



PARISH NEWS

April 2021

St Peter's Church, Marhington

St John's Church, Marchington Woodlands



WELCOME to the PARISH NEWS for APRIL 2021



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

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

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

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.

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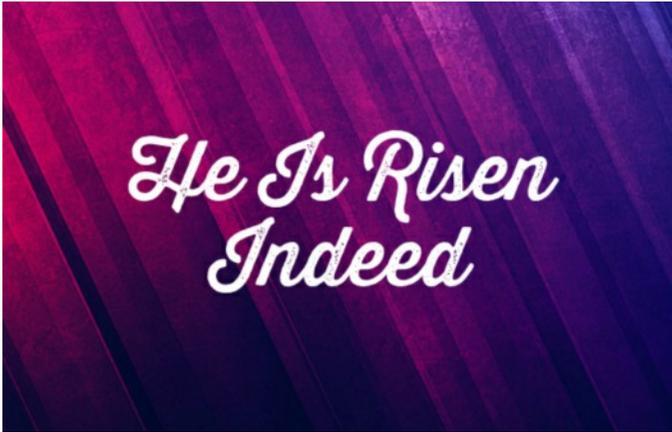
St Peter's Ministry Team: Thelma Brassington, Maggie Hatchard, Fiona Neads, Liz Morgan.

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

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Rev Charles Dale reflects on the tribulations many of us have experienced during the lockdown. These 'wilderness' times will pass, as did the dark, tragic days of Holy Week, which led to something more glorious.

Time seems to have flown by since the last letter I wrote in July last year bang in the middle of Lockdown 2, with the hope of coming through that period and getting back to normal, and here we are in Lockdown 3! I think it is more important than ever to ask of oneself 'how am I really coping and getting on both physically and mentally?' Life certainly isn't the same and we've gone through such a lot of changes since then and we have to get used to the new way of being and doing and adapting to a new norm.

Thankfully for me, what hasn't changed is my faith and trust in God, times of waiting on him and persevering in prayer and praise; enjoying the natural world around me (although Kingstone woods has been a tad muddy over the winter months!) and

the love of my close family. These things comfort my soul. But you might expect that of me! However, I have found these times as challenging as anyone else, with lots of wilderness times.

It has helped for me to reflect on Jesus and of his wilderness experience; of how he felt and what was going through his mind as he negotiated that time in a barren landscape, famished and full of the temptations of earthly life. This, after he had received that wonderful affirmation from God at his baptism as the Spirit descended on him as he came out of the waters to start his earthly ministry. Rather though, the Spirit drove him into the wilderness! I'm sure that experience was not what he was really expecting. Even more so as he entered what we now call

Holy Week and the dark and tragic events that led to his cruel death on the cross. The events of the last twelve months weren't what we were expecting either, with its restrictions and bereavements of all kinds. You may feel you are in a wilderness place as you negotiate the do's and don'ts of Lockdown and the consequences of the pandemic; lamenting the days gone by and of untold personal hardships in your life. What are the things that have kept you going? What brings you comfort?

As well as dry barrenness, wildernesses can though be places of development and growth. Much of the Bible and its times involve desert experiences with times, yes of testing and waiting on the Lord, but also of discovery and blossoming. The people of Israel wandered for 40 formative years, but they eventually crossed over into the Promised Land. Jesus had 40 days of testing and formation after which, as St Luke writes, 'the power of the Holy Spirit was with him', just as he was at the baptism. Jesus was strengthened and enabled for his ministry through these experiences, but throughout often went to out of the way places to pray, to continue to be refreshed by God, his Father.

I take heart in the fact that, for Jesus, the wilderness and the dark tragic time of Holy Week culminated in something more glorious. That glory can be yours too, whatever you have personally lamented in these past times.

Easter is a time when we celebrate Jesus' victory over death, promising new life and hope for those who trust in him.

One of the churches canticles is called 'The Song of the Wilderness'. It's set as an Advent song of praise, but I think is really appropriate for our times and of the promise of hope that is Easter. Its starts like this:

'The wilderness and dry land shall rejoice; the desert shall blossom and burst into song. They shall see the glory of the Lord; the majesty of our God.'

On Easter Day, Mary stood weeping at the tomb, but Mary's tears of sadness soon became tears of joy.



