

Upton St Leonards Life

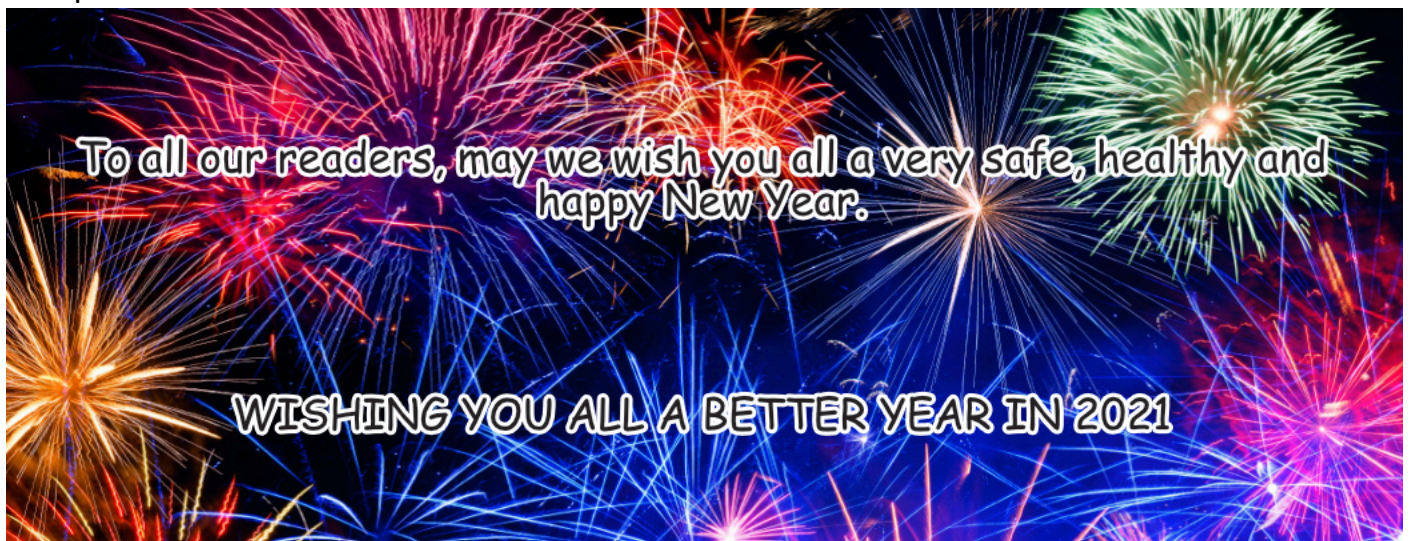
incorporating Church News

Issue 77

January 2021



A New Year gives us hope for the future. Our Arts Page this month also celebrates the theme of Hope; a hope for a safer and kinder world. The anonymous poem below seems to encapsulate all that we would wish for ourselves and our loved ones.



At the sound of the tolling midnight bell
a brand new year will begin.
Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,
to the promise it ushers in.

May your battles be few, your pleasures many,
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.
May your confidence stand in the face of loss
and give you the strength to rebuild.

May peace of heart fill all your days
may serenity grace your soul.
May tranquil moments bless your life
and keep your spirit whole.

Unknown



This frosted flower was photographed one misty morning on the way back from the new Monk's Walk.
(See page 14 to read about this new path)

Editorial



USL Life would like to send New Year greetings and wish all its readers a very Happy 2021. The news we've all been waiting for was unveiled on 3rd December, the first day out of England's second Lockdown. The UK became the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine thus paving the way for the biggest vaccination programme in the history of the UK. A mere five days later, Margaret Keenan, a 90 year old grandmother from Northern Ireland became the first person in the world to receive the vaccine which offers up to 95% protection against Covid-19. All those that follow her, will undoubtedly do so, with a huge feeling of relief.



After all the months of personal restrictions and financial hardship, finally there's real hope of better times ahead. What more could we ask for at the beginning of a new year, when, once again we'll be able to visit family and friends without fear and for businesses to begin their journey back to reviving our depleted towns and cities. This momentous breakthrough could not have been more welcome and we should be forever grateful to our wonderful scientists and healthcare professionals for making this a reality.

Help is at Hand



In recent weeks you will have all received a notice through your letterboxes advising you that the Support Network in Upton was restarting, primarily to be there for when we entered a second period of lockdown.

This service continues to be available for the coming months so if you have a relative, friend or neighbour and you are concerned for their welfare, please continue to contact Andy Russell through the Helpline number.

In response to a letter from Tim James, regarding litter on Nut Hill, an excerpt from Joe Middleton, the Site Manager for the Woodland Trust, reads as follows:

"We have been working with the local footpaths volunteer team in Upton St Leonards pre-Covid-19 to monitor the site and improve access. When restrictions lift further we will be looking into setting up an action group in the local area to monitor Nut Hill, as a few local residents are already monitoring and picking up litter."

