

CLEEVE PRIOR NEWSLETTER



Domenico Ghirlandaio, Madonna and child

DECEMBER 2020
JANUARY 2021

The Benefice of the East Vale and Avon Villages

December: As I write this reflection for this month's magazine, our country is back in lock-down and there is a lot of uncertainty about how long it will last and whether things will still be this way by Christmas. There is also considerable hope that if we can manage to get infections rates back under control, restrictions might be eased a bit and we can see family members and friends again. I certainly hope this will be the case – my wife and I have a newborn baby, called Ingrid, and we are hoping she will be able to see her grandparents at Christmas.

But whatever happens in the next few weeks, Christmas is not going to be the same this year. By this time of the year I am usually looking forward to one of my favourite services of the year – Christmas Carol services! Singing favourite carols with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie is one of the best bits of my job, but this year the restrictions on numbers able to attend a church service (and the ban on singing) means that carol services are not possible. But the church is still here, and we are still making sure that Christmas is celebrated! We're hoping that church buildings and churchyards can be open and decorated to tell the Christmas story in new ways, so keep an eye open for more details. On 6 December, the Tree of Light in Offenham will be lit up as a way of remembering those who we cannot be with at Christmas. This prayer might be useful to those who are remembering a loved one:

Father,
you know our hearts and share our sorrows.
We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved:
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained,
when we long for words of comfort,
yet find them hard to hear,
turn our grief to truer living,
our affliction to firmer hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Finally, Ruth and I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes on the arrival of Ingrid, especially following the loss of our first baby, Dorothea, last year. Everyone has been very kind and supportive, reflecting the wonderful community to which we belong. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, I hope our community spirit remains as strong as ever, especially after what has been such a difficult year for everyone. Christmas truly represents a new beginning, and I pray that God's blessing will be upon us all as we head towards a new year.

Rev. Philip Morton



Happy Christmas from Ingrid

Services in the Benefice during December

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday 6 Dec	9.30 am 11.00 am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	South Littleton Badsey
Sun 13 Dec	9.30 am 11.00 am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	Offenham Cleeve Prior
Sun 20 Dec	9.30 am 11.00 am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	Badsey Bretforton
Thurs 24 Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i>	11.00 pm 11.00 pm	Midnight Mass Midnight Mass	Cleeve Prior Badsey
Friday 25 Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	9.30 am 10.00 am 11.00 am	Christmas Communion, South Littleton Christmas Communion, Bretforton Christmas Communion, Offenham	
Sun 27 Dec	9.30 am 11.00 am	Morning Prayer Communion by Extension	South Littleton Offenham

Visit the Benefice website: eastvaleavon.com

St Andrew's Church

Services at St Andrew's for December and January

On the assumption that any restrictions on services and meetings will be similar to those prior to the current lockdown, due to end on 2 December, the following services have been arranged.

13 Dec 11.00am Holy Eucharist, Revd Timothy Hupfield

24 Dec 11.00pm Midnight Mass, Revd Timothy Hupfield.

(As seating will be restricted, please let a church warden know if you wish to attend)

As soon as any information on possible changes and services in January is available, notices will be put up on the notice boards at the church and on the Green in addition to the Benefice web site. We can but wait and see!

As we try to keep within the guidelines we will be adhering to the rules on social distancing, which means that seating will be limited to 20 maximum, so be sure to arrive early.

Please refer to the Benefice notice of where other services are being held during the month

For private prayer and meditation, the church will be open from 11.00am until 1.00pm on Wednesdays and Sundays

Revd Philip Morton, The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham Worcs
WR11 7EJ 01386 832599

Churchwardens Rod Carless 01789 773357 Lis Hughes 01789 772578

Safeguarding in our Benefice

Benefice Safeguarding Officer – Lisa Farmer Tel.01386 40401 ,

Safeguarding Advocate – Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078

For enquiries concerning Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals contact the Benefice administrator, Wendy Stafford. Tel. 01386 424728

From the Parish Registers, The Faithful Departed

9 November 2020 Benjamin Arthur Spiers

26 October 2020 June Cynthia Dewson



The Church Clock restoration appeal

The generosity of the village is incredible! Following the launch of the appeal many donations have been received and I am pleased to reveal that our target is within sight. We are already in consultation with the clock engineers and we hope to be able to let the village know when the work may be done.

In the meantime, if you wish to make a contribution cheques may be made payable to “The PCC of Cleeve Prior” and sent to

“Arnwood”, Mill Lane, Cleeve Prior or, if you require further information, you can phone me on 01789 773357.

Again, many thanks.

Rod Carless

Churchyard roses

The roses have been ordered and should arrive in December. We will need help to plant them. If anyone feels able to help with the preparation and planting please could you phone or email.