To her was revealed the glory of the risen Lord. Whatever you have lamented and mourned these last twelve months, may your tears of

sadness turn into tears of joy; may you too know the comfort and glory of the risen Lord.

There are better times coming and we will be together again; times when your own wilderness and dry land shall rejoice and your desert blossom and

burst into song. As you journey on may you be comforted and strengthened in the song: 'Alleluia, Christ is risen.' May your response be: 'He is Risen indeed, Alleluia.'

Blessings and peace

Charles

Gordon Marjoram

It is with much sadness that we have to report that Gordon passed away on 12th March. Gordon, aged 78, was a regular member of the congregation at St Peter's, along with his wife Claire. He was also church treasurer for some years, and a valued member of St Peter's PCC. He will be very much missed by the church and the village more generally. We send our sincere condolences to Claire and the family.

St Peter's Church Marchington

In April services in church will recommence, beginning with a service on Easter Sunday, 4th April, at 9.30am. Social distancing and other coronavirus precautions will be in place. Please see the back cover of the magazine for details, and, of course, the all-important duty rota!

There will also be a shared Zoom service for the whole of the Uttoxeter area of parishes every Sunday at 10.00am for you to join if you prefer this. The link on which you click to join the services is the same as we have been using during March. If you have not received an invitation, please contact Maggie Hatchard at maggiehatchard@gmail.com.



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.

PARISH OF ST. PETER'S MARCHINGTON

REVISION OF CHURCH. ELECTORAL ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish will be revised by the Parochial Church Council, beginning Sunday 18th March 2021 and ending on Sunday 11th April. 2021.

After such revision, a copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on reasonable request from Monday 12th April to Sunday 18th April.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if

- I. are baptised aged 16 or over
- II. have signed a form of application for enrolment

and either

- III. are members of the Church of England or any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the Parish or (not being resident in the Parish) having habitually attended public worship during the six months prior to the application for enrolment.

or

- IV. are members in good standing of a church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish. during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Forms of application for enrolment can be obtained from the undersigned in order to be entitled to attend the Annual General Parochial Church Meeting and to take part in its proceedings, forms of application for enrolment must be returned by the date shown above for the ending of the revision of the a electoral roll by the Parochial Church Council.

Any error discovered in the roll should at once be reported to the undersigned

Dated this 6th March 2021

Signed. Ann Husey and the Churchwardens

Address Three Fields, Church Lane, ST14 8 LJ, Lynda Nicholson, Rose Cottage, Church Lane ST14 8LJ, Sandy Halcrow, Coverdale, Allen's Lane , ST14 8 LA

SIMNEL CAKE



Simnel cakes are eaten at Easter, although they used to be associated with Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, as a respite from fasting. Mothering Sunday was originally a date when people went to visit their mother church or cathedral rather than a time for honouring their mothers. However, in the 17th Century the custom of live-in apprentices and domestic servants going home to visit their mothers on Mothering Sunday began, taking food or money if needed.

In its modern form, the simnel cake is a light fruit cake containing a filling and topping of marzipan. On the top are 11 marzipan balls, representing the 11 disciples - note that Judas is excluded! However, it began, in medieval times, as a yeast-leavened bread, both boiled and baked.

There are various explanations for the use of the word ‘simnel’, but the most amusing is this 19th century myth. Supposedly, an honest old couple named Simon and Nell found themselves with a surplus piece of dough at Easter. They argued and fought over what to do with it – Simon wanted to boil it and Nell to bake it. In the end, after allegedly attacking each other with kitchen implements, they compromised and did both so that their invention became known as the cake of Sim-Nel.

By the 17th and 18th centuries simnel had become a pudding batter, not unlike spotted dick. It is only at the end of the 19th century that it became recognisable as a cake, though the marzipan layers and decorations are 20th century inventions.

Simnel Cake - The Recipe

Ingredients

175g / 6oz butter	2 tablespoons milk or sherry
175g / 6oz caster sugar	450g / 1lb mixed dried fruit
3 eggs	50g / 2oz glace cherries, chopped
100g / 4oz plain flour	50g / 2oz candied peel, chopped
100g / 4oz self raising flour	50g / 2oz blanched almonds, chopped
1 teaspoon mixed spice	1kg marzipan
Icing sugar for rolling	1 tablespoon apricot jam

To glaze:- 1 - 2 egg whites

Method

Preheat the oven to 170°C / gas mark 3.