"I am also meeting the Manager of the Mercure Hotel this week to see if we can install a litter bin on our woodland boundaries to improve the litter problem. If you see youths onsite in the evenings misusing the site,

please report it to the Police on 101 as soon as possible.

They are usually very good at responding and will sometimes send out PCSO's to check a site.



WOODLAND
TRUST

We have worked successfully with the local community for many years in providing free sustainable access to our woods, and we continue to be an organisation that welcomes responsible visitors. I hope this assures you that we are doing everything we can to sort the problem."

JoeMiddleton@woodlandtrust.org.uk



Rachel Hall writes in response to Mike Stratford's December article 'Visitors to Upton' when a Royal visitor came to Upton in 1942: "I have very happy memories of the visit of Queen Mary to the Village. After meeting the soldiers at Belmont Camp, she was driven down to the School, an unplanned extension to her trip. We were all lined up on Rance Pitch and the Queen came over and spoke to us. We were thrilled that she had taken the time to see us. She was splendidly dressed."

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What's been happening in Upton?

TWYVER WI



Twyver WI held a Zoom Meeting on Monday, 14th December. In order to create some Christmas spirit an email was sent to all members reminding them to have a glass of mulled wine and mince pies at the ready, in order to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Our speaker, Ged Cassell, enlightened the 17 participants about the Galapagos Islands, Darwin and Evolution on Zoom, which turned out to be an excellent platform for such a visually rich topic.

Members were also encouraged to look at the Resolutions listed in the WI Life Magazine and to make their choice and advise our secretary, Val George before 13th January. More Zoom lectures will take place in January, but it is to be hoped with the vaccine being rolled out, that live meetings will be able to commence once again in the Spring. For further information please contact our Secretary.

UPTON WI

The members of Upton WI voted unanimously to change the time and venue of their meetings starting in 2021. Meetings will still take place on the first Monday in the month, but they will now take place in the Pavilion at 2pm.

A list of speakers has been drawn up and it is hoped that live meetings will resume from March or April, in line with the necessary guidelines. Further information can be obtained from Angela Harris.

Both clubs welcome new members. Please contact the relevant ladies, should you require any further details.

Notices

Roadworks



The A46 between the top of Nuthill Lane and Green Lane (Brockworth) will be **closed on 4th January for 12 weeks until 31 March.**

This is to have yet another go at stabilising the slippage that has been a feature of this stretch of road for as long as any of us can remember.

Progressive Supper

Due to the current conditions, this event, which is usually held on the last Saturday of January will be cancelled this year. We hope to see you in January 2022!

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What's been happening in Upton?



Christmas Quiz Answer Page

Easy Christmas Quiz answers:

- C – Christmas Island
- H – Holly
- R – Reindeer
- I – Icing
- S – Santa
- T – Tinsel
- M – Mince Pies
- A – Angel
- S – Silent Night

“Out of Context” answers: These are all snippets from well-known Christmas Carols:

- Holly bears – from the Holly & the Ivy and also from the Sans day Carol
- Rude and bare – from As with Gladness Men of Old
- Stay by my side – from Away in a Manger
- Drain the barrel – from Deck the Halls
- Gone Astray – from God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen
- Bring me wine – from Good King Wenceslas
- We won't go – from We Wish You a Merry Christmas
- Dreamless sleep – from O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Down to such a world – from See Amid the Winter's Snow
- Bitter Perfume – from We Three Kings
- Silent stars – from O Little Town of Bethlehem (again!)
- Like a stone – from In the Bleak Midwinter



Dreary by Anon

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
 I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
 I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,
 I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
 There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu
 But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.
 While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
 I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
 I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
 Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
 About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
 To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow,
 And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
 Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
 Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
 Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

Did you accept the challenge to identify as many references as you could? We found 12 - any more?

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | W B Yeats | The Lake Isle of Innisfree |
| 2. | John Masefield | Sea Fever |
| 3. | W Wordsworth | I wandered lonely as a cloud |
| 4. | J Milton Hayes | The Green Eye of the Yellow God |
| 5. | Rudyard Kipling | Mandalay |
| 6. | R L S Stevenson | Speed Bonnie Boat |
| 7. | G K Chesterton | The Rolling English Road |
| 8. | A E Housman | A Shropshire Lad |
| 9. | A E Housman | Loveliest of Trees |
| 10. | John Keats | On first looking into Chapman's
Homer (realms of gold) |
| 11. | M Drayton | Milford Haven |
| 12. | W Shakespeare | Midsummer Night's Dream |

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Parish Council Report

Below is a summary of the points raised at the December meeting:

Traffic Calming Signs

The Parish Council has been putting up "20 is plenty" signs where that speed limit exists and when more arrive this will complete the project, including areas where speeding is an issue eg Portway.

In the New Year, the Council will be exploring the cost of installing some Vehicle Activation Signs (VAS) which flash a vehicle's speed to the driver (there are different formats available).



