

INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

JULY/AUGUST 2025



CHURCH LETTER

Dear friends,

I've been thinking recently about how much place matters in our faith. Certain places hold memories, meaning, and a real sense of God's presence—especially when we gather there to worship. And it's not just about church buildings (though we love them!); it's about where we meet God in the world around us.

The Bible is full of stories of God turning everyday locations into holy ground—mountaintops, fields, and even roadsides. As Psalm 24 reminds us, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." That means all of it—greens, farms, hills, even windy ridges—can become places of prayer.

This year we've seen that in action. Palm Sunday on the green outside church was full of life—people of all generations, and of course, our wonderfully calm donkeys (huge thanks to the Grievesons for sharing them with us!). Rogation took us out onto the farming estate, where we blessed crops, animals, and the hands that tend them—thank you to everyone, but particularly Harry Henderson, who welcomed us, and his farm manager, Stuart, who took worshipers on tractor rides around the fields explaining their eco-farming methods. And then Pentecost at Combe Gibbet—spectacular views, wind in our hair, and the joy of the Spirit uniting us across parishes and hilltops.

These moments remind us that the Church is not just a building—it's a people. And when we step outside, we not only honour our connection to creation, but we also rediscover that we are one Christian family, worshipping the same God, even if our usual pew looks a little different that day.

Of course, it's not always easy. We know it can feel strange to worship in a church that isn't "ours"—and sometimes there's a real pull to stay put. But part of the theology of place is recognising that while buildings are special, God is not confined to one address. Jesus constantly met people on the move—in homes, on roads, by lakes, and in fields. So when we come together in different places, even occasionally, we're following in his footsteps.

As Rowan Williams put it, "The Christian life is not about escaping the world, but learning to inhabit it rightly." And that includes each other's places, with grace and openness.

So thank you to everyone who's stepped out, helped out, or simply shown up to be part of something shared and Spirit-filled. Whether it's been helping with chairs, donkeys, music, or flasks of tea, we couldn't do it without you.

And if you've enjoyed that mix of faith and fresh air—don't miss our outdoor Harvest Activity Morning at St Mary's, Kintbury! There'll be crafts, something for all ages (including grown-ups!), and a real celebration of the gifts of creation. Everyone's welcome, whether you've got small people in tow, a dog on a lead, or just fancy a joyful morning among friends.

With every blessing,

Revd. Annette

CHURCH SERVICES FOR INKPEN AND COMBE

INKPEN

Sunday 6th July – Compline at 6pm

Sunday 13th July – Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 8.30am

Sunday 20th July – Holy Communion at 9.45am

Sunday 3rd August - Compline at 6pm

Sunday 10th August - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 8.30

Sunday 17th August - Holy Communion at 9.45

COMBE

Sunday 20th July – Holy Communion at 11.15am

Sunday 17th August – Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 11.15am

WEST WOODHAY

Sunday 13th July – Morning Celebration at 11.15am

Sunday 27th July – Holy Communion at 11.15am

Sunday 10th August – Morning Celebration at 11.15am

Sunday 24th August – Holy Communion at 11.15am

NEWS FROM St. MICHAEL'S

The Benefice Ministry Team and a large congregation of adults, children and dogs again took their Sunday Service outdoors by celebrating Pentecost up on Combe Gibbet overlooking the beautiful countryside in glorious sunshine.

Pentecost marks the Holy Spirit's descent upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus in Jerusalem and is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The event involved a sound like a rushing wind, visible tongues of fire, and the apostles speaking in different languages. Our event involved singing hymns, waving coloured streamers, blowing bubbles, the banging of cymbals and flying kites. All of this was observed by some very surprised occupants of camper vans.



Thanks again to Annette and Alison for their creativity in bringing this service out of Church and into the community.

