

Village News

Est. Sept 1992

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Bi-Monthly

DEC 2020
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Issue No. **168**



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Dealing with your own affairs and getting them in order can appear daunting. We're here to make life easier. Do pick up the phone or email us and we would be happy to have a free, no-obligation initial chat with you. We can meet on video call or in person when safe to do so.



Anna Burnside PARTNER
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com



Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
jacqui.birks@theburnsidepartnership.com



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Minster Lovell

Councillors: Mr David Haley (Chairman), Mr Colin Alderman, Mrs Sue Bicker, Mr Chris Jones, Mrs Jean King, Ms Ann Williams & Mr Jonathan Stowell.

District Councillors: Miss Gill Hill & Mr Kieran Mullins.

County Councillor: Mr Liam Walker.

USEFUL NUMBERS:

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks – Electricity Outages – 105
Report highway problems – www.fixmystreet.com
West Oxfordshire District Council, Main Reception – 01993 861000
Missed waste collection – 01993 861025
Thames Water – Leakline – 0800 714614

Minster Lovell Parish Council

With darker evenings and some frosty mornings, it is clear that winter is now on its way! Please collect a bag of salt from the allotments for your own use when the ground becomes icy underfoot. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year; I hope you get a chance to spend some time with the people who are special to you over the festive season.

Coronavirus

At the time of writing we had just entered another national lockdown due to Covid-19. Please contact the Clerk or any members of the Council if you are shielding or isolating and need any assistance with shopping or collecting medication. The Parish Council website is regularly updated with details of local organisations and charities which are providing home deliveries and support to those shielding or isolating at home.

Ripley Avenue

The Parish Council continues to consider the possibility of opening the play park at Ripley Avenue. The annual inspection of the play equipment has taken place and the Council will review this at the November Parish Council meeting and arrange for any necessary repairs to take place. A Covid-19 risk assessment will also need to take place before the Council is able to open the park. The Council has received reports of a dog attack which took place recently in Ripley Avenue Amenity Area. For the safety of all users please ensure that you keep dogs on leads in the area and report any incidents of residents not doing so to the Clerk on 07712 705865. The Clerk has also ordered new signage for the Amenity Area, which will be installed shortly.

Village maintenance

The Parish Council will be selecting a contractor to install a handrail by the steps at the bottom of the footpath to the old Village at the November Parish

Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Alexandra Molton, 111 Walker Drive, Faringdon,
Oxfordshire SN7 7FY

Email: info@minsterlovell-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07712 705865.

Website: www.minsterlovell-pc.gov.uk

Council meeting. The work will be carried out as soon as possible to ensure that this area is safe in inclement weather. The Council will also arrange for the broken wooden post by the war memorial to be replaced.

A new gate has now been installed at the entrance to the old A40 to prevent future Traveller encampments.

Planning

Members of the Parish Council have recently met online with an Enforcement Officer from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) to discuss outstanding planning breaches in the village. The Officer confirmed the steps which will be taken regarding these breaches and a timeline for the process of addressing these. The Council will continue to liaise with WODC about any suspected planning breaches in the village.

Budget 2021-22

The Parish Council has met to set the budget for 2021-22 and will be ratifying this at the November Parish Council meeting.

Remembrance Service

Due to the restrictions in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19 the Council were unable to hold a Remembrance Service in the usual way this year. Village organisations attended to lay wreaths and mark the occasion with a two-minute silence followed by the Last Post. Hopefully the Council will be able to hold a more formal Remembrance Service next year.

Future meeting dates:

In the current circumstances the Parish Council is carrying out monthly meetings via Zoom. Please contact the Clerk if you would like access details for future meetings. If face-to-face meetings are permitted, the Clerk will advertise this on the Council website and village noticeboards.

- 21st December, 7.00pm via Zoom.
- 15th February 2021, 7.00pm (via Zoom depending on current restrictions)
- 18th January 2021, 7.00pm (via Zoom depending on current restrictions)

Also a reminder that all Extra Parish Council meetings, which can sometimes be called at short notice, are advertised on our website and agendas will be posted on the Village noticeboards.

Alexandra Molton Parish Clerk



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email the editor:

jnigel26@googlemail.com



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And go back down to Doltons,
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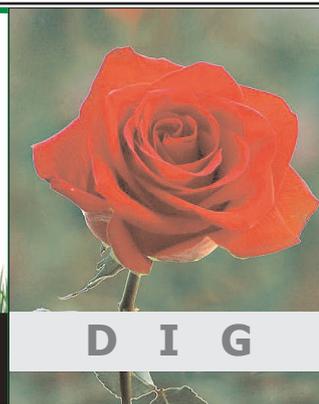
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MINSTER LOVELL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Fred Ireland

The Manse, 25 Berryfield Way, Carterton OX18 1GS

Tel: 01993 867301 email: Ireland.fred@gmail.com

Lay Pastoral Worker: Mrs Dawn Haley

85 Brize Norton Rd. Minster Lovell. Tel: 775675

email: dawn.haley8@gmail.com

We are there for you, and welcome you to join us when ever you are able to.

