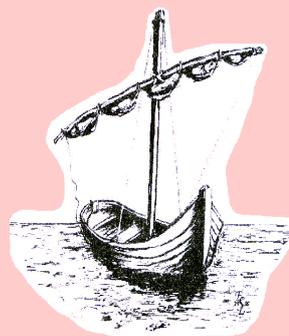


The Parish Magazine



Ashton-under-Hill
Beckford
Overbury
Alstone &
Teddington

June 2020

50p



Minister's Message

It seems a long time since I last wrote an article for the various village magazines around Bredon Hill, as our publications have been temporarily suspended due to the Lockdown. However, many of you will know that during this time I have been producing a weekly Bulletin, to support worship and personal prayer whilst our church buildings have been closed. If you have not seen it and would like to receive an electronic copy then please email me at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com.



In writing this article, I was asked to try and avoid talking about the Coronavirus, and so will therefore mention what is happening in the churches calendar at this time of year. The end of May sees us focusing on the festival of Pentecost, a commercially less well-known festival than Christmas and Easter, but nevertheless important! It is at this time that we remember that after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended in heaven, He did not leave the disciples on their own, left to their own devices. Instead, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within them and to equip them with those gifts which the church now calls Gifts of the Spirit – *Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Piety and Reverence*.

Through these gifts the disciples were transformed from being quiet, fearful, anxious and nervous people to ones who, because of their awareness of the presence of God within them, together with their belief in an eternal life with God, were willing to accept hardships, marginalisation and persecution to the point of death. They were empowered to be His witnesses, making new disciples wherever they went.

That same Holy Spirit still equips us today, enabling us to cope and give us courage, when we, like the disciples, are daunted by the prospect of doing something we feel is beyond us, or when something happens which shakes us to the core of our being and we don't know which way to turn. At such times, all we need to do is to let go and let the Spirit in, so that the Spirit can work within us.

Pentecost quickly moves into the long season of Trinity, when we remember that God exists as a 3-way relationship – as God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; And for those of us who were baptised and confirmed, we may remember questions being asked of us, or on our behalf: “*Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of being and life, the one for whom we exist?*”; “*Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?*”; “*Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?*” These questions illustrate how the relationship of the Trinity can be expressed as a divine dance as they interact with one another, expressing love for each other, and complementing the work each has to do.

We are called to live in this same loving relationship. Therefore this June, whatever it brings for us, and in whatever challenges we face, may we as people made in God's image, live in this community of the love of a Trinitarian God, and live out this community of love in our homes, our villages and across our wider world.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well.

Allison

Please see page 21 for extracts from a letter from Reverend Allison sent on 28th May giving the most recent update on what has been going on around the Hill and in the Diocese since lockdown began and what steps are being taken as we move towards churches being able to open their doors again.

If you would like to ‘join in worship’ while in your own home then you can access Revd. Allison Davies’ video log:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_C1Jt9VIU32Ddl5Zy1q0Fg

Can I begin by apologising that we could not publish an edition of the magazine for May.

However, I have put together, for the first time in its history, an online-only issue for June. I appreciate that not all our readers will be able to access this but can you please make as many people as possible aware that this issue can be viewed online and, where possible, share with anyone who does not have access.

I have tried to avoid filling the magazine with 'Cancelled/postponed' notices as this applies to pretty well everything that would normally be happening at this time in our villages. I hope you will instead enjoy reading a variety of articles that have been submitted. Thank you to everyone who has sent articles for this issue.

At the moment, I do not know whether we will be able to print and deliver copies in July - fingers crossed that there will be a return to some sort of normality by then. Whether we have another online version or the usual printed issue, if you would like to send me any offerings for the next, or subsequent issues, that would be much appreciated. My e-mail address is: christine.godfrey@tiscali.co.uk.

**Keep safe and keep positive,
Chris Godfrey (Editor)**

Christian Aid (Cheltenham) Appeal “Virtual” Christian Aid Week 2020



You can support our Virtual Christian Aid Week appeal by making your donation in any of the following ways:

Internet Banking (BACS)

Our account details are:

Christian Aid (Cheltenham) Committee
Sort code: **20-20-15**
a/c no.: **30239623**

If eligible, email your payment reference and *gift-aid details* to hbartlett20@hotmail.com

Cheque

Please send cheques and, if eligible, your *gift-aid details* to;

Mr Howard Bartlett
Treasurer, Christian Aid (Cheltenham)
20 Withyolt Park
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham, GL53 9BP

Text Giving

To give £5, text **BIBLE** to 70460

To give another amount (£1-£20 in whole pounds), for example to give £18, text **BIBLE 18** to 70460

This will cost your donation plus one standard rate message.

You may add *Gift Aid* by following the instructions in the receipt message. Your donation is to Christ Church Cheltenham, who are running the text appeal for us, and will pass on the full amount raised to Christian Aid.

Just Giving Page

To give online, using a credit or debit card, including **Gift Aid** if eligible, just follow the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ChristianAidCheltenham>

Your donation will be received directly by Christian Aid.

Gift-Aid it!

To be eligible for us to add 25% to the value of your donations you must pay at least as much Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax as the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year. Otherwise it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

For us to make the claim we need the following *gift-aid details*:

Name, House name or number, Post code, Amount paid, Date of payment.

EASTER 2020

As there was no edition of the magazine in May, there wasn't an opportunity to report about Easter this year.

Obviously, all services and other celebrations were cancelled but below is a poem by Peter Hayes with his thoughts on Good Friday when the usual service on Bredon Hill could not be held.

We can now also share some of the lovely photos of the winners of the Easter Garden Competition.

Good Friday 2020 Bredon Hill during the Covid-19 Pandemic – a poem by Peter Hayes

The Hill was quiet today
no line of pilgrims toiling up the slopes,
no shoulders aching from the wooden cross,
no minibus from Overbury
no slightly crackly sound
no clergy, rather warm in their attire,
no Archdeacon,
no gracious words, handshake or smile
not even one cross.



Bredon Hill, Good Friday 2019

No hymn sheets caught in the breeze before
being handed to unsuspecting walkers,
indistinguishable
from the faithful other than by a note of slight alarm,
no excited dogs,
no noisy children, no phones taking snaps to later share on Facebook,
no bottled water slaking the thirst
no annual reunion with friends "we always see"
no, not even one cross.

No collection,
no embarrassed fumbling in the trouser pocket,
no bucket filled with goodwill
no address,
no words,
only the sound of the wind, the skylarks, the lambs;
no distant sight of busy motorway filled with other pilgrims on their trek to Michaelwood,
Gordano, Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane, no-only those with an "essential journey".

No groups of hikers kitted out with OS Maps, step counters and cagoule,
only the lone runner,
the allowed walk,
the anxious distance,
and not even one cross.

No lifting spirits as the service ends
no glancing to the sky hoping the rain keeps off,
no pointing out "our house", "our village", "our town",
no puzzled enquiry as to "where is that farm?"
no holding open of gates to allow others to pass,
no jovial remarks "it's good exercise" "nearly there!"
only the mew of the Buzzard, the circling Kite
and not even one cross.



