

INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

APRIL & MAY 2020



CHURCH LETTER

An Easter message from Tim Wood

Into your hands

Can you remember being that small child who climbs too far up the wall or too high up the climbing frame in the playground. Suddenly you become aware of how high you have climbed, realise your insecurity and call for help. An adult arrives with arms outstretched, encouraging you to jump or fall into their hands, and with some helpful words and gestures you let go and fall into the safety of the hands below.

In Psalm 31 the Psalmist expresses his trust and confidence in God with words such as rock and fortress, that he places his trust into God's hands. He recognises a trust for life, a trust in times of distress and a trust in the face of death.

Those same words are on Jesus' lips in Luke 23 vs 46. They have a slightly different and deeper meaning. What for the Psalmist had been a cry of deliverance from death becomes, for Jesus, a cry of confidence in the Father's love. It was very much a cry of assurance, letting go into the Father's hands.

As I write, the Government have delivered new guidance in relation to the Corona virus, advice aimed at protecting us and helping each of us in turn to protect others. God calls us to live out our lives in such a way that we are living out the kingdom of God, bringing something of the kingdom of God to others by the way we are.

I wonder if you know people in our community who may be lacking a bit of support just now and therefore, if they have to self-isolate may need a bit of help. If so, please use the slip below, either with your contact details or mine / Revd. Mark's and pop it through their door. This will mean they have someone they can turn to if they are in a spot of bother Or become over concerned and wonder where to turn.

If blessed with our faith, we can remain positive even when things are not going well, if we can come alongside others and provide encouragement in their times of adversity, then dare I say that a glimpse of Christ may just be visible..... very importantly ... not simply to us. For us stress and distress come in many forms; pressure of study, to succeed, in times of illness, lack of money, may be somewhere to live or to work. Psalm 31 encourages us to hold firmly onto what we know of God, and to allow him to hold onto us. Not in resignation or despair but because we know that, in and Through Christ, whatever may happen, we are secure.

Whether or not we are able to share the following words in worship together remains to be seen, but I share them with you now. **Jesus Christ is risen – he is risen indeed – Alleluia!**

With very best wishes for Easter. Tim

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

Gerald writes – As all will know, advice from the Government was first of all that there should be no public worship - as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York put it, worship would have 'to stop for a season'. And now, as action to tackle the epidemic becomes more demanding, that many public places including churches should close. Unprecedented but essential.

So, is there any news from St. Michael's? In one sense no. But the situation we are in serves to remind us that Christian belief and action are not just a matter of going to church. Rather that it is a matter of strengthening the link between us and our Maker in quiet reflection and prayer - an opportunity which enforced isolation also gives us at this time. Why not take it?

But perhaps this may not be everyone's cup of tea! So, here is a suggestion which might be.

Candles are a symbol of hope. So why don't we in the village light them - say one in a window of each house every Sunday while the emergency lasts, for a couple of hours after dusk? As we do this, we are united in hope and that for us 'The light shone in the darkness and the darkness overcame it not.' What do you think?

APPRECIATION FOR BULLETINS PAST

Many of you will have contributed to the whip round we had in Inkpen to buy something for Gerald and Elsa Atkinson to thank them for producing this Bulletin for over 33 years.

Your generous contributions enabled us to buy them hugely deserved gifts of appreciation: a 5' wooden garden seat with a brass plaque duly inscribed, plus cushion and cover. We were also able to buy vouchers for the Watermill Theatre, Champagne, flowers for Elsa and a healthy cheque with the balance.

Perhaps the most valued gift was the card that so many had signed, thanking Gerald and Elsa for their hard work over the years. I'm thrilled to tell you that almost 200 people either signed the card or were represented on it! Someone wrote, "every village should have a Gerald and Elsa" – some probably do, but in Inkpen we are lucky enough to have the real McCoy!

Gilly Burrough

OVERWHELMED!



Secrets do get out and Elsa and I were aware that people in the village were being given the chance to contribute to a 'leaving present' as we finished our time on the Bulletin. But

we never expected this! Truly overwhelming. So, our most sincere thanks to all who made a gift and for your most kind words on the biggest ten page 'Thank You' card we have ever seen. It means so much.

Finally, total thanks to Gilly who on her own initiative organised the whole thing. What a joy it is to live in such a lovely village with so many kind people. Thanks again and God bless you all both now and in the times that lie ahead.

Gerald and Elsa.

INKPEN CARPET BOWLS

It is now 3 years since we decided to see if there was enough interest in Inkpen to introduce Carpet Bowls to the village. From the very first meeting we have never looked back with sufficient members attending each week, allowing five or six games to be played (eight players to a game) and still have plenty of time for gossip.

