

# *The Link July 2020*

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a large, bright yellow circle in the center of the sky, surrounded by a glow of orange and red. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The water in the foreground is dark, with a small boat visible in the middle ground. The boat is dark and has a few people on board. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

*55p*

*The Link magazine covers the Borderlink Parishes of  
Blakemere, Bredwardine with Brobury, Clifford, Cusop, Dorstone,  
Hardwicke, Moccas and Preston-on-Wye.*

### MEETINGS OF CHURCH GROUPS

#### **MESSY CHURCH(ALL AGES)**

Please note new e mail address:

Margaret Price 01497820464

[margaretp2014@gmail.com](mailto:margaretp2014@gmail.com)

#### **MOTHERS' UNION**

Cusop

Janet Bumford 01497831264

Bredwardine, Moccas & Preston

Kath Woods 01981 500 247

Dorstone

#### **BORDERLINK BELLRINGERS**

Ringling for Services

Alison Alcock 01497847510

Roger Bowen 0154432731

Clifford Practices 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Sylvia Corrick 01981 550564

Bredwardine 2nd,4th & 5th Wednesdays

#### **PRESTON-ON-WYE BELLRINGERS**

Pam Parry 01981 500617

every 1st Monday of the month Bell ringers practice at Preston on Wye. Pam should be contacted if any new ringers.

#### **HARDWICKE MEET AND EAT**

every 4th Wednesday at 2.30 pm

Lou Tingey 01497 831090

#### **PRAYER CHAIN MEETINGS**

Third Tuesday 7.30pm

Harvey Bromley

01497 821480

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**SECOND** Tuesday 11.00 am at **Preston on Wye**

#### **TEA AND CHAT**

Fourth Tuesday 2pm-4pm

Janet Bumford

#### **JULIAN PRAYER GROUP**

Second Tuesday 11.30 – 12.30 pm

Janet and Mark Robinson 01497821348

#### **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Monday at 7.30 p.m

Celia Cundale 01497 820396

**CHURCH CONTACTS  
FOR THE BORDERLINK PARISHES**

Priest in Charge of the Borderlink Group of Parishes :

Rev'd Luci Morriss, The Rectory, Cusop HR3 5RF

Telephone : 01497 821877

Email : [luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com)

The Rev'd Jane Rogers [jane@blakemerehouse.myzen.co.uk](mailto:jane@blakemerehouse.myzen.co.uk) 01981 500478

**FOR OTHER CHURCHES:**

St.Mary's Hay - Fr. Richard Williams

01497 820448

St Joseph's Hay - Fr. Jimmy Sebastian, The Presbytery, 4 Belmont Road

Hay-on-Wye HR35DA Mob :07922 042079 (any time)

email: [hayonwye@menevia.org](mailto:hayonwye@menevia.org)

Society of Friends, Hay - Janet Robinson

01497 821348

Belmont Abbey - Fr. Paul Stoneham

01432 374718

Email : [parish@belmontabbey.org.uk](mailto:parish@belmontabbey.org.uk)

[www.belmontparish.org.uk](http://www.belmontparish.org.uk)

Bethesda Evangelical Church - Gordon Bingham

01497 820685

**Oasis Church, Hereford** (formerly Jubilee Christian Centre, Preston-on-Wye),

Pastor Philip Arnold, telephone: 01432 355088



**Benefice Prayer :**

**Thank you Lord for loving us**

**Open our minds and give us the strength to do your will  
for the rest of this day.**

**Amen**

**Ecclesiastes Ch 3 v 1 & 4-5**

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under  
heaven .....

A time to weep ;and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and time to  
dance, a time to scatter stones and time to gather them, a time to  
embrace and a time to refrain

## Letter from the Revd. Luci for July

### A time to dream ...

As we've begun to slowly unlock, it's been a blessing to meet with different people (virtually!) to reflect on our experience of lockdown and to wonder together what a new 'normal' might look like. In a recent poll\* only 9% of Britons want things to return to 'normal', so the vast majority of us recognise we've learnt some valuable lessons from our lockdown experience.

What have you learned? Here are three areas I hope won't return to normal ...

**Togetherness:** Lockdown has deepened a sense of community; we've met or strengthened existing relationships with our neighbours. We've either offered them support or have been grateful to receive support from them. We've also rejoiced in the local; our shops and other service providers have offered creative ways of serving us during these extraordinary times.

**Life:** some may feel that life has been on hold for 12 weeks; they've desperately missed loved ones or have been anxious about their livelihoods. But for many, these weeks have given a once-in-a-life time opportunity to step back and reflect on what's really important and re-evaluate how we use our time and resources.

**Imagination:** Lockdown has forced us to do things in ways we would not have imagined. We've embraced new ways of communicating (how many of us had previously heard of Zoom?), new ways of working, new ways of shopping, new ways of worshipping together – our imaginations have been working overtime!

As I think about these areas, I'm excited to see God's there ahead of us ...

God models a sense of **community** – God is the Creator, Jesus and the Spirit, a living community into which we're all welcomed.

In the Bible, Jesus teaches that he came that we might have **life**, and life in abundance; we don't have to accept the humdrum, he longs for us to live rich lives knowing that we are loved and valued.

The Holy Spirit is a creative force that we can draw on to inspire us and feed our **imaginings**; across the generations the Spirit has breathed new life and new ways of being into God's church.

## Letter from the Revd. Luci for July

My prayer is that as individuals, and as communities across the area, we'll have the courage to allow our lockdown experiences to make a difference and not just be a momentary blip in the way we live. To bring some lasting good out of this terrible pandemic would surely be an appropriate way to honour those who have died.

