

Woolstone with Gotherington & Oxenton

PARISH MAGAZINE



**St Martin de Tours,
Woolstone**



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, OXENTON

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INFORMATION

Weddings, Funerals & Baptisms

Our churches are beautiful buildings which were built to serve our communities. Over the years they have witnessed countless services, commemorating births, marriages and deaths.

Fees for marriages and funerals are governed by statute plus additional costs e.g. organist.

There is no charge for Baptism.

If you would like more information speak to our clergy or members of the Church Council.

Bookings for baptisms and weddings should be made with Bishops Cleeve Church Office on Tel. 673612. Open Monday to Friday 9-12 answer-phone available for messages. Funeral enquiries to Rev. Richard Reakes (see back page for contact details).

St Michael's and Southam church services are detailed on the website:

<http://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk>

Sunday Services

On Sunday mornings we usually have two or three services : a simple 'said' Communion at 08.00; a 'classic' sung Holy Communion at 09.30, and a less formal Morning Worship at 11.15. On the first Sunday of the month we sometimes have Evensong at 18.30, though this sometimes moves by a week or two for special events like Easter, All Souls or Advent and Cafe Church at 18.00 on the 2nd Sunday in the month.

The 11.15 services follow the pattern below:

1st Sunday: All-age worship - 2nd Sunday: Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday: Morning Prayer - 4th Sunday: Holy

Communion - 5th Sunday: Varied

Apart from on the 1st Sunday of the month, children usually have their own activities at the 11.15 service.



Woodmancote Church Regular services:

Church services are held on Sunday mornings, commencing at 10:30am.

Communion is held during the third Sunday morning service. A listing of future services is provided on the website: <http://http://www.woodmancotechurch.org.uk>

The Methodist Church has Morning Worship at 10.30 am plus other services.

See www.Methodist-BishpsCleeve.co.uk

Roman Catholic Church (in St Michael's)

Saturdays 5.30 pm Holy Mass

Tuesday, Thursday & Holy Days

9.30 am Mass.

Saints Days as announced

Dear Friends



So as winter disappears and spring slowly awakens in our gardens and in our beautiful countryside, there are signs of new life. We have just celebrated Easter when our thoughts turn to the new life that is found in the resurrected Jesus, but my thoughts have turned to seeing signs of new life in our community.

As I sit in my study writing this letter I hear the sounds of lorries and men working in Shutter Lane, as building work continues to create new homes. New families will be moving in soon, whom I hope and pray will enjoy living in Gotherington as much as Claire and I do and bring their energy, skills and enthusiasm into village life.

I also see signs of new life within the church. New people have joined our congregations and joined our P.C.C. (Parochial Church Council), bringing with them their insights and experience and I will enjoy working alongside them as we continue to share the good news of new life found in Jesus Christ.

But this is always tinged with some difficult decisions that we will have to make about how our parish and benefice operate and I hope to have some discussions within our congregations of how we can best deal with the changes that will inevitably have to come.

But we should never forget that Christians are 'Easter People,' people of hope, people of new life. Yes, things will not be as they have always been, but I firmly believe in the promise that God gave to Jeremiah, 'For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future .' (Jer 29:11)

So we are in for a challenging, but exciting time, as we try and discover what plans God has in store for us.

With my very best wishes.

Richard.

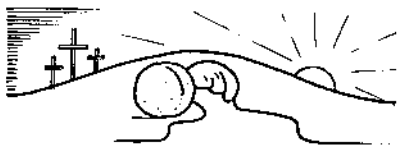
CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2016

St John the Baptist, Oxenton and St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

5.00 pm	Wednesday	Weekly Evening Prayer at the Vicarage
6.00 pm	23rd March	Stations of the Cross - Ecumenical Reflective Service St Michael's
19.30 pm	24th	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
10.30 am	25th	Good Friday Service Gotherington Church Centre
17.30 pm	26th	Easter Eve Vigil
11.15 am	27th	Easter Day Communion Woolstone
11.15 am	3rd April	Easter 2 Parish Communion Oxenton
11.15 am	10th	Easter 3 Parish Communion Woolstone
11.15 am	17th	Easter 4 Village Communion Gotherington Church Centre
11.15 am	24th	Easter 5 Parish Communion Woolstone
11.15 am	1st May	Easter 6 Philip & James Parish Communion Oxenton
17.30 pm	26th	Easter Eve Vigil

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

Lifts are available to all of our services. To put a regular understanding in place or arrange a one-off, call Vera Goodhind (672894) or Sarah Whitehead (674489).



