

PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2022

St Peter's Church, Marchington
St John's Church, Marchington Woodlands



WELCOME to the PARISH NEWS for MARCH 2022

Desktop Publishing: Rhoda Castle
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Please be in touch with any news, articles or updates on your club or organisation by email to Rhoda. No more than 425 words in length, please. Advertisements, both for businesses and for village events, should also be sent to Rhoda. These will attract a small charge. A special deal for repeat adverts by businesses is available: details available on request.

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 Primary Distributor, Claire Marjoram (01283 820349). Newcomers to the village are welcome to have a complimentary copy, so if someone has moved in near to you please let Claire know.

There is an annual subscription rate of £9.00 for a paper copy of the magazine delivered to your door. This covers the period from July up to and including the following June.

The online edition of the magazine is freely available on our website <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net>. Previous issues of the magazine are available online at <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net/archive>



**Yes, I have given up chocolate for Lent-
all this is for afterwards!**

Planning for the future

Rev Joe Cant describes the brave decision made by a community many years ago, and reminds us that it is local people who will determine what 'church' looks like in the future and who have the power to ensure a community of faith exists in our villages for generations to come.



Hello,

I was born and brought up on the east Suffolk coast, in a village called Kessingland, nestled anonymously between Lowestoft and Southwold, in turn the most deprived and most affluent towns in the county. One of the features of that coastline is that it is changing shape over time, sometimes dramatically overnight during a storm, sometimes almost imperceptibly at each high tide. One of our traditions as teenagers was to race down to the sea at midnight on New Year's Eve to greet the waves in the way that hopefully only teenagers do. The distance was anything between 10 metres and 0 metres, as the waves crashed up against the sea wall

at high tide. My brothers and I did it again in our early 30s and only one of us made it without stopping, as the sea was now 100 metres further out, as the sand washed up from down the coast had built up against the groynes.

A few miles walk along the beach is a village called Cove Hithe. In 1672 the parishioners decided that they could no longer afford to maintain the 14th century church building and so got permission to re-use the stone to build a smaller chapel within the old walls. I didn't realise this until last week when I watched a programme called *Kate Humble's Coastal Britain* on My5. To be honest I hadn't given it much thought at the time and just

assumed that the building had collapsed over the years and something smaller built inside. But no, the parishioners (and by that it may only have been the few who probably attended) made an active choice to change what they saw as church.

Today, 340 years later, the church still has a service every week, served by a House for Duty priest who has three other churches. She will retire in December and what will happen then is unknown. The Churches Conservation Trust own the ruins and the Tower, so it is only the small nave chapel which is owned by the Diocese. People gather from up to 25 miles away to keep worship alive.

In 2022, St. Andrew's, Cove Hithe faces an even greater threat to its existence than affordability. The sea is encroaching at a rate of 3 metres every year and the church sits just 100 metres from the cliff. The path I walked along as a youth has been washed away. What will the churchgoers do once the actual building no longer exists? Will the gathered church gather at another church nearby, or individuals go to their local church? Will that particular church community still choose to worship together as a house church? What will 'church' be in 30 years' time when the stones and mortar have washed up onto Kessingland beach?

What inspires me about this story is that 340 years ago churchgoers made an active decision to remain 'church'. They made a

realistic decision about what they could afford and used what they had (the larger building) to make something new.

We are facing questions about our existence today, partly because of COVID but also because of a fall in church attendance over many decades and overly ambitious church building over several centuries.

What decision will we make as individuals, as individual churches and as an Area? How can we try and ensure a community of faith exists in our villages in 340 years' time, due to decisions we make over the next few years? How will the people ensure that 'church' remains where they live? Because in the end it is the people, not the Church of England governing bodies who will be church. Priests come and go, as do bishops, but in the apocalypse, when Synods and diocese no longer exist, it is the people on the ground who will have power – if they have the courage – to be a community of faith.

This is not a letter championing the closure of churches. Indeed, that is not what happened in Cove Hithe. This is a letter championing brave decisions, imaginative and realistic thinking and local people making local decisions both for themselves and for generations to come.

Peace and prayers, Joe

Rev Joe Cant, Team Vicar UAP.

CHURCH EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE!

A BIG LUNCH - June 5th

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, hosted by St Peter's Church. This will take place all along the church path. At least 100 people can be accommodated. More details later.



ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 2ND AT 7.30PM AT STRAMSHALL CHURCH



An area service to acknowledge the start of Lent. All welcome

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE KINGSTONE VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY 5TH MARCH

All Area church members, PCCs and Church leaders are invited to the next Area Away Day. It's Jubilee Year, and there is a Biblical as well as a national opportunity to celebrate and plan anew. Discussion, prayer and planning for the Area Mission Action Plan (MAP) for 5 years ahead, 3 years ahead and 1 year too. Bacon butties from 9.30am, with an act of worship at 10am. Bring your own packed lunch, hot drinks will be available. Finish by 3.30pm.



Church Events continued on page 6

MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 27TH.2022 - 10.00AM

St Peter's Church Marchington invites you all to an all ages Mothering Sunday service. Come along and receive a special gift to take away with you.



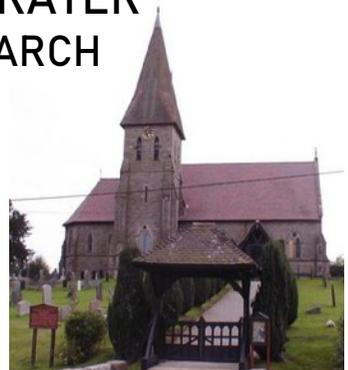
AN EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA ST PETER'S CHURCH ON 3RD APRIL AT 3PM



An afternoon of activities, crafts and worship for people of all ages. All are welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 4.00PM ON 4TH MARCH

This will be at Kingstone Church,



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 on **Sunday 13th March 2022**, and ending on **Tuesday 5th April 2022**.

After such revision, a copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on reasonable request from **Thursday 7th April to Sunday 17th April 2022**.

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

- i. are baptised and 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 in the parish during the six month period 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 church wardens, who should be contacted **before 5th April**. In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, forms of application for enrolment **must be returned by Tuesday 5th April 2022** for the ending of the revision of the Electoral Roll by the Parochial Church Council.

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

Signed: Mrs L. Nicholson. 821374. Mr. S Halcrow. 820346
Church Wardens

Dated this 15th day of February 2022

MARCHINGTON ST PETER'S CHURCH
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETINGS OF PARISHIONERS TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 21st APRIL 2022 IN THE WILFRED APPLEBY VESTRY,
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

AGENDA

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

1. Election of Churchwardens
Mrs. Lynda Nicholson & Mr. Sandy Halcrow offer themselves for re-election.
2. Election of Deputy Church Wardens
(Nominations welcome for both churchwardens and deputy churchwardens positions. - please note that you must complete a nomination form (available from the PCC Secretary, Kate Hart) & obtain the written consent to be nominated from any person you may wish to nominate)

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of Last Meeting.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Confirmation of new Electoral Roll
4. Elections - Parochial Church Council.
 - Sides Persons
 - Deanery Synod Representatives
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Annual Accounts
8. Any Other Business of which due notice (not less than 14 days) has been given to the Secretary.

NB. The meeting will be followed by an informal supper. Attendees requested to bring a plate of food, which will be pooled. Wine & coffee will be available.

Kate Hart
PCC Secretary

Are you good with figures?

St. Peter's Church Marchington PCC are looking for a volunteer Treasurer with a background in money management. This would be to work initially alongside our Acting Treasurer with a view to training for the position of PCC Treasurer later.

For more details, ring Thelma Brassington

Mobile 07477 667970 - preferably 9.00am to 4.00pm

St Peter's 50/50 Club

We are considering holding a **50/50 club** in aid of Church funds starting after Easter 2022. The cost of this will be £5.00 per month and prizes will be drawn 4 times a year.

Anyone interested in joining in please reply by the 31st March 2022 at the latest, please reply to thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk or maggiehatchard@gmail.com for further details and to register.

St Peter's Contacts

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

Team Vicar for Marchington & Marchington Woodlands: Rev. Jules Walker

Licensed Reader: Maggie Hatchard, 1 Church Close, Marchington 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

John Landells

Judy, Jonathan, Lisa, Jessica and Aaron thank our friends and neighbours for supporting us with the passing of John. Also for your kind donations to the Stroke Association.

We miss him so much but time is a great healer.

Alfred John Talbot

Carole and Catherine would like to say thank you for the many cards and messages received following their bereavement. But also thank you for your generous donations to St Giles. We also want to thank you all for attending the funeral, both standing outside and inside the church. It really meant a lot to us with all the support shown.

