

Parish News

For Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton
April 2020



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Threapwood & Holy Trinity, Bickerton" or www.malpaschurch.co.uk

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Rachel Hall

Letter from the Rector

Monday of Holy Week 2020

I write this in very difficult times for us all. Everyone is hurting and this sadness, concern and worry is worldwide as we seek to bring coronavirus to an end. Last evening Her Majesty brought us all words of encouragement, courage and strength in the ordeal we are going through. It is unitedly that we will win through to better days. All this is happening around Holy Week and Eastertime and it seems to me that it is in the events that Christian people remember year by year that we can all find hope for the future.

Jesus faced His bitterest moment which was on the Cross trusting His Father's overarching love for Him, even in the darkest moment. We too can have that same trust, and as Jesus, will find that we are not let down. The Cross, that was a symbol of earthly cruelty became the standard of victory in the face of what would otherwise be claimed as earthly defeat. St Oswald, King and Martyr, was to set up this same standard in his kingdom of Northumbria long ago. He conquered in that sign. We too can today I believe as we draw strength from Jesus's self-giving 2000 years ago.

Good Friday gave way to Easter Day and to new life and it all happened quietly in a garden and as Jesus appeared firstly to Mary of Magdala and then the other disciples they knew that he was back again. He is here for us now an so on this Easter Day that will be like no other may we all draw strength and courage and triumph in His strength and power. Revd Helen joins with me in praying that God's richest blessing be with you all this Easter and always,
Ian, Rector

From the Registers around the Benefice

Weddings

18th February Michael J. Walker and E. Joy Bebbington Wedding Blessing
22nd February Adam J. Humphreys and Fiona R. Meredith

Funerals- May they Rest in the peace of Christ and Rise in Glory

21st February John G. Lewis
26th February Sheila A. Metcalfe (Holy Trinity)
27th February Don R. Allen
10th March George A. Hadley (Holy Trinity)
12th March Olive A. Maddocks

"GODLINESS is next to cleanliness, the nation's two most senior clerics have suggested, and are urging the public to say the Lord's Prayer when they wash their hands as part of the national call to prayer to beat coronavirus. Writing in Tuesday's Daily Mail, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York suggest that, at least for the next seven days, reciting the prayer should be part of people's hygiene routine, pointing out that it takes longer than the 20 seconds recommended to wash hands thoroughly."

The United Benefice of St Oswald Malpas, St John Thrapwood, and Holy Trinity Bickerton April 2020

FROM BISHOP KEITH

Take one hand and look at:

- Your thumb – pray for your church community and family;
- Your first finger – pray for the NHS and those medical researchers looking for a vaccine;
- Your second finger – pray for the Government and all those making tough decisions;
- Your third finger – pray for those in care homes and working with the most vulnerable in our communities; and
- Little finger – pray for individuals known to you and yourself.

Each prayer focus for each thumb and finger could itself open up into prayer personally, locally, nationally, and globally.

Take the other hand and read out loud:

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience” (Colossians 3:12) and let your thumb and each finger represent one of these “clothes” we are to put on:

- Thumb – compassion
- First finger – kindness
- Second finger – humility
- Third finger – meekness
- Little finger – patience

When you pray, put your hands together, and let the “clothing” of one hand touch the people and places in the other, and see what God does.

Maybe prayer like this could become part of our daily rhythm in this strange new time for us all. However we pray, it is the Lord who meets with us in listening and speaking.

This Sunday night, if you can, light a candle, and cry out to God in prayer for ourselves, our country and our world.



WHAT ARE JULIAN MEETINGS? WHO IS JULIAN OF NORWICH?

Recently, several readers of the Parish News have quizzed me about Julian Meetings and Julian of Norwich.