**THE DEADLINE FOR
ITEMS FOR THE
MAY 2016 MAGAZINE**

is 15th April 2016

Please e-mail to:

mag@thecookes.me.uk



"Easter coming so soon after Christmas has almost turned Anthony into a regular churchgoer."

OUR COMMUNITY

We welcome into the Church
family

Savannah & Vivienne Mountford

BAPTISMS

THE CHARITY
FOR APRIL IS
WATER AID



What do you mean, 'they need 30 more copies of the parish magazine this month'?

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 19th at 7.30pm in Oxenton Village Hall. This is an opportunity for parishioners to find out more about the work of the PCC. Contact Rosie Bishton to be added to the Parochial Church Council Electoral Roll.

Inca and Iguanas an Illustrated talk about Machu Picchu and the Galapagos
7.30 pm on Friday April 1st in The Church Centre. Tea and coffee will be served. Retiring collection in aid of church funds. Sarah Whitehead

ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH CENTRE

The next monthly lunch at Gotherington Church Centre will be on Thursday 21st April at 12.30pm. Please book your place with Sarah Whitehead 674489 or Ellen Cooke 673170. The Connexion provides a welcome afternoon of entertainment with good company on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 2-4 pm. Drop in and try it.

Weekday Services

Wednesdays	9:00 am	Ecumenical Communion at Methodist Church
Wednesdays	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer Gotherington Vicarage
Thursdays	10.45 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship Traditional Language) at St Michael's

Special Report: Jerusalem, Nisan 24, 4078

Passover Sensation in Jewish Capital

“Never a Passover like it.” “Unheard of in Jerusalem before.” “Galilean hysterics.”

These and like expressions have been on multitudes of lips at this annual feast, for Jerusalem has witnessed the most unusual and startling Passover in its long history. Part of the mystery is that no one seems to know exactly what has happened. As with all crowds, some say one thing and some another.

In the last few days I have interviewed scores of people and the result is baffling. Certainly, a few of those questioned were adamant and not a little aggressive in asserting that nothing whatever had happened. The priests were particularly scornful about the whole affair. But a far greater number were more or less convinced that strange happenings were undeniable.

Accounts garbled The accounts were garbled, confused, and contradictory. But two observations in particular keep reappearing: first, an account of a country prophet, believing himself to be the Messiah, was crucified by the Romans and now is said to have risen from the dead (?!); and, second, a startling rumour, neither confirmed nor denied by the priests, that the great curtain of the holy place in the Temple was suddenly ripped from top to bottom on the Passover eve.

On sifting the accounts of many witnesses, the story seems to be this. For a number of years, Jerusalem and many of the neighbouring towns and villages have witnessed strange scenes through the preaching of a layman from Nazareth. Reports have it that in spite of the large crowds he drew, this peasant-prophet had had no rabbinical training. Indeed, many assert that before taking to the road, he was a carpenter.

There have been plenty of stories of strange scenes and “miracles”—of lunatics healed, cripples made to walk, the blind to see—and one fantastic account of a man in Bethany raised from the dead! The priests soon put a stop to that rumour.

This had been going on for some time, in spite of sporadic opposition from the Jewish leaders, and nothing might have come of it had it not been for an incident last week.

