

PARISH NEWS



**St John's Church
Marchington Woodlands**

**St Peter's Church
Marchington**

MARCH 2021

WELCOME to the PARISH NEWS for MARCH 2021



Desktop Publishing: Rhoda Castle
rhoda.castle@outlook.com

Website: <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net>

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**The next Parish News is the April issue. Deadline for copy is
12th March**

Parish News is distributed by volunteers in the parishes of St John's, Marchington Woodlands and St Peter's, Marchington. If you wish to receive a regular copy please contact our Head of Distribution, Mike Williamson (01283 820407). There is an annual subscription rate of £9 for a paper copy of the magazine delivered to your door. The online edition of the magazine is freely available on our website <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net> and includes colour photographs and live hyperlinks. Previous issues of the magazine are available online at <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net/archive>

Subscriptions are collected every July and cover the period up to the following June. Newcomers to the village are welcome to have a complimentary copy, so if someone has moved in near to you please let Mike know.

St Peter's Contacts

Priest in charge: Rev Margaret Sherwin, Rector, Tel: 01889 560234

Licensed Reader: Maggie Hatchard, 1 Church Close Tel: 01283 820207

St Peter's Ministry Team: Thelma Brassington, Maggie Hatchard, Fiona Neads, Liz Morgan.

St Peter's Church Wardens: Lynda Nicholson, Rose Cottage, Church Lane.

Tel: 01283 821374; Sandy Halcrow, Coverdale, Allens Lane. Tel: 01283 820346

PCC Secretary: Kate Hart

Church Website: www.stpetersmarchington.org.uk

A Time of Waiting and Prayer

Rev Chris Brown reflects on the challenges of ministry when face-to-face contact is so limited, and urges us all to use the time to reinforce our own inner belief in God and to prepare us for the time we can gather again to worship and minister fully to all God's people.

Dear friends,

I began this letter sitting at Dad's house waiting for the gas man to come and repair Dad's boiler; no heating but plenty of hot water. Thankfully Dad is in St Marys Mount at the moment and enjoying every minute. My thoughts drifted to where we are as a world at this moment. We have to stay at home, keep our distance and wash hands. Unfortunately this means contact with our communities is very limited.

The few people we come into contact with, either by phone or electronic media, are absolutely delighted that we have bothered to contact them. As a member of the clergy team I am conscious of the restricted pastoral care we can give to our community, often when they are in dire need of it.

Time on the phone or social media do not seem the same as a face to face conversation, it always seems to be lacking something. The same applies to our worship, I know that Members of the team do a sterling job creating online worship for our area congregations, even farther afield. Distant worship, distant learning and distant pastoral care, our

contact with others becomes more remote. I sometimes feel we are all turning into a modern Robinson Crusoe cut off from the world and all alone.



Our thoughts are concentrated on the future, when will this pandemic end, when will I be free to go out and mix with family and friends and when will we be back to normal?

For many there will be a time when, although free to come and go as you choose, the spectre of the virus and fear of contagion will be always there, hovering in the background. Some will experience a time of new beginning building up new friendships and contacts. All of us in some way will have to build up our lives virtually (the pun is intended) from scratch. How that will

shape our lives and communities we do not know. Can we carry on as before the pandemic? In some ways we as a church will be like the original disciples setting out to build the new church that Jesus empowered them to do. In a way we will be sharing the same questions as those disciples. What do we do? How do we do it? Should we do it this way or that way? Do we have enough people and resources to continue? Have people's expectations or approach to worship changed, especially after experiencing different styles of worship on line. Have we as Christians changed inside after lockdown or self-isolation or shielding?

As I said to the congregation at Marchington, at the end of my only service this year, be of good heart, God will see us through. As followers of Jesus we are used to having to wait on the Lord and this isolation should be treated as a time of waiting and a time of prayer that will reinforce our own inner belief in God and a time to prepare us to for the time we can gather again to worship and minister fully to all God's people.

All God's blessings.

Chris

Church Services During Lent

Area Zoom services are being planned throughout Lent. These will start at 7.30pm on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. After that there will be services at 10am every Sunday from 21st February up to Palm Sunday, 28th March, in the hope that we might possibly be back into the church buildings for Easter Sunday, April 4th. These services will be run by our Rector, Revd Margaret Sherwin.

