



**Christchurch
Forest of Dean
St Mary the Virgin
English Bicknor**

**Church and Community
News and Events**

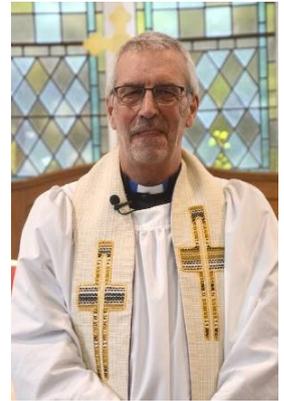


April 2021

From the Vicarage:

Can we stop this now! It's not fun anymore! Well, to be honest, it never has been but we are all feeling a little weary of the restrictions and tensions of the past year.

We hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel... but we don't know how long the tunnel is! Cases are rising again in Europe and with new strains of Covid being reported it's understandable that some people are very apprehensive. We are fast approaching Easter, and, for the second year running, (as was the case at Christmas) we don't feel that it is sensible at such an early stage of the easing of lockdown to begin holding 'face to face' services just yet.



With so many vulnerable people in our Church and community the impact of children's return to school not yet known. Care homes are restricted to 'one nominated visitor per resident' and social mixing is still not allowed indoors.

Easter is 4th April. By that date the rules will have eased a bit (so long as nothing goes awry):

From 29 March:

- People will be allowed to meet outside, either with one other household or within the "rule of six", including in private gardens
- The stay at home rule will end, but the government will urge people to stay local as much as possible
- Outdoor sport facilities will reopen, including golf courses and tennis and basketball courts, and formally organised outdoor sports can restart
- Weddings attended by up to six people can take place in any circumstances

But, there is still no 'indoor' mixing. That would mean that if we began face to face services at Easter, even with the Covid limitations on numbers, we would be inviting up to 30 or 40 people to meet together indoors, when no-one else is permitted to.

We have been fortunate to have some gifted people who have made it possible for us to hold and host worship on-line and many have found this helpful, (while other don't use computers or 'The inter-web' thingy! and have missed out).

So, we are going to wait and see. The hope is that we might be able to begin our 'Face to Face' worship again (while maintaining an on-line option) around Pentecost which would be the 23rd May.

By then the next two stages of the lockdown roadmap should/might be in place:

Stage two (no earlier than 12 April):

- All shops allowed to open, along with close-contact services, including hairdressers and beauty salons (including in people's homes)
- Restaurants and pubs allowed to serve food and alcohol to customers sitting outdoors
- Gyms and spas can reopen, as can zoos, theme parks, libraries and community centers
- Members of the same household can take a holiday in the UK in self-contained accommodation
- Weddings attended by up to 15 people can take place

Stage three (no earlier than 17 May):

- People can meet in groups of up to 30 outdoors
- Six people or two households can meet indoors
- Pubs, restaurants and other hospitality venues can seat customers indoors
- Up to 30 people can attend weddings or other life events, like christenings
- Remaining outdoor entertainment, such as outdoor theatres and cinemas can open
- Indoor entertainment such as museums, theatres, cinemas and children's play areas can open
- Performances and large events can restart, but with limits on audience numbers
- Hotels, hostels and B&Bs can reopen
- International leisure travel may resume
- Adult indoor group sports and exercise classes can restart

So, by the time we get to Pentecost (Whit Sunday 23rd May), the date on which we celebrate the 'Birth of the Church', it is my hope that we can once again meet to sing and praise God together.

Here's a prayer to remind us what happened at Pentecost:

The Spirit came
and your Church was born,
in wind and fire
and words of power.

The Spirit came
as your word foretold,
with dreams and signs,
visions and wonders.

The Spirit came
blowing fear aside,
and in its place
weak hearts were stronger.

The Spirit came
and is here today,
to feed the hearts
of a world that hungers.

Tony Williams RECTOR



Prayers for April

Easter prayer by the Mothers Union

God Almighty, we praise your Holy name in this joyful Eastertide. We thank you, Lord, because through your death and resurrection we have won the victory and your redeeming grace and love. Loving Father God, fill us with new life so that we may love one another and do what you want us to do in sharing your love with those who don't know you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Lord we ask that you forgive us for the things we didn't do, for the things we should have said, for those thoughts that we haven't put into action for doing good around us, inspire us to action for spreading your word and love to all. We pray Lord for you to help us to think, do and say the right things at the right times. Let us give ourselves to you through love to one another. Amen.

“The gift of Easter is hope- Christian hope which makes us have the confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.”

Basil C Hume.

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.”

Pope John Paul.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3: 16-17.

Our prayers may be awkward,
Our attempts may be feeble.
But since the power of prayer
is in the one who hears it
and not in the one who says it,
our prayers do make a difference.

Max Lucado.

Springtime!

Your message of hope to a world tiring of winter's starkness,
longing for that first crocus to push through snow's icy blanket
and spread its leaves to its creator.

Springtime!

Our yearly reminder, if we needed one, that to a world that was dark and cold,
a world devoid of love's sweet warmth, you sent your son
to break through sin's icy blanket and arms outstretched on a cross,
He bought us hope. Thank you.

John Birch.

“Long as there's a sun that sets
Primroses will have their glory
Long as there are Violets
They will have a story.”

William Wordsworth.

The flowers appear on the earth the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:12.

God planted a seed of faith in our hearts, so all we had to do is water it with prayers, fertilise it with the words of God and cultivate it with lots of love.

