



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**November
2020**



This on-line edition supports the printed version.

Please see the printed issue for full advertisements.
A list of advertisers plus their contact details is at the end
of this on-line issue.

The Parishes of Ombersley and Doverdale are two of The Worcestershire Severn Parishes comprising Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett, Elmbridge, Rushock, Hartlebury, Ombersley and Doverdale, a family of Church of England parishes in the Diocese of Worcester working together to share the love of God in each of their local communities.

Rector
Revd Stephen Winter
07773 760899
mail@stephenwinter.net

Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)

James Homer 07766 625388 ajfhomer@btinternet.com	Richard Jeynes 01905 620441 richardajeynes@hotmail.co.uk
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**The Parish of St. Andrew Ombersley
with St. Mary Doverdale**

Churchwardens (St. Andrew's)

Andrew Horn Tel: 620259

Fiona Davies Tel: 621176

Churchwarden (St. Mary's)

Mr R Coppini Tel: 620963

Seven Parishes Administrator

Nick Wright Tel: 01905 622464

Email: parishes7@btinternet.com

Opening hours: Tuesday 10.00am – 12 noon

Thursday 10.00am – 12 noon

**If you would like to receive the Parish Magazine please contact one of
the Editorial Team. (Details at the back!)**

Worcestershire Seven Parishes Service Rota for November

Date	Time	Location	Service Type
1 st	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	HC – CW
	11.00am	Ombersley and Livestream – Zoom	HC – CW
	3.00pm	Elmley Lovett	All Souls
8 th	9.30am	Doverdale	Remembrance
	10.45am	Hartlebury	Remembrance
	10.50am	Ombersley	Remembrance
15 th	9.00am	Elmbridge	HC – CW
	9.30am	Hartlebury	MP
	11.00am	Doverdale	HC – BCP
	11.00am	Online – Zoom	HC – CW
	6.00pm	Hampton Lovett	Evensong
29 th	11.00am	Online - Zoom	HC – CW – livestream
6 th Dec	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	HC – CW
	11.00am	Ombersley – Zoom	HC – CW + livestream

HC Holy Communion

CW Common Worship

BCP Book of Common Prayer

MP Morning Prayer

These are current times as going to press, please check online with your local church or via the weekly email from the parish administrator. See Village News for information about Remembrance Day services.

Morning Prayer Schedule

Each weekday morning at 9.15am we gather for Morning Prayer. If you would like to join us then please use Meeting ID **Zoom ID 845 168 9869** and **protected** password; **please check with Stephen to see if the password has been updated.** If you would like us to pray for you then please send me an email at mail@stephenwinter.net

Thoughts from the Rector

October 2020

The last time that I was involved in getting the harvest in I used a two-pronged fork in order to pitch the bales onto the back of a trailer while a man stacked them until we were ready to take them to the barn. I would then scramble up the side of the stack and perch on the top while my workmate towed the trailer to the barn a couple of miles away from the field that we were working in. I confess that this was my favourite part of the day. A break between the hard work of pitching bales at either end of the tractor's journey and it was a very hot summer that year. I confess too (my! - what a lot of confessions - but then I am a priest!) that as I sat on the back of the trailer I pondered my decision to leave a summer job cleaning in a newly opened Waitrose store near Southampton in which I earned the same amount of money for a couple of hours of easy work as I was now getting for a hard day in the hot sun. All I can say is that it felt the right thing to do at the time.

Well, that was a long time ago and since then my main association with harvest has been as a consumer which is the association that most of the people in this country have these days. I rather doubt if any of the farmers who read this magazine would offer me any work at harvest time now, but just in case anyone does, well, you know how to get in touch with me!

The business of being a consumer nowadays is a pretty soul-destroying affair and I really mean that it destroys our souls. It teaches us the price of everything and the value of nothing. The government is even pondering whether it might allow the importing of chicken from the United States that has been washed in chlorine because it assumes that the only thing that most people care about when it comes to food is its price. Now obviously price does matter, especially if you don't have much money, but your soul matters even more. It was Jesus who said what good is it to you if you get the whole world, but lose your soul. Forget those cartoon images of devils with forks and burning flesh. What it really means is that gradually you cease to be a person and you become a thing. You may have a price but you have no value.

I once had an amazing afternoon in the cellar of a small independent wine maker in the Burgundy region of France. It was another hot day, but the cellar was deliciously cool and full of the beguiling scents of his wines. Through the afternoon he poured me many of his prize-winning wines and we talked. He spoke no English and my French was limited, but we got on pretty well. Of course, by the end of the afternoon I felt honour bound to purchase a case of his wines, but I wanted to show him the respect that I felt anyway. That was probably the nearest that I have ever been to a heavenly experience (and I use the words quite seriously) of buying something, but I do recommend that you try to get somewhere near to one yourself. Perhaps the closest that we get is in a farm shop where you can talk about the food that you are buying and get to know the person that you are talking to a little. As you do this you find that you are becoming less of a thing and more of a person. Another way of travelling on this human journey is to buy directly from the farmer if you can. Give it a go. Oh, and by the way, the prices aren't bad either!

