



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

# **Church and Community News and Events**

**July and August  
2021**

50p



Photograph by Adrien Griffin

# SUNDAY SERVICES

We feel the time is right to begin to meet in our two Churches for times of worship together.



We still have the constraints that help to keep us safe:



***Stay 2 meters apart and 'sanitise'.***

***Wear face coverings***

***Congregations are not allowed to sing***

***And no coffee or chat before or after the service***

We will meet together for a 'spoken service' with music and hymn lyrics to help us, along with a chance to listen to the Bible and to reflect together on our faith and God's love for us all. And on some special occasions we can have a choir to help bring back some of the joy we feel when meeting together as a community.

Some of our services will be available to download for those who feel vulnerable and would rather not gather, and, as we have learnt in the past months, we are able to live stream as well.

There are different options for you to come and worship together:

## **SUNDAYS:**

9.30 a.m.: Traditional worship at St Mary the Virgin English Bicknor.

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship at Christchurch Forrest of Dean

**Our Thursday Communion and coffee and 6.00pm evensong will begin after we move into the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of unlocking , hopefully this summer.**



### **FROM THE VICARAGE.**

I am writing this the day after we were told '4 more weeks', and having just had a meeting to cancel our proposed 'Community Songs of Praise Celebration' that was due to happen on the 27<sup>th</sup> June at Berry Hill rugby club. My sadness is overshadowed by all those who have had to say goodbye to loved ones, with small numbers attending, or those whose wedding has been postponed time after time.

Whatever comes next, I think our communities have shown how well they can cope and how much support there is for one another.

One thing I am sure we have all learned is that we need to take care of each other and look out for those who might be struggling. We don't need to 'put a brave face on it'! We don't need to 'Man up'! (I hate that phrase as some of the strongest people we know are the women around us!). What we do need is to look after ourselves, talk when we feel down, ask for help when we need it, and on the other hand, listen when people talk and offer help where we see a need.

Remember as well that God does know us and understand us. He is with us in the middle of the good times and the bad so we can do as it says in the bible: *'Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.'* (1 Peter c7)

We can sometimes shout out to God. The person who wrote Psalm 27 said this: *Listen to my pleading, Lord! Be merciful and send the help I need. My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me, O my people." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."*

Hopefully by the end of July our two Churches will be open again each day for anyone who would like to spend a little time in quiet, prayer or thought. Maybe you will want to light a candle for a loved one, or simply sit, be still and be assured that God 'sees you', hears you and loves you.

Have a good summer.

Tony Williams RECTOR

## Prayers for July

Dear Lord, as we forward to long summer days and better weather, help us to fill our time with thoughts of others and reach out to our family, friends and neighbours. Give us space to look around us and wonder at your beautiful creations. Bind us all together in your bounty of grace and love. Amen.

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of brightness.

Fill us with Holy Love, and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom. All our desire is Known unto thee, therefore perfect what thou hast begun and what thy spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek thy face, turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied and our peace shall be perfect..

Augustine 354-430.

Loving God we thank you for the gifts you have given us, help us to appreciate and look after them. Forgive us when we falter and help us to use your gifts to serve others.

Lord help us to search for truth and open our minds to your love.

Lord we pray for all your World and especially for each other.

Help us to find the light of love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I thank you for anything which happened to me which made me feel that life is really truly worth living.

I thank you for all the laughter which was in today.

I thank you, for any moment in which I saw the seriousness and meaning of life.

I thank you very especially for those I love, and for those who love me, and for all the difference it has made to know them, and for all the happiness it brings to me to be with them....

Through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

William Barclay. 1907-1978.

Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

1 Samuel 3

I believe that God is in me as the  
Sun is in the colour and fragrance of a  
flower

The light in my darkness

The voice in my silence.

Helen Keller.

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.

The fruit of silence is prayer

The fruit of prayer is faith

The fruit of prayer is love

The fruit of love is service

The fruit of service is peace.

Mother Teresa.

A perfect summer day is when

The sun is shining,

The breeze is blowing,

The birds are singing

And

The lawn mower is broken.



## Prayers for August

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength:  
God's power to guide me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's eyes to watch over me;  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to give speech,  
God's hand to guide me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to shelter me,  
God's host to secure me.

Bridgid of Gael.



Lord Jesus, give me your gentleness.  
Make me sensitive to other's needs,  
quick to discern even when no words are spoken.  
Help me never to rush in with thoughtless words,  
nor to brush others aside with sweeping assertions.  
Help me never to quench another's hopes  
nor deepen another's sorrow,  
but to pour your peace and balm, your comfort and love on all those I  
meet today. Amen.



Let nothing disturb you, nothing alarm you:  
While all things fade away  
God is unchanging.  
Be patient  
and you will gain everything:  
for with God in your heart  
nothing is lacking,  
God meets your every need.

