

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 78

February 2021



Upton St Leonards Community

Public group · 742 members



+ Invite

About Discussion Rooms Members Events Media



The picture above is the front page of Upton St Leonards Community Facebook Page

This has become a welcome addition to communications in the Village. It enables us to see what is happening, get speedy answers and often Villagers turn out to assist those in need.

We do recommend that you have a look at this community page - you don't have to be a member and you don't have to have a Facebook account to read what is there.

A recent glance at the contents showed these items among others: litter picking on Nuthill and Birchall Lane, a first daffodil and some primroses, an appreciation of the new Monk's Walk path, a bracelet found (owner traced), where to take Christmas cards for recycling, notices of the deaths of people connected with the Village and messages of condolence . . . Lots of very local news, very timely.

A prime example was during the flooding that took place before Christmas. News was quickly on Facebook and many Villagers responded in to provide help and support and we are most grateful to those who offered and gave help. You know who you are and we wish to say **Thank You, you are Stars in our eyes.**

What you did was wonderful, it really meant so much, because it came with kindness and your warm and thoughtful touch . . . There's no other way to say it, there's nothing else to do but send this grateful message. **Thank You Very Much**

Guest Editor:
Millie Barnes



We are delighted to have a guest editor this month. Millie has chosen as her theme "Love and Gratitude"

The picture below shows grandma and grandchild walking up Painswick beacon on a lovely sunny frosty day. See page 14.



Editorial

February is famous for Valentine's Day which symbolises love, romance and the warm fuzzy feeling we get from spending time with those we love, be it a favourite teddy bear for a young child, a fresh romance for a teenager, or family and friends for more mature people.



I would like to highlight "Love and Gratitude" in our village.

We have a lot to be grateful for this year, and you will see some fine examples of those who have made a difference in Upton. We can only highlight a few in this publication, but all of us will know someone who makes a positive impact in our lives.



In tough times it is also good to love ourselves and value our place in Upton's community. Small acts of kindness keep us mentally well and benefit others in ways we may not fully appreciate. A Gratitude Journal is

one way of highlighting the things to be thankful for in our own lives, you write down three things at the end of each day. This is very impactful on our mood and feelings of wellbeing.

Walking and access to the great outdoors has been emphasised during the lockdown and I would encourage everyone to break away from your usual route on paved roads and footpaths and explore the stunning fields and hills outside the immediate village boundaries. There are many advantages - more wildlife to be seen such as deer, foxes, birds, rabbits, voles, badgers, and the very occasional fellow walkers. Many Village



Walks booklets have now been purchased but do ensure you have one and buy one for a friend or neighbour as an act of kindness. (Contact Andy Russell, see page 19 to get a copy).

Donations to the food bank are an easy way to do an act of kindness. Were you aware that there are two "Freezers of Love" locally - at the Coopers Edge community centre and at Hucclecote Hillview Church? There is an article about them on page 7. Anyone can use them, though, of course, it is hoped that they will be a real prop to people whose income has been cut. So if you know someone who simply needs food, do pass the message on. And if you, who may not need help, use the freezers, that sends a message of support to those running the freezers. How kind of them to share their acts of kindness with our village. Their love knows no boundaries and to them we say Thank You.



I want to highlight the Village Helpline. It is for everyone to access, and we have volunteers ready to help. People naturally think this must be help for old or vulnerable people. But we can probably help if you are a new Mum with a baby, feeling isolated, or a frazzled parent juggling work and home schooling. Help comes in many formats during lockdown, e.g. someone to chat to on the phone, like a surrogate Grandma or Grandpa, or someone who can read a story over Zoom or Skype to a child, perhaps to listen to a child read for 20 minutes, or a friendly chat to break up the boredom of spending the day alone with no human contact. We look at each situation and find a solution that works for each individual. Give it a try, you may be pleasantly surprised.

Millie Barnes

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I live in the Village and would like to offer a friendly, reliable service to anyone in need of a helping hand:

- Household help and companionship,
- preparation of home cooked meals and baking,
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- managing tradesmen,
- pop in well-being checks for loved ones.
- Or anything else helpful!

Covid19 restrictions currently limit some of the help I would normally offer . Call me to see what is possible.

Please call me now for a chat:
Mandy Cook 07816 761773

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Christmas reflections

There were many varied experiences at Christmas in Upton under Covid-19 conditions. Here are a few personal accounts from Village families.

- It was nice being on my own with my dogs; they're great company. Since restrictions began I ring a group of friends daily so I rang them all on Christmas Day. Later a friend visited and stayed for a coffee and chat. My plan was to have my group of friends here for Christmas Lunch but we called it off: I don't feel sad, I rather enjoyed it.



- We had a lovely family Christmas, my wife and me and our baby Arabella, it's her first Christmas.
- Just me here. I'd rather be at home safe rather than take chances.
- I'm on my own but I phoned quite a few people also on their own and it made me feel better.
- It was just the two of us. It wasn't great but all the family are OK and we're looking forward to getting the vaccinations soon. I do have strong feelings of empathy for others not as lucky as us and anger with people who don't stick with the rules. Zoom helps to see family and smile at each other.



- We started Christmas Day by calling on both neighbours as we do every day, checking to see if they're OK and have everything they need; they're both retired and live alone. It was nice to exchange Christmas Greetings.
- I started the Christmas day with the on-line service from a monastery near where I used to live. Wonderful to join the carol singing, my choir closed last year. I sang my heart out and discovered carols are like brain-worms once you start a carol it goes round and round, so I've had rather a jolly time on my own singing.



