

PITCOMBE

news



April 2020

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MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF PITCOMBE

What's on...

April 2020

Friday 3rd	Black bin collection
Saturday 4th	10am Churchyard Clean Up
Friday 10th	Good Friday
Sunday 12th	Easter Sunday
Saturday 18th	Black bin collection

Sunday May 3rd	Tulips at Gants Mill and Gardens—info within
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EVENT

...weekly

...later

welcome

PITCOMBE NEWS

You will be pleased to hear that the publication of The Pitcombe News will not be affected by the dreaded virus, being substantially an online effort and not subject to any physical exchange of information or other forms of social contact. We have come close however, as the Bruton School for Girls, who print the magazine, may be closing at any minute, but we have crept under the bar. Thank you Anne Tuck!

You will notice that the 'What's On' section is a bit sparse, due to the number of cancellations of monthly happenings and the closure of our two institutions, the Church and the Village Hall, details of which are described within.

We would like to pay tribute to the unsung heroes of the Pitcombe News, and these are the distributors, without whom members of the Parish would be denied personal delivery to their doorsteps of each monthly edition. This happens come rain or shine, virus or no virus, in sickness and in health. They might be embarrassed at our naming them, but it is important to recognise them as individuals. They are:

Charles Brook (who collects the magazines and distributes them to the distributors)

Cathie Brook

Sue Chamberlain

Alison Dawson

Thelma Hartnell

Celia Jennings who has kindly taken over from Wendy Crane

Helen Parker

Anne Watkins

Peter Wyatt

Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary to the Pidsleys!

contribute

Editors: Jane and Anthony Hodges

On March 1st we gathered in the church to bid farewell to Wendy and Terry Crane as they prepare to start a new chapter of their life nearer family in the North of Scotland. Wendy has been a mainstay of St Leonards over many years, being Diocesan Representative for the PCC and serving as churchwarden on two occasions. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly at St Leonards, and her contribution will be sorely missed.

After 25 years at St Leonards, our organist Harriett is about to retire from the role. She has shown remarkable commitment, playing at our services throughout the year, at special occasions, weddings and funerals. She will be greatly missed, but hopefully she will be able to return from time to time to attend our services in the future. We thank her sincerely for the support that she has given to St Leonards. We now need to find a new organist or pianist, and if anyone has any contacts please let me know. It need not be every Sunday. One way forward would be to share duties between a number of organists.

We are moving forward in the process of appointing a new rector. We have now completed the Bruton Benefice profile, and it just needs to be authorised by the PCCs of Bruton, Wyke Champflower, Brewham, Shepton Montague and Redlynch before the role can be advertised.

As I write this article for the Pitcombe News, concerns over the coronavirus are mounting, and we wait to see what the near future holds - it is a worrying time for all of us. The local churches have advised receiving Holy Communion in one Kind, ie just the bread, since it is Anglican teaching that to receive the sacrament in one kind only is to receive the sacrament in its entirety.

I have to admit that the spring is my favourite time of year, as the weather warms and the buds come into blossom. On a personal note, it also coincides with our wedding anniversary, this year being forty years for Maureen and me!

See Page 7 for more information

Philip Pidsley Churchwarden

THE PARSON'S PULPIT

An Easter Message

We are very fortunate to live in this part of the world, as EASTER comes at an ideal time in the Spring, with the new start and new growth of the natural world. Very much more difficult to celebrate the festival in the Autumn.

I lived in New Zealand for fourteen years, and somehow singing the festival hymns wasn't quite the same as it is here. So, we must count our blessings... Every day.

I tend to go for an early walk and find myself praising God for all the blessings of this life, and our faith. An easy way to do this is by saying The General Thanksgiving, and I do so every day, rain or shine.

"...but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and the hope of glory... That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days... World without end. Amen."

The world seems to be in such a precarious state, that I really wonder where we will end up, but I believe that as we put our trust in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who was given for the Salvation of the world, and died and rose from the dead, we can do no more but to have faith that HE will honour his promise to us and to the world.

