

e-News and Notes

For Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock
December 2020 and January 2021

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Next Deadline:
14 January
2021



Expectation

December is a month of expectation, the feeling that good things are going to happen in the future. The month in which the short days start lengthening again: the expectation of the return of light and warmth. The month in which we prepare and celebrate Christmas: the festival of family and gifts that brings joy.

This year is different. Our expectation might be more of a foreboding or it might be even more heightened. This year our December traditions might not be allowed, this year not all of the family might be able to gather. At the same time December might spell the beginning of the end of living in constant awareness of the Covid-19 virus. The gathering that is possible might be even more poignant after a year of social distancing. December is still the month of expectation.

In the Christian story the expectation is captured in a story of a pregnancy; expecting a child: the hope, the joy, the miracle of new life of a completely new and different person. This is how we believe God becoming present among us, as utterly surprising, unexpected and joyful, as giving birth, as fathering and caring for young children. What are we expecting this December? The coming of love, joy and hope. In the words of Mother Julian: "all will be well, all things will be well, all manner of things will be well".

Peaceful, joyful, hopeful and blessed Christmas for you all.

Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

to all our readers, our advertisers, Speedyprint, and to the very many who do so much to distribute this newsletter, our special thanks.

Reflection

Only Connect

I invite you to settle into a comfortable armchair for a short quiz.

Questions

Who wrote a novel in 1910 about social conventions, codes of conduct and relationships? What was the novel called?

Clues

- ◇ OS map Grid Reference: TL244267. What3Words: [brief.editor.woof](#)
- ◇ A house known as Rooks Nest. The author lived there.
- ◇ The composer Elizabeth Poston (well known for her carol 'Jesus Christ the apple tree') lived there for a time also.
- ◇ The novel, ***On beauty*** by Sadie Smith, is a tribute to the author and to the 1910 novel.
- ◇ The 1910 novel became an award-winning film in 1992 with success at the BAFTAs and at the Cannes Film Festival. Its star-studded cast included Helena Bonham Carter, Vanessa Redgrave, Samuel West, Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson.

Answers

E. M. Forster's *Howards End* explores the centrality of relationship between people and within oneself. The place of the home is central.

Forster based his description of *Howards End* on a house at Rooks Nest in Hertfordshire, his childhood home from 1883 to 1893. The house, known in Forster's childhood as "Rooksnest", had, as in the novel, previously been owned by a family named Howard, and the house itself had been called "Howards" in their day. Rooks Nest was a hamlet with a farm just outside Stevenage.

'Only connect' is the phrase that is frequently cited in conjunction with the novel. During lockdown and periods of self-isolation many have once again realised the importance of being connected. At times the connections that help to keep us well, a family home, human contact and a proximity to nature, may have diminished. Isolation and poor mental health are two, often related, key challenges that we may have experienced in 2020.

Christmas is a time when we recall the story of one who 'pitched his tent', making home and relationship with those on the margins of society. Alabaré Christian Care and Support (now on the Salisbury Monopoly Board) recognises that the impact of lockdown on jobs, mental health and evictions means that tragically this winter more people are at risk of becoming homeless than ever before.

David faced sleeping rough, but Alabaré were able to give him a home and support. David says he wants to help others in our homes as he is so grateful for the help he was given when he thought there was no hope left.

This New Year will bring new opportunities to connect more deeply and to support others who are struggling. How might you 'only connect' and welcome new connections?

The Revd Keith Thomasson lives in Nunton and is Senior Chaplain and Spirituality Advisor for Alabaré

www.alabare.co.uk [#homelessness](#) [Alabaré YouTube video](#)

Information on Howards End from Wikipedia

Odstock Parish Council Update

The parish council meeting on Monday 26 October was held as a video-conference.

New footpath

We have now received preliminary plans for the proposed new tarmac footpath running from Nunton Farm to Stoney Close. The path is planned to replace the existing shingle path, which is now in very poor condition. We have applied for funding towards this project, and if our application is successful we hope that the work will be done in 2021.