Sunday worship 11.00 am. There is a prayer box in the porch for your confidential prayer requests. For **confidential listening support**, or if you are lonely and would just like someone to visit, tel: **01993 775675**

Wishing all the new residents to the village much happiness in the village.

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Once again, the chapel doors are closed, but we hope that we will be given the go-ahead to open on Sunday December 6th. We will have missed the 1st Advent Sunday service on November 29th, but plan to reschedule it for December 6th.

The Christmas Bazaar planned for November 28th had to be cancelled and we look forward to a fund raising even as soon as possible in the New Year.

When open we have all the Covid rules in place. It is not quite the same without singing, having our faces covered and not being able to hug or shake a sanitised hand, but it is great to meet and to worship.

It was very disappointing to learn that the carpenter scheduled to complete the new Notice Board by the end of September, has had to take other employment at this time and unable to fulfil his private work, so it's back to sourcing an alternative.

Thanks to everyone who contributed produce and flowers for the Harvest Festival. All of the Harvest gifts were purchased by members and friends and £55 raised for the much-needed repair fund.

We plan to hold the Candle-light Carol service at 6.00pm on Sunday 20th December, currently seating is limited to 20 people and so for the first time in 159 years we will have to take bookings for the seats for the popular Carol service. If you are able to come along to this unique service please book a seat by telephoning me on 775675 or email dawn.haley8@gmail.com.

You will not need to book for the Christmas Morning Family service at 10.30 am.

As always everyone is Welcome to all our services and other events

COMMUNITY COUNTS



methodistcommunityproject@gmail.com



Refreshment, and time to chat at every event.

The CC staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all who come and enjoy Saturday morning and weekday events a Very Happy Christmas and New Year, and we hope to see you all, and others as soon as we are allowed to open again.

Keep safe – Dawn Haley

Fishing in Minster Lovell To fish at Wash Meadow is available only to residents of Minster Lovell and who must hold a permit. If you wish to obtain a permit contact the **Fishing Bailiff** – Mr **Paul Woodley** in the village on **01993 704137**

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Parish Priest; The Rev'd Toby Wright

The Rectory, Station Lane, Witney, Oxon.

wtparish@btinternet.com www.witneyparish.org.uk

01993 779492

Email Witney Parish for information on Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES ARE AT 9.15 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



Over the last couple of months we managed to hold a few services in St Kenelm's and to open the Church for visitors for a couple of hours on some other days. Spreading people round the Church to achieve safe social distance isn't ideal but at least our new sound system allowed those sitting at the back of the Church to hear the services! There have been a fair number of visitors and many thanks to those who have been in the Church to welcome them.

Mostly, though, the Church has had to be locked – and so it has been very good to have had flowers on the porch doors right through from Easter: a big 'thank you' to those who have made that happen. Over the Christmas period there will be a Christmas tree outside the porch and we will provide materials for people to put up prayers, remembrances, etc, on it.

It's impossible to know at the time of writing what services will be possible during December and January. We expect, however, to be able to welcome individual visitors/'bubbles' on 2nd, 12th, 19th, 30th December and 9th, 23rd, 27th January – all these between 11.00am and 1.00pm.

We intend to hold Sunday Eucharists at 9.15am on 6th December and 3rd and 17th January and midweek Eucharists at 11.00am on 16th December and 13th January.

The plan for Christmas is to have a candlelight service of Carols and Readings on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm in the churchyard, followed by a First Eucharist of Christmas at 6.00pm in the Church. We think this arrangement is the best we can offer under the circumstances, potentially suiting families with young children and older people who don't want to be out late for Midnight Mass. The need to have 48 hours between openings of the Church would mean no service there on Christmas Day. Please contact Witney Benefice Office (01993 779492) to book for either or both of the Christmas Eve services, bearing in mind that they may not be able to take place – in which case, of course, you will be informed.

Many blessings for Advent, Christmas and, let's hope, an easier New Year. I'm sure you will find a way to celebrate Christmas, whatever the restrictions. After all, it's not possible to cancel Jesus Christ's birthday! **Hugh**

Hugh White, **Team Vicar**. hugh@witneyparish.org.uk Tel: 01869 347889

Churchwarden: Kirsty Strange, kirsty@witneyparish.org.uk

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Many thanks to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal in this extraordinary year. Despite all the odds the village raised an amazing total of **£1,537.06**.

