The Parish Magazine



Ashton-under-Hill
Beckford
Overbury
Alstone &
Teddington

February 2021

70p



For this was on seynt Volantynys day, Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make.

> from Parlement of Foules Geoffrey Chaucer (1382)

"All you need is Love"

Many of you will recognise these words as not being from the Bible, but from the title of a well-known Beatles song; And as we enter February, one day which will be in the minds of many will be 14th February, St. Valentine's Day.





by the Romans for, among other things, secretly conducting Christian marriages. That is why today it is a day for celebrating love, romance and especially married relationships.



The Rev. Paul Hardingham considers what love really means, and in an article asks, "If love is all we need, then what does real love look like?" St. Paul answers this best by describing, in that well known passage from his letter to the church at Corinth, read at many wedding ceremonies, which says

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking,

It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

The love written of here is unconditional, forgiving and sacrificial; And if we were to take out of this passage the word love, and substitute it with our own name, I wonder if this would be true of each of us. But then if were to substitute instead of our name, the name of Jesus, how does this passage read then? For this Jesus is available to each one of us, and helps make our love for others grow, bringing true Valentines' joy.

It is also fitting that a few days after St. Valentines' Day, the church commemorates Ash Wednesday, heralding the start of Lent. For although Lent is a season of sadness, as we remember all the sin in the world, especially in our own hearts and minds, it also leads to the greatest display and act of love ever given or undertaken for another, as Jesus offered his life on a cross.

Jesus' love for humanity knew no bounds – He gave His all for us. Therefore, it is right that in February, and throughout the season of Lent, we reflect on what love really means.

Lent this year may be particularly different and difficult to that of previous years; And whatever our position is in this current pandemic as we approach Ash Wednesday, church communities will undoubtedly commemorate Lent in many ways. Whether this will involve giving up some much-loved food, drink or pleasure or by taking something on which will help or bring pleasure to others, people during this season will take the time to reflect on the real meaning of what it is to love.

Allison Vicar of Eckington, Defford cum Besford and Associate Priest for the Bredon Hill Group of Churches

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Welcome to the February Parish News.

Well we're back in lockdown! However, there is light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. With the vaccine roll out (please see page 26 for the local vaccination update) and new treatments we do have hope.

It's with great sadness that Teddington lost two of it's long standing residents who passed away before Christmas, Freda Swords, and Joan Harrison, (see page 15).

In January I reported the sad death of Reverend Margie Schutte just before Christmas, tributes can be found on page 13.

You will see our new feature "People Around the Hill" on page 16 where we get to know our previous editor, Chris Godfrey, a little better.

I would like to end by saying a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine this month, I could not have produced this edition without your help.

The cut-off for the March edition is 16th February.

Helen Wilkes (Editor)

February Service Rota for the Beckford Group and Bredon Hill Group of Churches subject to COVID restrictions during February

Due to the latest lockdown the clergy and laity from all churches around the Bredon Hill Group decided that all communal worship across in churches within the Bredon Hill Group will be suspended.

There will be the regular Zoom service of Morning Prayer at 10.30am each Sunday morning, until the restrictions are lifted and it is deemed safe to return to communal worship, and of course churches are still open for private prayer at times agreed by each church.

Anyone interested in participating in any of these services or activities should contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or email acbhteam@gmail.com and who will then send them an electronic invitation to join the service.

Subject to confirmation from the Parochial Church Council's, (mid February), taking into account to the ongoing COVID restrictions it is hoped that we will have a :-

- Zoom Ash Wednesday service at 10.30am on 17th February;
- A Zoom weekly Lent Study Course at 7.00pm on each Wednesday of Lent apart from Holy Week led by Reverend Roger Spiller;
- During Holy Week (Monday Thursday) there will be a Zoom service of a short reflection followed by Compline (Night Prayer);

Arrangements for potential services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday will be confirmed at the next meeting of the Bredon Hill Forum on 18 February after we have heard any announcement by the government.

Opening Times around the Parish for Private Prayer				
Church	Days Open	Hours of Opening		
St John the Baptist, Beckford	Wednesday & Sunday	10:00am-4:00pm		
St Faith's, Overbury	Wednesday Sunday (only when there is no service in the church)	10:00am-4:00pm 10:00am-4.00pm		
St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	Wednesday, Friday & Sunday	10:00am-5:00pm		
St Margaret's, Alstone	Wednesday	10:00am-4:00pm		
St Nicholas', Teddington	Daily	10:00am-4:00pm		

Thoughts from Beckford......

Beckford Church Services

After the difficult year when so many services failed to materialise, it was a joy to be able to hold no less than three in Beckford church during December. On 6^{th} December there was a welcome return by Revd Doug Chaplin from Diocesan HQ who led our communion service and once again inspired us with his sermon.



With the prospect of no services over the main Christmas festival, arrangements were made for a lay-led Carol Service on 20^{th} – the closest Sunday to Christmas – and the effort was well attended: to ensure compliance with social-distancing prior bookings were necessary. Current restrictions meant the usual singing of carols was not possible but, with the generous help of Robert's expertise and loan of equipment, we enjoyed a programme of recorded Christmas music which provided variety and texture: including the choirs of Westminster Abbey and our own Worcester Cathedral, a children's choir and an unusual and evocative version of *O Holy Night* by Katie Melua and the Women's Choir from the city of Gori in her native Georgia.

. Many candles were deployed around the building (a minor conflagration at one point adding a certain zest to the evening!) and during the final reading all electric lights were extinguished and the ancient church – which is no stranger to pandemics, having weathered others Including the 14th C Black Death, the Great Plague of 1665 and the Spanish Flu of 1918 – was illuminated entirely by the light of about 100 candles. Traditionally a Beckford carol service is followed by a social gathering when refreshments are served: not possible this year.

However, the indefatigable Jane had baked the most delicious mince-pies, wrapping each one individually and securely, and folk could help themselves, from a basket in the porch, to a tasty morsel for consumption at home.