St. Teresa of Avila



As the rain hides the stars, as the autumn mist hides the hills, as the clouds veil the blue sky, so the dark happenings of my lot hide the shining of thy face from me. Yet, if I may hold thy hand in the darkness, it is enough. Since I know that, though I may stumble in my going, thou dost not fall.  
*Celtic saying.*

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”  
Genesis 8-22.

As we all enjoy the beauty of fruits and grains this summer remember this promise from God.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while.”  
Mark: 6

Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do things beautifully.  
Rev Phillip Brookes.

God’s 3 answers to your prayers  
Yes.  
Not yet.  
I have something better in mind

+++++

**Parish Record**

**David Andrew Jones** (known as Dave)  
Funeral on 21st June 2021  
At Forest of Dean Crematorium

## Church Discussion Group

The next meetings will be on July 6th, July 20th and August 3rd. As this magazine goes to print and in view of the recent changes in Covid restrictions the venue and start time are to be confirmed.

This is an open group and everyone is welcome .

Please contact Jacqui on 726144 for further information.

I am going to open the Quiet Garden on Wednesday 23rd July for a led Quiet Day. 10am to 3pm or morning only if preferred. Booking essential as numbers limited to 8. For more info please follow link to [www.quietgarden.org](http://www.quietgarden.org). To find my garden on the website search location under, UK, South West, The Quiet Garden at Clearwell. To book or for further info Tel Jacqui Fudge 01594 726144

## Forest Food Bank



The Forest Food bank is short of TEA BAGS  
SNACK MEALS  
SHAMPOO  
SHOWER GEL

**NO PASTA PLEASE.**

Donations can be dropped off at the following places

Co-ops in Lydney and Coleford

Lidl in Coleford

Eskimart in Coleway

Vale Butchers in Drybrook

Kevin's Butchers in Mitcheldean

Post Office in Ruardean

The Main Place in Coleford

## English Bicknor WI News

Although our June meeting still had to be held via zoom, more of our members were able to join in as committee members invited non zooming members to our houses which made it more inclusive. This month John Butterworth talked about The Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury which through the ages has hosted many famous people – several with a story to tell!

Our Tuesday walks are going well especially now the better weather has arrived!

In May the ladies thoroughly enjoyed two pottery classes at Hot Pot Pottery, and they commented that the time flew by!

Also, in May some of us carried out a litter pick in various areas in the locality and collected 13 bags of rubbish!

We have resumed walking netball again – it is great fun and certainly a great way of keeping fit!

Future outdoor activities will be a croquet afternoon, a games coffee morning, and an afternoon tea. We are hoping that the lovely weather will continue!

In normal times meetings are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month at the village hall. For further details please contact Sue Yemm on 01594 860845



## *The Village Recycle Bins.*

**Sorry but here comes a rant!** As we all know there are a few different recycling bins at the village hall for the parish to use. Though lock down a lot more people have started to use them. But can we all make a note that this is a recycling area and not Bicknor TIP, If the bins are full, please do not leave any rubbish around the bins please take it home or to another recycle bank. Can we all try and maintain the area surrounding these bins, if we all do our bit and keep it tidy it will not get left and then to the point, where we have to get others to tidy it up or complain to the council. We would not want to have to remove this facility from the Village

Recycle available are:

Cardboard / paper

Clear glass

Green glass

Brown glass

Plastic

Cans

Clothes bank in aid of Air Ambulance.



**Also, the black bins at the hall are for hall use only, not part of the recycling bins, please do not use them.**

Many thanks

Hall committee



## TEMPORARY CLOSURE 40077 JOYFORD HILL (WEST DEAN PARISH) FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT

Gloucestershire County Council intend to make an order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) to temporarily close part of 40077 Joyford Hill from outside the property known as Amberlea to outside the property known as Vale View for a distance of approximately 20 metres.

The reason for the closure is for a new sewer connection.

The road is expected to be closed from 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 until 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 only or until the works have been completed. For further information, please contact Gloucestershire Highways on **08000 514 514** or visit **[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk)**.

**Alternative Route** – As signed on site

Pedestrian access to premises on or next to the road and emergency access will be maintained.

DATED: 23rd June 2021

For Assistant Director of Legal Services

SJD/72824

Legal Services, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG

## English Bicknor Parish Council Press Release

Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Parking at English Bicknor School** At the request of the Parish Council, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Jayne attended the area close to the school to monitor parking. As a result, she contacted the school to request that parents be asked not to park on the double bends while dropping off and collecting their children from school. A letter was sent to all parents, which councillors hope will make a difference to road safety at this end of the village.

**Speeding in English Bicknor** Whilst in English Bicknor, PCSO Jayne noted the increase of traffic, and traffic speeds, probably due to the closure of the Upper Lydbrook Road, and arranged for a speed survey to be carried out. From this survey, vehicle speeds were found to be sufficiently high for the matter to be taken to the Camera Enforcement Team at County Highways. The Parish Council are still waiting for posts to be erected along Ross Road for the speed sign (VAS).

