



June
2020

Betley



PARISH NEWS

All profits go towards the maintenance of the churchyard. **60p**

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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

You have probably heard by now that Helen and I are on the move. After nearly 7 years as Vicar of All Saints' and St Margaret's we have made the difficult decision that it is time to move nearer to our grown-up children. I will therefore be moving at the end of July over to Nottinghamshire where Helen has recently been appointed as the next Vicar of St Mary's and St John's Hucknall.

It is, of course with sadness AND with gratitude that we will be moving. It has been an immense pleasure and privilege to be your Vicar for these years. I have greatly enjoyed your fellowship and partnership in the life of our communities, and I am confident that God's blessings will continue to be poured out upon Betley and Madeley – however tough these current times are.

In preparation for moving, Helen and I have hired a skip! We have been sorting through all our 'stuff' and it is amazing how much you accumulate over the years. Before we put all our unwanted items into the skip, we decided to have an impromptu stall outside our house inviting people to 'Help Yourself'. What we had not expected was the delight that this gave to various people to reuse, repair and recycle.

Girls from along the road were delighted to take some board games; 12 paving stones that we'd taken up a couple of years ago were snapped up; and a very weathered iron bench was taken away with great joy at the prospect of a restoration project!

Out of the tiredness and unwanted debris of life, can come new possibilities. One lady was so thrilled at taking away a 'telephone table' that she insisted I take £10 for Christian Aid – even though I didn't ask for it!

Life is tough at the moment with the Coronavirus and of course, very tough for some. But even in the toughest of times there are moments of light and colour and joy and solidarity – as revealed by our impromptu stall.

We can (and do) feel overwhelmed by the uncertainty of our current circumstances. But I believe that God is right in the middle of hard times. He is no stranger to heartache, uncertainty and pain. The Christian story remains one of hope and joy in the morning and our faith in Jesus calls us to look out for Him, even and especially in the midst of our human struggles.

May God bless you and your family.

Rev Peter Chantry

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE...

Once again *Betley Parish News* is online only this month. We will be back in print as soon as possible, for now please bear in mind friends or neighbours who rely on the print edition and guide them to the St Margaret's website to read this version, or perhaps print off any information they would find interesting – thank you! The normal advertisements are at the end of the magazine – please keep supporting these local businesses when you can.

Following last month's reminiscences about VE Day, look out in this issue for the thoughts of some young people on lockdown life. And then, how well do you know the parish? There's a quiz on page 17.

There has been a significant increase in the number of phishing scams during the lockdown period. These take advantage of people being unfamiliar with some of the technology that many are using for the first time. Please be alert to the possibility of this type of behaviour and read the advice from Staffordshire Police on page 22.

As we go to press information is emerging about new arrangements for kerbside recycling. These will begin later in June, go to <https://tinyurl.com/nulrecycling> for the Council's *Frequently Asked Questions* page.

The Editors

Betley Show & Country Fair

As it says on the website for the Betley Show and Country Fair:
'The show has been held at Betley Court farm since time immemorial and continues to attract visitors from far and wide.'

But for reasons we are all familiar with by now, the organisers have confirmed that the 163rd Betley Show and Country Fair will not take place this year.

A few Classes will go ahead as will the Scarecrow Competition.

Further information will be available in a flyer to be delivered to every house in the parish in the near future.



ST MARGARET'S BETLEY... SERVICES IN JUNE

Although St. Margaret's Church is closed until further notice our worship continues every Sunday online, either through a pre-recorded service or live-streaming via Zoom at 10.30 am.

There will also be live-streaming of our more informal *Living Streams* service at **6.30 pm on 7th June**.

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

During June our services and key bible readings will be:

7 June	Trinity Sunday Service of the Word	Genesis 1 -2.3
14 June	1st Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Genesis 3
21 June	2nd Sunday after Trinity Service of the Word	Genesis 12
28 June	3rd Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	from Exodus 19 and 20

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!

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

Two Churches Challenge

Monday 18th May
in aid of Christian Aid



I was due to run in the Chester Half Marathon but like so many other events, that had to be cancelled.

