

INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2020



CHURCH LETTER

So, it's back to school for most children with general agreement that this is by far the best thing.

In our weekly assemblies, the school asked that I provide a series on how we respond to change and leading into the 'new normal'. I thought of disciples who have gone before us and of some of the amazing challenges they faced – changes of no small significance.

Those on the education side of things, at the Diocese, have produced an assembly pack that looks at children and the impact of the Corona virus, with a focus on how we move forward. It encourages us to ask the children, “What they have learnt about themselves during this time”?

We might consider a similar exercise for ourselves. As a list begins to develop in our minds, affected by positives and negatives, there will, of course, be differences from one to another. The impact of the virus has affected us in so many ways, but there will probably be some common areas too. Maybe you have found time to revisit an old hobby or to try something new. You may have been one of the volunteers who came forward and new friendships have developed. The internet exploded as we looked to keep in touch remotely and it could be that you surprised yourself by becoming one of the new family of Zoomers.

We know for certain the Corona virus is going to affect us for some time to come. We pray for a vaccine, but as I write, this appears to be some way off. So, whatever it is that helped you through the past six months, we need to keep on doing it, adapting to new ways as we wonder how the winter may affect us.

I was reminded recently of the saying from Greek Philosopher Heraclitus, that “the only constant in life is change”.

This all helped me to reflect upon what 'normal' may be like for God? The answer is, surely, a never-ending sea of change.

The Bible tells us we are made in God's image. If this truly is the case, then coping with change should be within our grasp. But why then does it not always seem to be so?

A new normal, temporary in nature, is all about us - face masks, sanitising, social distancing, not being able to freely go where we wish, or meet with whom we want. The Church has played its part as our buildings have become Covid secure

units, while seeking to maintain our focus on prayer and worship. I have personally found it helpful to be leading worship in front of a congregation instead of the virtual one on Zoom, as helpful as that was at the time. It's been great to be with you - the people - once again.

Somehow, this is key, that we can support one another through changing times. It maybe that today is your moment to help another, but tomorrow you may value a little help yourself. However hard the virus seeks to change our lives, we must forever seek to act out what it means to care for one another in whatever safe way we can.

With very best wishes to you all

Rev'd Tim

All Souls' service at St Mary's Kintbury, on Sunday 1st November at 2.00pm

November is a month when we take time to remember. Each year we have a special service to remember loved ones who have died. Where this has happened during the last twelve months. and we are aware of the details, a personal invitation is sent to the families. But you do not need an invitation to attend the service - all are welcome.

This year, however, we will need to know if you would like to join us as we will have to carefully arrange our seating to meet social distancing requirements. If you would like to attend, please e-mail me at: revtimothywood@gmail.com or give me a call on 01488 669 261.

Rev'd Tim

A Time of Interregnum

As many of you will know, Rev'd Mark Wilson retired on 26 September and Walbury Beacon Benefice enters a period of interregnum. This means we will not have a Priest in Charge for some time.

Responsibilities for finances and premises which would normally fall to the Priest in Charge, shift to Churchwardens. Along with myself, (Rev'd Tim) and our Local Lay Minister Jenny Veasey, we share responsibility to ensure that a pattern of services is maintained and that pastoral needs are cared for.

Jenny and I both support the Benefice on a part time basis. My working days now are Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. This may change over the next few months. If I'm not available, please contact Jenny. She and I will help as much as we can.

We will also have a new administrator as Deborah (Mark's wife) will also be leaving the Benefice. Our Benefice website will be continually updated and contact details can be found there.

In the meantime, we wish Mark and Deborah every happiness as God's plan continues to unfold for them in the months and years ahead.