Stephen Winter

THE PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S OMBERSLEY

PRAYING THE PARISH

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know

Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 or mail@stephenwinter.net

Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com

or James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com [lay reader with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



Areas prayed for in November:

Sunday 1st – Racks Lane, Chapel Lane, Longheadland

Sunday 8th – Uphampton, Northampton, Lineholt, Malvern View, Abberley View

Sunday 15th – Doverdale, St Mary's Church, Sytchampton, Sytchampton School

St Andrew's Parish Register for September 2020

11 th	Iris Checketts	Memorial Service following cremation
23 rd	Wendy Downe	Interment of Ashes

St Andrew's Church News

(Fairly) Active Coffee

As with most things Active Coffee has not happened for most of this year. For those who are interested there will be opportunities to come and 'knit and natter' or just sit and chat in the Narthex for an hour on the Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 10.30am.

To keep you safe from Covid there will be a maximum of six people and you will need to book in each time. There will be a kettle for hot water, but please to bring your own mug, drink or snack, plus any project you would like to work on in the company of others. As you might expect this could all be subject to change so please ring first, and wear warm clothes!

Call 01905 621176 or email fmdavies83@gmail.com

Parish News

It is highly likely that the rest of the Autumn will follow a similar pattern of reduced contact and keeping a safe distance. Something that is strangely beginning to feel normal!

Some services are being held in church, and we now have the equipment to stream services from St Andrew's! This may take a few attempts to perfect and we are very happy to hear from anyone who would like to improve their filming skills...? We will start with zoom, but have the potential to use our own YouTube channel. Who thought I'd be writing that this year!! Please contact the parish office or Liz Hooper for log-in details to the services. When we have YouTube going, we shall put details on our website: st.andrews-church.

All Souls Service and Remembering

The challenges of this year have been especially hard for anyone who has lost a member of their family or a close friend. So, in addition to the remembrance services we are putting the outline of a cross on the burial ground just inside the Lychgate, this will be in place from

October 28th until November 11th. Anyone can then add a stone with a name of a loved one written on it, this will form a visible point of remembering for us all.

All Saints and All Souls day falls on **Sunday 1st of November** this year, in Christian churches a time when the Church traditionally offer people who have lost loved ones a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. This service is based on the Christian faith expressed at funerals: that death is not the end, but it is the gateway into a better life, where God himself will be with us forever.

We invite you to join us for this special occasion to remember your loved ones. Part of the service will be set aside for the reading of the names of those who have been laid to rest in the last 12 months, and there will also be an opportunity for you to mark your remembrance with the lighting of a candle as you enter the church. If you would like to send us a photograph of the person you will be remembering we will put the pictures up on our display boards, or Narthex window. This will be done whether you can attend or not.

The especially prepared service will be no more than an hour and will begin at 11.00am, St Andrew's Church, Ombersley (WR9 0EP) Please allow extra time when arriving for us to take contact details, and show you to your pew.

Please could you call 01905 622464 or email parishes7@btinternet.com to let us know if you hope to attend. For your peace of mind, we can assure you that St Andrew's Church is Covid secure. We will ask you to wear a mask in church; there are hand sanitisers for you to use on entry and exit. A track and trace book is in place for you to sign in with a contact number, or a QR code if you have a smart phone. Seating will be at 2m distance as alternate pews will be used.

Mary Martha Mongolia

Embroidered bags, purses, silver jewellery, felt brooches, hanging ornaments, socks

All beautifully made and sold in support of the
Mary & Martha Ethical Trade foundation in Mongolia

Available on Saturday 14th and Saturday 28th November
between 10.30am and 12noon in the back of the church

Some easy Christmas shopping!

*In this
different year
St Andrew's
Church hopes to
create a temporary
memorial to all
those we love and
no longer see.*

*There will be a cross shape in the churchyard
in which people can place a stone in
remembrance of those they love.*

*You may wish
to write a name
on the stone
and it may
represent any
whom you love
and miss.*

*The cross will
be in place
from Wed 28th
October until
Wed 11th
November.*

*Feel free to
bring a stone to
fill the shape.*

*Please collect
your stone, if
you wish, on
the afternoon of
November 11th*

St Andrew's Windows

A small group of us were very fortunate to visit Holywell Glass in Wells towards the end of September. An interesting trip down enlivened by a blockage on the M4 and a diversion that added a

scenic element, but arrive we did. While we were waiting to look around, Steve showed us a couple of examples of how sheets of glass are made, either blowing and creating a large cylinder from which panes are cut or Crown glass. In the past, the centre of the "crown" (where the blowing tube went in) was discarded, but it seems to have ended up in many Olde pub windows!

