



St Michael & All Angels Church
Pirbright Parish Council

Peri News

No 606



March 2021

DON'T FORGET CLOCKS GO FORWARD ON 28TH!

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DELIVERY TEAM

It has been a longstanding joke in the church annual reports, that the newsletter delivery team are always depicted as some kind of Ninja super-heroes, by whose skill and stealth PeriNews miraculously (and usually invisibly) drops out of the mystic into every letterbox in Pirbright.

Here's the thing—it turns out to be true! Possibly not the Ninja bit, but they certainly are superheroes. Last year many of our regular delivery team had to stand down because they are on the mature side and needed to shield. But several new volunteers have stepped up to the challenge. Wind or rain, snow or shine, they have been out there every month, making sure that our community stay informed, stay in touch, and stay safe, even under lockdown. Thank you to every one of them.



PIRBRIGHT STONE COLLECTIVE

With Covid still affecting our lives, the Pirbright Stone Collective and Parish Council are keen to promote a feeling of community among the children of the Parish. If children can lay a stone next to that of a friend or neighbour, we hope that they will feel a little more in touch with their friends. The stones can be laid beside the path running across the Green south of Lord Pirbright's Hall and each stone will be featured on the Parish website. There is more information about The Pirbright Stone Collective on the Parish website and in the school newsletter.



SERIOUSLY SURPRISING ADVENTURE TRAIL

What happened on that first Easter a long time ago?

Easter is the most important celebration in the Christian year. Would you like to know more? Come and follow the '**Seriously Surprising Adventure Trail**' around the churchyard to hear about the Easter story of Jesus. It runs from Saturday 27th March to Monday 5th April. Maps with answers will be available in the church porch, but they can also be downloaded from our website, www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk. There is a chocolate egg for every child who completes the map and details of how to claim your egg will be on the above website.

An Easter garden will also be on display in the churchyard to celebrate Jesus rising to life again. We would love as many of you as possible to make a butterfly on a stick, or bring some flowers to decorate the garden. Help us to make it as beautiful as we can.



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Just a thought.....



What's Keeping You Going?

It's been almost a year now since we (and our wonderful NHS) were overwhelmed by the Coronavirus. We've been through three lockdowns and let's face it, we're *all* getting pretty fed up with it. We can't meet our families or our friends, we have little prospect of getting away on holiday, most of our children are unable to go to school... it's all rather depressing, isn't it?

So what's keeping us going?

For some of us, I'm sure, we might have been quite happy to enjoy the quiet, to reconnect with nature, to catch up on our reading, maybe even to learn something new (I'm endeavouring to learn Scottish Gaelic, but beginning to wish I'd picked something easier!).

Of course there are many others who are having to adapt to working from home and/or helping children with their lessons, unable to go to the pub or a restaurant, unable to go to the shops, having to rely on online grocery deliveries, struggling with the technologies of life today...

But there are also many people who continue to devote their time to caring for others as doctors, nurses, emergency or care workers; shop workers, and are abused for simply trying to do their jobs in a way that protects us all. Are we really kept going by being selfish, without any regard for anyone but ourselves?

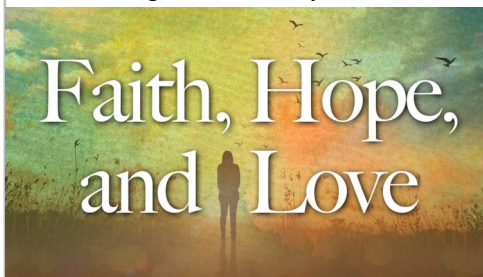
Actually no, I don't believe we are. Of course we're all frustrated and annoyed by the regulations aimed at keeping us all safe, but I'm sure that we are all hoping that this will end, and that we will be able to hug our friends and loved ones properly, rather than via Zoom or the telephone; to show them properly how much we love them and have missed them.

Three little words come to mind: faith, hope and love. Faith that one day the Coronavirus will be become a fading nightmare; hope that we will survive the pandemic; our love for others and theirs for us that will endure and sustain us.

"Faith, hope and love...these three; and the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Revd Gary Williamson

I would also like to use this opportunity to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to a lady who now lives in Edinburgh, who wrote me a lovely letter about one of my previous 'Thoughts'. *Thank you and God bless you, Jean – you know who you are!*



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE IN PIRBRIGHT

Remembering with gratitude the lives of Michael Boyd and Cath Searle.



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MICHAEL BOYD

Michael Neil Murray Boyd CBE died on 24th January. Belinda, Zara and Ashleigh would like to thank all those who have been a tremendous support to them.



