

CONTACT

**The Magazine of Crook Peak Parish
(April / May 2020 Edition)**

**Collated and delivered with
clean washed and sanitised hands by volunteers.**



Please Note All gatherings have been cancelled/postponed unless the entry mentions Coronavirus

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CORRESPONDENTS

APRIL 2020

		Biddisham	Vacancy
15 Apr	CANCELLED - 7.30pm – AALHS Talk Cross memorial Hall (BS262EL) - President, David Dawson, Memorial Lecture for Kenneth Barton 1924-2018. Please contact Elizabeth Friend (712971).	Weare	Julia James-Smith (jjames9691@gmail.com)

18 Apr	POSTPONED Wine Tasting at Weare Village Hall. Please see below for further details.	Stapling & Distribution	Pat Northmore (733172)
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MAY 2020

		Loxton & Christon	Philip Davies (07881630629)
8 May	POSTPONED 1pm - Tea in the field – Postponed due to Coronavirus. For info please contact Elizabeth Parker or Tracey Brownlow.	Badgworth	Vacancy

15 May	CANCELLED 10.30am-12noon @ Homefield Cottage Splott Lane - Crook Peak Christian Aid coffee morning. All monies raised will go to help the fight the drought in Kenya .	Cover	Suggestion by Liz Foster
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16 May	CANCELLED - AALHS Talk - Margaret Jordan - Compton Bishop church & village and in the afternoon Coaching Inns of Cross. Elizabeth Friend (712971).		
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17 May	CANCELLED - AALHS Talk - Madeleine Roberts will lead a walk to Cross Rifle Range in the afternoon. Elizabeth Friend (712971).	Treasurer	Peggy Farley (732989)
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JUNE 2020

13 Jun	Crook Peak Secret Gardens 2020 - June 13th & 14th 2020.. Please contact Sarah Pettifer 07702 425129 to discuss. All proceeds will go to Crook Peak Parish Churches.	Cross	Richard Parker (732084) (richard.a.parker@btinternet.com
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20 Jun	June 20 & 21. Event to raise funds for Biddisham church		
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OCTOBER 2020

3 Oct	Harvest Supper at Weare Church .. More details in later issue.	Tarnock	Vacancy
		Editor	Bob Foster (732935) rmfoster10@yahoo.co.uk

From the Editor

There are lots of helpful items relating to Corona Virus in this issue. I want to extend a personal thank you to all who have worked so hard to get the details ready for publication. In particular I think **Reverend Judith** deserves our thanks for putting in so many extra hours in gathering articles and advice and contact details for so many of the exceptional articles in this issue. **Pat Northmore and her team of collators** also deserve our thanks for working so hard in outting together the printed copies . Thank you also to **Liz Foster** for her suggestion for the front cover. The next issue deadline is **10th May 2020**. Please email items to me at rmfoster10@yahoo.co.uk

Printed by: Moneygivers

Serious Message – Yvonne who is Assistant Director of Nursing at QE has said they’ve had a message today that virus seems to be spreading quickly via petrol pumps so they advise to wear gloves when filling up or use paper towel and bin straight away.

Crook Peak Parish Community Car Scheme - Following advice from County and other local organisations, it has been decided to suspend this service until things are back to normal.

Download the app NOW. No one will ask for your details and it is completely free, for as long as you want to use it. The app can be easily deleted if you change your mind. Available in Apple AppStore or Google Play Search for the **Chancel App** .. **Install** .. Search for **Crook Peak**. March 2019 Existing users need to re-install the App using the above instructions.

POSTPONED - Friends of Weare Church Wine Tasting Evening Saturday 18 April

I’m sure it will come as no surprise to learn that, in view of the current Coronavirus situation, the committee of the Friends of Weare Church (FOWC) have made the difficult, but we believe, responsible decision to postpone our Wine Tasting event. We are hoping to re-arrange this for around October time as long as things are back to normal by then. In the meantime, committee members will shortly be contacting ticket holders to confirm the postponement and to arrange refunds. Ticket sales had gone incredibly well (we were over-subscribed) so it is naturally disappointing that we will be unable to hold the event in April as planned. Please watch out in Contact and on local noticeboards for further information about the new date. Thank you to everyone who had bought tickets to support our Charity and to those already working hard in the background to arrange the evening. We look forward to seeing you later in the year. Steve Mercer, Chairman FOWC (01934 732668)

From: the Reverend Judith Jeffery, Rector of Crook Peak United Parish
 The Rectory, Sparrow Hill Way, Weare, Axbridge, BS26 2LE
 Tel: 01934 733973, crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on the 21st March during the coronavirus outbreak. I have never known anything like this and I suspect you have not either. It understandably is of great concern and we are all fearful for one another and ourselves. It seems that this is war against this virus. I know from history that when faced with something like this it brings out much of what is good about human nature in care and courage and this is the case I feel in our Villages. It also brings out the worst of human nature too.

