

The Abbey Newsletter

Hello,

It's been a few months since our last newsletter, so another update on things that have been happening here at the Abbey and lots of upcoming events.

Welcome Desk

It was discussed at the recent team leader meeting that it would be good to share the best practise when distressed people or those who are behaving oddly come into the Abbey. Fr Christopher is usually in the vestry and can be called upon if needed. If he is not there and someone is in need of some pastoral help, Morwenna may also be available to help, numbers are in the back of the diary. We will also keep a supply of Father Christophers business cards under the welcome desk to be given out if no other solutions can be found. Sometimes, though, people are lonely and just want to talk and this is where our DIY Café project will come in useful (see below).

Does anyone have, or know anyone who has, sufficient foreign language skills to translate a brief Abbey history into French, Spanish, German, Italian - or anything else? We always used to have these leaflets and they were much appreciated by foreign visitors.

Welcomers are being brilliant at covering Sunday afternoons which is much appreciated, and those slots will get busier and busier as the weather improves. Thanks to all Welcomers who are doing such a good job as a look through the comments in the Visitors' Book will confirm.

Any new volunteers - desk or shop - or those who would like a refresher tour of the Abbey please let Carol or myself know by leaving us a note at the desk or text us - numbers in the back of the Desk diary. – Gill Curtis

Shop

Bar coding of stock continues and newly ordered bespoke products now include Abbey barcodes. A request was made to the Preservation Trust for a matching bookcase for second-hand books to tidy up this valuable and profitable section of the shop. The Trust have kindly agreed to fund the bookshelves, unfortunately, the company that built the shop displays has ceased trading so we are now working on this with a local Wymondham cabinet maker.

We are still looking for someone to help with ordering and stock control. The job can be done online from anywhere and requires a methodical mind, use of spreadsheets and the till system, placing of orders, printing bar codes, organising stock levels and deliveries. Full training will be given. Shop sales form a very important contribution towards our financial needs, and you will be much welcomed into this merry team of Guild shopkeepers. If you think you can help, please email finance@wymondhamabbey.org.uk or contact Chris on 07791512643 for a chat.

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DIY Cafe

Hopefully you will have had an email explaining our hopes to put in a rota for the 'DIY Café'. I'm pleased to say we have had a good response to this project, and we've now been able to create a rota which is now in place on the wall in the kitchen area. If you wish to put your name down on a slot, please feel free or if you didn't receive the email, please let me know and I can send it over. In short, we are looking to man St Benedict's with friendly volunteers who are willing to make visitors a drink and offer a chat if the need arises. No history knowledge is needed, nor will you need to take any money as we would like to keep this as donations only.

Bells

The work on the bells was completed at the end of February. Subsequently we spent a day doing a small DIY job advised by the bellhanger. Nothing too technical but we did use 550 screws. We have sent thanks on behalf of the ringers to the Preservation Trust for financing the work. On Friday 28 June we have a band coming to ring a Quarter Peal at 10.30 am and on Friday 19 July we have a band ringing a full peal, starting at 11.00 am. This will mean about 3½ hours of ringing. The peal ringers are all very experienced members of the 'Ancient Society of College Youths'. Many of the band are, or have been, regular ringers at Westminster Abbey or St Paul's Cathedral. - Hayden Charles

Duck Race

Thank you to each and everyone of you who helped at the Duck Race at the beginning of the month, it was a massive success and we even had queues to get into the meadow! It takes a big group of wonderful volunteers to make it run smoothly and all the kind generosity of donations like cakes, books and tombola/bric-a-brac items. Robert did a great job as always organising it all and has enjoyed many Duck Races over the years but as he is leaving the parish he has decided to hand over the reins to me next year (no pressure 😊) See below in EVENTS to see how much this year's Duck Race raised.

Parish Lunches

On the 1st Sunday of the month lunches are served over in the Abbey Hall to 40 people on average, but sadly over the last few months one or two have had to be cancelled due to lack of volunteers. If you feel you could spare some time to help prepare and serve occasionally, please contact Joyce Reynolds on 01953 604904 for further details.

