



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**July –
August
2021**



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.



Severn Parishes Service Rota July/August 2021

July 4th	9.00am	HC CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First Lay Led	Hartlebury
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC CW	Ombersley
July 11th	9.00am	HC CW	Rushock
	11.00am	HC HW	Hartlebury
July 18th	9.00am	HC CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Ombersley
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC BCP	Doverdale
	6.30pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
July 25th	9.00am	HC BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC CW	Ombersley
August 1st	9.00am	HC CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First Lay Led	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Doverdale
August 8th	9.00am	HC CW	Rushock
	10.00am	Family Service	Ombersley
	11.00 am	HC CW	Hartlebury
	1.00 pm	Village Picnic Service of Thanks & Thoughts	Ombersley Wedding Field
August 15th	9.00am	HC CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Ombersley
	10.00m	Morning Prayer	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC BCP	Doverdale
	6.30pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
August 22nd	9.00am	HC BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00 am	HC CW	Hartlebury
August 29th	10.00.am	HC Benefice Service	Elmley Lovett

HC Holy Communion
BCP Book of Common Prayer

CW Common Worship
MP Morning Prayer

These are current times going to press, please check on-line or via the weekly email from Nick Wright, the Parish Administrator.

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

Baptisms

May 16th	Luca Thomas Velasquez
May 30th	Ellie-Marie Knowles

Interment of Ashes

4 th May	Edward Price
16 th May	Richard & Barbara Clarke

Church Cleaning Rota

July 2nd	B	Jane Hill	Heather Barningham	David Want	Jeanette Horn
July 16th	B	Jane Hill	Heather Barningham		
July 30th	A	Myra Cowdry	Fiona Davies	Liz Hooper	Pernilla Asplen
Aug. 13 th	A	Liz Hooper	Pernilla Asplen		
Sept. 3rd	B	Jane Hill	Heather Barningham	David Want	Jeanette Horn
Sept. 17th	B	David Want	Jeanette Horn		

Rector's Thoughts June 2021

What if?

What if the final easing of Covid restrictions does not go ahead as planned on June 21st? I am writing this on May 31st. We need to be prepared for such a possibility because no government is entirely in control of events. All my life I have watched governments take the credit when things go well and blame it on events beyond their control when things go wrong.

They are, of course, partly right in both situations and partly wrong as well. But if we are learning anything from this experience, then it is that a global pandemic is precisely that. It is global. In other words, we are all in this together. The fact that in Sub-Saharan Africa only two percent of the population have received a Covid vaccination affects the people of Worcestershire as much as the people of Zambia.

Two months ago I quoted one of the great poets of the English language and the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, John Donne, who in a time of plague in London wrote, "Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee". That principle was true when he wrote those words 400 years ago and it is true today.

But let me go back to my original question. What if? What if the restrictions under which we have been living for over a year now are not finally lifted on June 21st? I asked this question of a couple who plan to marry soon just yesterday. I asked them if they would marry if the number of people who could attend their wedding were still to be restricted to 30. I was delighted to hear that they would go ahead with their wedding, but it is a hard choice. A restriction of just 30 people means having to decide which friends or even family will not be invited. Feelings might be hurt and friendships might end. And what if there can be no party after the ceremony? Apart from the sadness about missing out, jobs will be at risk and local businesses as well. We will all suffer from that. Ask not for whom the bell tolls.

When things don't go as we have hoped we learn what our happiness is based upon. In the New Testament the Day of Judgement is the day of *krisis*. You don't have to be a scholar of Greek to know what words in English come from that word. Crisis and criticism come quickly to mind. Every crisis makes us think critically. At least it ought to.

And when we ask the question what is our happiness based upon, ancient wisdom teaches us that the three main things are:

- Safety and Security. I believe that if I and the people that I care about are safe and secure then I will be happy and I am unhappy if my or their security is threatened in any way.
- Power and Control. I believe that if I have enough control over my life then I will be happy. I am unhappy if that control is threatened in any way.
- Affection and Esteem. I believe that if I get enough affection and respect from others then I will be happy. If I do not think that I am getting enough of either of these then I become unhappy.

Every threat, every day of judgement or crisis, teaches me which of these is most important to me. That is, it does if I allow it to. And if I allow it to, then what I learn is that my basis for happiness is very fragile. And by the way, when I say *my basis for happiness* I really do mean me. In every challenge I realise how much I still rely on these things. It's rather humbling for someone of my calling I can assure you.

And every challenge, every crisis calls me to put my trust in something deeper than safety, control, affection. Not that trust in God (or Love or a Higher Power) means that my security, control or the respect that I think I deserve will not be threatened, but that I trust that God will never leave me or forsake me.

I hope that all restrictions will be lifted on June 21st but I also know that there will be other challenges. Some will affect me alone. Some I will share with others. And I can learn from every one of them.

Stephen Winter

Rector of St James Hartlebury
and the Worcestershire Severn Benefice

Please send articles for publication in the September issue to the editors by 10th August.

St Andrew's News

www.st-andrews.church

May and June seem to have been months of extremes from very wet in May to hot and dry in June, with of course the typical English 'summer' day where you whip through all the seasons one after the other!

The idea of 'moderation in all things' seems a little way off as we try and catch up with time lost in lockdown. We have been delighted to begin having baptism services again, two gorgeous girls to start with, and a baptism every Sunday somewhere in the Benefice until October....so far! We are also looking forward to a summer of weddings with five in August and one in September; we really wish all these couples the very best in their lives together especially after the stresses and strains of the uncertainty and postponements they have had to deal with.

Our 'Love your Burial Ground' week had lovely summer weather and a full report can be found elsewhere in the magazine. We hope this can become a regular event and we will gradually see an increase in diversity in this wonderful green space. This will be an ongoing project and can involve anyone who is interested in wildlife, in monuments or who is a regular visitor to the burial ground.

This brings us to a suitable point to mention that we are running out of space in the burial ground, and at a PCC meeting in 2018 we renewed the resolution to only accept those who are resident in the Parish, for either burial or interment of ashes, so we don't have to close the burial ground in the near future.

Work is still progressing on the windows of the church and during the summer we hope the 'outside' windows will be completed and scaffolding removed from the ends of the building. The next windows are the 'Clerestory' ones which are above the pews in the church. This will involve some substantial scaffolding in the church (one side at a time) as the sheer height of the building means the significant weight of the scaffold needs to be placed away from the wooden floors of the pews (so at the edge of the centre and side aisles). We are sure this will create an opportunity for something, Ideas on how to use the scaffolding please!!

Holy Dusters

We now have two teams of four people, who will clean before the first and third Sundays of each month. If we need to clean in-between time, it will be done by whoever is available.

We would really like another one or two people on each team so there is plenty of cover for holidays etc and 'many hands do make light work'.

Team A: Myra Cowdry, Fiona Davies, Liz Hooper, Pernilla Asplen

Team B: Jane Hill, Heather Barningham, David Want, Jeanette Horn

Ring Liz 01905 620827 or Fiona 01905 62176 if you are able to help.

Active Coffee

For July we will meet on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 29th, both at about 10.30am. This may well be the pattern for the future and if there is enough interest, we can also decide if there are any skills or projects to be tackled through the winter.

There will be no meetings in August and the first meeting in September will be on Wednesday 8th.

Thank you so much for the blankets so far....and for those under construction, we still have wool available in church if you'd like to join in.

Please let Fiona know if you would like to come; Tel. 01905 621176

Flowers

Did you know that there are flowers in St Andrew's nearly all year, the exceptions being Lent and Advent?

Then there are the 'big festivals' for Harvest, Easter and Christmas, and of course, even more special our Flower Festivals as in 2019. You will always find an arrangement by the font at the front of the church and in the porch.

These flowers are arranged by a small team who enjoy the beauty of flowers adding to the welcome and worship in our church. The flowers are changed every two weeks on a rota basis and the cost of flowers can be reclaimed.

Please do come and join us, willingness and enthusiasm are all you need and our experienced 'flower ladies' are ready to encourage and support you.

Please contact Sue Arnold on 01905 620272

Parish Picnic 1pm Sunday 8th August

This was originally planned for 11th July, but has now been rescheduled for Sunday 8th August when we hope that restrictions will no longer be in place!

There is a poster page with more information about this elsewhere in the magazine. Although the new date will no longer coincide with Godparents' Sunday, we hope you will still bring your godparents to the picnic.

We are so looking forward to this chance to all meet together, but with the opportunity to keep a safe distance so everyone can feel comfortable.

Rev. Stephen Winter will lead us in a few prayers and songs of thanks.

