

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**September
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 September 2021



Sept 5 th	9.00am	HC CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC CW	Ombersley
September 12th	9.00am	HC CW	Rushock
	10.00am	Friendly Informal Sunday Service	Ombersley
	10.30am	Morning Service	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC CW	Hartlebury
Sept 19th	9.00am	HC CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Ombersley
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC BCP	Doverdale
	3.30pm	Harvest HC	Bishops Wood
	6.00 pm	Harvest	Hampton Lovett
September 26th	9.00am	HC BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	Harvest	Ombersley

Holy Communion

CW Common Worship

BCP Book of Common Prayer

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.

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

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

Baptisms

June 6 th	Seren Mhairi Campbell
June 27 th	Joules William Davis
July 18 th	Carter William Snell
July 18 th	Teddy McKay Snell

Funerals

7 th June	Sidney Thomas Pritchard
9 th July	Basil Lamb

Interment of Ashes

12 th July	Sidney Thomas Pritchard
22 nd July	Mary Sanders

Holy Dusters for September 2021

Sept 3rd: Jane Hill, Heather Barningham, Jeanette Horn

Sept 17th: Fiona Davies, Jeanette Horn

The Rector's Thoughts

Since July 19th our services in church have begun to feel a little more like normal. We have even begun to sing again. Every week I have been welcoming young people to church for weddings once again and it has been a real joy. It almost feels as if our beloved parish churches are taking a deep breath of summer air through open doors and stand in the warm sunshine just for the sheer pleasure of being there. You should try to do the same sometime. It will do you good!

And then I looked in my Twitter feed this morning (you see, I am really quite modern sometimes) and saw this from Michael Sadgrove, the former Dean of Durham Cathedral, and a wise luminary of the Church of England. He was commenting on an article by Harriet Sherwood, Religious Affairs Correspondent of The Guardian in which she writes about the launch of a campaign to preserve the parish system in the country. Harriet Sherwood began by describing those who took part in the launch as *traditionalists* and Mr Sadgrove objected to the term. "We who care about the parish system of the Church of England and want to save it are not all 'traditionalists'" he wrote.

“Engaging seriously with place, geography, nation, society and locality are all aspects of what we value in the idea of ‘parish’.”

I can see what upset him in the use of the word, traditionalist. It is as if one is being described according to a label. Think of all the “...ists” in modern speech. Islamists, fundamentalists, misogynists, feminists etc. Either you salute the flag with one of these words emblazoned upon it or you refuse to do so. It is all too much of an either/or kind of a business. But there is a deep need for tradition; not as a rejection of the new, but as a place of safety, a home to return to after all our journeys that explore the new.

Michael Sadgrove speaks of things that matter now as much as at any time in history. He speaks of place, geography, nation, society and locality. And when thinking of all of these things he offers the parish as a place to stand. Just as it is hard to love all people unless you love one or two (a family perhaps) in a very special way so it is hard to love the world unless you love a particular place, a parish. It was the great 20th Century Irish poet, Patrick Kavanagh, a true prophet of the parish, who wrote:

“To know fully even one field or one land is a lifetime's experience. In a world of poetic experience it is depth that counts, not width. A gap in the hedge, a smooth rock surfacing a narrow lane, a view of a woody meadow, a stream at the junction of four small fields- these are as much as a person can fully experience.”

So, the parish is a call to give your life to depth as much as it is to breadth. In this last year and a half our opportunity for breadth has been greatly diminished. We simply have not been able to travel with our accustomed freedom. We have been forced to go deeper into the place in which we live. I would urge you to keep on doing this. Not to take for granted the place where you live; perhaps even treating it as a place to escape from; but to learn how to love it. And can I encourage you to make your parish church a part of this conscious process of going deeper. Some of you might decide to come to a service. Others might take the opportunity to sit in the church when it is empty. I like to do this myself sometimes and if I see you there I promise not to disturb your peace. You will have to talk to me first and I will always be glad to do that.

The poet and priest, Malcolm Guite, wrote a lovely poem about silent churches called Hatley St George and I will end with a few lines from it.

“Stand here awhile and drink their silence in
Annealed in glass, the twelve apostles stand
And each of them is keeping faith for you.
The roof is held aloft, to give you space,
By graceful angels praying night and day
That you might feel the flicker of a wing
And let your heart fly free at last in Prayer.”

Rev'd Stephen Winter

St Andrew's News
www.st-andrews.church

A strange and rather stop - start summer both with the weather, and the gentler and later than expected release from Lockdown, which caused our Parish Picnic to be postponed - more about that elsewhere. We have made a gentle move back to normality, you can now sit wherever you like in church and using masks is personal preference, though hand sanitiser is still encouragedand we can Sing! It really has added joy to our hearts.

