

Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 71

July 2020



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Village we say a huge thank you to our Village Store and Portway Farm Shop for their incredible and vital service to us during lockdown.

Readers: please, when the crisis is over, remember how important these businesses are to the community. Use them regularly to protect their viability and sustainability.

In this month's newsletter

- There are a number of articles on the outdoors, and the joys that the countryside near us bring. Wildflowers have been magnificent this year, and the cover picture is of the oh so pretty Birdsfoot Trefoil (which has been super abundant in early June) - the picture actually taken (with permission) in Mark & Julie Watson's garden.

Also

- Twyver WI "met" over the internet, and the Gloucestershire WI leader urges more WI members (and others) still unused to the internet to have a go.
- Willie Lonie's 90th Birthday
- Mike and Marilyn Bannister's Ruby Wedding
- Some sporting activities restarting
- Some access to the Church

USL Support

HELPLINE No: 07930 821108

The Helpline is still there if you need it. Since the end of April the number of callers to the Helpline has dropped down to less than one per day, but even though there are only a few, each call has been a call for some help, which has been answered, and the Helpline will remain as an extremely important part of Village life for some time yet. We may make some minor changes, for example maybe leave the phone un-manned for an hour or two occasionally, using the voicemail to record requests.

KEEP SAFE

Do continue to use the phone where you can for shopping. Deliveries will be arranged.

The Village Shop - Call 618189

Portway Farm Shop - Call 613255

The Cakery - Call 07570 765578

Morrisons - Call 0345 611 6111 and select option 5

KEEP INFORMED

There is often very up-to-date information on the Facebook pages of the Village Store, the Farm Shop, the School, the Church, and there is now a Facebook page for Upton St Leonards Community. This could be the best place to look to learn about activities starting up as the lock-down eases.

Easing lock-down

We have tried to put in any last minute news about easing lock-down, but the situation is changing very fast, and there will inevitably have been announcements since we went to print.

At the time of writing this the news is that July will bring opening of some sort at the BMI, The King's Head, Hatton Court and Bowden Hall, and more access to the Church.

Speaking to the many pensioners in the Village - incomes have hardly been affected by the crisis, in stark contrast to those in work, and businesses. When the Prime Minister speaks of going out and spending to get the economy roaring back, we are best placed to do that locally - let's get out, where we can, to businesses re-opening. Go out for a drink and a meal, particularly to the nearby places mentioned above.

The Lady Downe Trust

COVID-19

If you are a resident of Upton St Leonards Parish or some neighbouring areas and are experiencing financial hardship due to the virus emergency (maybe waiting for Government Assistance Scheme, Universal Credit, etc), The Lady Downe Trust may be able to help you with limited financial relief.

To apply for a grant (the scheme is open only until 10 July) please complete an application form which you can request from ladydowne@btinternet.com, complete and return it by email or post to the Clerk: Mrs E. J. McGrory, The Coach House, Well Close, Cooper's Hill, Glos GL3 4RZ.

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Letters to the Editor

From Keith Pearson



The Thursday evening appreciation group in Bondend went a little further than clapping hands, thanks to Peter Hewitt with his family and their Taiko Japanese drums (pictured here and on the back page of last month's issue), and John Ross with his bagpipes. It was truly a community event. It was agreed that a collection in the last couple of weeks would be made for the Gloucester Hospital. Thanks are to be extended to all those who contributed and raised the sum of £258 as a way of showing our appreciation for all the sterling work done by all those tasked with treating Covid-19 patients at our local hospital.

From a resident

Bonfires: Despite the articles in this newsletter and warnings from Stroud District Council, there have been bonfires lit with little regard to others. Some people just don't seem to be getting the message. Lovely sunny still hot day . . . let's have a huge bonfire and burn all of the green waste and smoke out the neighbours! Some seem to think that if they burn at the end of their garden it's OK. But the end of their garden is likely to be a footpath or road or another person's garden.

It can be really unpleasant.

From Julia Coles

Some advice from Julia on stone cutting. Julia was formerly with the City Council, working on safety legislation. She asks:

Can residents be advised on the hazards of dry-stone cutting, without using a dampening down of water? Apart from the nuisance during this time of year, on a warm sunny day, most people will be throwing open

their windows and enjoying the fresh air, and probably hanging out washing, and really just enjoying their gardens.

I fully understand the need to lay patios, or any other work, but I wonder if people are aware of the legislation regarding dry-stone cutting in a residential area? Cutting concrete slabs and bricks creates a fine silica dust, which, if you inhale enough of it, sits in your lungs forever, and is known to cause COPD. It can also be absorbed through the skin. It's a hazard to you and to anyone nearby. You are advised to use a water suppression attachment and/or on-tool extraction device and to wear respiratory protection equipment.

From Trevor Hall

A tribute to the "workers"

Not all of your readers will know about the men and women who give, voluntarily, so much of their time, labour and talents to keep this Village the pleasant place it is.

Quite a lot of this work happens on a regular basis without fuss and almost unnoticed, until we see the wonderful results. The footpaths group going out on Tuesday mornings; the churchyard gang working there two or three times a week. Even less visible, but we'd soon see if they weren't doing it, are individuals who just take it upon themselves to pick up litter.

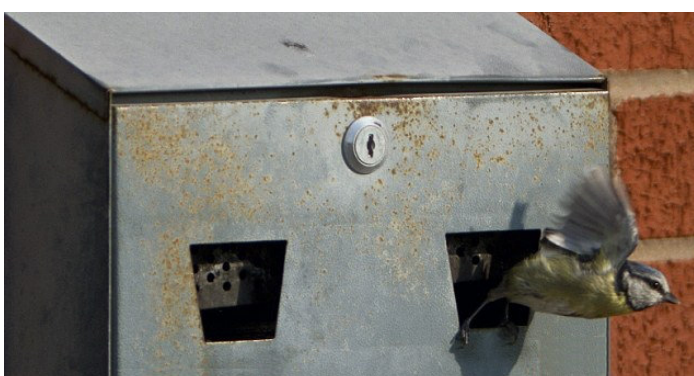
Thanks, all of you, whoever you are. I don't even know many of the names, so to name only those I could would be unfair.