Roman Guards Doubled This preacher, called Jesus, had by now a large following. Multitudes declared him to be Israel’s Messiah and deliverer, the great prophet long promised. On the other hand, there was a multitude equally vocal in emphatically denying this, including most of the priests and men of letters. To them, this Jesus from Nazareth was an impostor, one more in a line of many deceived into thinking they were Messiah.

Two weeks ago, Nisan 10, this carpenter-preacher entered Jerusalem on a donkey, followed by great, excited, clamouring, shouting crowd of followers. The Romans immediately doubled the guards, well knowing the explosive nature of Jewish crowds. Jesus, however, showed no signs of firing the popular enthusiasm. Instead, he slipped quietly away to the Temple—and there it happened.

Denounces Bazaar

It wasn't a religious speech, political harangue, or "miracle" that started things moving, but an attack by Jesus—a physical assault in the Temple courtyard. This place, known here as "The Court of the Gentiles," was filled with traders doing a roaring business with the many pilgrims that crowded the city.

The exchangers were there too, changing foreign coins into Jewish currency. Only the latter, of course, is acceptable in the Temple treasury. Apparently Jesus watched this for a while and then went to work. With a whip, said by some to have been made on the spot, he routed the traders and money changers, tipped up their tables, and overthrew their stalls. Next he drove out the cattle and sheep and ordered the caged pigeons and turtledoves removed.

His reasons? With blazing eyes and strong invective, reminiscent of an Elijah some said, the carpenter-turned-reformer rebuked those whom he denounced as turning God's house into a bazaar. The result was uproar. The priests were furious. One report has it that Caiaphas, the high priest, on hearing the news, swore that this time the impostor had gone too far.

Problems with Witnesses

No one is quite sure of what happened after that. By the Passover eve, Nisan 14, Jesus had been arrested and his followers scattered. The charges brought against him were three: (1) blasphemy against the law; (2) pretending to be Messiah; and (3) exciting the populace to revolt against Rome, saying he was the true king of the Jews.

One cannot but feel that the last charge was a desperate attempt to pin something on him. The Jews are always grumbling against Rome, and have never for a moment recognized Caesar as their king.

The Sanhedrin not only had trouble with the charges, but with the witnesses as well. What a mixed crew it was! A Jerusalem lawyer and a swarthy money changer, a fumbling old scribe from Bethany and a vigorous orator from somewhere in the north, generally reputed to be a leader in the underground rebel movement, the Zealots. Other witnesses included merchants, priests, and a half-dozen fellows one can only describe as riffraff. Some say that one Judas, a former follower of the prophet, was also there.

Prisoner Silent

The Sanhedrin, in spite of all its questioning, examination, and cross-examination, found it difficult to establish any of the charges. No two witnesses seemed to agree on anything and it was all too evident that many of them were hired to testify against the preacher. Finally, when it looked as though the accusations might fail, Caiaphas, in a fit of rage, flung aside his robe, declaring the impostor had condemned himself. But others were not so sure. The prisoner said very little.

Immediately after, Jesus was sent to the governor, Pilate. There are confused reports of what happened then. Many believe that Pilate, at first, wanted to let the prisoner go free. But the crowds in the street, made vocal by the priests, howled that such an act would be treason against Rome.

A few hours later the prophet, in company with two thieves, was led out to a hill, known locally as Calvary, and there crucified. Multitudes gathered to watch the grim procession but there were no attempts to free the prisoners. The awful work completed, the people began to drift away, thinking it was all over.

Big Blackout In fact, things had just begun. Although it was only midday, a sudden darkness filled the sky, blotting out the sun and making people stumble and fall in their frantic fear and rush to get home. Of all the strange happenings, real or imaginary, reputed to have taken place, the mystery of the darkness I saw for myself. In my room, off the Damascus Road, I finished my dispatches by candlelight.

When the darkness finally cleared at about three in the afternoon, what a commotion there was! A great earthquake near the Calvary hill had rent the ground into great fissures. But that was not all. Far from it! People rushed through the street screaming they had seen ghosts. Apparently it began with discovering that the earthquake had disturbed a burial place and men and women, clearly petrified with fear, whispered of having seen the dead walking! All was confusion and consternation.

