



March
2021



Produced by the churches of
Caunton, Cromwell,
Norwell and Ossington



www.becktrent.org.uk/ccno-parish-magazine

CCNO Parish Magazine – from the editors...

Three questions for you:

1. Is it important to support your local community?
2. Do you consider yourself public spirited?
3. Could you find a few spare hours each month?

If your answers are Yes, please get in touch without delay to help the magazine:

- We need someone to take over the advertising role: advertising income ensures that in normal times you receive the magazine for free.
- We need someone to edit the pages for Caunton.

Please call Elizabeth Jones on 01636 636365 or email emjones.norwell@btinternet.com



CCNO Parish Magazine ~ March 2021

Due to lockdown it is likely that this edition is only available electronically. If you know someone not on the internet who would welcome parish news, please consider printing out relevant sections for them.

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Beck & Trent churches update

In a normal year March would be the month in which we are reflecting on the significance of Lent and planning for the events at Easter. But this is not a normal year! There is plenty of time to reflect, but there are problems with planning. We want to assure you that all of us would like to be back in church worshipping together as soon as possible and are planning towards that. But we also want to be sure that it is sensible and safe for us to do so.

Churches open for prayer

Most churches in the benefice will be open for Private Prayer on Sundays, but it may be possible to open them more often. Check times for your parish church.

Lent Bible Study

This will be taking place at 10.30am on Thursday mornings in March and on 1 April. It will be led by Chris Perrett, the Reader in the Beck and Trent Benefice and will concentrate on a Gospel reading of key incidents in Jesus' life and ministry, appropriate to the season. This will be preceded by a short time of worship. All who are interested are welcome. It will be on Zoom unless circumstances change. Please let your churchwarden or Heather Sirrel, the Benefice Administrator*, know if you would like to join in, by the Monday before each Thursday. You will then be sent the link for the Bible study.

*Email admin@beckettrent.org.uk (please note, the Beck & Trent administrator works Monday and Thursday mornings).

Benefice service on Sunday 7 March at 10.30am

This will be a combination of the familiar liturgy and music and some new approaches. We expect that this will be by Zoom. Please contact your churchwarden for the link or go to the Beck and Trent website. We are delighted that the Revd Alison Jones will be leading this service.

Mothering Sunday is on Sunday 14 March

We will be marking this day in special ways. Churches will be making individual arrangements so please contact your churchwardens and look for information in your own parish.

PASSIONTIDE AND EASTER CELEBRATION

At the moment it is difficult to look as far ahead as the end of March, but we are preparing for all eventualities. If at all possible there will be services in churches, if not we'll meet by Zoom.

Palm Sunday is on 28 March. There will be a **Good Friday meditation on the Cross** on 2 April between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Then the great Easter Celebration will be on **Easter Day** when we hope to be able to hold services of Holy Communion. Details have still to be arranged.

Things are changing all the time so please keep checking on the Beck and Trent website beckettrent.org.uk, on social media, on posters or contact your churchwarden.

From the church

CONTEMPLATION AND HOPE

Well, here we are in the middle of Lent and we are hopeful that, as many of us will have been vaccinated by now, we can see our way forward into a brighter spring.

We can see daffodils and tulips starting to appear and flower in their bright yellows and reds; if we feel just a little down in the dumps with our lockdown then those will surely raise our spirits! There is definitely the prospect of better things to come as spring gives way to summer.

So it is with the church. Lent is of course the time when we give ourselves to contemplation and hope as we look forward to our celebration of Easter not far ahead now. Some of us are meeting to discuss key Bible passages over this period and details of those occasions can be found elsewhere in this magazine: everyone is welcome to join us.

These meetings are a chance to wonder at all that Jesus did, not only his forty days of fasting in the wilderness (the inspiration for our own observance of Lent) but the whole of His wonderful ministry leading up to his rising for us all on Easter Sunday, which is described so well in the Gospels, so that all our sins are forgiven and we can truly look forward to our eternal life with Him in due course.

I commend to you the wonderful prayer for Lent which we can use every day from Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent – until the beginning of Passiontide on the 21 March, leading up to Easter:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

I send you every good wish for Lent and the Easter season, with the firm hope that you will all be safe and well and that the days to come will be better than those recently past. May God bless you all!