I also want to thank the Parish Council for the new signs in Upton Lane and Birchall Lane welcoming people to the Village.

From Lesley Ilott

I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to the USL Life team who have successfully produced an interesting, informative and entertaining magazine throughout the lock-down! You've been amazing!!

Despite the lack of village activities and news, you've managed to bring us a great magazine, involving and uniting us all at a very difficult time!



Blue tits at the Pavilion

For something like the sixth consecutive year, blue tits have used the cigarette bin at the Pavilion for a nest. I can't persuade them to use the 'proper' nest box I mounted nearby! This year, unfortunately, the tits didn't breed successfully - no eggs at all. In previous years they have produced healthy young ones.

Andy Russell

You might be interested in the letter below, sent to WI members by the Gloucestershire Chair, Janice Cole. It's about **getting used to IT, and the usefulness of facilities such as Zoom***

Dear Members

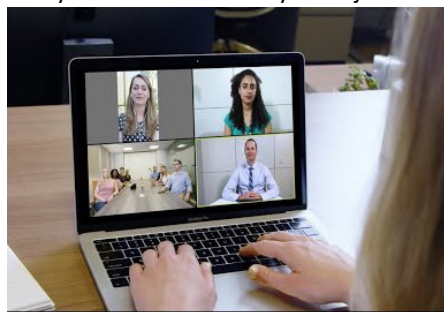
Lockdown has now run for three months and we are beginning to see some easing. But with social distancing still at 2 metres it is still difficult to plan. The virus has made major changes to our everyday lives and some of them will be with us for some time. Mary Portas is convinced it will be a better world with less surplus and more focus on the local shops etc. I hope she is correct. One thing I do not think will change much is a reliance on technology.

I am very concerned as I know many of you are resistant to embracing it to any degree, some not at all others only partially. My concern is that you will be left out of so many things and will feel marginalised. I wish I could say I will be proved wrong but I fear not. Please consider rethinking and join the internet generation. It can be great fun and is a wonderful way of keeping in touch with friends and family. Speak to any youngsters you know and ask for their help, get them to show you some of what is possible.

I have made use of the internet now for 30 plus years, when the BBC computer was in schools and we had to do our own programming! I continue to find new things to do and enjoy, programming is long gone. My smart phone is always at

hand and I go online every day.

We are looking at different things we can offer members at this time and nearly always the word Zoom crops up. To some it sends shivers down the spine, mostly when linked with the word meeting. But a lecture like the one on the fashion of Jane Austen's day are what we have in mind (your secretary should have the details for you). This will be no different to watching a programme on television or a video, but there is a chance to ask questions. To reassure you – you do not have to download Zoom or subscribe to Zoom. When you get your ticket or invitation to partake in an email simply on the day, about 5 or less minutes prior to the time, click on the link in the email and your host will invite you to join. You



do not have to use the video link so no one will see you nor do you have to speak unless you choose to un-mute yourself. The host will help if you have

any problems. It is so easy and can be great fun if you use it to chat with friends or, as I do, for example play mahjong with others.

Please give the new technology a try, I think you may enjoy it far more than you imagine. I went round the V and A museum Kimono exhibition yesterday, having missed it due to lockdown. It was nearly as good as being there in person, and all for free. There are a lot of members online - perhaps you can set up some digital help groups. We hope to do something on those lines from WI house when we are able.

To clarify one point, we are making a small charge of £4 for the lecture and will do similar for others and workshops in the future as there is a cost for us to put things on, but it is cheaper than using a hall and you have no transport costs!

I hope to hear that some of you have decided to move forward on this, it has proved a boon for many in care homes even those of a 100, age is no barrier.

Take care, keep well and safe.

Janice Cole

*Zoom is just one of the "apps" you can use for voice and camera discussions etc. Others include Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp - there are lots!

A new defibrillator

We now have a second defibrillator in the Village. This one is at the Pavilion, pictured. The first is at the Village Hall, and will soon be moved into the old telephone kiosk there (where the telephone has already been removed, and the kiosk has been handed over to the Parish Council).

Defibrillators can be life savers. Though it sounds daunting, anyone can use them, not just trained First Aiders, though the Parish Council has and will continue to make training available in their use. When opened, the defibrillator talks you through exactly what to do.



Landfill and recycling sites - are OPEN

In case you weren't aware, all the County recycling sites are open for business. But you have to book a time to visit and people without bookings are turned away. Booking is only available on-line (so ask a friend or neighbour to make a booking for you if you are not an internet user). This is the web page (or find it through a search engine): <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/household-recycling-centres-hrcs/car-and-van-bookings-for-hrc-visits/> Slots seem to be available about two weeks in advance at the moment, but booking is very simple.

Items from Parish Magazines 1925/26



October 1925: The Flower Show was held at Bowden Hall on August 6th. The entries were over 520. Mr J E Head won the prize for gaining the the highest number of points in the show. The show unfortunately lost £6 16s 9d.

The Women's Institute had a talk from Mrs Earp from London entitled Health in the home. "Food should be well cooked and kept clean, free from flies and dust and everyone should drink more water." Mrs Gurden kindly acted as hostess for the tea.

