

# East Coker Society Newsletter

April 2025

Free Issue No 198



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## East Coker Society News

### HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS

This is the 50th year since East Coker Society started producing a Quarterly Newsletter for East Coker. It has always been available for any Village Club, society, business or organisation to issue their news and events and is a welcome source of information.

Our Editor, Lesley Lindsay collates all these contributions and distributes by email and downloads to our website at [www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com). We no longer distribute printed copies to every household, but they are still available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, The Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café and East Coker Hall in January, April, July and October.

If you wish to subscribe to our emails, please contact Lesley at [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) with your email address. Your personal details are not shared with any other party and comply with our Data Protection Policy.

Sarah Owen  
Secretary, East Coker Society

The next issue of the Newsletter will be printed in July 2025. **Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) by 21 June 2025 or sooner if possible.**

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### EAST/WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

#### Special Cheese and Wine Evening Friday 9 May

In the year when we celebrate VE and VJ day, we are thrilled to announce a night of great entertainment featuring the **HMS Heron Volunteer Band**.

Those who have had the pleasure of seeing them perform can attest to the enjoyable experience they provide. We can be sure of the prospect of a fantastic night ahead, filled with great music, delicious food and wine.

Don't miss out on what promises to be a memorable evening.

Venue: East Coker Hall. Start: 7:30pm. Tickets: £14 - includes a glass of wine.

Tickets available from: Jill Holland tel 862782, Jude Petheram tel 863531, Marilyn Smith tel 863944.

Dave Giles

Chair East/West Coker Branch.

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## **EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE**

Tipplers' weekend - the Palace Hotel, Paignton 4-7 April.

Sarah Rashley

## **EAST COKER WI**

Our Institute was founded in 1918 only four years after the very first Institute in England was established. During the First World War, women had to cope without their husbands, so educational as well as pleasurable activities were essential. Now we don't have to learn how to sole shoes using old tyres or how to clean chimneys, but we still retain some educational items as well as being entertained by other people's experiences or activities.

Meeting at East Coker Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, we welcome new members especially those new to East Coker.

Anyone interested, please either just turn up on the day or for further information contact secretary, Pauline on 01935 864430.

Joyce Pryor

## **PROGRESSIVE WHIST**

If you like playing whist or you would like to learn, now is your chance. Meeting in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall at 2.00pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month, from September to the following May.

The charge is £5 a session which includes a free draw ticket.

Any enquires to Mary Ashley 01935 862263.



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### **EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST**

At last!! A new roof for the Hall. The roofing works are now complete. A thick layer of insulation has been laid and the new roofing panels fitted. When the old panels were removed, there was a noticeable lack of insulation – unless you feel approximately one inch of sodden insulation to be sufficient! In addition, the old panels were showing signs of corrosion. The PV panels were removed, cleaned, stored and are now back on the roof, generating electricity to feed into the grid. A huge amount of work went into this project, the total cost of which will be in the region of £110,000; fortunately, no nasty surprises were discovered once work commenced. Current funds for this project are healthy, but we have some way to go to meet the target, so fundraising will continue for some time. We are most grateful to those parishioners, clubs and users of the Hall for donations which they have made to the fund and, on behalf of the trustees of the Village Hall, I would like to thank you all very much indeed.

A grant from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund has now been received.

We were advised that we could apply for S106 monies for this project. Submission of our application involved an enormous amount of work, with substantial information being required for completion of the forms, and considerable additional information being requested following submission of the forms. I would like to thank all of you who helped us to obtain and submit the additional information requested. Subsequently, Planning Obligations informed us that they were unable to allocate the available S106 funding to the Village Hall project as the grant panel had been advised that "The Parish Council has submitted a planning application for the modernisation of The Pavilion, and they are relying on this S106 funding for this project".

Some of you, especially those who use the Hall regularly, will have noticed a massive draught coming from the stage area. This is due, in part, to a hole in the wall panels, through which one could put one's hand. The panels are being replaced as I write, and we expect the work to be completed during the early part of April. Again, there was a lack of insulation to these panels which is being remedied as the new panels are fitted.

Our thanks must go to the employees of JH Hardwill Ltd who worked on our project. I, for one, am extremely grateful for their help during the project, the efficiency with which it was managed and the courtesy of the men working on site.

Needless to say, the roof and the exterior panelling on the wall to the rear of the stage are not the only areas of the hall which require attention and to which we will gradually give consideration. We continue to work on various fundraising ideas, which will be advertised and which we hope will be well supported.