Chris Perrett
Reader – Beck & Trent Benefice

From the registers

Funerals (between 15 Jan and 14 Feb)

St Andrew's Cauntton Anthony James Parker 21 January 2021

Cremations

Sherwood Forest Crematorium Albert Sidney Atkins 27 January 2021 (Sutton)
Sherwood Forest Crematorium John Thomas Blanchard 8 February 2021 (Sutton)

General news:

Vaccination

The national Covid-19 vaccination programme is making good progress, with the nearest major hub being at Newark Showground. Plans are also in hand for vaccinating the housebound.

Sadly, criminals have also seen their chance so please:

Be aware of vaccine scams

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccination programme to take advantage of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

When it is your turn to have the vaccine the NHS will contact you by letter and will **never**:

- Ask for payment – the vaccine is free
- Turn up at your home to offer the vaccine in exchange for payment
- Ask you to send documents or provide bank details to prove your identity.

Find out more on how to protect yourself and your family from scams by visiting the Nottinghamshire County Council [COVID-19 scams prevention page](#) or if you need support and advice or wish to report a scam then you can contact the [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](#) on 0808 223 1133.

Recycling

If a combination of lockdown and the weather has made you think about spring cleaning, you will be pleased to know that recycling centres around the county increase their opening times from 1 March. They will be open to accept items for recycling between 8.00am and 6.00pm every day, but do remember that only essential trips should be made at present if you cannot safely store waste at home.

'Suffering Man' at Southwell Minster 17 February - 3 April

Southwell Minster is accepting a special installation during Lent 2021 (Covid-restrictions allowing). The sculpture, 'Suffering Man' by Jean Lamb, reflects the place for sorrow of our world, whilst calling to mind the suffering of Christ.

Whilst at the time of writing the Minster is closed, 'Suffering Man' will still be able to be seen in their online services which can be viewed on their website or YouTube channel. To view the sculpture and find out more, see <https://www.southwellminster.org/suffering-man/>



It is now possible to give to your church online. Go to www.becktrent.org.uk/giving or use the QR Code:

It's very easy and we really would appreciate anything that you might feel able to give.



Verse of the month:

*Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer*

Romans 12 v 12

A verse to reflect on during Lent, particularly in this strangest of years.

The Potting Shed church

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For more information and for the Zoom codes contact:

office@thepottingshedchurch.org

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Thursday, 11th March
Friday, 2nd April (Good Friday)

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NATURE Watch

March marks the first signs of Spring, a perfect time to see the majestic butterfly. There are thought to be 60 species of butterfly found in the UK and of these, around 20 species can be spotted in gardens.

Butterflies have four distinctive life stages. Life begins as a small egg that hatches out to become a caterpillar. The caterpillar leads a rather voracious life, consuming a variety of food sources until its maximum weight is reached. The caterpillar then makes a dramatic change; it pupates into a chrysalis.

Pupation is a miraculous feat of biology and a process of metamorphosis. Groups of cells in the pupa called imaginal cells, act like stem cells, containing instructions for building adult tissues from existing cells. Some tissues are broken down and then remodelled, forming wings and legs. Other structures such as the digestive tract and the tracheal system (an insect's breathing system) remain intact. Existing neuronal connections remain in place too, whilst others are 're-wired' forming new connections, such as nerves to control the wings. The adult butterfly retains the experiences it had when it was a caterpillar and can remember particular threats in its environment.

After pupation, a beautiful winged adult emerges from the chrysalis and re-enters the world, taking to the air in its first flight and feeling the warmth of the sun on its wings.

Adam Breslin adamnaturewatch@gmail.com



Butterflies from the exquisite Fabre's Book of Insects.
Illustration by Detmold.

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BIRD Watch

Quality rather than quantity seems to mark this month, though a flock of some 50 lapwing and another of 30 golden plover were seen over Ossington airfield.