The day after Boxing Day, the 27th, it was a pleasure to have our communion service led by Archdeacon Robert who is always a welcome visitor. Of course, currently we have no organist but once again the Archdeacon was accompanied by Mike Elden who provided some wonderful music which added so much to our service. At one point – and very unexpectedly to us – Mike left the organ to stand beside the crib and sing Born in the Night: Mary's Child which is a modern and very beautiful interpretation of the Nativity story, looking beyond the Bethlehem scene to Christ's future destiny. At the conclusion of the service we sat while Mike played Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary and Air which gave an opportunity to meditate on what had gone before. Then, on a bright and sunny morning, the congregation filed out and under Robert and Mike's direction we all sang joyfully Hark the Herald Angels Sing: a memorable end to our service and to the year which has proved so hard for church life.



Beckford Church: changed opening times for private prayer

Given the joyous uplift of our spirits which was aroused by the December services, it is particularly unfortunate that once again we find ourselves having to suspend public worship in our churches as we enter this new year. Whilst the Government has not banned such worship this time and the Beckford Church Committee would have preferred to continue to hold services, we are obliged to follow the majority decision of representatives of the Bredon Hill Group:

In view of this there have been some requests for Beckford Church to be open for private prayer on Sundays (currently it has been on Tuesdays and Fridays). In order to answer this wish, and to leave the building vacant for at least the statutory two days between openings for Covid security, it will be necessary to alter the programme. So, with effect from week commencing 1st February, the church will be open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays, from 10am to 4pm on both days.

David Carvill

News from St Barbara's Church, Ashton under Hill

A report on Christmas seems somewhat out of date for February, but not much else is happening in the world right now. We are still waiting for better news for the New Year, but keeping in touch with friends and social groups as best we can. Several of us are joining in the Bredon Parish services on Zoom on a Sunday. Thanks to Allison and Alison for making these accessible and enjoyable. Dare I say, it is much warmer to sit at home, though we do miss face to face contact and the chance to keep our churches functioning. We are still open for private prayer on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

December services were fewer than in other years; obviously the schools were unable to hold their Carol services and the usually packed Celebration of Christmas didn't happen, but there were other occasions to enjoy. We kept the flag flying for Christmas with the children's crib service on 20 December and Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. We were pleased to welcome Rev. Doug Chaplain to take this service for us. Alastair Humphrey put together an afternoon of Advent carols on the Wednesday before Christmas which was much appreciated. It was a good opportunity to find out what we could do within the limitations, and possibly take away some ideas for the future (with a few refinements.) The Christingle service, for example, seemed to offer a new idea for early January. We were able to put the Magi into the crib scene at the correct season, and celebrating the light of the world with candlelight also seemed appropriate. Nettie has written a modern story version of the Biblical stories for Christmas and Epiphany which are very suitable for these family services. We have also used CDs of carols to keep up the variety of music in our services, and used greenery and candles for our decorations this year. Simple but effective.

" Many thanks to all those who came to the above in spite of the current circumstances and helped us raise £ 122.50 for Mzamhomle, with Gift Aid, and £75 for the Children's Society.

Many in Ashton were saddened to hear of the death of Rev. Margie Schutte, who set up our original link with South Africa. She was curate here, 2004-200, at the start of her ministry and lived in Ashton. Margie made a great contribution to the community - she made many friends while out walking her dog, which she described as the best possible way to meet people. (Tributes can be found on page 13).

The hope is that we shall be able to resume services around Easter tide. The Spring and the warmer weather will surely bring hope and change, after a year of unexpected events.

Update from The Chapelries

Services

The chapelries first communion service for some time was held at St. Margaret's church on December 20th. This was a much-appreciated service just before Christmas which Archdeacon Robert took in his usual relaxed and thoughtful way and we had a full house, socially distanced in accordance with the rules. The collection is to be sent to Christian Aid, one of the Christian charities that we had been unable to collect for earlier in the year and thanks go to all those who gave and helped with the arrangements.

Bredon Group Services in January.

It is with great regret that the Bredon Group of Churches decided that in the current circumstances it was in the best interest of all of us to cancel all the services.

Allison is arranging some Zoom services (please see page 3) and on Facebook for these and other possibilities.

As usual both churches continue to be open for private prayer as follows: - Teddington daily, 10am-4pm, and Alstone on Wednesdays, also from 10am-4pm.

We are continuing to collect used stamps for Mercy ships and there are boxes for them in Teddington church and in Alstone church porch; alternatively, do put them in an envelope through Kieran or Anne's letterboxes.

Please also remember the Tewkesbury Foodbank where any food for those families currently in much need is so appreciated; contributions can be left in both church porches.

We are very lucky here to live in such lovely quiet villages, giving us space for air and exercise and socially distanced and masked defiance of the plague.

Carol Singing in Alstone on December 21

Last Christmas we were afraid that we would not be able to enjoy our usual carol singing round the village, but this was not so, as six younger socially distancing villagers arranged to carol sing outside each house in aid of the Children's Society. This was much appreciated by older wassailers, wary of COVID and bleak midwinters; and with everyone giving so generously the young ones collected one of the highest amounts yet - over £230 which has duly been sent off to the charity. Thank you everyone and especially Sue Bishop for organizing it.

Stay Safe

Anne Kyle



I would just like to thank all the flower ladies for the beautiful displays decorating St Nicolas' Church at Christmas. The silver and white colour scheme was stunning and I specially liked the little baskets on the font. Standing there surrounded by all the festive blooms and silvered greenery you could almost hear the carols echoing from previous years. Well done everyone - such talent!