Nationally I think it is heartening to see us all pull together as communities to support one another. All evidence has shown so far, that you have in our villages already done this in a big way, how lucky we are to live in these beautiful villages, many thanks to you all, you are such great people. Jesus said we should love God above everything else and love one another and there are many ways to love our neighbour. While we may not perhaps be able to visit friends and neighbours a phone call I am sure would be welcome to check how someone is and just have a chat especially while many of us are isolated for weeks. We are a nation that has proved that we can be formidable when we join together, when we love one another and work together serving each other.

As we approach Easter, let us remember what our Lord Jesus Christ has achieved for us on the Cross, "Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. "Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." Let us take comfort from these words from Jesus himself. So let us not be afraid as 'God did not give us a spirit of fear, but power and love' Let us pray for one another and look forward in hope to a time of resurrection during this Eastertide.

All public Church Services are suspended at present but this does not mean that God is not with us, we can still have a relationship through Christ with God, wherever we are. "Deuteronomy 31:8 "He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." When you're fearing a situation or face emotional challenge, really envision God saying this, just to you. Prayers, Services and reflections will be on our website as soon as possible www.crookpeakparish.org.uk and on our phone app which can be downloaded. The instructions for downloading the phone app are in these pages of Contact. Any Service sheets needed to join in worship in your home will be on our web and phone app. Gary and I will set this up as soon as possible and then you can join us in Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings at 9am or a Sunday Service at 10am on a YouTube channel 'Crook Peak Parish'. There may also be reflections and prayers on this channel. Want someone to talk to? I am here and abandoning usual working hours....ring me. I can also act as a link for you if you do not have internet for the other Villages. I am having to isolate for 12 weeks myself but I am at the Rectory and can be contacted by phone and pass on your message. Do also ring me for a chat if you wish too. The care that Christians have for one another is physical, emotional and spiritual, it is holistic in that we care about every part of you as a person, just as Jesus did.

Therefore find below some helpful information.

Lorraine Lovell: for Badgworth who is co-ordinating lorrainelovell@aol.com

Helen Avison: for Loxton who is co-ordinating loxtonvillagehall@outlook.com

Cross and Compton Bishop: cross.connections@aol.co.uk see detailed poster in Contact for details.

Tarnock: tarnockvillage@gmail.com

Weare: Contact me revjudithjeffery696@gmail.com or crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01934 733973

At Weare: Pipers Close, From a van fruit and vegetable are sold on Tuesdays at 9am and Fridays at 6pm.

In Crook Peak Parish: For Newspaper Deliveries over the Parish contact Jeff Savage. nyland101@btinternet.com

Shopping:

Sainsbury's at Cheddar have an hour for the isolating, elderly, vulnerable and NHS workers to shop on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday's 8am to 9am.

Sainsbury's are still taking on-line shopping orders and run a click and collect service and are wishing to help this above group of people.

Tesco at Burnham have an hour for the isolating, elderly, vulnerable and NHS workers to shop on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday's 9am to 10am. (not in express Tesco stores)

Waitrose in Weston-s-Mare 8am -9am daily.

You are held in prayer with love. Until we meet again may God go with you.

Reverend Judith Jeffery

He's alive, he's alive, he has risen! Alleluia!

He is not here, he has risen, just as he said. Matt 28 v 6

How wonderful to know that, because Jesus died for us and came back to life again, we can have eternal life, simply by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour. We cannot earn it or merit it. There is only one person who can give us this gift: Jesus Christ himself. At this time when so many people are worried about the Coronavirus, Psalm 91 is a wonderfully reassuring word from the Lord. **Do telephone with any prayer requests. 01934 750856**

Parish News

Cheddar Valley Food Bank - It is likely Coronavirus will bring a lot of hardship as people lose their livelihoods and await Universal Credit or other Government assistance. We are indeed Blessed if we have enough but others don't. Crook Peak Parish have a cheque for £400 for Cheddar Valley Food Bank being sent today. I wish to encourage people to think about making a donation to the food bank through their website if possible. Cheques can be made to: Cheddar Valley Food Bank and sent to Cheddar Valley Food Bank, Cheddar Valley Community Church, The Oasis, Tweentown, Cheddar BS27 3JB. Please see the website for up to date opening times. You can make your donation worth 25% more if you are a tax payer by including a note or writing on the back of the cheque 'I declare I am a UK tax payer' and sign and date this. Revd Judith Jeffery

