Parish News

For Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton June 2020



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

WHO TO CONTACT IN THE BENEFICE

Rector:

The Revd Canon Ian Davenport The Rectory, Church Street

Malpas. SY14 8PP

Telephone: 01948 860 922

Email: malpas.iandavenport@live.co.uk.

Curate:

The Revd Helen Molesworth I Wigfield Terrace (office) Malpas SY14 8PZ

Telephone: 07835 752 499

email revdhelenmolesworth@gmail.com

ST. OSWALD'S MALPAS & ST JOHN'S THREAPWOOD

Church Wardens:

Beverley Dobson 01948 861313

Angela Latham 01948 860544

PCC Secretary:

Karen Kirk 01948 860988

PCC Treasurer:

Louise Furnival 01948 820440

Gift Aid Secretary:

Brian Fletcher 01948 861152

Mothers Union:

01948 861475 Ann Welby

Director Of Music:

Stewart Smith 01948 662412

Julian Prayer Group (monthly, first Monday)

Verger:

Bob Carter 01948 861 017

Tower Captain

Ben Kellett 07742 976950

Friends of St. Oswald's: Lady Christine Bibby

Ozzies Club—Family Service Vicky Ridgeway 01948 861140

Social Media

Sue Anderson 07506 994550

sueanderson.quoisleybridge@

btopenworld.com

Website

Nigel Dobson 01948 861313 nigel.dobson28@gmail.com

Bible Study Group (monthly second Wed)

ST. JOHN'S THREAPWOOD

The Friends of St John's: Church Wardens: as above

Gill Edwards 01948 770694

PCC Reps:

Sir Jonathon Clark Bt 01948 770205

The Threapwood Community Group: Sue Pickering 01948 770236

HOLY TRINITY BICKERTON

Church Wardens:

PCC Secretary: Colin Capewell 01829 782345 Val Capewell 01829 782345 Brian Jeffcoat 01829 782311

PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid:

Church Flowers: Andrew Higgins 01829 260885 Janet Mitchell 01829 720549

Organist Rachel Hall

Letter from the Rector

Dear All,

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during these sad and difficult days of Coronavirus. There is a terrible sadness throughout the world and the heartbreak and pain is dreadful. So many lives affected. So many though giving their all in our service and week by week we pay tribute to our wonderful NHS, Care Home Workers and all who are helping us get through these times. There are so many" front line" workers who are risking their lives and we are all enriched by their sacrifice. Family ,friends and neighbours are doing so much.

Sadly our church buildings are still closed and as yet we have no idea when they will be open for use and what will be allowed in the early stages. I will make sure that everyone knows just as soon as the plans become clear from the National Church and from Chester Diocese. Our church buildings are very special to us all and please know that I have been going in once per week to check the buildings and that all is well. There is very much the same sense of holiness and the prayer of the ages sustains their silent witness to our communities. The church of God though is more than buildings as we all know and still lives and grows and develops and so the prayer of the Church is constant and done now from our homes. Prayers requests to either myself or Revd Helen please and these can also be a special focus of the Wednesday Prayer time run each week by e mail by Revd Helen. Please contact her or myself by phone or e mail if you would like prayer for someone or yourself.

We are all finding new ways of communicating with others along with the telephoning and so we have here in the benefice, e mailed services, the e mail prayer group and also services recorded on Zoom along with the special u tube speeches by myself for Easter and VE75. We are involving more and more people in leading these services and hope that it helps you in worshipping in these difficult days.

We are all delighted by the news that Bishop Mark, The Bishop of Berwick is to become the next Bishop of Chester. Please pray for Bishop Mark and Lindsay as they prepare to move to Chester Diocese. We do not have a date for the installation yet but we hope that will be on the autumn.

We are very conscious that we need to keep the cost of running our churches in our minds and also the payment of parish share which is essential if the diocese is to continue to function properly. Many of you give by standing order but if you don't would you perhaps consider that please. If you need to know more please contact the Treasurers of the two PCC's Lou(and Brian for planned giving) for Malpas and Threapwood and Andrew for Bickerton and they will be able advise you as to how to proceed. Envelopes can be brought in when our churches are open again or for Malpas put through the door at Table at Eatons. There is an article by Brian Fletcher for Malpas and Threapwood and one for Bickerton in the Bickerton News Section.

