

TOCKENHAM NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2021

Letter from the Rector

On Fear and Floating

The words fear and afraid are found throughout the bible on my desk – sometimes fear is commended; sometimes the instruction is not to be afraid. I have felt aware of fear in this season – both my own and that of other people.

Fear can be a compound of many instincts and emotions – awe and anxiety are often closely intertwined, as I am aware every time I walk along a cliff or coastal path – I may love the awe-filled view and perspective that height gives but the awful fear of falling often turns my knees to jelly.

Fear can be useful, an appropriate response to a threat that sends a surge of adrenaline enabling us to fight more fiercely or flee danger faster. Yet the threat that we have faced over the last two years may have provoked fear without the options for action.

If frozen with terror locked inside fear can dampen our capacity to respond to challenges. Fear congealed within can prevent me from facing even the simple challenge of disagreement or a different opinion, with the curiosity and openness to understanding difference that can and has enabled me to make new connections and even to love what is other to my perspective.

As a child, there were sometimes situations when neither fight nor flight was possible and within the freezing terror of those moments I would sometimes float off inside my head. In adult life I've had to learn to enter into the reality of those moments rather than sliding away and one of the ways I've learned to do that has been floating in the river or the sea. I love wild swimming in part because of the discovery that fear can be purposeful and overcome – fear has wisely stopped me swimming on occasion and it has also been turned to joy as I've overcome it as the riverweed wraps around my legs or a fish jumps at eye level and in the trust and comfort that comes when I float and trust that within all the uncertainty there is something that will buoy me up as I give myself to the water and look up at the sky. The water always reminds me of the water of baptism and the promise of the love that upholds the world and it enables me to leave some of my fear and anxiety behind. It is (for me at any rate – there are hardier people around!) now too cold to swim in the Thames at Buscot Weir.

Yet in my times of prayer and meditation I have learned to hear my fear and anxiety and float not above them but within them until they have taken their rightful place in the love and awe that are greater than these.

Revd Rachma Abbott, Rector

News from St Giles' Church

After the great success of our harvest celebration, we look forward to some more major events coming up shortly. The first one is the Remembrance Service at the war memorial at Tockenham Corner at 10.55am. Afterwards we will have outdoor hot drinks and biscuits for those who wish to stay.

In December we will be singing carols round the Christmas tree - date and time to be confirmed soon. On Christmas Eve we are having our annual carol Service in the church at 6pm.

We will also be having a service of Holy Communion on Sunday December 12th at 10.30am.

The church continues to be open on Wednesdays for private prayer, and the box for the Swindon Food Collective will be available.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Rector Revd Rachma Abbott by phone or email if you wish to do so: reverendrachma@gmail.com - phone number 01793 731134.

The full list of November services for our benefice is here, and we are all welcome at any of these. Naturally all events and services are subject to any Covid advice in force at the time.

7 th Nov 3 rd before Advent	Bradenstoke Communion - 10.30am Broad Town Communion - 10.30am Lyneham All-Age Service - 10.30am	
14 th Nov 2 nd Before Advent Remembrance	Broad Town - 10.50am Clyffe Pypard - 10.50am Hilmarton - 10.50am Lyneham - 10.45am Tockenham - 10.45am	Clyffe Pypard Communion - 8am
21 st Nov Christ the King	Broad Town Patronal Festival Communion - 10.30am	
28 th Nov 1st Sunday of Advent	Lyneham Communion - 10.30am Clyffe Pypard Communion - 10.30am	Hilmarton Advent songs and readings 5pm

Coffee mornings

The next coffee morning will be in the village hall on Tuesday 2 November, 10.30 am to 12 noon. Everyone is most welcome, and it's a great chance to meet some neighbours and relax for a while. Pauline will be selling some of her jams, jellies and chutneys so if you wish to buy some please come prepared. If you can't come and would still like to buy some, please contact her on 01793 854157. £1.50 for a standard jar, or £1 for small jars. Proceeds to church funds.

Village Hall News

The Hall is once more back in action – with the bar being open every Saturday evening from 8 pm, meetings are being held regularly, we've had our first Coffee Morning, a successful Defibrillator Training Session and a Toddler Group about to start .

Great to see it in full swing again.

And, at our recent Village Hall Committee Meeting – we have finalised some Events for all to join in –

- *Quiz and Chips – 27th November. The Lyneham Chippy Van will be coming to the village to serve us delicious Fish + Chips etc. Orders for food will be needed by 20th November and entry for the Quiz will be £1 per person. Look out for an email giving full details very soon.*
- *Cheese and Wine Event – with a Christmas Draw – 11th December. Tickets will need to be purchased in advance please - £3 per head. Draw tickets will be available at the bar in the coming weeks – or from Committee Members. More info to follow.*
- *Friday 24th December – the bar will be open, as usual, after the Church Carol Service*
- *New Year's Eve – the current plan is to have a special event with hot food (including a veggie option), music and a Tockenham welcome to the New Year with midnight toast. A night to remember, please dress to kill! Details to follow nearer the time.*

Please Note – Hall Bookings will now be taken by Ali Bennett.

If you want to book the Hall, you can contact Ali on 07976 891377

TOCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Dates of Parish Council Meetings

All Meetings will be held in the Village Hall, Tockenham at 7.30pm unless otherwise notified.

17 November 2021

Full Council Meeting

12 January 2022

Full Council Meeting

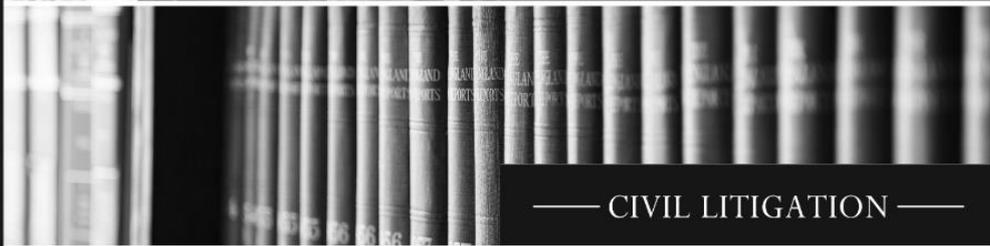
16 March 2022

Full Council Meeting

Official confirmation of meetings will be posted on the Parish Notice Boards and website at least three clear days before the meeting.

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