

The Beacon

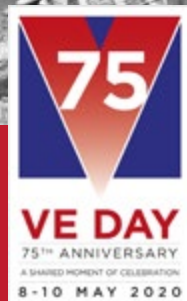
Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News



IMPORTANT
community
support information
PLEASE
READ!

MAY 2020

Cover photos: © Imperial War Museums





BEACON
TRINITY



Church of England Services – May

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic all church buildings are closed. This means we are not able to meet in them for worship, or use them for weddings, baptisms or funerals.

The usual pattern of services would mean there is a service each week at 10:00 AM in one of the parish churches. On Sundays the church continues to meet spiritually at 10:00 AM with each person in their own home. We have made some resources available so that you are able to join in. If you wish to receive these by email please contact me:

vicar@beacontrinity.church

It is vitally important that we keep to the Government advice in terms of social distancing in order that we help each other and protect the NHS. This is why our churches are closed.

If you need help during this time, there are volunteers who are willing to collect prescriptions or do some shopping for those who are self-isolating. On pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 you will find details and phone numbers of those coordinating the help in Binegar/Gurney Slade, and in Ashwick, Oakhill and the outlying communities.

We are very grateful to all those who volunteer and especially to the key workers who are themselves making sacrifices and putting themselves in danger as they work.

We especially remember NHS workers, paramedics, the police force, teachers, shop workers and all those who are seeking to keep the country running.

STAY HOME › STAY SAFE › SAVE LIVES

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity. We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs

For as long as it takes wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

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I am writing this in Holy Week. The strangest Holy Week I have ever experienced.

The churches have been closed now for over two weeks which has never happened before even in wartime and Easter will be like no other. We have shut our churches not because there is no hope or because we have nothing to offer but because we, like all communities, are striving to keep people safe.

The Church of England website says,

"We have already become 'a different sort of church' in unprecedented ways. The very place in which the body of Christ (the church) finds its identity, offers prayer, and receives solace in time of crisis—that is, the church building—is not available to us, and, as in the early days of our faith, public gatherings of Christians outside the home are forbidden. Nevertheless, we are finding ways to join in prayer".

This time has been described as a 'prolonged Holy Saturday'. That is the day between Good Friday when Jesus was crucified and Easter Sunday when he was raised from the dead. A day when the disciples were lost, empty, not knowing what the future held. And yet we do have hope. We live in a time when we know the risen Christ. We have grown up with the values of Christianity whether or not we have faith. Some would say that the true character of humanity has shown itself in this unprecedented time of global crisis as communities have stood together, supporting the vulnerable, caring for the sick and going the extra mile.

We have seen the commitment of those on the frontline, nurses, doctors, paramedics, home carers, shops workers and emergency workers. People who have put the needs of others, of society, before their own needs and, in many cases, their own family. In our own communities people have offered their help, names and phone numbers listed in these pages.

The churches have a phone number to ring too, and we have all these people to draw on where help is needed. I thank God for all of this.

The Bible has songs of Lament, when the people of God were in crisis, under oppression or in exile, lost with no sight of the future. In these songs of Lament, we find the authors remembering what God has done in the past and the promises He made to His people, the look for hope.

And now is a time to look for hope. We know that things will get better. As you read this, I pray we will have a light at the end of the tunnel, we will not be out of the crisis, but we will be closer. We do not know what the future will look like. For many the future is uncertain in terms of business, for others family members have died and life will never be the same again. However, as the Queen said, "We will meet again." We will have a Festival, we will have dances and parties, we will have children at school. And I pray we will have a fresh appreciation of who we are together and what life is all about.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT BINEGAR AND GURNEY SLADE

Binegar Parish Council and **BAGS** have come together during a time where some people may find it hard to access the assistance they need.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. Let's work to prevent the spread.

We would like to help the community that we live in and ensure that nobody is left isolated or without support they may need.

If you need medical advice use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service at **111.nhs.uk/covid-19**, or if you have no internet access, call **NHS 111** from your phone. In a medical emergency, dial 999.

HOW CAN WE HELP?



Urgent
Supplies/
Medication



Arranging
Deliveries



Picking Up
Shopping



A Friendly
Phone Call



Posting
Mail



Help Topping
Up Electric
Or Gas Key



Dog
Walking

And don't forget our local shop gets daily deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables and regular deliveries of other supplies.

NEED SUPPORT?

If you would like to speak to us, or want to ask for help, please call on 01749 841182 or e-mail binegarpc@hotmail.co.uk and let's see how we can help.

We can only offer help within reason and in ways we can also stay safe.

GIVE SUPPORT

If you would like to support us and join in by aiding others in need please get in-touch using the contact details above.

Stay at home for 7 days if you have:

- A high temperature: You feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly.
- If someone in your home has a persistent cough or fever. Everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days.

DO NOT go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Read the NHS advice about staying at home: [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice)

HOW TO AVOID CATCHING OR SPREADING CORONAVIRUS

- Stay home where possible. Stop non-essential contact with others and non-essential travel.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often, for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching common public surfaces such as metal or plastic.
- Use 60% alc. hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are unavailable
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

USE THE NHS 111 ONLINE CORONAVIRUS SERVICE IF:

- You feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home.
- Your condition gets worse.
- Your symptoms do not get better after 7 days.
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

HOW CORONAVIRUS IS SPREAD?

Because it's a new illness, we do not know exactly how coronavirus spreads from person to person.

Similar viruses are spread in cough droplets.

