

INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

AUGUST 2020



CHURCH LETTER

Forty Years of Service

Mark writes: "As many of you will be aware, I celebrated forty years of ordination on the 6th July. This was a milestone in my life as a priest. Although the past eighteen months have not been easy for me with various issues within the Benefice and, of course, latterly Covid 19 and the lockdown, it remained my goal to work towards a cohesive Benefice and we have made some progress along that road.

However, after 40 years in Ministry an opportunity has arisen for me to take early retirement, and in consultation with Bishop Olivia I have decided to pursue this, and so I will be leaving Walbury Beacon Benefice on 26th September 2020.

Deborah and I have come to regard West Berkshire as our 'Special place' and indeed we will continue to live just outside the Benefice boundary at Stockcross. More importantly we have made many friends in the Benefice over the past three years and we will continue to have a great interest in the life of the Benefice as you move on to the next phase of your Christian Pilgrimage.

I leave you in the hands of a very capable Ministry Team and Bishop Olivia has assured me that both Deanery and Diocese will continue to support you as you move forward.

There is little more for me to say, except this; life after the current crisis will probably never be as it was before or, perhaps, as most would want it to be. The world has changed, our country has changed, our communities have changed and we as individuals have changed. From a Parish perspective I would ask all of you to be open to new ways of doing things, new ways of being disciples of Christ, new ways of being and of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to our communities and to the wider world.

The heart of the Gospel for me has always been LOVE. Please continue to find fresh ways to express that love to each other.

May the love and joy and peace of the Risen Christ be with you all.

With thanks and God's richest Blessing to you all"

Mark

Our Priest-in-Charge, Mark Wilson reflects, below, on 40 years of Ministry stretching from 6th July 1980 to 6th July 2020. He writes: "Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 4 puts it like this: 'So Christ himself In the pattern He has planned.'"

Ephesians 4.

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

I grew up on a farm in Rural Ireland where time was marked not by the great events of history but rather 'the year of the Big Snow', or the Great Drought. Although I do remember on 22nd November 1962 being at a Parish Sale and when the news was announced that JFK had been murdered in Dallas.

So, it's out of this very rural background that I presented myself on the 1st October 1975 at the Divinity Hostel in Dublin to train for the Priesthood. I was two months short of my 19th birthday. Seven weeks later my Father died. Not the greatest of beginnings. These were heady and exciting times to be an ordinand.

Acts 2.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Think what a difference this would make to our Parochial system and our Parochial thinking. True nature of the Church. Simple, uncomplicated, no unnecessary burdens to carry. Perhaps we can reflect on that this morning. What sort of Church did Christ intend us to be. The Church of Ireland was disestablished in 1869. I believe it was a profound and welcome moment in its history. I was interested some years ago to hear Prince Charles say that rather than being the Defender of the Faith he saw himself as the Defender of Faith. The omission of 'THE' is, I think, significant. Perhaps 500 years after the first, a Second Reformation is required. I will allow you to reflect in your own time.

I could go on but suffice it to say that on 6th July 1980, following five years of this stellar theological education, at 3.30pm, I was ordained along with one other in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin.

There followed curacies in two Dublin Parishes, Rathfarnham and Finglas and then my first role as Rector in Celbridge, just outside Dublin in 1985. The Church of Ireland is a small place. There are only around 500 clergy in all, but it takes 12 bishops to oversee them. So, about one bishop for 40 clergy. I decided in 1988 to broaden my horizons and joined the RACHD as a Chaplain. Five very happy years followed in Germany, Colchester and Northern Ireland.

Some would call the above a long and varied career. The less charitable would probably use the word chequered. However, despite the darker times and the moments of doubt which there have been, looking back there is little I would change. Those forty years have been a seminal moment in the long history of the Church. When I became a priest there was a certain clerical arrogance abroad. Thanks to the revelations regarding clerical abuse that is now, I sincerely hope, behind us. There is an opportunity to move forward armed with nothing but the Gospel itself, having the courage to confront our world with its cares and concerns for the economic and the fleeting. To highlight Gospel concerns about climate, environment and the rights of all, irrespective of colour creed or gender to live their lives with dignity and in peace.

When the chips are down, we return almost by default to home and family and friends. My final verse comes not from Scripture but from my Mother's Autograph Album. Inside the back cover, her mother had written these words. They are from a poem called the Weaver by Florence Alt:

**Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skilful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.**

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

Our Church Services. Particularly with recent developments in mind the clergy are adopting a more cautious and prudent approach to re-opening which means that for Inkpen and Combe there are only two services, both in Inkpen, in August. The first is on **Sunday 9th at 10.30am** and is a service of **Holy Communion** led by the clergy team. The second is a Service of **Compline** and is on the **16th at 6.30pm**. This is a service of quietness and reflection with readings and prayers as we come to the close of the day. It has much to commend it particularly considering the situation that faces us all. Other services in the Benefice at **10.30am** are **Holy Communion** on **16th** at West Woodhay (also on the **16th** there is an early service of Holy Communion at **8.30am** at Kintbury), **23rd** at Enborne and **30th** at Hamstead Marshall. Full precautions are in place for each.

Church Opening for personal reflection and prayer will continue as before each Wednesday and Sunday from 9am to 4pm. All are very welcome with arrangements made to make your visit a safe one.

Gerald Atkinson
Churchwarden

CHURCH CONTACTS

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Mark Wilson – Tel. 01488 491105;
Mob: 07935550838; Email: markajwilson1@gmail.com.

Associate Priest: The Revd. Tim Wood – Tel. 01488 669261;
Mob: 07927352847; Email: revtimothywood@gmail.com.

Benefice Administrator: Deborah Wilson, part-time at the **Benefice Office**
Email: wbboffice@gmail.com.

Churchwardens: **Inkpen:** Peter Bell (tel. 668395), Gerald Atkinson (tel. 668375). **Combe:** David Russell (tel. 668229), Katherine Astor (tel. 668284).

INKPEN FOOD BANK

Another great donation to the food bank last week. They really are incredibly grateful for all the generous donations from Inkpen so let's keep it going. At the moment they are in desperate need of toothbrushes, deodorant, sugar and tinned fruit.

If anyone would like to volunteer with the charity, do please get in touch. They have lost a third of their volunteers during lockdown due to them being over 70 years old.

Claudia Lawson

INKPEN VILLAGE HALL

There have been enquiries as to when the Village Hall could reopen now that there's some easing of lockdown. There was a special meeting of the VH Committee to discuss the issues involved in safely reopening the Hall. It was agreed that while it would be great to get the Hall up and running again it's unfortunately just not appropriate to reopen yet given the current situation. However, this will be reviewed again in September when there may be better news.'

Mike Smith

POLICE UPDATE

Joanna King writes "As the Covid-19 lockdown continues to ease, I think it is fair to say we will see an increase in demand of the Police, along with other sectors and services. As you will know, non-essential shops have been open again now for some time, with some restrictions in place. As of Saturday 4th July, further sectors re-opened, which included pubs and restaurants, again, with restrictions in place.

From 24th July the Government has issued further guidance into the wearing of a mask/ face covering in shops and other public areas.

While Social Distancing measures remain in place, I am happy to report that we are not aware of any regular breaches of these measures and that the majority of

people continue to observe the guidelines and laws.

10th July – a parcel was stolen from the doorstep of a property in the Upper Green area.

16th July there was a break in reported to a farm outbuilding in the village. An attempt was made to steal Diesel.

As we approach the end of Harvest, we find this is the time of year when we see an increase in rural crime offences. Particularly hare-coursing and poaching. Please be mindful of this when driving through open countryside and report suspicious behaviour to Police.

Are you going on Holiday?

- Make your home look occupied.
- If you're out or going away, ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you.
- Ask a neighbour if they don't mind parking their car on your driveway and trimming your garden to make your home look occupied.
- Cut the front and back lawns before you go away and trim any plants that burglars could hide behind.
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Before your holiday, don't advertise that you are going away on Facebook, Twitter etc.
- Register for the Royal Mail 'Keepsafe' service Leave important documents and valuable personal items with other family members or a bank.
- Double-check that you've locked all outside windows and doors.
- Set your burglar alarm.

Have you heard about **THAMES VALLEY TEXT ALERT**? Sign up today www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/ to receive free texts or emails about crime in your local area and relevant safety advice”.

If you would like any further advice, or have any information relating to any of the above please contact me on 07814852137 or email Joanna.king@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

PLAYING FIELD TRUST UPDATE (IMPFT)

Pavilion News

Phase 1: The Changing Room renovation and extension will be completed on 3rd August. Thank you to ARK for being on time and on budget. Very sadly we cannot open the changing rooms as we need to wait for SSE to move the electric meter. We have been chasing them for the last 12 weeks but it seems that COVID19 has only enabled them to do emergency work and we are on a waiting list. As soon as we have electricity and the works are signed off, we can make the changing room facilities available. The transformation is amazing and we hope you will be pleased with what has been done.

Sadly, and as a result of SSE not moving the meter, the **Defibrillator is currently out of use**. As soon as the electrics are re-connected, we will get the defibrillator up and running again. Its location may change as work has started on the second phase of building works.

Following a tender process for Phase 2 ARK was awarded the contract and have started work on it. The hope is that this works will be finished in December. As always, we still need to raise funds to complete the renovation of the pavilion so any help you can give would be much appreciated.



If you can donate to the pavilion renovation, please make a cheque payable to: IMPF Fund Raising and give it to Gloria Keene or Claire Jones. Or contact Claire for our bank details – donations can be anonymous and every penny counts now. Any donation is very much appreciated.

Waitrose Fund Raiser

If you are shopping in Waitrose this month our project should be featured on the Green Token Charity 'bank' so do please get your tokens and select our cause. Thank you.

Playground News

The playground has been very busy since it was re-opened after the COVID19 lockdown. The new roundabout seems to be a much used addition. Please be considerate when using it and recognise that others may be waiting to get into the playground to use the equipment. The Government guidelines for using the playground are:

- Please help everyone to maintain a minimum 1m+ distance
- Don't be offended when others try to maintain a distance from you
- If the playground is busy, consider coming back when it is quieter
- Use hand sanitiser or wet wipes after play and wash hands when home
- Put rubbish in the litter bins or better still, take litter home with you
- Stay safe, be kind, protect others

Thank you to those of you who supported our Crowd Funding campaigns for the Woodland Playground. With your help, the help of family and friends and AVIA staff we raised £2,500 on the AVIA site and £927 on the Calor Gas site. Well done.

Contacts: Claire Jones (clairejonesimpt@gmail.com) or any of the other Trustees

INKPEN STITCH AND KNIT

Sadly, we are still not in a position to confirm when the next Stitch and Knit session will be held but we will meet again in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm - unfortunately I can't confirm which month at the moment! If you would like to be put on the email list and receive an email confirmation of when we can meet please let me know jan@honeydesign.co.uk. In the meantime, keep safe and look after each other.

Jan Honey

BEElieve it or not

It is at this time of year that many of us get plagued with WASPS. It is a particular worry for me as a beekeeper because the blooming things eat my bees by chewing off their heads and taking the body back to feed their young. Furthermore, if they get a whiff of the honey in the hives, they steal it and, in the process, kill more of my bees.

I am surprised at the number of villagers, who despite living in our beautiful countryside, do not know the difference between wasps and my Honeybees. I often get asked if my bees have swarmed and can I come and look at some insects at their home. More often than not, particularly at this time of year, they are wasps.

Sometimes it can be those lovely cuddly and fluffy Bumble bees that pose no real threat to humans or Honeybees. So, here are some photos for you to consider.



WASP



HONEYBEE



BUMBLE BEE

So, with your help, I will be able to continue supplying Inkpen residents with my lovely Local Honey. Something that many say helps hay fever sufferers, as well as being delicious on toast or used for cooking all manner of recipes. This may seem a bit premature, but Christmas is just around the corner, and some of you may start to think about Christmas Gifts. What better than some local Inkpen Honey. And as a nod to Christmas, customers buying six jars can have them personalised with their own Christmas message on the label and get a choice of a candle. But this is while stocks last, so best to place an order sooner rather than later, as my bees' honey is a seasonal product.

Email Don at don@honeydesign.co.uk



INKPEN COMMON

Those who walk on Inkpen Common may have noticed that paths and other areas are looking a little overgrown. Like many other charities, BBOWT volunteer activities have been on hold and BBOWT staff have been supporting only urgent activities in the past few months.

Limited volunteer activities are now restarting and a small group of the 'Friends of Inkpen Common' will be working on path clearance on Saturday, 1st August. We are currently limited to groups of 6 so will be tackling the worst areas first. Please can you let BBOWT or me know if there are any issues on the Common?

Before we went into lockdown the group did a huge amount of work clearing silver birch and gorse and we expect to see a good show of heather in August and September. If you haven't been on the Common recently, then do go and take a look.

The cows will be back in the next week or so and grazing will also help reduce the grass and scrub. We have 4 Dexters moving from the Crocus Field soon so just a gentle reminder to please keep dogs on leads on the Common.

Sally Hughes



LET THERE BE ROCK

To celebrate the easing of lockdown, the **Rock of Ages** will be playing on the Inkpen Memorial Playing Field on **Saturday 22nd August from around 3 - 6pm.**

The plan is for it to be an informal affair with no charge. Just come along and listen, join in the choruses, and dance if you want. Bring a chair, or blanket and a picnic if you like. Please note;

- there may not be toilets available due to the building work
- Social distancing must be observed
- please take any litter home with you.

We're hoping that the sun will shine so see you there.



COPY DATE

Please email aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk or call 01488668496 **by 23rd August** with any features, news, events or ideas. Please remember, not everyone is on the Facebook...so spread the news via the Bulletin too.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications recorded this month by West Berkshire Council (WBC); 20/00882/House, Copse View, Folly Rd – enlargement of front gable & construction of 3 front and 2 rear dormer windows – Refused by WBC Planning Section.

New Mill planning applications are pending further investigation by WBC and amended planning details for the cumulative effect on landscape and the surrounding area, following significant local representation and the Parish Council request to look at the total number of applications and not individually in isolation. The majority of the previous applications for New Mill fall within the Kintbury boundary for decisions by Kintbury Parish Council, with Inkpen as an adjacent parish.

New planning application for consideration, as an adjacent Parish, is 20/01338 Hell Corner Farm, Kintbury - change of use from agricultural to domestic. Proposed two storey extension to house, demolition of outbuilding. New double garage/car port and driveway.

All planning applications can be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website www.westberks.gov.uk

Misinformation circulating in the village: In order to correct some mis information, it is important that residents are aware that the views expressed on planning applications by Inkpen Parish Council are those representing the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within which we live, the desire to protect the countryside by restricting development plans that represent a disproportionate enlargement, take account of wildlife heritage sites, wildlife, historic conservation areas and must concur with government planning legislation (NPPF) and the local authority local planning strategies. Local residents' views are also taken into consideration. The final decision on all planning applications are the responsibility of West Berkshire Council planning section and Inkpen Parish Council is only an 'advisory' consultee with no statutory powers.

Bird Nesting Season – thank you to all those who have resisted cutting down trees and hedges during the period of April to the end of August. Protection of the wildlife is very important. Sadly, the Forestry Commission grant 'felling licences' and place the onus on the landowner to ensure that consideration is given to habitats and species, which often allows felling to take place and is very upsetting to residents as so much of the wildlife and habitat is affected. Breach of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 is a police matter as it is a criminal offence and should be reported.

Covid-19: During the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown period, a big ‘thank you’ to the ‘army of volunteers’ who have supported residents and of course to the ‘NHS, Emergency Services and All Key Workers.

Inkpen Parish website (www.inkpenvillage.co.uk) contains all the latest information on the deadly Coronavirus, which is something that we ALL going to have to live with until we have a vaccine. This pandemic affects all of us to stay safe and stay alert. It is extremely important that we all continue to observe good hygiene, social distancing and self-isolate and request a test if suffering any coronavirus symptoms. Although residents may start to feel more confident and spend more time outdoors, we encourage all residents to be considerate to others, keeping a 2 metre distance from others where possible – no large outdoor gatherings are allowed.

Level 3 Heatwave: temperatures rose at the end of July rose to a sweltering Level 3 heatwave and the effects can be harmful to health, particularly those with long term health conditions, the elderly and the young – so please refrain from lighting bonfires and look out for neighbours when the heat is on.

Bonfires: WBC are asking residents to ‘think of others’ during this period of lockdown – please consider alternative disposal methods, smoke and smell is a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Animals: Please be aware of the hot weather and the exposure of animals in non-shaded fields. There have been reported cases of horses exposed in the hot sun in fields without shade or water.

Inkpen Parish Council virtual meetings are advertised on the village notice boards and on the official village website in advance of the meeting - see www.inkpenvillage.co.uk . The next meeting has not been arranged due to Government advice not to hold public meetings and as always are subject to councillor’s availability.

Gloria Keene, Clerk to Inkpen Parish Council (I 668960),

Email: parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk .

UNTITLED

March Hares dance and dive, evading hounds
Police patrol the low grass farms and grounds
The sun shines on granola soil
As daffs are browned and blossoms boil
Bumble buzz and hover flies
Sweet Air
Distracting us all

‘No worse than flu’ is heard and echoed round
But, just in case the hoard begins
Toilet rolls and tins of beans
All that’s frozen, like it or not
Disinfectant, disposable wipes
Grab what you can.
No time to think

No paracetamol, no aspirin
No pubs, no clubs
Shelves of nothing, trollies scattered
Locusts, been and gone
No online slots, no going out
All shut down,
Quiet and alone.

The sun, oblivious, still and warming
Still
A time to blossom
Unsure
To give, to be real
Smiles with doorstep bags
And distance.

(continued on the back..)

And a time to remember, to reflect
The deadly toll of now and then
All in burrows
Cocooned in isolation.
But now we start again
Through masks
Timid, insecure

All like a dream, a dark dream
A face behind each corner
To run, or stop?
There's no escape
You have to wake
Put one foot forward
One foot forward

Make a new and better normal.

By a (modest) Inkpen resident

