

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva January 2021

# Village News



## Christmas 2020

In spite of all the restrictions and uncertainty, the spirit of Christmas was definitely abroad.

Rachel Jannaway and her fellow elf were helping the school take part in the *Be a Santa to a Senior Santa-gram project*. Each Santa-gram was made up of a collection of items donated from various schools and businesses, and the elves distributed these to the elderly and isolated at Christmas.

Meanwhile, over by the Royal Oak, an open-air craft fair with mulled wine proved to be a great success (see Lynne's report on Bishopstone Stores *page 6*).

And where would we be without a Christmas tree? Bishopstone's had to be delivered by boat this year, courtesy of the Hale family. Has Russell's prediction of the village becoming a sea-side venue come to pass? Read all about it in Richard's news of Bishopstone Village Hall, *page 4*.

*Thanks to: Sheila Collins; Rachel Hale, and Lynne Muir for the photographs.*



<https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org> for breaking news



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SN6 8QB

# SAMARITANS

## Swindon & District

### Turning the Blues into Brews

We are encouraging people to beat the winter blues and COVID by staying connected with a virtual warming cuppa and a chat over the long cold months, for Brew Monday.

Brew Monday kicks off on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, as the third Monday in January is typically known as *Blue Monday* for being the most difficult day of the year. Samaritans are turning the blues to brews by encouraging friends, family, and workmates to reach out to someone for a virtual cuppa and a chat, as well as raising vital funds for Swindon & District Samaritans. Now, more than ever, sharing a cuppa is more than a drink – it's about reaching out, checking in, and staying connected.

If you need to know more – please reach out to:

fundraiserswindonsamaritans@btconnect.com

– and if you brew up to chase those blues away and can support Swindon & District Samaritans, please text to donate. To donate £5, text

BREWMONDAY 5 to 70490.

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear

more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text:

BREWMONDAYNOINFO5to70490.

Samaritans are always here every hour of every day of the year – talk to us any time you like, in your own way, and off the record, about whatever's getting to you:

T: 116 123 – calls are free

E: jo@samaritans.org

### Recycling Matters

January – and many people's thoughts turn to life-improving resolutions.



Apparently, one of the secrets to keeping them is to think small, nothing too radical. With that in mind, I've come up with some painless changes, a lot simpler than dropping 7lbs, that I thought I'd share!

#### Reduce

- We're switching from liquid soap and shower gel to bars of soap to reduce our use of plastic (plus pump action bits aren't recyclable). This should be more economical too. Although many liquid soaps contain added moisturisers, all the extra washing was making my hands dry. The lovely shea butter soaps that I found in L'Occitane (10% off if you take in any empty beauty or skin care product) have made a great improvement.

- I've swapped traditional dental floss for corn starch floss picks and inter-

denal brushes with bamboo rather than plastic handles. All are now available in larger retailers like Boots, Holland & Barrett, and Superdrug.

- Cling film is going! Instead, we're using lidded boxes, (recyclable) foil (I haven't tried beeswax wraps yet) and putting a plate on top of a bowl when using the microwave.

#### Reuse

- Take another look at plastic packaging. We discovered empty Nesquik containers make great storage for pourable items like homemade granola and are just the right height for standing upright in the freezer, housing this year's frozen blackberries.

- I've re-discovered my love of books – audio and physical. The library service in the UK is amazing. However, if you buy them, when you're done, pass them on to companies like Webuybooks or charities. Perhaps consider buying them second-hand in the first place – charity shops, eBay, and now even Amazon have second-hand offerings in good condition.

#### Recycle

- The Terracycle website is my friend. This little gem tells you where you can recycle all sorts of things locally – everything from Pringles tubes to electric tooth brush heads – all whilst helping local charities raise money. Do take a look.

Wishing you all a Happy (and sustainable!) New Year!

*Karen Walker*

**Super**  
**NEW YOU**  
**IN 2021!**

TIME FOR A NEW YOU?


**HERBALIFE**  
**NUTRITION**

*(As a society, we are overfed & undernourished)*

Shakes and supplements are not everybody's cup of tea. Still, for some of us, a meal shake can have a huge positive impact on energy, shape and wellbeing. If you want to, try a meal replacement shake, make sure it has top-quality ingredients designed to meet your needs? I work with the Herbalife Nutriton product. All ingredients can be traced back to where they are grown. I have personally visited the manufacturing site and met many of the formulators, including a Nobel laureate in medicine. Healthy Breakfast trial packs, online challenges, lots of flavours, Vegan range, soy/gluten/dairy-free alternatives, 24h sport nutrition range etc.

