

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis we cannot print or deliver

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

FOR THE PARISHES OF **PRESTEIGNE** WITH
**DISCOED, KINSHAM, LINGEN AND
KNILL**

..and so here is the completely free



JULY 2020

ALL-COLOUR ONLINE ISSUE

You don't have to print out this issue of The Parish Magazine if you can read it on a screen.

However if you want a printed copy, either

- a) (the best way) print two A5 pages to each side (duplex) of A4 sheets in landscape, selecting 'short-side stapling', **or**
- b) print to both sides (duplex) of A5 sheets in portrait mode.

To give you these options the pages have been consecutively numbered - unlike the pages which usually make up the magazine!

Do feel free to forward this magazine to others by email or as hard copy – on condition that it is not added to or the text altered in any way. If you did not receive it directly from us and want to be added to our distribution list, email standrewsintray@btinternet.com

**Copy/artwork deadline for our August issue:
Wednesday 22th July**

Our thanks to all who have contributed to this issue, especially Ann, Anon, Christine, Frank, Helen, the two Johns, Marion, Rosemary, Phil, Ruth, Stephen, and Tracey.

Roger Curtis, Editor

standrewsintray@btinternet.com

THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE - page 5

The Rector Writes...

I'm so pleased that we have now been allowed to open at least some of our church buildings so that folk can go in and spend a few quiet moments in prayer or thought. The other day I'd just opened up at St Andrew's when a lady walking through the churchyard stopped to chat. She commented how good it was to see the doors of our lovely church open again and we agreed that there was something very special about the atmosphere of an ancient church – something comforting, reassuring, peaceful.

I shared with her an idea that I've held for many years now – that when a building like St Andrew's has been used for worship and prayer for many centuries, that worship and those prayers seem to soak into the walls – into the very fabric of the building. And not only worship and prayer – the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows, God's people have brought with them into church somehow become part of the building too.

This is part of what makes our amazing church buildings so very special. They're not just architectural wonders. They're not just a feature of our national heritage. They're not just useful spaces in which to hold community events. They *are* all that - but they're so much more besides...

They're *sacred spaces* – places made holy by the prayers and worship of generations of Christians.

They're *thin places* – places where the spiritual and the temporal meet.

They're *places of discovery* – where we can encounter God – and ourselves.

Of course, we can pray and worship God anywhere and make that “anywhere” holy as we do so.

Of course, our church buildings are far from being the only *thin places* where earth can draw closer to heaven.

Of course, “church” isn't the only place we can meet with God and ourselves.

But our church buildings **are special** and those prayer-soaked walls enclose a space where, more than anywhere else, we can meet God, make contact with the spiritual, find a foretaste of heaven and bring all that we are into the presence of someone and something “other” and far bigger than us.

This is why I'm so pleased that our church doors can be open again.

This is why I feel they should not have been closed when we locked down.

This is why tears rolled down my face the first time I walked into St Andrew's when the ban on even clergy going through church doors was lifted.

That day, *by “complete coincidence”* the appointed psalm I read in my own prayer time was **Psalm 84** – words that have found new meaning for me...

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

*My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.*

Blessed are they who dwell in your house:

they will always be praising you.

They will go from strength to strength...

Stephen

Opening our Churches - Update

I'm delighted to be able to report that places of worship in England and Wales are now permitted to open their doors for private prayer.

St Andrew's Presteigne, St Michael's Discoed and St Michael's Lingen are now open daily for anyone who would like to spend a few moments in prayer or just in quiet contemplation away from it all.

However, precautions and restrictions are in place in each church, so please take due regard of the notices posted at the entrance - and keep to the rules.

For the moment, **Knill and Kinsham** churches are staying closed.

As I write, it looks as though we may be allowed to restart Sunday Services in July, but it's clear that there will be restrictions on numbers attending, regulations about distancing and Covid precautions, and rules about what we can actually do in our services.

It's likely that we'll be allowed to hold services in our English churches before the Welsh ones, and if that's the case, please be patient and **refrain from crossing the border to go to church.**

It's also possible that we will have different restrictions and regulations for the English and Welsh churches in our group of parishes.

It's complicated!

Presteigne and Discoed have to abide by *Welsh* Government restrictions and instructions whilst Lingen, Kinsham and Knill come under *English* Government rules. All five churches come under the jurisdiction of the *Church of England*, but we have to note the *Church in Wales* rules too...

I told you it was complicated!

So please bear with us as we try to sort everything out.

We're working on it!

I will try to let everyone know what's happening as soon as I know – but rest assured that we will open for Sunday Worship as soon as we can – even if it's not in every church, at the usual times or for our usual services.

