

**MAY 2022**



New seat in the Hardington Moor Nature Reserve  
made by Peter Bickerton.

*The inscription reads:*

**Remembering Brenda & Mike Bickerton  
for all the care they gave to this beautiful place.**

# CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

## Church Services at St. Mary's, Hardington.

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	11 00 am
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Service followed by refreshments	10.30 am

## Church services at St Roch, Pendomer

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service	9.45am AND ON ZOOM
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	9.15am AND ON ZOOM
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Service	9.45am AND ON ZOOM

If you would like to join us on zoom and don't have the invite please contact Robin & Sheila Carpenter on 862339 and we can organise it.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall AGM, All welcome	7.30pm
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Street Fayre Quiz, Village Hall,	7.15pm
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Dedication of Bickerton seat, Nature reserve	5.00pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Practice, Weavers Cottage, Hardington Moor	7.30pm
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	W.I. Meeting, Village Hall, New members Welcome	7.30pm
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	Big Breakfast , Royal Oak	9.00-11.00am
	Plant Sale around the village	10.00am onwards
	15 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> CHRISTIAN AID WEEK	
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council, Village Hall, All welcome	7.30pm
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	AGM St Mary's Church, All welcome	7.00pm
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Practice, Weaver Cottage, Hardington Moor	7.30pm
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club, Hardington Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall Coffee Morning, Village Hall	10.30am -12.00am

## May 20<sup>TH</sup> LAST DATE FOR MAY MESSENGER

Please email contributions to [hardingtonmessenger@rocketmail.com](mailto:hardingtonmessenger@rocketmail.com)

## WEEKLY EVENTS

Tues	Ashtanga Yoga Hardington Village Hall,	6.00pm
Fri	Bell Ringing Practice, St. Mary's Hardington Mandeville	7.45pm

# AROUND THE VILLAGE

**CONGRATULATIONS:** James Nitti, eldest son of Sonia and Mike, has recently become engaged to his girlfriend, Brook. The couple are now living in the USA.

Glenis and Lewis Weidman welcomed their 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild Bluebell Maggie earlier this year and Debbie and Martin Palfrey also welcomed their 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild Reuben Warren, in March.

Andrew and Anya Davies became grandparents for the first time. Maisie Violet arrived a few weeks earlier than expected but is progressing well at home.

Val Bower celebrated a 'significant' birthday in March.

Congratulations to you all.

**WELCOME:** This month we welcome a new family to Nursery Gardens, Ben, Kathryn, Bertie and Lottie Twist and their spaniel Teddy.

Also in Moor Lane, Angie Hockley-Wright and Philip Bell have moved into Beck Lodge. We hope you will be very happy in your new homes.

**GOOD WISHES:** We send our good wishes for their recovery to Chris Searle in Dorchester Hospital, Brad Atkinson in Southmead Hospital, Bristol, and David Beckley who has been in Yeovil District Hospital.

**CONDOLENCES:** Sadly, we report the death of 2 villagers and 1 ex-villager this month. Jim Adlam, who with his wife Audrey moved in Rectory Lane when the new houses were built some 20 + years ago. A devoted couple, they were very involved with St Mary's Church until Audrey's illness caused them to retreat from village life. Audrey died during lockdown and sadly, just as life was beginning to return to some normality, Jim was diagnosed with cancer. A private family cremation service will be followed by a service at St Mary's on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.45pm. Our condolences are sent to his family, Alison, Hilary, John, and their families.

Gloria Karby, moved to the village to live with her daughter Karen and son in law Simon Paxton in Hardington House almost 4 years ago. Gloria quickly set about meeting new friends; she joined the WI and loved attending village events. She enjoyed playing skittles and was looking forward to resuming getting out and about when she was diagnosed with a terminal illness. With the help of carers and family members she remained at the heart of her family with her little dog beside her. Our thoughts are with Karen, Trudi, Sarah, and Mark and their families during this sad time. Some villagers may remember Heather Arrow, formerly Townsend, who lived in Moor Lane for many years. Sadly, Heather died in March and her funeral took place at St Mary's Hardington followed by burial in the Churchyard. Our thoughts are with her sons Mark, James and families.

**THANKS:** We apologise for the lateness of April's Messenger. Thanks to the 'emergency' deliverers who stepped into the breach and those deliverers who collected their own Messengers. All very much appreciated. Messenger Team

## **HARDINGTON & PENDOMER W.I.**

Once again we had a very enjoyable evening, at our W I meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Our speaker was Polina Rumsey who teaches Face Yoga; something that the majority of us had never done before. She introduced the subject first and described what Face Yoga can achieve if performed regularly at home. We all took part in the exercises she taught us with much amusement, laughing at the funny faces we made. Face yoga tones your skin and is simple to do. No botox or a face lift to look and feel better. Our faces glowed at the end of our yoga session. Once the small muscles of the face are toned, the outer layers of skin are stretched reducing wrinkles and lines. You may not recognise any of us soon if we persevere with the exercises we learned!

Next month is the WI AGM and resolution meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The resolution chosen for us to vote on is "Women and girls with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)", under identified, under diagnosed, misdiagnosed and under supported.

