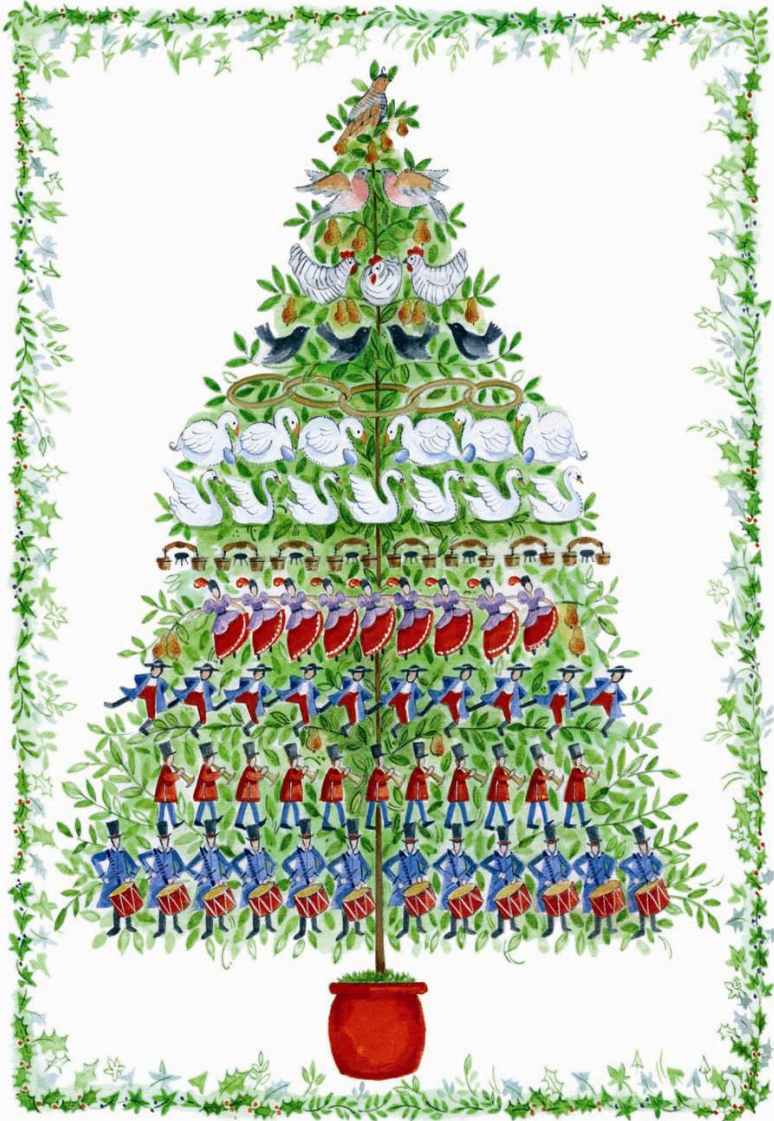


INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2020



CHURCH LETTER

As I write, the rain is sweeping across and both the ground and the sheep are very soggy indeed. It hardly seems possible that in just two weeks and indeed when you read this, December will be upon us and we will enter the season of Advent.

Just what are we to make of it all this year? The time of waiting and indeed preparing takes on a whole additional layer as we wait on announcements from the Government which will shape our Christmas time.

Covid cannot stop Christmas, with its message of the birth of Jesus, in the manger, at Bethlehem. It will seek to make it different in any number of ways; from dealing with illness or mourning the loss of someone you love at one end of the scale, to letters already being written to Father Christmas at Reindeerland at the other end. Christmas means different things to different people, at different points in their lives and actually, it will be just so this year too.

The arrival of dark evenings, with which lockdown 2 simultaneously arrived, has encouraged people to seek brightness and light through Christmas decoration and preparation. Many have started decorating their home early. As you read this, you may have already opened the first windows on your Advent calendar, as days toward Christmas, count their way down.