A Tribute to Alf Talbot

We'd like to add our own tribute to Alf after the years he sorted and delivered the papers with us, and for the paper boys. For many years previously he had delivered papers for Derek at the village shop. The arrival of the papers each morning was unreliable. Sometimes as early as 3.30am, sometimes as late as 9.00am. Alf was always with us at 4.00am each morning. He never let us down. A steaming mug of tea - or two - was waiting for him. He knew all the names and addresses, and so was a huge help to us. He and Terry would set off each morning, in all weathers, to deliver the correct papers to the correct houses.

We never really knew all our customers in the Woodlands. Alf made that his own business and would arrive back on Sunday morning with a large pouch full of money from the Woodlands.

We really missed Alf when our Post Office and shop closed. He always stopped at the bottom of our drive with all the news of the village when we no longer saw many of our customers.

We'd also like to pay a tribute to Jack, his father, who helped to deliver some papers until he was over 90, and too ill to do so. It was Terry who found Jack, collapsed in the road, with papers spread all around him. When he finally came round, he insisted on Terry taking him to deliver the last few papers, near to where he lived.

Two memorable men. Both greatly missed.

Terry and Jo Perry



St Peter's Edward Bear Club

For children aged 0 to 3 years and their parents or carers. The club is not currently meeting, but we look forward to resuming sessions as soon as we judge that it is safe to do so. Anyone interested please contact Thelma by email.

Thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk

07477 667970

MOBILE LIBRARY



Are you taking advantage of this excellent service which is available to us in Marchington? The mobile library is outside Marchington Village Hall fortnightly between 2.15 and 3.15pm. The dates for March are Thursday 3rd, Thursday 17th and Thursday 31st. Mask wearing is still requested on the bus.

If you value this service, it is important to show the County Council that there is a demand for it. You can find further information at the following web site: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/mobilelibraries/mobile2/routes/route04.aspx>

Thanks to Shirley McCoy for reminding us about this.

MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another month has passed and spring is nearly here. Here are some updates from me:

The flood at Birch Cross was finally fixed. It turned out to be a leaking water pipe and was eventually rectified by South Staffs Water.

As reported last month, we have problems with the Cricket Club drains and have needed to do extensive repairs. This work began on February 7th and by the time you read this all will be ready in time for the start of the season. This repair has been done with robustness in mind, i.e. full replacement of pipework and new manholes, so it should last a long time.

Take up for the Fibre Broadband voucher scheme is gathering pace, following a public meeting in Marchington Village Hall on February 7th. Over 60 people came to learn about the project and many participated. I'm very hopeful we will have enhanced broadband available in most of our Parish during 2023 (see separate article in this magazine if you wish to register).

On flooding, there was a useful meeting on February 9th with the Environment Agency and it looks like some capital works will be underway by June, which should improve the situation. We are also trying again to engage with Severn Trent Water about improving the operation of the pumping station off Church Lane.

Over the past few years we have been able to progress a number of capital projects using monies given to the Parish from the Solar Farm companies. They are, or will be:

1. Purchase of picnic tables made from recycled plastic for Silver Lane playing fields, and wooden picnic tables for the brook side of the Cricket Club.
2. Purchase of three maps and display stands, one for each of Marchington Woodlands, Forestside and Marchington village. These will be produced to show footpaths and points of interest.
3. The construction of a footbridge from the Silver Lane playing field across the brook to the Cricket Club. More work is needed to begin construction but this will give useful access between the two areas of Parish-owned land.

With regard to marking this summer's Platinum Jubilee, the Parish Council has established a fund, which parishioners can apply for, to encourage celebrations over the long weekend of 2nd to 5th June. It should be a great time for all, so please

send in applications to our Parish Clerk, Becci Ede, by email to marchingtonpc@gmail.com.

Finally, whilst so many are giving up their time to collect litter, there are those who are still adding to the problem, particularly on Hound Hill. Somebody has been dumping boxes of used Carling lager tins along the road. I don't believe it is residents, but there are more people using the village roads as a 'rat run'. If you see anyone dumping items along the roads, please report number plates to Becci, email as above. We've already alerted police to the problem. There has also been an incident of a large amount of woodchippings having been deposited at the side of the road in the Woodlands. This too has been reported.

All for now, but there is a lot going on this year.

Stay safe.