In the meantime, you can find services, readings, prayers, etc., on the **Church of England** Website churchofengland.org and on the **Diocese of Hereford** Website hereford.anglican.org and can phone the **Church of England's Daily Hope Phone Line** on **0800 804 8044** for prayers, music and readings.

Stephen

Recent Funerals...

The Online Magazine hasn't featured the "From the Registers" section, and, sadly there have been no Weddings or Baptisms in our churches since lockdown began.

However, I thought it might be appropriate to mention members of our churches and communities who have passed away recently and whose funerals have taken place under the auspices of our churches...

Anne Davies, was a much-loved member of the community at Lingen who moved to Presteigne a few years ago, worshipped at Lingen Church for many years and served on the PCC there.

Her funeral took place in Lingen churchyard on March 21st.

Antonia Spowers, Presteigne based artist and sculptor who worshipped with us at St Andrew's and at Knill, died on March 24th and was buried on April 3rd at the Hay Meadow Burial Ground near Glascwm.

Bronwen Bufton served as Church Warden in Knill for a number of years, laying down those duties when she moved to Brecon.

Her funeral was held at Huntington Churchyard on May 22nd.

Tony Jones passed away peacefully in a nursing home in Llandrindod Wells. Tony worshipped in each of our churches at various times but served at the altar at St Andrew's and on the PCC for many years. His funeral was taken at Hereford Crematorium by one of the Llandod clergy.

Roy Lewis came from a large Presteigne family but spent much of his working life in Shetland before coming home when he retired.

He passed away on May 27th and was buried at Stapleton Cemetery on June 8th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends...

and, indeed, with the families and friends of all those from our communities who have died during the lockdown. Covid restrictions have meant that the lives of those we have loved and lost have not always been remembered and celebrated in quite the ways we would have hoped and planned, which has added greatly to the pain of parting. We are looking at ways of offering a joint memorial service (or individual memorial services) in our churches as soon as possible and practicable.

Presteigne Local Food Market

will be taking place on Saturday, July 4th from 9am to 1pm outside the Memorial Hall, under gazebos and with the help of marshals to manage the social distancing.

THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE

“An optimist is someone who thinks the future is uncertain”

Anon, quoted in The Penguin Dictionary of Modern Humorous Quotations

It is trite to say we live in uncertain times. The Covid-19 crisis will continue however it may: but not for ever. Your historic Parish Churches are still here for you: and some have been able to open, however cautiously. Good news.

For now The Mag cannot announce events which have yet to happen. We cannot yet ask volunteers to print, collate, and deliver copies: the photocopier and the staplers are still. However I wished to offer continuity and thank those contributors who supported this effort. We have even included humour! Some of you have kindly expressed appreciation of what are mere shadows of The Mag as it was and will be. This is the fourth emailed-issue. So what now?

To fail to plan, my patient boss used to tell me years ago, is to plan to fail. So here is the cunning plan – such as it is

Unusually, there will be an **August issue** – again emailed out: see page 1. Copy deadline: Wednesday 22nd July. Expected email-out date: Tuesday 28th July. It's interest will depend on what you the reader can offer (hint hint) to fill it.

What happens in August to produce our **September issue**, and so onwards, is anyone's guess and will have to be agreed not only with Rector Steve but also with Chris the printer and Marion who manages our collators, staplers, and all those who deliver copies. Until it is safe, they cannot join forces.

As soon as we can we will think about subscriptions, and Di can think about our trade advertisers and their needs. All that, and a return to normal, will happen when it can.

And it will. Meanwhile be sensible; keep safe and well.

Roger Curtis, Editor
standrewsintray@btinternet.com

“Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things.”
St David of Wales

A Rule

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley 1703-1791

Take care everyone. Marion Rowlatt

“Do all the good you can, and make as little fuss about it as possible.”

Charles Dickens 1812 -1870

Unfortunately Charles Dickens failed to obey his own advice. Ed

Community News

Hopefully everyone reading this magazine will already receive the really excellent Community News compiled and sent out via email by Terry Wells for the Presteigne and Community Development Group.

This helps so many of us to keep pace with changing rules and regulations during the Covid-19 crisis, and keeps us up-to-date with shop opening hours, availability of services and so on.

If you don't yet receive Community News by email, and would like to, simply contact pacdg@icloud.com.

Lingen in lockdown.....!

Teasers.....dotted throughout this page with answers at bottom of other pages
Teaser A) What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?