CHURCH SERVICES AND LESSONS

Sunday 4th October 16th Sunday after Pentecost

08.00	Kintbury	Holy Communion	Ministry Team
10.30	Kintbury	All Age	Ministry Team

Sunday 11th October 17th Sunday after Pentecost

09.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion	
10.00	Hampstead Marshall	All Age	Ministry Team
11.15	W.Woodhay	Holy Communion	

Sunday 18th October 18th Sunday after Pentecost

08.30	Inkpen	Holy Communion
09.45	Kintbury	Holy Communion
09.45	Enborne	Matins
6.00pm	Inkpen	Compline

Sunday 25th October 19th Sunday after Pentecost

09.45	W.Woodhay	Morning Prayer
11.15	Combe	Holy Communion

Future Dates: All Souls service – 1st November
Remembrance Day – 8th November

Benefice services etc

By the time this is published, each of our six churches should have been able to open for at least one Sunday service, with most of them also being shared with a wider congregation via Zoom and YouTube. While it has been wonderful going back into our churches and meeting our different congregations after so long, managing this has been quite hard work, with separate Risk Assessments having to be drawn up for each of our buildings; although much of the process is similar and transferable, each building is unique, needing individual assessment and procedures.

At the moment, our services look very different from what we have been used to in the past – and there are no indications of a return to “normality” any time soon.

For the end of September and through October, our priority is for each parish church to be able to hold its own Harvest Festival – which is such an important annual event for rural communities. We are, of necessity, having to create each month’s rota on a one-off basis, both to accommodate changing Covid-related recommendations / requirements and as we work out what is possible and preferable for us all, with a limited Ministry Team.

As we increase the number of services on Sundays, it may become necessary to revise the hours/days when our churches are open during the week for private prayer.

We will do our very best to keep you informed and up-to-date as we move on into autumn and the interregnum.

Please note, the current requirements for attending places of worship state that:

- face coverings are to be worn during services except in cases of personal exemption;
- persons leading worship are not required to wear a mask while they are leading;
- social distancing / hand sanitisation must always be adhered to ;
- names of those attending are taken to allow contact tracing if necessary – destroyed after 21 days;
- only the bread can be taken during Communion;

- the “rule of 6” for group numbers applies within the congregation;
- congregational singing is still not permitted, although a small choir may perform.

Finally, we are delighted that Alex King from Inkpen has agreed to accept the post of Walbury Beacon Benefice Administrator, following the resignation of Deborah Wilson. We all very much look forward to working with Alex in her new role.

Do check our website: www.walburybeaconbenefice.org.uk or the Church of England site: www.achurchnearyou.com for current details and information.

Jenny Veasey
 Licensed Lay Minister
 Walbury Beacon Benefice

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

'If only'

I guess that most of us are saying this as we look both backwards and forwards on so many things. 'If only' as far as St. Michael's is concerned has meant closure of the church for most of the time: no visitors, virtually no services, weddings, funerals or baptisms and no opportunity to hold our biennial Newcomers 'Welcome to Inkpen' gathering. Nor have we been able to properly launch and follow the theme of our Services With a Difference for the year which, in the light of the exponential increase of scientific knowledge about Life and our place in the Universe, gives us the opportunity to demonstrate a 'Rational Base for Christian Belief' as never before.

But all is not lost. As you will see from the Service Pattern for this month, we have a **Parish Communion at 9.30am** (please note the change in time) on the **11th October** and **Holy Communion at 8.30am** on the **18th October** with **Compline at 6.30pm** on the same day. And we have our **Harvest Festival** which will be led by Revd. Patrick Whitworth on the **25th October at 9.45am** to which families and children are especially welcome. The Church is also open for private prayer each Wednesday from 9am to 4pm and on all occasions observation of Government guidelines is required.

Looking forward to November we are determined that our **Service of Remembrance**, which will be led by Colonel Nick Freeman on

the **8th at 10.30am** will be for all who wish to come. It will therefore be held in the open on the raised area of the Churchyard just beyond the main door - rain or fine! And for Christmas? We are working on possible arrangements and, subject to any rules that may apply, we will do our very best to ensure that its spirit is not lost. More details later.