Nunton playground

Subsequent to the parish council meeting the playground company has inspected the playground area and confirmed that the grass is now sufficiently established for the new equipment to be installed. The work is likely to begin within the next few weeks.

Hedges and bushes

Now is the ideal time of year to cut back any of your hedges and bushes that may be over-hanging the verges, encroaching on the footpaths, or obstructing traffic visibility. OPC is frequently asked to intervene in cases where garden hedges are causing a problem, but we always prefer to take an informal approach in the first instance. Please check that your hedges are not creating an obstacle for your neighbours or for local traffic.

Parish council elections

The next elections for Odstock Parish Council are scheduled to be held in May 2021. All the seats will be up for election, and anyone on the Parish electoral roll can stand for election as long as they are resident within, or own property within the parish boundaries. Not all of the current parish councillors will be standing for re-election, so please do consider whether this is a role that you could fill. The Parish Council normally meets five times a year on a weekday evening. The meetings are held in public, and last around 90 minutes.

All councillors are expected to contribute to the work of the Parish Council by attending the meetings and by taking on responsibility for individual projects. The role of the Parish Council is to represent the views of people living in the parish on matters affecting our villages, and to make decisions about the upkeep and improvement of parish amenities.

Date of next meeting

The next OPC meeting will be held as a video-conference on Monday 7 December at 7.30 pm. Please let us know in advance if you would like to attend, by emailing the Parish Clerk: opc@odstock.info or visit the website: sp5.org/odstock/opc/

Community News

Community Speedwatch Team



Firstly, a big thank you to those who expressed their support for the work we do. On a cold damp morning it is very encouraging to be greeted by a friendly wave.

Our planned sessions this month were restricted by the new lockdown rules but we were able to complete five sessions and “clocked” 685 vehicles, 18 of which were travelling at over 35mph and have been reported to Wiltshire Police for further action.

A much larger number of vehicles were breaking the 30mph speed limit and this remains a cause for concern particularly when the offence occurs outside the Nursery School in Odstock and in the centre of Nunton. However, Wiltshire Police will take no action in these cases.

Members of the group would very much like to see the Council install one of the automated speed recorders with an illuminated sign to warn drivers when they are exceeding the limit.

What if you got lost? What is your location?

What 3 Words is the answer.

Imagine you are walking in a rural area and for whatever reason need help? How will you inform your friends, family or emergency services?

What if you wish to park your car in the New Forest and then get lost and can't find it? What if you want your friends to know where your front door is located on your road or in the village? What3Words will help you solve these dilemmas.

What3words is an easy way to identify precise locations. Every 3m square has been given a unique combination of three words: a what3words address. Now you can find, share and navigate to precise locations using three simple words.

What3Word is an application for your smartphone which will provide this information, it is easy to use and highly recommended that you have it installed on your phone just in case you get lost. Use the satellite view for greater accuracy.

This app has helped to save lives, and is free to download from your app store, or visit www.what3words.com for more information.

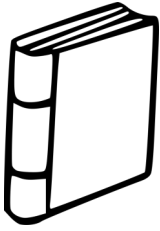
Where is: [///snacking.unspoiled.outdoors](http://snacking.unspoiled.outdoors) or [///buildings.plates.repeating](http://buildings.plates.repeating) ??

Announcements

Mr A J Wilson and Miss C E P Smith: The marriage took place on 4 November 2020, at St Andrew's Church, Nunton, between Andrew, son of James and Aileen Wilson, of Warsash, Hampshire and Charlotte, eldest daughter of Rebecca and the late Michael Smith, of Nunton, Salisbury.

Hillier: On October 27 2020, William Charles Fordham - a son for Charlie and Olivia Hillier and grandson for Anthony and Hatty Hillier.

Community Notices



Book case wanted

Wanted: A small enclosed bookcase to protect the books in the Old Post Office porch in Bodenham. It could be 90 cm or 36 inches wide by 80cm or 32 inches high to fit on the bench and keep them dry. They have been well used during Lockdown but now getting a bit damp.