Butter and line a 20cm / 8 inch cake tin with a double layer of baking paper.

Dust a surface with icing sugar and roll just under half the marzipan into a round of about 20cm / 8 inches in diameter.

Cream the butter and sugar together, and gradually beat in the eggs.

Sift the flours and mixed spice together into a separate bowl.

Add one of the eggs to the creamed mixture with 2 tablespoons of the flour.

Beat in the remaining eggs. the rest of the flour and then the milk or sherry.

Add the milk or sherry and the dried fruit, cherries, peel and almonds.

Pour half the cake mixture into the tin, then the round of marzipan, then the rest of the cake mixture. Smooth the surface with a spatula.

Bake for half an hour, then turn the oven down to 150°C / gas mark 2 for 1½ hours or until the cake has risen and is firm on top.

Allow cake to cool a little before removing from the tin and placing on a rack.

Roll out another 20cm / 8 inch round of marzipan, leaving some for decorations later.

Brush the top of the cake with melted apricot jam, then place the round of marzipan on the top.

Lightly beat the egg white you have reserved for glazing and brush the top of the cake with it.

Make 11 balls with the remaining marzipan, place on top of the cake and brush them with more egg white.

Either brown under a very low grill or blowtorch the marzipan to give it a lightly burnished appearance.

'KC' stands for 'Klein Constantia' – Wine Notes



- A panoramic view of the Klein Constantia vineyards -

Perhaps South Africa isn't the first country you'd think of when talking about wine but it's the oldest producer in the 'New World' with a wine heritage going back to the 17th Century.

Originally founded by the Dutch East India Company in 1652, the Cape Colony was a stopping-off point for sailing ships on the long voyage between Europe, India and the spice islands of the East Indies (now Indonesia). Apart from the Dutch, other settlers - notably British and French (especially protestants known as Huguenots) began to arrive. In 1685 the Cape Governor, Simon van der Stel purchased 1,900 acres of land, founding what later became the world-renowned Constantia wine estate. He planted vines and also European oak trees to protect his vineyards from the strong Cape winds.

After his death the estate was split up and part of it was bought by the descendant of a German settler named Hendrik Cloete who was blessed with nine sons; several of whom worked in the business and developed exports to Germany, France and Great Britain. The 'sweet, luscious and excellent wine of Constantia' became world famous and legend has it that Frederick the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles Dickens and Jane Austen enjoyed it.

Sadly, the phylloxera epidemic of the 19th century and the 20th century system of apartheid heavily depressed the South African wine trade. Only when Nelson Mandela walked to freedom in 1990 did sales begin to recover strongly. South Africa is now the source of some of the best quality and value wines available. Klein Constantia is one of South Africa's best wineries and the famous sweet wine of Constantia sells for up to £70 a half litre bottle!

But you don't have to pay that much for a good bottle of wine! KC Cabernet-Merlot or Sauvignon Blanc are both now available from The Village Shop for only £10.99.



Proudly presents...

MUSIC AND DINE

We're
Back!

DOORS OPEN AT 4PM

SOLD
OUT!

SUNDAY MAY 23, 2021
HATFIELD & BUCK

Rescheduled November 2020 gig.
Existing ticketholders only!

NEW!

SUNDAY JUNE 6, 2021
THE SILICONE TAXIS

Tickets £10 in advance.
Includes Sunday lunch!

ONLY 25
PLACES
LEFT!

SUNDAY JUNE 13, 2021
THE FOSTERS BROTHERS

Tickets £15 in advance.
*Ticket holders from previously
cancelled event still valid.*
Includes Sunday lunch!

*Due to social distancing and covid restrictions these
events are limited to around 35-40 people only!*

PLEASE NOTE THAT TICKETS
WILL NOT BE ISSUED FOR THESE
EVENTS. PLEASE ORDER VIA
TELEPHONE OR DROP BY AND
PAY TO SECURE YOUR SEATS!

BOOK TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT 01283 820394
CHURCH LANE, MARCHINGTON, UTTOXETER, STAFFORDSHIRE ST14 8LJ

MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report – April 2021

Spring is in the air with the sounds of birds and now lawnmowers. The return of children to school in March was the first step towards some degree of normality but 12th April is the date we look forward to when the next significant step is planned with shops, hairdressers and beer gardens reopening.

Parish Council meetings continue each month via Zoom with a full varied agenda and which residents are welcome to join.

Children's Playground Equipment at Forestside and Silver Lane

An emergency repair was carried out recently to the multiplay equipment at Silver Lane after defects became apparent in the monthly check. Quotes have also been obtained for other maintenance repairs of children's playground equipment at Silver lane and Forestside with works to be carried out as soon as possible. It is appreciated that during these trying times our outside accessible places are essential for both the wellbeing of adults and children.

Green Lane

Following a request by the Parish Council, Staffordshire County Council is to install 10 marker posts at the edge of the brook to ensure the edge of the road is discernible at times of flooding in Green Lane where the limestone cobble re-enforcement of the brook bank has been put in place. The "Friends of Marchington Group" has also continued planting trees at the side of the road down Green Lane.

Community Orchard

Following the award of a "Doing Our Bit" grant by Staffordshire County Council, a quiet contemplative reflective area is being created in the Community Orchard adjacent to the brook. Quotes are being sought for benches to put in this area. Some 25 Sorbus trees and 30 Dogwood bushes provided by ESBC, have already been planted in the Community Orchard and other areas around the village.

Marchington has now been awarded a "Transforming the Trent Valley Community" grant to be spent on 14 Alder trees in the Community Orchard to

stabilise the brook bank together with a living willow arbour as a learning location for young people.

Silver Lane Playing Field

Marchington has also been awarded a grant from the Staffordshire County Council Climate Change Fund to spend on additional trees at the edge of the playing field adjacent to the brook to perhaps help alleviate some of the flooding risk.

Picnic Areas

The Parish Council is considering making a picnic area at the edge of the Cricket Field between the poplar trees and the brook, now that it has been cleared and would very much like to hear from residents with ideas of layout and type of benches etc. Please send your ideas and thoughts this month to the Parish Clerk at marchingtonpc@gmail.com

Additional picnic tables and benches could also be included on the other side of the brook at the edge of the Silver Lane Playing field. What would residents like to see at the edge of the Cricket Field, Silver Lane Playing Field and Community Orchard?

Potholes

Potholes are still a feature of our local roads and the Parish Clerk is on the case reporting and pursuing Staffordshire County Council to carry out repairs.

Dog Walkers

Please pick up after your dogs. This is even more important currently with so many residents taking their daily exercise around the village. Dog excrement has even been reported recently in the Children's Play Area.

Support Our Local Pubs

It is hoped under the current Government Roadmap that we will be able to enjoy a drink in the beer gardens of our local pubs from 12th April. In the mean' time the Dog and Partridge is serving regular takeaway meals and the Bulls Head has occasional pop-up takeaway pizza nights. Please support our local pubs. If we do not use them, we may lose them. *[The latest news about the Dog and Partridge is on pages 10 and 23 - Ed.]*

Andrew C Mann



Following the release of the proposed roadmap out of lockdown, we are very excited about the prospect of a full cricket season ahead of us. Plans are currently being finalised for the start of the season and we are very grateful that cricket is likely to return as planned in April. All being well, our 1st team will start the season away at Alvaston and Boulton on Saturday 17th April. On the same day, our 2nd team are due to be at home against Burton.

We are currently awaiting the publication of our junior fixtures. In the absence of winter training, our juniors have been taking part in an online programme. We are very thankful to our coaches who have generously given their time to keep cricket at the forefront of people's minds.

The club recently took part in #WorldWildlifeDay in association with the World Wildlife Federation and Voice for the Planet. This initiative required us to remove the horse from our logo for a day to highlight the risk that nature loss presents to our planet.

To find out more, please visit: panda.org/voice. #WorldWithoutNature

James Burton



Tanners and Bobs - by David Wood

*Back in the days of tanners and bobs
When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs
When football team families wore hand me down shoes
And TV gave only two channels to choose
Back in the days of threepenny bits
When schools employed nurses to search for your nits
When snowballs were harmless, ice slides were permitted
And all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted
Back in the days of hot ginger beers
When children remained so, for more than six years
When children respected what older folks said
And pot was a thing you kept under your bed
Back in the days of Listen with Mother
When neighbours were friendly and talked to each other
When cars were so rare you could play in the street
When Doctors made house calls, Police walked the beat
Back in the days of Milligan's Goons
When butter was butter and songs all had tunes
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea
And your annual break was a day by the sea
Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green
Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream
When children could freely wear National Health glasses
And teachers all stood at the front of their classes
Back in the days of rocking and reeling
When mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling
When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools
And everyone dreamed of a win on the pools
Back in the days when I was a lad
I can't help but smile for the fun that I had
Hopscotch and roller skates, snowballs to lob
Back in the days of tanners and bobs.*

*Used by permission of the publisher, Village Memories web site
<https://villagememories.wordpress.com/>*

Marchington Village Hall News - April 2021



Open house – no I'm not joking this time

The natural next step to the ongoing saga about the removal of the village hall doors would be to hold an 'open day'. Except that I'm not joking this time – we really are going to have an open day, to which all are welcome, to celebrate our reopening.

As the four step plan currently stands (early March), we are permitted to reopen in a very limited way on Monday 12 April. However in practical terms, we will not be able to do much until after 17 May and then with full freedom from restrictions after 21 June, at the earliest. If all that goes according to plan, we may all feel confident about socialising and rush back into our normal, pre-Covid social whirl.

However, we all recognise that people are nervous about meeting indoors; we haven't done so as a committee since early Autumn and even then we sat so far apart that no one could hear what anyone was saying.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) will be held on Zoom on Thursday 20 May at 2pm. If you would like to attend, please email geraldineflavell1@gmail.com for an invitation link or for help with alternative access.

Gradually, with a fair wind and a vaccinated population, we will get used to meeting people again.

To help ease us all back in to socialising, we thought it would be good to put a date in the diaries for Friday 9 July for an open day, from 2-5 pm to welcome everybody to come

and meet old and new friends. We will be serving refreshments so you can sit down and chat inside or outside, depending on the weather.

Come and see Marchington Village Hall!
Meet your friends!
Sit down at tables together!
Talk to people!
Eat cake!
Leave your mask at home!
Open day, Friday 9 July, 2-5pm

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

Geraldine Flavell



MARCHINGTON SHOP
~ FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY ~

www.marchingtonshop.co.uk **phone 821248**

Convenience foods, snacks, sweets and drinks, pastries, good range of biscuits and cakes, local eggs and honey, vegetables
Locally baked fresh bread, unique range of cards for all occasions

Dry cleaning and minor clothing repair service, logs and kindling
PLUS a great selection of wines from around the world
Mon-Thu 8.30 to 5pm, Fri to 5.30pm, Sat 9-12, Sun 9.00-11.15

FRESH – LOCAL – CONVENIENT

MARCHINGTON VILLAGE SHOP



Happy Easter from the Shop!

And our Easter opening hours will be:

Good Friday 2nd April 9am to 11am

Easter Saturday 9am to 12 noon

Easter Sunday 9am to 10.30am

Easter Monday 5th April 9am to 11am

Ellie Geofferson is a new face behind the counter for some of you. Ellie's regular shifts are Thursday mornings and Sunday mornings.

Ellie's big news is that she has decided to do a Skydiving jump in August to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. In Ellie's own words:

Hello, I am Ellie!

I am a 22-year-old who has willingly decided to jump out of a plane...with someone else of course! On Sunday the 8th of August 2021 I will be doing a skydive raising money for The Alzheimer's Society, a charity I hold very close to my heart. This skydive is in memory of my wonderful nan, Margaret Wolfe.

In 2019 I lost someone who was incredibly important in my life. Someone who was not only my nan but someone who I looked up to. She did not just inspire me to be my best, but she inspired a lot of people around her.

Not know what Alzheimer's does? It's an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks.

Nan suffered from Alzheimer's (a common cause of Dementia) for a few years. At the time I didn't really know that it was dementia, I just started noticing little things that she was doing differently. Sadly, as time went on it got a lot worse to the point where Nan really struggled with her short-term memory and processing. Especially for her grandchildren, like myself, it was hard to see someone's life be controlled by something that she could not help.

Nan was the most outgoing and sociable person I knew. She was an incredible seamstress and made countless dresses including my cousins Sarah's wedding dress, which was beautiful. She was always busy socialising at the Golf Club, Supper Club or Church. She was a massive family person and always loved spending time with the whole family at Christmas or at our annual holiday to The Cottages.

Because she made a huge impact on my life, I want to show my appreciation by doing as much as I can to give back and help support a charity I feel is doing something beneficial.