It's very unlikely it can be spread through things like packages or food.

TREATMENT FOR CORONAVIRUS

There is currently no specific treatment for coronavirus. Treatments are being tested. The earliest a vaccine is likely to be available is 2021.

Use Paracetamol to help with lowering a fever.

Antibiotics do not help, as they do not work against viruses.

SHOUT CRISIS TEXT LINE

NOT FOR MEDICAL ADVICE

For anyone struggling with their mental health in isolation or suffering from anxiety or worry. Please text SHOUT to 85258. Shout offer free 24/7 textline support for those feeling in crisis.

Do you live in Ashwick, Oakhill or the surrounding communities?

Coronavirus is making life hard, but your village wants to help by:



Collecting your medicines



Collecting groceries



Listening to your concerns



Just being someone you can talk to

Many of your Village Neighbours are helping in any way they can. If you can access the Oakhill Village Life, Facebook page you will find more information there

Alongside this your local churches are now manning a telephone:

01749 841838

from 7pm- 8pm every evening, with an answer phone at all other times.

As well as helping with your daily supplies etc. the church can help confidentially with any other issues you are currently experiencing. From financial to spiritual, physical to emotional, whatever the problem we will walk beside you. **Please call, we want to help you.**

Virtual Experiences

Free 'stay at home' activities to explore during lockdown...

The Royal Opera House – productions are being streamed every Friday night on YouTube (search for [#OurHouseToYourHouse](#) on YouTube)

Longleat – embark on a virtual safari at www.longleat.co.uk

Shakespeare's Globe – a free play is being released every two weeks. Check the 'Free Content' section here: <https://globeplayer.tv>

Tate Modern – check out the art podcasts at www.tate.org.uk/art/podcasts

TED – 3,400 fascinating talks on a incredible range of topics: www.ted.com/talks



Oakhill's Coronavirus Support Network

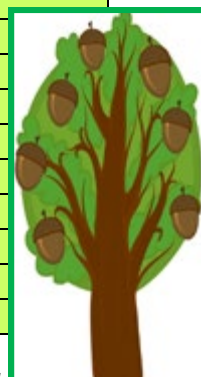


During the coronavirus outbreak there may be people within the village or surrounding area that may need support. Whether you are identified as being in a vulnerable group, self-isolating, quarantined or have been admitted to hospital, Oakhill has a community support network of volunteers that have offered to help out. Volunteers have offered to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and dog walking/caring for pets when/if people become ill but I am sure that if there were other reasonable requests that do not put volunteers at risk themselves they would be happy to offer other types of support. **As part of our community support network the following people have offered support during the coronavirus outbreak. All have agreed that you can call their telephone numbers however if you are unable to access help then please call one of the coordinators who will facilitate the support that you need.**

Please chose randomly from the list (unless you know someone specifically that you feel comfortable asking for help) so that the workload is shared among volunteers.

We are very happy to help and so please don't suffer in silence!

Beth and Alan Rowlinson-Baker (coordinator)	07533700698
Pauline West (coordinator)	01749840293
Cath Booth (Coordinator)	07806780943
Sue Trott	01749 841127
Sally and Justin Sargent	07905029007 / 01749 841001
Livi and James Rees	07976546504/07734777150
Jill Simmons-Temple	07958338032
Sarah Jane Ridge	07970899880 /01749 841719
Jan Langmaid	07931333906 /01749 840241
Amanda and Christian Garland	07794722178 / 07803018769
Liz and James Lewis	07968982487 / 07715174687
Julie Chuter Nicholas	07970349390 / 01749 841145
Vanessa Foott	07980961014
Kim Hare	07974311465
Nicola Fitzgerald	07782211778
Sophie Denny	07967730229
Rachel Norris	07787131074
Julia Barrett	07909971374
Sarah Thomas	07900995222
Samantha Bell	07974107567
Kirstie Milton	07770927565
Mandy Alvis	07720951832
Family Westell	07845 756 700
Natasha Wilmott	07789908631
Sally Tumber	07865074098



*Others have also offered help or support on the **Oakhill Village Life, Somerset Facebook Page**. Any problems, put out a request in the group and it will get answered!*

LOCKDOWN LOAF

Chelsea's Beer Bread. Source: chelseawinter.co.nz/lockdown-loaf-beer-bread/

This beer bread recipe is sooo easy and so delicious, and only requires a few pantry staples. Since we're all in lockdown here in NZ, I've coined the term 'Lockdown Loaf' - and it really is perfect in that sense. Stir the beer bread it up in one bowl - no kneading, no proving, no yeast needed.

Ingredients:

Bread

3 cups plain flour
(or use self-raising and omit the baking powder)
3 tsp baking powder
2 tsp sugar
1 tsp salt
375ml beer (or make up the extra with water)
(Corona beer genuinely doesn't seem to work.)

Some other ideas (not all together, though!): olives, capers, Parmesan, chopped sun-dried tomatoes, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, poppy seeds, cumin seeds, coriander seed.

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180c regular bake and line a small/medium loaf tin with baking paper.

Add the flour, baking powder, sugar and salt to a large mixing bowl. Stir to combine.

Pour in the beer/water and stir again to combine into a sticky dough. Scrape in to the prepared tin with a spatula and smooth out.

Sprinkle with the toppings you like and drizzle with olive oil.

Bake in the oven for 40 minutes - it will have risen and puffed up and be all golden and delicious looking.

