music during the evening. We apologise if that causes any inconvenience to any residents.

Kind regards **Jill Reynolds**

### 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 **sahtonfoil@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**

## **STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP**

**Normal Opening times:**

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30 am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**



May we remind you that the Steeple Ashton Village Shop Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 1st July in the Village Hall. All Shareholders are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there at 18.30 for drinks and nibbles prior to the 19.00 start. There is still time for you to email or speak to us about any issues you would like to raise at the meeting.

Not a Shareholder but interested in becoming one? Please contact Julie Ludlow, Manager, in the shop in person or by telephone (871211) for further information. Shares cost £10.00 and the Minutes from last year's AGM are on display in the shop.

We are, as ever, keen to see new volunteers willing to take shifts, either on a regular basis (which would be most helpful) or on an adhoc basis at short notice. You don't have to be a Shareholder to volunteer - if you would like to know more, please contact Alison Wilson on 871345.

Perhaps you would like to stand for nomination to the STASH committee? If so, do let us know and complete the appropriate form which is available from the shop by the till.

Once again, we have been invited to set up shop at the Airfield for the Inter-Forces Gliding Competition which is taking place from the 20th to the 29th of August, somewhat later than usual. Whilst we would ask volunteers to maintain their shifts in the main shop as a priority, there will be plenty of opportunities to cover shifts at the portacabin on the airfield too. Further detail will be available in the shop by the beginning of August if not before. Let's hope that, in the meantime, we all have a wonderful, Covid-free summer!

**Caren Felton**

### **STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP**

#### **The Annual General Meeting**

will be held in Steeple Ashton Village Hall

Friday 1st July at 7.00 p.m.

Please join us for refreshments from 6.30 p.m. onwards

Nominations for election to the Shop committee  
are available in the Shop



## **The Friends of Steeple Ashton**

Most of Keevil airfield falls within the Steeple Ashton parish boundary, and The Friends are keen to support continued MOD occupation and usage of the site. Parachute drops and fixed-wing RAF sorties are less frequent than they used to be, and most current activity is Royal Navy or Army. Last year the Army's Watchkeeper Unmanned Aerial Vehicle undertook a successful trial deployment to the airfield, and a further consultation is currently underway as part of the formal Airspace Change Proposal that requires approval by the relevant authorities prior to the longer-term deployment of Watchkeeper at Keevil. The Friends are a listed community stakeholder, as are the local parish councils, and we will be represented at various consultation events. A public Roadshow was conducted by 47 Regiment Royal Artillery at the Village Hall on 17th June, and a further Roadshow will take place at the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th July, 1300 – 1700; anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

As ever, The Friends are keen to welcome new arrivals to the village, and we warmly encourage them to join us. Please contact us through our email address – [steepleashtonfriends@gmail.com](mailto:steepleashtonfriends@gmail.com)

Many thanks to all those members who have actioned their 2022 subscriptions - a reminder to others please that subs are due payment, and they remain at a modest £2 per individual, plus the optional £2 per household for the village oil delivery scheme.

Finally, a reminder that the Village History & Guide is available at the Village Shop, along with the series of circular village footpath walks, with proceeds from sales benefiting The Friends.

**Mike Beard**



**The choir with their conductor, Adrienne Hale, during the Jubilee celebrations**

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### 'Steeple Ashton Newsletter'

In July 1977...

#### SOME WORDS OF THANKS

Jubilee Day started well with the Church service and just continued to get better. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves. In these days of strikes, rising prices, unemployment and general gloom, it is really nice to experience and feel the goodwill and happiness that can be created.

On behalf of my family, myself and many others in High Street, I would like to thank the Jubilee Committee for all the hard work they put in to make the day such an enjoyable one.

Christine Burgess

Christine Burgess lived at 39 High Street, next to the well.



Acre Close Street Party, Tues 7 June 1977



David Berrett

### To the Editor,

I enjoyed reading the account of beating the bounds From the Archives, in June's Parish Newsletter. It immediately brought to mind the opening scene of Viva Zapata! (the 1952 movie, starring Marlon Brando) in which the villagers shown beating the bounds are pounced upon by the constabulary of the rich landowners intent on enclosing the communal lands for their personal gain.

In England, the social and religious aspect of beating the bounds, to bless and safeguard the coming harvest of the community, was prohibited in 1559 by the Royal Injunctions of Elizabeth I as a precursor to the "enclosures" (expropriation) of common land by the land barons.