- So nice to stay with my family and grateful for the shared experience of eating with other people.

- I managed to contain my sad/joyful experience of being with grandchildren again. It was wonderful and heartbreaking as well.

- My daughter is frontline in A & E at Gloucester Royal, every day is a worry.



- I was supposed to be in London with son and family but had to stay at home alone. Zoom helped a little. Glad to see the back of 2020.
- This Pandemic has brought out the best and worst in us, so much selfishness, so much racism, and greed, and we've just celebrated 75 years of peace saying thank-you to the brave men in the world wars. The brave ones now are the NHS and care workers.
- Ours was good, we spent Christmas with son and family in Cheltenham.
- We didn't go to family but stayed at home grateful everyone was OK. The family Zooms helped greatly.



- This Christmas we've spent bird watching, everywhere we go we take binoculars, We've just seen a group of goldfinches in those tall Silver Birches at the top of Churchfield Rd. Earlier we saw some long tailed tits in Twyver Close. We just keep roaming around and with our binoculars spotting birds.
- We had a happy time with daughter, husband and grandchildren in Upton. Very emotional time on Zoom with family abroad. Going to Christmas Midnight Mass was very special because I have needed my faith more than ever this year. A family walk on Boxing Day was delightful. Sadly no family hugs or kisses since March.



Experiences collected by Christina Caldwell



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Village Diary-

FEBRUARY

- 1 Mon Parish Council Meeting on Zoom 7pm. Ask the Parish Clerk for a zoom link (usclerk@btinternet.com) if you wish to zoom in.
- 2 Tue Bin day - Recycling and food waste
- 9 Tue Bin day - rubbish and food waste (garden waste for those with brown bins)
- 10 Wed Copy Date for March issue of USL Life
- 10 Wed Bondend Road closure - see below
- 15 Mon School Half Term week starts
- 16 Tue Pancake Day! Yum, yum.
- 16 Tue Bin day - Recycling and food waste
- 17 Wed Ash Wednesday
- 23 Tue Bin day - Rubbish and food waste (garden waste for those with brown bins)

MARCH

- 1 Mon Parish Council Meeting on Zoom 7pm. Ask the Parish Clerk for a zoom link (usclerk@btinternet.com) if you wish to zoom in.
 - 10 Wed Copy date for April issue of USL Life
- Easter is on Sunday 4th April this year**

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

BIN DATES 2021				
Feb 2	Recycling & food waste		Jun 22	Recycling & food waste
Feb 9	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Jun 29	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
Feb 16	Recycling & food waste		Jul 6	Recycling & food waste
Feb 23	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Jul 13	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
Mar 2	Recycling & food waste		Jul 20	Recycling & food waste
Mar 9	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Jul 27	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
Mar 16	Recycling & food waste		Aug 3	Recycling & food waste
Mar 23	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Aug 10	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
Mar 30	Recycling & food waste		Aug 17	Recycling & food waste
Apr 6	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Aug 24	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
Apr 13	Recycling & food waste		Aug 31	Recycling & food waste
Apr 20	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Sep 7	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
Apr 27	Recycling & food waste		Sep 14	Recycling & food waste
May 4	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Sep 21	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
May 11	Recycling & food waste		Sep 28	Recycling & food waste
May 18	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Oct 5	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
May 25	Recycling & food waste		Oct 12	Recycling & food waste
Jun 1	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Oct 19	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)
Jun 8	Recycling & food waste		Oct 26	Recycling & food waste
Jun 15	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)		Nov 2	Rubbish & food waste (& brown bins)

You can get the bin collection calendar from the Stroud District Council website - in a colour format with two pages. One thing you might do as a kindness to a neighbour who has just moved in or is unable to use the web would be to print off the bin calendar from the web page.

Road Closure - Bondend Road

Bondend Road will be closed outside No 49 (that's about halfway between The Stanley and Nuthill Lane) for a distance of approximately 10 metres. The reason for the closure is for the installation of a new BT pole. The road is expected to be closed between the hours of 08:30 and 16:30 on 10th February only or until the works have been completed. For further information, please contact Gloucestershire Highways on 08000 514 514 or visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk.



Messages of Gratitude

Thanks to **residents of Six Acres**, who held a socially distanced Carol Sing in the road on Dec 20th. There was a collection which raised £56.50 which was donated to USL Life.



Thanks to the members of **Gloucester Brass**, who played carols round the Village on Dec 21st, and to those who braved the rain to come out to listen. There was a bucket collection which raised £305 – which went to the Food bank via the Church.



Thanks to Simon Owen of Pip Nettl printers of Hereford. On Wednesday 23rd December he had completed printing of the January issues of USL Life and set out to deliver them (and get home – he lives in Abbeymead). This was the day of the rain. The road from Hereford via Newent was closed by flooding, so he joined the M50 at Ledbury. That was closed before the Tewkesbury junction. Next he went down to Chepstow and onto the M4, across the bridge and up to Gloucester. Is that over and above ...!

Gavin Jones and all at Bowden Hall

Thanks to Gavin Jones and the staff at Bowden Hall for the tremendous support they continue to show for the Village. During the floods, they offered accommodation to anyone who might need it and offered the use of the Hotel to the Church when it became unusable because of flooding.

Jeff Dawson

We as a village owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jeff Dawson for the many hours of work he put into the survey of the church burial records and the register of deaths going back to 1540!