Serve hot or warm with any toppings you like - it's awesome plain with butter, and I like Vegemite and Marmite too!

Once it's cooled down it's amaaazing toasted.

Keep at room temperature in a bag or container. It's not gonna last long, though, I warn you now!

For additional tips and both sweet and gluten-free bread options, visit: chelseawinter.co.nz/lockdown-loaf-beer-bread/



Toppings

Finely chopped onion or red onion
Grated cheese or dairy-free cheese
Sprinkle of paprika and/or oregano
Salt and pepper
Extra virgin olive oil, for drizzling

Grenville's Ramblin's...



A little snippet of information in a newspaper a little while ago, reported that the Transport Secretary had decided against the introduction of anymore so-called Smart Motorways.

Whilst it is a long time since I had anything doing with motorways, be they smart or otherwise, the article brought to mind the decision made several years ago that, during busy periods on some motorways, the hard shoulders could be used, not as intended for broken-down vehicles, but as a fourth traffic lane.

Of course, these days, having to be a bit careful over what I think or write about, I thought perhaps I'd run the subject past my friend the milkman. In so doing I found that we tended to agree that to use the hard shoulder as a fourth carriageway, was an abuse of its intended purpose.

While not being exactly the brightest kid on the block, it seems to me that even with the introduction of so-called safeguards, it is... (careful) not exactly the cleverest of ideas. Especially when we hear that to date it has been directly responsible for crashes that have caused the deaths of 38 people!

Of course, in the days when the scriptures were recorded there were no such things as motorways fast or otherwise. However, in ch.10 of St. Luke's Gospel we find an account of a serious incident that happened on what we might call the highway between Jerusalem and Jericho. Jesus tells a story of a man travelling on that road being attacked and badly injured by robbers. Telling how, following the incident, on two separate occasions, men of some standing in the community, while stopping to have a look, did nothing to help the poor fellow. So it was the man lay at the side of the road until another fellow, a Samaritan came along. A man from a clan, or a people who were apparently looked down upon by those who saw themselves as belonging to the higher echelons of society. Yet it was a Samaritan who stopped, took the trouble to attend to the man's injuries, dressed his wounds took him to a place of safety at an inn and paid for him to be cared for until he recovered.

While it seems to me that on a so-called smart motorway, following a catastrophe on what was intended to be the hard shoulder providing sanctuary for people of broken-down vehicles, those using the other three lanes barely have time to look as they pass by. It has to be left to others, (modern day Samaritans?) risking life and limb, as they do their best to help those who have become victims, of what might sadly be called a situation for accidents waiting to happen!

P S. this was written before the Coronavirus adjusted motorway usage!

Grenville Reakes

EVENTS IN MAY 1945

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

**MAY
8**

Eight days after the suicide of Adolf Hitler and the collapse of the Nazi rule in Berlin, V-E Day is celebrated throughout the UK. Prime Minister Winston Churchill makes a victory speech and appears on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. Street parties take place throughout the country.



© IWM MH 21835

**MAY
9**

German forces in the Channel Islands, the only occupied part of the British Isles, surrender.

**MAY
23**

Churchill forms a "caretaker" Conservative Party administration, pending an election, officially ending the wartime Coalition government.

**MAY
28**

William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw" is captured on the German border. He is later charged with high treason in London for his English-language wartime broadcasts on German radio. He is hanged in January 1946.

On 8 May 1945 millions of people across the world celebrated Allied victory in Europe. But VE Day did not signal an end to the Second World War. Allied servicemen who had fought their way through Europe prepared for their transfer to the Far East and the Pacific, where fighting would continue for three more months. The possibility of redeployment was a stark reality for many soldiers. British troops jokingly redefined the acronym for the British Liberation Army (BLA) - the designation for the force sent into action in north-west Europe - as 'Burma Looms Ahead'.

VE Day marked the start of the political, economic and physical reconstruction of the continent. In June 1945, 50 countries signed the United Nations Charter and pledged to maintain international peace and security. Millions of refugees and displaced persons, whose lives had been violently uprooted by the war, began the long and difficult process of recovery and repatriation. Leading Nazi officials faced trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A MEMORIAL THOUGHT FOR VE DAY

SGT (AIR GUNNER) A J (JACK) WOOD

There is only one World War II RAF war grave in the Binegar parish church cemetery; that of Sgt (Air Gunner) Jack Wood. He was killed on active service on the night of 20th January 1944, when his Stirling bomber crashed near RAF Chedburgh in Suffolk.

For those who wish to remember him, and the hundreds of his fellow airmen who were killed in that conflict, this is Jack's story.



Jack was the son of Harold and Mabel Wood, both from Gurney Slade. He was married to Vera Wood, of Shepton Mallet; they had a son, Graham, who was two years old when his father was killed.

Jack worked at the Mendip Golf Club, and then after he enlisted he and Vera rented a property at Weston Super Mare while he was training at RAF Locking.

By 1944, Jack was a Sergeant Air Gunner, based at Chedburgh in Suffolk, doing conversion training to fly the Stirling bomber.

His crew was tasked with a night cross-country training sortie on 20th January. They left Chedburgh on a route via Land's End, Dulverton, Reading and Goole before planning to return to base. On reaching Chedburgh, the crew acknowledged their landing instructions. They then lost height in a diving turn and, after hitting trees, crashed and caught fire at Hargrave Hall, a few miles NW of Chedburgh, at 2326hrs. All the crew were killed.