The money that I raise will be going towards three different things: Research into Dementia care (cause and prevention), Care and support to people with dementia and their families and lastly, campaigning.

Ellie xxx

If you would like to sponsor Ellie, she has a JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ellie-geofferson> and there will be a collection box in the shop too. Let's see how much she can raise for this excellent cause!

Liz Morgan, Chair, Marchington Community Shop

Marchington Nature Notes

The bird song we hear, especially in the morning, is an indicator that spring has finally arrived. Whilst we humans declare our news via the internet, our feathered friends announce their own “Twitter” from the trees and rooftops. The repertoire from such small creatures never ceases to amaze.

Have you noticed how male birds suddenly start to look vibrant?

Last years summer moult lead to the growth of rather dull feathers. This helped the birds become less conspicuous, and therefore less vulnerable to predators. So they didn't have to go through another moult, which is costly in vital energy,



abrasion on these feathers during the winter reveals brighter plumage, making them more attractive to females. Although our native birds are no match for anything found in the tropics, plucky resourceful Blue tits, become embellished with sky blue plumage and Long tail tits, entertainment on wings, look as though they have raided Boots the Chemist, for pots of No 7 blusher.

Tip for birders

Fat ball dispensers are great for filling with fragments of wool, fluff, hair etc. Birds collect it and line their nests.

The Friends of Marchington, a resourceful lot, have been out again, clearing the verges on Silver Lane (ready for planting bulbs this autumn), and litter picking, a rather grisly job, but done with gusto and without complaint.

Cricket Ground

After hours of hard graft clearing undergrowth, having bonfires and erecting fences, the cricket ground boundary, is now finished. The fencing looks super and is complete with stiles and a gate for ball retrieving.



A natural hedge has been planted alongside it. The young whips include, blackthorn, spindle, elder and hazel and hawthorn. Creating a wildlife conduit. Hawthorn is renowned for easing intense summer rainfalls and reduces localised flooding. Habitats have been created with piles of logs and Rowan trees have been planted in the corners.

This will become another area for an increased connection and appreciation of nature.

Thank you again F of M. Your dedication continues to raise our spirits.



Community orchard

We have had another visit from the characterful fruit tree expert, Jeff Bates. He showed a small group of enthusiasts how to prune trees. We all returned home, having gleaned some understanding of the mysteries of fruit tree pruning, as Jeff is very generous in sharing his wonderful knowledge.

BBC's Plant Britain's goal of planting 750,000 trees, has now acquired 40 trees planted in and around Marchington.

Thank you to all who have taken part.

Suggested read for children.

Bird books by Matt Sewell.

An artist and avid ornithologist. He paints endearing images of British birds and his writing is funny and informative.

Janey Hilton

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN APRIL

April is the month when Spring gets into it's stride. Here are just a few things to concentrate on.

FLOWERING PLANTS

Work slow release fertiliser into the soil surrounding your trees, shrubs and hedges. Alternatively use home made compost or manure to enrich your soil.

Slugs are active in April. Protect tender young leaves of plants such as delphiniums or hostas. You can buy and use nematode worms as an effective organic control. Organic methods of control are the best, as it is not a good idea for toxic chemicals to get into the water system. Try making collars covered in gravel to deter slugs getting close to the plants. Alternatively, make homemade traps with sugary fluids in jam jars dug into the ground or smashed egg shells around the plant base. Slug pellets should be used sparingly and only as a last resort.

VEGETABLES and GREENHOUSE

The soil will be cold after Winter rain and frost. Delay sowing seeds outside until you see weeds and grass growing strongly. A use for weeds at last!!!!

Keep on top of emerging weeds and remove any rogue potatoes from the ground that did not get harvested last year.

Ventilate your greenhouse on warm days. If you sow undercover indoors or in the greenhouse, 'damping off' can be an issue for young seedlings. Sowing seeds too close together and given too much water can lead to fungal growth which is detrimental to seedling development.

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



FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES

Spring fruit blossom is attractive, but late Spring frosts can clear a tree of it's

blossom in one night. Consequently, your fruit harvest could be minimal in the Autumn. Try to protect the blossom if frost is forecast. Fleece can help when spread over small or wall trained fruit trees. Remove fleece during daylight hours to allow pollination to take place.

If you buy young fruit trees, remove most of the blossom. Young trees need to concentrate on root production in

the first year after planting, not fruit production.