Holy Communion at Home

We are now offering parishioners Holy Communion at Home. This might appeal to those who are unable to come to Church. Contact Annette 07708 823285 revannettes@aol.co.uk

CHURCH CONTACTS

Benefice Administrator: Tamara Laing, part-time at the **Benefice Office** Email: wbb.office.contact@gmail.com 07359 327072

Churchwardens:

Inkpen: Charlotte Bampfylde (inkpenchurch@outlook.com)

Combe: Tina Fiertz (tel. 668529), Katherine Astor (katherine@kirby-house.co.uk).

CHURCH SERVICES AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HUNGERFORD

Our Lady of Lourdes, Priory Road, Hungerford RG17 0AF

Parish Priest - Fr Zbigniew Budyn 01635 40332

Sunday Mass - every Sunday at 9.00am

Weekday Mass - every Wednesday at 10.00am

INKPEN SUMMER FETE



We would hugely appreciate it if you would be kind enough to bake a cake for us to sell at the fete. Please either drop at the pavilion on the morning of 5th July or contact Emma Wordsworth (emwordsworth@gmail.com).

We are also still collecting Tombola prizes such as bottles or gifts, again please contact Emma if you can help.

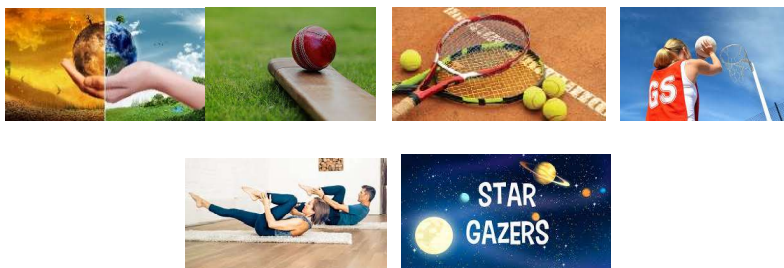
INKPEN PLAYING FIELD & PAVILION

The IMPFT (Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Trust) is pleased to host several regular clubs and societies as well as being available to hire for events (parties, work functions, luncheons etc).

Please check for an up to date list of events / bookings under
impft.inkpenvillage.co.uk

Should you wish to book the pavilion or its facilities, please feel free use our new online booking system <https://hallbookingonline.com/inkpen> or get in touch – bookings@impft.inkpenvillage.co.uk or clerk@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk

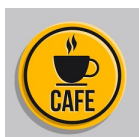
Should anything be of interest or if you would like to start up a club, please get in contact.



Activities and regular bookings:

Climate Group	Sessions throughout the year	climate.inkpenvillage.co.uk
Cricket	Sundays during the season See calendar for fixtures	Inkpencricketclub.org Impft.inkpenvillage.co.uk
Daisy Chains	Every Friday 09:45-11:45 From 6 th June	clerk@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk
Football 5-a-side	Sunday Evenings	Chris Stapleton Mob: 07909 851968
Football (Juniors to U16)	Sunday morning from 10:30am during the season	HTJFCSecretary@outlook.com
History Society	Sessions throughout the year	History.inkpenvillage.co.uk

Netball	Monday evenings Juniors 6pm / Adults 7pm (excl. bank holidays)	Sally Mob: 07444 593 560
Pop in Café	Every 1 st & 3 rd Thursday of the month @ 10am	All welcome, just “pop-in”
Stargazers	Sessions throughout the year	Stargazers.inkpenvillage.co.uk
Tennis	Pay as you play / subscription (tbc)	clerk@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk
Yoga	Saturday 09:45 -10:45 pay as you go	Oliviaboydall@gmail.com Mob: 07554 446 502



Save the dates:

Inkpen Village Fete - Saturday, 5th July, 1:30 – 10pm

Velo Hill Climb '25 – Sunday, 28th September www.newburyvelo.cc/hill-climb

COMING SOON to INKPEN TENNIS AND FOOTBALL COACHING

It's all happening at Inkpen Playing Field - starting during the summer holidays from 21st July there will be tennis and football coaching at Inkpen Playing Field, for anyone who wishes to improve their game. There is:

Tennis Coaching with Mike Gordon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday during the summer for those wishing to book a session. Residents will remember Mike from previous sessions. Mike is a LTA level 4 coach, accredited DBS, Safeguarding, First Aid certified. Anyone interested should book with Mike directly:
mike@premiumtennis.co.uk

Football Coaching with Chris, who has coached at Inkpen previously, is yet to arrange times and dates for his summer sessions in time for this publication - but

sessions will be available to all who wish to attend - we may have a budding Wayne Rooney (or Mary Earps) in Inkpen! Please watch Facebook for further details of dates and times.

INKPEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The highlight of this term has to be our annual Sports Day up at the Recreation Ground. Sports Day is truly a wonderful family-centred event that brings our school community together to celebrate teamwork, perseverance, and the joy of sport. This year, the atmosphere was electric as parents, siblings, and friends gathered to cheer on participants, creating a positive ethos that permeated the entire day. The children displayed exemplary effort and support for one another, embodying the true spirit of camaraderie that makes this event so special.

It was particularly lovely to share a picnic lunch together amidst the festivities, with families spreading out their blankets in the sunshine, exchanging laughter and stories. This sense of community is what makes Sports Day at Inkpen Primary School so memorable, reinforcing the bonds that connect us all.

In the morning, the children thoroughly enjoyed their races, putting in their best efforts as they sprinted, jumped, and cheered one another on. The afternoon was equally exhilarating, with a variety of multi-sport events that tested their skills and determination. The excellent sportsmanship displayed throughout the day illustrated the values we aim to instil in our young athletes.

A heartfelt congratulations goes to Kiln for winning the event overall, yet it is essential to recognise that every child who took part deserves accolades for their enthusiasm and dedication. Sports Day is not just about winning; it is about participation, effort, and enjoying every moment together.

We look forward to many more joyful gatherings like this in the future.

INKPEN STITCH AND KNIT

The Stitch and Knit group will be meeting in Inkpen Village Hall, as usual, on the first Wednesday of the month in both July and August - i.e. 2 July and 6 August at 7.30 p.m. We'll all be working on our own various individual projects. Do come and join us if you enjoy handicrafts. We charge £2 to cover hall costs and tea/coffee. Or, if you want any further information, ring Stephanie (07713 097609), our communications contact.

Save the date - Monday a.m. 22 September for a Macmillan Coffee Morning. The Monday Artists will be hosting coffee and cake, together with a showcase of their oil paintings. This small group of local artists live in Inkpen, Kintbury, Hungerford and

Ball Hill. We paint together near the vets in Ball Hill. Further details in the September Bulletin. Please save the date.

THE CROWN AND GARTER

We've got some exciting events coming up at The Crown & Garter this summer, including -

Jim the Bike Guy will be visiting the Honesty Coffee Shop on Sunday 13th July from 10am-2pm. Come along for a chat about all things cycling.

Monthly Summer BBQs – Last Saturday of the Month, 3 - 6pm

BBQ season is officially back at The Crown & Garter. Join us on the last Saturday of each month during the summer for flame grilled favourites, fresh seasonal sides, and laid-back vibe to share with friends, neighbours, and maybe even a Pimms or two. *Weather permitting.*

Midweek Set Menu – Monday to Friday, 12 - 2.30pm

Our new midweek set menu is here. Enjoy two courses for just £21.95 or go all-in with three for £29.95. Think locally sourced, seasonally inspired dishes all served with a warm welcome. Great food, great value, there's never been a better reason to book.

Rum & Reggae – Saturday 9th August, 5 - 9pm

One for the diary - all you need to bring is the sunshine spirit - this is one not to be missed. Expect a Caribbean style grill, cocktails, garden games and feel-good live reggae beats. Grab your friends and family; let's make it an evening to remember.

Call the pub for full details 01488 668325 and please keep an eye on our social media for updates and more details.

We can't wait to welcome you to the C&G this summer!