Blessings, Revd Luci

*\*YouGov poll of 4,343 adults commissioned by the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission and the Food Foundation Charity. For further details see The Independent, 17 April 2020.*

**Borderlink Benefice Newsletter is on Page 28**



## CHURCHES OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

**Cusop** (from 21<sup>st</sup> June) Sundays from  
10am – 6pm

**Blakemere** (from 24<sup>th</sup> June), Wednesdays from  
10am – 1pm and Saturdays from 1pm – 6pm

**Bredwardine** (from 28<sup>th</sup> June)  
Sundays from 12 noon – 6pm

*Please do follow guidance in the churches for your safety and the safety of others*

## July Readings

05.07.20  <b>4th Sunday after Trinity</b>  Green	Zech.9: 9-12	Israel's saviour comes to them, riding on a donkey and bringing peace.
	Romans 7: 15-25a	Paul describes the internal struggles we all go through when, despite our better selves, we do things we are ashamed of.
	Matthew 11: 16-19	Jesus has come to offer peace, rest, comfort and the presence of God, but people are dissatisfied and do not see.
12.07.20  <b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>  Green	Isaiah 55: 10-13	Isaiah speaks of an invitation to abundant life.
	Romans 8: 1-11	Those who live according to the spirit and not the flesh also live according to God's law
	Matthew 13: 1-9,18-23	Jesus warns of the perseverance and commitment which must accompany the spreading of the message of the Spirit.
19.07.20  <b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>  Green	Wisdom.12: 13,16-19	God is the only source of justice.
	Romans 8: 12-25	The Spirit bears witness within us that we are in fact children of God and co-heirs of the kingdom with Christ.
	Matthew 13: 24-30,36-43	Whilst good and evil exist together in our present world, evil has a limited span of life and God's victory is in God's hands, in God's time.
26.07.20  <b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>  Green	1 Kings 3: 5-12	The Lord appears to Solomon in a dream, and asks what he should give the king. Solomon asks for discernment and an understanding mind, that he may rule the people justly and wisely.
	Romans 8: 26-39	Paul assures his readers that God works for good in all that happens, and that the Holy Spirit is a constant presence to aid them in their weakness. Ultimately, there is nothing that can separate the believers from the love of God in Jesus Christ.
	Matthew 13: 31-33,44-52	Using an intensive cascade of short parables, Jesus attempts to convey to his disciples something of the elusive, exhilarating reality of the kingdom of heaven.



## Blakemere News

It is heartening to see how communities continue to rally round and to look out for neighbours and the less fortunate. The Bring and Buy Sale (with appropriate distancing!) at Lower Blakemere Farm was a huge success, raising nearly £1,800 for the Hereford Food Bank. Many congratulations and thanks to The Great British Florist, Wiggly Wiggles, Fat Man Chilli, Ian Prior Potatoes and many others for their generosity.

And thanks to all who contribute financially or in kind to the Food Bank; its help has never been more needed, and I'm glad to say that donations in kind are at record levels. The box in the porch of Blakemere Church is emptied every Wednesday for delivery to the Food Bank. Just to remind you – especially needed (latest information from the Food Bank) are tinned meat (such as stews and casseroles, corned beef and timed ham), tinned or fresh fruit, jam and marmalade, breakfast cereal, tinned custard, rice, condiments such as tomato sauce, meat paste in small glass jars, squash and cordial, tinned or fresh potatoes, deodorant (male and female), shampoo, washing powder, and cat and dog food. Carrier bags are also really helpful. You can see more about the Food Bank's work on [herefordfoodbank.co.uk](http://herefordfoodbank.co.uk)

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Rosemary Woolley at the age of 89. She and her husband David lived for many years at Spring Cottage, Blakemere, and were kind and caring neighbours. They had a happy further retirement at Weobley, and our condolences and sympathies go to David.

As you will know, the Church of England has decided to allow the opening of churches on a limited basis for private prayer. We are looking to open Blakemere Church twice a week, on Wednesdays from 1000 to 1300 and Saturdays from 1300 to 1800 (thus allowing 72 hours between openings). There will be a hand sanitiser in the porch, and a taped-off area inside for prayer. But first we need to clean the Church (conventionally) after its having been closed for three months! Volunteers' names to Jane or Robert, please.

*Robert Lisvane*



## **Bredwardine & Brobury**

[www.bredwardine-brobury.org.uk](http://www.bredwardine-brobury.org.uk)

Another month of lockdown has gone by, with a little 'easing' in the last week before the Link's deadline. Who knows what the next month will bring – we can only hope that the virus continues to ease its grip on us all, and tensions around the world will calm. Nature and life go on regardless, and we are moving into summer proper with continuing warm weather, some welcome rain and the sight of lots of fledglings enjoying their first days out of the nest. Thankfully we can all find solace in the joys of life in our countryside.

It is good to report some cheerful news this month. Many thanks to Pru and Keith Cartwright who opened Brobury Gardens privately for us while they had to remain closed to the general public. The Gardens are looking wonderful, and it was a privilege to be able to enjoy their peace and tranquillity during the lockdown. Donations amounting to £95 were collected and sent to our local GPs for their Equipment Fund which buys things that the NHS cannot provide, for the use of their patients. Dr. Rob Sykes sent a letter of thanks, a copy of which was circulated by email. We have really enjoyed the Red Lion's takeaway curries and fish and chips. They have already raised the amazing sum of over £1,000 so far for the NHS Charities. Well done the Lion team and thank you for looking after us! We are so lucky to live in such a generous and supportive community.

And I am delighted that the Link is back in its printed format!

Jen Maddison

### **CHURCH NEWS**

#### **Greetings from St. Andrew's**

Monday 15th July, 1878

"George Phillott came up from Moccas in his punt.....

I went down with him in the boat to Moccas, a lovely voyage with glorious evening light and shadows on the water, indescribably beautiful "

From the diary of Reverend Francis Kilvert, Vicar of Bredwardine



### **Re-opening St. Andrew's for Private Prayer**

We are very pleased that we have now been given permission by the Government to reopen St. Andrew's for private prayer.

We hope to open the Church on a Sunday afternoon between the hours of 12 noon and 6:00pm and on a Thursday evening, between 6:00 - 8:00pm to coincide with our bell toll for hope. It has been the most difficult of times and we hope that by opening our doors, even though it is for a short while, you will find some comfort and peace.

Our priority is to provide you with a safe environment, there will hand sanitizer provided in the porch and we ask you to maintain the recommend social distance within the church building (at the time of writing 2m). St. Andrew's will remain closed between each period of opening for at least 72hours.

