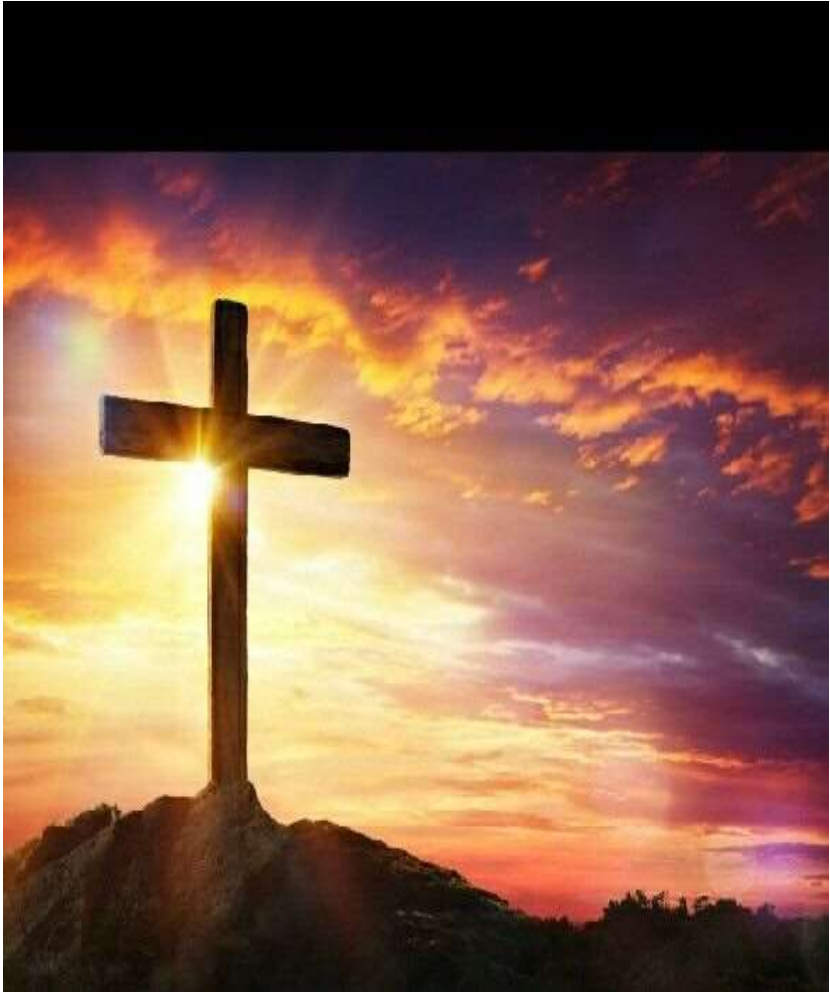


INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

MARCH 2024



CHURCH LETTER

Dear Friends

I love telling stories to illustrate theological points. I have two for this Easter letter. The first is an anecdote collected by Robert Coleman in his book, 'Written in Blood'.

A little girl was seriously ill and needed a blood transfusion. The only person in her family with suitable blood was her younger brother. The doctor asked him if he was willing to give his blood to his sister. Although obviously anxious he said, 'for my sister, yes'. As he lay on the bed the needle was inserted into his arm he turned to the doctor and asked...'when do I die?'

Such depth of love for his sister revealed through a misunderstanding. A profound witness of sacrificial love.

This was the kind of love that led Jesus to his crucifixion on the cross. His love for us.

But his death was not the end so I have another story....

A beautiful butterfly flew overhead as one caterpillar said to another, "You'll never get me up in one of those things."

But for every caterpillar there comes the time when the urge to eat and grow stops and she instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around herself. The chrysalis hardens. It looks as though the caterpillar is dead.

Then one warm, spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to move, the top cracks open, and a beautifully formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down. And then the butterfly glides aloft, riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after flower, as if to show off its vivid colours to the blossoms.

Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination. Perhaps because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of resurrection.

On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' grave clothes. Only his body was gone, much like the empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly.

"He is risen," an angel told the incredulous disciples. Later that day he appeared to the disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to as many as five hundred people at one time. Jesus was really risen from the dead.

We all experience the loss of someone we hold dear. We must face the reality of someone who has been so full of life, now left cold and still. What do Christians say in the face of death? First, that yes death is still an enemy because it results in the aching pain of loss.

But secondly that Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof to us that death is not the end. The empty tomb and Jesus' Spirit present within us testify that Easter morning is God's triumph over death. And Jesus promised that God will raise us from the dead.

On Easter Sunday the church in the Benefice will be holding a Communion service sharing bread and wine to celebrate Jesus' victory over death. His victory is our victory. In celebrating his resurrection, we celebrate our assurance of ultimate triumph over death. We will also make sure that there are chocolate eggs to reinforce the message of new birth and new beginnings!