Peter Svensson, Wellness coach

07832 193 362



**The Special Christmas Draw  
(500 Club only)  
£150 Winner is...**

**100/500 Club Quarterly Draw:**  
£70 ... Sarah Bally  
£35 ... Paul Bailey  
To join the 500 Club, contact Phil Collins:  
01793 790 358

## The Village Hall Bishopstone

### A Christmassy Tale, aka Das Boot

The Village Christmas tree is usually ordered from a reliable source somewhere outside Wroughton, but this year, due to restrictions, they were unable to deliver. One of our esteemed volunteers was challenged to fill the prized spot in the corner of the car park opposite the school and entrance to The City. We wanted to cheer us all up towards the end of this ghastly year with a lovely Christmas tree. A happy chap was found in the Lambourn valley; he had Christmas trees too and a fine specimen was duly delivered. It was soon found, however, that we'd over specified asking for a *non drop* Nordmann, and, we then soon found it to be somewhat vertically challenged! We had expected to have at least surpassed the head height of our willing volunteer! With much haste, the Miracle Grow plan was binned and a new specimen sourced. Here the real fun starts. First, a police escort accompanying the tree from the A419, then sight of a boat filled with a new tree, skilfully manoeuvred into the hall car park. Heads turned! A wonderful job, thanks to John (SBS) Special Boat Services! Without much ado the new tree was raised, closely supervised and guided by members of our CAT (Creative Alignment Team), recently formed, following closed positions in Tree Sourcing roles. The original tree was dispatched by way of a

donation to the church festivities, so to a good home. Meanwhile, we've booked our spot on Dragons Den in order to be first to market with our new tree light decoration sticks, designed by our resident Boffin and fashioned from broom handles and forks! These new tools are an essential requirement when dressing large trees with Christmas lights – all proceeds to local charity!!

Anyway all good stuff, and thanks to all (Carol, Rachel, Steve, Russell, Debbie, Anna, Roz and Phil) for all your help in fund raising and maintaining the hall during this difficult year.

New online booking portal coming soon. Meanwhile, for hall bookings and enquiries, contact:

791 918

or [richardw@eddingtons.co.uk](mailto:richardw@eddingtons.co.uk).

*Richard Walker, Chairman*

## Wanborough Farmers' Market

The first Wanborough Farmers' Market of 2021 will be

**9.00am - noon**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January  
Wanborough Village Hall,  
High Street, SN4 0AD**

Unless ... you know ... etc etc. For more information/confirmation see

org>[www.wanborough.info](http://www.wanborough.info)  
or contact Sue or David Birley.

01793 790 438

[sbirley@gn.apc.org](mailto:sbirley@gn.apc.org)



**LAST Saturday of Every Month**

**Community Cafe**  
Hinton Parva Village Hall

**Sounds Like Women**

Lovely teas, coffee, homemade cakes/soup  
live music & sale of products homemade by women.

[soundlikewomen.com](http://soundlikewomen.com) **Opening time: 12 to 16:30**

The first Sounds like Women Community Cafe

30<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Hinton Parva Village Hall

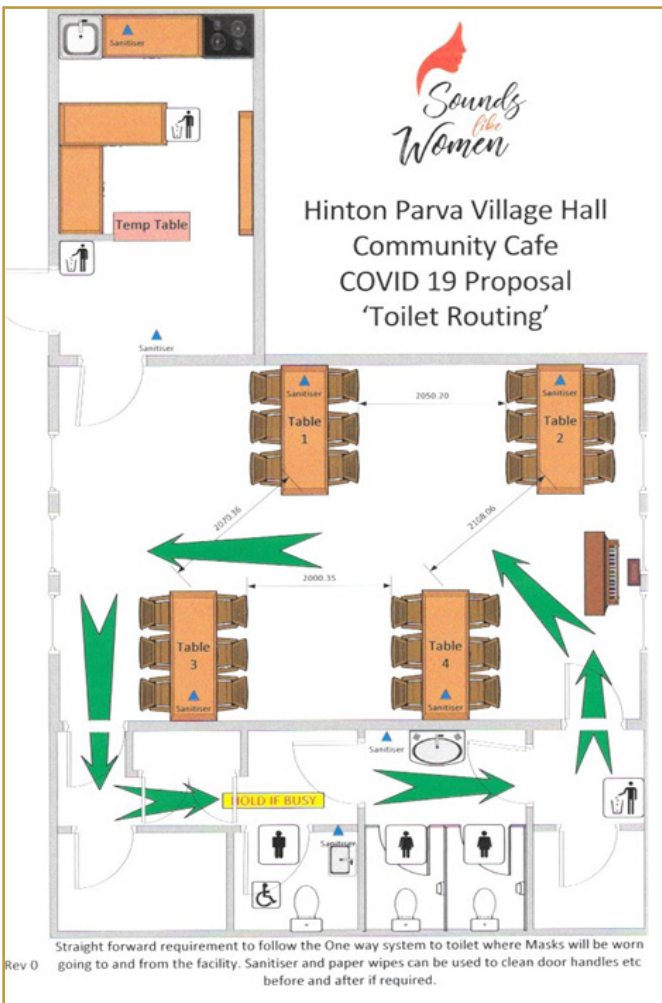
SLW CC online streamed live from

SLW FB page <https://www.facebook.com/soundlikewomen>

16<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Luiza Moir (Director of Sounds Like Women non-profit Community Interest Company)

Tel: 01793 790 265, 07541 956 179



### Little Hinton Village Hall

We very much hope that you enjoyed the festivities, and got the opportunity to see some of the people that you have been missing during Covid. On the subject of getting together, we are looking forward to organising an event in the Spring, similar to the *Carols in the Coombes*’ which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We anticipate that the *Sing in Spring* event will involve eating, drinking and *singing* of some sort – but clearly not carols. The new Saturday afternoon café is due to open on 30<sup>th</sup> January, unless we are told otherwise by the powers that be. It is being organised and run by *Sounds Like Women*, (see page 4), and we wish them all the very best for their venture, which is not only offering villagers the chance to get out for a local coffee, but also providing support to the Community at a time when it is very much needed. They’ve worked very hard to make it as safe as possible, as the diagram indicates, but this does mean that the internal space is now limited of course. All *normal* covid rules will apply too, and we would ask that anyone visiting ensures that they follow any guidance being offered by the organisers.

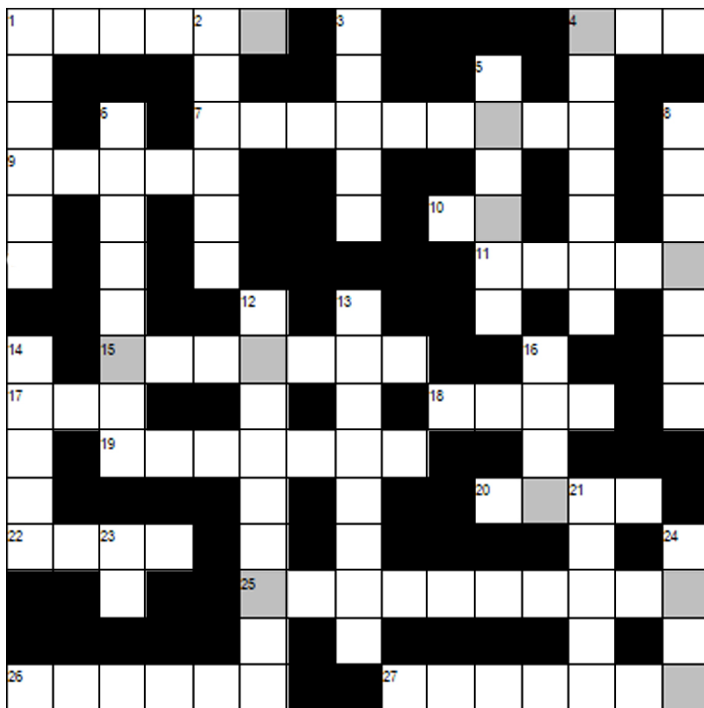
### Pete's Prize Puzzle

**Across**

- 1 Big cat from Birmingham. (6)
- 4 This bad man’s wheels were initially German. (3)
- 7 Are nosy gangs around? (9)
- 9 Clever and well dressed. (5)
- 10 This may give Chinese Major General more gains. (2)
- 11 Is this Martin a villain? (5)
- 15 The Coombes dude. (7)
- 17 I am in a Ford model. (3)
- 18 You can take this or sit on it.(4)
- 19 Does Malcolm use this stroller? (7)
- 20 Say goodbye, informally. (4)
- 22 I hear it’s a discount supermarket. (4)
- 25 Raw fish mixes bit I’m in. (10)
- 26 Jeopardy question, Dors or Spencer? (6)
- 27 Does this prancing horse wear red? (7)

**Down**

- 1 Sounds like you might intercept this former world champion. (6)
- 2 Hurl an insult outside the Netherlands. (6)
- 3 Wash on days in Swindon or Japan. (5)
- 4 Have this insect for a cream one. (7)
- 5 Eoin and Freeman in sham organisations. (6)
- 6 Serve pork.(8)
- 8 Hello United Nations in short combine with this day.(7)
- 12 Top lover perhaps? (9)
- 13 Airs meat around Italian. (8)
- 14 Do ask about this Volkswagen. (5)
- 16 Use this to reach high places. (4)
- 21 Change the least into one of the best. (5)
- 23 Has David Schwimmer turned to the dark side in France? (2)
- 24 A small German in Oxford. (4)



All of the answers are makes of car (old and new). The shaded squares are an anagram of a further make of car. To be in with a chance of winning *this month’s Star Prize*, send the completed crossword and the answer to the anagram to the editor *by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month*.

mogsboon@hotmail.com  
or deliver to Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva.



is happy, it is also much better for us!

For the resolution breakers amongst us, have no fear; the cakes will still be baked, the bread and pastries still delivered to the shop and the double cream will always be available in the fridge! Happy days for everyone. Best wishes for 2021, hopefully the year that normality resumes!

Lynne

Left: Louise Stoneham, who stands in for Lynne every Wednesday. Photographed by Sheila Collins

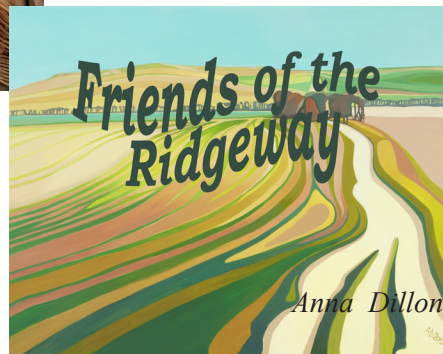
## Bishopstone Stores

9.00am - 6.00pm Monday - Saturday  
10.00am - 2.00pm - Sunday

Happy New Year to you all! I hope the festive celebrations gave you a good glow and you are all suitably well fed and watered. Thank you for your support in the build up to Christmas especially those who came to enjoy a mulled wine with us at our first ever craft fair. What a fabulous atmosphere, and a very jolly evening for all those involved. We were so pleased to have been able to raise some funds for the village school through donations from our lovely stall holders... watch this space for future events.

I can only assume that by now all your New Year Resolutions are made – and if you are anything like me, are already broken! It is often a time to make changes, put plans into action, and think about what's to come in the year ahead. If your list includes healthy lifestyle changes and being conscious of what you are eating, (particularly following the volume of mince pies consumed over the last few weeks), pop in and see us for all your healthy eating needs.

It is so important to be aware of where our food comes from and the life it has lived, whether that be the pigs up on the Ridgeway, the happy cows in the dairy, the free-range hens, or the organic carrots in the ground over at the walled garden of Coleshill. Not only does everything taste so much better if it



We were very disappointed to have to cancel the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize in 2020. However, we are delighted to announce that the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize will be held next year in April 2021. If practical and possible, there will be an exhibition in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington; if not possible, there will be an online exhibition and prize giving.

The aim of the competition is to bring The Ridgeway to life, not only as a long distance trail but as an artistic inspiration, and to show The Ridgeway, its history and environs, in all their aspects throughout all seasons. The theme of the competition is *Spirit of the Ridgeway*.

There will be separate classes for (i) wall art (including painting, drawing, etching, textile pictures and wall hangings, and mosaics), (ii) sculpture (including ceramics), (iii) photography (including digital art), and (iv) writing (poetry or prose).

If possible, there will be an exhibition of works submitted for the competition. It will be open to the public on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington (Broad Street,

Uffington, Oxfordshire, SN7 7RA), located in the centre of the beautiful and historic rural village of Uffington, in the Vale of the White Horse. If a physical exhibition is not possible, there will be an online exhibition and prize giving. The Ridgeway Friends Day will be on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April, which will include our AGM as well as the arts prize giving. Please get in touch if you would like to enter the competition, or for further information:

Anthony Burdall  
Chairman

Friends of the Ridgeway  
2 Fernham Road  
Faringdon  
Oxfordshire SN7 7JY

Tel: 01367 240 713

Mob: 07841 352 938

Email: [anthony.burdall@burdall.net](mailto:anthony.burdall@burdall.net)

## Adopt a Road?

Anyone fancy joining me and adopting a local road or area that we then try to keep (relatively) clear of litter? Many of us took part in the Great British Clean-Up in the autumn and I've seen various neighbours litter-picking whilst out on our walks. Frustratingly though, all too quickly the blight on our beautiful villages and surrounding countryside returns. I wondered if we would make more of an impact if those of us interested in making a difference volunteered to look after separate areas in our own vicinity, so that we could perhaps cover a wider area? We could maybe do it in 2s or 3s, in family groups or with friends and neighbours to make it a bit more fun? If anyone fancies giving it a go, I'm happy to do the co-ordinating and try and get any additional equipment we might need. If interested, please get in touch, via the Ed. That's my New Year's Resolution No 248 sorted – Less moaning, more making a difference!!

Date for your diaries:

**The Great British Spring Clean**  
will be taking place between  
**28<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
- but let's get a head start!

Karen Walker



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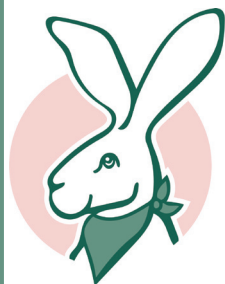
 07710 348 263

 [bykateherbert@gmail.com](mailto:bykateherbert@gmail.com)

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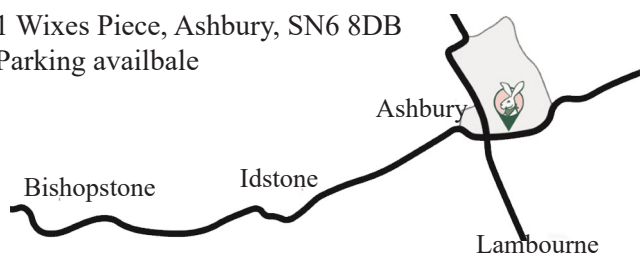
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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2<sup>th</sup> December</b>		No Service	
	Vigil of St Francis Xavier			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent"			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		YouTube "A Little Eucharist for the Blessed Virgin Mary"	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent"			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	YouTube "A Little Eucharist for O Sapientia"			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	YouTube "A Little Eucharist for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent"			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>			
	<b>Christmas Eve</b>		YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the Crib Service"	
			YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the Christingle Service"	
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Lyddington
			YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the First Eucharist of Christmas"	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	Christmas Day	11.00am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> December</b>		No Service	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> December</b>		No Service	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas"			

All dates and times printed are as submitted to the Editor.

The Services listed are subject to change, both by addition if our situation improves or by cancellation. To check nearer the time: 01793 791 359 or [villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk)

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,  
Happy New Year! With the last twelve months in mind, an even larger number of us will be pleased to be able to look forward to new opportunities in a new environment. Just as the end of hibernation, the germination of seeds, and the strange tapping sounds from inside the shell of an egg all point toward the turning of a page in nature's diary, so the beginning of a New Year can be a turning point for each and every one of us. Throughout our nation's history, every invasion of our shores has come with change too. So, in this way, difference can also be a huge opportunity to experience and explore. Similarly, recruiting new staff can also help an organisation to look

again at so many things that it has taken for granted. They may have become outdated or even unnecessary. About 2,000 years ago the established Church was met with a *Significant Difference*. *The Difference* highlighted the point that people are always more important than process, compassion better than condemnation, and kindness more rewarding - for everyone - than being right. Precisely because every one of us has our flaws, second chances are never going to be enough. In fact, *Seventy times Seven* are the chances that we are called to give, if not receive, and it is only then that we are more likely to bear fruit, to the benefit of all around. It is for this reason that, for so many of us, working in health and education is so much more than a job. It

is a way of life. We love being open to potential, and everyone has that. Some of the greatest people that I ever worked with in drug rehabilitation were ex-users themselves. They too needed *Seventy times Seven* chances to turn their lives around, before they were able to help our society as a whole by lifting others from their addictions. We launched our lifeboat more than a hundred times a year and we couldn't care less about who the casualties were, or where they came from. They were in distress and that was the only thing that mattered. I wonder how many of them have gone on to achieve great things as a result of being given another chance? Judgement of another always leaves huge clues about the extent to which we know and have received Love



ourselves. Caring for another feeds the bank of love from which we can draw. It's another reason why we are told that whatever we do to the least, we do to love. How, and when, we are best able to love depends on how closely we draw toward the plans that were made for us even before we were formed in the womb. Spending time with the author of us all is the only way to do so. If there is only one difference that we do make this New Year, let it be this. We will all be the better for it, and that's a promise. With best wishes and prayers. If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:

**telephone - 790 088**  
**villageprayers@gmail.com**

*Bill*

### Parish Contacts

**The Vicar:** the Rev Bill O'Connell  
The Vicarage, Church Road,  
Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359  
villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

**PCC Vice Chair** – Alan Taylor  
01793 791 666  
R2attayloralan@aol.com

### Church wardens:

#### St Mary's

Roz Boot 01793 790 508  
John Lowry 01793 790 271

#### St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell – 01793 791 148  
tomcripwell@gmail.com

### PCC members:

Doug Stevens 01793 791 107  
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk  
Karen Stevens 01793 791 107  
kschurchview@gmail.com  
Penny Green 01793 791 310  
Tom Sargeant 07517 145 051  
tom@yeoldeforge.co.uk