It may feel harder than usual to reflect on the God of Advent. Puzzling, mysterious, awesome, beyond our comprehension. God, who is healer and deliverer. God who is as ever, love, in this seasonal time, where words such as expectancy, hope, wonder and mystery form part of our thinking, reading and prayer.

There has been many an Advent and many a Christmas when thoughts have been mixed. You will know very well the type of human action which can make it so. The Churches were there in those times and they remain here for us today.

With God's blessing, we will have the opportunity to share, to hear God's message to us this Christmas time. Things will be different in our Churches; we may celebrate Christmas with a service outside, with limited numbers and wearing masks inside. Whatever happens, the message will be the same today as it has always been whether in times of difficulty or not.

As we travel through December and beyond, the opportunity will be there to journey with the shepherds, to share in their joy of the Christ child lying in the manger - Christ the light of the world was born, right there, right then.

We cannot know what lies ahead. Like the wise men who followed the star, we do not know where we will end up, or how things may look when we get there. But God does know and wherever our path may lead there will be the opportunity to serve God, Church and equally important, one another along the way.

As the unfolding events of Advent lead us ever closer to Christmas, I hope and pray that however we may celebrate this year, that we may catch a glimpse of that first Christmas and that the words 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel', will dwell in our hearts over this season and into the New Year beyond.

I wish you and your families a peaceful and much blessed Christmas and New Year.

Rev'd Tim

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

Christmas Joy. We certainly need a bit of it. As far as Church Services are concerned, we will do as much as the Covid restrictions will allow. So, while it is impossible to give the details, this is what we plan. Rather than have the normal Christingle for the youngsters we will on **Sunday 13th** have a **Crib Service at 4.30pm** in which they can play a part. And yes, the Church and the tree will be decorated and the candles lit.

Now things get a bit more complicated. For the service at **6.30pm on Sunday 20th** if we are allowed to sing it will be the usual service of **Carols and Readings**. But since singing is unlikely, we will listen on our excellent sound system to some of the old favourites and hear the Christmas readings.

On **Wednesday 23rd at 6.30pm**, if we are allowed to sing but only outside, we will meet where we did for Remembrance Sunday for a good old fashioned '**Carols in the Churchyard**'. Please bring torches or lanterns and wrap up well and perhaps a hip flask might come in handy.

For **Christmas Day** we will have our usual two-part Service commencing at **9.45** and led, as last year, by Revd. Patrick Whitworth. This starts with the **Family Service** which is then followed a short break and then **Holy Communion**.

I hope all this isn't too confusing and nearer the time when we know what we can and cannot offer we will use emails, Facebook, personal contact etc. to say precisely what each service will be. But one thing is certain. **We will have to observe the social distancing rules. So, for all services in the church we are going to ask you to book your place(s) in advance. Bookings will be accepted on a first come first served basis and can only be made by contacting Christopher Sears preferably by email at csears53@gmail.com or by phone on 07890 838704.** So, here's hoping we can, in this way at least, Celebrate Christmas.

Remembrance Sunday. For the first time we held our Remembrance Service outside. It was led as always with respect and dignity by Colonel Freeman who movingly spoke of The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and of all that led up to it and the sacrifice it represents. Over 60 of us were present and we were able to give the collection of £630 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Fund.

The Church Gift Appeal. Very many thanks indeed to all who have given to the Appeal which currently stands at £4,761. It is much appreciated.

Despite or perhaps because of everything, a very Happy Christmas to All.
Gerald Atkinson.

Churchwarden and Hon. Treasurer.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Associate Priest: The Revd. Tim Wood – Tel. 01488 669261;
Mob: 07927352847; Email: revtimothywood@gmail.com.

Benefice Administrator: Alex King – 01635 226 064, part-time at the
Benefice Office Email: wbboffice@gmail.com.

Churchwardens: Inkpen: Gerald Atkinson (tel. 668375). **Combe:**
David Russell (tel. 668229), Katherine Astor (tel. 668284).

