

Village

December / January 2020/21

Web



Virtual Christingle Service

Sunday 6 December 4pm



Come and join us online as we tell the story of Christingle. We will be assembling our Christingle oranges in the service, so if you'd like to join in, you'll need to gather: an orange, a small candle, some tin foil, red tape, cocktail sticks and some sweets or dried fruits. We'll be singing some favourite Christingle songs. Hope to see you! Find the Youtube link on the Icknield Way Parish website.



The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Seeks to be
Christ-centred • Faithful to scripture • Prayerful
Loving • Welcoming • Accepting all • Sharing fellowship

December Services

Sunday 6

- * 9.00am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas, Elmdon (CB11 4LT)

Sunday 13

- 10.30am Family service at Holy Trinity Chrishall (SG8 8QU)

Saturday 19

- 6.00pm Open Air Parish Carol Service. Please check parish website for details.

Sunday 20

- * 9.00am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas, Elmdon (CB11 4LT)

Thursday 24 Christmas Eve

- * 11.30pm Christmas Eve Service at St Nicholas, Elmdon (CB11 4LT)

Friday 25 Christmas Day

- 10.30am Christmas Day service at Holy Trinity Chrishall (SG8 8QU)

Sunday 27

- 10.30am Family Serv.Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Chrishall (SG8 8QU)

Following the Government's Covid-19 Winter Plan, our services will be strictly held in line with these regulations and any Tier restrictions.

A short recorded service will also be available each week and can be found on the Parish of the Icknield Way Villages YouTube channel

-
- * This Service is according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer

T Induction loop at this service

Service details, diary events and more at www.icknieldwayparish.blogspot.co.uk



The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

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Faithful to scripture • Prayerful
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January Services

Sunday 3

- * 9.00am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas, Elmton (CB11 4LT)

Sunday 10

- 10.30am Family service at Holy Trinity Chrishall (SG8 8QU)

Sunday 17

- * 9.00am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas, Elmton (CB11 4LT)

Sunday 24

- 10.30am Family service at Holy Trinity Chrishall (SG8 8QU)

Sunday 31

- * 9.00am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas, Elmton (CB11 4LT)

Following the Government's Covid-19 Winter Plan, our services will be strictly held in line with these regulations and any Tier restrictions.

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Parish News from Anand, our Rector



Dear all

I trust you are all keeping safe and well. I want to thank all the Parish members who attended the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting in October. Thank you all so much for your support of my ministry.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Viv Rogers for her services as Parish Warden for more than two years who stepped down recently. Jon Wayper has stepped in as our new Parish Warden and Mel Chandler has kindly agreed to continue as Deputy Parish Warden. A warm welcome to both Jon and Mel. We also welcomed David Wilkinson and Jane Fouche as our new Parochial Church Council members and said farewell to Alison Wilkinson, Emily Brown and Ned Tozer and thanked them for their services.

Let us hope that the second lockdown will not be extended and that the eagerly anticipated vaccine will be available soon! During these unprecedented times we have had to adapt to new ways of doing things, including our Parish producing online recorded services with the help of our talented team of musicians, singers and technicians, to whom I am very grateful. Their time, energy and commitment in bringing services to our homes is appreciated and it's certainly a new phenomenon to many of us as we watch these online services every week!

That said, I do look forward to resuming our church services, hopefully in December, so we can meet in person. Subject to Government guidance, we plan to resume the same pattern of church services we followed in September and October, meeting in person for one service on a Sunday. We also plan to hold combined open air carol services ensuring that we maintain social distancing and adhere to Government restrictions of not singing in churches. The PCC will be discussing this soon so please watch out for the weekly bulletin and/or check our Parish website.

Yours in Christ

Anand Sodadasi

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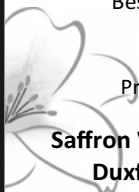
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A Reflection from Anand

‘Our little bottle of hope’

The *Daily Mirror* newspaper published these words on 10 November. Exciting news, although the Prime Minister welcomed the news, he urged the need for caution. Following the success of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine it is hoped that around 10 million coronavirus vaccinations, said to be 90% effective, could be provided as early as this Christmas. Meanwhile, there’s further news around the success of another vaccine developed in America by Moderna, claimed to be 95% effective.

Last autumn, we could not have imagined such a grave loss of life due to a virus. We are humbled by tragic deaths in the UK of over fifty thousand and over 1.3 million worldwide.