But as someone who loves running and has been AMAZINGLY supported and sponsored by family, friends and neighbours, I wanted to redeploy my efforts. Out of a conversation in the

virtual Betley Reading Room came the re-envisioned: *Two Churches Run!*

At 11am, I set out from All Saints', accompanied by Claire and Euan on their bicycles as far as the Meadows School. From there I ran across the fields to Bowsey Wood and then up and over into Betley Cricket Pitch. A socially-distanced 'gathering' cheered me on at St Margaret's as I ran towards Ladygates and East Lawns.

Then it was down Main Road and on past the *Hand and Trumpet* heading towards Wrinehill. New Road hill was a good challenge as the legs became heavier! But four more friends awaited my arrival at the finish line around 12.40pm.

Thanks to you, £1750 has been raised for Christian Aid and their partners. Crises (such as we are going through now) often affect the poorest people the most. **I am so grateful to all of you for your generosity** and for the fact that this money can be used to help and support some of the most vulnerable people in God's global family.

Many thanks indeed.



Peter Chantry



'BETLEY PARISH NEWS' - under new management

Jim and Andrea Cartlidge have decided to stand down from their roles as joint editors of our parish magazine. As you know they have busy lives with a large and demanding family and Jim is training for ordination, with one more year to go!

Jim and Andrea joined me as joint editors about seven years ago and I was very grateful not just for their support, but also for Jim's IT skills. We edited the magazine alternate months, but Jim often got involved in sorting out the mysteries of digital production on my months. I hope they will agree that we worked well as a team and it was wonderful to share the responsibilities and have holiday cover as well.

I resigned from 'the Mag' in 2016 and Jim and Andrea carried on. Jim made subtle alterations to the style and layout of the magazine. For example he placed secular articles next to Church items, rather than at opposite ends of the publication, giving a miscellany of reading material. Under Jim's leadership, new contributors were drawn in and Betley School now makes regular contributions. (Of course with Jim as chair of Governors, he could make it happen, and I hope this will carry on.)

Editing a monthly magazine can be difficult sometimes, with the deadline for publication not always falling at the best time for you, or contributors needing just a little reminder! Jim and Andrea between them always went to press on time, if not early. They have done a great job. *Betley Parish News* goes to about 75% of households and plays an important part in spreading God's word, as well as being the vehicle for all the latest events and village news. Under the care of Andrea and Jim, it has continued to support the whole community; Balterley, Betley and Wrinehill are all covered. On second thoughts, now it is online, it may be going even further!

Thank you so much Andrea and Jim for all your hard work and best wishes for your future activities.

Sadie and Ken Blankley, after a "trial period" have agreed to continue as regular editors, whether this is online or on paper, and we are grateful to them, and wish them well.

Jennifer Walton

From the Editors:

We would also like to add our thanks to Jim and Andrea and say how much we have appreciated their support and advice during the handover.

Sadie and Ken Blankley

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

The arrangements set up by the Parish Council's VIPER Group (Village Incident Preparedness and Emergency Response) are continuing. With the support of Dr Patel the process for delivering medicines is working well, with deliveries most days. Caroline and Paul Beardsmore are doing excellent work in the village shop to ensure that the community is supplied with their requirements.

VIPER responsibilities are divided as follows:

Sebastian Daly – delivery of medicines & liaison with Dr Patel

Robert Bettley-Smith - liaison with village shop and signage

Richard Head - Village Hall (use of this facility has not yet been necessary)

Neil Bullock - (07717 617454) police & traffic liaison.

All members keep busy and Richard, as chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan is having regular 'Zoom' meetings with the group to maintain progress on the plan. Certain actions, such as the referendum on the plan, may have to be delayed and the current expectation is that the referendum to approve the Neighbourhood Plan will be held next May (at the same time as the local elections).

Worryingly, over the last month Neil has been particularly busy as we have had a range of incidents, including crimes (burglary, attempted burglary, thefts and speeding). **We ask all residents to be particularly vigilant** and to report crime, or suspected crime, through the usual channels (101 or 999) as soon as possible. Also please advise Neil Bullock of any concerns.

VIPER details:

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

The village shop can arrange home deliveries of food and household supplies within the Parish. The village shop number is **01270 820544**. There is now an online order form available (see Facebook page).

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



Follow us on Facebook!

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Finally, please ensure that you follow NHS guidelines in order to ensure the spread of Covid-19 is minimised and brought under control. Updated local advice is regularly posted on the Facebook page 'Betley and Wrinehill Events and Information'.

Parish Council News

The Parish Council has suspended all activities that are inconsistent with health advice. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Councilors, has been granted delegated powers.. This will include, for example, responding to any consultations (such as planning applications), meeting financial obligations, and taking up local issues where possible. Members of the public should contact the clerk about any matters of concern.

Communal Areas

The Memorial Garden and Sandy Croft are available for exercise but the Village Hall play area remains closed until further notice in line with Government legislation and statutory requirements. Please remember to maintain social distancing and follow any instructions from our contactors who may be working in those areas.

Waste disposal

The recycling centre at Leycett Lane has now re-opened on a limited basis (closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays). The County Council stresses that it should only be used where essential, and that there may be delays entering the site because of the need to maintain social distancing.

Next Meeting

We would normally list the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council but clearly that is uncertain at present, Please check our website for latest details. Go to

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

Gwyn Griffiths

Clerk 01270 663832

griffiths725@btinternet.com

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



***It's a record! 232kg in May
boosted by Government
Foodbox surplus
Thank you Betley!***

Warehouse Manager Peter reports,
*"Demand for food has increased by 40% in Newcastle, but thanks to
 the wonderful support of individuals, shops, businesses and
 community groups the Foodbank is coping well
 with the extra demand."*

Collection boxes for non-perishable food remain in the porches of the
 Reading Room and St Margaret's. Your contributions are monitored,
 secured and safely transferred to the warehouse.

**You can also support the Foodbank with financial donations. Just go to
[www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/newcastle-staffs-foodbank/
 ccregno1150816](http://www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/newcastle-staffs-foodbank/ccregno1150816)**

More information is available from

www.newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk

Kevin Hamer 820704



BETLEY READING ZOOM

**Missing The Reading Room?
 Why not Zoom in on Monday,
 Thursday or Saturday
 between 11.00 and 11.40am
 for a chat (bring your own coffee)**

Ring Kevin on 820704 for the link

take care and keep safe



BETLEY AND WRINEHILL W.I.

Dear Members,

I hope you are all keeping well during these difficult times. I have spoken to many of you who are on your own and I'm glad to see no one is starving or staying out late clubbing! Remember we are supposed to be the old and vulnerable!

I have been busier than normal with writing and practising the piano. Some of you too have been swept along in the tide of Zoom. Well done on mastering the technology - easier than online shopping!

We have missed several meetings and will of course miss our Summer party. If you remember we also had to cancel last year because the weather was so bad and we moved it this year to the Village Hall. Although nothing is confirmed, I suspect there will be no Betley Show this year. A source of income wiped out for many, including us. But the important thing is to stay safe and keep doing the aerobics at home – on second thoughts just stay safe!

Best wishes to you all,

Pam Clarke

A kind donation to Betley

Shirley Forde, an evacuee of 1944, was invited to attend VE Day celebrations by Betley Local History Society. Due to lockdown she was unable to come to an event that meant a lot to her and we would have been delighted to meet her and hear her story firsthand. Sadly, that was not to be.

However, Shirley donated a sum of money and set out some options for the History Society to consider. They voted on the issue and chose the option of purchasing fruit trees for the village. In taking this forward we will speak to Shirley and determine the most appropriate way to carry out her wishes.

Robert Bettley-Smith

BATS production of 'Anything Goes'

In the light of current restrictions, the Spring 2020 BATS production was postponed. If these restrictions are eased, it is hoped that 'Anything Goes' may be staged towards the end of October 2020.

In the meantime, if you have not already done so, don't forget to get a refund from Betley Village Shop for tickets purchased for the March production.

Dena Swift

BETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

VE Day

Although we have been apart from our children, our parents have been sending us lots of photos of the wonderful experiences that the children have been having. It was lovely to also see the banners created, walls decorated, window dressing and cake baking. We hope you all had your own safe VE Day celebration.



Over the last few weeks, the **Marvellous Minibeasts** have continued to impress us with their resilience and ability to adapt to the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in. Whilst at home, they have been learning about our new topic 'British Wildlife'; many of the children have sent in photographs of themselves and their wonderful models, paintings, and drawings of foxes, hedgehogs and badgers. They have also been researching various animals and looking out for them in their gardens (badgers, foxes, hedgehogs and robins have been spotted, amongst others). It is fantastic to see this work and also to see the children making the most of their time at home with their families. We have also been hearing about how the children celebrated VE Day and took a little time to remember those who fought for our country during the War. Well done Marvellous Minibeasts, we are very proud of you and we are looking forward to seeing you as soon as possible!

Miss French



It's official, **Fabulous Flamingos** at Betley Primary School are amazing! I knew this already, but the way they have adapted to this new way of learning has been nothing short of FABULOUS. The children have been learning so many new skills whilst at home including baking, hoovering, mowing the lawn and even cutting and chopping up wood. I have been inundated with happy pictures showing how much the children are enjoying their time and this has really lifted my spirits in this unprecedented time too. I am positive when the time comes to go back to school, the children will all have so much to say about their unique experiences. Thank you children and thank you parents, see you all soon when it's all safe again.

Mrs Graham

Despite being away from the classroom, the children in **Heroic Hedgehogs** (Year 3 and Year 4) have certainly not stopped learning! This half-term the children should have been exploring their latest topic of "Ridiculous Russia" - and they haven't let school closures stop them! I have been inundated with photographs and messages to show what the children have been up to - sketches and models of St. Basil's Cathedral, painted papier-maché models of Faberge eggs, reports and explanation texts written about the highest mountains and longest rivers in Russia and so much more!

As well as this, the children have been making the most of the recent good weather and have been taking their learning outside - studying the flora and fauna of their gardens and producing yet more reports, diagrams and explanations for me to read. I'm so proud of how resourceful, resilient and hardworking our children have been through these unprecedented and confusing times. Their positivity and enthusiasm have certainly kept me going when feeling flat - keep it up you amazing group of children.

Mr Hewitt

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these strange times. The year 5/6 children in the **Cheeky Chimps** have adapted extremely well to home learning and I am really proud of all of them. It has been lovely to see all the activities they have been doing as well as the online learning activities they are completing. Some of the wonderful things I have heard about are: clapping for the NHS each week; watching tadpoles grow and change; camping in the garden; baking and cooking lunches and lots of outdoor fun! I am really proud of how all the children and parents have adapted to this new way of learning and am looking forward to when we can all meet again.

Mrs Johnson

Who's afraid of the Old Testament? ...Coming to a service near you

Back in October, there was a joint St Margaret's and All Saints' workshop looking at the Old Testament. I think we all learnt a lot, but we were also left with lots of questions! Perhaps the biggest one was:

Is the God of the Old Testament angry and violent?

There isn't a simple answer to this, but we thought it would be good to carry on thinking about it. We will therefore have a sermon series about the story of the Old Testament. Read on if you want to find out more, or just turn up (on Zoom) on the 7th of June!

We won't be looking at the individual pieces of the Old Testament jigsaw puzzle, but rather at the completed image. There are different ways of putting the pieces together, but here's a nice one:

**'The Old Testament writers look forward to Christ;
the New Testament writers look back to him.'**

Colin Brown, *Karl Barth and the Christian Message*

If you're left with questions, that's OK! Please share them, and we can wrestle with them together. Here is a list of the themes we will be exploring, week by week:

	Title	Bible passage
June 7th Amazing Days	Creation	Genesis 1-2.3
June 14th	Rebellion	Genesis 3
June 21st Going Places	Abraham	Genesis 12
June 28th Free at last	Exodus and the 10	from Exodus 19-20
July 5th Tribal Rivals	Life in the promised Land	from Genesis 12 and 18
July 12th Good King?	King David	from Joshua & 1 Samuel
July 19th Bad King?	King Ahab and the prophet	from 1 Kings 16-18
July 26th Exile	Exile in Babylon	from Jeremiah 29
Aug 2nd Gates and	Return from Exile	from Nehemiah 2-3



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS ...

Burials

Monday 4th May:

David William Becket (died 15th April, aged 84)

Thursday 14th May:

Herta Marie Beeston (died 25th April, aged 90)

May they Rest In Peace

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.

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.

BETLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY www.blhs.co.uk

As you know, all meetings are closed for the foreseeable future until at least September. All that we can say is that Lawrence Bennion is booked for 24 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 at Old Hall Farm on the waterwheel, the stream and the barns.

We will, of course, keep you informed of when we can meet. In the meantime, if you are on Facebook, do look at our Betley Local History Society group page. In fact, it would be great if you were to add a small piece of information or an old photograph to encourage interest in the site. Comments also make something for members to take part in.

Photographs of your V E Day 75th Anniversary celebrations or written accounts would be a welcome contribution to our archives. Villagers will love to see them in 25 years' time!

Rhoda Farrington

The 2020 AGM, which should have taken place in March has been postponed until the business section of our first public meeting. Once we are able to use the Methodist Chapel again our usual BLHS talks and visits will begin. As well as the restoration of the the Model Farm, our programme will include: 1) Links with Betley and Maer, and 2) the History of Friendly Societies in Betley in the nineteenth century.

If you have time on your hands at present as well as a computer, you could consider investigating online the correspondence in the DARWIN PROJECT. The Wedgwoods and Darwins of Maer Hall had contacts with people from Betley Hall and the Court and the house associated with the founder of the Royal Horticultural Society, John Wedgwood. There could be a number of letters which have never been investigated locally. To start you off you could explore the links between Emma Darwin/Wedgwood and Betley. Further information on the Friendly Societies may be found in newspaper reports online. It is always helpful to make a note of your sources with the exact references.

There are other topics which lend themselves to further investigation if you wish to contact me, on smithx@globalnet.co.uk

Mavis Smith

Chair-elect BLHS



@BetleyHistory



Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill Quiz

1. What is the name of the village in France that Betley was twinned with?
2. What year was the foundation stone of Balterley All Saints Church laid?
3. What year was Betley Primary School built?
4. Which building housed the school before then?
5. How many bells are there in St Margaret's Church?
6. What was the name of the medicine that Samuel Johnson produced in the 1880s in the Medicine House that stood in Wrinehill?
7. What are the two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the parish boundaries?
8. Who played cricket for Betley and went on to play for England?
9. Betley is mentioned in the Domesday Book but what year is normally associated with production of the Book?
10. What year was the first BATS (Betley Amateur Theatrical Society) production?

Answers on page 22

Riddle

What word in the English language does the following:

The first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great person, while the entire word signifies a great woman. What is the word?

BETLEY METHODIST CHURCH

As you are aware, there has been little change in the Coronavirus lockdown situation. Our church and chapel buildings are still closed but a pandemic cannot keep us from communicating via new technology. While St Margaret's are excelling themselves with both video and Zoom versions of Morning Service plus the 'Thought for the Day' talented storytellers as well as children's sessions (I have watched most of them and hope that *you* are not missing out), Rev. Den has continued what began as Easter Season Services and mid-week prayers for our Rope Green Area group of Chapels.

By using conference calls some 70 people have joined in worship at 9.45am and a further 30 have chosen the 6.00pm alternative. We really feel held together by the Prayer times at 8.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays when we can also share various news items. I think that Rev. Den anticipated meeting with perhaps six to ten of her flock but, in fact, we have quite a rush to get through as 25-32 folk have phoned in to most sessions.

Rev. Den set up a 'Just Giving' site for Christian Aid Week on Sunday 10 May and by Monday evening £527 had been donated and by the end of the week in the region of £1,000! This was all the more amazing as the Annual Sponsored Swim organized by Malcolm Crook of Wells Green had already raised £4,000!

Phone-in Prayer times:

Sundays: 6:00 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8.30 pm

You can obtain the phone number and PIN number from me on

01270 820022

Rhoda Farrington

Sanctus, St Mark's Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees



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.

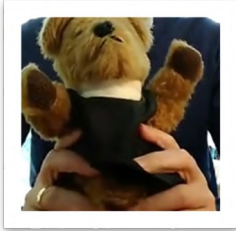
St Margaret's is one such church. If you would like to donate, please leave your contribution in the church porch.

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



CHURCH for CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

Praise and Play



Our toddler group has moved online for now, on Monday morning on All Saints' Facebook page. We've recently been joined by another vicar, Rev. Wilfred (pictured), who's been helping Rev. Peter lead the group.