A Julian Meeting is usually 6-10 people meeting once a month for a brief introduction and a piece of music leading into 30 minutes of silent contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer has been part of Christianity from the beginning. Jesus spent whole nights alone in prayer and the Desert Fathers and our own Celtic hermits sought places to be alone with God. But for many centuries the Christian churches neglected this most basic form of prayer; it thrived only in monastic communities. In the 1960s and 70s, with the great interest in eastern forms of mysticism and meditation, many people realised that the Church had not taught people about its own tradition of contemplation. In 1973 a letter in English church papers of various denominations led to people in 11 areas setting up contemplative prayer groups which launched the monthly Julian Meetings. The movement was named after Julian of Norwich, a 14th century mystic, who believed that the highest form of prayer consists in simply waiting on and listening to God. Today there are more than 500 Julian Meetings in the UK and many thousands across the English speaking world.

The answer to the second question - who was Julian of Norwich? - must appear somewhat vague. There is much about her that we do not know: the exact dates of her birth and death, even her name; her family and social background. Despite this paucity of biographical data there are some things we can glean about her. From her writings it can be deduced that she must have been born about 1343 and from other contemporary sources it is clear that she was still alive in 1413 and living in Norwich as an anchoress. An anchorite (or anchoress) was one who had chosen the life of a solitary, dedicated to a life of prayer. We know that in Julian's case she counselled the many people who came to seek her advice.

She is now regarded as the greatest of all the English anchorites of the Middle Ages. In 1373, aged thirty and so seriously ill she thought she was on her deathbed, Julian received a series of visions of the Passion of Christ. She recovered from her illness and wrote two versions of her experiences, the earlier one being completed soon after her recovery, and a much longer version being written many years later. Several copies of her book - Revelations of Divine Love - are held in the British Library's Sloane Collection. It is generally thought that she adopted the name Julian from the church she resided in; St Julian's Church, near the centre of Norwich. For much of her life, Julian lived in permanent seclusion as an anchoress in her cell which was attached to St Julian's Church. A replica of the cell she inhabited can still be seen today in the same church. Many anchorites' cells would commonly have two small windows, one onto the church and the other onto the street. Anchorites have been likened to the modern-day "agony aunts". These men and women who lived enclosed lives within a small cell in a church were holy figures with looser ties to ecclesiastical authorities and more autonomy than those who lived in formal religious communities.

When we read Julian's Book of Revelations we are introduced to a very intelligent woman who was well acquainted with scripture and thoroughly instructed in doctrine: more than that, we can immediately know her as a person of great warmth and charm whose religious experience is expressed with vivid precision and gentle humanity. In a host of colourful images she has much to tell us about her understanding of the human condition and our growth into godliness. She tells us too, much about a loving God and her message can only be described as one of immense hope. Indeed it is little wonder that the austere age of the

Reformation almost totally ignored her. And in subsequent centuries she was known to only a few, for she does not easily fit into the mould of The Ages of Reason or The Enlightenment when God was often portrayed as a remote and almost detached observer. The 14th Century was in many ways a bleak period of disruption and breakdown: the ravages of the Black Death from 1348, are the most obvious. The swift and ugly death of as many as 40% of the population brought in its wake not only profound social and economic consequences but also a great deal of fear. It is little wonder that so many people looked for reassurance and peace of mind by consulting solitaries, like Mother Julian.

Yet the age also had its great achievements. It is, after all, the period associated with the emergence of the vernacular, our inspiring English language. This was the age of Chaucer and Langland and Julian certainly has her place among these great names of literature as well as one of those many great spiritual writers who adorn the 14th Century. She well merits the title “first English woman of letters” as her prose style and skilful imagery represent a great achievement in themselves and an enrichment of our language. Religious and history scholars were acquainted with the importance of Julian and her Revelations for many centuries. An important moment in history was the publication of Grace Warrack’s 1901 version of The Revelations which with its modernised language introduced the work of Julian to a wider readership. Several works of the poet T. S. Eliot included Julian’s now well known saying: **“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well;”** very appropriate at this parlous time for our troubled world. It also forms part of the impressive stained glass window commissioned by the Queen to Julian in 2002, positioned above the altar in the Chapel of St James’ Palace. It is somewhat regrettable that we come to know so late of the life and work of this great 14th Century heroine who, belatedly, takes her true place as an inspiring champion of both Godliness and our English language.