Prior to January the stock excuse for a poor running bowl was that the floor was uneven. Now with the Village Hall floor having been refurbished that excuse has gone. Surprise! Surprise! we still have the same number of poor running bowls, but the excuse has changed to the "sugar rush" from the regular supply of celebratory cake provided by members with birthdays or other notable personal events.

Regrettably, like most other clubs in the village, we have had to postpone all meetings until the Coronavirus has run its course and we are back to some semblance of order.

As with most situations the timing is to the benefit of some and the detriment of others. To date, this month, Kathy Foster, has a cumulative score way in excess of most other players and would have been our top player for the month. This would have knocked some of our more dedicated players, me included, off their perch when the monthly prizes were given out. Sorry Kathy! It is not to be.

Thinking about joining? Then watch this space and we will let you know when play resumes or do contact Sandy or Anne on 01488 668336

Keep well everyone. Sandy

STITCH & KNIT

For anyone out there who is self-isolating and would like to take up a new hobby why not consider either sewing or knitting? Our Stich and Knit group have been in operation for well over 5 years now and during that time we have gathered various patterns and projects

together. I would be happy to email patterns and instructions and help in any way I can. These range from small knitted Christmas decorations, beginners crochet patterns and small hand sewn items. You never know, this may even inspire you to join our group once we are back up and running after the current issues have passed.

If you would like to either drop me an email or telephone you are very welcome. jan@honeydesign.co.uk or telephone 01488 668222. I hope all in Inkpen stay well and safe and that life in our beautiful village can return to normal soon. With my very best wishes, Jan Honey

INKPEN VILLAGE MARKET

The Inkpen market was held in March and had a fair number of visitors. Sadly, there will be no market in April or the next few months beyond, due to the coronavirus. As soon as the market can be started up again you will find out via the Bulletin. Thank you to all who have regularly supported the market over the years, and we hope to see you again, perhaps by the end of the summer.

THE CROWN AND GARTER

Romilla writes the following on the Honesty website – “The pub is temporarily closed until further notice. This is heart breaking for us but hopefully we will be able to re-open by the Summer, with lots of fabulous events in the beer garden. We have made the decision to make no redundancies.

The coffee shop is evolving into a general store, to better serve the community and help the elderly and those in isolation with a delivery service. In addition to our current offering including our bread, tea, coffee, cake, pasties, pies and soup we are also developing a range of food available to takeaway. We will also be selling fresh veg and basic household goods in addition to milk, butter, bread, beer and wine.

We will be asking all of our customers to follow a conscious purchasing policy with regard to some items so that we are able to support as many people as possible.

If you are self-isolating or unable to get to us, we are accepting orders for delivery. Please contact us directly on 01488 668325 or via email at crownandgarter@honestygroup.co.uk and follow our social media channels for regular updates. This service will be limited to supply and ability to deliver but we are doing everything we can. Not everyone within the community will necessarily have access to the internet or social media so we are asking you to help us reach them and get this message out there.

We are currently working hard to turn our private gardens over to vegetable production using our staff to do this. Hopefully this will be beneficial for both your and their well-being”.

PLAYING FIELD TRUST UPDATE (IMPFT)

In these very difficult times, we wish you all good health.

If you are using the playing field to walk yourself or your dog, please do remember to keep your distance from anyone else there at the same time. We do please ask you not to use this area or the playground if you or anyone in your household shows signs of COVID19.

Playground:

You will be aware that the playground equipment is not cleaned or disinfected so we would not recommend using it at this time. Please be aware that if you do use it, you will be doing so at your own risk. If you do use the playground, please only one family at a time and please ensure you all clean your hands before and after you leave the playground.

Thank you to Bruce Armstrong who has re-fenced the existing playground to ensure the children do not run on to the road. The fencing is there as a barrier whilst we wait for the hedging to grow. Thank you also to Bob May who has been planting daffodils at the playing field and maintaining the tennis courts.

The Pavilion:

The pavilion will be closed to all gatherings.

With regards to the pavilion renovation, we have completed the Asbestos Survey and are waiting on the report. We sent out building tenders last month. Obviously when we start the work is very much dependent on what the future holds with regards to the availability of labour and materials. The Trustees will hopefully be able to decide which builder will be awarded the contract this month and then we very much hope we can start some form of the work in May.

Obviously COVID19 has had a massive impact on the economy and individual's financial position and will continue to do so for years to come. So, while we are waiting to hear about grant applications and continue to apply for grants it may be sometime before we hear about grants or are able to raise further funds. We do however hope we have raised enough to do some of the work if not all of it.