Mortimer Medical Practice PPG (Patient Participation Group) update –

1. Dr Gray is retiring on 30th June 2020 and Dr Kemp will become a partner on 1st July 2020.
2. We are open for business but in a very different way:
 - All doctor and nurse appointments are triage or telephone and then face to face appointments offered as necessary
 - Some appointments are now done via video link
 - Patients on regular medication who collect from chemists are encouraged to use an advance ordering system (similar to that already used for those who collect from our dispensaries)
 - Time is allowed between all face to face appointments for cleaning rooms
 - Screens are being fitted in the dispensary and reception area
3. Patients should be encouraged to contact the practice if they are concerned or have a new condition which may need investigation.

Christine Moore. MMP PPG Rep.

Teaser B) A box without hinges, key or lid, yet golden treasure inside is hid. What am I?

**Five things you said made lockdown at home more bearable:
the internet, your pets, box sets, friends/neighbours/family and
the absolute *must* have.....your freezer! 6**

Teaser C) What can travel all around the world without leaving its corner?

Special thanks....with the end of lockdown now muted to take place for those that have been shielded on the 1st August we would like to give our thanks to all those special people who have given of themselves to help others in any capacity during the pandemic. The world is a better place for having *you* in it.

And finally..... **Teaser D)** What goes up but never comes down?

TTFN, Christine Moore



Working together to help
the hungry and those in crisis
in Knighton and East Radnor

How you can help Knighton & East Radnor foodbank Summer Shortages

Donation drop off points:

The Co-Op - Knighton

Norton Street Baptist Church - Tues/Fri 10 -11.30

Spar - Presteigne

Presteigne Baptist Church - Thursday 10 -11.30.

We can arrange collection if you cannot get to any of these places! Call Helen on 07731 524 058. To make a Cash Donation visit www.knightonfoodbank.co.uk

Thank you all for the amazing donations of cash and food to help our food bank during the Covid-19 emergency. We are very well stocked and only need the items listed below.

List A	List B
Tinned Cold Meat Tinned meatballs/hotdogs/stewing steak Please, no more soup, baked beans mushy peas or tuna, thank you !	Tinned Fruit- not peaches please Tinned Custard Tinned Rice Pudding Tinned Evaporated Milk Please, no more longlife milk, thank you !
List C	List D
Cereals - child friendly! Jam/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter Children's snacks or treats for lunch boxes Fruit squash	Toiletries for men & women Deodorant Shaving Razors/Shaving Foam Anti- Bacterial Hand soap/wipes Washing up Liquid/Washing Detergent

If you would prefer to give a small cash donation, this will enable us to purchase fresh milk, bread, cheese and eggs & to buy fresh vegetable/fruit vouchers to include with individual food parcels. You may prefer to set up a regular donation to support our work by completing a **Standing Order** or a **Stewardship form (with Gift Aid)**. Ask Helen for more information, or visit our website www.knightonfoodbank.co.uk

Please note we can only accept food items that are well within their use-by date.

In addition to Knighton Baptist Church on Tuesdays & Fridays, we are open in Presteigne Baptist Church on Thursdays 10-11.30

PRESTEIGNE & NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

From the Annual and Ordinary meetings held in May 2020

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2020-21: Members deferred the election of a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor given the current national situation and agreed to review this when they were next able to physically meet.

Virtual Council Meetings: Following new regulations introduced for a 12 month period, the Council may now meet via video conferencing and the May meeting was the first to be held in this way.

Planning Applications: The following applications were considered – 20/0609/FUL Grid Reference: E:332402 N: 263964 Proposal: Proposed change of use from combined retail, store & distribution (A1 and B8) to combined production, storage and distribution (B1 and B8). Site Address: Presteigne Mill, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2HN. Resolved to make the following comments - Members were concerned at the proposed change of use without more detail and supporting information being provided. Members also asked for clarification on the proposed operating hours which are currently stated as 0.00 to 0.00, 24 hour working and include weekdays and weekends. There was no assessment of the potential environmental impact.

20/0723/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331324 N:264458 Proposal: Works to trees in a conservation Area - Tree numbers as per plan ref. S86- J1-P Location: The Studio, Castle Barn, 40A High Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2BE. Resolved to object to the application as no reasons given for the removal of the trees. Clerk to seek further information.

20/0462/HH Grid Reference: E:331147 N: 264636 Proposal: Erection of storage shed. Site Address: 4 Castle Dyche, Scottleton Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BL. Resolved no objections be made.

Active Travel Route to Norton: Cllrs. Owens, Kirkby and Wilding reported on the site meeting that took place towards the end of March,

just before the lockdown. The County Council Officers were positive on the benefits of combining the scheme with the Welsh Water works currently being developed.

