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## Litchborough Church and Village Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024



9<sup>th</sup> February - Litchborough Ladies  
Village Hall



13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY - YOUTH CLUB -  
In the Village Hall



13<sup>th</sup> February - Don't Forget Pancake Day



14<sup>th</sup> February Valentines Day



23<sup>rd</sup> February - Community Cuppa



Litchborough Playgroup  
Tuesdays 9.30am -11.30 am in the Village Hall

## THE RECTOR WRITES

Christmas seems to be a dim and distant memory by now but anyone who has visited the Stanley home during January will see that we still have decorations up - the tree, the greenery and candles on the mantlepieces and importantly, the nativity crib. There's something lovely about enjoying the lights and candles throughout the dark evenings of January and so for the past few years I have resurrected the tradition of years past of leaving everything in situ until Candlemas - 2nd February - which falls forty days after Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas season. For this reason, too, you might have noticed the cribs still in place in our churches. After all, the magi don't get to arrive until the 6th January so if the crib is packed away then they miss out on their moment of glory! Candlemas is a festival full of symbolism, folk tradition and church history and in the Church it marks the moment when our focus changes from the crib to the cross as we take a last look at Christmas and the infant Jesus before we move forward towards Lent and Holy Week - for details of this year's Lent Course please see below. At our Holy Communion Candlemas service - this year celebrated on Sunday 28th January - we hear the story of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40) when the forty-day old Jesus is recognised by Simeon and Anna as Light of the World, our Saviour and Judge. At the end of the service everyone is given a lighted candle and turning to face the cross we prepare to take the light of Christ out into the world. And the crib is packed away for another year. God bless

Rev'd Sue

Have you ever wanted to find out more about prayer? Why do we do it? Why doesn't it always seem to work? This year on Tuesday evenings during Lent we will be following 'The Prayer Course' which takes us on a journey through the Lord's Prayer, learning together and helping us to grow in our relationship with God. The first session will be on Tuesday 27th February at 7pm in Maidford Village Hall. For more details please contact Rev'd Sue. If you would like to talk please contact me stanley.thehole@btinternet.com or 01327 341307

\*\*\*\*\*



**YOUTH CLUB Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

7.00pm-8.30pm In the Village Hall

if you've any questions Contact 😊 email: [sarah@cypn.org](mailto:sarah@cypn.org)

Contact Sonia for details of online lessons

# LITCHBOROUGH DANCE & YOGA

Village Hall & Online



### Classes available:

- Acro
- Ballet
- Choreography
- Contemporary
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### Also:

- Speech & drama
- Modelling
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- Pilates & yoga

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## Benefice Services for February

<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	
9:00am	Matins	Maidford
10:30am	Holy Communion	Blakesley
6:00pm	Compline	Adstone
<b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9:30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>Woodend</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	
9:00am	Holy Communion	Farthingstone
10:30am	Family Service	Blakesley
6:00pm	Evensong	Maidford
6:00pm	Compline	Adstone
<b>14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
7:00pm	Holy Communion	Blakesley
	Imposition of Ashes	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	
9:00am	Holy Communion	Maidford
10:30am	Music and Meditation	Blakesley
6:00pm	Compline	Adstone
<b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
9:00am	Matins	Maidford
10:30am	Holy Communion	Blakesley
6:00pm	Compline	Farthingstone
6:00pm	Compline	Adstone
	*****	



## From St Martin's Church - February Services

<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	
	<b>No Service</b>	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	
10:30am	Family Service	
	Greeter and refreshments - Christine and Carol	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Refreshments: Carol
	Greeter: John	Reader: Ian
<b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
10:30am	Celtic Morning Worship	Refreshments; Christine
	Greeter: Jennifer	Reader: Carol
	*****	



## FRIDAY COMMUNITY CUPPA - 23<sup>rd</sup> February New Time 2.30pm-4.30pm

Hello Everyone,  
I hope you're all well and managing to keep warm during these winter months ... it is a really good time to wrap your hands around a mug of tea or coffee in the Village Hall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, we'd love for you to pop in and join our happy gang!  
Kettle will be boiling anytime between 2.30 and 4.30pm and of course delicious biscuits are always on offer ...  
Thanks for your good company last time and as always many thanks to the kind ones who heave the tables and chairs around, setting up and clearing away, very much appreciated xx  
Looking forward to seeing you soon!  
Carol x



### In Memorium

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Hywel Davies after a long hard fight against illness. Mary and Hywel had lived in Litchborough for many years before moving to Towcester in the last couple of years. Hywell and Mary supported village life and events in Litchborough for many years and many of us will never forget the Speed Awareness Course Hywell organised with the police and those of us who had attended subsequently carrying out the speed checks through the village pointing the speed guns at motorists from 7.00 o'clock in the morning until early evening.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the family at this time and may Hywel now rest in peace.



## Village Lottery

Our only winner in December was Audrey Cox  
To start the new year two winners in January. On the 6<sup>th</sup> the Lotto Bonus Ball matched Barbara Logan's number, and on 27<sup>th</sup> Gareth Lugar Mawson's number came up. Each will be receiving their £25 winners cheque.  
Contact me for your number if you want the chance to win £25 - Ian Lowery 830823.





## Village Defibrillator

The new defibrillator is a little smaller but works in exactly the same way and is now in a carrying bag inside the dome in the phone box. The emergency kit of scissors, face mask etc is also in the bag

### Need it and you are on your own -help is at hand

Several people have kindly offered their phone numbers to be contacted to go and get the defib and bring it to you. Sandy and David 01327-830077/07759-326675 Sonia -07929-963976, Anna Prior 07940379650, all are available to help. - if you do need to use the defib and take it away please let David Aked-Walker know so we don't think it has been stolen again! Thank you to the volunteers.