A stonechat has also been seen on the airfield – a smart little bird the size of a robin with a black head and back and a rufous chest. [Rufous is a colour that may be described as reddish-brown or brownish-red, as of rust or oxidised iron (Wikipedia). King William II was called William Rufus because he had red hair (Elizabeth Jones).]

However the variety of individual bird sightings (and hearings) has provided the most interesting news. On our own feedpoints, we were visited by a lesser spotted woodpecker – only the third time we have seen one in our eleven years here. The greater spotted makes regular visits and it is the difference in size which makes identification immediately easy. The lesser is hardly bigger than a robin and its plumage of black and white is much more striated. Whereas the green woodpecker uses its call to establish its territory, the two spotted woodpeckers signal theirs by drumming. It is often by its higher, lighter drumming note that the lesser lets its presence be known.

As I walked to pick up our newspaper from the Hut one day, I was astonished by the harsh scraping call of a whitethroat coming from a hedge where one nests each year. As it seemed far too early for it to be a migrant, it must have been one of the few which are now known to overwinter here, though it might have regretted its decision during the last couple of weeks. The nuthatch continues to come to our kitchen window daily and is gradually losing his shyness.

The most intriguing report came from a farmer who saw what looked like a blackbird, but with a white collar. It is always possible that it was a part-albino blackbird but the white collar, rather than just white markings, points to it being a ring-ouzel. The marking is not a complete collar circling the neck but more of a bib on the upper breast. This is a bird of the uplands which is sometimes seen on lowland grass outside its breeding season but it is a very unusual visitor.

Red kite and barn owls continue to be seen regularly.

Peter Geldart petergeldart@btinternet.com



Stonechat
(image from
rspb.org.uk)



Whitethroat
(image from
rspb.org.uk)



Ring ouzel
(image from
rspb.org.uk)

Caunton church news

Tommy Seal was a lifelong supporter of St. Andrew's - choirboy, bellringer, worshipper and fundraiser (he was instrumental in helping raise funds for the 6th bell). Tommy was always there if needed or to help if he could with words of wisdom, of which he had many. He was one of Caunton's most respected and loved characters and will be sorely missed.



Our heartfelt condolences go to Betty, Rosemary, Edythe and families at this very sad time.

RIP Tommy.

The season of Lent is a time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. As we travel through this time, we remember the sacrifices Jesus made as he went through the desert for 40 days. Usually, Christians try to replicate that act by giving up something that they would find hard to do without – chocolate, cakes and biscuits, alcohol, iPads, to name but a few.

It seems a hard ask this year to expect people to make even more sacrifices than they already have, but maybe instead of giving up something, why don't we add to our lives. A little more tolerance, a phone call, a wave, a quick 'good morning', these are just a few of the additions that could mean the world to someone who is feeling low or alone. It just might make them feel less isolated and you might be rewarded with a smile. Go on, give it a try.

Church Cleaning

Sat 27th Feb – Bo and Charlotte

Sat 13th March – Mike and Mary

Sat 27th March – Joy and Dave

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Caunton community news

Caunton WI

After our successful Zoom meeting in January, this month we invited Hilary Strong to talk to us about her theatrical experiences. Her career started after leaving school, having barely scraped 5 'O' levels, when she went to the stage door at the Chichester Theatre asking if they had any jobs. For a season she was a dresser, which involved anything from making cups of tea to ensuring costume changes went smoothly and often at great speed! She met a number of well-known actors in the process. When the season ended so did her employment. It was at this point that the wardrobe mistress sent her to train in stage direction at a small London venue and there started a career involving production and direction across a range of art forms, including theatre and community arts. In the 90s Hilary spent five amazing years as Director of the Edinburgh Festival followed by eight years at the Greenwich Theatre where her ideas for training local young people in the musical theatre took root.



She is passionate about the idea that theatre must embrace the whole community and today she runs the company that she created in 2010 where her aim is to widen participation and to tackle disadvantage. Her full time course offers young people valuable employment skills revolving around the making of a theatre production, focusing on the delivery of real, transferable employment skills and the experience of enjoying work.

From quite inauspicious beginnings by her own admission, Hilary has embraced every opportunity offered to her and is justly proud of her current venture with young people. As she said at the beginning of her talk, when she started as a dresser she had no idea where life would lead her!

