

Elkstone Newsletter

33rd Year: No. 5 (352)

February 2017

Editor's Bit

We have been told to keep hens indoors, or at least under cover, such that wild and domestic birds are kept apart, minimizing the risk of spreading avian flu.

Reg – 22nd January 2017

Features	
Elkstone Church Services and news	Elkstone Film and Supper Club
Manor Barn thank you	Elkstone Village Gardens Open Day
Diary Dates	
Elkstone Film and Supper Club – Thursday 16 th February – Elkstone Village Hall	
Cowley Fete - Saturday 13 th May 2017 – 2.00pm to 5.00pm	
Elkstone Village Gardens Open Day - June 11th 2017	
Regular Dates	
Waste and recycling	Food + garden waste – Every Friday
Waste and recycling	All bags, bins + boxes —Fridays 10 th and 24th
Watercolour Painting	Every Tuesday - Village Hall - 10am – <i>Yvette Levick 870485</i>
Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday - Village Hall – <i>Trevor - 870246</i>
Deadline for next month's edition: Monday 20th February please	
The Elkstone web-site has current and past copies of the Newsletter – www.elkstonevillage.com	
<i>Reg Eyre – High Beech – 870375 – reg.eyre@tesco.net</i>	

Elkstone Church Services

February 5th - Morning Prayer - 10.00am - Rev A Champion

February 12th - Toy Service - 10.00am - Geoff Gait-Carr

February 19th - Holy Communion - 11.00am - Rev A Champion or Rev D Minns

February 26th - Songs of Praise - 10.00 am - Mary Stafford from Send a Cow

The service on February 19th may be the first taken by our new Rector in Elkstone so do join us to meet him.

A Reminder

Each Wednesday morning at 9.30am for an hour there is a prayer meeting in Elkstone Church

On the first Wednesday evening each month at 7.00pm there is a Salt and Light Bible Study generally at Cowley Rectory.

All are welcome to these events as well as the services.

David Pierce

Christmas Services

Christmas services are always a great time of celebration and rejoicing at the birth of the Christ child. Services at Elkstone were no exception with about 65 at the Carol service of the traditional carols and readings, many of the latter being done by children in the village. Geoff Gait - Carr built the crib and stable scene during the service ably assisted by the younger children.

Christmas Eve was our midnight communion service with over 35 people gathering to welcome Christ's birth in the early hours of the morning. Our collection from this service will be given to The Children's Society, so will be added to our Church donation to that charity from our Christingle Service and from the home money boxes which many in the village keep and put their loose change in during the year.

Our Christingle service was again a joyous occasion being led by Jennie Howlett and assisted by Andrew Holt from The Children's Society who spoke to us about what the Society is able to do to help children whose families are affected by a debt crisis.

Jennie writes:

On a gloomy morning in early January we held our traditional service, and the candlelit church, along with the light from the Christingles, shone out into the darkness. Andrew Holt, a representative from the Children's Society, was once again inspirational. His talk on how this charity is helping families who are in need of support touched many of us. We are helping in a small way, and this year, we have collected around \$700.00 so far. I still have more house boxes to collect, open and count their contents, and then I will report the final total next month. Once again, thanks to all who helped, both at the service, and also by contributing donations.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

Toy Service

At Christmas time children are often given many new toys having outgrown those they may have had for a number of years. If these old toys are still in good condition we have an annual Toy Service when we can thank God for all his good gifts to us by giving these away so that they can be used and played with by other children who are not so fortunate. In the past these toys have been given to The Haven in Gloucester and that is where we expect to give the toys this year. Our Toy Service is on Sunday February 12th at 10.00am and will be led by Geoff Gait- Carr. So if you have any toys you want to donate please join us or leave them in the Vestry on the Saturday.

Manor Barn Tea Meeting

A number of Elkstonians met at Andy and Rachael's house, in response to their open invitation. We were royally greeted, fed and thirst-quenched. Many thanks to the whole family.

A Replete Guest

Elkstone Film and Supper Evening - Thursday 16th February - Goodfellas

We are featuring the recent re-release of Martin Scorsese's brash and brilliant mob masterpiece featuring Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci, and Paul Sorvino – about the rise and fall of Irish-Italian criminal Henry Hill, from the 60s to the 80s. The film views the mob lives of three pivotal figures in the 1960's and 70's New York. Hill is a local boy turned gangster in a neighbourhood full of the roughest and toughest. Tommy DeVito is a purebred gangster, who turns out to be Henry's best friend. Jimmy Conway puts the two of them together, and runs some of the biggest hijacks and burglaries the town has ever seen. After an extended jail sentence, Henry must sneak around the back of the local mob boss, Paulie Cicero, to live the life of luxury he has always dreamed of. In the end, the friends end up in a hell of a jam, and must do anything they can to save each other, and stay alive.