No steep descent,
no slipping in the mud,
no careful scanning for a good sure way,
no overtaking those with slower steps
no sudden darkness in the windblown trees
no eagerly anticipated hot cross buns and Earl Grey tea at Rivendell
No moment of relief as boots are eased off aching feet
and not even one cross.



Lottie, aged 4, who attends Overbury Grasshoppers with her winning entry which made Revd Allison smile.

Rosie aged 19 months who also attends Overbury Nursery will receive a runner up prize for her beautiful Easter Garden



The winner of the adults Easter garden competition is Rosemary Hooper of Eckington



Mike Sanger-Davis

Wendy & the family would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards & letters of condolences at the time of Michael's unexpected death earlier this year. The overwhelming support we had gave us all great comfort & helped us to get through such a difficult time. Thank you so much, Wendy & family.

Barbara Elizabeth Howell, 1950 – 2020

As many of you are already aware, sadly Barbara passed away on 10th April after contracting the COVID-19 virus.

The support I have received has been overwhelming, especially the number of people who lined the streets of Bengrove and Teddington to say their final farewell as the hearse passed slowly by. It was humbling and very emotional to be part of the procession, especially knowing how Barbara had been appreciated so much by so many people.

At the crematorium Revd Catherine Lack led a short meaningful open air service.

It is my intention to hold a memorial service in Teddington church (which was close to Barbara's heart) in appreciation of her life. It will take place when conditions allow.



Once again thank you all, Ken

Appointing a new priest to the Bredon Hill Group of Churches

After unsuccessful attempts last year to appoint a Rector of Bredon the most recent advertisement received a promising application. However, below is an extract from a recent letter from The Archdeacon of Worcester, the Venerable Robert Jones, to the Bredon Hill Group of Churches:

"One of the consequences of the lockdown has been to put on hold the appointment of a second priest to the Bredon group to work alongside the Revd Allison Davies. The diocese remains committed to this post and I intend to proceed with this appointment as soon as possible. [The current financial problem] has in turn disrupted the acquisition of a house for the new Bishop of Dudley, who is still living in Oxford. With the kind agreement of the churchwardens of Bredon and the Revd. Allison Davies, we have decided to house Bishop Martin and his family in the Bredon Rectory for hopefully not more than twelve months. We have another parsonage within the Group ministry, namely Elmley Castle, albeit on a short-term let, which would be available for the appointment of the second priest.

This is far from ideal, but a practical way forward in difficult times. We remain committed to a second post to exercise a ministry around the Hill in the same way that Allison does presently, and recent much-loved clergy did most effectively. That will, of course, be best configured and discerned locally. At a later date, I would dearly love to attract a third priest as a house-for-duty post, depending on how we weather the financial storm."

It is understood that Bishop Martin and family are hoping, COVID-19 permitting, to move into the rectory at Bredon in early June.

No Church for ages Why not.....Try meditating?



**The World
Community for
Christian
Meditation**

For all those who go to church, the sudden and complete shutdown of churches must have come as a great shock, and the clergy, like everyone else, are working on imaginative ways to offer support within these constraints.

So, what can we do at home on our own to feel we are still part of a worshipping community? One possibility, perhaps surprising and initially unfamiliar, is to try Christian Meditation. Far from being a strange, 'foreign' custom, a simple form of meditation has been part of the Christian tradition right back to the early centuries, and even to Jesus himself. It had just got rather lost but for the last 50 years or so the tradition has been revived, and there is now a World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) – ecumenical, and with a strong presence in the UK.

The short version of 'How to meditate' is described below:

Sit down. Sit still with your back straight. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

Then interiorly, silently begin to recite a single word – a prayer word or mantra.

We recommend the ancient Christian prayer-word "Maranatha". Say it as four equal syllables.

Breathe normally and give your full attention to the word as you say it, silently, gently, faithfully and, above all, simply.

The essence of meditation is simplicity. Stay with the same word during the whole meditation and in each meditation day to day. Don't visualise but listen to the word, as you say it.

Let go of all thoughts (even good thoughts), images and other words. Don't fight your distractions: let them go by saying your word faithfully, gently and attentively and returning to it as soon as you realise you have stopped saying or it or when your attention wanders.

Try to meditate every day, for between 20 and 30 minutes. It may take time to develop this discipline and the support of a tradition and community is always helpful.

To find out more, go to www.wccm.org and www.christianmeditation.org.uk. These websites offer a great deal of help, resources and information. There is the opportunity to join an online group, as well as an app with readings, teachings and a timer.

Everyone agrees that meditating is 'simple, but not easy'. However, with practice and perseverance it will bring rewards, and perhaps a new dimension to your spiritual life. It's for everyone – young (including children!), old, new Christians and old hands, and those whose links to church are at best tenuous. And, for all of us stuck at home, you become part of a very real, though invisible, worldwide Christian community.

Beckford Meditation Group

The group normally meets in the committee room of Beckford Village Hall on Thursdays at 6pm. Currently the group is meditating together using Zoom.

**If you would like to learn more about meditation or join the group, please contact:
Christine Jay (01386 881990) or Vicky Ward (01386) 881472.**

Part-time job opportunity

Have you time on your hands?

Is life a little bit quieter than you'd like?

Is daytime telly dire?

How about a part-time job in a community setting?

We are looking for a new **Parish Secretary for Bredon and the Beckford Group of parishes**. The work is varied but is essentially one of organisation and support.

Organisational skills are required, along with a fluency in Microsoft Office – particularly Publisher.

Training will be given in safeguarding and data protection and a DBS check will be required for the successful applicant.

Duties include producing service sheets and Pew News leaflets; organising weddings and banns; safeguarding checks, administration support for the churchwardens and new rector, once appointed.

The hours are 9-12 two mornings a week, based in Bredon and Beckford.

If you are interested in this role and would like further information, please email parishsecretarybbq@outlook.com

There is NO requirement to be a churchgoer in this role, but you will encounter many people who are!



TEWKESBURY FOODBANK NEWS

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a nationwide impact on Foodbanks, with increased demand across the country. Tewkesbury Foodbank's figures for the first three weeks of lockdown show an increase of 378% (from 56 to 268) in the numbers of people being fed and an increase in voucher numbers from 28 to 95 (a 239% increase). The foodbank has

changed its working practices in line with social distancing and accepts electronic referrals for help. The Foodbank gratefully acknowledges help from Tesco, Morrison's, B & M Stores and the Co-op, who over the past few weeks have provided food, and to British Gas volunteer drivers who have transported Tesco food for the Foodbank. Toddington railway donated a large amount of food from its café, providing much appreciated treats.

