

# Village

*July 2020*

# Web



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28 June 2020

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Chrishall church will be open for individual private prayer every Tuesday between 10 am and 12pm and every Friday between 2 and 4 pm from Tuesday 30 June and Friday 3 July.

People are welcome to drop in anytime between these times.

Sanitiser will be provided, social distancing rules and a one way system will be in place. If possible we would be grateful if those attending could wear a mask, but this is not compulsory.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*Chrishall District Church Council*

## Parish Walk

The annual circular walk of the parish boundary, the Parish Walk, will be on 19 September.

Further details will be available in the August edition of the Village Web magazine.

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# ***Parish News from Anand, our Rector***

Welcome All

Thank God, as we come out of lockdown slowly. Though the virus threat is still high, our social distancing is helping us to contain the second wave. I hope and pray that we will all continue to cooperate with the government and their guidelines.

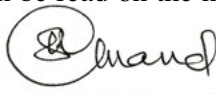
We had our first virtual Parochial Church Council meeting on 16 June. Although it is not compulsory to open churches, some of the local churches may be opened within our parish in due course after all the precautionary measures have been taken.

I am glad to inform you that, subject to government permission, we will hold two church services in July on the second and fourth Sundays in Chrishall church by following social distancing rules. I will update this situation through email and the parish website.

Meanwhile, our virtual services will continue every Sunday. Please watch and send your comments or feedback. It is our hope that new opportunities to spread the gospel, learnt during the lockdown, will continue to encourage more people.

I am immensely thankful to our team members, singers, musicians and all the technical team serving tirelessly for our virtual services. The Prayer Group also continues, we are praying every day for our parish, especially for individuals and the needs of our parish. I am very grateful to each member who has been praying faithfully during the lockdown period. Sadly the diocese is struggling financially with the pandemic. Our prayerful support and faithful giving are very important in these difficult times. Many thanks to our regular donors. More participation is needed. Bishop Peter Hill, the acting Bishop of Chelmsford, has written an inspiring and challenging article and I suggest that you take the opportunity to read and reflect upon what he is saying. The article is published with his permission and can be read on the next page.

**Anand Sodadasi**



# ***New Treasures as well as old***

*A reflection from Rt Rev Peter Hill (Acting Bishop of Chelmsford Diocese)*

Well, the really good news is that we will be able to begin to open our church buildings, initially for private prayer only, from 15 June. It has been a liminal time for all of us as we have responded to the anxieties, grief and need of the last weeks. In the midst, as I wrote last week, I believe God has been reforming us to be sent back into a different world, the ‘new normal’ as it is being described. We must not get back to the ‘same old same old.’ We need to ask ourselves what have we learnt and how have we been transformed for Kingdom mission in readiness for our new future.

In *Matthew’s Gospel chapter 13* the evangelist sums up Jesus’ teaching after a series of kingdom parables with these words in v.52: *‘He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”’* **New treasures as well as old!**

As we prepare to emerge, phase by phase, we need to discern which old treasures we should retain from before lockdown, and which new treasures we have found during these last creative weeks. The response to that challenge will vary according to context, culture and location.

The old treasure includes re-opening our sacred spaces, our beloved and longed for church buildings, though I recognise that not all of them are equally beloved! Amongst the new treasure to embrace will be new people, new connections, on and offline, and new worship and mission possibilities.

Prayerful and courageous local decisions will be essential about what not to resurrect from the past: that which has sapped our energies and resources and those projects that are relatively inconsequential in mission and ministry; also what we can embrace and resource more fully from the experience of the past ten weeks.

As we discern which old and new treasures to retain, a comment by the

sculptor Antony Gormley in a recent radio broadcast is pertinent (see also the Dean's reflection below). Referring to the way our art galleries and museums have reached out to the public online in lockdown, he said that these 'treasure houses' have had to learn to be enablers, rather than simply custodians. While we Christians have never simply been custodians of our treasured sacred buildings, it is worth reflecting afresh as to how we can enable those buildings even more effectively for evangelism and community service.

After the horror of what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis and the subsequent outrageous actions by those with authority and power in the USA, as well as the disproportionate harm of the virus on our BAME sisters and brothers, we must again look to our own issues regarding personal and structural racism in our churches and communities. We need to truly treasure and support one another across our rich ethnic, cultural and social diversities. Supportive words on this are no longer enough: we must also act much more effectively to make a transformative difference.