As vaccines continue to be developed we may now hope that in a decade COVID-19 might also become a thing of the past in the same way as the 1918 influenza pandemic did, which took around fifty million lives.

Our Prayer Group continues to pray for our Parish. With Christmas approaching we all hope to meet again in person in our churches, within the confines of social distancing. During Christmas we constantly hear the word ‘hope’. In normal conversation, we would use the word ‘hope’ as something ‘wishful’, like, ‘I hope to see him’. But this kind of hope is not associated with Christian hope.

The Greek word for ‘hope’ is ‘elpō’, which means ‘an anticipation with pleasure or confident expectation’. Apostle Peter wrote in his first epistle 1:3-4 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you...”*

Peter was writing to persecuted Christians to comfort them in their trials. They would have been officially persecuted by Roman authorities because the emperor Domitian (AD 81-96) claimed himself to be divine, a claim Christians would not have accepted. Peter assures these Christians that they were born again in Christ and through His resurrection there is hope that human death is not the end but a beginning to inherit what is kept in heaven for Christians. So the ‘living hope’ for us refers to life after human death which is imperishable, eternal and heavenly.

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The little bottle containing the vaccine may hold the hope for humanity's life on earth, but we all know that our life on earth is temporary. Therefore be encouraged through these verses in 1 Peter that the hope we have in Christ is the 'living hope' which exists on earth and, at the end of our earthly journey we will realise that this hope we have brings eternal life – this is a confident expectation in Christ. It is death-proof, age-proof, sin-proof and fail-proof. Let's celebrate this Christmas by inviting Jesus into our lives no matter what the circumstances are and look forward to welcoming the New Year. May the 'living hope' that we have in Christ lead us to eternity with Jesus.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours in His vineyard,

Anand and Shaila

News from St Swithun's

The work in the church is progressing well but it will be a while before it's completed. The ceiling has been stripped and will be repaired. The reordering is also on its way too. The likely date of completion is probably around February.

Because we have a loan for some of the work that needs to be repaid we are thinking of ways to fundraise. Emily has been potting up houseplants and I've been working on making pretty bottle lights to bring some cheer during the dark months. These are now ready for sale at £10.00 each.

We were hoping to have a festive sale in the church before Christmas. Unfortunately, this is no longer possible. If you would like a plant or a festive bottle please contact me on 837353 or 07712444303 or at Angela.patrick@btinternet.com.

All the monies will go to the building fund for St Swithun's church.

A big 'thank you' to friends in the villages who have supplied interesting bottles for my lockdown project.

Thank you.

Angela Patrick Sutcliffe

**18 January 2021 - final date for submission of
articles for the February edition**

Chrishall Primary School and Pre-School

Whilst the start of our school term was a little different to how it usually begins, it has been lovely to welcome back all our wonderful children to school and it's been very special to see how well they have settled back into everyday school life, along with how positive they have been towards their learning.

Having to stay in class 'Bubbles' has meant that we have had to adapt the ways in which we would normally communicate with each other. Interacting through the Internet has enabled us to have our assemblies together and we have all developed our skills at being able to digitally communicate with each other.

Two key school highlights from last term have been the mental health and wellbeing work that we have carried out and our collaborative harvest celebrations. At Chrishall, we place great importance on supporting children with their wellbeing. Taking part in Young Minds Mental Health Awareness Day was a great opportunity for us to further enhance our wellbeing work.

Inspired by sunflowers and through the medium of art, children created some beautiful pieces of artwork to portray different moods. 'Zones of Regulation', a new programme that the school has introduced, is having a positive impact in helping children to manage and regulate different feelings.



A remarkable £570 was raised on our Mental Health Awareness Day for the Young Minds

More than ever, with us having to deal with the impact that COVID is having on our lives and the changes that we've had to put into place at school, we believe it is so important to take the time to appreciate and be grateful for everything that we do have in our world. With this in mind, we therefore decided to theme our harvest celebrations on 'All Things Beautiful'. The inspiration for our harvest assembly was Cecil Frances Alexander, who has famously written over 400 hymns, including 'All things bright and beautiful'. We decided to theme our very own class mini gardens around the famous hymn. During our harvest preparations and celebrations, children were encouraged to think about our beautiful world and the things and people that are 'wonderful' in our lives.

Classes focused their garden on one of the verses from the hymn and class poems and prayers were written in response to children's ideas and thoughts. The learning journey that the children have been on has been amazing and our assembly was a real culmination of the learning undertaken and showcased how well our children have adapted to performing in a virtual way.