The following items are urgently needed:

Milk (UHT) : Fruit juice (long life cartons) : Tinned fruit

Tinned ham and corned beef : Nappies sizes 5 and 6 :

Fruit squash : Pasta sauces tomato based

Tinned vegetables : Dog food

Small boxes of washing powder : Washing up liquid



If anyone is interested in supporting the Foodbank financially, they have set up a JustGiving page where you can make a one-off payment or set up a monthly gift:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1019298>

Food donations can be left in the porches of Alstone and Teddington churches and the Foodbank will collect them on a weekly basis until normal delivery by our team of volunteers can resume.

Many thanks, Mary James, Teddington

Church Ladies With Typewriters

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:



The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water. 'The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.



Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I Will Not Pass This Way Again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members, and to the deterioration of some older ones.



Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

And this one just about sums them all up!:

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

NEWS FROM ST. BARBARA'S CHURCH and ASHTON UNDER HILL

It has been as strange for us and our village as for everyone else during "Lockdown". We have to look back to March for any significant action at the Church. One of our last acts was to make up the Mothering Sunday posies and leave them in the porch for anyone to take if they wished. They all went, and feedback suggests this gesture was appreciated as the service had been cancelled. Bruce created the special Easter garden in the porch: it was rather poignant to view it through the closed gates this year.

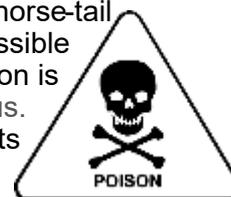


Jean has been monitoring the Church and emptying the de-humidifiers, for which many thanks. She reports that the building is fine. We have to remain closed until further notice but trust it will not be too long. Meanwhile we do appreciate the services put on line by Rev Allison as a way to keep in touch. Open Gardens in June was the final casualty – the decision was left until as late as possible- so it will have to be bigger and better in 2021. **Please note 12th and 13th June 2021 in your diaries.**

Grass cutting has ceased for the present, and we have noted the increase in horse-tail grass around the perimeter. Advice suggests that some limited spraying is possible but the outbreak can be contained when regular mowing resumes. The situation is being monitored. Beware! The grass looks quite pretty but the sap is poisonous.

VE Day was celebrated with enthusiasm by Ashton villagers - some great shots on Facebook to prove it. Hamish Sanger Davies sounded the last post at 11am and Nick Hopkins rang the bells at 3pm. A lot of bunting and flags appeared and many of us just enjoyed tea and scones in our front gardens, along with something bubbly. A good excuse to cheer ourselves up and continue the community spirit from the Thursday 'Clap the NHS'. The fine weather has made isolation in our gardens easier to bear, but we must not forget the worries that others have had, which will sadly continue for a while.

Local heroes at "The Star Inn" have risen to the challenge with its shop, takeaway meals, and veg and meat boxes to order. This has been a lifeline for many to save visits out to shop and supermarket and really appreciated.



Just a word from the other side...

I am a Nurse Practitioner working at Gloucester and Cheltenham NHS Hospitals Trust, living in lovely Beckford.

I thought I'd write an up date for locals on what's going on at the Trust during these unprecedented times. I am sure you are all keeping abreast of daily statistics; we come under the south west, which has a noticeably lower number of deaths from covid-19 than other areas of the UK.

The whole Trust is pulling together at this time. It certainly feels a safe and calm place to work. Yes, we have enough PPE and as I write we have discharged over 440 patients who have recovered from covid-19. All hospitals have adjusted working patterns to accommodate the patients presenting and to ensure that there are enough doctors and nurses to look after these very poorly patients. We do appear to be over the 'peak' but we are currently planning ahead so that we are in control of any further outbreaks as the lockdown restrictions are eased.

We are still only performing urgent surgery. Out-patients clinics for routine and non urgent patients have been postponed as staff are redeployed **but urgent treatment IS continuing.**

Clinical records have been reviewed by doctors and some patients have had telephone or video consultations. Patients who are required to attend for treatments should be reassured that their safety is paramount, they will find less patients in any department, socially distanced. There are changes in working practices (temperature taking, for example) and any appointments will be quicker and more streamlined. We will, of course, **ALWAYS SEE URGENT EMERGENCIES.**

The staff are so grateful for all the kind gestures we have received from local companies and members of the public- from providing PPE, to dedicated shopping times, meals for staff, boost bags (containing energy snacks) and, of course, the weekly clap for carers. **Thank you.**

We are blessed that we live in a wonderful area with beautiful walks easily accessible.

Following the advice we are being given will be paramount in seeing the end of this unusual situation we find ourselves in but please rest assured, your local NHS will take good care of each and every one of us.

Julia Maxwell

Beckford Church in lockdown.....

In common with all other churches across the land, St John the Baptist has had to remain closed now for many weeks. However, in spite of a locked door, activity around the building hasn't entirely ceased. Despite edicts to the contrary, maintenance of the churchyard has continued, by the splendid efforts of husband-and-wife team Andy and Kirstie and it can truly be said the grounds have never looked better. So many delightful comments have been received and we're very grateful for their wonderful service.

Additionally, the main path has been renovated following damage inflicted by the heavy machinery necessary for the removal of the huge beech tree a few months ago. Many broken slabs have been replaced and repointing carried out and – when circumstances permit - it will now provide a secure pathway for future bridal parties and all those who visit our lovely old church. It should be said that the repairs were carried out at the expense of the contractors who felled the tree.



During the silent months we've been very lucky, every Sunday, to be reminded of the presence of the church in our village by hearing the bells ringing out. During his permitted weekly inspection of the closed interior of the main church, Jonathan Grice has kindly played hymn tunes on the chiming apparatus at 10 o'clock – a time when normally a service would be in progress. Then at 6 o'clock in the evening, Andy and Marion Slade have taken advantage of their weekly inspection of the tower – their area of responsibility – to ring bells from the ringing chamber. We're grateful to all three for these kindly acts of witness.

Jonathan also rang to mark the recent commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May and this added to the celebratory atmosphere which prevailed in the village. Older residents were pleasantly surprised during the morning to receive a slice of delicious cake provided by some of the team which had been swiftly organised to aid anyone requiring assistance during lockdown.



Many houses were sporting Union Flags or bunting and families gathered in their front gardens to have tea, chatting and interacting across fences and walls, providing a street-party atmosphere while observing distancing rules. Celebrations went on until late in the evening and, under the watchful eyes of parents, children were able to play ball across the traffic-free Main Street. The happy day evoked memories of the original VE Day in 1945 among those of us old enough to remember it....



Across the country the first tentative steps are now being taken towards the relaxation of the coronavirus restrictions which we've been subject to and we shall soon be looking at ways in which our churches can be restored to their rightful place in our lives.



However it's too soon to announce any firm plans at the moment. When that day approaches we shall hope to arrange a working party to carry out the extensive cleaning of the church which will be essential before it can be safely brought back into use after the months of closure and we shall be appealing for volunteers: **so please rally to the cause!**

VE Day Remembered

Inevitably, local VE Day anniversary celebrations were greatly cut back due to Covid-19 although many houses and gardens were festooned with Union Jack flags. The Royal British Legion had made it very clear that there were to be no public parades. Indeed, Branch Standard Bearers were advised to raise and dip their standards in their own gardens, whilst being filmed by a family member! However, following helpful correspondence with Head Office, it was acknowledged that, so long as strict social distancing rules were applied and the event was only publicised to



Branch members, some kind of very low-key recognition of the occasion was, if not formally permitted, then impossible to prevent!

