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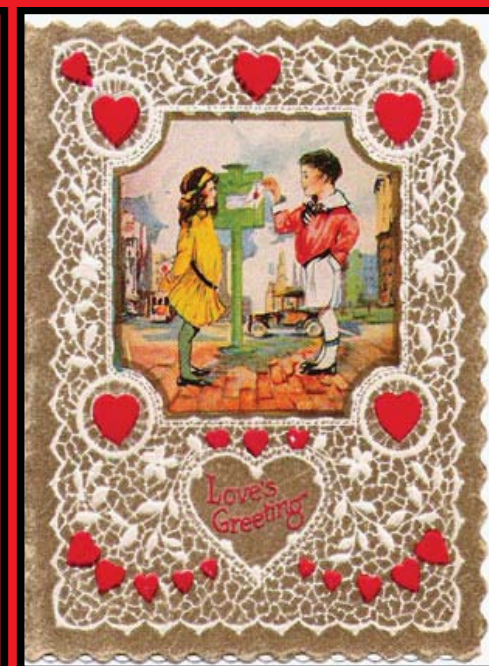
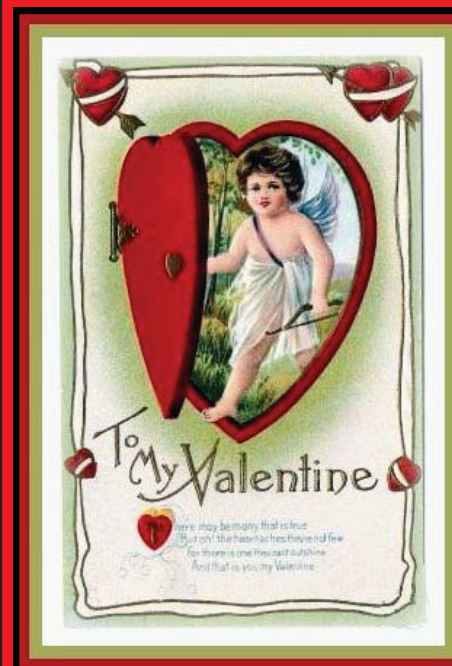
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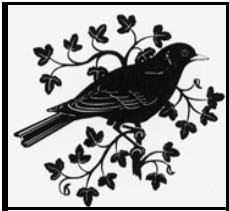


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FROM THE STUDY WINDOW

Love is...?

I'm sat at home with a big red balloon in the shape of a heart, full of helium, (though slowly deflating) that I have had since Christmas. I got it as an aid for a sermon and then decided not to use it. I'm wondering how long it will last. Does helium wear out? It's out-lived the Christmas tree! Perhaps you scientists out there could let me know?



It has got me to thinking; it's that time of year, Valentine's Day, when in the Church's calendar we remember

St. Valentine, a Christian priest in Rome, who was imprisoned by the emperor, Claudius II, for marrying and helping persecuted Christians. He was beaten with stones, clubbed and finally be-headed on February the 14th, in the year 269.

In the year 496, February 14th was named as a day of celebration in Valentine's honour and he has since become the patron saint of engaged couples, bee keepers, happy marriages, lovers, young people and greetings!

I don't know if you celebrate Valentine's Day or not...but maybe spare a thought ...for Valentine...for as wonderful as the love of human affection is, there is a love that bears within it a sacrificial life...and this kind of love is the best of all.