There will be a Pork Stroganoff and Rice supper starting at 7.00pm with the film at 8.00pm; Film and Supper £10.00 each in a marked envelope through our letterbox at Manor Farm Cottage, Elkstone by 6.00pm on Monday 13th February please, film-only £5.00 paid at the door.

Jeremy and Anne – 870516

New Rector For Churn Valley Benefice

Elkstone is part of the nine Parish Churn Valley Benefice. We have a Rector in overall charge that lives in the Rectory at Stratton and is supported by a number of Associate Priests, with Rev. Arthur Champion and Cliff Pooley having pastoral responsibility for our end of the Churn Valley. Rev Warwick Heathcote who officially retired as Rector for the Benefice, will be replaced by Rev David Minns at an official induction service at Rendcomb, led by the Bishop of Gloucester, at the end of January. By way of introduction David has produced the following giving details about himself. We look forward to welcoming him to the Benefice.

"Just a few words to say how much I'm looking forward to being with you in the Churn Valley Benefice in the New Year, and to tell you a little about myself.

I am currently Rector of Ewhurst Parish, which is a small and quite rural parish in the Surrey Hills of Guildford Diocese and I have just stepped down as Link Officer for our Diocesan link with the Church of Nigeria.

I am married to Laura who is a Bookkeeper for a local Accountant, and we have a grown up son called Kie who lives in Guildford and works for Surrey Police.

Coming from a Royal Air Force family it is hard to say where I'm from – I was born and spent my early years abroad, but I usually identify with my West Country roots as I spent much my teenage years (age 13-17) at RAF Colerne near Bath, went to school in Chippenham and was a regular on the terraces at Swindon Town FC. So a move west seems like something of a homecoming.

I was trained as a retail manager, then catering manager and finally I was a partner in a printing business before following a calling to the church in my early 30's. I was trained at St John's theological college in Nottingham where I developed a love for the Old Testament of the Bible in particular.

I enjoy riding my motorbike and playing my guitar(s). Laura and I love to take our tiny caravan to Scotland, our favourite place for a holiday. I also try to keep fit with walking and cycling, so the lovely countryside you have around you sounds like an opportunity!

I enjoy working with families and children and I'm looking forward to being involved with the schools in the benefice. But I also appreciate all sorts of traditions within the church; with 9 churches in the benefice I should find plenty of variety to keep me occupied.

The Christmas season is keeping me busy here in Ewhurst at the moment so it's hard to think much beyond that, but as Laura and I plan our move after Christmas we are increasingly excited about coming to join you at the end of January.

Laura and I wish you every blessing for Christmas and look forward to seeing you soon."

David Minns

Rendcomb Surgery News

By now many of you may have seen the notice which has been posted on Rendcomb Surgery's website:



After more than 30 years at Rendcomb Surgery Dr Whittles will be retiring from General Practice on 31st March 2017. We will be holding a farewell gathering in The Reading Room at Rendcomb College on Wednesday 29th March between 4.00pm and 6.00pm. Please feel free to pop in for a few minutes to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, a slice of cake, and the chance to say goodbye. Dr Whittles would appreciate it if patients do not make appointments at the Surgery to say goodbye but use this opportunity on 29th to have a final chat. Dr Nicky Wilson will be joining the Practice from Monday 3rd April. Dr Wilson has experience of working in a small, rural practice and is looking forward to joining the team at Rendcomb.

Hopefully many of Dr Whittles's patients from Elkstone will join us to thank her for the care she has given over three decades and wish her well in retirement.

Jennie Howlett - 870462

Elkstone Village Gardens Open Day - June 11th 2017

Save the date, we are all set for our Silver Jubilee Gardens Open Day!

Many thanks to those who have agreed to open their gardens again and to Rachael Richardson for leading Cream Teas, Jennie Howlett for Village Hall Teas, Dave and Sue Collins for Tombola, Ann Williamson and Ronnie Bury for car park set up and organization, Nic Williamson for tractor rides, and Jo and John Allison for the loan of the Rectory field for car parking on the day. Jo will once again set up and run the Plant Stall. As a new attraction for 2017, Julia Haynes has kindly agreed to run a second hand jewellery stall. A number of villagers have agreed to open their gardens though there's always room for more.

Also, this year we will feature the environmental initiatives undertaken at the church of St John the Evangelist: the eco-loo, the bug houses and the wild flower meadow which we hope will be taking shape and showing several species in early June.

Now all we need is more volunteers to help on the day, especially for the car park. As you pot up seedlings and pot on cuttings do set some aside for the plant stall. If you have fresh ideas for enhancing the success we have achieved for nearly a quarter of a century, and would like to participate in any way on June 11th do contact us as below. It's good to welcome Christoph Kenshall as a new addition to the committee, especially as Christoph has only recently moved to Elkstone.

Proceeds as usual will be split between the Church and Village Hall.

The 2017 Committee:

Brian – brianhowlett21@gmail.com

Anne – seabran@gmx.com

Eric – e.magnuson@me.com

Christoph – christoph@realreview.com