If you can help ring Debby 01722 329769 or email dunderh942@btinternet.com



Downton Band in Charlton All Saints

Tuesday 15th December

A mini Downton Band will proceed through the village playing carols and other tunes, with some requests, on Tuesday 15 December.

They will start at 7pm at the southern end of Lower Road, stop to play at 10 points in the village and finish at about 8.15pm in Church Lane.

Donations can be made in cash or via a card reader carried by the Band.

Rain will stop play. This event will depend on Covid-19 regulations at the time.

Donations to the Women's Refuge

Should anyone wish to donate gifts to the Women's Refuge, as is our tradition, please take them to Barbara Box. The Refuge will be delighted to receive them. They should be **new** and **not** wrapped, but just placed in a bag.

Barbara's contact details are: The Old School House. 01725 510758

Explore Salisbury's Christmas Tree Trail

As part of the festive offering in Salisbury City Centre this year, Salisbury City Council has erected and decorated 12 large Christmas Trees throughout the streets. These combine to make a Christmas Tree Trail which will be between Saturday 21 November 2020 and Monday 4 January 2021.

Download your Tree Trail Map from the [Salisbury City Council website](https://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk) or pick one up from Salisbury Information Centre in Fish Row after the end of lockdown.

Salisbury's Christmas Lights

Christmas in Salisbury traditionally begins with the lights switch on event in the Market Place, but sadly this event will not be going ahead this year.

However, Salisbury will still be beautifully dressed in colourful lights including the stunning lights wrapping the trees in the Market Place, from Saturday 21 November 2020.

Visit [Salisbury City Council's website](https://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk) for up to date information:
www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

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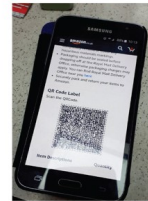
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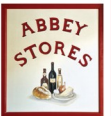
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Radnor Hall update

The Radnor Hall will be open after the lockdown, if current guidelines allow it.

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Christmas cooking

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Lots of people love the list making, recipe sourcing and shopping for Christmas food! However if you're not one of those people then Bread and Flowers at home have got Christmas covered. If you're looking for interesting, flavoursome home cooked dishes, made locally using as many local suppliers as possible look no further.

It's really simple, visit our website, place your order & then collect from our HQ in Bodenham on a day & time to suit you, avoiding any parking, queuing & traffic. Leaving you more time to relax & enjoy precious time with family & friends.

Have a look at the full menu by going to breadandflowersathome.co.uk/christmas

Do get in touch if you have any questions, we would love to hear from you.

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Puzzles

Christmas Quiz

1. Which song was sung on both sides of the trenches on Christmas Eve 1914?
2. In which city is Kevin left 'Home Alone' at Christmas?
3. What told Dick Whittington to 'turn again'?
4. Who sang 'Lonely this Christmas'?
5. Which saint's day is celebrated on December 26th?
6. What is the name of Aladdin's mother?
7. The traditional English Father Christmas was not dressed in red. What colour did he wear?
8. The name of which herb is used as a magic word in pantomime?
9. The first Gingerbread Houses were inspired by which fairytale?
10. Which Christmas Carol became the first song ever broadcast from space in 1965?

Word Search - Christmas Carol

Can you find the words listed in the grid?

E	A	L	A	L	E	Y	Y	Y	L	R	L	R	L
L	P	N	L	E	H	L	C	E	R	E	Y	S	N
R	D	E	G	T	A	S	R	N	I	M	G	E	G
D	E	S	R	E	N	G	E	W	N	D	C	E	L
L	E	A	Y	N	L	E	M	L	A	L	E	N	O
I	E	E	R	E	L	S	R	Y	R	R	W	H	R
M	H	E	R	A	L	D	A	K	I	C	E	N	Y
B	O	R	N	R	A	C	P	E	S	O	R	H	Y
E	N	K	E	T	R	A	P	A	S	P	A	A	E
K	H	L	E	R	R	R	R	N	B	B	E	R	E
I	N	H	D	I	R	L	L	N	C	B	L	K	E
N	E	G	G	A	Y	I	S	E	R	H	R	G	N
G	A	S	I	N	G	A	M	M	C	N	E	W	K
M	W	D	P	E	A	C	E	Y	E	T	R	R	A

Hark
Herald
Angels
Sing
Glory
New
Born
King
Peace
Earth
Mercy
Mild

Answers to last month's Art & Artist - where will you find the original painting?