Happy Valentines!
Suzanne

PRAYER DIARY — FEBRUARY

Saturday	1	Those attending the men's and ladies' breakfasts
Sunday	2	People living in Longford
Monday	3	The work of the Children's Society
Tuesday	4	Those affected by floods and storms
Wednesday	5	Churches in the Severn Vale Deanery
Thursday	6	Diocese of El Camino Real - USA
Friday	7	Athletes taking part in the Winter Olympics
Saturday	8	Those preparing to lead worship and preach tomorrow
Sunday	9	People living in The Leigh
Monday	10	Our farming community
Tuesday	11	Staff, children and governors at Norton School
Wednesday	12	For our church treasurers
Thursday	13	Diocese of Karnataka Central - India
Friday	14	National Organ donor day - compassion for those who help others
Saturday	15	Those preparing to lead worship and preach tomorrow
Sunday	16	People living in Norton
Monday	17	Our Rector - Revd Suzanne Skepper
Tuesday	18	Those who clean and care for our church buildings
Wednesday	19	The work of Christian charities overseas
Thursday	20	Diocese of Dornakal - India
Friday	21	For home carers
Saturday	22	Those preparing to lead worship and preach tomorrow
Sunday	23	People living in Staverton
Monday	24	Bishops Michael and Martyn
Tuesday	25	For Mike Dill, our magazine editor
Wednesday	26	For our assistant clergy - Canon David and Father David
Thursday	27	Diocese of Västerås - Sweden
Friday	28	Carers in residential and nursing homes



MAGAZINE TEAM

<u>Editor</u>	Mr Mike Dill	01452 730767 mikedill59@hotmail.co.uk
<u>Advertisements</u>	Mrs Margaret Brind	01452 730744 magbrind@btinternet.com
<u>Correspondents</u>		
Down Hatherley	Mrs Helen Nicol	01452 730025
The Leigh	Mrs Sue Roberts	01242 680835
Norton	Mrs June Hipwood	01452 730425
Sandhurst	Mrs Caroline Watson	01452 730207
Twigworth	Mrs Margaret Riddick	01452 730700
Staverton	Mr David Bound	01242 680692

LOCAL CONTACTS

Clerks to the Parish Councils:

Boddington	Mrs Diane Hughes	
The Leigh	Miss Kate Tilling	01242 680089 (LeighPC@hotmail.co.uk)
Down Hatherley	Mr David Bayley	01452 501796
Longford	Mr Paul Ounsworth	01452 526495
Norton	Mr David Cooper	01452 537831
Sandhurst	Mr David Cooper	01452 537831 07766004001
Staverton	Mr Paul Ounsworth	01452 526495
Twigworth	Mr David Bayley	01452 501796
Local History Group	Mr Denis King	01452 730773
Norton Mother & Toddlers Group	Katy Bailey	07747728475
Norton W.I.	Mrs Josie Wragg	01242 680235
Sandhurst WI	Celia Poffley	01452 739487
Scottish Dancing Class	Mrs Joan Leyfield Mrs Pam Parkes	01452 730926 01452 730592
Traidcraft Goods	Sarah Sharpley Ellie Stevenson	01452 739179 01452 739142
UB Youth Club	Alison Moseley	07759 458494
Wainlode Quilters	Mrs Tilly Page Mrs Hazel Goad	01452 730046 01452 730360

Readings to 28th February 2014: Year A

Sunday 2nd February White or gold Candlemas

First Reading	Malachi 3: 1—5
Gospel	Luke 2: 22—40
Psalm	24 [1—6], 7—10



Sunday 9th February Green 4th Sunday before Lent

First Reading	Isaiah 58: 1—12
Gospel	Matthew 5: 13—20
Psalm	112: 1—9

Sunday 16th February Green 3rd Sunday before Lent

First Reading	Deuteronomy 30: 15—20
Gospel	Matthew 5: 21—37
Psalm	119: 1—8

Sunday 23rd February Green 2nd Sunday before Lent

First Reading	Leviticus 19: 1—2, 9—18
Gospel	Matthew 6: 25—34
Psalm	136

FEBRUARY

1 Ladies' Breakfast Group (See **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Page: 11)

1 Men's Breakfast Club (See **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Page: 10)

Sunday 2nd February

Candlemas

Sandhurst	Evening Prayer	6:00 pm	Team
Twigworth	Morning Prayer	10:30 am	Team
Down Hatherley	Holy Communion	9:30 am	Fr David
Norton	Holy Communion	11:00 am	Rev Suzanne
The Leigh	Evening Prayer	6:00 pm	Rev Suzanne
Staverton	Holy Communion	9:30 am	Canon David
Boddington	No Service		