Heritage Open Day week from 11th - 19th September

Plans are still being put in place, though we hope to have the Old Chancel open for visitors, and create a theme of the history of the Sandys family. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information.

This heritage week begins with Ride and Stride Saturday, 11th Sept, more information on this elsewhere. Do have a look and see if you can join in.

RIDE AND STRIDE ON SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

www.worcesteranddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk Events

This is an initiative linked to the Historic churches trust, originally for people to be sponsored to cycle to as many churches as they could. The sponsorship is then split 50:50 with the historic churches trust and your nominated church.

Now you don't have to cycle, you can walk, ride on horseback, run, use public transport or even drive! We felt this would be an ideal opportunity to challenge ourselves to get around as many churches as we can in the Seven Parishes Benefice. There will be refreshments available at St Andrew's, Ombersley, and the other churches in the Benefice.

This is an excellent opportunity to have a fun day out and raise much needed funds for your church.

There will be forms and more information available at the back of the church please help yourself.

Parish Picnic

Sunday 8th August
from 1pm

Let's celebrate
being able to get together again
and say some 'Thank You's'



There'll be a
Sausage BBQ

And
Cakes to buy

Some thoughtful moments
and prayers of thanks

A bit of
Community Singing
(like Carols in the Car Park)

Gather your family and friends
bring your tables, chairs, and a picnic and
join us in the 'Wedding Field'
next to St Andrew's

PRAYING THE PARISH JULY & AUGUST 2021

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know:
Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 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 for July:

Sunday 4th July – Racks Lane, Chapel Lane, Longheadland

Sunday 11th July – Uphampton, Northampton, Lineholt, Malvern View, Abberley View

Sunday 18th July – Doverdale, St Mary's Church, Sytchampton, Sytchampton School

Sunday 25th July – Flower arrangers and cleaners of our churches

Areas for August:

Sunday 1st August – Lincomb, The Winnalls, Acton, Mount Pleasant

Sunday 8th August - Sandys Road, Wellington Road, The Hamptons

Sunday 15th August - Oakfield Road, Woodhall Lane/Close

Sunday 22nd August – Churchwardens, vergers and sextons

Sunday 29th August - Parish Council



If you would like a place of quiet to pray, or think, or just rest, the church will be open on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10.00-16.00 via the side door. There are booklets and cards of prayers available in the basket, on the table to the left of the door, which you may find helpful.

Please send articles for publication in the September issue to the editors by 10th August. Also, don't forget to send in your reminiscences about lockdown for the Coronavirus Chronicle by 10th August (see details elsewhere in the magazine)

Ombersley Endowed First School

What a busy summer term we are having at Ombersley First School. Everyone is enjoying getting back to a bit of normality. We have been able to plan special visits and visitors and even trips for the final half term.

For the first week back after half term Mrs Hobbs planned a very special week of Sports and Health for us. The whole school took part in lots of sporting activities and workshops including yoga, hula hooping, skipping, boogie bounce and circus skills. Year four spent a morning at the Aztec Centre enjoying archery and climbing too. We also thought about what we need to keep our minds and bodies healthy by eating healthily and looking after our wellbeing; we had a fantastic week.

We all enjoyed the special activities at Ombersley Church for 'Love Your Burial Ground Week'. Each class took part in activities such as Marvellous Monuments, Art and Architecture and Precious Places. It was lovely for the children to get to know more about our local Church and Church Yard. Thank you to everyone at church who made it such an enjoyable experience for us; especially Ms Batelen, Mrs Davies, Mrs Hooper and Mrs Robinson; all of them made the visit a really interesting one and even provided us with drinks and biscuits!

Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic 'fun filled' morning travelling through time with Professor McGinty back to ancient Egypt as part of their topic.

Year 2 enjoyed a day trip to Dudley Zoo to see the animals, particularly the penguins, after studying and writing reports on the 17 different types of penguins. Reception class also had a lovely day trip to 'All Things Wild', where they enjoyed seeing lots of different animals.

The very generous gift of £1000 donated by The Parish Magazine is going towards the purchase of 'Buddy Benches' for the children to sit on and talk to their friends around the school grounds. This will be a great asset to the school's priority of our children's wellbeing – Thank you so much.

We wish you all a wonderful Summer break.

Take Care and Stay Safe everyone!