Road Closures

From 4 January - 28 April 2021 the A46 at the top of Nut Hill towards Cheltenham will be closed for repair work.

On 10 February, the part of Bondend Road near Nut Hill, will be closed.

Police/Village Warden Report

No crime was experienced in Upton during November 2020, however there have recently been instances of graffiti on The Ash Path and on one of our Village Welcome signs. If anyone sees any such activity please report to the Police.

Village Hall

Despite the impact of reduced bookings as a result of Covid 19, the Committee have been able to cover all expenses.

M5 Working Group

Tony Pryce will be reporting back in the new year on the village survey results and progress with our local MP/Highways England.

Dog Excrement

The Council discussed the issue of dog owners (we believe early morning people) who have not cleaned up after their animals, particularly along Churchfield Road.

If anyone notices this behaviour, please report it to the Parish Clerk who will pass it on to our Neighbourhood Warden. This matter is escalating and many users of the Upton Facebook Community group have made similar comments and complaints.

The Tree Project was also discussed - for further details please see Page 7 and how you can be involved in this exciting new scheme.



John Weygang
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What a Conundrum!

It was a Tuesday morning when three ladies from the cleaning crew met at the church to do some essential sorting out. Normal entry to the church is through the main outer vestry door but Horror of horrors having unlocked the top and bottom locks, when the round handle was turned to lift the latch, the whole handle with the attached bolt, completely fell out. Now what?



Several telephone calls were made to local people involved with the church, but to no avail. A locksmith's job? The earliest one could not come until Friday and the Archdeacon was due for a meeting that early afternoon.

Maybe we could get in via the bell tower door? A quick ring to the bell captain but that wasn't an option either. THINK ... THINK ... there was one more option, a local engineer we knew, who had a key to get into the bell tower to do ongoing work there ... a call to him ... YES! We could borrow his key and make a start with the cupboard. The door normally used to access the toilet was unlocked but we still couldn't get into the vestry where the key to unlock the main door is kept, something *had* to happen with the outer vestry door.

Meanwhile one of the cleaners had gone home and hammered and banged an old wire coat hanger in the hope that she could twist and turn her improvised tool to catch and lift the latch, but sadly this didn't work. What next? Then, we heard a Knock, Knock! Unbelievably, the engineer chap who had come up to the church to have a look at what the problem was, was adamant that he was NOT going to be beaten (foolishly, we girls had our doubts). A scratching of the head and a peer through the hole in the door and off he went to see what he could come up with.

Notice was given to the Church Warden that the Archdeacon's visit may have to be re-arranged but we decided to make a start on the cupboard anyway. Our newly appointed Church Warden came to see what all the fuss was about and proceeded to help with the sorting. The three of us, with the doors at both ends of the bell tower shut, gaily got on with the job in hand. Suddenly there was a tapping on the inside of the bell tower door giving us the fright of our lives; after all, we knew there was no entry into the church!

HELP! Did the church have a ghost? We looked at each other astounded! Phew, then the door opened and there was the engineer on the other side, grinning from ear to ear holding his specially designed tool, which had enabled him to lift the latch and gain the necessary access into the church. The engineer subsequently repaired the handle of the door, which he assured us would last another 100 years, so it will see us all out! A heartfelt thanks to our unnamed hero who saved the day and who wishes to remain anonymous. Meanwhile, the Archdeacon was none the wiser of all our trials and tribulations!

Christina Caldwell & Sheila Thomas



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Tree Planting Project

Would you like to help plant some trees in Upton?

Background

The project came together through discussion with our Village Tree Warden (Alex Foster) and the Parish Council regarding improving our environment through the planting of more trees in our village.

Several charities were promoting the idea and after some research it was decided to approach The Woodland Trust who were offering saplings and associated materials, free of charge, on the basis of meeting their criteria.



Moving Forward

We submitted our application in early November and we heard back several weeks later that we had been successful. As a result of our application, we will be receiving 105 saplings (a mix of tree species) and the Parish Council have decided to use The Glebe Field as our main opportunity to make an impact.

Why Do We Want To Plant Trees?

Our aim is to –

- create a more rural outlook on the Recreation Ground
- help with drainage (an issue at the bottom end of the field)
- improve air pollution from the M5 and provide some additional screening
- provide more habitat for wildlife



Village Involvement

We want to encourage people living in Upton to help us with the planting and also to support the maintenance they will need in the early years.

Upton School have already agreed to get their pupils involved, so it will be a combined effort between the school children and residents of Upton to make it successful.

Timescale

In January 2021, The Woodland Trust will be confirming the delivery date for the Tree Packs but we know it will be sometime in March 2021.

Between now and then we need to know who would be interested in getting involved so a plan of how we will be spreading the task over several days can be pulled together, eg if we still have to account for social distancing etc.