INKPEN CRICKET CLUB

We're now almost 2 months into the Inkpen cricket season and it's been a decent effort all around to this point. The weather has been kind, allowing us to get off to an unprecedented start with wins against the might of East Anton, Urchfont, Hungerford Chancers and Bodleian Library.

The last couple of games has seen strong batting from Collingbourne and Boxford, with Inkpen defeated both times, although our scores of almost 200 runs would usually be good enough for victory.

We have 9 matches remaining this summer and are always looking for more Inkpen players, whether highly skilled or somewhat less so. If interested, please get in touch (admin@inkpencricketclub.org) or check out the club website (www.inkpencricketclub.org).

INKPEN MARKET

Would you like to help reinvigorate and re-launch our village market? As you'll know, it has not been possible to run the market for some months and I'm sure some of you will be missing it. However, never fear, we've not given up on what many thought was an important social and regular meeting place for villagers as well as a lovely opportunity to shop on a Sunday morning.



However, it really needs a few more volunteers to help Chrissie pull this together each month - many hands would make for such light work. For those that don't know, this was usually a monthly affair on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 10am - 12.30pm where local suppliers of food and craft items gather. It's a lovely opportunity for folk to walk or cycle up to the village hall, have a tea/coffee or a bacon bap, chat to neighbours and browse some lovely goods.

Come on folks, let's have some new people coming forward - it's the villagers that make a village for sure! Call or message Chrissie on **Mob: 07767 480777** or email **Email: Humphries.c@gmail.com** to have an informal chat about how you can help."

DONATIONS URGENTLY REQUIRED TO COVER BULLETIN PRINT COSTS

A reminder of last month's appeal. There have been four contributions so far.

Each year it costs c. £1,200 to print the Bulletin. The Parish Council contributes £400, the Church £250 thus, c. £550 per annum is required. We will continue to print assuming funds roll in.

Please either send monies to

1. Bank transfer - St Michael's Church, Inkpen – Sort code - 60-11-28 Account number –73133078. Please put 'Bulletin' as reference.

2. Or write a cheque made out to St Michael's Church, Inkpen and drop into the Crown and Garter or the Bakery.



Inkpen Village Hall - Regular Clubs & Activity

www.inkpenvillagehall.org email:- inkpenvh@gmail.com, tel:- 07963 647087

Carpet Bowls	Thursdays	1.30-4.30pm	Sandy Wilson, tel: 01488 668336
Darts Social Club	Mondays Fortnightly	7pm	Mark, mob: 0756 828 4750
Guitar Tuition	Tuesdays	4-8pm	Russ Timms, mob:- 07860 830515
Pilates	Thursday mornings	11.45am	Caroline McCord, Mob: 07817 503546
Market	On hold – more volunteers required	10-12.30pm	Christine, Mob: 07767 480777 Email: Humphries.c@gmail.com
Stitch & Knit	1st Wed every month	7.30pm	Stephanie Pike, Mob: 07713 097609
Seated Exercise	Wednesdays	11.30am	Kate Wiggins, mob: 07706 357801
Table Tennis	Wednesdays	4pm-6pm	Linda Pateman, email: lindapateman@yahoo.co.uk Mob: 07774 775599
U3A Table Tennis	2 nd & 4 th Mondays	1.30-3.30pm	Linda Pateman, details as above
Yoga	Tuesday Thursday	9.30am 6.30pm	Olivia Boydall, Mob: 07554 446502



THE INKPEN HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting will be in **July on Friday, the 18th at 7:30pm at the Inkpen Pavilion**. The topic for the talk is 'Community through the centuries', starting with news clips (court rolls) from the 14th century and following through to the present day. You might be surprised at how community in Inkpen has changed.

A week earlier, on Saturday the 12th July we will be holding a dowsing day.



Are they making America Great again, or looking for Inkpen?