Our widows were in various places and different states of repair. The frames for the east window were already cleaned primed and painted. They are incredibly fine and light, each section could be lifted by one finger! Boxes holding our glass wrapped in 'bubblewrap', each pane carefully numbered, were in a separate room and the new glass for replacement pieces stacked for us to see.

Upstairs we could see one half of one window laid out on a large light box. Each pane was laid out in its own place and it was really easy to see the dramatic difference between the clean and repaired glass, and very grubby untreated panes. We also saw in close-up the two main panes with the Sandys crest. Photographs of these are on the [st.andrews-church website](#). Please look, the detail is fascinating, and the animals' expressions will make you smile.

Something that stood out for all of us was the skill and enthusiasm shown by this very young (to us) and dedicated workforce. It showed us how well the money raised is being spent, and why the cost is so high. Finding the glass of the right colour and weight, that needs etching with acid for exactly the right time just to be 'plain' takes a significant time (FYI it came from France!).

Those of you who like jigsaws would have appreciated a window from Durham Cathedral (I think); traditional stained glass being re-leaded with a complicated Celtic pattern, but very beautiful.

We hope the first windows will be back in this month. If you have a moment do drop in and see them.

GENERAL VILLAGE NEWS

Remembrance Day 2020



Lest We Forget

The Legion, in conjunction with St Andrew's and St Mary's Churches are organising Acts of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday, the 8th November – 9.30am at Doverdale and at Ombersley towards the 11th hour.

This year, because of Covid 19, we will mark Remembrance Sunday differently to how we would normally. Due to current restrictions attendance in Ombersley will be by invitation only.

The names of the fallen will be read and wreaths laid. The Last Post will sound and two minutes silence will be observed. A short time of reflection and prayers will follow, still in the churchyard.

The short Act of Remembrance at Ombersley will be filmed and streamed via Zoom. Details will be publicised on the church and parish websites. Consider joining in at home.

Please continue to give your support to the Ombersley and Doverdale Royal British Legion on Remembrance Sunday and ensure that those who lived in the area and gave their lives for their country are never, ever forgotten.

There will be no door-to-door poppy distribution/collection this year, but poppies will be available in shops and other retail outlets. If you wish to donate by bank transfer you can do this direct to the Royal British Legion: SORT CODE: 20-98-61; ACCOUNT NUMBER: 30254622; REFERENCE: O&D PA

In addition to remembering the fallen, the aim of the Royal British Legion is to provide assistance to ex-service personnel and their families but, of course, it can only do so if it is aware of a need. If you know of someone who may need help, please contact Tony Checketts on 01905 620853 or email tonychecketts@outlook.com. There is still a need for volunteers (you do not need to become a member) for refreshing poppy boxes, the distribution and collection of boxes and storing everything away for next year.

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them**

SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS COFFEE DAY

Byfleet House, Main Road,
Friday 13th November

After giving this a lot of thought, I think we could have an amended form of get-together while still adhering to the Covid rules. We plan to invite a maximum of four people to come on the hour, every hour for fifty minutes. This will give us time to sanitise and clean all necessary surfaces and open windows before the next group. We will begin at 9 am and go on all day. We shall keep to social distancing in the house and have cards and maybe presents in the playroom followed by coffee (or tea) in the kitchen sitting round the table socially distanced. If it is a nice day, I see no reason why people should not chat on the drive, which will be clear of cars, as they come and go. The main thing is to have no more than six people in the house at any one time. For those people who do not want to come inside, but would like to make a donation, this will certainly be possible.

We will arrange to have one of each of our Christmas cards displayed so that people can make their choice, but the packages will be sold unopened. I plan to keep the cards for a few days so if you are unable to come on the Friday, please let me know and we can fit in another time.

I am planning to offer soup instead of coffee during the middle of the day hours. I do hope you will feel able to support us this year as usual, although I realise it will not be such a big friendly gathering.

Please ring me on 01905 620554 if you would like to come so we can arrange what time is free for you and hopefully guests.

Judy Baer

The Longheadland Allotments

A follow-up article to the one published on-line in June

Autumn is a time of hard work on the allotment. It's all about tidying up at this time of year; clearing away the summer vegetables, burning and composting the waste vegetation and returning it all to the soil. A bit of digging (for those of us that do this nowadays) and getting things ready for the winter. But as well as this, plot holders get the pleasure of the fruits of their labours. Autumn crops on the allotments are particularly good this year, the product of them being planted out just as the rain started to come in June after the long spring drought.