A very blessed and joyful EASTER to you, and all those you love and care for.

Roger Birt,

Hugh Sexey's Hospital

War Memories 1 and 2

My mother was a member of ENSA and travelled to various places entertaining the troops. Unfortunately, she was torpedoed not once but twice! The second time, whilst the non-British crew were panicking and abandoning ship, one of the officers went around all the cabins fetching passports and, for the women, lipsticks – good for the morale. They all swam around in very cold seas for some time: my mother, who was in the early stages of pregnancy with my brother, had hurriedly put on a pair of green striped pyjamas she managed to find and, by the time they were rescued, it turned out that the dye was not of the best quality and her body was imprinted with the stripes! The company was lucky enough to be picked up by a British destroyer (the Americans did not have alcohol on board) and, once dried out and rested, each was given a generous tot of mixed spirits. One of the crew quietly said to my mother “Could you please make sure no-one asks for any more drinks as everyone on the ship gave up their monthly ration for your company.”.

In due course, they landed in Alexandria, and after a short stay there, prepared for repatriation. Coming up to the officer in charge, my mother showed him her passport. He looked up at her and asked “Where is your entry stamp?”. My mother explained that she had been torpedoed and so didn’t have one. “But I can’t give you an exit visa if you don’t have an entry stamp.”. This conversation went backwards and forwards, with no apparent progress, for a few minutes, until a more senior officer arrived and told him that it was perfectly alright to give my mother permission to leave Egypt, despite her rather unorthodox method of entry. She was relieved to get home!

Sarah Maude

Has it Cut Out?

My younger brother (Alan) and I are listening at our bedroom window at Kew Gardens, Richmond in 1944.

If the ominous drone of the flying VI bomb (Buzz Bomb) suddenly stopped it was time to take cover, listen to the scream as it descended and await the explosion, hopefully, not too close.

We were used to bombs. A house around the corner was destroyed and a land-mine had descended by parachute in the road behind. Fortunately, the bomb disposal squad was able to remove the detonator but not before we had all been evacuated by the call of "ALL OUT" by the ARP wardens and escorted to a local church in Richmond (carrying ALL OUT bags).

Once de-activated the cannister was left on display in the back garden of a row of houses and all locals were invited to walk through the house to see what might have destroyed us all. Contributions to "The Spitfire Fund" were dropped into the nose cone.

We became quite used to the sound of bombers overhead and listened to the explosions of the bombs. Anti-aircraft gunfire was often in the streets locally and my brother and I picked up shrapnel from the shells in the road on the way to school with our gas masks in their cardboard boxes. Nothing prepared us for the huge explosion of a V2 rocket over the river at Twickenham.

My mother bravely looked after us while my father was away in the Navy. My elder brother was fighting with the Royal Artillery in Tunisia and Italy and my sister was enrolled in the QARNNS. Mother eked out the rations, ran the MU, the WVS and kept us cheerful, calm and hopeful.

R S G Hewett

We look forward to many more of your stories - we already have a couple more and look forward to being inundated!

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VE Day 75th Anniversary

VE DAY 75th Anniversary

In the March edition of the Pitcombe News we mentioned our plans to hold a VE Day Event at the Village Hall to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. This unfortunately has had to be cancelled due to the dreaded virus. However, the anniversary was also featured in a piece by Richard Waller who suggested recording and sharing stories of what our parents and grandparents did during the war years.

We have had several such stories submitted so far, which make interesting reading, and two of which are published in this edition. The idea is to publish others as they come through and eventually put a collection of them together to distribute locally. For this reason, we are encouraging you to write in with the anecdotes and stories you would like to share. Please keep them coming!

Please send your memories and anecdotes to Richard Waller and or The Editors - email addresses appear in the centrefold of this edition.

Churchyard Clean-up

ST LEONARD'S - Help with a general churchyard pre-Easter tidy up would be great. Buddlejas to be pruned, ivy controlled and any mess caused by high winds raked up. Please bring your own secateurs.

Saturday 4th April 10.00am Coffee/Tea and biscuits provided.