From the Parish Records

Eva Margaret Stephens 92

Funeral on 17th March 2021 at
Church of The Holy Jesus,
Lydbrook



Pamela Muriel Jones 91

Funeral on February 22nd 2021 at
Forest of Dean Crematorium



Church Discussion Group

The Church Discussion Group continues on Zoom. The next meetings are at on April 13th and 27th and May 11th and 25th. They start at 10.30 am. Please bring your own coffee and contact Carol on 837207 for further details.

Amaryllis by Esther Duggan

Whilst out today and sipping tea
I thought of the lavender you sent to me
The bulb I spied which tho' it's small
With care and water will grow quite tall

Now spring I know is yet a while
But watch with patience and soon you'll
smile
At small green spears which cut its form
And show that growth has been reborn .

Then in the spring from majestic height
This amaryllis will bring delight
For now you know that winter's gone
And once again the blackbird's song
Will herald days of softest green,
Of pastel shades, when senses dream
Of love ones past and present too,
Where summers' promise holds anew
The thrill that with devoted care
Our seeds will flourish for all to share .



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



New Life for an old Telephone Box



Photo by Graham Long

Unveiling the transformed telephone box on the green opposite Christchurch

A team of volunteers, inspired by Spike and Shoe have transformed the run-down telephone box in Christchurch. Part of a community initiative the box joins the blue one in Berry Hill as a reminder of the time when the only way to speak directly to someone in a neighbouring town, or further afield, was via a telephone in the red telephone box. Queuing was necessary at times and the polite thing to do was stand some distance away so that one did not hear the conversation. How times have changed!

Last used as telephone over 10 years ago, the box on the green has been looking for a facelift for some time.

Now, jet-washed by Jemoba and painted (mostly) by Derrick Phelps and with thanks to John Russell who sourced and cut the glass box is once again ready for the community.

Now, the organisers need your help.

How would you like the telephone box used? The organisers have suggested a seasonal use— a seed swap in the spring, plants in the summer, surplus fruit and vegetables in the autumn, books to see us through the winter, perhaps. Or maybe you can think of something completely different. Your ideas are sought so please add your suggestions to the box inside the telephone box as soon as possible so we can make good use of this iconic structure.

Bicknor Bears Nursery

In 2009 a group of Governors of English Bicknor Primary School established a pre-school nursery , Bicknor Bears, on the school site. A Charitable Trust was set up with a dedicated team of Trustees to oversee and support the running of the Nursery.

Over the past 11 ½ years, it has been a pleasure to see children growing in confidence, learning and having fun in a caring, safe and idyllic environment. Many children have transitioned seamlessly into main school.

It is with some sadness, and much pride, that the Trustees feel that the time is now right for them to stand down and for the Charitable Trust to be wound down. However, they first needed to be assured that a Nursery would continue on site to support future children.

From April, Greenwoods Nursery in Coalway, have successfully tendered to run an additional Nursery here in English Bicknor and we wish them success in this new venture.

We would like to thank all staff and trustees, parents and children, past and present, who together have made Bicknor Bears such a success. Special thanks to Amy Bosely our current manager and Ceri-Ann Lewis as we wish them every success in their future careers.

Particular thanks must go to Mrs Hayley Alliston, Head Teacher, and our previous Head Teacher, Mr David Phillips, for their support throughout as Nursery and School worked together to provide such a splendid setting for Bicknor Bears Nursery.

Trustees: Phil Gwilliam, Andrew and Sharon Shelbourn, Brian Hale, Heidi England and Helen Rodwell.

What the Trustees have not mentioned is that without their intervention English Bicknor School might no longer exist. School numbers were dropping in the early part of this century , the future of the school was being debated and the provision of nursery was seen as a way of encouraging young families to educate their children within the village. It took major fundraising , considerable effort, and some generous donations to achieve the trustees vision but the success of the venture can be seen in the thriving village school.



The website development and logo design are by Alec Scaless. He has brought together our summaries of previous meetings, some nice photos and a bit of local history together with our future programme and some useful links. Do have a look (and obviously let me know if we have got anything wrong!) and I hope it will give you a little taster to keep you going whilst the Group is unable to meet.

www.englishbicknorlhg.go.uk

NB: You may have to put in the full address as above until the various search engines have got it indexed.

Return to (almost) normal school



Here at Berry Hill Primary we are delighted to have all our children back with us following our National Lock-down.

To help us settle back in, we had a week of reconnecting - with each other, our teachers and our learning.

As two of our Year 4 pupils said, '*We took part in lots of fun activities so we could spend time together again, and get back into our learning*'.

Class teacher Mrs Boiling said '*It is wonderful to have all our children back together, and see their excitement at seeing their friends again, sharing their learning and bouncing ideas off each other*'.

The lovely weather has given us plenty of chance to get into the outdoors, and here you can see children exploring maths through measure in our school grounds and calculating difference. Great fun!

English Bicknor and District Gardening Club

Exciting news!

English Bicknor and District Gardening Club plans to recommence activities on Tuesday 25th May 2021 with a visit to Woodview at The Doward.

We will meet at English Bicknor Village Hall at 6pm and the cost of the visit, including refreshments, will be £5 and for visitors £7.

Please contact Pat Drinkall (861025) by 7th May if you would like to attend as numbers are restricted in line with current Covid regulations.