We celebrate Whit Sunday on the 31st May and so my prayer is that we are all open to the promptings of The Holy Spirit in our lives.

May God bless us all.

Ian. Rector.

THE NEXT BISHOP OF CHESTER

The Rt Revd Mark Tanner has been named by Downing Street as the next Bishop of Chester, succeeding the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster who retired in September 2019. Bishop Mark is currently the Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle, a post he has occupied since 2016.

"It will be hard to say goodbye to the North East," he says, "however, Lindsay and I are really excited to return to Chester where I was ordained, and both of our children were born. It is an honour and a joy to be appointed to the Diocese of Chester at such a key time in the life of our communities, nation, and Church. In Christ, God offers a gift of hope beyond our imagining; there is no greater joy or privilege than enabling others to step into this freedom and life, whether in deeply practical service or beautiful wonder and worship. God is here for all. Although I cannot physically be with you today, I look forward to getting to know the people and communities of the diocese from the coast to the Pennines, as we refresh and renew our service of every member of society within our diocese"

Bishop Mark and his wife, Lindsay, will be introduced to the diocese online via a series of live-streamed events. Members of the public can watch and participate via Facebook and Zoom. Bishop Christine, the Bishop of Newcastle says: "It has been a real joy to work with Mark as a key member of the team here. I have appreciated his friendship and counsel, his kindness and great sense of fun, and most particularly, his focus on those whom we are called to serve as Christ's church today. He has been instrumental in helping us establish our Resource Church and imagine new possibilities in terms of ministry and mission. I know the Diocese of Chester will be blessed through his ministry there."

Bishop Mark studied at Christ Church, Oxford, and served as a youth worker at Holy Trinity, Coventry before training for ordination at Cranmer Hall. Ordained in 1998, he was Curate at St Mary, Upton (near Birkenhead) and went on to be appointed Vicar of St Mary's, Wheatley (Doncaster) in 2001. In 2005 he was awarded Master of Theology from Chester College, University of Liverpool, and in 2007 he left Wheatley to become Vicar of Holy Trinity, Ripon, North Yorkshire, until returning to Cranmer Hall as Warden in 2011. He became an honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral in 2015 and was elected to the Church of England's General Synod in the same year. He and Lindsay have two teenage children. He enjoys vehicles (especially motorbikes, Land Rovers, and a 1951 BSA Bantam he is rebuilding), and being a husband and dad.

In addition to his parish and academic work, Bishop Mark served as a member of the Royal Army Chaplain's Department from 2009-2013, serving as Officiating Chaplain to 21 Engineer Regiment from 2009 to 2011, and as Officiating Chaplain to 101 Royal Artillery from 2011 to 2013. He served as Area Dean of Ripon, as New Wine's Regional Network Leader for the North and East, and was an Associate with ReSource.

Bishop Mark was the convenor of the Renewal series of Grove Booklets; he has written various books on a number of subjects, including books entitled 'The PCC Members Essential Guide' (CHP, 2015) and 'The Introvert Charismatic' (Monarch, 2015) and a number of Grove Booklets, mainly on preaching and leadership. His passion is seeing people released into all that God has for them; he loves introducing people to faith, is a natural teacher and trainer, an instinctive strategist and networker.

The Rector writes that no date has yet been set for Bishop Marks installation but we hope that it will be in the autumn.

JULIAN MEETING JUNE 2020

There are some words of John Taylor in The Go-Between God which helps to open our eyes to the message of Whitsuntide with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit is the invisible third party who stands between me and the other, making us mutually aware. Supremely and primarily he opens my eyes to Christ. But he also opens my eyes to the brother and sister in Christ, or the fellow man, or the point of need, or the heartbreaking brutality and the equally heartbreaking beauty of the world. He is the giver of that vision without which people perish. We commonly speak about he Holy Spirit as the source of power. But in fact he enables us not by making us supernaturally strong but by opening our eyes."