OMBERSLEY GARDENING CLUB

We hope to resume regular meetings soon. Our evenings, normally held on the third Thursday of the month, begin from 7.30pm when there is time for a cup of tea or coffee and an opportunity to buy plants and raffle tickets. New members will be very welcome. Further information can be obtained from Briony Serrell, Chairman of the Club on 01905 620846.

Summer Show Saturday 7th August

We plan to hold the annual Ombersley Gardening Club Summer Show at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 7th August when we hope that we shall have entries from club members and visitors alike. There are many classes to enter from flowers and vegetables to cakes, preserves and handicrafts and many more. Entries can be brought along to the hall on the morning of the 7th from 9.00 until 10.50am. Judging will then take place and the hall will be open again for the afternoon from 2.15pm when we hope to be able to serve refreshments. Schedules with all information can be picked up from Jukes store in Ombersley.

Whilst working in line with government guidelines, the club hope to resume meetings during the rest of the year. We look forward to some interesting evenings including welcoming Nick Hamilton, Geoff Hamilton's son, to the club on 21st October when he will regale us with tales of Barnsdale during the television years. Tickets for non-club members will be available at £5.00. In normal times the club organises many visits and events and always welcomes new members.





Ombersley Memorial Village Hall

'Not-For-Profit' Tea & Coffee Shop



July and August opening dates

Tuesday 6th July 2-4pm

Thursday 22nd July 2-4pm

Tuesday 3rd August 2-4pm

Thursday 26th August 2-4pm

home-made cakes...new patio garden...dog friendly

Please note: cash payments only



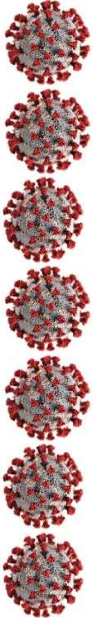
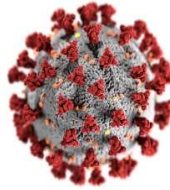
For more details see our website
and follow our Facebook page

www.ombersleymemorialhall.co.uk

From the Archive - April 1899

At the quarterly meeting of the Ombersley School Governors, it was resolved that the decision formerly come to by the Governors, that children living in Uphampton, Oldfield and Southall, should attend the Ombersley School be adhered to, but on the proposition of the Vicar, it was agreed that exception should be made in the cases of infants, whose parents desire them to attend Sytchampton School.

A Parish Coronavirus Chronicle



Covid 19 has affected us all in a variety of ways. At the start of the first lockdown on 23rd March 2020, few of us would have anticipated that the following fifteen months would result in further lockdowns and restrictions on everyday life. We would like to compile your experiences during this period as a **historical record of life in the Parish** during this period. The records will be published in the September issue of the Parish Magazine.

Send your submission to the editors by 10th August and please do not exceed 250 words. The editors may not be able to publish everybody's submissions. Please add your name and area e.g. Ombersley, Sytchampton etc.

Contributions from organisations are also welcome!

From the Archive: Summer Number 1946.

Bread

Bread is to be rationed. The Food Minister is taking no chances – after two wet months with but little sunshine, the harvest prospects are too uncertain. We must go short.



Love Your Burial Ground



Monday June 7th and Tuesday June 8th – how lovely to welcome children from Ombersley Endowed First School to the church again. They have been unable to visit since Christmas 2019 and we have

missed them!

Years 1 to 4 came to explore the churchyard as part of 'Love Your Burial Ground Week'. Magical Monuments, Art and Architecture and Precious Places provided themes for the children to focus on. Several children looked for family members memorial stones – not all managed it but were encouraged to bring mum and dad back to help them find them. A special treat at the end of the visit (after a drink and a biscuit!) was to step into the Old Chancel and begin to understand its place in the life of the Sandys family.