**Bishop Peter Hill**

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## **A Response to Bishop Peter's Letter**

Bishop Peter Hill, the acting Bishop of Chelmsford Diocese, in his bold and stimulating article (previous page) talks about 'new treasures as well as old' and asks us to explore what are new the norms and the lessons learnt from the lockdown period.

It is very important for us to reflect upon his words, "Prayerful and courageous local decisions will be essential about what not to resurrect from the past: that which has sapped our energies and resources and those projects that are relatively inconsequential in mission and ministry; also what we can embrace and resource more fully from the experience of the past ten weeks."

I would encourage everyone to write or talk to me or share with our PCC members your thoughts, reflections and discussions with friends and



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families about your understanding of Bishop Peter's message. Perhaps have a nice discussion over Sunday lunch with your family! Or a chat in the pub or in a garden! I would love to know your thoughts and discussions.

The recent PCC meeting spent some time discussing the Bishop's letter. One thing that struck all of us was our Parish Virtual Services. We never thought that we would ever do this. We decided unanimously that our virtual services should continue in some form even after lockdown is totally lifted. Obviously, this will need a technical team to record our church services when they start again.

Our last church services were held on 15 March. The question that haunted me all that week was, 'how can we close the churches?'. I was desperate to do something. I approached Jon Wayper's family and Eamonn Quigley's family and asked whether they would help me to start virtual services with music. They instantly jumped in with their skills and talents. Very quickly we started our first virtual service on 22 March. We received huge support and encouragement from all our parish members including some from outside the parish. Our services have been watched here and abroad and have received very positive feedback.

One important lesson we have learned is that we have not stopped being a parish church even though our church buildings have been closed. The gospel has been preached through our virtual services and we have continued to worship God every Sunday. Our virtual services are watched by more parish members than attend a normal Sunday church service. So, to put it in Bishop Peter's words slightly differently, where are our energies and resources invested? What is important in the sight of God? What are we going to say to God when we see him in Heaven regarding our investments made in time, money, energy and resources? Have they been worth it?

I shall leave it up to you and your discussions. Please do send your thoughts and reflections.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Warmly in Christ,

**Anand Sodadasi**

# Elmdon Cricket Club

The Club is responding to the Covid Pandemic with mutual support from the members and is still enthused with hope for a 2020 Season - much the same as with so many sports bodies and institutions. Indeed the Cricketer Magazine - in its centenary year and with no cricket yet - has been particularly challenged. Yet the Magazine has delivered successfully with recent issues covering a range of features such as county grounds, literature on the noble game and memorable matches.

In that context this update from the Club is mostly on our wonderful ground at The Meadow which has been excellently tended by the dedicated team of David Homer and Michael Reeves. The square and outfield are both in prime condition.

It has been uplifting for the Club to see so many from the local community enjoying the space in the sunshine particularly when subject to the necessary confines of Lockdown. There has been respect for the square itself and everyone has been considerate of others especially leaving The Meadow as they found it.

The Club has confirmed to the Cambridgeshire Cricket Board that a First Eleven and a Second Eleven will participate in a mini-league which may yet get underway in August - there may also be some friendly matches. Special regulations will apply but as you may imagine it has not been easy to apply distancing and other protective measures to the Laws of Cricket. Those cricket enthusiasts who in any season articulate and debate the Laws have had a field day as to the various ways the game might be played in a manner compliant with the Covid regulations!

All this is so different to where the Club expected to be. Our AGM was in December - efficiently earlier than usual and with no inkling of what was to unfold. We thanked retiring Skipper Julian Barker from Chrishall and acclaimed new Skipper Jay Pledger from Elmdon. Ironically the previous AGM had seen a hearty debate on the key issues of the length of matches and - a first ever on the Agenda - the format of cricket teas! And here we are now with - if it happens at all - regulated player-distanced truncated matches and “bring your own” teas. A departure

from that Village Cricket fundamental of tea taken together.... always visitors first and a grateful thank you to the providers. And as to the traditional post- match refreshment so necessary for proper analysis and reflection on the match..? There is a real feeling within the Club of having missed each other's company and that of our contacts in nearby villages.