At the time of his death, Jack's son Graham was 2 years old; we believe he still lives near Shepton Mallet, so if anyone knows him, please let us know.



© IWM CH 5475



WOOLTON PIE

A RECIPE TO TRY FROM THE WAR ERA

A vegetable pie that was originally created during WWII as an easy pie housewives could make during rationing. Invented by Savoy maître-chef François Latty (1919-1942), and named after the Minister for Food, Lord Woolton. It was offered on Savoy Restaurant menus, and was intended to be a dish created by a Savoy chef, which ordinary housewives could recreate in their own homes in spite of the rationing restrictions. This recipe has been translated from an original Savoy Restaurant kitchen copy.

Ingredients

for the filling:

1 lb potatoes – King Edward
2 lbs carrots
½ lb mushrooms
1 small leek
2oz margarine
2 spring onions
Salt, pepper, nutmeg, chopped parsley
Bunch of herbs: 1 small bay leaf, 1 small sprig of thyme, parsley and celery



for the pastry:

8oz (220g) plain wheatmeal flour
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
2oz (50g) margarine

Method

for the pastry:

Blend 8oz (220g) plain wheatmeal flour with ½ teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon baking powder. Rub in 2oz (50g) margarine or cooking fat or dripping, then add enough water to make a rolling consistency, although one that is slightly softer than when making pastry with white flour. Roll out and use as in the individual recipe.

for the filling:

Peel the potatoes and carrots, cut them into slices of the thickness of a penny. Wash them well and dry in a tea-cloth. Fry them separately in a frying pan with a little chicken fat (or vegetable or butter if making for vegetarians). Do the same for the mushrooms, adding the finely chopped onions and leek. Mix them together and season with salt, pepper and a little nutmeg and roughly chopped fresh parsley.

Fill a pie-dish with this mixture, placing the bundle of herbs in the middle. Moisten with a little water. Allow to cool. Cover with a pastry crust and bake in (a moderate) oven for 1½ hours.

OAKHILL & ASHWICK

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Life is not that easy at the moment – but just to remind you, we Brits have dealt with hard times before and come out well on the other side. WW2 for example. What follows is from History Group research on Oakhill's War for the VE Day 75 event (now cancelled, or hopefully, postponed). Rather than write about food rationing just yet, let's look at something else. You can still draw your own parallels.



WW2 Petrol Rationing – and Other Problems with Motoring

When war broke out on 3rd Sept 1939 the Government was ready with plans to cope with fuel shortages. Petrol came to Britain by ship, and ships were likely to be targeted by the enemy. Owners of private vehicles who registered were allowed 2 Coupons at a time for 'Motor Spirit' (as petrol was then called). Each Coupon was valid for one month, and each unit was worth 1 gallon. So there could be no hoarding – use it or lose it. The Coupons were usable from 16th Sept: from then on petrol was unobtainable without a coupon. The result was many private cars were taken off the road altogether. I clearly remember my Grandfather's car, his pride and joy, up on bricks in his garage – it didn't do well there and was never used again after the War. Petrol for private cars was rationed until 1950. People had to use public transport or walk (in Oakhill you could sometimes get a lift in a Brewery vehicle).

Agricultural vehicles and other vehicles used for War work had special provisions. All vehicles had to be left locked, and tractors had to be disabled, for example, by removing the rotor arm – incredibly, all tractors of the same model in those days had identical keys so could be easily stolen (not that there were many tractors in Oakhill until the end of the War).

One of our local farmers fell foul of the law for leaving his car unlocked, as reported in the Shepton Mallet Journal in April 1943 (and mentioned here with the support of relatives). Frederick Gilling, of Park Farm, Oakhill, had left his car in Kilver Street, Shepton Mallet. He had locked the front doors and left the ignition key in place. An eagle-eyed PC Trott noticed one of the rear doors was still unlocked. Any invading German could have just taken the car! When challenged, Gilling said it was "an oversight". "I have held a licence since 1924 and never been summoned before" he explained to the Magistrate. That didn't help him much. He was fined 10 shillings.

Lin Thorley

East Mendip Gardening Club - May

If the record sales of vegetable and flower seeds are anything to go by, many more of us than usual are going to be out in our gardens, enticing little sprigs of life out of the soil this spring. With Gardening Club meetings on hold, where can we go for advice?

There are many excellent websites out there, including Thompson and Morgan's 'What to do in the garden this month', from which I've put together a brief summary of advice for May. The advice is generic for the UK, so bear in mind that we are on a north-facing slope of the Mendips, which used to mean we were a month or so behind the rest of the south-west. Climate change, however, probably means other areas are now a month ahead! Here we go:

1. Direct sow outdoors: beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips, radishes, salad leaves, spinach, spring onions
2. Earth up potatoes, harvest asparagus, thin out direct sown veg
3. Harden off courgettes, squash and tomatoes for planting out next month
4. Make supports for climbing beans (canes) and peas (twiggy sticks)
5. Weeding, weeding, weeding.
6. Plant summer hanging baskets
7. Resist removing foliage from spring bulbs to ensure good displays next year
8. Lift forget-me-nots to prevent self-seeding and spreading
9. Divide herbaceous perennials
10. Protect strawberries with straw, harvest rhubarb
11. Make sure young fruit trees and newly sown lawn are kept watered
12. Lower mower blades to normal summer level
13. Remove duckweed and blanket weed from ponds
14. Resist the urge to be toooooo tidy - remember to leave wild areas for wildlife
15. Spend time relaxing in your garden to enjoy the fruits of your efforts!