Over half term, our School Council set their first fundraising event for the year - a 'Chrishall Bake Off challenge', requesting families to spend some time together to bake and enjoy eating a cake together. Lots of entries have been submitted and as it has been so popular, we extended the closing date and now have the challenge of selecting a winner.



In addition to class curriculum work, the start of this term entails focused and valuable work on Remembrance Day and 'Children in Need'. Not only are we all excited to be working together with the community to make a poppy display at the church, we are looking forward to linking our British Values work to children learning about different people from the armed services. We are aiming to put a collaborative display together to exhibit our work.

'Children in Need' brings its own fun, with the school having a non-uniform day to mark the occasion. In exchange for wearing their own clothes, classes are being asked to fill a Pudsey template with £1 coins. We are also exploring the work that 'Children in Need' does and we are looking at the impact that the fund raised has on children's lives. This work will link closely with our own school values.

A busy term, but one that continues to make me very proud of our school community.

Tracey Bratley

A message from the Parish Church Council

If you, or you know of anyone who would appreciate a phone call or a visit or, are in any kind of need at this time, please do not hesitate to contact the church office and we will put in touch with someone in your village who could help.

The office is only open on Thursday and Friday mornings, telephone number 01763 837272, but emails (iwp.parihoffice@gmail.com) are checked daily.

Christmas will be different this year

Christmas will be different this year so let's join together as a parish to share the wonder of Christmas in a safe and joyful way. Be encouraged to create your own nativity, angel, star or Christmas scene, using sustainable material, big or small, visible from the road and in your own front garden.

Drive, walk, cycle or run round the villages of the Parish of the Icknield Way to view them through the month of December.

In collaboration with Chrishall School, children will make 'A STAR' to place in their front gardens or windows. On the weekend 19/20 December, please take children by the hand and 'FOLLOW THE STAR' around the villages. If Children fancy wearing their favourite nativity clothes that would be even more special!

Wishing you much comfort and joy this Christmas!

Susannah Van Staten

United Reform Church

It is hoped that with the easing of the lockdown we will be able to hold the following services.

Sunday, 6 December.

6.00pm. Carol service.

Readings, recorded carols and prayers.

Christmas Day, 25 December.

10.00am. Christmas morning family service.

Numbers will be limited, due to the social distancing regulations, please let us know if you would like to join us for either of these services.

Great Chishill village Advent calendar

This year we are organising a magical mystery Advent tour around the village as each day a new 'door' or 'window' will be opened.

Explore the village to discover the creative talents and festive treats on offer. All in aid of charity.

Watch out, the first window is being opened on December 1st!

For further details please visit the village website or contact Tess (tessgent@gmail.com)

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Angus and Tess Gent

Edward Thomas's *The Ickniel Way*

Part 3 - Noon's Folly to Royston

To the right the pleasant tree-crowned rise of Goffer's Knoll(1) stood up on the other side of the main Newmarket and Royston road, now fast nearing my road. Past Noon's Folly Farm the road had a narrow and embanked course, but parallel with it a depression seamed by paths and cart tracks. Here and for some way past - from half-way between Noon's Folly and the Barley road - the way is a boundary between Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.



Ickniel Way, crossing Ermine Street

Half a mile west of Noon's Folly the main road reached my road (2), and, turning west instead of, south-west, made use of its course for the two miles into Royston. For most of the two miles this piece of road, exactly continuing my old way, had broad green edges, and on the left hand, beeches. Coming to a rise it was cut through the ridge and embanked again below. It went straight through the big village or little town of Royston, where it crossed Ermine Street, and took the name of Baldock Street from the town ahead. As it was market day everyone was driving out of Royston with his

trap full of chickens and parcels of all kinds, not to speak of wife and children. This was my first real chance of a lift. For between Ickleton and the Royston road only farm wagons went, and they were all in the hayfields; and only motor-cars travelled the road from Newmarket, all passing me as if I needed nothing but more dust to fill eyes, mouth, nose, ears, shoes, and spirit. Nevertheless, stumping along on a shoeful of blisters is not bad when you are out of Royston and have Pen Hills upon your left; low, insignificant, restful stretches upon your right; and Odsey before you in the cool of evening. At this time (1911)



Icknield Way, crossing Ermine Street - November 2020.

Edward Thomas was a successful writer and literary critic, but in 1914, with the encouragement of his friend the American poet Robert Frost, he began to write poetry. Frost's poem about indecisiveness, 'The Road Not Taken' was the final impetus for Thomas enlisting in the Army in 1915: he was killed at the Battle of Arras in 1917 at the age of 39.

