

Thank You



May
2020

Betley



St Margaret's

PARISH NEWS

All profits go towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

60p

Officers of the Parish Church of St Margaret's, Betley

VICAR OF BETLEY AND OF MADELEY

Revd. Peter Chantry (peterchantry@hotmail.com) 01782 750205
The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Madeley, CW3 9PQ

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Revd. Pamela Lane, 01270 820258
Brandon, Main Road, Betley, CW3 9BH

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Revd. Alan Bailey 01270 820043

CURATE

Revd. John Beswick Pallister (johnbpallister@gmail.com) 07428 342801

CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs. Jennifer Walton 01270 820051

6 Court Walk, Betley, CW3 9DP

Mr. Kevin Hamer, 01270 820704

Shade House, Main Road. Betley, CW3 9AA

READERS

Mr. Kevin Hamer, 01270 820704

Mrs. Jennifer Walton 01270 820051

Mrs. Jean Ainsworth 01270 820532

READER EMERITUS

Mr. Michael Darlington 01270 820582

CHOIRMASTER

Mr. Kevin Hamer 01270 820704

ORGANIST

Mrs Alison Hendricken (alisonhendricken@sky.com) 01270 820078

CAPTAIN OF THE BELFRY

Mr. Robert Bailey 01270 820522

CHURCH CLERK

Mr. Bernard Swift 01270 821760

PCC TREASURER & PCC CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

Mr. Michael Smith (mike.rsmith@btinternet.com) 01270 821099

3, Balterley Court, Balterley, CW2 5SB

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Mrs. Jennifer Walton 01270 820051

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION QUERIES

Mrs. Sue Cheetham 01270 820463

MAGAZINE EDITORS

Jim & Andrea Cartledge -

Sadie & Ken Blankley 01270 829128

Please email all entries/articles by the 12th of the preceding month to **BetleyParishMag@gmail.com**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR



St Margaret's Church

Celebrating and sharing God's love

What can we learn from lockdown?

What surreal (and for some tragic and anxious) times we are living through. Mercifully, in Madeley and Betley we have been spared some of the worst aspects of the virus but of course our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved, the traumatised and the frontline staff.

Many of us have had to adopt new behaviours and observe important protocols and perhaps we are getting used to life in lockdown? There has never been a time like this in living memory and we may well feel overwhelmed.

However, believing in the resurrection, there is new life ahead of us and we must look for the positives and think about lessons we can all learn. So, amidst the all the difficulties and uncertainties, what has been good?

A greater sense of community - people volunteering to help with the NHS and local helplines, increased neighbourliness and a heightened awareness of the vulnerable down our streets. It has been impressive to see many younger people step up and put themselves out for others - at the Foodbank, collecting prescriptions and running errands. Thank you and well done.

New ways of being church and good organisations - the church buildings are closed but God's people are finding new ways to worship together and to keep in touch with those who are on their own. Zoom church Services, online prayer meetings, pastoral visits via video link and a resurgence of the good old 'rag and bone' (phone). It's not the same, and we greatly look forward to being together again but we have learnt new skills and been challenged to find new ways of keeping in touch.

The importance of exercise and greeting friends whilst on the move and at a safe distance. Thank God that we live in beautiful villages with green spaces in which to walk and take our dogs out. The weather has been really kind and stunningly beautiful - perhaps something we've noticed more under these circumstances - I love the cherry tree blossom, the buds on the trees, the freshly ploughed fields.

Not to take people for granted - our NHS staff have rightly been heralded for their courage and commitment. But there are other frontline staff who don't always get the recognition they deserve. Care Home staff, our refuse collectors, those who serve us in retail, both in shops and in supplying our bodily needs, all deserve our respect and our appreciation of their service. It is very easy to take each other for granted but we shouldn't. Noticing the commitment and service of others when we are the beneficiaries should be part of our everyday mini-celebrations.

... Now, none of this is to ignore the deep-seated anxieties that are very real for many of us as we face the consequences for our economy and personal prospects. The future will bring further challenges, struggles and needs. Pulling together and practising consistent generosity of attitude and behaviour will be vital as we adapt and change again. We may well have to adjust our sights and lower our expectations - not forgetting that we still have so much to be grateful for. I believe profoundly that God remains in the midst of us, wanting to sustain, inspire, resource and equip us for the future that lies ahead. The Bible tells us that He does not leave us abandoned but equips us with His Spirit to rise to the challenges that lie around the corner.

May you know God's wisdom, peace and strength as you journey on. And may God bless and keep you in His good care.

Rev Peter Chantry

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE...

A phrase you often hear in the locality is: 'There's a lot goes on in Betley..'. Sadly, many of the usual activities are on hold for the time being. But there is still a lot going on as the community pulls together in physically-distant mutual support. The following pages offer plenty to read, including updates from St Margaret's, the Parish Council, the village shop and other organisations, as well as more general reflections on life in lockdown. There is also a 'taster' of the Taster Talk that was to have taken place on 8 May to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8 May.

This month's *Betley Parish News* is an online only publication. Normal circulation is about 450 copies and some of our regular readers may not be regular internet users – so if you think a friend or neighbour falls into that category, please let them know that the May edition is available and if appropriate help them to find it, or perhaps print out any articles they would be interested in. Other advantages of being online are colour photos and working hyperlinks.