James MacBryde

**Ministry Team for the Benefice of  
North Bradley, Southwick, Heywood  
and Steeple Ashton**  
**www.threeinonebenefice.org**

**Fr Oliver Learmont** (Vicar)  
The Vicarage, 62 Church Lane, North Bradley, BA14 0TA.  
Tel. 01225 774845, 07464 795590  
froliverlearmont@gmail.com

**Fr Tony Longdon**  
Tel. 01225 754771 07951 703187  
**Richard Havergal** (Licensed Lay Minister)  
Tel. 01225 762668 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 do not 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 July**

*All services scheduled below include a sermon or homily.*

**Sunday, 3rd July      THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY/  
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

|         |                     |                                              |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 9.15 am | Holy Communion (CW) | St Nicholas', North Bradley (Fr Denis Brett) |
| 11 am   | Holy Communion (CW) | St Thomas, Southwick (Fr Denis Brett)        |
| 6.30 pm | Evensong (BCP)      | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (RH)               |

**Sunday, 10th July      THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|          |                      |                                |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 am     | Holy Communion (BCP) | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL) |
| 10.30 am | Family Service       | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (RH) |
| 11 am    | Holy Communion (CW)  | St Thomas', Southwick (OL)     |

**Sunday, 17th July      THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**Sunday, 24th July THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|       |                      |                                  |
|-------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 am  | Holy Communion (BCP) | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (TL)   |
| 10 am | Family Service       | St Nicholas', North Bradley (RH) |
| 11 am | Holy Communion (CW)  | St Thomas', Southwick (OL)       |

**Sunday, 31st July THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|       |                              |                                |
|-------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11 am | Benefice Holy Communion (CW) | St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL) |
|-------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|

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

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

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

\* Please note the variation of service times on Sunday 22nd May.

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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.

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**Morning Prayer is normally said at St Nicholas', North Bradley, Monday - Wednesday. Further details are posted weekly in the Pew News and on the Benefice website.**

*"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.**

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*Please visit the Benefice website **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.*

*And note that the Blog is now up and running !*

## **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,**

At church, as elsewhere, we continue to reappraise our lives in the aftermath of the limitations that affected us all in one way or another during the pandemic. A small group of us from both parishes of the Benefice are currently taking part in a Diocese-wide programme, which is providing us with invaluable support and encouragement as we explore afresh our ministry and what God is calling us to do in a post-COVID world.

In our recognition of God as the source of all things, and our thanks for his goodness; and of our own responsibility for the stewardship of the world's resources, and the fact that food is needed to sustain human life, the Christian tradition has absorbed at different times and places and with differing emphases, particular agricultural festivals. Harvest Festival in our churches is already, of course, well established, and in recent times we



have reintroduced a walk for Rogationtide; and we are now considering how to bring Lammastide and Plough Sunday into a cycle of festivals that mark out the agricultural year.

As a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest, Lammas, or “loaf-mass”, is an English feast in origin, held on 1st August. By tradition, a newly baked loaf made from the wheat harvest was offered at the celebration of Mass on that day. The ceremony ceased at the Reformation, but is referenced in the calendar of the Prayer Book, and has been revived in recent times. There is no particular requirement to limit Lammas to the first day of August, and the Lammas loaf will be presented at St Mary’s at the beginning of the service of Holy Communion scheduled to take place on 7th August. The Lammas loaf should be baked by a member of the congregation or at least by someone from the local community, and local produce should be used where possible. Sometimes small loaves or buns, in the tradition of “blessed bread”, may be distributed to the congregation. Those whose lives are closely linked to the land may wish to give one of the readings, or contribute to the prayers. There is a range of opportunities to get involved.

Plough Sunday falls at the beginning of the calendar year, and plans for that occasion will be revealed in a future issue of the Newsletter – but in the meantime do get in touch with me or with Rosie Brett Green (01380 870119) if you would be interested in playing a role in the preparation or presentation of our Lammastide service next month.

“You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to use,  
to bring forth food from the earth,  
and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart”.  
*Psalms 104, verses 14 and 15*

**Yours, in Christ, Fr Oliver**

**COFFEE MORNING  
FOR THE SUDAN**

TO BE HELD IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL ON 20th  
AUGUST

10.30am until 12noon

The money raised will help the  
poorest families to send their  
children to school. The  
Salisbury Diocese Supports  
people in the  
Kadugli area of Sudan.



## **OPEN GARDENS 2022**

Whilst it wasn't a warm sunny day as promised a week before, it didn't actually rain until 6:30pm and hundreds of visitors enjoyed the chance to wander around 16 private gardens and a 5 acre meadow at their own pace. There were many lovely comments about how different and inspiring all the gardens were and the 7 new gardens were an added attraction. Many thanks to all the Open Gardeners for their generosity and sustained hard work to present their gardens at their best.

Publicity via an article in Bath Life, BBC Radio Wiltshire interview and The Wiltshire Times helped bring in people from further afield, so thanks to Caroline Mackay for her help with this, and Jennie Willis and team for distributing hundreds of flyers and posters around the local area. I would like to mention the kind sponsorship from Andy and Roxi at AM Print for printing the maps and posters at a substantial discount.

Gill Aldridge and team did a marvellous job on the Plant Stall raising an amazing amount, mostly from home grown contributions from the village. Thank you to everyone who grew plants for sale and to Gill, Bill & Pheobe, Sue E, Alison M, Jane W, and Sue G for doing such a great job. The Stall looked beautiful with hand painted signs, homemade bunting and chalk boards with the prices clearly marked. Visitors commented what a wide and surprising range of plants there were to buy at very reasonable prices.

The Refreshments in the Village Hall and across the road at Moorfields Farm were led by the wonderful Jenny and Lesley Carter/ Pauline & Julia Tiller team, providing a fabulous variety of home made cakes and cream teas, with Pimms on the lawn as an extra temptation laid on by Sandra Stevens. Big thanks to everyone in the village who baked for this and to the team of helpers for providing all the refreshments and working so hard all day.

St Mary's looked lovely having been decorated for a wedding the day before by the talented team of Flower Arrangers led by Petra Brown, and their Flower cart outside was laden with pretty seasonal flower

arrangements that proved very popular too.

An event like this involves many helpers, from the new poster, ticket and foldout map designs by Helen Montague-Smith, to the Ticket Sellers organised by Gerry Oughton, the Set Up team led by Brent Hodges and Ian Nicholson, the Raffle team led by Gaynor Vale (with special thanks for the fabulous prizes from our generous sponsors) and the Tower Draw led by Gill Verschoyl. Behind the scenes were the indefatigable Runners, Matthew and Lynda who collected money all day, bringing it back to Dom Verschoyl who sorted it out and prepared it for banking. Our Treasurer Allan Edwards also did indispensable work with advance ticket sales, organising the floats, paying costs and banking the cash.

On behalf of the Preservation Trust I would like to whole heartedly thank everyone who made this event possible, and am pleased to announce that the total profit raised was £10,363.00. An amazing result all round. The Preservation Trust has donated £3,000 to the DEC fund for Ukraine with the rest to St Mary's for the ongoing restoration of the stone carvings and tower masonry and roof repairs.

**Kathryn Sewell**



## **Guides and Rangers put on amazing Jubilee show. Twice!**

On Saturday 4th June, in celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee, the 1st Steeple Ashton Guides and Paxcroft Rangers put on two performances of a short version of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Sadly, due to the weather conditions, we were unable to perform in Acreshort Park and had to move our plans to the Village Hall, This did of course give us the chance to make use of the wonderful new lighting that has been installed!

We served cream teas to our afternoon audience, and cheese and wine to our evening audience. We also drew the Balloon Flight Raffle in the evening, which was won by Jaime Awdry.

The girls worked so hard to learn their lines and rehearse every week for an hour over six months. They created their own scenery, sorted their own costumes and managed all the lighting and sound. Both audiences appeared to enjoy themselves! We are very proud of all our girls.

We need to thank: Laura Awdry (for the beautiful flower crowns), Miss Burgess from Lavington School (for some drama coaching, props, and the fabulous smoke machine), Valeroso Lounge (for the cardboard supplied), Adrienne Hale (for the loan of the speaker), Jason Dawe (for the loan of the hunting horn), AM Print bid for printing our programmes, and the lovely Lilou, who stepped in and covered all parts as understudy in rehearsals like a true star!

**Pippa Birch**

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### **St Mary's Family Service David the Giant Killer**

**Sun. July 10th  
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Refreshments to follow  
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We'd love to share with you!