The Club has carried on though; the net on the Meadow has been well used, up to six (distanced) people have trained together on the ground, help for David and Michael on the ground, Andrew Homer visiting most days to check all's well,

Melvin Reeves monitoring and interpreting all the pronouncements coming out of the ECB and the Cambridgeshire Cricket Board, members painting the inside and outside of the Pavilion and we had a successful first Zoom Committee meeting. The Chairman as host doing the equivalent of sitting on his own in a locked room unaware of all the others banging on the door to get in!

Please do contact us if you want to participate in the Club – playing or helping on the Meadow or in the Pavilion, or just drop by when distancing allows.

Melvin Reeves 07936 240114, Charlie Anderson 01763 838 243

**Charlie Anderson** (*Chairman, Elmdon Cricket Club*)



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# Up, up and away

Don't let the Lockdown get you down when you could be reaching for the sky!

The Rotary Club of Royston is launching an exciting new competition which will help a well-known local charity while at the same time offering an ecofriendly way to have fun (and maybe win a prize, too).

It's called a Virtual Balloon Race and it will take off on 14 September. Virtually take off, that is, because these aren't real balloons!

Rotarian Tony Briar, from Bassingbourn, explains how the project, which is part of a national event, will work. "First you buy your virtual balloon (as few or as many as you like) from the club at £3 each. You get to choose the shape, colour and helium content. Then it will be launched to race for seven days against, hopefully, thousands of others from around 20 fund-raising causes".

"It will respond just like a 'real' balloon to wind, temperature and weather and you can track its progress on Google Earth. Those balloons which travel the furthest in a week will be judged the winners.

The first prize is £500, the second an Apple iPad and there are lots of lesser prizes, each winning a £10 book token. And if the Royston club manages to sell more than 500 balloons, then the one from our area that goes the furthest will get an extra £50. We think the event will particularly appeal to youngsters and we are appealing to mums and dads to support us."

Funds raised will go to the Royston club's nominated charity, Home-Start (Royston, Buntingford & South Cambs). Home-Start has been supporting local families since 1983, working alongside parents through all kinds of tough times. It is particularly in need of help itself at the moment as families struggle to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic. Balloons will be ready for sale in early July and you can find out more at the Royston Rotary Club website [www.roystonrotary.com/balloonrace.htm](http://www.roystonrotary.com/balloonrace.htm).

"Go on, have a go," says Tony. "Lockdown needn't take the fun out of fundraising!"



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# Update from the Treasurer

During the current lockdown we have had to close our Church buildings including the office and also furlough our Parish Administrator.

Funds normally donated by regular attendees and visitors towards the costs of maintaining our buildings and providing ministry has reduced dramatically whilst all physical services including funerals within our Churches have had to be cancelled. Thankfully virtual services and funerals in our churchyards have been able to continue.

We are extremely grateful to Chrishall Village Hall Committee for their support during this period for not claiming the monthly rent for the office. Please help by donating towards our costs to bridge the gap.

You can donate using The “donate now” link on the parish web site or direct via <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/icknield-way-parish>.

**Laurence Brett**



## My Flint - My Fossil Sponge

I found a strange looking stone at the bottom of my garden. I showed it to my Mum, who wasn't very interested and was about to get rid of it. I told my Mum not to because I wanted to show it to our neighbour.

When I showed it to him, he was very interested and took it to Saffron Walden museum to be identified. When we arrived at the museum, they told me that my strange looking piece of flint is actually a fossilised sponge. This sponge once lived in the tropical sea which covered these parts during the Cretaceous period between 66 and 100

million years ago! Our neighbour, who happens to be Strethall's former history recorder, stated that “it is probably one of the oldest things ever found in Strethall/Catmere End.”

**Rosie Bates (aged 12)**



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# The Harveys

For those that have had their newspapers delivered by Jane and Frank Harvey from Duxford Newsagents, you will now know that they have had to retire earlier than perhaps hoped due to the situation with the Coronavirus. They have asked me to thank all their customers and friends very much for 'their wonderful cards and letters'. Hopefully they will still keep in contact with us. They have requested that they might still receive the Village Web Magazine so we are putting a plan in action for that.

With our best wishes to them.