What has happened to all of our many new allotmenters, of whom I reported in the June edition of the Parish Magazine? Well, as you can imagine, it's been a mixed bag. Having an allotment is a constant battle against emerging weeds and it takes a year or so to get your rhythm in tune with the growth of the weeds, which soon become rampant if left to their own devices. Some newbies have come and stayed, working hard to get used to growing vegetables and learning from others. Some have come and gone – one plot is



now on its third different tenant since March – and one or two have done brilliantly. And, of course, if you are lucky enough to be eating at the Venture In, you'll see that the chef Toby proudly tells you that he'll be serving allotment vegetables, the product of his hard work during lockdown.

It's to our great satisfaction that for the first time in recent times we have a waiting list to join us. But those who want a go at growing their own shouldn't be put off by this. We're sure that everybody who applies for a plot will get their chance before long.

Of course, Keats tells us that autumn is the time of mists and mellow fruitfulness. But it's also a time of rain as well. And what's better on a rainy day for a plot holder than leafing through the seed catalogue? We run a discounted seed buying scheme, a bonus of our membership of the National Allotment Society. It's about this time that the seed order goes off and we make our plans for next year, as always full of anticipation.

Rob Brett bobbrett@btinternet.com
01905 621294

WE ARE OPEN AGAIN

**Ombersley Memorial Hall is a Covid-19 Secure Environment,
therefore we comply with the latest Government Guidelines**

Your Community Tea and Coffee Shop (Not for Profit)
In the Main Room

Please remember to wear your mask when entering

Tuesday November 3rd 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Thursday November 19th 2.00pm to 4.00pm

We look forward to seeing you again



Conservation of the First Ombersley Magazine: January 1896

The first Ombersley Parish Magazine was printed in January 1896. It consisted of a single printed page that formed the front cover of a monthly magazine, 'The Church and Home'. Subsequent parish magazines consisted of either one or two pages and provided news about both church and village activities as well as a Parish Register of baptisms, marriages and burials. We are fortunate to have a complete hard-back bound copy of all the magazines from January 1896 to December 1897.

However, the book binding had deteriorated to such an extent that the pages had become detached from the spine, a consequence of storage in a damp chest in St Andrew's Church. The bound volume has now been repaired and conserved by the book conservator at the Hive.

The only other 'old' magazines (1899-1900) found in the church had been bound into a volume covering the period 1899 - 1900. This volume had no cover, many torn pages (some with sections cut out) and everything after May 1900 was missing. The surviving Ombersley Magazine pages have been conserved and bound with a new cover.

These books will be displayed in St Andrew's at the first suitable opportunity and at the next open meeting of the Ombersley History Group. They are now available for reference and it is hoped that eventually they can be stored in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment.

Our thanks go to an anonymous donor who has generously funded the conservation of these important records of both church and village life in Ombersley at the end of the 19th Century.

Unfortunately, we do not have copies of any other Ombersley Church Magazines until 1944. Please contact the editors if you have copies of any 'old' magazines.

TOAD – Tomorrow's Ombersley and Doverdale – An update.

In October 2018 all homes within the Parish were hand delivered a household questionnaire to which a staggering 63% of households replied. The results of the questionnaire have become a major influencing factor in the way forward for TOAD in terms of drafting our Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is now out for public consultation and the responses are also helping the Parish Council know what is important to you locally. This month we would like to share with you progress on work being done to enhance life within the Parish.

allaboutomersley.com

The allaboutomersley.com website, Facebook and Instagram page are now the main source of up-to-date information on activities for visitors and local residents within the Parish, as well as providing opportunities for interaction and discussion. Whilst activities within the Parish are curtailed at this moment in time, the Facebook and Instagram pages are very active and updated on a regular basis. An example of the site's success was the call for volunteers to help support the Parish during the recent lock down.

The Memorial Field Project 2020/2021

A large number of residents felt that the village of Omersley, although surrounded by beautiful open countryside and walks, lacked any community outdoor space as a focal point where residents could meet, sit, walk and exercise. From your comments in the household questionnaire, it was felt that more could be done to enhance the field in front of the Memorial Hall.

This was highlighted by the work of the playground group in upgrading the children's play equipment and the increased usage during lock-down.

To this end a grant was obtained from Wychavon which together with some money held by the Memorial Hall committee for this purpose provided a small pot of money to commence a project to rejuvenate the field to create a Memorial Park. Whilst the project has been delayed due to the lock-down period, work will commence in November to replace the current high fencing that sits between the Memorial Hall and field with a lower black fence that complements the railing that goes along the steps into the Memorial Hall.