Local ads are still at the back of the magazine. These businesses are likely to be having a challenging time - please support them if you can and make sure they are still here in years to come. The takeaways from The Betley Tea Rooms and The Crown are highly recommended!

The Editors



St. Margaret's Betley - Services during May

Although St. Margaret's Church is closed until further notice our worship continues every Sunday online, either through a pre-recorded service or a live streaming via Zoom. You are most welcome to join us. Details are issued each week by e-mail with advice on how to participate. Just let one of us know your e-mail address and we will include you.

Rev. Peter Chantry: peterchantry@hotmail.com 01782 750205
Jennifer Walton (Churchwarden): jenwalto@aol.com 01270 820051
Kevin Hamer (Churchwarden): kevinhamer53@btinternet.com 01270 820704

Significant steps have been taken to make Zoom a safe way of accessing our worship. We do hope you'll give it a try - we are learning a new way of being together!

During May our services and key bible readings will be:

3 May	Rogation	Psalm 23 Deuteronomy 8.1-10
10 May	5 th Sunday of Easter	John 14.1-14
17 May	6 th Sunday of Easter	John 14.15-21
24 May	7 th Sunday of Easter	John 17.1.11
31 May	Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21

*"The Lord is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in times of trouble"*

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS ...

Baptism

Welcome to the Church family ...

Sunday 16 February:

Fynnley (born 18 May 2019) son of Matthew Pond and Sarah Davis

Funeral

Thursday 9 January:

Henry Kettlewell (died 20 December, aged 87 yrs), followed by Burial in the Churchyard

Burial

Monday 23 March:

Wendy Georgina Sparrow (died 7 March, aged 85 yrs)

May they Rest In Peace.

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**Covid-19 (Coronavirus)**

Sadly, coronavirus has taken a firm hold nationally over the past month. Fortunately, the Parish Council had done some planning, as reported last month, and had set up the VIPER group. However, whilst we were planning, we did not for one moment expect that those plans would be called up in such a short space of time. Fortunately, the work we did with Dr Patel at the surgery and with Paul and Caroline Beardsmore at the shop enabled the supply of medicines, food and household supplies to be maintained.

Delivery of medicines is working well, with deliveries most days. To date there have been 30 separate deliveries. **Caroline and Paul are doing excellent work in the village shop** to ensure that the community is supplied with their requirements. The signage, which at one stage was changing almost daily, has now settled down and official Post Office standing point markers are set out on the floor. There have been no problems with queuing on the ramp, with everybody keeping the required distance: thank you. Some items have been in short supply, particularly, in the early days due to a combination of reduced supplies (at the Cash and Carry) and increased demand for milk and grade 1 (retail) eggs. (Milk and eggs destined for hotels and catering cannot be diverted to retail due to different packaging and specifications). We can report that **matters have now settled down and generally what is needed is available**. Encouragingly, there has been significantly increased overall demand as more residents are obtaining more items from the shop. Home deliveries of food and household supplies within the Parish can be arranged: the village shop number is **01270 820544**. There is also now an online order form (see their Facebook page). Evening take away meals are available locally, from **The Crown** in Wrinehill: **01270 820472**.

VIPER (Village Incident Preparedness and Emergency Response)

The Parish Council's **Community Support Helpline** number is **07716 051 616**. It is primarily for those in the community who are self-isolating and others where their needs and/or support cannot be met by family or friends.

VIPER responsibilities are as follows:

Sebastian Daly – delivery of medicines and liaison with Dr Patel

Robert Bettley-Smith – liaison with Village shop and signage

Richard Head – Village Hall (use of this facility has not been activated to date)

Neil Bullock – (07717 617454) police and traffic liaison

The VIPER group are maintaining contact with each other and dealing with matters within the agreed Parish Council remit via a WhatsApp group and by email as required.

In conjunction with Dr Patel, **medicines can be supplied direct to home**. This can be arranged via the surgery on **01270 820527** or via the Community Support Helpline, as above.



Finally, please ensure that you follow the NHS guidelines in order to ensure the spread of Covid-19 is minimised and brought under control soonest: ***Stay home, protect yourselves, protect others and protect the NHS.***

Alderman David Becket

The Parish Council noted with great sadness that Alderman David Becket passed away on 15th April following a fall in the garden on Sunday 12th April. Although David did not enjoy the best of health in recent months he remained an active and cheerful member of the community. David was a former Parish Councillor, Borough Councillor and Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme and had the honour of being an Alderman. He was always very enthusiastic about Betley and the surrounding area, having returned with Anne following a period living elsewhere. The thoughts and prayers of the Parish Council are with Anne and the rest of the family at this sad time.

Parish Council News

The Parish Council took an early decision that to avoid any risk of spreading the virus it should suspend all activities that are inconsistent with health advice. All meetings and other public activities were therefore cancelled until further notice ('for the duration' in the 1939 currency). The Council will continue with any necessary duties as best it can with the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Councillors, granted delegated powers as appropriate. This will include, for example, responding to any consultations (such as planning applications), meeting its financial obligations and taking up local issues where possible. Members of the public should contact the Clerk about any matters of concern.

The Government is introducing measures to allow Parish Councils to meet 'remotely' through online platforms and as soon as this is in place efforts will be made to arrange such meetings which we hope will also be available online to local residents. Please check the parish noticeboards and the Parish Council website (see below) for further details.