**The Village Web magazine is always seeking, and is happy to consider for publication, a wide range of one-off or regular monthly items of wide general interest to enhance the magazine's wider appeal.**

**The magazine is also seeking people of diverse interests, experience and backgrounds to join the editorial team.**

**Please contact the Village Web editor, an editorial team member or Anand Sodadasi. Contact details can be found on the Parish Contact page - the last page of the magazine.**

# Parish Contacts – *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

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**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Judith Brett Email: iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com

## **District Wardens:**

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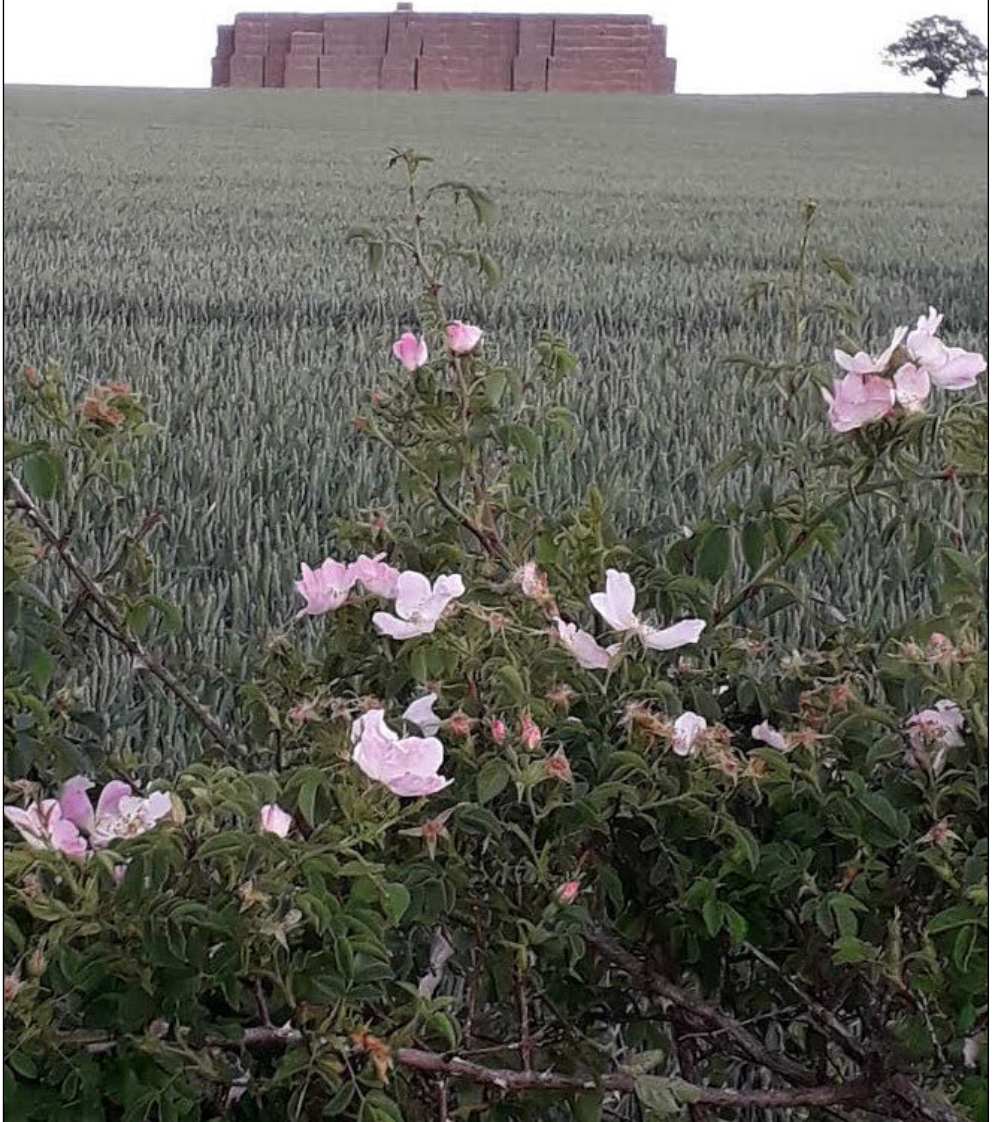
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Icknield Way Villages

# Along the Ickniel Way







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