Bumblebee on blackberry flowers

English Bicknor WI News

Now that life is beginning to open up a little our WI activities are beginning again, even if still somewhat restricted.

We are now able to walk in distanced groups of six and it is good to be able to enjoy each other's company as well as exercising and appreciating the Forest in Spring!

Soon, we will also be able to sit in each other's gardens to enjoy a coffee.

Throughout each lockdown we held our Zoom coffee mornings on the days when we used to have meetings.

On April 1st instead of our normal meeting we are holding Easter treasure hunts on the hall field.

It will be some time before we can meet in the hall, but we intend holding various outdoor activities – we are hoping for good weather!

Our May meeting will be held on Zoom and our speaker will join us to deliver his presentation.

Hopefully, some of our usual activities will soon resume such as craft club and walking netball.

In normal times meetings are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month in the village hall.

For further details please contact Sue Yemm on 01594 860845

Berry Hill Life

Lockdown Photo Challenge

HERE IS A CHANCE FOR EVERYONE TO SHINE!

Take a digital photo of lockdown life in the Forest,
between March 1st and April 1st.

(Ensure your photo is dated!)
You can use your phone, tablet or camera.

Enter your photo in one of the following classes:
Landscape; People; Pets; Places; Humour.
(only 1 entry per category per person)

There are 4 groups allowed to enter:
Under 12's; 12–18; Over 18 and 'experienced photographer'.
(Please be honest and only enter in 1 group.)

POST YOUR PHOTO ON 'Berry Hill Life FB page'
Stating 'Class' and 'Category'

All photo's correctly entered will be gathered in an Album.
Independent judges will choose winners from each category and group. And winners will be awarded a rosette.
All the winners will then be entered into a Public vote and the overall winner will receive a prize..





Tourist Information Centre

(Coleford)

Volunteer Opportunities

- Do you have an interest in promoting our wonderful area to visitors?
- Are you competent at using the Internet?
- Are you a good communicator with excellent customer care skills?
- Do you live locally?

This is an opportunity to be part of a committed and lively team.

Single sessions are available on Saturdays and some weekdays from 10-12.30pm and from 1–3.30pm
(Induction, ongoing training, and peer support provided)

Please contact Ella Beard (TIC Coordinator) by emailing info@colefordtown.net for more details



The Tourist Information Centre is run by Coleford Town Council



Acorns Preschool

New provision opening September 2021 at Berry Hill Primary School



New teacher-led Acorns preschool.
Integrated with our Reception Class to provide an all-through, high quality Early-Years experience for children aged 3-5 years.

Flexible sessions Monday to Friday during term-time:

3 hour morning session: 8.45-11.45am (£12)

3 hour afternoon session: 12.15-3.15pm (£12)

Option to stay for lunch: 11.45-12.15pm (£2, nutritious healthy meals cooked fresh on site, or bring packed lunch).

Glos CC funding accepted, employer vouchers accepted.

Before or after school provision is a possibility through our Buddies Club - please ask if you would be interested in this.

#Acorns-to-Oaks

Join us as an **Acorn** in our preschool,
leave us as an **Oak** in Year 6!

Contact 01594 832262 / admin@berryhill.gloucs.sch.uk
for more info or to book places for September.



We know what you mean

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR.

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

April Fool

The reasons for April 1st being the day when practical jokes are played on friend and foe alike are lost. Some have suggested that the jokes played on April 1st originate with the Ancient Roman festival of Hilaria, which was celebrated in the spring. Although the word *hilarious* has its roots in the festival it was, in fact, a more solemn occasion than the name suggests celebrating the death and resurrection of Cybele.

Another suggestion is that the modern custom began in France in 1564 following the Edict of Roussillon when Charles IX changed the start of the year from Easter to January 1st. At the time, throughout Christendom, Easter was the start of the year but the date of Easter is based on the lunar year and thus a moveable feast, and Charles IX wanted a fixed date to begin his calendar year. Those who disagreed with him—and there were many—were called April Fools for clinging to the old ways.

In France, still, if you manage to catch someone out with your prank you may call them poisson d'avril (April fish) perhaps because young fish are easily caught! In some parts of Scotland April 1st is Gowkie Day, after a gowk, a dialect name for a cuckoo which is the symbol of fool. On the 2nd of April anyone caught can expect to have a sign reading "kick me" pinned to their back.

Newspapers and media soon caught up with the idea of trying to fool their readers. One of the most famous April Fools is the notorious spaghetti tree.

In 1957, Panorama ran a feature which explained that as the winter had been unusually mild in Switzerland, the spaghetti trees were producing a bumper harvest. They showed photographs of Swiss workers in national costume gathering the long strands of spaghetti dangling from a grove of trees. No-one seemed to have noted the date for the BBC was inundated with requests for how to grow a spaghetti tree in their garden. A BBC employee reputedly replied to one such enquiry, "Stick a strand of spaghetti in a tin of tomato soup and hope for the best"! The then director of the BBC later confessed that he himself had sought advice concerning the growing of a spaghetti tree.