Bookings for The Village Hall in November 1925

Mondays Men's Club
Tuesdays Young Men's Club
Wednesday Girl's Club
Thursdays Mothers' Meeting
Fridays Young Men's Club
Thursday November 5th A concert by The Rural Community Council
Thursday November 12th Whist Drive

In order to help the Parish Magazine to pay its way the Church Council decided that next year its price shall be raised from three half pence to two pence. This means that the extra cost for the year will be six pence, but if anyone cannot afford to do so they can continue to have it at three half pence.

Football: Upton played Williams & James, Upton 10 goals Williams & James 1 goal. W and H Whitney, J Farmer and E Cruse scored for Upton.

Does this next report sound familiar?
A public meeting in connection with the Upton and Matson Flower Show will be held in the Village Hall on Monday February 15th 1926. The meeting will be asked to decide if a show should be held this year. It is hoped some younger people of the village will come forward and take the responsible offices on the committee.

And how about this for relevance?

March 1926

The School is at present going through a bad epidemic of measles which with other illness is seriously depleting the attendance and making good work impossible. It is hoped that when this condition is over parents will see that there is not a single case of bad attendance for a long time, so that the teachers may have a chance to make good the lost ground. Education is too precious an asset to be lightly regarded.

April 1926

Unfortunately the Parish Magazine recorded these deaths due to measles:

The sad death of Cavell Apperley, nine years old, has come as a great shock, following as it does so quickly upon the death of the baby in the same family.

From the burial records: The baby was Gladys Isabel Apperley aged 2, died on 10th April. Cavell died on 22nd April. A very sad time for one Upton family.

April 1925: a very brave young lady at school.

Recently the School Dentist paid a visit and the parents are to be congratulated upon the large percentage of eligibles that consented to treatment. One plucky little girl went in, had four extractions and immediately went to her place and took up her pen and went on with her work.

Poor girl! Four extractions and no pain relief was mentioned.

Out of interest the Parish Magazine in 1925/26 was printed by H Osborne, Printer, St Mary's Square, Gloucester.

Mike Stratford

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Celebrating the NHS

July 5 is the anniversary of the date, 72 years ago, of the official launch of the National Health Service. The NHS has been so much in the news in the past few months that we felt we could mark the birthday with a small tribute of our own, in the form of a poem written by Michael Rosen for the 60th anniversary, twelve years ago.

These are the hands

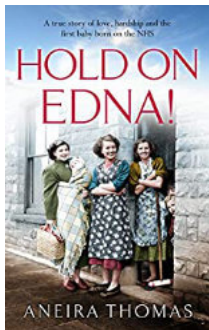
These are the hands
That touch us first
Feel your head
Find the pulse
And make your bed.

These are the hands
That tap your back
Test the skin
Hold your arm
Wheel the bin
Change the bulb
Fix the drip
Pour the jug
Replace your hip.

These are the hands
That fill the bath
Mop the floor
Flick the switch
Soothe the sore
Burn the swabs
Give us a jab
Throw out sharps
Design the lab.

And these are the hands
That stop the leaks
Empty the pan
Wipe the pipes
Carry the can
Clamp the veins
Make the cast
Log the dose
And touch us last.

(© Michael Rosen, printed by permission of United Agents on behalf of Michael Rosen)



“Hold on Edna” is a book, published this year, written by Aneira Thomas, who was the very first NHS baby. Fittingly born in South Wales, she was named after Aneurin (Nye) Bevan, the founder of the NHS. One of our readers has recommended this book saying she found it “unputdownable”! It is a memoir which is a deeply personal, richly researched and incredibly timely tribute to Britain's commitment to provide free and equal healthcare to all.



THANK YOU
HEALTH CARE WORKERS



There are quite a few people in our Village who depend on daily visits from care workers.

Let's remember to thank them, when we get the chance. Just say thanks, maybe with a flower or a piece of cake?

A Perry Orchard resident actually met Nye Bevan, the NHS founder. She writes:

“I was a schoolgirl at Bargoed Grammar School. My great uncle Morgan Jones had been the MP for the Rhymney Valley and the family was friendly with Nye Bevan, who was the MP for Ebbw Vale. It was through this connection that, one morning in 1941, he came to speak to us at our morning assembly. He was a big man and I noticed especially his very large hands. He talked to us about his work in the Welsh valleys.

The visit made such a great impression on me that I have never forgotten it.”

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TWYVER WI

We've completed our first, and I'd say very successful, Twyver WI Zoom meeting of the lockdown, our first since we last saw each other in March.

A big thank you to all the members who joined in from the comfort of their homes and especially to Millie Barnes for organising it using her zoom details and links to make this possible for us all.

Seeing each other again was so precious, to welcome members in with a wave and a smile and a jolly 'hello' was uplifting in these difficult times.

Quotes from some members.....

- "Talking to someone outside of my family unit . . . it's just what I needed".
- "Missing my family, especially the hugs"
- "Mastering online shopping has been a first for me!"
- "I like the slower pace of life"
- "Mask and gloves on in the supermarket"
- "Being at home 24/7 with husband..!!!"
- "Learning curve being together!"
- "Watching the frogs and newts in my pond"
- "Having online deliveries"
- "Daily walks are helping"
- "I've been over anxious and in tears"
- "I'm not watching the daily government briefings now, as it made me anxious"

"Exercising and being outside in my garden has helped me"

"The weather has been a godsend and made it more bearable to be at home all this time"

"Haven't got a car at the moment and I'm walking 1.7 miles to do my shopping, great exercise!"

"Garden centre queuing"

"Zoom coffee mornings with friends"

I too can relate to the above, having kept my distance from everyone else for weeks on end while shielding my mum.

So with that in mind we happily agreed to do it again. For those of you who would like to meet up on Zoom before that then contact me or Val and we will see what we can do to make it happen.

Stay safe, stay alert and take your time doing what you can and at your own pace. Above all.....Be kind to yourself.