8 Norton RFC (A) Minchinhampton 3:00pm

Sunday 9th February

4th Sunday before Lent

Sandhurst	Holy Communion	9:30 am	Canon David
Twigworth	Holy Communion	11:00 am	Rev Suzanne
Down Hatherley	Evening Prayer	6:30 pm	Team
Norton	Morning Prayer	9:30 am	Team
The Leigh	Holy Communion	9:30 am	Fr David
Staverton	Morning Prayer	10:00 am	Team
Boddington	No Service		

13 Home Group (See **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Page: 10)

15 Norton RFC (H) Hardwicke & Quedgeley 3:00pm

Sunday 16th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

Sandhurst	Family Service	9:30 am	Team
Twigworth	Morning Prayer	10:30 am	Team
Down Hatherley	Holy Communion	9:30 am	Rev Suzanne
Norton	Holy Communion	9:30 am	Canon David
The Leigh	Evening Prayer	6:00 pm	Team
Staverton	No Service		
Boddington	Holy Communion	11:00 am	Fr David

FEBRUARY

- 18 Sandhurst Table Tennis Social (See **AROUND THE PARISHES** Page: 14)
 19 Home Group (See **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Page: 10)
 20 Norton WI (See **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Page: 11)

Sunday 23rd February		2nd Sunday before Lent	
Sandhurst	Holy Communion	9:30 am	Rev Suzanne
Twigworth	Holy Communion	11:00 am	Canon David
Down Hatherley	Evening Prayer	6:30 pm	Team
Norton	Morning Prayer	9:30 am	Team
The Leigh	Holy Communion <i>(Said)</i>	8:30 am	Rev Suzanne
Staverton	No Service		
Boddington	Evening Prayer	6:30 pm	Team

- 24 Norton & The Leigh Local History Group meeting.
 (See **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Page: 11)
 27 Staverton & Boddington Thursday Club meeting.
 (See **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Page: 11)

MARCH

- 1 Norton RFC (A) Cainscross 3:00pm
 2 Messy Church Down Hatherley (See **EVENTS** Page: 16)
 7 Pudding Evening (See **EVENTS** Page: 12)
 8 Norton RFC (H) Tredworth 3:00pm
 22 Jumble Sale Norton Village Hall (See **AROUND THE PARISHES** P: 14)
 22 Sandhurst Cheese & Wine (See **AROUND THE PARISHES** Page: 15)
 22 Norton RFC (A) Smiths Industries 3:00pm
 29 Norton RFC (H) Old Elizabethans 3:00pm
 30 Sandhurst Village Spring Clean
 (See **AROUND THE PARISHES** P: 14)



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FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

(Matthew 28:19)

Thanksgiving for 26 January St. Matthew's, Twigworth
the birth of Daniel
Arthur Keith Teale

FUNERALS

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.” (John 11:25)

Mary Reason of 78 St. Mary Magdalene,
Boddington Boddington.
Funeral: 2nd January 2014

Peter Arkell of D. 16 December 90
Boddington

Richard (Dick) Eric D. 25 December 87
Beale of Norton

Kathleen Elizabeth D. 13 December 89
(Betty) Joan
Jeffries

MAGAZINE COPY

Next month's copy date:

For inclusion in the March 2014 edition of the magazine, copy should reach parish correspondents by 15th February or be sent directly to Mike Dill by the 16th February.

