

# **INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN**

**JANUARY 2021**



## CHURCH LETTER

And so – *that* was 2020. In fact, of course, as I write this, it is still 2020 and we are waiting to hear what may – or may not – be permissible during the Christmas “easing”. And then to decide to what extent we may or may not wish to take advantage of the relaxation of the rules. But by the time you are reading this, that will all be past history – the almost final page in the extraordinary annals of our very own 21<sup>st</sup> Century Year of the Plague.

There is so much to say about 2020 that my mind and my typing fingers have no idea where to start. And yet, for so many of us, for so much of the year, nothing much happened. We didn’t go anywhere; we didn’t meet anyone. The skies were quiet, the birds sang, the butterflies fluttered and the roads were almost empty except for unaccustomed family outings by bicycle – clearly enjoyed more by some members of the various parties than by others. The sun shone day after day – it really did although it seems hard to remember now. Shopping for necessities became an expedition – fraught with peril and queues outside shops and confusing arrows and one-way systems inside and hand sanitiser and trolley wipes – and empty shelves. Word whizzed around the village if there was pasta in stock – or even more excitingly, flour. Or, whisper the words – *toilet rolls*.

We stopped in the street and along the footpaths and chatted – at a safe distance – to neighbours whom we might previously have seen in glimpses, dashing off to work at dawn and returning at dusk, but who now had time and to spare, to talk. Volunteers appeared out of nowhere to do what they could to help friends, neighbours and strangers. Solitude became loneliness for many. People were furloughed and peoples’ jobs disappeared. People died and people recovered. And schools were closed and children enjoyed the freedom – and children were bored and drove their parents to distraction. And we all tuned in to the daily briefings and we all learned to read graphs – better sometimes, it seemed, than those presenting them. And churches were closed and meetings were cancelled and to our amazement we all (well, nearly all) learned to Zoom. And then to bubble.

The possibility of a vaccine maybe, just maybe, by the summer of 2021 was like the elusive pot of gold at the rainbow’s end. And where are we now – and what have we learned? What have we forgotten that once we knew?

If you are anything like me, you are still processing 2020 and its twists and turns and peaks and troughs – different experiences and different responses for each of us. What will life be like – post-Covid? Who knows? What will happen to those new friendships – and those new puppies and bicycles if it comes to that? What about those old relationships with people we haven’t seen for nearly a year? What will be the same? What will be different? What have we lost? What have we gained?

2,000 or so years ago, St Paul wrote – “And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love”. We need them all now, just as much as he needed them then . . . so may they be ours to take with us into the year ahead – into 2021, whatever that may bring.

Revd. Tim Wood

## NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

**A Christmas Like No Other.** This year Christingle was replaced by the Crib Service when, as the story was told, the children with their parents brought up the figures to create the nativity scene. It was much enjoyed and was a great success. In addition, the collection in aid of The Children's Society amounted to £200 - a figure which far exceeded the normal.

But no singing! So instead, on the evening of the Sunday before Christmas we listened in the candlelit and beautifully decorated church to some of the readings and music that make Christmas so special. However later in the week - Carol Singing - as more than 20 of us assembled on the evening of the 23rd in the Churchyard in some pretty miserable weather and we gave it our all!

Christmas Morning was exceptional. So that we could sing we met once more in the Churchyard - but this time over 100 of us. The temperature remained at around freezing but we welcomed the birth of Jesus as we should - with reverence and enthusiasm. Thanks to so many.

**Services in January.** For the **Parish Communion on the 10th** which will be led by Revd. Patrick Whitworth, we are breaking with the tradition of the Twelve Days of Christmas by leaving the Christmas decorations in place. We thought, because of the Tier 4 restrictions and so few had been able to enjoy them, we would give ourselves a final opportunity. We will celebrate Epiphany on the 6th at the same service. All are very welcome whether they take Communion or not. The quiet and reflective service of **Compline** which is on the **24th** will be led by Christopher Sears and the **Parish Communion** on the **31st** will be led by Revd. Tim Wood. There is no need to book for any of these services.

But for each of these three the obvious caveat is that Government dictum might change and clearly, we would be bound by that. And the same applies for the regular opening for personal prayer and meditation which at the moment is every Wednesday and Sunday (when there isn't a Service) from 10am to 4pm.

G.A.

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Associate Priest:** The Revd. Tim Wood – Tel. 01488 669261;  
Mob: 07927352847; Email: [revtimothywood@gmail.com](mailto:revtimothywood@gmail.com).

**Benefice Administrator:** Alex King – 01635 226 064, part-time at the **Benefice Office** Email: [wbboffice@gmail.com](mailto:wbboffice@gmail.com).