During the period in which the works have been carried out I have received numerous complimentary comments about our Village Hall which reinforced how fortunate we are to have such a facility. If any of you are able to assist with fundraising events, we would be delighted to hear from you; contact may be made via email [echbookings@btinternet.com](mailto:echbookings@btinternet.com) or by telephone 01935 862447.

Should you wish to make a donation to the fund, this may be done either via BACS or cheque:

Via BACS:      Account name:      East Coker Village Hall  
Sort Code:      40-52-40  
Account number:      00101770

By cheque:      Made payable to East Coker Village Hall and sent to:  
The Secretary, East Coker Village Hall, 21 Mill Close, East Coker, BA22 9LF.

We also have a 'Just Giving' page, which can be accessed via the following link <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/eastcokerhallroof>. Alternatively, go to the JustGiving site and search for East Coker Hall. In addition, we are still looking to set up a 'Give as you Live Online' account – this should give us access to donations from over 6,000 stores such as M&S, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Boots, Screwfix, Argos.....

**Film nights** were very poorly supported during 2024 and in January this year. In February, the film *Conclave* was better supported. However, audiences remain very low. There will be no film in April. An update regarding film nights will be put on the Hall website.

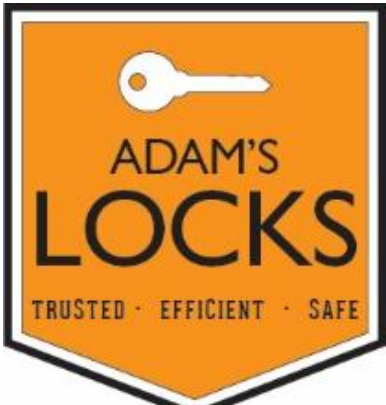
**Succession Planning:** We are seeking someone to assist our current Treasurer, with a view to succeeding him. You would work with the Treasurer in order to become familiar with the accounting package and systems. Please do get in touch if you would be interested.

Exceptionally well used, the Hall is run by a committee of dedicated trustees, all of whom are volunteers who wish to ensure that the hall continues to be a valued community facility. If you have bit of time to spare and wish to contribute to your community, we would be delighted to hear from you. You should be committed, willing to help with various tasks and be prepared to take on the responsibilities associated with acting as a trustee. It is not onerous and should not take up much time. We have four meetings a year (including the AGM). If you are interested in helping to ensure that the Hall remains a valued community facility, please make contact via the website email address [echbookings@btinternet.com](mailto:echbookings@btinternet.com). We will be happy to discuss what is involved, as well as the responsibilities of acting as a trustee.

Details about the Hall, how to book it and to find out what is on, may be found via the Hall website <https://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>

With best wishes.

*Helen*



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## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

2025 began well, with members renewing during January and February for the current year. Our speakers have covered varied and interesting subjects during the first months of the year. The History of Forde Abbey and the Gardens, presented by Dr Paul Bygrave, was very well attended as was the presentation by Stephen Powles who gave us an insight into the lives of otters in March.

The programme for the next few months is as follows:

Thursday 10 April	Remarkable Trees of Stourhead – Emily Utgren
Thursday 8 May	Shopping Evening at Brimsmore
Saturday 17 May	Plant Sale at East Coker Hall – 10am to 12pm. Refreshments and homemade cakes.
Thursday 12 June	<b>Success with Houseplants</b> – Gold Club Speaker
Thursday 10 July	<b>Annual ‘Out Meeting’</b>
Thursday 14 August	<b>No meeting</b>
<b>Saturday 16 August</b>	<b>Flower &amp; Produce Show</b>

The Club will again be arranging and sponsoring a sunflower competition for the Annual East Coker Flower and Produce Show. Sunflower seedlings, free of charge, will be available on Saturday 17 May between 10am and 12pm. The children will be expected to grow the plant on and bring it to the Flower Show in a pot. The sunflower chosen for this competition is a dwarf, flowering plant, so do not expect 6ft high plants with huge sunflower heads. If you are unable to attend the plant sale and collect a plant, please contact me 01935 862447. Please note that there will be a limited number of seedlings available.

We provide a varied programme during the year. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether you are interested in gardening or would just like to join a group of friendly, sociable people.

*The Propagator*, a free newsletter containing Club news, notes of gardening events, tips, etc is distributed via email, with hard copies available at each meeting for those not on email. During the growing season there is a produce stall, stocked by members with plants and produce. Vouchers offering discounts on seeds, seed potatoes, young plants and seedlings are available during January and February, with offers on spring bulbs and over wintering onions and shallots come summer. Bulk order discounts are available to members during January with special order forms for sundry goods, such as compost. Twice a year there is a growing competition. Last month, fuchsia plug plants were distributed for the competition to be held in the summer. Day trips are arranged to places of interest.