If you are interested, you have several ways to log your interest –

- **send your name and contact details to me**
- **pop in and see Roy Balgobin at the Village Hall office (he will forward your details to me)**
- **pop your details on a piece of paper and post in the village hall postbox (they will be passed to me)**

If you can do the above by the 31st January 2021 that would be great.

We look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Peter Wilson
Environment Lead, Upton Parish Council

Do you have access to Your Medical Records?



Why would you want access to your medical records? There are a number of reasons that this would be useful to you:

1. You can check the accuracy of your records and challenge anything that you find that is incorrect.
2. You can print off a copy of your records to take on holiday along with your travel insurance. (We never know when an accident may occur).

Recently I had a blood test and was told the results would be back in a week, but because I had the App on my phone and had given permission for my medical records to be shared with the app I was able to see my results as soon as they were posted on my file, three days later.

I could see the exact values of each test and compare them to the normal values recommended for health.

The app that Hadwen Health uses is called Airmid UK.

This saved me time ringing the practice to be told my results were “normal”. I prefer to know the exact results and be able to compare them to previous results.

I asked for a print off of my medical summary when I had my blood test and the staff were very happy to oblige. This can be useful to share with paramedic staff called to your home in an emergency.

Other local surgeries have similar apps in use, just look online for this information.

Millie Barnes

Sharing Your Health Care Records & Information

Your patient records are held securely and confidentially on your Medical Practice’s electronic system.

If you require treatment in another NHS healthcare setting such as an Emergency Department or Minor Injury Unit, those treating you would be better able to give you appropriate care if some of the information from the GP practice was available to them.

This information can now be shared electronically (with your permission) via:

1. Summary Care Record (SCR) – NHS SUMMARY CARE RECORD (used nationally across England).
2. GLOUCESTERSHIRE SHARED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION (Joining up your information – JUYI) used locally across Gloucestershire.

In all cases, the information will be used only by authorised healthcare professionals directly involved in your care. Your permission will be asked before the information is accessed, unless the clinician is unable to ask you and there is a clinical reason for access.

Parents, guardians or someone with power of attorney can ask for people in their care to be opted out, but ultimately it is the GP’s decision whether to share information, or not, because of their duty of care. If you

would like to opt out, an entry will be put on your record, which will prevent your information from being shared.

For more information about the **Differences between the Gloucestershire Shared Record** and the **Summary Care Records**, please see the leaflet which you can download from the website but basically it does what it says on the tin, one is shared in the county of Gloucestershire and the second is shared nationally.

This information has been taken from Hadwen Health website, but most GP Practices have similar information on their websites. You can check with the practice what consent you wish to share (please do this by eConsult or phone - **DO NOT** visit the practice in person to discuss this - it can all be done online or by phone).



I personally want my medical records to be made available to any health care practitioner treating me, especially if I was unconscious, following a road traffic accident for example, in a different part of the country. It can be a life saver in some cases for the hospital to have access to our medical records.

Millie Barnes



St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Associate Priest: Rev James Turk

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

Dear St Leonard's Church Family

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you that, in the midst of ongoing ill health, I have taken the painful decision to resign as your Priest in Charge.

My time at Upton St Leonard's has been very special. I have loved my role and its responsibilities as it provided me with the opportunity to get to know many wonderful people, share God's love and tell everyone who would listen that Jesus is Lord.



The joy of my time at St Leonard's is that God showed up and directed our ways; bridging the gap between the church community and the village; between the church and Coopers Edge; between school and church; between Scouts and church; between diocese and church. God showed up, healing hurt and division and turning hearts towards Jesus. God showed us the way, so that together we could follow him and together share his love and life giving truth with the surrounding community.

When I arrived, followed shortly afterwards by James, we found a very disheartened and tiny community at St Leonard's and despite all the sadness I feel today I know that the St Leonard's community I am leaving has been transformed. A disheartened community has become a community which has hope and purpose. So I thank God for that transformation and for each and every one of you, young and old alike. I also thank God for James's curacy among us and the ways he has been able to lead and encourage us all through this really difficult year.

One of the privileges I had as James's training incumbent was our shared reflection on ordained ministry. Joyfully over and over again James and I could clearly see where God was at work and James developed a phrase to acknowledge God's loving wisdom and provision. 'God's got this covered Clodagh', he would say. 'God's got this', I would agree. And at other times to encourage James when a situation was really tricky I would say, 'God's got this James' and he would agree, 'God's got this.'

When I spoke to James to tell him of my decision to resign, James said those reassuring words. 'God's got this covered Clodagh.'



As hard as this situation is I am trusting that God has got St Leonard's covered, God has got James covered, God has got myself and my family covered. God's got this whole situation covered.

I arrived at St Leonard's with a sense that God was calling me to serve you – I had misgivings, unsure if I was up to the job but a wise friend pointed me to Proverbs 3:5-6:

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.'

Contd.....

Those verses encouraged me then and during my early months at St Leonard's when there was so much to grapple with and when there was so much that I did not understand and the proverb proved trustworthy and true. So as I go forward not understanding so many things about my personal circumstances or about all that is happening in the world around us I am holding onto those life giving words again.