We are planning another Zoom get together next month, details to be arranged.

NW Services

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Caunton community news *(continued...)*

Caunton Parish Council – notes from 10 February meeting

The Parish Council meeting was conducted via Zoom and included both our district and county councillors.

Cllr Laughton reported that commitments had now been made to rectify the sewerage overflow problems from Hedge Row to the Deans Close treatment works.

Grant funding has been awarded for a village entrance sign on Norwell Road and for a new greenhouse at the allotments.

Follow up requests will be made to clean up the silt deposits from the recent floods on Ford Lane and to unblock the gully at the junction of Ford Lane and Mill Lane.

It was noted that many of the grit bins need refilling and additional stocks of sand and aqua bags were required.

The public are requested to stick to the footpaths when walking through fields around the village area.

The next meeting will be 10 March at 7.30pm.

Any representation to the Parish Council should be made to the Clerk at parishcouncilcaunton@gmail.com

Chris Jagger, Chair

Caunton: Dean Hole Primary School

In recognition of Children's Mental Health Week, the children of Dean Hole have all been gifted their very own Buddy Bear, to help keep them company until we are all back together again in school.

This initiative was made possible by the generosity of the Friends of Caunton, who suggested and funded this lovely idea.

It was wonderful to see how happy the children at home were when staff delivered them, and also how excited the pupils in school were when they received their own Buddy Bears.

The children have been sharing photos of the adventures they and Buddy have been getting up to, including Zoom ballet classes, cooking and even a shopping trip to Asda. Buddy has even made some appearances on Zoom lessons!

Mrs. Thompson



Dean Hole C of E Primary School

Are you enthusiastic about education?

Do you have some time to spare?

If so, then you may be just the person we need!

We are looking for a committed person to join the Dean Hole C of E Primary School's Governing Board as a **Co-opted Governor**.

We have a vacancy in the co-opted governor category and would welcome applications from people with experience in:

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Curriculum
- Marketing

Most importantly though, we welcome the desire to make a positive contribution to our school community.

The Governing Board of our school is made up of parents, staff, local authority, foundation and co-opted governors.

The Governing Board operates at a strategic level and is not involved in the day-to-day running of the school. We are responsible for both the conduct of the school and for the promotion of high standards. We carry out this role by setting the vision for the school, ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision, and that the school provides a high quality education for its pupils. This is done by building a thorough knowledge of the school and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of its pupils, together with the time and willingness to get involved.

Governors also need the ability to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information.

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our school, then please contact the school office via email office@cauntondeanhole.notts.sch.uk or call 01636 636219.

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Caunton Beck Relaunch

Those first days of the first lockdown sent us reeling, it was like a body blow, but to the heart as well. Once we regained our composure we regrouped, grappled with furlough, who had even heard of that before March 2020? And waited with bated breath to receive the grants and then the bounce back loan, and we contemplated how we could keep our little business afloat.

The excitement of finally reopening in July, with 'Eat out To Help Out', and all other offerings saw a monumental surge of business, which gave us a little more confidence and hope for the future. But, we became aware of many of our lovely customers who really were not confident enough to eat "Out Out".

So, when the second lock down hit us, we were ready with our 'Heat To Eat' and Takeaway menu. Believe me, it's a whole different ball game to pub restaurant service. If we miss something off your order when dining in-house, it's simple to remedy, not so much if you've driven home, excited for you lovely bag of goodies, only to find your favourite bit has been missed out!

There is also the desire to retain our standards, especially as you are not able to enjoy our lovely pub and the happy environment we endeavour to create at Caunton Beck. We are determined that whatever we pack up for you would be as near as possible to the same quality as it would be if served in-house, from our kitchen to your table!

We had a breather in January, reopened for a very busy Valentine's weekend, and have now relaunched our takeaway service offering both the 'Heat To Eat' and our hot 'Ready to Eat' menu, on Saturdays and Sundays. We are so excited to be back, and are planning a lovely new refurb in the garden, improving and extending our outdoor seating area and making it all beautiful for when we are finally able to reopen 'proper', hopefully in the spring? There is talk of hospitality reopening for Easter, but we dare not rely on any such speculation, so we remain committed to keep our little business afloat, servicing our community as best we can, keeping all of our lovely staff in employment and looking ahead to the future.

