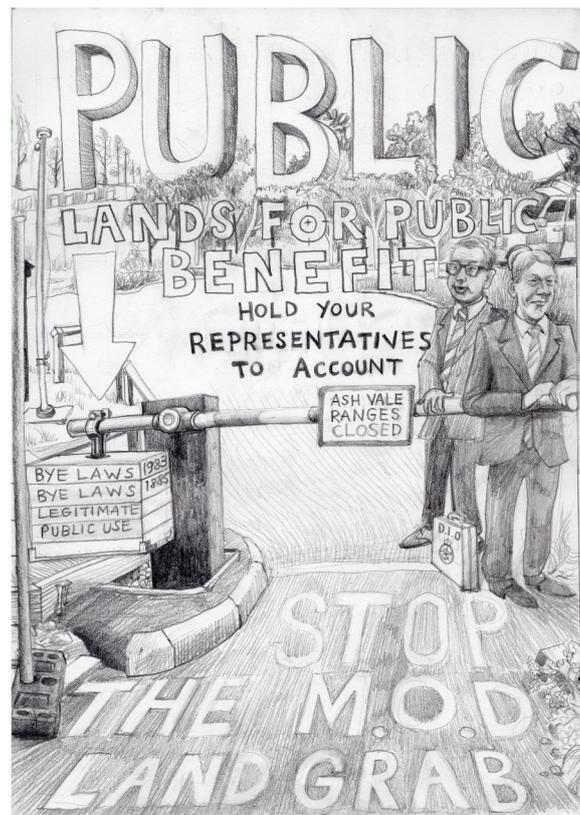


Oct / Nov 2020

THE

PARISHIONER

in Ash Vale



Have a closer look... see inside!

In these unusual times we are minimising the risk to our readers and volunteers by printing only on request, and by sharing *The Parishioner* far and wide via email, website and social media instead. If you or someone you know would like a paper copy please pick one up at St Mary's or contact us.
parishioner@ash-vale.org.uk 07730 609446 *Best wishes & stay safe!*



St Mary's Church
Ash Vale



roots down, walls down

Vicar

Rev Neil Lambert
203 Vale Road
Ash Vale
Surrey
GU12 5JE

revneil@me.com

Churchwardens

Martin Lindsay
Nikki Glover

Hon. Treasurer

Patrick Brown

Parish Administrator

Jackie Scott

E-mail parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Office Hours Tues 11am-4pm, Thurs 10am-3pm

Parish Office Mobile: 9am-5pm

07863 311165

Sunday Morning 10am Services: On Zoom & in Person!

You are welcome to Zoom in to the Sunday Morning service at 10am; simply email the Parish Administrator to receive the link, or find us on Facebook @StMarysAshVale.

You can also choose to attend in person, with extra measures to keep everyone safe. **On arrival please sign in or scan the QR code on your NHS app, use hand sanitiser, pop on your mask and go directly to your seat and remain seated.** We must not mingle, so as to protect all those attending. (Please stay away and use zoom if you have covid-19 symptoms).

We look forward to welcoming you.

Evensong Wednesdays 8pm

You can Zoom in to Evensong on Wednesday Nights at 8pm. Email the Parish Administrator to join our mailing list and receive the link, or find us on Facebook @StMarysAshVale. Keep in touch as arrangements evolve!

Messy Church Events :



Saturday 31st Oct—"Love & Light" Trail around Ash Vale
(see inside back cover)

*Sun 6th Dec St Nicholas day
Lantern Walk (Save the date!)*

St Mary's Community Centre

- Large hall & kitchen
- Small hall & sink
- Wheelchair accessible toilet

Bookings: Please contact the Parish Administrator for news. We are following emerging Government and CofE guidance.

Ash Vale Chapel, Wharf Rd

(Joint project with H-SB Methodist Circuit)

Project Manager: 07730 609446

ashvalechapel@gmail.com

See latest news on page 24

Parishioner Magazine Team

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Distribution: Caroline Johnson

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Alex: 07730 609446

Plus... we are hugely grateful to a small army of willing volunteers who contribute, collate, publish, email, print, bundle and deliver The Parishioner to all our readers in Ash Vale and beyond!

PUBLIC

LANDS FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

HOLD YOUR
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TO ACCOUNT

ASH VALE
RANGES
CLOSED

BYE LAWS 1983
BYE LAWS 1985
LEGITIMATE
PUBLIC USE

STOP
THE M.O.D
LAND GRAB

Speaking truth to Power

By Rev. Neil Lambert

I expect by now you have heard friends and neighbours discussing the ranges. One side claiming health & safety issues and locking the gates, the other side outraged and warning of an MOD land grab. Our community stands to lose access to 12% of the ranges—and not just any 12% - the area is one of the most used, and most accessible.

How do we respond? My sister Val—whom many of you know from her visits, and the wonderful blessings she has shared at Zoom services—is a great sounding board and in discussing this issue together we searched for wisdom in this matter. The theme that kept coming up was to be unwavering in speaking truth to power. So what does this mean?

It means doing our homework and unpicking the legal status of the space to find the truth. Some sources say this is MOD land. Other say it is Ash Common, and the ancient rights of access still apply. Byelaws were created to protect people from harm during dangerous activities. The right of access at other times has never been removed. We must diligently seek the truth and be the voice of challenge when lies and misunderstandings are masquerading as fact.

It means shining a light on injustice, and calling out patterns of behaviour that are unacceptable. We have seen the “land grab” approach elsewhere and we will not tolerate it here. It means fighting for the consultation we are entitled to and celebrating the wonderful benefits of the ranges, so that we can all see what we stand to lose.