1 Goffer's Knoll - just after the turning to Melbourn; the trees hide a 21m diameter Bronze Age bowl barrow.

2 The routes still merge at the lay-by just before the Royston bypass.¹

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More Good News

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Bats in the Ickniel Way Churches



Long-eared brown bat 'hangs out' in Heydon and Elmdon

The churches in the Ickniel Way have stood at the heart of their communities for centuries. Like all of the generations before us, we use churches for services, community events, coffee mornings, quiz nights, lectures and anything else our imagination can draw up. We also care for the churches, protecting them and their historic interiors. We make sure that they are kept in good condition, vibrant and alive for future generations to come.

But, churches have come to serve another purpose: they are home to colonies of endangered bats. Bats are an important part of our natural world, but their presence can be of concern for anyone who cares about these churches. Droppings and urine can be a cleaning burden, can cause significant damage to historic interiors and the presence of a roost can necessitate care when carrying out building works and maintenance. However, like our vulnerable historic churches, bats are also under threat. Large-scale losses of their natural habitat resulted in a dramatic decrease in bat numbers and they are now protected by law. Bats have become disproportionately reliant on church buildings as places to roost.

Balancing the need for the preservation of bats, of the church fabric, and ensuring that the community can use the building to its full potential is a challenge that the Bats in Churches project was set up to tackle at over 100 churches across England.

For more information on the Bats in Churches project, you can visit our website and watch the Virtual Bat Night at Heydon church, which is

available on YouTube. In the meantime, let me summarise the bats in some of the Icknield Way Parish Churches, the impact that they are having and the work that we are planning.

Elmdon

A series of in-depth surveys of the bats last year, showed that St Nicholas' church, Elmdon has:

- Over 100 Natterer's bats roosting outside the church
 - Around 4 common pipistrelle and 4 soprano pipistrelle bats roosting and foraging inside the church throughout the night
 - Brown long-eared bats inside the church that access through the tower
- These bats leave their droppings and urine throughout the church interior and porch, making a lot of mess and staining woodwork, metalwork and the stone floor. During September and October, a series of interventions were carried out, enabled by the Bats in Churches project. The bats can now still roost in the church, but through blocking work carried out in the eaves, door and south-west wall, should no longer get into the church. The soprano bats still roost in the porch, but shelves have been installed to catch the bat droppings. We look forward to seeing how it goes next summer when the bats are active again and hopefully a much cleaner church.

Heydon

In-depth surveys at Holy Trinity church, Heydon revealed the following bats present:

- Up to 25 Brown Long-Eared bats roosting in the chancel. They emerge inside the church, hanging in the rafters and flying around the inside before going out
- Around 4 common pipistrelle and 1 soprano pipistrelle exiting the church
- 1 Serotine roosting inside the church and leaving through the chancel
- 1 Natterer's bat roosting inside the church and leaving through the chancel

The bat droppings and urine are mostly focused around the chancel area, as this is where the main action is from the brown long-eared bats. There is lots of staining of woodwork and tiles in this area. Brown long-eared bats need to use the church to fly around inside. Our idea is to build a new bat loft into the proposals for the extension to the south side of the church. The extension will house toilet and kitchen facilities, but if we can incorporate a loft into it the bats might take to it. This is still in the planning phase, but

in the meantime Heydon have hosted 1 live bat Night in 2019 and one virtual Bat Night in September, which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Great Chishill

St Swithun's church, Great Chishill was meant to have its full bat surveys this year, but unfortunately these had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus lockdown. St Swithuns have since been very busy repairing the chancel roof and reordering the back area for an improved meeting area with kitchen and community asset. We hope that the repairs to the chancel will have eased the bat issues, but only time will tell. Perhaps 2021 will allow for some events in the church and some help cleaning and protecting the church interior in different ways.

Tune in to the next parish newsletter for some batty facts all about the different species in the Icknield Way churches.

Did you know?

Bats can eat as many as 3000 insects a night, including mosquitos, so they are really good natural pesticides. (No wonder there are so many bat droppings!) They are also a fabulous fertiliser for keen gardeners.

Rachel Arnold

Photo from the Bat Conservation Trust

Coping with Covid 19 in Dharavi, Mumbai

I feel privileged to have been asked to write a few words for your Parish magazine about the slum dwellers of Mumbai and also to explain how we in India are coping generally with Covid 19.