October is normally the month when we make our '**Appeal to the Village**' for financial support either for our Village Church, the Bulletin or upkeep of the Churchyards. Times are getting tough for many of us and as indicated above, we have not been able to offer over the year all that we would like. But our expenses remain and must be met - over £40,000 last year. You will already have seen the Blue Envelope in the Bulletin but no collection as such will be made. However, if you would like to donate, please use the Envelope marking it how you wish it to be used and either give it to your Bulletin Distributor or send it to me, Gerald Atkinson at Laburnum Cottage, Heads Lane, Inkpen Common, Hungerford, RG17 9QS. If it's a cheque, please make it payable to 'Inkpen PCC'.

Finally, thanks for your support. And specially on behalf of us all, thanks to those who in these difficult times have fulfilled the second of our Lord's Great Commandments - "to love your neighbour as yourself".

Gerald Atkinson.
Churchwarden and Hon. Treasurer.

GIVING AT COMBE - By tradition when we in Inkpen make our appeal for financial support, so does Combe, using the same Envelope. So, Katherine Astor would be grateful if those in Combe would give theirs direct to her.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Office email: wboffice@gmail.com
Benefice website: <https://www.walburybeaconbenefice.org.uk>
Telephone number: 01635 226064

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

Benefice Administrator: Alex King, part-time at the **Benefice Office** Email: wboffice@gmail.com.

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

INKPEN FOOD BANK

Sophie and Claudia write... “Thank you to everyone who is kindly donating to the Inkpen phone boxes. All the food and toiletries we deliver are all massively appreciated. Our donations this week (and last) made up 3 crates.

Please do keep donating as help is needed more than ever and it is a lifeline for many families and individuals locally.

They do advertise on the website items they need. See below current list

Urgently needed items	Low on Stock	We've got plenty of
Tinned Fish	Baked Beans	Dried Pasta & Rice
Custard	Shampoo	
Rice Pudding	Cleaning Products	
Sponge Puddings	Instant Mash	
Sugar	Chilli Mix	
Tinned Fruit	Soup	
	Tinned Vegetables	

Please do check dates before donating.

The books seem to be overtaking the space at the Craven Road phone box; please do not dump any old books and try and keep it as tidy as possible. The phone box by the Crown and Garter is for Newbury Food Bank donations only and not books please.”

INKPEN VILLAGE HALL

The village hall is now open for hire for any activities which are permissible under the Government's current restrictions. We would require any hirers to thoroughly check this for themselves before contacting the hall.

The village hall has done everything currently required from a venue to re-open as safely as possible and will continue to adjust as regulations change. Any potential hirers would be required to complete our existing hiring agreement alongside a Covid 19 addendum which asks that extra necessary precautions and procedures are taken.

For indoor sports, this would include all recommended steps that their sporting governing body recommends. Pilates with Caroline has re-commenced for its

current customers who were keen to get going again and a further class is planned to re-commence in November which can include new customers – further details will follow. Some of you may find a local and smaller venue preferable to larger, busier gyms or clubs for these difficult times.

We also appreciate the need for villagers to still be able to continue with exercise and social contact to some extent so we do hope that the village hall can support this need in a very measured and safe way over the winter months when mental and physical health may start to suffer further. Any questions do get in touch on 0756 828 4750.

With very best wishes to everyone
Helen
Trustees & Committee of Inkpen Village Hall

POLICE UPDATE

There has been very little reported crime. Covid19 never left the news but it is now back on the top of the agenda following a rise in infection rates across the Country.

From the 14th September gatherings of more than 6 people became unlawful. There are some exemptions to this, and these can be found on the Government's website.

The Government announced further restrictions on the 22nd September. These include changes to wearing face coverings and working from home. Furthermore, from the 24th September cafes, bars and restaurants must close by 10pm.

Halloween is generally the second busiest night of the year for the force; however, we are not sure what it will look like this year due to the Covid restrictions. I urge everyone to use a degree of common sense and abide by the Government's restrictions. For some people this time of year can be frightening / intimidating and make people nervous due to knockings on the door. Please respect those who have posters, signs and do not wish to be disturbed.