So much of what we believe is contained in those words: the Spirit within us opening our eyes to the creation and its creatures, its beauty and its pain; inspiring writers and artists; enabling us to look at ourselves and each other with compassion and give proper attention to the mystery each one of us is; looking to the only one of our race who saw clearly into the heart of God and in his freedom and trust spelled out for us the meaning of 'the love that moves the sun and the other stars'.

But notice what the Spirit does. He doesn't simply open my eyes to the significance of Jesus of Nazareth, who is now a part of history: he opens my eyes to the indwelling of Christ. The experience of God is of one who is Christlike and whose nature the human Jesus allowed me to grasp; but in learning to call Jesus 'Lord', those first disciples were acknowledging one who is now beyond time and no longer limited by space, now encountered as a life-giving Spirit. Once Jesus had left them his followers had to look for him elsewhere and in a new form. They found him again within the communities that started to form in his name; by looking into each other's faces, listening to each other's words, hearing words of forgiveness from one another's lips, receiving the broken and shared bread at one another's hands. They believed he was alive in their midst, teaching them through the Holy Spirit, feeding them with the living bread. This, too, is a mystery, hard to explain in words which tend to buckle under the weight of such a reality. But the New Testament is full of it. It is implicit in Jesus' own promise: 'I am with you always'; in his comparing the relationship of his followers with himself as that of a vine and its branches, 'I in you and you in me'.

How can we be certain those are the exact words of Jesus? We can't. They may or may not be. They are put into his mouth by John, whose task it was to interpret all he had seen and heard in the light of his continuing experience, but what we can know beyond any shadow of a doubt is that he wrote after a lifetime's knowledge of what Christ had come to mean for him and his fellow-Christians as he learned to see under the guidance of the Spirit. So Paul can write, time and again, that we are 'in Christ'; that we are like cells in the body of Christ; that 'I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me'; and he prays for his fellow Christians 'that through faith Christ may dwell in your hearts in love'. And those who read his words would have known him to be writing of a mystery they found true in their daily lives. I, personally, in my moments of doubt recall those reassuring words of Jesus; 'Blest are those who have not seen but have believed'.

The most important opening of our eyes by the Spirit is when Christ is encountered as we relate to each other, and that will be so wherever within our small communities we create love, show compassion, work for justices, or help reconcile those who are divided; grant forgiveness or ask for it; or stand for truth. The Church, in so far as it is the Body of Christ, the place where the Word is read and the bread broken, should be the place where these things happen, where the spirit of Christ is self-evident.

Brian Fletcher

From the Registers around the Benefice

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

23rd April Alan Simpson 15th May Janet (Jan) Bond

ST OSWALD'S AND ST JOHN'S NEWS



In the light of the current situation there will be no further meetings until we are advised we can safely do so. Many thanks to all who are currently knitting and have completed 'blankets of hope' for refugees: they will be collect when possible. Meanwhile keep safe and well. Ann Welby







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ST OSWALD'S, MALPAS AND ST JOHN'S, THREAPWOOD FINANCE NEWS

I would like to keep you abreast of the Church's financial status at this moment. The total giving for the month of April was about £2,300 which was £1,000 less than in April 2019. A number of parishioners have responded to the information I included in the church magazine for April re. the church's bank account details and have used that to make their regular donations. Several have sent cheques to the church's Treasurer, Mrs Louise Furnival at A Table at Eaton's in Church Street.

However, we need more of our parishioners to contribute in order to ensure that we meet our weekly costs of £1,300. Please, if you can, make your financial commitment to the church on a regular basis.

We hope and pray that our church will soon re-open to welcome us all back to worship together.

Details of how you can give financially:

Direct to the bank or by direct debit/standing order:

Church Account Number 08202877 Bank Sort Code 55 81 16

By cheque; Made out to St. Oswald's Church. Place in an envelope with your name and address and put through the letterbox at A Table at Eaton's on Church St, Malpas.

Brian Fletcher Gift Aid Recorder Tel. 861152

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The bakery serves homemade products such as pies, pasties, breads, cakes and sandwiches. They also sell fresh vegetables, cooked meats (including spit-roast chickens), cheeses and general groceries and wines & spirits.



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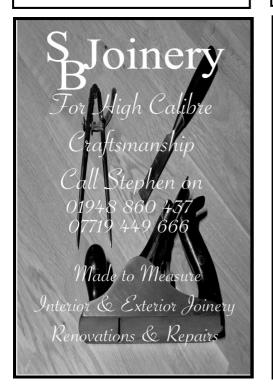
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MALPAS & THREAPWOOD NEWS

MALPAS AMATEUR GARDENERS

Due to the current situation we have to inform you that the June meeting for Malpas Amateur Gardeners will have to be cancelled, during these difficult times we hope that you are making the most of the lovely weather and spending time in your gardens, all of those jobs that we have been putting off in the past will be getting done

now that we have more time at home, it's also a very good pastime for the mind and the body, we will keep in touch via the local magazines and emails when the circumstances change, in the meantime stay safe and keep well.

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 FIELD CLUB

In the early days of its existence, during the 1980s, Malpas Field Club 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 valuable transcription work on documents relating to the Malpas area. The first project, while the group was still part of the Field Club, was the production of a (roughly) twice-yearly magazine 'Malpas History'. This ran to nine issues in all, from December 1983 to March 1988. All nine issues are now available through the Internet, free to read and download, on the Malpas Cheshire Online website (Google it) or use this link: https://www.malpascheshire.org/historic-archive/malpas-history-magazine.html

For other information about the Field Club please contact secretary David Hayns: Tel: 01948 860486 Email: davidhayns.123@btinternet.com

Malpas Community Links



Useful Contacts

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) impact on Cheshire West Council services can be found at:

https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/

coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus.aspx?

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HELP SCHEME (Help in emergencies for local people) This Cheshire West & Chester Council scheme provides support in the form of food vouchers and recycled goods to residents that are considered vulnerable. To be awarded a food voucher people must be in both financial hardship and in immediate need of food.

The CW&C Get HELP online form can be used to apply for discretionary funds, to get advice about benefits or housing, or for digital support. Further information and an application form are available on the https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/.../housi.../help.aspx

DEDICATED HELP LINE:

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Detail can be found at:

https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-get-help/dedicated-helpline.aspx

CHESHIRE WEST LIVE WELL SITE: can be found at: https://

livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/

HELP FOOD BANKS:

Telephone: 0300 123 7065

https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/housing-benefit-council

-tax/help.aspx

COPING WITH CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):

https://livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Categories/4854

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MENTAL HEALTH HELP LINE:

Telephone: 0300 303 3972

DOMESTIC ABUSE:

Intervention and prevention team **Telephone:** 0300 123 7047

MALPAS COMMUNITY LINKS:

Telephone: Cathy (07808 772215), Chris (01948 860333), Rachel (01948

860627)

E-Mail: editor@malpascheshire.org

Use this link to find more information: https://www.malpascheshire.org/community-links.html

Local Convenience Stores

Co-op:

Telephone: 01948 860428 **Open:** 9:00am – 7:00pm **Open:** 9:00am to 10:00am **for vulnerable customers only**

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Telephone: 01948 860352 **Open:** Monday to Saturday from 8:30am to

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Nisa:

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Hampton vets:

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ANYONE FOR A QUIZ?

I have been running quizzes on my Facebook page every Friday at 8pm. All are welcome to join in, just find me on Facebook and send me a friends request. Charles Lowick Higgie on Facebook.

CHESS

I am still enjoying running 3 Malpas & Oswestry chess sides in the 4NCL Online. At the time of writing (Wednesday May 13) my 1st team is mid-table in Division 1, having dropped points after an excellent start. My 2nd team is just above the relegation zone in Division 2 while my third team in Division 5 won its first 5 games but lost the 6th, but still have excellent promotion chances. I hope to run a 4th team in this league next season. I am looking forward to running a Cheshire & North Wales side in the Online English Counties League, stating some time in June. Amyone interested in playing online chess for me or with me please contact me, Charles Higgie, 1 Well Farm Close, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8QW, tel. 01948 860083, email higgiecharles@gmail.com or Charles Lowick Higgie on Facebook.