Thanks to all those who purchased wreaths despite not knowing whether there would be an opportunity to lay them, to the Spar and the White Hart for having boxes and to their customers who purchased poppies and especially to **Mandy Hill** who raised an incredible **£564.43** by selling her handmade face masks. A truly fantastic result from the village.

Wendy Atkinson





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Tues 22 nd Dec	7.00am – 5.00pm	Mon 28 th Dec	CLOSED
Wed 23 rd Dec	6.00am – 6.30pm	Tue 29 th Dec	7.00am – 2.00pm
Thurs 24 th Dec	6.00am – 2.00pm	Wed 30 th Dec	7.00am – TBC
Fri 25 th Dec	CLOSED	Thurs 31 st Dec	7.00am – 2.00pm
Sat 26 th Dec	CLOSED	Fri 1 st Jan	CLOSED

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Alternatively why not try:

- Free Range Cockerels
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- Home-cured and home smoked Gammon
- Locally sourced wild Pheasant and Partridge
- Free Range Blythburgh Pork
- Locally sourced Lamb

Don't forget our range of homemade pigs in blankets, made with our multi award winning sausages. We have a selection of homemade stuffings, sausage meat (GF available too), dry cured bacon, goose fat, cranberry sauce, redcurrant jelly, potatoes, parsnips, sprouts and more fresh vegetables... everything to make your Christmas meal memorable. We also stock a large selection of quality cheeses, hand-raised pork pies, scotch eggs, and our huge range of homemade chutneys and relishes for your festive buffets.

Beers and wines

Did you know we also stock the full range of Wychwood Brewery beers, and some lovely wines? Just ask if you would like something added to your order.

Hampers

Stuck for a gift for neighbours, friends or family? Someone you would like to thank for their help this year with a treat? Our bespoke hampers, made with all our products make a great gift! Our creative team will make your hamper to order, delivered in time for Christmas with a hand written card with a message of your choice. You set the amount you would like to spend, and you can choose from all our meats and cheeses and chutneys as well as beers and wine or even a drop of fizz. Alternatively we can put together a selection for you.

Saving for Christmas

Why not spread the cost of Christmas? We've been offering a Christmas Savers Club for over 30 years but we realise many of our newer customers may not know that! Some savers put in just a £1 a week, whilst other customers pop a few pounds on whenever they come in to the shop - that way they know Christmas is covered. It's not too late to start for this year! If you start at the beginning of October and put £5.00 a week in, your Christmas bird will be paid for!

Please pull this page out and keep our number handy... it's not long to go now!

Thank you

And finally... Clint, Abi and all the Denshams staff would like to thank all of you who supported a local business through a challenging year; it is very much appreciated, and we wish you, and your families a very

Merry Christmas and a **Happy** (and healthy) **New Year!**

So don't forget, we DELIVER FREE of charge to Minster Lovell and the surrounding area - Call us on: WITNEY (01993) 703714

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

by DOT HOLLOWAY

*Covid this and Covid that,
Is all we ever hear.
As you're going out the door,
A voice says in your ear:*

*"Have you got your face shield?
Have you got your Mask?"
However long will this go on?
We ponder as we ask.*

*We oldies lose our free TV
(Thanks dear BBC!)
It's getting rather boring now
I think we all agree!*

*Sadly, some have lost their lives
Our hearts go out to them,
And the families they have left behind
will never feel the same.*

*But through these tough and beastly times,
Some people show their best -
Front line staff, shop workers,
And our wondrous NHS.*

*(Some places still not working)
But to those who are - God Bless!
Each and every one of you - are,
Tina Turner's 'SIMPLY THE BEST'*

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MINSTER LOVELL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

Dates for your diary – Flower Show 2021 to take place on Saturday 14th August.
The AGM hopefully will take place sometime in March 2021.

Hints and Tips

1. Lift dahlia tubas (unless they are in a sheltered place in the garden). Cover them in paper and store them in boxes or pots in a frost free shed/garage.
2. Remember - December is the best time to cut leaves off Hellebore plants.

Categories for 2021: Photography 1. Wheels 2. Early morning 3. Reflections 4. Family
Craft 1. Cushion 2. Knitting/Crochet 3. Decorated coat-hanger 4. Painting any medium
Unfortunately we were unable to meet up this time, but we all contributed to this article.
Happy gardening & keep safe and well. *Anne, Judy, Margaret and Rosemary.*

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, nor anyone connected with the production of the *Village News*. The editor reserves the right to edit, amend or omit where and if necessary. ALL matter is printed in good faith.

DEADLINE FEB/MAR Village News 20th JAN email jnigel26@googlemail.com