Please come along - it will not take long if there are enough of us!

Tina Harley

Wendy Crane

We bid farewell to Wendy and Terry who were residents of Pitcombe for over 20years, and who are retiring to Scotland to be near two of their children and grandchildren.

Wendy has been involved in various roles in our parish church being a church warden for two periods, 10 years altogether. She was our Deanery Synod Representative and vergar for weddings and funerals at St Leonard's. She regularly provided and arranged flowers and continued collecting, working and completing the many kneelers which now fill all the pews.

At the many events which included refreshments, Wendy was one of the most generous providers.

Another contribution to our community was circulating the Pitcombe News in Pitcombe, providing pastoral care and doing much to keep all parishioners in touch with local activities.

She will be greatly missed.

Tina Harley

THE HAPPY COOKER



Easy Beer Bread

During these days of social distancing and less mobility, this recipe might inspire us to make this bread- perfect for mopping up a stew or to accompany a cauliflower soup. My parents in the hinterland of SE Queensland frequently found themselves marooned by rivers in flood and my mother found this an excellent store cupboard standby!

INGREDIENTS

Prep 10 mins Cook 1 hour

12 serves

375g self-raising flour

375g self raising flout

3tbsp caster sugar

330ml beer

METHOD

1. In a large bowl mix the dry ingredients. Add beer and continue to mix, first using a wooden spoon, then your hands. The mixture will be sticky; pour into a greased loaf tin (23x12cm)
2. Bake at 180°C/ Gas mark 4 for 50 or 60 minutes. The top will be crunchy and the insides soft.

Message from Carole Wyatt

Temporary Closure of St Leonard's Church

In light of the outbreak of Covid-19 (coronavirus) and the daily changing situation I have to inform you that there will be a suspension of public worship at St Leonard's until further notice.

this of course means that our special 'Songs of Praise' Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March will be cancelled and the chamber music concert by the Epicurean Quartet on Sunday, 29th March postponed, however it is hoped that this will be able to take place later in the year.

On Saturdays and Sundays St Leonard's will be open to enable private prayer and personal reflection and on Mothering Sunday, although we cannot meet, we are asked at 7pm to light a candle in our windows and pray for all people, particularly those who are most vulnerable as we face this unprecedented crisis.

In the coming months there will be many questions perhaps about funerals or weddings, however the PCC hope that support and guidance will soon be forthcoming from the Church of England and the Diocese of Bath & Wells to enable these to be answered should they arise.

-We pray that this crisis will soon be over and it won't be too long before life can return to normal but in the meantime if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Carole Wyatt,

Hon. Sec Pitcombe PCC



'God I miss Brexit!'



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Parish Council

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St Leonard's Church

The Rector

[bene-](#)

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U3A

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<u>Pilates</u>	Shirley Rutter	07733 085 077
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Avon and Somerset Police

Emergencies	999
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Non Emergencies	101
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Healthcare

Bruton Surgery	01749 812 310
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Wincanton Health Centre	01963 435700
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Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre	01749 333600
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Local Government

District Councillor,	Robin Bastable	01749 812335 robin.bastable@southsomerset.gov.uk
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County Councillor	Anna Groskop.	01749 812520 anna.groskop@southsomerset.gov.uk
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Roads and Transport	0845 345 9155 roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk
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Avon and Somerset Police

Covid-19 Scam Email

Please be aware of a new scam email advising that you are entitled to a tax refund (rebate) of £128.34. The email states that this is a precautionary measure in cooperation with National Insurance and National Health Services, It is NOT. It goes on to suggest the funds can help protect yourself against COVID-19 and to access the funds now by clicking on the blue hyperlink, Please DO NOT do this.

North Wales Police (NWP) have advised this has already cost the public more than £800,000 in a month and to contact Action Fraud for advice on: 0300 123 2040

GANTS MILL & GARDEN

On Sunday 3 May, from 2 - 5pm, Gants Mill & Garden will be open for our first ever Tulip Day. Come and see our gorgeous spring display of tulips and wallflowers, take one of Greg's interesting and entertaining mill tours and enjoy tea and some delicious cake. Admission £6, accompanied children free.