Life on the other side will be interesting, but we are convinced that there are positives to be drawn from this experience. The spirit and support of our communities have shown us this to be true.

For more details, please check out our Facebook page, call us on 01636 636793 or text 07532201916.

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Cromwell community news

Cromwell Parish Meeting

A planning application has been received from Mr & Mrs D. Elliott for permission to build two three-bed semi-detached dwellings on land just south of Holly Farm on the Great North Road. There has been no decision from N&SDC yet.

The public consultation period for an extended Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) (which will prohibit parking on the eastern side of the entry slip-road south of the village) has been launched. It will end on the 19 February. Even if successful, the implementation of the TRO may be delayed by Nottinghamshire County Council financial constraints.

The date for the next parish meeting still depends upon the Covid regulations. If anyone has anything which needs urgent action from the parish meeting they should contact cromwellparishmeeting@gmail.com or phone 821311.

Dave Swift, Chairman

Cromwell Messenger

To share news and information with the village please contact Tracy Koefoed who runs the Village Messenger service: tracykoefoed77@gmail.com or 07788 313620.



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Norwell church news

February was a quiet month and March promises to be much the same. It is easy to think that the church has closed down for the duration, but that is not the case. **The church building is still open for quiet prayer and reflection on Sunday mornings between 10.00am and 1.00pm.** Anyone is welcome to go in; we just ask that you follow the guidelines about sanitising your hands and where you sit. This is to ensure that the building is always Covid-safe. We are also here for you if you feel that we can support you in any way. A church is more than a church building.



We would like to thank Rev Alison Jones from the Potting Shed for the **Candlemas Service** (on Zoom) which she led on 7 February. It is a different way to meet but one that is very much appreciated. She will also be leading a similar service on **Sunday 7 March**. There is more information about this at the beginning of the magazine.

We are in the time of **Lent**. Maybe it is a time to give things up; but it is also a time to reflect more about the Christian faith and how it can change our lives. A Bible study will take place every Thursday morning at 10.30am. There are details about this and how to take part in Beck and Trent update.

A year ago we had to cancel our **Mothering Sunday Service** at short notice. This year Mothering Sunday is on 14 March and we don't yet know what it will be possible to do, but it is our intention to mark it in some way so please do look out for information about it as the month progresses. If you would like us to keep you informed about what is happening please let Elizabeth know on emjones.norwell@btinternet.com or ring 636365.

We hope and pray that it will be possible to use churches again at **Easter**. We are planning for services to take place there but know that we may not be able to say with certainty until nearer the date. We can be confident that if we are not in church, Zoom services will be arranged.

Norwell Annual Church Meetings

Two meetings will take place on **Wednesday 17 March at 7.30pm**. We are assuming it will need to be on Zoom. Everyone in the parish is invited to attend. We are sure you will appreciate how hard it is this year to ensure that our church is still a living part of the community. We need help and support in so many different ways and hope you will be interested to join these meetings to find out more about how your parish church works.

1. *The Annual meeting of parishioners:* everyone in the parish can vote for two churchwardens.
2. *The Annual Parochial Church meeting:* reports are given on the finances, fabric and activities of the church in the previous year (in this case since October) and members of the Parochial Church Council are elected. Only those on the Church Electoral Roll can vote for members of the PCC. If you are not already on the Church Electoral Roll and would like to be please contact the secretary, Barbara Bateson on 636840 or barbarabateson@bopenworld.com

If you would like to attend the meetings please contact the secretary (see above) and she will send you the Zoom link.

These meetings will be followed by a short **PCC meeting**.

RESPONDO

Shrove Tuesday puzzle

Did you recognise the first passage in last month's magazine as the Lord's prayer? The second started 'Then Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness' and comes from Matthew 4 verses 1-4. They are both in Esperanto. Well done if you worked it all out.

Norwell community news

Norwell Village Hall

Lucky number winner

The monthly lucky number winner for January was Janet Brown with number one (1).