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.'

I am sending my love and thanks for all the support and encouragement you have given me during my time as your Priest in Charge and I finish with the blessing I loved sharing with you:



“The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

Clodagh

To all the Saints of Upton St Leonards

As you hear the news of Clodagh's resignation I want to assure you of my thanks and prayers for you all. Clodagh has been a gift to you and her Godly leadership, supported by James, has enabled you to grow and flourish as followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing the love and hope of Christ. I know you will be immensely sad to say good bye to Clodagh and to Dan, particularly in the circumstances, but I know you will continue to hold them in your hearts and prayers.

I want to assure you that as the parish enters a time of vacancy regarding a Priest-in-Charge, you will be well supported not least by Archdeacon Hilary and the wider deanery.

Archdeacon Hilary has already met with Gill as church warden and Sarah as the PCC secretary, and she is looking forward to joining a PCC meeting in the New Year. There is a commitment from bishops, archdeacon and deanery to discern the next chapter together with you which will build on all that has already been planted and watered under Clodagh's leadership.

On an entirely separate note: James has reached the end of his curacy and plans were put in place some time ago to license him as an Associate Priest in a simple service in my chapel at Bishopscourt. This is the standard practice for all self-supporting curates when they come to the end of their training. Please note that James's role will not look any different from the role he is already living.



As you journey through Advent may you do so with hope, trusting in God whose love and faithfulness are unchanging even amid times of change.

With my thanks and prayers as ever

+ Rachel Treweek

Bishop of Gloucester



Tower Floodlighting

January 2021

To Our Gorgeous Wife, Mumma bear, Glam Ma Nicola Jane Ramsey. Your birthday was the 18th December and we want you to know how much we miss you xx You will always be our shining light and our guardian angel xx From broken hearted husband Bobby, daughters and grandchildren xx

Remembering my granddaughter Chantelle (11.01.2011) and my husband Pete (11.01.2012) with love and many happy memories from Jenny and all the family.

On the 18th January, the Tower Lights are sponsored in loving memory of Janet Johnson who passed away 3 years ago. Remembered with love by her family and is so sadly missed.

If you or your family wish to sponsor the lights in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or for any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details

Please note that the deadline for the Church News is the 8th of the preceding month.

What Next? Clodagh's resignation as our Priest in Charge at St Leonard's has created a great sadness for the worshipping community and wider community of Upton St Leonards and Coopers Edge. Clodagh's illness meant that she was absent for nearly the whole of 2020, but we are all affected by the finality of her resignation. Personally, regarding ministry in Upton St Leonards and Coopers Edge, I have lost my colleague in Christ, but we will remain lifelong friends and I pray for her swift return to health, and to ministry in some shape or form in the future.

I just want to say a few words about what happens next and how we move forward.

As of January 1st 2021, St Leonard's Church moves into a period of vacancy. During this period, the Archdeacon and Area Dean will work closely with the PCC to discuss the future appointment of a Priest in Charge for St Leonards and the parish of Upton St Leonards. This process does take time and it may be a few months yet until a new appointment is announced.

My role at church has not changed, but my title has. I am no longer your Curate, but your Associate Priest and this was always going to be the case and not something that has happened as a result of Clodagh's resignation and is quite normal for Self-Supporting Curates when they complete the requirements of a curacy. I am still working full time, and nothing has changed in that respect, and church life will carry on much the same as it did through Clodagh's absence in 2020. I will continue to provide provision for Sunday services, and I will still take the occasional offices of Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.

My place is to assist the community and assist the Churchwarden through this process, a process that needs to be seen through to the end. I want you all to be assured of continued support and dedication to the parish of St Leonards.

This comes as always with my prayers and thanks for you all.

God bless

James

Who's Who in the Parish Church

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



We are all indebted to James as a church family this past year not only for setting up our WhatsApp group and delivering daily messages and Bible readings and prayers, but for our online worship every Sunday which I know has been a great comfort to many people in

isolation. When we could open church for private prayer James was there as well to offer prayer and comfort to all of us.

Gill Howell
Churchwarden

January Readings

Sunday January 3rd (Epiphany)

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday January 10th

Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday January 17th

Revelation 5:1-10
John 1: 43-end

Sunday 24th January

Revelation 19:6-10
John 2: 1-11

Sunday 31st January

Revelations 12: 1-5
Mark 1: 21-28

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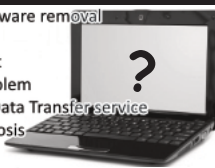
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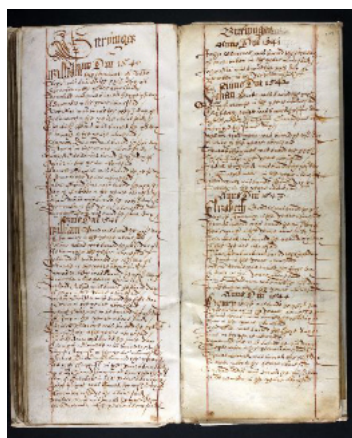
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An Updated Survey of the Village Churchyard

Having been approached on the subject of updating the burial records in the village churchyard, it seemed like a good project to take on board to keep me occupied during lockdown. Little did I know!