Love Your Burial Ground Week is an initiative organised by the charity Caring for God's Acre, supporting and encouraging people to investigate, care for and enjoy burial grounds and graveyards. Scan the Code to find out more



The churchyard is a special place – it reflects the life and history of the village. For those of us who have lived here for many years it is also good to visit and remember departed friends. It is always open for anyone to wander round, pause and reflect and maybe observe wildlife away from the busy road through the village. We hope to enable wildlife to flourish more as we ease up on the mowing in some areas. **On** Saturday 12th June we offered Tea & Cakes to those who came to visit and they were able to

explore the churchyard with the aid of a flora and fauna identification guide from the Love Your Burial Ground website. It was a lovely opportunity to meet up with visitors and with some newcomers to the village. The churchyard was looking glorious in the sunshine and with areas of wildflowers between the mown grass – butterflies, birds and bees were also making the most of the day!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...
GIN TASTING EVENING

FRIDAY 20TH AUGUST 2021 AT 7.30PM

LOCATION: OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

PRICE: £17.50 TO INCLUDE A SELECTION OF GINS AND NIBBLES

GINS ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY ON THE NIGHT – CASH ONLY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

JUCKES OF OMBERSLEY (CASH ONLY)

WWW.OMBERSLEYMEMORIALHALL.CO.UK (CREDIT/DEBIT CARD)



OMBERSLEY
MEMORIAL
VILLAGE HALL

From the Archive: Spring Number 1948

A Good Samaritan

His name we cannot reveal least others presume upon his goodness on another dreadfully foggy night. He has no ass of his own, so he enlisted the help of the Rector and a stout rope. The Levite and the priest- at least he came from the Parsonage - -had already passed by, and of course, no inn plays any part in this story. Neither do the thieves, though there is some mention of a breakdown gang from Worcester stuck on the way out, to the saving of the victim's pocket.

It was a low ditch that robbed him - in Parsonage Lane too, usually so safe and respectable – of his powers of locomotion, leaving him half in and half out, enveloped in thick fog, and likely to remain until the morrow. An hour or more passed, but no helpers. Then came the Good Samaritan, with his accessories. In a flash, he hitched the Rector to the rear and deftly inserting a 3" plank beneath the body, raised it from its muddy bed, the whiles the donkey engine abaft slowly hauled it on to terra-firma. It was a single feat of strength, for the victim, a Vauxhall, weighed at least a single ton, and single-handed he did it. But wild asses will not drag his name from us - or him "from his bed in the morning" quoth John Peel, he deserves it after imbibing all that fog!

GW Gillingham

Ombersley Women's League - The Mary Quant evening arranged for 8th July has been cancelled. We shall aim to re-arrange it later in the year.

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
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. Rees	
Organists:	Mrs L. Moyse, Mr D.Terry	

PEW POINTS

CLEANING ROTA

July	Sue Crow, Valerie Harris, Wendy Hawkins
August	Alison Best, Sue Rees

FLOWER ROTA: July/August

To be arranged

PARISH REGISTER: 12th May; Jean Fisher: Interment of ashes

SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

Sunday 4 th July 5 th after Trinity	11.00am; MP	Lectors: Mrs V Harris, Mr J Chapman Sidesperson: Mrs V Harris Readings: Ezek.2 (1-5); Mar 6 (1-13)
Sunday 18 th July 7 th after Trinity	11.00; HC; BCP	Lectors: Mrs S Crow, Mr D Hawkins Sidesperson: Mr G Crow Readings: Exodus 16 (2-4, 9-15); John 6 (24-35)
Sunday 15 th August 11 th after Trinity	11.00 am; HC; BCP	Lectors: Mrs V Harris, Mr D Hawkins Sidesperson: Mrs S Rees Readings: Proverbs 9 (1-6); John 6 (51-58)
Sunday 5 th September 14 th after Trinity	11.00 am; MP	Lectors: Mrs V Harris, Mr R Coppini Sidesperson: Mrs V Harris Readings: Isaiah 35 (4-7a); Mark 7 (24-end)

MP, Morning Prayer; HC, Holy Communion, BCP, Book of Common Prayer

St Mary's Church, Doverdale is in need of a few more Lectors for the Sunday readings. If anyone would like to join the Lectors' List, please contact Valerie Harris. Tel. 01905 620515

Saint Mary's AGM of the Parochial Church Council

The joint Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's Church took place on Tuesday 18th May in Ombersley Narthex.

Chairman, Revd Stephen Winter, opened the Vestry Meeting with prayers. Apologies were heard and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed. Robert Coppini was re-elected as Church Warden. A vacancy still exists. Revd Stephen then closed the meeting with a short prayer and the AGM commenced.

Adoption of Accounts:- David Hawkins presented the accounts and answered any ensuing questions. A vote of thanks was given to David for his hard work as Treasurer and also to David Terry, Independent Examiner, for auditing the accounts which were duly adopted.