Please come and share this Easter message and celebrate Life. If you look closely on Easter morning, you might even see a butterfly.....
Love and blessings Revd. Annette

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

As far as Church Services are concerned March seems to have everything - particularly for families and children. So here is what's on offer:

The 10th of March is Mothering Sunday. This service will be at the usual time of **9.45** and there will be posies for the children to give to their mothers. **Children who would like to help make them** are very welcome to come to work with Meg Atkins at her house which is 'White House', Heads Lane by Inkpen Common at **10am on the 9th**. Flowers will be provided, but of course you can also bring your own. Meg will be there with Annette and parents can stay or not as they wish. Refreshments will be provided.

On Sunday 17th we have a Family **Service** which includes a Christening at **9.45**. Activities for children will be provided.

The 24th is Palm Sunday when the two donkeys that came last year will be back again. The Service starts at **9.45** but the donkeys will be there before then and, weather permitting, the first part of the Service will be at the Lych Gate with the donkeys where they are looking forward particularly to seeing the children.

For **Easter Day** the **Family Service** starts at **9.45**. Then after a short break it is followed by a shortened form of Holy Communion.

Finally, as mentioned in the last Bulletin during March we will also be having our now **Annual Giving Event** to raise funds to help cover the maintenance costs of the church, churchyard and graveyard. Lent is often seen as a time for giving as well as giving up and details of how you can donate are on the back page of this Bulletin.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR INKPEN AND COMBE

INKPEN

Sunday 10th March

Family Service at 9.45am – Mother's Day

Sunday 17th March

Holy Communion at 9.45am

Sunday 24th March

Family Service at 9.45am

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31st March

Holy Communion at 9.45am

COOMBE

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31st March

Holy Communion at 11.15am

WEST WOODHAY

Sunday 10th March

Holy Communion at 11.15am

Maundy Thursday 7pm in Kintbury

Good Friday service 10am in Kintbury

Other Services in the Benefice are on the Website which is

www.walburybeaconbenefice.org.uk



CHURCH CONTACTS

Benefice Administrator: Tamara Laing, part-time at the **Benefice Office** Email:

wbb.office.contact@gmail.com 07359 327 072.

Churchwardens:

Inkpen: Charlotte Bampfylde (inkpenchurch@outlook.com)

Combe: Tina Fiertz (tel. 668529), Katherine Astor (katherine@kirby-house.co.uk).

CHURCH SERVICES AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HUNGERFORD

Our Lady of Lourdes, Priory Road, Hungerford RG17 0AF

Parish Priest - Fr Zbigniew Budyn 01635 40332

Sunday Mass - every Sunday at 9.00am

Weekday Mass - every Wednesday at 10.00am

For further information contact Paul Burrough 01488 668882

Mobile 07836 292976 Email paul.burrough43@gmail.com

and memorials as well as regular services. Thank you.

INKPEN PLAYING FIELD & PAVILION

Please keep up to date with the activities at Inkpen Playing Field – the contact link for the website is : www.impft.co.uk

The pavilion is available to book 7 days of the week: and there is a regular **Pop-in-Café** on alternate Thursday mornings on the first and third Thursday of the month and the Inkpen **History Society** meet there regularly if you wish to know more about the village.

Meeting Room at the pavilion: for up to 60 people with access to a TV screen. Tables and chairs available for your use.

Party bookings: football parties, tennis parties and playground parties- there is time to book if you are having a family event. A fully stocked kitchen with double oven, dishwasher, fridge/freezer and microwave. All the benefits of a home kitchen. We even have **Baby Changing facilities** and a large disabled toilet and shower available.

Netball – the hard court is available with markings for the sport, with new netball nets. Even **Basketball** could be considered if there is activity needed in the village.

Tennis and coaching: – is available for all at Inkpen playing field by prior arrangement - please contact Taj Woodhouse for membership of Inkpen Tennis Club.

Five a Side Football: – on Sunday evening from 8pm – male and female players welcome.

For more details: and **booking information** please contact the Parish Clerk: who can give more details and is happy to help with any queries.

parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk

*******Keep Active*******

INKPEN STITCH AND KNIT

Our March meeting is on **Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. Jane will be showing the knitters amongst us her favourite way to cast on and assures us it will only take a few minutes. Why not come along with any knitting issues and Jane and the other knitters amongst us will do their best to help. There may also be a quick and easy Easter

sewing project (materials provided). You are very welcome to bring along whatever you are working on enjoy each other's company.

In **April** we meet on the **Wednesday 3rd** - same time, same place. Everyone is very welcome, and the cost is £3 for the evening which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.
jan@honeydesign.co.uk 07584 122 388

THE CROWN AND GARTER

Hello everyone. We would like to begin with a big thank you for all your feedback on recent social media. We are delighted to announce that our 'curry and a pint' nights are in full swing. **Every Tuesday** we serve delicious traditional curries inspired by our chefs' Mauritian and Indian roots. Even better still, each week is a different curry.