CHURCH PLANT SALE AND GARDEN WALKS 8th—9th May

We are keeping all our green thumbs crossed that the annual church plant sale will go ahead on 8th & 9th May, either carefully distanced in the churchyard or possibly through an e mail order and collect system. As well as plants, this year we have garden treasures, and home made cakes and preserves for sale, so do put the date in your diary and be ready to support your local church. More details to follow.

Covid permitting, the much loved Garden Walks will hopefully be that same weekend, but if necessary may be held as a separate event slightly later in the summer—watch this space for more details.

These two events are major fundraisers for the church so please do support them.



Due to Covid restrictions, Marie Curie volunteers will not be able to collect for the annual Daffodil Appeal outside shops this year. How about this year we show our support of their fabulous palliative care nurses by displaying daffodils in our windows and donating either online or by text: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil/donate>
Text NURSE to 70800 to donate £5

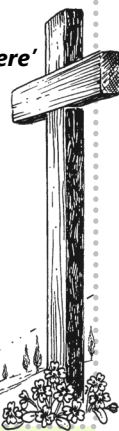
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS LENT COURSE

What are the connections between the 'here' of our world today, and the 'there' of the world of the passion narrative?

We will reflect on the pandemic in the context of Jesus' journey to the cross and explore real-life experiences of the pandemic alongside voices from characters in Mark's Gospel. There will be opportunities for questions, music and prayer.

Do come and join us on Zoom for some lively sessions on **24th February and 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March. You will be very welcome!**

If you are unable to attend but would like to participate, please let us know by contacting Caroline Bews at services@pirbrightchurch.org.uk or Chris Green at admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk and we will provide you with the resources. *Warmest wishes. Rev Bev.*



CHURCH SERVICES FOR LENT AND EASTER

At the time of going to press, we are still uncertain about the lifting of Covid restrictions and all services are currently on Zoom only. We can however say with certainty that we will be journeying along with Jesus through Lent on Sundays in March culminating with Holy Week and Good Friday (2nd April) and celebrating Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day (4th April). Look out for the weekly information on our website – pirbrightchurch.org.uk. You can also receive our weekly email by contacting Caroline Bews on services@pirbrightchurch.org.uk or 289123.

PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Support for mental wellbeing

It has been widely reported that children and young people are experiencing loneliness and feelings of isolation which is affecting their mental health. Parents and carers are juggling work commitments with educating children at home, and worrying about finances and the uncertainty this period is creating. The Parish Council is keen to inform residents of the services Surrey County Council have made available for parents and carers which form part of the Surrey Family Information Service. Information and links to these services can be found on the Parish Council website under LATEST NEWS

(<https://pirbright-pc.gov.uk/latest-news>)

Playground works

The Parish Council would also like to thank Guildford Borough Council for their financial contribution to help us resurface the area beneath the roundabout in the playground. The safety surfacing had worn through to the concrete below and has now been replaced. We continue to make

this and other improvements to the village green and other spaces within the Parish which are supporting us all.



Taking care of our countryside

More people than ever have been drawn to our green spaces in an effort to find fresh air but the Parish Council would like to remind members of the public to tread carefully when walking in the countryside to avoid ground nesting birds. Staying on marked paths, with dogs on short leads, is important when walking over the heathland to avoid vulnerable species abandoning their nests. The breeding season is between February and August and it is a criminal offence to disturb wild breeding birds so please be mindful and look after local landscapes by:

- * leaving no trace of your visit, including taking litter home
- * ensuring dogs are kept under control
- * following signs and keeping to designated paths and bridleways

The National Trust said "We see large numbers of ground nesting birds across the Surrey Hills from March until early Summer. Their breeding success is critically dependent on not being disturbed, so we would ask that visitors are considerate, keep to paths and keep their dogs on leads in sensitive areas. Together we can protect and nurture the success of these nesting families."

For further information on the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) visit www.surreyhill.org.



PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET: Are we nearly there yet?

We are as eager as you to brighten Thursday mornings again. At present we are working to re-open the Market towards the end of March in time for Easter. *Rosemary Richmond*

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Parish Clerk: Helen Myers, clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk 07485 411214

Parish website www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk

Lord Pirbright's Hall Lindsay Graham lph@pirbright-pc.gov.uk tel 01483 476432



PIRBRIGHT SUMMER FAIR: June 12th Pirbright All At Sea!

After the past year, everyone is looking forward to being able to have a day out, to come together as a community, to have some fun. The Village Fair may be different this year, to be Covid safe, but it will give everyone a much needed boost.

