

Special Edition: Meet our local Churches

June / July 2021

THE

PARISHIONER

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TOGETHER



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roots down, walls down

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GU12 5JE

revneil@me.com

Churchwardens

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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

Local Church Services & Contact Details

St Mary's, Vale Road, Ash Vale (Church of England)

- ⇒ Sundays 10am Communion Service
- ⇒ Wednesdays Zoom Evensong 8pm
- ⇒ Monthly Messy Church 4pm: 27 Jun, 18 Jul

For full details & hall bookings contact

Email.: parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Mob.: 07863 311165

Web: <https://ash-vale.org.uk/>

St Paul's, Tongham (Church of England)

- ⇒ Sundays 8am communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)
- ⇒ Sundays 10am
- ⇒ Wednesdays 10am

Bookings and details contact Wendy in the office:

Email: office@stpaulstongham.org.uk

Tel.: 01252 783081 (currently answer phone only)

Web: <https://www.stpaulstongham.org.uk/>

St Peter's, Ash (Church of England)

- ⇒ Sundays 8am Communion (traditional)
- ⇒ Sundays 10am:
 - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays: Parish Communion
 - 2nd Sundays: Family service, followed by 11:15 Communion
 - 4th Sundays: Family Communion
- ⇒ Wednesdays 9.30am Communion
- ⇒ Outdoor family services: 11 Jul & 8 Aug 10am

For full details contact Fr Keith Bristow

Tel: 01252 321517

email: keithbristow1956@outlook.com

For Hall Bookings contact: St Peter's Centre

Tel: 01252 331161

Email: stpetersash@ukonline.co.uk

Booking weddings & Baptisms: phone for an appointment on 01252 331161 or 01252 321517

Web: <http://www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk/>

Holy Angels, Ash (Roman Catholic church)

- ⇒ Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm
- ⇒ Sunday Mass 11.00am
- ⇒ Wednesday and Friday Mass 9.30am

Holy Angels Parish contact details:

Email: holyofficesurrey@gmail.com

Office hours 11-1pm & 4-5pm Monday-Thursday

Tel. 07485 634561 during office hours.

Outside office hours 01252 321422.

The Chapel Project, Ash Vale (Wharf Rd)

(Joint project between St Mary's and the Hants Surrey Border Methodist Circuit)

For programme, events, Artist in Residence details & hall bookings contact Alex Sanderson (Project Manager): 07730 609446

Email: ashvalechapel@gmail.com

Web: www.AshValeChapel.com

Parishioner Magazine Team

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During the Pandemic we are publishing mainly online www.ash-vale.org.uk, with email and paper copies on request. 077309 609446

We are hugely grateful to our amazing volunteer team, who contribute, edit, proof, publish, email, print, collate, and deliver The Parishioner to all our readers, and our extra helpers for this special edition.

Welcome — Local Churches Special Edition!

By Revd. Neil Lambert, St Mary's Ash Vale

Welcome to this very special edition of The Parishioner Magazine, where we are celebrating our amazing local churches and all the love, support and joy they bring to our local community.

In the season of Pentecost we are celebrating the very beginning of the church, which happened in Jerusalem all those years ago. You can find the story in Acts 2 in your bible. I just love these paintings by Giotto, which you can find in the Scrovegni chapel in Padua, Italy. In this amazing cycle of paintings of the life and resurrection of Christ we have two fascinating pictures of Jesus's disciples. In one of them they are sitting with him at the Last Supper (John 13), and in a later one they are with another member of The Trinity, the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost. You will notice that at the Last Supper, the disciples had halos, but Jesus is the only one with a golden one. In the second painting they all have a golden halo, and fire resting above their heads.

What excites me about this Pentecost painting, is that it speaks about the beginning of the church, where God has not abandoned his people, but has come, not only to live with them, but to live in them. What an amazing effect this had on the disciples. This worried, fearful, group are transformed, freed from fear. They have become people of freedom, who don't shy away from speaking truth and justice. As the hymn says *"My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed Thee"*

That same freedom that they experienced is available to each one of us today. Coming out of a year of pandemic, there is a lot of fear in our community. As churches, we want to say to you, that we should not be fearful of engaging with one another and also with God. If we can help you with that, we would love to! Get in touch, pop in, and let's share our freedom and learn from each other.

Neil revneil@me.com <https://ash-vale.org.uk/>



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrovegni_Chapel



Greetings from St Peter's, Ash

By Revd Keith Bristow & Revd Carol Monk



Warmest greetings from the Reverend Keith Bristow and the Revd. Carol Monk. We would like to tell you a bit about the church here, which has enabled people to worship God and serve others, for about 800 years.

We are a friendly bunch from all walks of life and all ages. As well as our weekly services we always have lots of other things going on - from our daily pre-school to events for those of more mature years! We are very excited about welcoming back lots of groups to our fantastic Parish Centre, now that COVID restrictions are lifting. Our facilities are available for hire for children's parties, dance groups, U3A, uniformed organisations, craft groups and much more. As a church we hold a Summer Fete and a Christmas Fayre, monthly soup lunches, social evenings, quiz nights and afternoon teas, to name but a few. Prayer groups and Bible studies help us to get to know God better, and become the people He wants us to be.

We welcome many families who bring their children to be Christened (Baptised), and sometimes adults ask to be Christened too - you're never too old! We enjoy celebrating weddings with couples setting out on the adventure of married life. We also offer Blessings for those not married in church, and renewal of vows for those celebrating special anniversaries. On a sadder note, we can be there for people when a loved one dies. We conduct funerals in church or, if preferred, at the Crematorium, and we tailor each service to reflect all that the person meant to their family and friends. Every November we invite families to a service to remember and give thanks for them all. We also have a caring Pastoral Team of trained volunteers who offer support too. You don't have to be a regular church member for us to share in these life events with you - just contact us and we can take it from there.