We will also be opening on two more Sunday afternoons this year if you would like to put those into your diary: on Sunday 5 July, from 2 - 5pm, for the National Garden Scheme, and on Sunday 13 September, from 2 - 5pm for our Dahlia Day.

Gants Mill, Bruton, BA10 0DB. Elaine and Greg Beedle, 07969 955442.

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Village Hall

Village Hall Closure

(A notice sent to all regular users of the Hall)

With great reluctance the HVH Committee of Trustees has to inform you that it has taken the very difficult decision to close the hall due to Coronavirus (Covid19). We had hoped to keep the hall open, but the Committee's decision has been taken in the light of most recent guidance and measures from Government.

The hall will remain closed until such time as Government guidance and measures are de-escalated and we can all return to a more normal existence.

We recognise that a number of user groups and hirers have said they would wish to continue using the hall, but we have carefully considered our obligations to the wider community and country as a whole to help prevent the spread of the virus and to protect essential services, particularly the NHS. We also believe that it is almost inevitable that the Government will follow the wider European trend of more draconian enforcement of gatherings. Therefore, our decision is likely to be academic within the next week or so.

Needless to say, users will not be charged for any bookings made that have to be cancelled due to this enforcement. We will of course honour any bookings which remain outstanding, once we return to normality and can welcome you back.

If you need clarification on any of the above please contact our Booking Secretary, Penny Mounsey.

Finally, the Committee wishes you all well at this difficult time.

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PARISH COUNCIL



Message from Richard Waller about Parish Council

In view of the priority concerns we are all experiencing about the Coronavirus I have taken the option of directing you all to the Parish Council website for a copy of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting for March. Please have a look at what we discussed there.

In view of the restrictions on gatherings etc., local Councils have been advised to take temporary measures to avoid unnecessary meetings. On the basis of this advice, the Council will be considering the alternatives recommended which will mean the Clerk takes care of most regular business in consultation with the Chairman and fellow councillors. I would not anticipate there being Council meetings in April, and possibly May, but we will keep you posted. Any matters of concern can be raised as ever by contacting myself or any other councillors in the first instance.

It is imperative that we support one another locally in the period of enforced isolations etc and to that end I know a very well-organised Whatsapp group has arisen in the Hadspen area. Caroline Donald is the inspiration and administrator of that group. I believe a similar group is building in Pitcombe and I would like to offer people in Cole or elsewhere an opportunity to join a group – details below.

The value of these Whatsapp groups in helping people in isolation by running errands, keeping folk informed, or just having contact with others, is inestimable. Please join in if you feel like it. If you have no idea what Whatsapp is then you can always ring me on 07741464850 or speak to anyone more local who has a mobile phone.

Follow this link to join my WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DMuqSHvlp7IGgC13niGahC>

The group is called Cole contact group. You will need to open the link from a mobile phone. (If in doubt ask someone younger....)

Best of health to all.

Richard Waller, Chair



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Bruton & District Horti Soc

In February we had a talk on sweet peas from Mr Kerton, a breeder and grower, who showed us gorgeous flowers, show displays and growing methods. There was a good turnout with several new members and a great many questions were asked, and helpful replies given. He had told us that the best time to sow is October and he had brought a great many pots of October-sown seedlings. At the end the whole audience descended like locusts on his display, some buying up to eight pots.

All our future talks and visits are on hold at present because of the Corona virus. Please look at www.brutonhorticultural.org.uk, where we will put information on when the programme will resume. Remember - you can't catch anything out in your garden – so carry on gardening and enjoy the lovely spring flowers.

Alison Bleasdale.

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Vegetable and tomato plants

Order your hanging basket from April or buy an already
planted one from the end of May.

This year particularly, we need to make our own gardens a
very special place to feel safe in, enjoy and relax. If you have
issues visiting us, we may be able to help with delivery.