Meanwhile, after a long year in mothballs, businesses, clubs and societies have a lot of catching up to do. Here is your chance to remind people from right across the district about your products and services, your association, your activities. The ever popular Pirbright Summer Fair can help to get your Post Covid Recovery off to a flying start.

Sponsoring one of the popular attractions of the day allows you to place your banner in a prominent position next to it on the village green. You could take a full or half page ad in the programme, or have a stall selling goods to raise funds or with games to attract people to engage with you. Contact pirbright-summer-event@hotmail.com or tel 01483 476432 and start planning your display or stall.



What did the pirate say when he turned 80 years old? "Aye matey."



WOKING FOOD BANK – your help is needed!

Not surprisingly, reliance on foodbanks across Surrey has doubled during the pandemic and the Trussell Trust has warned that this is just the tip of the iceberg as many will also have been helped by other community groups. In Woking alone, there has been a 77% increase in referrals processed with a shocking 185% more children represented. Volunteers at Woking have responded by working extra hard under very testing circumstances to provide emergency food parcels so that support is there for people struggling to afford essentials.

YOU can do your bit too! Why not order a few extra items in your weekly shop – essential items such as toothpaste, soup, pasta, cereal, washing up liquid, loo rolls and also little luxuries which can give pleasure such as longlife rice, sponge puds and drinking chocolate – anything can be used. Then drop by Linnards on the Little Green to leave them in the bin by the gate or give Catherine Cobley a ring on 481234 for a collection. You can also make financial donations via woking.foodbank.org.uk/give-help.

PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

Over 100 years ago, Pirbright bird sightings mentioned in Mary Cawthorn's history included whitethroat, grasshopper warbler and nightingale. We've never seen them, but have you ornithologists out there spotted any recently? At twilight in Church Lane in late January, a flash of electric blue in the car headlights and a Kingfisher landed on the railings a dozen yards away, looking into the rusty torrent before speeding upstream again, the first we've seen actually within the village since coming here almost 50 years ago. A few days later, we spotted a little egret standing in the Mill Lane stream. Mind you, in reverse, if Miss Cawthorn were alive today, she would probably been astonished to see Red Kite, Mandarin Duck and fast-multiplying Egyptian Geese, to say nothing of the odd Parakeet (in transit, mercifully).

Jonathan Foster: jonathan@pirbright.info



CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

This month marks a year of Covid restrictions. We never dreamed that a year on we would still be at the mercy of this awful virus. However with the beginning of spring comes the beginning of our Cunningham House marketing strategy which aims to raise the profile of independent living for older people and promote the benefits of living at Cunningham House for people who are struggling at home. Following a zoom House Committee meeting about the marketing strategy, I was telling the residents about these plans and we got talking about how they came to live here. Katie, our longest standing resident, said "it's simple....just do what I did; I came for a short stay and never went

home!" That truly is our USP....when you come through the door here, you get such a lovely, homely feel that you want to be a part of. Whilst welcoming people through the door has become a bit different due to a very unwelcome pandemic, welcome people we can.....safely, and hope they love it so much they don't want to leave!



PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB www.pirbrighttennisclub.com

Our tennis club is closed due to the lockdown, with no tennis until restrictions are lifted. Members will be informed when it is safe to play again. Please visit our website's home page for the latest news. For advice from the LTA contact lta.org.uk Our Annual General Meeting takes place on 17th March at 8pm on Zoom. Please contact Chris Edwards Mrcbe@me.com by 7th March if any member would like to attend and if you have any resolutions to be considered at the AGM. Thank you.

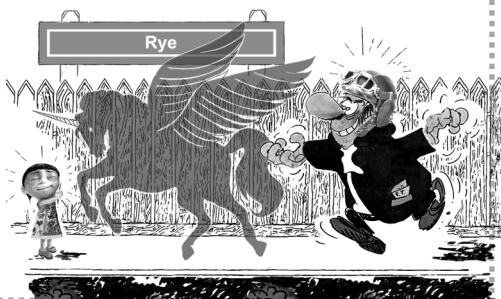


PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

There's no cricketing news so I'll tell you a story.

I was standing at Rye station about two years ago ,waiting for the train to take me to work. I enjoy working but it is mostly a means to an end. I was accosted by a little girl and her mother. The little girl invited me to admire her jacket which was covered in Unicorns. Then she invited me to fly her Unicorn. The only snag with this was, it was invisible. I could see that it was not really an invitation but a firm request so improvising desperately, I took it off from our side of the track, flew it over and then across the rails, downwind. I wondered what difference the Proboscis/ horn at the front might make but ,as she smiled indulgently/expectantly, I put it into a steep angle of bank, made sure our train

was not going to be in the way, found a spot fortunately clear of passengers and pulled off a text book landing. No one to criticise. We climbed on the train and I went to work and I spent a very happy day thinking of her face and her mother's. I would not have remembered the day for work I did or money we made, in fact the day would never have mattered at all, but thanks to that little girl I had one of the happiest moments of my life.



CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

I was very puzzled watching the little rabbits playing, to see them stop every now and again, tap a protruding twig or leaf and rub their paws together. Finally I realised they were copying you humans using the hand sanitiser dispensers in church. Suddenly several of their new games made sense - like their habit of taking a collection of nuts and berries to each other's dens and calling out 'Sainsbury's Delivery!' That game of seeing how many could stand in a straight row along the kerb was 'going on line' just as messing around in the brook has become 'streaming'. I had to put a stop to the game of prodding people's arms and running away, ie 'getting the jab', but in the last cold snap they carved pictures on the tops of frozen puddles, of themselves pretending to be Spanish. Yes, they were pretending to 'self ice olay'.

But perhaps the lockdown game I am most looking forward to seeing the end of is the birds' habit of flying at supersonic speed right over our heads. Yes, I'm sure we'll all be glad to see the end of zooming!



Yellow Rabbit



A man walks into a chemist's and says: 'Can I have a bar of soap, please?'
The chemist says: 'Do you want it scented?'
And the man says: 'No, I'll take it with me now.'

MARCH GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

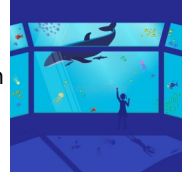
It is time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seeds, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden. Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control. Pruning of wisterias will need to be completed this month. Summer flowering clematis, late flowering shrubs (eg Buddleia and Perovskia) and winter flowering shrubs can be pruned now. Apply a general purpose fertiliser and mulch to beds and borders. Overwintered dahlias can be kick started by potting them in free draining compost, when they start to produce new shoots, the first of these can be cut and potted to multiply your stock. Repot any overwintered fuchsia and geraniums and start watering them to encourage them into growth. Lawns can be mown if they are growing, this first cut should be light, raising the blades. Turf can be laid now but leave seed sowing until April. A spring lawn weed and feed can be applied later on this month. Dig in any green manures, and apply well rotted manures. Start planting early potatoes, shallots and onions. Direct sow vegetables such as broad beans, carrots, lettuce, parsnips and peas when soil temperature reaches 5°C. Prune gooseberries, red and white currants by removing dead wood, then spur prune all side shoots back to 1-3 buds. Shorten branch tips by 1/4



PIRBRIGHT NEWS, MARCH 2021

Hopefully we will soon emerge from lockdown, blinking in the sun like gophers emerging from hibernation. But how has Pirbright used these months in lockdown?

The Cricketers Pub may have seemed quiet, shrouded under that tarpaulin, but reopening after lockdown will reveal the new underground cellar bar, extending under most of the village green. "Given our luck with roofs, it seemed safer to go down rather than up", said a spokesman. Customers were especially impressed with the glass walled viewing room revealing life below the surface of our village pond.



Pirbright Players have almost completed rehearsals for their forthcoming biopic 'Life of Stanley'. The story has been updated to encompass modern sensitivities, so Henry Morton Stanley and his sidekick Oliver Hardy now travel through 19th century Africa building roads, tipping buckets of water over each other and generally getting into another fine mess.

Horticultural society members spent lockdown tidying the community greenhouse. Deep in a long forgotten corner, behind a broken flowerpot and under a copy of Ye Olde Seede Catalogue dated 1792 they found a packet of seeds of the legendary Downing Street money tree. With careful cultivation and round the clock vigilance, one seed germinated and has been nurtured to point of bearing fruit in the form of genuine coins of the realm. Sadly the coins are farthings, so Horticultural Society members will still have to pay this year's membership fee after all.

Cunningham House residents have perfected their beat box break dance routine ready for next auditions for Britain's Got Talent. The triple somersault from a standing start onto a three man pyramid was a bit of a challenge, but its amazing what you can achieve with denture fix and strong knicker elastic.

Pirbright Deep Sea Diving Association spent the time crafting new wetsuits out of rubber bands dropped by the postman. After trials in the village pond, members said the wet suits worked fine, but please would customers in the new underground viewing room of the pub stop banging on the glass and pulling faces at them.

LIZZIE IN LOCKDOWN

What with mask acne and lockdown home hairdressing, Lizzie thought that pretending that she couldn't find the off switch for the cat filter was a no-brainer.



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