Our dowsing location and details are posted on the history website, [‘history.inkpenvillage.co.uk’](http://history.inkpenvillage.co.uk). All are welcome but you will need to bring your boots or wellies and a smart phone with **My GPS Location** app (or similar) installed if you can please.

A building outline has already been mapped out along with the position of a well. This is your chance to see if you can detect these ancient foundations. At my last attempt, I mostly found spent bullet cases though the well is relatively easy to find. Entry is £5 per couple and the £5 includes a set of our dowsing rods. This is a very different way to spend your Saturday afternoon and a rare opportunity to dowse! Come and give it a go!

The history group will also be represented at the Inkpen Fete, at the Inkpen playing field, on the 5th July. Come and talk to us there.

INKPEN POP-IN CAFÉ

Heatwaves are here.

Want to keep cool? The Pop-In Café has advanced air conditioning helping you to keep cool and relaxed. Play a game of chequers, dominos or simply come for a cuppa and a chat with friends. Opening times are **the 3rd and 17th of July 10 till 12:30 at the Inkpen pavilion and the 7th and 21st August.**

In addition to our normal range of hot drinks, we can offer a limited range of cool drinks.

The café is for all. It is also dementia friendly, carers or sufferers, and we will do all that we can to make you feel at ease and relaxed.

If you haven't already tried the Pop-In café, then do give it a go. ALL are welcome and it really is a chance to have a natter, make friends and chill out, whilst enjoying a slice or two of cake and a cuppa. We very much look forward to welcoming you.

STARGAZERS

The last couple of months have provided us with a great opportunity to star gaze, and we've captured some beautiful images of extremely distant galaxies and nebula. Having been able to do this, using our Seestar S50, it's made us want to do more and get better and better images. But, to go further, we need a higher quality telescope.



The Miss Lawrence Trust, which has supported numerous projects in Inkpen, has given us the means to get those better images by allowing us to purchase a Vespera Pro. This and the Seestar S50, will enable us to involve more people in astronomy, including schools. This is a major step forward for us and we are immensely grateful to the Miss Lawrence Trust for its support and sponsorship.

Inkpen is most fortunate for being in one of the UK's darkest sky areas, so the opportunity to stargaze is at its best. If you would like to join us in the adventure of seeing and imaging those amazing deep sky objects, then please get in touch. Email us at inkpen-climate@outlook.com.

On the 5th of July, at the Inkpen fête, we will have a stall displaying some of our astronomical equipment and images. More importantly, someone from the Inkpen stargazers will be at the stall so that you can come and talk to us directly. Our next group meeting at the Inkpen pavilion/playing field will be advertised on the group website, stargazers.inkpenvillage.co.uk. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

By popular demand, we are moving from infrequent meetings to regular monthly meetings, with an annual subscription fee of just £15 a year. We look forward to welcoming you. Come and get excited!

CLIMATE GROUP

We have a newly formed climate group. The website is <http://climate.inkpenvillage.co.uk>. If you have a look, you'll see that we have collected data on moths, trees, bird sightings and beetles, as well as data on the weather. This data enables us to see what changes are taking place locally and the pace of those changes. If you have any data, new or historic, on local climate related events or know of someone with an interest in this, then please get in touch with us. **We want to bring all local data together** in one place and make sure that it doesn't get lost. Email us at inkpen-climate@outlook.com.

In September, we'll hold a meeting so that all of you that are concerned about climate change can meet and help us to get properly organised. Keep an eye on the website. Thank you.

NORTH WESSEX DOWN NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Some of us know that they live within the NWD, and some don't. You can see if you live within the North Wessex Downs (NWD) by going to https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Parish_Ward_District.pdf.