Memorial Garden and Sandy Croft

The Council wishes to keep the Memorial Garden and Sandy Croft (Laudy Croft) open to the public if at all possible as it recognises their value as places to take exercise. However, they can only remain available if they are used sensibly and safely. Please maintain social distancing at all times and **follow the instructions that have been posted on site.**

From time to time it may be necessary for contractors to carry out essential work to maintain these locations. We have taken advice on these matters and agreed a method of work with the contractor(s). While this work is in progress, for your safety and the safety of contractors, the sites will be closed to the public. Please respect any requests or instructions from the contractor when they are on site.

The Village Hall play area is closed until further notice, in line with Government legislation and statutory requirements.

Speeding traffic

One unfortunate side-effect of the reduced traffic volumes (or perhaps because people think the police have other priorities) is that there seems to have been an increase in traffic speeds along the A531. We have been in touch with Staffordshire Police about this issue and we have been assured that the police speed enforcement van is still available and that it will be used in the Betley area. The speed watch team is not able to function at the moment due to the requirements of coronavirus legislation, so the activity is suspended for the duration.

Please report any (non-emergency & non-urgent) traffic issues to Councillor Bullock at bullock.neil@btinternet.com. Emergencies should be reported to the police in the usual way, either 999 or 101, depending on the situation; please then also advise Councillor Bullock and provide him with the incident number.

Fly tipping & Village Hall Bins

There have been a number of instances of fly tipping in various locations, following the closure of the municipal waste disposal sites. Fly tipping is a criminal offence and should be reported to the Borough.

A number of individuals have been using the bins at the Village Hall to dispose of rubbish, which is causing problems as the over-filled bins have not been emptied; perhaps, folks have done this under the mistaken impression this is in order. In fact it is out of order on two counts: firstly, it does not comply with the coronavirus legislation; secondly, it is technically illegal under other legislation as such activity falls within the definition of fly tipping. **For information, and by way of fair warning, the Village Hall bin area is covered by monitored CCTV.**

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council is clearly uncertain at present, but please check our website for latest details. Go to www.hugofox.com/community and just type Betley, Balterley or Wrinehill into the search facility. Or use the full website address of:

www.hugofox.com/community/betley-balterley-and-wrinehill-parish-council-15769/home

NB Covid-19 information is regularly posted on the Betley & Wrinehill Events & Information Facebook page



BETLEY VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

As a local, small family business with the community at heart we are doing all we can during this difficult time to help you.

Thank you for observing the arrangements we have introduced in line with the current Government guidelines. Also a massive thanks to our suppliers, some existing and some new (fruit and veg), and to our BRILLIANT volunteers. Without them we could not do what we do. We have been blessed with some lovely kind gestures and gifts which are spurring us on in difficult times.

We aim to continue to keep the shop supplied with interesting and (where available) local products. We are regularly and stringently cleaning and sanitising all contact points such as door handles, PIN keypads, fridge handles. We will ensure all food in the shop is covered and wrapped.

Please remain 2m away from other customers. This distance is indicated by traffic cones in the shop: one person at the counter and one by the cones. At busy times you may have to wait outside. If you are able to do so, please leave via the stairs not the path.

Opening hours are as below. For vulnerable customers the ideal (quieter) times are 10am-11am or 1.30pm-3:00pm. **Priority will be given to vulnerable customers during these periods.** We can control the queue to allow these customers to be on their own in the shop if needed.

We offer an order-and-pick up service. Phone us on 01270 820544. We will pick your order, inform you of the price and agree a collection time. You can pay by BACS, cheque or have the cash ready. With the Parish Council we are offering a weekly grocery service for those who are self-isolating.

We have introduced a free delivery service to anyone within Betley, Balterley or Wrinehill. **Orders for delivery should be for £20 or more and placed by phone.** Delivery and payment options will be discussed and will be in line with current Coronavirus guidelines. No orders are taken on Thursday or Sunday.

Mon-Fri: 8:00am to 5:30pm
Sat: 8:00am to 4:00pm
Sun: 8:00am to 11:00am

Paul and Caroline
01270 820544

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Simon White
Simon.white@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk
Tel 07561 340 899

Cllr Gary White
Gary.white@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk
Tel 07834 090 747