Thanks to everyone for continuing to support Norwell Village Hall.



Norwell Parish Council

In our February meeting we were informed by our County Councillor, Bruce Laughton, that a Traffic Regulation Order is in place for the layby near the petrol station in Cromwell. It is hoped this will ease the problem with HGVs that we have when using this slip road. It is expected to be policed strongly.

I was pleased to see that the drains at the western end of the village were cleaned out. Hopefully this will make a difference to the flooding problems. The Council is seeking a meeting with all relevant parties to discuss a more long term solution for this location and also on the Bathley Road.

John Hobson
Chair, Norwell Parish Council
johnhobsonnorwell@btinternet.com

Norwell CofE Primary School

This month we are looking forward to having all the children back in school so that we can share what we have all been doing since Christmas! It will be lovely to hear the school full of children again.

Last month we had a busy week for the children at school celebrating Chinese New Year by tasting Chinese food, creating dragon puppets and lanterns! It was also the start of Lent and the children all thought hard about what they could give up!

On Friday 5 March we will be celebrating World Book Day but this year we will unfortunately not all be together to have a lovely tea! The children are going to design masks and hats for their favourite book character and then share them with each other!

Dates for your diary: School breaks up for Easter on 31 March as staff have INSET training on Thursday 1 April. We are due back on Monday 19 April.

Best wishes
Mrs King



Norwell Parish Heritage Group

We thought positively and organised the AGM and talk for 10 February on Zoom. For those who attended it was a most enjoyable and friendly experience, though sadly the numbers were low.

The uncertainty has inevitably affected our thoughts on the future of Norwell Parish Heritage Group. Our finances are sound but we have one more booklet to produce. It is difficult to arrange a programme at present. For the coming year occasional meetings will be arranged and we hope very much to organise a walk and talk visit. Rather than ask for a membership fee we are considering 'pay as you go' if you take part in a meeting or event.

The officers have indicated a willingness to continue for a year but the Chairman, Michael Jones and Secretary, Elizabeth Jones are intending to stand down at the next AGM. It is hoped that NPHG will continue beyond that date but it may well be in a different form.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Peter Hammond on **Potions, lotions and cure-alls**. He cleverly based it on bottles and pots he had found when excavating and digging over the years. Somewhere in Norwell there ought to be a Victorian rubbish tip where many of these containers may have been thrown. Please let us know if you have found it! One of the great benefits of being a small group was that we could all be involved and make contributions. The chairman and secretary had to reveal that they had been given some of these 'historic' remedies as children! Who else was given Virol?

Orchards and apples in the history of Norwell

We are going to have another try with a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 10 March at 7.30pm. It will be an opportunity to look back at the numerous orchards around Norwell a century or more ago. It will also focus on the reason why apples were so important in a rural economy.

Anyone who is interested is invited to join us for this meeting. Please contact Elizabeth on 636 365 or emjones.norwell@btinternet.com so that you can be sent the Zoom link to join. If you haven't been to a Zoom meeting before we are happy to give you a personal practice before the meeting.



Wallace Smith's orchard in the 1990s

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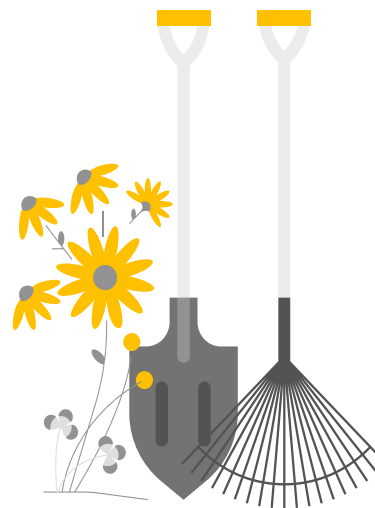
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Ossington community news

Coronavirus continues to make life difficult, and so there are again no services at Holy Rood this month. The church is checked for safety and security on a regular basis, with the hope that worship will resume as soon as possible. In the meantime, please check for further information online or elsewhere in the magazine.



