

ENSTONE ENSIGN

Number 432 January 2021

Newsletter for Enstone Parish

THE CHASE BENEFICE - JANUARY

Dear Friends

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a good Christmas, even if it was not the one that you had planned for, and that you and your loved ones are well.

Thanks to COVID-19, Christmas in the Benefice was different than in previous years - but it was nonetheless special. We held two Zoom services: a Crib Service at which 12 children and 14 adults joined in from as far away as Cornwall and London, and a reflective service at Midnight when we celebrated the arrival of Christmas. 42 people watched our recorded service for Christmas Day at 10 am and more have watched it since. Many joined an informal gathering on Zoom at 10.30 am when we sang some carols and wished each other a happy Christmas. So, whilst it was disappointing not to be able to do things as normal, we still celebrated and the story we retold was the same one: the story of God coming to make his home with us. In church or at home, in good times or in difficult times, God's promise in Jesus is that he is always with us.

After much thought and careful consultation with the PCCs and also amongst other clergy in the Diocese and beyond, we have come to the difficult decision that, while we remain in Tier 4 or 3, we should not hold public worship in our churches. This decision has been approved by the PCCs and so public worship in the Benefice will be suspended for the time being.

We know this will come as sad news for many of you (albeit not entirely unexpected) and we share your disappointment that we will not be able to meet together for a while. However, it is important for us all to look after each other. We will continue to provide our online services and explore other ways in which we may interact with each other in a safe way. In the meantime, our churches will remain open on Sundays from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm for personal prayer and private reflection. Do come to church to light a candle and say a prayer.

With every blessing.
Mark Abrey
From the Registers:-

Deaths:-

Janet Venvell	8 th December	Enstone
Davina Huxley	14 th December	Enstone

Wedding:-

Christopher Woolcock & Pamela Lloyd	12 th December	Enstone
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ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, FISHERS LANE, CHARLBURY

There will be no Mass in Enstone in January.

The Parish Priest is Fr Tony Joyce, at Holy Trinity Rectory, London Rd,
Chipping Norton OX7 5AX. holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com 01608 642703

In these difficult times let us try to keep in our minds and hearts the words of Jesus: "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, for I have overcome the world."

All items for the February Ensign in by 30th January (or sooner, if you have it ready) please, to Hillside (blue door opposite Artyard Cafe) or ring 677231 for shorter items. You can also email me at info@andreabates.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – DECEMBER 2020

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

- The Parish Council was unable to consider the planning applications as the planning portal at West Oxfordshire District Council was shut down due to routine maintenance and paper copies are no longer available. The planning department has agreed with the Parish Council that the applications will be considered on Thursday 14th January.

Decision Received:-

- **19 The Paddocks, Enstone, 20/02814/CLP** – Certificate of Lawfulness for erection of a single storey rear extension. *Approved.* Parish Councils are not informed of Certificate of Lawfulness applications.

THANK YOU ... SURVEY & QUESTIONNAIRE

The Parish Council is extremely grateful for the responses received following the survey and questionnaire. Over 100 responses have been received. These will be discussed at a meeting in early January. The Parish Council thanks Cllr. Carole Glendinning and Mrs Rachel Hunt for their hard work in producing and collating this important information.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE NOW UP AND RUNNING
www.enstoneparish.org

The new website is now “live”. Enstone Parish Council thanks Mrs Rachel Hunt for all her work involved with this. Please take a look – it is also combined with news regarding the Parish Hall and local organisations.

Dates of next meetings:-

- Thursday 14th January 7.15 pm
- Thursday 28th January 7.15 pm
- Thursday 25th February 7.15 pm

Mrs Beth Sinclair, Enstone Parish Clerk, Briery Cottage, 9 Alexandra Square, Chipping Norton, OX7 5HL. Tel: 01608 641051: Email:- enstoneparishclerk@gmail.com

Website address for the Parish = enstoneparish.org

Facebook Page = Enstone Parish

Enstone Oil provides a free service to the parish for ordering oil in bulk, thus cutting costs and reducing the number of heavy vehicles on our roads. Order forms are available from the Shop, online on the parish website, www.enstoneparish.org/enstone-oil, or by email from enstoneoil@gmail.com.

ENSTONE FOOD MARKET

Two Jolly Cooks presents the Enstone Food Market. To be held in the car park of the Enstone Sports and Social Club, Cox's Lane, Enstone OX7 4LF on Sunday 17th January.

It will be open from 0930 - 1pm, with parking. It is a flat surface and toilets are available.

Donations in aid of Oxfordshire Mind, a Mental Health charity.

Stalls will include Two Jolly Cooks /The Indian Orchard / Mira Preserves/ Ray of Soap / The Hippy Hare Co / Its A Chocolate Thing/ The Curiosities Company/ Tess' Brilliant Cakes / Team Tea /Swedish Sandwich Cakes / North Aston Organics' vegetables/ Barrow Coffee and maybe a few more, depending on restrictions.

PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME

Hope to see you there. Please be responsible in social distancing.

Debbie

Two Jolly Cooks

Organiser of Enstone Food Market

07928 057722

WHO WOULD BE YOUR ROLE MODEL?