All we need now is perfect weather!

Looking forward to meeting up again in the after-times, with, who knows? - some freshly sprouted new gardeners joining our ranks? You'll be VERY welcome!

Lynn Gauthier





5 reasons to stay positive...

New York researchers show a 50% reduction in carbon monoxide compared to last year. Significant drops in pollution levels around the world. China and Italy too.

Acts of kindness – hundreds of thousands of volunteers have come forward to deliver groceries and medicines to the vulnerable.

A vast improvement in the water quality of the famous canals in Venice.

Communities around the world are coming together in a united front – witness Italians singing together from their windows.

A creativity boom – people in isolation are using the opportunity to take up new hobbies – reading, baking, knitting, painting.



Following the rules

Shared on Facebook as written by a lady in her 80's:

The world has caught a virus, but it's nothing you can see,

So here I am on house arrest in case it's after me!

It seems I'm very vulnerable 'cos my youth is in the past,

Age is the only thing that suddenly works fast!

They've banned nice friendly chats to anyone that's near

But if I follow all the rules
I MIGHT BE HERE NEXT YEAR!

Not all Infections are a Bad Thing!

Smiling is infectious – you catch it like the flu,

When someone smiled at me today

I started smiling too,

I walked around the corner
and someone saw me grin –

And when I looked I realised
I'd passed it on to him

I thought about my smile and realised its worth –

A single smile like mine could
travel round the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected –

Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected.

Author unknown



News from the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee



Although the Village Hall and Playground are currently closed due to Coronavirus following Government guidelines, the Committee continues to meet (virtually, via WhatsApp and teleconference!) to ensure that many of the initiatives that we had planned can still happen, albeit later than intended. This includes hosting the exciting VE celebrations, which will be rescheduled for later in the year.

Meanwhile, whilst the building is closed, the redecoration of the main hall, foyer and committee room is underway, and looking great. We are sure you will be impressed with the results when the facilities reopen. Included in this refresh will be new curtains and comfortable chairs. This, alongside the heating and lighting upgrade already completed, will really make the Village Hall a warm and inviting place to be.

We look forward to welcoming you back there as soon as we are able to open the doors to you all again.

In the meantime, we thank everyone for following the Government guidelines on social distancing whilst using the Recreation Field. As a reminder - the playground is closed, but the field remains open for residents to take daily exercise.

Please remember that meeting up with friends, having picnics, sunbathing etc. are currently banned, and we kindly remind dog walkers to remember their poo-bags and pick up after their pets.

We feel proud and incredibly lucky to have such facilities in the village for the use of us all, helping to enjoy our lovely village together.

Stay safe, and look after each other,

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee



Oakhill Church School & Nursery

an update from Phillip Morris, Headteacher

During these highly unusual times it has been so reassuring to see the strength and resilience of the school community. Children, parents and the wider school family have worked together to support each other and ensure no one is left alone or in need. Our school chickens have taken a holiday to my house and have been producing 8-10 eggs a day which have been distributed to the village, free of charge, by Reverend Richard, or this week to our families. Our online learning is moving at a pace and children and staff have become experts with Microsoft Teams.

The children in Chestnut Class created a rainbow scene for the community, children then made their own rainbows and displayed them at home for the local community when they walk around the village. The Staff at Oakhill Church School Nursery also created a rainbow out of recycled materials on the perimeter of the school, which overlooks the main road in the village.



Oakhill's nursery children playing and learning at home making Mandalas as part of our community learning projects and working on tasks set by the wonderful staff.



Stay safe and well - Mr Morris

Spring: through the lens

images by the Beacon Photography Group

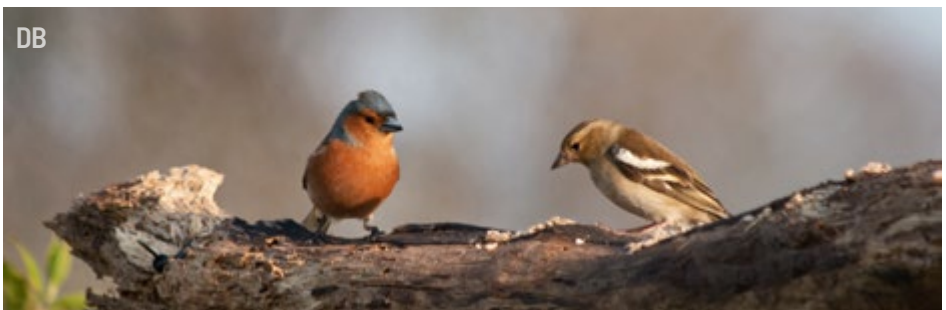


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Spring: through the lens

(these additional images are featured in the digital edition only)



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Bishop Peter's May Message

A time to 'Love our neighbours as ourselves'

I wonder - are you someone who gets everything ready long before you need to; jobs done well before time; and someone who is never late for anything? Or are you someone who leaves things to the last minute; works right up to the deadline; and catches the bus or train with moments to spare? Or maybe you are somewhere in the middle?

One of the things that Bishop Ruth and I enjoy doing is writing these articles each month for parish magazines and newsletters. It gives us a chance to keep in touch with people across the diocese and to share the things that are in our hearts and minds as the year unfolds. The only drawback is that we have to write these articles well in advance, so that they reach magazine editors and church administrators in good time. The problem is of course that things may change in all sorts of ways between us writing them and you reading them. I am particularly conscious of that this month, as we are in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. Things are changing very fast and it is hard to know what the next few weeks will bring. That inevitably brings with it a certain degree of uncertainty and some of us, especially those who are isolated and cut off, may be feeling anxious for ourselves or for others.