At present we are unable to say when we might resume services at St. Andrew's, in the meantime you can find services within Abbeydore Deanery streamed online through the Abbeydore Deanery YouTube channel and Facebook page.

St. Andrew's is planning to open **from Sunday 28th June:**

**Each Sunday** from 12:00noon-6:00pm for **Private Prayer**

**Each Thursday** from 6:00pm-8:00pm for **Private Prayer**

### **We desperately need your help in the churchyard!**

If you would like to help and would enjoy a socially distanced, small group (under 6 people), working afternoon in our glorious churchyard, please contact Charlotte, 01981 500281

### **Hereford Foodbank**

Thank you so much for your generous contributions towards the invaluable service Hereford Foodbank provides across our County. We are continuing to collect your parcels from St. Andrew's porch, on a Wednesday evening at around about 5:00pm.

Cathy

### **And more -**

-Sadly, St. Andrew's PCC has decided that the **Bredwardine Fete** this year will be cancelled. Obviously this is a huge disappointment, but under the circumstances, we really have no alternative. However, we're sure that next year's Fete will be a very joyous occasion.....and it gives you plenty of time to salt away all those white elephants and tombola items!

### **Bredwardine with Brobury**

The **sale of plants** in the church porch has raised over £200, so many thanks to all those who donated and bought plants. We are now selling books in the same place – excellent quality novels, non-fiction and coffee table books. Again, please do bring along any that you would like to donate.

-The installation of the new **church kitchen** is again underway, after the enforced delay, and hopefully will be in use once we are able to hold services again. Many thanks to Jamie Whittall for installing it; his craftsmanship is much admired!

-Also, the **churchyard wall** either side of the gates and along the lane to the left, has been expertly repaired by Hugh Peachey- truly a work of art.  
Charlotte

### **Friends of St. Andrew's 100 Club**

The brilliant broadcast of our live draw from the Red Lion on June 4th was sadly cut short. Mike and Gordon were unaware of the problem and the draw continued. The results were: 1st Prize (£50) - No. 11 Brenda Taylor; 2nd Prize (£25) – No. 52 James Robson and Emma Beagley; 3rd Prize (£15) – No. 142 Susan Morgan.

Fingers crossed, the gremlins will not strike again next month and we will all be able to tune in to one of the 'not to be missed' events of our current way of life! The July draw will be on **Thursday, 2nd July, in the Red Lion at 8pm** – don't miss our diverting duo in action again!

Jen

### **VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

from Sarah, Chair of the Village Hall Committee

The VHC believes that it is still too early to offer our hall for use to one and all. Possibly by next month we may be able to open our village hall for classes, workshops and socials again. We want to make sure that we provide a safe, clean environment. The VHC is currently discussing how to accomplish this.

The VHC has received a generous grant from the Hereford Council to help offset lost revenue due to Covid-19. We want to put this money to good use for our villages. If you have a suggestion please let me or one of the committee members know your thoughts.

## **Bredwardine with Brobury**

### **WYESIDE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Council's Zoom meeting on 10th June are on the village website as always.

Well done to all of our parishes for supporting the **Hereford Food Bank!** Donations are needed now more than ever. Please continue to give generously.

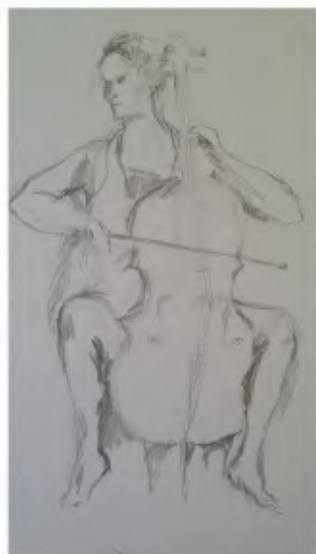
**Solar PV Panels:** reading taken on 15 June 2020. Total Electricity Generated to Date: 36074 kWh; CO2 Saved: 15,449 kg. And the sun keeps on shining!

### **BREDWARDINE ART GROUP**

The group has continued its virtual existence with members cheerfully and excitingly taking part in a series of group projects and sharing their work online via our Facebook group. Recently we have started to meet via Zoom on a Friday 2.30-4pm, which is lovely having the chance to see each other. The group continues to be a real lifeline for many of us self-isolating or shielding and seeing no one. We have been working on a theme each week. Some examples of our work are pictured on the themes of: Old/Modern Masters, life drawing, animals/birds, views from a window in lockdown. If you are interested in joining in the virtual art group, contact Brenda Taylor on 07855 143048. Or find us on Facebook @Bredwardine Art Group.

Pictures: Old/Modern Masters: Landseer – Sheila Marsh, Monet – Brenda Taylor, Life drawing – Susan Lloyd, Lou MacIntyre and Jenny Price; Animals: Cat – Di Furlong, Cockerel – Kari Manning-Lawson; View from window: Janet Preece, Susan Sahota, Gill Sergeant.







### WHITEHOUSE WEATHER REPORT, BREDWARDINE

#### Monthly Values, May 2020

Avg Temp	Average Daily Temperature		Total Wind Run miles	Max Wind Speed mph	Rain Total mm/ inches	Days with Rain
	Max	Min				
13.0 C 55.4 F	19.5 C 67.1 F	6.8 C 44.2 F	2151	30	5.8 mm 0.23 "	7

#### Daily Extremes of Temperature, May 2020

Coldest night	Coldest day	Warmest night	Warmest day
12 May -0.5 C 31.1 F	11 May 11.3 C 52.3 F	27 May 12.8 C 55.1 F	29 May 26.4 C 79.6 F

#### Other Daily Extremes, May 2020

Windiest day	Calmmest day	Wettest day	Highest UV Index
11 May 169 miles run	3 May 15 miles run	23 May 2.5 mm 0.10 "	27 & 29 May 5.8

### **Bredwardine Weather Report**

May 2020 was very dry and sunny. Indeed, it was the driest May since records began at each of the three sites. At Whitehouse 0.23" of rain fell (previous driest May was 2005 with 1.36"). Brobury Farms recorded a total of 0.25" (previous driest 1991 with 0.37") and Springfield 0.26" (previous driest May 2005 with 1.59").