Brian Fletcher

MALPAS & THREAPWOOD NEWS

MALPAS FIELD CLUB

The Malpas Field Club was founded in 1981 and is still very active today. In the early days of its existence, it had a number of sub-sections. One of these was a History Research Group, which in later years became independent of the Field Club and went on to carry out some valued transcription work on documents relating to the Malpas area, particularly Wills and Probate Inventories. The first project, while the group was still

part of the Field Club, was the production of a twice-yearly magazine 'Malpas History'. This ran to nine issues in all, from December 1983 to March 1988. About four years ago the Field Club decided to have the file copies scanned and put on-line, so that they could be read and enjoyed by anyone. Over the next few weeks, Malpas Cheshire online ('Google' it) will publish them on its web site, at the rate of one issue each week.'

ONE ACHORD LADIES CHOIR

Unfortunately and in line with government advice, due to Coronavirus

All choir concerts on:

2nd May at Tilston Memorial Hall,

8th May in Malpas Last Night of the Proms on and

5th June Bellis's Country Market on and all choir practices **are now postponed** until further notice. More information at a later date.

Visit our website www.oneachord.org.uk

MALPAS FLOWER CLUB

In light of the current corona virus crisis, Flower Club is cancelled until we are advised by our Government that we may resume.

Gail Craddock 01948 860630

MALPAS AMATEUR GARDENERS

Malpas Amateur Gardeners would like to announce that due to present circumstances our monthly scheduled meetings have been suspended for the time being. We will keep members updated by email and would like to wish everyone well at this difficult time, for additional Information please contact Alan or Paul on 01948 770522 or any committee member.



Chester Local Policing Unit would like to offer advice, in this uncertain time. We want our local communities to know, we are here to help.

Are you self-isolating?

Do you know of an elderly/vulnerable person?

Please do not hesitate in calling your local PCSO, PCSO 20398 Jon Hurst on – 07989 653 144, 8am-8pm we are here to help.

Kind Regards,
Chester Local Policing Unit

Meet the Hoverflies

After facing the wrath of storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge, we are all ready for some much-needed sunshine. As the sun begins to warm the ground, another wild pollinator group is starting to appear in our gardens. Meet the hoverflies - a member of the fly family with over 280 species in the UK. Sometimes known as flower-flies, hoverflies are important pollinators as adults and can provide excellent pest control in their larval stage. The fascinating family of hoverflies is often overlooked, but as you discover more about them, I know you will come to like them as much as I do.



Unlike bees, hoverflies only have one pair of wings and don't provide any parental care for their offspring. A hoverfly spends most of its life cycle as a larva, inhabiting a range of different places, including rotting wood, sap runs in trees and shallow pools of water. One tribe of hoverflies, known as the Eristalini have long tails which act as snorkels so the larvae can breathe underwater as they feed. As an adult, hoverflies feed on pollen and nectar primarily from flowers and the female lays several eggs close to the larvae's preferred feeding site. One of the commonest group of hoverflies in the garden are the yellow faced hoverflies, known as the Syrphini tribe. Many of the species in this tribe are **the gardeners best friend** because the larvae feed on aphids.

To attract hoverflies into your garden, choose open, flatter flowers, such as yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), corn marigold (*Glebionis segetum*) and wild carrot (*Daucus carota*). Providing habitat for hoverflies in their larval stage such as small pools, leaf piles and dead wood will attract a range of different hoverfly species. For more information about hoverflies, visit the hoverfly recording scheme website ([http:// hoverfly.org.uk/portal.php](http://hoverfly.org.uk/portal.php)) or join their Facebook group.



CAN WE HELP YOU?

CAN YOU HELP US TO HELP OTHERS?

Dear Resident

Some 3 weeks ago, Malpas Community Links recognised that a number of our residents would potentially struggle to carry on with their normal daily lives over the coming months, because of their underlying health problems, or they were having to self-isolate to keep themselves and others safe.