Christon & Loxton Coronavirus Community Support Network - Dear Neighbours, As you have all seen on the news and social media, we are about to enter a very difficult period due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The government will publish emergency legislation shortly, but it is certain we will all be asked to help reduce the rate of transmission of infection, by means of self-isolation. This will, unfortunately involve us living differently for quite some time. Isolation, even for the best of reasons, will be hard for some, and this is, we hope, where our community can pull together. We would like to develop a community network so that people can ask for help – e.g. running errands, getting shopping, or just giving them a toilet roll – and also to support each other's well being by just chatting things through if times get tough. Or even just to tell your neighbours that you are self-isolating (or you get stuck on a Caribbean cruise liner) so that we can keep an eye out for you and your property or your cat! We will do this through WhatsApp and email. To join in all we need is your mobile telephone number. Send this to Helen Avison via email helen@pet-vets.co.uk or send a text message to 07990513736. Additional contacts should you need them include: Aileen Field: 07970518423 Karen Whiston: 07770405561 Karen Harper: 07831189967 Tracy Honour: 07917130451 Claire Bracewell: 07970690792 Julie Amesbury: 07900273722. The idea is that you would ask for help, and the whole network would see this request and get involved as they are able. We are a community with a wide range of skills and experience and should be able to cover most eventualities. People who don't have WhatsApp, email or a mobile phone can still participate, just phone or text one of the contacts above and we will pass on your request for help to the others in the network alternatively we might contact you if we think you can help someone else. We aren't going to quote GDPR or anything on this one. We will use this network only for the purpose stated, and you can join or leave whenever you want; just let us know. With very best wishes .. Loxton & Christon Village community.

Crook Peak Parish Annual Donations to Charities. As part of the scriptural principal to tithe or gift 10% of our income as Christians we also gift 10% of Crook Peak churches income and are gifting to various charities which cover national to local charities. Crook Peak Donations are calculated on our annual income from collections, gifts and donations and any fees for Weddings or Funerals. We have no other income. We have a commitment called a Common Fund which is paid to the Diocese for running this with all staff etc and also paying for clergy stipends and housing. Our Common fund is £28000.00+ per annum. This year we are gifting to: Cheddar Valley Food Bank £400.00 ... Safe Water for Zuewayumo £850.00 ... Water-aid £850.00 ... Church of England Children's Society £400.00 ... Christians against Poverty £400.00... We believe as Christians while our Churches are also charities that we should not be a self supporting organisation but gift generously as our God gifts to us and express our love and care for others. Revd Judith.

Churchroom in Weare Renovation - The attenders of the Quiz Night on Friday 13th March (when will the next one be?!) were lucky to be the very first to try out the extended toilet cubicle, with raised toilet and emergency cord AND not only that, but also 5 new GoPack tables and table cloths! We plan to buy another 5 tables (approximately £100 each) as soon as we have the funds. The toilet grab rails & nappy changing facility will be fitted as soon as the new plaster is dry. We will have a replacement window, matched to the main windows, in the West wall in the summer. All this work has been funded by the National lottery Awards for All and from the Weare history evenings

Why are we undertaking this project? - The Churchroom at Weare needed major renovation and we have been looking at an exciting project that will not only make it fully accessible, but also make it a hub for the whole Parish. This Grade 2 listed building in the churchyard of St Gregory's Church, in Weare was built 175 years ago as a school room. We hope to make it a fresh and accessible building for use by the whole community of Crook Peak Parish. You can help by letting us know that you support this project. Please email sleepingearwig.rj@gmail.com or write to the 'Churchroom' at the Rectory, Sparrow Hill Way. Alternatively, help us practically. Paint the ceiling? Reseal the floor? Do you have the interest to join our committee or the fundraising team? Can you pray for the project?

