

PARISH NEWS

St Peter's Church
Marchington

St John's Church
Marchington Woodlands



May 2020

WELCOME to the PARISH NEWS for MAY 2020

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What a different world we're all suddenly living in! This month's edition is made available online for the first time as we grapple with new guidelines from the Church of England - we're not allowed to hand deliver anything due to the possible risk of transmission. We have tried to make provision for anyone who isn't online by printing a few copies, so please let anyone you know who is affected, that there are some copies available for collection in the Marchington village shop.

We ask that you please complete the form on the website to provide your contact details as we have realised that we don't have an updated database of subscribers which is challenging at a time like this. Your details will only be used for Parish magazine matters. For those of you reading the printed version, please either contact your distributor or failing that, please contact Mike Williamson, Head of Distribution (01283 820407) so that we don't miss you out in future.

Thank you and just to wish everyone well at this difficult time- our thoughts and prayers are with you!

Please be in touch with any news, articles or updates on your club or organisation by email to Kate. No more than 425 words in length, please.

Advertisements, both for businesses and for village events, should be sent to Rhoda. These will attract a small charge and a special deal for repeat adverts by businesses is available. Please contact Rhoda for details.

The next Parish News is the June issue. Deadline for copy is 12th May.

Parish News is distributed by volunteers in the parishes of St John's, Marchington Woodlands and St Peter's, Marchington. If you wish to receive a regular copy please contact our Head of Distribution, Mike Williamson (01283 820407). Newcomers to the village are welcome to have a complimentary copy, so if someone has moved in near to you please let Mike know.

St Peter's Contacts

Priest in charge: Rev Margaret Sherwin, Rector, Tel: 01889 560234

Licensed Reader: Maggie Hatchard, 1 Church Close Tel: 01283 820207

St Peter's Ministry Team: Thelma Brassington, Maggie Hatchard, Fiona Needs, Liz Morgan, Ginny Odey.

St Peter's Church Wardens:

Lynda Nicholson, Rose Cottage, Church Lane. Tel: 01283 821374

Sandy Halcrow, Coverdale, Allens Lane. Tel: 01283 820346

Deputy Church Warden:

Amanda Shaw, Netherleigh, Church Lane.

PCC Secretary: Kate Hart

Website: www.stpetersmarchington.org.uk

Worship during the Lockdown

I will be producing a short service with the readings for Sunday, each week. I was delivering these through your door, but Church of England guidelines now prohibit me from doing so. So these will have to be emailed going forward, so if you have not received one and would like to have one, please email me maggiehatchard@gmail.com. I will be the only person with your email and will only use it for church matters.

I will also be uploading short services that we can do together. The address if you go to YouTube is Marchington St Peter's.

Maggie Hatchard

Plenty of ideas and links for prayer and other resources.

Sunday service 8.15am on radio 4

Televised Sunday Service on BBC One. Approximately 11.15am (check listings)

On Youtube Maggie Hathard will be uploading a Sunday service recorded from her home. Search on Youtube under *Marchington St Peter's*. Her Easter Day service can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbt8OhdF-B4> and on our own *Parish News* website.

On YouTube via internet live streaming of Sunday Service from Lichfield Cathedral.

Lots of resources which will be regularly updated on from www.lichfield.anglican.org/online-worship-and-resources.php

You can listen to the Sunday Service by tuning in locally to Cross Rhythms Radio on 101.8FM. Or you can listen online at www.crossrhythms.co.uk/radio on Sundays from 10 am to 11 am. To aid your worship, the words to all the songs in the service will also be available online at www.crossrhythms.co.uk/hymnsheet

For Children and Others

These can be found with a link from <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/latest-coronavirus-information/online-worship-and-resources/home-resources-children-youth-families/>

Pastoral Care

If you need pastoral care during the lockdown - or just a chat! - please contact either Maggie Hatchard 01283 820207 - maggiehatchard@gmail.com); Thelma Brassington 01283 820447 or Lynda Nicholson 01283 821347.



St Peter's Edward Bear Club

For birth to nursery aged children and mums, dads or carers. We have moved Edward Bear club into the 21st century by holding weekly virtual 'Houseparty' calls. We meet on Wednesday mornings as usual and the benefit is that some of the older siblings who have gone on to school, can now join in! It's a very loud, chaotic call as you can imagine with up to

7 families with pre-school children chatting away together at the same time. But it's lovely to see each other to catch up briefly and especially to see how the little ones are growing and progressing!

If anyone would like to join us at the Edward Bear club after the lockdown is over, please come along to the Church vestry on a Wednesday during term time 9.00-10.30am or ring Thelma Brassington on 01283 820447.

Thought for the Month

"Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile. In the warmth of your greeting. Don't only give your care but give your heart as well." Mother Teresa

Edna Perriman - December 1927 to January 2020

On behalf of the family, we would like to express our thanks to friends and neighbours for their kind thoughts and support, following the passing of mum. Mum and Dad moved from Essex to Windmill Drive in 2007, where they lived until moving into a care home in November 2017.

Thank you also for the kind and generous donations in mum's memory to Alzheimers Research UK.