**Churchwardens:** **Inkpen:** Gerald Atkinson (tel. 668375). **Combe:** David Russell (tel. 668229), Katherine Astor (tel. 668284).

## INKPEN VILLAGE HALL

There's nothing to announce re the Village Hall, however if you are looking for a new hobby to help keep you busy and buoyant through the restrictions which might continue in to the first part of 2021? If so, why not have a whirl at learning the Ukulele? There is an online 'Complete Beginners Ukulele Course' **starting Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**, with the UTeam [www.theuteam.weebly.com](http://www.theuteam.weebly.com)? You will benefit from two tutors during the sessions. Russ, who teaches at a local music academy, and Helen who lives and usually teaches from her Inkpen studio. Join other complete beginners over Zoom to learn everything you need to accompany yourself or others playing and singing a handful of jolly ditties. You don't need any prior knowledge of music. If you don't have a Ukulele, we can signpost you to some great deals on offer at the moment. We are also planning a Saturday afternoon Guitar and Ukulele Club for children starting January 2021. In these tricky times, group learning is a much more affordable and social way to learn at just approx. £10 for an hour's tuition. Please visit our website to learn more and make contact if you have interest.



## PLAYING FIELD TRUST UPDATE (IMPFT)

### Pavilion News:

Due to the Government restrictions in relation to COVID19, additional requested works and Christmas, the pavilion will now be completed at the end of January. We hope you will be happy with the renovation and that when we are free from restrictions it will get lots of use for many years to come. If you have an activity you feel will be suited to the pavilion do please get in touch with Gloria Keene or Claire Jones.

We do not currently have the funds to complete the paths around the pavilion or the parking area behind the pavilion as this requires a further £5,000 to £10,000. We will aim to include this in our fundraising activities this year.

**Phase 3: The Sports Equipment Building** requires £30,000 to be built and we are still fundraising for this part of the renovation. If you can donate, please make a cheque payable to: IMPF Fund Raising and give it to Gloria Keene or Claire Jones. Or contact Claire for our bank details – donations can be anonymous and every penny counts now.

With us being in Tier 4 there is sadly little, if any, sports activity allowed but hopefully in the spring and summer, we will be able to once again play team sports and have various activities put in place including junior football.

### Woodland Playground:

The woodland playground equipment will be installed in February. If you have any **landscaping and planting experience** and are happy to volunteer some of your time to help with the landscaping of the woodland playground please do get in touch with Claire Jones : [clairejonesimpt@gmail.com](mailto:clairejonesimpt@gmail.com)

IMPFT Website: [www.impft.co.uk](http://www.impft.co.uk)

## INKPEN SCHOOL

As usual, the end of the Christmas term appeared out of nowhere. But, despite all the Covid restrictions, we were able to find various ways to celebrate this very special Christmas. This included a (battery) candle-lit, socially distanced Carol service by the children in the KS2 bubble as well as the infants "Notivity". Both performances were filmed and emailed to parents as a Christmas present from the children. I have to say, they both brought a tear to my eye. We are now looking forward to the summer,

when we can once again invite an audience into school. Plans are already in place to hold this outdoors, should it still be necessary.

I would like to thank the Inkpen School PSa for helping with Santa's present delivery for the children as they left school, complete with snow machine. Santa himself was unavoidably detained this year. A big thank you also to those who have donated to our book fund. We really appreciate your generosity. All the money raised will be used to add to our supply of reading books for the children.

Since finishing term, things have changed again but, as I write, the plan is still to return to school on January 4th. Fingers crossed.

## INKSPOTS

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Inkspots at Inkpen Primary school will be opening its doors again after the Christmas holidays. Despite facing immediate closure at the end of last term, the pre-school has a new play leader, an enthusiastic new committee in place and a number of enquiries for the new year.

One of the first challenges for the new Inkspots committee has been to raise immediate funds to ensure financial security for the rest of the school year. Our parent fundraising group, "Friends of Inkspots", have coordinated a host of festive fundraising initiatives in support of this.

Our eco-friendly reindeer food, coordinated by Anna Campbell, was a great success, raising a total of £125.

Kira Schader generously donated her time and expertise by arranging a pony experience day where children had the opportunity to learn about caring for and grooming ponies before having the chance to go for a little ride.

Clare Robinson provided some delicious festive treats for the participants and their parents which raised over £150. At time of writing, the Inkspots Christmas Treasure Trail has only been up and running for a few days, but already more than fifty maps have been purchased and the reviews so far have been glowing.

The generosity of the local community in support of Inkspots has been overwhelming, with many Inkpen residents, and beyond, showing their support by donating via our Go Fund Me page ([search for "Save Inkspots" on uk.gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)). The generosity at a time of such uncertainty is heart-warming and we thank you most sincerely. There clearly several people who have very fond memories of Inkspots and are committed to helping preserve the pre-school for future generations.