Millie gave us some great advice with

1. Exercising
2. Taking care of ourselves
3. If not already doing so, taking Vitamin D3 & Vitamin C supplements daily to boost the immune system (as we fall into the older age category).

Love to all

Monica Grey




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Arts Page

This month we hope to distract you with poetry reflecting holiday destinations unvisited due to the Lockdown. Let's hope that we can soon begin to plan future journeys.

JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN by John Mason Neale (1850)

Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest,
Beneath thy contemplation
Sink heart and voice oppressed:
I know not, O I know not,
What social joys are there!
What radiancy of glory,
What light beyond compare!

THE ISLES OF GREECE by Lord Byron (1819)

The Isles of Greece! the isles of Greece,
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace,
Where Delos rose, and Phoebus sprung!
Eternal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set.

SKYE by Mark O Goodwin (2009)

Skye: I'm back again;
couldn't resist your wide horizon smiles
and the jewellery of your whitewashed houses
gummed to the summer-green glens and your sensuous coastal
fringes.

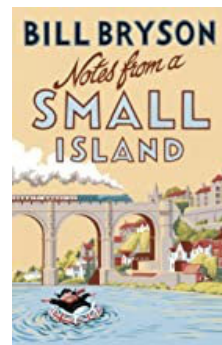
Skye, I'm talking to you, can you hear me?
Only, you seem to be turning your back on me.
Sometimes you stare at me with your compound thistle eyes,
like some deadly insect, which scares me silly like leaning
over a cliff edge.

Skye, are we falling out, or is it that we are spending
too long in each other's company . . .
Tha thug am chur as mo chiall. You're driving me nuts.
Skye, are you clouding over again?
It cost me £14.70 to get here
and I seem to have had this conversation some place else before.
Will it rain again? Will it keep on raining? Will it ever stop?
Are the midges coming?
Will we ever get home together again?

Skye, I feel you have a single-track mind with no place to reverse:
We're a battleground of passing places.
You see, I try and make sense of you, understand your cultural
sensitivities,
but forgive me, I'm a slow learner.
Eh! I was brought up in England,
fed on greed and nostalgic spoonfuls of Empire,
and now my feet keep sinking into your bogs.

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Book Review



This month we recommend **Notes from a Small Island** by Bill Bryson, published in 1995. It seems like a good opportunity to get to know our own country better whilst overseas travel is not recommended or even possible. Bill Bryson is an American who had lived

and worked in Great Britain for 20 years from 1973. Before returning to his native United States he decided to take one final trip around this country. He succeeded in travelling to all corners of the island using only public transport, except for two occasions when he had to hire a car. He provides historical information on the places he visits, and expresses amazement at the heritage in Britain, stating that in one village in the Yorkshire Dales there were more 17th Century buildings than in the whole of North America. He also records various peculiarities of the British people and our language. This is a pleasant, gentle read which will make you smile. It is considered by some (Radio 4 listeners) as the book which best represents England.

Bill Bryson moved back to the UK in 2005 and has lived here ever since.

This month, in place of anecdotes, we offer the start of an ABC of United Kingdom places with descriptions from literature, song or tradition. How far can you get? (That's one of the puzzles this month, see page 15)

Aberdeen – The Granite City
Birmingham – City of a Thousand Trades
Cirencester – Capital of the Cotswolds

Devon - Glorious Devon
Edinburgh – Auld Reekie
Nottingham – The Queen of the Midlands
Oxford – The City of Gleaming Spires
Plymouth – Ocean City
Somerset – Whee the Zoider Apples Grow
Torquay – The English Riviera



St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Priest in Charge: Rev Clodagh Ingram



Rev James Turk writes This July marks the 3rd year of my curacy in St Leonards. It is also the final year of my curacy in St Leonards, but, as with most things in the church, the transition to finishing a post and starting another one is not a quick process. I am not leaving just yet and, as with most curates, my curacy will go into a fourth year as I wait and discern where God may be calling my family and myself to serve in the future.

It has been an incredible 3 years of ministry and personal growth for me. I am not a diarist, but I do keep a journal, and this is something I have done since my time at college prior to being ordained. As priests in training we were encouraged to write down and reflect upon the things that interested us regarding matters of faith and anything that was personally significant regarding our theological and ministerial training. Recently I was looking back over through the journal I started when I began my curacy at St Leonards, and the first 3 entries from July 2017, really struck me.

In an entry dated from my first Sunday as curate in St Leonards, the day after my ordination at Gloucester Cathedral, I wrote about how it felt that first morning in St Leonards church. How I was equally excited and overwhelmed by the weight of it all. But I also wrote of a sense of 'togetherness' and community. But only 6 days later I wrote about feeling inadequate, and that the sense of being overwhelmed was taking over from any sense of being excited and hopeful about the future. I had reflected on the passage from Matthew 9:35 "... the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few". Just a day later I wrote an entry that described a complete transformation! I wrote how God had reminded me that day that he was in control, that I needed to stop fretting about how things would work out. That 3rd entry was written on a Sunday, my second Sunday at St Leonards, during that week I had gone through all the emotions.

Looking back I see God's blessing on myself, my family and the worshipping community at St Leonards. But just looking through the journal I started on that first Sunday tells me that being blessed does not mean life is easy. Reading again through the pages of my journal I see there have been moments of deep joy, but also deep sorrow, moments of peace, but equally moments of frustration. Being here right now 3 years later I can reflect and say that God is God and he works all things, including our life, according to his purposes. Nothing can happen without God ordaining it.

A curacy is a training post, and If I have learnt anything these past 3 years it is that God is in control. The psalmist in the Bible tells us. -:

"I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfils his purpose for me." (Psalm 57:2)

The promise of the Christian faith is that God will fulfil every purpose he has for us. However, the Christian faith is an invitation, one we can choose to ignore or one we can choose to accept. The fact that God has a purpose for us is a mystery we cannot fully understand, but that does not mean it is not true. Mystery, in the biblical and faith tradition, does not mean riddle, but rather something we begin to grasp in our relationship with God, with each other and in our faith. It has been said that mystery is not a wall to run up against, but an ocean in which to swim.