Waitrose Grant: We could not have been given a worse slot for the token collection grant! Anyway, if you happen to go to Waitrose this month, we should be featured on the token funding. If you remember please do ask for a token and put it in our slot.

Bat Boxes: Thank you to David Orme who made bat boxes for us and these will be put up this month.

Open Gardens: If it is safe to be out and about in June, Inkpen Open Gardens will come as such a wonderful release. Many of you are probably using this time to improve your

gardens so do please consider opening your garden in June for fund raising if it is safe to do so. **Possible date is 13th June.**

Sadly, all activities are on hold, but it is great to see young and old out walking, running and cycling. Do remember that mental health and general well-being will be key issues at this time so do try and talk to neighbours who may be alone and families struggling with a house full, with little release.

Stay safe.

THE LOWER GREEN TRIANGLE

We are now in the fourth year of encouraging and bringing back wildflowers to the Triangle as originally envisaged by Mary Harper and Co over thirty years ago.

Regular readers will recall that we started this effort to save the Triangle and its habitat from the ravages of close mowing and the liberal application of weed killer to the paths and sets which resulted in the near killing of the Copper Beech tree in the centre. As a last ditch attempt to save the tree we have cut out the dead and dying wood and we much just hope that divine intervention allows new life to spring forth.

We have been much encouraged by our success and with the wildflowers. Despite the extremely wet weather, on the plus side we are having a very mild winter resulting in early growth, although a little sunshine would much improve the strength of the plants.

The whites and pale yellows of snowdrops and primroses in early January have been enhanced by the stronger colours of fritillaries, aconites (celandines) and now the blues and purples of crocuses. We are looking forward to the emergence of cowslips, spotted orchids, sainfoin and a wide variety of wild grasses. We are also hoping that a few of the hollyhock seeds will survive. They seem to grow anywhere at the Swan Inn but don't seem to like the soil at the Triangle.

Please make use of the bench on sunny days – ideal for quiet contemplation while the flower and grasses sway in a gentle breeze.

Friends of Lower Green Triangle

POLICE UPDATE

Our Community Police Officer, Joanna King writes, “There will be no update from me this month. As much as I would like to send an update - understandably we are all hands on deck... Protecting the public, and looking after those that are most vulnerable are our priorities”

From all of us in Inkpen and Combe, we thank you, and all the team on the front line at this extraordinary time.

FOOD BANKS

Please do remember our local food banks. They are desperate for food and funds at this time. People and companies are donating less while worrying about stock piling food supplies for their families. The **Newbury Soup Kitchen** is desperate for financial donations via The Good Exchange so that they can buy food where and when it is available. You can also donate to The West Berkshire Food Bank on-line. Thank you.

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, I don't think even the great astrologers, be it Nostradamus, Russell Grant or Ms M. Meg could have predicted this. But here we are and if there is a silver lining (not easy to find) it would be the tremendous village spirit that has so quickly come to the fore as we all face this extraordinary and deeply unsettling time.

So many residents have come together in ways both big and small to help each other. The Inkpen Residents' Facebook page has been full of wishes to help and many of you will have received a note through your door offering help; be it collecting supplies, shopping, posting mail or receiving a phone call. As David Thomas says below, the names and numbers are on the ever excellent Inkpen Village website (www.inkpenvillage.co.uk) but for ease, we felt it helpful to have those listed which we have done so on Page 10.

Although we hope the virus will leave us alone, the likelihood is the list will diminish so do please refer to the Inkpen website to see any amendments.

What is absolutely clear from all those listed (and I'm sure many others who are not) that everyone wants to help so please **pick up the telephone**. Some of the helpers have taken calls from residents who just want a chat. We all need to hear a voice (unfortunately we hear too many in this house...) so let's keep talking even if it can't be face to face.

We are aware, by the time this edition arrives, much of it might be obsolete. We have tried to amend it as the news changes but apologies if any articles provide incorrect information.

Thanks goes to Violet Astor for the photograph of Combe Church, basking in the March sunshine.

Sadly, with all usual places to gather shut and thus events halted, we won't produce a Bulletin next month. Let's hope by the time we put together the June addition we will have turned a corner.

COPY DATE – Please could we have copy for June's edition by **22nd May** to aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk or ring us on 01488 668496.

INKPEN AND COMBE VOLENTEERS

<p>Craven Road Annie Lloyd-Jones – 07771 479105 Anna Bidwell – 07801 027262 Claire Jones – 07808 773346 Emma Wordsworth – 07785 292078/01488 668600 Jane Atkey – 07796 716843</p>	<p>Folly Road Brian and Nikki Cox – 07423 225426 Clare Evans – 01488 669072 or 07786 691292 Karl Prismall – 07879 883148 Katie Rimmer – 07831 680058</p>
<p>Great Common Lynsey Frade – 07771 332396</p>	<p>Heads Lane Alexa Ridley – 07900 407746 Sarah Marston - 07976 221847 Nick Day - 01488 684105 or 07786 075502</p>
<p>Post Office Road Brian Gerhardt – 07787 500217 Claire Loveridge – 07867 528926 Ed Loveridge – 07879 472929 Jo and Tim Kempster – 01488 669072 or 07551 307429 Phil Day – 07837 537542 Sonya Donohoe – 07970 197843 Sophie Skinner – 07812 575624</p>	<p>Pottery Lane Jane Zollo – 07795 320900</p>
<p>The Sawmills Sarah Burton - 07949 238458</p>	<p>Upper Green Dave Lester – 07816 177524 Maridi Baker – 07976 575858 Marie Waters – 07753 492222</p>
<p>Lower Green Alie des Forges – 07971 021110 Andrea Parry-Clarke – 07799 068600</p>	<p>Robins Hill Rach Kirk – 07791 666521</p>
<p>The Firs Helen Dace – 07769 970778</p>	<p>Other Neighbours Nikki Pelissier – 07813 334907 Maxine and Phil Frazer-Reid – 07920 827888 Lucy Hutchinson – 07766 065447 Sally Hughes – 07776 160052 Penny Saich – 07795 320900 Taj Woodgate – 07971 191263</p>
<p>Combe Kat & Tom Morley – 07891 098133 Violet Astor – 07799 606099</p>	

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

CoronaVirus - COVID 19

For the latest local information visit - <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/>

Things are hotting up now and advice from various sources often comes several times a day. As a village, we want to keep **everyone** safe and we are doing this through information and by means of a list of neighbours that are happy to help those in need at this difficult time. Remember, we need the helpers to stay fit and healthy as well, so all deliveries should be doorstep ones and at a personal distance.

Online shopping is proving more difficult at the moment with some having to wait up to six weeks for a supermarket delivery slot. **If you need food and general provisions**, have a look at the list of helpers on the Inkpen website <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/news.html>. We hope shortly to be able to include ways in which prescriptions can be collected for you and delivered to your door. This is a personal service rather than using an online pharmacy. This COVID 19 situation is new to us all, so we are feeling our way. Our main concern is to enable you to be able to cope and stay well. If you need additional help please contact parishcouncil@inkpenvillage.co.uk and we will do our best.

On your part, we need you to follow the government guidelines and avoid putting others at risk. At this stage, where the number of infections locally seem small and remote, there is a temptation to ignore guidance and maybe do a shop for yourself – if you are in an at-risk group please don't take any unnecessary risks.

Finally, there are a number of residents in Inkpen that may be isolated technologically, geographically or socially. If you are well, not in an at-risk group and happy to help, please make sure that those residents know of the help that is available.

Working as a community we can get through this. Keep well and chat to your neighbour. Thank you. David Thomas Inkpen Parish Council

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: wboffice@gmail.com.

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications this month: 20/00048/FUL Quill Cottage, Craven Rd. replacement dwelling with attached double garage and annex above - withdrawn. All planning applications can be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website www.westberks.gov.uk

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

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 Please check regularly and look at the 'News' page for information and advice on the 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19) and how to deal with it.

All people with flu-like symptoms – a fever above 37.8C , shortness of breath or a persistent cough – should self isolate (stay at home, away from other people) for seven days and call 111. Do not spread the virus – wash your hands with soap and water. The Inkpen website is displaying the names of those willing to help you and do shopping if required – just give them a call.

Conservation Area Appraisals: these will be taking place over a seven year work programme. The Council and the West Berkshire Heritage Forum are working together to identify the special character of the local areas and help shape development to gain a greater understanding about the history. There are 53 conservation areas in West Berkshire and only two have an adopted Conservation Area Appraisal in place. The Parish Council Chairman will be identifying those in Inkpen.

Police & Crime Commissioner Elections cancelled: the elections due to be held on 7th May 2020 have been postponed and legislation is going through Parliament to move the election to Thursday 6th May 2021.

Sunday League Football: has been postponed until further notice.

Great British Spring Clean: Don't forget this event is scheduled for 20th March to 13th April 2020—more details are available and a *litter pick tool kit* from Customer Services Team on 01635 551111 <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/communitylitterpick>

Mobile Library: the service has been suspended due to Government advice but will call in Inkpen at Craven Rd. from 2.30 – 2.50pm and at Inkpen School from 3.05 to 4pm when the service resumes – the mobile library should have been calling on 21st April so watch this space.

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 . 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: gloriakeene@hotmail.com