Ian Morgan, Chair, Marchington Parish Council

THE MARCHINGTON SINGERS' SPRING CONCERT

April 9th 2022

We are delighted to say that we are able to mount a Spring Concert this year! The venue is St Mary's Church, Uttoxeter, and we are rehearsing some cheerful spring-like music so we can say good-bye to what has been a pretty miserable couple of years and a rather damp (as yet) early spring. Our programme will consist of uplifting themes: well-loved classic pieces by Verdi and Fauré, as well as modern composers Karl Jenkins and Bob Chilcott - a gentle Irish folk song and a rousing Yankee Hoe-Down! Contact Tim Scott on 01889 563570 for tickets at £12 (but £10 if purchased before 19th March).

JOIN US!

The Marchington Singers is a very friendly group of people who just love to sing! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at Marchington Village Hall. We perform a wide a variety of music in venues round the area, and would welcome singers in all parts: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Come along to meet us at a rehearsal (7.30pm Wednesdays at Marchington Village Hall) or contact Wendy Scott on 01889 563570. We are currently running a £500 Bursary Scheme For Young Singers! So if you - or someone you know - could benefit from this please visit our website www.marchingtonsingers.org for more information.

Marchington Village Hall News

March 2022

Although not quite back to pre-pandemic levels, our future bookings are already looking quite healthy. We've got a few training days booked in, largely from businesses who appreciate our wifi. And the children's parties keep on coming - do you think they are after the wifi too?! Although we already have a supplier, we are certainly interested in the plans from Openreach and hosted a meeting on 7 February for people in the village and its surrounds. Let's hope we get to a stage where our villages can rival internet speeds found in towns and cities.

Sue Willmot's plans for the Craft Fair on the Festival weekend (18-19 June) look very exciting. She has sold out of table space and is holding a waiting list of crafters desperate to show their stuff in front of the hundreds of people who will be around that weekend. We haven't discussed it as a group in great detail but we're likely to be providing some sort of refreshments and hope people will enjoy coming to the hall if they haven't been inside it for a while.



Janey and her Friends of Marchington are continuing to do a great job in getting the garden ready for the years ahead and the photograph shows the planting and mulching they completed in the smaller front bed in January and February.

Meanwhile we desperately need a local person who is handy and can do odd jobs for us. The post is paid. Please contact Andrew Mann in the first instance on 07887 988715.

Don't forget, if you want to book Marchington Village Hall, please email Ginny Odey on marchingtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com or call her on 07810 830268. You can check what's happening and availability on the hall calendar at <https://www.marchingtonvillagehall.org/calendar.html>.

Geraldine Flavell

Broadband Upgrade for Marchington and the surrounding area

Properties in Marchington, the Woodlands and Forestside are eligible for a broadband upgrade to full fibre by **Openreach** through a government scheme, supported by Staffordshire County Council.

DON'T MISS OUT

Broadband providers are upgrading their networks to lightning-fast speeds all over the UK. It will take longer to upgrade rural parts of the country, but Marchington and the surrounding area has the chance to apply for some funding to upgrade within 12 months, provided we can gain interest from up to 600 properties by 28th February 2022. If you are reading this in the early days of March, please register anyway, if you are interested.

Please go to Marchington Parish Council website at:

<https://marchingtonparishcouncil.org/> and follow the registration link, or fill in the leaflet that will be available at Marchington Community Shop.

Please just complete one registration per property.

Email address (this is essential to qualify*):

First name, surname:

Are you registering as a resident or business** (you can only choose one but if you can a business registration is worth more to the funding of the project):

Resident/Business:

Landline number:

Mobile number:

House name or number:

Road name:

District/Village:

Postcode:

* Don't worry if you do not have a unique email address at the moment. You can ask a friend or relative to set one up for you so that you can register for the scheme.

**To register as a business (limited company, partnership or sole trader) you must be able to prove that the business is registered at the address with, for example, a utility bill or unique tax reference number.

WHY GIGABIT BROADBAND?

1. It provides fast, reliable broadband with no buffering or drop-outs for TV streaming, social media browsing, cloud storage, video calling, use of internet connected devices, home security, flexible home working/schooling, wifi calling and much more.
2. There is no slow down in speed if there are multiple users in the same property or if all your neighbours are using broadband at the same time.
3. Uploads and downloads are simultaneous.
4. Your broadband is not affected by the weather or your distance from the green roadside cabinets.
5. Access to high speed broadband will improve the price and saleability of your property.
6. You only pay for the speed you use, prices start from £20 per month for 40-80Mbps.
7. With the switch from landlines to digital calling, you would not need to pay line rental charges.
8. It is an upgrade that will last for generations.
 - A **gigabit** is the same as 1,000 megabits – it's fast enough to download a high definition film in under a minute – that's quicker than boiling the kettle!
 - **Full fibre** is optic fibre cable connected all the way to your property from the exchange and is capable of delivering gigabit-capable broadband speed.
 - **Gigabit-capable** means that your connection can handle speeds of 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps) but you only sign up for speeds you can afford. If your demand increased you can pay for more speed.