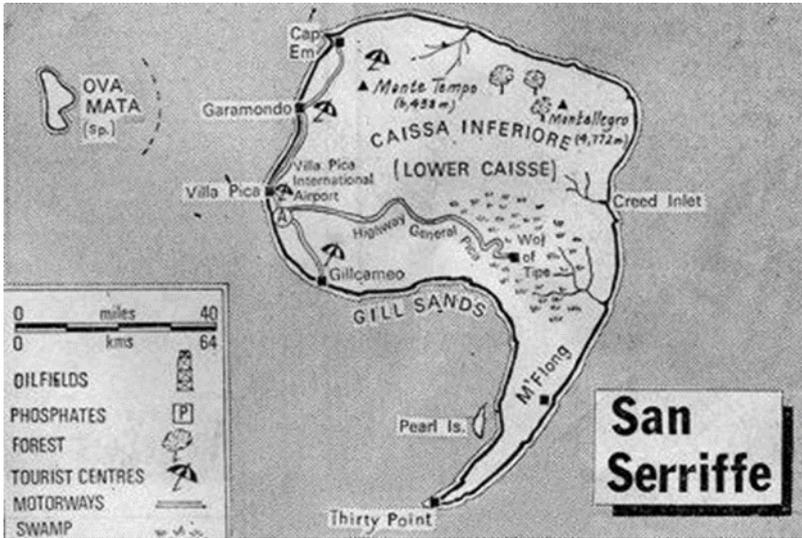


In 1990 the Independent newspaper ran an article explaining that the Mona Lisa had recently been cleaned. Academics had been astonished to discover that the painting, famous for the enigmatic smile, in fact showed that Mona Lisa was frowning.

The Louvre reported visitors later that year looking for the 'frowning' Mona Lisa and expressing disappointment that she was in fact still smiling.

Patrick Moore, the presenter of Sky at Night explained in 1976 that the alignment of Jupiter, the Earth and Pluto, due at 9.54am on April 1st would result in a temporary fall in gravity. Later that day listeners rang the BBC saying that they had jumped higher than usual and several reported that their chairs lifted off the ground.

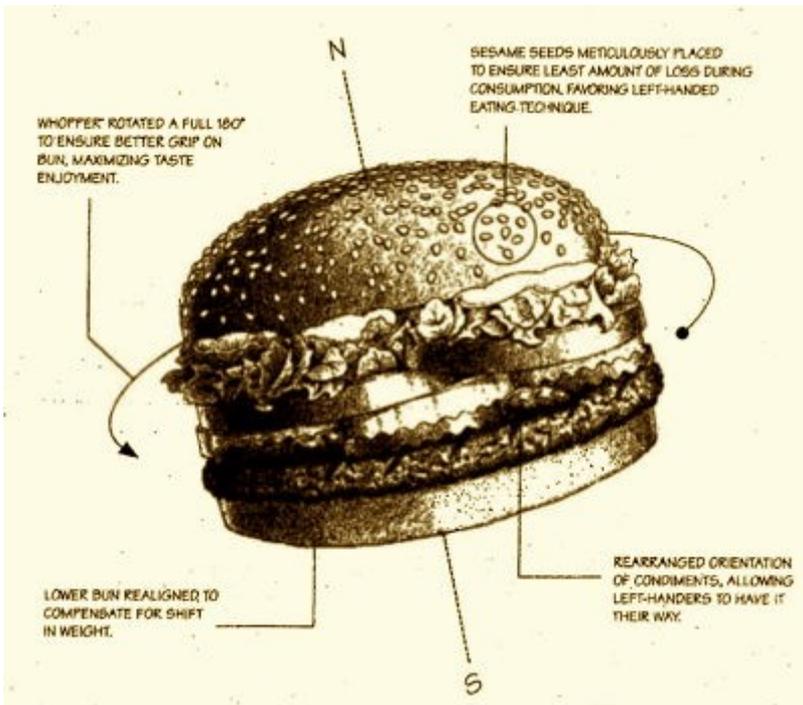
Patrick Moore later explained that he was trying to counteract, with a ridiculous joke, the theory put forward in a recently published book called The Jupiter Effect that in 1982 an alignment of Jupiter and the Earth would result in major earthquakes and the destruction of Los Angeles.



This is the Island of Caissa Inferiore, one of the islands in the small group of San Serriffe found in the Indian Ocean.

The island is a holiday destination for the discerning traveller reached by boat from the capital, Bodon, situated on the larger island of Caisse Superior or Upper Caisse.

First mentioned by the Guardian newspaper in 1977 the spoof generated many inquiries to travel agents and the newspaper itself asking for details of holiday accommodation and flights.



This is an illustration of the Left Handed Whopper.

In 1996, as society was becoming more aware of inequality and beginning to recognise and cater for minority groups, Burger King announced that they would be creating a Left Hand Burger. Every ingredient was rotated through 180 degrees so that those who were left handed could more easily eat their lunch.

Sales were boosted by customers who asked for a Right handed burger.....



In 1980 *The Soldier*, the serious and worthy publication dedicated to the British soldier, published an article explaining that the ceremonial Bearskins needed regular grooming. The bearskins were originally from Russia and retained so much of the hormones and growth factors that the fur continued to grow, hence the need for a regular trim.

The Cold War had eliminated Russia as a source of the bearskins but the newer Canadian ones were also in need of a regular cut and soldiers were reminded of their responsibility to keep their equipment in good order.

Information for this feature from Encyclopaedia Britannica and www.hoaxes.org

UPDATE FROM HOT POT POTTERY - RE-OPENING SCHEDULE!

We have missed you! Please book in with us and visit us soon! It has been a loooooong time! See below for our re-opening information and schedule (assuming everything stays on track).