By way of introduction, I am a Pastor and currently Secretary of the Bible Society of India (BSI) for the state of Maharashtra, based in Mumbai. Previously I studied for my Bachelor of Divinity at the Leonard Theological College in Jabalpur where I met Reverend Dr Anand Sodadasi. Anand was my Old Testament teacher for four years.

Mumbai currently has a population of about 25 million people. In 2011 there were 838 females for every 1,000 males, with a typical living space of 4.5 square meters per individual.

Dharavi in Mumbai is Asia's biggest slum and very densely populated



Dharavi, Mumbai, India 2020.

with around 850,000 people residing in 1.5 square miles. There are around 8,000 common toilets and this was one of the major reasons for the spread of Covid a few months ago. Most of the houses in Dharavi are very small and house between six to eight people in each one. Dharavi has had around 80% of the total number of Covid cases in Maharashtra and the state government has recently announced that religious places can now open with some restrictions.

Covid has pushed the Indian economy down very rapidly and the country has now entered a recession for the first time in 70 years, with high unemployment. Around five million people lost jobs in 2020 and there has been no improvement since.

We are now all prepared for religious riots. The government and the media have done little to prevent polarisation of people and tensions exist between the state government and central government. There is continuing polarisation, communal tensions, hate speeches and nothing to stop this.

While the Covid situation remains a major challenge, during lockdown we also experienced Cyclone Nisarga, locust attacks and severe floods. Atrocities against Christians and Muslims also continue.

In the midst of all this some good things are happening and one is that herd immunity may have been reached; there have been no cases of

anyone dying on the streets due to Covid and people are getting on with their lives. Some people do not even bother to go to hospital, if they are ill they just stay at home, take home remedies or take paracetamol and once they feel better they go back to their daily work.

This is the situation in Mumbai today. Please pray for the Christian charities here in Mumbai who are working hard to help people with Covid 19 but now have less support from abroad and the Indian government. We support each other. As a pastor and Secretary of BSI I am doing my job, making daily visits and holding zoom meetings regularly. We continue to sell or distribute the Bibles wherever and whenever we can.

Yours in Christ

Revd. Abijeeth Susanneh

Me Warden? I don't think so!

When Anand, our Parish Priest, initially asked me to consider becoming the Parish Warden for the Icknield Way Parish, my first, second and third thoughts were, I don't think so! However, I did tentatively ask, 'what exactly does it entail?' He explained that the role involved supporting him in nurturing the spiritual growth of the people in our parish. My response was, I am in no way qualified to do such a thing!

It seems that was exactly the answer he was hoping for...and so in April 2017, I found myself in that position.

It has been quite a journey and one which has given me a much greater insight into the spiritual, emotional, practical and financial issues within our parish. It was also an enormous privilege and gave me the opportunity to get to know people in our parish either for the first time or much better than I had before. I was given the chance to hear their stories and on how God has worked in their lives.

I hung up my Parish Warden hat in October this year and whilst I have to admit it was a steep learning curve with a few hairpin bends thrown in, Covid 19 being one of them, I'm glad I accepted the challenge.

I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to come out of my comfort zone and trust God just a little bit more.

Viv Rogers

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Carol Singing on our Door Steps



I've just read about a parish in Cumbria where they have decided to sing a carol on their door step on a particular night in December. I thought it was such a lovely idea and wondered if the people of our parish would like to do the same?

If it's not too presumptuous, I would like to suggest we sing 'Away in a Manger' on our doorsteps at 6pm on Sunday 20 December.

I'll be singing and will listen out for you.

Merry Christmas!

Viv Rogers

Many thanks to all our contributors. The Village Web is a submissions based magazine created and delivered entirely by volunteers on behalf of the Icknield Way Parish. The magazine's printing costs are supported financially by advertisers.

The editorial team is always seeking a diverse range of articles, poems, photos etc. for publication which would be of general interest.

Also, those interested in joining the Web's editorial team would be very welcome.

For further information contact an editorial team member or Anand Sodadasi. Contact details can be found on the Parish Contact page - the last page of the magazine.

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The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Remembrance Day Poppies at Holy Trinity Church Chrishall



Created, with some help,
by the Children of Chrishall Primary School.



**We wish you all
a very happy New Year**

Distributed free by volunteers to all the homes in the Parish of the Icknield Way Villages - Chrisall, Elmdon with Wenden Lofts, Duddenhoe End, Great Chishill, Little Chishill, Heydon and Strethall.