We do appreciate the response to this project which can be a positive outcome of these challenging times.

Any extra help will be invaluable, Thank you.

Lis Hughes

772578 Or lis_hughes@hotmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

November 2020

Until further notice the Council will meet the second Monday of each month, except for August, at 7:30pm **via Zoom**. The Zoom link will be provided on each agenda which posted on the Council website prior to meetings. If a parishioner has any comments or concerns please contact the Clerk or a councillor.

Chairman Peter Wilson: wilsonatparkbourne@btinternet.com

Cllr Ian Robinson: irobinson773805@gmail.com

Cllr Mary Smith: marysmith.message@virgin.net

Cllr Ron Solomon: ron.priorhouse@gmail.com

Cllr Kevin Mellor: kevinjohnmellor@gmail.com

Cllr Douglas Carr: austin.carr@talk21.com

Cllr Iain MacDonald: ismacdonald@yahoo.co.uk

On the subject of the bus shelter, the Council is considering using its £1607.00 allotment of New Homes Bonus funds to replace the bus shelter. A plan must be submitted by the end of December or the funding will be revoked. WDC has tentatively approved the funds for this purpose subject to consulting the parish. Parishioners are encouraged to email the Clerk with your thoughts on the matter.

Due to flood damage the Parish Wharf facilities such as the steps to the river and the seat are dangerous. Please avoid using these parts of the Wharf and any other sections deemed unsafe as determined by personal inspection.

The School Playing Fields playground area is open!

For a complete picture of Parish Council activities please see the Minutes on the Council website: www.cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk/

Sean Arble, Clerk to the Council
01789 490 501
clerk.cleeveprior@gmail.com

Parish Council in December

Dear all,

This year has proved to be a challenge for us all in so many different ways and I wish to take this opportunity to thank those parishioners who have contributed to alleviating the problems posed by restrictions on activity and movement.

Top of my list are Susan Robinson and Iain MacDonald who established our Parish Support Group and managed the process throughout the year. My appreciation is of course extended to all the volunteers who worked with them. It is a testimony to their work that so many needs have been managed smoothly into the current new phase of lockdown. Well done!

The Parish Council has had to adapt to holding its meetings via the internet and whilst the technology has proved itself satisfactorily, the on-line meetings leave a lot to be desired against meeting people face to face. So, I would like to thank the Councillors for their forbearance as well as our Parish Clerk, Sean Arble, for keeping things ticking over this year.

You may know that South Worcestershire is in the process of revising their 5 year 'Development Plan' (SWDP). This activity prompts us to look at our own Neighbourhood Plan with a view to updating it to reflect evolving policies and circumstances since its creation in 2016. Hopefully this will involve relatively minor changes and additions and if any parishioners would like to be involved you would be welcome. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

I view the coming year with some optimism that our lives will return to a version of normality with a gradual resumption of the many, sorely missed, social activities that help make this village such a pleasant place to live.

Peter Wilson
Chair, Cleeve Prior Parish Council



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Dear Villagers,

Despite the national lockdown, we have had a very busy month at Cleeve Prior Primary School. On Wednesday 11 November, the children and staff took part in a special act of worship for Remembrance Day. We all watched the live stream from London and joined in the national two minutes of silence. The children had made poppies in class to wear and Class 3 had written a special prayer for the event which was read at the end of the special worship on the day. It was lovely to see the children recognize the significance of this time and develop their awareness of why we need to mark this day each year.

Friday 13 November was Children in Need day and it was great to see so many children dressed up in our Freaky Friday theme. I am pleased to say that altogether we raised £60.45 toward this very worthwhile cause that works so hard to improve the lives of children in the UK and overseas. The children and staff certainly threw themselves into the spirit of the day.

As we approach Christmas, we are preparing our production which this year is going to be on video rather than presented live. This has been another interesting challenge, on top of all the others that we have had to face this year, but I am pleased to say that the end result should be worth all the effort. Unfortunately, for safeguarding reasons, this will only be available to parents of children at the school.

Finally, as this is the last newsletter of the year, may I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas, in whatever form that may be, and a peaceful New Year. Let us all hope that 2021 brings more certainty and calm than this year has.

Kevin Riley
Interim Head of School



Cleeve Prior NWR

Our group only managed two meetings this year before our lives were disrupted. Our last meeting was in February – when we learned some of the skills involved in origami and paper flower making.

The meeting we always look forward to is the November one which takes the form of a Telephone Quiz Trail, organised nationwide by NWR HQ. This involves starting off with a clue from the NWR Website and one clue sent to us by the organisers. When we work out that answer, we telephone a clue holder on our list, give the answer then get another clue. This goes on until we have found answers to all the clues.