We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The Annual Subscription is currently £25, with subs of £2 per meeting. Visitors £5. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm) in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker unless otherwise indicated.

For further information, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447. There is a page on the East Coker Hall website for the Gardening Club - if you have access to the web, please do go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/> and look at the Gardening Club page.

In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please phone me 01935 862447. We try to provide a varied programme during the year. We are always happy to welcome visitors.

Helen



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## EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW - SATURDAY 16 AUGUST



It's that time of year again to get **ready – steady** and to **grow, bake, make** and to **show!**

The East Coker Flower and Produce Show will be held on the third Saturday in August – which this year is the 16<sup>th</sup> - at East Coker Hall. This is an “Open” Show, which means that anyone can enter – you do not have to live in the parish of East Coker – all are welcome.

A local village show this is, not a Chelsea or Hampton Court Show of this world, and we would very much like it to continue for many years to come. If you haven't exhibited before, are uncertain as to what to do, or just need a little encouragement, help is at hand –**please think about entering this year's show**. Please also encourage youngsters to enter. We do not charge exhibitors to enter the classes. There is, however, a £2 admission charge to the show in the afternoon.

The Show Schedule is being finalised and should soon be ready for printing. A copy of this year's schedule will be put on the East Coker Hall website <https://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>. Hard copies, once back from the printers, will be available from various places, including Goose Slade Farm Shop, The Café in East Coker, the Hall, the Spar shop on Sandhurst Road, Forest Hill Stores, and Saunders in West Coker.

Those of you who enter regularly will know that most of the classes remain the same, but that a few are changed each year. This year there are no changes to the vegetable and fruit classes. In the flower classes, there are changes to class 25 which will be 3 pinks; class 35 – 3 stems of salvia and class 41 – succulent (7inch pot).

Floral Art: class 43 – one favourite flower; class 44 – An arrangement with 5 flowers; class 45 –An arrangement in a basket; class 46 – arrangement in a cup and saucer; class 47 – arrangement to Celebrate the End of WW2.

As usual, class 48 in the Home Craft section will be a recipe supplied by the organisers of the show. Photography: class 71 – Potholes; class 72 – Bucket and Spade; class 73 – Monochrome photo; class 74 – Pets; class 75 – A Door; class 76 – Earth, Wind, Fire and Water (4 photos in a mount, not to exceed 15in x 12in).



The East Coker Gardening Club will again sponsor and organise a **sunflower plant** competition for the children. Age ranges are the same as for the other children's classes – 5 years and under; 6 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years of age. Seedling plants, free of charge, will be available on Saturday 17 May between 10am and 12am at East Coker Hall when the Gardening Club will be holding its Annual Plant Sale. The children will be expected to grow the plant on and bring it to the Flower Show in a pot. The sunflower chosen for this competition is a dwarf, flowering plant, so do not expect 6ft high plants with huge sunflower heads. If you are unable to attend the plant sale and collect a plant, please contact me 01935 862447. Please note that there will be a limited number of seedlings available.

Even if you haven't entered before, don't be afraid to have a go. It is fun, rewarding and an excellent morning and afternoon out. Help will be available on the day to show you where, and how, to place your entries.

We look forward to receiving your entries and to welcoming you to the show at East Coker Hall on Saturday 16 August when the doors will be open from 8.30am for exhibitors to set up. The Hall will close at 11am for judging and will re-open at 2pm. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me 01935 862447.

*Helen*

### **EAST COKER POETRY GROUP - Forthcoming Events**

Meetings are held in the Village Café, East Coker, BA22 9HY starting at 7.30pm.

There is no charge, and parking is available for our evening meetings behind the Café.

#### **Tuesday 29 April 2025 - Sonnets Evening**

Following a short presentation on the Sonnet as a poetic form, this will be a themed Open Meeting.

The Sonnet has been a popular form for many poets from Shakespeare to Jamaican poet Claude McKay of the Harlem renaissance poets.

So, bring some of your favourite sonnets or better still, write a sonnet for the occasion. Or just come and listen and enjoy the poetry.

#### **Tuesday 27 May 2025 - Baez, Dylan and Mitchell**

Do Lyrics and Poetry overlap? Are Lyrics poems set to music? Heather Murphy, assisted by Peter Tait and Iona Lambe, will present this varied evening of poetry and music featuring the lyrics of Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell.