Accordingly, Derril Green, Standard Bearer of the Beckford & Ashton under Hill Branch of the Royal British Legion, stood beside the Lychgate at St Faith's Overbury. The Branch Chairman, Captain Anthony Hallett, Royal Navy declaimed the Exhortation, the Last Post was played on a mobile phone, the church bell struck eleven and the standard was dipped. After a two-minute silence the Reveille rang out from the mobile phone and the Chairman reminded those present that "for our tomorrow, we gave our today". This simple but moving ceremony was attended by some twenty people including two of the Branch's most senior members, Charlie Brazier and John Lodge – both in their tenth decade.

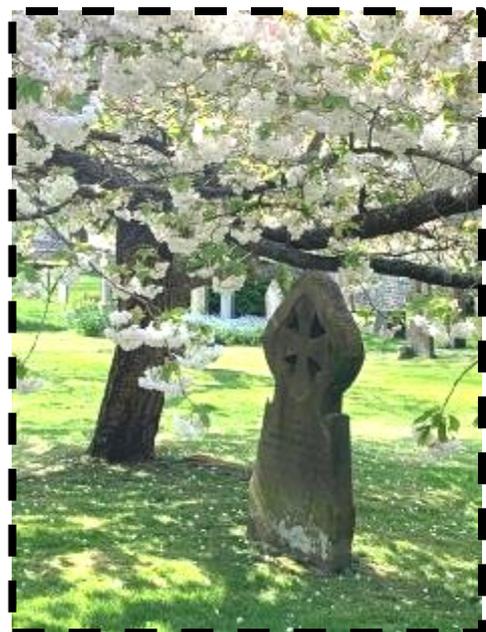
Derril Green & Charlie Brazier
Photo: Pat Chambers

It is very much hoped that by the time VJ Day takes place on 15th August we will be allowed to commemorate the end of World War II with much more fanfare.

In the meantime, Penelope Bossom is researching the lives of the four men whose names are recorded on the Overbury Lychgate. Any information or photographs of Petty Officer Albert William Ashwin, Royal Navy; Flight Sergeant Leonard Martin Barnett, Royal Air Force and Squadron Navigator James Douglas Pugh, Royal Air Force would be very gratefully received. Please email her on history@overbury.org or call 01386 725111.



Beckford Bluebells



Cherry blossom in Overbury churchyard



Beckford Community Village Hall Ltd

The hall remains closed due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and we would like to thank people for their understanding during this difficult period, which is by no means over yet.

However, Kemerton Early Years (KEY) have, as was previously planned, moved into the premises of the Old Social Club, and will start receiving their children there after half-term. KEY have been looking after children of key workers, including school-age children (they are normally just pre-school), and educating those children. We are very glad to be able to offer them our support and help through the use of our premises.

Following the slight easing of restrictions, the Tennis Club has been able to resume limited playing - see below.

The Ashton88 football club, who are now renting pitches from us, started playing with their junior team before the outbreak, but of course have had to stop.

The good news is that our enterprising fund-raising team secured £5,000 from the Wychavon Community Grant 2020. We're waiting to hear from the Parish Council about a grant under the New Homes Bonus, and another grant application is in the pipeline. So we are now within a squeak of our current grant target of £25,000 with £22,000 secured.

Graham Galer, Secretary BCVH Ltd

BECKFORD W.I.

Despite the effect of lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic, which has resulted in the suspension of the monthly meetings, Beckford WI members have continued to be busy. We have learned how to connect online through video conferencing software and as a result the committee members have organised a "buddy" network to support the members in their different localities. Every week there is a virtual afternoon tea session and later in the week, a virtual morning coffee meeting. This is especially valuable for members who are self-isolating and who live alone. The book group also had a virtual meeting and discussed "A Portrait of Elmbury" by John Moore which proved fascinating as they tried to identify some of the local villages that he mentions in the book albeit in a lightly disguised way. Other members have been putting their craft skills to use, knitting Twiddlemuffs which are used to help dementia patients and sewing Linus quilts for bereaved or terminally ill children. To help the NHS workers and other carers, some members have been sewing laundry bags and making scrubs and masks.



While we are sad not to be meeting up physically, we are endeavouring to maintain a sense of community by offering to help out with shopping and collecting prescriptions as well as making telephone contact and having a chat with those who have not got the online access that most people are accustomed to enjoying. We have even managed to complete our spring bulb order for next year which is due at this time of year. Sharing photos of our gardens, trying to answer the weekly quiz questions, sharing ideas for passing the time, Beckford WI members are sure they will win through. We look forward to a time when we can resume our monthly meetings.

Clare Henderson, Meeting Secretary



18th May 2020

We're happy to announce

The Club is open for play subject to LTA Guidelines
(singles with one other member)
(doubles amongst 4 people from 1 household)

New members are welcome

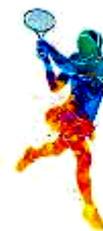
Temporary memberships available for adults and juniors
Just £30 or £12 for 3 months!

Full details at:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BeckfordTennisClub>

Individual coaching sessions are available to members

Contact Simon Filiatrault at sfiliatrault123@icloud.com



NEWS FROM OVERBURY

St Faith's AGM

The AGM of St Faith's Church, Overbury was held on 10th February 2020 at Whitcombe. If you would like to see the full minutes do please get in touch and I will send a copy. Sadly, Faith Hallett announced that she would be standing down as church warden.

Chris Clark

St Faith's are aiming for a huge celebration at Harvest Festival on Sunday 11th October, for churchgoers and non churchgoers alike, so please put the date in your diary.



Tewkesbury Food Bank

Please do consider giving a donation, no matter how small to support their work. St Faith's Church agreed to send a sum to support the Foodbank and intends to continue to help keep this vital service going in the future. In times of crisis we all need to come together to protect each other against the unexpected. Huge numbers of people will be impacted by this crisis and swept into dire poverty.

See page 7 for more information on the Food Bank.

News From Teddington and Alstone - The Chapelries

From the Registers:

March 17th, Alstone - Memorial service for Derek Woldroffe Pearce, 'Derry', who was born on 9th March 1928 and sadly died on 15th February 2020.

Teddington and Alstone churches are still closed for services but we hope and pray that they will soon be open again. However, a good piece of news is the two church porches are still open for donations to the Tewkesbury Foodbank which is particularly appreciative of them at this time. See page 7 for more information.

Revd Allison Davies and her team are sending weekly bulletins for our Sunday services and you can also join in the services held in Eckington church online - see page 2 for details.

A big thank you too to all those who very generously have offered to help with shopping, transport etc. for us older ones!

The Wine and Cheese Evening scheduled for May 30th was cancelled but we hope to hold it later in the year and will of course let you know of any update on this.