Minimise weed growth around the base of fruit trees by mulching or using circles of synthetic weed suppressant, which should be pinned down. Add bark chippings on top of the material to make it look more attractive.

Watch out for pests on fruit trees and bushes and take appropriate action.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY GARDENING.
NICK ADAMSON



The Dog and Partridge



Subject to any more Covid set backs we can announce we will be going ahead and opening in a garden/outside capacity from Monday April 12th.

We are proposing opening the outside area to coincide with our current takeaway operation where takeaway food will continue to be readily available, but if the weather is pleasant and you wish to eat outside on the patio that too will be available. We have a smaller Marquee to erect that will cover a few tables should the weather decide to be adverse.

Proposed opening hours from April 12th until 17th May:-

WEDNESDAYS/THURSDAYS 6pm-10.30 pm

FRIDAYS 5 PM- 10.30 PM

SATURDAYS 12 NOON-3PM 6PM-11PM

SUNDAYS 12 NOON-6PM

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

Wednesday to Fridays 6.00 - 9.00pm

Fridays 5.00 - 10.30pm

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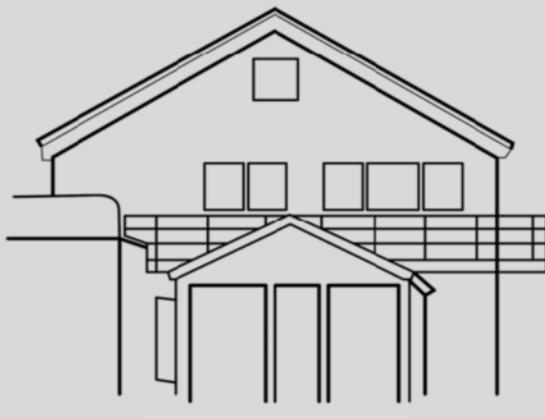
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Annual Meeting Time for Woodlands WI

March is the usual month that Woodlands WI holds its Annual meeting to vote in the Committee and President.

A slight problem existed this year as due to Covid restrictions we weren't able to meet in person.

What could we do?

Luckily there is always a plan for the WI and National WI has been updating its Charity Regulations and the WI Constitution.

So this year we did it using modern technology and we made sure every member was able to access all the documents and had the opportunity to vote, an important part of democracy of the WI.

The actual meeting was held using Zoom, all the reports read, the Financial Statement, the Committee report, the Presidents report, all voted for by members in the Zoom meeting and through emails. The existing Committee were nominated and voted for en bloc- thank goodness for that, everyone was happy to be stay on the committee. Helen was nominated for

President and voted in Unanimously, she has done an amazing job this year.

Helen reminded us of what had actually happened in Woodlands WI this year. The meetings and activies were certainly restricted due to the Lockdowns but we had a Garden Party in August, pots of spring bulbs



distributed, handmade Christmas cards and Birthday cards to each member, regular phone calls from Helen, a monthly email with a quiz and lots of local and Federation news and the Zoom monthly meetings that we are now getting used to.

We also remembered Jenny Speed who died recently, she was a valued member for several years, a renowned shortbread maker, exponent of flower arranging and good friend to everyone

at Woodlands WI. We will all miss her smile and presence at our meetings.

It seems though we might possibly, possibly be able to tentatively make plans for this coming year.

So the Committee have put together a proposed programme for the monthly meetings, for starters we are hoping to visit Elford Gardens, have another successful Garden party outdoors, make Christmas displays, find out about Willow Weaving and garden planters.

So it seemed an opportune moment for the Treasurer to remind us the Subs were due on April 1st and she would be sending a notice out to everyone. Looking at the programme I don't think there will be any doubt of people not re-joining as we get so much for our money and those famous refreshments and friendship at every meeting.

All the members of Woodlands WI wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to meeting up at the next Zoom meeting on April 9th.

Grace Hodges

Marchington Woodlands Village Hall Update



For the first time since the Village Hall had to close last March, things feel more positive now that we are on a steady roadmap out of lockdown restrictions and the Covid-19 vaccine rollout is moving on at pace. The Village Hall Committee is bold enough to be planning and putting events in the calendar for the second half of 2021.

Parishioners are asked to keep Saturday, 14 August free if they can, for an evening function that involves music, food, dancing, a few bevies and having fun. The finer details of this Woodlands night out are still being finalised.