The Officers had since been redeployed due to the coronavirus crisis but it was felt that an email following up on the matters discussed, including the Officer from ARUP (Welsh Water contractors) and restating the need to take advantage of the opportunity for both sides to save money on the separate schemes by combining the projects.

Public Conveniences:

No date for re-opening of public toilets – the situation would be reviewed as official guidance was updated.

Moving of Car Park Ticket Machine: The Clerk reported that with the installation of the new electric vehicle charging points the County Council would like to move the machine to the front of the building where it would be more visible. Members agreed that they had no objection.

Break-in at Sixth Form Storage Building: Cllr. Preece reported that There had been a break-in recently although nothing had been stolen. HOWPS had replaced the lock and she was awaiting a key.

Groups meeting on Went's Meadow: Cllr. Veary asked if a facebook post could be made reminding people not to gather in groups on the Meadow. This was currently against Government regulations.

Re-Opening of Farmer's Market: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had been approached by the organiser of the market asking for Council support for the re-opening of the market subject to social distancing measures. Members agreed to support this subject to compliance with government restrictions. The use of the gazebos to enable the market to take place outdoors was also agreed.

Surgeries: Currently suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Full Minutes are available on the town website –

http://www.presteigne.org.uk/Town_Council

Tracey Price, Clerk, Garn Farm, Chapel Lawn, Shropshire SY7 0BT

Email pntc@hotmail.com

Telephone 01547 528575

LITERARY MYSTERIES SUPPLEMENT

Letter to the Editor

I enjoyed reading the June issue, especially the item about the hymn “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”. If your *Literary Mysteries* supplement is to be a regular feature, here is an item you might like to consider:

When the King James Bible was being put together, the biblical scholars submitted probably literal translations of the psalms from whatever texts in whatever languages they were written. Some of these translations were understandably dry and difficult to understand, so various literary figures of the day were asked to polish them up a bit to flow better before inclusion in the authorised version - and what a splendid job they made of it.

The names of some of those literary figures are known to present day scholars but do not include the one who is now regarded as head and shoulders above the rest - William Shakespeare. However, perhaps he had a hand in at least one - the final version of Psalm 46.

If you count the words from the beginning you find that the 46th word is “Shake“. If you count backwards from the end you will find the 46th word is - guess what, “spear”! Coincidence or what?

Caution. If you do this exercise and find that “spear” isn’t the 46th word from the back, you’re probably looking at the Book of Common Prayer which is a couple of words longer (don’t ask...) than the Old Testament and has “spear” as the 48th word.

Frank Cosgrove

Some people believe that others wrote some or all of the plays attributed to William Shakespeare. The precise birth date of the ‘Bard of Avon’ is unknown, which is usual for the times in which he lived: the date of his baptism and marriage were, however, recorded. His name appears as Shaxpere, Shaxberd and Shakespear on different manuscripts. Suggested actual authors include John Donne, Sir Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, Sir Walter Raleigh and, would you believe it, Queen Elizabeth I. History is fascinating - particularly when you discover that one ‘not Shakespeare’ theorist was an American named ... John Looney.

Ed

From Readers

Here's a small contribution for your next edition - with a religious slant: A priest, a rabbit and a minister walk into a bar. The bartender asks the rabbit, "What'll ye have?" The rabbit says "I dunno. I'm only here because of Autocorrect."

Phil King

We are also grateful to whoever sent these: signs allegedly spotted in various places. (They are a few of the less offensive ones ...)

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In offices:

Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken.

After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

On a town authority leaflet:

If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons.

Seen during a conference:

For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the 1st floor.

Newspaper headline:

RED TAPE HOLDS UP NEW BRIDGES

Teasers on page7

Answer A) Silence

The Weather in Presteigne May 2020

Throughout May, 2020, as in every month of the year so far, the weather was dominated by very dry air blowing from the East or North East. Relative humidity was widely variable: from 38% up to 84% with a mean value of 63.5% and this enhanced the wind chill. It is worth remembering that a line of laundered washing dries perfectly at RH98% in a fresh wind, so it is unsurprising that pot plants needed very frequent watering.

The first 9 days of May were fine and day temperatures rose steadily to nearly 23°C while nights were cool. This welcome warm spell came to an abrupt end on 10th, which was very heavily overcast until around dusk, with temperature no more than 12°C.

It gradually recovered over the next few days, but with cold nights despite cloud cover reluctant to break up.

We had no frost between April 15th and May 11th but then quite severe frosts on 12th and 15th resulting in some damage to tender plants and blossoms.