What a long, complicated piece of work he undertook during the first lockdown. I know Jeff is interested in history but

his commitment in sticking with this project which was not for the faint hearted is most admirable. It will make it so much easier for families to trace their family members who are buried in the our churchyard. Well done Jeff, we salute you.

Revd Clodagh Ingram

It was with great sadness we learned of Clodagh's resignation as Priest in Charge and we wish her well in whatever the future holds for her. We, as her fellow Villagers, want to say: Clodagh you made a difference here in Upton. Your kind gentle approach and that lovely Irish accent we grew to love will be missed. Thank you for all you did here amongst us, you touched many lives and we are the richer from having you in our midst. Thank you.



Revd James Turk

We don't want to wait until James leaves before acknowledging the work that he carries out for us all. With Clodagh on long-term sick leave, James has stepped in well above and beyond his job description. For all that he does you could be forgiven for thinking he was a full-time priest. Far from it - he has a 'normal' job outside the church and work he does here is in his spare time. Thank you and know that your work is much appreciated here in Upton. You are a guiding light who has inspired and encouraged us in tough times. Thank You.

Anthony Newman

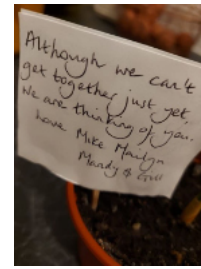
Postman Anthony Newman has used the Community Facebook page to identify those letters and Christmas cards that have incomplete addresses. Well done Anthony for ensuring we get our post as speedily as possible and using your initiative to deliver exceptional service.



Singing with TLC

The therapeutic value of singing, particularly in a group, is well known, and goodness knows how much we need therapies like this at the moment. So many thanks to **Sylvia Ardron** who

has kept the TLC choir going and held it together with Zoom.



This picture tells a story of love and care. **Marilyn, Mike, Mandy and Gill** are of course the people who have run the Monday Coffee Club for four successful years. Though the club has been unable to meet since last March, the leaders have kept in touch with its members with phone calls, and the picture shows a present delivered to a member who lives on her own.

Litter Pickers

A number of Villagers regularly go out and pick up litter without fuss or fanfare - thanks to all who do this. We ran an article last year about a group team of litter pickers being established, particularly to make regular trips to pick up litter on Nuthill. There are annual litter picks organised by USCAN footpaths team and they were out on Nuthill (the road) recently and picked up over a dozen bags of litter. Invidious to pick out any one name when so many do this job, but we are going to give **David Miller** a special mention here - he has often been out on Nuthill (the hill) clearing up. Thanks to him and all who do this job.

From "The Villager"

What a super village we live in. The past months have really brought to light the strength of our community: the Farm Shop and the Village Shop always giving 100% in caring for our needs, the USL Life team bringing us humour and information, and those at the Church and at the end of the telephone giving encouragement.

Nature is once again performing her magic - a photographer's delight with emerging Spring; and the footpath team has been out securing new footpaths for us to enjoy. No need to go outside the Village - it's all here! May we all, this year, get the joy and fulfilment we crave.

Village Helpline

The Helpline remains available should you need it during the Covid-19 crisis.

BMI MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2021

I have been getting a few emails and phone calls from Members asking about how they should renew their 2021 membership whilst the Club is in Lockdown.

To avoid any Member going into 'Blacklisted' status we are extending the cut off date to 31st March 2021. Should the Lockdown continue past this date we shall review again.

Many thanks and best wishes for 2021 and Stay Safe....

Jim Browne
Hon Secretary BMI Club

The Monday Coffee Club

Absent Friends are Very Much Missed

Throughout most of the past year the Monday morning coffee meeting could not be held because of Covid19. We lived in hope the ban would only last a short time, but that was not to be.

We have in the past years enjoyed the company of like-minded friends. We have come together to partake in raffles and bring and buy mornings. We have always looked forward to Christmas Lunches and appreciated all the organisation and hard work that have made the meetings so successful.

As this year of Covid comes to an end, let us hope that in 2021 the virus will be tamed, the vaccines will be a success and we will all be able to gather together for coffee on a Monday morning.

Ann Morphew



This picture was taken at the Coffee Club's Christmas Lunch, 2017

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Upton St Leonards Show

2020 AGM

In between lockdowns, tiers and other varied restrictions, the Show Committee managed to hold a short (and socially distanced) AGM last September. Sadly, the show itself had been cancelled as a result of Covid-19 but there were still some decisions that needed to be taken and accounts to be approved.

The Committee had planned a bumper show for 2020, with all the old favourites and a few new ideas to interest and entertain visitors and competitors. However, all of this hard work will now be carried forward to 2021, when we are determined that we will

have a great show, Covid permitting.

Apart from Ann Herring who decided to step down this year, the existing Committee was re-elected. Ann was thanked for all her help and support over the many years she has been involved with the show.

The date of the next show is 11 September 2021.

Please put it in your diaries now and get knitting/sewing/snapping/growing whilst we are again in lockdown. Further details of the classes planned for this year will be released over the next few months.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the Committee or help on the day, so if you are interested please contact the Show Secretary, Kate Brooks.

Introducing - Hilda

The freezer of love

Natalie Duan sent us this information and it fits perfectly with the main theme of this month's edition of love and gratitude. Natalie lives in the Village with her husband Simon, who is the minister at Hillview Church, Hucclecote.

Hillview Church has set up Hilda - its "Freezer of Love". This is one of a network of Pay As You Feel freezers across our county. There is another one at the Coopers Edge Community Centre.

They are called Freezers Of Love because they are full of meals cooked with love and given with love - there is never a day when any of us



might need a bit of a lift by having tea cooked for us by someone else!

The flyer Natalie sent us says:

Take what you need, pay what you feel. Hilda is your friendly local community freezer stocked with a range of ready cooked meals. The meals are made by chefs using fresh local produce from farmers' markets and supermarket surplus. They are delicious, healthy and a great alternative to the supermarket takeaway meals.

The meals cost about £3.80 but you are just asked to pay what you can, and anonymously. If you pay more than £3.80 you will be helping someone who can't pay that much or can't afford a meal at all.

The Hillview Church freezer is open 9-11am and 3-5pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

The Coopers Edge freezer is hosted by the school at the moment, because the Community Centre is closed. Hours 9.30-11am every weekday in term-time.

Both freezers can be used by . . . anyone.

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Beatles Brain Teaser - Answers

Last month's issue had a Beatles Brain Teaser, asking you to find as many songs as possible in 12 clues. We found 24 or 25 (see clue 1). Did you do any better?

1. None. A red herring perhaps? (Except that "I think I'm" are the first three words of Ticket to Ride)
2. Hey Jude. Your Mother should know. Help.
3. Drive my car. Penny Lane. The long and winding road.
4. Eleanor Rigby. Julia. Lovely Rita.
5. The fool on the hill. Here comes the sun.
6. Maggie Mae. Magical mystery tour. Yellow submarine.
7. Octopus's garden.
8. Strawberry fields. Sergeant Peppers lonely hearts club band.
9. A taste of honey. Thank you girl.
10. We can work it out. With a little help from my friends. Think for yourself.
11. Paperback writer. Back in the USSR.

Turning the page

We are saying goodbye to Brian and Teresa Clarke. Teresa writes:

In 2010 Brian and I moved into Upton. Very quickly new neighbours and villagers knocked at our door to welcome us into their community. We soon became involved in many activities: joining the gents and ladies Probus groups, becoming supporters of the Drama Group, only missing one production in ten years.

The Spring show became a favourite, closely followed by Bonfire Night celebrations. The entertainment at the B.M.I was great and we were very pleased to be included in the Rent a Crowd evening. Not to mention the progressive suppers. I was also able to indulge my interest in art when I joined the small art group in the Pavilion. Sharing poetry evenings and outings to poetry events with like minded friends was also very rewarding. And with the invitations to garden and dinner parties we soon felt very much at home.

Enjoying writing, USL Life magazine accepted regular contributions, mainly on the theme of Upton's historical buildings and events. And recently, via Zoom, I have been able to sing along with the TLC choir.

We are now heading North to live in the same village as our daughter Catherine, Matt and our new baby grand-daughter Olivia. As we turn another page in the next chapter of our lives, we would like to thank all those who made our time here so special. And who knows, maybe I can still contribute to the USL Life magazine as their Northern Correspondent.

Please say hello to Ben and Alice who will be the new owners of our house.

Best wishes to everyone.

Teresa and Brian Clarke



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St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Associate Priest: James Turk

Priest in Charge:
Vacancy



Please note that due to James' work commitments, calls, texts and emails will be answered evenings and weekends

At the time of writing we have just entered another phase of lockdown therefore the church will not be open for services.

The church will open for private prayer on Sundays from 10.00 am - 11.00 am, all previous restrictions apply. Please keep an eye on the noticeboards and Pew News for further news as the situation keeps changing.

Operation Christmas Child appeal 2021



From One Shoebox



Just before Christmas and after the shoeboxes filled with gifts from Gloucester had been taken to the West Midland Processing Centre, I was asked if it was too late to bring empty boxes for me to use. I explained I collect empty shoeboxes all the year round – when Libby brought the shoebox to me, she said she belonged to a running club and would mention to her friends to save theirs too.

Later in the evening, I asked, through local Facebook groups, for anyone who belonged to a sports club of any sort to ask for shoeboxes to be saved and not flattened. I then asked for anyone having new trainers for Christmas to save the boxes for me. To date, I have received almost 150, which is an amazing response to my appeal..



CHILDREN IN ZIMBABWE GATHER EXCITEDLY AROUND CARTONS CONTAINING SHOEBOXES BEFORE AN OUTREACH EVENT BEGINS.

I now have a Facebook group (Jenny's Shoebox Page) and I am having enquiries every day as to how people can help prepare shoeboxes for the 'Operation Christmas Child Appeal 2021'. I've already had pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, as well as toothbrushes and soap given to me and have given out so many knitting patterns and wool for hats, gloves, puppets, homemade toys and much more. I was given a bagful of small gifts from The Recycling Shop, Newent. Georgia, the Morrisons Abbeydale Community Champion, phoned me yesterday to say they would like to contribute various age-related gifts from the Abbeydale store for this year's appeal.

From one shoebox to almost 150 doesn't seem possible in such a short space of time, and I am so grateful for this unexpected support for the Shoebox Appeal 2021. For further information, please feel free to contact me.

From one shoebox to almost 150 doesn't seem possible in such a short space of time, and I am so grateful for this unexpected support for the Shoebox Appeal 2021. For further information, please feel free to contact me.



CHILDREN ARE OFFERED A COPY OF THE GREATEST GIFT, WHICH INTRODUCES THEM TO GOD'S GIFT; HIS SON IESUS.



SHOEBOX JOY – A MESSAGE OF LOVE AND HOPE TO CHILDREN IN MOLDOVA.

Jenny



It was on a Wednesday morning, the day before Christmas Eve when we went to the church to set the heating for the Christmas services. The vestry light was working as were the lights in the main body of the church, but no power to the boiler and it was freezing. Upon closer inspection going

down to the boiler room there was water reaching the bottom step and that level was right through into the boiler room, so about four feet deep, and that was why the boiler couldn't fire up. It then transpired that the Twyver had burst its bank that day so there was obviously a lot of water around. Sadly our only option was to cancel the Christmas Eve service and the Christmas morning service as well. The Christmas tree and decorations put up were meant to help cheer us up but it obviously wasn't meant to be. The water has since gone down, the electricians attended to and a new bigger, more reliable submersible pump has been installed. The church can now be heated even though it will only be for quiet prayer (10-11a.m.) during this latest lockdown.

This year our chosen charity was the Food Bank and donations in lieu of sending out Christmas cards were made. Some by sending and collecting money and some donations in the form of food and necessities were also given. At time of printing no total for cash has been available but the weight of food etc. sent to the Food Bank was 27.4 kg.



Christmas at St. Leonards

2020

After hearing about a member of the church who was unable to visit relatives due to changes in the tier system and would therefore be alone on Christmas day, Dave and Val Knight had the thought of playing their brass instruments for her.



On a bright but cold Christmas morning they set up outside

her home and began to play a selection of well known carols. Although emotional this was very well received, not only by her but also neighbours who came out to listen. People walking by also enjoyed it. They hope this small act brought a bit of Christmas cheer to those who heard them.

So a big Thank you to both of you for this very kind thought



Some of the members of Gloucester Brass (with guest Andy Russell on trombone). Although it wasn't the main aim of the evening they managed to raise £320 for this year's charity, The Food Bank. Well done and thank you.

The church was beautifully decorated by volunteers ready to celebrate Christmas. Sadly, very few people were able to see their efforts due to the flooding. Many thanks to all concerned and hopefully by next Christmas we shall all be able to enjoy them. Until then a photo of what we missed!

Tower Floodlighting 2021

The Church Tower will be lit on the 4th February in memory of John Rumsey on his birthday. With love and happy memories from all the family.

On 14th February, the Tower Lights are being sponsored by Gill Howell on what would have been the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Gill and Derek, her beloved husband who sadly passed away on 25th December 2016.

On the 22nd February, the Church Tower is lit in loving memory of Stanley Pritchett, husband of Karen, and also for Raymond Harris, father of Angela.

On the 25th February, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Derek Brinkley, whose birthday it would have been on this date. Kindly sponsored by his Son, Alan.



if you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary or baptism or in remembrance of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will help us too.

Please note that the deadline of the Church Pages of USL Life is the 8th of the preceding month.

Upton St. Leonard's Mothers Union



I am pleased to report that Mothers' Union has weathered one of the toughest storms together: Covid19, and united, through God's love members have supported each other, renewing their strength to help those in the most need.

Over the last 18 months some remarkable work has taken place and we give thanks to the Lord for all we have achieved together.

2,490 people from the UK and Ireland enjoyed one of our Away From It All (AFIA) breaks, to support families under stress.

1.1 million people around the world were supported to improve their livelihoods.

77,988 people are currently learning to read and write in Burundi

In Britain and Ireland members produced hundreds of scrub bags and face masks to support health care workers during lockdown.

We now face another period of lockdown but with vaccinations on the way we can only pray that before too long we will be able to meet again so watch this space!

Kate Gale
Branch Leader

Readings for February 2021

Sunday 7th Feb

Colossians 1:15-20

John 1:1-14

Feb 14th

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Feb 21st

1 Peter 3:16-end

Mark 1:9-15

Feb 28th

Romans 4:13-end

Mark 8:31-end

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest in Charge

Vacancy

Associate Priest:

Rev. James Turk

Churchwardens:

Gill Howell

Vacancy

PCC Secretary: - Sarah Kent

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

Safeguarding

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

USL Life (Church pages) and Pew News

Rachel Middleton

Rhys James Fencing

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A new poem from Ted Gardener

Promise me, Upton

On the afternoon of Christmas Eve a neighbour said to me
"Ted we need another poem - we haven't had one recently."
"OK", I said, "I guess it's about time,
So I'll sling some words together and see if they will rhyme."

So I sat in my old parlour with pen and paper close at hand,
I had to come up with a subject as you must understand.

Christmas it is over and we start a brand new year,
If we can get rid of Covid we should be in the clear.
So make me this promise: Keep yourselves Strong and Fit,
All Upton must stay healthy and we will conquer it.

Look after all the old 'uns, of which I am one,
And we'll soon get back to normal and have some proper fun.
For spring it is a-coming and then our summer too,
And I say to all of Upton's lovely folk: I love all of you.



Love this sight in a Perry Orchard garden! The deer has his facemask, and recently a vaccine syringe has been added.

Two poems by Ann Morphey

Haiku for Georgette Heyer

A romantic book at bedtime
is better than a night cap of cocoa
and the girl always gets her man.

Haiku for a detective series

A "Lewis" a day
is keeping me OK
I like Hathaway too.

COVID VACCINATIONS IMPORTANT - TAKE YOUR NHS NUMBER

Covid vaccinations are being rolled out to more of us. When it is your turn it is important to have your NHS number ready.