My 3 years of ministry in St Leonards is not a long time, but it has been a significant time, for me and for Sarah and the boys. We have learnt that not only does God have an amazing plan for us and our life, but that he has an amazing purpose for all our lives. A purpose that is far greater than our own personal fulfilment or peace of mind or even happiness. Focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life's purpose. To find our purpose we focus instead on God. The bible tells us that God has always used people like you and me to work his purpose out in the world. And we can be sure that God is still looking for people to use today. Will you be one of those people?

James



Curate: Rev James Turk

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk



Operation Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse Shoe boxes

What is it?

Operation Christmas Child is organised by the Samaritan's Purse international relief charity. Lots of churches and ordinary members of the public, get involved in filling shoe boxes with small presents for children. These are dispatched to parts of the world where poverty means that children get no presents at Christmas or any other time.



If there is anyone who enjoys knitting, sewing or crocheting, there are many different items that can be added to the shoe boxes. We always need hats & gloves, draw-string bags – we try to add these to every box if possible. There are plenty of patterns for pencil cases, little bags, purses, puppets etc. During this difficult time, if anyone feels able to help in this practical way, it would be very much appreciated. A Christmas Card in each box is always something else we try to do.



Last year, I had my first sponsored box and the lady was delighted with it. I will fill a box for you and bring it to show you for the cost of £15, plus £5 towards the transport. Some people find this easier than trying to get the different items for the shoe box.

If you would like more information about how you can help, or would simply like to fill a shoe box or make a donation towards the cost of the transport for the boxes, please contact me. jennycunningham46@googlemail.com or phone (01452-615858). Thank you.

Jenny

The items pictured on the left were beautifully made by Nan Jones

Do you know about the Parish Giving Scheme?

If you normally give to St Leonard's through the collection plate at Sunday services, you may like to consider switching to the Parish Giving Scheme.

Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis by Direct Debit.

There are two ways to set up a donation.

BY PHONE: Call 0333 002 1271
Gloucester Diocese giving scheme

You will need to give your bank account details, the name of our church,
St Leonard's, Upton St Leonard's, Gloucestershire and quote the Parish reference code UPTO.

or alternatively

COMPLETE A FORM

A form can be obtained from Andy Russell
Further information is available at <https://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk>

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

This wonderful bench was originally and kindly given to us by Josh Innes. (Jenny Innes son) Then Jeff Davis generously volunteered to replace and treat the sagging wooden slats and this is the end result which is amazing. We are very grateful for his time and expertise and it will soon be put in the Garden of Remembrance which is looking so much better these days. Thank you to all those involved.



Tower Floodlighting

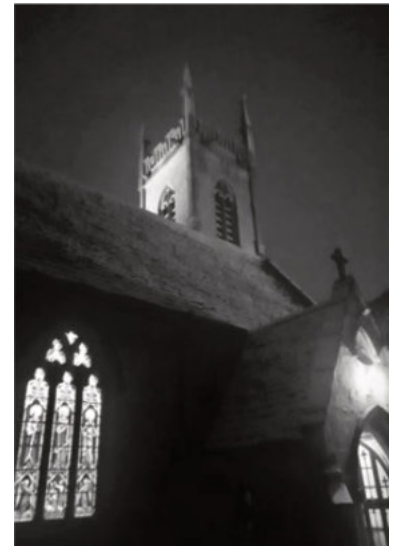
2020

On the 19th July, the Tower is lit in loving memory of Chantelle (23 today). With love from all the family.

"Blake's 7" Clive and Julie Winstanley are sponsoring the Tower Lights on 22nd July in celebration of their dear grandson Blake's 7th birthday.

He shares his special day with Prince George!"

The Tower Lights are lit on the 29th July in memory of Liz Brownhill, who would have celebrated her 100th birthday on this day. With love from a friend



If you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday/anniversary/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 10th of the preceding month.

Readings for July

Sunday 5 th July	Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11:16-29, 25 -end
Sunday 12 th July	Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Sunday 19 th July	Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
Sunday 26 th July	Romans 8:26-end Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Limited Church Re-opening

Easing of restrictions on access to the church is being launched at the time of going to print. Details may have changed by the time you read this, but at present we are intending to re-open the church for a limited time on Sundays. This will not be for a usual service but for private prayer only, during the hours of 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, observing social distancing, and will be supervised at all times. We have been asked not to supply prayer books or bibles but you are, of course, welcome to bring your own.

Further updates on Government and Diocesan guidelines will be put on the noticeboards.

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest in Charge

Rev Clodagh Ingram

Safeguarding

Dorothy Cox

Curate:

Rev. James Turk

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Vacancy

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Claire Appleyard

PCC Secretary: - Sarah Kent

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

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Willie Lonie's 90th

A surprise party was organised by Willie's friends and neighbours.

Willie writes:

THANK YOU ALL!

There are some dates in your life that are unforgettable, and one of those occasions happened to me last week on my 90th birthday.

Unexpectedly, a large number of villagers turned up outside my house – in strict compliance with Covid-19 regulations of course – to bring gifts and sing 'Happy Birthday' to me, not just once but 3 times!

It really touched my heartstrings.

I must express my sincere thanks to you all, for not only making that a memorable day but also for each and every day of the last half century since Margaret and I chose to settle here & make happy memories for our family.

I have travelled far around the world in my life and experienced the extremes of countless lifestyles in the process. I can assure you that there is nowhere that comes close to giving the security, love and contentment that exists here in Upton.

So again, let me say a big Thank You for allowing me to be part of this village.



Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Mike and Marilyn Bannister



Warmest congratulations to Marilyn and Mike Bannister on the occasion of their Ruby (40th) Wedding Anniversary on 7 June.

These two lovely people really get stuck in when it comes to playing a part in the community. Marilyn has been on the Village Hall Social Committee for a long time, organising the Spring Show and Bonfire Night, helping to run the Upton Show, and raising funds with the Gnome Hunts.

Their most recent venture has been the very popular Monday Coffee Club. They act as welcoming hosts, ensuring Birthdays and Special occasions are celebrated and everyone is made welcome and feels a valued member of the Coffee Club Family. Even in lockdown they ensure the coffee club members are supported with phone calls. Their service to village life and community is a credit to them both and a great example to the younger generation. We, their friends, take this opportunity to say Thank You. We appreciate everything you have done and continue to do in Upton. Happy Ruby Anniversary.

Millie Barnes and others

Freecycle



This table measures 105cm length x 45cm width x 45cm height, and has one or two ring marks on the surface. Free to a good home.
Contact Pam

2 Table Lamps. Brass effect stems. Shades 15cm high, 19cm diameter, need recovering. Overall height of lamps 34cms. Contact - Philip



Local Sports

Early June's slight lifting of lockdown allowed up to 6 people, still socially distancing, to take part in sporting activities. The Tennis, Cricket and Petanque Clubs, at least, have started to make their facilities available to their members, as a visit to the Recreation Ground will often prove. These clubs are also allowed to make use of the Pavilion toilets, under fairly strict controls. In each case, for these sports, their national governing body has also laid down controls for how participants can practise and play safely.

It is great to see the cricket nets and square, the tennis courts and the petanque piste back in use, and people exercising in this way



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GETTING ON LINE

In her letter, reprinted on page 4, Janice Cole, the Chair of the Gloucester Federation of Women's Institutes, asserts that a result of the crisis will be that more and more services are offered on-line. Sometimes this could be the only way to get a service. You can see an example of that lower down on page 4, where you can read that to get access to the Council Tips *you have to book on line*. This will further dis-enfranchise a range of people who don't have on-line access. Hadwen Medical Practice has just started to use the "eConsult" on-line system, and those unable to, or reluctant to use it could feel at a disadvantage.



This trend will continue.

In the Village we do have our **Phone and Computer Clinic**, and we can try to plan seminars based around simply getting on line in the first place. Or you can just give one of us a call.

Richard West Jane Reed Andy Russell

PUZZLES - TWO THIS MONTH

The first is from page 8. Your task is to try to complete (or make one all of your own) the ABC of locations in Britain, with descriptions found in literature, song or tradition for each place. The Arts Page team would like to see your attempt, so put it in the Village Hall postbox or use the USL Life "Contact Us" message from the website.

The second picks up the footpaths theme of the following pages: Here are ten anagrams of Village and nearby places you can walk to. Can you unscramble them all?

SEE A RED PACK	A CON IN SWIPE BACK	YELLS IN TATTLE	TIN HULL	CULL HID
SILL KEITH	SHARK PINN	CANDLE SET	WITCH ROUTLEY	TRY DANIEL

Answers to last month's puzzle.

You were asked to find words matching the definitions using only letters from CHERRY BLOSSOM:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 Shut | Close | 7 First stage of a baby | Embryo |
| 2 He's in Picadilly | Eros | 8 Cheerful | Merry |
| 3 Heath | Moor | 9 Elk | Moose |
| 4 Blackthorn fruit | Sloe | 10 Code | Morse |
| 5 Sainly | Holy | 11 Tramp | Hobo |
| 6 Legend | Lore | 12 Brownly yellow colour | Ochre |

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We are situated on Upton Hill in Upton St Leonards. Grove Court is 100 yards past the Kings Head Pub on the right hand side. Collection service available.

Village Diary

Still, of course, few events to announce in the diary

JULY

Tue	7	Recycling & Food waste week
Fri	10	Copy day for August issue of USL Life
Tue	14	Rubbish & Food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins
Tue	21	Recycling & Food waste week
Wed	22	Healthy Living Forum (Pavilion or Zoom meeting) 7pm
Tue	28	Rubbish & Food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins

Lockdown easing

Organisations will be tentatively planning re-opening. At the time of going to press we have no detail, e.g. about limited opening at the BMI and elsewhere. For quick dissemination, you could use relevant Facebook pages, particularly the USL Community Page. To get things advertised in the magazine and the Village Diary, contact Paula Quinn

Walking & Footpaths

An obvious effect of the lockdown has been the very large increase in numbers of people walking. Lovely to see, and very good for your health. It's been most helpful, of course, that the weather has been so good. And people are not just walking on the roads round the Village, but they have been exploring, often for the first time, or re-visiting, the extensive network of public footpaths nearby. Speaking for myself, I would normally walk all the paths at least once a year as part of my work in the USCAN footpaths team. Since lockdown I have walked every path about every two weeks.

I strongly recommend that you take a map with you, or at least look at one before you go out, so you can be sure where the paths are (and keep to them, see the box below). If you can, get an Ordnance Survey map at the scale 1:25,000, that's about 2½ inches to the mile in old money, because that shows lots of detail useful at walking pace, and individual field boundaries. And there are plenty of maps of this scale online - you can print just the



section you need. Nowadays, of course, you can use mobile phone apps to pinpoint your position.

Plan your own route, or use the routes suggested in the USCAN booklet, which has the maps you will need (available from me) or those Stewart Tedaldi is writing up on the Nutty Badgers web site (search for Nutty Badgers). There are easy routes without stiles or hills, as well as tougher ones.