BRITISH LEGION POPPY COLLECTION 2020

Thank you to those of you who contributed to the British Legion collection this year. As to be expected we did not collect as much as previous years, with no house to house collections. We did however collect £876.57 thanks to a fantastic collection of over £111 by the school and £630 following the very moving remembrance service in the church yard. Thank you also to the Honesty Bakery and to the Crown & Garter.



On behalf of The British Legion, and all those who benefit from your donations, thank you for your generous support in these strange times. Take care.

INKPEN VILLAGE HALL

There's nothing to tell sadly re the village hall. We are closed again for the Lockdown as you will have guessed.

The only thing I can offer is a fabulous link I found to a Virtual Village Hall on Facebook run by the Royal Voluntary Service. It might help some who are missing activities as you can log on and take part in certain activities from home.

I realise a lot of the elderly bulletin readers might not be keen or able to log on, however, for those that do, they broadcast all sorts including exercise classes, gardening, baking, crafts etc. It's free but they ask for a £1 donation to support the work of the RVS in NHS hospitals and communities across Britain. Full description below the link.

You can find a timetable for all upcoming new activities on our website here: www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/our-services/virtual-village-hall

PLAYING FIELD TRUST UPDATE (IMPFT)

Pavilion News

The pavilion works are carrying on within the government guidelines for lockdown and we hope to still complete the works on the pavilion itself by the end of the month. By early January we will have completed the works outside and the pavilion will be ready to be used. We will of course not be able to have any public gatherings until COVID19 allows.

Phase 3: The Sports Equipment Building; We are still fundraising for this part of the renovation. If you can donate to the pavilion renovation please make a cheque payable to: IMPF Fund Raising and give it to Gloria Keene or Claire Jones. Or contact Claire for our bank details – donations can be anonymous and every penny counts now.

Sports Activity

We are still hoping to find coaches and players for junior football, senior football – all football. If you know of anyone, please do get in touch.

Netball, Tennis and 5-a-side football are all taking place so do please join in if you would like to. Contacts can be found on our web page or from Gloria Keene or Claire Jones

Planting

The Woodland Trust saplings have been delivered and planted. Thank you to those of you who offered to help.

Contacts: Claire Jones (clairejonesimpt@gmail.com) or any of the other Trustees. All contacts are available on the website. Website: www.impft.co.uk

POLICE UPDATE

During the last month we have seen a slight increase in rural offences; in the main outbuilding and shed breaks. Please ensure your outbuilding is secure, all security devices such as CCTV are working and tools are securely marked. Report anything suspicious.

As a new year approaches why not consider signing up to Immobilise and creating an account to register your property on. It's all free and greatly improves your chances of getting property back if it's lost or stolen. Items worth adding are garden power-tools such as strimmers, blowers and chainsaws as unfortunately during the winter months we generally see an increase in burglaries from sheds and outbuildings. If an item is lost or stolen, report it to Immobilise via your account.

If a UK police force recovers this item, they will search for it on the Immobilise database and return it to its owner. Register now on www.immobilise.com

Have you heard about **THAMES VALLEY TEXT ALERT**? Sign up today www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/ to receive free texts or emails about crime in your local area and relevant safety advice.

You can now follow us on twitter @TVP_westberks.

If you would like any further advice, or have any information relating to any of the above please contact me on 07814852137 or email Joanna.king@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

'All Seasons' are happy to announce we are now offering hedge cutting & paddock maintenance, contact us on 01488 668040 or office@allseasonslandscapegroup.com for a free no obligation quote.

BULLETIN DELIVERY

We strive to get the Bulletin to you as close to the start of the month as we can. There are several cogs involved in putting this publication together

and they don't always connect perfectly. What we do try to do is have a PDF copy on the Inkpen website by the 1st of the month. So, if you don't hear the thud of this weighty volume land on your doorstep in a timely fashion, please do go online. <http://www.inkpenvillage.co.uk/> - News Section; Bulletin.

COPY DATE

Please email aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk or call 01488668496 by **Wednesday 23rd December** with any features, news, events or ideas.