My hope throughout this time of 'lockdown' is that although some of us may have felt physically isolated from each other, that we have not felt socially or spiritually isolated. Indeed, I have been truly amazed and encouraged by all the stories I have heard of people caring for each other, phoning each other and going shopping for those who cannot get out to buy the food they need. At this stage none of us knows quite how and when this virus will eventually be brought under control. However, I do hope that when we get to the stage that restrictions can be safely lifted and we begin to go out and shop as we did before, that things will be different. Many of us have had difficulty buying the food we wanted. Some of us have had to rely on others for our daily needs. We have had to learn new ways to pray and keep in touch with others in our churches and communities. We have had to trust, hope, and look out for our neighbours, especially those who are particularly vulnerable. We have been humbled by the courage and dedication of those who work in the NHS and care homes and all who as 'key workers' have worked tirelessly to look after and provide for us.

Jesus taught us to 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind' and 'to love our neighbours as ourselves'. My hope and prayer is that as we emerge from this pandemic that we and our communities may be a more compassionate, more generous, more grateful. And may we all have discovered what it is to know in a deeper way the peace and the presence of God.

May the peace and the joy of the Risen Lord be with you

Bishop Peter

www.bathandwells.org.uk

Tales of old

We ancient Britons were no good at fighting. In AD 449, the “haughty tyrant” Vortigern had to ask Jutes (Danes) to save him from invading Picts. They saved him but *they* stayed, and *he* left!

Saxons followed and soon founded their western Kingdom: Wessex. There were ‘kings’ everywhere - Mercia, Northumbria, Sussex and Essex who vied to be *Bretwalda*, or *Chief King*. The Saxons could never resist a fight with anyone (including their own) and so blood flowed.

Around us, Britons held out but in AD 577 lost the battle of Dyrham. By this victory, the West Saxons drove a wedge between the Britons of what was to become Wales and those of the South-West peninsular.

We continued to fight and lose with 2,046 slain in AD 611 at the battle of Beandune. Meanwhile, Wessex King Cynegils tried and failed to assassinate *Bretwalda* Edwin of Northumbria. There was war.

Cynegils survived only to be threatened by the Mercians next door (who had actually managed to kill Edwin). Cynegils sued for peace giving Mercia much of Wessex. Then, in a stroke of genius, he allied himself with the new *Bretwalda*, Northumbria’s new King Oswald.

At just this time, Bede tells that Pope Honorius sent Bishop Birinus to “sow the seed of the faith in the farthest inland reaches of the English”. He arrived, however, in Wessex and “finding all in that place confirmed pagans, he thought it better to preach the Word there”.

And so, in AD 636 Cynegils, King of the West Saxons, received the faith of Christ. King Oswald, already a Christian, looked on and, to cement the alliance, Oswald received Cynegil’s daughter in marriage. Birinus was made Bishop and they might all have lived happily ever after.

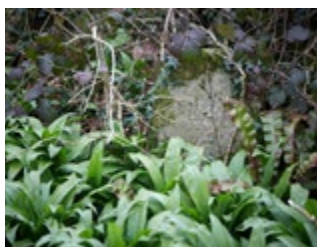
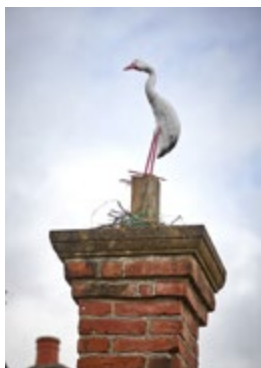
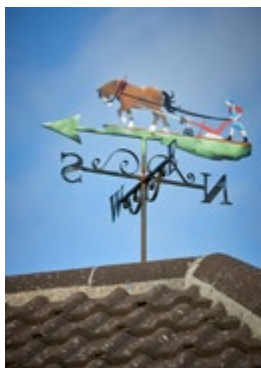
Christianity’s roots, though, were shallow and Cynegils’ son, Cenwalh, “refused to receive the faith”. Shortly after which he lost his kingdom.

Bede says: “he put away the sister of Penda, King of the Mercians, whom he had married, and took another wife”. Enraged, Penda invaded and Cenwalh fled. In exile, he put two-and-two together and in AD 646, was baptised and with help wrested “his father’s kingdom from his enemies”. In gratitude, he built a minster at Winchester hallowed in St Peter’s name. Christianity now approached Somerset.

Richard Higgins

May Photo Quiz

How many of these images do you recognise from around Binegar and Gurney Slade?



Thank you to John Law for taking these wonderful pictures from around our villages.

Enjoy your daily walk. Keep your distance and keep safe.



**Binegar
Parish Council**



Ashwick Parish Council

April 2020 Update – David Barlow

In these challenging times, the Parish Council has not been able to meet due to Government restrictions, but Councillors, some of whom are self-isolating, are in touch with each other and the Clerk by email, WhatsApp and telephone and have passed comments on pending planning issues. We are now considering which platform, if any, to use for future remote meetings as the 2020 regulations permit councils to hold remote meetings with conditions that the meetings are advertised on the parish website and members of the public can access them if necessary. The local councils can decide the methods they will use to facilitate remote meetings.