Having been widowed nearly two years ago, after 51 years of marriage to a jovial (and yes – occasionally grumpy!) man who never lost his sense of humour right till the end of his life, I felt drawn to the idea of being a merry widow. And then I remembered Nora Allen, whom we first met in the late 1960s, and who was a good 35 years older than me. She'd lived in the village all her life and came to babysit for us when our first son was born in 1970. She told us that she never had the chance to have children as her husband became

ill during their honeymoon and died 18 months later. She didn't have much to be cheerful about but she just got on with it and was always cheerful. She was good-humoured, could see the funny side in every situation, worked hard all her life and was much sought after as a cleaner; people came from outlying villages to collect her and then drop her off, as word got around how good she was. Salt of the earth was Nora, fun to be around, a church-going woman but never sanctimonious, a really decent person to know. Can't get a better role model than that – as a merry widow! If you can think of someone in the village who inspired you in the past, do write in and share it with us. Contact details on the front page. (Ed)

WAS THIS YOUR WORST EVER CHRISTMAS?

There have been many bad Christmases in the past. For example, did you know?

In 1066, after the Norman Conquest, the coronation of William the Conqueror took place on Christmas Day at Westminster Abbey. When the archbishop asked the assembled people whether they would accept William as king, the roar of approval was so loud that the Norman guards outside thought there was a riot and set fire to every building in sight. Crowds ran out from the Abbey and joined in the looting and violence.

The Black Death plague reached England in June 1348, and the entire country was covered by the Pestilence by the summer of 1349. About 30% of the population perished and figures didn't recover until the early 16th century. Those who were not infected went into quarantine, or fled the cities for rural areas, making for a very isolated Christmas. On the wall of a church tower in a Hertfordshire village are the words (roughly translated): "1350 – miserable, wild, distracted. The dregs of the people alone survive to witness."

1644-60 The Puritans under Cromwell decided that Christmas had become a corrupt festivity, with too much eating, drinking and gambling – in which mischief was committed in the name of the birth of Jesus. In 1644, an Act of Parliament banned Christmas celebrations. Any religious or domestic activities

connected with Christmas were forbidden by law. This included going to church, with soldiers patrolling the streets and seizing any food that was found to have been prepared for festivities.

1752 – In September 1752, Britain finally adopted the Gregorian calendar – which meant that September 3 immediately became September 14. Many people refused to accept the change. On the first Christmas of the new Gregorian calendar many ignored the day and waited for what they considered to be the real Christmas, which took place on January 6th. This is still referred to by some as “Old Christmas Day”.

1861. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's beloved husband, died at 10.50 pm on December 14, 1861, and was buried on December 23. The great bell of St. Paul's tolled out the news. Many Londoners gathered outside the cathedral. The shock was immense, as Albert was just 42 and his illness was downplayed. Christmas 1861 was one of the gloomiest ever seen in England, with a public outpouring of grief. Shops were shuttered, blinds were drawn, flags were set at half-mast, concerts and theatre performances were cancelled. The country was a sea of black. The Queen was plunged into pathological grief.^[1]_[SEP]

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1941. During the dark days after Dunkirk, in order to conserve paper the Ministry of Supply decreed that “no retailer should provide any paper for the packing or wrapping of goods excepting food stuffs or articles which the shopkeeper had agreed to deliver”. Resourceful Brits used brown paper, newspaper or small pieces of cloth to disguise their Christmas gifts. Not that there were many presents to wrap. Travel to family gatherings and even shopping trips could be difficult. Rationing made wartime Christmas lunch a Spartan affair. One East End family even made a tree out of goose feathers decorated with tinsel. In London, many were still in a state of shock from December 29th 1940 when 100,000 bombs had fallen in just a few hours, causing a firestorm across the square mile and as far as Islington. More than 250 were injured, 14 firefighters losing their lives.

With thanks to the Daily Telegraph

ENSTONE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SEED DISTRIBUTION

Since we are unable to hold our AGM due to Covid, those who have ordered seeds will be able to collect them from The Enstone Food Market at the Sports and Social Club, Cox's Lane on Sunday 17th January from 9.30am.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ADAMS OUR FANTASTIC VILLAGE STORE.

It's always been the case that we are lucky to have a local shop but I think we can all agree that in 2020 we would have been lost without them.

They go above and beyond in the extra service they provide from prescription deliveries to lovely fresh bread (which I'm always phoning up for last minute!) and SO much more....

Not only are they always friendly and greet many by name, they have, though their brilliant efforts, maintained an environment where you feel safe to shop in these strange and difficult times. Something that many larger stores are no longer "policing" quite so well. Here's to a time when we can linger longer and chat more freely around an important Hub of our community.

(S.C.)

ENSTONE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB FACILITIES FOR HIRE GROUND AND CLUB



ENSTONE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

New members welcome

Barclays Premier League Live on Sky ,plus other sports too.

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01608 677823

ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

The club will remain closed until further notice.

Will update on our Facebook page.

Thank you all for your support and be safe.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January 17 Enstone Food Market Sports and Social Club 9.30am-1pm
28 Parish Council Meeting 7.15pm via Zoom
30 FINAL DATE FOR COPY

The Green



The Knoll



Club Day (1920)