**Speeding in Hillersland** Cllr Braithwaite continues to monitor the data from the VAS in Hillersland. In March this data showed maximum speeds of over 70mph and an increase in the number of vehicles travelling at above 60mph. In April, PCSO Jayne arranged for a speed survey to be undertaken by Gloucestershire Police by the old BT box in Hillersland. Not only were the results sufficiently high for them to be forwarded to the Camera Enforcement Team, their Team Leader has asked for all future data from the VAS to be sent to her.

**Seat at Godwins Lane** After consultation in 2020 with nearby residents, it had been agreed to replace the bench which had rotted and was subsequently removed. Councillors agreed to purchase a new bench made of recycled plastic bottles, which is maintenance free. The new bench is now in situ at the top of Godwins Lane.

**Footpaths** Several broken stiles on footpaths in the Parish have been repaired, for which the Parish Council thank the various landowners. A couple of paths which have been blocked by fallen trees and overgrown undergrowth have been reported to the Public Rights of Way Officer, while the Parish Council has collated a list of broken flags on public footpaths signs, which has been forwarded to the PROW Officer and will be replaced by him.

**Highway matters** Earlier in the year, heavy rain caused several properties in English Bicknor to have floodwater in their gardens. This matter was reported to County Highways, who feel that the problem is a drain under the playing field. County Cllr T. Hale is liaising with County Highways in the hope that this drain will soon be cleared. Councillors were pleased to see that the overhanging branches on Junction Hill had been cut back, but are now concerned at the sheer drop on one side of the hill. County Highways have been asked whether a barrier could be placed here in the interest of road safety. Further down Junction Hill, the Parish Council has asked for more vegetation to be cleared, while markers at the edge of the ditch along Redhouse Lane have been knocked over.

**Drains** County Highways have also been contacted about the drains on Chapel Hill, two of which are blocked with silt, while, following heavy rain, yellow water was coming from the third drain. It is hoped that the broken pipe to the drain at the bottom of Church Hill, which was first reported to Highways in June 2019, will finally be repaired this summer.

**FloodSax** The District Council has offered Parish Councils the opportunity to receive a supply of Floodsax, a lightweight, re-usable alternative to sandbags. These will be provided free, but will have to be stored by the Parish Council, who are awaiting delivery of the 20 FloodSax ordered.

**Painting of telephone box in English Bicknor** The Parish Council are extremely grateful to parishioners who have volunteered to paint the old BT box in the village. Most of the paint needed can be bought from the Parish Council's budget, but councillors would be very grateful if anyone has a small amount of black or grey floor paint, or any gold external paint for the crown, which they could contribute. Please contact the clerk or any councillor if you have any suitable paint you no longer require.

**DigiBus** The DigiBus is a converted double decker bus packed with digital technology which will visit communities to offer free workshops and 1-1 sessions in basic computer skills, coding and more. The Parish Council have confirmed that they would be pleased for the DigiBus to visit the Parish and are awaiting further details.



# Acorns Preschool

New provision opening September 2021 at Berry Hill Primary School



New teacher-led Acorns preschool.  
Integrated with our Reception Class to provide  
althrough, 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 inter-  
ested in this.

## #Acorns-to-Oak

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

Contact 01594 832262 /

[admin@berryhill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@berryhill.gloucs.sch.uk) for more info or  
to book places for September.





## Play Mornings at Christchurch



Following the delay in full opening of society the reopening of playgroup has sadly been postponed. But we do have plans!

Information is available on our Facebook page and will be updated as the situation unfolds.

For more information contact:

Barbara: 01594 837270

email: [PlayAtCC@gmail.com](mailto:PlayAtCC@gmail.com)

Facebook: [@PlayMorningsatChristchurch](https://www.facebook.com/PlayMorningsatChristchurch)

# *Bicknor Bar Needs*



English Bicknor Club (Bicknor Bar) are looking to take on casual staff who can help run the bar on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Must be over the age of 18 due to the sale of alcohol.

If interest please send a copy of your cv or letter of interest to :

[Ebvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:Ebvillagehall@outlook.com) or ring Daphne Gwilliam on 0159486029 OR 07766631988



# Berry Hill Community Orchard

## Needs You!

Have you ever thought about getting involved in the orchard? We are a friendly, easy going bunch and would welcome some more members to join us.

You don't have to commit to hours, you don't need any experience or knowledge, we will point you in the right direction.

Just come along whenever you are free, bring the children along to play and get some fresh air at the same time.

If you would like to find out more, contact Jo on 837052 [jorevill74@gmail.com](mailto:jorevill74@gmail.com) or message **Berry Hill Community Orchard** on **facebook**.



## Do you know who first used these quotes?

Number 8 is supposed to look like this—it is not an example of poor proof reading!