From the Registers:

Baptisms:

26.1.20
8.3.20

Aubrey Isobel Bassett
Ted Ernest John Latimer

Loxton
Christon

News from the Villages

Weare

COVID 19

All of us who live in Weare know what a very special and caring village this is with friends and neighbours looking out for each other. This of course is particularly important at this time. The Rev. Judith (who is having to self isolate) has offered to coordinate any help required during this difficult period. To contact her please phone 733973 and she will organise help needed whether collecting a prescription doing some shopping, posting mail or a friendly phone call, or whatever is required. If you would be willing to help out with any of the above please contact Judith

Annual Quiz Night – Weare Church Room

Last week in fact Friday 13th March we held our annual fish & chip quiz night in Weare Church Room. It was great success both socially and financially. Lovely to see new faces joining us although we missed several people who dropped out as they were self isolating because of COVID – 19. Thank you to them for donating their ticket money to our restoration fund. The monies we raised will be used towards restoring the small window above the entrance door. This should be in place and ready to view by the summer. Those who joined us on Friday were able to appreciate the strides we have made in both the freshly decorated kitchen & enlarged toilet, (which will be decorated as soon as the plasterwork dries back sufficiently!) In the main hall we had bright new tablecloths which we thank the Rev. Judith for making. These we were able to use our new tables purchased with a generous donation from the Pineo family in memory of Yvonne. Our grateful thanks to them. Finally thanks to our quiz master Gary Orriss

Wine Tasting Evening - Saturday 18th April - postponed

I'm sure it will come as no surprise to learn that, in view of the current Coronavirus situation, the committee of the Friends of Weare Church (FOWC) have made the difficult, but we believe, responsible decision to postpone our Wine Tasting event. We are hoping to re-arrange this for around October time as long as things are back to normal by then. In the meantime, committee members will shortly be contacting ticket holders to confirm the postponement and to arrange refunds. Ticket sales had gone incredibly well (we were over-subscribed) so it is naturally disappointing that we will be unable to hold the event in April as planned. Please watch out in Contact and on local noticeboards for further information about the new date. Thank you to everyone who had bought tickets to support our Charity and to those already working hard in the background to arrange the evening. We look forward to seeing you later in the year. Steve Mercer, Chairman FOWC (01934 732668)

Cross & Compton Bishop

Email for coordinating help in Compton Bishop, Rackley and Webbington: cross.connections@aol.co.uk

Locations of Compton Bishop Parish Defibrillators

- 1) White Hart BT box (BS26 2EF)
 - 2) BT box at the end of Church Lane on Webbington Road (BS26 2EX)
 - 3) Webbington Hotel to the left of the reception steps (BS26 2HU)
- Phone 999. The ambulance service will give you keypad access code.

Cross & Compton Bishop (cont)

Cross and Compton Bishop weekend events.

16 May

CANCELLED - AALHS Talk - Margaret Jordan - Compton Bishop church & village and in the afternoon Coaching Inns of Cross. Elizabeth Friend (712971).

17 May

CANCELLED - AALHS Talk - Madeleine Roberts will lead a walk to Cross Rifle Range in the afternoon. Elizabeth Friend (712971).

20th anniversary of Friends of Compton Bishop Church

Margaret Jordan writes... 20th anniversary of Friends of Compton Bishop Church was celebrated by a dinner in Cross Memorial Hall on Saturday 22nd February and clearly enjoyed by all who came. The Chairman, Bob Jordan, spoke briefly to praise members who he said were the backbone of this small but very successful local charity. He went on to acknowledge the important contribution of all committee members past and present. The evening was rounded off with a Silent Auction of a painting of Compton Bishop church by the Bristol artist Vincent Neave which was won by Helen Batt.

Cross Lane – improvement scheme for pedestrians

Hopefully, by the time 'Contact' is delivered, the works to improve the pedestrian access and safety between Cross and Axbridge will be starting, or about to start, around 19th April 2020.

Climate Change Meeting in Cross Hall

At the last meeting Steve Mewes, chair of the Wedmore Community Power Co-Operative gave a very interesting report on how their community is adapting to climate change. Their website, www.greenwedmore.co.uk/Contacts.aspx and www.52climateactions.com/ are worth looking at. The next Compton Bishop Climate Change meeting, which is open to all residents, will be advertised on the Parish Website, Cross Connections and Link.

Compton Bishop Parish Maintenance Group

Parishioners are putting their names forward to join a volunteer group of residents to give a little of their time for tasks such as grass and hedge cutting, maintenance of notice boards, planting, ditching and maintenance of Springfield wild life site.

For more information view the Parish Website (see link below) for or contact the clerk on 07856 846621 or email 'comptonbishopparrishcouncil@gmail.com' or Cllr Mike Rolfe on 'mikerolfecbpc47@outlook.com'

Keep up to date or contribute articles for our website at <http://www.comptonbishopparrish.org.uk/>

News from the Villages (continued)

Badgworth

Badgworth Parish Council Parish Council Meetings have been postponed until further notice. The Parish Council have taken steps to ensure that as far as possible the Council can continue to provide services and care for the Parish. Planning applications: Residents are invited to submit comments on current applications and members will see these before a recommendation to the District Council is made. Please see notices for submission dates and details. Our website www.parish-council.com/badgworth will be the primary source for all Council information and notices. Noticeboards will be updated whenever possible.