At Hot Pot Pottery we are registered with Visit England's 'Good to Go' and The World Travel & Tourism Council's 'Safe Travels' Schemes to keep Covid-19 risks as low as possible and encourage responsible behaviour on-site and in relation to bookings.

We expect to be able to open for on-site **POTTERY TRIAL CLASSES** for **SINGLE HOUSEHOLD/BUBBLE BOOKINGS** from **April 12th** and **MIXED HOUSEHOLD BOOKINGS** for **ALL CLASSES & GROUP MEALS** from **May 17th 2021**.

We hope to be able to bring **POTTERY PAINTING** back on-site and host **LARGER PARTIES** from **June 21st 2021**.

We also have **POTTERY PAINTING KITS FOR HIRE** or you can **BOOK-A-BROWSE** in our **GALLERY/SHOP**.

FYI:

We have a few spaces left on our **ONE DAY THROWING WORKSHOPS** towards the end of the summer which are on a **Sunday** once a month **10-5** (inc. lunch).

We will be starting a **6 WEEK COURSE** Monday afternoons **2-4** or evenings **6-8** from **Monday May 17th** & have a few spaces left on both sessions (max 6 people on each).

THE HOUSE OF BREAD (HOLIDAY COTTAGES) - if you have relatives/friends looking for self-catering accommodation in the local area, we will be opening for single household/bubbles from April 12th and for mixed household bookings from May 17th (again assuming all stays on track).

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Kind Regards

Katie Winterborne

The House of Bread (Holiday Cottages) & Hot Pot Pottery

07974 983908/01594 837943



Professionals at work

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the engine of a Harley Davidson motorcycle when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?"

The surgeon a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle.

The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, fix 'em, put 'em back in, and when I finish, it works just like new.

So how come I get such a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic... "Try doing it with the engine running



A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet..

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman..

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "£550.00!" she cried, "£550.00 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been £5.00, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now £550.00."

A Puppy in the time of Covid

The last month has been a steep learning curve for all of us.

House training continues but Bella has now chosen her favourite places both outside—and inside! The overall newspaper carpet has been reduced to one or two ‘rugs’ and even those are needed less and less. There is a temptation to just leave the door open now that the weather has improved but Bella is wise to that. She requires company as she trots into the garden and chooses her place under the bamboo so even if the door is open we have to recognise the signs and take her out. One common complaint that dog trainers receive is that the dog will happily skip independently in and out of an open door in the summer but will only ‘go’ inside once the weather is inclement or winter arrives. Hopefully, Bella, with her need for company recognise that outside is best no matter what the weather.

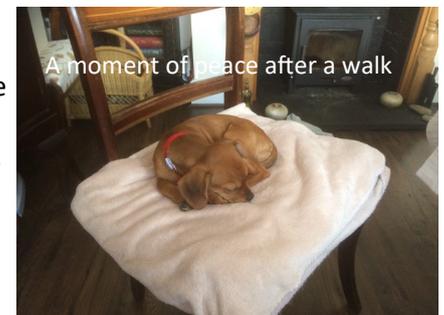


Following the first visit to the vet, fortunately only three days after we brought her home,, I realised I was under-feeding her. In the ‘old days’ puppies were often weaned on human food—carefully chosen but nevertheless the left overs from the family meal. In the time of Covid there is a entire industry devoted to the nutrition of puppies and adult dogs. Gone are the days when a Bonio was considered a treat and a handful of dog biscuits including the ubiquitous charcoal nugget was thrown into the dog bowl and covered in the leftover gravy. Now, careful weighing ensures that just the right amount of kibbles is mixed with the right amount of a pouch of delicious-smelling turkey in gravy. Treats, essential for dog training these days, must also be weighed and the weight subtracted from the amount of kibble give.

Kibble, now there’s a new word!

According to the Collins dictionary a kibble is a bucket used to hoist iron ore and originated in Germany some time in the 17th century. By the time the word had travelled to America some 150 years later it had come to mean something ground small. Now, in the context of dog food, it is those small biscuity things that dog seem to love and which form an essential part of their nutrition. A second visit to the vet gave assurance that Bella was not underfed but is growing fast with almost limitless energy!

Now that Bella has had both her injections she has been introduced to collar and lead and the ritual of walking has started. The first time we went out of the front gate she sat spontaneously at the curb. Cashing in on this, she is now being trained to sit every time her human stops. On one occasion, unthinkingly walking straight across the road with her, she promptly sat down on the curb at the other side and refused to move until I had acknowledged that I was in the wrong and should have stopped before we crossed the road. No treats for you, her expression clearly said.



Recently she has learned to jump. She always jumped to catch a toy but jumping on to furniture defeated her. We thought we were teaching her to come up on the sofa by invitation only, lifting her gently onto the cushions when we were settled for the evening. One night, frustrated that we had been slow to acknowledge her presence, she discovered that if she took a running jump rather than a standing scrabble she could leap onto the sofa of her own accord. Now, she sits there with a grin of triumph on her face such that it is almost impossible to tell her off.

She continues to chew everything and anything but came unstuck the other day. She had gone rather quiet—never a good sign— and suddenly let out a howl which would have shamed the Hound of the Baskervilles. With frantic speed she leapt onto my lap and there on her chest was an enormous bumble bee! It was very sleepy and dropped onto the floor without stinging, thank goodness.

The number of the emergency vet is now by the phone.

Just in case.