Church Warden's Report:- Robert Coppini gave a short account of what had probably been one of the strangest years in St Mary's history. However, despite the church being closed for a great part of the time, Harvest, Christmas and Easter festivals were able to be celebrated. Robert concluded by thanking everyone for all the help and support given in very difficult times.

Rector's Report:- Revd Stephen reflected on how the way technology had altered the way people had worshipped over the past year. Sunday services on Zoom are now an accepted part of our lives. The continuity has supported congregations who can now, hopefully, move forward cautiously now that restrictions are gradually being lifted.

The following elections took place:-

Lay Chair:- Vacant

Secretary:- Geoff Crow

Treasurer:- David Hawkins

Electoral Roll Officer:- Sue Rees

Safe-guarding Officer:- John Chapman
Deanery Synod Representative:- Richard Jeynes
Sidespersons:- Elected en bloc
Independent Auditor:- David Terry
PCC:- No new members elected to existing ones
Date of Next Meeting:- TUESDAY JUNE 29TH at 7p.m. in Ombersley Narthex
Church fabric and maintenance jobs will be discussed.
The meeting ended with closing prayers.

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



The first half of the Summer Term has been incredibly busy at Sytchampton Primary!

Readathon

From 26th April to 21st May, we took part in a Readathon, raising money for the Charity 'Read For Good.' Over the course of the four weeks, our pupils read for nearly 8000 minutes! The money that we raised will go to support children who are being treated in hospitals to give them access to books and story tellers during their hospital stays.

Year 5 and 6 Bellboating

On 20th May, Elm Class braved the elements and took part in a day of bellboating along the Droitwich Canal! Not only was this a chance to build their team working skills, it was also an opportunity to learn about the importance of caring for our environment and understanding water safety. Whilst they got a bit soggy on the day, everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience!



Deaf Awareness Week (3rd May to 7th May)

At Sytchampton, we work hard to be a fully inclusive school. We support children with a range of additional needs, some of whom have significant hearing impairments. So, we celebrated Deaf Awareness Week by learning some British Sign Language and signing along to some popular songs.

From the Archive: Easter Number 1951

What's in a Name?

Our surname, of course, comes from our parents, but the other by which we are distinguished from the rest of the clan, is given us by our sponsors – and, thank goodness, they never called us Cuthbert, Marmaduke or Job! As to the prefix, here again it depends – in the case of the clergy, upon whether they are Venerable, or Very Reverend or Right, to say nothing of the Rather Reverends in the shape of the Rural Deans. The Prayer Book directs us to pray for Bishops and Curates only, the correct title for the clergy – *cure* in French, i.e. the one who has the cure or charge of souls.

We ourselves are variously known as the slightly irreverend Rector or Vicar, sometimes as the Officiating Minister, and in official communications as the *Sitting Incumbent*, which makes us feel rather like a broody hen. The first title, inherited from the former Rector together with his Rectory stamp (which cost us twelve and six) was given to us by our sponsors, the sitting church wardens when we first arrived, one of whom, as the sitting Editor of the Parish Magazine for the nonce, welcomed in the preceding issue the New Rector or Rector-designate, and asked for sympathetic encouragement and a blessing on his work. As the incumbent still sitting, we have often brooded over the warm words of welcome that the interregnum number of the Magazine contained; they have encouraged us to preserve undaunted, despite the weather and the other names, some of them unprintable, by which we have been called.

GW Gillingham

Brine Memories

A local project to capture the unique history of the Droitwich Spa Brine Baths

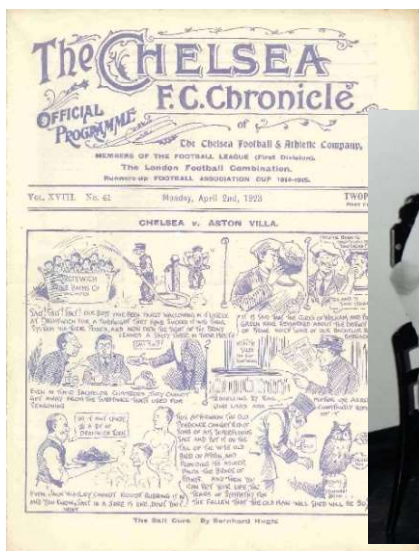
Can you help?