Christian Aid Week

Unfortunately, our usual annual collection during May for the Christian Aid charity could not take place but it is still not too late to make a donation. See page 3 for ways you can donate to this vital charity.

The Great Plague of 1665, as recorded by the diarist Pepys and, much later, in Daniel Defoe's Journal of the Plague Year, has been much discussed and referred during the covid troubles.



But an even earlier visitation of the pestilence had two very minor connections with the local community. The plague of 1625, the subject of Thomas Dekker's pamphlet 'A Rod for Runaways', forced much of Charles I's court to leave London for Reading. The final death toll reached 35,417 in London and 68,596 nationwide,

and numerous "trailer epidemics" in 1626 drove the numbers still higher.

So when John Wood, born in Alstone in 1585 and made vicar of the newly built city church of St James Duke's Place in 1622, was granted the third prebend in Gloucester Cathedral the King's letters patent authorising this were dated 9th November 1625 at Reading. Wood, already relatively well off through marriage into a very wealthy Merchant Taylor family, became richer by his prebend and in his 1639 will made a benefaction of £10 to be paid annually to "the minister at Alstone" (i.e. the curate) provided he preached a monthly sermon in St Margaret's.

This benefaction has continued and is now held in CCLA funds (Churches, Charities & Local Authority Investment Management) for the benefit of St Margaret's, though the monthly sermon is getting more difficult, curates being in short supply!

Another connection with the 1625 plague is found in the Beckford register. William Blackwell, vicar from 1593, was in the habit of jotting personal notes in the register and in 1625 he recorded sadly that his son John, an MA and minister in London, had died, fairly certainly of the plague. Blackwell may have regarded this as one of "God's fearful judgements", as he was puritanically inclined and in 1635 preached a sermon against the prophaning of the Lord's Day by sports, after which an Ashton youth who defied him by cudgel play, had an eye knocked out!

Memories of May 1945

This memory is of the time around VE day when I was probably somewhere between Bombay and Aden. None of the family have memories of VE day itself, as you will see.

Here is an extract from my mother's memoirs. She always referred to my father as Humph. I was five years old at the time and my sister, Alison, was ten. My father was in the Indian Police and obviously all home leave had been cancelled for the duration of the war.



Cape Town Castle

“However he was given home leave soon after 27th April (Alastair's 5th birthday). We left Peshawar and sailed from Bombay on the Cape Town Castle, South African Line, which had been requisitioned as a troop ship. It was touch and go because Alastair was recovering from chickenpox and Alison had to sleep in the garage to try to avoid catching it (isolation even then). No luck, so I combed her hair in such a way as to hide the spots, and we smuggled her

on board. We were blacked out most of the time. There were still some dangers and Alastair's only memories of the voyage are of mines being shot at and of falling over when the ship suddenly swerved to avoid a mine. He was offered his first taste of chocolate from a friendly trooper, but spat it out thinking he was being offered wood to eat. The troops slept on the deck and we had a very nice cabin for once. Humph gave the children little lessons and the troops played with them in what space there was.

But conditions weren't good. Keeping up with children's washing was impossible and in the end the dirty nappies just got thrown overboard! The food was terrible - roast beef and treacle suet pudding in the Red Sea. We had a delegation of mothers and interviewed the Chief Chef and got milk puds and custards and stewed fruit for them. The refrigerator must have been awful. We always had liquid butter, rancid coffee and weevils in the bread. We had a terrible three days in Aden waiting for the rest of the convoy. The smell from the sewage was awful.

We were glad to get home as Alison went sick and the Army doctor, always drunk, gave her an adult dosage of some drug (M&B 693) which very nearly finished her. Luckily a nurse warned us and we stopped the tablets. It was found afterwards that the man was an impostor and had no medical degrees at all. We arrived at Southampton in early June and the band was there to greet us, and the WVS had tea and buns but the dockers were on strike. Humph had to go down to the hold and fetch up the luggage”.

Alastair Humphrey

Rooks To Roses on Bredon Hill

She craned her head; what had spooked these cawing rooks as they swooped and mobbed up around the Church tower? She felt invasion in the air, the birds evoked a Hitchcock malevolence and timbers shivered....

Elsie is a grand lady, bold in spirit and similar age to the grand Centurion Colonel Sir Tom. Long ago she used to open the church at dawn and shut it at dusk every day. In the dark days of winter from Advent to Lent she would turn on the Church Tower flood light each evening. Here, she reflected, was the beacon that drew all who passed by and through the beckoning door into God's House.

But on what faithless whim had our current High Priests of Canterbury and York locked the church door?

Never in a 1000 years through dread, pestilence, plague, bombs and wars had that sacred door been slammed so shut. How could sanctity and comfort, prayer and contemplation be so denied? In despair, she lifted up her eyes and recalled

The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is closer to God in the garden
Than any place on earth

Thereafter love and comfort came easily over the horizon and at that moment, freed her from the lock outs and the lockdown, she would stroll in that other sacred place of worship among the spring hosts of daffodils that streamed across her garden.



Miraculously, He (who would not be kept out) decreed an early start to this persistent summer and summoned the drooling dripping wisteria to burst forth early and wave on the herald of hues in pink, blue pastels and whites that adorn the magnolia and cherry, apple blossom, smilicina, cistus, iris and every successive new morning bloom until her breath was taken near away!



If that was not glorious enough, her contentment further overflowed with the galaxy of the blue and long tailed tits, the greenfinch mobbed by its tropical dressy goldfinch cousins and her personal loyal robin - amidst the incessant anthem of black bird, song thrush opera and the pageant tones of the sensuous wren.



Elsie, now on her own favourite perch, sipped her sundowner amidst the scented burgeoning roses even as the azure blue sky crystallized. The earth stood still, contented and at peace.

Perhaps the rooks were simply mocking humankind as they flew in and out of the open belfry - defying locked doors and High Priests alike....something to "zoom" about indeed!

Anthony Hallett

Being a Prison Chaplain During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Margie Schutte was curate in our parish a few years ago. She made us aware of the work of the CATCH project in Mmzamohle which we now support. Below is an article written by Margie in the Diocese website.



She is now the Managing Chaplain at HMP Hewell in Redditch and tells how their work has changed over the past few months of the Covid-19 crisis.

"Chaplaincy is one of the few services which is still operating in the prison. Education and the library service are no longer happening, the gym is shut, probation is working from home and all family visits have been stopped. However, although all our worship services have been suspended, our team of five paid chaplains have continued to attend the prison daily, offering pastoral care to both the prisoners and staff.

"Because of the virus, prisoners are currently locked up for a significant proportion of the day. They do have phones in their cells and TV channels have been increased, but it is difficult for many. Chaplains are able to go into the house blocks and staff will unlock individual prisoners so we can talk to them face to face. We also see those prisoners in the segregation unit every day and all new prisoners within the first 24 hours. The courts are still open so prisoners continue to come in.