The weekly themes and Scripture readings are:

17th February - 7.30pm - Ash Wednesday - A Secret Journey
(Joel 2:1-2, 12-16 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)

Our introduction to "Worship in the Wilderness", a resource which will underpin our Sunday Zoom services at 10am throughout Lent and our Wednesday evening groups too.

Sunday 21st February - A Spirit-led Journey
(Deuteronomy 8:1-5, 15-18 and Mark 1:9-13)

Sunday 28th February - A Simple Journey
(Psalm 63:1-8, Luke 4:1-13)

Sunday 7th March - A Sorrowful Journey
(Exodus 3:1-10 and John 11:20-29, 32-36)

Sunday 14th March - A Sacrificial Journey
(Isaiah 53:1-12 and Matthew 14:13-14)

Sunday 21st March - A Truth-Speaking Journey
(Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Matthew 4:4-11)

Palm Sunday - 28th March - A Surprising Journey
(Hebrews 11:32-40 and Matthew 21:1-11)

If you would like to join in with this service and don't already receive an invite, please contact Maggie at maggiehatchard@gmail.com and she will then send you an invite each week so you can link into the service.

Rev Margaret will still do a regular YouTube service - search for Uttoxeter St Mary's Church on Youtube, or follow this link to Uttoxeter St Mary's Church Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT29VWcI1WHQJjdcTF6JRFQ>

Bible Study

A mid-week meeting for Bible study, using the same resource as the previous Sunday service, is also being planned. This will be 7.30pm to 8.30pm on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent.

Bringing People Together

Bringing People Together is a network of open weekly online social groups for communities all over Lichfield Diocese.

Find out more about its rapid spread and the way it has connected isolated people during lockdown in this news story. People are invited to explore the opportunities Bringing People Together provides at <https://www.bringingpeopletogether.org.uk/>

Hannah Hart (04.12.2020 – 27.01.2021)



Marchington was our first home in the UK, when we arrived 4 years ago from South Africa. We have made wonderful friends and been given lots of love and support from people in the village which is why I want to share Hannah's story with you.

We discovered at the 12-week pregnancy scan that there was a problem. After chromosome testing, it was confirmed that our baby girl had a rare and life-limiting condition called Trisomy 18 or Edwards syndrome. This is the second most common syndrome after Down's syndrome and affects 1 in every 1,500 pregnancies.

We were devastated to discover this, as all our hopes for our unborn child vanished with that diagnosis. However, we decided to take a journey in faith and let Hannah determine her story. We were given amazing care throughout by the NHS staff of Derby Hospital and by our community midwife, nurses, and GP.

As each month of the pregnancy passed, Hannah continued to thrive in her own little way. She was eventually born at full term by C-section weighing 1.89kg (4lb 3oz). The most exciting thing was that she was crying and didn't require any resuscitation or intervention!

She did so well that we left the hospital after one night and went into the warm embrace of Rainbows Hospice in Loughborough. There she and the rest of our family were cared for by the amazing staff for six nights before we brought her home. What an emotional milestone that was!

We were so fortunate that she was well for the first five weeks of her life and we were able to make lovely memories as a family of four. In that time, she met her maternal grandparents and aunty, she was christened, had a swim in the hydro pool at Rainbows and we celebrated Nathan's third birthday and Christmas together.

She then unfortunately had a setback which meant we spent a further four nights at Rainbows. We decided to bring her home for her last few days. Hannah surprised all the medical professionals involved by surviving as long as she did and proved how strong she was, despite being so small.



We were so blessed by Hannah's life! Although it was short, we got to know her and love her in that time and Nathan had a sister with whom he could bond, sing to, and hold. We will always cherish the memories, photographs, and videos we made. Despite how hard it has been to lose Hannah, we wouldn't have done anything differently because she was our precious daughter and will always be part of our family.

Kate Hart

Interestingly, Hannah's name and her time of birth (13:31) are palindromes, meaning they read the same backward. She lived for 27 days in December and 27 days in January and was born weighing exactly half of her brother's 3.78kg. As Colin says, it was as if she always had one foot on earth and one foot in heaven.