FEEDBACK

Farewell

The packing boxes are scattered over the floor and treasured items, large and small, that make up our home will soon be packed away and taken to new places. Soon we will close the door of Mews Two for the last time, but we cannot leave without remembering the warm and hospitable welcome you gave us on our arrival in the benefice thirteen years ago, and to thank you sincerely for the love, support and friendship you have given us and the family over those years in Sandhurst. David will continue to help in the benefice, and Angela hopes to be able to keep in touch by phone, email and letter as well as visits to church and friends. We take some fond and grateful memories of the kindness of many as we say 'farewell', be sure of our prayers; and may God bless you and all you do.

David & Angela Godwin

"I wish to thank everyone for the generous collection made for my retirement from playing the organ. I have done so for 77 years, playing at many Gloucestershire churches.

Thank you all so very much.

Thank you for the beautiful cake which was much appreciated."



Arthur Underhay

Staverton Church

Very many thanks to all those people who helped to decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas and to the donor of the magnificent Christmas tree.

Thanks are also given to everybody who throughout 2013 helped to keep the church clean and arranged the flowers.

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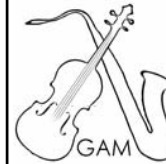
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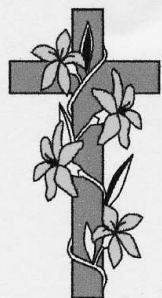
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MONTHLY MEETINGS ROUND UP

Parish Council Meetings:

Twigworth: Meetings held on a Thursday at 7:00pm in St. Matthew's vestry.
(Door at left side of church)

2014: Mar 6; May 8 (AGM); July 3; Sept 4; Nov 6

Members of the public and press are cordially invited to attend.
There is a chance for public participation at the beginning and
at the end of every meeting.

Down Hatherley: Meetings held on a Wednesday in the village hall at 7:00pm.

Members of the public and press are cordially invited to attend.
There is a chance for public participation at the beginning and
at the end of every meeting.

2014: Mar 5; April 16 (APM); May 21 (AGM)

Sandhurst: Meetings are held in Sandhurst Village Hall, starting at 7:30 pm
on the first Monday of each month (unless this is a Bank Holi-
day). All parishioners are invited to attend.

The Leigh: Planned meetings are four times a year, one of those being the
Annual General meeting in May. Additional planning meetings are
called when necessary. All meetings are held in St. Catherine's
Church on a Wednesday at 7:30pm. All parishioners are
encouraged to attend.

2014: Feb 12 ; May 14 (AGM)

Longford: Meetings are held in Longford Village Hall, first Tuesday of the
month, starting at 7:30 pm. All residents are invited.

Norton: Meetings are held in the Village Hall committee room starting
at 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

2014: March 26; May 7; June 11; July 30; September 10;
November 22.

Staverton:

Boddington: The Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every other
month at the Cheltenham West Community Fire Station at
Uckington.

MONTHLY MEETINGS' ROUND UP

New Home Group

I am thrilled to say that we have a new home group starting on March 12th at 7:30pm at the home of John and Maxine Menzies (Sylvanus, Broadclose Road, Down Hatherley).

If you would like to know more or will be going along, please let John and Maxine know by telephoning them on 01452 739200

Suzanne

HOME GROUPS: FEBRUARY

13th 7:30pm at the Rectory, Twigworth

19th 3:00pm at Mews Two, Wallsworth



MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB



How do you fancy a cooked breakfast!? Well, we have a monthly gathering of men for conversation and to have breakfast. We meet on the first Saturday on each month, starting at 8:30am and finishing by 10:00am. If you're able to make a donation to help cover costs that would be good (but not essential!).

Our next gathering will be at the home of Edmund McClure — Church House, Staverton — on 1st February. So that we can order the right amount of sausages, please let Edmund know if you're coming! (Tel: 01242 681139).

SANDHURST COFFEE MORNINGS



In Sandhurst Village Hall on 2nd Monday of the month at 10:30am:

Feb 10; March 10; April 14; May 12; June 9; July 14; Aug 11; Sept 8; Oct 13; Nov 10; Dec 8.