INKPEN SCHOOL

This has been a very strange term, with all kinds of new routines for the children to follow. Nevertheless, the children are happy to be back at school and eager to continue with their learning. The school owes a debt of gratitude to all the staff here, who have worked tirelessly to support the children in any way they can to ensure that school is as 'normal' as possible. We look forward to the latest lockdown restrictions being lifted so that our PE lessons and football club can once again take place up at the recreation ground.

Despite all the new rules and regulations, we have had time for some fun. For 'Children in Need', the children had a non-uniform day and raised a very impressive £110. This was followed by an 'odd sock' day to celebrate how we are all different and what a wonderful thing this is. This marked the start of anti-bullying week. We also found time to observe our own socially distanced 2-minutes silence on November 11th – there is a lovely photo of this on our new school Facebook page.

A BIG THANK YOU

Inkpen Primary School PSA would like to thank everyone who supported us with last month's fundraising events.

Our **Halloween Scarecrow Trail** proved popular and was lovely to see so many families out enjoying the trail and dodging the downpours. Winning

scarecrow was **Cathy and Vin in the Ditch**. Our trail winner picked at random was Archie Kempbell (3yrs). Total raised: £149.00.

Thank you for the clothing donations for our Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools, total: £179.56

All proceeds are going towards enhancing our outdoor classroom and outdoor spaces.

**Young Children, Older Children, Godchildren,
Grandchildren...every child needs books....**

As you will all be aware many of the children in school have missed large chunks of their education this year and schools are under immense pressure financially. Inkpen school wants to buy some new books to inspire the children and help them 'catch up' and recover from the issues they have faced in 2020.

For a set of new titles of reading books across the school they need £2,500. If you can contribute to the BOOK FUND and help the school give every child the joy of a book to take home to read over Christmas please email: headteacher@inkpen.w-berks.sch.uk and put BOOK FUND in the subject line.

The school and the children will be so grateful – children are our future. Thank you.

Friends of Inkpen School

INKSPOTS



Inkspots Early Years Pre-school at Inkpen Primary School is in danger of immediate closure due to notice given of the sudden retirement of the existing small committee.

However, a group of vibrant, active, passionate parents and caring supporters, including the Headteacher and Chairman of Inkpen Primary School, have volunteered to form a new committee to continue running the pre-school with the aim of securing its long-term future.

We are bursting with exciting ideas and plans to enrich and develop the pre-school beyond its already wonderful and well-loved environment, but this all starts with the right support from the wonderful members of our community, and right now we're calling for your help. There are a few ways you can do this:



**COME AND ENJOY
THE INKSPOTS
CHRISTMAS TREASURE
TRAIL CHALLENGE!**

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2020 - SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY 2021

As we all face an uncertain festive period, the Friends of Inkspots fundraising group would like to bring a little Christmas cheer to your holidays with our *Inkspots Christmas Treasure Trail Challenge*. Festive fun for all the family as you tour around the beautiful Inkpen village searching for signs and solving clues.

The minimum suggested donation for treasure maps is £3 and will be available from **Monday 14th December** and can be purchased from the

Crown and Garter, Honesty Cafe or email us at friendsofinkspots@outlook.com .

All proceeds go towards saving Inkspots Early Years Pre-school.



DONATE: If you wish to support the pre-school with a monetary donation to help secure its future, please visit our Inkspots Go Fund Me fundraising page (<https://uk.gofundme.com/f/inkspots-pre-school>). Be sure to regularly check out the

Save Inkspots Facebook page for updates on the progress we're making with your support.

Finally, if you're lucky enough to know any precious pre-schoolers aged 3+ years who would thrive in our nourishing, small and friendly, forest nursery setting, or children looking to join Inkpen Primary School reception in September 2021 or beyond, who would benefit from two terms, or more, building familiarity to ease their transition into primary school life, then please register your interest at inkspots@inkpen.wberks.sch.uk and we will be in touch to answer any questions and arrange a tour, when possible.

Thank you for supporting your local pre-school!

Inkspots Early Years Pre-school - Where learning is child's play.