Added to this will be matching fencing, but in green, that will surround the children's play area, designed to give our little people a dog-free space in which to safely play.

Memorial Gates

Following a request from residents, a team of local people from Omersley and various organisations within the village, have spent time working on an idea that would become a fitting reminder of the Sandys family. As the current gates to the Memorial Field need refurbishment, it was suggested that a new set of gates would be a suitable memorial to such an important family; a family that has had such a significant influence within the Parish of Omersley and Doverdale for many generations. While we were talking about new gates, a gentleman whose family has farmed in Omersley for

several generations and who knew Lord Sandys well, asked us to go and look at some stones that were on his land and which were part of two pillars that came originally from the Ombersley Court Estate. We have now been able to establish that these stones can be incorporated into pillars that would support some new metal gates, and which would become a future part of the history of Ombersley and Doverdale and a fitting memorial to the Sandys family.

In designing the new entrance, (which will provide a separate entrance to allow easy access for children's prams and mobility scooters) we have tried to incorporate some of the history attached to the southern part of the village into the northern area. The stones are from Ombersley Court, the family home of the Sandys family and the gates will be similar to the gates of St Andrew's Church. History tells us that the original pillars to the entrance to the Church also came from Ombersley Court.

During November and December, the pillars will be put in place and the gates installed in early January. Initially the ground works below the gates will only be hard core, but the area will be completed when the pathways are laid in late spring.

This project is being overseen by Ombersley Parish Council, Ombersley Memorial Hall Trustees and Ombersley Memorial Management Committee.

Area around the Telephone Box

Over the past few months a group of volunteers has been refurbishing the telephone box in the village. The casing has been painstakingly cleaned and rubbed down before painting. All the glass has been removed, cleaned and refitted. The door has been removed, stripped, repaired and painted before being rehung. In the next few weeks the internals will be put back together with one of the old black press button A and button B phones together with appropriate posters and signage. The phone box will be kept locked, but opened during appropriate events within the village.

It is also proposed to tidy up the area by removing the old concrete bus stop pole and installing a new seat and litter bin.

Ombersley Roundabout (Funds of between £23K and £30K needed depending on the chosen surface)

The Parish Council is inundated with complaints from residents about the state of the roundabout in the middle of Ombersley and has been working extremely hard to get matters improved. Following several meetings with the Ombersley Conservation Trust, volunteers

and representatives from Highways, plans have been drawn up to refurbish the island and replace the centre light with one more befitting of the character of Ombersley. Highways have made it very clear that there is no money at all available from Worcestershire County Council to pay for the work to be carried out. Ombersley Conservation Trust have made £10k available towards this refurbishment and the Parish Council are continuing to seek a solution with Worcestershire County Council. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the work to be carried out, it does not meet the requirements of other grant agencies.

The Weighbridge Corner

Another area of great concern is the Weighbridge and its garden. The Parish Council is looking for the help of a surveyor who is able to give us an assessment of the state of the hut so we can understand the extent of the task in hand. If anyone within the Parish is able to help with this it would be very much appreciated.

We would also welcome your ideas as to what you would like to see the Weighbridge hut used for. Suggestions so far have been to install a “time capsule” inside the floor cavity, an information kiosk with a display about our heritage and a rotating community exhibition space. Please let us know what you think.

Ombersley Furniture

Looking to the future, the Parish Council would like to install fingers posts and new signage, notice boards and seating that are in-keeping with the history and environment of our beautiful Parish.

And lastly...

To ensure that you have your say on the future of your local area and be kept up to date with developments, please visit the website www.toad.works and sign up to receive updates and don't forget you can also now follow us on allaboutombersley, Facebook and Instagram

Contact Susan Collier Email susan.collier1954@gmail.com or Judy Goodman Email judygoodman33@outlook.com

**All copy needs to be sent to the editors by November 10th
for inclusion in the December and January edition.**

PEAPOD

Colford Walk

It was nice to be asked to contribute to the magazine after five years here in Droitwich. Diane and I live two minutes from the BP petrol station opposite the bus stop and, most importantly, M&S Simply Food, the source of all temptation for those too old and too tired to cook. Two minutes from our door that is, if you walk by way of Colford Walk.

What's with Colford Walk then? Well it's the lane that runs between the BP Station and Celvestune Way. You probably would not notice it unless you were looking for it, but when I get off the bus and see the Colford Walk sign, I feel at home. For some reason Witton Avenue, our official address, still feels strange.