Our speaker will be Catherine Fraser who will talk to us about Bees and Honey.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Vivien Cherry

## **THE VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING**

Our get together this month is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Do try and come along and enjoy the convivial villagers company. All welcome, bring along your family and friends. Time 10.30 am – 12 noon. Usual fare of tea/coffee with cakes and Bacon rolls. Offers of a Cake or help and any other information contact Trevor or Vivien on 864546

## **COMMEMORATIVE SEAT**

On Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> a seat commemorating the life of Brenda Bickerton and the 40 years of Mike Bickerton's work in the Nature Reserve, will be dedicated on the NW side of the conservation field at 5pm. Any villagers who would like to attend are very welcome

Mike Bickerton

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH**

Some years ago there was a campaign to preserve local Post Offices – ‘use it or lose it’ - was the slogan, as we recall. Very much the same thing can be said for our village church. It is clear that the whole village regards the church as a very important part of the community and on occasions such as Christmas or Easter it is well attended. Indeed, it is not unusual for there to be over 300 people for funerals, or weddings, which itself gives an indication of how important the church is to village life.

However, that is only one side of the picture, week by week, congregations are dwindling as older people move away, or die, the costs of running the church are increasing - without even thinking about the need to find over £100,000 to repair the tower - and almost all the administration and day-to-day maintenance and other tasks fall on the shoulders of two or three people. Clearly this is a situation that cannot go on for long.

Yes, of course we need more money, but this isn't really about that; it's about the village community wanting to keep the church alive; it's about more people attending services and taking part in the life of the church in all its aspects (including helping with admin, etc.), so that the church can fulfil its proper role of care and support in the community and further afield. Without this happening we certainly will not be able to continue in our present form and it would be very sad if the church, which has been here since 1123, i.e., almost 900 years, had to close.

We would ask everyone in the village to think very seriously about this and how it may affect you if there is no church for weddings, funerals, or other special occasions in your lives and how much the presence of the church in the village matters to you and the community.

The Annual Meeting of the Church takes place on 19 May 2022 at 7.00pm. It will be a short meeting and we would ask you all to attend and offer your thoughts if you wish our church to continue.

Daphne Creed and Richard Middleton

Churchwardens

## **GARDEN CLUB**

Plant Sale 14<sup>th</sup> May – weather permitting this will be held at various locations around the village from 10.00 onwards (watch out for posters around the village and Facebook messages or contact Jacqui on 07779 640355). If the weather is not kind, we may have to make a late decision and move the plant sale to the village hall. The plant sale once again will be on a donations basis, with receiving charities to be decided by Garden Club Members.

Jacqui Watkins

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

I hope that you all enjoyed the Easter break and made the most of the lovely weather.

The winners of the "100-club" draw which took place on 6th April were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize Irene Tizzard, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Vivien Ford and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Nicola Dodge, congratulations to you all, and thank you for supporting the Hall by joining the 100-club. The next draw takes place at 7.20pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, at the Village Hall (before the start of our AGM) you are welcome to come along and be present when the draw takes place. The financial statement for the year to 31/3/22 can be viewed on the Village Website, as can the notice of the AGM scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> May.

There is no film showing at the Hall this month as past experience has shown us that attendance tends to drop off as the warmer weather approaches. We will therefore take a break for a few months but watch this space as our film nights will start up again soon.

Many thanks to those of you who supported the recent 'Easter Community Raffle' which was aimed at raising funds for the Village Hall as well as St Mary's Church. A special thank you to Alan Hawkins, Alan Grassam, Mary Middleton and various members of the Dodge family for their generous donations of raffle prizes.

A new PVC kitchen door was fitted on 18<sup>th</sup> March. The job planned for this month is to fibre glass the roof area above the old boiler room. Don't forget that the Village Hall is available for hire via the village website ([www.hardington.net](http://www.hardington.net)). Details of availability, charges and conditions of hire can all be found on the website.

Karen Dodge

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 15 – 21 MAY 2022

Whilst Christian Aid is engaged in many activities all over the world, this year the Christian Aid Week focus is on hunger, particularly hunger caused by the effects of climate change. Drought starves; it robs people of the power to farm and grow food. In rural Zimbabwe, seven out of ten women rely on farming to earn a living and provide for their families, but, with ever lengthening periods of drought, sometimes for well over a year, every day is a struggle for survival, with the scorching sun burning crops as soon as they start to grow. Children crave a good meal, but there is no food and they go to bed hungry. We no longer carry out house-to-house collections in the village, but there will be a collecting tin in the village shop throughout Christian Aid Week and we would hope for generous donations. Alternatively, please donate on-line through [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk) Thank you.

Richard Middleton

## HARDINGTON WILDLIFE

Two welcome sights have returned to the village over the past couple of weeks - the first swallows, dashing over the fields and lanes to catch their supper, and the first orchids, puncturing the green meadows with spires of purple and deep pink. What a pleasure it has been to pause for a moment and take in the view from Brenda and Mike Bickerton's splendid new bench at the top of the nature reserve, listening to the chatter of swallows. These beautiful birds will soon be rearing their young in barns and outbuildings all around Hardington, along with house martins, who, as their name suggests, favour the eaves of houses. The easiest way to tell these two migrants apart is by looking at the length of their tail: swallows have a very long, deeply forked tail, whereas house martins have a white rump and a short, forked tail.