Over the last few months, we have been incredibly supported by two charities. Should you consider donating, we would appreciate any contribution- no matter how small- made in Hannah's name.

Rainbows Hospice: <https://www.rainbows.co.uk/donate>

SOFT UK: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1000784&stop_mobi=yes

Real Easter Eggs - Easter Day 2021 is on April 4th



For those of you who usually buy Real Easter Eggs from supermarkets, high street stores will not be stocking them this year due to the impact of Covid. To find out more about buying the Fairtrade eggs online, which include an Easter story and raise money for charity, go to <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-easter-egg>

Repairs to the church Lightning Conductor

During the terrible weather some of you may have noticed Brecon Hollroyd scaling the Church using ropes. No, he was not practising for climbing Everest in harsh weather but repairing our Lightning Conductor.

We thank Brec and John Gibbs for their work, especially in such cold and snowy conditions. We also wish to thank the Friends of the Church who paid for the repairs.

Lynda Nicholson.



St Peter's Edward Bear Club

For birth to nursery aged children and mums, dads or carers. We have moved Edward Bear club into the 21st century by holding weekly 'Houseparty' calls. We meet virtually on Wednesday mornings at 10am. If anyone would like to join us at the Edward Bear club when we decide to meet in person again, please let Thelma Brassington (01283 820447) know and she will be in touch when there is any progress.

MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report – March 2021

There is a feeling of optimism. The huge Covid vaccination programme is making an impact on Marchington residents with most over 65s now vaccinated either at the Pirelli Stadium in Burton, Uttoxeter Racecourse or Balance Street Surgery. The mood will be boosted further if schools go back for all children on 8th March. It will be the reopening of pubs and the hospitality industry which will really make a difference, when friends can meet for a drink or meal not to mention the re-opening of hairdressers!

Parish Council meetings continue each month via Zoom with a full varied agenda each month. It will be wishful thinking if we hope to be meeting in person in May.

Jacks Lane Development

The Jacks Lane development is now complete apart from a few snags identified by residents including the repair of front gardens opposite and the restoration of a Woodland Views fence. The development took longer than planned partly due to Covid restrictions and bad weather. At the request of some Jacks Lane residents the Parish Council has requested Staffordshire County Council infill holes in Jacks Lane. However, I am aware that part of Jacks Lane will need to be dug up again to repair damage to the drain caused when gas supply was installed in the road nearly 20 years ago.

Green Lane

The Parish Council has raised concerns over the works that were carried out last November where the clay bank has been removed and limestone cobble reinforcement put in place. This has resulted in the edge of the road and the brook not being discernible at times when Green Lane is flooded. It is a particular safety concern for delivery drivers and Emergency Services not familiar with the road. The road requires marker poles or a barrier.

Re-wilding and Tree Planting

The “Friends of Marchington” volunteer Group has been very active down Green Lane with the verges and on the Orchard. However, this work to promote wildlife has not met with universal resident support, with some residents requesting a larger area of mown grass in the Orchard to facilitate sitting when the weather warms up and restrictions allow.

East Staffs Borough Council has donated 25 trees to Marchington and many of these have been planted by the “Friends of Marchington” volunteers down Green

Lane on the verges being careful to avoid the gas main and the broadband cable. In addition, some trees have been planted in the front gardens of houses in Moisty Lane for all to see along with 1,000 snowdrops spread around the village.

Flooding

There have been three occasions in the last month when the brook has overflowed into Church Lane. The Marchington flood wardens have sprung into action and protected the vulnerable properties in Church Lane and Green Lane with sandbags where no flood gates are available. The supply of sand and sandbags has now been replenished for the next time.

Marchington needs more flood wardens and if you would be prepared to volunteer for training please contact the Parish Clerk, Becci Ede on 07549 164641 or email marchingtonpc@gmail.com. One flood warden has moved out of the parish and another has died leaving depleted numbers.

Potholes

The Marchington roads have suffered severe potholes and after the Parish Council reported the potholes in Bag Lane as life threatening, badgering Staffordshire County Council, some emergency repairs have been carried out. However, there are still severe potholes in Bag Lane. The Amey pothole investigator has been seen marking out the potholes to be repaired so I hope significant further pothole filling will be carried out shortly.

New Parish Councillor

After the resignation of a Parish Councillor last year, the Parish Council elected, from two candidates, a new councillor to the team. I would like to welcome Alan Tomkins of Hall Road and thank him for stepping forward to help carry the load.

Andrew C Mann



ADOPT, DON'T SHOP

Cats Protection would always encourage potential cat owners to consider adopting rather than buying a cat or kitten. When adopting from CP you will have the reassurance that your new cat will have had the very best of care and will be vet checked, microchipped and neutered (if old enough) before they go home with you. But for those of you who still wish to buy, we strongly advise purchasers to do their homework first. Find out advice at: www.cats.org.uk/buying-a-kitten

census 2021

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If you need help, visit
www.census.gov.uk

  
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 Office for
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Your questions about the Census are answered at
<https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net/census>
-2021

Marchington Village Hall News - March 2021



No doors, no sweat

The decision of the Board of Trustees of Marchington Village Hall to remove all the doors, as outlined in last month's magazine is gaining approval from villagers. One of the off-plan purchasers of the new houses in Jack's Lane was very supportive: "We haven't had doors for months and it hasn't done us any harm". He admitted that he was still living in his centrally heated home in Alrewas, but was just dreaming of the day he could move in, as he had been since 2018.

Others, who took the Government's advice to sit granny next to the open window at Christmas cautioned that results had been variable, ranging from a mild snuffle to several weeks in ICU. "On balance, I'd do it again", reported the son-in-law of the lady who was released into his care last week after a prolonged stay in Burton Hospital.

The keep fit ladies were very enthusiastic. "We love the idea; it will save us the bother of opening the doors on the half dozen occasions that we build up enough of a sweat to turn the heating off", said one.

So, our plans to repurpose the Hall as a gazebo are well advanced. We have already installed a fire pan in the middle of the hall floor. The ESBC planning department has also been broadly supportive, but has advised that we still need fire doors, in the event that a pyromaniac hirer should lose control of the fire. Additionally they require the hall floor to be paved in a dusky pink shade of slate to complement the décor.

If anyone would like to make suggestions as to how we can improve the hall during this period, please email me on geraldineflavell1@gmail.com and I'll weave your socially appropriate suggestions into my report for next month.

So, I can only repeat the promises that we made in earlier months that Marchington Village Hall will be available to hirers as soon as we're allowed to open. We are a Covid-safe environment and will be open for business again the very day we are permitted to be.

If you want to book the Hall, call Gill Williamson on 820407 or email marchingtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com.

Geraldine Flavell

MARCHINGTON VILLAGE SHOP



We rely on our local community for so many things but most importantly SALES and we are delighted to report a bumper start to the year. Sales were up 48% in January, year on year - wine sales were up 61%, clearly no dry January here in Marchington!! And February sales are looking good too, writing this in the middle of the month. "THANK YOU" to everyone who has supported the shop, please keep coming and encourage your friends, neighbours and relations as well! Other highlights are the sales of greetings cards. Thanks to Gill Davies we have an ever-increasing range and variety of excellent cards and at very competitive prices. Please think of using the shop for cards, we have Mother's Day and Easter coming up.

Our very popular Valentine's Day raffle was won by Carolyn Blakemore and made £236 for shop funds. Thank you to an anonymous donor who put up the prize in full, very much appreciated.

The Shop Board would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to Gill Scarlett for all her hard work over the last 7 years; she stepped down from the Board at the recent AGM and we were very sad to see her go. She has been an absolute stalwart of the shop, managing the staff, the 50/50 club, the Facebook page and the welcome pack scheme as well as working her shift at the shop AND single handedly ensuring that there were always plentiful supplies of local gin and biscuits!!

Gill was also a founder member of the group that started the successful Marchington Open Gardens, which is a crucial fundraiser for the shop and which we hope will take place in some form this year (Gill is still the person to contact about this). Her boundless energy and enthusiasm will be much missed by the rest of the board but we take comfort from the fact that she is still doing her shift and she and Alan will continue to manage the 50/50 club so she is still around! Enjoy your retirement Gill but we miss you already! It is a testament to Gill's contribution that we've now had to share her roles with 2 Board members: Margaret Johnson is now the main contact for the staff and Clare Nash is leading Facebook communications.

Liz Morgan, Chair, Marchington Community Shop

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Saturday 9am - 12 noon; Sundays 9am - 11.15am.**

Uttoxeter Cricket Club

In the absence of indoor training this winter, we have developed an online pre-season programme for our junior cricketers. The purpose of this is to encourage our youngsters to remain active and to keep cricket at the forefront of their minds. This programme is free of charge and will run throughout February and March. We remain hopeful that outdoor sport will return in April. Members are able to enjoy fitness, cricket, challenges, quizzes and other content with a host of familiar faces.



In order to deliver the programme, we have enlisted some help from Clean Hit Cricket and Jimmy Lomas Coaching. They will be assisting with some webinars and online fitness sessions. Clean Hit Cricket are well known to the club, as they have hosted several pop up shops and have previously assisted our indoor winter training. Jimmy Lomas is from Toft Cricket Club, who were due to be an ECB NatWest Cricket Force Showcase Club last year. We were fortunate to enough to be a showcase club in 2019 and we have forged links with Jimmy in sharing our experiences of Cricket Force. We hope that our youngsters enjoy their online pre-season activities.

If you would like to find out more about our programme and Uttoxeter Cricket Club, please take a look at our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/uttoxetercc.

We hope that everyone is keeping safe in these challenging times. Very best wishes, Uttoxeter Cricket Club.

James Burton



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Marchington Nature Notes

Having nature in our lives has never been so important, and the outlines of trees in winter are clearly noticeable, compelling us to look up and breathe life and wellbeing into our daily commute around the village.

Every day we enjoy the fruits of our ancestors' labour, lifting our lockdown spirits, feeding wildlife and beautifying our surroundings.

The friends of Marchington have had another active weekend, this time planting trees and snowdrops around the village. Whether digging holes, hammering in posts, positioning trees or jollying others along in the bitter cold air, their role has been immensely valuable.



Thank you, you are true champions!

The 25 trees, kindly donated by ESBC, are a variety of Rowan (whitebeam) which are tough, hardy and produce white flowers in the spring for insects, followed by abundant bright red fruits, which feed wildlife in the winter.

The snowdrops, 1000 in all, have been planted “in the green”. These are freshly lifted while in leaf (as the bulbs don’t store well). This means their survival rate is nearly 100% They have been planted in groups of 5, an arduous task, but worth it, as they will become denser over the years.

We also have two new trees in the orchard. A medlar, a rather old fashioned, uncommon fruit tree, related to the hawthorn family. It’s fruit is “bletted” (ripened



to the point of rotting). An acquired taste, but one to try! The other, is a Cox's orange apple tree, delicious and sweet.

Although the undergrowth around the orchard trees looks a bit scruffy at present, it isn't detrimental to the yield or health of the trees, but is extremely beneficial to wildlife.

We have registered all of our new trees with Plant Britain, an initiative run by BBC's Countryfile programme, galvanising everyone in the nation to get planting.

Think global, act local.

Suggested read

Meadowland, by John Lewis-Stempel

A record of an ancient meadow through the passing seasons.

Written with wit, poetry and love.

Janey Hilton

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN MARCH

March heralds the beginning of Spring, a time of optimism and hope for the gardener.

Here are just a few things to concentrate on.

FLOWERING PLANTS

Work slow release fertiliser into the soil surrounding your trees, shrubs and hedges.

Roses start their growth period in March. Use specialised rose feed to help them on their way.

Clematis that flower early in the year will need to be pruned after flowering has finished. Clematis that flower later on in the year will need to be pruned before the start of active growth. Complete the cutting back of shrubs such as Cornus (Dogwoods) that are grown for the colour of their winter stems. Any remaining dead foliage from perennials and grasses should be cleared to pave the way for new growth.

Slugs may begin to rear their heads in March. Use nematode worms as an effective organic control.

Deadhead winter pansies, hydrangeas (towards end of March) and daffodils.

VEGETABLES and GREENHOUSE

Dig compost or well rotted manure into your vegetable beds. You may want to cover beds with weed suppressing material to keep beds drier and warmer, prior to planting new veg.

Ventilate your greenhouse on warm days.

Move plants from the greenhouse to cold frames to give them time to adjust to cooler temperatures and harden them off.

Prick out and pot on new seedlings and cuttings.

FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES

Cut autumn fruiting raspberry canes to the ground, in order to stimulate the growth of new canes. For summer fruiting canes, cut down by about a third, just above a bud.

Blueberry plants love an acidic environment around their roots. Mulch with ericaceous compost or feed with an ericaceous fertiliser.

Mulch fruit trees with compost or well rotted manure. Do the same with rhubarb plants, but do not cover the crown. Cover strawberry plants with cloches, if you have them.

Finally, it is time to start thinking about your lawn. Mow the lawn if you think it needs it, but start with a high cut.

Now is a good time to redefine the lawn edges. Lay new turf or repair lawns now, but wait until there has been little or no rain for several days.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY
GARDENING.
NICK ADAMSON.

[Nick left Marchington in February, and we would like to thank him for his regular contribution to Parish News. We will be needing a new gardening expert for the magazine from the May issue onwards - if you are interested please contact us at rhoda.castle@outlook.com]

Tales of the Riverbank



Are you missing reminiscing in your local? Do you miss long walks and rambles in the countryside? Are you finding home-schooling a thankless challenge?

Through the Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust) we are relaunching our **Tales From The Riverbank** project to give you the opportunity to tell us your stories, re-explore nature and to give you a break from learning restrictions at home.

The project would love to hear from everyone about their childhood stories and experiences of playing along the Trent Valley – the Dove, the Trent and the Tame in East Staffordshire or South Derbyshire – and will also provide a free downloadable resource pack for children to revitalise their lockdown learning. If you regularly visit these rivers still or used to live by them we want to hear from you.

How many of you played in rivers and went home with a soggy bottom? How many of you played pooh sticks, set sail to distant climes or found treasures in the water?

Have you been fishing and caught a whopper? Where did you play? What wildlife did you see?

How different are your memories to that of your family and friends? Can you help the project to showcase how outdoor play has changed over the generations?

Already we have received tales about motorbike mishaps, horseshoes being found in streams and happy canoe trips under bridges. Can you top that?

Please tell us your stories through emailing Nicola.lynes@supportstaffordshire.org.uk, by visiting the Trent Valley website at <https://www.thetrentvalley.org.uk/childhoodmemories.php> or by posting them to Transforming the Trent Valley, 19 Lower Brook Street, Rugeley, WS15 2BZ.

For more information on any of the above, look on our website www.thetrentvalley.org.uk, or you can call us on 07837 127165 for a chat with our Community Engagement Officer.

We look forward to reading about your memories of the riverbank.

The Dog and Partridge



Don't forget that the Dog and Partridge is still open for take-away meals. We are fortunate to have this facility in the village, so check out the take-away menu online at

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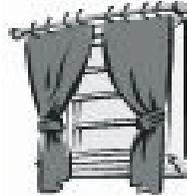


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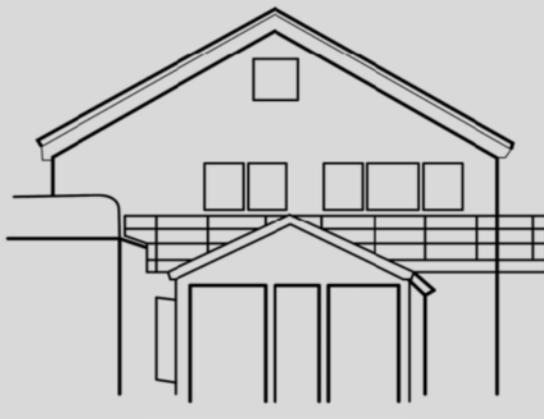
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WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS. WE NO LONGER ACCEPT CHEQUES.

Woodlands WI in February



Well, what a month! Dominated I think by all the snow we have had. Wasn't it great to see the children out and about with their sledges? I think home schooling definitely stopped that day. Luckily the snow didn't last too long on the roads and we could all travel again.

Some of our members have been lucky enough to have the Covid Vaccination in late January and we wish them well. Others I hear are going later in February, so everyone is working hard to get us through these times.