Answers on p 34

1. It was roses, roses all the way
2. Ah! The plot thickens
3. The time has come, the walrus said to talk of many things, of shoes and ships and sealing wax and cabbages and kings
4. (There's) something nasty in the woodshed
5. Your children are not your children. They are life's longing for itself .
6. We was robbed
7. As savage as a bear with a sore head
8. did you ever  
notice that when  
a politician  
does get an idea  
he usually  
gets it all wrong

## The Summer Quiz: All about the 4th July. Answers on p 33

1. Who was the first person to sign the US Declaration of Independence?
2. Which future President of the USA was born on July 4th 1872?
3. What gift did France formally present to the USA on July 4th 1884?
4. Who plays US President Thomas J Whitmore in the 1996 movie "Independence Day"?
5. In which US city was the Declaration of Independence signed?
6. Who on July 4th 1981 ended Bjorn Borg's winning streak of 5 straight Wimbledon Men's singles titles?
7. Who in 1789 became the first President of the USA?
8. Why is the Liberty Bell tapped 13 times each July 4th?
9. Which novel by Lewis Carroll was first published on July 4th 1865?
10. Which African state celebrates Liberation Day on July 4th each year?
11. Known by the nickname "The First State", which was the first US State to ratify the US Constitution in 1787?
12. Which THREE US Presidents all died on July 4th?
13. The 1989 movie "Born on the Fourth of July" was based on the autobiography of which ex-Vietnam veteran and anti-war campaigner?
14. Often seen as the catalyst for the American War of Independence, in which year did the Boston Tea Party take place?
15. Which disco queen had a hit with the Jon and Vangelis song "State of Independence"?
16. What are the first THREE words of the US Constitution?
17. Who wrote the 1861 poem "Paul Revere's Ride" telling the tale of the Patriot's midnight ride?
18. Who was the first US President to occupy the White House?

## *Recipes for a hot summer*

### *Iced Tea*



Put 3 teabags (or heaped teaspoons) of a strong tea into a large heatproof jug and cover with 250ml boiling water. Add 2 tablespoons of sugar and stir. Leave to cool. Squeeze the juice from one large lemon and a lime and add to the cooled tea. Remove the teabags or strain into another jug. Top up the jug with 1lt cold water. Cover the jug and put in the fridge to get cold.

To serve:

Fill a glass with ice cubes and pour over the tea. Garnish with lemon or lime slice and a sprig of mint.

### *Strawberry shortcake*

The day before you want to eat this line a 20cm square cake tin with cling film leaving a good overhang. Whip 500ml double cream with 125gm icing sugar and a teaspoon of vanilla paste and a tablespoon of orange blossom water, if you have some.

Layer shortbread biscuits in the bottom of the tin and spoon over cream to depth of about 1cm. Add a layer of sliced strawberries. (You will need about 350 gm in total) Repeat the layers of biscuit, cream and strawberry until you fill the tin, finishing with a layer of biscuit. There should be some strawberries left over. Cover with the cling film overhang. Press down with your hand so that the biscuits are well covered with cream and put in the fridge overnight.

When ready to serve, lift the cling film from the top of the cake, put a plate on top of the tin and flip over. Remove the cling film. Whip 100ml double cream with 1tbsp icing sugar and spread untidily on top of the cake. Decorate with the remaining strawberries and return to the fridge to firm up. Cut into slices to serve.

# Richard Jackson

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These beautiful flowers were photographed in a local garden.

They are the result of a bit of lock-down success in that the gardener developed a previously unknown talent for gardening last year.



Several gardens in Gloucestershire—and in the Forest—are open occasionally as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Look out for the yellow fliers or go on line to find which local gardens are open this summer.



These magnificent specimen roses were photographed by Adrian Griffin in another local garden.



## *Farmyard Frolics & Rural Snippets*

Reuben, our almost 4yr old great Grandson recently came to stay with us for a couple of nights. The first morning Daph had a full house of B & B guests so little un came with me to check on the cattle in the fields. I think they thought he was calf size so all gathered round him which was a joy to see. On the drive back up the track in "Flobby" our old truck I let him loose with the steering wheel as it's a tradition in farming to start um young.

How good it is to help start planning village events again, Pimms and Prosecco, Mini Fete and Fashion Show to name but a few in the pipeline. Once again the last few months have not made much difference to life here on the farm as people and family have been needed to help out as usual. In fact for us, it was not a lockdown – just no hair cuts !!

**Michael Mayers      General Builder**

**Interior/Exterior      All jobs considered**

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# YOGA WITH POPPY

Fancy some Yoga?

If so, come and join us every

**WEDNESDAY at 10am**

**at English Bicknor village hall.**

Classes are gentle, energising and relaxing suitable for all levels including Beginners and absolute beginners.

We will be working with posture, breathing and building core strength. Yoga promotes overall general health fitness and mindfulness.

My name is Poppy Sewell. I am a qualified and insured Yoga teacher who lives in Coleford. I am member of CIMSPA (Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity). I am passionate about Yoga and the benefits of it. I have over 500 hours of Yoga practice and I have just gained my further Yoga qualification in Advanced Yoga.