Also this month, we have Mother's Day, a time to celebrate all of their hard work and love, so why not treat them to a delicious Sunday Lunch on the **10th March** (Please call up to book and avoid disappointment).

Starting from Sunday 24th March, 4pm to 6pm, we will have monthly live music events on the patio in anticipation of the warmer weather. At the end of the month is Easter Weekend, we are already getting busy for that weekend, so do book in if you would like to join us.

As usual, our popular quiz nights run on the **last Wednesday of every month**. It is important to note that you must book ahead as they are filling up early in the month. We look forward to welcoming you in the coming months.

The C&G Team

THE INKPEN HISTORY GROUP

The next History Group Meeting is on 19th April. A big thank you to all of you that attended our meeting in January. The high turnout has been a huge encouragement for us.

Now we are preparing for our next meeting which will be on Friday the 19th April, 7pm at the Inkpen playing field pavilion. We have an exciting line up with presentations on the history of the Crown and Garter, and on the history of Combe. Hopefully we will be able to present the new LiDAR results for Inkpen Hill (not Walbury Hill) and provide updates on several of the group's projects. As always there will be refreshments at half time, and time for people to chat and ask questions. A new sub-group covering events during WW2 has been formed and we would appreciate any anecdotes, and sight of any pictures or items from the period.

We are asking all attendees that can afford it to donate £1 per person to help us cover the hire of the pavilion and the cost of refreshments. However, your presence at the meeting is the most important thing so all donations are purely voluntary but gratefully received.

If anyone has any advice on how to stop the rain so that we can get on with outdoor activities, you will be awarded a free cuppa.

INKPEN – NO LONGER AN AONB

At the end of November last year, Inkpen ceased to be in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Instead, Inkpen, like all of the other AONB's, woke up on the 22nd November 23 to find themselves reclassified as a NATIONAL LANDSCAPE.

So, what is a National Landscape?

A National Landscape is a designated exceptional landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are precious enough to be safeguarded in the national interest. The 46 National Landscapes cover just under 1/5th of the UK.

On par with National Parks, National Landscapes are protected and enhanced for nature, people, business, and culture. No other country in the world has National Landscapes – it is a uniquely British designation that belongs to a worldwide Protected Landscape Family.

National Landscapes are regarded as being on the same level as National Parks, the difference being that National Parks have their own governing Authority whereas National Landscapes rely on governance by the area local authority.

So, what is the point of it all?

National Parks and National Landscapes are to work together to: encourage improved access to our protected landscapes and nature for all parts of society, particularly where this supports improved public health and wellbeing; continue support for the local communities that live and work in protected landscapes, helping preserve our heritage for future generations; drive nature recovery and nature-based solutions within protected landscapes to help address the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change and apply structural changes and resources to support our protected landscapes in delivering more for nature, climate, people and places.

It is your responsibility to make sure that your local representatives deliver on this.

INKPEN POP-IN CAFÉ - March and April

It seems as if cake, yes cake, is the second biggest attraction at the Pop-In Café. You'll need to come along to find out what the first attraction is.

In March, the Café will be open at the Inkpen pavilion on the 7th and 21st between 10am and 12:30pm. It is always good to see new faces and you can be assured of a friendly and gentle welcome. Bring a neighbour along. Come and find out what it's like for yourself.

In April the Café will open on the 4th and 18th. Make a note in your diary or on your calendar.

The Rhythm of Life. 2: Stargazing



The Night is Awesome, Make it Visible, Keep it Dark

For millennia man has wondered at the starry heavens, shifting planets, speeding meteors and the light shows of the aurora borealis. These spectacles have permeated our religions & cultures and inspired artistic achievement and scientific endeavour.

Darkness at night is an essential part of the landscape: a starry sky is an area of outstanding natural beauty and site of special scientific interest rolled into one. The North Wessex Downs National Landscape want to ensure ‘our’ local skies remain a place ‘where a sense of remoteness and tranquillity predominate.’

Go out on a clear night to see the stars for yourself. Stargazing is a magical experience and easy to do if you follow a few initial tips: visit the NWDNL website for info about

how to prepare and where & when to

go: <https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/stargazing/>

If you'd prefer to enjoy the stars, moon and planets from the comfort of your own living room, download an app to guide you across the skies; there are many to choose from: <https://www.space.com/best-stargazing-apps>

The Commission for Dark Skies has lots of valuable information and useful downloads on their website including how to protect the night; wildlife at night; the importance of choosing the right nighttime lighting; and much more including a great introduction for young astronomers called 'Hidden Skies': <https://britastro.org/dark-skies/>

Local astronomy groups are another good source of advice on stargazing and equipment and welcome newcomers. The nearest groups are in Newbury and Marlborough. Their details are on the North Wessex Downs link above.