We decided efforts needed to be co-ordinated to keep people safe from potential scams by organising a network of trusted volunteers across the community.

We have now set up a network of volunteers, some of whom are now actively involved in helping their near neighbours, with shopping and medical prescription delivery, who fall into the above categories.

Do you need help to?

- collect medication
- buy food
- visit the post office or
- talk with someone on the phone when you are feeling lonely?

Then contact us by phone

Cathy Reynolds (07808 772215) or Chris Whitehurst (860333) or Rachel Williams (860627)

or by e-mail to **editor@malpascheshire.org** and we will arrange for someone in your neighbourhood to help you.

If you are willing to become a neighbourhood volunteer, especially as someone living nearby is likely to experience some difficulties, please contact us to offer assistance.

Cathy, Chris, Rachel

Malpas Community Links



Malpas Parish Council Report

There was a long agenda for our March meeting ... but little of the business was newsworthy!

The detailed Minutes will be posted in due course, as they have been for some years now, at malpascheshire.org where you can find, too, contact details for all 14 Parish Councillors and our Clerk.

Speed Limits

We were asked by a resident to consider how public awareness of the new 20mph limits could be improved. We agreed to implement his suggestion of supplying stickers to householders who will be asked to use them on their bins and the Parish Council is publishing the advert on the adjoining page of this Parish News magazine.

Planning Matters

Mr David Curry, Headteacher at Malpas Bishop Heber High School, informed us about the increasing demand for school meals since provision of them changed from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) to his kitchen staff. Some 80% of the students now choose to have them and they are eating more locally sourced food which both helps the economy and reduces the carbon footprint of suppliers. We were told this because of a planning application for an extension to the dining hall at the back of the school to create another 120 places. The Parish Council is happy to support this but asked if the work can be scheduled for the holidays to ease congestion problems. As with all planning decisions CWaC will determine whether the scheme can be implemented.

Climate Emergency

Some practical work has followed the Parish Council's climate emergency declaration. We bought 20 young trees and planted 12 in the grounds of the Malpas Alport School grounds and eight on the Mosslands site - along with 75 whips and seedlings there in locations that have been very wet in recent months, in the hope that they will grow to absorb moisture and help the drainage and, in time, to capture carbon dioxide emissions. Another initiative could see a Jubilee Hall exhibition later in the year on the theme of renewable energy to highlight non-fossil options that are available to fuel heating of homes and provide electricity generation.