KEY

A key was found on the pavement outside the Bishop Heber High School on Sunday May 10. It has been forwarded to me. Please contact me if you think it may be yours. Charles Higgie, 1 Well Farm Close, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8QW, tel. 01948 860083, email higgiecharles@gmail.com or Charles Lowick Higgie on Facebook.





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Website: www.awburrowsnantwich.co.uk Email:barb.burrows2@gmail.com



MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL

Virtual April & May Monthly Meetings

After new legislation was passed Malpas Parish Council were able hold a virtual web based public meeting on Monday 20th April. Two members of the public joined the meeting which used the meeting platform Zoom. This historic moment for the Parish Council ran smoothly without any I.T. issues with new guidelines for this format being adopted at the start of the virtual meeting. The council held two further virtual meetings on the 11th May and 18th May where the 2020-21 budget was agreed.

Due to the circumstances that we face with coronavirus only matters of an urgent nature can be discussed and debated upon. The Parish Council has had to defer approving grants to local organisations.

The Parish Council did agree to set up a specific fund for requests for support from the community group Malpas Community Links during the coronavirus crisis. Letters have also been sent to local MP Edward Timpson and Leader of the Borough Council, Cllr Louise Gittins regarding economic recovery, food security and rural poverty as the Parish Council are concerned that the rural communities will be neglected in post coronavirus plans.

Planning applications were discussed in the April and May meetings and our comments will be forwarded to Planning in the Borough Council. The Parish Council is to replace the floral displays in the four planters in the village centre and we hope that as things begin to go back to normal that they brighten your day.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Malpas Parish Council reminds everyone to follow government advice during the real threat that the coronavirus pandemic brings to our community. Social distancing is still vitally important to protect everyone in the village, so please keep two metres apart when you are out and about. 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 is supportive of the work that is being done by the local group 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.

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

Looking for a good Stag Night?

This month is the perfect time to go in search of stags, and I'm not talking about the four-legged kind. These stags have six legs, enormously spectacular "antlers" and are Britain's largest beetle! They might look intimidating, but the stag beetle (Lucanus cervus) is completely harmless. It enjoys nothing better than munching on rotting wood.

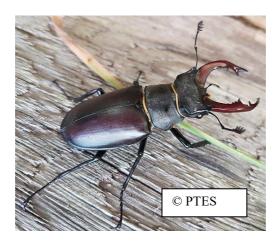
Male beetles can reach up to 75mm long and tend be seen flying around at dusk between May and July in search of a mate. Their huge "antlers" are actually oversized mandibles that are used to wrestle with other male beetles in the hope of impressing an onlooking female beetle. Female beetles are smaller than the males, reaching up to 50mm long, with smaller mandibles. They can be found on the ground looking for a suitable place to lay their eggs. Females lay their eggs in rotting wood, which their offspring will feed on when they hatch.

Sadly, this beautiful insect is a nationally scarce species, due to a lack of suitable habitat for nesting. Whilst the stag beetle is primarily found in the south east of England, small populations have been recorded in the Severn Valley and in Cheshire! This is thanks to a citizen survey project called the Great Stag Hunt, set up by the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) in 1998. PTES are particularly keen for people in Cheshire and Shropshire to join the Great Stag Hunt so they can find out more about this population.

You can also help look after our stag beetles by providing suitable habitat for them in your garden. Leaving old stumps and deadwood in your garden and allowing them to rot will provide sites for female beetles to lay her eggs. Avoid removing tree stumps if you are cutting down a dead, unsafe tree and please don't burn the dead wood. You can also build a log pyramid in your garden to create a good supply of dead wood for females to lay their eggs in. Rotting wood is an important habitat for a range of wildlife including hoverflies, solitary bees and hedgehogs.