We'd love to hear from anyone who has had a connection with Inkspots. Please find and 'like' our Facebook page; *Save Inkspots* and post any memories you might have

of the pre-school. Alternatively, email us at [friendsofinkspots@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofinkspots@outlook.com). It would be wonderful to see photographs and to celebrate how Inkspots has been a positive force in the local community since it was started in 2006.

Finally, we still have spaces in January for children aged 3+ years who would thrive in our nourishing, small and friendly, forest nursery setting. To register your interest or discuss your funding options then please do not hesitate to get in touch ([inkspots@inkpen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:inkspots@inkpen.w-berks.sch.uk)). Thank you for supporting your local pre-school!

*Inkspots Early Years Pre-school - Where learning is child's play.*



## INKPEN CARPET BOWLS

I hope that you have all had a reasonable Christmas and that you have been able to make some form of contact with family. Where would we be if we did not have Zoom, Facetime, Skype or any other media to "meet" up with friends and family. It was particularly nice to join in the present opening with grandchildren, even if we were miles apart.

It has now been over nine months since Inkpen Carpet Bowls met and I have really missed the banter as well as the competition. As Carpet Bowls involves the sharing of bowls during play (all equipment is provided by the Club) it would have proved impractical to play without a certain level of risk.

During the less critical time of the pandemic we did look at the possibility of meeting in smaller groups of six but acknowledged that it is as much the opportunity to exercise our tongues as the competition that bring us together.

Hopefully, within three months, most of us will have been given the opportunity for vaccination and any risk from Covid will be sufficiently low to allow us to meet as a group. We have now developed a format that will allow social distancing as well as minimising unprotected contact with equipment.

If you are not a member but are looking for some excuse to get out of the house on a regular basis, once we are permitted, and would like to know more about the game then contact:

Sandy or Anne on: 01488 668336 or email [sandy.r.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.r.wilson@gmail.com)

Finally, let me wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that 2021 is much kinder to us all. Until then, look after yourselves. Sandy Wilson

## THE INKPEN HISTORY GROUP

The Inkpen History Group is back from the dead and needs help. There is a significant volume of handwritten and other data that requires to be carefully scanned, or photographed, so that it can be turned into PDF documents ready for inclusion in the Inkpen history website - [history.inkpenvillage.co.uk](http://history.inkpenvillage.co.uk)

We are also keen to receive copies of old photos, documents etc. that you may have and would be happy to share. Old maps, items of Inkpen pottery and any items relating to the old sawmills. Whatever you judge might be of interest, please drop us an email at - [historygroup@inkpenvillage.co.uk](mailto:historygroup@inkpenvillage.co.uk)

Our aim is to bring together as much historic content as we can to avoid it being lost forever. Your help is important. Thank you.

Make history. Join in. Thank you.

## COPY DATE

Please email [aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk) or call 01488668496 by **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021** with any features, news or events.



## MELIE'S MISSION

Amelia Pemberton, daughter of an Inkpen resident, teaches refugees in Beirut. With Covid restrictions she has had to give up teaching but has instead been helping people rebuild the damage caused in the Beirut Port explosion



on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Luckily, she avoided the blast but her apartment was destroyed.

Melie and a friend set up a *GoFundMe* page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rebuilding-beirut-brick-by-brick-day-by-day>

They raised a significant sum which they are using to pay for materials and employ people to rebuild homes and businesses.

So far, her efforts have contributed to reconstructing 44 homes, 31 businesses, 1 church, employing 12 people amongst numerous other things. There is much more work planned.

Since living in Lebanon, Melie has learnt that many women are not given the chance to contribute financially to the family due to the long-held belief that a woman's place is in the home. Helping these women gives them the ability to provide for their families instead of relying on donations and care packages. To give some respite to these women, who are even more restricted due to COVID-19, Melie started offering weekly sewing classes at which the women also learn business and IT skills. These are hugely popular.



Starting early next year, Melie is launching WingWoman Lebanon; a pilot programme providing paid business internships for women. The ultimate aim is to find the women employment or empower them to start their own businesses. The pilot has been fully funded and now she is working hard to secure funding for future programs in order to reach a larger audience. If you would be interested to find out more about WingWoman please contact Melie at

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

Why is this “article” in the bulletin? Melie **needs your help** in the form of any:

- *Old / electric sewing machines or sewing equipment.*
- *Old computer laptops that you may not be using anymore.*
- *£ donations.*

She already has about 30 machines and is sending a part container load to Beirut in January for her classes. If you think you have anything which might help, please email [davidcpebenton@gmail.com](mailto:davidcpebenton@gmail.com), who can collect.  
In anticipation, thanks very much. DP