If you are invited by letter, your NHS number will be on the letter, so take that with you. But you might be invited by phone or text or email, and in that case you need to find your NHS number elsewhere. It will be on any other letter you have received from the NHS, for example.

The reason you need the number is so that your NHS record can be updated to show you have had the jab. If you don't have the number with you, someone at the vaccine centre has to find it from the NHS database, and that takes precious time to do.

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Feature Article

Feature writer Linda Munnoch has a day out with her family

It's the Climb

The 30th December was cold and murky, huge snowflakes were falling - I watched at the window for ages. The grandchildren were wildly excited and wanted to go out. "Coming mum?!" I declined, I hate being cold and wet. However – I woke up on the 31st, the last day of 2020, and the sun was shining, the sky was blue and the air crisp and fresh. "Fancy a walk mum?" said daughter (we're support bubbled), "we'll take the kids up Painswick - we need the fresh air" – so in a flurry of scarves, boots, hats, gloves - all the paraphernalia that comes with the great outdoors, we set off. Turning in by the Royal William and continuing up the incline we found a pull-in to park. It was busy, cars coming at a rate of knots. I was a bit trepidatious, the old legs don't work as well as they used to, but I bit the bullet and we set off up the 'hill'. The walk underfoot was white, a good covering of snow still as far as the eye could see, crunchy and very sparkly, nature's diamonds. We came to a large hollow on the left where there were signs of human activity "it's like an archaeological dig!" I trilled to the kids – "no grandma it's where we built a snowman yesterday!" "Ahh", I replied (whilst I had curled up on the sofa catching up on Spooks). There were several half-built/melted snowy mounds, each studded with various pebbles, detritus and twigs. Aren't humans funny!!

We carried on walking, taking our time, observing the scenery and taking in the air; oh wow, how that air felt

good in our lungs. Being cooped up at this time of year certainly dulls the senses.

"You OK mum?" "Yes, I'm feeling OK "... I had actually forgotten how great a winter walk can be.

Onwards and upwards we progressed, then I heard "you alright to carry on mum, it gets a bit steeper from now on" – I motioned to keep going, not wanting to waste any breath, and as I looked ahead I realised I was going to have to be sure footed and careful as it was getting icy. There up in front I could see the pinnacle, so close and yet so far. We headed up to the top, daughter, son-in-law and kiddies, five pairs of helping hands stretching out to each other and ... we'd made it! Coming down again was even more precarious but had to be done of course!

I should tell you that this is my first time at the Beacon in 30 years of living in Upton – shameful isn't it?! But today, I climbed a mountain (it's all relative!).

I won't insult your intelligence by quoting latitude and longitude or the history of this place as you can find out more than I will ever know by asking Mr Google (other web browsers are available) but I can thoroughly recommend it whatever your age, and the views from the top are, quite simply, breathtaking.

Bucket List: Climb a Mountain - Tick!

Linda Munnoch



Arts Page

From the troubles of Covid and lockdown we turn to DOGS whom many regard as “man’s best friend”. There is no doubt that dogs have helped their owners throughout the period of pandemic.

Dog by Eleanor Farjeon (1881 – 1965)

Whether I’m Alsatian,
Dachhund or Dalmatian,
Or any one among the Terrier crew.
However brief you’ve known me,
As long as you will own me,
I’m Dog, that’s all, my Master, Dog to you.

If you like a Setter
Or a Spaniel better,
Aberdeen or Airedale – some folk do –
Whatever breed you name me,
As long as you will claim me
I’m yours for life, my Master, Dog to you.

I’ll love you Cairn or Collie,
Beyond the point of folly,
And if I’m Mongrel, love you just as true;
Kick me or caress me,
As long as you possess me.
I’m yours till death, my Master, Dog to you.

For you, I’ll be so knowing!
I’ll whimper at your going,
And at your coming, wag myself in two!
Trust you while I tease you,
Pester you to please you,
Your dog, that’s all, my Master, Dog to you.

An Epitaph written by Lord Byron (1788-1824)

EPITAPH ON HIS DOG, BURIED AT NEWSTEAD ABBEY
Near this spot
Are deposited the remains of one
Who possessed beauty without vanity,
Strength without insolence,
Courage without ferocity,
And all the virtues of man without his vices.
This praise, which would be unmeaning flattery
If inscribed over human ashes,
Is but a just tribute to the memory of
Boatswain, a dog.

From A Dog Day by Walter Emanuel (1869 – 1915)

1.25 Into dining room. Young Mr Brown throws bread pellet at me, hitting me on the nozzle. An insult. I swallow the insult. Then I go up to Miss Brown and look at her with my great pleading eyes. I guessed it: they are irresistible. She gives me a piece of pudding. Aunt Brown tells me she shouldn’t. At which, with great pluck, Miss Brown tells her to mind her own business. I admire that girl more and more.

1.30 A windfall. A whole dish of mayonnaise fish on the slab in the hall. Before you can say Jack Robinson I have bolted it.

1.32 Curious pains in my underneath.

1.33 Pains in my underneath get worse.

1.34 Horrid feeling of sickness.

1.35 Rush up into Aunt Brown’s room and am sick there.

1.37 Better. Think I shall pull through if I am careful.

EPIGRAM by Alexander Pope (1688 – 1744)

Engraved on the collar of a dog which I gave to His Royal Highness

I am his Highness’s dog at Kew

Pray tell me, sir, whose dog are you?