I started with an existing spreadsheet compiled some years ago, with around 1000 entries, together with a map which had broken the churchyard down into a number of sectors, to allow headstone allocation and to make it easier to locate any particular one. I also had entries of burials which had been published in the Parish Magazine from 1891 to 1926.

I entered the existing names into my spreadsheet and



then started my research. Although the Church is Norman, the written records I was able to find started in 1540. Where these came from originally I have not been able to ascertain. The first entry was for William (no surname) who was someone's servant. The

earliest burial was that of Alice Gill who was interred on the 27th February of that year. Other names were extracted from Ancestry records. These also include baptisms and marriages if anyone is interested in those - another project perhaps?). All were transferred into the spreadsheet together with a date of burial.

Some of this earlier information is difficult to read because of the quality of the copy and it is in early English script in which the letters can be quite different to those which we use today. An example of an early entry is shown above. I have not verified the entries so that a user is advised to check anything before 1813 for themselves. I had a classic example where someone had interpreted "aforesaid year" as "Year Upporfind", a person!! I also came across an entry simply defined as "woman". I thought that this could not be correct so I went back to check. It turned out to be a person found in a field (in 1727) and no-one can have known her. Someone must have paid for her funeral I guess.

Records became more structured in 1813 with the introduction of the first official burial register. This also includes a detailed description of the church and refers to the Norman font which was removed from the church

to the churchyard in 1775. I have yet to find where this is, assuming that it is still there.

This register runs to 1860. It contains 800 names. Each entry gives the person's name, where they lived, when they were buried, the age and the official who performed the ceremony. Churchwardens from 1763 are also named.

The second register runs up to 1967 and contains 1600 names with the same information. Cremations have been identified as such. The third register covers up to the present day. It has 100 pages with eight names per page and is nearly full. Sometimes the date of decease is also given, as well as the date of burial.

All names for all the registers have now been entered into the spreadsheet, which now runs to over 6000 names. Effectively, with this review I have started from scratch. Cross checking against the original spreadsheet gave some sort of verification. Discrepancies were identified and resolved.

I am now looking at mapping the churchyard (Phase 2). I am using the original allocation to sector, but will change the boundaries a little to relate them to the features there, such as trees.

The aim is to produce another spreadsheet for each sector giving the stones within that sector, row by row. I will cross-reference so that the spreadsheet with the names will also include the sector, by letter, with the headstone. I am someway into this. I am finding some stones with names not in the registers for some reason.

Some stones are also so badly weathered that they are difficult if not impossible to read. I simply log these as illegible, as shown in the photograph.



Continued on page 14

An Updated Survey of the Village Churchyard - Cont'd



So far, the oldest stone I have found, is a tomb for Richard Ockold who was interred in 1689. You can just make out the name in the picture on the left.

Finally, I intend to produce a file of photographs of all stones (Phase 3) which will, once again, be by sector.

Jeff Dawson

Yet Another New Path! - at Prinknash

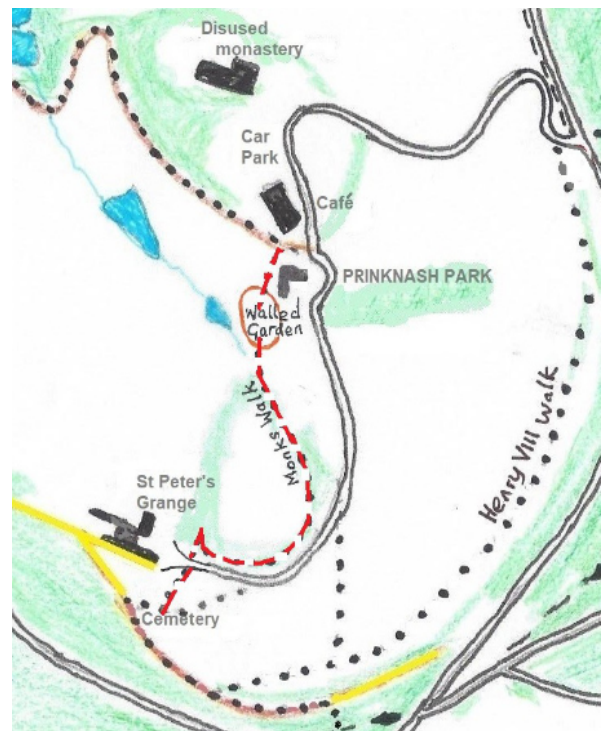
Those magnificent people - the Abbot and Trustees of Prinknash - have made available yet another delightful path for walkers in the grounds.