## CHURCH SERVICES

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> (white or gold) Epiphany**  
Isa 60.1-6; Eph 3. 1-12; Matthew 2. 1-12

10.30 W.Woodhay Benefice Service Clergy Team

*(N.B - 10.30am service will be a Zoom service only while we consider the news and any renewed guidance from the Government and Diocese)*

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> (white or gold) Baptism or Christ**  
Gen 1. 1-5; Acts 19. 1-7; Mark 1. 4-11

09.45	Inkpen	HC	Rev. P Whitworth
09.45	Kintbury	Morning Prayer	Jenny Veasey
11.15	Combe	HC	Rev. P Whitworth

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> (white) 2<sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany**  
1 Sams3. 1-10 (11-20); Rev 5. 1-10; John 1. 43-end

08.00	Kintbury	HC	Rev. T. Wood
09.45	Enborne	HC	Rev. T. Wood & Richard Pascall

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> (white) 3<sup>rd</sup> of Epiphany**  
Gen 14. 17-20; Rev 19. 6-10; John 2. 1-11

6.00pm	Kintbury	HC	Rev. T. Wood & Jenny Veasey
11.30pm	W.Woodhay	HC	Rev. T. Wood
4.00pm	Combe	Compline	Chris Sears

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> (white) The Presentation**  
Mal 3. 1-5; Heb 2. 14-end; Luke 2. 22-40

09.45	Inkpen	HC	Rev. T. Wood & Jenny Veasey
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*N.B for all of the above, the obvious caveat is that the Government dictum might change and clearly, we would be bound by that.*

## CHURCH SERVICES AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HUNGERFORD

Our Lady of Lourdes, Priory Road, Hungerford RG17 0AF  
Parish Priest - Fr Zbigniew Budyn 01635 40332

**Sunday Mass** - every Sunday at 9.00am

**Weekday Mass** - every Wednesday at 10.00am

For further information contact Paul Burrough 01488 668882  
Mobile 07836 292976 Email [paul.burrough@talktalk.net](mailto:paul.burrough@talktalk.net)

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*The Parish Council* would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and please stay safe everyone.

**Planning applications considered this month were:** 20/00633 FulMaj New Mill, Inkpen – Variation to Condition 2 on application 18/01194 Amended Plans on 8 issues; 20/02677 Colnbrook House, Totterdown – Insertion of 8/10 dormer windows and conversion of second floor to habitable accommodation; 20/02745 Knights Acre, Craven Rd. – widening of existing dormer window, alterations to fenestration and associated works; 20/02825 Holly Tree Cottage, Lower Green – Proposed single storey and two storey rear extension. Replacement porch. Detached home office storage unit; 20/02897 New Mill, Inkpen – Erection of a new folly building within walled garden.

**All planning applications** can be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)

**West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2037: Consultation from 11<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021.** If you care about the countryside and are concerned about future development plans to meet local needs and the policy for conserving and enhancing the natural & built environment – please review the local plan proposals and make the Parish Council aware of your views. The draft plan can be viewed on [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk) 'Local Plan Review to 2037.

**Mobile Library:** The mobile library will call at Craven Rd at 2.30pm until 2.50pm and at the Inkpen Primary School at 3.05 to 4pm on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021** - Covid-19 arrangements will apply.

**Inkpen Parish website ([www.inkpenvillage.co.uk](http://www.inkpenvillage.co.uk)):** All details on the deadly Coronavirus are updated regularly on the Inkpen website. Please check to see the changes and please ask if unsure.

Tier 4 restrictions have been posted on the village notice boards for reference. Please make sure you are aware of the new strain of Covid-19 which spreads even faster. Around 1 in 3 people have no symptoms so will be spreading it without realising. For further details go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) - Stay alert - Control the virus - Save Lives. STAY HOME along with the rest of Berkshire and the South East – New Year bubbles have been cancelled.

Don't forget that if you are asked to self-isolate, you cannot go outdoors and must stay at home for the required period.

**Covid Winter Grant Scheme:** – December to March 2021- If you are in financial hardship due to the pandemic you may be eligible for support for food, utility and water bills for household purposes and essential supplies. Further information from: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-support>

**Inkpen Parish Council** virtual meetings are advertised on the village notice boards and on the official village website in advance of the meeting - see [www.inkpenvillage.co.uk](http://www.inkpenvillage.co.uk) . The next meeting will be held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021** to review the Parish budget for the next financial year 2021/2022 and, as always, are subject to councillor's availability. Anyone wishing to submit comment for Councillors are requested to do so by 2pm on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The draft minutes of all meetings are recorded on the Inkpen website.

**Gloria Keene, Clerk to Inkpen Parish Council (I 668960),**  
**Email:** [parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk) .