Anonymous : A dog is the only animal who has seen his god.

Book Review

This month we recommend The Sunday Times Bestseller “Nigel – My family and other dogs” by Monty Don, a well-known gardening writer and broadcaster who lives in Herefordshire. First published in 2016, this book tells the story of a golden retriever who became a star of the BBC Gardeners’ World programme, stealing scenes and receiving fan mail and birthday cards! This is a really heart-warming memoir in which Monty Don tells Nigel’s story (and all the dogs that came before him) and explores the special place dogs occupy in our lives and the love humans have for them.



Parish Council

Report for January 2021

Although we followed our standard meeting points, the main area of focus was the flooding which took place on Wednesday 23 December.

Flooding issues

- A number of houses in the village were in danger of water ingress (e.g. Staites Orchard) but most were able to cope with the situation.
- Despite drainage on the Scarp being cleaned recently, the drains on Bondend were almost full by 3pm (only half full at noon).
- Highways England had been asked several times to clear drains in Bondend Road near the Mill but they were still blocked. They had also not cleared the run off grating on the M5 embankment which takes excess water from Staites Orchard.
- A hole had appeared in the culvert under Commelines Farm which caused some damage to buildings but had probably allowed more water to flow out .

Actions taken/being taken

- Highways have been contacted following the PC discussion to arrange a meeting between ourselves, their engineers and the Land Drainage Officer from Stroud DC to look at the inadequacy of the culverts (they had not ensured their culverts were cleared of silt).
- The PC (under riparian responsibilities) through the village Water Warden only recently (3rd week of November) arranged for their two culverts (Bondend Road and Bondend Lane) to be cleared of silt. He had

also dealt with a footbridge collapse in the summer which would have positively contributed to water flow.

- Following PC contact with Highways, their engineers have been asked to attend and inspect the M5 embankment to ensure any vegetation/blockages are removed. They will also check the culvert under the M5.
- The Clerk has contacted the Environment Agency. There is a suggestion that the river in Staites Orchard could be widened (at the expense of the riparian owners) but the EA would have to sanction this first.
- The Clerk has contacted Severn Trent regarding the inadequacy of the sewer in Bondend Road as it is causing problems in some properties. This is important given the impending building of 15 more properties at Bowden Hall Farm.
- Any works upstream would have to be done by land owners as the PC have no authority to expend public money on private land e.g. do we need more balancing ponds?
- The PC Chairman has been in contact with Stroud DC to arrange for a central drop of sandbags (location to be decided). Any sand required will be funded by the PC.

A couple of other points were covered including: -

- removing out of date notices from village notice boards
- horses being ridden the wrong way along Staites Orchard, riding and depositing dung on pavements (Woodland Green, for example). A letter has been sent to the local stables to confirm rules and regulations.
- the PC are budgeting for 2021/22 to cover two VAS (vehicle activation signs) and are hoping to purchase mobile units so they can be moved around to different parts of the village.



Defibrillators

A defibrillator is now in the old telephone kiosk outside the BMI, and the one by the Village Hall main door has been decommissioned. There is another one at the Pavilion and one inside the BMI.

These defibrillators are designed to be used by anyone. You don't have to be trained beforehand. As soon as you open the box, a voice recording tells you just what to do at every stage. Youtube videos can show you how simple they are to use. Ideal home schooling topic for children and young people during lockdown.

Defibrillators can also be found at Morrisons and Hadwen Health as well as Abbeydale Community Centre which has one in the sports area and one in the community area.



Janice Cole, Chairman of the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes, has done a great job of sending out positive messages to members, and we have published a number of them here. This is part of her most recent letter:



Lockdown is becoming a way of life for many of us, my home is getting much more attention as is the garden. The days are beginning slowly to draw out and soon we will feel the strength of the sun

increasing. In my garden the hellebores are coming into bloom and the bulbs are pushing through, primroses are out and the bird song is starting to be more noticeable.

I do find I need a project of some sort to focus my mind and preferably creative. I have done more baking as well as sorting, I need the second to counterbalance the extra eating! More important than this though is communication and support. Humans, like other creatures, need to contact and support others, 'No man is an island'. Pick up a phone; speak to people walking past your house or on a walk; write a letter or email; WhatsApp or Facebook also provide contact. You can engage as little or as much as you want. I never did much more than email as far as technology was concerned until Covid and lockdown.

A lot of fun and chat can be had on WhatsApp or even better group together on Zoom or Skype. I know many WI committees are using Zoom to engage their members. Do support them. If you are uncertain about using it we at WI House are happy to help. Just ask and we will set up a one to one training session for you. You do not have to sign in or have the app, only the host needs this. If you do not want to be seen you can turn off the video or even just join by phone.

Keep well, safe and positive. Better times are coming.

Twyver WI continues to meet monthly on Zoom*. We enjoyed a trip around the Galapagos Islands in December and in January we had a delightful talk on our lovely Rococo Gardens, which are on our doorstep. Let's hope we can visit this month** to see the fabulous show of snowdrops they put on for us each year.

* Like all WI meetings, anyone is welcome to attend. If you want to Zoom in please contact a Twyver WI member, e.g. Millie Barnes or Andrea Dawson. ** See page 19 for opening times and restrictions.

Upton WI members are looking forward to renewing friendships, listening to good speakers and enjoying happier times ahead. They will meet on Monday afternoons in the Pavilion.