Ring: 07969 372979

Castle Cary Gardening Association

STOP PRESS: Sadly April 7th is cancelled but fingers crossed we may still have our Plant Sale

After a couple of months meeting at Caryford Hall, we are back at the Methodist church rooms AND back to the usual Thursday evening as the building work is now complete. Our next speaker on Thursday April 7th is Martin Young. He is back again by popular demand and this time the talk is on Hosta, Heuchera and Euphorbias; 3 short talks in one session. All these are wonderful leafy plants and so it will be interesting to learn more about their cultivation and uses. We can assume the dreaded slug and snail question will arise! So, if you want to grow them but struggle, this could provide some answers.

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday April 25th in the Market House in Castle Cary until midday. Refreshments will be available and this year we have use of the Shambles so it will be a LOT warmer than last year! Come along and pick up some amazing plants – perennials, annuals and veg!

We meet at 7pm starting with refreshments and the talks start at 7.30pm. We meet in the church rooms beneath the Methodist church in North Street in Castle Cary. Members pay £7 per year for 10 talks and discretionary discounts at Dave Marsh and Julian Shave. We only charge guests £2 so do come along and try us out.

Hope we'll see you there! <http://CCGA.btck.co.uk>

Erica Holt

Advice from our friendly School Counsellor (Pippa Hodges in KL!) about the Coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic is a complicated and uncertain situation on many levels and worries and anxieties are a natural reaction. People will respond in a variety of ways, so wherever you fall on the coronavirus emotional spectrum, look after yourself with some of the following tips

Put boundaries around your media consumption. “We know from a lot of the research that high levels of media exposure, especially when it’s repetitive, tends to be associated with psychological distress,” [Dana Rose Garfin](#), Ph.D

Set specific times of day to plug in to official media channels to stay abreast of the facts.

Sign up to daily updates from places such as the [BBC](#), or the [WHO](#) to prevent time spent trawling the internet.

Avoid scrolling through social media feeds, where the content can often be more emotionally charged and less reliable.

Or instead, follow ‘escapism’ accounts on twitter/instagram/facebook to help bring you perspective and distraction. Amazing humans, awesome animals, wholesome memes - whatever floats your boat (rather than sinking it).

Worry is natural during times of uncertainty, but you don’t always have to act on your anxieties.

Be aware of your moods and how they’re affecting your behaviour. Use friends and family to challenge your fears with [rational thoughts](#). For example, if you’re feeling nervous about going outside, focus on the facts rather than your fears to help you make the right decision.

Write down all your worries for 10 minutes.

Externalising our worries can help us see them in a tangible way. This can make it easier to set them aside so that you can focus on work and relaxation. This also works for children of any age - giving them a space to voice their concerns and ask any questions, before moving on.

Guided meditations and mindfulness can be an excellent family activity.

Our thoughts and emotions can be acknowledged and let-go-of through a variety of apps. Our favourites are: [Smiling Mind](#), [Calm and Stop](#), [Breathe Think](#). Simple Habit just released a [series](#) specifically for coping with coronavirus fears.

We're social beings, stay connected.

Anxiety feeds off isolation, so it'll be important to keep in touch with colleagues, friends and family. This will look different for everyone, and will take more effort than it did before - figure out what works for you and [build new habits into your day](#).

Don't forget your body.

We know that physical activity has a positive impact on our mood, and assists with sleep and routine - so what will work for you during this period? Build some goals into your daily routine with your children - have fun with it, get online, pick some favourite youtube channels, and stick your plan on the fridge to build in some competition.

Make time to enjoy yourself

Board games, podcasts, comedy, karaoke, painting, kitchen dancing, cooking, pampering, reading... the list of ways we can lift our spirits and those around us is endless. Make sure your days are well seasoned with these moments - as much for your own wellbeing, as for the long-term mental health of your developing children.

Remind yourself that you're doing the best you can with the information

available. Not having the answers can be very frustrating and anxiety-inducing! It can be very easy to get caught up in whether we're doing the right or wrong thing. We don't have the benefit of hindsight yet - "If you're following all the available recommendations and making thoughtful decisions, you're doing the best you can."

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