It means listening to all our neighbours, not just the loudest ones or the most powerful ones. Hear the voices of our children and young people. See the plight of those with disabilities fighting for access to open space. Seek out the stories of the older generation who can paint the picture for us of all that the ranges have been to this community and should be in the future. Involve the busy parents, the introverts, those whose anxiety prevents them from speaking out. We must give all of them a voice, and make sure they are represented as we take a seat at the table.

It means being creative, both in seeking solutions (What can we do to keep people safe instead of locking the gates?) and in how we go about standing our ground (If we are not being listened to, we will find ways to make our voices heard!)

It's not about the politics. As a church, we do not need to ‘take sides’ or choose a political stance to make a difference. Our power lies not in polarising the community and creating discord, but in being bringing people together. We are united in love, both for our friends and for our enemies. We strive to become oaks of righteousness, rooted in God’s love and seeking the common good.

Speaking truth to power is a phrase first used by the Quakers in the 1950’s. It came to prominence in 1942 when Baynard Rusting, an American civil rights leader, wrote that... The role of a religious group was to “*speak the truth to power*”, which is what we intend to do. Our elected representatives have, it would appear, grossly underestimated the importance of this issue to our community, and the anger that there seems to be at the apparent disregard of the MOD and DIO for their neighbours and the people they share the ranges with. They need to know that we will not back down, and we will protect and demand access to the ranges not only for us ,but for future generations.

Remembering in 2020

By Jackie Scott

As in every year since 1919 those who have fallen in armed conflicts will be remembered in acts of worship across the country both on 11th November itself and also on Sunday 8th November. There have been calls to scale Remembrance commemorations down as the devastating conflict which initiated the Acts of Remembrance has now gone beyond its centenary, and the end of the Second World War is now 75 years ago. This year as never before, the scale of our Remembrance will be limited due to the pandemic that none could have expected we would be fighting even eleven months ago.

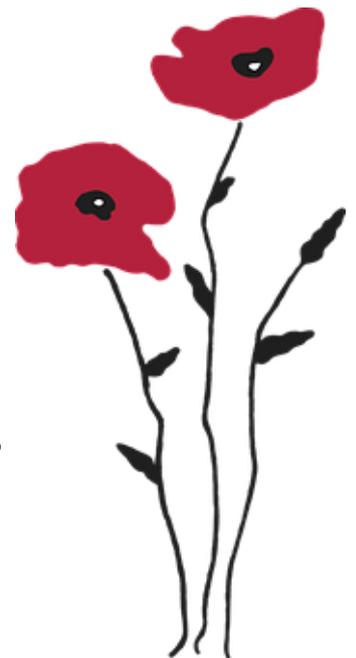
We still have armed forces around the world, and men and women are still losing their lives or being seriously injured in conflicts that require us to remember, and be thankful that we live in a country with freedom of movement and choice that many countries still do not have. Despite any political upheavals that we face, we still live in a country where we have personal freedom to express our views in respectful and peaceful demonstrations.

How can we in Ash Vale remember those who have given their lives in service to the country this year? The normal gathering of uniformed groups and general public cannot take place at Ash Memorial as we take into account the need to respect social distancing to protect individuals from coronavirus.

There would be just too many people in one place!

St Mary's will be holding a service of remembrance from the Church Car park on the corner of Vale Road and Wood Street – Car Park church. Over lockdown we have found creative ways to worship together, and this Remembrance we will be meeting on **Sunday 8th November at 10.30am** in our cars where Neil will lead an act of worship. The service will also be broadcast through Zoom. It will need to be a ticketed event because we have limited spaces in the car park, but if you would like to remember those who have fallen get in touch with the Parish Administrator and we will share all the details closer to the time.

“We will remember them.”



Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 8th November 10:30am at St Mary's in the car park. Request the link to **Zoom** in from home, or **book a space** outside.

Email: parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Or phone: 07863 311165





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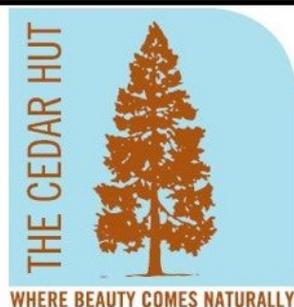
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Phyllis Tuckwell Shop Team – Persevering in a pandemic

By Jane Walker

Back in March, when we entered into lockdown, little did I know that seven months later we would still be in such unprecedented times. Our little shop in Ash is one of 19 Charity shops that Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice rely on heavily to maintain the daily running of our Hospice and our Beacon Hill Centre.

Our resources have been dramatically impacted by this pandemic. What once was a busy, thriving part of the village, our shop has seen a dramatic drop in footfall. We are trading at limited hours because our lovely volunteers are either self-isolating or unable to return under such worrying conditions.

I think everybody and his dog has had a major clear out of their homes and we are inundated with donations. Although we are extremely grateful for the generosity the public show us, it becomes so frustrating having to turn donations away because of the new quarantine guidelines.

We now operate differently, only allowing four customers in at one time. Our donations are received via the back entrance to the shop allowing social distancing on the shop floor. Our rigorous cleaning routine ensures the safety of all, and government guidelines are adhered to, maintaining that each and every one of us is as safe as we possibly can be.

All our planned events regrettably had to be cancelled for obvious reasons, and this has also impacted our Hospice funds immensely. I personally have noticed a lot of our lovely customers have not been into the shop and I wonder are they ok? are they worried to actually go out? The relief I feel when I see regular customers returning, it fills me with hope and I am so thankful they are well and feel confident enough to pop in. I have so missed the hustle and bustle of the community within our shop.