Happy star-spotting.

Kate Adams Tee (csadams1@hotmail.com) and David Thomas (Inkpen-climate@outlook.com)

Next month: Night Bugs

COME & SING

Together with the Friends of St Mary's Church, OPUS2 is putting on a Come & Sing Day in Kintbury church on **Saturday 23 March**.

This is to raise funds for the church at the same time as bringing music to the community.

Please note that tickets are now available.



COPY DATE

Please email aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk by **18th March** with all features, news and events for the March edition.

INKPEN MARKET

Sunday 17th March 10am – 1.30pm (note - extended hours)

Hello everyone, we are back on the 17th March, we are looking forward to seeing you all. Come and buy unique goodies and catch up with friend and neighbours and enjoy a coffee and bacon butty at our charity café.

We have on offer this month:

- Plants, just the right time of year to restock the garden.
- Our lovely local honey and breads
- Debbie's Inkpen Sausages
- Scrumptious Brownies, cupcakes, and mini cakes
- Tropic skin care, perfect times to revitalise you skin as we get ready for spring.
- Bird food, to boost them through pairing season.
- Highclere Kitchen Garden gluten free treats.
- Wooden gifts from Sadlers Woodhouse.
- Cards and bunting find a beautiful easter card.

We have a Tombola for grown-ups and children, books, and puzzles.

We look forward to seeing you there. Chrissy & Tracey

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, INKPEN - March Giving 2024



Funds raised during March Giving are vital for the upkeep of our beautiful 13th Century parish church, it's churchyard and graveyard.

You may come to services regularly or occasionally at Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday, or Harvest Festival or would like to use it for weddings, baptisms or funerals.

Like all historic buildings, the church needs a lot of maintenance, and this all must be paid for through fundraising.

You can donate:

Online:

visit the Parish Giving Scheme website -

www.paritygiving.org.uk and enter '**Inkpen**' into the *Find your parish* box.

Or –

Using the Gift Aid envelopes delivered with your Bulletin. A collection box for envelopes will be in the Crown and Garter coffee shop.

Or –

By BACS bank transfer to:
St. Michael's Church, Inkpen
73133078
60-11-28

Please enter *March Giving* as the Reference. Please make all donations by Easter Sunday
Thank you!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Inkpen Parish Council Meetings are all advertised on the village notice boards and the *Agenda* and *Draft Minutes* placed on the official Parish website– see <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/pc2.html>

Inkpen Parish Council & Planning meetings were held on Monday 19th February 2024 at Inkpen Village Hall at 7pm. The draft minutes of both meetings are shown on the Inkpen website.

Planning application below was considered by Inkpen Councillors:

24/00136/Ful The Swan Meadows, Weavers Lane Inkpen – Application to convert stables into dwelling to provide security for equipment stored in barn. The submissions for the planning application can be viewed on the West Berks Council website.

WBC Local Plan Examination Update: The hearing sessions are due to commence at

9.30am on Wednesday 8th May 2024 within Shaw House, Church Rd. Newbury.
Hearings are due to take place over a four-week period and during Week 2 the
Hearings will be held in the Council Chamber of WBC. If you wish to participate in
any of the Hearing discussions, please let the programme officer know in advance.
All details can be found on the WBC website www.westberks.gov.uk

Reminder - Great British Spring Clean is on the **25th March 2024**. Please be ready
to join in and help in the village in any way you can.

We are fortunate to have this stunningly beautiful landscape on our doorstep, making
it the perfect place within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. Please
don't let anyone spoil our countryside by littering and fly-tipping and spoiling our
green spaces and amazing views by discarding food scraps, tin cans, plastic bottles
and wrappers thrown into bushes, where our wildlife, pet dogs, horses or farm
animals can be injured or can choke on litter. Please help if you can.

Litter - If you spot a problem with litter in a public place please report to:
<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/litter>

Flooding: Have you been affected by recent flooding? Please report any blocked
road gulleys to WBC Emergency Planning section www.westberks.gov.uk and
make sure the ditch adjacent to your property is clear of leaves and debris and allows
the water to flow away.

Mobile Library Dates are: **19th March 2024**. The mobile van stops at: Craven Rd.
Inkpen 2.20-2.50pm and at Inkpen School at 3.05 – 4pm. Please visit the library as
we are lucky the service has continued to be supported by West Berkshire Council in
view of the budget considerations for 2024.

The next Parish Council meeting: will be the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Monday
15th April 2024** to which all Inkpen residents are invited.

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 13th May 2024**. Planning
meetings are arranged to meet target dates set by West Berkshire Council.

All meetings are advertised on the village notice boards and the Inkpen website, in
advance of the meeting <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/pc2.html>

Gloria Keene,
Clerk to Inkpen Parish Council
Mobile 07704 718475