"We are dealing with a lot of death and bereavement in the community. Prisoners are currently not allowed to attend the funerals of even the closest family members and often we are the ones who will be asked to break bad news as well as supporting prisoners through their bereavement. No one else has that skill set. In the last few days we've had five funerals of prisoners' relatives. Sometimes there are webcams so they can be live streamed and the prisoners can access the chapel which remains an open space where they can light a candle and pray.

"We've also been given copies of a booklet on the Lord's Prayer. We've been handing them out as well as leaving them in places where they could be picked up. They seem to be disappearing so we're hopeful they are being read.

"The other side of our role is providing support for the prison staff. We'll often loiter in places where we know the staff will be or chat to them when we're out and about. They really value the fact that we're still coming into the prison and will stop for a short conversation or pop into our office. We're also checking up on those who are self-isolating or have tested positive, offering pastoral care via a telephone call.

"Please do pray for prison chaplains. It's a worrying time for all of us with concerns about our own safety and that we might pass the virus back to our families. Knowing that others are praying for us provides an almost tangible support and this makes all the difference."

St Faiths Church, Overbury 200 Club

It is with regret that Michael and I are not going to be able to run the June draw for this very popular fundraiser.

Because of the restrictions put in place to fight the terrible Coronavirus we will not be able to visit the houses in Overbury and Conderton to deliver the leaflets and then to collect the monies afterwards.

We have a lot of regular participants who pay by Standing Order through the bank at the start of May. For these people we will allocate an extra number for every ticket held in the draw to be done in early December.

Michael and I will contact the members who pay by cash or cheque during October when we will be able to give you more details.

Thankyou for all your loyal support with the 200 Club and if you have any questions please contact either Pat Chambers on 01386 750358 or Michael Randles on 01386 725564.

Below are some lovely photos which accompanied the latest update from Mmazmohle which appeared in a recent edition of the magazine.

A special outing to the Guild Theatre



Happy Harvesters



Our two beautiful stars, Nqobile and Gcobisa, dressed up and ready for their Grade 7 farewell.



CATCH staff members after two fun, interactive training courses by the Sophumelela Centre: Zazi (isiXhosa for “Know Yourself”) and YOLO (“You Only Live Once”). We have been equipped to train beneficiaries in positive and healthy life choices.

The Enchanted Islands of the Galapagos

To all biologists the Galapagos Islands are the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Charles Darwin visited these islands aboard the Beagle as the resident scientist in the 19th century and the observations he made there led him to propose the controversial Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection. In 2003 my daughter and I (both biologists) had the opportunity to take the journey of a lifetime and visit the Galapagos Islands.

We flew from Birmingham to Newark, New Jersey and then transferred to the flight from there via Bogota down to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. We arrived late at night and it was only in the morning when we saw the mountains towering above us that we realised how dangerous the landing at Quito airport had been. At 9,000 feet above sea level, Quito is slightly challenging to the unprepared. For example, you don't run up a flight of stairs or walk briskly up hill unless you want to find yourself gasping for breath!

We spent two days in Quito and then flew to the island of Baltra one of the smaller islands in the Galapagos archipelago. We were driven in a slightly battered bus to the harbour and there were immediately stunned by the sight of boobies and frigate birds (these have large red throat pouches) swooping above us and then had to step over the resident sealion sunning itself on the jetty. We went aboard our boat which was a 96 foot schooner called the Cachelote (sperm whale in Spanish). On board we had to take off our shoes and socks to make walking safer. Our cabins were mostly below deck and amazingly comfortable.



After lunch we sailed to the Plaza islets and went ashore having been given strict instructions about how we should behave. No touching the animals, walk on the footpaths which are no more than 2 metres wide, and use your eyes! Our naturalist guide shooed the sealions off the jetty. As we walked along, the full impact of the Galapagos Islands hit us.

Everywhere there were marine iguanas, Sally

Lightfoot crabs, land iguanas, little lava lizards scurrying over the rocks and/or the iguanas. There were yellow warblers and black or brown Darwin's finches and of course the frigate birds gliding about and the boobies diving into the water like gannets.

We then sailed round the island of Santa Cruz to Puerto Ayora, the main town of the region. It was the only time that the sea was even slightly rough but by staying up on deck we were soon used to the motion



of the boat. The next day we went ashore to

visit the Darwin Scientific Station. In the captive breeding area we saw the baby tortoises and Lonesome George, the last of the Pinta Island tortoises, one of the rarest animals in the world. (Sadly, he died in 2012 when he was approximately 100 years old.) In the afternoon we travelled up to the highlands to meet the tortoise finder who found us some wild tortoises. We were set the task of gathering passion fruit, which are the fruits of an invasive weed, for the chef on board the schooner to use to make fruit juice for us.



Once back on board we set sail for Espanola and arrived in the morning to see an amazing silver-white coral sand beach of Gardner Bay. We experienced our first wet landing, which involved stepping out of the inflatable panga boat into the sea and wading up the beach. The beach was a turtle nesting site and we could see the dips in the sand marking out their positions. Back on board we changed to go snorkelling. For someone who likes to feel the ground beneath their feet when feeling tired while swimming, to be dropped off in the ocean with no way to touch the bottom, is somewhat unnerving! Gritting my teeth on the snorkel and head down into the water, I am transported into a different world - 4 types of sea urchin, loads of brightly coloured fish and the ubiquitous sealions. The latter swam with us and played with the rope we used to get back on board.

Back ashore on Espanola the bird life is all around us. We walked past the nesting sites of the Nascar boobies and the famed blue footed boobies. The waved albatrosses put on a beak tapping display and the boobies demonstrated head dipping. They have no fear. It is overwhelming to be so close to wild creatures who show absolutely no concern at your presence. We saw their fluffy babies and a swallowtail gull hatching. There were mocking birds and finches everywhere. In fact, Darwin was more interested in the different varieties of mocking birds than the more well-known varieties of finches.



Most of our long-distance sailing between islands takes place at night. The next island was Floreana and here we visited the famous Post Office Bay where a wooden barrel contains postcards left by visitors which are taken by other visitors back to their own country, if there is one with a local address. The practice originated in the 18th century when whalers left letters for their families to be taken by fellow seafarers back to their home ports. We snorkelled again at a sunken caldera called the Devil's Crown and saw eagle rays and lots more fish. Back on board we had our first sighting of dolphins riding our bow wave, and in the distance, some Bryde's whales. For the first time the sails were used.

The Galapagos Islands are volcanic and although there were no eruptions while we were there, the volcanoes are only dormant. Many of the shore lines are black lava shelves. There are two main types of lava. The aa type which is very sharp and has a rough pointed surface is termed aa lava (so-called as you say "aa aa" as you walk on it!!) The other is pahoehoe which is ropery and easier to walk on. It has cooled more slowly and hence it is smoother. It is amazing to see cactus growing in the cracks of such an unpromising substrate. As we walked along, we saw flamingos and brown pelicans and in the large rock pools there are white tipped reef sharks and our first sighting of the flightless cormorants.