Early in July we said farewell to Basil Lamb our long-time verger and stalwart of the church. Covid restrictions made it difficult to do him justice though streaming onto YouTube and outside sound helped reach as many people as possible. While the tea and cake in the Narthex he wanted had to move outside we feel sure he would have approved. Anthony Hughes gave a true Appreciation of Basil and a shortened version can be found later in the magazine.

We have had several more baptisms though unfortunately the dreaded 'Ping' has interrupted some families' plans. We shall be really glad when 'Pinging' stops! Our 'Wedding' season is all happening in August, one beautiful bride so far, and a Ruby Wedding renewal of vows, both in one week, and equally moving. We were really pleased to be able to 'Zoom' Hong Kong so the groom's brother could be at the service, a definite silver lining to the pandemic. A fitting end to the summer seeing new couples start their married lives together.

September feels like a new term, and a hopeful return to normality. We have a regular pattern of services with just a slight change of times, and, two eventful weekends.

The **Ride and Stride** on Sept 11th and a **Heritage Open Day** weekend on the 18th and 19th when the Old Chancel will be open and there will be walks, talks, 'proper' afternoon tea and locally grown produce from Ombersley allotments. Please come along and find out more about our village history. See the poster in the magazine and www.heritageopendays.org.uk for further details.

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 us many churches as they could. The sponsorship is then split 50:50 with the HCT and your nominated church. You need a minimum of £30 sponsorship to enable a donation to your church.

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, Hampton Lovett, Hartlebury and most of the other churches in the Benefice, Elmbridge has a wedding at 2.30pm so give them space then please. Other days do count if Sept 11th doesn't suit you.

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 St Andrew's so please help yourself.

Holy Dusters

The plan at present is to have a major clean before the first service of each month, with most people coming along and a lighter touch on the third week. This is usually done on a Friday or Saturday.

We do need more people, after all 'many hands make light work'....

Do you like to clean - but not tidy?

Have a chat with a friend?

Enjoy a coffee after a job well done?

Would like to help keep our church looking its best. Team B could really do with a new helper or two...please. We'd love to see you

Ring Liz 01905 620827 or Fiona 01905 62176

Active Coffee

For September will meet on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 23rd at 10.30am

In case you are wondering, Active Coffee could be called Knit and Natter, or Stitch and Bitch, but you can create whatever you like...or just come for a chat and drink! Wednesdays have no theme yet, though Christmas is on the horizon. On Thursday 23rd we will be concentrating on crochet, if you'd like to learn we will do our best to help you.

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; 01905 621176,

Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has been contributing to the Foodbank box in the Lychgate. The blue box will remain on the bench there for the moment, so please do add to it if you can. Do you feel this is a better collection point?

Handbells and the SAS

Handbells will be starting this month, this is an ideal time to join in as we all restart and try to remember what to do!

Also, the St Andrew's Singers are now back to rehearsing in church some of the time. Do you like singing? Would you like to be taught something new?

No experience necessary.

If you are interested in either handbells or singing, contact Louise on 01905 620995.

Basil Lamb 1932-2021

Anywhere in this village, but most of all in this Church, there is no-one, but no-one, who does not have a mental scrapbook of memories of Basil Lamb.

Basil was born in Ombersley. The family lived in Spring Gardens, up Chapel Lane on the right. He went to Ombersley school. He worked, from the beginning, almost always in the outdoors, latterly for many years for the County Council schools' grounds department.

He married a foreigner. Diana came from Worcester, from the London Road end of the city. Diana had a friend from Ombersley who suggested that she come to a Youth Club, which Basil (aged about 20) turned out to run. Some of the youths were spoiling for trouble but, as Diana says tellingly "Basil was in charge". He was also keen enough on the new member to take her regularly back home to Worcester on his bicycle. They were married in 1956, though it should be recorded that her mother thought they were too young!

They dabbled briefly with living in Worcester, but by 1962 they were back in Ombersley in Grafton Cottage, a move made possible by Lord Sandys. Villages depend on people who are willing to be doers - volunteers. Basil was a doer in spades, and so was Diana. They were two of the lynchpins of the village - Drama Society, bellringers, PCC and the rest. Basil practically single-handedly cleared the overgrown churchyard and made it what it now is.

For couples looking to be married, for families arranging baptisms, facing funerals or memorial services, for visitors to the churchyard, for anyone having dealings with the church, it was Basil, with Diana, who was the first point of contact and the first human face of the building and of the purposes it stands for.

Over the years he served seven incumbents, beginning with the celebrated Mr Gillingham, he of the passion for cricket and the book on sporting Ombersley, who knew a good team player when he saw one and got Basil onto the PCC in his twenties. One of Basil's more notable talents was to adapt to support each of them in their sometimes quite different ministries. He was indispensable to each of them and he was wonderfully loyal to each. He knew everyone. He knew who did what, and, sometimes more importantly, who didn't do what. He had a deep sense of what made the church tick. If you had a problem to solve in the village, it usually made sense to start with Basil, not necessarily for the answer but for his sharply observed assessment of what was going on.