As the sunshine warms the front of our house, mason bees are once again busy laying eggs in the bee homes we installed, and I spend many tea breaks watching them reverse into their chosen bamboo tube, laden with pollen, to start the next generation. It seems that everything is on the wing now that Spring is in full flow. The oilseed rape in the corner of the field behind our house is a vision in yellow, and attracting a host of pollinators including Peacock butterflies, Brimstone, Comma, Orange-tip and large and small whites, as well as bumblebees, honeybees and hoverflies. The bright colour and heady scent of the flowers is unmissable, and it's no wonder there's so much insect activity within it – I can hear the buzzing as I puff my way uphill!

For those who are not averse to early rising, the first week in May is a perfect time to enjoy the wonder of the dawn chorus as our feathered friends compete for territory and mates at full volume. In the early, cool hours of the morning, birdsong carries a good deal further than during the day so find a comfy spot in your garden by 5.30am and settle down to listen to one of our most beautiful natural dramas. Robin, wren, blackbird, chiffchaff, dunnock, song thrush and blackcap are some of the many songsters likely to make an appearance, and listening to them join the chorus in the early morning sunshine is a truly uplifting way to start your day.

Nicola Maybury

## **HARDINGTON FLOWER & CRAFT SHOW 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022**

The outside temperature has taken a turn upwards, which is always positive for spring and the planting of seeds. It is with this thought in mind we remind you to start to consider what you are planting and what could be entered into one of the many flower and vegetable categories this year. Whilst it has been cold outside, you may have spent some time inside working on a piece of handicraft – don't forget to enter it in the Show. The schedule for this year can be found on [Hardington.net](http://Hardington.net).

**Save the date – 27<sup>th</sup> August.**

### **2022 STREET FAYRE – QUIZ NIGHT MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

To support fundraising for this year's Street Fayre, we are holding a Quiz Night on Friday 6 May in the Village Hall. Doors will open at 7.00, with quiz starting at 7.30pm. Teams of up to six people are welcome. Tickets available at Springfield Stores or on the door: £5.00 (Children £1.00)

All proceeds ultimately go to the Village Hall and Church. Andrew Middleton  
07941 323753 [andrew@themiddletons.org](mailto:andrew@themiddletons.org)

### **Hardington Players Autumn Production The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery**

The Players will be bringing this comedy to the Village Hall on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. Please save the date to join us for a fast paced and entertaining evening. Tickets will go on sale late July so look out for posters and further information nearer the time.

Anne Lunt

### **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**

You will see in Nancy's Parish Council report below that two councillors have decided not to stand for the next 4-year period. We will soon be hoping to co-opt to fill these vacancies. Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month; it is not an onerous job, and, with quite a few new families in the village, there must be some who would welcome the opportunity to serve the community we are so fortunate to be part of. Please contact myself or Nancy, contact details on the village website.

Robin Carpenter

## **THE PARISH CLERK WRITES...**

### **The April Meeting...**

After a two-year break due to Covid, the Annual Assembly of the Parish was held on the 19th April. The Parish Council Chairman's report gave details of significant events since the last meeting. This was followed by brief resumes from many local village groups. Thank you to all who contributed to the meeting.

The Parish Council then sat down to hold their monthly meeting. Two new planning applications were discussed. The first was for the removal of a rear extension and the construction of a new two-storey rear extension at Beech Cottage, Rectory Lane. The second application discussed was for a new balcony and the cladding of an existing wall, with vertical timber boarding at Robin Hill, on the High Street. There were no objections to either of these applications.

The Chairman reported that a public meeting regarding the Chinnock Hollow closure was held recently, and was well attended. The clear majority of attendees were keen to see the Hollow reopened at the earliest opportunity. However, SCC are taking the lowest-risk approach and are requiring the entire length of the Hollow to be surveyed before any work is considered, and therefore it is not expected to be reopened anytime soon.

Notice has been received from SSDC of a non-contested election (five of the existing Councillors were re-elected). The first meeting of the new council will take place on Tuesday 17th May. The remaining two vacancies can be filled by co-option. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, or would be interested in finding out further information on this, then please contact myself or another member of the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked Clare Middleton and Bernie White (who have decided to stand-down from the Council) for their valuable contribution to the PC over the last few years.

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 in the Village Hall on the 17th May and the public can speak for a limited amount of time at the start. The agenda for the forthcoming meeting and minutes of past meetings can be found a few days beforehand on the village website [www.hardington.net](http://www.hardington.net). You can contact me at [hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com](mailto:hardingtonclerk@rocketmail.com), tel: 07545 554145 or in writing at Grove House, Pendomer, Somerset, BA22 9PH.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk



**WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL OAK**

## **SONNY'S BIG BREAKFAST!**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**9 – 11am**

**A great way to start your Saturday morning!**

**Book your table now!**

**01935 862354**

**[www.royaloakhardington.co.uk](http://www.royaloakhardington.co.uk)**