

# **INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN**

**DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020**



## CHURCH LETTER

The Letter for this Bulletin is from Revd. Jenny Veasey who lives in Kintbury and was ordained last month as the Local Licensed Minister for the Walbury Beacon Benefice. She writes:

### **Advent – the Season of Preparation, the Season of Waiting . . .**

“We have just acquired an Advent ring for Kintbury School to use during their assemblies in December. The children will help to create an Advent wreath decorated with greenery and four candles, one to be lit each week of Advent.

As I was preparing some background information on this – checking the facts with my memory and the Church of England website with hearsay, it caused me to pause and think about its meaning. I came up with this – it’s all about candles!

The first candle is the candle of Hope and is dedicated to the Patriarchs – a word which is always a bit of a mouthful for Primary School children. These are the ancient Biblical figures of Abraham, Isaac and others – the “fathers” of the Jewish race and religion whose covenant with God was part of His long-term plan to bring hope to humanity – and aren’t we just in sore need of that right now?! At the start of the New Testament, Joseph’s ancestry is traced right the way back, through King David of Bethlehem, to these Patriarchal figures, explaining the need for that long and well-known journey that he and Mary made to David’s City of Bethlehem to be registered for the Roman tax system.

The second candle, Peace, recalls the Prophets who are more Old Testament characters whose role was not just to look forward to the future coming of the Messiah, but also to keep recalling the Jews to the covenant made on their behalf by Abraham, and the special part they had to play in bringing that Messiah into the world for all nations.

The third candle, Joy, is lit on what used to be called “Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday” when some of the rules about fasting during Advent were relaxed for a day. This candle belongs to John the Baptist who we tend to think of as a rather way-out figure in the New Testament, living in the wilderness, eating strange food, wearing strange clothes and apparently always up to his waist in the River Jordan. Maybe we forget that he was Jesus’ cousin, older than him by just a few months, but nevertheless entering the world before Him – and therefore able to claim a role as the last “Old” Testament prophet, as well as the first in the New Testament.

## LETTER (continued)

The last of the four represents Love and it is Mary's candle. That speaks, I think, for itself.

Finally, there is often a separate, white candle reserved for lighting on Christmas Day when all these elements of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love unite Past, Present and Future in the Light of Christ as we celebrate once again His coming among us.

Wow - will I be able to convey all that to the children at Kintbury St Mary's School in four or five assemblies? Well, probably not. But I'll have a jolly good try – and I know that they will listen with their usual attentiveness and maybe we'll meet somewhere in the middle!

So I wish us all a Hopeful, Peaceful, Joyful Advent followed by a Christmas and New Year filled with Love and Light ..... and turkey.”  
Jenny Veasey.

## RING IN THE NEW

Our new Editor, Tim des Forges writes: “It is a great privilege to have the Inkpen and Combe Bulletin baton passed on to Alie and me from Gerald and Elsa. We will do our best not to drop it. It is quite daunting considering the longevity of their involvement in this fine publication and the high standards that they attain. Over recent months we have looked at other Parish ‘magazines’ and these comparisons only go to show how good ‘ours’ is. I have no doubt this is achieved through a lot of hard work, thought and desire to make each issue as good as the last. We would like to thank Gerald and Elsa for their kind diligence in making this transition hopefully seamless; however, if there are seams that are seen, we will try and remove them. We don't intend to make sweeping changes to the layout and of course, the content is only as good as the information we are sent. We intend to return to a monthly publication which will allow for more spontaneous events and information to be reported. We would welcome any constructive ideas of what you would like to see more or less of so that we can encourage the former. Ultimately, we will endeavour to fill the sizeable boots left and keep the villages informed of all goings on. So a special thank you and an enthusiastic round of applause, from all the village, to Gerald and Elsa for their tireless work for the past 30 or so years. You deserve a well-earned rest.

**Copy Date.** Please could we have copy for February's issue by 24th January 2020 to [aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk) or ring us on 01488 668496.”

## THE 92 GROUP

Come and join the **Inkpen 92 Group** for a 'festive meeting' just before Christmas on **Wednesday 18th December** at the **Inkpen Sports Pavilion at 2.30pm** when David Thomas will be speak about: '**100,000 Years in the Makings of Man**'

This is a one-time opportunity to see some of the man-made objects from the last 100,000 years and to visualise at least some of the progress of the human race. Hopefully there will be something of interest for everyone. Some actual objects will be there for you to see and their individual place in history will be described. Items will cover the period from the Neanderthals right through to WW2 - Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Anglo-Saxon, Viking, Medieval, Tudor, English Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, American Civil War, Boer War, Victorian & Edwardian eras, Titanic era and Second World War. That's a lot of ground to cover!

Please come along and join us - members and guests are welcome and guests will be invited to make a donation of £2.

In **January** we will start a new programme of talks but in the future we will meet on the **second Wednesday of the month** - please watch out for further details which will be announced in the New Year.

Gloria Keene for the 92 Group.

## THE CROWN AND GARTER AT CHRISTMAS

Jane Hartnup writes: "Now with Christmas fast approaching, it means it's time to celebrate with friends and family, and we can cater for all these needs here at the Crown and Garter. We have two lovely menus available throughout December – a Party Menu and a fresh new Lunch, Dinner and Dessert menu. Needless to say both are delicious, they use local seasonal ingredients and they are fully homemade. So come and join us. We are open all through the Christmas and New Year period, including **Christmas Day** for drinks between **11am and 1pm**. But sorry, we are already fully booked for Christmas Day lunch. However, we are serving food on **Boxing Day, New Year's Eve** and **New Year's Day** and for New Year's Eve we will be having an Indian style buffet for which we would recommend that you book. It will be delicious.

So the Christmas tree is up, crackers are at the ready and the log fire is just waiting for you to come and to celebrate. From all at the Crown and Garter we wish you a happy festive period."

## INKPEN VILLAGE MARKET

The last Inkpen market of the year is on **Sunday December 15th**. Come to the **Inkpen Village Hall** between **10am and 12.30pm** and perhaps find those last Christmas presents – they could include:

Attractively decorated heat resistant limestone coasters in different sizes as well as lovely colourful handmade cushions. Delicious homemade fruit teas, rubs, fruit flavoured sugars and other interesting items. Bird seed and feeders, late autumn flowering pansies and bulbs for the Spring – and beautiful colourful hand knitted socks! Also cards and Christmas bunting and Sandy's wonderful woodturning with unique Christmas decorations.

For food we have Christmas cakes for you to ice, mince pies, sausage rolls and other sweet and savoury items. Inkpen produced eggs and sausages, an assortment of homemade bread, artisan cheese, Inkpen veg. in season, jams, marmalade, chutneys and pickles, raspberry vinegar and fish pate and homemade soup. And as always there is the book stall, tombola and tea and coffee. So there is plenty to choose from and the real opportunity for a chat and an exchange of Christmas greetings.

For 2020 the first market of the year is on **Sunday January 19th**. Expect all the regular stallholders to be there. Currently there is space at the market in January and the early months of the year for anyone who would like to test out any fledgling craft idea that they might have. It's a good way to find out if you have a marketable product. So call Josephine for a table on 01488 668 068 or come and see me at the December market.

J.S.

## SING FOR THE CAROL SERVICE

The Village Carol Choir is already sounding well for this most enjoyable event. But it's not too late for anyone who would like to join and take part. Practices are on Tuesday evenings 3rd, 10th and 17th December and on Saturday 21st. If you are interested contact our Choirmaster, Andrew Cox on 01488 658985, 07503 778871 or [a.d.cox@outlook.com](mailto:a.d.cox@outlook.com).

## KEEPING UP TO DATE

For details of Inkpen Parish Council news, please visit the [Inkpenvillage.co.uk](http://www.inkpenvillage.co.uk) website at <http://www.inkpenvillage.co.uk/pc.html>. The Parish Council page changes more often than other website pages in order to reflect the publication of minutes, meeting dates and police notices.



## SOME GENEROUS GIVING

Very many thanks to all who gave over the last three months to two Village Collections. The first was the **Annual Appeal for Inkpen Church** and although the collection is not yet fully complete, it has so far raised over £6,000 with £350 nominated for the Bulletin and £50 for the Churchyards. This is very much appreciated and is a crucial element of the giving that is required to balance the books. Needless to say, if any who haven't yet given are moved to do so, the Treasurer, Gerald Atkinson, Laburnum Cottage, Heads Lane, Inkpen Common, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 9QS, 01488 668375 or email: **geraldelsa@gmail.com** who would be very happy to hear from you!

The second was the giving to the **Poppy Appeal**. Claire Jones who organizes this writes "Thank you to all who bought a poppy from our house to house collectors who go out in all weathers, and to the School, the Crown and Garter and the Bakery for the collections made there.

The **Remembrance Service** on the 10th led by Col. Nick Freeman was very well attended. Both he and Jack Marriott gave most moving addresses, the latter relating to the service and bravery of Captain Robert Ryder V.C. whose family were also able to be with us. As the service progressed we were all made very aware of the amazing courage of those who have fought for our freedom. The collection, which is always given to the Appeal, amounted to £575 and the total was £1,735.93. As always, very many thanks to all concerned."



Painting on the North Chancel wall by Ethel King Martin 1915

## SCHOOL NEWS

Our Headteacher, Jane Kanisius, writes: "Following on from our very successful enrichment week in the summer when we explored the history and geography of Inkpen, Katherine Astor very kindly funded a trip for our junior children to visit Old Sarum Hill fort near Salisbury, so that they could compare it with Walbury Hill. We must have had the only sunny day in what seemed like weeks of rain and the children had the most fantastic time. They learnt so much from simply being there, from the sheer size of the castle to seeing how hard it would have been for attackers to scale the sides of the steep sided moat. We really appreciate her generosity in making this trip possible.

Then in November our younger children were treated to a return visit from local author and illustrator, Simon Murray, who spent time teaching them how to create their own cartoons. The results were very impressive and the children so proud of the finished results.

On the sporting front, congratulations go to our "Alternative Olympics" team who once again won the gold medal in the tournament held at Park House. Our netball team also have been taking part in a Small Schools League for the first time and, while not yet winning a match, they are playing very well and I am sure it will not be long until they do!

As for Christmas, our infants have started rehearsing for their Nativity performance, which is always one of the highlights of my year and when we know that the Christmas season has really begun."

## INKPEN POOR'S ALLOTMENT

This Inkpen Charity is looking for somebody to take over the voluntary position of Clerk to the Trustees. If you are interested and can spare about 30 hours a year and have basic book keeping and clerical skills, please contact Mary Bowers by email – [ipatrust@btinternet.com](mailto:ipatrust@btinternet.com). Many thanks.

## LAND WANTED

**Grazing Land/Paddock** for Hobby Livestock wanted in Inkpen for Purchase or Rent. Please contact Simon in Upper Green, Inkpen 01488 668349.

## THE MOBILE LIBRARY

The Library will call in Inkpen at Craven Rd. from 2.30 – 2.50pm and at Inkpen School from 3.05 to 4pm on 17th December and 7th & 28th January 2020. Please support the rural service as we do not wish to lose it.

## PLAYING FIELD TRUST UPDATE (IMPFT)

Having taken account of the issues raised by residents and users of the playing field facility, the trustees have agreed an amended design for the pavilion. An architect has been appointed and we will shortly be putting together tenders for builders' quotes.

We have reached the Match Funding target set by The Greenham Trust and are hopeful of raising £200,000 by the end of 2019. With your support we hope we can raise a further £45,000 in order to start the pavilion renovation by April 2020.

Thanks to all the volunteers the Woodland Playground clearance is nearly complete. We just need to get a digger in and clear all the roots etc. Peter Kersey has kindly offered to do this but we will need volunteers to help. We hope to carry out this work early in January so if you can help please do come along, your help would be much appreciated. The date will be emailed and put on Facebook.

There is still a lot of work to be done to get this area ready for the children and it is unlikely to be ready before autumn 2020. If you have any thoughts about the Woodland Playground do please email Claire Jones ([clairejonesIMPFT@gmail.com](mailto:clairejonesIMPFT@gmail.com)).

Last month we planted 200 hedging plants from the Woodland Trust, along with some donated bulbs. But there are still another 100 hedging plants to plant. They will be planted in January along the playground fence line once the digger work is complete. And we plan to have the wheelchair roundabout installed in the playground in January or February 2020.

You have seen that thanks to you we have made significant progress on fund raising, but we continue to be busy. So we are very grateful to everyone who donated prizes to the Silent Auction and to those who bid for them. But there is still some way to go. So if you would like to donate or pledge a donation please send this to: IMPFT Fund Raising c/o Claire Jones, Craven Hill Cottage, Craven Road, Inkpen RG17 9DY. Cheques should be made payable to IMPF Fund Raising. For all who feel able to respond, many thanks indeed.

Finally, there is lots of information about the IMPFT on our website: [www.impft.co.uk](http://www.impft.co.uk). New booking rates and events will be published shortly.

C.J.



## POLICE UPDATE

Our Community Police Officer, Joanna King, writes: “The October/November period has seen a slight increase in rural crime. We have received reports of hare-coursing and tyre marks in fields. There have also been reports of non-dwelling burglaries to sheds/outbuildings in the local area from which STIHL items and other garden tools have been taken. The trouble is that offenders see sheds as easy pickings because they are unprotected and lack basic security measures. They often contain property that can be sold on or implements that can be used to force entry into the owner’s home. Sheds while being of good construction can fall short on basic security. For example, it is easy to unscrew the ironmongery, steal contents and in some cases replace the screws to make it look as if the shed has not been tampered with. But by using tamper proof screws or coach bolts together with a good quality pad bar or hasp and staple and close shackled padlock, the shed owner will make it harder for the would-be thief. It is also a good idea to bond any window glass in, with mastic to prevent easy removal.

Another good security measure is to ensure that all tools and equipment are locked away when not in use. High-quality locks should be used on doors. Windows can be fitted with a grille or, as a cheaper alternative, chicken wire, to slow a thief down. A shed alarm can also be installed. Audible alarms are widely available and reasonably priced on the internet. If an alarmed padlock is tampered with it can emit 100+ decibel sirens that will not only draw attention to the shed but surprise and deter the offender. If property is stolen post-coding or indelibly marking it – lawnmowers, bikes, tools etc. – using ultra-violet pens, forensic marking such as Selecta DNA or Smartwater or engravers will help in its recovery.

We do continue to receive reports of residential burglaries in the area. Since the beginning of August these have occurred in Inkpen, West Woodhay and Hungerford amongst other areas, mainly during the daytime and often via a rear door or window. Please report any suspicious behaviour, look out for neighbours properties and keep all windows and doors locked. Make sure the house looks occupied if you are not at home.

Lastly I’d like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

If you would like any further information or advice, please contact me on 07814852137 or email [Joanna.king@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Joanna.king@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

Please be advised I cannot take reports of crime over the phone. These need to be reported using the online form or via 101.”

## FROM THE EDITOR

Alfred, Lord Tennyson in his poem 'In Memoriam A.H.H.' writes the lines

“Ring out the old, ring in the new  
Ring happy bells across the snow”

With many thanks for his kind words, the introduction that Tim des Forges has given as the new Bulletin Editor has ‘rung in the new’. It’s time now for Elsa, who at the word processor has done all the hard work, and I as Editor to happily ‘ring out the old’.

We have ‘done the Bulletin’ for the last 32 years and have with thanks to the contributors enabled it to grow from 4 pages of village activities and news to 16. And more recently thanks to Don Honey we have moved from black and white to colour, and the quality of the finished result has improved enormously. There are few Bulletins or Parish/Village Magazines – in fact none that I have come across – that on a monthly or bi-monthly basis are delivered free to every household in their area. So for delivery we most sincerely thank our distributors over the years – without them we would have laboured in vain. And that it is free to all is down to the fact that all give their services and that production costs are met by donations and are then underwritten by the Church and Inkpen Parish Council. So it is all very much a team effort to serve these wonderful villages of Inkpen and Combe.

As my parting contribution I would like to share with you a favourite prayer of mine which whether I pray it or just think it helps me a lot.

**“Lord, grant me**

**Courage** to do right when doing wrong or doing nothing at all would be easier.

**Wisdom** to say the right thing at the right time because words have the power to help or hurt.

**Faith** in the goodness of mankind because living in doubt and fear is not living as you meant it to be.

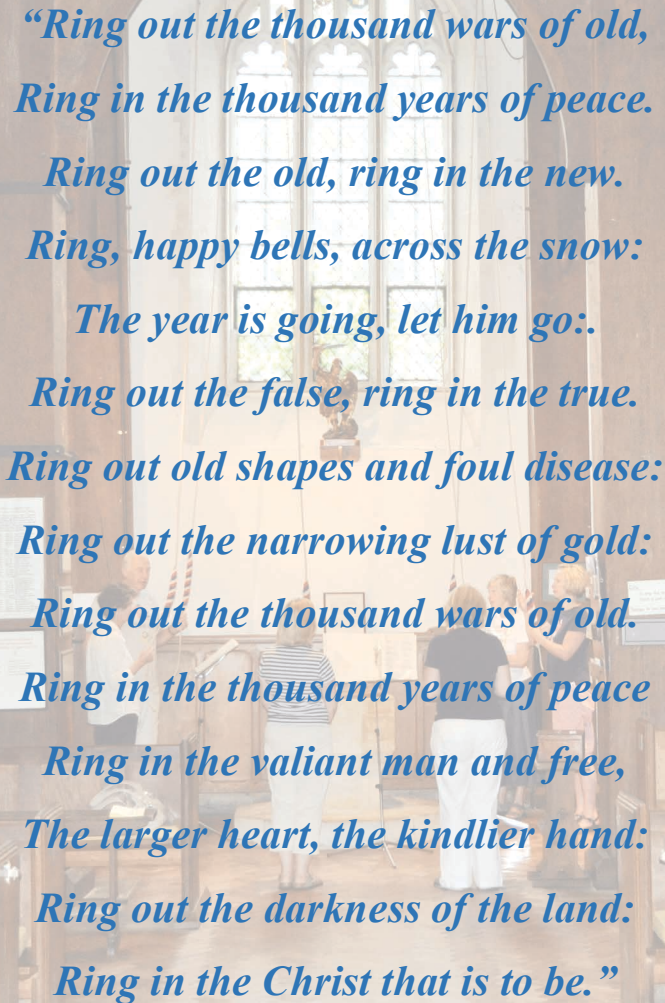
And most important,

**Love**, the kind that gives without demanding, supports without holding too tightly, and understands that we are, all of us, imperfect. Amen.”

Finally, our very sincere thanks to Tim and Alie for taking the Bulletin forward and, for the last time, we wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## FOR THE NEW YEAR

I have already quoted two lines from the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson's 'In Memoriam A.H.H.' They are included in the brief extract below which seems particularly appropriate as we start the New Year.



*“Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.  
Ring out the old, ring in the new.  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go:  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
Ring out old shapes and foul disease:  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold:  
Ring out the thousand wars of old.  
Ring in the thousand years of peace  
Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand:  
Ring out the darkness of the land:  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.”*

## CHURCH SERVICES AND LESSONS FOR DECEMBER

### Sunday 1st December – 1st Sunday of Advent (purple)

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44.

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	Rev. G. Foulis Brown
<b>10.30</b>	<b>H. Marshall</b>	<b>Benefice Service</b>	Rev. M. Wilson
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Enborne</b>	<b>Advent Carol Service with Enborne Consort</b>	Rev. M. Wilson

### Sunday 8th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent (purple)

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

8.00	Kintbury	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	Enborne	Matins	Rev. J. Veasey
<b>11.15</b>	<b>Combe</b>	Holy Communion	Rev. T. Wood
11.15	W. Woodhay	Joint Service at Combe	
<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Inkpen</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	Rev. M. Wilson
4.00pm	H. Marshall	Carols and Christingle	Rev. J. Veasey

### Sunday 15th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent (purple)

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	Enborne	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
11.15	W. Woodhay	Carols	Rev. M. Wilson
<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Combe</b>	<b>Carols</b>	Rev. T. Wood
<b>3-4.30pm</b>	<b>Inkpen</b>	<b>Christmas Music – see opposite page</b>	Gerald Atkinson

### Sunday 22nd December – 4th Sunday of Advent (purple)

Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Inkpen</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	Rev. M. Wilson

### Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve (purple)

<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>W. Woodhay</b>	<b>Crib Service</b>	Rev. M. Wilson
<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Kintbury</b>	<b>Midnight Communion</b>	Rev. T. Wood

### Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day (white)

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14(15-20).

<b>9.45</b>	<b>Inkpen</b>	<b>Family Service followed by Holy Communion</b>	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	H. Marshall	Family Communion	Rev. P. Whitworth
9.45	Enborne	Family Communion	Rev. G. Foulis Brown
<b>11.15</b>	<b>Combe</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>	Rev. M. Wilson
11.15	W. Woodhay	Family Communion	Rev. T. Wood

### Sunday 29th December – 1st Sunday after Christmas (white)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18.

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	H. Kintbury	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson

## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN INKPEN AND COMBE

**Christingle** is the first service of the Christmas season and it's just right for the children. It is in **Inkpen Church** at **4pm** on **Sunday 8th** and as Jenny Veasey's letter tells us, it's all about candles. They will be inside the church, outside the church and held by the children as they sing 'Away in a Manger' in candlelight. Pure magic. All money from the service both from the candle 'money boxes' given out at the School and in the collection goes to The Children's Society. Spare boxes will be available on the day – just bring something to put in them.

**Christmas Music** with its evocative beauty is being played in **Inkpen Church** from **3pm-4.30** on **Sunday 15th**. It gives the opportunity not just to enjoy the music but also to allow the peaceful and reflective atmosphere that the Church undoubtedly has to give that sense of peace that can be so elusive at Christmas. Come and go as you wish – mulled wine will be offered as you arrive for you to enjoy as you sit and listen.

**The Carol Services** are at **Combe** on **Sunday 15th** at **11.15am** and at **Inkpen** on **Sunday 22nd** at **6.30pm** and for both of these the churches will be magnificently decorated. The Inkpen service which is noted for its lusty singing will be led by the Village Carol Choir. Come and enjoy.

**Christmas Eve** offers the **Crib Service**, which is particularly for young children, at **West Woodhay Church** at **6pm** and **Midnight Communion** at **St. Mary's Church, Kintbury** starting at **11.30pm**.

**Christmas Day** worship at Inkpen starts with the **Family Service** at **9.45am** which is followed after a short break by **Holy Communion**. For **Combe** there is **Family Christmas Communion** at **11.15am**. It is in these services that we celebrate the birth of Christ – an event that changed the world.

## CATHOLIC SERVICES

**Mass** is at **9am** every **Sunday** at **Our Lady of Lourdes Church**, Priory Road, Hungerford. **Weekday Mass** is at the same church every **Wednesday** at **10am**. Our Lady of Lourdes Church is now open during the week from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday. For further information, contact Paul Burrough 01488 668882, mobile 07836 292976 or email [paul.burrough@talktalk.net](mailto:paul.burrough@talktalk.net).



## CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

### Sunday 5th January

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	Rev. T. Wood
<b>10.30</b>	<b>W. Woodhay</b>	<b>Benefice Service</b>	Rev. M. Wilson

### Sunday 12th January

8.00	Kintbury	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	Inkpen	Parish Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	H. Marshall	All Age Worship	Rev. J. Veasey
9.45	Enborne	Matins	Lay Person
11.15	Combe	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
11.15	W. Woodhay	Joint Service at Combe	

### Sunday 19th January

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	Enborne	Holy Communion	Rev. T. Wood
11.15	W. Woodhay	Holy Communion	Rev. T. Wood
11.15	Combe	Joint Service at W. Woodhay	
<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Inkpen</b>	<b>Compline</b>	Rev. M. Wilson

### Sunday 26th January

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
9.45	Inkpen	<b>Exploration and Discovery -</b> see page 15	
9.45	H. Marshall	Holy Communion	Rev. T. Wood
11.15	Combe	Holy Communion	Rev. M. Wilson
11.15	W. Woodhay	Holy Communion	Rev. T. Wood
6.30pm	Enborne	Evensong	Rev. J. Veasey

### Sunday 2nd February

8.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Enborne</b>	<b>Benefice Service</b>	

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Priest-in-Charge:** The Rev. Mark Wilson – Tel. 01488 491105;  
Mob: 07935550838; Email: [markajwilson1@gmail.com](mailto:markajwilson1@gmail.com).

**Associate Priest:** The Rev. Tim Wood – Tel. 01488 669261;  
Mob: 07927352847; Email: [revtimothywood@gmail.com](mailto:revtimothywood@gmail.com).

**Benefice Administrator:** Deborah Wilson, part-time (Tues & Wed) at the **Benefice Office** – Tel. 01635 226064; Email: [wbboffice@gmail.com](mailto:wbboffice@gmail.com).

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

## EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

You will see from the previous page that the title for the Service With a Difference has changed. Since its implementation some 15 years ago we have tried to offer a service that was different with a range of speakers and styles, and they have been interesting. However, what the service lacked was a central purpose and a pattern to make it work.

So now in 2020 we want it to be different! We hope that this will be the year in which we look again, perhaps with new eyes, and explore some of the central features of Christian Belief. And as we do, perhaps we may have that eureka moment of discovery that really makes us think again regardless of how much, how little or even no experience ‘in the faith’ we have.

So where do we start?

It can only be with the force that we call God which in total is unknowable. But with the insight that science is now giving us we are beginning to see that far from chance, our world was designed for a purpose.

To see how this might be we are showing three films over the next three months the first of which is in **Inkpen Church at 9.45am on January 25th**. It is called (topically enough) ‘The Privileged Planet’ and it takes us on a journey from the most remote galaxies to the planet we call home. On the way we are shown how the Universe and the Earth are both finely tuned for life the discoveries that science makes to enable us to understand it. This will then be followed by two others, one on February 23rd called ‘Unlocking the Mystery of Life’ and the other on March 22nd with the title ‘The Case for a Creator’.

**The films are not part of a service.** There will be no hymns, no prayers and no creed or liturgy – just the opportunity for you to come and see for yourself whether for you ‘Exploration’ has led to ‘Discovery’.

As you might gather this more critical yet more exciting approach is not just for us here in Inkpen but also wider afield. We would therefore very much value not only your support but also your own evaluation.

Coffee will be available afterwards.

Gerald Atkinson.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Planning Applications** for consideration this month are: 10/02477 Chestnut House, Haslewick – single storey rear extension, new front porch and replace all windows; 19/02563 Fleuremile, Upper Green – Single storey rear extension and associated works. Approved planning applications by WBC are: 10/02477 Chestnut House, Haslewick – Granted as above; 19/0200 Lower Farm, Inkpen – stable building- Granted; 19/01944 Foxglove Farm – proposed new dwelling – Granted.

**Telephone Scam:** Please be aware of telephone calls reporting ‘unusual activity’ on your bank account and to press 1 if you wish to stop the transaction. **Do not press 1** but telephone your bank and report the call – this is a frequent scam.

**CCTV:** The Parish Council has approved the installation of CCTV at the Inkpen Sports Pavilion due to unauthorised activity at the playing field. Please note that you may be ‘on camera’ as you approach the building as any activity will be recorded.

**Dog Mess:** To all dog walkers please observe the ‘country code’ and ‘pick it up’. It has also been reported that not all dog owners are acting responsibly and sadly this leaves the playing field unfit for games and leisure activities. And there is a dog who regularly escapes to join the football match on the playing field! Please can you ensure that animals are not roaming free when serious sporting activity takes place.

**Junior Football Coaching:** It is hoped to start this activity shortly as the Parish Council has been contacted by an ‘enthusiastic young football coach’ who is looking for experience with a local team of youngsters. It is hoped that parents will support him as we have received a number of ‘expressions of interest’ and help will be needed to organise play initially. If you can help please contact the parish clerk – details below.

**Updates on Parish Activity:** The new parish website is updated regularly and if you wish to check on new information during the month please access [www.inkpenvillage.co.uk](http://www.inkpenvillage.co.uk)

**Inkpen Parish Council** meetings are advertised on the village notice boards and on the official village website in advance of the meeting - see [www.inkpenvillage.co.uk](http://www.inkpenvillage.co.uk). The next meeting is un scheduled and as always subject to councillor’s availability. All Inkpen residents are welcome to attend.

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