

Editorial

If you have any articles for inclusion in the next edition, February 2020, please could you let me have them by 25th January either by email to alisonjstone26@gmail.com or deliver a hard copy to Sycamore Cottage, Main Street, Knossington.

Contributions are very welcome from everyone, please think about anything which may be of interest to fellow villagers. Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas wherever you maybe.

Many thanks
Alison

Parish Council.

For those of you who are not aware your Parish Councillors are Nigel Gates (Chair) George Cook (Vice Chair) Brian Cobb, Jeremy Latham-Smith and Julia Seary.

The Parish Council now has a website and all editions of OTGW are also be posted on the site – www.knossingtonandcoldovertonpc.org.uk.

The next Parish Council meeting is **18th December at 7pm** in the Village Hall. Please note change of date. The meetings are open to **everyone** and you never know you may learn something.

In addition to a regular slot in OTGW a Parish Council WhatsApp group has been set up to keep parishioners in touch with current issues. If you would like to join the WhatsApp group, please send your name and mobile number to Julia Seary 07786515882.

Carol Singing

Carol singing around Knossington on **Friday 20th December** – all welcome!

Meet at the village pump at 18.30. Carol sheets will be provided. Please bring torches or lanterns. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available at The Fox and Hounds afterwards. I am looking for volunteers that may be able to offer refreshment on our travels along Owston Road, Somerby Road or The Hollow.

Volunteers please contact Ayla on 07811 173035 or aratun@doctors.org.uk - we'd be very grateful!

Look forward to seeing you there.

Village Hall Notes

Village Hall AGM.

The Annual General meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee was held in the hall on Wednesday, 27th November, and was followed by the last regular meeting of the year. The Officers and Representative Members agreed to continue in post. Mr John Dawson tendered his resignation but all other Members agreed to continue to serve on the Committee. The year had been successful, with all events being well attended, however there was an excess of expenditure over income because the flat roof had developed a leak, and had to be replaced at considerable expense.

Committee Meeting.

Routine business of the Committee was discussed at the meeting following the AGM. All three of the events which the Committee staged during the year had been very successful. The Inter-village Quiz is always popular and it was agreed that it would be held again in 2020; the date was set for Wednesday, 13th of May, and Mr Brian Cobb has kindly agreed to set the questions. The Village Fayre had been well attended also, and was enjoyed by all. This, and the Hog Roast, benefitted greatly from being held in good weather, and it was decided to hold both events again, but perhaps we might be a little more ambitious in 2020. All events will be publicised in good time next year, but everyone is urged to note the dates of all three so that you can make sure you can take part in some or all.

The dates of the 2020 events are:

Quiz, in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 13th May

Village Fayre, in the Playing Field, on Saturday, 27th June

Hog Roast, at the Fox and Hounds, on Saturday, 12th September

Dog Mess. It was reported that the Pre-school staff, on a number of occasions recently, have had to remove dog mess from the pavements near the Village Hall, before the children arrived. This is a sorry state of affairs, but is particularly dangerous where little people are concerned. It is unlikely that dog owners would allow this to happen when they are walking their dogs. Rather it is more likely that loose dogs are causing the problem. Please, if you have a dog or dogs, ensure that they are not allowed to roam unsupervised – anywhere in the village, but particularly in places where children are likely to be.

Members of the Village Hall Management Committee wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas.

Gary West - Secretary

OTGW – Advertising

We are currently looking at ways of making OTGW pay for itself and are considering taking paid advertising. If you or anyone you know may be interested in taking out an advert for the 10 issues a year, could you contact me on either 01664 454274 or email alisonjstone26@gmail.com.

Knossington St Peter's Church Roof – Update and Celebration

You will have probably seen the scaffolding up on the north side of St Peter's and you may have wondered what was happening. Last year the lead was stolen from the north aisle roof and after the architect drawing up a specification for the repairs, applying to the Diocese for a faculty (the Church's planning permission) and going out to tender we have been able to start the repairs.

The Church Council decided that rather than replace the stolen lead with more lead it would be better to replace it with stainless steel which would not be so attractive to any potential theft. The stainless steel is treated with a special coating to make it virtually identical in looks to the original lead. The work has been held up a little by the continual rain we have been having but it will be finished in time for Christmas. So what has it all cost – altogether the total cost to St Peter's will be £51,000. We have been lucky in having savings and generous bequests from previous generations but the cost of the repairs has pretty much used up everything that we have got.

We know that the Village really appreciates having a beautiful church in their midst and we want to look after it and keep it in good repair for this generation and future generations. To do this we really need your help. If you are able help by making a donation to Church Funds (one-off, regular giving or leaving a legacy)

you can pick up instructions available in church or contact me, Geoff Thomas, Treasurer on 01664 454858; Sue Sills, Reader on 01664 454584; Lola Marlow, 01664 454615 and Jane Jackson 01664 454566, Church Wardens; or donate at any of our regular church services.

We very much want St. Peter's church to be available for the whole community so please read on...

Come and celebrate St Peter's Church new roof – a community get together with hot chocolate, coffee and muffins – bring your own favourite mug (there are no washing up facilities) and some books!

January 18th 2020 at 2-4 pm Everyone Welcome

Why bring some books? Rural communities everywhere are looking at how to preserve their historic churches and finding new ways in which they can be of use to local residents. One idea which is working well in other churches is to provide a space for reading books to be available to swap free of charge. So when we celebrate the completion of the Roof, we also plan to launch the St Peter's Book Swap as a local resource.

The church is open daily (after completion of building works) so why not wander up and have a browse. Bring some (not whole bookshelves please and no more than 5 to start with!) of your favourite books you are willing to leave for others to enjoy – fiction, non-fiction, children's.

Use it or Lose it - What other ideas have you got to make more community use of St Peter's? There is currently no water connected to the church but funding can be applied for if a Community Plan can prove a local need, and/or have established events needing facilities i.e. regular coffee mornings, meetings, classes or group activities. These are some ideas from other local churches:

Food for Thought, Friday Church Ales, Coffee Drop In, Saturday Teas, Lent Soup Lunches, Big Breakfast, Walking Group, Choir, Bible Study Class.

Let us know what you think

Thank you

Knossington St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council – see contact names and numbers above or email our Priest-in-Charge: jaynelewis28@sky.com



Somerby & District Horticultural Society

The first meeting of 2020 for the garden group will be on Thursday 16th January at 7.30pm at Somerby Memorial Hall.

Mike Davey will be talking to us about propagating and growing the latest fashion in gardening - cacti and succulents.

The garden group has also tidied and replanted the containers sited across Somerby, Pickwell and Burrough . Hopefully this winter will not be too harsh and we can look forward to a lovely Spring display.

The annual subscription to the horticultural society is £12 for 2020 and is due in January, payable by cash or cheque. (Please make cheques payable to Somerby & District Horticultural Society)

Non members and guests always welcome (£3 entrance)

If you would like to come along or become a member of the society or a copy of the 2020 programme please contact:

Angela Fisher on 01664 454265 or angelasfisher@tiscali.co.uk

CHURCH NEWS – December & January 2020

‘Don’t tell Cute stories – change lives!’

This was the title of a book I was given when I started working as a Children’s Worker in a nearby church. Jesus told many stories of lives changed for the better and these continue to change lives for the better today. Many of these stories are adapted and presented in Children’s Bibles, mostly these days illustrated to make them accessible. I didn’t go to church when I was a young child, but I did have a large Children’s Bible with realistic and often dramatic illustrations, some of which remain in my mind to this day. Pages in the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible, of Moses leading his people, who had been kept as slaves in Egypt, out of captivity across a double page illustration of the parted sea. Vast waves towering either side of a snake of tiny people escaping to safety before the waves crash down on their violent oppressors as they chase after them on the following page. That is by no means a cute story, it is one which prompts questions about how God acts in people’s lives but the lasting memory I have is the rescuing of people who were trapped in slavery being freed through putting their trust in God and following Gods’ lead.

Similarly, I recall New Testament stories of Jesus smiling, walking with a sheep around his neck having found the one sheep who had got lost from his flock. The widow rejoicing over the one coin she had lost and spent

all day looking for. The five thousand men, women and children sat over an entire mountain-top, being fed by the miraculous sharing of five loaves and two fish provided by a young boy. The oppressed are set free, love and care is expressed for each individual, the poor provided with the means to help them take care of themselves, those in need of sustenance given what they need to nourish them. God works through those willing to trust in him, for the common good, no matter how little they might feel they have to offer. All these could be told as cute stories and remain as such but, along with that force for good in the world that is also known as the power of God's Holy Spirit, these stories still have the power to inspire and change lives.

And yet there is one Bible story which should be told as we celebrate Christmas which is now often forgotten or told as a cute story and often remains as such. That story is told in two books in the Bible, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The picture in my Children's Bible is of a baby lying on a bed of straw in a stable. The warm glow of light from a lantern lights up the on-looking adoring faces of the baby, his mother, father, animals and visiting shepherds. The whole scene is highlighted by its location on a dark starry night. There is a fair amount of artistic license in this scene but there is no harm in this as long as the story doesn't end there. There is far more to tell about this scene and this tiny baby grows up to tell and become the life changing stories that we have heard of above and much more besides.

The church services across the five parishes of the Whatborough Group and the wider Launde Deanery are listed below. The season of Advent, the coming of Jesus, begins on the 1st December and ends with the celebration of the birth of Jesus, *'Emmanuel - God with us'*, on 24th and 25th December. The Christmas season then continues into January. There will be awe and wonder, joy and celebration but I pray this will be more than just a cute story for you and your family. Especially at this time of political uncertainty and division in our country.

You are all very warmly welcome at any of the services, those particularly planned with children in mind are highlighted with a Christmas tree icon (we enjoy more recent Christmas traditions too!)

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and happy and healthy new year.

Rev. Jayne and all members of the five churches of the Whatborough parishes.

PS. For all who like asking questions I invite you to download the free **#Follow the Star 2019** App from the Church of England. The free Follow The Star App offers daily reflections for each day between Christmas Day and Sunday 5 January. Each one includes a picture, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and a challenge to reflect or act differently. For those who pray I include a prayer for the General Election below.



**A PRAYER FOR THE
2019 GENERAL ELECTION**

God of grace and truth,
send your Spirit to guide us
as we discover your will for our country.
Help us to discuss the issues before us
with courtesy, truth and mutual respect,
and grant that all who stand for parliament
will seek to serve the common good,
through him who came not to be served but to serve,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church Services for December & January

December 2019

- Sunday 1st** 9.30am Holy Communion for The First Sunday of Advent – Owston
11.00am Holy Communion for The First Sunday of Advent – Tilton
4.00pm The Launde Deanery *Moveable Feast*:
Join us for *The Journey to Christmas*,
an informal Messy Church in Tilton Village Hall. 
- Sunday 8th** 9.30am Holy Communion – Cold Overton
11.00am Holy Communion – Knossington
- Sunday 15th** 11.00am Holy Communion – Tilton
6.00pm Carol Service & seasonal refreshments – Owston (Church Wardens)
6.00pm Carol Service & seasonal refreshments – Lowesby
- Sunday 22nd** 6.00pm Carol Service & seasonal refreshments – Knossington
6.00pm Carol Service & seasonal refreshments – Tilton (Church Wardens)
- Monday 23rd** 6.00pm Carol Service & seasonal refreshments – Cold Overton
- Tuesday 24th** 4.00pm Crib Service –  Tilton
11.30pm Midnight Christmas Communion - Lowesby
- Wednesday 25th** 9.30am Christmas Day Communion - Owston
11.00 am Christmas Day Communion – Knossington
(The Rev'd Canon Philip Norwood)
11.00 am Christmas Day Communion – Tilton
- Sunday 29th** 11.00 am Deanery Holy Communion – Billesdon

January 2020 (Provisional dates)

- Sunday 5th** 9.30am Holy Communion – Owston
11.00am Holy Communion – Tilton
6.00pm Evensong – Lowesby
- Sunday 12th** 9.30am Holy Communion – Cold Overton
11.00am Holy Communion - Knossington
- Sunday 19th** 9.30am Holy Communion – Owston
11.00am Holy Communion – Tilton
- Sunday 26th** 9.30am Holy Communion – Cold Overton
11.00am Holy Communion – Knossington