

May 2022



Do support the Queen's Jubilee celebrations that are being arranged by the Parish Council and team. Full details are inside; we don't think any of us will see such a long reign again and a great chance for us all to get together.

In conjunction with the Bugle we have decided to publish a calendar of events for each month as there have been a number of comments that residents either miss events or do not know what is going on for each month. This will be dropped off at all village households as well as on the website.

The blossoms look really good this year and we note the oak is out before the ash - as the old saying goes "if the oak is out before the ash then all we'll get is a splash but if the ash is out before the oak then we are in for a soak". A prediction of the summer weather but will it prove right?

There are some predictions for a hot summer (more likely as the planet heats up perhaps) and others are not so sure. As always we will know what happened this time next year!

**Your editors
Steve and Michael**

Your contributions to the Bugle are very welcome!

***Email us by the 20th of the month
at bickleighbugle@outlook.com***

Village Hall News

Thank you to all those who supported the Quiz and the Film Night last month. The quiz was won by Jim Janes' team- well done to them. A 44 pint pin of beer was comfortably seen off, which hopefully demonstrates a happy and contented evening!

The film nights are easy to run now, with the wide screen, a good quality sound system and projector - more coming up.

Upcoming events

Saturday 7th May - coffee morning, 10-12, cakes as well. All welcome

Saturday 4th June - coffee morning, 10-12, also Village Hall maintenance.

July - Live music at the hall- details soon!

Regular Village Hall Events

PILATES

Thursday evening pilates sessions are running 7-8pm weekly now

These are run by Kelly, who runs The Well Being Shed (from Cullompton) and can take up to 12 each Thursday. All abilities are catered for within a session, it is £35 for a 6-week course.

For any more information or to book, contact Kelly at thewellbeingshed@gmail.com

CRAFT HUB

a new social/ craft group for anyone who wants to come along to do their own craft, have chat or learn something new. This is taking place on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month and costs £3 per person per meeting (to cover the cost of leasing the village hall).

Contact Amanda on amanda.somerwill@hotmail.co.uk

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please come along to one of our coffee mornings - they are running on the first Saturday of the month from 10-12. The format is completely open to whoever wants to come along, and interested parties will take turns in running the event.

If you know of a local group needing a venue, please consider suggesting Bickleigh Village Hall to them.

From your Village Hall Committee: Richard, Michelle, Matt, Steve, Katinka.

Bickleigh Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on 9 May at 7.30, we meet at Bickleigh Village Hall. Our speaker will be Elizabeth Holman on Growing Roses, very topical for this time of the year.

There is a Flower of the Month competition everyone is welcome to bring a bloom to enter the competition. On 14 May we will hold our annual Plant Sale in the village hall

at 10.00am. There will be a variety of flower and vegetable plants for you to buy. Membership is £10.00 and visitors pay £2.00 per meeting. We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly club.

For more information please contact Wendy Baker 01884 855548 or Judith Williams 01884 855093

Pews News

Mid-morning. The warm sun and gentle breeze encourage a nap. The dog agrees. He sits opposite me with his head resting on the arm of his chair. He prefers to be off the ground. The whine and clash of Bickleigh House renovations dims and the sound of a burgeoning spring break in. Birds wheeling high in the sky disappear. One can hear the buzz of insects and the chirp of house sparrows emanating from the fringes of the thatched roof. As Julian of Norwich once noted "All will be well, and all manner of things will be well". Julian of Norwich was an anchoress who lived in the middle ages. A solitary life, in a cell, but one with a window on the world outside. Just as these thoughts go through my mind, I am at peace, briefly.

As you look out of your own window, what do you see and what do you fear? Of Mother nature Jesus of Nazareth was wont to say "Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! (Gospel according to Luke chapter 12 and verse 24 – NRSV Bible). Jesus was making the point that it is better to place our faith, that is our belief and trust, in God than humankind. It is the

season of spring in Devon as it is in Ukraine. What a devilish contrast though. The thud of explosions destroying people and property, murderous, pitiless, rampaging. Desperate women and children trying to escape. The daily scenes brought to us from a ravaged Ukraine. Yet, even in our own country, fear of the immediate future for many has its own feeling of desperation. Those feelings may not be of war yet they are very real for many.

Our Easter services took place in a beautifully decorated church including the Easter Garden prepared by the children. Services included one known as a Tenebrae service. The evening service is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of all candles in the church and a "loud noise" takes place in the total darkness. Our thanks to Bickleigh /School for the loan of cymbals to make the "loud noise".

We look forward to reporting, next month, our contribution towards the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and supporting the plans already outlined in the Bugle and elsewhere.

Rev Thom Thompson, 01884 855309

Disasters Emergency Committee

During the course of late February, March and early April a number of events took place in the village to raise support for the deeply affected people of Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. Much needed warm clothing was donated and collected and disbursed through the Barnabas Trust by way of example. The gifts from many included tinned and high energy food. In addition money was raised to

the value of £1500.00 split equally between Shelter Box (for Syria), DEC (Afghanistan) and DEC (Ukraine). Such generosity is used wisely by the charities who make up the membership of the DEC. This effort has been much appreciated. We know the demand will continue and it is to be hoped that from time to time we will continue to show such generous giving.

Rev Thom Thompson

Sunday services in May 2022

1st May – 3rd of Easter
11am All Age worship

8th May - 4th of Easter
11am Holy Communion

15th May - 5th of Easter
11am All Age Worship

22nd May - 6th of Easter
11am Holy Communion

29th May - 7th of Easter
6pm United Benefice Evensong and Patronal service.