Our worship is centred around Holy Communion but we also have a more informal family service each month and other types of relaxed worship from time to time. Whether you have been a Christian for years, or just want to explore what it's all about, you will quickly feel at home with us, just come as you are! We look forward to meeting you soon.

May God bless you,

Revd Keith and Revd Carol

<http://www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk/>



Welcome to St Paul's Tongham

By Revd Claire Holt

It is lovely to have a shared magazine and to get to know more about each of our churches! I am Claire, the vicar at St Paul's where I have been part of the church family here for the past 9 years, whilst the church is just over 150 years old. I love the mix of all ages worshipping God and serving together. We like to encourage all to have a go at things and don't mind mistakes!



We have a mix of services from traditional communion services at 8am and mid-week, through an informal Sunday service at 10am and then Messy Church monthly on a Thursday evening. Though most of this has been online recently or in packs!

We have good links to St Paul's infant school and have seasonal events for children e.g. Exploring Christmas and Exploring Easter. Our aim is to be for all in the community, so we also have our monthly Fellowship lunch for retired, small groups for adults and events for all ages.

Our Sunday 10am service has groups for children and we love families worshipping together at our family services and as part of our groups online. On Sunday evenings we have a group for teens called The Hub.

We have a passion for the environment and supporting people in need (see later articles!).

And finally, we support a few local charities and mission organisations, including Step by Step and Phyllis Tuckwell. But our main mission link is with Blythswood Care. We have been linking up with a project in Romania as part of our services, collect shoe boxes for them and have a member of our church working for them which means she has been able to visit with her family – and excitingly we have been invited to take a group out there when it is possible to arrange too!

Our vision is to be a “growing community of faith” – welcoming and including all and helping everyone to encounter God's love for themselves. We aim to resource people to live out their faith in everyday life, reflecting on God in the ordinary and everyday, and thinking about how we can serve Him wherever we are.

Claire

<https://www.stpaulstongham.org.uk/>





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Wednesday morning**

**The Community Centre Tongham
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
Olivia 07734 654253**



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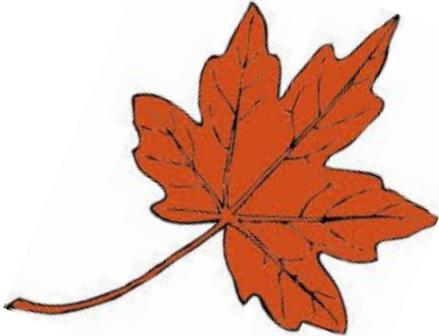
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You are Invited to Holy Angels

By Gloria Benson, Holy Angels Community Projects Coordinator

Blessings to all readers as we slowly come out of the pandemic lockdown. Father Robin, Parish Priest for Holy Angels Catholic Church in Ash, spent the entire two lockdowns live streaming Masses for his congregation on his own behind locked doors. He, along with our Deacon John Edwards, was more than pleased when we were allowed to open our doors for albeit, small numbers of attendees, while at the same time still live streaming for those Parishioners who were isolating or feeling vulnerable because of the high figures reported.



Holy Angels can currently accommodate up to about 70 people and in the coming weeks we are hoping to adjust the seating yet again to enable more Parishioners to attend the Masses as well as other sacraments like baptism, weddings and funerals. Our Youth and Confirmation Groups have, out of necessity, been conducted via Zoom and although it has served a purpose it really cannot replace our usual face to face meetings. The renewal of these meetings will be an absolute joy to the catechists leading these groups as well as getting all the social aspects of parish life to reawaken once again. Simple morning coffee will be a joyous occasion I am sure, and how amazing it will be to have music and singing again!

We must not underestimate the well-being effect of this pandemic on people reluctant to step out and back into our churches but we also must have complete and utter faith in the Holy Spirit knowing that if we ask he will act and walk beside us to gather in the lost and afraid. We are also very aware of local hardships with families and indeed if any Holy Angels Parishioners are experiencing acute hardship please do contact the parish office. Holy Angels is part of Churches Together in Ash, Ash Vale and Tongham and there are many outreach projects where we can point to help.

We will continue to adhere to strict Government guidelines of cleaning after services with church attendees sanitising their hands on the way in, wearing masks and signing in either on the track and trace barcode or physically filling in details. SO for those current Parishioners feeling a little nervous still you are INVITED to come and see and receive a warm hello and welcome and for those new to the Parish you are INVITED to come and see and again receive a warm hello and welcome.



Gloria gloria.benson14@gmail.com

News from our local Branch

By Barbara Ridley

A warm welcome awaits at either of our group meetings. We usually meet on the 1st Wednesday in the month at 2.30pm. Our evening group meets on the last Monday in the month at 8pm. Both meetings are held in the small hall at St. Peter's Church centre.

Our meetings begin with a short time of prayer. A variety of speakers are invited, and we also have more informal meetings for fellowship. All meetings finish with refreshments.

Recent speakers have included talks from our community wardens, the prison service and the CAB. Future topics are to include teaching in an SEN school, the history of the Victoria Hall and the Christian Police Association. We also enjoy a summer visit to a local Church.

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by our founder Mary Sumner in 1876, in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over four million members in 84 countries. MU is especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and family life. We support our local Women's Refuges, helping to provide essentials such as clothing and toiletries for women and their children when they first arrive.

Despite our name we are an inclusive organisation, welcoming everyone; we have men and single ladies in many of our branches.

Unfortunately with the pandemic we have been unable to hold our usual meetings during the last year, but are hoping to resume our normal program from September.

Please contact Barbara Ridley 01252 323037 (Branch leader) for more information and details of upcoming programs



The Newcomer...