Rose Phillips

St Nicholas Church Teddington Rota January - March 2021

Date	Cleaning	Security – opening/closing
03/01/21	vacancy	K Whelan
10/01/21	J Whelan	A Stinton
17/01/21	M James	R Philips
24/01/21	M Healey	M Wignall
31/01/21	C Godfrey	J Julyan
07/02/21	M James	P Ellis
14/02/21	J Whelan	M Healey
21/02/21	M James	D. Duggleby
28/02/21	M Healey	R Godfrey
07/03/21	C Godfrey	K Whelan
14/03/21	M James	A Stinton
21/03/21	J Whelan	R Philips
28/03/21	M James	M Wignall

ASHTON UNDER HILL WI Report

Our regular WI meetings are not yet able to resume but we are working on ways to get the New Year off to a good start. The first committee meeting ever by Zoom happened in January when we discussed plans for 2021. Once we got used to waiting our turn to speak, it all went



pretty well. Reports from 2020 included the voting for the national resolutions. All five received some support from the twenty-two votes cast. Marjy reported that the main votes from our members were for the motion in favour of increased research into Heart and cardiac problems in women, with the one on Cancer research also popular. It is always interesting to see if our views coincide with WI members nationally. Jen Creese reported on a very pleasant walk in December around the village of Birlingham. There won't be a walk in January or February although it would be lovely to visit the churchyard there again to see the spring flowers. No doubt the walks will resume when possible.

The committee decided to ask members how they would feel about a whole meeting on Zoom; although we are aware that not everyone will be able to join in, it is worth exploring. Jane Wilson will contact a couple of the speakers lined up for future meetings to see if they would give their talk on line so that we could join them. It is always worth asking! The Ashton WI Book group continues on Zoom with the help of organiser Linda Richardson. Their next read is an adventurous one - Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children". Doreen and Marjy encouraged us and others to look at the 'Denman' courses on line and also ones offered by Worcs. WI. Details are in the WI magazine. A few other ideas were then discussed. We could take up knitting some more baby hats for the Children's hospital unit; St Richard's Hospice has a project to make toy elephants! These are ideal projects for the wintry weather. Judith reminded the committee that 2021 marks our 80th Anniversary as a WI. We usually celebrate in February, so various thoughts on a virtual tea party were put forward, with cake for everyone of course. We can be sure to mark it in some way. It was decided that it a proper celebration would be preferable in the summer months, maybe a lunch as we have done previously, with perhaps some other events. This all has to be speculative at the moment but it was good to be thinking positively. Happy new year to all, and we hope the vaccine programme will start to have the desired effect by spring.

Judith Hunter

BECKFORD WI



Our President Margaret Darby welcomed members to the online January meeting of Beckford WI. Since the last meeting the committee **INSPIRING WOMEN** members had distributed Goody bags to all the members.

These were small bags containing a number of festive items such as chocolates, handmade decorations for the Christmas trees, soap and other treats. They also provided a means for members to send cards to their friends which would normally be given out at the December meeting. The bags were a great success and helped bring a bit of cheer especially to those members not able to share the festive season with their families and friends.

Margaret reminded members to contact the committee members if there was any way in which they could help make life easier if problems arose.

Preparations are still going ahead for the Beckford WI centenary celebrations in 2022. Although the book of walks is on hold, the members have been sewing squares for the centenary quilt and we aim to start assembling this in the summer.

Every year at the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of WIs, a resolution is voted upon and if the votes are in favour of adopting it then it becomes part of a campaign. A resolution is a call for change in a current issue in society. Many well-known issues have been the subject of campaigns by the WI including Keep Britain Tidy and Equal pay for Women. The resolutions chosen have been discussed at local level by all the members of the WI and are the result of choosing one out of several that have been proposed. Five resolutions were put before the members and there was the opportunity for discussing the merits of each. The first was the need to raise awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer one of the commonest cancers affecting women. The main problem being the vague nature of the symptoms which can be attributed to less serious diseases. The second resolution was also a medical one and concerned the misdiagnosis of coronary heart disease in women. Again, the need to raise awareness of the threat it caused to women especially as it is perceived to be a disease primarily affecting men. Thirdly we were asked to consider the need for a mandate counter-acting racism and ending discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity. The WI has never had such a mandate and therefore has not been able to act as a whole to combat these pernicious attitudes. It is particularly appropriate in these times when the Black Lives Matter campaign is gaining momentum. The last two resolutions were concerned with the environment. One was to improve the provision of space for nature to thrive. With the effects of the pandemic meaning people are finding solace in nature, the importance of providing spaces for species under threat of extinction to flourish, is increasing. There are things we can do within our own gardens but also supporting the provision of public spaces for people to access the natural world is vital. Finally, the last proposal was to support the movement to ban peat-based compost for use in gardens and commercial horticultural areas. Although there is a voluntary code which aims to ban all peat-based compost use by 2030, the initial ban on domestic use by 2020 has had only a marginal effect. Peat bogs are a prime store of carbon, which as soon as the peat is dug for use, loses most of this carbon back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide thus contributing to climate change. Once these resolutions had been presented to the online group a vigorous discussion followed and it was decided to ask all the members to vote and send their decision to the committee secretary who would collate the replies. Everyone had received details of the proposed resolutions in the latest copy of WI Life magazine and the minutes of the meeting would also provide a summary of the arguments.

The next meeting will include an online presentation on Wildlife Gardening and hopefully our computer skills will be up to the task!

Clare Henderson Meeting Secretary

Beckford Community Village Hall Ltd

As announced before, the hall will be closed until, COVID-19 restrictions permitting, the beginning of April. Our refurbishment programme is now well under way.



The builders started work on the internal renovations on January 6th. They have erected scaffolding inside to enable work on lowering the ceiling. Radiators will be removed to enable walls to be replastered. Paint is being ordered and the committee are keeping the same colours of royal blue on the stage arch to match the chairs, a soft grey for the side arches and panelling, and a light cream for the walls. No big surprises! The floors of stage, hall and entrance will look like new.

Any day now the large notice board will be once again positioned on the oil store. Gutters will be fitted with guards and outside painting completed.

Paul Worrall's team of volunteers had a field day outside while keeping a safe distance apart. Overhanging branches were trimmed, brambles hacked down, dogwood reduced, weeds blitzed and more, with a great result. Many thanks to all.

We have not yet found a new Booking Secretary, a post which is vital to the financial viability

Graham Galer—BCVH secretary graham.galer@hotmail.co.uk
Mob. 07748 615553

TEDDINGTON & ALSTONE VILLAGE HALL LUCKY NUMBERS CLUB 2021

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Lucky Numbers Club in 2020 and hope that you will continue to support your Village Hall in 2021. With the hall remaining closed, due to Government Guidance on COVID, income from the Lucky Numbers Club is extremely important to enable the Management Committee to maintain the hall in anticipation of re-opening later in the year.