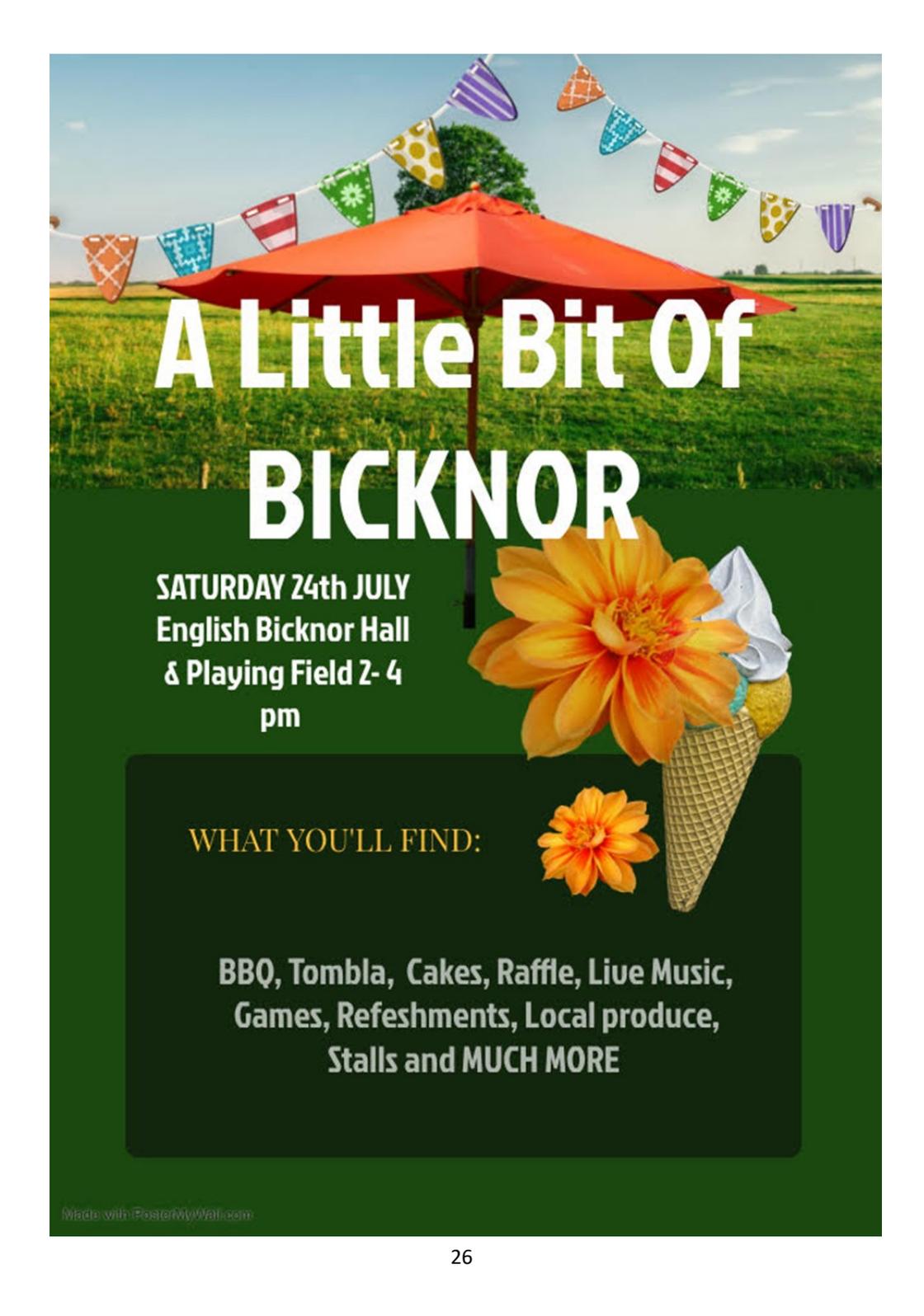
I teach group lessons, Regular Yoga, and Chair Yoga in village halls locally including in Goodrich and Walford village hall. My classes also include teaching in Care Home settings, and 1:1 sessions.

You can view my current classes timetable and venues on [www.yogawithpoppy.com](http://www.yogawithpoppy.com)

Limited space due to social distancing Yoga. **£8/hour session** (monthly payment in advance is recommended to save your space).

To book your space or for more info please contact:

**Poppy on 07538 868093, Or [Info@yogawithpoppy.com](mailto:Info@yogawithpoppy.com)**



# A Little Bit Of BICKNOR

**SATURDAY 24th JULY**  
**English Bicknor Hall**  
**& Playing Field 2- 4**  
**pm**

**WHAT YOU'LL FIND:**

**BBQ, Tombla, Cakes, Raffle, Live Music,**  
**Games, Refreshments, Local produce,**  
**Stalls and MUCH MORE**

## A Dog in the time of Covid.

Bella is now six months old and this will be the last update on her progress. As we go into summer, covid restrictions are easing and while the 2m distance rule is still sensible for humans, we are now able to meet other dogs for play in safe gardens. During that long, wet month that was May there were times when sharing a coffee with a friend seemed unachievable, mainly because Bella's manners needed quite a lot of work. She still finds it odd that not everyone wants their face washed in greeting and fails to understand that paws on summer-bare legs are unwelcome. The low point of manners was probably when excitement at meeting a new (male) adult caused a small puddle to form which was promptly swept up with an enthusiastic tail-wag straight into the face of said adult!