Amazing 150 kgs in April! A fantastic response

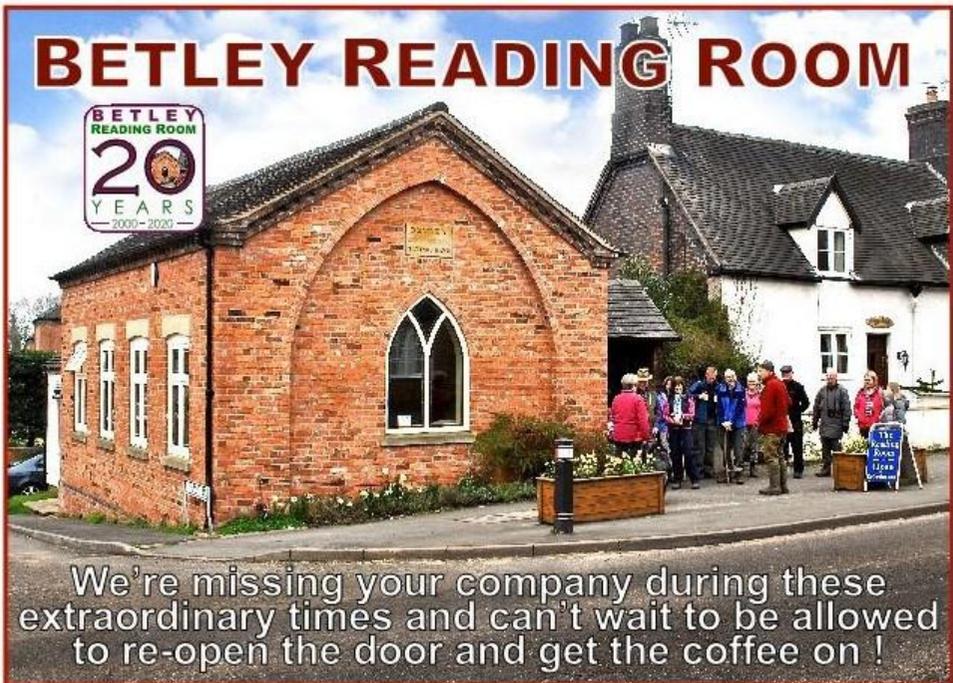
Peter, the Warehouse Manager, says, *"Thank you Betley; your support is vital, as we are feeding twice as many people as normal"*
Current shortages are **tinned meat and tinned tomatoes, small sugar and small coffee, mashed potato and sponge puddings.**

Collection boxes for non-perishable food remain in the porches of the Reading Room and the Church. The boxes are being frequently monitored.

An alternative way of supporting the Foodbank is to make financial donations. Just go to www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/newcastle-staffs-foodbank/ccregno1150816

More information is available from www.newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk

Kevin Hamer 820704



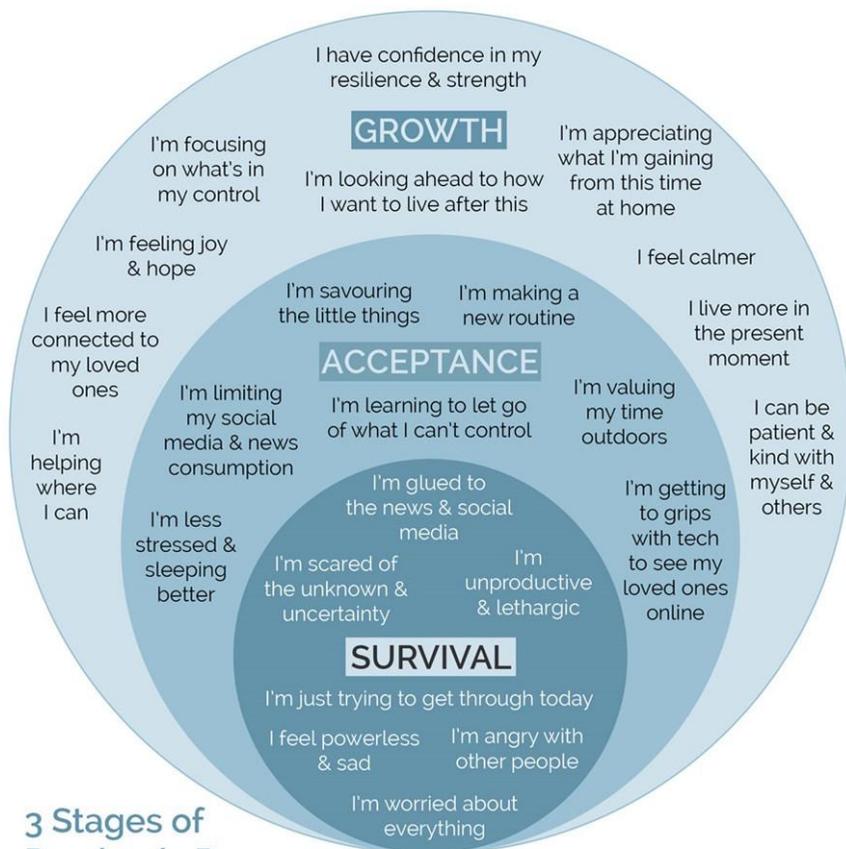


Life in a time of lockdown

Our garden has been adopted by a handsome pheasant. He potters about the flowerbeds muttering to himself with just an occasional loud squawk and flap – thus behaving a bit like the rest of us. As a country and globally we are going through a change in circumstances unlike anything most of us have ever experienced.

But change is actually ever-present and there are many psychological models which can help us to make some sense of how we react to it. The diagram below, which is relevant to the pandemic, is by life coach Gabrielle Treanor, and you may have found yourself having some such thoughts recently. There's more detail on her website www.gabrielletreanor.com. Thanks to Annie Williams for sharing this.

The Editors



3 Stages of Pandemic Response

The Beatitudes for a lockdown community

When Jesus saw people locked down in their houses, and unable to walk through the streets and he spoke to them, saying: *'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.'*

Blessed are those who are tired and struggling,
aching for the chance to see family and friends for real.
Blessed are those for whom lockdown is little different than life before.
Blessed are those who take the time to call or Zoom an otherwise forgotten neighbour.
Blessed are those who are working all hours so that others can be safe.
Blessed are those who desperately need space and time for their own well-being.
Blessed are those for whom staying in means being at risk.