If you lose your way on one of these walks, let me know, because it possibly means the sign posts the USCAN footpath group puts up are insufficient. We know the paths so well that we fail to recognise poor signage! Similarly, if you spot a problem, e.g. a broken stile, or undergrowth or a fallen branch or tree, let me know.

Andy Russell



Keep to the path

It's great that we have so many public rights of way over fields. But please - KEEP TO THE PATH. The fields you are walking through are there for someone's livelihood, not your recreation. Know where the path goes and stick to it. Farmers have to put up with the intrusion, but it is their grass or other crop you are trampling. I know of one field where the owner wanted to put sheep, but people just wandered anywhere they felt like in the field. There was dog mess and trampled grass everywhere, and the

farmer felt it was too much of a risk to put his sheep in there. That was a tangible large cost to him that he shouldn't have had to bear.

Places that suffer the most from this seem to be the field between the Perry Orchard allotments and High Street (the only path is against the Perry Orchard houses) and the first large field on the M5 end of the route that borders the Coopers Edge estate, where one path, well marked, is straight across the middle, and the other, also well marked, goes round two edges, down the old track.

Upton's Fields

This month's feature article is written by Christina Caldwell

One of the blessings of living in Upton is that for most of us the fields are no more than 10 minutes walk away. Much as I enjoy exercise, my taking to the fields is about belonging to a locality because I feel as much at home in open spaces as I do in houses.

Mostly I'm out early before the 'To Do' list invades my thinking. I like to feel the morning air in my lungs and on my skin and see the sky above my head and feel the earth beneath my feet, nothing I can own but the pleasure of being in it. These last months have been particularly memorable because of the fine weather and without traffic, the birdsong is a continuous choral event in Lockdown Britain.

There are things we will never see unless we walk to them. I find dilapidated places the most engaging: ancient walls and hedges, an old gate, its latch long gone, only functional because a length of rope is binding it to a post. I wonder who put them there and who stood here wondering about builders of walls and shelter for animals and the making of gates and hedges. I can see that for some these things are worth no more than a backward glance but every now and then the appearance of a delicate yellow primrose or an anemone or a glorious wild Iris where they don't belong will surprise and delight me. These are humble scenes so the intrusive thought of 'taking a pic' doesn't occur and wonder abounds keeping a memory of 'now'. There's entertainment here as well for who couldn't smile when spotting rabbits hop around a field of swaying buttercup loveliness in late Spring and I know that these same fields will be full of thistles in a couple of months. Every now and then a 'stop and stare' moment happens; recently I watched a flock of sparrows performing an air-ballet as I walked in the field just there behind the Perry Orchard allotments. The week before I had seen a baby fox there and wondered if there was a whole family living in the wilder parts.



Each month has its own scents and surprises. Elderflower, with its heady fragrance is now in most of our fields in this hottest of springs. Once in Valley Lane I came across a distressed wing-damaged baby owl and hurried by, not wanting to increase the distress; now when I pass that spot I recall the little wounded owl and wonder if it survived.

Change happens continuously and most of the early Spring blossom has disappeared already and the flowers of blackberry are beginning to form. Mistletoe balls disappear as the trees are greening only to reappear in late autumn when leaves fall to declare another year is coming to an end and the time to take the family into the fields at Christmas and see who can count the most mistletoe balls but mainly to introduce the children to the wonder of wild places.



Isolation Walk to Piccadilly Wood

Some ten years ago, the USCAN Footpath Group improved and refurbished a little used public footpath to Piccadilly Wood. This lies on the Cotswold edge above the lane from Sneedhams Green to Brookthorpe. Details of the walk were published at that time in the Parish Magazine and we duly explored the route then. During the lock-down, we decided to revisit the walk, knowing that we were unlikely to meet any other walkers on this somewhat hidden way. Taking the footpath out of the village, under the Painswick Road motorway bridge we walked through the Winnycroft Farm fields to Snow Capel Farm, passing the ancient moat on the way. Then back across the motorway, we took the footpath towards the rifle range and



across to Range Farm, where inquisitive horses peeped through stable doors as we passed by. The sloping field behind the farm was criss-crossed with a barrier of electric fences, with no dedicated route for ramblers*. We managed to squeeze past. On reaching the top, the next section of the route was difficult to find amongst dense brambles, but some posts painted with faint yellow arrows were eventually spotted.

Once into the woods the direction was even less clear, but fortunately GPS gave a clue to the correct direction. The pathway was overgrown and confused by multiple cattle tracks. At last, we found ourselves above the woods in a grassy meadow, but it was unclear where the downward route would be found. After trying tracks which turned out to have been made only by cattle, a stile was spotted. It appeared that the original route had been changed in favour of a nearby permissive path. From here on, things improved, although the going was treacherous due to the surface that had been deeply pitted by cattle during the wet winter. On reaching the road near Grange Farm, we crossed into beautiful buttercup meadows which led to a path around the perimeter of the motorway services area. The lorry park was in use, but only one or two cars were in evidence. Onward through more meadows adjacent to the motorway we then fought our way up an overgrown slope to re-join the lane and cross the motorway before returning to the village by the same route. The walk was six miles in length from the house, but progress had been slow due to the heat and problems with finding the way. Once out of the village we met no one at all but it would indeed be good if more walkers were encouraged to try the route once things return to normal!

Angela & Pat Marks

* Note from the USCAN footpath group: We are talking to the people at Range Farm about ensuring there is a route for walkers through new fences they have put up recently. We are also planning to improve the signage, though there is a constant problem with springs springing up at new spots all the time, and then cattle making a real mess. We have tried a few times to change the route to avoid the mud!

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The Bridge

It all started with an email sent to me on 16 April, from a regular walker, that said: "The footbridge between Martin Franklin's field at Rooksmoor and Rob Seex's big field has a loose plank in the middle."