We sailed to a nearby beach to go swimming with the pelicans as they dive for food and the delightful little Galapagos penguins. The tameness of the birds is quite remarkable. We went onto the largest island of Isabela which was quite desolate as it has had a number of recent eruptions. Here was the chance to swim with green turtles and the snorkelling revealed sea cucumbers, cushion stars and myriads of sea urchins. We managed to land on Fernandina which is a so-called pristine island where there are no introduced species. Here the mangrove trees flourish and for the first time the temperature was such that we really felt we were on the Equator. We actually recorded the moment when we crossed the Equator as the GPS recorded 0° latitude.

Most of the time so far, we had seen birds and reptiles but the next island, Santiago gave us the opportunity to see the fur seals and sealions. Here we saw a mother and very newborn pup. We also saw black sea slugs everywhere. On our last morning we set off at dawn to Turtle Cove where we saw the sun rise and watched turtles swimming and a formation of golden rays and a leopard ray. There were sharks as well and a flock of boobies diving in formation to catch fish. We returned to the Cachelote and made our way back to Baltra and the plane.



Our return journey to England was not without incident. Just as we landed at Newark, New Jersey the electricity on the entire North East of the USA and Canada failed and we spent an extra 3 hours on the plane watching films and waiting to disembark. We were so lucky because if we had been 5 minutes later, we would have had to divert to another airport. We were the first flight allowed out the next morning and arrived home tired but happy after an amazing trip.

Clare Henderson

A Brief History of Beckford Parish

The name Beckford is derived from Becca's Ford or Beccanford. Some readers may have heard of the ford that used to run along the A46 near Bridge Cottage. Settlements have been found prior to AD70 but it is thought these may have been abandoned when the Romans arrived. In 1662, 26 houses in Beckford were assessed for tax and it is thought that 6 of these houses still remain in the village.

Beckford changed in the 1860s after a serious fire and developments by the local landlord Robert Timbrill (who built The Towers, now known as The Grange). Beckford train station also opened during this period, closing in 1963. The Beckford Inn was originally known as The New Inn back in 1774 and a further pub, The Red Lion, was thought to have existed in Main Street. The hamlet of Grafton is included within Beckford parish and the name Grafton is derived from wooded settlement. Very few changes have occurred in Grafton which was mostly established during the 16th century and during this time there was a chapel. Apparently in Grafton is a field by the name of Knight's Field where Edward IV knighted some of his men following the Battle of Tewkesbury.

The A46 is an old route and in the 1700s was made into a turnpike road where a toll was charged to pay for its maintenance.

Beckford Hall was built around 1128 and rebuilt during the 1700s. It is now converted into private dwellings but many will remember the monks who resided there a few years ago (some are buried in a small graveyard within the Hall's grounds).

From 1841, we have a better idea of how the village looked through censuses. In 1939, Beckford Hall was known as St Joseph's Novitiate and was home to almost 50 Roman Catholic ministers.

Mary McCarthy was the manageress of the Beckford Hotel. The Manor House employed a cook, 2 housemaids, a scullery maid and an in-between maid. Beckford had its own policeman. The Stores was in Main Street and there was a further shop in Little Beckford which doubled up as a garage.

Grafton had less than 60 residents, mostly farm workers, but also included a nurse at Manor Farm and a commercial photographer who lived in another residence.

On 4th July 1925 the Gloucestershire Journal reported the opening of the Beckford Lych Gate as part of the Beckford War Memorial. The dedication service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

The memorial is constructed of English Oak and Leckhampton stone and is roofed with Cotswold tiles. It is of Tudor design and of excellent proportions. It is also a great improvement to the village green and makes a pleasing entrance to God's acre. The war memorial scheme also included a brass tablet in the church and the village hall. The Journal continues in its description of Beckford church – there was a

Saxon church but there is no trace of it left. It is referred to in the Domesday book. The existing nave dates back to about 1150. There are 2 perpendicular windows and 2 Norman windows and 2 early English windows. A centaur said to be a badge of King Stephen who came to the throne in 1135 still remains on one of the columns. The chancel is early English. The low side window at the south side of the chancel was partly bricked up by order of Henry VIII and the grill between the chancel and the vestry is what the recluse or hermit was accustomed to use.



Memories and contributions are being asked for by Karen Portman and Lucy Griffiths who are hoping to collate more information on Beckford, Little Beckford and Grafton. Both Karen and Lucy share an interest in learning more about local life and are really keen to speak to locals of all ages about their memories of this area.

All ages are encouraged to visit their Facebook page '**Beckford Parish History**' to comment on existing posts and add further photos and information.

Karen has been working hard adding excerpts from other records that may be of interest and there are some lovely photos to take a look at. Lucy is keen to talk to people who wish to record their memories and is happy to take notes over the telephone until a visit can be arranged. In the future, opportunities to meet as a group to exchange memories will be arranged to share a trip down memory lane.

If there is enough interest, Lucy & Karen are keen to create an exhibition to display at Beckford Open Gardens 2021, with the idea of a time capsule being created and buried to mark the occasion. Contributions from children are most welcome as we will be running competitions from time to time. Watch this space for monthly up-dates...

Please visit Beckford Parish History on Facebook to find out more or call Lucy on 07506 190385 or email lcgriff12@gmail.com

The View from the Hill - Extract from a letter from Revd Allison sent on 28th May

A lot has been happening in the last two months, so I wanted to give you an update on events around Bredon Hill and in the wider Worcester Diocese.

The Challenges of Ministry during Lockdown

As well as online services, I am now leading a weekly Compline Service via Zoom with the congregation of St Mary's at Elmley Castle. This is a lovely opportunity for me to be with parishioners, even if it is only virtually. So if other congregations would like to do the same, again please let me know.

Opening Up Our Churches Again

It is hoped that there will be good news about our churches being able to open up again in the near future. The Church Times has mooted that churches could be open for private prayer from early June, which could be followed up by the opportunity for weddings and funerals to be held in church later on in June. There is also a possibility that we could recommence public worship at our churches at some point in July. However, while it would be wonderful news if we were able to follow this timetable for worship in our churches, it will be dependent to undertaking full risk assessments; and any decision would need to be made in light of the local context and national guidance from the government, the Church of England and the Diocese of Worcester. I have asked each PCC to produce their own plan of what is achievable and to also identify what may pose a greater challenge for them, in order to begin re-opening our churches for worship. The likely expectation is that not all of our churches will be able to re-open straight away and that some churches will take longer. However, we are looking forward to the time when we can all come back into our buildings for public worship, and if you have any suggestions as to how we may celebrate this occasion, then please let your churchwardens know.

The Challenges of Finance and Parish Share

Sadly, a less fortunate consequence of the current lockdown has been the detrimental effect it has had on the finances of the Diocese. As we learnt from the Big Conversation, funding was already looking stretched before lockdown, so the current situation has added to those pressures. The Diocese has been very clear that each church needs to look after its own expenses first before it pays its Parish Share. Of course, it is the Parish Share which pays for the Stipends. This further reduction in income means that, what was already a very unfortunate situation with the expected loss of 15 clergy posts, now looks to be further exacerbated with the loss of posts increasing to 30 members of the clergy.