Join the PTES' Great Stag Hunt and look out for stag beetles in your garden! For more information about joining in the Great Stag Hunt visit the PTES website: https://ptes.org/get-involved/wildlife-action/help-stag-beetles/

Nature Notes by Lucy Witter, PHD Researcher at National Botanic Garden of Wales





Our annual nature challenge, **30 Days Wild**, is back! We'd love you to join us in doing something wild for every day of June. Whether that's following the trail of a bumblebee from flower-to-flower in your garden or throwing some wildlife-themed yoga shapes around the living room, we know that you can be a 30 Days Wild hero!



Sign up has now opened to receive your free downloadable pack of goodies. These will help you to plan wild activities throughout the month of June, with a handy wallchart to jot ideas down on. Packed full of great Random Acts of Wildness that you can do from home, it's just the boost we all need.

And, as we know things are a little different at the moment, we've created some bonus items to meet the needs of people home working and schooling (we won't tell if you start using them before the start of June, promise).

So, sign up today – and make sure you share what you get up to on social media using #30DaysWild.

We look forward to going wild with you this June.

To get your free pack go to www.wildlifetrusts.org.



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For a no obligation meeting contact either Richard Huxley or Diane Johnston on: 01948 822944 or email mail@huxleyjohnston.co.uk

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Malpas Victoria Jubilee Hall has been chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Please help us to make the most of this opportunity to raise funds to

refurbish our kitchen

by choosing us* as your local cause. Sign in as a member or register to be a member via Co-op membership page. https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/41416

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Malpas Victoria Jubilee Hall Committee

*closes 24th October 2020

For more information about us visit https://www.malpascheshire.org/victoria-jubilee-hall-malpas.html





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Yoga & Karma for Everyone...

I am a Qualified Nurse working in the NHS. I'm also a qualified Siromnani Yoga Teacher, so I just wanted to write a little piece about the benefits of Yoga for our minds and bodies in our busy world today and invite you all to come along to one of my classes on a Thursday night at 6pm in Malpas Jubillee Hall starting on January 9nd 2020.

Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a matt & blanket if you have one. (I have spare blocks and matts). The class will be just over one hour in length.

As many of you will realise, when the body and mind are constantly overworked, their natural efficiency diminishes. With our modern social lives, the processed food we eat, our work and even entertainment (screens!) our bodies have a difficult time relaxing. Many have forgotten that nature's way of recharging and healing are rest and relaxation. This is where Yoga is invaluable.

Even when trying to rest, the average person still expends a lot of physical and mental energy through tension. Yoga will help you learn how to rest and relax properly and not only for the body but also for the mind and soul. It will help to relieve this tension after stretching slowly. Yoga involves Pranayama (the science of breath control) and Asana's (physical Yoga postures). Asanas and Pranayama are tools for gaining control of your mind via proper breathing.

Some of the simple Yoga poses are easy and perfect for giving the body essential daily exercise and strength. Regular Yoga practice creates mental clarity and calmness; increases body awareness. There are even some postures that stimulate literally every cell in the whole body.

If you would like to try one of my classes, I teach very quietly and peacefully and will help you relax after a few stretches. I do realise everyone has their own unique way of exercising and will show empathy to beginners or those who want to push themselves further with more difficult Asana's. Please do call me if you wish to discuss anything at all. 07764 855353

Namaste.

Nicola Yoga is for Everyone.

BICKERTON NEWS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BICKERTON. FINANCE NEWS.

We are very conscious that we need to keep the cost of running our churches in our minds and also the payment of parish share which is essential if the diocese is to continue to function properly. Many of you give by standing order but if you don't would you perhaps consider that please. If you need to know more please contact our treasurer Andrew Higgins on 01829 260885 and he will be able advise you as to how to proceed. Envelopes can be brought in when our churches are open again.

The easiest way to contribute under present conditions is through online bank transfer, or for those who prefer a cheque is perfectly acceptable!! and can be sent to Mr A Higgins, Bridge Farm Barn, Wrexham Road, Ridley,CW6 9SA or e mail him on andrew higgins@me.com to find out more about bank transfers. Thank you . lan .

ANY HELP NEEDED

Are you or will you be self-isolating due to Covid 19, do you or will you need help? Picking up shopping, posting mail, a friendly phone call, urgent supplies. There are a small group of local people that might be able to help, in the first instance please call John Mann 01829 782286 or Ann 01948 861035.

BICKERTON CHURCH LOTTERY

CONGRATULATIONS to Roger Reeves who won £100 in the April draw.

BICKERTON VILLAGE HALL

The Hall will remain closed throughout June and that the Art Exhibition scheduled for the last week in July has been cancelled because of the on-going lockdown. The next exhibition has been scheduled for 2021 (July 24th to August 1st).



Dear All,

Just a short email from me, firstly by way of introduction, having recently been elected as the new chairman of the hall management committee, at our last meeting, and partly to update you all on what is happening with the hall during these testing times for us all.

There has been a re-structuring of the committee members now, with Mike Butterworth now concentrating mainly on looking after the hall finances, as treasurer, a job that he was doing as well as being our chairperson. Nigel Briers has stepped back with his involvement as well, but will remain a trustee member still.

Thanks to both members for all their hard work and dedication in their roles. not only for the running of the day to day functions of the hall, but to have also been key contributors to the improved position the hall finds itself in now, both in terms of its condition, and financially. By way of an update about the hall and its usage, obviously we are all still carrying out social distancing at home, and in line with UK Gov guidelines, meeting in, and using the hall, is currently suspended. This will remain under review, and we will take guidance as to our next steps from the government and health experts. We will keep you all in touch with decisions that need to be made.

It was intended to carry out and number of pre-scheduled repairs to the hall during August of this year. It made sense given the status now of the hall, to bring these works forward and do them early. I am pleased to be able to tell you that the below list of repairs and refurbishments are well underway, and many are now completed. This will mean that we potentially now have our August dates available should we need to let the hall.

Replacement of fire access doors to side and rear of hall (in progress)

General refurbishment of Gents toilet facilities (almost complete)

Replacement of hall lighting, to a more efficient LED system (complete)

Installation of CCTV coverage to all external aspects of the hall (complete)

Re-decoration/repainting of most internal walls/ceilings (almost complete)

Ongoing damp treatment to walls (complete for toddler cupboards))

There remain a few smaller jobs to complete now, and hopefully this will all be done before we return to full usage. Following a recent visit it really does look 'Spruced up' Whilst I am writing to you, and by way of offering some help in these difficult times, I have been kindly given some useful facilities that are being offered to us all during lockdown (Thanks - Nigel/Idina). You may already know of these, but I will share them for those who do not.

Home food deliveries by the **Harveys**. Tel: 01829 260170 (carl@harveyscatering.co.uk) They have a 10 day rolling programme of deliveries.

Bickerton Poacher. Apart from converting themselves into a useful shop for most food items, including fresh baked bread, they will also deliver hot/cold food

John & Jo at Bulkeley will deliver Pizza's locally. Tel: 07806 809797

Bunbury Butchers will make free deliveries locally for any meat products: Tel: 01829 260342 (rfburrowsandsons@btconnect.com)

I feel sure that there will be many other people locally, going the extra mile to keep us all as safe and comfortable as we can be, lets be grateful for that.

I will send further updates with any news or changes, and hopefully, as when we reach the point with the virus, where we can hopefully look to start meeting each other face to face again.

Until then - please stay safe

Bill Clark



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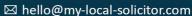
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Editor:

Joan Jeffcoat 01829 782311 Email: brianjeffcoat@btinternet.com

Advertising:

Angela Witter enquiries@witteronmarketing.co.uk

Distribution for Malpas:

Helen Ravenhill:- 01948 861 166

Distribution for Bickerton:

Brian Jeffcoat

Printing:

YouMedia , The Cross, High Street, Malpas SY14 8NU 01948 860867

Publicity Officer:

Ann Welby 01948 861 475

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Please note that we are currently unable to deliver print copies of this magazine. The magazine will continue to be published online until further notice.