The requirement to hold the Annual Meeting has been removed this year. The meeting would normally give parishioners the opportunity to raise concerns and suggest agenda items/projects to be considered by the Council. You can still do this by contacting Charlotte at ashwickparish@hotmail.co.uk or davidjbarlow@gmail.com

The Council is planning to refurbish the village notice boards, resurrect the fallen finger post at Badger's Cross and complete renovation work on the flower beds at the war memorial.

It has been heart-warming to see volunteers coming forward to support those in the community who are self-isolating, or at risk, whether it is to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, sharing in birthday celebrations, or displaying rainbows and teddy bears. - Thank You! This is true community spirit.

The village has come alive on Thursday evenings when at 8.00pm the sound of clapping, cheering, the church bell and the clatter of spoons on saucepans in support of the NHS and support services can be heard - Fantastic - We are truly appreciative of our nurses, doctors and key workers.

Charlotte, our Clerk has done a great job in difficult circumstances keeping the Councillors up to date and posting relevant information onto Facebook and the Parish website. Needless to say, the bulk of her mailbox has been to do with the pandemic!

The link below has valuable information with further links embedded within the text for mental and emotional issues - well worth a look!

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/Coronavirus/covid-19-mental-health-information/#Five-Way-to-Wellbeing-when-self-isolating>

Remember: Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and Stay at Home!

Council Vacancies

The Council still has 2 vacancies. We very much hope two parishioners will be interested and contact the Clerk on: ashwickparish@hotmail.co.uk or davidjbarlow@gmail.com.

Council updates can be found on Facebook and the website:
<http://www.ashwickparish.org>

WEATHER REPORT: MARCH 2020

Written by
Gerald Esain.

The weather report
(March) from Roemead Farm.
The mean temperature was 10.4°C.
The highest reading was 15.9°C,
the lowest temperature was - 0.8°C.
Total rainfall was 80.5mm, average for this site.

BINGGAR SCOUTS

MAY 2020



1st North Mendip is a thriving Scout Group that meets in Binegar Memorial Hall weekly during term time. We currently have Beavers (6-8yrs), Cubs (8-10yrs) and Scouts (10-14yrs).

Isolation has not stopped us and young people from all sections have been completing challenges and badges at home. All sections are also looking forward to our online St Georges Day celebrations and Camp In!

Beavers and Cubs have been learning how to roll their neckerchiefs, making photo collages for their Artist Badge and thinking about what they could do for their personal challenges. Maybe help to cook a meal or keep their room tidy for a set amount of time? They look forward to this week making a bug hotel from recycled materials for their Environmental Conservation badge.

Scouts ticked off part of their International badge making a Totem Pole out of a toilet roll tube, and then creating a short video about what they enjoy the most at Scouts. They also took part in Jamboree on the Internet and had the chance to talk to Scouts from all over the world about the ongoing crisis, as well as what Scouts is like in their country and what they get up to normally.

Do you have a young person aged 5, 6 or 7 that may be interested in joining our Scout In adventure? We're looking for young people who want to make new friends, have fun and learn some new skills in our Beaver section. Why not give it a try?

If you are interested in joining us please sign up via our Online Waiting List:
<https://tinyurl.com/v7kz5kp> or contact a member of the team:

Beavers/Cubs - Gemma (Raksha) - 01749 938321

Scouts - Natalie (Gunner) - gunnerexplore@gmail.com

You can also sign up and see what we're up to on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/northmendipscouts

Little Acorns & Mighty Oaks



News as reported in the Shepton Journal and researched by Percy Lambert

1945

"Stand Down Supper" A supper to celebrate the Stand Down Order was given to the Ashwick Platoon 4th Battalion Somerset Home Guard in the Church Rooms, Oakhill by Mrs. E. L. Hillier, Widow of the late Capt. J. J. Hillier, Bombing Officer, Oakhill.

Non-Oakhill but of interest. **Barrage of 2000 balloons to protect London** from flying bombs consumed 170,000,000 cu ft of hydrogen in ten weeks. Where there was difficulty in supply of hydrogen, coal gas was laid on to 1000 sites for topping up the balloons.

Mrs. Whitelaw and the Dagenham evacuees wish to say a big thank you to all friends, too numerous to mention, in the Shepton Mallet area, particularly Oakhill, for their hospitality and great kindness shown to them during their 5 years of evacuation. For the rest of their lives they will cherish happy memories of Somerset.

It is announced that the bar to the Distinguished Service Order has been awarded to Lt. Col. Cecil Llewellyn Firbank DSO, Somerset Light Infantry of Oakhill for services in N.W. Europe.

SHOPPING SCAM (VULNERABLE & ISOLATION)































During this challenging period, it is heartening to hear lots of stories of kindness from friends and neighbours caring for one another. This is where many Neighbourhood Watches have excelled in looking after the elderly and vulnerable members of their community – or simply offer to help everyone. This includes phone calls to ensure people are OK, assistance with appointments and the collection of groceries and medications.

We must however remain vigilant and rely upon those we know and trust. We have learnt of a couple of incidents where callers have arrived on doorways offering to do shopping, claiming to be good Samaritans. They have taken money and a shopping list but never returned.

Unfortunately, there are some people who will always take advantage of any crisis to steal from those in need. Please do not fall foul to this and only rely upon people you know or trust to help you.

Try writing your name in hieroglyphs

Using the hieroglyphic alphabet below – try to write your own name in the cartouche. Remember, ancient Egyptians could write either left to right or right to left, but always top to bottom. If you cannot find the correct letter for your name, then try to spell it using phonetic sounds instead.