THE INKPEN HISTORY GROUP

The Covid-19 Scrapbook – 2020

To mark important times in the past, Inkpen resident groups have produced scrapbooks. These give a glimpse of the time in writings, pictures, bills and other impacting media.

This year, 2020, the history group want to do the same, to mark something that we have all been caught up in, namely, the covid-19 pandemic. No

matter what your experience of the pandemic, or your age, we would like to hear from you, to share your pictures, your photos, formal and informal messages, and your anecdotes. We would prefer where possible to have handwritten textural content as this is more personal and reflects a personal experience.

Please support us in this. You can contact us in the first instance by email at historygroup@inkpenvillage.co.uk or leave a brief phone message at 01488 757 471. Make history. Join in. Thankyou.

....ROW YOUR BOAT, GENTLY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

By the time many of us are knee deep in sprouts and wrapping paper, one courageous resident of Craven Road, Ashley Jones, will be well advanced in a Herculean challenge. Ashley has kindly provided a flavour of what he and his fellows are taking on.

“Long before Covid-19 surfaced I took the decision to row the Atlantic with a friend. We soon found two others and in January 2019 registered for a race - the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge 2020. It is a distance of 3,000 miles from La Gomera in the Canaries to Antigua.

Rowing an Ocean is something that has gnawed away at me for some time. 15 years ago I signed up to row across the Indian Ocean but sadly that journey never left the drawing board. This time it will be different!

So far, we've dodged all that Covid-19 has thrown at us, with luck we'll leave the UK on 3 Dec and begin the race on 12 Dec from La Gomera. For 35 - 40 days we'll each row for 2 hours on and 2 hours off day and night. During our 2 hour break we will have to maintain the boat, maintain ourselves, cook, eat and sleep. As we're each rowing for 12 hours a day it will be a challenge just to stay in good shape. On average a person loses 12kg during the crossing even though we'll consume around 10 litres of water and 5,000 calories of food per day. In our case the food is made up of freeze-dried rations that are remarkably nice, biltong, pork scratchings, M&Ms, nuts, Haribo sweets and isotonic powder to mix with our water.

Early indications suggest stormy seas this year so the waves will reach 20-30 feet or more but with luck the winds and waves will push us west. We are raising money for a charity called **The Human Practice Foundation** which builds schools in Nepal. The UK arm of the charity has only recently opened and like all other charities, the current climate has affected the ability to raise funds. We've been unable to run any events or get out there to spread the word but we're still hoping to raise enough money to build two schools in the Taplejung region of North East Nepal.

For those who are interested, you can follow us on social media - Facebook and Instagram (hpfatlantic). We have a website www.hpfatlantic.co.uk with a **sponsorship link** and a clever piece of kit that follows our every move when we're bobbing around on the Ocean. By downloading an app called 'YB Races' and adding the race - Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge 2020 you will see exactly where we and all the other boats are. It might not be available until just before the start but quite fun all the same.”

We all wish Ashley a safe journey, Godspeed and don't forget the pork scratchings. We look forward to hearing tales of adventure and success.



CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6th (purple) 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa 40.1-11; 2 Pet 3. 8-15a; Mark 1. 1-8

08.30	Inkpen	HC	Revd. T. Wood
10.30	Kintbury	Benefice Service	

Sunday 13th (purple) 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 61.1-4 & 8-end; 1 Thess 5. 16-25; John 1. 6-8 & 19-28.