That ability to supply insight but not necessarily his own opinion was characteristic. For someone so organised and meticulous, he was extremely reluctant to put himself forward. Even when the Dean of Worcester came to present him with a (very) long service award as a member of the Guild of Vergers, he had to be leant on to step forward in public to accept it. That seat

in the back pew was symbolic; though of course it did also have the magic knobs and buttons which controlled what went on.

He was a remarkable man. And he has a very remarkable, and possibly unique, memorial. When the stonemasons were repairing the spire and tower a few years ago, they made Basil into a carving high aloft. So, s there he sits, up above us, looking down over his churchyard and out towards Church Lane where he and Diana lived for so many years, with a watchful and benevolent eye - and perhaps, as Peter Kerr has suggested, just occasionally with ever so slightly pursed lips. It behoves us all to remember him and to live up to his standards.

(See Thankyou letter from Diane Lamb later in the magazine)

“All Good Gifts Around Us”

Harvest Festival Service

is on Sunday 26th September at
11am in St Andrew’s Church

followed by a ‘Bring & Share’
Harvest lunch

More details nearer the time



Parish Picnic

The gazebos were set up, the bunting flapping gently in the breeze, the sausages sizzling temptingly on the barbie, and we gathered for the Parish Picnic on an afternoon of fleeting sun, but no showers! It was an opportunity to get together to celebrate our release from strict COVID restrictions and to remember, sadly, those lost to us, but also to say many 'thank you's' for those people who eased the difficulties of lockdown by their caring and helpful actions. We sang together, said some prayers together and gave our thanks together, then settled down together for a very pleasant picnic. It was lovely to sit and chat, enjoying excellent sausages and many (too many!) delicious cakes while watching the children having fun playing in the beautiful Wedding Field. Relaxed and convivial, it was a lovely afternoon and an event we hope to repeat.

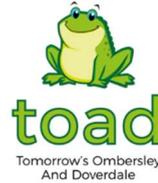
GUIDING NEWS

All the units have been keeping busy with various challenges and badges in the run-up to the summer holidays.

At the end of June, the Hut committee met via zoom. Hut finance, maintenance and future fund-raising were discussed. Members learned that the signage for the Guide Hut which had been agreed upon at an earlier meeting, was now in place. This will make it easier for new parents and may hopefully attract new members too. Members also learned the exciting news that another Brownie Unit, called the *2nd Ombersley Brownies*, will be starting up. The Hut will now host Rainbows, Brownies and Guides with a 2nd Brownie unit.

Interested parents will need to register their daughter via the Girl Guiding UK website:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>



- **We have a draft Neighbourhood Plan**
- **We have a date for a referendum**
- **We just need your votes please on 30th September 2021**

Over the last 4 years a team of volunteers have worked with the Parish Council to make a Neighbourhood Development Plan. It incorporates the consensus views you have given to us via coffee mornings, surveys and a household questionnaire.

The draft plan has had 2 public consultations and statutory consultations and has now passed an independent examination, which says it is fit for purpose and can proceed to a referendum.

The document contains 14 planning policies covering housing, services and facilities, the natural environment, the built environment and the economy. It also contains a number of 'community actions' on subjects like traffic and transport, broadband and retail services.

The full plan may be seen on our website www.toad.works, or a hard copy can be viewed at a coffee morning at the Memorial Hall's Jubilee room on 11th September (10 am to 12 noon) or at the tea rooms in the Memorial Hall on 7th September (2pm to 4pm), when a member of the Parish Council will be available to answer any queries you may have before voting.

The referendum on 30th September will run like any other election/referendum with prior notifications, voting cards, a polling day, postal votes etc., and anyone who is 18 years or over, registered on the electoral register and resides within the Parish may vote.

We will need more than 50% of those voting to do so in favour of acceptance of the plan for it to proceed for formal adoption by Wychavon District Council. The plan will then need to be considered in all future planning applications which affect this Parish.

Please let your opinions be heard and cast your vote on 30th September

On **Saturday 11th September**, this year, cyclists (and pedestrians, riders and motorists) all round the country will be



out raising money for their local Historic Churches Trust and their own churches by cycling, walking, riding or even driving from church to church in their area and being sponsored for the number of churches they visit between 10am and 5pm. This is the main source of income for the Trust and enables it to make grants to churches in need (St Andrew's has received a number of grants from the Trust).

Money raised (in excess of £30) will be split 50:50 between the Trust and your local church. **Please support St Andrew's.** ☺

More details of which churches are open to visit can be found at www.worcesteranddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk (Ride & Stride 2021) and sponsor forms can be found at the back of St Andrew's, or downloaded from our website. www.st-andrews.church



heritage open days

The following weekend **18th - 19th September** is a **Heritage Open weekend at St Andrew's** featuring various events.