Did you ever go to or work at the brine baths in Droitwich? The last one, attached to the private hospital in the town centre, was closed very suddenly at the end of 2008, ending nearly 180 years of saltwater bathing in Droitwich. The brine baths are the reason why our town is called 'Droitwich Spa'; ever since the first baths opened in 1836, people have been coming here to bathe in the incredibly salty water for both medical and recreational purposes. The brine, pumped up from between seams of rock under the town, was used to treat conditions such as rheumatism and arthritis. In the town's heyday, thousands of patients from all over the world came to Droitwich for several weeks at a time to take a course of 'brine' treatment.



St Andrew's Big Swim (left), BMI baths (right), courtesy of Droitwich Heritage Centre

All of this is well documented. What isn't so well recorded is the town's more recent brine heritage. From the 50's through to the noughties, patients still regularly used the baths for treatment and physio, but others came for leisure and enjoyment. The baths were a place to meet, take your visitors, go to the gym, have a massage, celebrate a birthday, have a night out or even a hen party. We know of people who came to float in the brine to get over their fear of water, or who 'hung out' at the baths every weekend when they were teenagers. We've heard from people who did 'work experience' at the baths or who met the person they went on to marry while bobbing in the brine. There were even those who came just to ogle at famous footballers who used the baths before matches.



A Chelsea programme (left) and ladies in a physio class at the St Andrew's gym (right)

Brine Memories – the Project

Our aim over the next few months is to collect stories, photos and memorabilia connected to the brine baths going back as far as we can in living memory. 'We' are a group of friendly volunteers from SOBBs, 'Save Our Brine Baths', a not-for-profit organisation whose ultimate aim is to restore brine bathing to Droitwich.

Thanks to a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we are creating a permanent archive for the Droitwich Heritage Centre, a website and an exhibition. We have also been working with Westacre Middle School where the entire Year 5 year group will become 'Brine Detectives'.

How can you help?

We would love to hear from anyone who has a story to tell, or who worked at the St Andrews Brine Baths or the BMI baths. Perhaps you can put us in contact with someone who has a connection to the baths, who had treatment there or who worked in related businesses, such as the many hotels in the town. We are also interested in hearing from those involved in decision-making, particularly over the closure of the St Andrew's baths in 1975 and the opening of the BMI baths in 1985. We hope to discover more about the town's spa heritage, key buildings and economy and then share this with the next generation of Droitwich residents.

And finally, if you are keen on local history and want to join us, please get in touch. Have a look at our website www.brinememories.org.uk or email us at brinememories@gmail.com or call 07434 366720.

Tips from 1897

Home Chat (from *The Church and Home* that was part of the Ombersley Parish Magazine

- An old-fashioned remedy for many an ill – a thorough rubbing- is now known under the new name of massage. Rubbing is one of the best remedies for the wearied body.
- If a sprig of parsley is dipped in vinegar and eaten after an onion, no unpleasant odour from the breath can be detected.
- Always keep a small bottle of oil ready for use: door locks, window bolts and bars all work better for an occasional oil.
- An erect and graceful carriage is always a great charm in a woman, so it is worth every woman's while to study grace and movement.

Advertisers 2021 Electronic List

AJ's Window Cleaning Services – windows, gutters etc. – 07809 730085

AS Locks & Services – 01905 726671 / 07956 371673

AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058

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

Andy Pritchard – painter and decorator – 01886 889001 / 07973 783240

Bedwardine Funeral Services – 01905 748811

Best of British Garden Services – 01886 889070 / 07983 351634

Bluebird Care – care visits at home – 01386 764830

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

CT Building of Ombersley – 01905 620942 / 07973 663442

Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472

Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288

Dorn (M&E) Ltd. – installation of electric vehicle charging points – 07712 811552

Droitwich Gymphobics – 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

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

Home Carer, Home Help – 07899 784272

Hopwood Tree Services – pruning, removal etc. – 07581 742243

Huumankind – residential care – 01905 905130

I & S Stoves – woodburning stoves etc. – 01886 812452

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

King’s School Hawford – 01905 451292

Kingsway House - premises for hire - 01905 619877

Leapgate Builders – also mini digger with driver for hire – 07702 053756

Marshall-McKay – 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

Ovengleamers – oven cleaning – 01562 702883

Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500

Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314

Protex Midlands Ltd – long life wall coverings – 01905 622164 / 07833 965258

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

Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709

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

Walkercrips – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285

Whitlengs Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669

Worcester Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500