1. The Scream - Norwegian National Gallery, Oslo: 2. The Girl with a Pearl Earring - Mauritshuis, The Hague: 3. Starry Night - Museum of Modern Art, New York: 4. Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. M.) - Museum of Modern Art, New York: 5. Primavera - Uffizi Gallery, Florence: 6. Lady with an Ermine - National Museum, Krakow: 7. Ophelia - Tate Britain, London: 8. The Light of the World (Three original versions!) - Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester: 9. The Night Watch - Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam: 10. Las Meninas - Prado, Madrid:

Christmas Services

There is room at the inn

We are confident that everybody who would like to attend church locally around Christmas will be able to do so. To keep our churches Covid-secure, we do have a cap on the number of people that can attend any one service and for NHS Track and Trace we do need to know who has been to which service.

Odstock and Nunton

Therefore we ask that if you would like to attend church in Nunton on Christmas Eve at 7.30pm or in Odstock on Christmas Day at 9.30am, please let Stephanie know as soon as possible which service you would ideally like to attend.

We will accommodate as many people as possible in their first choice, but might suggest another option if any one service gets overcrowded.

Please contact Stephanie Elcock: Stephanie.elcock@gmail.com or 01722 334398 by Sunday 20 December at the latest.

Charlton All Saints

Charlton All Saints will be celebrating at 11am on Christmas Day; as it is a bigger church there should be enough room. For more information please contact the Church Wardens.

Britford

Britford will be celebrating at 9.30am on Christmas day with a short family communion. For more information please contact Revd Jenny Taylor.

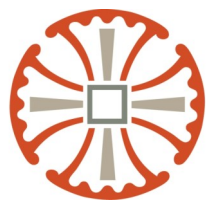
All are welcome to join these services

HELP! MY MASK KEEPS STEAMING UP MY GLASSES!

Fogging is now a common problem - your glasses are misting when your warm breath rushes from under your mask and hits your cooler lenses. Here are a few DO'S and DON'TS that may help tackle the problem of spectacle condensation.

- DO seal the mask around the top of your face and bridge of your nose pulling it tight under the chin.
- DO mould it. Many masks already have a built-in bendable strip so it can be squeezed tight over the bridge. If you have a handmade mask, you may be able to insert a pipe cleaner in the top seam to bend over your nose.
- DO tighten the ear loops and ties so the mask fits flush with your cheeks. An NHS tip is to twist the ear loop. It may make your ears ache though!
- TRY using the weight of your glasses on top of your mask to trap and block the air. You will need to pull the mask up as high as you comfortably can.
- DO give it time - once your glasses get used to the rise in temperature from your breath the misting will clear.
- TRY washing your glasses with soapy water and letting them air dry.
- TRY anti-fogging cloths or spray.
- DON'T try the swimmers' and the scuba divers' trick to keep glasses from fogging by spitting on the underside of the lenses — we're dealing with a respiratory virus and need to stop its spread!

Church News



Church Services

For Britford, Charlton All Saints,
Odstock and Nunton with Bodenham

December 2020 & January 2021



Please check the weekly e-Bulletin for any updates and all Benefice Services

6 December Advent 2	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Morning Service	Britford Odstock	Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-R
13 December Advent 3	9.30am 11.00am	Family Communion Morning Prayer	Nunton Charlton All Saints	Anna-Claar T-R Anna-Claar T-R
20 December Advent 4	9.30am 3.00pm	Parish Communion Crib Service	Odstock Nunton	Anna-Claar T-R Anna-Claar T-R
Christmas Eve	7.30pm	Family Communion	Nunton	Anna-Claar T-R
25 December Christmas day	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Parish Communion Parish Communion	Britford Odstock Charlton All Saints	Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-R Anna-Claar T-R
27 December	10.00am	Benefice Communion	Bishopstone	Catherine Blundell
3 January 2021 The Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Morning Service	Britford Odstock	Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-R
10 January Baptism of Christ	9.30am 11.00am	Family Communion Morning Prayer	Nunton Charlton All Saints	Anna-Claar T-R Anna-Claar T-R
17 January Epiphany 2	9.30am	Parish Communion	Odstock	Anna-Claar T-R
24 January Epiphany 3	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Charlton All Saints Nunton	Anna-Claar T-R Adrian Taylor
31 January CANDLEMAS	10.00am	Benefice Communion	Homington	Anna-Claar T-R
7 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Morning Service	Britford Odstock	Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-R

The full schedule of services in the Benefice can be found in e-News & Notes.

Ministry Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Catherine Blundell:	01722 780 134
Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor:	01722 503 081
The Revd Dr Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh:	01722 238 267
Curate ~ The Revd Roger Leake:	07947 149 456
Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead:	07890 262 376




Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - December 2020

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



Pattern of services for the re-opening of our churches for public worship. Please note that if the Covid 19 situation changes, these service details might also change. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin

6 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
13 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Family Communion (CW) All Age Service Service for Advent Season	Nunton Bowerchalke Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
20 December 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Crib Service	Bowerchalke Odstock Bishopstone Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Homington Nunton	Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
23 December	6.00pm	Nativity Procession and Carols by Firelight	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	5.00pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Communion round the Crib Crib Service Family Communion	Bishopstone Homington Nunton	Jenny Taylor Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
25 December CHRISTMAS DAY 	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke Broad Chalke Britford Odstock Charlton All Saints Berwick St John Coombe Bissett Ebbesbourne Wake	Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell
27 December 1st Sunday of Christmas	10.00am	Short Benefice Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Catherine Blundell
3 January 2021 THE EPIPHANY	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh

Ministry Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Catherine Blundell: 01722 780134

Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, The Revd Dr Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh: 01722 238267

Curate ~ The Revd Roger Leake: 07947149456 Licensed Lay Minister ~ Mr David Blundell: 01722 780134

Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

URC Ministers ~ The Revds Ana & Tod Gobledeale 01722 330980, The Revd Jackie Lowe: 01722 780008

Assisting Ministers:

The Revd Canon Ann Philp: 01722 555178, The Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith: 01722 780011

Lay Worship Leaders:

Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Naomi Martin: 07713031774, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Richard Morgan: 01722 338868, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley: 01722 780538, Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - January 2021

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



Pattern of services for the re-opening of our churches for public worship. Please note that if the Covid 19 situation changes, these service details might also change. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin

3 January THE EPIPHANY	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
10 January BAPTISM OF CHRIST	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Family Communion (CW) All Age Service Evening Prayer (BCP)	Nunton Bowerchalke Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
17 January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock Bishopstone Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Homington	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Roger Leake Jenny Taylor
24 January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Service Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP) Evening Prayer	Berwick St John Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Bishopstone Nunton Alvediston Coombe Bissett Bowerchalke	Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor Catherine Blundell Roger Leake Lay Led
31 January CANDLEMAS	10.00am 10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW) Benefice Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake Homington	Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
7 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh

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Desperados of the Cimetière.

A Franglais lover's Lockdown account of his latest game of golf

Just in to Lockdown 2 on a damp Sunday afternoon I texted my friend Anthony to say 'quelle dommage' that our planned dinner together with him and Mrs. Read the night before at Bread and Flowers had been cancelled due to the virus shenanigans. It a surprise to receive from him a reply inviting me to accept a nine hole golf challenge on the all new Nunton golf course which he had just opened in his paddock.