Contact via our website or email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk).

Contact David Cloke for more info about the group: Email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk).

Website [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk) will carry details of meetings when they are confirmed.

David Cloke, East Coker Poetry

## **Young People**



### **East Coker Primary School**

*Respect, Determination & Courage, Compassion & Collaboration, Independence & Creativity*

With the Easter holidays fast approaching, it is lovely to finally see a bit a nice weather. This has meant the children have been out more using the school field at lunchtimes as well as being outside for learning.

## Starting in Reception at East Coker in September?

If you need before and after school provision, we have our very own **onsite** breakfast and after school club '**Kingfishers Club**'. Bookings are being taken for September and can be done by phoning or emailing the school office [office@eastcokerprimary.org](mailto:office@eastcokerprimary.org). Please note that we are separate to Willows Club which is a private provision run off site.

We have several events happening for our new starters. Early next term we have a Coker Café taking place on Wednesday 30 April. Parents can come and chat to the staff while the children have a stay and play. We also have several dates in June for the new reception children to spend some time in class.

### What have we been doing this term?

We have set up our very own **Facebook** page dedicated to showcasing the learning the children do at East Coker Primary School. If you would like to see what we have been up to, please go to [www.facebook.com/EastCokerPrimary](https://www.facebook.com/EastCokerPrimary).

This term, the whole school has been learning about 'Castles'. The lower school has been looking at significant people while the juniors have been finding out about power and trade and daily life during Elizabethan England, as well as learning all about the Spanish Armada.

In art, we have been focusing on Sculpture and finding out about Joan Miró, using his work to inspire paper and wire sculptures. Year 5 and 6 have been looking at Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama to create modroc sculptures. In Geography, we have been learning about the UK.

We have had many exciting events over the spring term, including a fantastic visit from RNAS Yeovilton for a STEM day. During the day, the year 5 & 6 pupils, guided by support from the Royal Navy, got hands on with activities aimed at developing their teambuilding, problem solving and communication skills. They built electrical circuits and understood how to identify and solve any issues with the circuit. They worked as a team to solve a logistics problem, overcoming barriers placed in their way. They also got their hands on programmable Sphero's. They created a digital code which enabled the Sphero to move, display messages and even sound an alarm.

In addition to this, we have also had Science week including VR activities and workshops from the Rivers Authority. We have taken part in Number Day for NSPCC, World Book Day and PTFA fundraising days. We have also sent ten children to OSR projects in West Coker for 4 weeks of clay workshops. Some of the children's work will be on show during [The Od Arts Festival](#) this May.

You may have also seen our children on their bikes around the village recently while they took part in Bikeability training.

### What's next?

Staff are taking our Year 5s for a one night residential to Magdalene Farm where they will be taking part in lots of science-based activities including orienteering, rivers and ponds wildlife, food waste and organic farming.

Next term, we will be focusing on our topic 'The Wilderness' and have several exciting projects planned. Our main area of learning will be on Shackleton and his adventures in Antarctica, and for infants, hot and cold climates.

After the KS2 national tests, we will also be running our Annual Enrichment week. This year, the theme is 'Words' and will include performance poetry workshops and presentations, as well as working with local artists to create a large mosaic mural.

*Come Join Us at the School's Official Onsite Breakfast & After School Club Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm at...*

## East Coker Primary School's Kingfishers Breakfast & After School Club



**FOR RECEPTION 2025 PUPILS, PHONE THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY TO BOOK: 01935 862532**

Breakfast Provision:  
7:30am to 8:45am - £4.50. This includes a breakfast if pupils arrive before 8:15am.  
After School Provision:  
3:30pm - 4:30pm - £4.50. 3:30pm - 5:30pm - £8.00 3:30pm - 6:00pm - £10.00  
This will include a snack and drink  
All Day Discount  
7:30am - 8:45am & 3:30-6:00pm - £12.50

Current parents can book through Parent Pay. The school is currently able to accept childcare vouchers from: Eden Red, Care-4, Government Tax Free Childcare vouchers. Please do ask if you use a different voucher scheme.





Also, next term is our **PTFA Summer Fair on Friday 27 June from 6-8pm**. Everyone is welcome! It is always such a lovely evening with lots to see and do.

J Hesketh-Williams can be found on our school website: <https://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk/>.