						
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
						
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
						
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
						
V	W	X	Y	Z	CH	SH

What is a cartouche?

A depiction of a tied rope surrounding a royal name in Ancient Egypt is called a cartouche. A straight line indicates the end of the name and helps show the reading direction. The never ending circle symbolises eternal protection for the person named inside.



What are hieroglyphs?

Hieroglyphs are an ancient writing style used by the ancient Egyptians to record their history, achievements, stories, and sacred texts. They are a pictographic form of writing, meaning that they are made up of small pictures representing sounds. The word hieroglyph comes from ancient Greek meaning 'sacred writing'. Many ancient hieroglyphs can be seen today in monuments across Egypt and on artefacts in museums all over the world.

How do we read hieroglyphs?

Each image represents an object or a sound. So a picture of a bee can mean 'bee'. But, if an image of a bee were to be placed together with an image of a leaf, we may find that together they spell 'belief' or 'bee-leaf'. The Egyptians had over 2000 hieroglyphs in their language and used a very complex grammatical system to record their texts. As well as sounds from the English alphabet, the Egyptians also had signs representing sounds that we would use two letters to represent, such as 'ch' and 'sh' shown in the alphabet overleaf. Ancient Egyptian language didn't have many vowel sounds and so we can add the sound 'e' to make reading the words easier. For example, the biliteral sign *mn* might be pronounced as 'men' today, or *nb* as 'neb'. So how might you say *nfr*?



As well as one-consonant sounds like those listed in the alphabet overleaf, the Egyptians also used biliteral and trilateral signs which represented two or three consonant sounds. See if you can build some of these into words using the alphabet overleaf:

Biliteral signs:

	mi		mw		nw
	mn		nb		wn

Trilateral signs:

	ankh		hka		nfr
--	------	--	-----	--	-----

The Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799 and records a decree issued by Ptolemy V over 2000 years ago. The decree is inscribed in three different scripts: ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs (top), ancient Egyptian demotic (middle), and ancient Greek (bottom). In 1822 Jean-François Champollion used the Rosetta Stone to decipher the ancient texts and was the first to read Egyptian hieroglyphs in over 2000 years! Today the Rosetta Stone can be seen at the British Museum, EA24.



Grass Cuttings – An Appeal

Where gardens adjoin land used by livestock, farmers would be grateful if householders could refrain from tipping lawn clippings, etc over into the fields.

Decaying grass clippings, etc. generate toxins that are harmful to livestock and can lead to deaths. Disposal of garden waste in such a fashion also falls under the description of fly tipping, which is a punishable offence. Thank you for your co-operation.



COOPER & TANNER

Due to the unprecedented times we find ourselves in our offices are closed for the foreseeable future.

Once we are back up and running again we will of course be very much looking forward to dealing with you again.

If you wish to contact us during this time then please email gareth.wasp@cooperandtanner.co.uk

We wish you to stay safe and well.

A red square logo with the text "COOPER AND TANNER" in white, stacked vertically.

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2020 Glorious Somerset Gardens Cancelled

Regretfully St Margaret's Hospice has taken the difficult decision to postpone the Glorious Garden Season until 2021. Susan Bickle, the Scheme Coordinator said 'St. Margaret's Hospice had over 60 individual gardens signed up to scheme this year, over 29 opening dates from April – September. Thankfully the majority of the gardens have transferred to next year. Over the difficult months ahead, we hope everyone can enjoy their own gardens, and if they are inspired by the beauty, may join in the scheme themselves next year'

St Margaret's Hospice has also cancelled their programme of fundraising events, and retail charity shops. People wishing to support the hospice during this time of increased demand, can visit their website at www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

Contact details:

Glorious Somerset Gardens and Fundraising Volunteer Coordinator:
Susan Bickle 01935 709182 or 07736 886145
susan.bickle@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk





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Prospective parents can contact the school office either by phone: **01749 840426** or via email: **admin@oakhill.bwmat.org** to register their interest.

Ashwick Church Rooms

The Church Rooms at Ashwick are available for hire and are the perfect venue for smaller functions - from children's parties to intimate country weddings. The Rooms have a large well-equipped kitchen, full disabled and baby changing facilities and is centrally heated throughout. To view the Rooms, or for details of our competitive hire charges, please contact:

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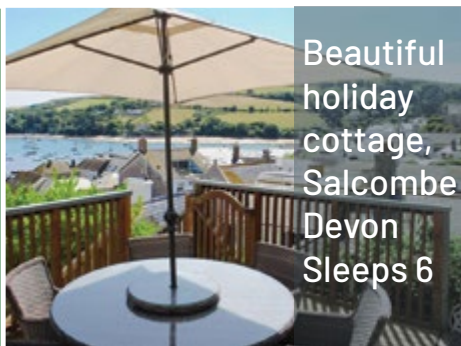
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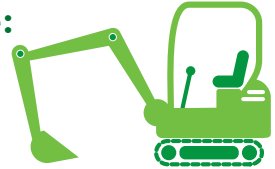
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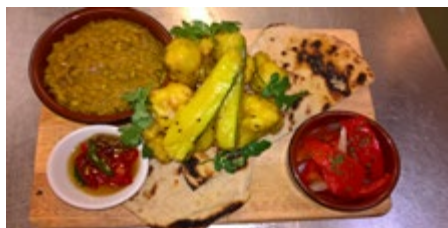
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