### St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

**January** Rachel Blunt &  
Caryn Greenhalgh  
**February** Lorna Ford &  
Linda Matthews  
**March** Jill White &  
Karen MacGregor  
**April** Fran Shishton &  
Karen Stevens

## From the Benefice Register

### Wedding

**St Andrew's Church, Wanborough** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
Paul Train & Chloe Chitty

### Funeral

**Kingsdown Crematorium** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Ronald Kent aged 91

**May** Chris Thomas & Gill May  
**June** Jane Golding  
**July** Sarah Best & Jenny Isles  
**August** Liz Warwick &  
Jane Manktelow  
**September** Rachel Blunt &  
Caryn Greenhalgh  
**October** Lorna Ford &  
Linda Matthews  
**November** Jill White  
& Karen MacGregor  
**December** Fran Shishton &  
Karen Stevens

Mary Darling, 790 700, is volunteering to stand in for anyone needing cover for holidays/illness etc.

Many thanks to you all for your hard work keeping the church clean. We always welcome new volunteers on the rota, please join us!

*Sarah Best 791 121*

### Thanking People

I'm sure the benefice would like to thank our vicar, Bill, for all his hard work since March, when this pandemic started, keeping us in touch with our faith by presenting us with two *Little Eucharists* via Youtube each week in the four churches, as per rota. As soon as he was able, he opened up the churches for 10.30am Holy Communion, safely sanitised and distanced, and, although very *sterile*, it was lovely to go into church and celebrate with other masked people. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are not connected to the internet.

The people are *the church* and, of course, there is no visiting, therefore thanks are due to the unseen people who have helped and still do help during this pandemic:

The small band of helpers who

removed books, cushions etc, and cleaned and sanitised the churches, making them the most safe places for us to attend.

The flower arrangers who put flowers in the churches as soon as they were opened, especially now with the Christmas decorations.

The organists who play us in and out of the churches.

How lovely it was to hear the bells ringing out again, be there only one or two ringers.

The kind people who cooked and delivered meals to those in need in the villages and beyond.

Those who did the shopping and collected medication for neighbours and friends.

There were many more kindnesses shown, known only to those who received them.

Finally, to Mogs and Andrea, who managed to fill our magazines with such interesting articles from those who sent in items for publication, and do so every month, year after year.

Now we have a vaccine, thanks to our wonderful scientists, not forgetting those who trialled the vaccine before it was declared safe for all.

We hope, in the not too distant future, to be able to go to a service and be able to join in with the prayers etc. and *sing*.

We have a lot to be thankful for and as Tiny Tim said in *A Christmas Carol* **God bless us everyone.**

*A grateful parishioner*

### More Church Bloopers

Parish of Harnam magazine:

We are delighted to announce that the youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.



I have been asked whether I have seen any special birds lately. Flocks of golden plover swooping, little stone chats, with their rusty chest, on a fence post, wheatears flying away with their white rump are not too unusual and, also becoming more common, are egrets. Three appeared in the Dingle at Bishopstone one morning. But really special is a great bustard, which a friend tells me they have spotted on the downs near Wantage. I have viewed their compound near Shrewton on Salisbury Plain, where they have been introduced with imports of adults from Russia and, more recently, fertilized eggs from Spain, which have been more successful. They died out here in 1832 and the release programme has been gathering pace over the last decade. It's

an enormous game bird with a wing span of 2.5 metres. The now scarce English, or grey partridge, used to be numerous, but farmer George Ponsoby near Lechlade has worked hard to build up wild stocks on his farm. His shoot covers 2,000 acres, with unsprayed margins round nearly every field to encourage insects for chick survival. He has a full time keeper to control vermin, and with no releases of reared game for three years, this year's dry spring has seen numbers of wild game explode to the 100s. He had a shoot in October with a bag of 60 English, 68 French partridge, and 11 pheasants, which was a rewarding and notable achievement. I think a second outing has produced another useful bag, with more pheasants now they are fully in season.

After lockdown, in November, the country sports of hunting and shooting have been allowed to restart in December. Social hunting meets are required to be less social and shoot-

ing parties are meeting outside taking their own soup, sandwiches and cake. It's of course, hard on pubs and restaurants who are unable to cater for parties of different bubbles. I started over 60 years ago with an air gun, and then a .410, with which I would stalk and shoot a rabbit, which was skinned and in the frying pan for breakfast. My pigeon shot at roost was preferred one year to turkey on Christmas Day! My favourite shooting tale came about when I was with a party on the edge of the Yorkshire moors three years ago. Believing to see a partridge, one of our team made the mistake of shooting a grouse. The keeper pointed out that in January grouse are out of season, and, for this sin, a penalty would be imposed. Deftly, with a finger up the vent, a little bright blob of grouse liver was extracted and placed into the offenders palm with the instruction to enjoy the meal. Like a man, it went down in one with no further repercussion to his digestion or honour!