Car sickness remains a problem and it seems that it is anxiety-based. Various pills and remedies have been tried without success, so we have started the longer-term desensitisation technique. Basically, this means persuading Bella that a car is a fun place which goes to fun places. One of the sons-in-law has suggested that the car itself is the problem and we should just change it for a quieter model. Desensitisation may take longer but it will be a whole lot cheaper!

Having a new dog during lockdown has been challenging, at times demanding but always enjoyable. This applies to all puppies anyway and the main problem during lockdown was socialising. Once the outdoor puppy classes commenced that problem was eased and in the company of other assorted puppies, Bella was taught how to ignore bicycles, walk quietly round horses and find treats in unexpected places. She is still too young to be left for any length of time, 10 minutes is about the limit at the moment. Leaving a young dog in the house, alone, for any length of time can be a recipe for disaster where a chewed door mat is a minor problem compared to that of a friend whose bored and lonely dog learned to open the fridge door and emptied (and ate) most of the contents! The worst we have suffered so far is Bella's love of deconstructing shoes. Who knew that modern shoes contain a good deal of sponge padding?

As covid restrictions continue to ease, the companionship and sheer fun of a dog becomes normalised. To quote the slogan, 'A dog is for life' and Bella is now simply a member of the family. For life.

## Woed monath

Woed monath was the Anglo Saxon name for August. It means 'weed month' because, according to the Anglo Saxon, this is the month when farmers have the greatest trouble with weeds in their fields—or strips as they would have been then.

The Romans called the month Sextilis , a pragmatic choice meaning six because it was the sixth month of the Roman calendar. The Roman Senate changed the name to Augustus in BC 6 (ish) to commemorate the many achievements of Caesar Augustus , who, amongst other things was the Caesar who called for the census when Mary and Joseph had to make that journey to Bethlehem.

Later, the Early Church began to appropriate some of the festivals and celebrations which had a long history in the countries which were becoming Christian. In Britain, one such festival was Lammas. Lammas occurs on the 1st of August and originally was the time when marriages were foretold . There was a fair , which lasted about 10 days, with all the usual stalls and entertainments , where farmers and others from the countryside came to find a wife. it was usual for a young couple to have a 'trial marriage' for the period of the Lammas Fair and if they liked each-other they celebrated a marriage and if not they went on their way with no ill feeling on either side! In Exeter, a white glove was fastened to the end of a long pole which was twined with flowers and held up to show that the fair had started. It was traditional for farmers to give their workers a pair of gloves at Lammas time

Originally, farmers baked a loaf of bread at Lammas time, using the new wheat crop. The bread was taken to church and later broken and used for Mass. Henry V!!! Put a stop to that tradition and instead instigated the Harvest Festival that we celebrate today.

## REMEMBER WHEN

- All the girls had ugly gym slips
- It took five minutes for the TV to warm up
- Nearly everyone's Mum was home when the kids got home from school
- Nobody owned a purebred dog (Cairn Terriers....?)
- You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny
- Your Mother wore nylons that came in two pieces
- All male teachers wore ties and female teachers had their hair done every day and wore high heels
- You got your windscreen cleaned, oil checked and petrol served, without asking, all for free, every time..
- It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents
- They threatened to keep children back a year if they failed the school year. . . And they did!
- When a Ford Zephyr was everyone's dream car...
- No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car in the ignition, and the doors were never locked
- Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles?
- Playing cricket with no adults to help the children with the rules of the game
- Bottles came from the corner shop without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger

And with all our progress, don't you wish, just once,  
you could slip back in time  
and savour the slower pace,  
and share it with the children of today

## **Cigars and Bristol.**

If, like me, your only knowledge of the making of cigars comes from Carmen it may come as a surprise to know that cigars were rolled in Bristol.

Smoking tobacco is, of course, a serious health hazard and very few now smoke cigarettes, let alone cigars. But the latter were once an item of celebration, produced at the birth of a child, or at a well-deserved work promotion, or as a treat at the end of a good meal. Size mattered. The best cigars are between 6 and 9 inches long and about an inch in diameter. Cigars were the province of men. Women smoked cheroots, although this was considered a bit 'racy' and only the young or the elderly eccentric could successfully carry off the practice.

Even today, there is a ceremony attached to the smoking of a cigar. Top hotels, for example, will have a smoking room in which cigars are kept in a humidor. A dry cigar lights easily and the tobacco vanishes far too fast for real enjoyment. The cigar must thus be kept at exactly the right level of moisture and brought out of the humidor with due care and shown to the smoker in much the same way a good bottle of wine is shown before it is poured. The twisted end of the cigar is clipped with a special knife and the smoker draws in the flame presented to the other end of the cigar, eventually lighting enough of the tobacco for a sustained cloud of smoke to drift around the room.