\*\*\*\*\*



## War Memorial Flowers

I'm going to draw up the rota for war memorial flowers soon. Wondered if any of the newer villagers would like to be added.

From Easter to Remembrance Day we put fresh flowers on the memorial on the village green. Nothing fancy required. Just a bunch of flowers with some water. Please let me know if you'd like to be involved, it would probably be only once during the time span that we do it.

Thanks

Sarah -831318

\*\*\*\*\*



## Joy Mead Gardens Farthingstone

- ? Want to know more about the management of Joy Mead?
- ? Have some ideas to help us fundraise?
- ? Would like to get more involved in supporting Joy Mead?

Come along to our AGM on Monday 12th February 7.30pm at Farthingstone Village Hall. Maidford Road Farthingstone...

We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Litchborough Gardening Club

**AGM Tuesday 5th March, Village Hall  
7.30pm-9pm**

A huge thank-you to Sue Brunning who has been a fantastic part of the Garden

Club and supported trips and fund-raising events. Due to moving out of the area, Sue will be stepping down, there will be a role for co-chair for those interested.

At the AGM we will be discussing the Open Garden Event in June, social garden evenings and garden trips.

Everyone welcome to the AGM.

January can often feel a dark, wet time of the year, however, enjoy the slower pace and you can do a few jobs here and there that can be done to get yourself ahead, such as hedge trimming before the nesting season, planting bare root roses and trees and continue pruning climbing roses whilst they are still dormant. If you want to be a bit more adventurous, pressing mistletoe berries into the bark of apple trees to establish new plants.

### Allotment News...

Whilst it might be cold and wet, there is still activity on the allotment. Following the larch tree being removed from the Churchyard, we are grateful to the tree surgeons for donating the chippings, these will be a big help with creating our new paths.

We were also lucky enough to be donated a 4-way composter which is great as this was on the list.

The next job will be fitting the guttering to the shed and installing the water butts.

\*\*\*\*\*



Physicians of the 1800s commonly advised their patients to eat chocolate to calm their pining for lost love.



In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.



**What do you say to your single friends on Valentine's Day? Happy Independence Day!**



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**Q: What does a man who loves his car do on February 14?**

**A: He gives it a Valenshine!**



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### Facts you may not know about Valentines Day

- The most popular theory about Valentine's Day's origin is that Emperor Claudius II didn't want Roman men to marry during wartime. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret weddings. For this, Valentine was jailed and executed. While in jail he wrote a note to the jailor's daughter signing it "from your Valentine".
- In Victorian times it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card
- Girls of medieval times ate bizarre foods on this day to make them dream of their future spouse.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Editors Note:

My sincere apologies for the late arrival of your newsletter but recovery from my surgery has taken a bit longer than expected. Many thanks for the flowers, cards and kind messages they have been very much appreciated. Kind regards Sandy

## Canon's Ashby Update Hello All

Firstly, apologies for not sending an update the last couple of months. There are some new things to be included which may be useful for the New Year ahead. Some of you who are members may have seen the clip referenced below on YouTube as part of one of the Member emails. If you follow the link below on YouTube, you can watch there. During the late autumn, one of our volunteers Dr Jean-Loup Baudino, took some time out to film in the grounds of Canons Ashby. Our local area is full of beautiful dark skies, perfect for stargazing. Dr Jean-Loup Baudino is an astrophysicist and was on hand to answer some National Trust members' astronomy questions here in the gardens of Canons Ashby. The filming took place just as dusk was beginning, the perfect time and backdrop to gaze up skyward.

At this dark time of year, there is plenty of time to stare up at the sky, so after enjoying this little video, why not wrap up warm and step outside for a look?

The link for the clip is here to copy and paste when on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qL9rgb9uesk> or if once in YouTube you type in the search bar 'Learn about outer space with National Trust volunteer and astrophysicist Dr Jean-Loup Baudino', the clip should come up. Happy viewing!

For all we have coming up over the next few months, see below. (Sometimes last-minute changes are made, so please do check the website for the latest information) - <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/leicestershire-northamptonshire/canons-ashby>

10 – 25 February	10- 3pm	<b>Snowdrop Stories trail</b> 	<p>Snowdrops bring the hope of spring, looking ahead to light and warmth whilst it's still cold outside - but some people believed these flowers have powers.</p> <p>Wander through Canons Ashby and discover what people have believed about these delicate and beautiful blooms through the years.</p> <p>Normal admission prices apply. No booking needed.</p>
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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

MARCH 9TH – FLIX IN THE STIX – THE MIRACLE CLUB

APRIL 27TH – RACE NIGHT

JUNE 29TH – FLIX IN THE STIX

SEPTEMBER 28TH – MUSIC BINGO

OCTOBER 26TH – FLIX IN THE STIX

NOVEMBER 23RD - TBA

All these dates are confirmed, the entertainment may change, keep your eyes peeled!



### Litchborough Ladies – 9<sup>th</sup> February – Village Hall

Litchborough Ladies is a beautiful social group, who enjoy getting together and having refreshments.

Next meeting: Litchborough Village Hall 9th February 10-30am-12.30pm  
Members take it in turns to host the meeting and supply various refreshments. We always find plenty to talk about and it is a good way for newcomers to make new friends. Welcome to all including friends and relatives of villagers.

Meeting: on the second Friday morning of each month between 10:30 and 12:30- venue can vary.

See you soon - Jan Hutchings 01327-830077