Road Closure at Egmonton

Carriageway repairs will mean that the village is effectively closed to through traffic, so alternative routes will need to be used. The main works will be carried out in the **week beginning 8 March between 7.30am and 4.00pm** and involve resurfacing from approximately the post box to the speed signs on Tuxford Road. No works are planned on other roads affected by the closure but, because through traffic will not be able to use them, legal closure is required.

In addition to the week covered by the legal notice, the previous week will see traffic lights controlling traffic for installation of a new gully and kerb drainage repairs in the vicinity of the church / village hall.

Farming Update

'A bushel of March dust is worth a king's ransom' is an old saying that indicates how good weather at the start of the spring season is so important to farmers. Wet weather is bad news for shepherd and stockperson for several reasons. First and foremost, the cold and wet can be a killer for newborn calves and lambs, which is why many give birth under cover nowadays. It is also preferable to turn out onto fresh pasture that is not too wet underfoot. Pneumonia and respiratory illnesses can set in very quickly in poor conditions.

There is nothing better at this time of the year than to see fields of ewes with their lambs gambolling amongst them. It is crucial that everyone remembers to follow the countryside code so when you take your dog outdoors, always ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under effective control. This means that you must keep your dog on a lead, or keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command. You should also ensure it does not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access. A dog is not 'just playing' when it chases livestock. Even if it does not actually kill the sheep, the stress of being chased can cause a ewe to abort her unborn lamb(s).

Arable farmers also look forward to better weather in order to return to the fields. This year there will again be many more acres of spring crops than usual because the autumn and winter weather has made the ground too wet to plant winter cereals. Due to flooding, some over-wintered crops may have to be re-drilled, so an early start if the weather allows is very much to be welcomed.

John Clare 'the rural poet' knew a thing or two about the land and how difficult March can be when farming. He wrote a sequence of poems detailing rural life during a calendar year, and here are some extracts from 'The Shepherd's Calendar – March' (1827). (The

spelling and punctuation are all John Clare's!)

'March month of 'many weathers' wildly comes
In hail and snow and rain and threatning hums
And floods: while often at his cottage door
The shepherd stands to hear the distant roar'

'The ploughman mawls along the doughy sloughs
And often stop their songs to clean their ploughs
From teasing twitch that in the spongy soil
Clings round the colter terryfying toil
The sower striding oer his dirty way
Sinks ankle deep in pudgy sloughs and clay'

'Full oft at early seasons mild and fair
March bids farewell wi garlands in her hair
Of hazzel tassles woodbines hairy sprout
And sloe and wild plumb blossoms peeping out
In thickset knotts of flowers'



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Gardening

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Sunday 25th –
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bulbs and vegetables.

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Book Club

The Book Club choice for March is *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid. If you feel you've read enough about race and class in America, try this fresh and funny first novel which takes a sharp and thought-provoking view. We shall discuss it on Zoom on 31 March.



Information about the Book Club from
Helen 636337.

DELUGE *Watch!*

2021 got off to a very wet start. We had 10cm of rain (3.9 in) which is more than double (212%) of that expected.

Early February did not help with water levels either. By the day of writing this (11 February) we had already had more rain than we should for the full 28 days.

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Zooming into March and onwards???

You will have heard people say, 'I'm not a betting person but if I had to choose I think...' Well I am a betting person and not a very successful one at that – the only person I know who lost a whole tenner backing Best Mate at Huntingdon in his glory year. He came last.

So will this be our final review of zooming fun with the grandchildren? Will children go back to school on 8 March for ever and ever, and memories of homeschooling seep into the land of dreams?

Where would I put my bet? I'm going to say 'YES', this is it; this zooming home schooling has got to finish. The joy of Spring round the corner tells me so but the fate of Best Mate still lingers... Let's end with a quiz.

1. What do 'Bestie Biscuits' mean to you?

Definitely different things to different people. The virtual grand-daughter showed us some over Zoom yesterday: heart-shaped homemade biscuits with one half dipped in chocolate. Her 'Bestie Biscuits' were ready to be carefully placed in a little box: a gift that she had made for her 'Bestie' friend. They walked to her friend's house carrying this special gift, just for a wave and a smile through the window and a shouty conversation about the day and time of the next shared Minecraft session.