Cigars are rolled on the thigh. Layers of cured and supple leaf are wrapped and rolled in a single movement and the best cigars are between 6 and 9 inches long and about an inch in diameter. The tightly wound cylinder has one end crimped and twisted and a spot of paste holds the leaf together. The other end is sliced with a sharp knife and the cigar is then layered into a box, or put into a metal cylinder. It is considered to be the most difficult job in the tobacco industry and a good cigar roller is cherished by the tobacco company.

The best cigars are said to come from Cuba but exports to America (and thus the rest of the world) were banned in 1962. The prohibition is still in place.

In the early 1960's the tobacco factory in Bristol was visited by a Cuban cigar manufacturer who was also a cigar roller. He was somewhat disparaging about the abilities of Bristol girls to roll cigars satisfactorily and suggested he demonstrate the Cuban way. After the demonstration one of the girls sat down on her stool, stacked her leaves, rolled and finished her cigar and presented the result to the Cuban. Not only was it better rolled and finished than his, but the whole task had also taken rather less than half the time. An order for Bristol cigars was placed that day.



We are still battling Covid 19  
and the next thing is here already.

## The NILE Virus, type C

Virologists have identified a  
new Nile virus - type C

It appears to target those who were  
born between 1940 and 1970

### Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same message twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank message.
3. Causes you to send a message to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit **SEND** before you've finished.
7. Causes you to hit **DELETE** instead of **SEND**
8. Causes you to **SEND** when you should **DELETE**

### It is called the C-NILE virus!

And if you can't admit to doing the  
above you've obviously caught the  
mutated strain, the D-NILE virus.

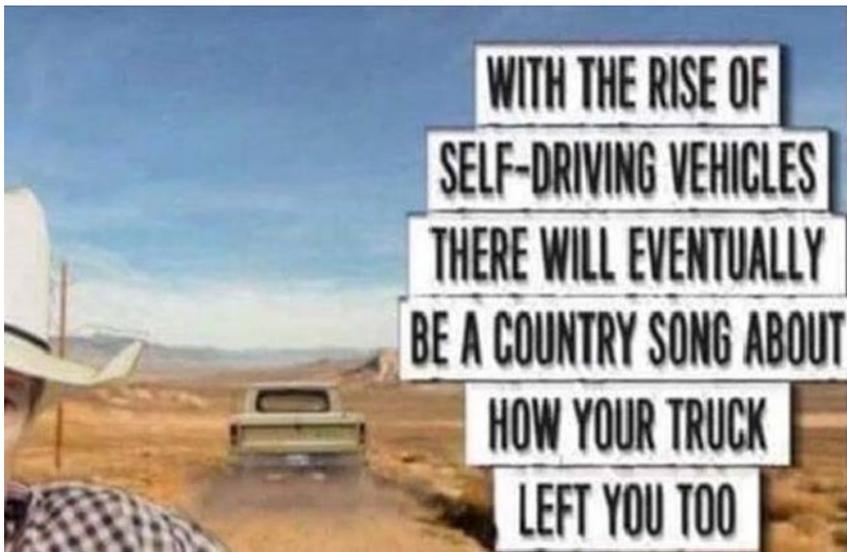


## Painting of telephone box in English Bicknor

The Parish Council have been approached by a parishioner, who has kindly volunteered to paint the old BT box in English Bicknor

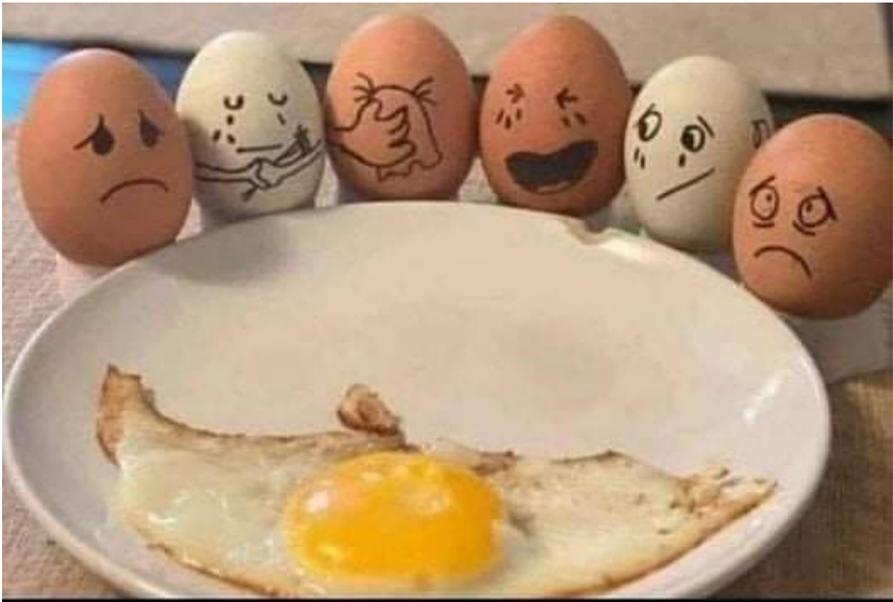
Most of the paint needed can be bought from the Parish Council budget – but only a very small amount of gold external paint (for the Crown) and black and grey floor paint are required. Does anyone have a small supply of any of these paints which they no longer require and could contribute towards smartening up the BT box?