Helping the Community Some members of our community are already in self-isolation, as a precaution, and it is likely we will see more people isolated in the coming weeks. We are delighted to see voluntary support groups forming in the villages and the Parish Council is engaging with these groups offering practical support where possible. Individuals join a group and offer help such as shopping and dog walking and people can ask for help if they need it:

Badgworth email group: lorrainelovell@aol.com

Tarnock email group: tarnockvillage@gmail.com

Biddisham WhatsApp Group: Biddisham Villagers – contact Parish Council to join email badgworthparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk or 07570 812421.

Or Cheddar based facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/coronacheddar/ or 03337721934 if not on facebook. (Not for medical help and no personal details will be posted online)

Remember that our village agent Kim Wilcox can provide confidential practical help for social and health issues. Mobile: 07943 555519 Email: kim@somersetrcc.org.uk

We urge everyone to look out for their friends and neighbours at this difficult time. Please see the Coronavirus page on our website for updates and links to groups in the area. If anyone creating a local group would like to add their contact details to the website please get in touch.

St. Congar's Church has had a busy start to the New Year. The Triptych that fell to the floor during the October 2018 celebration party for the re-laid Chancel floor has been restored by Buscott Woodworking and has now been reinstalled by them. Andrew Buttrell who oversaw the project ensured that eight wide and long steel bolts would enable the Triptych to stay in place for many years. A new oil tank has been installed to replace the one that was drilled into by thieves more than twenty years ago – when they may have been disappointed to find little oil. Tinknells carried out the exchange and managed to retain about 1100 litres of oil, but it has cost £1700. However, we should receive £300 in reclaimed VAT.

You will notice ten new chairs in the North Aisle Chapel that we purchased from funds available from the Heritage Lottery Fund; these will be used by trainee bell-ringers, visiting musicians and of course Robert's special choir, and parents and children.

We were delighted to learn that Wells Cathedral Stonemasons Limited who re-laid and rebuilt the Chancel Floor and restored the Ringing chamber have received the prestigious Oxford Preservation Trust 2019 Award for their conservation work on Balliol College.

We wish to thank the Brass cleaners who make the candlesticks, crosses, offertory plate and metal plaques gleam, we also wish to express our appreciation for those who bring and arrange the flowers and help clean the church. We often receive comments from worshippers and visitors who say how lovely and well kept is our ancient little church. Thank you. David and Jackie

Biddisham

Badgworth Parish Council

Please join this group so our village can help one another at this very difficult time. You can offer help or ask for help and this easy way to talk to each other I am sure will be useful. Join by contacting our Parish Council on: badgworthparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk or text 07570 812421.

Biddisham (cont)

News from St John the Baptist Church

Dear friends,

It has been a quiet time at the Church in Biddisham recently and this will continue on for a while longer whilst we are living with the Coronavirus. We have always been a caring village where neighbours and friends look out for one another. Please continue to support each other as you always have done and just keep an extra eye out for our most senior and less able villagers. We all know there will be many families struggling to feed their families. I wish to encourage people to think about making a donation to the Cheddar Valley food bank through their website if possible. The church porch repairs are still at the drying out stage and it will be a few months before they are completed due to all the winter rain. I am still hopeful we may be able to have our St John the Baptist day week end celebrations. Planned for Saturday 20th June and Sunday 21st June. We can but hope. I will let you know in future months.

Keep safe - Claire Church warden.

Christon & Loxton

See Article in 'Parish News'. Also:

VILLAGE HALL HIRE - Nic Daniel 07835 738296

<https://www.facebook.com/loxtonvillagehall/>

Contact for the Loxton Parish Council

Kirsten Griffiths, 2 Lodge Close, Yatton Bristol BS49 4DX

Tel: 01934876559 Email: Loxtonclerk@outlook.com

Contacts for Village Hall Committee events

Tracy Honour 07917 130451 tracyhonour@hotmail.co.uk

Claire Bracewell 07970 690792 bracewellclaire@gmail.com

Contacts for Church events

Jill and David Smith 01934 750732 smithtoogood@aol.com

Linda McPherson 07519 195 433 f.nursaw@btconnect.com

Philp Davies writes...