Liz Morgan



An update this month on our team at the shop: it's headed by Tracy, our Shop Manager, assisted by Vanessa during the week and Annabelle on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We also have very many wonderful and dedicated volunteers and this means we can open from 8am to 5pm every weekday (5.30 on Fridays) and from 9am on Saturdays (to noon) and Sundays (to 11.15).

Our papers are now being delivered by Bob Goring, in the main, and Brian Maxwell (for part of the village). We are grateful to them for their early morning service, and to our customers who have had some disruptions while they are getting used to the Rounds. This has not been helped by our wholesaler, Smiths News, who sometimes deliver to us very late, so that Bob and Brian can be waiting at the shop for them for at least an hour. Smiths News, in essence, run a monopoly on newspaper distribution, so, as a small shop, we have very little clout when we have to complain about their service to us.

Although we hope the days will be getting warmer, it's worth adding a seasonal reminder that we have coal, logs and kindling available for sale.

We also have fresh bread delivered six days a week (every day except Sunday). We stock a full range of newspapers and magazines, and can order any title that you might wish. We stock bacon, sausages and ham supplied by our local butcher, JS meats.

All of these can be ordered by phone too, do ring us on 01283 821248, mornings preferred.

Liz Morgan, Chair, Marchington Village Shop

Open Gardens

Sat 18th and Sun 19th June



We are pleased to say we will be repeating our popular annual Open Gardens event again this year as part of the Marchington Festival. If you would like to open your garden on one or both of the dates above then please contact either

gill.scarlett@hotmail.com janey.hilton123@gmail.com

Your garden does not need to be perfect so don't worry and its great fun showing off your garden and welcoming visitors from far and wide.

The proceeds from this event go directly to help support Marchington Community shop.



Prickles in a Pickle - Marchington Hedge-hospital



Hi neighbours of Marchington,

My name is Lisa and I love hedgehogs and think that the preservation of these amazing prickly creatures is important.

After finding a sick hedgehog in my garden I saw that Hedgehog Rescues in this area were few and far between. The ones I did find were full and unable to take anymore (they took her anyway). This prompted me to think about setting up my own Hedgehog Rescue.

I have found a lovely mentor who runs her own rescue in Derby, and I am currently fostering hedgehogs for her.

I'm not sure whether you are aware but there is no funding from the Government for Hedgehog Rescues. All the equipment, food needed etc comes out of the pocket of the person who set up the rescue or if they are lucky enough through donations.

I am hoping that the lovely villagers in Marchington may be able to help me with donations to help me get set up. Apart from money of course, I need the following items:

- Medium to Large small pet cages
- Microscope for checking poo samples
- Electric heat pads to keep sick hoggies warm
- Puppy training pads
- Newspapers
- Kitten Food wet and dry
- Pet safe disinfectant
- Disposable gloves

- Incubator for really sick Hedgehogs
- Someone to draw me a logo of a hedgehog with a sling on its arm with the rescue name on. (I'm rubbish at drawing)!

The list is really quite endless but the items above would help.

Any funds raised will go towards the items above and to help pay for vets fees and medications.

I do hope that you may be able to help me somehow so we can work as a village to help save the hedgehogs.

If you can donate either money or items above, please contact me on 07983 979837 (Lisa).

Also, if you do see a hedgehog that is out in the day (out in the day is not ok), looks sick or injured please call me on the number above.

Marchington WI

Weather in January is so often of the kind where we want to stay in and keep warm. We were agreeably surprised, therefore, at the good turnout of our members this year. Perhaps it had something to do with our speaker. We were entertained by Ian Rogerson on the subject of Cheese and the promise of tasting. We were not disappointed. His talk was both amusing and informative and the number of cheeses he brought was a big surprise. Many of us had not realised the variety of cheese made in the UK, and especially in our part of the world. Needless to say, there was quite a queue when our turn came to sample the goods.

Refreshments were provided by Pam Tomkins, Sue McDermid and Marion Weaver. Luckily we were able to forewarn them about the quantity of cheese on offer so they had time to adjust their menu.

The competition was a Cheese knife and the winner was Pat Wilson.