This year the collection of Lucky Numbers Club subscriptions will be a little different to comply with current guidance on avoiding personal contact. Members of the Management Committee will deliver subscription forms, with a pre-addressed envelope, to all households in Teddington, Alstone and Bengrove during the next month. The envelopes will not be collected as in previous years – instead, residents are kindly requested to take the completed form and payment to one of the collection addresses on the envelope. The period of signing up to the 2021 edition of the Lucky Numbers club has been extended to April.

Due to the extended period for collection of subscriptions the draws for 2021 will take place in May, July, September and November.

The Management Committee would like to thank you for your understanding and support this year.

Whilst your Collector cannot undertake door-to-door collections this year, we will be happy to assist if you are unable to deliver your envelope yourself (call Sue-620264 or Brian-620898 to arrange collections).



Tewkesbury Foodbank news

Christmas was different this year wasn't it? And the Foodbank was no exception. The demand for its services in December was 87% up on 2019, with food supplied to 368 people. Their

Christmas Blessings project reached 514 people, with double vouchers given out in the run up to Christmas so people could experience the simple joy of being able to buy things in local shops. They were also able to give out the Christmas treats we supplied such as cakes and chocolates.

Our local foodbank works with Fuel Bank Foundation to provide emergency help when a person's prepaid gas and electricity meters have run out of credit. This credit can be administered remotely to help those who are self-isolating, often with long term health problems. Behind the scenes, the Fuel Bank has security systems in place to detect fraud and can provide energy advice.

Sadly, owing to current covid restrictions, the Foodbank is unable to welcome people into the centre and people have to phone the centre in advance to ensure their parcel is ready, and then wait at the door, which means they can't be offered a hot drink or a sit down and have a supportive chat. But this is necessary to protect the volunteers, and indeed, the clients. For those of us living in our villages, we continue to collect in the porches of the churches and the Foodbank collects the donations weekly from Teddington. The Foodbank urgently needs the following:

Longlife milk, tinned fruit, tinned meat, rice pudding, custard, sponge puddings, jam, small boxes washing detergent.

Thank you for your support. Mary James, Teddington



Thank you

I would like to say how much I have appreciated all the very kind messages I have received about my time as editor of the magazine. They really mean a lot to me and have made the last eight years spent helping to produce the magazine so worthwhile.

I would also like to thank Overbury for the bottle of champagne and the PCC for the beautiful bouquet of spring flowers along with some delicious truffles sent on behalf the parish.

Chris Godfrey

Advertising in the Magazine

We are in the process of asking our current advertisers if they wish to continue with their ads next year - the new ad pages will run from April 2021 to March 2022. Please contact Jean Croft (details on the Directory, page 28 if you would like to go on the waiting list should spaces become available.

Overbury First School ~ February 2021



Hello to you all and we hope this finds you safe and well.

This first half-term of the new year has been challenging to both our staff, many of whom have young families themselves, and to our lovely children. We are starting to settle into another 'new normal' with home-learning and a small number of children in school.

Don't forget to check out our website: newsletters, up-to-date information and some great pictures can be found there so please take a look at: https://www.overbury.worcs.sch.uk/ and if you would like to see The Friends' Facebook page, please visit: (www.Facebook.com/Overburyfriends).



Bottle Tops For Linc

THANK YOU to everyone who continues to drop milk bottle tops in the bucket outside our

house, "Stonebank", in Teddington.

We have made several trips with bags of tops to the Charity since starting during the original lockdown. As you know these tops get recycled and made into play equipment. The Charity receives money for the tops it deposits.

I hope , like us, you are keen to help the environment and do your best to <u>reuse</u> and <u>recycle.</u> Sometimes it is easy to be overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the task which needs to be resolved. The volume of plastic entering our oceans, for example, how can we help prevent this?

The plastic which sadly is already in the oceans is being tackled, slowly. However, if as individuals we stop even one plastic bottle being discarded and ending up in landfill or ultimately the ocean then that multiplied by the number of people doing likewise stops a significant amount of plastic.

If you have yet to make a New Year's Resolution, or have broken one and need a more achievable one, please consider the following:-

- * Use 'bars' of soap rather than the 'pump action' bottles.
- ★ Use 'paper' cotton buds rather than plastic ones.
- Use soap and water rather than 'wipes'.
- ★ Use a 'flask' for water or drink rather than single use cups or bottles.
- * Don't put fruit and vegetables in plastic (or paper) bags if possible when at the shop. If we all have a mission to <u>reduce</u> even one item this year it will have a huge impact on the plastic waste.

Also, spread the word tell others, share ways to make a difference.

Some Facts

- * Every day around 8 million pieces of plastic make their way into our oceans. That's a truck load every minute.
- * A million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute.
- * Estimates for how long plastic endures range from 450 years to forever.
- * The largest market for plastics today is packaging. That accounts for nearly half the global plastic waste. Most of it is not recycled or incinerated.
- ★ More than 40% of plastic is used just once, then discarded

Anne & Phil Clark.

Update from St. Faith's Overbury

Christmas and, in particular, New Years Eve festivities have been and gone in generally underwhelming, restricted fashion with many family visits made impossible by the inexorable advance of the new and frightening variation of Covid-19.

However, we still managed to celebrate merrily whenever the opportunity arose. On 16th December, a number of households joined Doorstep Carols, coordinated by local radio stations to belt out 16 much loved favourites during the course of an hour. Overbury's contingent included a very carefully socially distanced group of neighbours who gathered outside the Old Police House in Overbury (fortified with delicious sherry and mince pies). It was so good to be singing again and made us all feel much more Christmassy.

A Churchyard Christmas Trail for younger children, with 16 booked in, was arranged for the afternoon of 23rd December but the weather was so unspeakably dreadful that it was postponed until the morning of Christmas Eve. The Grasshoppers Nursery, some of whose older children were planning to come on the 23rd, had broken up for Christmas by the 24th but we still welcomed 10 excited participants who were able to run off some of their 'waiting for Santa' excitement searching for pictures hidden all around the churchyard. Our grateful thanks go to Karen Sagar in Eckington who devised the trail and was kind enough to share it with us.