I have just returned from a month in sunny South Africa to be welcomed by wind, rain and a proper set of traffic lights which have been erected between Loxton and Webbington. (or robots as they are called in SA). Who would have ever thought that there would be traffic lights between Loxton and Webbington?

In my absence much has been going on with regards to St Andrew's Church. With the possible threat of closure looming a friends' support group has been set up. For further information contact Paul Smith, Jane Jay or Linda McPherson. They tell me that for the time being donations to Loxton church friends' group are welcome and much needed. Some significant support has already been forthcoming and cheques should be made payable to the Fabric and Churchyard account. Please be assured this account can only be used for repair and maintenance and everyday expenses of Loxton church and churchyard. A separate account will be set up when "Friends' of Loxton Church" becomes official.

Tarnock

A couple of items to call out this month: post the cancellation/postponement of the National Grid drop in session on the 16th March if there are any questions please feel free to send into the Tarnockvillage@gmail.com mailbox and we'll send on a list of queries and issue a collective response. We should also all be prepared for the traffic-light chaos about to ensue from May as the 6 week stint to create the access road next to Tarnock Garage gets underway.

In the current climate we're obviously facing into a very strange and worrying time with the need for social distancing and self isolation. The amount of support and information out there is both hugely positive and somewhat overwhelming, however as a small village there are some practical things we can do. Initially, we are supporting Cheddar Food Bank - if anyone has any donations there is a box in the porch of Willow Cottage in Tarnock - if you have anything you can donate please feel free to drop it in the box and we'll arrange for it to be dropped off. In addition, a lot of the local shops and restaurants are starting to do delivery services which will hopefully assist accessibility.

Regular Groups

Crook Peak Gardening Club The gardening Club has had its difficulties for a while now because of low membership and committee resignations, however we were hoping to have a last push this month at our AGM. The aim was and still is to get going again with renewed enthusiasm we do have a great Club, however that has had to be cancelled and we now have to wait and see. The good news is this lovely weather, and with all this time on hands where else to spend it but in the garden, I know it keeps me busy. Remembering how important fresh air and exercise is. Stay safe and take care
Sheila J Hatton

Axbridge Royal British Legion

The Legion meetings have been cancelled until further notice. Stay safe folk.

Axbridge District Trefoil Guild

It is with great delight that the Axbridge District Trefoil Guild can announce that it is able to continue as an active group meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 2:00pm in The Catholic Church Rooms, Cheddar. Following the AGM last month a new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were elected and plans begun for a programme of events. The April meeting will not be taking place on the second Tuesday (14th) as members will be attending The Annual County AGM on 21 April in Highbridge Community Centre. For any further information Phone Liz 732935 or email liz_hamilton500@yahoo.co.uk especially in view of the current situation.

Axbridge Mothers' Union

Sadly the Branch has closed but it is hoped to continue to meet informally from time to time. For information concerning Mothers' Union contact The Church Office or Mothers' Union Diocese of Bath & Wells

Axbridge Archaeological & Local History Society – Meetings in April and May have been cancelled.

Please contact Elizabeth Friend if you want to know plans for events beyond the end of the lockdown: friend.elizabeth@gmail.com or tel. 01934712971. Full details are on the website www.aalhs.co.uk.

Tips for March: (Julia & Nik from Teasel Cottage) -

Dear gardening lovers -

We have had a terribly wet winter but hopefully life is returning to your gardens to lift your souls. Prune rose hips and climbers ; Start weeding early to prevent spread and those roots getting stuck in for summer! ; Mulsh your soil to help regrowth of summer plants ; Lift and divide clumps of perennials that you wish to put somewhere else in the garden ; Prune winter shrubs Cut lawns on a high cut if needed ; Plant summer bulbs ; Start planning and purchasing plants you wish to put in your garden this year ; Dandelions are the first source of nectar for bees so try to avoid spraying them as this will poison our much needed bee population ; Top dress your pots with compost to strengthen and protect your new spring bulbs which will still be delicate ... And as always , enjoy the sunshine (when we get it !) and enjoy the signs of spring . Snow drops blue bells woodland anemones daffodils tulips etc Have a happy March everyone, best wishes from Julia and Nik Teasel Cottage

Special Events

Jumble Sale - Cross Hall (2nd May) – Postponed

VE Day Celebration (8th May) - Tea in the Field – Postponed

Crook Peak Secret Gardens (13th & 14th June) - Contact Sarah
732578

Thank you so much for those who have offered to open their gardens for this parish event.

Also those providing afternoon teas.

