



UPPER KENNET NEWS

February 2021

Published by Fyfield, West Overton and East Kennett Parochial Church Council for the Upper Kennet Benefice

Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 7 Mike Bishop
£75 Number 28 Georgie & William Hartford
£50 Number 64 Suzie Snape

(Some winners prefer that their names were not published, in which case we just state the winning numbers)

If you would like to join the lottery, ring David Snape on 01672 861267 or email: davidwsnape@aol.com

Another way to support our churches at West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett

Notice Board

Funerals

Christopher Moss 7 January Winterbourne Monkton
Michael Smith 19 January West Overton

100 Club

Draw Results for December and January

1st	£48.00	70	Jane Crabbe
2nd	£36.00	87	Natalie Bennett-Nutt
3rd	£24.00	25	Kevin Bowring
4th	£12.00	60	Penny Gold

1st	£48.00	23	Bill Buxton
2nd	£36.00	12	Jenny Scott
3rd	£24.00	62	Steven Gilbert
4th	£12.00	49	Shelia McKeown

(some winners prefer that their names are not published)

If you would like to join the lottery ring Richard Nutt on 01672539611 or email richard@184systems.com

Your way to help support the churches of Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett

Lottery is licensed by Wiltshire Council

"A brief respite from everyday pressures – a time of peace, calm and silent reflection."

MEDITATION (TAIZÉ) Service

Every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at East Kennett Church from 7.00 to 7.25pm: a chance to just sit quietly and relax and enjoy the silence and the peace by candlelight, with a background of occasional singing and some words of wisdom.

Future dates for your diary:

Wednesday 3rd February, Wednesday 17th February, Wednesday 3rd March.

View from the Rectory

There is a South African airline called Kululu Air – internal flights, sadly. An airline pilot wrote that on a particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a 'Thanks for flying our airline'. He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had disembarked except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said,

"Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?"

"Why, no Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?"

The little old lady said,

"Did we land, or were we shot down?"

I can't help thinking that for many people in the 3rd lockdown this just about sums it up - especially business owners, school staff and home-schooling parents, and everyone who has already suffered almost 11 months of isolation and loneliness, job-loss, uncertainty and fear. The vaccinations are rolling out but the ride towards being able to be together again feels wild and our landings have been far from gentle. In our churches too we have carried out assessments, put everything in place to ensure your safety for funerals or services, private visits or meetings, only to have to change direction suddenly in response to the latest government directive or local escalation in infections. It can feel like a bumpy ride and a hard landing, and the uncertainty makes us wonder if there is a pilot at the helm.

What strikes me about Kululu Air's approach to flying is the rare mix of humour and care – something I have seen replicated on Facebook posts, and on social media, in meetings online and in reality - the care is there, we are held by something more than the events we live through, and humour enables a subtle shift to happen in our living and thinking through the crises towards the landing beyond the present. We might well as that lady did ask did we land or were we shot down? – but the most important thing is the landing. The prose poem 'Footprints' printed inside the magazine reminds us that when we feel most alone we are carried – lifted, as Isaiah writes, on eagles' wings, and held in the unseen hand. May you know this 'carrying' at the times when you most need it in the days ahead.



LENT GROUPS

Online Lent Groups will start in mid-February – please check your emails and notice boards for details in due course.

Could you help transport people to get their Covid-19 vaccination?

Call 01380 722 241

linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk

Your local Link Scheme needs you!



COMMUNITY FIRST

UPPER KENNET CHURCHES SERVICES

	St Nicholas FYFIELD	St Michael & All Angels WEST OVERTON	Christ Church EAST KENNETT	St James AVEBURY	St Mary Magdalene WINTERBRNE MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTERBRNE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
Wednesday 3 February			7 pm Meditation Service (Taizé)	10.30 am Celtic Communion			
7 February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	8.30 AM – HOLY COMMUNION – FYFIELD 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WINTERBOURNE BASSETT 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 10 February				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
14 February Sunday before Lent	9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – AVEBURY 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 17 February ASH WEDNESDAY	10.30 AM - CELTIC COMMUNION WITH ASHING – AVEBURY 6 pm - ZOOM – Online Service of Evening Prayer 7 pm - East Kennett - Meditation Service (Taizé)						
21 February Lent 1	9.45 AM - BENEFICE SERVICE - COMMUNION – BROAD HINTON 11 am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 24 February				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
28 February Lent 2	8 AM – HOLY COMMUNION – EAST KENNETT 9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION – WINTERBOURNE MONKTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						
Wednesday 3 March			7 pm Meditation Service (Taizé)	10.30 am Celtic Communion			
7 March Lent 3	9.45 AM – BENEFICE SERVICE – COMMUNION - WEST OVERTON 11am - ZOOM – Online Service of Morning Prayer						

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the
sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."



Readings

7 February – Green
2nd Sunday before Lent
Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

14 February – Green
Sunday next before Lent
2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Mark 9.2-9

21 February – Purple
1st Sunday of Lent
1 Peter 3.18-end
Mark 1.9-15

28 February – Purple
2nd Sunday of Lent
Romans 4.13-end
Mark 8.31-end

7 March – Purple
3rd Sunday of Lent
1 Corinthians 1.18-25
John 2.13-22



**Talking Tuesdays
@ The Rectory
Avebury**

Talk, Eat, Pray
Lively debate, great refreshments!

Talking Tuesdays will move online for February.
Tuesday 9th February, 4.30 pm

Staying Positive - connecting with God and with others through the works of John O'Donoghue.

- a chance to share thoughts and learn from one another
- an opportunity to pray for ourselves and others.

Under The Beech Tree

A Space to Breathe

Will resume in the New Year, Covid restrictions permitting

West Overton Church

You may have noticed that we have been doing some repair work in the churchyard to try and protect the grass, the gravel and the graves.

The path through the churchyard is, of course, an officially designated footpath, not a road nor even a bridleway.

The memorial gates at the bottom of the churchyard are closed but can easily be opened to allow vehicles to enter and exit should that be necessary. We would appreciate it if you would kindly close the gates when leaving. The gates at the Church Hill end will remain open.

We recognise this might take a little getting used to and thank you for helping us keep the churchyard in the best condition possible.

Churchwardens & Parochial Church Council

WINTERBOURNE MONKTON CHURCH UPDATE

Although our Christmas services were fewer and shorter they were well attended and involved all ages in readings, singing and playing. The church was beautifully decorated and the weather was kind for the outside singing. We were blessed to have Ophelia and Beatrix singing the 'Once in Royal David's City' solo at the Carol service and the Christmas Day service respectively. The Hallam Family choir sang at the Carol service and our outside torch and candle-lit singing was accompanied by Philip on his cornet which added to the Christmas atmosphere.

A New Year now with new projects! The first is the removal of the tenor bell to take out the cast-in crown staples and then rehang it and fit a chiming hammer so it can be rung electronically. This has been delayed from last year

(Lockdown 1) and has been many years in the planning. We will then have one bell which can be chimed for a call to prayer, for special events or tolled for funerals. This tenor bell is our largest one and cast by William Purdue in Bristol in 1663 and is inscribed "Thomas Purnell and Ambrose Spencer Church Wardens

1663", it is 32" in diameter and weighs around 3 1/4 cwt. Below are pictures of the team from Nicholson Engineering lowering the bell and transporting it to their van. We look forward to its return and again having the sound of a bell chiming from our tower!



We would have liked to repair and rehang all our 4 bells but at over £30k the cost was outside our abilities. They could be done at a later date should funds become

available. In the meantime we need to raise **£6,000** for this bell. If you would like to donate towards this (any amount welcome!) we would be very grateful. Please contact Richard Nutt (Treasurer) 01672 539611 richard@184systems.com or Penny Gold 01672 539158/ goldpennygold@aol.com. (Alternatively donations can be made by Bank Transfer Sort Code - 30-92-63 Account 00069605, Account name "PCC Winterbourne Monkton" with 'Bells' as the reference).



Upper Kennet Churches Winter Crisis Appeal

Are you able to help?

Six years ago the Upper Kennet Churches launched a **Winter Crisis Appeal Fund** to help those who were experiencing short term financial problems.

Over that period we have had many donations and we have been able to help a large number of families who were in desperate need.

This year, again, we would ask if you would make a donation if you are able to – perhaps you don't really need your winter fuel allowance, for example.

Please give your donation to a church warden, or send a cheque to Upper Kennet Churches, The Garden Room, 62 Lockeridge, SN8 4EL or by BACS transfer using sort code 30-92-63 – account number 01498496.

Thank you.

Do you need help?

If you:

- live in one of the Upper Kennet Parishes
- are worried about where the next meal is coming from
- have to choose between heating and eating
- are facing a sudden financial emergency

we might be able to assist with a week's food supply, or fuel support, or just general advice. Contact Rev'd Maria Shepherdson on 01672 539643, or a Lay Pastoral Assistant on 01672 861786. Your call will be treated in total confidence.

This is not a substitute for Social Benefits or the Food Bank. It is a gesture from people who understand what you are experiencing.

Update from the National Trust February 2021

Well here we are again – in lockdown No. 3 and a sad way to start the year.

The National Trust's policy is to keep the majority of its gardens, parks and countryside in England open for local members and people to enjoy fresh air and exercise during this difficult time.

However, there is a recognition that individual properties are very different, and that this guidance can't be safely and practically implemented at all places. Therefore, after consultation with the community, the Trust and our local team we felt that it would not be safe to open the National Trust facilities at Avebury.

Here at Avebury we have a particular challenge with the long narrow footpath leading from the main visitor car park to the High Street, which doesn't allow for 2 metres social distancing along the route. We were able to operate the footpath under the Government's previous spacing guidance, but with the revised restrictions we are not able to use the path safely and compliantly.

As they say, it's always darkest before the dawn, which seems the case here. We may look dormant, but we are working busily in the background on getting prepared for reopening, so that we are ready to welcome visitors again as soon as we can safely do so. We are putting plans in place for Easter and getting the garden and museum ready for re-opening. We also hope to open the manor again in the not too distant future, exploring different operating models, such as guided tours, to adapt to the changed environment. When this will happen is of course totally out of our hands, but we will share more info on our re-opening plans as soon as we can.

With February already here we're looking for the signs of spring, the snowdrops and daffodils are already out and one day soon we will wake up to warmth, sunshine, spring flowers and the sound of happy families exploring the stone circle and the Old Farmyard – it's not that far away.

To get in touch please contact us on 01672 539250 or email avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk; we always love to hear from you.

Avian Flu

With all the problems of the pandemic for humans I have noticed that some people are not aware of the Avian influenza outbreak and that there is a national lockdown for birds ongoing.

There have been outbreaks as close as Gloucestershire and North Dorset, the latter in backyard poultry.

- To check the regulations go to <https://gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
- People who keep poultry should also avoid walking where wild waterfowl are but if wild fowl are seen to be ill contact the number listed on the web site.
- The regulations include everyone, even if it is two hens at the bottom of the garden.
- Eating poultry products (meat and eggs) is unlikely to affect human health.

Gill Swanton.

The Proposed Closure of Furlong Close

You may have seen coverage about the proposed closure of Furlong Close in Seend in the Gazette & Herald. There is a campaign by the families and friends of residents to get Wiltshire Council and Hft, the charity that runs it, to reverse this decision. Many of the residents have lived there long term and others use the day centre for support. I know of two families who have members who live there, one is the daughter of a friend and the other is a gentleman who attends the RDA group based at Lockeridge. Both have lived there long term and both would struggle without the care and support they receive. The following is a letter asking for your support.

Maggie Lewis

I write as Chair of The Families and Friends of Furlong Close to explain the situation of the 34 learning disabled residents currently under threat of losing their homes, and of the many day care service users who have already lost their occupation and friendships as a result of the closure of that service.

The Families and Friends have come together to fight the closure and we are seeking public support in our campaign to get Hft and Wiltshire Council to think again.

As you may know from local media coverage the decision to shut down Furlong Close was announced without warning to residents, staff and families in mid-October by the charity Hft which took over the close of five bungalows and associated flatlets from Self Unlimited in 2013. The shock announcement came on the heels of the news that day care services on site would also be closed for good.

Many of the residents, who have severe learning disabilities, many coupled with epilepsy, sight and hearing impediment and severe physical disability, have lived at Furlong Close for more than two decades, some since it opened 28 years ago. They and their families had the expectation that it would be their life-long home and the news that they are now to be forced to abandon their homes and the safety and security of the Close and the village of Rowde is a terrifying prospect.

For some, now in their 50s and 60s, such a traumatic change will seriously damage their mental and physical health. In some cases such a move could shorten lives. The announcement has already left many residents confused, frightened and depressed about what is going to happen to them.

The decision to close has been justified by Hft and Wiltshire Council on the basis that Furlong Close is a "campus-style" site which is not a model of care now favoured by the Care Quality Commission for new developments. This is a completely inadequate justification for proceeding, without consultation, to break up an existing, happy community of highly vulnerable people and force them to leave the homes where they have been comfortably settled for many years.

Nor does it accord with CQC policy which expressly states that it has no wish "to disrupt the lives of people who are currently residing in a service that is not small-scale, provided that the care provided is person-centred."

No one who knows Furlong Close would suggest that it is in any general sense of the word a "campus", nor that its residents are isolated from their local community. They worship, shop, volunteer, eat out, visit the pubs and cafes and work part-time in local businesses.

And yet Hft, with the support of Wiltshire Council and the passive agreement of many of the elected councillors are still intending that Furlong Close be closed down.

The Families and Friends are asking Hft and Wiltshire Council to withdraw the decision and to think again in order to allow all those residents who so choose to continue to live safely and securely within the supportive local community.

If you support our campaign please challenge your local division councillor and those who are candidates in the coming May elections, to declare publically where they stand on this cruel and inhumane policy which is being pursued in their name.

Antonia Field

Chair Families and Friends of Furlong Close.



Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number:
01672 539200

Revised Opening Hours 10am–4pm every day

Coronavirus Precautions

Thank you so much to everyone for continuing to co-operate with our safety precautions. We are asking everyone who comes into the shop to wear a mask. If you are unable to wear a mask, we are happy to offer a call and collect service – see below for details.

We are continuing to open 10am – 4pm every day. We have had to reduce our hours as a number of our volunteers are unable to help during the pandemic.

Meet the Team



Dawn is our new relief manager. She has been working in this role since November. Before that she volunteered in the shop over the last 2 years. Dawn worked at Nationwide for 30 years, starting her career as a bookbinder and ending up managing the printing section. When she left Nationwide, she trained as a carer and worked in various care settings for 10 years. Dawn has also done a lot of volunteering for the hospice and in charity shops. Dawn wanted to work in the community shop because she enjoyed volunteering here and she wanted to get more involved. Dawn also enjoys working with her sister Lynda who is one of the

shop managers.

Her favourite products are Sumbler's pasties and Paxcroft farm eggs.

In her spare time Dawn likes cycling, walking and pilates. She is also likes to spend as much time as possible with her family.

Christmas Update

Thanks to everyone who supported us with Christmas shopping and orders. We had a bumper 23 Christmas orders. Thanks so much to Jane and Maggie, ably assisted by Dominic for assembling all these orders.

Thank you to the National Trust

We would like to thank the National Trust for providing us with the shop building and maintaining it for us. We really appreciate the help and support of the Trust and all their staff.

Call and Collect Service

We provide a call and collect service people who don't want to go into the shop. Please call us on 01672 539200 to place your order, we will then contact you for payment and have your shopping ready to collect from the door, or we can load it into your car.

Extension of Free Delivery Service

Avebury Community shop will be providing a FREE delivery service of food and other essentials to anyone in our community who is in self isolation due to the Coronavirus. This is an extension of the service we already provide to the elderly and others in our community who are unable to get to the shop. Please call 01672 539200 to arrange a delivery. We would prefer payment by card, but can accept cash on delivery if necessary.

Michele Lomas (Chair of Avebury Community Shop)

THE ARTS SOCIETY KENNET AND SWINDON (TASKS)

The society is still alive and well and is functioning very successfully on zoom. Our lectures will remain virtual for the foreseeable future.

We should be delighted to see any of you, members or guests, at the remaining meetings in this cycle:

February 15th The City Livery Companies: the Origins of the Great Twelve presented by Timothy Schroder

March 15th Sculpture in Steel: The Art of European Arms and Armour presented by Adam Busiakiewicz

April 19th A Brief Story of Wine presented by David Wright.

Meetings on Zoom begin at 11 00. These are excellent lectures, brilliant images and all done from the comfort of your own home.

We charge £5 00 per lecture for guests, to be paid into our account:

The Arts Society Kennet and Swindon

Sort code: 30-98-41 Account 12320063

Please use a reference code LECT01

Please confirm payment with an email to cjrogers43@gmail.com (01672 861374) and Christopher will send you the zoom link.

AVEBURY SOCIAL CENTRE

It is with regret that the Avebury Social Centre has temporarily closed due to the restrictions placed upon us by the Covid-19 situation which meant that very few of our regular hirers were able to use the hall. Despite this we continue to monitor and care for the hall and as many of you saw the Christmas Lights were up (outside at least) to help brighten the High Street along with many of those of the local residences, during deep mid-winter! We will hold our Committee's quarterly meeting this month and hope that with the vaccine becoming more available, and the onset of Spring, we can anticipate a reopening in the near future when we will look forward to welcoming both our returning regular groups and bookings as well as new ones.

Judith Farthing Secretary

The New Inn Lockdown Update

- New hours - now offering takeaway Friday through to Tuesday, 5-9pm
- Curry banquet - 2 curries with basmati rice, poppadoms and naan, a side of sag aloo and onion bhajis - just £16.
- Monthly takeaway supper club - last Thursday of every month - £15 for 2 courses
- Traditional Roast - Sunday 28th February - £9.95 for one course.
- Winter menu and weekly specials - call us or look on our Facebook page for more info.

The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton
01672 539793



Kennet Valley Parish Council Users of play areas please take note

For your own safety, the safety of your children and the safety of others, all parents, guardians, carers and users must read these simple instructions. Follow them carefully and plan ahead so that your visit is enjoyable and safe.

- ◆ This equipment is checked regularly for damage, wear and tear but is not sanitised or disinfected.
- ◆ This is shared equipment, used at your own risk.
- ◆ Do not use the equipment if you, or any member of your household has coronavirus symptoms, or are self-isolating.
- ◆ Make sure you have hand sanitiser with you before entering this play area.
- ◆ Encourage everyone in your family to wash their hands with hand sanitiser regularly and as a minimum, before and after using the play area.
- ◆ Wash your hands when you get home.
- ◆ Encourage children to avoid touching their faces.
- ◆ You MUST maintain social distancing from others unless they are from the same household – current advice is to maintain at least 2m.
- ◆ Some equipment can only be used by one child at a time while social distancing. Please ensure your family waits at a safe distance if the equipment is in use or return later to use the equipment.
- ◆ Try to avoid busy times.
- ◆ If you are wearing disposable PPE, please take it home with you – DO NOT LITTER.
- ◆ Should it be found that these instructions are not being adhered to the Parish Council reserve the right to close the play area with immediate effect.

Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

Kennet Valley Parish Council

[Formerly Fyfield and West Overton Parish Council]

COVID 19 – Parish Council update

Following the announcement of the new national lockdown from 4th January residents are reminded that the Parish Council has organised support if required:

Are you concerned about getting your prescription?

If you are in self-isolation because of the virus and have no one able to pick up your prescription from the GP surgery dispensary please telephone Jill Turner on 07900 223345 who will make arrangements for it to be collected for you.

The prescription must be ordered by you 4 days in advance as per the normal process. We require your full name and address to enable us to be able to collect on your behalf. The Dispensary requires a bulk collection if possible, therefore we would expect to make collections on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday after 5pm.

Lonely and Need to Talk?

If you are self-isolating, feeling lonely and want someone to talk to please phone Sibella Laing, Licenced Lay Minister on 01672 861600 or Reverend Maria Shepherdson on 01672 539643.

Are worried about getting groceries in?

Avebury's community shop is ready to help. Telephone them your order on 01672 539200 and they will work out the cost. The shop manager will call you back when it is ready and take your payment using a bank or credit card over the phone. Please then notify one of the contacts below who will arrange for a community volunteer to collect and deliver to you. It would be sensible to keep it to a medium size shop, and it may take a day for the allocated person to deliver to you.

Fyfield: Sam Harvey 01672 861318 or 07713 586225

Lockeridge: Jayne Drew 07810 011902

West Overton: Tim Butler 01672 861518

New Swings have just been put up on The Dene in Lockeridge. We know they're long awaited and will be lots of fun. Parents, please note the new Covid rules for using play equipment also in this magazine.

New and Retiring Councillors

We would like to thank our outgoing Chair of the Parish Council, **Sarah Nichols**, for the huge amount of work she has done in the role. She leaves to become chair of The North Wessex Downs AONB. Congratulations and thanks to **Jayne Drew** who takes her place as the new Chair of Kennet Valley Parish Council.

Welcome to **Martin Bates** our new Parish Councillor for West Overton.

Jeremy Hallett, representing Lockeridge and **Lavinia Staddon**, representing Fyfield, have retired from the PC. We would like to thank them very much for all the work they have done over the past few years.

This means that Fyfield needs a **new PC member**. If you live in Fyfield and would like to explore how you might serve our community in this way just ask Linda Davies (861396) or Anstice Baring (861260) or email our Parish Clerk, Sophie Roberts (parishclerk.fyfield@gmail.com)

The next meeting of Kennet Valley Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday 15th March 2021



Many victims of domestic abuse may not be physically hurt.
Abuse comes in many forms including:

- Sexual
- Emotional
- Financial
- Psychological

LOVE SHOULD NOT HURT.

24 hr helpline
01793 610610
always answered by a trained advisor

If you think you are the victim of domestic abuse, or you think someone you know is, please call.

Here at Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service we offer help with:

- Community Services
- Recovery programmes
- LGBT
- Children and Young People Services
- Refuge Accommodation
- Help and support for male and female victims 16 years plus
- Healthy Relationship workshops

Facebook.com/SWADomesticAbuse/ | @SwindonWA | www.swadomesticabuse.org

PCC **Swindon** **LGBT** **SWA**

Swindon Women's Aid Inc. is a registered charity, Charity No 1175148 PO Box 3616, Swindon, SN5 1BQ
General Enquiries: 01793 964 984



CURIOSITY COMPASSION COURAGE

Church of England,
Voluntary Aided School
www.kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk

Ofsted 'Good school'

JANUARY 2021

Here at Kennet Valley we remain determined to provide as much continuity of education as is possible for all our children. However, as you will be aware, we were sadly unable to welcome the whole school back in January because of the national requirements and we've reverted back to supporting most of our pupils learning at home again.

Once again, teachers, pupils and parents have responded well to the challenges of a new way of learning. As a teaching team we are very aware of the pressures this brings to home life and many of us have children learning from home too and share the same family issues. We understand that we all have good days and bad days at home. We are all in this together!

I have a small group of governors working with me to remain up to date with the application of national guidance, to agree how we implement these to our school and to review our position. We continue to provide on-site education for the children of key workers and our more vulnerable children.

Home learning – We have an active home school programme - our pupils access a whole class live "check-in" every day, to meet with their teacher who will pick up on any common issues from the previous day and set out the plan for the day. As you can imagine this initially caused great excitement and some hilarity when the children saw each other again but they have settled well into this new routine, with the feedback from parents and children that they find the content and the structure helpful.

We have developed a variety of pre-recorded teaching videos to enable curriculum learning and this means they can be accessed at any time of the day which many families find helpful especially in balancing the requirements of parents needing to work at home too. We also direct parents to a range

of additional resources, with the BBC Bitesize lockdown programming popular.

Our pupils are learning to work independently at home as we would encourage in the classroom, with our on-line learning platform 'Seesaw', where pupils post their work and get individual feedback, recognising good work and providing guidance on improvements and stretching targets. I am seeing some fabulous work from all classes every day and some really creative responses to working at home.

Supporting families - we continue to support families who may be struggling at this most difficult time. Our school dinner provider Sue Brady is supplying food bags for distribution and we are topping these up with extra items. Our culture of kindness and support means we have good communication in place with families who need us most. We call all families at least once a week to check in and to help identify what extra help maybe required.

Reading - we have been able to send reading book packs to all children in years 1,2,3 to support reading development at home. Our recorded bedtime stories for the children have also been a big hit, with teachers reading and recording their storytelling to share as a regular event.

Thank you to Maria our rector for sharing her bible stories with us this way too.

Fun Fridays! Although we may be apart, we are coming together on Fridays to share different themed activities. This began with a pyjama day for staff and pupils – you may have seen the pictures in the Gazette and Herald! We have a range of activities planned including mad hair and superheroes days. We all enjoy sharing our pictures and this contributes to our sense of belonging to the school family.

I continue to be encouraged to see and learn about the many acts of kindness and support that feature in school and that continue across the wider local community as we face this pandemic together.

Mrs Emma Russell, Headteacher

01672 861202

News from the Tower

Because of the corona virus, December 2020 and January 2021 became the first time that we were unable to ring the old year out and the New Year in. This has always been a special time for ringers and in the past we were often joined by others who were partying in the village, some of them carrying glasses of wine up the winding stairs and somehow not spilling it and with glasses intact! One year we had three clergy in the tower, Revd Gill MacKichan, Revd Warren Sellers (who is a ringer) and the late Revd Dr. Helen Stacey; fewer people make it to the ringing chamber nowadays but we often have Phillip Park, from Darlington, ringing with us when he is staying with Sally and Keith Paradise. Phillip is an expert ringer and it is always good to see him. Others gather at the Lychgate to listen to the bells.

What would we do without Zoom? With Maria's Zoom services, an impromptu Zoom musical afternoon at the Rectory, with Kerry and Tom, Tallis and Maria singing accompanied by guitars and a violin it was really joyful and a much appreciated break from being isolated. Then we have ringers' Zoom get togethers, thanks to Jane Ridgwell. Just before Christmas we had a Zoom party. We all had mince pies and drinks, some of us wore Santa hats, it was very enjoyable.

There are also virtual ringing Zooms, one is called Ringing Room and another Ding. The ropes hang in a circle on the screen, each person has one rope to operate their bell and anything can be rung, from simple rounds to methods. Where there's a will there's a way!

Mary Davidge
Belfry Correspondent. Tel: 01672 513819

The census is taking place in March 2021.

It's a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It helps plan and fund public services, like transport, education and healthcare.



By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure you and your community get the services you need.

Nearer the time, you'll receive more information. There'll be plenty of help to take part for people who need it.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow the census

@Census2021

URGENT: Call to action – Salisbury District Hospital needs extra volunteers

We are looking for assistance with two volunteer roles as described below.

Ward Buddies

This role supports ward staff to enable them to concentrate on the clinical tasks. Tasks will include moving equipment, answering the telephones, running errands, maintaining cleanliness of ward kitchen and general tidying up of patient areas, making patient drinks and delivering food. Full PPE will be issued as well as volunteer t-shirts. Enhanced buddy roles with more patient contact such as feeding some patients. These will require enhanced PPE. There will be a fast track deployment so most of the training will be on the job. We're looking for you to ideally commit to a 2 – 4 hour session once a week every week for the foreseeable future. Volunteers need to complete a health questionnaire and

health risk assessment as part of the recruitment process in order to ensure a suitable match. Volunteers must be over 17 years of age, fit and able to do a full shift on their feet and feel comfortable working under their own initiative within defined parameters, in an environment that may feel pressured at times. Free parking at the hospital is available when on shift and/or reasonable travel expenses will be paid.

Mass vaccination centre volunteer

There is a new mass vaccination centre opening in the City centre from next week and potentially running through to the Summer. We are looking for volunteers to help marshal to move people through the vaccination hub from beginning to end, keeping orderly queue management and some administrative roles booking people in, etc. This role requires you to be stood on your feet for potentially long periods of time. We're looking for you to ideally commit to a 4 hour session once a week for at least a month. Surgical masks will be worn. A simple fast track recruitment process will take place including a health risk assessment. There will be on the job training. Free parking in Salisbury city centre will be available when on shift.

Marlborough & District Embroiderers' Guild

For our Christmas meeting, we enjoyed a Zoom talk by Alice Kettle who is Professor of Textile Art at Manchester Metropolitan University and the current President of the Embroiderers Guild. Alice started by telling us about the wonderful wall hanging she created for the Discovery Centre in Winchester in 2007 which was too large to handle and had to be stitched on site. Alice showed us several hangings which were inspired by her connections to Greece. Over the years she has been commissioned to create numerous hangings one of which can be seen at the Lloyds Register Marine Insurance office in Southampton. It shows a world map and the hull of a ship in the Atlantic. Through her work at Manchester, Alice has been involved with an art project which used textiles to learn from and raise funds for, displaced people and refugees.

For our January meeting, textile artist, Nikki Parmenter talked to 36 of our members from her home in Cheshire over Zoom this week. Since retiring from teaching, she has exhibited extensively. Mythology and legends feature greatly in her work and she showed us images of work influenced by the Aztecs, Greek mythology and various artists like Klimt, Matisse, Botticelli and Leonardo de Vinci. Nikki has exhibited at the National Trust property, Gawthorpe Hall near Burnley and created a tryptic for display in Chester Cathedral showing over 30 different birds.

For more images of Nikki's work take a look on her website: <https://www.nikkiparmenterartworks.com/>

The February meeting of the Marlborough & District Embroiderers' Guild (for members only) will take place via Zoom on Monday 1 February. The speaker will be Andrea Cryer who appeared recently on the Portrait Artist of the Year programme and her talk will be entitled "Drawing with thread". The meeting will start at 13.45 for 14.00 and if you require further information please email: frenchknots2014@yahoo.co.uk

Please checkout our website for further details (<https://mdbeg.co.uk/>) or email our Secretary at frenchknots2014@yahoo.co.uk

If you are interested in either or both roles, please email us on sft.volunteering@nhs.net stating which role is of interest, your name and contact details, and for the ward buddy whether you have any previous experience volunteering or working in a hospital or medical environment, which is not necessary but could be beneficial.

Thank you for considering this and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Jo Jarvis and Monica Wilson

Voluntary Services Team

Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust – Salisbury District Hospital

sft.volunteering@nhs.net

Surviving Winter Fund

Wiltshire residents can claim up to £250 (whilst funds last!) to help with their heating and fuel bills over the cold period. This time round we are paying either for top up vouchers for their prepayment meters or credit into their energy account if they pay by direct debit. We can also help with solid fuels also such as LPG gas bottles, wood or coal.

To be eligible, the client will need be in receipt of a means tested benefit, of pension age, or of working age and receiving a disability benefit (or they/ someone in the household has a health condition worsened by the cold). They also need to be struggling with their fuel bills and keeping their home warm.

The fund can also help with boiler repairs of up to £300.

To apply, call our advice line number on **0800 038 5722**. We would need either recent benefit award letters or a recent bank statement showing benefits being paid into their account. It is not essential that all of the information is provided in the referral as we will be picking these up and calling those back to gather any additional information! We can also provide freepost envelopes for those to send their evidence back to us.

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