

INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

JUNE 2020



CHURCH LETTER

Dear Friends,

Reflections on the Pandemic

All our lives have been affected in so many ways by this coronavirus pandemic. Trying to follow public policy toward mitigation of this dreaded illness has turned our lives upside down. We have been struggling to find ways to tolerate ‘stay at home’ orders and to learn new routines within our social isolation. Above all, our stress and anxieties are peaked by the fear of contracting coronavirus as we see, each day, the numbers of confirmed positive cases and deaths from COVID-19. Our sorrows run especially deep as we experience the reality of death or the struggle for survival of friends or family members as a result of this disease. We see many around us, if not even ourselves, who have lost jobs - jobs that have sustained them and their families, just disappear literally overnight as the economy had to shut down in order to curtail the spread of the virus. Furthering these emotions, people of faith are experiencing a great suffering of their spirit through the ongoing inability to worship as a church community.

We see and experience so much suffering on many levels for so many people, and we pray prayers of thanksgiving if we have been spared from this illness and the devastating turbulent side effects from it. Through this experience we have come to realise a deep sense of gratitude for those who are continuing the frontline battle against this disease; those doctors, nurses, hospital and care home workers who are putting their lives on the line to save others. For all those who continue to leave their homes each day, endangering their own health, to keep us fed and sustained with life essential things. Those who work in our shops and supermarkets, delivery drivers, postal workers, truck drivers, food service and supply warehouse workers, all doing their part to help us endure and survive within our new isolated realities.

During the course of all of this, we have witnessed a tremendous rise in charitable acts and volunteering within our communities. Everything from making protective masks, preparing food for hospital and nursing home workers, to fundraising for people who need help due to the collateral damage being done by COVID19.

Our living sense of compassion can and must be enhanced by the feelings we are experiencing these days. As a people of faith, we can and must emerge from this pandemic more empathetic than ever to the reality of loneliness that so many are experiencing each day throughout their twilight years. What we now feel must serve as the spark needed to light the flame of desire to do more to be present for those among us who suffer the inability to move beyond their homes or their nursing home rooms. To create in us a burning desire to visit the housebound, the residents of nursing homes, and those whose physical disabilities cause them to remain virtual prisoners within their homes, isolated in so many ways from the world around them.

We can and must be motivated by our own awareness of the terrible feelings of isolation and loneliness now known first-hand. Let us be moved into action as we recall in sacred Scripture, John 10:10 which tells us that “I (Christ) came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” Let us not allow anyone among us to live short of that abundance while in our midst. Let’s be sure to bring life to all and bring it to the fullest.

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world and am free.

Mark

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

Sadly, as all will know, Churches remain closed. You might have read recently in the Press that there has been some controversy about who ordered this and whether they had the authority to do so. The truth of the matter is that the Government declared that all places of worship should close. In accordance with this the Archbishops of Canterbury and York asked the House of Bishops to implement it. Our own Bishop of Oxford therefore, for better or worse, instructed his clergy to do this. But for us in the Benefice, weekly services are continuing online and if you would like to follow them live go to <http://www.walburybeaconbenefice.org.uk/services/morning-prayer.php> which then gives you a Zoom link. And our clergy can be contacted direct - see page 4 for details.

I am sure there will be other tributes paid elsewhere in the Bulletin, but our sincerest thanks go to the volunteers, neighbours and indeed all who have helped others (such as my wife and me) and so enriched our community during this difficult period. Such caring springs from the heart which at its highest level is found in the magnificent declamation of the love that is given to others in Chapter 13 of the First Book of Corinthians of the Bible. It was written by Saint Paul in AD 56 and it comes after ten chapters of advice and 'rules' for the early Church. But at the end of Chapter 12 he

writes " ... and yet I show unto you a more excellent way." Then: pure 'inspiration'. If you read from an older version of the Bible, for 'charity' read 'love' - and be amazed!

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).

WIDENING OF THE CHURCH PATH

Back in February, after gaining usual permissions, the brick path leading to Inkpen Church was widened. The workmanship was undertaken by Ian Bailey and Bruce Armstrong (caught working hard in the below action photograph, taken by Min Greener). Many thanks go to them for their time, expertise and labour. This work has been undertaken **in memory of the wonderful Tony Atkins**. The significant costs of both the materials and gaining permissions etc. were generously met by Meg Atkins and Clare McKeon.



STITCH AND KNIT

The most important thing is that I hope you are all well and safe.

As I write we are still unable to say when our next meeting will be but as soon as the lockdown is lifted and it is safe to do so we will meet in the Village Hall as usual on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

In the meantime, I am sure you are all beavering away, being very creative. For our first meeting after lockdown please bring along your makes and we can enjoy a 'Show and Tell' with a glass of wine to celebrate. As for me, I've been stitching washable makeup remover pads in an effort to become greener and reduce waste. Other projects have included Sashiko and a new Roman Blind.

I know lots of you are far more creative than I am, so I look forward to seeing all your work and we can inspire each other. But for now, stay safe and well and call me - Jan Honey 01488 668 222 or email jan@honeydesign.co.uk if I can be of assistance. Until we meet again.

Jan

INKPEN VOLUNTEERS

Jane Zollo writes on behalf of the Inkpen Volunteers, "As rumours of lockdown were circulating it became clear that those over 70 with vulnerable health conditions would likely to be the most affected. I was touched by some of the leaflets on social media that villagers had created, offering help to those in a vulnerable situation. I decided to contact the parish council to see if anything had been done.

Everything snowballed and soon we had a list of volunteers, a central WhatsApp group plus individual WhatsApp groups by street/location. There was also an Inkpen Volunteer Facebook page and updates on the village website and bulletin.

We quickly got to work, delivering leaflets with our details and setting up a prescription run. We were taken up on the offers to shop, chat and collect vital medication. Some people needed, and still need, ongoing help whereas others have just had individual requests according to their lockdown status.

Cakes were baked for Easter, material delivered for some of the volunteers to sew PPE and donations were taken to the food bank. Food deliveries continue to be collected from the council and distributed. The shop at the Crown and Garter has been excellent in topping up these boxes with fresh goods. We have a great team of volunteers all doing a little bit which has amounted to a lot.

INKPEN FOOD BANK

Claudia and Sophie write “Huge thanks to all those who have contributed to the two telephone box donation points for the West Berkshire Food Bank. We have now made two deliveries, amounting to 10 crates of food. The volunteers at the food bank were incredibly grateful and stressed just quite how many people rely on these donations. This week they are in particular need of shampoo, rice, Ketchup and sweets. Please remember only dry and tinned goods, sadly we cannot accept any homemade or fresh produce.

Many thanks once again to all, especially the Honesty Bakery and Inkpen Parish Council for use of the telephone boxes”.

THE LOWER GREEN TRIANGLE

Bernard write, “We seem to be having a very successful year with plenty of colour; primroses, snowdrops and daffodils in January with an increasing range of wildflowers and colours as spring took over. We have been particularly encouraged by the spread of cowslips and red clover over the whole area and also a better cover of bluebells near the hedge. More recently we have seen the re-emergence of spotted orchids and sainfoin, an ancient hay grass, with its distinctive purple conical flower.

As many of you will know the key to developing a sustainable wildflower area is to allow the flowers to seed and set before cutting for hay. This is accompanied by old-fashioned hay making with pitch forks to turn and shake out the seeds. **Perhaps one or two able-bodied souls would join us in hay making (weather permitting) around the end of July/early August?** If so, please let Bob May know on 668255 or email him r.may60@btinternet.com. After clearing the hay, we will tidy the triangle with a mower and strimmer.

In the Autumn we intend to prune some of the shrubs at the back of the Green which we do every three years, and also some pruning of the ornamental trees. The Copper Beach is showing signs of life. We will probably trim the dead ends of branches and attempt to improve the shape for future years”. Bob May has kindly added that “there are probably 40 different flowering plants and grasses throughout the year”.

ANDY PAINTING R.I.P.

Bernard continues, “We finish on a sad note by saying that Andy Painting, one of the “friends”, died recently and will be sadly missed by many, not only in Inkpen. Andy loved the countryside in and around Inkpen, his cows and Butts beer.

THE CROWN AND GARTER

Please note the amended June opening hours for the shop and the new takeaway menu. Jane and all the team would like to thank the village for its support of the shop during this time. *In return, I'm sure I speak for much of the village to thank Jane and her team for providing us with the necessities. We all look forward to the pub reopening.*

From 1st June 2020 our opening times are as follows:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9am-2pm
Thursday	9am-2pm
Friday	9am-2pm
Saturday	9am-2pm
Sunday	12pm-4pm

Honesty Inkpen Shop for essential groceries, selection of cakes and hot drinks

This is a takeaway only service - please do not consume on the premises.

We are also extending our Hot Food Takeaway service.
Please see page 8 for a copy of our new menu

Please place your order by phone 01488 668325 or email crownandgarter@honestygroup.co.uk and we will assign you a time slot to collect

Thursday	12pm-2pm and 5pm-8pm
Friday	12pm-2pm and 5pm-8pm
Saturday	12pm-2pm and 5pm-8pm
Sunday	12pm-4pm (Roast only)



HONESTY INKPEN TAKEAWAY MENU

FISH & CHIPS £13/£7

with lemon & tartar sauce

CALZONE £9

spicy chicken, chorizo, mozzarella cheese

OR

roasted peppers, black olives, sun dried tomato, red onion,
mozzarella cheese

8OZ BEEF BURGER £10

cheese, red onion, pickles, baby gem in a brioche bun
served with hand cut chips

HOMEMADE

PAPPARDELLE PASTA £13

with spicy tomato sauce with nduja sausage, red onion,
green chilli and mascarpone

OR

with wild mushrooms with a white wine and cream sauce

BUTTER

CHICKEN CURRY £12

Cardamom rice & mango chutney

VEGETABLE

CURRY £10 (VEGAN)

Cardamom rice & mango chutney

PANINIS £7.50

Ham & cheese

Tuna mayo, spring onion & cheese

Tomato, mozzarella and pesto

served

with chips

CAESAR SALAD £10

Add chicken £2

SIRLOIN STEAK £18

Chips, mushroom, tomato & Béarnaise sauce

SUNDAY ROAST £13.00

Beef topside

or

Chicken breast

or

Veggie nut roast

all served with roasted potato, carrots, parsnip,
red cabbage, greens, Yorkshire pudding, red wine jus

Available - Thursday 12pm-2pm and 5pm 8pm,

Friday 12pm-2pm and 5pm-8pm,

Saturday 12pm-2pm and 5pm-8pm.

Sunday (Roast Dinner only) 12pm-4pm.

INKPEN TENNIS COURTS

The Tennis Courts are now open for members

Social distancing will need to be observed if both courts are in use. The following article provides advice; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/tennis/52630799>

- If you are interested in joining please email inkpentennisclub@outlook.com I will then email the information.
- Membership fees for this year are:

Individual	£25
Couple	£40
One adult and children under the age of 18	£35
Family (children under 18)	£50
Additional family members	£10 each
Students under 24 (not earning)	£15
Non-playing (couple/single)	£5

Please do consider joining even if you might be an infrequent player. The funds from the membership fees are a vital source of income to keep the courts and nets in a good, playable condition. Many thanks to Taj Woodgate for her continuing good works in spearheading the tennis club.



PLAYING FIELD TRUST UPDATE (IMPFT)

VE DAY

Sadly, due to COVID19 we were not able to hold a village event on the playing fields to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. We did, however, place crosses by the flagpole in recognition and by way of appreciation that the village was gifted the playing field in memory of those who lost their lives.



Pavilion News

Many of you will have noticed the works going on at the Pavilion. We are thrilled that we have been able to start Phase 1 of the works which is the renovation of the changing rooms and the end extension to include two new toilets and a referee changing room. ARK Homes Limited have ensured that their working practices are in line with the Government guidelines not only in relation to general construction health & safety but also the new COVID19 construction restrictions.

The work on Phase 1 is due to be complete by the end of July / early August. We then hope to start Phase 2 straight away. The tender for this will hopefully go out in the coming weeks with a decision by the Trustees at the end of June.

We still need to raise the outstanding funds. Thanks to the recent generosity of residents we now need to raise £4,181.24 to reach our target on The Good Exchange and release our Match Funding. If you wish to donate, please either visit the IMPFT

page on www.thegoodexchange.com or give a cheque made payable to: IMPF Fund Raising to Gloria Keene or Claire Jones. Every penny counts now, and any donation is very much appreciated.

We hope to have the pavilion completed by November this year.

Renovation Status 21st May 2020



New Extension July 2020



Existing Playground News

The good news is that the new roundabout has been installed and is a fantastic addition to the playground. The bad news is we still cannot open the playground due to Government guidelines in relation to COVID19. We will however open it as soon as we can.



Other news on the playground is that we have had our annual ROSPA report and as a result we are having to repair some of the equipment which Peter Kersey has kindly offered to do. The ‘speaking flowers’ stems have also been painted.

Thanks also go to Bruce Armstrong for ensuring that the required playground fencing was in place in preparation for the ROSPA inspection.

Woodland Playground

Bruce Armstrong is continuing to weed this area ready for planting in the autumn. We are continuing to fund raise for the equipment and thanks go to Diane & Dave Lester and family who have helped with a Crowd Funding Video which we will share with you all soon. It is our hope that the woodland playground equipment and planting will be in place by November this year. There is so much research available which shows how essential outside play is for children, their mental health and general well-being so we feel that this will be such an important asset to the children of the village.

Huge thanks go to the Richard & Charlotte Bampfylde who have ensured that the playing field and playground grass is cut and maintained.

Sadly, there are no team sports being played at the moment due to COVID19 but it is great to see the tennis courts being used again.

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

POLICE UPDATE

Due to COVID19 the past three months have been very different for us as a Police team. We have moved out of Newbury Police Station and are temporarily based out of the TRI Station at Hungerford. This is helping us to maintain social distance and limit the spread of COVID19 amongst our Police family, allowing us to maintain our resilience; keeping our communities safe and protecting the vulnerable.

As a team we have been out and about engaging with the public. Explaining the risk to health and encouraging compliance with the measures introduced by the Government to help reduce the transmission and spread of COVID19.

We have been given new powers under The Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. However, where possible, we want to achieve compliance without the need for enforcement.

I am pleased to say that the majority of people are complying with the Government's restrictions. We know these are challenging times, but if we continue to work together, we can beat this and get back to normal.

Crime in the village remains low however, at the beginning of May, there were two reported break-ins to outbuildings in the village. Garden machinery items were taken. Please ensure all sheds / garages and the like are secured and where you have CCTV and security lights installed make sure they are up and running.

Now that the lockdown has been eased slightly and the forecasters are reporting continuing good weather, we could see an increase in theft from vehicles parked at beauty spots such as Combe Gibbet / Hungerford Common and other areas used by walkers. This crime is carried out by opportunists and you can reduce the risk of having your vehicle broken into by being vigilant and consider doing the following:

- Don't leave **anything** in your car. Do not leave items of value in your boot.
- Open the parcel shelf and leave the glove box open to show would be thieves there is nothing of value left in the vehicle.
- Use well lit, secure car parks.

- Don't return to your car to leave purchases in the boot before continuing with your shopping as thieves may watch car parks.

You can report online at <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk> , but if it is urgent please continue to call on 101 (non-emergency) and 999 in an emergency.

WANTED

Chris Webb of Pottery Lane has asked if anyone has “Bulk bags such as those supplied by builders’ merchants for sand etc. to use for garden rubbish”. Please call Chris on 07900 675848 if you can help.

HAS ANYONE LOST A CAT?

Graham Doughty, from Craven Road writes to say he has a stray cat in his garden. It is black with white on its breast. Please phone 07748850876 for further information.

COMBE WITH A VIEW...



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council: In line with Government advice on social distancing and self-isolation the Parish meetings have been postponed due to the Coronavirus. The health and safety of councillors, staff and the public are of primary concern. The Parish Council will be working remotely and can be contacted via parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk . All Planning applications for consideration will be displayed on the Inkpen website www.inkpenvillage.co.uk and if you wish to make any comments these can be sent to the Clerk in advance.

Covid-19: During the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown period, a big ‘thank you’ to the ‘army of volunteers’ who have kept the village going and supported residents with their daily trips around the village and of course to the ‘NHS, Emergency Services and All Key Workers, who have placed themselves at risk every day.

We are lucky in Inkpen to have the countryside, 53 footpaths, woods and recreation ground to take our daily exercise, which have all been a lifeline for residents to endure the social distancing restrictions. Please remember to ‘Stay Safe’ and stay 2m apart from other people.

Inkpen Website is maintained daily and all the Covid-19 information and the West Berkshire Council updates can be viewed online on the ‘news’ page. If you need to contact services and groups in the village you can find full details on the ‘contacts’ page of the website.

Planning applications this month: 20/01040 Mount View, Inkpen. Subdivision into two residential units; 20/01083/FUL Quill Cottage, Craven Rd. replacement dwelling. All planning applications can be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website www.westberks.gov.uk

Planning decisions determined by West Berks. Council: 20/00681/FUL Rushwood – retrospective change of use of land from paddock to residential – Refused.

Glass Recycling Banks: all outlying glass banks have been removed by West Berkshire Council but residents will still be able to recycle in the kerbside box or at the recycling centre at Newtown Rd. Newbury. Additional green kerbside boxes for all recycling materials can be requested online www.westberks.gov.uk/requestabin

Bonfires: West Berkshire Council are asking residents to ‘think of others’ during this period of lockdown and not light bonfires because many residents have respiratory issues – please consider alternative disposal methods. While there are no laws against having a domestic bonfire, the 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.

Newbury Town Centre: will be temporarily pedestrianised from 1st June and closed to all traffic to allow businesses and shoppers to comply with social distance guidance and allow additional space for queueing outside of shops. Car parks will re-introduce charges from 1st June – payment by card or phone to avoid handling cash.

Mobile Library: the service has been suspended due to Government advice but will call in Inkpen at Craven Road from 2.30 – 2.50pm and at Inkpen School from 3.05 to 4pm when the service resumes.

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 councillors availability.

Gloria Keene,
Clerk to Inkpen Parish Council (I 668960),
Email: gloriakeene@hotmail.com