For further information please contact Sarah on 732578

(All proceeds will go to the Crook Peak Parish Churches)

Special Features

THE BELLS OF ST. GREGORY’S CHURCH WEARE

(Philip Davies)

I am most grateful to Margaret Jordan who has passed to me information about the bells which she had originally received from Alan Parfitt.

The bell frame is made of solid oak and was originally designed to hold four bells. Historians cannot agree a date for its construction with some saying early 17th century and others up to a hundred years later.

The tower currently holds six bells with the heaviest bell weighing just over a three quarters of a ton. The oldest bell in the tower is the fourth heaviest which was cast in Bristol around 1400. The fifth is by Robert Austen of Compton Dundon in 1657 and the second and sixth (tenor) are by Thomas Bilbie of Chew Stoke cast in 1733 and 1755 respectively.

The third bell only has the date 1827 incised on it and its origins could have been a mystery except that it is recorded in the church accounts. It was recast in that year by John Kingston of Bridgwater who was paid £25. For that sum he also made repairs to the other bells. The lightest bell (the treble) was cast by Mears & Stainbank in London in 1909 and was hung from two steel beams above the other five.

From a ringers perspective the ringing room is gloomy and uninviting having just two small bottle glass windows fitted into the much larger blocked up windows on all four walls. An old oil lamp hangs from the ceiling in the centre of the room and is now a historic feature having been replaced by neon strip lights.

Bell Inscriptions:

Treble:	(5 cwt)	IN MEMORIAM M.A.FLUTTERELL 1909
2nd:	(6cwt)	PHILL: PARKER AND. JOHN.NEDS. CHURCHWARDENS 1733 THO BILBIE (band of roses)
3rd:	(6cwt)	1827
4th:	(7cwt)	SANCTA MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS
5th:	(10cwt)	IB 1657 IW (roses)
Tenor:	(15cwt)	MR WILL ANDERVS & MR EVANS CH WARDENS 1755

	Badgworth		Biddisham		Compton Bishop			Christon	Loxton	Weare	
2020	Flowers & Dusting	Brass	Flowers	Cleaning & Brass	Flowers	Cleaning	Brass	Flowers, Cleaning & Brass	Flowers, Cleaning & Brass	Flowers & Brass	Cleaning
Apr 5	D. Cooper	R. Owen-Smith	J. Brazier	L. Bori	Easter Flowers	S McColgan & T Brownlow	S Acland & G Gravel	M Counsell	B. Shanks	L Taylor	S Pettifer
Apr 12	“	“	“	“		“	“	“	“	“	L&F Taylor
Apr 19	“	“	“	“				“	“	“	“
Apr 26	“	“	“	“	M Jordan	S Thorne & C Laney	R Tyas	“	“	A Ham	J Watham
May 3	A. Cramp	T. Wills	S. Hatton	S. Steel				M Smith	H. Shipp	J Jackson	“
May 10	“	“	“	“	J Murray	“	“	“	“	J Stitch & S Banwell	J Stitch & S Banwell
May 17	“	“	“	“				“	“	“	“
May24	“	“	“	“	P Warner	P Warner & A Sage	J Murray	“	“	“	“
May 31	“	“	“	“				“	“	“	“
June	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	S Thorne	“	“	M Dee Shapland		A Brooks	

The Rector: Reverend Judith Jeffery, The Rectory, Sparrow Hill Way, Weare, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2LE Tel: 01934 733973

Churchwardens:

Badgworth: Mrs Jackie Klinker, Hill View Barn, Badgworth, BS26 2QW Tel: 01934 732208
 Biddisham: Mrs Claire Talbot, Windermere, Biddisham Lane, Biddisham, BS26 2RH Tel: 01934 750531
 Christon: Mrs Mary Counsell, Gilbert Lodge, Winthill, Banwell, BS29 6NG Tel: 01934 824122
 Compton Bishop: Mr Steve McColgan, Orchard Cottage, Butts Batch, Compton Bishop, BS26 2HF Tel: 01934 732321
 Bishop: Mr Gary Orriss, Stable House, Old Coach Road, Cross, BS26 2EF Tel: 01934 733281
 Loxton: No Churchwarden – if interested please enquire.
 Contact: Revd Judith Jeffery or Mrs Linda McPherson Tel: 07519 195433
 Weare: No Churchwardens – if interested please enquire.
 Contact: Revd Judith Jeffery

Treasurer: Mr P Wattam Tel: 01934 732413
 Electoral Roll: Mr G Orriss Tel: 01934 733281
 Minute taker for PCC: Mrs Jill Smith
 Secretary to PCC: Situation Vacant Please enquire to Revd Judith Jeffery
 Covenants: Mr W Fox Tel: 01934 732239
 Weare Church Room: Mrs Anna Fox Tel: 01934 732239 for keys and information
 Children's Work: Mrs Ruth Orriss Tel: 01934 733281

Revd Judith Jeffery is part-time and works on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. Judith may be contacted by Tel: 01934 733973 or by Email: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk For personal and confidential matters please Email: revdjudithjeffery696@gmail.com All messages are monitored daily and Judith will contact you as soon as possible, dealing with the most urgent first.