The Orchard Knitting Club

We meet every Thursday from 10:15 till 12:15 in the Coffee Shop at Nature in Art, Walsworth Hall. New members always welcome regardless of ability. Bring your own projects or help with knitting for charity. For more details contact Mavis on 07974033428.

CHRIS'S CORNER

The season is off, the weather is all over the place, the sap is starting to move and I am chomping at the bit. The last weeks have been very odd, one afternoon in the middle of January, I went for a walk and was pestered continuously by midges, the next morning, the rain was washing frost from the windscreen. But heh, we've been here before and know the score. So, if you are reading this and it isn't snowing then shake yourself up and get outside. The ground is still soggy, but we can be starting to garden. I have already pushed in some onion sets and shallots with my thumb and they will soon be underway. I have dropped a few early potatoes into a couple of large tubs to try and snatch a few new spuds for Easter (we've got about 12 weeks). If you have somewhere sheltered to stand them, all to the good, plant them well down in the container and let them go. I have also set out a few broad bean plants to fill in the spaces in my over wintered rows. The mice, were shocking and just couldn't leave them alone, nipping off the green tops and then pulling out the rooted seed. I found one very neat little nest, lined with my stuff under a rabbit hutch. You can start looking at getting in a few bits of seed now and as in the past, consider pinches in pots along a window sill. Even in a shed they will germinate and by the end of the month you will be transplanting. Don't go too mad, but peas, lettuce, cabbage and if you have a few cell packs even some beetroot will all put on a show quite quickly. Cover the pots with a bit of polythene and they will come even quicker. Just remove this once germination is obvious or the seedlings will damp off (rot).

If you have over wintered wallflowers and pansies, dig out a bit of last year's tomato food and give them a splash. Pansies and violas in particular will be keen to continue flowering for some weeks yet and they will be re-invigorated if you feed them. The investment in the general over wintered bedding is about bolstering all that is yet to come.

And finally, if you have a need for any bare root hedging or are considering fruit trees then get cracking. Bare root plants are great value, but they need to be into the ground or a pot before the full sap rise. They just need to know their roots are safe and they will romp.

Happy Gardening.



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MONTHLY MEETINGS' ROUND UP

LADIES' BREAKFAST GROUP



The Ladies' Breakfast group will meet again on 1st February from 8:30am - 10:00am at the home of Mary Limbrick.

More ladies are always welcome and if you'd like to come, please contact Mary on 01452 731257. If you're able to make a donation to help cover costs that would be good (but not essential!).

Norton WI

Meeting in Norton Village Hall on 20th February at 12:30pm for 1:00pm lunch to celebrate Norton WI's 90th birthday.

Entertainment will be provided by Bob Machin of Sandhurst and past presidents and other guests will be in attendance.

Norton & The Leigh Local History Group

Meeting in Norton Village Hall on 24th February at 7:00pm. The speaker for the evening, Bill Welsh, will give a talk on 'The Brett Family of Down Hatherley in the 17th Century'.

Staverton & Boddington THURSDAY CLUB DINNER

On Thursday 27th February at the **Toby Carvery**, Shurdington Road, Brockworth, 6 pm for 6.30 pm.

An area has been reserved for our party.

Please give names to Christine Hitchins as soon as possible on 01242 680694.

EVENTS

Please come and join us for a

PUDDING EVENING

at

NATURE IN ART

Wallsworth Hall, Main A38, Twigworth

on Friday March 7th at 7.30pm

Doors open at 7pm to view the latest Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition (fresh from its launch at the Natural History Museum in London).

Bring a pudding for 2 people and spend an evening trying other people's puddings!

Tickets (£5) available from Nature in Art

or call Simon on 07774 803177

(If you cannot pay until the night, if you can, please tell us if you intend to come!)

ALL proceeds in aid of G.A.R.A.S.

Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) does fantastic and vital work by offering support to those seeking asylum in Gloucestershire, welcoming them when they arrive, advocating for them in their daily struggles, supporting them if they face being sent back as well as helping them adjust to their long term future if they are recognised as refugees.