**Guides and Rangers performing their Jubilee show in the Village Hall.**



# Open Gardens in Steeple Ashton, May 2022

Photographs from various people including Clive Little and Charles Monk







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## **NATURAL HISTORY CLUB News**

At our last meeting on 16th June members reported the following :

A noticeable reduction in insects compared to previous years. A male (Buck) Roe deer coming into a garden to feed. Successful breeding of Blue tits which were watched by most of us due to a 'box cam' fitted. Starlings nesting under roof tiles for the first time in several years. The large rotting heap of manure halfway down Sandpits lane continues to attract scarce visitors. This year a Yellow Wagtail has been seen. Previous years have seen Wheatear and Golden Plover. There are usually local Skylarks, Linnets and Meadow Pipits near or on the heap. It's worth stopping for a few minutes when walking past.

A new site for Glowworms has been identified. This is in addition to the ones on the white horse hill.

Also at the meeting, one of our members gave a short talk on rain forests. Accompanied by a slide show and maps of the Amazon rainforest, he proceeded to give us information based on his own experience of having been there and worked there. The Amazon is one of three important rain forests in the world.

For example, did you know there are over 9000 species of butterfly there! This is in comparison to about 60 species in the UK. The canopy is about 30M thick and 100 to 150 feet high.

Some members ventured down to Portland to see cliff nesting birds such as Guillemots and Razorbills. A colony of Little terns was also seen. A rare sight these days.

Our next meeting was set for Thursday 15th September at 7:30pm where the short talk this time will be on hedgehogs. Which is quite apt as they seem to be making a bit of a comeback this year.

Please report anything of interest such as sightings of animal / bird / insect activity or lack of. Or indeed unusual or rare plants. Or if there is something you can't identify please contact either myself Roger Ferguson 01380 870860 [r.ferguson550@btinternet.com](mailto:r.ferguson550@btinternet.com) or David Culverhouse, 01380 871621 [42anchor@gmail.com](mailto:42anchor@gmail.com) we probably have a member who specialises and can answer your questions. Photographs are always welcome and help identification.

**Roger Ferguson**

## **Bryan writes...**

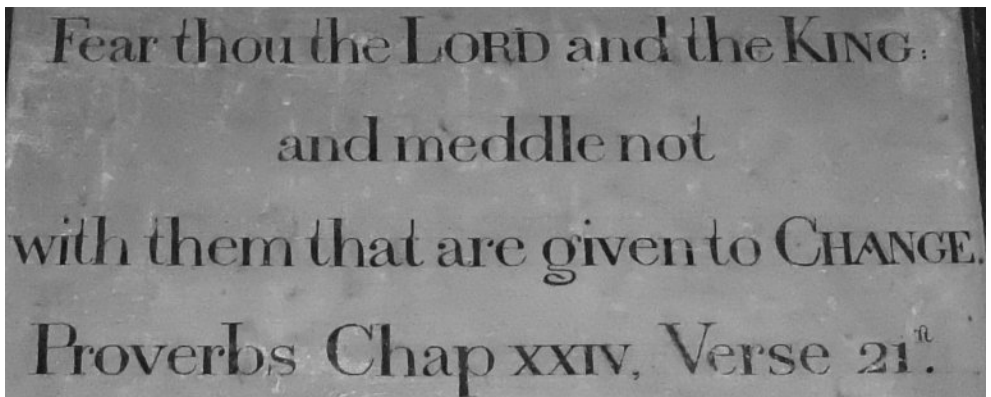
While today we still have a thriving Methodist Church in the village, it is easy to overlook the fact that historically, there have been a number of nonconformist places of worship in Steeple Ashton.

The earliest record of nonconformism in Steeple Ashton is from 1704. In that year, a house, barn and back garden belonging to a James Smith were licensed for Quaker meetings.

With St Mary's Church towering high above the rooftops, and the Church of England playing such a prominent role in the lives of previous generations, the emergence of more than one nonconformist religion in Steeple Ashton during the 18th and 19th centuries did not bode well for harmony amongst residents. Add into the mix a national background of political unrest, disorder and calls for voting and workers' rights from the late 1820s until the 1840s – fuelled in no small way locally by very low and declining wages, an agricultural depression, increased mechanisation of labour, and changes to the Poor Law leaving many with no option but to enter the dreaded workhouses – and you can imagine the unease felt amongst some, including certain leading members of the community, regarding the rise of nonconformism.