It was the view from the back-bedroom window which sold the house. It is situated on an incline (once a gravel pit on the side of a hill according to our neighbour) so we have a surprising view. A pebbled path winds down through the terraced garden to the back gate opening onto Colford Walk. At first glance the view is deceptive because there is no solid fence between us and our (friendly) next door neighbour's garden as we are only separated by a spectacular show of spring shrubs and summer roses. So, our garden seems twice the size, but only half the work! At the back we are quite high up facing SSW so my favourite post-prandial snooze is to nod off watching the westerly cloudscape and the oncoming weather from the comfort of a favourite armchair.

At the bottom of the garden through the gate is a small wood, carefully planted some years ago with an interesting variety of trees. To your right, as you walk towards the stream don't miss the statuesque oak, especially when the morning or evening sun seems to suggest the dome of some exotic religious building through its grand panoply of golden autumn leaves.

The stream is now crossed by a bridge perhaps the site of the ford from which 'Colford' gets its name. When I reach the stream on morning walks with Susie the dog, I always stop on the bridge, just be quiet and think. Early bright rays of sun glint through the trees onto

the surprisingly clear water as it flows into the wood. If I have a few sticks to throw, Susie takes a shower. All the grandchildren have discovered the pleasures of dam construction and Pooh sticks here. What a gift; abundant Blessings which set me up for the day. I can now lift my head and pass the time of day with fellow dogwalkers and 'allotmenters' (sic?) escaping for the day to the quiet comforts of the shed.

This summer Colin and Julie (the other half of our semi) decided to put in a new kitchen which turned out to be a refit of the whole house over several months! But Colin and Julie could not have been more thoughtful. We were always forewarned of a day-long bout of drilling or the arrival of a large skip being reversed inch by inch towards our precious box hedge. Apologies came in the shape of a chilled bottle of white wine handed over the fence. They also asked me to preside at their wedding! What more could a retired Vicar ask from neighbours!

On the other side are Clive and Lotte who have lived here since our houses were built. They knew the original builders as well as names, histories and the various comings and goings in the Avenue. The other day I was interested to find out that our local plumber's father was the plumber at the construction of our houses, a comforting feel of continuity and security.

Clive's garden is perfect, and he is generous in his distribution of home-grown tomatoes. A sweet tooth means we can return their generosity with Diane's raspberry cupcakes. Clive was a cook in the Army and like an old pro still takes domestic duties seriously. You could set your watch by his daily routine. Begin the day with a visit to the freezer planning a menu for the day, check the greenhouse, hang out the washing and then have a relaxing chat with his pet bird which has the sweetest singing voice. Lotte was always chauffeured to the hairdresser first thing on a Saturday morning. Sadly, Lotte died about a year ago. A couple days after Clive leaned over our common fence and told Peter that Lotte had asked that I take her funeral.

We belonged.

Ombersley is well represented. Cliff and Anne live two doors up. Cliff was born and bred in Uphampton. He loves to bend my ear with

stories of the old ways and of course the mischief he got up to. Well he did live next to Jack Moule! The garden shared with Clive is of prize winning standard.

In so many ways we feel at home, especially when we come in the back gate. Do drop in at our front address, 27 Witton Avenue if you are passing.

Peter Kerr

Articles published in the on-line Magazines April-August 2020

A number of people have asked whether the articles that were printed in the on-line only magazines could be reproduced in future hard copies of the magazine. We shall aim to do this from time to time as space permits.

This month, we reproduce the poem written by Iris Checketts for the May on-line magazine.

Freedom

She's free to roam, she comes and goes,
Keeps social distance? - no one knows,
She doesn't shop, she's not employed,
Her freedom could make me annoyed,
'Cos while we're all in isolation,
For our sake and for the nation,
She cocks her head as if to say,
"Hope you have a pleasant day,
I've had some food, I've had a nap,
And now I'm off through the cat flap "

Iris Checketts: 1947-2020

THE PARISH OF ST MARY, DOVERDALE

Churchwardens: Mr R Coppini Tel: 620963
(vacancy)
Licensed Lay Reader: Mr Richard Jeynes Tel: 620441
Treasurer: Mr D Hawkins Tel: 620059
Secretary, PCC: Mr G Crow Tel: 772850

Sidesmen: Mrs V Harris, Mr C Harris, Mr G Crow, Mrs S Crow, Mr J Chapman, Mrs A Chapman, Mrs W Hawkins, Mrs S Murray, Mrs S Rees

Organists: Mrs L Moyse, Mr T Sobey, Mr D Terry

Cleaning Rota – November: Sue Crow, Valerie Harris, Wendy Hawkins

DIARY DATES

November

Thursday 12th AGM (to include Vestry Meeting) of St Mary's Parochial Church Council at 7.00pm in the Narthex, Ombersley