After the service a young couple talked to a church member about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before, and he asked what church he was transferring from. After a short hesitation, he replied, "I am transferring from the local Golf Course."

Are you new to church? Don't be shy, come on in and say hi!

Eco News: There's no Planet B

St. Peter's Meadow and Wildlife Area



In an effort to give nature a helping hand an area of grass behind St. Peter's Centre is being made more wildlife friendly.

The Rainbows Group that meets at the Centre made a wonderful bug house, and we have bee-friendly plants, bird roosts and a bird feeder. We have sown wild flower seeds and made a log pile and a compost bin.

Work in progress!

Contact: Barbara Rose 07761808727

The Chapel Project, Ash Vale: Going Greener

We are very lucky to have Revd Gina Hoff co-leading the Chapel Project, and she brings lots of wisdom with her as the Green Christian UK Chaplain.

The Chapel has made some eco-friendly changes, starting with where we spend our money! We buy fair trade tea, coffee and other supplies, and over lockdown have switched our gas and electric to Bulb, where we now get 100% green electric and carbon-offset gas (other suppliers are available of course!) The Chapel Kids group are in on the act as well, planting a mini 'food forest' in the garden and learning all about plants, pollinators and permaculture gardening. Our friend Mel W has been very busy setting up a seed swap station at The Chapel as well, so you don't even need to buy seeds to start planting things at home, and anyone with spare seeds can pop them in the seed swap for local people to use. We will be restarting our monthly "Chapel Greens Coffee Chat" soon; pop in and say hello!

Contact: Alex 07730 609446

St Mary's, Ash Vale: Eco Church Update

St Mary's have a superb Eco Champion in Lesley, and she has been instrumental in helping us to earn our La Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award recently. Lots of people in our church family are environmentally conscious and help out with recycling, gardening and trying to be good stewards of church

resources. We are looking at greener transport next. Watch this space for bike parking and electric cars! Another passion at St Mary's is food, and we can't stand seeing it go to waste. We have joined the Foodiverse with Fareshare Go and the local Co-Op Foodshare, to save 'on its last date' food from landfill and make it part of the local food parcels project—more of that on page 24/25

Contact: Parish Office 07863 311165

St Paul's Tongham: Charity Recycling Hub, come and join in!

The team at St Paul's have done amazing work to set up a recycling project to support local charities. Please keep an eye on the website for the next event, and in the meantime have a look at the list below for what you can save to recycle. Thank you for your support!

Contact: clairefholt@hotmail.com

RECYCLE EVENT



Please collect recycling to support local charities

Items in separate bags please

Next event in July (hopefully!)



Item	Notes
Crisp packets (all brands) and Pringle pots	Pringle pots need lids. Crisp packets must be flat and dry
Chocolate: Pouches, multipack outside wrappers, individual wrappers	
Biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers	
Toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes and packaging around toothbrushes	Not Pump dispensers
Plastic labels from fizzy drinks, squash bottles and water bottles	
Ring pulls	
Plastic pet food bags	
Baby food pouches	Need lids
Tassimo pods and outer packaging	
Bread bags	
Bras	Any condition please. Any good condition ones get sent to Africa
Cleaning bottles and hand wash trigger heads – No longer collected	Please add to Surrey recycling bins
Milk bottle lids and Arla	No other lids!
Writing instruments	Not pencils or crayons
Stamps and old foreign coins	
Old mobile phones	
Newspapers, towels, blankets, cat and dog food, animal treats and toys	No pillows, duvets or other bedding

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Family Friendly Fun!

Baby Plus and Toddler Plus at St. Paul's church, Tongham

Here at St. Paul's we run multiple groups for families with children of all ages, from babies right through to young adults. Our aim is not only to provide experiences for the children but also to support their parents in every way we can.

As the community worker for St Paul's church in Tongham, my key role is to support families with children below school age and particularly new parents with babies. I have over 20 years of experience in this area as I worked for the NCT for 12 years, then the local Children's Centre for another three before moving to work at St. Paul's church. I also have three adult children of my own but no grand children yet!

We currently run two groups that are totally FREE for mums/dads/grandparents and their children to attend. We are meeting outside, to allow us to accommodate more families and this is likely to remain the case until the end of the summer. We haven't had to cancel a session yet due to the weather! We are embracing the outside 'forest school' nature of the sessions, with messy play an easier option outside and a chance for the little ones to really explore the outside world as well as the parents gaining fresh air and sense of space.

Toddler plus

This group is for those just walking to about 2/2.5ish and is on a Wednesday, 10.30-12. The toddlers can explore and do some messy play, whilst parents chat and support one another. We also do some actions songs and have bubbles to chase.

Baby Plus

Is for the little ones from just days old to once they are toddling around. This is on a Thursday 10.30-12 Again parents can chat and make new friends, whilst the little ones are also learning with some baby sensory experiences, action songs and bubbles.

We meet throughout the year, including the school holidays. We meet in the vicarage garden which is the house right next door to the community centre carpark, so please park there and walk round. The garden is huge, with plenty of lawn for rugs and woodland area to explore.

It is a bit of a DIY experience at the moment, as you need to bring your own picnic rugs and toys (which you are happy to share). Also unfortunately you also need to bring your own and your children's drinks and snacks.

Both groups are incredibly friendly, supportive and welcoming, so we look

forward to seeing you soon. I also run a WhatsApp group for each group which allows you to share questions and organise meet ups throughout the week.

Find us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2574450836214712/>

Although we do not charge for our sessions, donations can be made on our website. www.stpaulstongam.org.uk

Contact Claire B for further details on:
communityworker@stpaulstongham.org.uk
or you can call the Parish Office on 01252 783081

Children & Families at St Mary's & The Chapel

At St Mary's and The Chapel we are fortunate to have some lovely young families who come to church, and some wonderful friends, of all faiths and none, who join us for the various groups, online chats and live zooms.

For those at home we have a Messenger Chat and a weekly coffee zoom for parents and carers Mondays 11am Zoom ID: 520 880 119 Password: Grownups

For the Summer term 2021 We have opened up carefully and slowly, with an indoor Babies Support Group at St Mary's on Vale Road on Tuesdays 10am-11am for little ones under 12 months, and an outdoor Chapel Kids "Garden Praise" session for all ages 0-4yrs at The Chapel on Wharf Rd on Wednesdays 11:30am-12:30. Our favourite this term has been

planting lots of scrummy edibles for here and home!

Monthly Messy Church is back (book early!) with one family / bubble per table in church at St Mary's, and we are offering doorstep kits for anyone who prefers to stay at home or isn't able to book due to the restrictions on numbers. Sundays 4pm:

27th Jun, 18th Jul, 26th Sept, 31st Oct

Picnic & Play—we have exciting plans to open up The Chapel again this summer, every Wednesday in August Keep an eye on Facebook! @AshValeChapel

Come and join the fun!

Phone or text Alex on 07730 609446

Projectmanager@ash-vale.org.uk



What's on in June & July 2021

St Mary's, Vale Rd, Ash Vale,

Sundays 10am –Join St Mary's for our weekly Church Service. All are welcome, both on Zoom and in person. Wednesday Evensong is back too, please contact the office for the latest rules and timings.

Contact: Parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Mondays 11am: Coffee Chat Zoom Join fellow parents and carers for informal coffee chat and friendship. (Term time only)
Zoom ID: 520 880 119

Password: Grownups

Contact Alex: 07730 609446

Tuesdays 10am: Babies at St Mary's Support Group We are open Tuesdays 10am-11am in term time for parents and carers with babies under 12mths. Booking is essential. Come and join us!

Contact Alex: 07730 609446

Thursday Café Once cafés are allowed to reopen we will be risk-assessing and reopening. Contact us for details.

parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Sat 26th June: 7:30pm: Poetry Night & Book Launch: Chapel Poetry Group are launching their latest collection, and celebrating the winners of the "Mirror Mind" Poetry Competition. Join us on Zoom or in person at St Mary's to hear some of the winning poems and celebrate with us! St Mary's Church, 26th June, 7:30pm.

Contact Alex: 07730 609446

August: Summer Café: Fridays in the holidays at St Mary's—keep an eye on the notices for details. Sign up to receive the weekly news parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Summer Fair! 10th July 12-3pm

Sneakin' Suspicion are booked for an 'end of COVID' Gig - and the Wood Street & St Mary's Team are cooking up a bit of a festival! **See inside back cover for details.**

Donations for St Mary's: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/47eb21e6-c2b0-4a23-a526-8d13fd24fa56> **Thank you!**

The Chapel Project, Wharf Rd, Ash Vale

Chapel Arts Monthly Makes

Artists in Residence Debi & Jono Retallick host a 'monthly make' fundraising workshop for The Chapel, teaching all kinds of art and craft techniques. Email Debi for event details, Zoom links, and to book your place on the workshops: (&See page 26)

debiretallick@googlemail.com

Tue 1 June 4pm: Dragonflies

Tue 6 July 4pm: Painting with fibres

Chapel Kids Baby & Toddler Group:

Wednesdays 11:30am: Garden Praise

Chapel Kids toddler group ages 0-4yrs at The Chapel in Wharf Road GU12 3AY (term time only, text us to book)

Contact Alex: 07730 609446

Chapel Poetry Group Workshops:

Join the group on WhatsApp for chat with like minded creative writers, and join us on Zoom for a monthly poetry workshop. (Hopefully in person once regulations lift)

Contact Alex: 07730 609446

Chapel Craft Group: Join us on Wednesdays in term time 8-10pm at The Chapel on Wharf Rd. Bring along your

What's on in June & July 2021

latest craft project and have a natter and a cuppa as we craft. We have been zooming but aim to be back at the Chapel as soon as regulations allow. **Contact 07730 609446**

Chapel Filmshare: Your local fortnightly Filmshare is starting back in September! If you enjoy tea, coffee and cakes and appreciate films you're welcome to join us fortnightly at the Chapel from 7.30pm. To sign up to our e-mail newsletter contact **Dick Elsey at richard.elsey45@gmail.com or on 01252 694314.**

Donations for The Chapel : <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8d80cd98-df9f-494e-9808-b8898744146f> **Thank you!**

St Paul's, Poyle Rd, Tongham:

Baby Plus :

- **Mondays 4-4.30pm. Toddler Storytime** - stories, actions and songs
- **Tuesdays 2.30-4pm Mum Plus**— friendship and facilitated discussions
- **Wednesdays 4-4.30pm. Toddler Storytime**
- **Thursdays 10.30am-12. Baby Plus** - Informal chat session for mums, with some singing and action songs for the little ones.

Baby Plus Contact:

CommunityWorker@stpaulstongham.org.uk
Or via the Church office: **01252 783081**

Messy Church at St Paul's :

- **17th June** (pack with Facebook live introduction)
- **15th July** (format tbc)

Keep an eye on Facebook / Website

Open Church Event:

Keep an eye on Facebook & the website for our "Open Church" for reflection, a grand opening of the ramp, and an outside event for the community (or we might combine this into one big 3-in-1 event!)

Web.: <https://www.stpaulstongham.org.uk/>

St Peter's, Ash

27th June St Peter's Day: Outdoor (weather permitting) service in the St Peter's Centre garden, followed by a bring-your-own picnic lunch in the Rectory Garden.

St Peter's Craft Evenings: At St Peters we have a regular craft evening which will relaunch in September. It's a free of charge group which meets at 7pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. It's a creative session where people bring along whatever craft project they have underway. We have some painting, card making, jewellery making and lots of keen knitters! Refreshments are offered as well as an evening of friendship. All ages welcome. For confirmation of the relaunch please check our website

Web saint-peters-ash.org.uk

Holy Angels, Ash

Youth Group: Our first face to face Youth meeting will be on Sat 29th May. Rounders and picnic on the field behind Holy Angels Church. 2-5pm – praying for the weather and no further lock downs!!! If you'd like to join our groups please get in touch.

Gloria: gloria.benson14@gmail.com

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Community Wordsearch



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

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HELP
FOOD PARCEL
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Pentecost Bible Study

By Helen Lambert

We have been waiting a long time - waiting for lockdown to end, waiting to go out, waiting to go away, waiting to hug, waiting for our jobs, waiting for test results, just waiting for COVID to go away and life to “get back to normal” (whatever that was!) For many, the waiting has been painful – for those in other parts of the world, it remains so, and the cries of anguish still resound.

What are you waiting for with the greatest anticipation? As with childbirth (v22) we know that the time is coming when we will experience the joy of these hopes being fulfilled – indeed, the signs are already here. This scripture passage from Paul’s letter to the Romans tells us that “Creation” is also waiting – groaning even – for something that is on its way, but not yet quite fulfilled.

What is it that the world is longing for? Are you longing too? We can see from these verses that all of us, somewhere, have an inbuilt desire for “something” that is beyond us, for a kind of fulfilment that is beyond that which our daily lives, and the world around us, have to offer. We might call this a “search for meaning”, a “spiritual awareness” or even a “God-shaped hole” - and we might have decided to ignore it, or we may be on a path to find it.

Paradoxically, for Christians, this longing does not disappear – in some ways it becomes more acute! What do these verses say that we are waiting for (v23,24)? And why, perhaps, do we feel this so keenly (v23)?

We have just celebrated the Feast of Pentecost – the day when God returned to fill the lives of his followers. Jesus had died and risen again, and many had seen him subsequently (as we celebrated at Easter) and then he had “ascended” back to his Father in heaven. On Pentecost, God returned in the form of the Holy Spirit – and made himself present in the lives of those who were waiting for him, as he does in our lives today. Although we do not fully understand this “mystery” of the Trinity, this experience of God’s presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit is the everyday experience of Christians



throughout history and throughout the world. This is the “foretaste” of v23 – this experience of God, without complete knowledge, which directs the rest of our lives. Tantalising!

Here we are told that there will come a time when we will no longer be subject to the troubles of this life – whether through sickness, our own wrong choices, or anything else. We look forward to this full freedom in the future, when we leave this world (the hope” of v24). However, we do not have to wait until we die to begin to experience all that God has to offer – “our full rights as adopted children” (v24) even now, as we wait (v25).

As we begin to experience the Holy Spirit in our lives, our strength and vision are renewed and transformed (v26). What does he help us to do (v26-27)? Our experience with God is based in relationship, and relationship flourishes on communication. We often feel so inadequate in our communication with God – but here we are reassured that we do not need to know what to say, or how to express how we feel. As we make ourselves available to God’s Holy Spirit, he himself will enable this communication. We will not need to “pretend” to be other than what we are, for he knows our hearts (v27). More than that, he changes our hearts, so that eventually our prayers will reflect the heartbeat of God too.

Bible verses: Romans 8:22-17

For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.

International Mission, Global Action

St Paul's Tongham: Blythwood Care:



Blythwood Care is a Scottish charity working around the world in a number of great projects supporting vulnerable people in a number of ways e.g. food provision, shoe boxes, education, training and sharing their faith on the way.

We have loved getting to know Balasz, who heads up a project working with lads coming out of orphanages. We have had a tour via zoom, met some of the people at the project and Balasz has preached for us from

the top of a mountain!

There are lots of ways to get involved!

- ⇒ **5K UR WAY IN MAY** – Would you like to take part in a 5K to help raise funds for the work of Blythwood? Join us on the 29th May and take part 'UR WAY'....running, cycling, swimming, skipping.....a 5k route near you.
- ⇒ **Ben Nevis Challenge** - 12 June 2021 *new date. Conquer Britain's highest mountain and help transform lives with Blythwood Care. Aim to raise £200+ to support our live changing work.
- ⇒ An Audience with Sam & Asmita Vadavana -Partners at Cornerstone Project in India (online event) on 15th June @7pm
- ⇒ Blythwood Care Day of Prayer -16th June (Resources available.)



Contact: Area Fundraising Manager: Susi.shears@blythwood.org

St Peter's Ash: Connect and Encourage

Connect & Encourage is Christian Solidarity Worldwide's directory of people who have asked to receive cards and letters of encouragement. They're church leaders, human rights workers, church members and activists from all over the world who suffer daily because of their religious beliefs, or because they defend those rights on behalf of others. Many of them are in prison – all of them are in desperate need of encouragement and hope. Your letters can encourage and inspire them, even getting them better treatment as the government and prison authorities realise that their treatment is being monitored and made known internationally. Here are some of the people we write to: -

(Cuba) Father Conrado is a Roman Catholic priest who has suffered harassment and threats for speaking out for human rights and allowing the families of political prisoners to attend Mass.

(Kenya) Ebenezer Foundational Healing Church. Many Eritrean Christians have been forced to flee their country due to the severe oppression they face on account of their faith. As they waited for acceptance in third countries, they have established their own worshipping communities. These are

essentially refugee churches. Many of these Christians still live cautiously because the Eritrean authorities have been known to track down and harass people even outside of Eritrea.

(China) Alimujiang Yimiti. A Uyghur Christian from Xinjiang province, Alim is being detained 'solely because of his faith' according to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. Alimujiang was working as a project manager for a British company, when it was targeted in a series of closures of foreign businesses belonging to Christians in Xinjiang in September 2007. Alim was detained in February 2008 and sentenced to 15 years in prison in April 2009, in a court case that did not follow due process under Chinese or international law. Following a failed appeal, Alim was moved to a prison in Xinjiang's provincial capital, Urumqi. In February 2011 it was announced that an appeal at the Higher People's Court of Xinjiang had failed and his sentence was upheld. In Jan 2013 Alim's wife was informed that her monthly visits to her husband would be cut to one every three months.

We hold a **Connect and Encourage Lunch Club** at St. Peter's, Ash, and we hope to restart this group in June, eating lunch together and then writing to persecuted Christians using addresses from Christian Solidarity Worldwide. (During lockdown some of us have kept the cards going but it is good to have more people involved) We usually meet on the 2nd Monday of the month and would welcome new members, even if you cannot join us every month. **Contact: Barbara Rose 07761808727.**

St Mary's Ash Vale: Sowing Seeds of Hope with Amaha We Uganda



[Amaha We Uganda](#) (Hope for Uganda) is a, grassroots charity which Revd Neil Lambert is a founder member of. He and Helen have worked with the Uganda team for decades, and we have formed some great friendships between Uganda and St Mary's through mission visits, and recently through William joining our lockdown services on Zoom from Uganda to keep us updated.

The work of AWU this year is focussed on tree planting, mission to street kids and supporting women's' groups. These simple projects are incredibly effective in transforming communities by empowering people to lift themselves out of poverty.

The trees project is going brilliantly! 3 nurseries have already been established, and 33,500 tree seedlings have been sent out for planting. Over 1,000 of these are planted where there were terrible landslides last year, and they will form an important defence against further erosion and loss of life, as well as providing food and shelter.

Bishop Nason of the South Rwenzori Diocese is very supportive and has asked every archdeaconry to establish a tree nursery, and every baptism candidate this year will be planting trees too. We have 13 nurseries to set up, so we will be planting more trees as fast as we can fund them!

How about sponsoring some seedlings for £1 a tree, or even clubbing together with friends to sponsor a whole tree nursery for £500?

Details: 07730 609446 www.amahaweuganda.org



Loving our Neighbours ♥

St Paul's Tongham: Support for the Community



We have been offering support for the local community in a number of ways during lockdown. We had always collected for the Farnham Foodbank, but we have also been supporting local families in need as we have heard about needs and through the school. We have been amazed at the donations both of food and of money, and it has made a real difference.

We were also involved in coordinating a response in lockdowns and have helped with prescriptions, moving bins and a number of other needs for our neighbours.

We would love to look at this moving forward – watch this space!

Contact: Revd Claire clairefholt@hotmail.com

St Peter's Ash: Care and Share Shelf

The current pandemic has been a difficult time for many people. We all want to help. Outside St. Peter's church we have a **Care and Share** shelf where anyone can take food that they need or leave something to help a neighbour.

If you would like to donate, tinned and packaged food, long life milk, tea and coffee are very popular. We try to put out enough to make a decent meal. It is topped up daily. Items can be placed on the shelf or left at the Rectory door. Contact: Barbara Rose 07761808727



Fun, food and friendship at St Mary's and The Chapel

Aren't we lucky that Revd Neil is amazing with food? Not only has he served socially distanced teas in the vicarage garden, and pop-up take-away pancakes from the shed when regulations allowed it, but now he has built a huge pizza oven in the vicarage garden, turning outdoor meetings into a festival of flavour!

Look out for kids in the kitchen too! During the winter, Neil teamed up with Anna and Charlie to do 'St Mary's junior bake-off' & stories on Zoom with some of the kids. It was huge fun, messy at times, and they even had a dance-off while their creations were in the oven. The learning has definitely stuck—one of our 9yo girls remembered the recipe by heart and made an extra batch of cakes the next morning! (*Ed.—Quick, put her name down on the church coffee rota!*) Now that school is back, it's over to Alex and the Chapel Kids toddler group who are busy planting up the Chapel garden with incredible edibles. Watch this space — they are literally growing their own fruit snacks!



Now it's getting serious: Our very own vicar is running the Chapel Project Cooking School! Fareshare and Tesco (who give us a lot of our 'on its last date' fresh items for the local food parcels) have created a community chefs cooking school project. We jumped at the chance to join in and now have 15 families & community cooks signed up to zoom in and cook along, learning about nutrition, kitchen skills and producing some very scrummy dinners. We love the recipes Jamie Oliver has lined up for us, and it's a lot of fun. Cooking along at home is fab, because everyone can see how to do things in their own kitchen. Ever wondered how to create a rainbow chilli, fry fabulous fishcakes or learn some nifty knife skills? We have been doing just that!

A huge thank you from all of us to Neil, and we can't close without thanking Vicki Fox, an amazing local chef who has been instrumental in sourcing quality ingredients, making up doorstep delivery kits for those who need them, and building our confidence with variations and top tips on the Zoom sessions too.

Bon Appetit! Contact: Rev Neil: revneil@me.com / Alex: 07730 609446

Congratulations! Community Heroes Award for The Ash, Ash Vale & Ash Green Coronavirus Support Group

We have some seriously amazing people involved in the local Ash, Ash Vale & Ash Green Coronavirus Support Group. They are simply the best, and guess what? The Mayor of Guildford has recognised the team with a Community Heroes award! Congratulations go to everyone involved and especially Carla Morson who leads the group.

During lockdown, the team took on delivering care calls, prescriptions and shopping to people having to isolate or shield. St Mary's also joined forces with the COVID Group to create a local Food Parcels Project, delivering food to those struggling under the financial impacts of the pandemic. The recipients are from all walks of life, and our delivery list is everchanging, as people's circumstances change in the wake of the covid crisis. As we write this there are 32 families on the list this week. (If you're struggling and need a food parcel you can call or text 07843 489796 or 07730 609446)

The COVID group is still going strong, helping local people and bringing the community together. It's not too late to join in! Contact us to get involved.

We are always grateful for donations too., either store cupboard food and toiletries or donations via 'give a little' to help buy store cupboard items and toiletries:

<https://bit.ly/33LT1SA> Thank you for your support. Contact: 07843 489796



Chapel Project News

Chapel Arts Monthly Makes—Debi Retallick

Debi is continuing to run the monthly make on Zoom but hoping to return to face to face sessions at the Chapel from September.....



May's monthly make was a Bird sculpture; one of the participants has caught the making bug and is now on her 9th Bird sculpture; she's even teaching her friends to make them!

June Monthly Make: Join Debi for the next monthly make to do some wire work, creating your own dragonfly: 4pm on Tuesday 1st June 2021.



The July make will be an opportunity to create a painting with fibres reflecting on personal journeys coming out of lockdown through the concept of 'landscapes'. From 4pm on Tuesday 6th July 2021.

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

There is no set charge for the workshop, please make a donation to the Chapel Project to support the ongoing community projects. <https://www.ashvalechapel.com/>



Retallick Family Art Installation

"Love Seeds"

We've just installed our artwork in a phone box called the red cube gallery on Frensham green. It's a Retallick family collaboration in response to the pandemic titled 'Love seeds'. It's on from now until 22nd June, please do pop by and have a look!

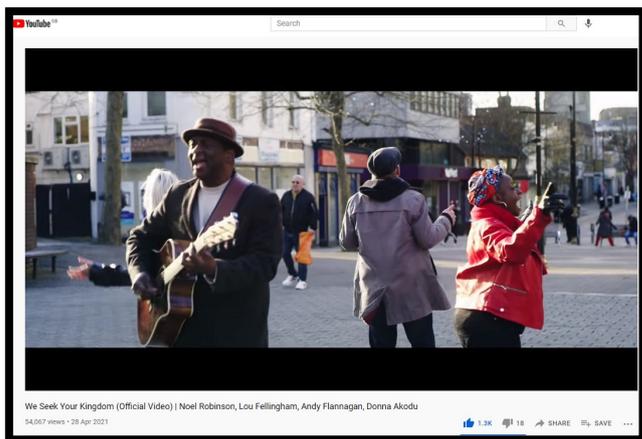
There is a notice board next to the phone box which explains what it's all about ... x 

Debi (Artist in Residence)



Chapel Music: “Check out this Civic Hymn!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Lp2mMpSa1E&t=6s>



...this is a song released just recently through LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) as a Civic Hymn! Using that well known tune from Abide With Me, new lyrics have been penned by Noel Robinson, Andy Flanagan and Graham Hunter.

The song and string parts were arranged by Matt and then most of the sounds were recorded at the Chapel throughout February and March. Some extra bits were recorded remotely as some restrictions were still in place.

Have a listen and tell us what you think!

Matt & Dan Weeks (Musicians in Residence)

Chapel Filmshare: “Will be back in September!”

We are planning to revive our film evenings at the Chapel early in September when we anticipate that all Covid restrictions will have been lifted and that we'll be able to offer our usual tea, coffee and cakes along with some enjoyable film entertainment. If you enjoy tea, coffee and cakes and appreciate films you're welcome to join us fortnightly in September at the Chapel in Wharf Road, Ash Vale from 7.30 p.m. To sign up to our e-mail newsletter contact: Dick Elsey at richard.elsey45@gmail.com or on 01252 694314.

More news in the next Parishioner Magazine.

Dick (Chapel Filmshare)

Chapel Poetry Group: “Join us for our 4th book launch! “

Mirror Mind

Reflections on memories in poetry

Poetry Competition



Don't miss the Chapel Poetry Group “Mirror Mind” **Book Launch and Competition Winners celebration!** Saturday 26th June, 7:30pm, at St Mary's Church, Ash Vale, GU12 5JE Booking essential, as we have limited seats available, please contact Alex on 07730 609446. We will also have a Zoom link for anyone joining from home.

News from Abbeywood

By Sylwia Whyman

Hello from Abbeywood!

Everyone has been very busy over the last couple of months. We welcomed three new residents to our home who have settled well with us.

We have also been making our home very animal friendly. The number of four legged and beaked friends has increased considerably over the last few months. We have added Malcom, Alex, Peter and Benji the rabbits. We have two guineapigs (Roger and Ralf), three fish and nine budgies (Hammond, Clarkson, May, Stick, Bina G, Bina R, Ashley, Gladys, Shai with two eggs, so may be 11 at time of going to press). This adds to the existing household of four terrapins, (Raphael , Michelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo), two cats (Laurel and Hardy) and three dogs that visit on a regular basis (Chica, Frankie and Marley). The residents love cuddling the bunnies, and visiting the aviary.

The residents have been working hard planting flowers for our garden. We are starting work on our trial veggie patch, and hope to have some amazing, possibly ugly pumpkins ready for October. Who doesn't love a big ugly pumpkin?

The staff are starting work on our much awaited Christmas performance of Cinderella. Songs are being decided, the cast is being selected/volunteered from a very high set of acting capabilities. We look forward to welcoming everyone from the community, tickets and dates will be available soon.

Fund raising has really been non-existent, this year. We do have a gofundme page([gf.me/u/zswp2h](https://www.gofundme.com/u/zswp2h)) All proceeds go towards to funding residents' trips and outings, something they have really missed over the last year.