Additionally, many of us don't understand the significance of being within the NWD. The NWD is a nationally important landscape protected by law. The local authorities that make the NWD protected landscape have a statutory responsibility to ensure that development and planning proposals take full account of the protected status of the area. But the NWD isn't just about protection and planning. There's a lot going on. If you like walking, have a look at



<https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking/walking-groups-organisations/>. If history is your thing, try <https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/the-landscape/the-historic-environment/>. There's something for the cyclist, the ecologist and environmentalist and there are events for those just wanting a day out. With half term and the summer holidays coming up, you might like to pick something from <https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/50-things-not-to-miss/>. The NWD is there to be protected and there to be enjoyed. Make the most of where you live.

COPY DATE

Please email aliedesforges79@gmail.com by August 24th with all features, news and events for the September edition.

BEES' NEEDS WEEK 2025

Please be aware that it is **'Bees' Needs Week 2025: on 14th to 20th July 2025**

Pollinators are a priority and a key part of our environment and play a crucial role in food production. Everyone has a part to play to encourage more beautiful butterflies and buzzing bees in the area – we can all take simple steps to protect our pollinators survive and thrive and help to restore our natural world.

'Bees Needs Week' on 14th to 20th July 2025 – and every year Defra celebrate *Bees' Needs champions*. Awards go to people and organisations, who have taken inspiring action, however big or small, to benefit pollinators.

There are 5 simple actions that anyone can take to help:

- grow more nectar flowers, shrubs and trees
- let patches of garden and land grow wild
- cut grass less often following 'no mow May'
- do not disturb insect nests and hibernation spots
- think carefully about whether to use pesticides

Full details are available on: www.gov.uk/government/publications/bees-needs

To be fully informed email: beesneeds@defra.gov.uk



Volunteer Secretary Needed

The Inkpen Rights of Way Committee is one of the oldest groups in Inkpen, formed over 30 years ago and represents a wide variety of interests such as conservation, horse riding, nature study as well as recreational walking and rambling.

The prime objective of the group is to ensure the **Rights of Way are maintained** in a state which enables them to be used at all times of the year as the paths are used not only for recreational pleasure but also for those without transport who need to make their way across the village. It is important to continue to improve access for the less able as well as for the able-bodied walkers/ramblers. The village is an historic and important ancient landscape, and the footpaths are part of this heritage.

Leaflets on the 5 charted walks around the village are available from the committee or from displays at various points in the village.

The Committee needs to urgently recruit a **volunteer secretary to start in September** as the current post holder is standing down. Please get in touch with the committee if anyone is interested in **joining the group** or can **fill the vacant post of Secretary** – please email: gloriakeene@hotmail.com .

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council and Planning Meetings are displayed on the notice boards outside the Crown & Garter Pub and on the Lower Green Triangle and online on the Inkpen Residents Facebook page and at www.inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk. Both Council and Planning meetings are open to the public so please feel free to attend if you wish to raise any parish issues or have any comments on any village planning applications.

Parish meeting now has an open forum session which allows villagers to raise any issues, ideas, and questions.

Parish Councillors:

John Corne - Parish and planning Chairman (john.corne@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk)
Darren Durham - Planning Vice Chairman (darren.durham@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk)
James Fisher – Parish Vice Chair (james.fisher@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk)
Brian Cox - (brian.cox@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk)
Mark Bates - (mark.bates@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk)
Clare Macinnes - (clare.macinnes@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk)

Clerk to the Parish:

Angela Boyce (clerk@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk)

Upcoming Planning Applications:

If you have a planning application or wish to comment on a local application, then you can attend our planning meeting and comment online on the West Berks Planning Portal.

Useful Information:

Upcoming Roadworks:

Website: one.network – where you can set alerts of local road closures and planned works

Report a problem on a road or pavement:

Report a variety of problems relating to roads including drainage issues, potholes, streetlights and grass or trees that need cutting.

www.westberks.gov.uk/article/35980/Report-a-problem-on-a-road-or-pavement

or call 01635 551111

Fly Tipping: Did you know you can report any fly tipping to West Berks Council using the online portal to identify the location of the rubbish.

www.westberks.gov.uk/report-litter-and-fly-tipping

Inkpen Parish Council can be contacted at clerk@inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk