

Betley



March
2021



St Margaret's

PARISH NEWS

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

St Margaret's Church***Celebrating, sharing and growing in God's love*****Officers of the Parish Church of St Margaret's, Betley****VICAR OF BETLEY AND OF MADELEY**

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Please email all items by the 15th of the
preceding month to **BetleyParishMag@gmail.com**



A MESSAGE FROM REVD. TIM WATSON



As March 2021 begins we are in the midst of the season of Lent, when the church prepares to celebrate Easter. The season represents something of a pilgrimage that leads through the days and weeks towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Traditionally many Christians have abstained from something over Lent as a way to focus on the season itself – perhaps by giving up chocolate or alcohol throughout

Lent, perhaps by choosing one day a week to fast.

In recent years many Christians (and indeed many others) have taken on something extra, challenging themselves to undertake an act of kindness each day as part of the '40 Acts of Kindness' initiative. For a number of years I have run an initiative called #40thoughts that tries to encourage people to reflect on different themes throughout Lent.

As we approach Lent in 2021 I wonder how you feel about the idea of laying something down or taking something extra on? Given we are in the midst of a pandemic and lockdown haven't we all given enough up? No longer able to visit family, no longer able to go to the thrash metal concert you've been waiting for, no longer able to meet a group of friends for a drink...

And haven't we all had to take on so many other things? Becoming literate at the use of new technologies, getting used to face masks and restrictions, home-schooling....

How about this Lent we take the opportunity to be attentive. Attentive to the beauty of the world around us. Attentive to friends and neighbours in distress.

Perhaps the very act of being attentive is all the preparation we need as we journey towards Good Friday and beyond.

Blessings,

Revd Tim

IN THIS MONTH'S BETLEY PARISH NEWS ...

The last week of February brings welcome news from the Government as to how, given certain conditions, the country will ease its way out of lockdown. The return to more normal attendance at Betley School is the first step, but we will have to wait beyond March for many village activities to resume.

Church services will still be online only for now, see below and opposite for details of the schedule during Lent and see page 15 for plans for Holy Week services. On 21st March the Sunday service will have a special focus on the charity 'Christian Solidarity Worldwide', more information on page 6.

The Parish Council and its members have been busy finalising the Neighbourhood Development Plan to reflect local feedback and, good news for those daily walks – work will begin on tidying the pavements in Wrinehill at the end of February. Volunteers have already been preparing the area so that Council staff can make best use of their time here. See page 8.

As Spring arrives we are encouraged to pledge to make even a small change in the garden, if we can, which will have a positive impact on the environment. See page 19 for more about the Eco Church initiative.

The Reading Room remains physically closed for now, but it's open online as usual three mornings a week (page 17), and on 20th March everyone's welcome to a Taster Talk by Revd. Tim on why he loves contemporary art – details of how to join on page 14. Use the link at the bottom of the page.

The 'stay home' message continues until the end of the month, but there are still plenty of things to look forward to and we may even be able to have a printed version of the magazine for the April edition

The Editors

Lent sermon series: Letting go

Over the last year, we've had to let go of things that we take for granted because of the pandemic. But Lent is a time in church tradition when we are invited to **intentionally let go** of normal things in order **to make more space for God**, and to prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter in an even deeper way. So our sermon series will encourage us to let go of many things in this positive way.

Revd. John Beswick Pallister

Holy Week Services

See page 15 for details. There will also be updates in the church notice sheets and on the [St Margaret's Betley](#) Facebook page.

**ST MARGARET'S BETLEY... SERVICES IN MARCH**

As the national lockdown continues the following services will be on Zoom, serving both Betley and Madeley.

Everyone is welcome and you will need login details to join. Please sign up to our mailing list at www.tiny.cc/weeklymail to receive this, or contact John or one of the churchwardens.

Tuesday 2 nd March	9:15am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 7th March Third Sunday of Lent	11:00am	Service of the Word <i>Letting go of ...Tradition</i>
	6:30pm	<i>Living Streams</i> Praise!
Tuesday 9 th March	9:15am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 14th March Mothering Sunday	11:00am	Service of the Word <i>Letting go of ...Condemnation</i>
Tuesday 16 th March	9:15am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 21st March Passiontide and Mission Sunday for CSW (see p xx)	11:00am	Holy Communion <i>Letting go of ...Safety</i>
Tuesday 23 rd March	9:15am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday	11:00am	Holy Communion Mark 11:1-11
Sunday 4th April Easter Day	6:30am 11:00am	Easter SonRise Holy Communion



St. Margaret's continues to be open for individual private prayer between 9.00am and 5.00pm daily

You are welcome to enter but please follow the guidelines posted on the church door and close the door when you leave.

World Day of Prayer Service

This service (prepared in 2021 by women from Vanatu) would normally be held on 5th March. It has been postponed until later in the year.

ST MARGARET'S MISSION SUNDAY 21st MARCH

CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE – CSW

Despite the impact of COVID-19 we want to maintain our tradition at St Margaret's of focusing on four different charities through the year. Normally this would be at special services in church, with cash collections and donations in envelopes going to the chosen charity. This year our first such 'Mission Sunday' service will be online from All Saints' Madeley.

ABOUT CSW

CSW is an organisation that supports and campaigns for those who are facing injustice because of their religion. They believe world leaders have a duty to protect freedom of religion or belief. CSW seeks to challenge and change the laws, behaviours and policies which lead to abuses of the right to freedom of religion and belief, and they have over three decades of experience in this work.

Their team of specialist advocates work in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, to ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is upheld and protected. Their vision is a world free from religious persecution.

Those in situations of persecution often feel abandoned and alone and one way CSW seeks to help them is described in a booklet called 'Connect & Encourage'. This gives information about people to whom you could write to encourage them and to let them know that they are not forgotten. Visit csw.org.uk/connectencourage for more information. Why not write a note or send a card to someone who would really appreciate knowing you are thinking and praying for them?

If you wish to support your fellow believers with a **donation to Christian Solidarity Worldwide** you can do this by:

1. Cash or cheque (payable to St. Margaret's PCC) in an envelope marked CSW. If you wish it to be Gift Aided you can write a declaration on the envelope that you are a tax payer and sign it. You can leave the envelope safely:
 - In the Church Offertory Box on the wall behind the main door
 - Through Shade House letterbox, Main Road (St.M's Churchwarden)
 - Through Hall Lodge letterbox, Chamberlain Court (St. M's Treasurer)
2. BACS transfer to St. Margaret's PCC a/c 09-01-29 52290260 with reference 'CSW'
3. Directly to the Charity via the CSW website; www.csw.org.uk. If you use this option please let the St. Margaret's Treasurer know what has been donated at his address as above or email wesselsholton@btinternet.com

Jennifer Walton
Churchwarden



FILMS AND THEOLOGY

In February a group of us met on a Saturday night via Zoom to discuss the 1999 film *The Matrix*. It had been mentioned in a sermon a few weeks before and there was clearly an interest in having a discussion. With a new chapter of *The Matrix* due in 2021 the time was right to dig in!

And so a group of people gathered online to talk about the film, to explore cultural, philosophical ideas as well as to reflect on any theological themes and connections.

I always find these kind of conversations fascinating and enriching. I love movies, visual art, poetry, and music and I especially love the way the different media help us to engage with bigger, more existential themes. Whether we like opera, jazz, renaissance paintings, silent movies from the early 20th century, beat poetry or K-Pop, the arts can speak to us in very powerful ways.

I wonder what you love to do? Get stuck into an epic novel? Play piano? Binge-watch Netflix box-sets? Pogo around the kitchen to punk while you wash up?

What place does art and all that creative content play in your life?

If you're not sure, why not take time to experience something you wouldn't normally: listen to some free jazz when you'd rather be watching *Corrie*. Watch *Corrie* when you'd rather be listening to free jazz? Why not take the lockdown opportunity to engage with the stuff you wouldn't normally engage with? Maybe by doing so you might encounter something that moves you and helps you to get through these strange and difficult days.

Revd. Tim Watson

Alpha on Zoom

A new Alpha programme starts on **Tuesday 13th April**: a great opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith. Contact Revd. Tim for details.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS ...

Funerals

On Thursday 21st January **Marjorie Ellen Young**, who died 23rd December, aged 95, funeral followed by burial in the churchyard.

On Monday 15th February **Jean Evelyn Butler**, who died 24th January, aged 85, funeral followed by burial in the churchyard.

May They Rest In Peace

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Pavement Works: Good News!

The Parish Council is delighted to advise residents that pavement clearing work, to be undertaken by Staffordshire Highways/Newcastle Borough Council will start on Friday 26th February on the section from the 30 mph sign in Wrinehill to the bridge (Betley Parish boundary) and then from the bridge to Heighley Castle Lane (Madeley Parish). They will go further, beyond Heighley Caste Lane, towards Madeley Heath if time permits. The work will take place over three weeks on Friday/Saturday 26th/27th February, Friday/Saturday 5th/6th March and Friday 12th March.

This outcome is the result of hard work, over a couple of years, by Paul Northcott, the County Councillor, Gary and Simon White, the Borough Councillors, Betley Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council, and Madeley Parish Council, who submitted a number of reports to the county and also lobbied for action. The county now accept this is an important walking route, as had been demonstrated by the commitment of the community to the route and the work already done by volunteers, who cleared some of these sections of pavement in the summer and more recently. The land owner kindly cut the hedge between Bowsey Wood and Heighley Castle Lane just before Christmas, at the request of the Parish Council, which also helped achieve a favourable decision.

Looking ahead, when we met on 16th February we agreed that there was a need for the community to help maintain the route; for example, by clearing leaves in the autumn, which will reduce the build-up of organic matter and grass growth. Other means of suppressing vegetation growth over the footpath are being considered by the County and Borough. The Chairman is discussing this with the Borough Councillors (and we will be looking for volunteers). The Parish Council will be undertaking pavement clearance works in other areas of the Parish in March (these works can be funded as a result of the increased precept).

Highways: Reporting Issues to SCC

A number of residents have asked recently about how they can report issues with roads, drains, floods, roadway footpaths etc., directly to the Highways Department of Staffordshire County Council. The answer is that it's easy and the most effective route is to do this online either via the Staffordshire County Council *myStaffs* app (available free from the Apple App Store or Google Play). If you prefer to use your computer the same service is available at <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>. Alternatively you can call the General enquiries (Contact Centre): [0300 111 8000](tel:03001118000).

With both the app and the website:

1. Start by clicking on Create a new report
2. Then click on the type of issue you want to report (i.e. Road Damage, Drains & Manholes, Pavements etc.)



3. Show the location of the issue by clicking on a map to move the pin to the exact location. Tip: If you need to move the map on your computer press and hold the left mouse button and drag the map to where you need to click.
4. Enter a description of the fault, and the exact location (do not include contact details or personal information at this stage)
5. There is an option to upload any photos you may have
6. Click Next step to reach the final stage
7. Enter your contact details and click on the Submit button.
8. You should then receive an acknowledgement e-mail quoting your reference number to the email address you have quoted.

Covid 19

As this issue goes to (virtual) print vaccination is progressing well and there is a steady improvement in infection rates and hospitalisations. However if we are to continue to make progress **it remains vital that we all continue to follow Government health guidelines:**

- Stay home except for essential journeys (rule applies until 29th March)
- Wash your hands regularly (or use hand sanitiser);
- Maintain social distancing;
- Wear face coverings where appropriate or required.

If you have symptoms you should arrange a test as soon as possible either via the website www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phone on 119. We know that the system has been working well locally with same-day testing and results within 24 hours. While you are awaiting your test appointment or the test results *you must self-isolate, and clearly if you have a positive test result you and your household must self-isolate for the necessary period.* As we go to print testing is also available for Staffordshire residents *without* symptoms at www.staffordshire.zipporah.co.uk/TrackAndTrace but please note this *must not* be used if you have any symptoms.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has now signed off the changes to the Draft Plan made in response to the comments received during the consultation period in the autumn of 2020. The Group is very grateful to all those who responded; your comments have resulted in a Plan which is definitely a stronger document for the changes made. A wide range of issues were raised, but there are three areas we would like to highlight.

First, there was concern that as a **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)** the intention was to encourage development in the area. This is not the case. The law requires it to be called a Development Plan, but the intention is that it will **control** development, so that any changes are in line with the needs of the community rather than the interests of developers. Having a Plan in place will strengthen our protection against inappropriate development which is particularly important as it now looks as though it could

be some time before the Borough Council has its own Local Plan in place.

Secondly, the Plan has to include certain lists and maps drawn up by the Borough Council. It has become clear that some of those lists and maps may include errors and omissions. This has been drawn to the attention of the Borough, and the Parish Council will be pressing for these to be corrected as soon as possible. In the meantime however these maps have to be reproduced as supplied by the Borough Council in the NDP.

Finally, concern was expressed at the inclusion of the garages area at East Lawns as a 'Housing Opportunity Site' within the Plan. This was initially included as Aspire had suggested that it would be looking at the possibility of development. However, given the concerns raised by local residents and issues raised by some of the statutory bodies consulted **this site has now been removed from the NDP.**

The Parish Council will be meeting at the beginning of March to formally approve the NDP which will then be submitted to Newcastle Borough Council. NBC will carry out a further consultation and arrange for the Plan to be examined by an independent Planning Inspector.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 25th March on Zoom. The April meeting will probably also be online. For details of how to view the meeting and raise issues at it, or on any other matter relating to the Council please contact the Clerk (as below). Details of all meetings are posted on the local noticeboards and on the Council's website at www.betley-balterley-wrinehill.org.uk.

Gwyn Griffiths

Clerk

griffiths725@btinternet.com

01270 663832

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

BETLEY AND WRINEHILL W.I.



WI membership booklets are in my house. If anyone wishes to collect one, please contact me.

Pam Clarke (01270 820039)



SIMPLE CONVERSATIONS ON FOOD

Liven up or possibly lighten up your Lunches!!

Lunch has become a bit of a thing in our house since this lockdown started - I guess it's because we are both at home and need an interval in our day.

Whereas it used to be grab and go - it's now a considered meal and has become more sociable and probably more calorific!! With that in mind I'll be looking at some quick and healthy lunch options with a few indulgences as well.

So what are you having for lunch these days and has it altered over the last 12 months?

Join us for SCoF in the Zoom - **Thursday 4th March 2pm.** Contact me for details.

Jo Thomas

Thomas.Johanne@gmail.com

What are *les beaux enfants de Betley* up to? See next page ...



BETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cheeky Chimps (Year 5/6)

It has been another strange time for the Cheeky Chimps at Betley Primary School as the country went into lockdown again and the school was closed only a day after being back from the Christmas break.

The children have been absolutely amazing during this time and I couldn't be more proud of them. They have adapted to the situation extremely well and their attitude to their learning, whether in school as children of critical workers or at home completing learning, has been exceptional.

The children at home have been following the same routine as they would normally do in school, with spellings, handwriting, English and maths being completed in the morning and other curriculum areas, for instance science, art, history, geography, music and computing being completed in the afternoons. The children at home have been taking part in two Google Meets every day where they have been introduced to the day's work in the morning and this work is then discussed in the afternoons.

Even though we have been separated as a whole class in the last six weeks, we have completed some exciting learning relating to our topic of the **Vikings**. The children have enjoyed such activities as:

- Creating artwork showing a Viking longboat at sea;
- Recreating a Viking longhouse including describing how it would be different to a house nowadays;
- Making a clay plaque that includes their names spelt in Viking runes;
- The battle of Lindisfarne and what the island is like nowadays;
- The different roles in a Viking settlement and what everyday family life would look like; and
- Designing and making their own Viking shield.

The class have enjoyed reading the class book, 'Viking Boy', and we were extremely lucky and grateful to be donated a class set of this reading book so that all the children at home could have a paper copy of the book to read. I know that all the children have appreciated this and are very much enjoying the book and looking forward to seeing what happens after half term.

During this difficult time, we have also had a **French day** for the children who were in school and the children at home. The children dressed up for the day and attended their Google Meets in their French attire! During the



day, the children took part in a variety of different activities including learning traditional French songs, creating a model of the Eiffel tower that would stand up, planning a holiday to France including travel arrangements such as where they would stay, activities they would do and food; this included working out the total cost of the holiday, trying French food, learning more about different regions in France and looking at maps of France. We all had a fantastic day and the children learnt a great deal.