Then, to add the last touch, a young Temple priest ran among the crowd, tearing his hair and jabbering that judgment was about to fall. On being calmed down, he gasped to a dumb-struck crowd the incredible news that the great curtain of the holy place, the most feared and sacred thing in all Jerusalem, was mysteriously ripped from top to bottom. Ordinary priests, he wailed, had looked into the “holiest.” What could now prevent the wrath of Heaven?

Probe Empty Grave On the third day it happened—the most shattering and unbelievable part of this whole fantastic affair. Things were beginning to settle down as before when a rumour spread like wildfire that the Nazarene prophet had disappeared—his grave was empty! Expecting some mischief from his followers and tipped off by the Jewish leaders, the Romans had placed sentries by the tomb. Now the centurion was sent to investigate. What a sight he and the soldiers saw! The great stone was rolled away from the mouth of the grave, which was now empty. All around, as though struck by an invisible hand, the guards lay unconscious, with fear frozen on their faces. Of the prophet’s body, there was no trace. He had vanished.

Many of his followers, in hiding since he was arrested, now suddenly appeared—claiming to have seen their leader, risen and fully alive. Two of them, going home to the nearby village of Emmaus, rushed back to Jerusalem, declaring excitedly that they had met Jesus and that he had dined with them! Others speak of seeing him at different times, and all of them confidently assert it is the same prophet and preacher from Nazareth, alive from the dead! As expected, the Jewish leaders flatly deny the whole thing, speaking of it as a hoax, practised by the prophet’s followers.

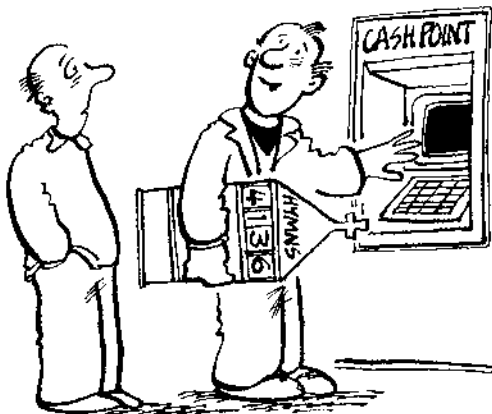
I, with many others, just don’t know. But thinking of all that happened, especially the darkness, I wonder if it was a hoax. Could it be true? Really true? What if?

One thing is sure: this Passover, Jerusalem will never forget.

Door of heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"



Favourite hymns for over 50 s

Give Me the Old Timers' Religion
Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
Just a Slower Walk with Thee
Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've
Parked The Car
Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One
Blessed Insurance
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

*...between you and me, it's the
only way I can remember my PIN number!*



Bespoke Pet Portraits

I'm Sarah, a wildlife and pet portrait artist living in Gotherington. I create pet portrait commissions for clients who want original and bespoke paintings of their beloved pets. I specialise in watercolour on watercolour paper but also like to use gouache and pencil. I work with pet owners to choose a photo or photos of their pets for me to work from to create my portraits. My portraits, starting at £90 for approx 7" x 9", make great gifts for friends and family who love to see their pets in a beautiful work of art! I am interested in working on all types of pets so just get in contact and I can answer any questions you may have.

www.sarah-douglas.co.uk

sarah@sarah-douglas.co.uk

07928653198

Country Diary

So you don't believe in miracles - in the natural world they happen all the time. Under his wings

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of the Lord's love for us...

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage.

One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast.

Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

Psalm 91:4 "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

Praise the Lord for his goodness and protection for all those who put their trust in him.

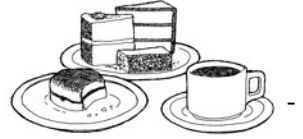
The name above every name

Who is the Lord Jesus Christ – to give him his full name? He is Jesus, the Saviour – this was the name given by the angel to Mary and Joseph. He is Christ – the Messiah sent by God to bring in the new kingdom of justice and peace. He is Lord – the One whom Christians worship as divine.