The new path is shown as a dashed line on the map (the dotted lines are existing paths you can use). This path starts in the Walled Garden and curves through woods all the way to St Peter's Grange. The path is entitled "**The Monks' Walk**" because it had been used by monks to walk between the Grange, the Pottery and the "new" Abbey.

Recently it has been hardly used and looked very unkempt. From the road just before the car park at the Grange you can climb up to the cemetery via a shrine and grotto, to join one of the existing paths.

Huge thanks to the three people who cleared the path to make it usable once again. They are the Abbot himself(!), Sarah Richards, who is a regular volunteer working in the park, and Dave Turner, who works for the estate.

Andy Russell



In search of property, with grazing land

Upton family looking for a 3/4 bedroom property with 1 - 3 acres of grazing, in the Upton/Brookthorpe or surrounding areas. Doer-uppers considered. Looking to sell or exchange our recently-refurbished 4-bedroom bungalow in the village. Would also consider grazing land only, cash budget available.

Please call Emma .

USL Life Arts Page

Let's open the New Year with **HOPE**

The Rainbow by Walter de la Mare

I saw the lovely arch
Of Rainbow span the sky,
The gold sun burning
As the rain swept by.

In bright-ringed solitude
The showery foliage shone
One lovely moment,
And the Bow was gone.

Traditional New Year Carol

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the old year go.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

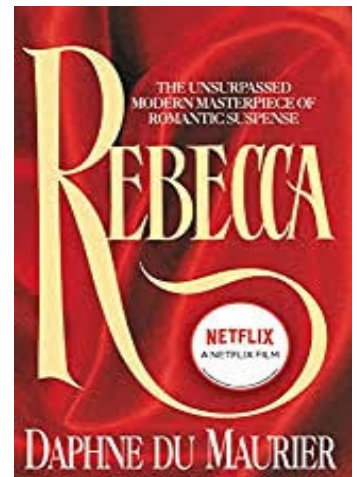
Some thoughts on HOPE

HOPE is, of all our feelings, the strongest. *Anthony Trollope*

HOPE is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all. *Emily Dickinson*

Everything is Going To Be All Right by Derek Mahon (1941 – 2020)

How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The lines flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.



BOOK REVIEW

We return to an old favourite of our Arts Page team for this month's book – **Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier**.

Published in 1938, *Rebecca* is a Gothic novel, incorporating picturesque settings, an atmosphere of mystery and a hint of violence. It concerns an unnamed young woman who impetuously marries a wealthy widower, only to discover that he and his household are haunted by the memory of his first wife, Rebecca. Alfred Hitchcock directed a film of *Rebecca* in 1940 and a remake of the film was launched on Netflix in October 2020.

Feature Article - Prinknash Abbey Update

Since my article about Prinknash Abbey which was printed in the October issue of USL Life some exciting information has been shared with me. Sarah Richards who is part of the extended Prinknash community as an oblate (someone who is specifically dedicated to God & his service) contacted me about a long term restoration project.

The project was initiated by Father Martin McLaughlin who is the Abbot (head of the monks); Sarah is providing assistance along with the help of other volunteers.



Work started back in June with clearing a lot of undergrowth from the orchard alongside the path into the walled garden. The stream now runs

freely into the old bird park and once spring arrives it is hoped wildflowers will appear throughout that orchard for everyone to enjoy.

The monks wish to continue sharing the grounds so new footpaths are being planned allowing everyone to enjoy the beauty of the land so generously given to the monks by Lord Lesley, Earl of Rothes in 1928. Lord Lesley was honouring the wishes of his grandfather, Mr Dyer Edwardes. Mr Edwardes, who became a Catholic in 1924, had arranged to gift Prinknash to the Benedictine Monks the following year but died before this was completed.

Improvements are also being made to the land previously used as a bird park - developing, restoring, and planting this area to give it a cared-for look again. This space may also become the home to a few more



beehives, hopefully increasing the amount of honey available for sale in the shop/cafe. Remember to stop as you're making your way from Upton to Prinknash and take the time to look through the fence and discover for yourself the changes being made.

You might be lucky enough to see volunteers working

on these improvements.

Almost all the work is being done by a group of volunteers who have been working most Friday mornings - though work may have stopped for the winter. The people who are volunteering give their time when they can without pressure and occasionally arrange to work in the gardens at other times. If you feel inspired to offer your time to help give the gardens the care and attention necessary for them to continue bringing pleasure to visitors from near and far, please contact Sarah for more details.