Litter pickers at work—again.

These are the intrepid litter-pickers of Bicknor out in the Tump Lane collecting the rubbish others have left behind.

It is good to see such young and enthusiastic people helping to keep the Forest clean for both humans and animals.



Max, Harry, George, William and Maisie kitted up with wellies, and hi-viz jackets . Adults were on hand to pick up anything broken or dangerous while the youngsters concentrated on plastic bags and other rubbish which could be picked up using their long litter pickers



They worked for two and a half hours and found quite a lot of rubbish.



Filling the bags



Searching the undergrowth

Thank you and Well done.



It Really is a Bxxxer Growing Old

When longer arms are needed for letters on the page
When 'three' and 'eight' both look the same—a certain sign of age
When eyes begin to narrow just to focus on the screen
When distant objects blur or merge and sight is not so keen
Th 'age with grace' is what to do (at least so we are told)
But it really is Bxxxer growing old

When glasses, keys or wallets seem to hide themselves each day
When patience wanes in others , irritated by your delay
When wearily , you climb the stairs and can't remember why,
When you repeat an oft told tale and family members sigh
A trip down memory lane just isn't worth the stroll
As it really is a Bxxxer growing old.

When you cannot set the telly, or text by mobile phone
When you board the bus and find you've left your xxxxxx pass at home
When your PIN number escapes you as you queue up at the bank
When you find you've left your cash behind when filling up the tank
Just grit your teeth and soldier on, be resolute and bold
For it really is a BXXxer growing old.

When arthritic fingers fumble and the waistlines heading south
When the apple crumble tumbles on its journey to your mouth
When breakfast-time and supper you are shovelling in the pills
When lifts are welcome options and you're puffing up the hills
'Just act your age, you silly goat' you'll sure as hell be told
For it really is a Bxxxer growing old

When the needle you can't thread to sew a button on your breeks
When the doctors freezing fingers bring the colour to you cheeks
When no-one says 'good morning' or ' good afternoon' but 'hi'
When assistants have no knowledge of the things you want to buy
Go with the flow and bite your tongue, on your temper keep a hold
But it really is a Bxxxer growing old.

When you're down there tying laces and you wonder with a frown
What could usefully else be done when you are that far down
When your toe nails are like granite and they're almost out of reach
When the BBC's no longer a fount for proper speech
Just drop your standards like the rest and come in from the cold
For it really is a Bxxxer growing old

When you come back to the carpark and you cannot find the car
When you're really not too certain just exactly where you are
When the back-swing's shot to pieces and you cannot follow through
When you cannot hit the xxxxxx ball the way you used to do
Just carry on and play the shots until the old knees fold
But it really is a BXxxxr growing old

When you are told it is your birthday and it comes as a surprise
When you need to be reminded that you haven't zipped your flies
When you've never touched an iPad or on E-bay bought or sold
When on reason or reality you barely have a hold
Just swallow hard and take a breath and do just what you're told.
For it really is a Bxxxer growing old.

The reader who sent this in for us all to enjoy could not give an author. If this is something you have come across before and know who wrote it, please let me know and I will acknowledge authorship in a future magazine. Thank you .
Ed.

April Quiz.....and three puzzles. Ans on p

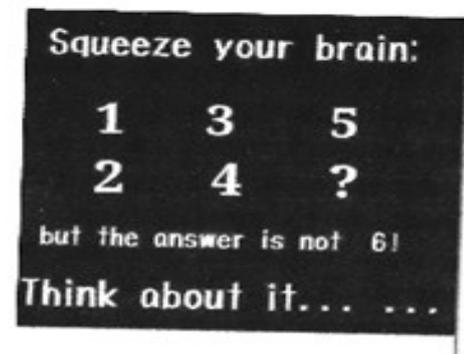
1. What fish is traditionally used to make an Arbroath Smokie?
2. Which Leicester town is famous for its Pork Pies?
3. What spice is used to flavour the Northern speciality Parkin?
4. Which London departmental store claims to have invented Scotch Eggs?
5. With what is a fillet of beef coated with before being wrapped in parma ham and pastry to become a Beef Wellington?
6. What sauce is traditionally served with roast lamb?
7. The innards of which animal are usually used to make Haggis?
8. What food is celebrated with an annual festival on the Isle of Wight?
9. Similar to a Cornish pasty but containing a sweet filling at one end, how is this Bedfordshire dish known?
10. What is "Scouse" a favourite dish in Liverpool?
11. Where does the potato pancake known as Boxty originate?
12. Which Cheshire town hosts the annual International Cheese Awards?
13. What filling would be traditionally used to make a Cottage Pie?
14. In which English county is Bakewell, home of the famous pudding?
15. On a traditional Cornish cream tea, what is put on the scone first, jam or cream?
16. What food is the County Cork town of Clonakilty best known for?
17. In what part of London did the dish of Jellied Eels originate?
18. What town in Greater Manchester gives it's name to a small round cake made from flaky pastry and filled with Currants?
19. Widely used by hikers as a source of energy, what Lake District town gives its name to this confectionary of sugar, glucose and peppermint?
20. What is the name of the Scottish dessert made from raspberries, cream, oats and whisky?



Where is this and what was its purpose?



What is this and why are some bits brown?



What is missing and where might you find this sequence?