GFWI Quiz: On January 14 the GWFI organised a quiz, for the first time, using Zoom. There were 42 participants which was hugely encouraging for a first venture. These included Sandi Baker and Andrea Dawson, from Twyver WI but sadly, neither were amongst the highest scorers!

The quiz was free, great fun and executed without a hitch. It is to be hoped that GWFI runs another one before too long! Thanks to Val George for raising awareness of this county wide event.

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Getting Online

For today's youngsters and middle-aged people, use of the internet is taken for granted. Indeed so much use is made of it that we'd be totally lost without it.

USL Life has run a few articles encouraging internet use. There are a lot of people, mostly older ones, in the Village, who for one reason or another don't make use of it.

This month's guest editor, Millie, is very keen on trying to see if, through USL Life and Village volunteers, some of those who are just unsure about "going online" can have help, back-up and reassurance. It is undoubtedly true that the internet can be of great help, and more and more interactions between us will be assuming use of the internet, so that if you don't have it you will be at a disadvantage.

I was speaking very recently to an elderly Villager who has been taking his first tentative steps in web browsing. He had had a problem with some minor function in his car. He entered some details about the problem in his browser search - and the fix, which he was able to do, came straight back. He didn't have to take his car in, or

spend ages on the phone explaining. "I must start using the net more", he told me.

If you aren't online, how can we help?

We can get someone in the Village to be a mentor for you, so you can go at your own speed, starting with a few simple things like emailing and browsing, knowing that when you don't understand, your internet buddy is available to explain further. A couple of simple activities like those above are enough to get you nearly all the advantages of the internet. The cost to do this much can be really low, just a few pounds a month may be enough.

If you have tried and given up or haven't tried at all yet, and would like to see what might be possible, contact

- The "Phone and Computer Clinic", i.e. Richard West or Andy Russell, or
- Anyone from the USL Life team - names inside the back cover - who will either help you themselves or sort out who can help you.

Geoff, Navon, Marilyn and Shirley wish to thank everyone for their kind messages on the tragic death of **June Taylor**, wife and sister-in-law.



It is sad to announce that **Rosalie Yorke** died at her nursing home on Christmas Day.

She lived many years in the Village she adored, both at Upton Knoll in the 1970s and then for almost 30 years at the delightful School Cottage just below the Church. She was a keen member of the village pétanque team until her eyesight failed her, and a regular dog-walker of first 'Happy' then 'Billy', who always had time for a smile and a friendly chat.

We are also saddened to hear of the sudden death, in mid-January, of **Mike Kenyon** of Six Acres. Our sincere condolences go to his widow Pauline.

We heard, just before we went to press, of the death of **Lilla McGroary**, well known to many Villagers for her work, among other things, as the Clerk to the Lady Downe Trust. Lilla lived on Coopers Hill. (See also the top of the next page)

THE LADY DOWNE TRUST

The Trustees announce with great sadness that our much-valued Clerk, Mrs Lilla McGrory has died peacefully at home after a short illness. Lilla was Clerk to the Trust for over 30 years and will be known to many parishioners, particularly younger people, who will have benefitted from grants received from the Trust.

The work of the Trust continues, and applications for support can be made through the website (www.ladydowne.org) or by email to clerk@ladydowne.org

The Rococo Gardens, Painswick . . .

. . . are open (in a limited way) so you can get to see spring flowers. Government guidance currently permits public gardens to open for local exercise. For the time being, the Garden will be open Friday-Sunday, 10am – 3pm by advance booking only. You must follow government guidance when you visit in terms of who you visit with and where you can travel from. Daily visitor numbers are strictly limited, to support social distancing. www.rococogarden.org.uk

“Leaky Dams”

What?

The December flooding highlighted in this month’s newsletter shows that flood prevention continues to need improvement. But if excess water is simply hurried on its course past the Village, that exacerbates the problem further downstream.

By a coincidence, before the recent floods we received a short article from Mike Stratford about efforts that have been going on behind the scenes to slow the progress of water and hold it further uphill – these efforts are taking place at many locations round the country, and Mike talks about work on the Twyver. Mike writes:

“There are some new man-made ‘leaky dams’ on the upper reaches of the River Twyver. This is part of a flood prevention scheme by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on behalf of Gloucester City Council supported by Stroud District Council. The technique, part of what is now called ‘Natural Flood Management’, aims to reduce the downstream peak flows during a storm event or flooding. The normal flow of the river is not impeded until the water level rises. If the river is in flood it should overflow into woods or fields.

The picture (over the page) shows a couple of the leaky dams placed across the Tywver not far from its source below Painswick Beacon. The timber came from my woodland bordering the river.”

There is a website showing, in real time, the level of the Twyver – using a live feed from a depth gauge at the point where the river flows under Bondend Lane, opposite the school. See <https://riverlevels.uk/> and type Twyver into the search box.

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://usllife.org.uk>

To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

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Next month’s editor

Peter Wilson



Contact him directly

Or use the postbox at the Village Hall or via the “Contact Us” box on our web page

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Two of the new “Leaky Dams” on the upper reaches of the Twyver (the second one is at the top of the picture as the stream turns to the right). Read about these in Mike Stratford’s article on page 19.

Two pictures from the floods on the Wednesday before Christmas. The top one shows Solva Cottage on Little Stanley, with the overfull Twyver running by. The window you see was one of the Village Advent windows. The other picture is taken at the lower junction of Bondend Road and Churchfield Road



Once again the star on the church tower lit the sky through the Christmas and New Year period