Jane Read



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Regular weekly events are only shown for the first month here

VILLAGE DIARY

JANUARY

Please note, these details are still provisional due to coronavirus

1	Fri	New Year's Day		
3	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
4	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion or Zoom	7.30p.m.
5	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
5	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
5	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
7	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00p.m.
7	Thu	Art Class	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
8	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	9.30a.m.
10	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for February issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
12	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week.		
12	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
12	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
14	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00p.m.
14	Thu	Art Class	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
17	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
18	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
19	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
19	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
19	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
21	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00p.m.
21	Thu	Art Class	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
21	Thu	History Group – Cotswold & Cornish Cream	Village Hall	7.45-9.15p.m.
22	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	9.30a.m.
24	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
25	Mon	Yoga(2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
25	Mon	Lady Downe Trust	Upton St Leonards School	7.30p.m.
26	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
26	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
26	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
28	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00p.m.
28	Thu	Art Class	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
28	Thu	Ramblers	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
29	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	9.30a.m.
31	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.

FEBRUARY

1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion or via zoom	7.30p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

What's on in our local area in January 2021

British Wildlife Photography Awards	Nature in Art	up to 9 Jan
An Evening With The Swans	Slimbridge Wetland Centre	15/16 th & 22/23 rd Jan
Al Murray	Everyman Theatre	7 Feb
Tweedy's Reduced Panto	Everyman Theatre	up to the 3 Jan
Owls Flying By Moonlight	Intl Centre for Birds of Prey, Newent	23 Jan
A Life in Lockdown	Museum of Gloucester	3-31 Jan

St James City Farm Guests at Bowden Hall

We are pleased to include this month an article from **David Miller**, who many of you will know, regarding some very special guests who are staying at Bowden Hall.

Ponies belonging to the St James City Farm and Riding School are now using the paddock in front of the hotel. Based in Tredworth, the British Horse Society approved riding school offers young people, particularly those living in the inner-city, the opportunity to ride and enjoy learning about ponies and their care.



Imran Atcha explains “We have only a limited amount of grazing available for our ponies in Tredworth. We have been looking out for more local grazing for a while. I noticed the area in front of the hotel and on the off chance contacted Gavin Jones, the Manager, who generously said we could use the paddock. Having the paddock is ideal for the ponies’ welfare so that they get time out of the stable and can relax and it will help reduce our expenditure on hay and bedding. We are a charity and securing funding is particularly challenging at the present time.”

The Farm provides a taste of the countryside in the heart of the City. Run with the help of young local volunteers and students, it provides the opportunity for City children to have fun, learn and benefit from interaction with a range of farm animals. Subject to Covid restrictions it is open every day. Everyone is welcome. There is no entry charge.

For more information visit: www.stjamescityfarm.co.uk or <https://www.facebook.com/InnerCityFarmRidingSchool>

Imran Atcha, Coordinator, The Friendship Café - St James City Farm & Riding School , Chequers Bridge Centre, Painswick Rd, Gloucester, GL4 6PR Tel: 01452 - 308127

The Beatles Musical Brain Teaser - Teresa Clarke

How many Beatles songs can you identify in the following?



1. I think I’m addicted to Beatles songs.
2. Hey Jude, your Mother should know that you need help.
3. Maybe you can drive my car to Penny Lane. Take the long and winding road to see
4. Eleanor Rigby, have tea with Julia or lovely Rita.
5. Maybe visit the fool on the hill because here comes the sun.
6. Take Maggie May on a magical mystery tour in a yellow submarine to see the
7. Octopuses garden.
8. Then take a walk through strawberry fields and listen to Sergeant Peppers Lonely
9. Hearts Club Band.
10. After a taste of honey, you could say,” thank you girl”.
11. We can work it out and with a little help from my friends, you can think for yourself.
12. Perhaps become a paper back writer and tell the story of being back in the U.S.S.R

(Answer 24)

Last month we featured the latest edition of the Village Walks Booklet, which incorporates walks for all levels of fitness. After the excesses of Christmas what better way to start the new year by taking a fresh look at the amazing walks right here in our village.

The very popular cafe at Prinknash is open once more and provides a welcome stop for weary walkers!!

Village Walks Booklet

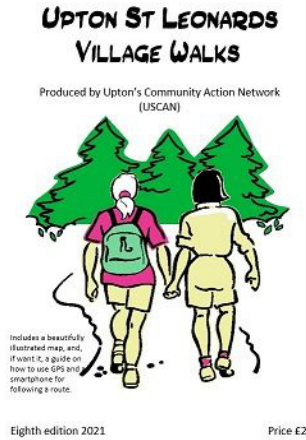
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Hello & Welcome!

Welcome to new residents at Upton Mill, Adrian and Teresa Rozario and good luck to John and Lesley Hemming, who are moving along to Bondend Road, from Upton Mill.

Thank You!

Our thanks go to Wendy Metcalfe who generously donated the Prizes for the Christmas front cover.

Next month we are delighted to have a guest editor

Millie Barnes

You can send any contributions directly to her

Or in the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page

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A Selection of Advent Windows from 2020

First and foremost a sincere thank you to Karen Morris for organising this event, which in 2020, gained more interested parties than there were days in the month! Thank you too, to all those that entered into the spirit of friendship and community – it is what makes Upton such a special place to live.