The group really wanted to take part and, after some deliberation, we decided to set up a Zoom meeting – thank you CPPC and Sean – with some members standing by as our “phone a friend”. Our meeting came to an abrupt halt with power cuts blanking our screens and knocking out our telephones. However, we managed to answer all the clues correctly and had an excellent evening. If we win, we will have to set the quiz for next year!

There is always a theme to the quiz, and this year we soon worked out that the clues were cake-related and this made things a bit easier. Here are two of the clues – see how you do:

Endless dilemma for motorists?

Common money with Hazel?

Evelyn Wilson



Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust

Registered Charity Number 1063291

News from Field Barn

This year, 2020, has been a strange one for all of us. We started with such positivity with the wonderfully energising Caedhli which was a sell-out event and I am sure will be repeated once life returns to some sort of normality.

In March, a little later than tradition would have it, but luckily pre-lockdown, Volunteers enjoyed an evening of Wassailing and a delicious supper cooked by Matt and Sandra Langmead. Again this fun evening is sure to see a repeat when times allow.

From the point of lockdown we had to cancel all our planned social and fundraising events but we did manage to make some cider – which has now been bottled and is ready for consumption. It's a really delicious and refreshing drink and ideal to make mulled cider for Christmas!!!

Although social distancing has presented its challenges, the essential work at the Trust has continued with a few volunteers coming up and working within safety guidelines. Trees have been planted, grass mown, walled garden tended and excitingly the pond dipping platform is almost complete. Meanwhile, in the Sanctuary, Autumn tidying is underway. There is always plenty to keep Volunteers busy and once we have a vaccine we hope to see more of our Volunteers returning and hopefully some new ones! Pruning is a major job in the early part of the year.

If you are interested to learn more about Volunteering, please contact Brian Taylor, on 773075.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Gina Carr. Trustee

Cleeve Prior Volunteers, December 2020

Covid 19: If you find yourself having to self-isolate because either you or a family member have symptoms, or if you are in quarantine following a holiday – whatever the circumstances we are here to help. Volunteers follow government guidance and practise social distancing so will support you safely.

To access help from the volunteers please contact either
Susan Robinson: call 01789 491380; text or WhatsApp 07880 493600;
Email – paulj.robinson@btinternet.com
Iain MacDonald: 07826 866775 call, text or WhatsApp
Email – ismacdonald@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you

Peter and Mary thank all their friends and neighbours in the village for their incredible support, cards and messages during Peter's periods in hospital in the past three months. In a year that has been difficult for everyone it is very much appreciated.

The Memorial Village Hall

will remain closed during the current period of restrictions imposed to deal with Covid 19.

The Management Committee is keeping the matter under review

News from the Kings Arms

Opening hours December and January

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 6 till 10pm

Thursday: 6 till 10pm

Friday: 6 till 10pm

Saturday: 12 noon till 10pm

Sunday: 1pm till 10 pm. Food served 1 pm – 7 pm.



Takeaways available from Wednesday onwards.

Please wear a mask when entering the pub. This can be removed whilst seated but needs to be put on to walk around.

Please don't put us in the position where we have to refuse entry. This is a Government rule we need to follow to help keep everyone safe.

It is essential to book a table if you would like to eat.

Please call 01789 601706.

See you all very soon,
Donna, Henry and the team

Farewell to 2020

A brief pageant of English verse

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.

I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.

And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends,
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

*Happy Christmas to all our readers
and let's look forward to a better 2021*

Tree of Light 2020

Remembering loved ones this Christmas

Every year, the Rotary Tree of Light is there for people to remember loved ones whilst donating to charity. Over 20 years, around £250,000 has been raised for many local charitable causes which provide a much-needed service in and around Evesham. Details of charities supported to date are listed on our website.

As Covid-19 has had a major effect on the work and finances of all our local charities, your donations this year will be to support those which are most seriously affected.



Supporting Local Charities

Naturally, we would be delighted if you would consider being involved in supporting the Tree of Light this year. You can do this by visiting our website and clicking on the 'Tree of Light' page.

Complete the form and either donate online or print the form and post it to us at **Evesham Rotary**, PO Box 318, Evesham, WR11 9EX or ring 07764 528044 for a Donation Form.

The names of your remembered loved ones are published on our website, in the Evesham Journal newspaper and displayed in the library.

www.therotaryclubofevesham.org.uk



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Parish Priest: Canon Garry Byrne

Telephone: 01789 773291 Website: sjtw-bidford.org.uk

Copy for inclusion in the **February 2021** edition
(there will be no January edition)
by Saturday 25 January please

Please submit copy by email to the following
email address: cleevepriornewsletter@gmail.com
or contact the Editor, Susan Mortimer (773453)

The Editor would be pleased to receive any photos of local interest for possible inclusion in future Newsletters. Please email them to the above address.

This Newsletter is published by St. Andrew's PCC