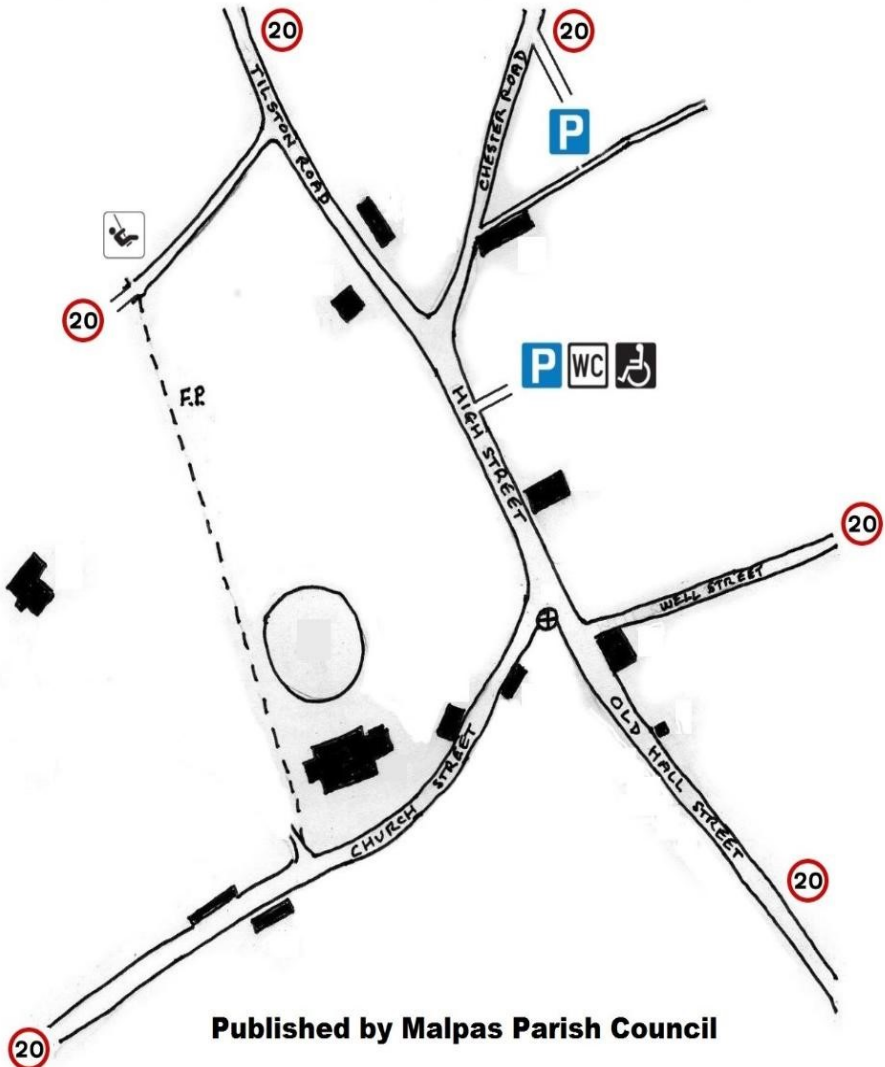
Future Dates

See update on Page 12

KILL YOUR SPEED NOT THE KIDS



New speed limits in Malpas apply to every vehicle



Published by Malpas Parish Council



MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Letter No.2 6/4/2020

Malpas Parish Council reminds everyone to follow government advice during the real threat that the coronavirus pandemic brings to our community. Please speak to neighbours that you know (and who know you) if they would like help now or in the future should they be unable to help themselves.

The Parish Council supports the great work that is being done by Malpas Community Links to keep people safe during this crisis. They have a co-ordinated network of volunteers to help with collecting medication, buying food, getting to the post office or just someone to talk to in these strange times. You can contact Malpas Community Links by phone: Cathy Reynolds (07808 772215) or Chris Whitehurst (860333) or Rachel Williams (860627) or by e-mail to editor@malpascheshire.org and they will arrange for someone in your neighbourhood to help you. If you want to volunteer, please contact them and they can explain the proper process for you to get involved.

Malpas Parish Council also encourages local clubs and organisations to contact their members to check, regularly if possible, should they need any assistance. We know that some have already done this for which we are thankful. Malpas Community Links are happy to receive requests for help from your members or from you.

The next Malpas Parish Council meeting on Monday the 20th April cannot take place in person. However, after new legislation has just been passed, we will be able hold a virtual web based meeting at 7pm on that evening to which all parishioners can join and listen to. A public notice will be posted on the Parish Noticeboard and online at Malpas Cheshire On-line with details of how to join the meeting.

We will work together as a community and get through this while supporting each other at the same time.

Stay safe and best wishes!

Malpas Parish Council

malpaspc@hotmail.com

BICKERTON NEWS

BICKERTON CHURCH LOTTERY

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2019/20 draw. The lottery membership for 2020/21 is due for renewal in May. Tickets are £1 a week, payable quarterly or annually, with a maximum number of entries of 49. Each entrant will be allocated a personal number which will be retained for the duration of their membership.

The winner of £100 each month will be decided by the number of the bonus ball drawn in the National Lottery on the last Saturday in each month. If this number is over 49, then the number from the previous week is taken.

Profits from the lottery are all donated to Holy Trinity Church Funds.