In contrast our speaker for February will be the Stafford Street Pastors. Their representative has told us very little about them so we have a surprise awaiting us. Since this edition of the parish magazine is for March it will already have happened. Our March meeting is organised by our Members, rather than the committee, so that will be another surprise.

Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome. We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7.30 in the village hall.

Pat Gillespie

Nature Notes

The bird feeding station, in the Community Orchard, is attracting a plethora of birds. Big bold great tits, blue tits, finches, robins, nuthatch and shy jays, have been spotted, devouring the peanuts & sunflower seeds from the feeders.



The finch family (chaffinch, redpoll, siskin, linnet, brambling and especially, the greenfinch, which is rapidly declining) are succumbing to an awful disease in the UK, called Trichomonosis. Also known as ‘fat finch’ disease, because those infected, fluff themselves up, as they deteriorate.

Other symptoms include, difficulty breathing, food debris on the beak and a tendency to fly off at the very last minute, when being approached. Lesions in the crop, caused by a parasite, impede the birds feeding, causing death by starvation.

We can all help stop the spread, by regularly cleaning feeders and water sources, as these are good transmission routes. The RSPB also recommend ceasing feeding for a few weeks, in some cases, so that the birds disperse from overcrowded areas. It is thought that pigeons and doves are spreaders of the disease.

Beardy tufts of lichen are noticeable at this time of year. A clear indication of clean air quality. Our churchyard, is home to a wonderful old gnarly crabapple tree, and is covered in these symbiotic organisms of fungus & algae. They are not

parasitic, so do no harm, but use the tree as a substrate to adhere to. Mistletoe is also evident on the topmost branches. We are hoping to smear some of the opalescent white berry seeds onto some of our fruit trees in the orchard, as apple trees are their most likely hosts. The sticky seeds are naturally spread by birds when they wipe their beaks on the branches. Mistle thrushes are particularly partial to the fruits, hence the name.



Another 1000 snowdrops ‘in the green’ have been ordered and will be planted around the village by TFofM during March. Snowdrops, also called “milk flower of the snow” are native to Europe and the Middle East and thought to be brought to Britain by Norman monks. They symbolise, innocence, purity and sympathy and appear when winter is often at its bleakest. We are hoping, that the ones planted in Green Lane 2 years ago are starting to reproduce and spread, creating a lovely snowdrop walk. Their botanical name is *Galanthus* and interestingly, a chemical found in them called Galanthamine, is used to treat Alzheimers.



For birders, who yearn for knowledge of birdsong. There is an App called *chirp*. It’s designed to help you learn and identify bird sounds in a very relaxed way.

Janey Hilton

Utoxeter Cricket Club – 2022 Season

The 2022 season is fast approaching and we wish to draw your attention to a few things that are taking place at our club.

Annual General Meeting

At our AGM, the following appointments were confirmed for the season ahead.

| | Captain | Vice Captain |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1st XI | Ben Brown | Adam Johnson |
| 2nd XI | Will Buggy | David Hunt Junior |

David Hunt Senior will continue as our Chairman and our President, Mike Walmsley, will continue as our Secretary.

Winter Training

Our seniors are training at Denstone College on Thursday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. New players of all abilities are most welcome and if you would like to get involved, please get in touch with Ben (07891 640 307) or Will (07754 181 566) to find out more.

Junior training is taking place at the Uttoxeter Leisure Centre on Sundays from 2:00pm to 5:00pm and Fridays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. We cater for boys and girls of all abilities from Under 5's to Under 17's. Please contact James (07961 208 354) or Rick 07410 896 589 for further information.

Fixtures

Our senior league season will commence on Saturday 23rd April with our both our 1st XI and 2nd XI in action against Dunstall. Fixtures for all our junior teams will be released in due course.

Junior Indoor Cricket

For the first time ever, we have entered teams in the Paulet Indoor Junior League. Our Under 10's, 12's and 14's have been enjoying the opportunity to play competitive league games during the close season.

Play Cricket Website

Details of all our fixtures can be found here:

<https://uttoxeter.play-cricket.com/home>

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes from all at Uttoxeter Cricket Club.

Bulls Head Marchington Football Club



Results

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----|----------------|--------|-----|
| 16th Jan | BHMFC | 1-0 | Leigh United | Cup | WIN |
| 23rd Jan | BHMFC | 4-1 | Blue Mugge | League | WIN |
| 6th Feb | BHMFC | 3-0 | Uttoxeter Town | League | WIN |

Ian Morgan

IT'S THE MATING SEASON

The mating season is about to start and hormones are flying high in the feline world. "Why should I get my girl cat neutered," you ask? Well, she can become pregnant from 16 weeks old so do not let her out until she is spayed!