The average daily maximum temperature at Whitehouse was more than 2 C higher than the mean there since 2004, but the record for the hottest May day was not broken (28.3 C in 2017). There were two nights with air frost (13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020), and the nightly minimum was lower than the average for May.



## **Clifford News**

For more news, events & information  
[www.cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk)

I think it safe to say we are all in a state of utter confusion. Government regulations seem to change on a daily basis but the good news is that we are at least granted a bit more freedom. Particularly for those who have been isolated alone.

### **Clifford Primary School**

We have returned to school with a very different half term ahead of us. Some of our pupils are continuing with home schooling which they have managed brilliantly and with typical Clifford pupils' flair and imagination, and some are back in school with their teachers and friends.

Seeing the children back in our fields playing again and chatting with each other in the classrooms has been wonderful! It has melted all of our hearts. All the effort of opening has definitely been worth it.

### **Clifford Primary School *continued/***

The children who are back in school are managing to adapt with the new rules and regulations. They have created fun and games to make social distancing work and everyone has been washing their hands more than ever before.

The school is so grateful for the support shown by the parents, governors and local community and we hope that we can return to more normality before too long.

Shopping is a new experience for some and following the one-way system sometimes gets a bit confusing but those shopping outlets that are open have made it as easy as possible.

Clifford has taken an enthusiastic part in thanking the NHS on Thursday evenings. Not only clapping but the clanging of garden tools, horn blowing and other musical instruments. Upper Court has colourful and decorative bales outside the gates of the farm which many will have seen. This is all part of the amazing community spirit of this village and grateful thanks go to all those who have helped with shopping, collecting prescriptions and other odd jobs for those who have been isolated on their own during this lockdown period.



## **Cusop News**

[www.cusop.net](http://www.cusop.net)

We have now experienced three months of lockdown and strict government rules which some have found easier than others. Some of us have woken up and thought, "Is our peaceful land of freedom really being taken over by a global pandemic or was it just a dream?" We have all been swept along to a different way of life in such a short time. Many of us are waiting for the day when we can meet our family and friends and even give them a hug! Let's hope and pray that it will come soon. We can find great comfort in nature which has been oblivious to the virus. The swallows have returned and after the wispy, ethereal cow parsley, we have enjoyed the roadside verges covered in ox eye daisies and pink valerian. Bumble bees continue to climb up inside foxgloves and damselflies have started whizzing around my garden. Mike Judge has seen a pair of spotted flycatchers in the churchyard which is wonderful news!

## **Cusop**

In addition to the anguish of the lockdown, our community suffered the further blow of the tragic death of Simon Theaker, aged only 44 years. Simon was fatally killed when driving a sit on mower. Simon was a popular and generous person. He was well-known in our local community and ran the successful "Black Mountain Roast" coffee company. Simon will be hugely missed by his family, friends and the entire community. His parents, Ailsa and John, have very kindly offered to write a Tribute to Simon which will be of much comfort to those mourning the loss of Simon.

**Acts of kindness continue to thrive in our village. If you need help with shopping, dog walking, gardening or any other tasks then please contact one of us:**

Alison Matthews: 01497-820152

Celia Cundale: 01497-820396

Jane Stannard (Parish Clerk): 01497-821076 or e mail [clerk@cusop.net](mailto:clerk@cusop.net)

If you would like to talk to someone, there are people who are there to listen. Please contact Revd Luci (01497-821877) who is available as well as other trained pastoral visitors. All calls will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

**Many people have expressed their confusion about the rules and "bubbles" which keep changing due to the easing of the lockdown. The answers are all on the Cusop Website! Simply click on "Government Advice" on the Coronavirus tab. Alison keeps this updated every day so you'll know how to improve your lifestyle whilst sticking to the rules. Thank you, Alison, for doing this so brilliantly!**

**Make sure you sign up to the "e mail alerts" on the homepage of the website.**

### **Cusop Church opens up for Private Prayer Only**

During the lockdown, many adults and children have enjoyed the space and beauty of our churchyard especially when playgrounds and the Brecon Beacons National Park have been closed to the public. Now people can step inside the church building for individual prayer and reflection. **From Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, we plan to open Cusop Church every Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm for Private Prayer only.** Please follow all the health and safety guidelines if you visit the church. There will be notices to remind you. **Due to a constantly, changing situation, please check the Church Pages on the Cusop village website for updates about the church opening.**



**Cusop****Condolences****Ruby Maud Clifton**

Ruby sadly passed away on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May aged 82 years. Many of us will remember Ruby, as a gentle, kind lady with a beautiful smile. Ruby's family have farmed at Upper Maestorglwydd, Llanigon, for many years and on the Order of Service there was a wonderful photograph of Ruby holding a lamb. Cusop Church was always special to Ruby and she supported the Church in a number of ways over the years including helping with flower arranging and cleaning. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to all Ruby's family as her death was unexpected and happened during such difficult times so it has been particularly hard for them. A small family funeral took place at the graveside in Cusop Churchyard on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May conducted by Revd Luci. As part of the service, members of the family read poems and here is an extract from one.

***"Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me,  
God wants me now, He set me free."***

We continue to remember Carol, Sue and Nigel and all Ruby's family and friends in our prayers.

**Simon Theaker**

We were so very sorry to hear that Simon had died so suddenly in a tragic accident. A private burial took place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Llangwathan Farm. Our hearts go out to his partner, Karen, his parents, John and Ailsa, and all his family and friends. We send them our deepest sympathy and thoughts at this very difficult time.

**Tribute to Simon James Theaker**

Born 19<sup>th</sup> August 1975 at The Gatehouse, Giggleswick School, Yorkshire where his father, John, was a master at the school that was founded in 1499. So was Simon destined to follow an education and career fitting to where he was born?