Blessed are the poor in spirit.
You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you

Blessed are those who mourn for people who have died.
And blessed are those who mourn because they could not say goodbye, could not hold hands, could not join with family and friends to pay their respects.
Blessed are those who take the place of family at the moment of passing.
Blessed are those who mourn for the routine and ways of living that gave their life meaning.
Blessed are those who mourn for their jobs, or businesses, their employees and livelihoods.

Blessed are those who mourn.
You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those whose actions are only now being recognised and valued: the minimum wage workers who make our lives possible.
Blessed are those whose work has always been essential and blessed are those who now see this.
Blessed are those who are risking their own health to care for those that we are cannot care for.
Blessed are those who leave a can of beans and a toilet roll on the shop shelf for someone else.
Blessed are those who wheel down the wheelie bin of the isolated household next door.
Blessed are the babies born into the midst of this.
Blessed are those who help someone they have never met before.

Blessed are the meek.
You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are those who in the midst of all that is around
can see the injustice and inequity that it highlights.

Blessed are those who recognise this light shining on their own lives
and commit to living more simply.

Blessed are those who are simply hungry.

Blessed are the foodbanks, advice services, the charity workers and helpers.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are those who try to social distance but also have compassion for the
family with the autistic child, or spouse with dementia.

Blessed are those whose patience is being tested.

Blessed are those who are trying to work at home
and home educate at the same time.

Blessed are those who have got Zoom working and those that haven't.

Blessed are the merciful.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are those who see God ...

in the rainbows and the clapping,

in the helpers and the helped,

in the opportunity to reconnect and

in a new understanding of family, community and society.

Blessed are those who see this, not as the beginning or the end.

Blessed are those who can - in whatever way - be still and know God.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Amen

Paul Bridges - with a nod to Rev Nadia Bolz Weber

Shared by Rev Peter Chantry

Thought for the day

If you like to take a few minutes to pause and reflect, join us every weekday
for a thought for the day. As well as Peter and John, we'll have other
contributors on Fridays.

These are live videos on the All Saints Madeley page on Facebook, [https://
www.facebook.com/allsaintsmadeley/](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmadeley/), but you can see them later on
Facebook or on this link: <http://tiny.cc/tftd>

BETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Admissions to our school

Reception Class

We are pleased to say that our Reception Class is full and we have children coming from Betley, Madeley and Wrinehill starting in September. We look forward to welcoming the new families to our friendly village school.

Nursery admissions

We have a few spaces left in our fabulous Nursery Class. To find out information please see the link below. Please note that all applications for Nursery go through school not the Local Authority.

<http://www.betley.staffs.sch.uk/admissions/>

If you would like to come and visit when we return to school please contact the school office for an appointment: 01270 820286. In the meantime, if you would like to book a place for your child to start in Nursery in September 2020 please email me on headteacher@st-lukes-silverdale.staffs.sch.uk

Home Learning

School has been very different over the last month and we are all looking forward to getting back as soon as possible. The children are working brilliantly at home and we are proud of all our children and thankful also to our parents for being so supportive.

Our teachers set work each week and this can be followed by using online resources or printed learning packs. Each week we are continuing to do our newsletter and celebrate children's birthdays by sending them a card. We have



Home learning and the very important daily exercise

had some super birthday photos too even including a dance.

We have also started to set challenges including learning your name in sign language and following an artist online to create a picture. We have had some super examples. Our children are also enjoying speaking to the teachers on the phone and we hope that it isn't long before we can have a conversation face to face.



School open for key workers

The school continues to be open for the children of key workers so that parents can continue to work in hospitals, doctors and vets. The children work with staff from Betley and St Luke's school and have also been very busy with crafts, Forest Schools, PE and science. Though we took a break from work when the children came into school during the Easter holidays.

Rainbows

I am very proud of the efforts that the children at Betley CE Primary School have made in decorating their houses with the rainbows of hope. We have had a brilliant array of photos of these and I have shared some below. Every few days I add a different one onto our Betley Facebook Page to show our respect for all the key workers that are helping our country and community at this time.

Spring Chicken

The staff at Betley and St Luke's CE Primary School have created a version of



the song 'Spring Chicken'. We hope you enjoy it and it brings a little happiness in these difficult times. We miss all our children and the atmosphere in school. The teachers enjoyed doing this and Miss Stafford did a fabulous job of editing it. Have a look – which teachers do you recognise? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJoO3732UR4>

Sam Ray
Executive Headteacher

Do you have any parish stories
or favourite anecdotes and memories you'd like to
share in the magazine?
Send them to
BetleyParishMag@gmail.com

VE DAY SPECIAL

An event planned in Betley to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day was a Reading Room Taster Talk based on childhood memories of wartime. As the Taster won't be happening just now, here is a selection of some of these reminiscences.

The current situation is hardly comparable, but in years to come perhaps the schoolchildren of Betley will be telling their families about what life was like here in the coronavirus pandemic of 2020.

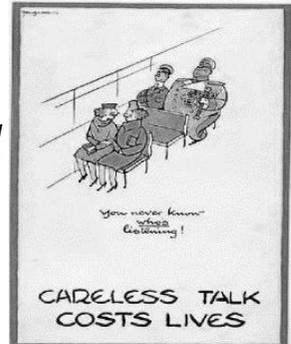
I was seven years old at the outbreak of war. I lived with my parents and two younger sisters at Wythenshawe near Manchester. When there was an air raid on we went into the garden bomb shelter each night. This particular night my mother decided to shelter under the stairs. We heard the bomb whistle and then crash. The windows blew out. The bomb hit a house two doors away and killed a lady living there. My father was on duty as an ARP warden and came rushing back. All were safe and we spent the rest of the night at a neighbour's house.

Doreen Thompson

I was ten at the outbreak of war. I remember when the rations were announced my mother thought they were for a day not a week! I can see her now in a rush to machine blackout curtains for the whole house. ARP wardens used to check for chinks of light.

I went by train from my home in Barlaston to school in Newcastle and I well remember watching all the young women piling off the train from Swynnerton. They had yellow faces from filling shells at the armaments factory there.

I can picture now everywhere the Fougasse posters 'Careless talk costs lives' - one in particular with Hitler sitting under a tea table while gossiping was going on.



Once a stranger asked a group of us kids the way to Stone. We sent him in the opposite direction – he might have been a German! We were so proud of ourselves.

It was so exciting at the end of the war to have oranges and bananas again.

Janet Mason



I was eight years old when the war began. I lived in London with my parents and younger brother and sister. Early on I was sent to stay with my aunt in Worcester Park (south west London) for about six months but my little siblings stayed with my mother. My father joined the Auxiliary Fire Service in Central London and one of the places he looked after was the 'Whispering Gallery' in St Paul's Cathedral. During the Blitz of September 1940 he was one of 25,000 volunteer firemen tackling the worst fires in London since the Great Fire of 1666.



While I was away with my aunt, our street was bombed and our house and two neighbouring ones were destroyed. The family were safe in their shelter, but clearing up afterwards and trying to salvage what they could was a grim business – there were body parts among the ruins.

VE Day was amazing, there were street parties and it was riotous and exciting, everyone singing and happy. I was nearly 14 by then and I listened to AFM, the American Radio station and learned all the songs. It was just like you see on the TV.

Jean Mabeey

I was seven years old and living in Luton when war broke out and I remember the day war was declared. I was at my grandparent's house with my parents for Sunday lunch as usual and we listened to the announcement on the radio. My grandfather was already dressed in his RAF uniform. He had been in the Boer War (1899-1902), and served in WW1, initially in the army before joining the Royal Flying Corps. In WW2 he was a reservist and joined the British Expeditionary Force.

For VE Day there was a party and lots of food and friendship. There was a bonfire in the street and it burned the tarmac underneath. But also we waited for VJ Day in August. We were in Southsea on holiday by then and my father got me up early so we could go down to the seafront. There were bonfires, and boats with flares and sirens all around Portsmouth Harbour – it was wonderful, a big celebration.

Evelyn Bishop

An update on children and young people at St Margaret's and All Saints

Children and Young People

I'm sure we can all appreciate the radical change that the closure of schools has meant for our children and young people: not seeing friends daily for who knows how long, not taking GCSEs as expected, not even knowing if they're going back to the same school when life goes back to normal...

With this in mind, we have been working hard to support them as best as we can. Read on...

Youth Group

I hadn't heard about Zoom until Thursday... Then on Saturday I asked for some tips from a friend, and tried to work it out. And on the Sunday, 22 March, we had our first session on zoom, which was a lot of fun. We practised hand-washing, dispelled some myths about coronavirus, and talked about hope in difficult times. We then met again on the 12 April for a session about Easter - this means we haven't missed a single session!

I felt positively encouraged by having pretty much the same group as we would have had at the Reading Room, and to hear of the positive impact the session had on our young people, brightening their day in a difficult time.



Upcoming sessions: 10 and 24 May, 4.45-6pm, on Zoom - please email johnbpallister@gmail.com for details. This is a live only session.

Kid's church (Early Birds in Betley, and Towers in Madeley)

As we started online services on Sundays, it became obvious that we weren't having our usual Sunday groups for children.



So a few of us started producing a session that could easily be done at home. We revisit some of our favourite songs, we always have a great story from the Bible, and we have tried to suggest crafts that can be done with things that everybody would have at home.



It's been a lot of fun to do this, and thanks to Ruth and children, and to Laura and Peter who have contributed. Thank you also, parents, for the photos and videos of your little ones joining in!

Upcoming sessions: every Sunday, available from 9.30am on the church page on Facebook or on this link <http://tiny.cc/kidschurch>. These are pre-recorded videos that you can access at any time.

Good Friday Messy Church



We were sad to not be able to have Messy Church in our building, so we took the mess and the church to all the houses! The children were able to meet two friends of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and John the Disciple, and also Caiphas, a Jewish priest who didn't like Jesus. Through the session, they were encouraged to collect different items to put together as an Easter garden at the end. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible!

You can revisit this on the following link: <http://tiny.cc/MessyChurch>

Praise and Play - toddler group

Thank you to Laura for prompting us to get going with the toddler group LIVE on Facebook! It's been a lot of fun to carry on meeting, having fun singing together, sharing a story, and sometimes a craft too. We had a special guest one day, Amos the talking donkey. It was really fun, he told us all about Palm Sunday!

Upcoming sessions: every Monday, at 10am, on the All Saints Madeley page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmadeley/>, or on this link <http://tiny.cc/praiseplay>. These are live streamed, but you can also see them later.