As outdoor meetings with one other person are permitted in this lockdown I readily accepted, and the following vendredi matin came the summons to come along saying "vieux haricot, si tu veux jouer de golf dans le champ aujourd'hui je suis libre n'importe quand", which I have to admit showed impressive use of the vernacular. Our texts to each other are often in French, but I have no idea why since neither of us is French nor speak French particularly well, it just seems a goodish sort of way to communicate and show off what remains of our French O level skills, albeit dare I say occasionally aided and abetted by google if I'm any judge though obviously one would never stoop to that oneself. Dieux nous en garde. And who doesn't love a bit of franglais?

We debated briefly the important aspects such as dress code (chic de campagne) and whether a third golfer might be invited (highly illegal so - non) and it was agreed that we should tee off at Onzes, elevenses to you and me. I was much looking forward to the inaugural match at Golf de la Maison de ferme de Nunton Inférieur, aka Lower Nunton Farmhouse. Or as Anthony preferred, Club de golf de Nunton-en-bas.

I arrived to find Anthony in vieux fermier mode, plodding around in the muddy paddock in wellies with a large wheelbarrow loaded with some wooden posts and various tools and oddments including a swing timer, a bendy golf club like device topped off at one end with a bright orange tennis ball sized weighted rubber ball. This he thought might serve well as a flag atop the makeshift tee pin. Excitingly the one-hole course which he had originally promised had by now grown to three holes, as he proceeded to create with some large old fencing posts not one but three targets which were to be arranged in a triangle, two long fairways of 100 yards each, and a third of 60.

It was a joyous prospect to be able to play golf once again at last. I have been suffering golf withdrawal symptoms lately following the closure of golf clubs, and this had cheered me considerably. And all within the current Boris Rules.

After changing into golf shoes and a warm up on the club practice ground (a golf net set up au jardin) we teed off from the tricky 1st tee, socialement distancé at all times of course. The format was initially two balls per player, one point for the two balls nearest the pin after two shots on each ball. We had after all no actual holes on any of the holes, merely fence posts rammed in to the earth. There were no greens either, and the fairways themselves were just muddy paddock where a couple of big old horses wandered about nonchalantly, as horses do, one a member of the Warley family. I was not unfamiliar with having to hit shots over four legged beasts since this is standard play in the lovely Scottish Isles, although more often than not it has so far always been sheep to be fair, but the hazards involved are not dissimilar. It felt very familiar and all in all it had the makings of a very fine 'terrain de golf'. At the first tee the only other factor to take into account was the large tree 30 yards down on the right which if one erred toward even a slight slice would have its smaller branches brought in to play. Plenty of space out

left, but watch out for going too long, as the lane was only another 20 yards beyond the pin.

I was allowed the honour of taking the first shot, a great and unexpected privilege which I accepted with humility and pleasure. Anthony is one of life's true gentlemen, such a generous and meaningful gesture. That is what true friends who text in French mean to one another.

Sadly this important moment did not bring out the best in my game, despite taking all care, assessing the minutiae of the various factors which might come in to play - the slight breeze coming in from the right, the high humidity in the cold air, the overhanging branches at 30 yards, the assistance from Anthony's laser beam distance detector, the location of les cheveux, and the horses, the effect of having to play off a small piece of astroturf, etc etc and so I felt that I had somewhat let Anthony down, let the village down, and worst of all let myself down when I produced a badly thinned horror, a miserable squirt of a shot, which frankly ended up a lot better than it had any right to do, travelling about 80 yards or so along the ground and finishing 20 yards left. Execrable. Or exécration, as they say in French.

Overawed by the sense of occasion, and perhaps even feeling a little emotional at finally becoming proprietor of his own 'parcours de golf', the dream at last a reality, M. Le Patron contrived to hit the tree with his first shot, another inglorious moment. His second showed much more promise, so it was game on, and suffice to say my 2nd was reasonable, thanks to preferred lies and I stuttered in to a one hole lead. A one post lead.