A move to Kenya in 1977, living on a tea plantation while John lectured in Nairobi, started Simon's travels. A return to Esher in Surrey saw Simon grow as a quiet, caring, thoughtful sensitive individual. Somewhat disenfranchised from schooling and often left out of play to contemplate by himself.

**Simon James Theaker *continued/***

A spell in College and then a year trip around Southern Africa with his friend Nick, tales from Mozambique, Johannesburg, Tanzania and Kenya laid the foundations for Simon's passion for travelling and his deep rooted feeling of the injustices he witnessed and the wrongs of the world.

In 1995 Simon left to join John and Ailsa in Hanoi. Very early days of development for the country that presented Simon with unique experiences of travel that honed his already developed caring and sensitive spiritual nature. Simon was accepted and thought highly of by senior figures from the State Banking sector. They respected him and spent time explaining the recent history of Vietnam and how new ideas would grow from the turmoil of the past. This all influenced Simon and his understanding of people and the circumstances they find themselves in became a unique part of his personality.

Simon left Vietnam for a short spell in the UK where he tried but did not like University life. This led Simon to start his first venture 'Llangwathan Marquees'. The business flourished and seemed to employ all the young and local. Never one to settle down, Simon sold the business and spent five years in Geelong and Perth, Australia, where he erected huge marquees for corporate events.

The strings of home pulled Simon back to Llangwathan where he established 'Black Mountain Roast' coffee roasting. The company is successful and will be trading for years to come.

Simon met Karen in 2014 and they planned to marry when Simon could agree the correct year! Karen explains that on evenings out he was forever stopping to help and talk to the homeless on the streets.

Simon would always stop and help anyone who needed help or just a friendly greeting. He debated for hours about life and the troubles of the world. He was generous and thoughtful but finding it increasingly difficult to understand what he saw as injustices all around him.

So Simon never followed the academic route. He became a free spirit. A world traveller, who saw more than most. A person of many talents and always searching for answers to life's challenges.

He will be missed.

***We would like to thank Simon's parents, John and Ailsa, for sharing these very special memories of Simon.***

## **Cusop**

### **Donations to Hereford Food Bank**

Thank you to everyone who has been generously donating to our Food Bank. With the rise of redundancies and unemployment in Hereford, there is increasing hardship so please continue to give generously. Tinned items, UHT/dried milk, coffee and toiletries are especially appreciated. A box for donations is in the porch at Cusop Village Hall. Thank you!

### **Happy Birthday Val!**

Belated birthday greetings to our wonderful organist, Val Whiston who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 30<sup>th</sup> May. Val enjoyed a memorable day surrounded by cards and flowers. We are so grateful to Val for sharing her talent and playing the organ at church services and at "Tea at Three". Val has given so much joy and fun to so many people over the years and we wish her many more happy birthdays to come!

### **Ninety Years Old!**

Congratulations to Ron Wicks who recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday! Many of you will know Ron, a former Cusop Church Treasurer, and his wife, Ann, who both did a great deal for the community. Ron and Ann moved to Boston, Lincs, to be close to their family. Ron recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday so we send our very best wishes to him and we hope he had a very special day!

### **Thank You!**

Our older residents may remember a very attractive Victorian wall clock that hung in the old Church Room in Cusop. For many years, the clock has adorned the vestry at Cusop Church but sadly never functioned! As always, there is hidden talent in Cusop and John Houseman has skilfully and very generously repaired the clock without charge. A very big thank you to John for giving up his time to do this tricky task!

### **Welcome**

A very warm welcome to Tara and her son, Harry, aged 2 years, who have moved into "The Orchard" in Cusop Dingle. Tara and Harry are kept very busy looking after their two horses and two dogs. We hope they will be very happy living in Cusop.

### **Caring for God's Acre Taskforce Day: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July from 10am to 3pm**

There's recently been a revival of rain so the churchyard is seriously in need of TLC especially as we've missed two Taskforce Days. **Several of our loyal volunteers have been working individually in the churchyard - a very big thank you to them!**

### **Cusop Caring for God's Acre Taskforce Day:**

Now the lockdown is easing, we will be having a Taskforce Day on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July from 10am to 3pm**. Government regulations will be followed so all volunteers please bring your own tools and refreshments. We will also need to work 2 metres apart – which is not difficult in the churchyard! Unfortunately, the toilet will still need to be locked so please join us for as long as short as you want. All help is greatly appreciated!

Celia Cundale

### **CUSOP HISTORY GROUP**

The term 'green lanes' is only descriptive and has no legal meaning. Many are defined as rights of way or highways, and those that remain unclassified are currently known as 'lost'.

The illustrated talk by renowned historian Heather Hurley on the history and development of these lanes planned for July 10th has now been postponed. We will rearrange it for a future date.

### **This month in Cusop History**

*From the Cusop Parish Magazine 1931*

*"Choir Outing - On Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup>, members of the Cusop choir journeyed to Barry Island by bus for their annual outing. It was a glorious morning. We started at about 7.15 from the Church Room. We passed through the pretty villages of Glasbury and Bronllys and over the Brecon Beacons by the Cray Waterworks which supply Cardiff with water. We then went through the colliery district of Merthyr and busy Cardiff on to Barry Island. After lunch at The Dorothy café,*

*we sat down on the beautiful sands and had our photos taken and enjoyed the sea air. We all returned home tired but happy after spending a very pleasant day at the beach".*

### **Some hints and tips from July 1941**

*"HANG NETTLES IN YOUR LARDER – These will help to keep flies away from your food (Miss M.A.K.Thorpe)*

*MUSTARD - When mixing mustard, use a little milk, then add a few drops of olive oil. It remains soft and there is no waste. (Mrs Cornwall)*

*TO ECONOMIZE IN MATCHES – Get a threepenny box of Swan Vestas, and with a sharp knife slit each match down the centre. You will then have two matches instead of one. (Mrs Howett)*

## Cusop History Group *continued/*

**SOAP ECONOMY** – *Collect all odd pieces of soap, put in a flannel bag and then place in very hot water. When the soap begins to feel soft, take out and flatten with a fish slice.*

*Plunge into cold water and leave until hard. Remove flannel bag and you will have a perfectly good bar of household soap. (Mrs J.H. Smith)”*

**From 1942** *“Chocolate Balls – As chocolates are scarce here is a recipe for sweets that my wee toddler loves. Grate four ounces of peeled raw potatoes and mix in a bowl with four ounces of rolled dried breadcrumbs: add two dessertspoonfuls of sweetened cocoa powder, a few drops of vanilla essence and a sprinkling of sugar. Bind the mixture with the beaten yolk of one egg, make into heaped balls and bake in a hot oven for 20 minutes. – Mrs Grant.”*

Visit our website at <http://cusophistory.wix.com/cusop> to see the latest information, including the research and our photos of historical Cusop. Email us at [cusophistory@gmail.com](mailto:cusophistory@gmail.com) or call Sue on 01497 822523.

### CARING FOR GOD’S ACRE

**FRIDAY 31ST JULY**

**10.00AM TO 3.00PM**

**Please bring your own tools and refreshments**

**Everyone Welcome!**

**All help appreciated!**



### Cusop, Ty Glyn, rainfall gauge

May was dry and sunny, so I had an easy time. Just 7 days required me gauge the rainfall; that on 12<sup>th</sup> was the “greatest” at 1.2 mm (0.05”). For the whole month it totaled 3.5 (0.14”). Barely enough to wet tarmac let alone help plants to grow.  
Ainsleigh 01497-820332



# Dorstone News

[www.dorstone.org.uk](http://www.dorstone.org.uk)

## News from St Faith's

### Private Prayer

Sadly, we will **not** be opening St Faith's for private prayer at this time. We are hoping there will be changes to the cleaning requirements - which at present we cannot fulfil. Also social distancing and mask advice are changing almost every day. Do watch for Deanery and Borderlinks announcements should the situation change.

### Items made from the 17th. c Bell Frame oak

As well as selling the few items left from the original sales, John has been doing a roaring trade in doorstops (with rope or metal rings), bell key rings, wine bottle coasters, modern style candlesticks, tea-light holders and picture frames, raising over £300 profit for the funds. All thanks to the hard work of our special craftsmen Rob Morgan and Bob Barnard, who continue to produce these lovely items to order. Thanks so much for your support – these are items to be treasured, as the wood pile is getting less and less. Some pieces might be of use if you are doing a house restoration and need ancient oak.

### Terrier (Church Inventory)

Churchwardens have to present an update to the Annual PCC Meeting of a complete inventory of all items in the church building or fixed to it. So John and I have spent nearly two weeks tracking down, updating and photographing all items listed so that there is now a complete digitised record. So the lock-down time hasn't been wasted!

Penny Platts

### Dorstone and District WI

All WI meetings have naturally been cancelled until further notice. Five of our members were due to attend the WI's training centre, Denman College in Oxfordshire, for three days in early July, organised by the Herefordshire Federation.

### **Dorstone and District WI**

We were very happy to learn that this has now been rescheduled for March next year, so we hope that by then life will be back to normal and we will all be able to go.

Denman College has been closed since March, but some online courses have been taking place, and they are hoping to continue with these even after the college itself can resume on-site courses. I have been enjoying several of their baking demonstrations. Maybe I can test out the recipes for our members to try when we can meet again!

### **Dorstone History Society**

The May and June talks have been rearranged for the same time next year and the April talk has been rescheduled to December as our original speaker has cancelled. We also hope to rearrange July's planned visit to Holme Lacy House for next year.

This summer's archaeological dig has had to be cancelled, so there will be no talks in August even if they would be allowed.

We have four excellent talks arranged for September through to December, though we don't yet know whether it will be possible to hold them. Watch this space for more news in the coming months.

**Dorstone Bowls Club is on pages 27 & 30**



## **Hardwicke News**

[www.hardwickechurch.co.uk](http://www.hardwickechurch.co.uk)

What a wonderful May we had this year! I don't think that I have ever seen such cloudless azure blue skies in this country. It was like having a flaming June one month early! I am sure the beautiful weather helped keep everyone's spirits up during lock-down. However, the wind direction changed to a colder quarter as we entered June resulting in a drop in temperature and we had our first rain for about a month. Not that it made a big impression on Hardwicke clay which is still rock hard even after several soakings!

## Hardwicke

Joan Waring's funeral took place on May 21st at Hardwicke. Rev Luci conducted a short funeral service at the graveside before her body was laid to rest next to her parents' Alice and Arthur Hopkins in the churchyard. The funeral was attended by immediate family only in accordance with government guidelines. We send our condolences to Ted and family at this sad time.

John Neville would like to thank Martin Leighton for the brilliant job he did on cutting the grass prior to the funeral. Several people commented on how good the churchyard looked.

Perhaps those living near Holy Trinity might have wondered why the bells were rung on Sunday 14th at 6pm. Church bells around the country rang out in memory of all those who lost their lives tragically in the Grenfell Tower disaster. Each church was asked to ring the bells 72 times once for every person who was killed before a two minute silence was observed to pray for all those still affected by the fire three years on.

Despite the government directive that places of worship can be re-opened for private prayer from June 15th, it was regretfully decided that we would be unable to open the church for the time being. Members of Hardwicke PCC were asked whether they would consider the church being open for private prayer but the general consensus was that it would be impossible to adhere to the required regulations.

It was so good to hear that Doreen Lloyd is home again after a spell in hospital. We send our love and hope that she continues her recovery at home.

For those of you who are regulars and have missed your meals at the Castlefields, there is good news. As soon as the government gives the green light, the Castlefields will be open for business as all the social distancing measures are now in place. The chef will also be doing take-away meals on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunches for a while.

***Please don't forget that The Link's new e mail address is [linkeditor@outlook.com](mailto:linkeditor@outlook.com)***

***It confuses me if I suddenly get a Link e mail within my personal e mails.  
I am easily confused –meerkats notwithstanding!***





## Moccas News

<https://sites.google.com/site/moccasvillage>

Half the year gone and what a strange time it has been. From one extreme to the other weatherwise, so wet and then so dry. The poor farmers have had a really tough time of it's but things do look a lot better now. Some lovely benefits of all the odd climate changes are the abundant flowers this year especially the superb roses. Lockdown has certainly seen a lot of work in our gardens. What a shame the Flower Show has had to be cancelled but hopefully back bigger and better next year.