There is a beautiful hymn on the divinity of Jesus, the one who 'emptied himself' and 'took the form of a slave' for our sakes, even becoming 'obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.' Therefore, God has 'highly exalted him', and given him the name above every name – one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord. Jesus earned the honour on the cross, and he is now the risen and ascended Lord Jesus who sits 'on the right hand of the Majesty on high.' (Hebrews 1:3)

John and Rosie Bishton are holding a coffee morning

at Primrose Bank, Oxenton from 10.30-12.30 on MONDAY 2nd MAY to help raise funds for their eldest granddaughter, Heather, to go to South Africa with Tearfund from June September, prior to her start at Leeds Uni. to study Medicine.



There will be delicious refreshments, a sales table and a raffle. Heather will be telling us about the work she will be doing on behalf of Tearfund.

Do come and bring your friends!

We hope for a fine day to allow us to spread into the garden, but if wet we shall be in the village hall.

Parking at the Middle Farm or on our drive if walking is difficult.

John and Rosie

Friends of Oxenton Church

The AGM for Friends of Oxenton Church will be held on Thursday May 12th at 8-0pm at Oxenton Village Hall. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Six items

I was in the express lane at the supermarket quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the checkout line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?"



Thoughts for the US elections, the economic situation and referenda

As long as I count the votes, what are you going to do about it? - William M Tweed

Campaign tactics: 'He who slings mud generally loses ground.' Adlai Stevenson

There is no gambling like politics. – Disraeli

Economist: a person who can tell you what is going to happen next month and explain later why it didn't.

W.I. Report

We had a fun evening in February when Philip Collins, alias 'Professor Collywobbles' told us the history of Punch and Judy. 'Punchinello' goes back 350 years and apparently meant 'little chicken' in Italian which explains why Punch has a large beaked nose. The puppet shows were introduced by Italians who came over when the Civil War ended and the ban on theatres was lifted. The stick used by Punch to hit Judy was designed to make a slapping sound and was called a slap stick, this being the origin of the phrase 'slap stick comedy. The history of the shows was interesting and put over in a highly entertaining way. However the real treat was to come. Philip had brought his tent, puppets and props and performed a show for us, tailored to his audience. Members joined in enthusiastically with cries of 'He's behind you!' and 'Oh no he isn't! Oh yes he is!'. Mincing the baby into sausages brought gasps of dismay, while the words 'Gotherington Women's Institute' spoken by Mr Punch, alias a man with a swizzle in the roof of his mouth, were hilarious.



Our March meeting will be a little quieter perhaps - Simon Trapnell talking about Nature in Art, the gallery at Twigworth. In April we celebrate our 63rd Birthday with a party.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in Gotherington Village Hall and visitors are always welcome.

JP

GOWNS 07752 152485

The numbers of residents benefitting from the GOWNS service is steadily increasing. Some are regular users, others only require it occasionally. We are happy to help with the little difficulties that can be daunting to some, providing transport, practical help, or companionship.



Monthly Draw for February 2016

Total of Prizes £80.00
Monthly Payment to Church Funds £100.00

If you are not yet a member and would like to join please contact Dawn Maisey on 01242 673686, or maisey254@fsmail.net

Woolstone with Gotherington & Oxenton PCC			
1st	£50	58	Mrs J Kane
2nd	£20	3	Mrs C Newsum
3rd	£10	11	Dr L Horton
	£80		

Request for help at Rainbows

Gotherington Rainbow pack require a new adult leader to help at the weekly sessions on a Monday afternoon. The group is for 5-7 year old girls and is the youngest section of Girlguiding. No experience is required but Girlguiding will need to do a police check. If you are able to help from 3.15pm until 5pm during term time, and would like more information, please give Kirsten Stillman a call on 01242 673218.

Gotherington Garden Club

Meetings in village hall at 8pm

April 20 2016 "Alpines" by Julie Ritchie.