As we are entering a new kind of 'normal', whatever that may be, our lovely team of ladies work so hard to support our charity and I am so grateful for the commitment they show in such frustrating times.

What was a team of fourteen volunteers supporting the Ash shop has now diminished to four. We all miss the other lovely ladies who are unable to return at the current moment. Looking forward it looks highly likely that our Annual Christmas shopping event sadly will be cancelled this year. As we are in such uncertain times I have decided to fill the shop with lots of lovely, great value Christmas items. If there is anything that you may require such as decorations, Christmas clothing, gifts, etc. then please pop in and see us. There is also a lovely selection of party and occasion wear, at great low prices. As we do not know what this Christmas is going to entail, we reduced the prices of this sort

of wear as a 'just in case' we may be able to attend some events. Well, there is nothing like living in hope! Customers will be able to purchase items at a fraction of the High Street prices, as who really wants to spend a fortune on a dress (or whatever) that may not even be used this year? Not only does it benefit our customers it's also most importantly helping the Hospice and the families who find themselves in need of our services. I can, from past customer feedback, say that I would defy any person to pick out the outfit purchased from either the High Street or our shop and tell me which was the most expensive.

Lastly but most importantly we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our community for all your support. And if there are any of the community that would like to spare a few hours a week to help out we would welcome you gladly.

If you're interested, why not pop in to the shop and enquire?

Autumn Vibes

Time for a cosy autumn tea-break & wordsearch...

S T E K N A L B F Z T B Y M F
F I R E W O R K S L S I N T O
B P U Z Z L E S K K E C Y C I
Q Y S T O R S S E Q V A N J R
X N X W I L N H W Y R W V H F
P Z I F R U I C A S A L D E L
J R N K G K Q A U H H X M S S
T O E G P G I R T E K N G E M
B I L S L M X N U D F C D S D
Y E U O E V U H M G N I K A B
S O V R D R D P N E E B U E C
E E V X F T V B X H U V S T I
S J Y P F N N E D O E H J F Z
U I L O O R M L S G H O W N Q
B B Z I Y S M S I C R G Y B U

AUTUMN
BAKING
BLANKETS
BONFIRE
FIREWORKS
FRUIT
GLOVES
HARVEST
HEDGEHOG
LEAVES
PRESERVES
PUMPKIN
PUZZLES
SNUGGLES



Carbon Neutral by 2030—how are we doing?

By Alex Sanderson

Not so long ago we were celebrating when the national church made a huge and challenging commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. This is a deadly serious endeavour to help preserve our precious planet for future generations. Every church needs to do their bit. So how are we doing?

Of course recent times have been hard, with the coronavirus pandemic affecting both what we do and the funds we have to do it with. It has been challenging to make progress, but we have not been sitting still.

The Chapel is now almost a carbon neutral venue! Thanks to the superb services of Bulb we now have 100% green electricity and are paying for gas with carbon off-setting, so they are offsetting the carbon for us. It's not a perfect solution but it is a move in the right direction until we find new technologies for heating and cooking on site. They have given us a discount code too! So if you'd like to do your bit at home you can use their code to receive £50 off when you join them, and it helps us out as well. Everybody wins, and the planet is better off. [Bulb.me/chapel-project-ash-vale](https://bulb.me/chapel-project-ash-vale) (Of course many other green energy providers are available!)

At St Mary's church we have been looking into eco alternatives, recycling and energy saving, and our wonderful eco champion Lesley has been busy assessing the carbon footprint using special online tools. She is working with Patrick our Treasurer to see how soon we can move over to green energy too. In the meantime we have a golden opportunity to directly off-set our carbon by planting trees—in Uganda!

At Amaha We Uganda, William and his team are busy setting up tree nurseries in key locations. Through their tree planting projects, the team aims to build local knowledge within communities, and empower people to help themselves. Together, local groups will tackle deforestation, protect their homes and crops from erosion and mudslides, and of course they will enjoy the trees providing food and shade, and capturing carbon.



Would you like to help? You can sponsor trees in Uganda to help us to off-set St Mary's carbon, or to offset your own carbon footprint. You can give a one-off amount or even donate regularly to offset your carbon footprint month by month. More information and contact details for regular giving are available on www.amahaweuganda.org

Carbon neutral by 2030?

It's within reach if we work together! ❤️🌍

Community Spirit

By Carla Morson (Ash, Ash Vale & Ash Green Coronavirus Support Group)

Lately I've been trying to work out what 'community' actually means to me. I've obviously had my own views, just as others have theirs, but what I think relates best to the Ash, Ash Vale and Ash Green Coronavirus Support Group and is two-fold. Firstly, we have INTEREST, being a group of people who share the same interest and passion. Secondly we have ACTION, where we have a group of people trying to bring about change.

Both of the above have resulted in the people living in our villages pulling together to help others because of the awful situation we find ourselves living through; and what a caring community we have become! There have always been those willing and wanting to help others but not necessarily knowing how to go about this but now, by supporting people through this pandemic, we've found a way. As you already know we are happy to help anyone in a variety of ways and this has included doing shopping, collecting prescriptions, keeping in touch, etc.

One of the ways of helping which has proved to be a real lifeline to some of our neighbours has been by providing food parcels. These aren't designed to be the only food people get, they are more aimed at providing that bit extra to make life that little bit easier for those on lower incomes or to help them through short term financial difficulties.