Congratulations to our wonderful Julia on her landmark birthday, definitely a different celebration this time. Huge thankyou to all those who help to keep the wheels turning.

The church organ restoration is coming on well. How they know which bit goes where is a mystery, there must be thousands of parts. Look forward to hearing it soon.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

John and Denise

### **Moccas Church Organ**

Last year Moccas Church secured a Heritage Lottery grant to remove, restore and reinstate our wonderful old organ. Work started in January, when Nicholson's of Malvern came in and removed the organ and took it back to their workshop to rebuilt many of the parts and overhaul the rest of it.

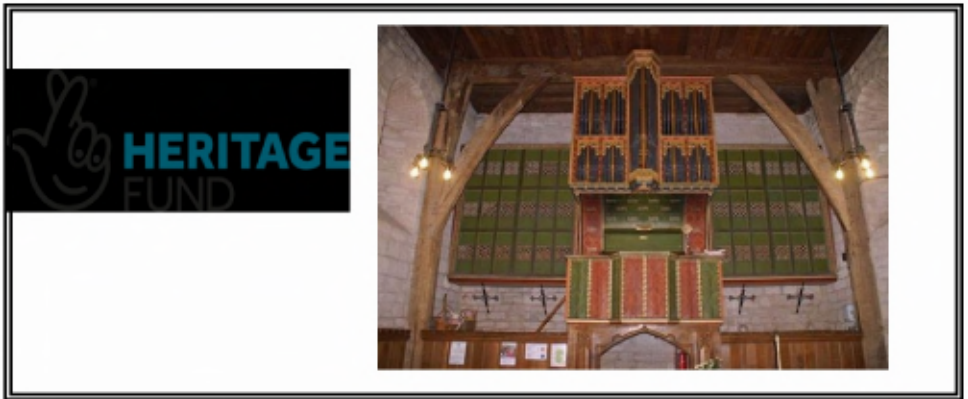
At the beginning of June, various craftsmen came and began reinstalling it back into the church. This will take several weeks to complete, as the outer decorative casing will also be cleaned.

Eventually, we will be left with a tremendous Historic instrument and feature in our church for people to enjoy for generations to come.

A huge thank you to must go to all those who have worked so hard and spent a lot of time on the project, also we would like to thank very much everyone who has kindly donated to our lovely organ restoration.

(see next page for picture )

**The beautifully restored, renovated and repaired MOCCAS ORGAN**



**Community Items**

**Hay on WI ....Inspiring Women.**

This month we have been looking at gardening as a way to improve our own wellbeing and of mitigating some of the effects of environmental damage.

The 2009 WI Campaign, *SOS for Honeybees*, called for funding for research on the decline of the honeybee population. As about a third of our diet is dependent on bees, a decimated population poses not only a threat to biodiversity, but to our way of life. So far there has been some progress: funding was secured to research pollinator decline and an action plan agreed.

But bees are still under threat, and the stakes are high. Climate change, infectious diseases, the use of pesticides and the reduction of natural habitats have all contributed to the fall in the number of bees and pollinators. Just by planting and caring for bee friendly flowers and trees, we can make a difference, as well as enjoying a wonderful display.

For more information on Hay on WI call Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523, email us on [hayonwi@gmail.com](mailto:hayonwi@gmail.com) or visit our website <http://hayonwi.wixsite.com/haywi> for more information.

**Hay Youth Theatre** (Saturdays at Cusop Village Hall at 10.30 until 12.30 for Juniors aged 7-11 and 1pm until 3 pm for Seniors aged 12-16) is currently on hold.

### **Hay Youth Theatre**

**We are planning a project called 'Ain't Nobody Here but Us Chickens' which will either be via Zoom or at Cusop Village Hall depending on restrictions. Don't forget to vote for our Community project to put on a production in 2021. We would love your help - by using your Co-op membership card and choosing Hay Theatre as your cause, every time you buy Co-op branded goods helps raise funds for this valuable youth project. Check our website and Facebook for changes. Top of Form**

For details call Janine on 07733 055430 or email [haytheatre@gmail.co.uk](mailto:haytheatre@gmail.co.uk). For more information check our website [www.haytheatre.co.uk](http://www.haytheatre.co.uk)

### **Hay Adult Theatre Studies (HATS)**

We normally meet on Thursday evenings 7.45 to 9.45 at **Clyro Village Hall** in term time. Sessions are currently postponed but as individuals we are currently writing and working on the "Coronologues". For more information check our website [www.haytheatre.co.uk](http://www.haytheatre.co.uk)

### **HayDay Cafés**

Whilst we can't meet at the HayDay Cafés at Cusop and Clyro, Dementia Matters in Powys have set up Powys wide virtual Meeting Centres on Thursday mornings at 11am for an hour or so via Zoom with chat, activities and singing. See our website <https://haydaycusop.wixsite.com/hayday> Facebook page or call Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523 for more information.

### **Dorstone Bowls Club**

We have pleasure in reporting that the Club President celebrated another year as a nonagenarian in June 2020.

Last month I told you that the Club was founded in 1980. Since then a search of the archives produced the first minutes book which reported that "on January 28<sup>th</sup> 1980 at an open meeting it was felt that there was enough interest to form a bowls club".

Leonard Wilkes became Chairman, Mrs Niblett the secretary and treasurer, Mr T and Mrs P Phillips and Mr Dallow formed the committee. During that year Mr D Price, Mr T Francis and Mrs N Hendy are mentioned being at committee meetings.

A huge physical effort must have been made to clear the site, shape and form the green and dig the ditches. In the minutes for 1981 the whole green was reseeded because of the number of bare patches.

Mr Wilkes as Chairman drove the Club forward. He obtained a £300 grant from the County Council. He was given woods and jacks from his friends at Warwick and District Bowls Club and he arranged for Warwick members to visit and play in September 1981 when the green was formally opened. In 1983 he purchased slates which were used to line the ditches and most are still there.