Then, quite suddenly, summer arrived and the day temperatures topped 20°C every day (except 23rd) until 3rd June. On seven of these days it peaked above 25°C.

The May rainfall, at 4.4mm total, was the lowest in any month of the year since 1987 when my record began. Fewer than a dozen months (in any season) have been as dry here in that period.

Continues on next page

The Weather in Presteigne, May 2020 continued

Temperatures in degrees Celsius:

May mean temp.	12.42°	0.58° above normal
Minimum temp.	- 2.0 °	on 15 th
Mean daily min.	4.65°	1.57° below normal
Highest daily min.	10.9°	on 27 th
Lowest daily max.	12.1°	on 10 th
Mean daily max.	20.18°	2.73° above normal
Max temp.	25.3°	on 20 th and 31 st

Total May rainfall 4.4mm 6% of normal

JW 15/6/20

Genuine extract from a recent email confirming advantages of a new contract with SSE, the electricity provider:

'Chat live to an adviser with live chat'

... as opposed to...?

Magazine headline:

NEW OBESITY STUDY LOOKS FOR LARGER TEST GROUP

On a repair shop door:

We Can Repair Anything. (Please knock hard on the door - bell not working.)

Norton Nature Notes:

As spring moved into summer ... rain followed by some frosty nights sculpted the dandelion flowers which had suddenly turned into delicate clocks heads.

Soon, in warm balmy days, most trees were fully out. Though a few black poplars were late and just in leaf, 'whispering' when caught in soft breezes, sweet and horse chestnuts started to blossom with 'candle' flowers. Verges left to themselves revealed hidden treasures such as cowslips and cuckoo flower. Swifts returned, wheeling high in the sky, a joy to watch, often in clear blue skies. Lane banks were cloudy with the lacy heads of cow parsley, as temperatures soared. Walking in the woods suddenly catching the scent of honeysuckle, looking around and sometimes even high up in the canopy there it is, amongst all the greens.

Roses wild, pink or white, (with a beautiful delicate scent) and cultivated, like a lot of flowers are having a good season. Foxgloves are everywhere, the range of pinks vying with rose bay willow herb, in height too. The latter growing through above a hedge, make quite a sight, like vivid punk hairstyles! So many species of grasses coming into their own, a clump graced with a garden tiger moth: a wonderful sight.

Constantly the birds and bees have been busy, bolder, even 'bossy', asking and looking for food, the odd wild cherry providing a change of diet. Skyscapes have been good to watch, as well as the landscapes, clear and cloudy, rain and shine affecting both. As the heat turns up again the bright orange of fox and cubs is cheerfully colouring grassy areas, alongside birds foot trefoil, an insect food 'cafe', with red and white clovers. Cleavers: goosegrass, robin-run-in-the-grass, little sweethearts are some of its other names, and the white trumpets of bindweed are climbing high. Midsummer over; time and tide turn again...

NNN

July in the Garden

Wet soil and warm weather will lead to the rapid growth of weeds and lawns that will need attention.

July is the month for routine garden maintenance and harvesting of fruit and vegetables. Dead-head herbaceous perennials especially prolific self seeders e.g. aquilegias and Alchemilla mollis. Regularly cut blooms for house decoration. Dead-head roses (if ornamental hips do not follow the flowers) and give a final feed for the season. Prune the straggly new growth from wisterias and deadhead shrubs e.g. lilacs. Cut out to the base the oldest stems from shrubs that have finished flowering, and give them a feed.

Rake blanket weed and algae from ponds and leave it on the side overnight for trapped wildlife to crawl back into the water. Keep bird baths clean and regularly refilled. Regularly check protective netting over fruit and vegetables for trapped birds.

Remember to replace the pheromone lure and sticky tray in plum and apple moth traps early in the month if you still have a potential crop. Our blossom was killed with the late frost in May.

Water growbags, hanging baskets and potted plants at least once a day in hot weather, add liquid feed regularly.

Having past the longest day now is a good time to make successional sowings of various oriental vegetables which should grow rapidly if kept moist. Florence fennel is also more likely to develop 'bulbs' if sown after the longest day. Flea beetles and root fly could be a problem with brassicas.

Many shrubs can be propagated by "semi-ripe" cuttings now. Border pinks can be propagated by layering or cuttings from non-flowering shoots. Cuttings of pelargoniums, perennial wallflowers, fuchsias and osteospernums should root readily if kept shaded and cool.

If not already done remove seed heads from hellebores but leave leaves to strengthen plants.

Regularly side shoot and tie in sweet peas and cordon tomatoes.

John Chrimes