The food we have for these food parcels comes largely from donations from local supermarkets, such as the Coop shops in Ash Vale and Ash, Tesco Express, Tesco in Aldershot and Asda in Farnborough. On top of this we receive donations from individuals who not only give us food but also make things such as cakes, jam and pasta sauce. Our food parcel team, which consists of around 15 people, are amazing



in what they are doing, ensuring nobody has to go without enough to eat.

The work of all of our volunteers shouldn't be understated. They have supported, and continue to support, our community in every way possible. Throughout the last six months they have managed to keep our community as safe as possible and their dedication is incredible. Coronavirus is on the rise again, but remember we are still here and going nowhere. If you need some help or just want to talk please do get in touch. My number is **07843 489796** and I can contact your local Co-Ordinator who will be able to help.

Carla



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"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"
2 Cor 9:15

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If ever there was a year to send Christmas cards to loved ones, 2020 is definitely that year!

Would you like to design a Christmas card to be sold to raise money for those who need help in Africa?



TO ENTER:

Simply design a front cover for a Christmas card, based around the true meaning of Christmas. Then send £2 online in order to enter your design to- [PayPal.me/amahaweuganda](https://www.paypal.com/uk/mchre/payer/amahaweuganda). Then finally, email a copy of your design to tamsin@amahaweuganda.org before the closing date.

CLOSING DATE - MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

A huge THANK YOU to Mike Ferris

By Tony Gorham MBE



Mike and Jan moved to Ash Vale in 1977. Sons Steve and Dave were brought up to enjoy where they lived and the outdoors. Camping, canoeing, swimming, scouting, it was all there for them and the young people in and around the area. The house and garden became known as “Toad Hall”, a show garden often open to the public and an enchanted haven for adventure for his two sons growing up.

Sadly Mike died on Saturday 8th August 2020, but he is remembered with great affection.

As well as bringing up their two boys and working, Mike and Jan still found time to become scout leaders, run a very successful canoe club, and teach swimming at the Command Baths in Aldershot and in Farnborough. Many a life has been saved and so much fun has been had by young people because of Mike and Jan Ferris. Mike was totally committed to teaching swimming and at Farnborough taught so many people the skills and the enthusiasm to enjoy it. He was Examiner for Royal Lifesaving and also was part of the British Army swimming at the Command Baths in Aldershot. He is part of Farnborough’s swimming history.

His scouting started in 1978 and for the next 25 years his enthusiasm and his skills made a huge difference to so many young people. His hot chocolate and biscuits at scout camp is still remembered by so many; his cooking skills were passed on to the scouts, so many still enjoying cooking today, as other life skills, as a result of Mikes teaching. Mike can rest assured he made a huge difference to so many, especially young people, enhancing their opportunities in life.

Thank you Mike.

(If you want the canoes why don’t you give Jan a ring. 07535 464188)

Chapel Arts: Book now for Monthly Makes!

By Debi & Jono Retallick (Artists in Residence)

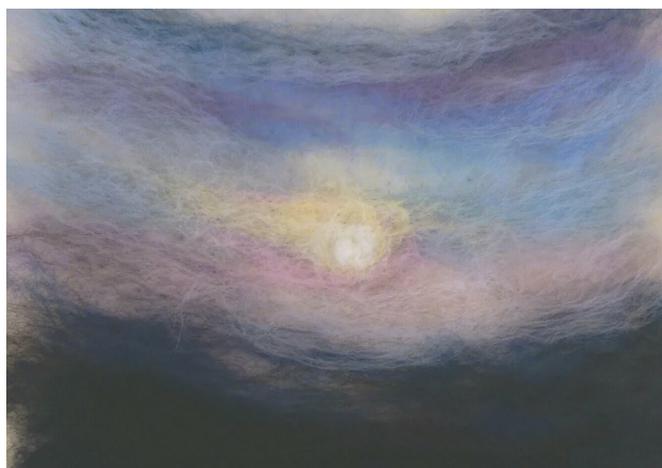
Artists in residence Debi & Jono Retallick usually host a 'monthly make' fundraising event at the chapel in Ash Vale to support the Chapel project and help us keep doing what we do. Due to the coronavirus situation we are now doing the "Monthly Makes" via 'zoom' online. The sessions are suitable for people 7 yrs and above. Book now to join in!

October Monthly Make: Your own needle felted penguin!



This monthly make will be two 40 minute sessions from 4pm on **Tues 29th September and Tues 6th October 2020**. Having explored a bit of drawing recently we felt it would be good to get crafty again. Debi will be taking you through the process of needle felting a 3D penguin. A needle felting kit will need to be sent out to you beforehand so please ensure you book early to allow time for this. The cost of the kit will be £8 for 50gms merino wool tops, felting needles and a tool/handle and a piece of foam to create on. Book your place today!

November Monthly Make: Painting with Fibres



This will be a 40 minute session from 4pm on **Mon 9th Nov**. Continuing with the felt making theme Debi will be taking you through the process of creating a painting entirely with fibres. A kit will be sent out to you beforehand so please ensure you book early to allow for this. The cost of the kit will be £9 for 50gms merino wool tops, felting needles, a tool/handle, a piece of 'prefelt' and a piece of foam to create on.

There is no set charge for the workshops themselves—this is by donation. Please make a donation to the Chapel Project to support the ongoing outreach and community projects. (donation details will be sent to you when you book)

To book your place & receive kit & zoom details please contact Debi directly at: debiretallick@googlemail.com.