Everyone welcome!

Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

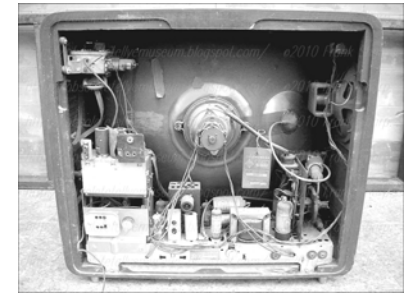
CENTRAL MOBILE LIBRARY

Village	Stop Name	Time
Coombe Hill	The Swan	14.55 – 16.55
Dates:	7 February;	28 March.

COLIN'S COMPUTER COLUMN

In The Picture

I bought a modest new TV for the kitchen the other day and was much impressed by its thinness, lightness and the range of features provided, including computer connectivity and a comprehensive collection of settings for adjusting the picture. That set me thinking of earlier times, earlier even than the days of the first computers with their bulky, heavy cathode ray tube screens, back to the days of the even bulkier early colour television sets, which were so expensive that most people did not buy them, but hired them. The sets had thermionic valves with limited life and variable performance. Overall reliability was not high and so the sets were designed with replaceable subassemblies to facilitate workshop repair'. I remember buying our first colour TV cheaply from such a workshop. I then irritated the family by leaving the back off the set and spending many evenings adjusting the colour difference amplifier, trying to get a better picture instead of watching a programme. As with radar equipment in those days, once the last adjustment had been made, something would go "offtune" and you had to start again at the beginning.



It's all very different now. Reliability is high. There are plasma TVs, LCD TVs and LED TVs and it's not always obvious which is best for our purpose. There are fewer plasma TVs than there used to be, but they are still favoured in the very large sizes, despite their considerable power consumption, and one thing they excel at is producing a really dark black (sounds odd, but it's true). There's not much difference these days between LCD (liquid crystal display) and LED (light emitting diode) TVs. It has become pretty much a matter of marketing nomenclature and most TVs are now described as LED. A technique called edge lighting allows TVs to be super thin and although it has to be admitted that the best picture is seen when viewing the screen from straight on, the lightness and compactness of modern TV sets leads to more choice in where to place them.

Quite a change from the days when the one-eyed monster occupied and dominated a whole corner of the room.

Not to mention those huge H-shaped aerials strapped to chimney stacks which seemed likely to bring the whole stack down in a strong wind!

VILLAGE & COMMUNITY AGENT REPORT

My colleague has produced the following information which I think you may find useful.

As I deal with people, especially in the more rural Parishes I am realising that one of the biggest problems we have is the lack of affordable, (let alone free), transport to enable elderly residents to get out to appointments, shopping, or even just to socialise. Some Parishes have set up volunteer driver schemes to help with doctors or hospital appointments but I know how difficult this can be as people are so busy these days.

There are a number of schemes available such as the Tewkesbury Volunteer Driver Service which operates from the Bookworm shop in the High Street in Tewkesbury, (Tel: 01684 438385). There is a £10 annual registration fee and a charge per trip depending on the distance and time involved but they will give you an idea of the cost when you book. They do need 48 hours notice to enable them to organise a driver. There is also the Third Sector Service Community Transport Scheme which operates similarly to a bus service but they do have a range of vehicles some of which are wheelchair and disability friendly. They can be contacted on: 0845 680 5029.

The Non-Emergency Hospital Patients Transport Service has recently been taken over by Arriva and the eligibility criteria for this service is:

Patients are eligible for transport when:

- The medical condition of the patient is such that they require the skills or support of NEPTS staff during the journey and where it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery if they were to travel by other means; and/or
- The patient's medical condition impacts on their mobility to such an extent that they would be unable to access healthcare or it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery to travel by other means.

If you feel you might require this service I would suggest you speak to your GP.

