

Sept 2016 Newsletter

Church

All services at Duns Tew, unless stated otherwise

04.09.16	6 pm	Evening Prayer
10.09.16	10am-6pm	Historic Churches Bike Ride
11.09.16	11 am	Lay-led matins
18.09.16	9.30 am	Harvest Festival Eucharist – with visit from Polly
25.09.16	11 am	Eucharist

Preserves, Pickles and Produce for Polly

Saturday 3rd September 2016, 10.30 - 12.30

This month's Charity Coffee Morning is in aid of the Homeless in Banbury.

Come to Duns Tew Village Hall for a chance to meet Polly.

There will be a “bring and buy” of any surplus produce, flowers, herbs, chutney, jam etc, so if you are able to supply any of these for sale, please bring them along or call Clare if you can’t get there but want to donate something.

Polly's work - As you may know, Polly devotes a good part of every day to helping a small group of homeless and vulnerable men and women in Banbury. Every day she shops and / or cooks for people who wait for her outside St Mary's Church in Banbury every evening. Polly makes sure every one of them gets some hot food which she transports in foil trays (all packed into her large shopping trolley, which she takes on the bus, as she doesn't drive!). She also gives them a bag with provisions for the next morning. Yesterday she texted to say there were 15 people waiting for her, and more turned up later!

Once the people have eaten, Polly spends time talking to them all - hearing about their specific problems, often having a laugh with them. If she can give practical help she will. For instance, some will get a room or a flat, but have nothing to put in it, no bedding, towels, microwave, etc. Polly will then put a call out amongst her network of helpers to see if they can donate what is needed. Polly is always very careful to treat them all fairly. She keeps a little book to record what and when she has given someone a duvet, or shoes, for example, to make sure gifts are distributed in turn. This way her friends, as she considers them, know she is not favouring one over another.

Otherwise what Polly provides mainly is friendship. She gains people's trust (which often takes weeks), listens to her friends (as they become) and supports them with advice and kindness. Some of the people Polly helps have drink and drug-related problems, or they have recently come out of prison, or relationships have ended and they have nowhere to live. Polly described to me how it took one lady several days to pluck up courage to ask for Polly's help in the first place. Polly could see her walking round and round the church walls without coming forward, because she was

embarrassed to ask for help, despite being desperate. Sometimes the Citizen's Advice Bureau will suggest a person go to Polly because they are unable to help.

Please put the date in your diary - 3rd September 10.30 onwards - **Meet Polly and hear about her work.**

The charity coffee mornings are a great way to meet people if you're new to the village and an opportunity to catch up with people you may not have seen for a while.

Progressive supper

A huge thank you to Carol Rigby and Steph Lacey for organising this year's Progressive Supper so expertly. It was a lovely evening with delicious food and it was great way to meet up with people. Thank you to all the hosts who welcomed us into your homes for the various different courses and to Bev Ludlow for helping with the desserts in the Village Hall. We made £1050 towards the upkeep of the church.

Ride or Stride 2016

Have you got your sponsorship form for the Historic Churches Bike Ride to be held on Saturday 10th September? Available from Church – on the table just inside door as you walk in.

The following are looking for sponsorship.....: Chris Drake, Clare Burgess, Sarah Taylor and Jos Joslin (and there may be others I don't know about).

Last year we raised £777, half of which helped towards the upkeep of Duns Tew church, and half went to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

ALSO if you are able to spare an hour to sit in the church and sign cyclists in – please contact Clare (347382).

For more information, contact Clare Burgess clarebugress@gmail.com or 347382. My Just Giving page can be found at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/clare-burgess2016
Thank you for your support.

Harvest Festival – 18th September 9.30pm

Please bring your gifts along to the Church by 10am on Saturday 17th September so they can be incorporated into the decorations or bring them to the service on **Sunday 18th September at 9.30am**. Fresh as well as tinned/packet food welcome. Gifts will be donated to the homeless of Banbury (through Polly). **Polly will be at the service on 18th September and will be available at the end to talk about her work.**

Harvest Lunch – Saturday 15th October

For many years the Harvest Lunch for pensioners has been organised by the Cornerstones group. The PCC (Church Council) have agreed that the members of Cornerstones now all deserve to enjoy the Lunch without doing any of the work, so the PCC will take over the responsibility for arranging this social event. The funding for the lunch has previously come from the Cornerstones group themselves (including donations of vegetables, desserts etc), the Poor's Land Trust and (in the past) the Parish Council. Although we have sufficient funds to provide the

lunch this year, we will need to make a charge from 2017 to cover costs, and also ask guests to bring their own wine/preferred drink. We very much want to keep this tradition going for the seniors of the village, but need to cover our costs.

Due to number constraints we have decided this year to limit the invitations to those aged 65 or over. We are sorry if you were included last year, because the age cut-off was 60, but we hope you understand. We will be sending out invitations early/mid September, so if you are new to the village, or don't receive an invitation, and are 65+, please let us know!

If anyone can donate vegetables or any other food, please contact Clare Burgess 347382 or clarebugress@gmail.com

Date for the Diary

Moonrakers are back!

Following the success of their concert in 2013, the Moonrakers will be in concert in the Church on 22nd October 2016, at 7.30pm. See their website for more information <http://moonrakers.net/index.html>

Tickets available from Carol Rigby 340632, nonesuchcarol@gmail.com

RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP ON LINE OR MAKE AN ONLINE SEARCH

Did you know that you can contribute to the upkeep of our beautiful church when you shop on line or make a search without any extra cost to yourself?

ONLINE SHOPPING

All you have to do is access the site you require via www.easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate St Mary Magdalene Duns Tew PCC as the recipient of the donation.

Every time you make a purchase a donation will be made to the church by the retailer concerned. Over 600 of the UK's leading retailers and catalogues subscribe to this site including Amazon, eBay, Booking.com, Argos, Currys, HMV, M&S, John Lewis, Next, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Waitrose to name but a few.

ONLINE SEARCH

By using *easy search* instead of Google or any other search engine, you can make a real difference. *easy search* is completely FREE and by making just 10 searches a day, you could raise around £20 a year for to your chosen cause.

As well as raising funds, easy search also gives you the best search results available on web. Today, the Internet is so big that different search engines will often deliver different results for the same search. So, by combining the strengths of several search engines together - Yahoo!, MIVA, and many more - you get the very best results in terms of accuracy and relevance, which means you'll find what you're looking for quickly and easily every time - all in one 'easy' search!

All you have to do is access the site via www.easysearch.org.uk, enter St Mary Magdalene Duns Tew PCC as your chosen charity and make you search. You can make this your home page. You can also access easy fundraising from this page.

In the current economic climate our church needs funds more than ever so please remember us when you shop online.

If you require any further information, please contact Carol Rigby
nonesuchcarol@gmail.com or 340632