On **Saturday 18th at 10.30am** there will be a guided walking tour (c.1 hour) entitled "The Sandys Family Legacy"

On **Sunday 19th at 3pm**, an Illustrated Talk (+ refreshments) on "The Monarch's Way (Charles II) – 370 years on"

Also on **Saturday 18th from 2-4pm** there will be a Traditional Afternoon Tea, and local produce for sale as part of the Edible England theme.



On each day during the week (except Thursday) at 9.30am, there will be a **Service of Morning Prayer** held in the 'Old Chancel', the remaining fragment of the Old Church in the churchyard.

Check our website for details www.st-andrews.church

Fundraising
FASHION SHOW
& SHOPPING EVENT

YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS AT UP TO 75% OFF

DOROTHY PERKINS WHITE STUFF RIVER ISLAND NEXT
EVANS NEW LOOK MISS SELFRIDGE TOPSHOP WALLIS
URBAN OUTFITTERS WAREHOUSE MONSOON & MORE!

PLUS FRENCH + ITALIAN DESIGNER WEAR

**SIZES
6 TO 30**

23rd September 2021

At Ombersley Memorial Village Hall

Tickets £8 each to include a glass of wine or a soft drink.

Doors open at 7pm

Tickets available from www.ombersley Memorial Hall.co.uk

or on 01905 621726

All proceeds to Ombersley Memorial Hall reg. charity 202315



OMBERSLEY
MEMORIAL
VILLAGE HALL

For more details see our website
and follow our Facebook page
www.ombersley Memorial Hall.co.uk

Royal British Legion

HELP NEEDED

We have recently heard from Amanda Jane Clements-Hunt who is the RBL Community Fundraiser for Worcestershire. The Ombersley Poppy Appeal Organiser (Margaret Peters) has now moved away and they are struggling to find someone to help/take over.

Please contact Mandy on 07808 261075 if you feel you could help this very worthy cause in any way.

Thankyou

I have been overwhelmed with cards, letters and 'phone calls with messages of sympathy after Basil's death, and commenting on the wonderful Service in Church.

There are so many I cannot possibly reply to everyone, but shall treasure every one and keep reading them again and again. We shall miss Basil of course, but he was ready and wanted to go. He could not cope with having to rely on people to do everything for him after being active all his life. It was a happy and peaceful relief for him.

He didn't want a big fuss with his funeral arrangements, but it was one time he wasn't able to interfere. I and a great number of people have said it was a beautiful Service organised by Andy & Russell of Bedwardine Funeral Services who knew Basil's wishes, also Anthony, Andrew & Liz who took part in the Service, Churchwardens, bellringers, choir, organist flower arrangers and other members of the Church, too many to mention in case I forget someone in giving Basil a wonderful send-off. Helen and I couldn't have coped without you all. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces. Thank you all for your kindness and thoughtfulness. I am sure Basil would have given approval from his little seat at the back of the Church!

I would also like to thank everyone who donated very generously to Basil's retirement fund.

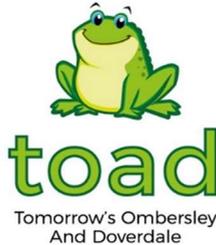
Love from Diana & Helen

Teashop at the Memorial Hall

Tues 7th Sept 2-4pm

Thurs 30th Sept 2-4pm

Tues 5th Oct 2-4pm



We need your vote on 30th September 2021

Referendum Day

for our Neighbourhood Plan

**Please vote to enable your community to have a say in
future planning decisions.**

www.toad.works

PRAYING THE PARISH

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 September:

Sunday 5th September – Haye Lane, Oldfield Lane

Sunday 12th September - Main Road South, Church Lane, Hill Top,
Ombersley Court

Sunday 19th September - Chatley, Woodfield, Hadley and Hunt Green

Sunday 26th September – Farmers and allotment holders





**Come to a French themed Evening Meal
At Ombersley Memorial Village Hall
Saturday 16th October
7.30pm for 8.00pm
£20 per head**



Kir Royale/Buck's fizz - Four course dinner – Quiz - French wine from the bar
Dress: á la Français - berets and boas!

Tickets available from:

www.ombersleymemorialhall.co.uk (credit card payments taken)

or

Sue Hughes 620876 - Lynne Larnder 620322 - Lesley Welch 620671 (cash)

4 or 8 people per table if you are thinking of booking a whole table!



OMBERSLEY
MEMORIAL
VILLAGE HALL

For more details see our website
and follow our Facebook page
www.ombersleymemorialhall.co.uk

Ombersley Endowed School

It has been another difficult and challenging year for both the children and adults at Ombersley School this year. The children have been fantastic though; they adapted really well to all the restrictions that we have had to put in place and have been a credit to us. We have been so proud of them.