What's on in October & November 2020

*** Weekly what's on ***

Sunday services 10am: Weekly church service (in person or on Zoom) at St Mary's. Email parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk for the link or text 07730609446

Monday Coffee Zoom 11am: Join the #ChapelKids and #LittleLambsLibrary parents & carers for a coffee chat online via zoom. No agenda just a chance to chat, offload, and share a laugh. Text Alex for the link 07730 609446

Wednesday Toddlers 11am: #ChapelKids & #LittleLambsLibrary are getting together outdoors (with social distancing) weather permitting, and on zoom if wet. You can also join our Facebook Messenger chat to keep in touch and find others to meet up with. Contact Alex on 07730 609446 for details.

Wednesday Evensong 8pm on Zoom, contact parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Wednesday Chapel Craft 8pm-10pm at The Chapel on Wharf Rd or via Zoom, contact Kirsty for details. Spaces are limited. Kirsty.denman@googlemail.com

San Rocco Chapel Art Club meets on Zoom on Thursdays. Contact Rev Neil for the link. revneil@me.com

Thursdays 10:30am-12:00 Baby Plus at St Paul's Tongham with Claire via zoom online. Singing, chat and activity ideas. communityworker@stpaulstongham.org.uk

Thursday Café at St Mary's 10:30am Please let us know you are coming so we can put out enough seats revneil@me.com

Thursday Alpha Course at St Mary's: An opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a small group, and ask questions! Contact Jackie for details 07863 311165 (Parish office mobile)

Film Fridays at The Chapel 6.30pm — contact revneil@me.com for details & booking — numbers are limited so booking is essential. The Chapel, Wharf Rd, Ash Vale.

*** Special Events ***

4th Oct Harvest Festival service 10am—donations of store cupboard food items are welcomed to help with local food parcels, any time, any date. Text 07730 609446 to arrange a drop off time. Thank You!

4th Oct 6pm APCM (Annual Parish Church Meeting) in person or on zoom.

31st Oct "Love and Light" Trail (Instead of the annual Light Party). See back inside cover for details. If we can't party in church we can enjoy a scavenger hunt and twinkly lights outside!

8th Nov Remembrance Service 10:30am at St Mary's church in the car park and on zoom. See page 5 for details or contact us for the zoom link.

← **#ChapelArts Monthly Makes** (see opposite) 6th Oct / 9th Nov

6th Dec St Nicholas Day Lantern Walk (format tbc) — save the date!

24th Dec Christingle event with live nativity (format tbc) — save the date!

All events are subject to change due to variations in covid-19 restrictions



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Wednesday morning**

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Michelle 07871 355095**

**Wednesday Afternoon & Evening
Ash United Football Club
Mel 07720 687660**

**Wednesday Afternoon & Evening
Thursday morning**

**Princes Hall Aldershot
Micki 07799 323436**

**Thursday afternoon & Evening
Shawfield Day Centre, Ash
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Poets Corner

This poem was spotted online by Barbara Stevens, and we love this suggestion for the poetry page. Why not send us your favourites too?

Our Heroes in Blue

I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written.
Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain.
They didn't have bombs and they didn't have planes.
They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains.
They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask.
We sent them to war, with one simple task.
To show us the way, to lead and inspire us.
To protect us from harm and fight off the virus.
It couldn't be stopped by our bulletproof vests.
An invisible enemy, invaded our chests.
So we called on our weapon, our soldiers in Blue.
"All Doctors, All Nurses, Your Country needs you".
We clapped on our streets, hearts bursting with pride.
As they went off to war, while we stayed inside.
They struggled at first, as they searched for supplies.
But they stared down the virus, in the whites of its eyes.
They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice.
Some never came back, the ultimate price.
So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on.
As the virus was beaten and the battle was won.
The many of us, owe so much, to so few.
The brave and the bold, our heroes in Blue.
So let's line the streets and remember our debt.
We love you, our heroes,
Lest we forget.

-By Matt Kelly

Matt Kelly's message of hope was penned initially for his partner Jill Scully, a district nurse, who shared it with colleagues and on social media. The piece has now been passed around the country and has been brought to life by one of the UK's most prominent actors. Matt, who works for the parks and streetscene team, was inspired by Jill's hard work on the frontline of the Covid-19 response and her daughter, Lily, expressing concern for her mum.

News from Ash CAB



Last month I signed up to Universal Credit for the first time, after I was made redundant. I am looking for a new job but I'm not sure if there's anything more I need to do to ensure I keep getting Universal Credit?

When you apply for Universal Credit you'll agree a Claimant Commitment with your work coach. A Claimant Commitment is a record of the responsibilities that you have accepted to receive Universal Credit payments. Your claimant commitment will be updated each time you see your work coach.

When you agree to your Claimant Commitment you will be put into one of four work-related activity groups (sometimes called "conditionality" groups). These set out the tasks you're expected to complete in order to receive your full benefit payment. You can check which group you're in by logging into your Universal Credit account online and checking your Claimant Commitment. If you're not online, you will have been provided with a paper copy of your Claimant Commitment.

This will tell you which group you're in and what tasks you'll have to do regularly to get Universal Credit. These tasks could include writing your CV, signing up for job alerts or applying for vacancies.

In order to show how you have completed the to-do list set out in your Claimant Commitment, you should keep a record of the tasks you've completed and how long they took in your Universal Credit online journal, or in a diary if you're not online.

Some claimants, mainly those who have applied for Universal Credit for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19, may not have a Claimant Commitment yet. Those who claimed before the outbreak, will have had their Claimant Commitment suspended during the outbreak and had no work-related requirements imposed. Since 1st of July, you should have had a call from the DWP to re set your Claimant Commitment.