Admissions to school

Nursery

If your child's fourth birthday is between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 it's time to apply for Nursery. Applications are now open! We would love you to join our school. We have also created a Betley Tour video. Have a look at what we offer:

<https://betley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/playlist/nursery-tour>

More information on our Admissions page:

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

Reception

Is your child's fifth birthday between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022? If so you need to apply for a school place. The application process has closed but don't worry, you are still able to apply via the Local Authority. The link below has all the information that you need:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

More information about our school:

<https://betley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/playlist/admissions-2021-tour>

Return to school

We are very excited that all our children will be back in school on **Monday 8th March** and we are looking forward to being on the path to getting some sort of normal back. We have been so impressed with all the children during this lockdown and how they are engaging with home learning, but we can't wait to see this enthusiasm in the classroom again. Our comprehensive Risk Assessments (based on DfE Guidance) similar to the September start will be shared with our parents and children.

Sam Ray

Executive Headteacher
www.betley.staffs.sch.uk



READING ROOM TASTERS

Short Talks For Everyone

Why our Vicar loves contemporary art



presented by
Revd. Tim Watson

Saturday 20th March at 11.00am

www.tiny.cc/ReadingRoomTasters



CHURCH FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Praise and Play

The toddler group is online-only which is certainly better than *not* meeting! Please see our Facebook page for news.

Early Birds/Kids' Church

On Sunday mornings there's *Kids' Church* which you can join online and do at home.

School assemblies

School assemblies will be recorded videos until it is safe to meet again.

Youth Group

Our youth group will continue on Zoom for the time being. Please pass on the message about this group, and let John know of anyone who might like to join. **The Youth Group will be meeting on 14th and 28th March**

For information about any of these activities, contact John, as below.

Revd. John Beswick Pallister

johnbpallister@gmail.com (07428 342808)

A JOURNEY FOR LENT: WORKING FROM REST

Lockdown and the pandemic seem to have made people either very busy or very bored - occasionally both at the same time!

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) are therefore inviting us to join a 40-day prayer journey, exploring the reasons for restlessness, God's gift of rest, and how your work – in your job, your home, or your street – can flow from that place of rest and connection with him.

While LICC aims primarily at people in work, I'm sure many have experienced restlessness even when not very busy, so I would recommend this to all. Join at www.licc.org.uk

Revd. John Beswick Pallister

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

30 th March	7:30pm	' <i>Breaking Day</i> '- a virtual Passion Play by Riding Lights Theatre Company
1 st April	7:30pm	(Maundy Thursday) Special Commemoration of The Last Supper
2 nd April	4:00pm	Short Good Friday service for all ages
3 rd April	7:30pm	A Holy Saturday reflection in words, art and music
4 th April	6:30am	Easter SonRise service
	11:00am	Easter Holy Communion

LOCKDOWN - THE SEQUEL

Well, Lockdown One was made bearable for some by warm sunny weather, blue skies and the promise of a long Summer. Lockdown Two was chilly and drear with only Christmas to lighten the darkness. The Christmas decorations, trees and lights went up earlier than usual. The opportunities for walks through fields, mud and deep puddles (lakes actually) were fewer, which meant that more time was spent indoors. The Christmas release from lockdown meant that there was a price to pay in terms of soaring numbers of virus cases, hospitalisations and deaths. Things were looking grim. Then news of a vaccine, to be administered imminently, emerged. This eclipsed any other news such as UK's exit from Europe, Princess Eugenie's baby and Boris Johnson's hair.

Just when it seemed that it would be more of the same, I slipped on the stairs, landed awkwardly on my foot and fractured five small bones in my foot. This meant no driving for the foreseeable future, and wearing an inelegant black shoe. In the same week I was summoned to receive 'the vaccination'. I wasn't expecting anything to happen, but it did. First the arm ached, but I put that down to a zealous over-pruning of a cherry tree. By the evening I had a headache and felt very tired. By 9pm I ached all over and had to be helped to bed where I remained for the next two days. I felt as if I had Covid-19 without the cough. My son had come up to deal with the foot situation and to do some parenting of the parent so I was able to wallow in misery without feeling guilty. At this point the foot had paled into insignificance. But nothing lasts forever, so by day three I was able to hobble around and shout at the radio.

It seemed that the days were getting longer. From the window I could see buds forming on the trees and bushes and the bulbs had started to sprout. Some stalwart lettuce looked a bit limp after the blast of frost, but hopefully they would revive. Before he left, my son had managed to spread four bags of Poppy's finest around the garden. I have high hopes for Spring this year.

With time for reflection, looking back over my lockdown, it had been better than most. I completed the book with only the fiddly bits to sort. I had read a lot of books. The Betley Reading Room virtual coffee sessions, courtesy of Zoom, continued to keep spirits buoyant with cheery chat. I tuned in to the January Betley and Wrinehill Parish Council Meeting and requested that the pavements between Wrinehill and Betley and Madeley be improved sooner rather than later. This was promised. The discussion then turned to choice of Christmas tree for next year and suitable lights. Speak now or forever hold your peace! Christmas starts early in Betley.

There were so many virtual lectures being held, relayed from all over the world, on so many different subjects, that my head, crammed with food for thought, was fuller than my fridge. I caught up on endless box sets of series I had missed last year.

Then it snowed. The fields turned white and sparkly and seemed cleansed after melt-down. As if by magic, it felt as if Spring was waiting in the wings ready to jump out and surprise us. Things could only get better and I was alive to see that.

Angela Drakakis-Smith



BETLEY READING ZOOM

Why not Zoom into the Reading Room for a chat on Monday, Thursday or Saturday between 11.00 and 11.40am (bring your own coffee)

Just enter the Meeting ID:
775 211 3022 and Passcode: coffee



*Despite the lockdown
70 kgs of food was contributed by
Betley in February
Thank you one and all!*

Current shortages are
Long life milk, Small sugar
Sponge puddings, Washing up liquid
But any non-perishable food is welcome!

Collection boxes in the porches of the Reading Room and the Church are frequently monitored.

Your contributions are secured and safely transferred to the warehouse.

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

Kevin Hamer 820704

U3A

Madeley & District U3A is an independent charity run by volunteers to serve the communities of Madeley, Betley, Keele, Whitmore, Baldwins Gate, Woore, Onneley and the surrounding area. It provides a wide range of activities and interest groups. These mainly take place on weekdays during daylight hours, and adults of any age are welcome, with the motto 'learn, laugh, live'. Some groups have continued to meet regularly via Zoom and we hope to resume some of our outdoor activities as soon as possible within the new government regulations. For details see the website <https://madeleydistrictu3a.wordpress.com>.

The tree planting group will be glad to hear from anyone who would like to join us or to suggest possible sites for planting. For further information please contact the group co-ordinator, Ruth Eagle [01782 750917](tel:01782750917) or email ruthefgh@gmail.com

Chris Hawksley
07771 755307

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 Revd. John Beswick Pallister, or Revd. Pamela Lane to find out who is on duty on a particular Sunday.

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.

www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk.

Don't forget to check out the local businesses who advertise in the back pages of the magazine and if you use them mention that you found them in Betley Parish News



BETLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

It is now more than a year since we last met for a talk, and life is not the same. As a committee we 'meet' by phone and email. It is with pleasure that we welcomed Dr Anne Becket on to our committee again. However, we have no BLHS photographer to provide a record of how the village appears now. This is very important for our archives. If anyone would like to be our official photographer without necessarily being on the committee, please let us know, by contacting our secretary Rhoda Farrington on 01270 820022.

Mavis E Smith

Chair and Newsletter Editor



@BetleyHistory

www.blhs.co.uk

CLIMATE CHANGE: MAKING AN ECO-PLEDGE

Did you know that here at St Margaret's we are on the quest to be a successful Eco Church?

We are hoping to instigate a conversation about how we can collectively consider our environmental impact on our planet - an issue that is becoming increasingly prominent in all our lives. How do we mitigate this impact? We are already looking at changes that can be made in both the church grounds and building that could decrease our carbon footprint.

With this in mind, **would you consider making an environmental pledge in the run-up to Easter?** Could you plant a tree in your garden maybe or create a wildflower area? These are just a couple of suggestions, but there will undoubtedly be other pledges which you could make that will make a difference - no matter how small. We look forward to sharing and developing ideas in the coming months and hope that you are all willing to be included in the conversation.

Alison Hendriksen

COUNTRY FOOTPATH WALKS

Please join us for one of our walks – Try one for free and then you can decide to pay our annual subscription of £5.00 (normally due annually in November after the AGM).

Walks are usually on the first Sunday of each month starting at 10:00am and finishing around 12:00 /12:30

Distance around 4 to 5 miles.

For more information, please contact our Chair, Jon, on 07976 814023.

**We hope to begin walks again in April so
look out for more news next month.**



Betley and District Village Hall Bowling Club

Why not try crown green bowling this year?

We are a club which positively welcomes new members of all ages and abilities. We will open this year when the government and the British Crown Green Bowling Association advise it is safe to do so. Meantime if you would like to find out a bit more about the club and crown green bowling in general then please get in touch.

Wondering where we are?

We are tucked away behind the village hall, the tennis court, and the children's play area. In its lovely village setting, it is now well established with a wide cross section of members. During normal times we have social activities, regular friendly events with other clubs, and opportunities to play in local leagues.

For more information contact -
Rachel Alcock 01270 820136 or email paulrach121@gmail.com
Tony Turner 07721 939501 or email arturner.uk@gmail.com

The snowdrops have been especially welcome this year





BETLEY METHODIST CHURCH

A rather lovely Service was held in St Margaret's Church on Monday 15th February in memory of JEAN BUTLER. Jean was 85 and was the last of the family of Ron Jones and his three sisters who were brought up in the old kitchen quarters of Betley Hall where Grandad was the gardener. Jean went to Betley School and was confirmed and married in Betley Church. Although she and her husband of 61 years, Dennis, loved to attend several of our rural Chapels (she cleaned Bridgemere Chapel for many years) and could be found in Betley Chapel every Sunday over the last 20 years, she had a strong desire to return to Betley Church where she now lies with her mother. Her chosen hymns were: *Morning has broken, All things bright and beautiful, O Jesus I have promised ...* and *We plough the fields and scatter* which so suited her farming life and love of Harvest Festival time.

We thank Revd. Tim for conducting such a lovely calm, unhurried service. We processed out into sunshine and exquisite birdsong. Spring had arrived it seemed. R.I.P. Jean.

The Methodist Chapel remains closed. 'Conference call' Sunday Services at 6:00pm and Night prayers at 8:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30pm continue with Revd. Den and members of Shavington, Wells Green and Willaston Chapels. To join in just phone 0330 336 0036 and enter the PIN number 117868 when asked.

God bless,

Rhoda Farrington
and Betley Methodists

The Patience Strong poem 'The Story' which we included in the December 2020 magazine reminded Wrinehill resident Jenny Clarke of one of her favourites...

Happiness

by Patience Strong

If you seek it for yourself you search for it in vain
It will vanish like the rainbow gleaming through the rain.
Fortune may be kind, life's greatest gifts you may possess
And yet not know the secret of this thing called happiness.
It is only found when you forget yourself and start
To bring a little sunshine into someone else's heart.
Seek it for yourself and it eludes the questioning mind
But in making others happy,
Happiness you find.



Community News



HS2

On 15 February the HS2 Phase 2A Bill received Royal Assent and in Staffordshire the Ground Investigation work which has already commenced will continue and in Spring 2021 work will begin to prepare the land for construction of the railway. This enabling work will include further surveys, utility diversions, archaeological digs, tree planting, ecological habitat creation and work on the highways.

The Project team are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes making sure you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how they can help. As part of this, they will produce a local area engagement plan setting out how they will engage with communities along the 2A route to ensure that they meet their commitments and continue to be a good neighbour. The first local area engagement plan will be published later this year.

If you have a question about HS2 or the works, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Bitcoin Investment Scams

Action Fraud **are warning the public to be vigilant of unsolicited emails promoting cryptocurrency (Bitcoin) investment opportunities.** They've received over 750 reports about Bitcoin-related phishing emails that use fake celebrity endorsements to try and lure victims into investment scams. The links in the emails lead to fraudulent websites that are designed to steal your money, as well as your personal and financial information.

How you can protect yourself:

Investment opportunities: Don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into making a transaction on the spot.

Seek advice first: Speak with a trusted friend or with family members, and seek independent professional advice before making significant financial decisions.

FCA register: Use the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

For more information about how to invest safely, please visit:

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Report suspicious emails: If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, you can report it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service by forwarding the email to - report@phishing.gov.uk.




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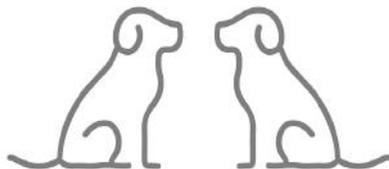
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