Future Services

November:

1 st	11.00am Morning Prayer All Saints Day	Revelations 7(9 – end) Matthew 5 (1 – 12)
8 th	9.30am Remembrance Service (also see village news)	Outside in the churchyard to incorporate an act of remembrance
15 th	11.00am HC-BCP 2 nd Sunday before Advent	1 Thessalonians 5 (1 – 11) Matthew Chapter 25 (14 – 30)

Nick Wright, together with Churchwardens of the seven parishes, has issued a draft outline for church services up to Christmas. However, please consult Nick's weekly Message for confirmation of services to be held in the Benefice; services listed in the Parish Magazine are subject to change due to Covid restrictions and clergy availability. We are hoping here at St Mary's to hold regular services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Parish Register

Wedding

4th September

Harriet Cornock and Jamie Sapsford

Weekday Morning Prayer

Revd. Stephen Winter has been holding, via zoom, a weekday morning prayer throughout lockdown. This will now be held at 9.15am. If you would like to join, please use the same Meeting ID and Password as for the Sunday service.

HARVEST TIME

This is the time of year when we come together to give thanks for our farming community and the year's harvest. The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843 when the Revd. Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at Morwenstow in Cornwall.

In ancient Roman times, Ceres (from whose name we get the word "cereal"), was the goddess of the harvest and agriculture. She was also the goddess of fertility in general which meant that in pretty much every way she was one of the goddesses responsible for life itself; hence, the Romans' desire to worship her with numerous sacrifices.

While today in the 21st century we celebrate a harvest season just once a year, we are constantly aware of God's provision for us and we experience the spirit of harvest all the time.

How true the opening words of John Arlott's hymn... "God's Farm"

"God, whose farm is all creation,

Take the gratitude we give....."

A lovely harvest hymn which depicts so well the hopes, fears and tribulations of all those who work on the land.

Harvest at St Mary's

Our service of Harvest celebration was held on Sunday 11th October at 11.00am. Covid restrictions this year prevented the usual colourful display of fresh flowers, fruit and vegetables. Nevertheless, the church still looked resplendent in its Autumn colours. Lay Reader, Richard Jeynes, invited everyone to give thanks for the labours of farmers and growers everywhere for providing food to sustain us throughout the coming months.

Thank you so much to our church decorators, lectors, organist and of course, Richard who enabled us to come together for worship at this very special time of the year.

The congregation had been asked to bring along tinned and packeted goods which will be donated to the local Food Bank.

50th Anniversary of The Friends of St Mary's, Doverdale

Unfortunately the celebration of The Friends 50th Anniversary had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions, so sadly we were unable to get together with friends in the Parish to reminisce and talk over all our happy times raising money for our lovely Church.

Looking back at its history, "The Friends" was formed in September 1970 under the chairmanship of Colonel William Kerr of Doverdale Manor. Colonel Kerr wrote to every household of the parish looking for members to preserve "this lovely wee church" !!

The object would be the maintenance, enrichment and adornment of the church with a view to organise visits to places of interest, to arrange an annual fete and generally to engender a community spirit within the parish.

Certainly over these 50 years the results are clearly visible. Stonework, roofing, curtains, carpets, lighting and heating, kneelers, hymnbooks and the printed history of the Church are just some results of fundraising. Funds were raised by festivals, theatre trips, coach outings, coffee mornings, jazz evenings, tennis competitions, clay pigeon shoots, musical evenings and of course harvest festivals.

Generous contributions from local families, to use their homes for such events were greatly appreciated, as was the generosity of the Cadbury Trust. Geoff Baker and Ann Yardley were on the original committee and are still committed to helping where ever possible and many of our members are also long service Members. We would always appreciate new members as our numbers are dwindling!

I hope this gives you all a little knowledge of what has clearly been a very successful group of dedicated people over so many years. Hopefully we can resume our purpose in the not too distant future as there is always a need for money to be spent on a such an old church.

We look forward to 2021 hopefully seeing you all at our fundraising events.

Wendy Hawkins

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

Harvest

Due to the current circumstances, the school was not able to hold its normal Harvest Celebration Assembly. However, this did not deter us, and instead we recorded some great Harvest songs to share with our Community on our Facebook Page. The school also collected a huge amount of food to donate to the Foodbank, which was very grateful for the donations.

Open Day



Admissions have now opened for parents to apply for Reception School Places for September 2021. Normally, we would hold open mornings and invite parents into school for a tour, but of course this year we had to find a creative way around the current restrictions! So, we held a virtual, live tour of the school for prospective parents

then showed small groups (no more than 3) of parents around the building when the children had left. Every care was taken to ensure that all of our risk assessments were followed to the letter, and it was a highly successful day with lots of parents excited about their children starting school. It worked so well, that we are holding a similar event on 16th November.

Parent Teacher Association

Coronavirus has not deterred our highly resourceful parents from trying to support our school! They have been working hard to find alternative ways to raise funds all the way through the pandemic. An online art auction was held over the Summer and now they launching an online virtual Balloon Race! Please consider supporting this cause!



Portacabin Replacements

The portacabins, which currently house our Key Stage 2 pupils, have now been in place since 2006 and they desperately need replacing! We are currently in the process of writing a Condition Improvement Fund Bid to replace them, and plans have been drawn up for a brick building with breakout space for pupils with additional needs. It is likely that the school will have to fund some of this work, so we are now working hard to raise additional funds to secure the bid.

**All copy needs to be sent to the editors by November 10th
for inclusion in the December/January magazine**

Advertisers in the Magazine for 2020

Please see adverts in previous copies of the magazine.....

All-inc-Cars – taxi service – 01905 826261 / 07739 109590

Amba Legal Services – Will writers – 01299 251442 / 07966 053887

Andy Johnson – chimney sweep – 01886 821933 / 07798 790913

AS Locks & Services – 01905 726671 / 07956 371673

AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058

Bedwardine Funeral Services – 01905 748811

Best of British Garden Services – 01886 889070 / 07983 351634

Bluebird Care (Worcester & Wychavon) – home care – 01386 764830

Bowbrook Gardens – landscaping etc. – 01905 937852 / 07792
613020

CT Building of Ombersley – 01905 620942 / 07973 663442

Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472

Creative Landscapes – 01299 250720

Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288

Droitwich Gymnastics – 01905 312424

E J Gumery & Son – funeral directors – 01905 22094
Eclipse Home Care – 01905 641070
Elite Marquees – 07958 288510
Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671
Evergreen Beauty – facials/manicures etc. – 01886 887867 /
07900 492604

Fisher Bodyshop – car body repairs – 01299 333131
Forever Living Products – health/skin care – 01905 620318 /
07906 701589

GLM Services – general maintenance – 01905 864172 /07399 024702
Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 /07967 883121
Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740

I & S Stoves – woodburning stoves etc. – 01886 812452
Ian Palmer Property Maintenance – painting etc. – 07715 043188
Iona Bed & Breakfast – 07969 184127

J & S Trade Supplies – double glazing etc. – 01886 888024 /
07966 804007

Jack Hobbs – milkman – 01905 455336
Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307
Jonathan Sproule & Sons Ltd – 07973 445048 / 07976 826065
Julie Davis – mobile hair stylist – 01905 427704 / 07977 590087

Karol Kleen – carpet/upholstery cleaning – 01299 404275
Kings School Hawford – 01905 451292
Kingsway House Business Centre, Worcester – 01905 619877

Leapgate Builders – +mini digger with driver for hire – 07702 053756
Marshall-McKay Design – kitchen/interior design – 01905 622317 /
07765 447704

Me Time Pilates – 07791 873870
MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879
Mick Miles – gardening/pest control – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825

Mobile Podiatry/Chiropody – 07989 964854

Ocuplan – Long-term eye care – 0121 517 0423

Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295

Ombersley Dental Practice – 01905 621881

Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)

Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390

Oven Magic – 01905 700500

Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314

Physio In The Sticks – Also home visits – 07398 495819

Re-Upholstery & Repair Services – 01584 881227

W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692

S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011

SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945

Steve Birch Cleaning – carpets/upholstery – 01562 754750 /
07815 771345

Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 /
07745 597050

Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709

Sympathy Flowers and Teas – 01905 620937 / 01905 620076

Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943

T M Shouler – carpentry/joinery – 01905 620374 / 07900 268075

Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738

Top Cut Mowing Services – 01905 621 858 / 07802 717057

Town & Country Stonemasons – memorials etc. – 01905 759191 /
07774 198968

Walkercrrips – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285

Whitlenghe Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669

Magazine Editorial Team

Lynne Larnder Tel: 620322 Stuart.larnder1@btinternet.com	Maureen Callow Tel: 620392 maureen.callow@icloud.com
Valerie Harris Tel: 620515 valchrisharris@btinternet.com	

From the Editors

Content should be sent by email to BOTH Lynne Larnder and Maureen Callow. Items that cannot be sent by email should be delivered to either Lynne or Maureen. Judy Baer is part of the editorial team.

Lynne Larnder, Uttbridge House, Ombersley. Tel: 01905 620322; or
stuart.larnder1@btinternet.com

Maureen Callow, Linden Lea, Uphampton. Tel 01905 620392; 0748
4834 351; or maureen.callow@icloud.com