We are still quite restricted in what we can do and who can visit. Please do put in a big wave if you are passing by, it really puts a smile on all our faces when the residents see a friendly stranger making contact in these difficult times.

Thank you for reading and best wishes

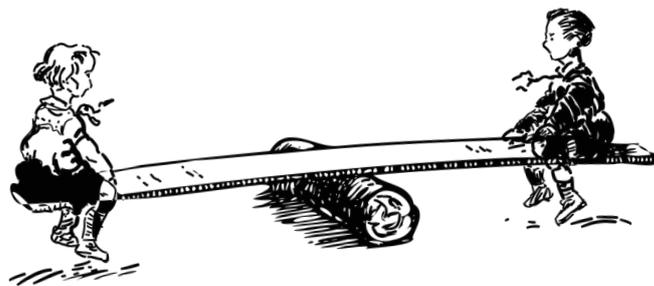
All residents and staff from

Abbeywood



Modern Life

When I were a lad, in long socks and short trousers, I attended the village school. This was a Church School where the local Rector was a significant member of staff. One of the advantages of going to a church school was that we “scholars” would get a ½day holiday



on Ascension Day after attending a Church Service to which we were taken in crocodile formation for the ¾mile walk from the school to the church. Six groups of 30-50 children each, progressing from school to church in line took a lot of marshalling and caused lots of disruption, but this was a long time ago. After the service we were free for the rest of the day! No crocodile back to the school just 240 or so kids released into the environment. Think St Trinians (Google that if you need) but with a co-ed rather than a single sex school. The holiday was not popular amongst parents/guardians as that day there were no school dinners and unless an adult was at home the latch-key kids had extra time to mess up the home.

In the run up to Easter many families will have pancakes on “Pancake Day” and the supermarkets certainly push the sale of lemons and pancake mixtures for that, and many people “give up something for the 40 day Lenten fast”: this may be just not eating chocolate or drinking alcohol, but it is something. Easter with its Easter Eggs and two bank holidays is firmly still part of the “system” and the psyche of modern life. But Ascension Day & Whitsunday barely get a look in. It’s probably because no one has found a commercial exploitation of these two days, Historically Whitsun was such an important festival that in Mediaeval times Villeins were even released from their obligations to work for their lord for a whole week.

According to the Bible Jesus took 40 days after his resurrection to complete his earthly mission before ascending into heaven (Ascension Day) and then a few days later the Holy Spirit arrives (Whitsun or nowadays Pentecost) and fills the Apostles with vim and vigour to start their mission to preach the Gospel. So much so that Peter is recorded as having to tell the listening crowd that “no, these men are not drunk as it is only 9o’clock of the morning!”

As we slowly come out of the semi-hibernation that will forever be associated with COVID19 and all its offspring we will need a bit (or probably more) of the vigour shown by Peter and the others to get back to some form of “normality” whatever that will mean. So “gird up your loins” and prepare for the work required to repair us as individuals and society in general both mentally and physically; and hopefully we could end up in a better place than where we were before.

Scrivener

Help is at hand! Useful Phone Numbers

Here are some of the useful numbers you may need if you need support. 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's Mobile)

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)

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

Contacting The Parishioner:

Call Alex (Ed) 07730 609446 in the first instance and she will put you in touch with the right volunteer. parishioner@ash-vale.org.uk

Donations: Did you know? You can now 'give a little' online to support St Mary's Church, the Parishioner Magazine, and all the work we do.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/e912dae4-3af1-4453-99dc-0330f32faf15>

Thank you for being part of this wonderful community!

SUMMER FAIR



SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 10TH JULY

12pm to 3pm

St Mary's Church, Vale Road, Ash Vale GU12 5JE

Fun for all ages

Prizes to be won!

Raffles, Fresh Pizza, Guess the balloons!

CREAM TEAS, Prayer Painting

PRIZE RIDE IN A VINATGE CAR

Fellowship and celebrating a great Summer

Dj, music and much more !

An event organised by Wbod Street and St. Marys Church

All Welcome

What's inside? *Local Churches Special Edition!*

Welcome — Local Churches Special Edition! (p3) - By Revd Neil Lambert (St Mary's)

Greetings from St Peter's, Ash (p4) - By Revd Keith Bristow & Revd Carol Monk

Welcome to St Paul's Tongham (p5) - By Revd Claire Holt

You are Invited to Holy Angels (p8) - By Gloria Benson

Mothers Union News (p9) - By Barbara Ridley

Eco news—There's no Planet B (p10 & 11) - Ash, Ash Vale & Tongham updates

Family Friendly Fun (p14 & 15) - Lots of things to come and enjoy!

What's on this Summer? (p16 & 17) - Pull this centrefold out and pop it on the fridge!

Pentecost Bible Study (p20&21) - By Helen Lambert

International Mission, Global Action (22&23) — Helping our brothers and sisters overseas

Loving our Neighbours (p24&25) - Local projects supporting our community

Chapel News—Art, Music, Poetry and Film (26 & 27) - By our resident artists and friends

News from Abbeywood (28) - By Sylwia Whyman

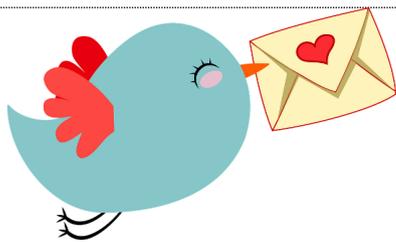
Modern Life (p29) - Scrivener reflects on past, present and future

Help is at hand! (p30) - Useful Numbers

Don't miss this!

St Mary's Summer Fair 10th July 12-3pm

(see inside back cover)



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We welcome fun, informative and local interest items!

The copy deadline for the August / September edition is 10th July 2021

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

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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. www.ash-vale.org.uk/parishioner