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher, East Coker Primary School

### **EAST COKER PLAYGROUP - Follow us on Facebook: East Coker Preschool**

Spring feels like it has arrived. We have daffodils flowering in the garden and leaves are growing on the willow den. The parish council have given us a fantastic concrete path which has made a big difference, easing access to playgroup for all. Our stick insects have reached maturity, and we wait to see if we get eggs for a new generation. Zoolab visited us and took us on a nature hut, discovering a variety of insects, reptiles and mammals.

Children can join us from the age of 2 years. We accept Somerset Council 2-year-old funding, 15-hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, Working Families Entitlement 15-hour, Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers. For more information on support with childcare costs, please visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

We are open during term time at the following session times:

We are open during term time at the following session times:

Monday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00-4.00
Tuesday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00 ----
Wednesday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00-4.00
Thursday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00-4.00
Friday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00 ----

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch.

### **Baby and Toddler Session @ East Coker Playgroup Friday 9.30-11.00 £2.00 or a donation/ family**

We have a playroom full of resources and outdoor space to facilitate playing and learning.  
Pop along and join us for play and chat.

To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page, East Coker Preschool.

For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact us on 07503 751133 or email [office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com).

Eve Dudden

### **EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP**

The cub and scout programmes have been active and varied already this year.

The scouts walk round to Mike's Woods each month and this is a great opportunity to practice lighting fires, and then letting them burn down, to allow something to be cooked. Dough twists, marshmallows to make s'mores, and sugar cones have all been cooked and consumed.



In the hut, they have been working on gadgets for the Camping Competition in May and learning the elements for the Emergency Aid 3 badge. This first aid badge includes CPR, the recovery position and treating cuts, burns and breakages.



The District Day hike around the Wincanton area was a lovely sunny day for an 8 – 10 mile walk.

The next event is the Fox Trophy hike competition in April. This is a weekend hike where the scouts carry their equipment and food for the whole weekend, navigating a route they have to plot the night before.

We have purchased two new lightweight tents which the scouts have checked over. They have cooked hike rations (boil in bag meals and porridge pots), and tried food options for snacking on as they walk (including the all important Kendall Mint Cake).

On Tuesday evenings, the cubs have been really busy. They have been cooking a meal, celebrating festivals (Pancake day and Holi, the Hindu festival of light), checking out maps (symbols, compass points, grid refs), having a science night with loads of experiments and been on a walk around the village. The cubs have also been working on their personal challenges involving learning new skills (knitting, cycling to school, map reading, keeping rooms tidy, helping out at home and taking responsibility for jobs).

We currently have no beaver section as we have no adult team members to run this section. We would love to be able to re-open this section and welcome contact from anyone who feels they could help us with our beavers 6-8 years old.

We ran the annual village quiz in March – see the separate Newsletter article. It is such a brilliant opportunity for the scouts to be on stage and help with all aspects of the evening. The banter between them and the quizzers whilst the answers are being read out is fantastic. Well done to them for doing it so well.

Thank you for all your support.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader

[www.eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:www.eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)



1<sup>st</sup> East Coker Scout Group

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual East Coker Village Quiz

The East Coker Hall was filled again with a wonderful mix of 19 teams all looking forward to the challenge of the quiz – if you can answer all the questions, it isn't really a quiz!

The eight rounds of questions and three table top marathons covered topics from Marie Curie's Round, Amelia Earhart's Round and Richard Osman's Round to logos from afar and very close by (East Coker café!).

At the fish & chip break, it was close at the top and bottom with a few jokers still to be played and the teams continuing to work through the marathons.



At the end, the winners by one point were West Register Street Gang; ahead of Fire in the Woods with Bassetts Allsorts and the Poetry Group in joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The coveted crème eggs were taken home by the Slow Burners.

Once again, we thank everyone who supported the event and who helped behind the scenes. You all make the evening the success that it is.

The proceeds from the Village Quiz this year have been split 50/50 between the Scouts and the East Coker Hall roof repair fund.

For your diary:

### **Saturday 21 March 2026 – 20th Annual East Coker Village Quiz**

More details to follow closer to the time.

The Quiz Gopher - [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)

## **The Churches**

### **ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH**

By the time this edition of the newsletter is published, Easter will be upon us. Over recent weeks we have observed Lent, that season of reflection and renewal leading up to Easter, and so a number of events have taken place in addition to our normal pattern of worship. We saw the season in with Ash Wednesday services in Pendomer and Hardington and our Rector, Phil, has been running a series of Lent Lectures around the Benefice. During Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday, we are celebrating Holy Communion in East Coker, and we will have a service on Easter Day. We are getting quite a name for dressing the church up, and our talented team of flower arrangers will be working their magic in readiness for Easter Day. You are always welcome to the church, but especially so at this important festival in the Christian calendar. As well as spectacular floral displays, rumour has it there will be chocolate eggs on offer!