New members welcome.



Sorry I can't help - I'm busy at the moment

Communion Wine

The drinking of wine during Holy Communion horrified Frederick Lees a temperance campaigner He convinced several churches to swap their wine for water. His arguments were not accepted by many - quite an achievement they said; 1,800 years after Jesus turned water into wine, Frederick Lees changed it back again.





Bishop Rachel to Lead Prayer for the Day

The Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Revd Rachel Treweek, will be leading Prayers for the Day on Radio 4 over Easter.

You will be able to hear her at 5.45am on Saturday 26 March and then from Monday 28 March – Friday 1 April.

Since Bishop Rachel's appointment just over a year ago, Bishop Rachel has done a number of shows with BBC Radio 4, including

Woman's Hour, where she was a guest editor and chose a theme of transformation, which included a number of interviews that were personal to her.

Confirmation Service with Bishop Rachel at St Michael's on Sunday 10th April at 6.30 pm. There are a number of youngsters and at least one adult wishing to be confirmed at this service. If you are thinking of being baptised and/or confirmed please have a chat with Richard or Malc to find out more

Quiz Night

Shannon Packet will be hosting a quiz night on 8th April at 6.30 pm in St Michael's Centre to raise money for her trip to India. Shannon is very involved in Open the Book and is usually one of the team at Gotherington School.

Barn Dance Saturday 16th April

St Michael's Centre 7.30 pm. A great evening of fun and entertainment for young and old, led by the fantastic Hetty Peglers Barn Dance and Ceilidh Band. No previous dance experience required as a Caller will lead you through your steps. Tickets on sale soon priced at £10 each which includes a hot pulled pork platter served during the evening. A bar selling beer, wine and soft drinks will be at hand. More information from Marion B on 674959 or Jacqui D on 691639. All proceeds to the St Michael's Centre Building Fund.



TEWKESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

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PARISH COUNCIL

A considerable amount of work has been carried out at the Rex Rhodes Building over the last couple of years, both inside and around the building, and residents may not be aware that we now have a venue that we can be proud of. Why not look around next time it is open? It is available for hire at evenings and weekends and Councillor Bev Osborne is the person to contact.

The next big venture will be the replacement of the Tennis Club hut with a community Sports Pavilion on the same site. The supplier and much of the funding has already been identified, and the proceeds of the Fete on 12th June will go towards this, making it a “whole village” facility. Contributions from village groups and individuals are welcomed and will help with the grant application to Tewkesbury Borough Council by demonstrating wide support for the project. The result will add to the excellent sports facilities which Gotherington is able to offer in the much-admired setting of the Freeman Field.

31st March is the closing date for applications for the posts of Clerk and Finance Officer to the parish council. Councillors are agreed that local people would be the best solution for their requirements. Applications should be made to chairman David Hearn or temporary clerks Adrian and Ellen Cooke.

GOTHERINGTON FETE 12TH JUNE

This promises to be a spectacular event for all ages. Plans are progressing well and as always there is room for lots of helpers. Contact Bev Osborne or Howard Samuels to see how you could be involved.

Among the many attractions will be a Fire Engine on display, courtesy of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue for all to see and clamber over under the watchful eyes of a trusty fire fighter or two. The Gloucester Excelsior Band will be playing at intervals throughout the afternoon and there will be Morris dancing as well. There will be a bouncy castle for the little ones, running races for all ages, scouting activities and, of course a Tug of War. The Petanque Club will be in full swing with lessons and taster games and perhaps a full competition. There will be a good range of merchandise ranging from craft, jewellery, cards and ceramics on sale from side stalls around Freeman Field. A cycle ride starting and finishing in the village, a walk round the village boundary and a treasure hunt are all planned to finish in time for the Grand Opening at 1.00pm

Keep up to date with progress on the Gotherington Summer Fete through the website, Topics, notices at the Village Hall coffee mornings as well as via Twitter and Facebook.

The church will be running a tombola stall and would welcome prizes nearer to June.