Helen, the President is working hard for us too by sending out quizzes and the answers, thank goodness, writing our monthly newsletter that keeps us all in touch, thank you. Information from the county federation has been sent out about a Watercolour Painting

competition for all budding artists in the WI and there is a monthly free Zoom Craft and Chat session in February where the skill to be learnt is crochet! A Zoom meeting for the Secretary and one for the Treasurer has also been organised in February by the Federation. I understand that for all those interested in flower arranging the very talented Jonathon Mosely is presenting a Zoom session in late March. This has been organised by the Homes and Gardens Committee and is free to members; this is one I shall definitely be signing up for.

Back to the meeting last night when Maggie taxed our brains again with a quiz about National Trust buildings and geography. I don't know where she gets the quizzes from but I wish she'd find easier ones! Perhaps it's just

me with a slow brain but thanks Maggie, you keep the little grey cells ticking.

Next month Woodlands WI is holding their Annual Meeting on Thursday March 11th at 7pm. This will be a Zoom meeting with lots of paperwork and information sent out beforehand and

Helen will be sending out the Zoom invitation to all members in good time.

In the meantime, keep up your spirits and look forward to the warm spring weather when we can get out in our gardens again. Remember the words of Captain Tom 'Tomorrow will be better, we are living in hope.'

Grace Hodges

Marchington Woodlands Village Hall Update



Woodlands Village Hall Committee held its monthly meeting again via Zoom/conference call to keep agenda business moving forward. Unfortunately, with internet performance in the Woodlands being as dire as it is, video conferencing just doesn't work for some residents, including a few of the Committee members.

Upgrading to ultrafast, full-fibre broadband in the Woodlands will make a huge difference to individuals, businesses and the Village Hall too (all being well). Understandably, all of the residents that have registered their interest in the Marchington/Marchington Woodlands Full-Fibre Broadband Scheme now keenly await details of Openreach's proposals.

Technology of course can be a dangerous thing, especially when family members or friends, who are more knowledgeable about applications, set them up on your mobile, tablet, or computer, then leave you on your own to cope with whatever happens the first time you use them. It is definitely advisable to run a test if you can so that you don't chat away for ages on mute or appear as a fluffy, white kitten on that very important Zoom video call. (The US lawyer clip shown on BBC News was very funny.)

Returning to ongoing Village Hall business, it was good to learn that the new entrance door to the porch is going to be fitted in the first week of March. After this, there is a little bit of maintenance work required just in front of the porch and we are looking to refresh the inside of the building with a new coat of paint throughout.

Big thanks are extended to Sophie Clark (Victory Lane Awards) once again, as she is very generously donating a bespoke-design plaque/shield for Woodlands competition winners to go up inside the hall. I think that it will become a focal point when people return. It is fitting that Heidi and Sophie should be the first to have their names displayed.

I mentioned last month that the re-energised Committee has been discussing post-lockdown events, other projects and objectives for the Village Hall in 2021. A date has been pencilled-in for a Woodlands community summer social, which we hope will not be impacted by the government's lockdown exit roadmap. Information is on the way....

Isabel Wilson, our Bookings Secretary will be delighted to talk to you about the Village Hall's facilities, booking process and other hiring information in case you would also like to pencil in a 2021 function date. Isabel's telephone number is 01889 569411.

Last but not least, don't forget our new dedicated website www.mwvh.co.uk and email contact address for the Committee of mwvh@btinternet.com.

Take care.

Karen Perrins



Larry the Cat
@Number10cat

Is there a filter for Zoom that turns cats into lawyers?

11.58 PM - Feb 9, 2021 - Twitter for iPhone

1,506 Retweets 95 Quote Tweets 12.6K Likes

Bring Spring Cheer to the Woodlands Village Hall

Calling any youngsters out there that might have time to do a drawing or painting of something that is associated with springtime.



It would be great to display this artwork in the windows of the Village Hall to add some very welcome colour.

Nothing larger than A4 size, please. Your piece of art can be put into the letter box outside the Village Hall but please do send an email to the Committee at mwvh@btinternet.com to let them know that it is there.

Let's see how much lovely spring cheer you can bring to the Woodlands Village Hall.