No Woodlands Village Hall calendar would be complete without the traditional Bonfire Night celebration. Since last year's event couldn't take place, the challenge for the Committee is to make 5th November 2021 an occasion to remember, remember.

There has been progress with some of the Village Hall projects since last month. The new porch door has been fitted, ramps are positioned inside the French doors (thank you, Mr Chairman) and the decorating is well under way. When the time comes to reopen, the hall will have a nice, fresh look.

This is a good point to thank George (age 7) from the Woodlands, too, for his spring/Easter picture that is going up in the Village Hall window. The colours are bright and full of cheer. Just what the doctor ordered.

As things stand at the moment, the Village Hall's roadmap is a little involved. 12 April is the earliest that the facility can open but only for exceptional indoor events, including the local elections on 6 May. Limited mixing will be allowed again indoors from no earlier than 17 May. The key step is when the government lifts lockdown restrictions, which is hopefully 21 June. We are all looking forward to that day, when it comes.

If you are also feeling more optimistic and thinking about socialising with family, friends and neighbours again, why not take a look at the Village Hall's website (www.mwvh.co.uk) to see if the hall could be the venue for your 2021 function? Isabel Wilson, the hall's Booking Secretary, will be happy to have a chat with you about the facilities available and how to hire. Isabel's telephone number is 01889 569411.

Please do get in touch with your ideas and suggestions for future community events, activities or services at the Village Hall. The Committee is always keen to hear from you. (Contact email address mwvh@btinternet.com)

Take care. We are nearly there.

And don't forget - 14 August and 5 November.....

Karen Perrins

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

At last some dry weather some sunshine AND some good news.

**We shall have a communion service on
4th April, Easter Sunday, in the afternoon at 4pm.**

**Cleaning and decorating the church will be on
Saturday 3rd from 2-4pm**

**We shall also have services on Sunday 11th at 4pm – Evening Prayer
And on Sunday 25th at 9.30am - Holy Communion
Please let Linda or Graham know if you are coming
if possible, thanks.**

Please call Linda on 01283 820209 or 07875516635 to arrange a time when you can spend some quiet time in the church if you are not yet ready to come to services. Also, if you would like to do flowers or readings for any of the services.

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

For those of you able to access the internet there are also services on Zoom. These services are live, so you need to have the link beforehand, but then you can join in via any smart phone, or with a device with the internet and a camera. There will be a shared Zoom service for the whole of the Uttoxeter area of parishes every Sunday at 10.00am for you to join if you prefer this. The link on which you click to join the services is the same as we have been using during March. If you have not received an invitation, please contact Maggie Hatchard at maggiehatchard@gmail.com.

It was not possible to hold our pre-AGM meeting in February but it will now take place in March after the deadline for the magazine. There will be an AGM at a date to be confirmed in April or May and a revision of the electoral roll will be done and completed 2 weeks prior to the meeting. The statutory notices will be displayed on the church notice board. If you wish to be informed of the date of the AGM please contact Linda and give her your contact details. Anyone already on the church electoral roll or added before the completion of the revision is entitled to vote at the AGM. Church electoral roll forms are available from Linda Beech.

Happy Easter to you all. Hope spring and new beginnings heralds more freedom and safety within our community. Stay safe and well.

Marchington Woodlands 100 Club

Winners in February

1st Gail Birkin 2nd Gabriella Camp 3rd Geraldine Gadsby 4th Jean Smith

ST PETER'S CHURCH MARCHINGTON - SERVICES DURING APRIL 2021

	Sidesperson	Readers	Intercessions	Flowers
4 th April - Easter Sunday 9.30am Communion	Tim Scott	Tony Butler Liz Morgan	Liz Morgan	Joyce Halcrow
Sunday 11 th April 9.30am Morning Worship	Kath Wood	Tim Scott Pat Wilson	Wendy Scott	Lynda Nicholson
Sunday 18 th April 9.30am Communion		Amanda Shaw Gill Williamson	Thelma Brassington	Thelma Brassington
Sunday 25 th April 9.30am Morning Worship	Valerie Whitehead	Ian Jones Rhoda Castle	Fiona Neads	Grace Hodges

If you are unable to carry out your duty, please find a replacement and inform the church wardens.

Services via Zoom are also available - please see page 5 for details.