11.15	W.Woodhay	HC	
4.30pm	Inkpen	Crib Service	Revd. T. Wood
6.00pm	Kintbury	Christmas Evening	

Sunday 20th (purple) 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7.1-11 & 16; Rom16. 25-end; Luke1.26-38

08.00	Kintbury	HC	
09.45	Kintbury	Morning Prayer	
09.45	Enborne	HC	
3.00pm	Combe	Christmas Event	Revd. T. Wood
6.30pm	Inkpen	Christmas Evening	Jenny Veasey

Thursday 24th (white or gold)

Isa 5. 7-10; Heb 1. 1-4 (5-12); John 1.1-14

6.00pm	W.Woodhay	Carol Service in Memorial Garden	
11.30pm		Kintbury Midnight Service	HC

CHRISTMAS DAY (white or gold)

Isa 9. 2-7; Titus 2; 11-14; Luke 2. 1-14 (15-20)

08.00	Kintbury	HC at Avington	
09.45	Kintbury	All Age	
09.45	Inkpen	HC/All Age	Patrick Whitworth
09.45	Combe	HC	Revd. T. Wood
11.15	W.Woodhay	HC	

Sunday 27th (white)

Exod 33. 7-11a; 1 John 1; John 21. 19b-end

09.45 Enborne HC

**CHURCH SERVICES AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
HUNGERFORD**

Our Lady of Lourdes, Priory Road, Hungerford RG17 0AF
Parish Priest - Fr Zbigniew Budyn 01635 40332

Sunday Mass - every Sunday at 9.00am

Weekday Mass - every Wednesday at 10.00am

Proposed Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve – Mass at 6.00pm

Christmas Day – Mass at 9am

Owing to Covid restrictions on numbers, people wishing to attend Mass **must book a seat**. Please either add your name to the list in the church or contact Paul Burrough, below, as soon as possible.

For further information contact Paul Burrough 01488 668882
Mobile 07836 292976 Email paul.burrough@talktalk.net

FOR SALE AND SERVICES

Seasoned Logs - approx. 1 cubic metre - £80.00 per load delivered.
Contact Georgina 07500899415 or Wayne 07469 810259

‘All Seasons’ are happy to announce we are now offering hedge cutting & paddock maintenance, contact us on 01488 668040
or office@allseasonslandscapegroup.com for a free no obligation quote.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year and please stay safe everyone.

Planning applications considered this month were:

20/02398 Staddlestone Cottage, Heads Lane. Two storey extension.

20/02566 Manor Farm, Lower Green. Retrospective installation of ground source heat pump. 20/02606 Park House, West Woodhay. Replacement dwelling and landscape enhancements. 20/02630 Gallants View, Lower Green. Revised proposals for replacement entrance porch, internal alterations, and extension to accommodate relocated kitchen with dining area and additional bedroom and family bathroom.

Planning applications for consideration are: 20/00633/FULMAJ New Mill, Inkpen - Variation of condition 2 – approved plans of previously approved application 18/01194/House

Amended plans submitted are: proposed pool plan; proposed pool roof plan; proposed site plan; proposed site level amendments; revised C site Access Plan.

Anyone wishing to make comments should notify WBC by 14th December 2020.

Planning approved by WBC: 20/02074 Upper Inkpen House, Upper Green – formation of outdoor swimming pool and erection of a shed.

All planning applications can be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website www.westberks.gov.uk

Footpath to the rear of Mount View, Inkpen: A possible diversion order will be applied for to the rear of the property at Mount View, following a visit by the West Berkshire Rights of Way officer. The legal line of the footpath has not been accessible to the public for a few years and an alternative route to the east was opened and used instead. If anyone has comments please can you email the Parish Clerk asap.

Mobile Library: the mobile library will call at Craven Rd at 2.30pm until 2.50pm and at the Inkpen Primary School at 3.05 to 4pm on Tuesday 8th December 2020 (double issue) and Tuesday 19th January 2021 - Covid-19 arrangements will apply.

Inkpen Parish website (www.inkpenvillage.co.uk) All details on the deadly Coronavirus are updated regularly on the Inkpen website. Please check to see the changes and please ask if unsure.

Inkpen Parish Council virtual meetings are advertised on the village notice boards and on the official village website in advance of the meeting - see www.inkpenvillage.co.uk . The next meeting has not been arranged due to Government advice not to hold public meetings and as always are subject to councillor's availability. The draft minutes of all meetings are recorded on the website.

Gloria Keene, Clerk to Inkpen Parish Council (I 668960),

Email: parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk .