

Editorial

With the recent news that should families wish there is an opportunity to get together at Christmas, I hope this provides a bit of welcome relief to the end of a difficult year.

If you have any articles for inclusion in our next edition, February 2021, please could you let me have them by 24th January either by email to alisonjstone26@gmail.com or deliver a hard copy to Sycamore Cottage, Main Street, Knossington.

It's great to see the OTGW whatsapp group being used as an addition to the printed copy of OTGW and as an immediate resource.

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 and minutes of meetings and future agendas are posted on the site – www.knossingtonandcoldovertonpc.org.uk. as are the contact details for your Parish Councillors.

Parish Council meeting are now being held on Zoom with the next one scheduled for **Tuesday February 9th at 7.00pm**. If you would like to join then please contact Lorraine the clerk on clerk@knossingtonandcoldovertonpc.org.uk who will be able to send you the link. The meetings always start promptly so don't be late.

Planning Applications

Current applications can be found on the Melton Borough Website, follow the link for planning applications.

<https://pa.mlton.gov.uk/online-applications/>

At the time of writing there have been no planning applications submitted.

Village Hall Notes

Cancellation of Events. It is with regret that, because of the restrictions imposed on gatherings in attempts to minimise the transfer of Covid-19 virus, we are unable to stage any of the planned events this year. For the foreseeable future, the village hall will be in use as the pre-school only.

I'm sorry I have nothing more to report, and probably won't have until the New Year.

Thank you.

Gary West - Secretary



Somerby & District Horticultural Society

Winter in the garden - comfort and joy!

For the winter gardener 'comfort' is all about being warm and dry, especially when it comes to head, hands and feet. This is no time to consider appearance – comfort is all. Long socks (can I whisper “alpaca” to you?), tucked into fleece-lined wellies, thermal gardening gloves and finally a hat to keep the wind out, form the basics of happy winter gardening. The rest is up to you. I do have a friend who gardens in a ski outfit (without the goggles) although this does seem a little extreme for those of us who live at slightly lower altitudes than the Welsh mountains. But..... whatever works for you!

Most gardeners get both comfort and joy from the harvest their gardens produce throughout the year – and winter is no exception. Instead of buying a Christmas wreath, think about making your own from what you have in your garden. The possibilities are endless. As well as holly, ivy and conifer look for other evergreens such as eucalyptus, pittisporum, rosemary and bay. Sprays of rosehips, spindle berries and callicarpa, the seed heads of honesty, Chinese lanterns (physalis) or poppies can all be used alongside dried heads of alliums and agapanthus which can be sprayed silver or crimson for extra 'wow' factor. Just be sure to leave enough for the birds. Make the base of your wreath with whippy lengths of willow, ivy, cornus or silver birch twisted and wired together to form a ring. Add a wire loop with which to hang up the finished wreath. Using florists wire or twine attach small bundles of greenery to your basic frame, . Wire or just poke in the seed heads, berries, sprayed allium heads etc. A wired ribbon bow or a few small baubles can finish it off ready to attach to your door -

Perhaps the last word on winter should be given to the poet Shelley who wrote *“If winter comes – can Spring be far behind?”* reminding us that even in the depths of winter, brighter days lie ahead. A positive thought in these difficult times Take comfort and joy from your winter garden now. Spring will be here before you know it

St Peter's Church Knossington, St John the Baptist Cold Overton, St Andrews Owston

Some of you who are on our mailing list will already have received an email about the ongoing restructuring proposals within the Launde Deanery. As elected members of the Parochial Church Councils for Knossington, Cold Overton and Owston, we want to make sure everyone living each parish has an opportunity to hear about the proposals whether church goes or not.

Your views are important

Over the past 18 months, Launde Deanery has been in the process of restructuring their "deeply rural communities of churches, promoting increased active mission and ministry in exciting and new ways". There are 38 churches identified in the Deanery and after consultation with Parochial Church Councils, Deanery Synod representatives, Readers and Clergy from these parishes, a final draft proposal has been prepared. (Please email for a copy). It reflects the practical, logistical and economic best fit of coverage across the Deanery based on limited resources and shrinking congregations and splits the Deanery into 3 Benefices (groups of parishes).

Recently, our Priest in Charge Jayne Lewis, based at Tilton, has started covering what would become (subject to final feedback and official sign off later in 2021) the Abbey Benefice, which is our existing Whatborough Group and the Hallaton Group: this consists of 12 churches. We are fortunate in having Sue Sills as a locally based Reader as support and access to retired vicars within the Deanery but Covid restrictions have forced all weekly services online, a method likely to continue alongside face to face services after restrictions are ultimately lifted due to resource constraints.

The question continues to be asked about the viability of Parish Churches with their associated upkeep costs, reduced income and usage. We therefore also need to start (or continue in some cases) considering ways in which the building should or could be used; including the frequency, type and regularity of services, and whether it is sufficiently viable to remain open.

Your feedback would be most appreciated by December 13th.

To help consolidate our response you may like to comment on these questions:

1. Any comments on the Draft Plan and/or points to consider? –

how will it affect my relationship with the church community, if at all?

2. What is needed from our church to support the community better? – including the building and ministry.

3. Should the Church building remain open?

if so which services (and their frequency) are of most importance to you and your family? AND/OR what other activities would you join in with if held in the building?

For a copy of the proposals please contact:

Liz Sanders, Knossington PCC Secretary, lizanders1@hotmail.co.uk

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact:

Knossington: Jane Jackson, Church Warden on 01664 454566 or Sue Sills, Reader on 01664 454584

Cold Overton: Rudy Ike, Church Warden on 01664 454671 or Peter Rycroft, Treasurer

Owston: Simon Hammond on 01664 454538 or James McEuan on 01664 454210 (Church Wardens)

Ways to help financially

The upkeep of the church and ministry support continues but we have had no church collections now for over 9 months. There are other ways to make a payment instead. If you are able to, please consider setting up a standing order or making a one-off donation and signing up for Gift Aid to be collected on your contribution. Please contact your church treasurer or church wardens for more details.

Knossington Treasurer – Deb Thomas 01664454970, WhatsApp/Mobile 07506521117 or email

djayne65@hotmail.co.uk

Church news

Across the Churches of the Whatborough Benefice

Cold Overton, Knossington, Lowesby, Owston, Tilton on the Hill

December Notes

As we journey through December and January, we encounter the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. A period of waiting, watching for, and discovering 'God is with us'. From a Christian perspective God came into the world as a vulnerable child, dependent on the care of those around him for his survival and flourishing. Scripture tells us we are all children of God, dependent on God, each other, and our planet to provide us with the essentials of life. The current pandemic is bringing into sharp focus our interdependency and what we need to do to care for each other. Most of us are drawn to gaze upon a newborn baby in wonder. Through the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus we are invited anew to turn our gaze towards God. To learn from the Christ child, through the accounts in the New Testament and reflections on the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, how learning to love God leads to loving each other; learning how to recognise God's Kingdom on earth, God's will being done, and to recognise our own calling, how God is asking us to join in and help.

I find it significant that this pandemic is global. This means that we are forced into looking at our interdependency and how we care for each other, not only at a village community level, but at a regional, national, and global level. I have also noticed how the news media have recognised the need to provide some hope by presenting good news stories alongside the bad news of the Coronavirus; celebrating how community heroes are transforming people's lives for the better. From a Christian perspective such people, who are shining lights in the community, are Christ-like.

The Christ child reminds us that small acts of kindness are as important as large and that we are also Christ-like when we feel helpless and vulnerable. The Kingdom of God reveals this mutual dependency on God and each other.

The hope is that we can spend this Christmas with at least some members of our family on Christmas day. For those who cannot, may God's love embrace you and please join us for a chat at our Christmas Day service online/via landline phone link. I hope, also, that we can each respond to the invitation to gaze on God anew and discover how we are all being called to join together in making the world a better place.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy Christmas and remembering those who we can no longer see. May they rest in God's peace.

Revd Jayne Lewis

Sunday Services

Church Services in December and January

Online services will continue weekly on Sundays at 11.00am via Zoom.

Links can be obtained by request from your local church contacts or Revd Jayne:
jaynelewis28@gmail.com.

Dates for services in church will be confirmed following Government announcements and in consultation with each village community.

Confirmed dates will be posted via village WhatsApp groups, and on church and village noticeboards.

Church ON-LINE

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic villagers in East Leicestershire have been working together to provide church services from the safety and comfort of our own homes. So if you would like to try an alternative to a physical service in church, this is how you can join in:

Hallaton and Whatborough Parishes Church Service via Zoom:

Every Sunday morning at 11.00am there is a short Zoom online service, made up of readings, prayers, a reflection, and a couple of hymns.

These services are proving very popular; do join us if you are able. Please contact Linda Jones l.jones2k@btinternet.com for the link to the Zoom service.

A feature of the zoom services is the participation of many in reading prayers and the lessons; volunteers to join the rota will be welcomed. Please contact Mary Twidell mary.twidell@gmail.com

Zoom Instructions:

Joining a Zoom On-Line Service is straight forward. If you are new to Zoom here are some instructions on how to get involved:

iPad / tablet: Go to ZOOM App in App store and follow instructions. Apple Mac / PC: open browser and go to www.zoom.us and sign up.

The software is free. **Linda Jones will send you a link which will let you join the meeting.** Click the link and this will take you straight to the meeting. The process is simple and should be easy to use.

NB You can join in via landline telephone, there is a dial up number should you wish to take part this way.

Please say if you are at all uncertain, help is available.

Contact Revd Jayne Lewis, 0116 259 7244