Historic Photos and Archive

You may remember a while ago I sent out a message asking for old images and info of times gone by, so we could try and create a book for visitors to look back over time here at the Abbey. Unfortunately, we only had a couple of people submit images, so at the moment this is still very much on the back burner. If you think you may have some old photos that might be of interest do send them over as I will continue to collect these in the hopes that we will still be able to create this book or a page for the website.

Cleaning

The next church cleaning morning is Tuesday 11th June 10.30 – 12noon. It's time we had another session to spruce up the Abbey. Please offer whatever help/time you can spare and bring some tools if convenient. Just turn up on the day and I'll find you a suitable job. Many thanks. - Barbara

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Summer Fair

Our Summer Fair is only a few months away and it looks like it's going to be another great day packed with loads to do for all the family. There will be fun, crafts, music, street food and lots of amazing craft stalls selling their produce. We will again, be running our Abbey café in St Benedict's and the ever-popular tombola. We will need a team of volunteers to help in the café and on the tombola plus donations for the tombola. If you think you can spare a couple of hours let me know and I will put you on the rota, both will be open from 10.30-4pm. We will put a call out nearer the time, but donations of cakes for the café will also be greatly received.

Events in the Abbey coming up very soon!

Do spread the word to friends and family and keep an eye on the noticeboards in the town and Abbey. Check out the website [HERE](#) and our Facebook page [HERE](#)

Wednesday, 29 May at 11:15am: short concert by the New Sion Choir from the monastery church in Diepenveen in Netherlands performing a variety of sacred pieces. Admission free, Doors open at 11am after 10.30 Eucharist.

Saturday 15 June at 7pm: Concert performance by [Chaos Collective Ensemble](#) promoted by Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association music includes Mozart and Vivaldi Four Seasons.

Wednesday 19 June 5 – 8pm: Anarchy at the Abbey in 1138. Entertainment for all the family – meet a falconer, jester, executioner, soldier, archer, musician, storyteller, merchant's wife and other local characters. Bring a picnic or get yourself a 'Plantagenet Pizza' on site. Ale on tap. £5 adults, children free. Supported by Abbey volunteers.

Saturday 22 June at 11am: Organ Recital by Toby Wright Admission free, donations welcome. Coffee from 10.30.

Events continued..

Thank you to everyone who has put so much enthusiasm and work into our events this year. We've already raised an astonishing amount for Abbey funds.

Abbey Easter Fair £2,212

Sundays @ 3 talk on 'The Abbey Bells' by Heydon Charles £ 72

Fashion show £1,089

Duck Race £2,993

Churchyard and Eco Church

regular tending of the herb garden and mowing of paths in the wildlife conservation area has been carried out. A herb garden booklet has been produced, funded by herb Sales. Work is in progress for tidying the north-east corner of the churchyard. Undesirable plants have been removed and various ground cover plants, such as wild garlic, fox gloves and garlic mustard have been added. On Sunday 26th May Helen Baczkowska, Senior Nature Manager at Norfolk Wildlife Trust, will give a talk on wildlife and churchyards in Norfolk and how the trust works with churches to help nature. Lucy Seely, also from the Wildlife Trust, will be visiting the churchyard next month to offer advice. On the 1st and 2nd June the Abbey Herb Garden and Church will be part of Wymondham Open Gardens where herbs will be on sale. The annual general meeting of the Friends will take place on Saturday 8th June after which at 10:30 Bishop Graham will give a talk covering climate change and nature which will be open to everyone. – Hilary Hunter

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is progressing very well, and we would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to complete this. We would like to encourage all new and outstanding volunteers to take part in the online training, this way we can be safe in the knowledge we are doing all we can to make the Abbey a safe place to be. Any support requirements or concerns can be directed to our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Diana Grant. Click [HERE](#) to access the online training portal.

Garden Party for Guild Members and Friends of Wymondham Abbey

If you are a member of The Guild of St Benedict's or Friends of Wymondham Abbey, you should have received your invite to the Garden Party on 20th and 21st July. There are now limited tickets left on both dates, please do drop me an email if you still need to book your ticket.