CONGRATULATIONS to Nigel Briers who won £100 in the January draw, Chris Latham in February and Sue Corn in the March draw

COFFEE MORNING FOR GOAL FOR THE GAMBIA

In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th and to help schoolgirls in The Gambia who are struggling with period poverty (which is a big problem there) we have been fundraising to buy feminine hygiene kits. Each kit comprises a wash bag, 5 washable menstrual pads which last 2-3 years, 2 pairs of knickers plus a facecloth, bath soap & washing soap. Thanks go to Mike & Penny Voisey who hosted a coffee morning which raised £1100, Sue Corn and Pam Stevenson whose own fundraising efforts raised £340 and a BIG thank you to everyone who supported or helped at the events. 200 kits will soon be on their way to the Goal for Gambia who will ensure that they are given to schoolgirls in real need.

If you would like to give a donation or get the instructions to make some pads/bags please contact –Kate Holland 01829 261153.

BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL

Bickerton Village Hall is closed at least till the end of April.

We are still hoping to go ahead with the annual **Art Exhibition** at the end of July, but this will be reviewed in the coming weeks. In the meantime, entries are invited - money paid will be refunded in the event of cancellation. If you would like an entry form contact Nigel Briers on 01829 720440 or nigelbriers@btinternet.com or bickvillagehall@outlook.com.

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

A Table at Eatons -Takeaways	01948 861177
Agritrak Surfacing System	07831 426001/07967 680856
Andrew Dean- Piano tuning & restoration	01829 261222/07713 3211117
AR Burrows & Son Funeral Care	01270 524243/07711 468917
Barlows Electrical	01948 860480/820200
Beeches Pre-School	01948 820775
Birchdown Auto Services Ltd	01948 860335
Bushes Landscape & Garden services	07990 502420
C R Cleaning	01948 880994/07980 635 594
Community Compass Roast Dinners	01606827131/07944841873
D A Roberts Fuels Ltd	01948 662762/663877
DL Mowers and Autos	01948 770341
Dog House - Malpas & Tattenhall	01829 770267/01948 861196
EG Corbett Vehicle Repairs	07944 606 652
Farndon Physiotherapy & Sports Clinic	01829 270544/07979 866788
Francis Opticians	01948 861259/01978 262460
G A Speed & Son Plastering Contractors	01948 860916/07724 185867
Garden Delight	07868 230662
H J Lea Oakes	01270 782222
Hardiman Building Contractors	01948 770258/07891978679
Hartonian Shipping & Trading	01948 861 176/07795 203803
Haycocks	01948 820006/07966 157658
High Street Church	01270 625789/01948 820741
Hollowood Farm Beef	07715 104495
Honeybee Florist	01948 860627

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Hughes-Fresh Eggs	01948 820880
Huxley Country Store & Bakery	01948 860352
Huxley Johnston Ltd Accountants	01948 822944
IDP Locksmiths	01948 666166/07918617744
Jane Chewins Ltd - Insurance	01948/ 07803 195712
Jessica's Hair & Make-up Artist	0780 3515099
Ken's Autos - Graham Williams	01948 860 802/07814904636
Langford-Painter & Decorator	07840 637043
Les Rich Plumbing & Heating	01948 860576/07949192475
Malpas Minibus	ilenehoyle@gmail.com
Malpas Parish Council	johnwebbmalpas@hotmail.co.uk
Malpas Victoria Jubilee Hall	0789 577 9703
Marta Williams My Local Solicitor	01244 478 730
Merediths Coaches	01948 860405
Mulsford Cottage B & B	01948 770414/07960 498244
Nicola Bellerby YOGA	07764 855353
Prospect House- Nursing Care & Respite	01948 860011
Rolfe's Funeral Services	01948 662209
Rostons - Land & Property	01829 773000
Sewing Room	01948 861333
The Whitchurch Podiatry Practice	07976 242096
Threapwood Garage & MOT Centre	01948 770207
Tyres & Tubes	01948 770557
Watton Tree Services	0777 3118 269/0800 7471 975
Deborah Wilkinson & Co Lawyers	01829 782604
Witter On Marketing Services	07783 679688

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Please note that we are currently unable to deliver print copies of this magazine. The magazine will be published online for May and June after which the situation will be reviewed.