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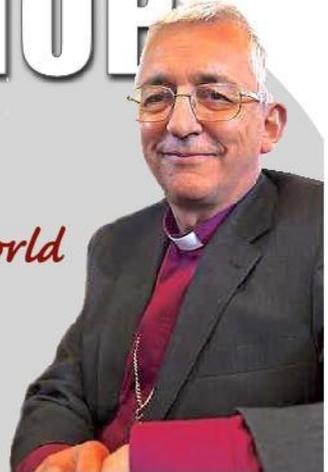
Saturday 30th May

8.30 to 10.00am

Zoom Link and password available from:

Vicar Peter on 01782 750205

or Curate John on 07428 342801



DO YOU NEED PRAYER?



Would you, or someone you know, appreciate a private conversation with clergy and the chance for some personal prayer for yourself or someone you know?

Clergy from St Margaret's and All Saints' churches will be available by phone after the online Sunday services .

Please phone or send a message to Rev Peter or Rev John to find out who is on duty on a particular Sunday.

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Sanitary products and toiletries can be deemed a luxury that is unaffordable for many. Sanctus relies on the generosity of supporters to collect these items for them, through collection boxes in local churches.

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<http://www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk>



BETLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.blhs.co.uk/



@BetleyHistory

Back in early March we had to decide to close our meetings down until at least September. All that we can say is that Lawrence Bennion of Old Hall Farm is booked for 24th September or for the first meeting that we can call after that be it October or even January! His talk will be based on the work he has done on the waterwheel, the stream and the barns.

Meanwhile, Shirley Kennerley will continue work on a huge plan of all of the village properties and names taken from the 1939 register. So, once again, if you can furnish us with early photographs of cottages or named people, please let us have them. Contact Shirley, Christine Brassington, or Rhoda Farrington on 820022.

David Becket

It was with sadness that we learned of David's death. Our thoughts are with Anne and her family who are grieving for their loss.

David was a founder member of the History group and helped to instigate the first course in the 1970s, arranged through the Adult Education Department of Keele University. He took a major part in the writing of the book 'Betley, Village of Contrasts', edited by Robert Speake, for which he contributed to sections on communications and industry, and reconstructed the 1727 map of Betley Common with its field names.

Later after working outside this area for a while he returned to the village. He resumed his former activities to concentrate on the wider community in the Borough of Newcastle, where he became mayor. In 1998 the Betley Local History Society had been inaugurated. Some time afterwards David and Anne joined us. Then in 2016, as an alderman, David became a dynamic, successful chairman of the BLHS, using his organisational skills and analytical mind. We were fortunate to have such a leader.

With boundless energy David invigorated the society. He wrote newsletters on the Grand Duke Michael, as well as a thoroughly analysed paper on the plans for a railway that was not built through Betley. He and Anne carefully researched and published the origins of the Memorial Window in St Margaret's Church. Most importantly he aided the reclassification of our archives in the Methodist Chapel - a task of major significance. He arranged outside visits to The Mayoral Parlour, Keele Church, and Chetwynd House. Even in March this year he was planning to take us to Balterley Church. Always his aim was to integrate the BLHS into local society. David showed generosity and kindness to us, and as our chairman he will be mourned.

Mavis E. Smith

It won't last for ever...

It has been said that we are living through an unprecedented period of our lives as we lockdown our social interactions and our economy. Almost everybody is affected in some way or other. In the April edition of *Betley Parish News* we highlighted the many outdoor sports that were due to begin, a sure sign that summer was on its way, but all have had to be cancelled or postponed. We included special events that were to be held in the village to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8 May and garden openings in June for which the organisers have similarly had to change their plans. The normal printed version of this magazine has had to be put on hold during lockdown and many of our normal distribution team are self-isolating.

We are all learning to act in ways we find strange, to use technology we are unfamiliar with, to avoid physical contact and keep our distance from not only strangers but also those we love but do not live with. What we are also learning is that we can find ways to be close whilst physically separate, that community is not just gathering together for events but is looking out for each other, that we are better off focusing on those things we can control rather than despairing about those we can't, that we recognise who are the important people in our society and on whom we all depend.

Once this is over we may not remember all that went on to enable us to make it through. We may not even be sure it actually is over, but we will have changed and will not be the same society, community or even individuals that we were at the beginning. Some will have experienced great loss, some will struggle with the mental strains, some will have to adjust to new roles and new behaviours. But that summer we so hopefully trailed in the April edition will arrive. It maybe later than we thought, and it maybe a different sort of summer than was envisaged then, but the postponed events will be on again, there will be opportunities to gather again, and village life will return to something like before, even though perhaps never quite the same.

In the meantime, stay safe, wash your hands and help others where you can. We hope June's magazine is back to a printed version. For those of you who are regular contributors with news of clubs, events, church and chapel services etc. please keep sending in your plans. We look forward to sharing them.

The Editors



BETLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Along with all other churches and chapels, we have had to close our doors during these Spring and Summer months owing to the threat of Coronavirus. We believe that God will provide. He has given us sunshine and blossoms and sunsets and He has provided us with a community spirit and folk who are caring for each other.

I was told that 'you cannot teach old dogs new tricks' yet here we are using Facetime, conference calls and even Zoom! Rev Den arranged for us to call in and share Services from Mothering Sunday through Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and beyond for her four Rope Green Lane area chapels and also weekday prayers every day through Holy Week and twice a week since. It has been great to keep in touch with each other in this way.