On Christmas morning, we were lucky to have a Holy Communion service in St Faith's, attended by some 50 people, led by the Reverend Catherine Lack and with the order of service very kindly adapted by her for the occasion. Catherine lives in Bredon following her retirement from active ministry and we are most fortunate to have her willing to lead services on an occasional basis and to play such an active part when she does so.

Now, of course, we are in full Lockdown again and with great sadness have concluded that it would not be safe to continue with services at St Faith's for the time being at least. However, the church will remain open every Wednesday and Sunday, from 10am to 4pm for anyone who would like a quiet and calm place to sit in thought and prayer. Please wear a mask and note that it is essential to sign in on entering the church, either using the NHS app or on the form provided; if a visitor tests positive for Covid-19 we must be able to trace anybody else



Hands
Although we are unable to have services for the time being, we welcome the opportunity to use the church space to support those who have been hit hardest by the pandemic.

To this end we are organising a collection for Caring Hands in Evesham who are flat out providing for homeless people and other families in need. The following items are suggested on their website and would be most gratefully received: UHT milk, sugar, tinned and dried goods,

jars, frozen foods, toiletries (no sprays please), flannels, hand towels, toilet rolls, washing tablets, blankets, sleeping bags, backpacks (good size).

Please take any contributions to the church on either a Wednesday or Sunday between 10am and 4pm while Covid restrictions are in place. There is a large container on the floor behind the refreshment counter by the North Door. We will be arranging for donations to be taken to Evesham at the end of February and monthly thereafter.

Faith Hallett



The Rev. Margie Schutte

R.I.P. The Reverend Margie Schutte – sister in Christ and friend to many, of all faiths or none.

I first met Margie when I was asked to act as a representative of her new Parish at a service in Worcester Cathedral at the beginning of her curacy with the Beckford group of churches in July, 2004. We discovered that we shared an African upbringing, hers in in South Africa and mine in Rhodesia, and this formed an instant bond.

However, it was only after the Parish pilgrimage to Iona in August 2006, led by the Revd Jan Moore, when a small group of us decided to return the following year, that a true friendship developed. The pilgrimage to the sacred isle became an annual event, a time to leave the mainland

behind and just be at one with God and his creation, worshipping twice daily at the Abbey with the Iona Community and staying in a cosy cottage overlooking the Sound across to the neighbouring island of Mull. It was food for the soul, and particularly for Margie it became a source of restoration and renewal, in her demanding job as Managing Chaplain at HMP Hewell. She only missed coming once when she was undergoing cancer treatment, which she bore with her customary cheerfulness and humour. Her illness left her with an abiding sense of hope for what God had in store for her.

In September last year in very uncertain times, only 3 of us, Margie, my sister and I made the journey to Iona. Little did we know that it was to be her final visit. She wrote of it: 'another blessed almost magical week – rainbows, dolphins, swallows and gannets, finding St Columba's shrine, going back into the Abbey, what joy!! Again we have laughed and cried together, celebrated, shared our stories and our lives. How blessed we are, sharing friendship, love of God and silence.'

She signed off 'always in hope, Margie'

Her sudden death just before Christmas came as a terrible shock to all of us, but how blessed we were for knowing her. She will be forever missed by her family, her many friends and by all those whose lives she touched in her ministry. She was a shining light in our lives and she will continue to inspire us, so let us look forward in hope as she would have wished us to do.

Penelope Swan

Diocese of Worcester Bishop John said: "I was very sad to learn of Margie's death. She was a fine priest for whom I had a huge respect. Her ministry as a prison chaplain over a long period was exemplary: her love and care was a profound influence for good on so very many people. It was her faith in God, whose love is stronger than death, that inspired her. As we give thanks for her life of Christian service we commend her to that same God in hope of the resurrection."

The Governor at HMP Hewell, Ralph Lubkowski said: "Margie was a compassionate, caring, positive person, who touched so many lives at Hewell, and was a shining light even in the darkest times. She will be deeply missed and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones."



Margie was such a nice person and became a good friend of my mother Pat Cobb. She was a great comfort to her during her last few years and months and spent time just sitting with her in Tewkesbury Hospital when she eventually had to go there. Living over an hour away it was lovely to know that Margie was there having a chat or just sitting quietly. She gave my Mother such spiritual support especially as her life came to a close. Margie will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Joanna Tucker

When I think about Margie and the impact she had on the lives of so many of us, the thing that surprises me most is the realisation that, far from being a permanent, long-term resident of Ashton under Hill, she lived among us for only three years – and those years ended as far back as 2007. It still feels like yesterday.

The first time I saw Margie was at her ordination service right at the outset of her Beckford Group curacy where, even in a sea of dog collars in Worcester Cathedral, her perceptive and humour-filled face stood out and we went home confident that we had won the jackpot – a view that never changed. Very shortly afterwards, she came to the Overbury Street Market where her approachability and friendliness became immediately apparent; before long, of course, she had become a pivotal part of Revd Jan Moore's ministry among us and her extraordinary gifts of pastoral care and empathy were fully revealed. Even when she had moved on to prison chaplaincy at the end of her curacy, she never forgot those with whom she had forged a relationship in the villages she served, still invited many years later to participate in marriages and lead funerals and services of thanksgiving. And whenever she came back it felt as though she had never left us but was simply picking up where she left off.

It is very hard to believe that Margie is no longer with us - with her infectious laughter, irrepressible sense of humour and uncanny ability to spot the real essence of people in a wholly unjudgmental way – and to make everybody feel that they were her friend. I miss her hugely but aren't we lucky to have known her.

Faith Hallett

It was a huge shock to learn of Margie's untimely death in December. She came to live in Ashton when she was appointed Curate to the Parish in 2004. At Margie's induction service at St Barbara's many folk had travelled from her previous parish in Amersham. One lady remarked to me "Margie will be much missed, but our loss is your gain". And so it was......

On her daily walks with her beloved little dog Taxi Margie got to know many Ashton folk, far beyond the confines of the church. Margie was bubbly, friendly and outgoing, always ready to listen, and to offer help if it were needed.

Margie was brought up in South Africa, in the Eastern Cape. Some years ago, while there visiting family, Margie heard about an aids orphanage in the settlement of Mzamomhle. She was impressed by the dedication of the house mothers there, but appalled at the poor facilities. This inspired Margie to start a fund raising campaign and she formed a charity which became known as the Mzamomhle "Catch" Project. (Care About The Children). Over the years a considerable amount of money for Catch has been raised by the Parish, and continues to receive our support.

Margie believed passionately in the practice of meditation. During a Parish Pilgrimage to Iona with our then vicar Rev. Jan Moore, Margie led us in daily meditation sessions. This led to the formation of a group of us in Ashton meeting weekly to meditate together, and subsequently a group formed in Beckford. It meant so much to Margie that 15 years on, both groups are still meeting regularly. (Meeting remotely during Covid reatrictions).

And so Margie's legacy lives on - in the Catch Project, meditation groups, along with our own precious memories of a truly inspirational and special friend.

Jean Tasker



In memory of Freda May Swords (nee Banks)

Freda was born in Teddington on 13th December 1929 in what is now Bumble Cottage. She lived there until her marriage to Tom at St Benet's Church, Kemerton, in 1953. They lived in Cheltenham and Northway before completing their bungalow in 1964 - Morlbank, Teddington. Freda lived there until her death on 4th December 2020. Her funeral took place on 17th December at St Benet's Church, Kemerton.

Freda started work at Hansons Factory, Toddington before moving to Smiths in Bishops Cleeve. She ended her career at Dowtys.

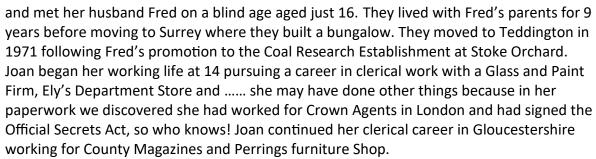
Freda and Tom spent many happy holidays at their apartment in Spain with Tom's sister and husband. Freda was an avid knitter and also enjoyed crosswords and a game of Scrabble. Freda will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Frieda is survived by her brother, Cyril Banks

In memory of Joan Harrison 1924—2020

The sad news of Joan's death just before Christmas last year came as a shock for her many friends in Teddington. We had all become very used to seeing Joan walking through the village aided by her trade mark walking stick and wearing her customary woolly hat or waiting each day for the bus to Cheltenham, Tewkesbury or Bishops Cleeve.

Joan was 96 and had led a full and fascinating life as the following recollections from close friends are testimony.

Julie: Joan was born in Gateshead, she had a sister Winnie,



Joan was extremely talented—drawing and colouring stunning pictures of flowers and birds, together with embroidery and knitting (Joan knitted most of her own jumpers). She was a great cook and made the best mince pies with macaroon and almond topping.

Joan and Winnie loved to travel in style, visiting Switzerland at least 14 times, loving to be in the mountains.

Joan's last wish was to be at home and to see her beloved garden, she had her wish, passing away there on 21st November. She is at peace.

Joan was a really lovely little lady, a true friends and will be greatly missed.

Mary: Joan was a very quiet retiring person who was independent and a great cook, many older people in the village enjoying her delicious cakes. She helped with church cleaning for many years and continued gardening well into her 90's, often seen on her hands and knees.

Fiona: Joan always looked young and sprightly when we saw her on her daily walks. Her house and garden were always immaculate We are always grateful to her and Fred, who noticed that our front gate was broken once while we were away on holiday so fixed it for us!

Other friends such as Brian, Charlotte, Dorry, Vivien, Barbara and Paul all have fond memories and are still missing Joan very much, as she had been part of their daily lives in so many different ways. Joan is now a peace and will be fondly remembered.



People Around the Hill



Chris Godfrey here. In case you thought you'd heard the last from me, think again, as I've been asked to put together a brief autobiography for the magazine.

I was born in Preston where I lived until leaving home to attend King's College, London to study pharmacology. It was there that I met my husband to be, Robin.

We started our married life renting a flat just outside Cambridge where I had my first job working in the Dunn Nutritional Laboratory helping with research into Vitamin C deficiency.

In the Autumn of 1979 we went to live in Zurich as Robin was doing research at the Technology Institute there. While there I worked in a bar/restaurant at lunchtimes. Most of the regulars liked to improve their English talking to me so

I'm afraid that my Schweizerdeutsch did not improve much.

We returned to England in the Spring of 1981 and moved to Welwyn in 1982, where both of our children, Alix and Kathryn, were born. Some of you may remember reading articles Kathryn wrote for the magazine while she was in South Korea a few years ago.

Maybe I shouldn't mention this, but whilst living in Welwyn I was treasurer of our Parish Church, St Mary's. Having recently stepped down as editor of the magazine, I don't want to be persuaded to become a treasurer instead!

We came to Gloucestershire in 1995, moving to our home in Teddington the following year. I didn't work while the girls were young, a period of some 11 years. However, following our move to Gloucestershire, I decided to have a career change and studied for an AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) qualification which I gained after three years. This enabled me to work in the GCC finance department of Social Services and then to move on to work with the Gloucestershire DAAT (Drug and Alcohol team) within the Public Health department of the NHS. The team commissioned and funded services for addicts in Gloucestershire ranging from providing basic information to residential rehabilitation. I retired back in 2012 which just happened to coincide with my predecessor retiring as editor of the magazine. In a rash moment I put my name forward and it was accepted immediately. Roll on eight years and I have now passed on the baton to Helen. Even after eight years, I could never believe how quickly each month went by and how suddenly we had reached yet another deadline.

Since retirement I have also volunteered for the charity Longfield, working first in their Bishop Cleeve shop but moving on to Tewkesbury when the new shop opened there over three years ago. Longfield supports Gloucestershire residents with life limiting conditions and their loved ones and carers. It provides an array of day care therapies/counselling as well as a Hospice at Home service.

I love my sport and as a family we are dedicated supporters of Cheltenham Town FC, although the first team I went to watch was Preston North End back in the 1960s. As season ticket holders at Cheltenham we managed to go along to a couple of games recently until we went into Tier 3 then Tier 4. At least we can always reminisce about the days when we won the FA Trophy at the old Wembley, then promotion to the Football League the following season and then promotion twice through the playoffs at the Millennium (now Principality) Stadium in Cardiff.

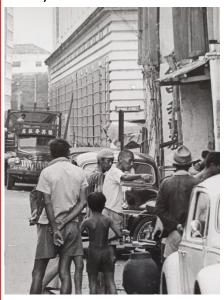
While 2020 was obviously a memorable year for all the wrong reasons, I do have one thing to actually celebrate: the birth of our first grandchild, Harry, on 6th March. He is Kathryn and Olly's son and is, without doubt, the light of our lives.

And so, I think that's it unless anyone really wants a second instalment!

Chris Godfrey

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF A NAVAL WIFE ABROAD (part 1)

Editing Mem had both advantages and some big disadvantages. Because of the various deadlines, and particularly press day, I couldn't afford to be away much. As a result I missed out on a trip to Hong Kong when H.M.S. Auriga was there for a fortnight's maintenance period over Chinese New Year. I had very much wanted to go but there was a last minute 'Mem' crisis. Poor David was expecting me daily, and it was extremely difficult in those days to get a message to him to say I couldn't come! Much later, some of the submarine wives planned a trip to Cambodia to the legendry Angkor Wat, but it coincided with a press day, so that is a trip that is still very much on my bucket list!



Advantages were many, and I had the opportunity to do and see things very few others did. I was invited to go out with the Naval Provost Marshal's evening Patrol (the Naval police) in Singapore which took in various extremely doubtful night clubs, one of which they raided, and the notorious Bugis Street. It has now been subsumed into a shopping mall and turned respectable, but in the 1960's it was famous as the street where transsexuals and transgender people paraded at night. Some of them were incredibly beautiful and dressed in the height of fashion. They were great fun to chat to, and always good for a giggle.

I was invited to do a trek through the jungle in the north of Singapore Island with some of the Junior Leaders, and accepted with alacrity. I was given a pair of jungle boots, the right size, but the only 'jungle greens' available were miles too big, with the crotch coming halfway down my thighs. Fine for a short walk, but for a trek several miles long through the jungle in hot, sweaty heat, not so good. By the time I made it to the end my thighs were rubbed raw! The final test was a climb up an almost vertical cliff face to get the transport home. There was a sort of a track, but it was hard going and I admit I crawled the final few yards on hands and knees, but I made it and I wasn't the last! Nevertheless, it was a great experience as the birds, and particularly the enormous black and white butterflies we saw on



the way were stunning. When I got home, I was almost knocked over by Jason's greeting. Obviously jungle greens reminded him of his training as a jungle warfare dog!

To be continued

Alice through the year

Sticky Marmalade Loaf Cake

The New Year is the time to make Marmalade as this is when the bitter orange (Seville oranges) are in season. They are only available in the shops in January/early February, if you want to make your own Paddington worth batch then now is your chance.

This is one of my favourite cake recipes as it is very easy to make and uses store cupboard ingredients. A loaf cake is a very pleasing cake as it requires very little decoration, just a quick drizzle of icing and voilà you have a tea time show stopper.

Ingredients

- •150g Soft Butter
- •150g Caster Sugar
- •125g Self Raising Flour
- •25g Ground Almonds
- •1 Tsp Baking Powder
- •3 Eggs
- •1 Lemon
- •4 Tbsp of Thick Cut Marmalade (shop bought or home made)
- •2 Tbsp of Icing Sugar
- •25g Flaked Almonds

Method

- 1.Pre heat the oven to 170C^o
- 2. Lightly oil and line a 18 x 8cm or 900g loaf tin with grease proof paper
- 3.Place the butter, caster sugar, flour, ground almonds, baking powder, eggs and zest of the lemon into a bowl. Using a free standing mixer or hand held mixer beat for 1 minute use a timer it is longer than you think
- 4. Using a wooden or metal spoon mix in 3 tbsp of the marmalade
- 5. Spoon the batter into the lined tin and bake for 40 minutes. After this time insert a skewer which should come out clean from the sponge, if not leave for another 3-5 minutes until it comes our clean.
- 6.Place on a cooling wrack
- 7. Tip the flaked almonds into a frying pan and lightly toast until the edges are golden
- 8.Place the icing sugar and 1 tbsp of marmalade into a bowl with 1 tsp of water, mix to form a smooth paste which should just run off the back of the spoon, if too thick add $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp more water
- 9.Once cooled remove the cake from the tin, drizzle over the icing and scatter over the toasted almonds.



Weather Diary - December, and the year 2020

Despite the fact that December 2020 was considerably wetter than in 2019 (84.4mm against 48.6mm), the maximum and minimum temperatures and the maximum wind gusts were about the same as in 2019. Not surprisingly the amount of sunshine during December 2020 was down by about 18% on the 2019 levels.

The 23rd December was one of the wettest days we've had for some time – 26.6mm on one day, which caused the minor flooding in Back Lane, stopping our daily walk up the hill.

2020 Compared with previous years

There were a few records broken during 2020 (based on data starting from 2012, when our weather station was installed)...

Highest temperature of 35.2°C at 16:35 on 12th August 2020

Highest apparent temperature of 38.4°C 16:30 on 12th August 2020

This is based on how humidity and wind speed affect the perceived temperature

Highest barometric pressure of 1049.3mb on 20th January 2020

The highest overnight minimum temperature of 20.1°C at 04:15 on 12th August 2020

Other interesting statistics for previous years are...

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Max Wind Gust (mph)	49	45	44	48	48	50	53	43
Sunshine	4601	4421	4412	4110	4295	4318	4594	N/A
Rainfall (mm)	526	543	437	396	425	431	689	651
Max Temp °C	35.2	34.4	30.8	32.2	33.7	33.3	29.1	31.7

- Windiness seems to correlate with the stormy weather associated with higher than average rainfall.
- The sunshine measure is effectively the power (in KWh) generated by our solar panels. As you can see from these figures, sunshine levels over the years have been fairly consistent, with 2020 being the sunniest since 2014.
- Rainfall levels peaked in 2014, then dropped a little, with the past few years creeping up again.
- Maximum temperatures are slowly increasing Climate Warming? The dip in 2014 was probably due to all the heavy rain we had.

December 2020 statistics

- Highest Temperature: 13.8°C, on 18th December
- Lowest Temperature: -4.2°C on 31st December
- Highest rainfall rate: 31.4mm per hour on 14th December
- Highest daily rainfall: 26.6mm on 23rd December
- Number of rainy days: 20
- Total rainfall: 84.4mm
- Highest wind gust: 44.0 mph on 27th December
- Average daily peak wind gust 20mph

The next full moon will be on Saturday 27th February, at breakfast time.

All this information, and more, can be viewed on our website – https://www.theshieling.net/weatherdavis.php.

Andy Slade

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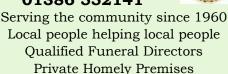
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Ashton Open Gardens 2021

In spite of the current difficulties we are all experiencing, we are already making plans to have an amazing Open Gardens event in 2021, I suspect we will still need social distancing and masks, but by June we will all need a distraction; and what better way to enjoy the June weather than visiting Ashton Open Gardens and catching up with all the 'lockdown projects' that have been underway in gardens over the last 12 months.

In 2021 it will be held, as usual, on the second weekend of June; the 12th and 13th, and as usual we have booked perfect weather for the weekend, not too hot, not too cold and preferably no rain.

Much of the preparation that was in place for 2020 will roll over to 2021 and as ever we will be encouraging our usual cohort of garden openers to let us in, to show off their gardens to our visitors, and hopefully some of the new gardeners and new residents to the village may open theirs too.

Over the last year there have been over 3 million new gardeners, all learning a new hobby having a grow! If you're new to gardening come along to Ashton Under Hill in June and see the diversity of gardens in our beautiful village, a great way to get ideas for your own garden and learn a little more about your new hobby. If you have been gardening for years come along and see the progress and development in the gardens and spot some new plants to add to your shopping list.

We will have the usual refreshments and stalls to enjoy as well as our village plant and produce stall.

Please put the event in your diaries and on your calendars.— 12th and 13th June 2021

Jim Teague Ashton Open Gardens Committee Chair 07585 893323



Vaccination update from Gloucestershire & Worcestershire NHS

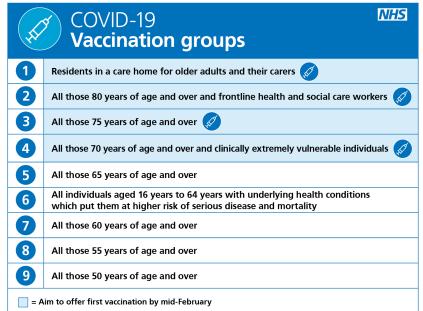
The roll out of the vaccine is now well under way in our area, several residents have already been offered the vaccine. Please keep up to date with your local surgery websites and local

NHS websites.

Please remember

Wait to be contacted

The NHS will let you know when it's your turn to have the vaccine. It's important not to contact the NHS for a vaccination before then.







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New Year & Here for You

I would like to introduce myself, I am Rebecca Hughes and I live in Beckford and have recently qualified after 3 years, with Distinction in Naturopathic Nutritional Therapy from The College of Naturopathic Medicine. I am also a Nutri-Advanced Peri-menopause Consultant.

I utilise evidence-based nutritional medicine to support clients with:

anxiety, asthma, chronic fatigue syndrome, eczema, fibromyalgia, reflux, bloating, constipation, hormonal issues (female and male), thyroid conditions, pre/post-natal support, weight-loss, energy and sleep issues, autoimmune conditions, type 2 diabetes...

With the events of the last 12 months, what has become apparent is the importance of:

- Immune resilience (the ability to fight infections and recover well) It is not just about Vitamin D.
- Mental health resilience (nutrients required for good mental health are depleted by increased stress and anxiety)
- Lifestyle (movement, sleep)

All of which are dramatically improved when you have a better understanding of what <u>your</u> body needs to flourish. This is where I can help. Whether you: have

- an underlying health condition or family health concerns,
- want to know what you can do to optimise your health or
- You just don't feel right, despite blood tests indicating everything is 'normal'

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I look forward to hearing from you.

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or Online: Zoom consultations



PARISH DIRECTORY - FEBRUARY 2021

Revd Allison Davies Associate Priest

01386 750203 Pastoral Area of Responsibility: Overbury eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com Vicar of Eckington with Defford and Besford

Treasurer Sharon Denson 07727 262798

E-mail: sharondenson92@gmail.com

Administrative Co-ordinator Alison Khan 07984 748059

Bredon Hill Team acbhteam@gmail.com

Parish Enquiries 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

ChurchwardenDavid Carvill01386 882002SecretaryGraham Galer01386 882200TreasurerPam Grice01386 882514

Organist Vacant Flowers Vacant

Bell ringers Nick Hopkins 01386 710136

Saint Faith's Church, Overbury

Churchwarden Vacant Secretary & Christine Clark 01386 725405

contact for 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 01386 881278

anthony. greenwood@hotmail.com

Flowers Judith Hunter 01386 882087
Bell ringers Nick Hopkins 07790 831787
Choirmaster Alastair Humphrey 01386 881479
Regular Giving Alastair Humphrey 01386 881479

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	Jan Mallett	01242 620765
	Sue Poole	01242 620112
Alstone	Jane Rogers	01242 620592

Transport Co-ordinators

Overbury Faith Hallett 01386 725206
Teddington Kieran Whelan 01242 620763
Alstone Anne Kyle 01242 620351
Ashton Vacant

Beckford Vacant

Minibus

Andrew Barnett 01386 881145
Paul Stephenson 01386 882052
(backup co-ordinator) ashtonbeckford@gmail.com

Disability Awareness Officer

Pat Chambers 01386 750358

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Vacant

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