Archdeacon Nikki will be chairing a newly established Restructuring Group to collate evidence and make recommendations for the future restructuring of the Diocese.

What does that mean for the Bredon Hill Group?

So what does that mean for the Bredon Hill Group? Well, unfortunately, the recruitment of an incumbent as Rector for Bredon & Beckford has had to be put on hold for the time being, although the Group has been promised a minimum of two incumbents. However, where the new incumbent will be initially based is still to be discussed, but it is possible that rather than their being a new rector solely for the benefices of Bredon and Beckford or Elmley Castle this might mean a second incumbent covering the whole group of churches, much as Rev. David Lewis, Rick Tett and now myself have been doing for the last 18 months or so. Where that member of clergy will be housed is also yet to be decided. However, the good news is that given Bishop Martin is moving into the rectory in Bredon, the house will not be sold. This potentially gives us more of a future opportunity should at some point in time an additional clergy position to the second Incumbent, such as a house-for-duty post, be possible. Any selection process will need to dovetail with the work of the Restructuring Group, and cannot commence at the earliest until the Lockdown has been lifted.

Public Worship in the Future

Conversations with your PCC on what public worship may look like in future have already started. As at least for the summer months there will only be one incumbent; changes to service patterns and timings are going to be necessary. However, I am confident that I will be ably supported in providing ministry by those retired members of the clergy who live around the Hill and who have kindly agreed to assist.

As a way of sharing core messages around the Hill a new Forum has been established. It will have no decision making powers as this will still be remain with your church PCC, but the Forum will provide an opportunity to share issues, concerns and news particularly at this time of Lockdown, and the first meeting took place last Wednesday.

Therefore, given the circumstances we find ourselves in, we do now need to think creatively and with an open mind about the future. As such your thoughts and opinions are really important in helping us develop this thinking and in helping to shape the future of ministry and mission around Bredon Hill going forwards. So, if you have any ideas which could contribute to our discussions, then please do share them with your churchwardens and/or a member of The Forum.

At this time of Pentecost, as we remember that the Holy Spirit came down and empowered the disciples to go and spread the Good News of Christ, let us all today, as His body of believers, be renewed in our calling to build up His church in this place of Bredon Hill.

May God continue to bless and protect you in the days ahead.

Yours, Allison

ADVERTISEMENT PAGES



A reminder to take a few minutes to look at our latest advertisement pages. We have a couple of vacant spaces so please contact Jean Croft on 01386 881230 or email jeancroft10@gmail.com for information if you are interested in advertising in one of them.

Need greetings cards for birthday, anniversary, sympathy etc and not able to get to the shops?



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| Order Deadlines 2019/20 | No of Orders | Total of Oil Orders | Price per litre plus Vat | Saving per Litre | Total Club Saving |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Nov 24th | 52 | 32,900 litres | 44.95ppl | 4.70 pence | £1,546 |
| Jan 5th | 48 | 32,600 litres | 46.50ppl | 5.07 pence | £1,652 |
| Feb 2nd | 55 | 41,400 litres | 38.10ppl | 7.88 pence | £3,262 |
| March 1st | 52 | 36,550 litres | 37.70ppl | 4.74 pence | £1,732 |
| April 5th | 65 | 49,000 litres | 27.00ppl | 8.50 pence | £4,241 |
| May 3rd | 40 | 32,450 litres | 17.44ppl | 7.13 pence | £2,313 |

2018/19 Village dividends earned by Oil Buying Club members:
Ashton under Hill £254, Aston Somerville £49, Beckford £140, Childswickham £13,
Dumbleton £104, Elmley Castle £103, Hinton £43, Kemerton £21,
Overbury & Conderton £224, Sedgeberrow £640, Wormington £13.
Our Current Membership is 271

Please Note: The cut off Order Dates will normally be the first Sunday of the month, Christmas excepting.

Next 1920 order deadlines (by 23.00 hrs):
Sunday 7th June - Sunday 5th July - Sunday 2nd August - Sunday 6th September
 (Delivery will normally follow after the next week-end, once the best value provider has been identified. **500 litres** are still the minimum order)

NOW is the time to register with the SeSaME Oil Buying Club helping us all to get the most competitive price for our oil and supporting village community projects to boot!

Register at: <http://sesame.oilbuyingclub.com> to become a member and place an order. It only takes a few minutes and once done the registration lasts forever.

If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact your Buying Club Manager:

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Treasurer Sharon Denson

Parish Enquiries Calls to the Bredon Parish Office on 01684 772398 are currently being filtered and forwarded as appropriate.
At the moment there is no-one to take calls for the Beckford Parish Office so if you require information please contact your churchwarden/contact as listed below.

Saint John The Baptist's Church, Beckford

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| Churchwarden | David Carvill | 01386 882002 |
| Secretary | Graham Galer | 01386 882200 |
| Treasurer | Pam Grice | 01386 882514 |
| Organist | Vacant | |
| Flowers | Doreen Byrd | 01386 881360 |
| Bell ringers | Nick Hopkins | 01386 710136 |

Saint Faith's Church, Overbury

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Churchwarden | Vacant | 01386 725206 |
| Secretary | Christine Clark | 01386 725405 |

Please contact Christine you have any queries about St Faith's

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Treasurer | Joss Muirie | 07736 957310 |
| Organist | Anne Brown | 01684 292231 |
| Flowers | Stef Lemarechal | 01386 725325 |
| Bell ringers | Ros Long | 01386 725111 |

Saint Barbara's Church, Ashton-under-Hill

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| Contacts for | Alastair Humphrey | 01386 881479 |
| St Barbara's | David Hunter | 01386 882087 |
| Treasurer | David Hunter | 01386 882087 |
| Organist | Anthony Greenwood anthony.greenwood@hotmail.com | 01386 881278 |
| Flowers | Judith Hunter | 01386 882087 |
| Bell ringers | Nick Hopkins | 07790 831787 |
| Choirmaster | Alastair Humphrey | 01386 881479 |
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Saint Margaret's Church, Alstone & St. Nicholas' Church, Teddington

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Churchwardens | Anne Kyle | 01242 620351 |
| | Kieran Whelan | 01242 620763 |
| Secretary | Nicholas Bentley | 01242 620292 |
| Treasurer | Mike Wignall | 01242 620031 |
| Flowers: | | |
| Teddington | Caroline Marsh | 01242 621139 |
| Alstone | Jane Rogers | 01242 620592 |

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| Paul Stephenson | 01386 882052 |
| (backup co-ordinator) | ashtonbeckford@gmail.com |

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| Pat Chambers | 01386 750358 |
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Parish Safeguarding Officer

Lynne Wilkinson - see Parish Secretary above for contact details

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| Chapelries | Bill & Anne Kyle | 01242 620351 |
| Overbury | Ros Long | 01386 725111 |
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