The DWP has said that they will take a common-sense approach to work-related requirements and that those who are shielding, have childcare responsibilities because of COVID restrictions, etc. will have their Claimant Commitment tailored to reflect their circumstances.

If you would like help with Universal Credit, or any other topic such as legal matters, consumer issues, employment, housing, benefits or debt, the bureau helps people deal with the problems they face in everyday life. For advice or information you can contact us:

Ash Citizens Advice Telephone: 01252 315569 or 01252 314711

Transforming Generosity - Bible Study

(A new season of Bible studies based on the Gospel of Luke)

An invitation from Guildford Diocese Stewardship team: Would you like to join us this October for *Transforming Generosity*? Over the month we will look together at the Gospel of Luke, seeking a deeper understanding of God's abundant generosity, reflecting on generous giving as part of our discipleship and worship, and responding by continuing to build generous churches. We know that generous people can transform our communities, and beyond, at this time. Simply take five minutes out of your day to listen to – or read - a short reflection from the Gospel of Luke, each focusing on the theme of generosity. We have some brilliant and thought-provoking reflections to share with you! The website has links for all the podcasts, or why not sign up to receive them direct to your inbox?

Here is an example of one of the daily studies as a taster. We hope it helps you on your discipleship journey.

Sunday 4th October: Luke 3 Today we'll be focusing on verses 10-14:

“And the crowds asked John the Baptist, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’”

In Luke's recounting of the beginning of the public ministry of John the Baptist the words from the prophet Isaiah are remembered, the one crying in the wilderness – prepare the way of the Lord. John was very direct with those who he thought didn't understand exactly what he was offering. He wasn't offering a get-saved-quick package, but a re-think of the way of life.

John, and those who had come out to hear what he had to say were Jews. They knew their teaching about how the most vulnerable should be treated and, as throughout human history, people fell short of the ideal. The difference for Luke is that he links their shared ethical imperatives with 'making the paths straight', and, 'preparing for the way of the Lord', in other words, bringing in the kingdom of God.

'What then should we do?' the people asked. John the Baptist encouraged the people to remember their responsibilities to one another – those who have two

coats should give one away and those who have more food than they need should give it to someone who has no food at all. His call extended to those who weren't just neglecting their responsibility, but to those who were actively taking advantage of the vulnerable. The tax collectors who always demanded a little extra for themselves and the soldiers who used the power of their position to frighten people into giving to them what little they had.

This message is as relevant today as it was then. All we have is a gift from God – entrusted to us to use as wisely as we can, for the common good. It's tempting in times of uncertainty to narrow our focus and our thoughts But God calls us to a generosity of spirit which begins with lifting our heads, scanning the horizon and spotting where paths need to be straightened or burdens eased. This is generosity which is transformative.

**Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*We pray that **Transforming Generosity** can be a foundation for us as Christ's people to be a beacon of hope and light in every circumstance, showing His generosity in all its forms. Sign up and find out more here: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/making-disciples/encouraging-generous-giving/transforming-generosity>*

Does my local church need my help? We certainly do!

St Mary's church in Ash Vale is currently running at a deficit in the region of £12k-£14k because our regular outgoings to run the church and all our activities and outreach (even after all our latest cost savings) are bigger than our regular donations & hall hire income. The future is uncertain and the diocese is having to make tough decisions about staffing and churches across the region. Please give it some prayerful thought and if you feel want to help we would love to hear from you. Signing up to regular donations would be a huge help to enable us to plan ahead. One-off donations are also very much welcomed. To find out more or ask for a form please contact parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk or pop in when the office is open on Thursdays 10:30-12:30 or you can speak to us on a Sunday after the 10am service or phone us. If you prefer to give anonymously you can donate by bank transfer and simply use "donation" as the reference. Gift Aid forms are also available for those who pay tax. Our online readers can make donations now via our ["give a little" link here](#). Thank you.

Thank you to all our donors, supporters and volunteers for your wonderful help & support. We can't do it without you!

Memories of Ash Ranges

By Mike Jacobs

In November 1959 I was demobbed from the Army after doing my National Service and returned to my old employment at Guildford Rural District Council. Here I met a charming young lady who lived in Ash and worshipped at the Methodist Church and thus I was introduced to the Church Family at Ash Vale Methodist Church (AVMC)

The church had been built in the 1870s, to cater for the increasing local population and the flourishing Wesleyan movement. At the time there was no Roman Catholic church in the village and only one Anglican church (St Peter's) so the Methodist congregation claimed the honour of having the second oldest church in Ash. The site chosen for the new building was on the edge of Ash Ranges, at the northern end of Wharf Road, and originally included all the land where the Ash Vale Health Centre and Abbeywood Care Home now stand.

Methodist churches have always had a strong tradition of outreach to the community, particularly to young people and children. When I arrived, there was a thriving Sunday School at Ash Vale Methodist and I was soon recruited as a helper. Then, as I had previous training in youth work, I was invited to organise the Young People's clubs - which I was very happy to do. A club for 18 to 25-year-olds already existed, known as 'Powerpoint', and it was decided to enlarge 'Explorers' for 11s to 17s and 'Cockleshell Club' for 7s to 11s. I put up a hand-drawn poster announcing the new clubs at Hawkins Family Butchers in Ash Hill Road, and within a month we had recruited nearly two hundred new children and had to start a waiting list. Other youth groups such as Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows also used the church as their meeting place.