On a lovely sunny spring day a few weeks ago, we had the thanksgiving service and funeral for our much-loved friend, Sue Hedges. As well as being a great presence in the village generally, she was a terrifically loyal and valued member of our congregation. As sad as it was, it was an enormous honour to host so many friends and members of her family at a very moving and memorable occasion.

We always get very excited about weddings, and we are delighted that Annabelle Rashley, one of our gifted and hardworking bellringers, and her partner Bradley are going to tie the knot in St Michael's on 17 May. We have been praying for them during the build up to their big day and are keeping our fingers cross for great weather.

### **St Michael and All Angels Charity Fair and Open Morning 14 June**

Following on from a brilliant event last year we will be having our, now annual, charity fundraising Fair and Open Morning on 14 June to which everyone is welcome. There will be plant and produce stalls, teas, historic tours of the church, tower visits, organ recitals, children's activities, and even the chance to splat the vicar! If you have any produce or plants, you'd be willing to donate, please get in touch at [info@ecchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@ecchurch.co.uk). Take a walk up the hill to have a fun and relaxing morning – all in a good cause. **Please see flyer at the end of this Newsletter.**

Following the shameful historic abuse cases that have come to light lately, safeguarding has become a high priority topic for all churches across the country, including St Michael's. For some time now, members of the Parochial Church Council and anyone involved in church activities have carried out safeguarding training and, where appropriate, have had DBS checks done. In light of renewed guidance, we have rewritten our safeguarding policy (which can be found on our website and A Church Near You page (see below)) and have appointed Luke Sheppard as the Parish Safeguarding Officer. If you have any concerns about safeguarding or want to know more, please get in touch

You are always welcome at St Michael's, whether for some time of quiet reflection, or to join us for a service. Information about services can be found on the notice boards in the church porch and in the paddock, or via the Benefice Newsletter which is emailed out on a weekly basis. Our regular pattern of service is:

2nd Sunday of the month	Morning Prayer	11.00am
3rd Sunday	Evensong	6.00pm
4th Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00am

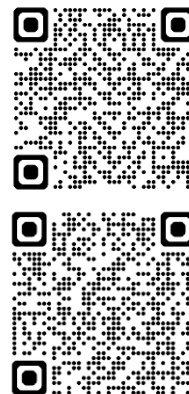
On a 5th Sunday (when there is one) we join other churches across the Coker Ridge Benefice to celebrate Holy Communion. Check online or refer to the pew sheet for time and location.

**Keeping in touch.** We want to make sure everyone in the parish knows what is going on at St Michael's. There are a number of ways try and get information out – hopefully something to suit everyone.

**Website.** We have set up a website which has lots of information about the church and upcoming events and services. It has a section on Project Beacon so is a great place to keep track of our future plans.

The website is [www.ecchurch.co.uk](http://www.ecchurch.co.uk) which you can get to by scanning the QR Code opposite.

**A Church Near You.** You will also get information about forthcoming services and events by visiting our page on the 'A Church Near You' website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11025>. You will also be able to get information about the Coker Ridge Benefice by following the link to the Benefice on the home page <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-105DP>.



**Parish Distribution List.** To get on the church's distribution list, for the weekly benefice newsletter and other parish news, email the PCC Secretary, Christine Vince, on [christine.vince2@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.vince2@btinternet.com).

**Facebook.** We also post news and notices on Facebook – St Michael's Church has a page [www.facebook.com/East.Coker.Church](http://www.facebook.com/East.Coker.Church) which you can like / follow to stay up to date.

**Email.** Please get in touch with us at [info@ecchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@ecchurch.co.uk) if you have any specific questions or concerns.

For baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral care, contact the Benefice Coordinator, Barbs Hampshire, on 01935 864574 or [officecokerridge@gmail.com](mailto:officecokerridge@gmail.com) (office hours Wednesday 9.30am – 4.00pm).

*Toffer Beattie, Churchwarden*

## THE CHAPEL AT EAST COKER HALL

We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to find out what it means to be a Christian. We are continuing to run the 321 course at our Café Church on the first Sunday of each month. It is an introduction to Christianity, with videos and time for discussion. You can come and just listen or ask us difficult questions as you wish! The 321 course will run until July. You can sign up for free at [321course.com](http://321course.com) so if you miss a month in person, you can catch up in the comfort of your own home.

Café Church is always on the first Sunday of the month, where fresh coffee, croissants and bacon rolls are provided. We meet at East Coker Hall, 11.00am on Sunday mornings. We are always happy to welcome anyone to join us, even if just to see what goes on! Our services are relaxed and informal and always followed by tea and coffee. We have a variety of talks, our own worship band, and a large number of children of all ages in the 'Kids Church'.

On Tuesday mornings in term-time, the Toddler Group runs from 10.30am – 12.00pm. This is aimed at mums, dads, grandparents, and child carers and incorporates a café area as well as plenty of play space and equipment.

Check out our website <https://www.eastcokerchapel.com/> for more information and find us on Facebook for information about upcoming meetings and events.

You can also contact us by email on [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk) even if you are just curious about Christianity and perhaps want to meet with someone to learn more.

Tom Whitman

[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

### **ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH**

We will be doing our very popular Cream Teas on Thursday 19 June this year. We will deliver your individual boxed yummiie treat containing two scones, jam, clotted cream, strawberries, teabag, knife and serviette to your home that morning for £7.50.

Treat yourself or have a tea party with some friends without the hard work!! All profits will go to help save the lives of sick babies and children.

If you would like to take part, please contact me at [janedonnelly81@outlook.com](mailto:janedonnelly81@outlook.com) to place an order by Friday 6 June 2025.

Jane Donnelly

### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

The Mobile Library visits East Coker outside the Helyar Arms on Tuesdays every 4 weeks. The time of visit has changed to 1.50pm – 2.10pm. There is a wide selection of books – fiction, non-fiction, large print, DVDs and audio books for adults and children. The stock is regularly refreshed, and you can order books there or online.

To use this valuable service, you must be a member of Somerset Libraries, so remember to bring your membership card. You can join by filling in a membership form with proof of your name and current address, for example, utility bill or a driving licence. The next visits are:

**1 April**

**29 April**

**27 May**

**24 June**

### **AFTERNOON TEA AT EAST COKER HALL**

**In aid of Yeovil Hospital's Breast Cancer Unit and the Village Hall Roof.**

Please come and join us for a fundraising Afternoon Tea on **Saturday 12 April**, at East Coker Hall, 2.30-4.30pm.

Enjoy sandwiches, scones and a selection of cakes with tea or coffee. £15 per person or add a glass of Prosecco for an extra £5.

Tickets available from 1 March.

Please contact Mary Foster 07816 475339.

# LACEYS

- Friendly, professional, local staff
- Regulated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Family-run business

But don't just take our word for it...



"Excellent service, very friendly and professional, many thanks"  
Mr H

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Mr D

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 If you have instructed another agent on a Sole Agency or Sole Selling Rights basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions.



## GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Our Farm Shop is as usual full of delicious food as well as our well stocked meat fridges with our homemade burgers, sausages, steaks and joints from our home-produced animals. Our butchers are always happy to provide the cuts you would like.

We have an array of good home-made delights, made on the premises including our very popular meringue roulades, lemon or lime crunch, varying flavours and sizes of quiches and unusual, tasty traybakes to name but a few.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm, 01935 863735 [www.thegoosefarm.com](http://www.thegoosefarm.com).

Liz & Phil

## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

### Annual Village Meeting 22 May 2025

We welcome all parishioners to our Annual Village Meeting, to be held on **Thursday 22 May 5.50pm – 8.00pm** at the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane. This will be an informal drop-in event for you to come and ask us about our work around the parish and particularly to see what's happening with the Pavilion Modernisation project. Drinks and nibbles will be available. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Potholes

Many of you may have noticed how bad the roads have become around East Coker with potholes appearing in many places. If you notice a pothole that looks dangerous and needs fixing the best way to report this is on <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> Don't worry about whether others have reported it already as the more people who register it, hopefully the quicker the response.

At the time of writing, we are expecting the main road through East and North Coker to be levelled and resurfaced. The levelling will be from 24 March for a week and the resurfacing should begin the week starting 14 April. During both these periods it is important that the roads are kept clear of parked vehicles so please let others know.

### Dogs at the recreation ground

Please can all dogs be kept on a lead during all Football matches and practice. Games have had to be halted due to a loose dog on the pitch in the past.