It sounded a quick job to fix so I took some screws and tools to have a look. I put in a largish screw, about 3". It bit into nothing. So I tried a longer one, 5 inches. Nothing. I felt under the plank and pulled away some rotten wood from the main supporting beam. I felt some more, and pulled away more soggy soft rotten wood. I eventually had a hole 6 inches deep in a timber that was only 8 inches deep. Oops!

I went home and asked Alan Gresswell to have a look, so I could have a second opinion about what to do. He didn't wait to report back. It was so rotten he simply sawed through the last 2 inches and the bridge was down.



Rotted main beam

OK. What to do next? Obviously, for safety, Alan and I barricaded the bridge off and put up a notice. I told Martin and Rob, the landowners either side, so they were aware. I suggested to them I would find ways of getting the bridge fixed. In the past, we, the USCAN footpath team, have asked the Gloucestershire County footpaths people, because installing bridges is a much bigger task than we take on. I also realised that with lock-down, realistically nothing was going to be done by GCC for a long while.

I didn't actually know who the bridge belonged to. Whose property had we vandalised? Martin and Rob both said they had had nothing to do with its

installation.

I had a look at websites of companies supplying footpath bridges. Very expensive, at least £1,000, and that was only the supply, not the fitting. So I just wondered if we could build it from scratch, ordering timber and hardware from local suppliers. Alan and I took measurements, and I got on the phone. The main cost would obviously be the big supporting beams - 18 foot long, 4 by 8 inches. They cost £80 each and we needed two. Wow! I thought - this is actually do-able at a reasonable cost (not sure yet how we'd get the money, but it wasn't going to be anything like the £1,000 - maybe I could ask Villagers to contribute, and/or use existing USCAN funds?). I agreed with Alan that we could re-use the pipe handrail and planks; that would save some money. I ordered all the rest of the materials.

The big timbers were delivered to Rob's farm at Whitley Court and he and Oscar transported them to the bridge site. They were heavy! I guess about 140 pounds, so a 70 pound lift at each end. Rob and Oscar Seex have to be thanked for risking their backs loading and unloading.



Alan is levelling the landing before digging the post holes

Then it was down to Alan and I. We cleared away all the rest of the old bridge. The bridge construction is actually simple. Levelling, digging post holes, attaching the uprights, measuring, levelling, measuring again, digging a bit more, measuring, levelling. And each time we had to lift the beams and their supports up. But we knew that getting this right was the most important part of the whole job. By the end of the first day we had the beams and uprights in the position we

Continued on the back page

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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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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USL Life is published by USL Life CIC, a Limited Company, and is printed at Leyhill Prison.

The editor next month will be
Barbara Swindin



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The Memorial Bench on the Village Green . . .

. . . has been re-varnished and all the plaques have been renewed and replaced.

The bench was designed and built by Roy Simpson a few years ago. Alan Greswell did the refurbishing. It looks as great now as when it was first made. Many thanks, Alan.

But has anyone any practical ideas on how to deal with the bird droppings?

The Bridge

Continued from the previous page wanted, with concrete, stones and packed earth in the post holes. No more heavy lifting! In the next two days we constructed the stiles at each end, added the planks and the handrail. We had done it. Completion day - May 30.



End of day 1 - beams and uprights in place and temporary bracing

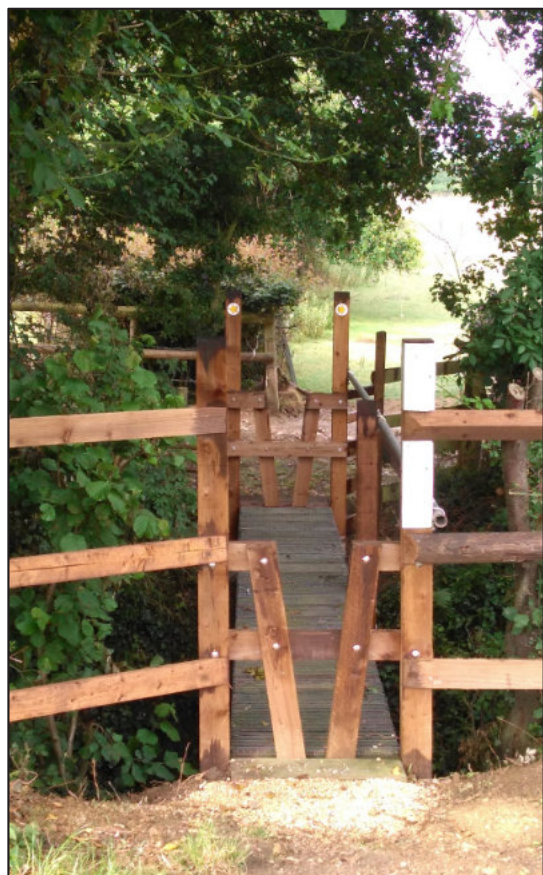
So who did/does the bridge belong to? At this point, rather late in the

day, I found out that Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for footbridges. I should have known that, or found out earlier in the process. Before we started building I had told my contact at GCC what I was doing (I am required to do that for insurance purposes). She (my contact) had offered to get the materials, but I was already on the charge by then! Her office has, however, reimbursed USCAN in full for the total cost, £260 plus VAT. She was grateful that we have saved them a lot of money and time, but it was rather embarrassing to ask for the money after the event rather than checking first.

Alan and I really enjoyed the challenge. Our wives said we were bonkers - contractors should be doing the work and taking the construction risks. They are right, of course. I doubt we'll be doing another.

Andy Russell

Still thinking in Imperial weights & measures



And finally some pictures of wildflowers on Cud Hill

Do go and see them!

Pictured here are ox-eye daisies, rosebay willowherb, mallow and a pyramid orchid, and there are dozens more varieties and colours.