Please contact the clerk or any councillor if you can help with providing any of these paints



Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.

An optimist is a person that has never had much experience.



He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.

### Answers to Summer Quiz

- |                                  |  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Hancock.</i>               | 9. <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.</i>              | 15 <i>Donna Summer.</i>               |
| 2. <i>Calvin Coolidge.</i>       | 10 <i>Rwanda.</i>  | 16 <i>We the people.</i>              |
| 3. <i>The Statue of Liberty.</i> | 11 <i>Delaware.</i>                                      | 17 <i>Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.</i> |
| 4. <i>Bill Pullman.</i>          | 12 <i>Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Monroe.</i> | 18 <i>John Adams.</i>                 |
| 5. <i>Philadelphia.</i>          | 13 <i>Ron Kovic.</i>                                     |                                       |
| 6. <i>John McEnroe.</i>          | 14 <i>December 16th) 1773.</i>                           |                                       |

## Answers to Who First Used This Quote?

1. It was roses, roses all the way      **Robert Browning** *The Patriot* 1855
2. Ah! The plot thickens                      **George Villiers, 2<sup>nd</sup>** Duke of Buckingham  
*The Rehearsal* 1672
3. The time has come, the walrus said to talk of many things, of shoes and ships  
and sealing wax and cabbages and kings      **Lewis Carroll**  
*Through the Looking Glass* 1874
4. (There's) something nasty in the woodshed      **Stella Gibbons** (1902-1989)  
*Cold Comfort Farm* 1932
5. Your children are not your children. They are life's longing for itself .  
**Kahlil Gibran** *The Prophet On Children*
6. We was robbed      **Joe Jacobs**, American boxing manager after Jack Sharkey  
beat Max Schmeling in the heavyweight title fight in 1932. Jacobs managed  
Schmeling and did not agree with the judgement.
7. As savage as a bear with a sore head      **Frederick Marryat** 1792-1848  
English naval captain and novelist
8. did you ever  
notice that when  
a politician  
does get an idea  
he usually  
gets it all wrong  
**Don Marquis** in *archy's life of mehitabel* 1933

Don Marquis (1878-1937) was an American writer who invented a character called archy who allegedly left poems overnight on Don's typewriter. archy was a cockroach who manipulated typewriter keys by hitting them with his head but could not manage to use the shift key, hence there was no punctuation in any of his poems. archy was aided by mehitabel whose role was to push the return bar, which she sometimes did at irregular intervals! Don Marquis published the poems in the New York Times in a column in which he used satire to comment on social and political life.

# *PIMMS PROSECCO & PUDDINGS*

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THE FETE*



*RSVP would be helpful please.*

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# BICKNOR BAKE OFF

**A little bit of fun for the little ones.**

For A Little Bit Of Bicknor we are asking the children to make & decorate cupcakes, to be judged on the day.

ALL ENTRIES TO BE AT THE HALL  
BY 1:15 FOR JUDGING @ 1:30





# BICKNOR BAKEOFF

WHY NOT HAVE A BIT  
OF FUN AND BAKE A  
TRADITIONAL VICTORIA  
SPONGE TO BE JUDGED  
AT A LITTLE BIT OF  
BICKNOR 24th JULY

**ALL ENTRIES TO BE AT THE HALL BY 1:15 FOR JUDGING @ 1:30**

## 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.** Now that lockdown is easing and we are returning to meeting in church, the changes can be found on p2 and on ([christchurchfod.org.uk](http://christchurchfod.org.uk)). The Zoom service at 11 am every Sunday continues and also one at 6.pm based on BCP.

One joys of the Zoom service 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 services.

**Friends of Christchurch Coffee morning.** This are currently suspended but it is hoped they will resume in the autumn. Please the September edition of the magazine for further information.

**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](mailto:Judithbrickwood33@gmail.com)

## Community Contacts

### ***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](mailto: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](http://www.barnwoodtrust.org)

### **Christchurch and English Bicknor churches website**

[www.christchurchfod.org.uk](http://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

## Who is Who in the Benefice

**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), Rev Helen Rodwell ,  
Carol Turley (Pastoral Team Leader), Glenda White-Miller (Reader) ,  
Sally Whittington , Rev Cptn 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

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Magazine editor	Judith Brickwood	01594 781436
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Magazine Treasurer	Jeff Carrick	01594 860936
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**Benefice Website** [www.christchurchfod.org.uk](http://www.christchurchfod.org.uk)



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(Friday)**

**Art Club at  
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**Benefit Advice**

**Signposting: if we can't help we know  
who can**

All our services are run by volunteers.

For more information about any of our services, or  
to volunteer (you will be very welcome!) please  
call our office on **01594 860143**

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