PCC Meeting

Minutes of this month's PCC meeting will be on the Abbey noticeboard shortly. Minutes for all PCC meetings from the last two years and future meetings can be found [HERE](#)

Electoral Roll

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, please complete a green application form available [on this page of our website](#) or at the Welcome desk. Being on it enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and for us to stay in touch with ideas and news. If you would like to check and see if you are on the current roll you can email pa@wymondhamabbey.org.uk. Completed forms can be left in a sealed envelope in the 'R' pigeon-hole at the Welcome desk. Thank you. – Barbara Randall

Openair Theatre Performance

We are excited to welcome 'The Plandits' to the Abbey grounds on 17th July, they will be putting on a family theatre show of the classic story 'The Secret Garden'. This is a ticketed event and more details can be found [HERE](#). There will be a Pizza van and Pimm's tent available plus refreshments from the Abbey café.

Tombola items

We are already looking for donations for our tombola stand at the Summer Fair on 3rd August. The Tombola stand is always extremely popular so if you have any unwanted gifts, bottles of wine or chocolates that need a new home we would love to help. You can leave any items at the welcome desk or by the sofas in St Benedict's.

Calligraphy

We recently sent out a request for anyone who could help with this and I'm happy to say we have had a few people come back and kindly offer their services in updating the book in the Abbey. Many thanks to all who replied and offered help.

Abbey Hall Shrubs

On our last newsletter we put a call out for help to trim and tidy the hedges over at the Abbey Hall by the car park. We would like to say a massive thanks to Lionel Hazel for offering to help and making these look very smart indeed – Thanks Lionel 😊

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Happening in Wymondham

Would you know what to do if you came across someone in cardiac arrest? This event is free and being held at Fairland Hall on 19th June. We all hope we won't need to use these skills, but it would be amazing if we were armed with the knowledge, you could be anywhere, home, work, out shopping when a situation might arise. I've had training and I'm thankful that I feel I know enough to be able to help if needed, as they say it's better to know and do something than nothing.

We also now have a Defib machine by the welcome desk and although once opened and turned on they literally talk you through the whole process you might want to pop along to this session as I'm sure it would be hugely informative as they will be including demonstrations on how to use a defibrillator.

Free CPR/life-saving skills training session

- learn how to save someone's life

on Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 6.30pm
at Fairland Hall, Wymondham

For details and to secure your place,
please contact Beth on 07793 955570

Sunday Morning Activities for Children – Helpers Wanted

We've been trialling additional provision for children during the Sunday morning services this term, and so far, the children seem to be enjoying the activities provided. The current set up involves a game or activity that helps introduce the theme (based around the gospel reading or godly play message), the children gather in the nave for godly play and then return to St. Benedict's for craft activities to help them explore ideas further.

It'd be lovely to have a team of people that would be willing to help with these activities on a Sunday morning. You might like to lead a session, plan an activity, support with the crafts, or just be an extra adult in the room. Volunteers wouldn't be expected to be there for every session, it might be that you can only help once or twice a term, but if you would be interested it'd be great to hear from you. – Lorna Goodrich

Letter of thanks from Bishop Graham

We were pleased to receive a letter of thanks for our Parish giving last year with some information about how it is spent by the Diocese. Well done to everyone for all the hard work and generous giving. You'll find it on North aisle PCC Notice Board. A useful document from Bishop Graham about Parish Share and how it is spent can be found [HERE](#).

And thank you to all those on the Parish Giving Scheme for your regular giving. If you would like to know more about ways in which you can support our huge financial responsibility, please have a look at www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk/giving for all the info.

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Save the date.

Open Gardens	Saturday & Sunday 1 st & 2 nd June
Guild Bring & Share Lunch	Tuesday 4 th June
Living History Evening Event	Wednesday 19 th June
Charity Flower Demonstration*	Tuesday 16 th July
Openair theatre 'The Secret Garden'	Wednesday 17 th July
Garden Party*	Saturday & Sunday 20 th & 21 st July
Summer Fair	Saturday 3 rd August
Fr Christopher's last service	Sunday 8 th September
Fr Andrew's Induction Service	Tuesday 12 th September
Heritage Week (Abbey & bell tours 15/9)	Friday 6 th to Sunday 15 th September
Christmas Fair	Saturday 23 rd November

We hope you enjoyed reading these updates, our plan is to send these out more regularly so we can keep you all up to date on life here at Wymondham Abbey.

Take care.

Hayley

This Newsletter is available to everyone registered on the Electoral Roll and the volunteers in the Guild of St. Benedict, past editions can be found [HERE](#)