The building consisted of only three main rooms: the Church, the Schoolroom and the kitchen. With so many people using the building it became a natural development for meetings to start off in the Schoolroom but for activities to migrate outside. This is where major use was made of Ash Common, which included the Ranges. Members of the Cockleshell Club in particular would repair to Range four in huge numbers and we had a great time with wool trails (this involves a race to gather up pieces of wool left along the route by the leaders), rounders and cricket and innumerable activities that involved hunting and hiding among the woods and bracken of the Common. Many other groups and individuals from the community made good use of this public amenity right on our doorstep.

The local St John Ambulance was on call 24/7 and was garaged near the Swan Hotel. They would often use the Range Road when answering emergency calls. I also remember that when I was learning to drive, this is where I practised. The roads within the ranges were all open and commuters would often drive along the Range

Road from Wharf Road junction with Shawfield Road to Heath Vale Bridge Road.

At that time the whole of Ash Common was open to the public. The only restricted areas were those designated as Shooting Ranges which were marked with a line of flags flown when troops were using the Range. Everything outside the line of flags was considered to be common land and was available for the general public to use. Interestingly, the version of Google Maps which is based on the Ordnance Survey shows this situation clearly. Only the areas between the line of flagpoles are designated as MOD responsibility.

When I did my National Service with the Queen's Royal Regiment, my basic training took place on local MOD land including Ash Ranges. We had the disciplines necessary for using these facilities drummed into us and after using the Ranges for live firing we had to make a very solemn (secret) declaration before being taken back to barracks.

The Range at Ash was a static range where firing took place from fixed firing points towards the butts where the targets were displayed. The butts were backed by a huge earth bank that caught all the rounds as they were fired. No firing was allowed that would let any stray shots escape the catchment of that bank of earth behind the Butts. In fact, it is unlikely that a round could be discharged outside the controlled area. The firing points were clearly marked and every soldier knew exactly what was expected of him to ensure no one was put at risk.

From comments made by the MOD and DIO, and the fact that the designation of a safety zone has been considered necessary, it seems that current soldiers lack the discipline that I and my colleagues followed. This is an indictment of current training practices. We never had any accidents while using the Ranges and I have never heard of any in the last 60 years.

There was a very small number of Range Wardens, (unlike today where there seem to be more MOD police in the area than members of Surrey Constabulary), and the local population did their bit in ensuring the Common was kept clean and tidy. When the MOD brought cattle in to graze and control the vegetation, there was little opposition, but the presence of cattle required the creation of a fence, and it seems that over time the DIO have taken the successful erection of such fences as constituting a *carte blanche* to increase the fenced area and impose their own illegal restrictions. The barriers are now serving to ***keep people out*** rather than to ***keep cattle in***.

This is an abridged version of a longer piece which Mike has written on his memories of The Ranges. We hope to publish a whole collection in the near future, please email us your memories too! parishioner@ash-vale.org.uk See <https://www.ashranges.com> for more Ash Ranges news.



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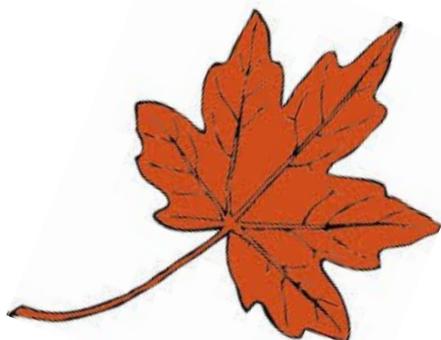
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The Power of Music

Steve Worsfold invites you to log on and enjoy!



While we are all living in uncertain times music is one of the things to keep us positive. As an individual with long-term health conditions I thought long and hard: what I can give back to the community as I am restricted to what I can do? My love of all forms of music came to the forefront, and after learning the new skill of mixing music together I have decided how I can give back to the local community:

Lockdown sessions is a 2hr live DJ set every Friday night starting at 7pm and ending just after 9pm. I produce a mix of dance and house music.

I stream live on twitch (username stevemw1m5k2d, or use this link: <http://twitch.tv/stevemw1m5k2d/> you can also download the app on your phone / device and play music through it or stream to your Bluetooth speakers.

Forget Covid-19 for 2 hrs and enjoy the party!

Steve

A Thought inspired by Gardening

By Scrivener

During the uncertainty caused by Covid-19 many of us have spent much time (and money) trying to keep sane by “doing” the garden or window box. Personally I have completed many of the small tasks that had been put “on the back burner”. But as autumn approaches the remaining jobs are much bigger and require much more effort, and as I have jams and pickles to make for CHRISTMAS (it’s not far away) gardening has to take a bit of a back seat to processing the produce.



During the Lockdown we have all had to become much more self reliant and one joy I have rediscovered is the reading of poetry and because of all the gardening one of the poems I revisited is “The Glory of the Garden” which, under the omnipresent threat of corporal punishment, I was forced to learn in Primary School. Being forced to do something as a child is often the route to utter rejection of the “stuff” being shoved down one’s throat as soon as possible after the medicine has been swallowed (or regurgitated by recitation in this case). And, so it was for years; however, the 17th & 18th lines of the poem remained always as an earworm.

Although Kipling may be regarded as an representative of Colonialism and The Raj (and is definitely a product of his time, - Rule Britannia, Land of Hope & Glory, Jerusalem and all that), he is writing about the whole country and the status quo: briefly, his world view at the time could be stated as “If every country in the world was part of the British Empire all would be well with the world.” The poem was published in 1911 just before Kipling’s world was turned upside down by WW1 (in 1915 Kipling’s only son, John, was to be posted “missing in action” at the Battle of Loos and it took until 1992 for John’s grave to be identified).