### **Bin at the recreation ground**

We will soon have a new, larger, multi-purpose bin placed by the playing fields at Long Furlong Lane. It should only be used for your litter and dog poo that you can't take home with you for some reason. The council do charge us for each bin they empty, so by replacing the previous bins with this one, we will not just save a little money, but it should look better too!

### **Bin at the Cemetery**

We have sadly had to remove the wheelie bin at the East Coker cemetery due to Somerset Council no longer emptying it. We are sorry about the loss of this facility, but do ask that if visiting the cemetery, please take all your waste including dead flowers, flower wrappers, containers etc home with you.

Cllr Carter-Uren

# **ART CLASSES**

**WITH ARTIST & LECTURER  
ELEANOR FARR MA**

***Learn to draw & paint***

***Beginners and intermediates welcome.***

***We'll work through all the fundamentals of drawing and painting together. You'll learn techniques to inspire you and create beautiful artworks, whilst experimenting with new materials.***

***All in fun and friendship***

**APRIL TERMS 2025 BEGIN:**

**SATURDAY CLASS 19TH - 10:00 - 12:00**

**TUESDAY CLASS 29TH - 13:05 - 15:05**

**WEDNESDAY CLASS 30TH - 13:30 -15:30**

**£190 FOR A 10 WEEK COURSE**

**EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL**

Book early to avoid disappointment. Places limited.

To book your place please contact Ellie Farr 07745216811 or at [enquiries@eleanorfarr.gallery](mailto:enquiries@eleanorfarr.gallery)



# St Michael's Church

## June Fair

10am -  
midday

# 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025

GET GROWING  
for the **BIG**  
**PLANT SALE.**

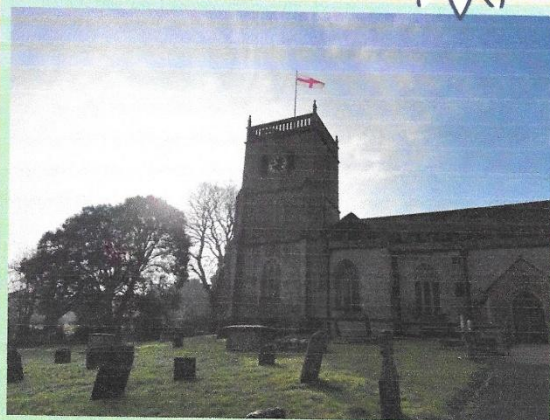
Donations  
welcome in June

Get involved with our  
Under-16 art competitions  
Prizes for the best pieces  
of art showing East Coker

All money raised going to



## St Margaret's Hospice Care



Keep up to date by following  
our Facebook:  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
East.Coker.Church/](https://www.facebook.com/East.Coker.Church/)





## QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY April 2025 – July 2025

Wed 2 April	St Michael's Annual Parishioners' Meeting	7.00pm	St Michael's Church
4 April – 7 April	Wine Circle - Tipples Weekend		Palace Hotel, Paignton
Thurs 10 April	Remarkable Trees of Stourhead - Emily Utgren	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 12 April	Afternoon Tea – in aid of Breast Cancer Unit & Village Hall	2.30pm - 4.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 17 April	Maundy Thursday Service	7.00pm	St Michael's Church
Sun 20 April	Easter Day Service	11.00am	St Michael's Church
Tues 29 April	Poetry Group – Sonnets Evening	7.30pm	The Village Cafe
Tues 29 April	Mobile Library	1.50pm - 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 8 May	Shopping Evening at Brimsmore Garden Centre		
Fri 9 May	Royal British Legion – Special Cheese & Wine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 17 May	Gardening Club - Plant Sale	10.00am - 12.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 22 May	Annual Village Meeting	5.50pm – 8.00pm	The Pavilion – Long Furlong Lane
Tues 27 May	Mobile Library	1.50pm - 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Tues 27 May	Poetry Group – Baez, Dylan, Mitchell	7.30pm	The Village Cafe
Thurs 12 June	Gardening Club – Success with Houseplants	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 14 June	Annual Charity Fair & Open Morning – in aid of St Margaret's Hospice	10.00am – 12.00pm	St Michael's Church
Thurs 19 June	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		
Tues 24 June	Mobile Library	1.50pm - 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Fri 27 June	East Coker School PTTA – Summer Fair	6.00pm – 8.00pm	East Coker Primary School

### Art Classes April Term

Saturday 19 April – 10:00 – 12:00

Tuesday 29 April – 13:05 – 15:05

Wednesday 30 April – 13:30 – 15:30

**Please note**      **Copy for the July 2025 Newsletter by 21 June or before if possible.**