The virtual grandson made Bestie Biscuits too. They are in his tummy. He thought that best!

2. What do Argos, Hermes, Jason, our postie and Dido Harding have in common?

Questions get harder as we move on? Take as long as you like with this one. Perhaps we are thankful to them all and they all

deserve 'Bestie Biscuits'? (Especially at the current time, Dido is famed for the T.T... but not the one on the Isle of Man.) I am grateful to them all.

A freezing London day saw our virtual family coming back from the snowy common and passing one of their community library setups: they don't have the joy of our swap and drop bus shelter but they do have bookshelves resting on peoples' walls and book cupboards by front gates. A new book came home.

The Zoom that day ate up more than two hours while we sat quietly listening as the grandchildren read page on page about the Greek Gods and Greek Myths. The pronunciation of the names raised a smile; a truly valiant effort. We were so glad to have our Greek friends, above, to link the ancient to now. It was fun trying to work out whether Jason, driving through the flooded roads would be better renamed Poseidon, at least someone would be able to control the water.

We also talked about the three Greek brothers Zeus, Poseidon and Hades. Not an easy relationship there! Fancy homeschooling one brother who thinks he's a god, one who only likes the darkness and one who revels in rivers, puddles and the sea. Definitely a challenge for zooming.

3. Can you name six Parisian museums?

Our answer was an assured 'No' until we joined the Year 3 French lesson with its natty quiz. Via the school hub on one bit of IT kit and Zoom on another, we have learnt about Guatemala, Mayan culture, Maths, (you may remember invisible numbers from last time) but best of all has been French. Simon can now name five fruits and five vegetables, count to ten in French, struggle with the number 16 and name the Louvre on sight.

We have great giggles when we play 'the counting game', first in English and then in French. This highly sophisticated game is hard to explain but we all love it. Someone, usually in London, starts to count slowly, hoping to pass the task on to someone else and so on. But who knows who goes next, you have to jump in and count. If two people speak together it's back to the beginning. We seldom get beyond ten and in French never beyond 16, Simon's nemesis!

4. Can you Techno dance in a gold lamé cat suit at 9.30am?

The London lot can, complete with a blue wig; woolly jumpers keep our dance moves sleeker we find. Yes indeed, dancing still goes on but we have thrown caution to the wind and now keep the curtains open.

5. Do you need to improve your drawing of Baby Yoda?

Of course you do. With one of the grandchildren being the art teacher and telling and showing us what lines to draw next we can draw, cute-eyed puppies, dinosaurs, robots and too many Star Wars characters. It's such a joyous way to give them control and increase their ability to guide us carefully. We love the feedback too. You can hear their teacher talking when we receive, 'The one thing that I think could be improved in your drawing, Gandalf, is taking care to get the two ears the same

size but I really like your careful colouring'. That gets us leaving Zoom feeling like Leonardo Da Vinci.

And finally, who's betting that this is truly finally our last bit for the Magazine? We'll leave you with two choice bits:

Simon no longer knows the difference between 'instead of' and 'as well as'. Some Zoom sessions are pretty long and require coffee, cake, biscuits **or chocolate**. 'Instead of' I say, 'not as well as' but Simon seems not to understand.

And finally, a final question, made easier with multiple choice options.

When the Trojans built their wooden horse, where did they get the wood from?

- a. Chopped down indigenous trees
- b. Used a flat-packed horse kit brought over on one of their ships
- c. Chopped up a ship because they had plenty
- d. Sailed with the horse readymade and good to go.

We have considered all those and 'good to go' wins.

Continue to smile and enjoy every little moment: time flies, sometimes.

Caroline and Simon Wyatt



The Parish Magazine is usually delivered free each month to households in the four parishes.

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Donations towards the cost of printing the magazine are always appreciated.

If you have anything for the village news sections or articles or reports for the magazine please contact the Editors by the 15th of the month:

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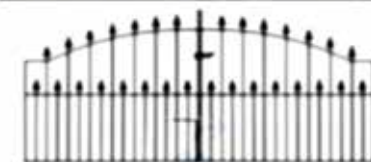
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