However there is always a subversive undercurrent in Kipling. Although he evokes “statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting” he goes on to write of “the dung pits and the tanks” showing the more unseemly side of “Enterprise Garden” and reveals that the garden relies on “broken dinner knives” and “men and ‘prentice boys” doing hard graft to keep the garden functioning properly.

During the Covid-19 epidemic much praise (quite rightly) has been lavished on Doctors and Nurses who are serving at the chalk face, however, their efforts would be to no avail without the workers (the laundry workers, the cooks, the electricians, the cleaners and others) based down in the bowels of the hospital supplying the wherewithal to enable the chalk-face staff to do the job of healing the sick. Please remember them too when thinking about our NHS.

Scrivener

Useful Numbers – Help is at hand!

Here are some of the useful numbers you may need if you need support in Ash Vale. If you think we are missing a number please let us know.

Local Churches:

St Mary's, Ash Vale – 07863 311165 (Parish Administrator's Mobile)

The Chapel, Ash Vale – 07730 609446 (Project Manager)

St Peter's, Ash – 01252 331161

Holy Angels, Ash – 01252 321422

St Paul's, Tongham – 01252 782790

Local help and support during the Covid-19 crisis:

Ash, Ash Vale & Ash Green Coronavirus Support group (volunteers doing shopping & prescription runs & emergency food parcels) – 07843 489796

Ash Parish Council – 01252 328 287

Ash Citizens Advice – 01252 315569 or 01252 314711

Ash Vale Health Centre – 01252 317551 (Out of hours phone 111, in an emergency dial 999)

Guildford Borough Council Covid-19 Community Helpline – 01483 444400

Community Wellbeing Team - 07769 642053 / 07901 513652

Safe & Settled Team - 01483 444476 for those needing help at home on arriving back from hospital or needing some help to manage at home.

If you need to talk to someone : national helplines

Samaritans (24/7 service) – 116 123 or text SHOUT 85258

National Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/ (run by Refuge)

The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors – 0808 801 0327

The Mix, free information/support for under 25s in the UK – 0808 808 4994

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0800 999 5428

PAPYRUS—Young suicide prevention society, 0800 068 4141

Childline for children 0800 1111

Alcoholics Anonymous—0800 917 7650 (24/7)

Narcotics Anonymous—0300 999 1212

Cruse Bereavement Care— 0808 808 1677

The Parishioner Magazine: Alex (Editor) 07730 609446 Contact me in the first instance and I can put you in touch with the right person in our amazing volunteer team.



The annual Messy Church **Light Party** is changing shape!
*Enjoy a socially distanced scavenger hunt around
Ash Vale with your household or bubble.*



How it works:

- 1) Text Alex for the trail map 07730 609446 or download it from Facebook www.ashvalechapel.com
- 2) The trail is open 10am-8pm, so you can go at a time to suit you. Follow the trail and collect all the letters to find out the password. (Remember to social distance!)
- 3) Text Alex the password to receive your treat!

PS—We are waiting to hear the latest Covid-19 rules... if it's still allowed we will have take-away hotdogs at The Chapel 5-6pm. Keep an eye on Facebook! [@AshValeChapel](https://www.facebook.com/AshValeChapel)

Dear Parents & Carers—if you're feeling festive why not take a bag of sweets along, and enjoy a treat every time you spot a clue or for every pumpkin or heart you see?

Dear Neighbours —please decorate your windows with hearts and lights this weekend to make it even more of an occasion! ❤️

What's inside?

Speaking truth to power — (p3&4) A letter from Revd Neil Lambert
Remembering in 2020 — (p5) How we shall remember them in 2020
Phyllis Tuckwell Shop—persevering in a pandemic — (p8&9) Jane Walker
Carbon neutral by 2030? — (p10) Alex shares the church's progress so far
Community Spirit — (p11) Carla Morson shares news & food parcels updates
Competition Time! Design a Christmas Card for Amaha We Uganda — (p14)
A huge THANK YOU to Mike Ferris — (p15) By Tony Gorham MBE
Chapel Arts: Book now for Monthly Makes! — (p16) By Debi Retallick
What's on in October & November — (p17)
Poets Corner — (p20)
News from Ash Citizens Advice — (p21)
Transforming Generosity — (p22&23) Guildford Diocese invite you to join the team on a discipleship journey looking at the gospel of Luke.
Memories of Ash Ranges — (p24&25) Mike Jacobs shares his recollections
The Lockdown Sessions — (p28) Steve Worsfold invites you to enjoy the music
A thought inspired by gardening — (p29) Scrivener
Useful Numbers — help is at hand! — (p30)
Love & Light Trail! (inside back cover) Partying safely in a Pandemic — 31st Oct 2020 ♥

*"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
L.M.Montgomery Anne of Green Gables*

We welcome fun, informative and local interest items!

Dec / Jan Christmas issue copy deadline is Wed 9th Dec 2020

if you would like to nominate a Local Hero or have an idea for anything you would like to see in here. If you are interested, chances are someone else will be too. No age limit so please encourage the younger members of the family to put their ideas down and send them to us. If you need a little help with editing that's ok too.

Emails please to: parishioner@ash-vale.org.uk

The Parishioner seeks to explore and reflect upon a wide variety of local issues whilst recognising that not everyone will agree with the views expressed. These do not necessarily reflect the views of all the members of St Mary's Church nor those of its Parochial Church Council.