If your male cat is unneutered, he will SPRAY, he will ROAM, he will GET LOST and he WILL FIGHT. Unneutered males are at high risk of injuries and bite wounds, needing antibiotics and expensive vet care.

Both males and females are also at risk of being infected with FIV (the cat version of HIV) for which there is no cure.

Cats Protection Derby and District Branch can neuter your cat for £10 help if you are on a low income. To find out if you are eligible, contact the Catline on 01332 206956 or email enquiries@derbybranch.cats.org.uk



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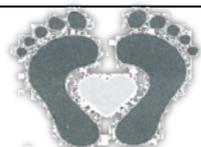
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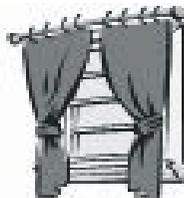
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Woodlands W

Members were very pleased to return to a face to face meeting in February. A member of Derby Mountain Rescue Team, David Whitmore, a paramedic and his wife Sally, spoke at our February meeting to a full hall. The talk was extremely interesting and provided a good insight into the different types of work the team are involved in. We generally think of people being injured out walking, climbing etc but they are often called out to find missing persons as well. Rescues take place in both upland and lowland, including urban areas. They are used in cases of flooding, such as the Whaley Bridge Dam flood that took place a few years back. They also have a team of search dogs. Dogs can cover far more ground than a team of rescuers. David spoke of the increasing use of technology, such as drones. From drone height it is simple to see whether an area, such as a field of corn, has been disturbed. He advised us that if we require assistance, call 999 and ask for Mountain Rescue. The call goes through to the control office and then it becomes action stations, with an assessment made and volunteers

contacted to attend. These volunteers leave whatever they are doing, be it work or leisure and arrive as soon as they can. Birthdays and anniversary celebrations are put to one side and the rescues can be very lengthy.

David advised that even if the signal on your phone is poor, you must keep it on as they can often “ping it” and get a clue to location. A couple of apps which can be downloaded to assist finding you were discussed. These include <https://gridreferencefinder.com> and What3Words <https://w3w.com> However, he did stress that if you use What3Words, you must be careful to get the words correct, as an added letter, especially an “s” making it plural, can alter the destination significantly. One member knew What3Words for her house and as an illustration he found where she lived but then made one of the words plural, and hey presto she now lives in Alaska!!

There are many Mountain Rescue teams, like the Derby team, across the country. They help each other out as required and are prepared to go

anywhere that the public require help. They do not judge when the public don't go well prepared for the conditions but did ask that we go prepared for changing weather and have practical footwear.

Please don't forget they are all volunteers so next time you see one of their collecting boxes, give a thought to donating, you never know when you or a family member or friend may need help.

David and Sally joined members for a delicious supper of soup and fruit crumbles beautifully prepared by Joyce, Anne H, Vanessa and Morag – Thank you.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 10th March at 7.00pm and will include our AGM. If anyone wishes to join us give me a call 01889 566016 or email on wiwoodlands@gmail.com

Helen Cleaver

Marchington Woodlands Village Hall Update



So, 'normal' life may return a little sooner than expected in 2022. Plan B measures were brought to an end in January and now, the Prime Minister says that he intends to abolish all remaining Covid restrictions in late February. Whenever these regulations are removed, the guidance received throughout the pandemic, to wash and/or sanitise hands, allow fresh air into indoor venues and to stay at home if feeling unwell, will be easy and effective actions we can always take, to keep ourselves and others safe, at the Village Hall and elsewhere.

As you will have seen/heard by now, Openreach presented details of its proposed schemes to roll out gigabit-capable, full-fibre broadband to local areas on 7th February, in Marchington Village Hall. It was a very informative meeting and greatly encouraging that so many people were immediately keen to get involved with the project, by going out to speak to their neighbours and others in the community, to obtain additional support for the scheme. A village hall working

to its best – gathering residents together to act for the benefit of all. *[There is an article explaining the fibre broadband scheme on page 15 - Ed.]*

As part of its longer-term strategy review exercise, Woodlands Village Hall Committee went back to the Hall's Trust Deed from 1950 to look at the original purpose of the facility. The core principles are still valid but everyone felt that there should be a more current statement of purpose, reflecting the changes that have taken place in general life since the document was written. Next, the Committee will review the Village Hall's overall financial position and put together some longer-term plans, aiming to stimulate greater use of the Hall.