Lydcare update from Richard Stirling

The last 12 months have certainly been challenging but despite that we have been able to continue delivering two out of three of our core activities. Unfortunately our Lunch Clubs have had to close for the foreseeable future and sadly Joys Green Lunch Club has closed for good . Great credit must go to Peggy Kear who has kept the club going for more years than anyone can remember .

Our community transport service was severely limited at the outset of the pandemic , unfortunately but understandably 50% of our drivers decided not to continue as they were in the at risk category . However Edna Husbands , Transport Co-Ordinator supported by the few remaining drivers was determined to continue providing transport for essential medical appointments once we had established the protocols to allow our drivers and passengers to travel in safety . This resulted in 81 passengers carried in Q2; 302 in Q3 and 427 in Q4 , numbers increasing as hospital appointments restarted as well as an increased demand in the wider community due to Bream Voluntary Car Service and Lydney Dial A Ride Voluntary service not operating.

Caroline Young our Wellbeing and Benefits Advisor was able to continue supporting the community mainly via telephone as obviously consultations in the home were not possible . This project supported by a £10,000 Service level Agreement (£10,000 per annum) by FoDDC is nearing the end of its second year and has returned a total of benefits to recipients of a staggering £787,000. This sum benefits the individuals and their families by improving Wellbeing and reducing reliance on the medical services and has a positive impact on the local economy . It does however demonstrate how inaccessible the system is particularly for those most in need and it takes the skills and experience of Caroline to access the system.

Richard Stirling

Chairman

March 2021

(and Richard adds that that is the correct sum!)

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

THANK YOU

To everyone who added to the Hope Springs Eternal display outside Christchurch.

The display brought smiles to the faces of those passing by, there were many admiring comments concerning the skill of knitters and crocheters .

The display will be there for a little while longer so it is not too late to add your creation.

Thank you all.

Please contact Sue Boulter on 01594 810647 for further details

My take on Desert Island Discs is

"Lockdown DVDs" taking a bit of a liberty with box sets as follows:

The Hobbit
Lord of the Rings
Dirty Dancing
The Goonies
Poldark (of course!)
Avatar
Hildago
True Grit (original with John Wayne)

If I can also have a book (time to read in between watching DVDs!) This would be *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell

Luxury item would have to be a reclining chair ♡

Thanks to Sue Holden for this selection.

And as we (hopefully) emerge from lockdown which DVD's did you find kept you sane during the long winter of social isolation?

April quiz answers

1. *Haddock.*
2. *Melton Mowbray.*
3. *Ginger.*
4. *Fortnum & Mason.*
5. *Pate & Mushrooms.*
6. *Mint Sauce.*
7. *Sheep*
8. *Garlic.*
9. *Bedfordshire Clanger.*
10. *A Lamb (or Beef) stew.*
11. *Ireland*
12. *Nantwich.*
13. *Minc(ed) Beef.*
14. *Derbyshire.*
15. *Jam.*
16. *Black Pudding.*
17. *East End.*
18. *Eccles.*
19. *Kendal (Mint Cake).*
20. *Cranachan.*



The door is in the wall between English Bicknor church and the Rectory. Now no longer in use, it was the private entrance to the churchyard for the Rector and his family.



Primroses—another harbinger of spring and early summer.



This is a close-up photograph of a grey lichen found on a stone. The brown areas are the fruiting bodies of the lichen from which spores are cast.



Found in any 5-gear car

The Proverbs of Sancho Panza

There is still sun on the wall

It requires a long time to know someone

All sorrows are bearable if there is bread

He who does not rise with the sun does not enjoy the day

Until death, all is life

The little fat Sancho Panza was squire to Don Quixote and tried to help that deluded knight lead a more reasonable life. He usually failed.



Forest Food Bank

The Forest Food bank is fairly well stocked at the moment but is short of

Canned fish
Canned potatoes
Instant mash
Sponge puddings



We have plenty of most other items, and are particularly well-stocked with pasta, rice, biscuits, chocolate, cereals, porridge, beans and pet food

Please leave your donations in
the usual places
And Thank You.



Bottles to Bricks

First a Thank You! We have about 100 bottles in the Green bin and stored in a local garage. When we first introduced Bottle to Bricks via the Parish Magazine nearly 18 months ago none of us knew if it was an idea which would interest people. Stuffing a lemonade bottle with the scraps of plastic which cannot, at present, be recycled seems like a good idea. None of us knew just how much effort is needed to get a bottle so full that the sides will not bend at all. To make them as hard as bricks, in fact. Anything less is, sadly, not much use as a brick.

Also, 18 months ago, the website www.ecobrick.org happily gave out the names of places which would collect your filled bottles and make good use of them. This was to help small organisations who might take too long to gather enough bottle-bricks to make a wall or a seat. Since then, however, because of the difficulty of making a really firm bottle, the rules have changed and now only those bottles which have been certified by a trained inspector can be passed on.

So where does this leave us?

Firstly, the bottle you are filling at the moment will need to be the last one for here and the bin will be removed on 30th April.

All the bottles which can be used as bricks will be sorted out and once we know how many there are we can decide whether there are enough to make a structure or if we will have to get them certified to pass on to another organisation.

Those bottle which are not quite good enough for bricks will be recycled in the usual way.

Thank You for taking part.

Community Organisation Contact Page

The Gloucestershire Wellbeing Trust

A support service in times of difficulty

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence please contact the Community Wellbeing Service at Forest of Dean District Council on 01594 812447 or 01594 812399.