We were able to enjoy some celebrations at the end of the school year, even if they were scaled down somewhat. We said Goodbye to our year 4 children who will be moving on to the next chapter in their school life journey. The year 4 children were able to have their Leavers' service and invited a limited number of parents to watch. They performed beautifully, making their parents and teachers very proud of their achievements. The Year 4 children also put on a talent show for the rest of the school. We were blown away by talent such as drumming, singing, dancing, poetry, magic and sports demonstrations – Ombersley certainly has got talent!!

Children remained working and playing in their key stage bubbles up to the end of term. They enjoyed sports day activities in their bubbles and also an end of year party day.

Unfortunately, Pre-school were unable to have their 'Graduation' ceremony for parents this year, but this was celebrated in an end of year assembly on our last day of term in front of the rest of the school.

We are all looking forward to the summer break, when we can all have a well-earned rest and get ready for a brand-new academic year. Take Care and Stay Safe everyone!

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



This last year has been such a challenging and eventful one, but we are so grateful that our community has come through it united and healthy!

Thank-you to Ombersley and Doverdale Magazine!

The Magazine has been a huge support to our school this year with the generous donation that has enabled us to update our school website, making it more efficient and user-friendly for our families and pupils! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks as we would not have been able to do this without their help!

Mrs Morris Retirement

After 19 years of service at the school, our wonderful teaching assistant, Mrs Morris has made the decision to retire! Mrs Morris has worked with four different headteachers and has been such a loved member of staff by so many families. She will be sorely missed, but we wish her the very best on her adventures and travels!



Whole School Safari Trip

When we returned after the lockdown earlier this year, the staff planned a learning unit which would re-engage our pupils and reignite their love of learning. This unit was our Sytchampton Safari topic. The children created documentaries and films about lots of different animals! So, to celebrate their

achievements, the school took every child on a trip to the Safari Park. We had a wonderful day with the park rangers!

Year 5/6 Residential

When Government guidelines changed for schools in May this year, we were able to book an overnight residential for our oldest pupils at the Top Barn Centre. Pupils camped overnight and for many of them this was their first experience of being away from home or sleeping in a tent! They also took part in a wide range of outdoor activities including archery, kayaking and paddle boarding! Lots of fun was had despite some thundery rain showers!



Whole School Sports Day

Due to the announcement by the government regarding Step 4 of the roadmap, we were able to hold a whole school Sports Day on the last day of term. With COVID safety arrangements in place, we were also able to invite our families to come and watch which was a wonderful way to finish the year! We are very much hoping that next year will be a little more 'normal'!

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

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr. Richard Jaynes	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	

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism: June 27th Eliot Sidney Cole

CLEANING ROTA September:- TBA Contact Sue Rees; 01905 620125

FLOWER ROTA - September:- TBA Contact Jean Dowty; 01905 620896

Sunday 5 th September 14 th after Trinity	11.00 a.m. MP	Lectors: Mrs S Crow, Mr R Coppini Sidesperson: Mr G Crow Readings: Isaiah 35(4-7a); Mark 7(24-end)
Sunday 19 th September 16 th after Trinity	11.00 a.m. HC (BCP)	Lectors: Mrs A Chapman, Mrs V Harris Sidesperson: Mr C Harris Readings: Jer.11(18-20); Mark 9(30-37)
Sunday 26 th September 17 th after Trinity (4 th Sunday)	11.00 a.m. HC (BCP) Joint 3 Parishes at Doverdale	Lectors: Mr D Hawkins, Mr J Chapman Sidesperson: Mrs W Hawkins, Mrs S Rees Readings: Numbers 11(4-6) & (10-16) Mark 9 (38-end)
Sunday 3 rd October 18 th after Trinity Harvest Festival	11.00 a.m. Harvest Festival Service of Thanksgiving	Lectors: Mrs V Harris, Mrs S Crow Sidesperson: Mr.G.Crow, Mr.C.Harris Readings: TBA

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

St Mary's service of Harvest Thanksgiving is arranged for Sunday 3rd October at 11.00a.m. After the service, light refreshments will be served by the Friends.

Please do come along and join us for this important celebration in the church's calendar when we come together to give thanks for the bounties of Harvest.

A Parish Coronavirus Chronicle. Part 1

At the beginning of March 2020, it was becoming clear that the spread of Covid 19 could not be contained and a national lockdown was imminent. The editors decided to pause production of hard copy. The Parish Council came to the rescue by agreeing to post the magazine on the *All about Ombersley* web site. We posted an issue each month between April and August thanks to the excellent articles and poems provided by parishioners. Many articles have since been reproduced in the paper copies, which resumed in September 2020.

The following contributions record the experiences of residents of the Parish that started with the first lockdown on March 23rd 2020. Special thanks go to the school children who wrote their own thoughts about lockdown.

The overriding experience which affected us the most during Lockdown was the abrupt cessation of our daily pace of life. No more rushing around in a morning to fulfil whatever commitments: overnight, the clock had suddenly stopped.

Throughout the months that followed, we spent lots of time on the land; preparing the soil, sowing seed, planting, hoeing, weeding and eventually harvesting. While we were working, we were amazed how many people walked past, stopped to chat, showed interest in our labours and told us how they were filling their time. No one was in a hurry; time stood still. We renewed old acquaintances and made new ones.

On reflection, we realized that we were experiencing what life in the countryside must have been like in times gone by. There was always time to stay and talk, exchange news and be generally neighbourly; despite the fact that people worked long, hard hours with little or no leisure time. Life was just lived at a slower pace. There was nowhere to go, so why hurry? Villagers rarely moved from their place of birth and a journey to the nearest town would have been a red-letter day on the calendar and probably viewed with trepidation rather than anticipation.

A lovely and inspiring insight into the past and an experience which will stay with us for a long time.

Chris and Valerie Harris (Lineholt, Nr. Ombersley)

The bad (and good) about lockdown

To be thankful for:

- Peace and quiet – no traffic noise, no aeroplanes and no rushing about.
- Being retired made it all so much easier for us.
- Sitting 6 feet from our gate, which is on the village walk and seeing and chatting to more passers-by than we ever met before.
- The sense of being in it altogether and community, which we missed before.

- Good weather to enjoy the garden (and being so grateful that we weren't on the 13th floor of a block of flats with 6 children, a dog and a partner whom I no longer could bear!)
- Shopping for neighbours who couldn't get out, and getting to know them much better.
- Not needing to use the NHS during the pandemic.

What was bad:

- Knowing how ill so many people were and how much suffering there was, both financially and with health.
- The uncertainty as to when life would ever return to normal.
- Not being able to see my best mate for 18 months.
- Having to cancel all our foreign travel.
- Having the time to do all the tedious jobs in the house and garden, which were so horrible, we had put them off for years.

We feel rather guilty at having quite enjoyed the (first anyway) lockdown!

David Collier, Parsonage Lane, Ombersley

Not theCoronavirus Chronicle:

In May 2020 I wrote a poem about the words that were dominating our airwaves: COVID, STAY ALERT, TARGET, TEST & TRACE, the R RATE (what was that?), SOCIAL DISTANCE, FACE MASK ... ending with the promise that we would receive a ROAD MAP out of it all. The last two lines of that poem sound hollow now 14 months later.

“Now is the time to plan and pray and dream
Covid beaten we can our lives redeem.”

Today we're told we've got to learn to live with Covid and we know we have to be cautious even if, in theory, all restrictions have now been lifted!

By June 2020 I'd written “On My Village Morning Walk” with the conclusion that at least we were all beginning to know each other better as the need for exercise forced us to walk out daily: “Covid 19 has done something very special for us all”, reads my poem, “We are greeting each other. We care about each other and we've become a village once again.”

So, I contend the Coronavirus Chronicle is not ours to write. It will be written eventually by our children and grandchildren and as I, in my eighties, link these times to WW2 experiences as a child, so they, in due course, who have had their lives disrupted so much, will in their old age speak their lasting Chronicle of Coronavirus.

Claire Gathercole Ombersley

This was the year I decided to retire, after 34 years working at Ombersley School. Little did I know; a year to be remembered, not only for this, but Covid. Lockdown, bubbles, sanitizers, face masks, safe distancing, news of friends and neighbours passing away. A fire in the village, (my nephew's house), devastating, but both safe and well (Milley the dog too). Jigsaws, books left at the church and the village shop that never let you down. Thursday 8pm, we clapped, cheered and I rang my old school bell which could be heard through the village.

Mrs Jean Phillips (Miss Phill) Ombersley

.....

Somewhat perversely, Lockdown has, for me, generally proved more beneficial than otherwise. But then I'm retired, thank goodness, not having to teach during these stressful times.

So, what about the 'good' things:

My wife & I have had more regular catch-ups with distant friends on ZOOM, enjoying many virtual drinks sessions (!) as well as the occasional quiz.

We have enjoyed 'being the music' for our church, both playing & singing hymns during services on Sundays via ZOOM to a muted congregation.

Before lockdown I was giving around 45 talks a year to various groups ... often driving many miles away. Instead, I have been able to home-ZOOM all my talks, donating all monies to charity. I've also been able to prepare six new talks to add to my repertoire.

My wife & I have also enjoyed more walking along our local lanes throughout the year, even in winter, thus coming to appreciate the changing seasons more, in particular plant succession along the verges ... and an increase in the birdlife?

With fewer planes flying over & fewer vehicles air quality also seems to have improved.

Some of the down-sides:

Wearing masks inside shops, after queuing to get in

Not being able to see relatives so often

Not being able to sing together inside churches or to enjoy hand-bell or up-the-tower ringing

Not being able to give guided tours at Worcester Cathedral or Great Witley Church.

Howard Robinson, Dough Bank, Ombersley

My Covid memory was how quickly fear gripped us in March 2020. I travelled to Brussels for work on 9th March without a care in the world. The London train was almost full, Eurostar was busy, and everybody chatted to each other as normal.

Next morning, I was in a meeting when the Chair, from Cyprus, took a call telling her to return home immediately. However, she mustn't return directly from Brussels nor

via London or Athens, otherwise she would have to isolate for 14 days. She eventually went via Warsaw, where no cases had been reported.

The next day, meetings were half full, all with social distancing. After work I had a drink with a Hungarian colleague in a usually crowded city centre bar. This time there were just us and two other guests, seated as far from us as possible. Later I went for a meal with two of my British colleagues. Normally crowded, the restaurant was almost empty. The following day's meeting, usually attended by about 50 people, had 15 there. My drinks colleague from the previous evening had a nasty cough and went home; the rest of us feared the worst for her.

I returned home that evening. Belgium had decided to shut all its public spaces immediately. Eurostar was a quarter full, with everybody staying very quiet; the train home from London almost empty. My Hungarian colleague had a week off but was never tested. One of my supper companions got Covid the following Sunday and was ill for two months with Long Covid. I was relieved to get home safely and have not been able to travel since.

Rob Brett, Ombersley

March 23rd, 2020 – I attend a governor training course. On arrival home I am greeted with 'you have to shield; Chris Whitty mentioned your condition in the press briefing!'

What does this mean? We soon found out! I receive a text from the surgery and go online to register. Meanwhile kind neighbours and friends offer their help. We venture into the world of online food shopping with government promises of priority slots as a Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) person. I hear nothing from government sources and no priority slots are available. We both register 3 times, myself as the individual, Rob as living with a CEV. 3 weeks on and I try again, via the surgery.

April 24th, I call on other sources of help, including our local MP. His PA is dogged in chasing why the national database didn't have me on record. They constantly blame the GP and my consultant! How dare they? They obviously don't know either.

May 20th, I am at the hospital receiving my treatment and a photo from Rob appears on my phone – a FOOD PARCEL!! I must now be on the official database. This is confirmed in an email that gives the trail of exchanges between the PA and various officials. The admitted 'data glitch' is sorted and my name is on the official list, 9 weeks after the original announcement

I now receive stuff from the DHSS regarding shielding. Priority slots are miraculously available. And, no, I have not yet been able to share what I learnt on that training course!!!

Jenny Batelen, Ombersley, July 2021

Pandemic Memories

Feeling...

Scared - threatened by something unknown

Fortunate - to have access to countryside, to local shops which were 'there for us'

Grateful - to friends for shopping help (and for toilet rolls!)

Guilty - secretly enjoying 'permission' to stay at home

Amazed - at the wonders of nature revealed whilst we weren't there

The peace - of taking a walk in fields with no traffic disturbing the silence

Supported through the ether - by communication with friends on WhatsApp and Zoom

Cheered - by all the online 'funnies' that circulated

Sorrow - to hear of so many people losing their lives

Helpless - to hear of the greater suffering in other parts of the world

Pride - at my offspring 'helping out' in the crisis

Gratitude - to all those NHS workers at the sharp end

Hope - as numbers of cases fell

A bit stupid - masked-up for the first time going out, but quite proud of the one I made myself

Unsure - going to a supermarket for the first time after 'shielding' ended

Excitement - to see family 'in the garden' first time in months

Eager anticipation - looking forward to a family Christmas

Despondent - when it didn't happen

Resigned - but still fortunate so 'let's not complain'

Hope again - as the vaccine rolls out

Lucky - that our medical centre was 'ahead of the game'

Determined - to come through this

Relief - that things are looking more positive

Feeling humble...

Liz Hooper, Ombersley

Reflections of Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council.

It was a very damp evening when the Parish Council met on Tuesday 17th March 2020 in the Narthex at St Andrew's Church, the location feeling a very appropriate place to be. The evening felt so different to all other Parish Council meetings, the atmosphere was very sombre and a sense of foreboding prevailed. Councillors were asked to pick up their own chairs and sit at a distance from each other and no refreshments were offered.

It very quickly became apparent that Councillors felt it absolutely imperative that the Parish Council should do everything it could to set up a means of support to residents through the coming months.

Thankfully we had already set up the allaboutombersley web site, Facebook page and TOAD details, which would create a strong platform to work with.

It was very quickly decided that a working group would commence work on a Parish Helpline and look to enlisting the help of volunteers from within the Parish. Remaining agenda items were swiftly concluded and councillors left not knowing what the future held.

It was absolutely amazing how quickly residents pulled together. A bespoke telephone number for the helpline was resurrected and displayed on a banner on the side of the wedding field as well as on all other means of communication available to us and an incredible team of volunteers came forward offering their time and help.

Records now show that no call went unanswered or any request for help refused.

Lockdown began as I was recovering from pneumonia. I had sold my business just before Christmas and was looking forward to meetings to introduce my successor to my long-standing clients. Having barely heard of Zoom, let alone never used it, this was to become a major means of communication for well over the next twelve months. At least we had the opportunity to become familiar with it through the regular Sunday services!

Good Friday 2020 was a very warm sunny day. I remember Meg and me having a cup of tea at the top of our garden thinking how peaceful it was. The traffic on the bypass had all but disappeared. We were so thankful that not only were we lucky to have a decent sized garden, we also enjoyed gardening. I'm sure we weren't alone in not only enjoying it but maintaining it at its best!

Then as lockdown eased and Sunday services recommenced in early September, an almost throwaway comment by Judy Baer, whilst strolling back through the lychgate, led to the most disruptive event for us in the last eighteen months. I then asked Meg if she fancied buying a house – which was the last thing on our minds! We thought that we already lived in one of the best located houses in the village. Well, one thing led to another and I pen this from the most perfect house we could ever have wished for. At least trimming the Wisteria is no longer our responsibility!

James Martineau, Ombersley

Ombersley School: Children's Experiences of Lockdown

Year 1

- It was like being left alone with no-one to play with; it was amazing to play with my friends again when Lockdown ended. *Francis (aged 6)*
- Me and Mummy and Lucy would work on the dining room table. It felt really different because there were only three people instead of a whole class. *Jamie (aged 6)*
- It was difficult – it was so hard because we didn't have that much fun. *Lottie. (aged 6)*
- I missed my friends. I didn't talk to them while we were in Lockdown.
- I missed doing schoolwork and I missed my teacher. *Noah (aged 6)*
- I missed learning lots at school, it was a bit harder doing phonics at home without your teacher to help you. *Nancy (aged 6)*

Year 2

- I came in to school because my mummy is a nurse. The coronavirus has been bothering me because I couldn't see many friends. Last year I couldn't see my Grandparents. I went on lots of walks. *Clara (aged 7)*
- Over lockdown I didn't go to school and I had to do home schooling. When it was in lockdown, I couldn't go and see my cousin. I wasn't happy because I couldn't go to school and see my friends. The only way I could see my family was by video calling. *Holly (aged 7)*
- Over lockdown I couldn't see my family in Slovakia, I had to phone call them. It was hard to do home schooling and after we did homework, I felt tired. I couldn't see my friends for a long time. *Natalia (aged 7)*
- It's been horrid in Covid. I couldn't move house. I couldn't go to school. I couldn't go to the park. I couldn't go to parties. *Joshua (aged 7)*
- I came to school because my dad did Hermes parcels, my mom is a lawyer. I had to dog sit my auntie's dog and her puppies because my auntie had to go to work. *Emilie (aged 7)*
- I had to do home school because I could have caught the virus so I stayed at home. I couldn't see my cousin and my Aunty when she was about to have my baby cousin Isla. I couldn't see my nan who I call Dorothy because that's her name. *Evie (aged 7)*
- I went to school in Lockdown because my dad is a policeman. I could not see my family. *Martha (aged 7)*

Sychampton School: Children's Experiences of Lockdown

My Covid Story By Florence, aged 10.

Wow. These last fifteen months have been... strange, to say the least. Rules and regulations started flooding in during early March 2020, and ever since then we have all learnt so much, and come to appreciate the world around us. Most of us have come to terms with the "new normal", but I'm having trouble adapting.



I haven't seen my grandfather in almost two years, my Mum has been in and out of hospital, and I am now struggling with leaving home for even short periods of time. I have been lucky enough to experience COVID without losing any of my loved ones, but I have now realised how much I underappreciated them before lockdown. I love my family so much, and I can always count on them whether I need a shoulder to cry on, or even if I just need a chat. I also completely misjudged school. I used to dread having to drag myself out of the comfort of my bed at 8:30, but after spending so much time away from it, I have discovered a newly-found appreciation for it.

Life after COVID has taught me to never take anything for granted, because everything could change in a blink of an eye; you really do never know what's around the corner. In summary, I don't know how I got through this, I really don't, yet I did, and I'm sure it's going to make an incredible bedtime story one day!

My Covid Experience

Because of covid this year has been extremely tough, barely anyone has seen friends and family much, many birthdays have been spoilt and plans have been canceled, all because of covid 19. Covid has been going on for at least a year and a half now and still is going on now. Covid has really changed my life, there has been so many changes, opportunities and fun things I was looking forward to but they got ruined. People have to social distance and wear masks and some even have to isolate for 7-10 days!

For such a long time I have been wanting to go on a holiday but I have to wait even longer because at the moment you can't really travel. I wish I could go and see my friends or go to the park without having to stay 2 metres away from people. You can't touch metal or anything that can stay so other people don't get you germs. Everyone has to wash their hands over and over and over again it is so annoying! &

I hope next year it will all be over and we don't have social distance or wear masks or something!

My COVID Story

Holly 8 Willow class Sychampton Endowed P. Holly Aged 8

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

Walkercrisps – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285

Whitlunge Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669

Worcester Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500