This is the latest diary and general Hall information:-

2022 Calendar

Tuesday March 1 - 7.30pm, Woodlands Village Hall monthly committee meeting.

Sunday, June 5 - Woodlands' Platinum Jubilee Community Lunch.

Saturday, August 20 (Please note the change of date) - Summer Dance with music from The Silicone Taxis.

Saturday, November 5 - Bonfire Night event.

15 March, 19 April and 17 May – Regular Tuesday coffee mornings in the Village Hall, come and have a chat, 10.30am start. Everyone welcome.

Village Hall Booking Information

The Village Hall's website (www.mwvh.co.uk) provides information about the Hall, its facilities and how to go about hiring.

Booking Secretary for the Village Hall, Isabel Wilson (landline 01889 569411 or mobile 07817 989859), will help with any additional details you may need.

Contact Email Address

The email address for the Village Hall is mwvh@btinternet.com if you have any comments, questions or issues for the Committee.

And a final reminder, please don't delay and sign up for the Marchington fibre broadband scheme!

Karen Perrins

St. John's Church Marchington Woodlands



Church Services and Events at St John's during March 2022

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 2 nd March | 7.30pm | Ash Wednesday Service at Stramshall |
| 4 th March | 4:00pm | World Day of Prayer at Kingstone Church |
| 5 th March | 9.30am-3.00pm | Area Away Day at Kingstone Village Hall* |
| 13 th March | 4.00pm | Evensong at St John's, Marchington Woodlands |
| 27 th March | 09:30am | BCP Communion at St John's, Marchington Woodlands |

* Area Away Day - 5th March Kingstone Village Hall

Starting at 9.30am with bacon butties, act of worship at 10.00am. Bring your own lunch. Hot drinks available. Discussion, prayer and planning for the Area going forward.

St John's Church APCM will be held in church on Thursday 7th April at 7pm. It is an open meeting, all are welcome to attend. Anyone on the church electoral roll is entitled to vote at the meeting. The electoral roll will be revised commencing on February 13th and the revised roll will be displayed in church

from 24th March. If you are not already on the electoral roll and wish to apply, please contact the electoral roll officer Linda Beech. Graham Salt and Linda Beech are offering to continue as churchwardens however if you wish to offer yourself for the position please contact Anna Cadamy the PCC secretary.

The official notices will be displayed at Woodlands Church.

William John Wilson, known as "John"

On February 5th it was the funeral of William John Wilson at St John's Church. He will be sadly missed and our sympathy goes to his wife Phyllis and all their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family wish to thank everyone for attending on the day, for all kind regards and support and for generous donations which went to Marchington Woodlands Church and Midlands Air Ambulance

Fibre Broadband

On February 7th a meeting was held at Marchington Village Hall to provide information on a Full Fibre Broadband scheme which could see the people of the Woodlands get a much better service. PLEASE PLEASE will you all register interest.

Make contact at mftp@btinternet.com If enough people show interest it will be possible to get sufficient funding released to get fast broadband without costs beyond standard internet charges. With internet phone links you might even save by losing your landline costs. *[There is further information about the fibre broadband scheme on page 15, and also in the Woodlands Village Hall Update on page 31 - Ed.]*

And finally don't forget to check out Marchington Woodlands Community Group on Facebook to get up to date info on what's happening in our community.

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

St John's Marchington Woodlands

100 Club

Winners of the January draw were: -

Joe Heath Richard Beech Sue Bellamy Helen Cleaver

ST PETER'S CHURCH MARCHINGTON - SERVICES DURING MARCH 2022

| <i>Date / Time</i> | <i>Service</i> | <i>Sidesperson</i> | <i>Readers</i> | <i>Intercessions</i> | <i>Coffee</i> | <i>Flowers</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 6 th March 10.00am | Morning Worship | Gill Williamson | Liz Morgan Gill Williamson | Thelma Brassington | Joyce Halcrow | |
| 13 th March 10.00am | Communion | Joyce Halcrow | Tony Butler Thelma Brassington | Liz Morgan | Kath Wood | |
| 20 th March 10.00am | Communion | Sheila Jones | Gordon Whitehead Joyce Halcrow | Gill Williamson | Pat Wilson | |
| 27 th March 10.00am | Ministry Team | Kath Wood | Pat Wilson Wendy Scott | Maggie Hatchard | Wendy Scott | |

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