Within this period when desires for change were becoming ever more pronounced, the numbers of worshipers drawn away from the Church of England towards nonconformism in the village continued to grow.

From 1787 until 1828, the vicar of St Mary's Church was the Reverend Samuel Hey. The Proverb which still hangs above the door inside the south porch is said to have been placed by this vicar, as a warning to his congregation:



The Primitive Methodists had first been established in Steeple Ashton in 1783, meeting in several cottages, with numbers very slowly increasing over time. By 1851 around 100 were meeting in one room of a house – with the room being used exclusively for worship. This house is almost certain to have been The Gables, opposite the Longs Arms.

The arrival of Mormon missionaries in the mid-1840s drew further numbers away from St Mary's Church. By 1850 as many as 50 Mormon converts were worshipping at a house which is today named Old Chesils, in Dark Lane North, with the area becoming known as "God's Corner".

By 1854 the Primitive Methodists had managed to raise a large mortgage, and a red-brick Methodist Church, complete with adjoining cottage, was built at the northern end of the village centre – where it is still in use today.



**Methodist Church, early 20th century**

Meanwhile, the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – the Mormon Church – began making preparations to build their own place of worship on land at Bullen Hill Farm on Ashton Common. They had been meeting in a certain house there since 1846, and baptised new converts by immersion in a pond above the farm, in a field off Mudmead Lane.

Construction began, but the church was never completed. This was probably because as soon as the number of Mormons increased in and

around the village, they would fall again due to the LDS Church's policy of regular emigration of new members to North America. The LDS leaders had established the home of their religion in the Territory of Utah (later to become the 45th state of the USA), and they were keen to irrigate and develop the desolate land, as well as establish Mormonism there.

A Mormon church may never have been completed in our village, but its stone gate pillars are said to have still existed during the late 1970s.

Between 1845 and the 1870s, Steeple Ashton Mormon converts totalled 121, of whom 63 emigrated. Many of these villagers were poor, and they were often supported by parish relief funds. With their meetings frequently being broken up by angry mobs, it is not too surprising that when the opportunity to travel to "the land of milk and honey" arose, with their passage occasionally assisted financially by both the LDS Church and the parish – who were glad to be relieved of supporting them – so many chose to leave for Utah.

During this period, the Baptist Chapel was opened – in a stone-built, early-19th-century former private dwelling at the edge of the village green, facing the market cross and lock up. It was established as a "station" of the Baptist Church at Bratton. I have been unable to trace the number of members, but it survived as a place of worship until 1940.

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**Opening of the  
Baptist Chapel,  
Sep 1864**

In 1947 the building was authorised to be sold, after which it was converted back into a private house. For some years afterwards, the painted “Baptist Chapel” sign and conversion date of “1864” remained on the front porch. Today, No 19 High Street – Sundial House – has just been placed on the market.



### **Baptist Chapel, around 1910**

At some point before 1914 (and probably before 1900), further north along the High Street, the Primitive Methodists were in financial difficulty. They were unable to pay the mortgagee of their chapel, who had called in the mortgage – and consequently the premises was put up for auction. Resigned to losing their place of worship, they resorted to prayer.

As auction day approached, it was arranged for members to gather in their church and hold a united prayer meeting during the time of the auction 10 miles or so away in Devizes. One of the Elders, Mr Elijah Bull, would travel to Devizes to watch the bids. Back in Steeple Ashton, the rest of the members would pray that their building would not be sold.

In the event, not a single bid was received – and the property remained unsold.

The Steeple Ashton Methodists took this as an “Act of God”, and set

about trying to pay off the mortgage. By 1914 it was fully paid, and the members were also able to install new seating to accommodate 130 worshippers.

Seventy-seven years later, in 1991, the entire building was extended and refurbished – with meeting rooms, a small kitchen and toilets being added. It remains the only nonconformist church in the village, providing excellent facilities for Methodist worship as well as a meeting place for the whole community. Painting classes, exhibitions, coffee mornings, exercise classes and more are all held in Steeple Ashton Methodist Church.

Of course, St Mary's Church congregations and Steeple Ashton Methodists continue to worship independently, but coexist in harmony. Thankfully, angry religious division in our village belongs to another age!