At any point if you feel unsafe:

- Don't open your door if you're unsure who is there. Use your spy-hole, look out of a window and use your door chain if you do decide to open your door.

- Have a contact number of a close relative or good neighbour to hand by your telephone, just in case you need to phone them.
- If you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, let your coordinator know that you will be on your own at Halloween. If you are a coordinator, please identify people in your scheme that may be vulnerable and offer them reassurance.

Thames Valley Police will not tolerate any anti-social behaviour at any time of the year.

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.

You can now follow us on twitter @TVP_westberks.

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.

INKPEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inkpen Primary School PSA would like to invite you to join in with our **Inkpen Village Halloween Scarecrow Hunt**.

There are two ways to join in - you can make and enter a scarecrow and join in with the hunt, or just do the hunt.

Maps will be available at Honesty cafe at Crown & Garter for just £2. Maps will also be available to parents of children at Inkpen school from Anna or Georgie.

Completed maps will need to be handed in to 17 Robins Hill (in post box) in order to enter prize draw.

If you would like to make a Scarecrow please contact either Anna on [07818565405](tel:07818565405) or Georgie on [07917541269](tel:07917541269) by **10th October at the latest please**.

A winner will be picked for the Best Scarecrow and another winner will be picked at random for joining in the hunt.

You do not need to live in Inkpen to join in - we can find lots of places to place scarecrows for you.

Inkpen Primary School PSA - Charity No. [1039021](#)

INKSPOTS EARLY YEARS PRESCHOOL

Inkspots are up and running this September and have spaces for new children this term.

We are a cosy pre-school running within the grounds of Inkpen Village Primary school. We work alongside the school to ensure the children are ready for their transition to reception. We provide a stimulating environment with different activities on offer daily, you may even have seen us enjoying walks around the village.

We welcome children from their 3rd birthday, we accept West Berkshire grant funding which can be split between other providers. We are open Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 3pm.

If you are looking for a place for your child, please get in contact via telephone or email. 01488 668219 or 07765535391 / inkspots@inkpen.w-berks.sch.uk

COPY DATE

Please email aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk or call 01488668496 by **24th October** with any features, news, events or ideas.

Please remember, not everyone is on Facebook... so please spread the news via the Bulletin too.

PLAYING FIELD TRUST UPDATE (IMPFT)

Pavilion News

Phase 1: The changing room renovation is complete. We were able to host the Walbury Hill Climb Event at the end of last month and hope this will become an annual fixture at the Playing Field. One last task is to ensure the soil in front becomes grass not mud...



Phase 2 Building works are on track. This month the new roof will be completed along with the installation of the new windows and work will start on the installation of the new kitchen.



Photos (26/9/20)



Phase 3 Sport and playing field equipment storage building. We have planning permission for this but still need to raise money to build it so if you can help in any way, do get in touch. The current storage of the containers is not fit for purpose, with not enough space and damp. Any help you can provide with the fund raising 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.

Sports Activity at the Playing Field

Sadly, due to COVID19 there are restrictions as to what sporting activities can take place now, but we hope that by 2021 we will be able to hold lots more activities on the playing field and in the pavilion. If you have an idea for an activity or sport for any age group, please do get in touch. **We are looking for a junior football coach.** The junior football was very popular earlier this year, but we do need a new coach. If you know anyone who may be interested, please do get in touch. The cricket season is finished but we still have the tennis club, Sunday 5-a-side football in the evening and netball. If you are interested in any of these, contact details can be found on our webpage or from Gloria Keene or Claire Jones.

Woodland Playground News

The woodland playground is going to be delayed until February to enable us to properly prepare the ground for the play equipment. The Woodland Trust are giving us 200 tree saplings in October/November. We won't be able to plant all of them at the playing field and so if you are interested in having some 'medium wildlife saplings' or some 'medium year-round colour' saplings for your garden please do get in touch.

Cricket Nets

Due to a near accident with a cricket ball at the pavilion that was hit from the practice nets the Trustees have decided that the practice nets cannot be used until there are more safety measures put in place. Safety measures are being considered by the trustees in conjunction with the cricket club.

Contacts: Claire Jones (clairejonesimpt@gmail.com) or any of the other Trustees
Website: www.impft.co.uk

INKPEN STITCH AND KNIT

Although we are delighted that the Village Hall is now open again, we have made the decision that Stich and Knit will not be meeting for the next few months. This decision will be reviewed in Spring 2021 when hopefully we will be able to meet again. This is by no means the end of Stich and Knit but just a little break over the winter months based on feedback from some of our regular attendees. Stich and Knit WILL return but safety and health must be the priority.

With my very best wishes

Jan Honey.

BRITISH LEGION POPPY COLLECTION 2020



Sadly, there will be **NO** house to house collections in aid of the British Legion this year as they have asked us not to put anyone at risk of COVID19.

The British Legion would obviously still greatly appreciate your donations which are invaluable in helping so many who were or are in the armed forces and their families. The British Legion offers support to those in need whether it be financial and employment support, physical and mental health rehabilitation, care and independent living support or simply some guidance and advice.

Although we cannot do house to house collections, there will be Poppy Boxes at the Crown & Garter both the bakery and the pub and at the school from 24th October. If you would like some poppies and to donate using the Gift Aid envelope, please do get in touch with Claire Jones (claire@clairejjones.com).

On behalf of The British Legion, and all those who benefit from your donations, thank you for your support in these strange times.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications for consideration this month: The Western Area Planning Committee will meet again by video conference to reconsider 20/01083 **Quill Cottage**, Craven Rd. replacement of bungalow to two storey dwelling. The decision has been deferred twice pending further information.

20/02074 Upper Inkpen House, Upper Green – formation of outdoor swimming pool and erection of a shed.

Planning approved by WBC: 20/01040 Mount View, Inkpen – Subdivision into two residential units. Permission granted.

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

Planning for the Future white paper consultation: There is still time to record your views on the ‘Planning White Paper’ as the consultation closes at 11.45pm on 29th October 2020. Please take the opportunity of knowing how proposed development will be targeted in the future as Rt.Hon.Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced proposed radical changes in the Planning system. For most of us the lack of local consultation will be significant if we are to protect the areas of the green fields and countryside that we know and love.

The white paper can be downloaded:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

Have your say prior to the release of the District Local Plan: All Parish councillors are considering two consultations announced by West Berkshire Council to ensure it covers all essential issues up to 2030. Please let your councillors know if the reports do not cover all requirements.

Draft Cultural & Heritage Strategy 2020-2030 – setting out the vision for the next 10 years to ensure that culture & heritage continues to play an important part of life in West Berkshire. www.westberks.gov.uk . Closing date 18th October 2020.

Draft Housing Strategy 2020-2036 – meeting the needs of the rural communities, affordable housing, homelessness etc. Closing date: 1st November 2020
www.westberks.gov.uk .

Fireworks –the law says you must not set off or throw fireworks in the street or other public places. Please consider the damage caused to all our animals in the fields in Inkpen and surrounds.

Inkpen Parish website (www.inkpenvillage.co.uk) All details on the deadly Coronavirus are updated on the Inkpen website. The number of cases notified in West Berkshire has increased recently so please keep a 2 metre distance from others where possible. Please take note of the Government Guidance and please ask if you are not sure. The Parish Council are closely monitoring all activities on the Playing Field for your safety. When meeting friends and family (or have formed a family bubble with) meet in groups of 6 or less and follow social

distancing rules. You must not meet in a group of more than 6 indoors or outdoors. This is against the law and police will enforce the legal limits including to issue fines of £200, doubling for further breaches up to a max. of £6400. For exceptions – see www.gov.uk

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 .

FOR SALE

HOME EXERCISE BIKE

Ideal for indoor exercise particularly during the colder months.

Reebok i-bike 1.5

£100 o.n.o.

Josephine 01488 668 068