WHEN? Every Monday at 10am live on All Saints Madeley Facebook page (you can catch up later too) – or on <http://tiny.cc/PraiseandPlay>.

Kid's church

St Margaret's *Early Birds*, have joined forces with All Saints' *Towers* group for kid's church online every Sunday. It's been such fun for us to prepare it – never mind the children watching! – especially because the children are also involved in the videos that we put together. We're very grateful for the leaders and the children who have embraced the challenge of going online. Even if you're no longer 'young', you may still find it fun.

WHEN? Every Sunday, from 9.30am, on the churches' Facebook pages or on this link: <http://tiny.cc/kidschurch>

Youth group

The youth group continues to meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays, and we've had a few new faces joining us. We've been looking at some big questions, such as What is friendship?, and Why there are so many things in the world that make us go WOW? - all surrounded by fun and games that are only possible online, such as rummaging around the house for clothes items and putting them all on at the same time. Our thanks go to our great volunteers, who offer so much support and encouragement, and who are braving this technological new world. We meet on Zoom, please contact johnbpallister@gmail.com or peterchantry@hotmail.com for details.

Upcoming dates: 14th June 28th June

John Beswick Pallister

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/>, but you can see them later on Facebook or on this link: <http://tiny.cc/tftd>

Written in the woods

by Matilde Hinds

The streets are filled with empty
The world outside is dead
While silence comes in plenty
There's a riot in my head

There isn't space to wonder
When you're stuck inside at home
On an independent wander
Your mind is free to roam

As if the meadows understood
The peace I so desired
Within the thicket of the wood
I finally feel inspired

Any absent walk could mould
A ballad or haiku
There's poetry that lies untold
In the forest I walk through

Immersed beneath the canopy
I can escape the cage
I write to let emotions free
Vented on the page

For miles and miles through field and tree
The world would disappear
Though back home it waits for me
It cannot find me here

Matilde Hinds



This past couple of months...

.... have been so alien to us all and so many things have happened that we never thought could. For me (a 16-year old GCSE student) the cancellation of all public exams came as a big shock and is something I still can't quite believe... After constant assurance from teachers that the exams would take place, and them telling us to continue to work as we had done for the past two years in preparation, the day came where it was announced schools would be closing. Daisy and I were leaving our dance lesson to find the mums in the carpark shouting the news! On the ride home we were in shock: not only were schools closing but exams cancelled – just like that, everything we had worked towards for two years had gone with a flash! Although then it seemed like the end of the world, I now know just how lucky I am to be safe and able to get where I want to go.

There have certainly been highs and lows during these past months as I'm sure there have been for everybody. The day we left school was a particularly sad, yet precious, day for me. We did the usual signing of shirts and photos, pupils and teachers alike shed tears at the last assembly we shared together, as it all just felt wrong – it was March after all.

From then on, the unnerving thing for me was having so much spare time. Having worked solidly for two years, to have this relief was strange yet almost welcome. Like many others, I tried to list some goals for this time. However, I have now come to realise to not put too much pressure on myself but to deal with this hard time with what makes me feel happy – something which is incredibly important for us all. I am enjoying walks with the family – discovering new routes and beautiful scenery. We are just so lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world! I have also enjoyed baking – when we can source flour of course – and doing my dance classes online (which has been interesting!). I think it's amazing that so many people have taken to embracing the power of technology and learning how to use things like Zoom to stay connected with each other. I myself had my 16th birthday party via Zoom and although perhaps not the same as seeing friends in person, it was a lot of fun!

My heart goes out to all the NHS staff working so hard for our country and anyone affected by this horrible disease. And I only hope it will all be over soon. Thank you.

Rose Mellor



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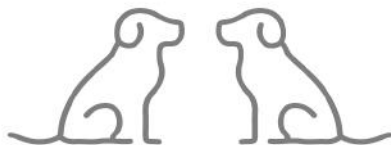
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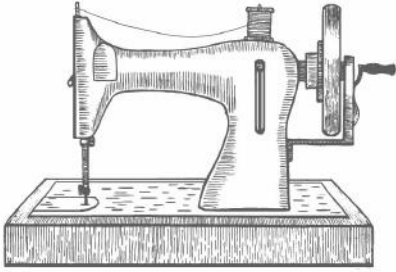
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