Gloucestershire Police

Find out about local police activity and link in to the various ways you can find support and information by going online to

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/neighbourhood-policing/forest-of-dean/>

English Bicknor Chit Chat

The Facebook page contains information about the village and local events. If you are not a Facebook user and would like anything added then please email Daphne@drysladefarm.co.uk

Barnwood Trust

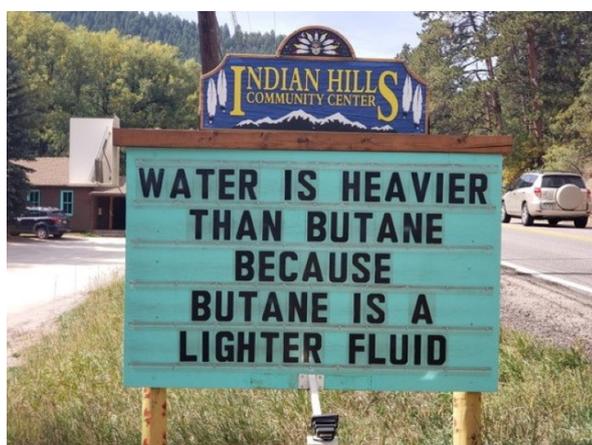
Information and help applying for grants from the trust is available from the Forest of Dean Office on 01594 839191

Or visit www.barnwoodtrust.org

Christchurch and English Bicknor churches website

www.christchurchfod.org.uk

If **you** run a community organisation and would like the details published in the magazine on this page, please contact Judith on 01594 781436



**In a Laundromat:
AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES**

Keeping in touch

During the current lockdown, and for the foreseeable future, on-line links have developed which aim to connect parishioners in the benefice. Please contact the named person (where given) for further information and a link to the Zoom meeting. If you are a stranger to Zoom, any of the named people will be happy to explain the system.

Church Discussion Group held Fortnightly on a Tuesday morning starting at 10.30 am. Contact Carol Turley on 01594 837207

Church services. During lockdown these are based as from Christchurch and are available via the Christchurch website (christchurchfod.org.uk). There is a Zoom service at 11 am every Sunday and also one at 6pm based on BCP.

One joys of the Zoom service (there are many more) is the ability to sing loudly to Andy's playing. We, the congregation, keep our microphones off to make listening easier, so there is no-one to complain that we are slightly off-key

Please contact Barbara on 01594 837270 if you would like a link to the Sunday service.

Friends of Christchurch Coffee morning. These are held fortnightly on a Saturday morning. The next will be on Saturday April 3rd at 10.30am Please contact Judith on 01594 781436 or judithbrickwood33@gmail.com if you would like to join in.

Berry Hill Life is a Facebook page and an excellent source of up-to-the-minute local news and information. Not to mention some pretty awful jokes at time—not rude: just punny!

English Bicknor Chitchat is also a Facebook page and has news about the village.

Please let me know if you would like your organisation included in this listing.

Contact me on Judithbrickwood33@gmail.com

About the magazine

Magazine editor Judith Brickwood 01594 781436

Magazine Treasurer Jeff Carrick 01594 860936

Articles for the magazine should be sent to the Editor at judithbrickwood33@gmail.com no later than the **15th of the month**. Please include your name and contact details. *Please note new email address and deadline*

We are currently awaiting the government decision regarding the easing of lockdown and the collection of annual subscriptions has been delayed until we are once more in print form. However, If you would like to pay your subscription now, Jeff is very happy to receive it but it is also fine to wait until the distributors are once again able to visit and collect money from you.

We will be asking for 50p per copy for 2021/22. The cost of the magazine is currently subsidised but it is important that we break even as soon as possible.

We will be looking for additional advertising so if you think your business could do with a little more local advertising, please get in touch with Jeff

Christchurch, FOD and St Mary's English Bicknor

Parish Contacts

Rector: Revd. Capt. Tony Williams, CA

Christchurch Vicarage Ross Road Christchurch Coleford GL16 7NS

01594 836751 revtonyw@hotmail.com

Ministry Team

Joan Atherley, Sue Boulter, Sandie Bradley, Maggie Fisher, Jacqui Fudge (Reader in training), Helen Rodwell, Carol Turley (Pastoral Team Leader), Glenda White-Miller (Reader), Sally Whittington, Tony Williams,

Safeguarding Pam Iddiols and Andy Iddiols 01594 834598

Or email: pamela-spooner@sky.com

Christchurch

Church Wardens:	David Fudge	01594 726144
	Trevor Harvey	01594 835897
PCC Secretary	Judith Brickwood	01594 781436
Treasurer	Barbara Davies	01594 837270

English Bicknor

Church Wardens ;	Jennie McHattie	01594 834855
	Jan Furnival	01594 541566
PCC secretary	Jan Furnival	01594 541566
Treasurer	John Furnival	01594 541566

Magazine editor	Judith Brickwood	01594 781436
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Magazine Treasurer	Jeff Carrick	01594 860936
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WE know what you mean.....but.....

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK, STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS...

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

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The logo for Symonds Yat Rock Lodge features the text 'SYMONDS YAT' in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font above 'ROCK LODGE' in a larger, bold, brown, sans-serif font. A stylized graphic of three curved lines in green and blue arches over the text.

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(Friday)**

Art Club at

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who can**

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For more information about any of our services, or
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call our office on **01594 860143**

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