At a meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 1984 it is reported "that a horse had been over the green and badly damaged it. The rider, Dr Hession, met with committee members on the green to discuss what work had to be done". The cost of the work amounted to £85.

*Continued on page 29*

### **Borderlink Benefice Newsletter**

Whilst the environment has been an important issue for many people over the years, the momentum seems to have increased of late, especially the debate over single use plastics. Why should the environment matter to us as Christians? If we go back to the beginning and look at Genesis 1: 26 we read, "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Some might interpret this as our right to plunder and exploit the riches of this planet without a care, but does it?

Christianity teaches us that God is the creator of the universe. In 1 Chronicles 29: 11 it says, "Yours O Lord is the greatness and the power...for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours." and in Psalm 24 it is written, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it". When we affirm our faith by saying the Apostles Creed we acknowledge that God is the creator of the universe when we say, "... God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth". We often hear people say, for example of stately homes, that they are merely the custodians for future generations. Surely we should see the environment in the same terms? Instead of damaging it, we should cherish the precious gift we have been blessed with and act as the responsible, caring stewards of God's wondrous creation. I don't know about you, but during the pandemic I have been only too conscious of God's creation when sitting in our garden. Whilst there has been worldwide sadness, loneliness and difficulties to contend with, we still have so much to be thankful for and hope for the future.  
Karen Dowell

### **Bells for Hope**

This initiative is being covered by BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester between 9 -10am on Sunday 14th June – listen in!

Whilst the Thursday evening 'Clap for the NHS' may have come to an end, a church bell(s) will continue to ring out at 8pm at Cusop, Hardwicke, Dorstone, Blakemere, Bredwardine and Preston (at Clifford you'll hear a bell rung ahead of the on-line service at 10am on a Sunday). At the same time prayers of thanks will be said for all who continue to care for us in so many different ways; and for our village, that the love and support that's been shared in recent weeks will further strengthen the sense of community that we enjoy. We hope hearing the bells will give you a chance to pause, reflect and give thanks.

### **Blakemere Bring and Buy stall**

£1,781.26 was raised from the Lower Blakemere Farm bring and buy stall which ran until 4th June. This money was raised by a two week bring and buy sale in aid of the Food Bank initiated by Heather Gorrings at Wiggly Wiggles and Great British Florist with contributions from Fat Man Chilli, Ian Prior and a number of others who generously donated plants, bird food and a host of other items including sleepers and a pond liner.

### **Blakemere Bring and Buy stall**

These were sold at the road side shop at Lower Blakemere Farm. The majority of donations (and probably purchasers) came from the Blakemere, Moccas and Preston on Wye communities. What an incredibly generous response. What's more the food donations continued to grow throughout the fortnight of the sale. Well done to everyone for your generosity.

Thank you to everyone who continues to supply food and toiletries for the weekly food bank collections; they are urgently needed. Whilst most of the distribution is in Hereford, food bank supplies go to other parts of the benefice and deanery where they are most needed.

### **Schools update**

Clifford Primary welcomed children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back into school after half term and it's just been confirmed by the government that other year groups will not return until September. Please do pray for teachers, children and parents as they adjust to a very different way of being school, and those who are continuing to be home-schooled. A big thank you to some lovely members of Clifford church who've been providing a homemade cake each week for the Clifford Primary School teachers to thank them for their hard work under difficult conditions, Headteacher Mrs Scourfield writes: 'I feel blessed to work at Clifford School, in such a lovely community. Please pass on my thanks and a big thank you from all the staff.'

Visitors are not allowed in school this half term so we are working with Clifford Primary to create some recorded assemblies, including a special one for the Year 6 children as they move on to high school.

Sadly it won't be possible to run Messy Church at Clifford Hall for the rest of this academic year. In addition to the Messy Church sessions which we've been recording (see Abbeydore Deanery's YouTube channel), we are exploring the idea of 'Messy Church in a bag' to distribute to our Messy Church families to use in their own homes. Some reopening of churches for private prayer allowed from 15 June. Following the government's announcement on Saturday, our PCCs are reviewing their ability to reopen our church buildings for private prayer. Reopening, even for private prayer, requires churches to provide hand sanitiser, clean after each period of opening, remove of items that might be touched, and provide signage that reminds those using the building to observe social distancing rule – we are still awaiting government guidelines that support their announcement. Each PCC is considering if they have the human resources to enable their churches to reopen at this time. A list of those churches that are opening, and when they will be open, will be circulated next week.

### **Contact details:**

To be kept in touch with what's happening across the Abbeydore Deanery, by email or post, please contact Anne Lloyd, 07432 873422.

Revd Luci Morriss: 01497 821877

Revd Jane Rogers: 01981 500478

**Dorstone Bowls Club *continued!***

A year later at the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1985 it is reported "that damage had been done to the green by a pony galloping over it". No mention of the rider (if there was one) or the repair cost. A massive effort was made to repair and make good the green because it is reported that a match was played on it against visitors from Ludlow Castle Bowls Club (Shropshire) on April 29<sup>th</sup> 1985.

Mr Wilkes stepped down as Chairman in 1986 having given the local populace the opportunity of hours of pleasure playing on a super green in very pleasant surroundings. For more information call Barry Megson on 01981 590691.

**Golden Valley Day Centre**

As you will be aware there has been no club for the past 4 months. Many of our members have been contacted by the committee every couple of weeks and as far as I am aware they are all doing well. Prescriptions are being collected and shopping has been delivered either by the girls from the Community support team or by neighbours. It has shown what a great community this can be and how everyone can pull together when needed.

Maurice Herdman has had a fall and has broken his leg he is in Ross Community Hospital as I write this but hopefully by the time you read it he should be home.

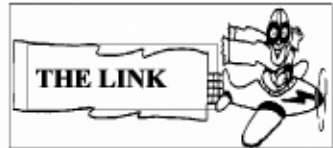
Please keep staying safe and hopefully soon we will all be able to start seeing family and friends once more.

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