And finally; for those of you who might be at risk of flooding, Tewkesbury Borough Council have revised their policy with regard to providing sandbags. Although they will provide empty bags to Parish Councils and individual residents, (the bags have to be collected), they will no longer deliver filled sandbags except in cases of emergency. Their policy states:

"The responsibility for protection of private property in the event of a flood lies with individual owners and not the Council or any other agency."

It is therefore best to plan ahead if you think you might be affected and it may be useful to find out from your Parish Council if they have a store of bags and sand.

As always, If can be of any assistance I can be contacted on: 07534 064 169 or by e-mail at: avaughan@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Ann Vaughan

EVENTS

* * * * *			
* NORTON & THE LEIGH HORTICULTURAL SHOW *			
* DATES FOR 2014 *			
* 3	April	AGM	
* 2	May	Annual Plant Sale	
* 9	August	67th Annual Show	
		Norton Village Hall 8pm	
		Norton Village Hall 7—8pm	
		Norton Village Hall 2:30pm	

AROUND THE PARISHES — THE LEIGH

The Leigh Parish Council wants to encourage greater communication with its parishioners so if you haven't done so already, can you please send an email to leighpc@hotmail.co.uk to join the email list. The Parish Council likes to email out useful information and council notices.

Your email address will not be shared with anyone.

Thank you

Kate Tilling, Clerk to the Leigh Parish Council

Police Point

Times:

The
Leigh



WEDNESDAY

12 February	4.00 - 4.30 pm
12 March	6.00 - 6.30 pm
9 April	4.00 - 4.30 pm
7 May	6.00 - 6.30 pm
4 June	6.00 - 6.30 pm

AROUND THE PARISHES — NORTON

JUMBLE SALE!

Norton Village Hall

Saturday 22nd March 12:00pm—2:00 pm

In aid of St. Mary's Church Funds

AROUND THE PARISHES — SANDHURST

Calling all table tennis fans in Sandhurst



Sandhurst Table Tennis Club invites anyone in Sandhurst interested in table tennis to come to their second open evening at the village hall on Tuesday 18th February from 7:15pm onwards. The object is to play, chat, or just watch and have a cup of tea/coffee.

Sandhurst Village Spring Clean



This annual event will take place on **Saturday 29th March** starting from the church car park at 9:30am. Equipment will be provided and everyone is welcome.

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AROUND THE PARISHES — SANDHURST



You are invited to
A Cheese and Wine Evening

At Sandhurst Village Hall
Saturday 22nd March 2014

7.30pm

£8 per ticket

Tickets can be purchased from
Philippa on 739031

Ticket cost includes four different wine
tastings plus a full glass of your
favourite! Plus expert pairings of
delicious cheeses with each wine.
Additional glasses of wine available for
purchase by the glass

Wine quiz, blind tastings and a chance
to get together with people from the village
and beyond.

Put the date in your diary now!



EVENTS

Messy Church

What on earth is this you may ask!

Well, Messy Church meets almost every month in our local village halls and is a time for families of all ages to come along and enjoy making things together and getting messy around a theme from the bible. Last month we were thinking about baptism and made some candles that we could eat! We also made some glitter bottles and did some blow painting as well as making a collage with a watery theme and our very own footprints poem, which we then rounded off by having a meal together.

If you have never been to Messy Church, why not come and join us. We'd love to welcome you. Please see Messy Church dates below.

And finally, a big thank you to the Women's Breakfast Group which has very kindly donated their proceeds from last year to Messy Church. We are most grateful.

2nd March: Down Hatherley Village Hall 18th April: Sandhurst Village Hall
1st June: St Catherine's, The Leigh 6th July: The Rectory, Twigworth

Hope to see you soon!

Suzanne

Seven Towers Benefice



Sunday 2nd
March 2014

Down Hatherley
Village Hall

3pm – 5pm

For more information, or if you would like to become involved with the Messy Church team, please contact Sarah Major tel: 01452 535187



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