The second post played longer than I expected but shorter than Anthony expected, which is hard to comprehend and can only be explained by the extreme changeableness of the awkward conditions. Neither of us had fully taken this factor into account. After the second post I was strangely enough already three up. But I'd started to get a feel for things and off the third sent down a couple of very decent balls which had both gone straight, if a little long. Anthony responded with a slice over the wall and in to the churchyard. Quelle désastre! He managed a pretty fair effort with his second which had real merit, if a tad short, and for which he'd possibly overlooked the change of wind speed and direction. But as for the graveyard shot, this was an aberration so rare in Anthony's usually solid game that neither of us could quite believe it. Well, I say neither of us, but I think that is probably an exaggeration. It happens. C'est la vie.

Graveyards in golf are of course 'hors limites', so a 2nd shot with his first ball was not permitted, nor would it have been respectful (given the language which can foully bestir the air after a hapless golfer finds himself confounded by the wretched unfairness of it all when playing out of the rough) a curious sight though it would have been to behold, and I found myself convulsed in paroxysms of mirth. We contrived a staged shot for the press from amongst the gravestones, and I'm sure I heard Mum chuckling in heaven, playing, as we were, only yards from her and Dad's gravestone.

We played on for nine posts, mindful of the laws of golf which had to be moulded and adapted for this most special of courses. A fair old contest ensued, and it would of course be unseemly to disclose the trophy's ultimate destination. Suffice to say that the practice net could do with a bit more use....

My withdrawal symptoms abated, and I am pleased that the prospect of more Nunton golf is there for us when we need relief. Just don't tell the vicar.

Nick Stanger, Nunton.

Nick is having withdrawal symptoms from being not being able to perform on stage this year, so has taken to performing on the Nunton fields instead.



BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021

NOTE: All arrangements are provisional and are dependent on future Government guidance and local circumstances. Please check with the organisers of the group or event before setting out.

OPEN FOR ADVANCE BOOKINGS

Both halls are available for hire for permitted activities, subject to the acceptance of the "Special Conditions of Hire during Covid-19" which are available from the bookings secretary (Margaret Barter 01722 780471) and the village website.

These include the wearing of masks, hand sanitising and maintaining social distancing.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY CAFE

Regrettably the Café will remain closed for the time being. It will re-open as soon as government guidelines allow and when it is safe to do so. Dates will be announced on the village noticeboards and web site.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Unfortunately because of the continuing need for social distancing and risks associated with a large gathering, we are unable to hold the Christmas lunch this year.

We hope to resume lunches as soon as we can next year.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

Friday 29th January 2021.

We hope to have a Moviola evening on Jan 29th, film to be confirmed. The decision about whether to go ahead with the showing will be dependent on current government advice at that time.

Pre-booking will be essential and we would like payment in advance to avoid queueing at the door. Please phone Caroline Ash on 01722 781044 to book and for details of how to pay. (Online payment is preferred but cheques are acceptable and we will have a card payment device at the door. No loose cash please.)

Only the main feature will be shown and the evenings will take place under the current government "safe practice" guidelines. This means you will need to wear a face-covering (though this may be removed once seated whilst eating or drinking). There will be no bar or snack sales but guests are welcome to bring their own refreshments.

Tickets for all Moviola films cost £6. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm showing.

BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP

For general information about the Baby and Toddler Group find their Facebook page *Bishopstone Playgroup*, or contact Kate Pendleton on 01722 780655 or email : kmpendleton@hotmail.com . Sadly the group are not meeting at present.

"EXTEND" EXERCISE CLASSES

For information about these exercise classes contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email: jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk

PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937

YOGA WITH HANNAH

Classes have resumed and run every Thursday 6-7pm and 7:30-8:30pm

For more details and to confirm a place contact Hannah Stocker on 0773 856 1888 or by email: yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com.

SARUM SPINNERS AND WEAVERS

Because of the recent lockdown, we are unable to hold our monthly meeting on 1st December but instead, it is hoped to resume on Tuesday 8th December subject to regulations. 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

Any spinners or weavers in the area are very welcome to join us.

Please check arrangements with Les Smith on 01722 780761.