Marchington Woodlands 100 Club

Winners in January

1st Sue Bellamy; 2nd May Shaw; 3rd Kath Sargeant; 4th Margaret Burn

St. John's Church Marchington Woodlands



St. John's Contacts

Priest in charge: Rev. Margaret Sherwin Rector Tel: 01889 560234

Licensed Reader: Maggie Hatchard Tel: 01283 820207

Church Wardens:

Graham Salt, Cherry Tree Cottage, Greaves Lane, Draycott in the Clay

Tel: 01283 821587; mobile 07759 238388; gsalt799@btinternet.com

Linda Beech, Cliff Bungalow, Marchington Cliff, Uttoxeter ST14 8ND tel:01283 820209 / 07875516635 beechnuts@hotmail.co.uk

Verger: John Bostock, The School House, Marchington Woodlands tel: 01889 562404

Treasurer: Mike Cleaver, email: macleaver@hotmail.co.uk

PCC members:

John and Pat Bostock, Graham and Pat Salt, Victor Read, Anna Cadamy, Mike Cleaver, Robert Parkes, Linda Beech,

Isabel Wilson: Tel: 01889 569411; email: chrisalwilson@aol.co.uk

<http://www.marchingtonwoodlandschurch.co.uk/> St. Johns website

As we are still in lockdown there are no services planned for March in St John's Church. Last month we thought that we may be able to hold our PCC meeting to approve the accounts prior to holding our annual APCM. These meetings and the revision of the electoral roll would normally be held before Easter but it seems that again this year will be postponed. Aside from the restrictions currently in force, our Priest in Charge, Margaret Sherwin has been injured following a fall and will be out of circulation for some weeks yet. We pray for a full and speedy recovery for her.

Although worship is permitted by law under lockdown rules the PCC felt that following the guidelines to stay home whenever possible should be followed.

On 10th and 24th of March the Church will be open from 12noon until 1pm for anyone to spend a little time in private prayer or to listen to some hymns.

If these times are not convenient for you please call Linda on 01283 820209 or 07875516635 to arrange a time when you can spend some quiet time in the church.

All the COVID-19 safety measures will be followed to ensure safety.

For those of you able to access the internet there is a range of services:-

Zoom services are live, so you need to have the link beforehand but then if you can join in via any smart phone, or with a device with the internet and a camera. The programme is changing to area services for Lent, beginning with the Ash Wednesday Service and continuing on Sunday mornings at 10am (see pages 4, 5 and 32 for details). If you already join, just watch for the links from your usual contact. If you are new to Zoom please contact Maggie Hatchard by email at maggiehatchard@gmail.com if you would like to be included.

Other Zoom services that may be taking place include:

6pm hosted by Uttoxeter (contact lucy.toyn@gmail.com)

7pm hosted by Gratwich, 1st and 4th Sundays (contact revcharles.dale@btinternet.com)

Check for up to date information on the St John's Church website.

www.marchingtonwoodlandchurch.co.uk

By now many people will have had at least their first vaccination. Let us hope that this will soon herald an end to the restrictions and let us get together in the church, the village hall and in one another's homes.

As you ride around the woodlands at the moment, I imagine you feel pretty shaken up. The numbers and size of potholes around the area keep on increasing to the point where it is hazardous not just uncomfortable.

There is a free app called mystaffs which lets you report highways problems. It will accept photos and specific locations. It is also possible to look up our local borough councillor. Ours I believe is Mr Philip Hudson. I guess if things get worse in spite of the app then we should let him know?

I hope as many of you as possible have filled in forms to try to improve the broadband services to the area so that everyone can have the chance to "stay connected". Meanwhile keep being the good neighbours that you always are and look out for one another.

SERVICES DURING MARCH 2021

Services during March will be held on Zoom and shared with other churches in the Uttoxeter Area. Rev Margaret will also provide a regular service on Youtube. See pages 4 and 5 for further details.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Led By</i>
Sunday 7 th March	10.00 am	Rev Margaret Sherwin
Mothering Sunday 14 th March	10.00 am	Rev Margaret Sherwin
Sunday 21 st March	10.00 am	Rev Margaret Sherwin
Palm Sunday 28 th March	10.00 am	Rev Margaret Sherwin
Easter Sunday 4 th April	To be announced	

If you would like to participate in these Zoom services and do not already receive invitations by email, please contact Maggie Hatchard - maggielhatchard@gmail.com - and she will send you a link.