## Bishopstone & District Gardening Club



The gardening club lost a great secretary at the end of 2020, when Sheila Collins hung up her gardening club straw hat and the club began their tricky task of finding someone to replace her.

Sheila took over the role of secretary about 7 years ago. She was already experienced, having run the gardening club in the previous village she lived in, and arrived with a trug full of enthusiasm and good ideas for Bishopstone's club.

She took over finding and booking some really interesting talks for the meetings, using both local and national speakers. Society members were introduced to everything from hedgehogs and honey, to how to prune your trees, and many more horticultural highlights.

We all thoroughly enjoyed, and had a good laugh, at the annual quiz and chilli nights she and others masterminded, even though

some of us didn't win. No hard feelings, Sheila!!

She also arranged for the AGMs to take place in local hostelrys with a hearty meal, giving an opportunity for business to be done and lots of fun to be had as well.

Sheila always has a warm, welcoming smile for everyone and that, alongside the hard work and effort she has put into the Bishopstone and District Gardening Club and its annual flower and vegetable show, means that we will all miss her being our *Chief Gardener*.

So it is a big flowery thank you to you, Sheila. It will be hard to fill your wellington boots.

Sue Dent

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I write this straight after my lengthy fin de siècle Brexit talks with the poor walkers and cyclists on The Ridgeway, on a wet and wild Sunday, who chose to endure my organic hot dogs, while at the same time putting up with what I would say to Boris and Ursula VdL if only I had a chance. Since Boris appears determined to enter into a relationship with the EU that closely resembles that of the noble nation of Antarctica, while at the same time suggesting that people turn their savings into gold, and board up their house windows, my advice would be to get out of sheep asap (which we did years ago, just like they did in Ashbury as well, wise folk). But hey ho, there's always the money tree, and it will probably be given a bit more compost, so another few billion can be thrown at struggling industries that find their existing markets effectively blocked. But nothing must get in the way of our blue passports, gunboats and smoked haddock.

And, by the way, while it all looks like politics, which is not allowed to be mentioned in this revered organ, it's actually all about economics and jobs now, as 2021 might well show us.

A little more parochially, we are losing one of our outstanding starlets from this place, simultaneously both the best and worst pub in the village. Ms Anna Bareham is leaving in February (it should give us enough time to get over it) to pursue her first love, books, in the beautiful city of Edinburgh. She's going to teach the Scots how

to read (joke)! Seriously, in the daily grammar and spelling test we conduct every morning at HB's Royal Oak for middle and junior staff, Anna almost always comes top, and sometimes gets a gold star. Her very occasional weakness is apostrophe's (geddit?), but a sound word from the headmaster has put her straight on that one. Anna has been astonishing over the past 2 years, actually, charming people with her combination of wit, knowledge, enthusiasm, and occasional naivety. The utterly tasteful Christmas decorations have been all her own work. The hand knitted paper chains are my particular favourite. Lockdown was useful in at least one way. When she has established her literary empire, we'll welcome her back with her own retail bookshop behind the pub. I hope as many customers as possible can show their appreciation for this gifted creature, and we'll try to have a party but Boris (him again) might have decided, again, that parties are not a good idea. Let's wait and see.

Our Flying Pig enterprise on The Ridgeway is loved by many and loathed by a few. Lockdown 2 created a bit of extra traffic, I know, and apparently there was some more mud on the road, Nell Hill, (fancy that, in a village of all places)—but coming back to my theme of jobs noted above, while in lockdown it gave colleagues something very useful and lots of fun to do, and fed thousands (yes, thousands) of happy walkers, cyclists, runners, and sightseers, most of whom have come back for more. As 2021 unfolds outside our boarded up windows, and the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva jobless march on Westminster, we'll move back across into our own fields and try to create better space for cars, both on site and en route, and create an extra job or two, to minimise any inconvenience that our little enterprise might cause. Steve Benson, who currently farms Prebendal Farm, deserves thanks for letting us use his walled yard during the winter months. As does Richard Green, my fellow columnist in these pages, for the tonnes of apples he

brought to the pub to help us create our award winning apple juice. Even though we start from different sides on Brexit...and farming...and probably one or two other things as well!

Just one final note as we career towards the end of an interesting year—our weekly pub Caravan Club meeting (caravan ownership not really required) has recently been discussing the possibilities of starting a B and HP Naturist club. I think that's what they said, anyway. One of the existing Club members—phwoar phwoar—has been telling tales of the dinner parties they host where everyone has to wear a bow tie. And nothing else. I can see it catching on, especially if we've had to board up the windows.