With thanks to Alison & Tony Evans.

**Bryan Berrett**

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## **Keevil Airfield**

### **Tuesday 28th June & Thursday 21st July – ACP Virtual Briefs**

Location: Microsoft Teams

Time: 18:30hrs

*Links to the meeting can be found on Citizen Space-*

*<https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/mod-daاتم/keevil-acp>*

### **Wednesday 29th June – ACP Open Day**

Location: 47th Regiment Royal Artillery, Horne Barracks, Larkhill, Wiltshire, SP4 8QE

Time: 10:00 to 14:00

*Numbers for this event are limited to 60 and are on a first-come, first-served basis. If you wish to attend please email 47RA-Project-LOVERIDGE@mod.gov.uk.*

### **Tuesday 19th July – ACP Roadshow**

Location: Steeple Ashton Village Hall, Church Street, Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, BA14 6EW

Time: 13:00 to 17:00 (drop-in at any time)

*Open to all stakeholders. No prior booking required.*

**Capt R D Goodman MBE RA** | Regimental Operations Officer | 47th Regiment Royal Artillery | Horne Barracks | Larkhill | SALISBURY | Wiltshire | SP4 8QE | Mil: 94322 5914 | Skype: +443001576527 | MODNET Robert.Goodman100@mod.gov.uk



## Teas and Cakes

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who helped with setting up, serving cakes and teas, clearing tables and washing up at the Open Gardens event on 29th May. We really appreciated everyone's hard work. We would also like to thank all those who baked cakes that we could serve on the day. We very much appreciated your kindness and generosity. We received many comments from members of the public about how delicious the cakes were. People certainly appeared to be enjoying their refreshment stops! Thank you again for all your efforts that contributed to such a successful event. Best Wishes,

**Lesley and Julia**

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## St. Mary's Steeple Ashton

Organ recital by Peter Stevens, the Director of Edington Festival and Assistant Organist at Westminster Cathedral. Thursday August 25th at 3:00pm. More details in next month's magazine. **Michael Winstock**

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**Trowbridge Phil Concert - Village Hall, Saturday 30th July, 7pm**



**The Beacon in Steeple Ashton**

## METHODIST CHURCH

### Where is God's face?

Do we ever feel God's face shine upon us? I think so – in those moments when it is like a ray of light reaches us, giving some strength, and brightens us up within. I think it can sometimes be something so small as when you wake up one morning, heavy minded and not your happiest self, but then you pull away the curtain and the morning sun fills the room. It reaches your heart, and suddenly you hear the birds singing, despite everything. Another time it might be the opposite though, the bright warm morning clashes with the feelings you have within, it is simply too bright. Maybe then, God's shining face is more captured in the little cat still curled up in bed, raising his head, squinting with his eyes, as if to say, 'No, it is not time to get up yet!'

Other days we might have to go outside and seek God's face. But there are rooms with no windows, homes without company, and it is not possible for all of us to open the door and go outside. Where is God's face then? Maybe God's face then is more to be found wounded on the cross, crying, 'Why have you forsaken me?' A wounded face letting us know that we are never alone.

When we meet God's shining face, whether it is in the morning sun, a grumpy cat, or something else – let us treasure it, as I think it has the power to reflect on others, and someone else might also feel saved, even if only for a day.

*God of life, let your face shine, that we might be saved, if only to find the strength for one more step. Help us to recognise your face in others. Amen*

(Taken from Fresh from the Word)

### CHURCH DIARY

Our services are normally at 9.15, followed by refreshments; we welcome everyone; why not come and join us. If you are new to the village come and see who we are.

#### July

|        |      |          |                                                             |
|--------|------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 3rd  | 9.15 am  | Ed Colling                                                  |
| Sunday | 10th | 9.15 am  | Rev. Peggy Kabonde – Holy Communion                         |
| Sunday | 17th | 9.15 am  | Tom Hill                                                    |
| Sunday | 24th | 9.15 am  | Izzie Smears                                                |
| Sunday | 30th | 10.30 am | Sector Service at Warminster – No service at Steeple Ashton |

## **CATHOLIC NEWS**

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

**PARISH PRIEST FR TOM FINNEGAN**

TELEPHONE: 01225 752152

[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)



Open Gardens, plant stall and the queue to collect maps



St Mary's in Jubilee colours



Villagers at the Jubilee celebrations