Join us on Sundays at 6 pm, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.30 pm. You can obtain the number to call and the PIN number from me on 01270 820022.

Rhoda Farrington

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH - HOW TO ARRANGE...

Baptisms - Please contact the Parish Office 01782 750205

Confirmations - Adults and young people who would like to re-commit themselves to the baptismal promises made on their behalf and who would like to prepare to begin to receive communion are encouraged to speak to one of the clergy about being confirmed.

Weddings - Normally, weddings can be arranged for couples when one or both partners live in the parish or are on the electoral roll of our church. Please contact the Parish Office. 01782 750205

Funerals - Arrangements for funeral services in church are made through the funeral director who will contact the clergy.

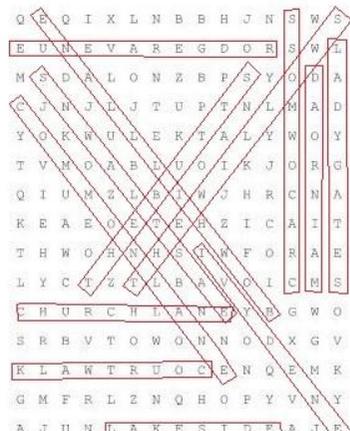
Visiting - Please let the clergy know of anyone who is ill at home or in hospital, and who would appreciate a call.

It happened this day:**8th May**

May 8th is set to be a national holiday in the UK to remember VE Day, but do you know what else happened on this day. Here is a quiz to test you.

1. Where was the German surrender first signed in 1945?
2. Which of The Beatles' albums was released on this day in 1970?
3. What song by John Howard Payne was sung for the first time in London in 1823?
4. Which play by John Osborn premiered in London in 1956?
5. What did the WHO claim to have been eradicated in 1980?
6. Which football manager announced his retirement in 2013?
7. Who was declared king of England in 1660?
8. What form of transport went out of service in London in 1962?
9. What did Sweden abolish in 1921?
10. Which British naturalist and broadcaster was born in 1926?

Answers on page 26

Answers to April puzzles**Find your way around Betley and Wrinehill**



PUBLIC INFORMATION FROM STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE



You, Coronavirus, and staying safe online

We all have enough to be concerned about from the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. That's why Staffordshire Police online experts have put together some top tips about how to protect yourself, your loved ones, finances and devices from the scams that are currently circulating, as well as advice about keeping yourself and your organisation protected whilst working from home. To find out more about online safety during this uncertain time visit www.getsafeonline.org/coronavirus or take a look at our new online leaflet attached here:

[GSO COVID-19 Leaflet.pdf](#)

Stay well and stay safe online,

Message from:

The Get Safe Online Team

There's been some confusion around whether people can visit and exercise in the Staffordshire countryside, including Cannock Chase, the Roaches and other country parks. We're asking you not to visit these areas and to stay close to home for your daily exercise, as per the Government guidelines on social distancing. We understand that there's a small number of people who live within these immediate areas who may continue to walk dogs and exercise, but cars should only be used for essential journeys and not to travel somewhere to exercise. We all need to work together to prevent the spread of Covid-19, protect the NHS and save lives. Thank you for your support in staying at home and avoiding unnecessary travel. The beautiful Staffordshire countryside will still be there in a few weeks for us all to enjoy.

As the elderly and vulnerable self-isolate, they can be at an increased risk of falling victim to scammers. There have been reports in the UK of people offering a shopping service for isolated people where they take payment in advance and then never return with the goods. Please be vigilant about this and only give money to people you know and trust such as family and close friends. To report fraud or to find more prevention tips visit www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Take care and keep safe.

Messages from:

Lydia Hooley

(Police Officer, Staffordshire)

Neil Bullock

BBW Parish Council

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Further enquiries to Mike Reeves 01270 820715

Puzzle answers 1. Rheims 2. Let it be 3. Home Sweet Home 4. Look Back in Anger 5. Smallpox 6. Alex Ferguson 7. Charles II 8. Trolley buses 9. Capital punishment 10. David Attenborough




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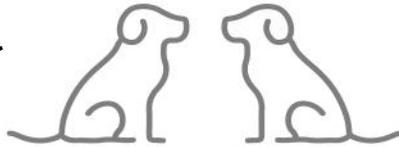
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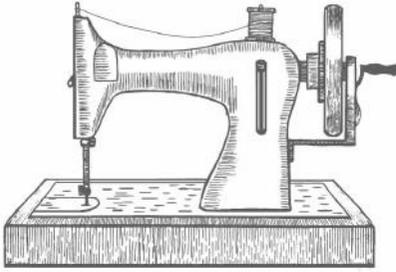
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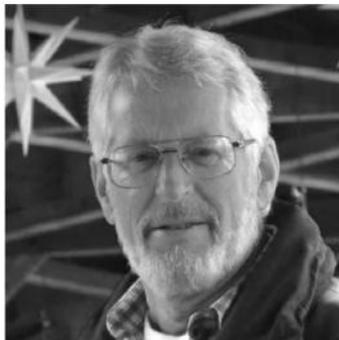
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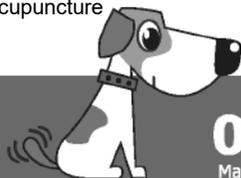
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