DONATIONS TO CONTACT

Peggy Farley (treasurer) would like to record a public ‘Thank you’ to the Rooksbridge Post Office Customers who make donations for receiving Contact from there. We are most appreciative of these contributions and to all donors who make it possible for us to provide this community publication possible.

If you wish to make a donation to contact please contact Peggy Farley, Treasurer, 01934 732989 for the necessary details.

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice.

There are many resources in our Parish on TV, Radio and on line, some of these are as follows:

In our own Parish of Crook Peak please log into our website for information, letters, services and reflection www.crookpeakparish.org.uk or download the phone app (instructions in this Contact).

Reverend Judith is in isolation with a chest condition for 12 weeks like many of you but is still here at The Rectory and available 01934 733973 or crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk or revdjudithjeffery696@gmail.com as a private email address.

Digital resources

This section outlines the resources that are currently available and new content that will be published in the days and weeks ahead for all to use at this time.

What is currently available?

There are a range of Christian resources already available:

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation - the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This daily audio content is available via the app and daily emails. Sign up for free.

Time to Pray app - everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. Download for free.

The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship - radio programmes will be using some of the themes from #LiveLent as part of their broadcasts.

Prayer for the day - each day the Church of England publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Smart speakers – daily prayer and #LiveLent audio content can be accessed via our smart speaker apps.

Live streaming services - users can watch live streams of services from a range of churches.

Let us pray: Loving God, We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power. When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage. When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence. Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all. We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you bless them in all they do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

EEK! 12 weeks Isolation! (A lighter side and point of view to make you smile) - I am not the only one I realise but it was a shock to find that I am in isolation for 12 weeks at this time due to Coronavirus, a chest condition and asthma being an underlying health issue. It took me two days to really take it in, it felt unreal and I admit it made me feel very low and frightened for everyone. I live on my own with a little dog called Lewis but I am lucky as I can work from home. Getting out and about in the Parish and all 'face to face' contact with others as a Minister is halted. A wedding for my niece has been postponed along with many in the Parish which I was conducting. Quite a few booked Christenings are also postponed. I have spent two days on the phone rearranging things and also chatting to people which has been really nice. What was I going to do with this unexpected 12 weeks of time apart from work? It felt daunting. A chat with my Sister on the phone revealed that I should not worry about being idle, I have plenty to do! Apart from study and reading which I love to do and painting pictures, writing poetry, stories and recording stories for my book I intend to write when I retire, my Sister reminded me of all the unfinished projects I had about the house! There is the needle-felt sheep given to me by her 3 years ago (which is a regular joke between us) and the similar needle-felt dog from my Son. The crochet hook and wool plus instruction book with which I wish to teach myself crochet. I love jig-saws and have a wooden 1000 piece one and about 5 others with less pieces to do. I have two babies knitted jumpers in blue and green awaiting to be sewn together. I have odd balls of wool for dog coats waiting to be made up. I have tablecloths and a draft excluder to make for the Church-Room. I have countless needlework and dressmaking projects awaiting time to do them and my Grandmother's glass cabinet to restore which has waited 6 years so far. I have a large garden which needs tending with a wood and large gravel border and I love growing runner beans and tomatoes and these need to be planted and the flower pots all refreshed. I like to get out in the fresh air cycling and walking which can still take place with my dog (in the basket on the bike) even though swimming and going to the gym is out of bounds My Sister and I also reminded ourselves of all the projects such as cross stitch and tapestry and my miniature bear making materials in our lofts. Photographs needing to be put on computer or in albums. I would like to thin down all the books I have in the Rectory and sort out a few cupboards. And finally the orange orangutan called Ozzie recently bought with a magazine, knitted but missing so far his knitted legs and one arm! The question now is...will 12 weeks be enough? We will see and Ozzie the Orangutan may be a Parish raffle prize if so. I will let you know. Of course I could always stop and just sit in the garden! ..Reverend Judith Jeffery