### *From Farming Fields to Muddy Trenches*



Bishopstone and Hinton in and around the Great War of 1914 - 1918

By Karin Thompson & Paul Williams

Karen Thompson and Paul Williams' beautifully researched book about the people from our villages who served in the first World War, stems from Karen's curiosity as to why there is a war grave in Hinton cemetery.

There are place names no longer in use such as:

Josses Lane; Dixon's yard; Rotten Row; The Bottom; Colledge and Legge Lane.

Does anybody know where they are? To purchase this invaluable book on local history, contact:

admin@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org



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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva Naughty or Nice?

By now, the government-sanctioned fuss is probably all over, and each of us will know whether we were in Santa's good books last year, or whether he thought that all we merited was a lump of coal. If you got the latter, don't despair. I've seen rumours of disruption to our power supplies, so that lump of coal might be all that stands between you and hypothermia until Spring. I understand that all our electricity will be stuck in containers, somewhere in a lorry park in Kent, by the end of December - though I may have got that wrong?

My list for the jolly, fat, bearded chap (no, not Mr Mantelpiece) was quite an eclectic mix this year. Top of the list, clearly, were as many turnips as he could carry on his newly-converted electric sleigh. I also thought some fur-lined pyjamas could come in handy; well - fur-lined anything, really (see para 1). And third on the list was a pair of self-sharpening red-tape cutters; I suspect they'll be in big demand next year, so my thinking was that, even if I couldn't make use of them myself, I'd be able to flog them on eBay for a considerable sum. I might even make enough to buy the odd tomato, which would be a nice change from turnips.

My hope is that this isn't the last year we'll see Santa. After all, he might decide that all the worry of ensuring his passport was issued within the last ten years and has six months left to run is just too much like hard work. Perhaps he could expand the team of North Pole elves who are devoted to travel arrangements? A bigger worry on the Santa-front, is how he'll manage to get his sleigh re-fuelled. The reindeer had to go because of their excess methane production, and now he's reliant on electricity for power. Even if the electricity-stuck-in-crates problem has been resolved, there are no charging points north of Watford, and only one in the whole of the South West. Who could blame him for simply hanging up his stocking and setting up an eco-travel business in the North Pole? The gentle background hum that you

can probably hear is not a build up of static from the electricity containers in Kent, but the mass snoring of millions of postal workers and delivery drivers across the land, enjoying a brief moment's respite before the frenzy of the online January sales kicks in. If our postman reads this - thank you so much for maintaining a sense of humour in the face of a positive deluge of parcels. Equally, if the delivery driver who consistently delivers our parcels to a neighbour, and vice versa, reads this - perhaps you should re-think your vocation?

The up-side of all the online shopping that we've been doing since the first lockdown (remember that - it was a much better lockdown than the second one, as the weather at least allowed outdoor *gatherings of six* that didn't involve thermal undies and wearing all one's clothing at the same time), is that, with all the shopping, has come a mountain of cardboard. I'm applying for a grant under the Green Deal to investigate the possibility of using it as lagging for the entire country. After all, if we could just put an insulating layer of cardboard over the UK, we'd not be so worried about the Kent containers.

Must dash - I'm off to find a minibus to patrol my pond as a deterrent to raiders from foreign parts (you know - Bishopstone and beyond), and to buy a ticket for the new *all you can eat* cod lottery.

*Mrs Mantelpiece*



## And Almost Finally...

Here I am, possibly more frazzled than usual, putting the January newsletter together, unsure what the rules will be. As I write, we haven't actually done Christmas yet and I have made an executive decision to cancel the Boon celebration what with Thing 1 in Ireland, Thing 2 working, and granddaughter in tier 3.

A strange thing has just happened, I've found a new car rear view mir-

ror in my porch. It's not wrapped up and hand delivered. Why is it there? I've got a rear view mirror. Is it an adverse comment on my driving? Anybody out there expecting one that hasn't arrived? Do let me know. Anyhow, all the best 2021.

*mogs X*

## Finally

The views of individual writers expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the parish council, or the church. If you have any feedback, questions, or would like to submit a story for inclusion in the Village News, please contact one of the editorial staff listed below:

### Editor:

[mogsboon@hotmail.com](mailto:mogsboon@hotmail.com)

*Subject: newsletter* (in case my computer rather rudely thinks you are junk mail) or deliver to:

Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH, telephone 01793 790 626.

### Sub-Editor:

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[admin2.collins@icloud.com](mailto:admin2.collins@icloud.com)

### Features Editor:

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[mcanespief@gmail.com](mailto:mcanespief@gmail.com)

1 Little Hinton Farm Cottages, Hinton. Please note that names and contact details must accompany these letters, but, of course, we will not publish your details unless requested to do so.

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