Sue & Tony Butler

How to talk to children about Coronavirus

by Melanie Rainer

1. Pray for the people affected by COVID-19.

Remind your kids that God heals, and Jesus healed many people during his time on earth. That doesn't mean He will always heal, but it does mean that He cares about our physical bodies. And Revelation 21:4 says that one day, there will be no more tears and no more death. Pray that God will heal those who are sick, protect those who have compromised immune systems and that He will end the outbreak.

2. Pray for the scientists working to stop the COVID-19 outbreak.

Talk to your kids about the thousands of scientists and doctors all over the world working to fight the coronavirus. Isn't it amazing how God equips people with scientific gifts and talents? Pray specifically that they will figure out how to prevent and treat COVID-19.

3. Pray for world leaders during the outbreak.

Ask your kids what they think it would be like to be the leader of a country right now. Talk about the pressures that those leaders are facing. Then take time to pray for world leaders as they try to make rules and invest money to protect people from the virus. Ask God to fill them with wisdom.

4. Remind kids to always WASH THEIR HANDS.

If your kids are worried about getting sick, this is a great time to remind them of the best way to stay healthy: wash your hands! Remind them of the handwashing rules: warm soapy water for 20 seconds (as long as it takes you to sing the ABCs). Talk about coughing into your elbow instead of your hands or the air and staying home to

rest (with extra naps!) if you don't feel well. Take a trip to the store and pick out mini bottles of hand sanitizer for everyone's backpack. Practice good hygiene, pray, and stay aware of what's happening with COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

5. Put their minds at ease.

This is a great opportunity to talk with your kids (especially older kids) about how we can't take everything we read or hear in the news at face value. We should do our own digging to find accurate information from credible sources. And at the end of the day, the best thing we can do is to stay calm and pray for God to protect and guide us.

“Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7 (NLT)

Minno Life, 3 March 2020, How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus
<https://www.gominno.com/blog/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>

A South African Perspective on Lockdown

While many people have opted to spring clean their homes during this time, my approach is different. I believe that housework only ever gets you back to Square One, so I have elected to do everything I *want* to do first, and the spring cleaning only if time allows.

In that, and many other respects, I am extremely privileged. Although I live in a retirement village cottage, I have four areas where I can work, and I share this space with only one other person - my husband.

For many fellow South Africans, not equally as privileged, this is not the case. In the townships and squatter camps, one corrugated iron-and-cardboard dwelling can shelter eight to ten people, and it is cheek by jowl with hundreds and thousands of other similar homes. Residents have neither the space nor the resources to while away this lockdown period with crafts and projects of their choice.

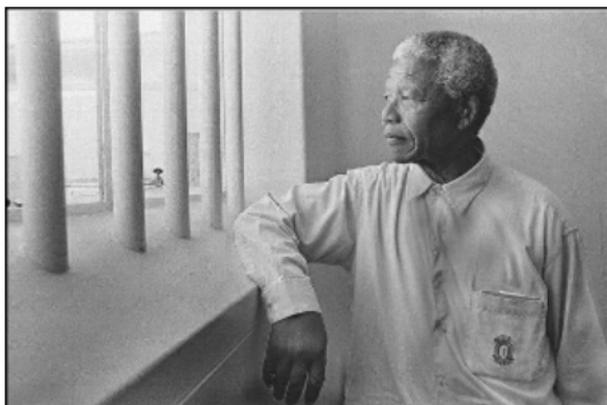
I am made more aware than ever of the disparity in our society. I am fearful for my fellow South Africans, who cannot exercise social distancing, and who are the ones providing essential services: they work as petrol pump attendants, nurses, grocery store merchandisers, truck drivers. Without them, this country would grind to a halt.

What to do? Apart from making financial contributions to NGOs supporting these communities, I feel helpless. I therefore turn to those immediately around me and try to reach out without touching!

Every day, I call two fellow retirement villagers, who live alone. Using our internal telephone system, I chat to them in the hope of breaking the monotony of their day. As I have a garden around my cottage, I also dash out and speak to any passing villager that I know - from a respectful distance, and with the garden wall and garden beds between us. Before lockdown, I might have glanced up from what I was doing, seen them, but not made the effort to chat. I would also not have been calling those living alone.

This period – and we are only one week into it - has made me acutely aware of the privileges I enjoy, and of the simple pleasures that I take so for granted. It has also engendered a feeling of solidarity with my fellow countrymen that I was not aware of feeling as strongly previously. I am overwhelmingly grateful to live under the leadership of our current president, and vehemently hope that we will all come out of this extreme situation a better and stronger people.

Rosemary Alexander



In isolation for 27 years. No family, luxuries, phone. Just hope and a vision. We can do this. 🙏🙏

Covid 19

I have been asked to share my experience with you in respect of contracting Covid 19. In early March I first got the symptoms which made me feel weak and gave me a headache that was to last for two weeks. I went to bed and virtually stayed there for two weeks. During this time, I developed a fever which lasted about four days and made my body ache. That's when the hallucinations kicked in. This lasted for three days and was a very dark period. I really didn't know where I was and could not sleep. I could not wear glasses so could not read as this really accentuated the headache. Finally, after two weeks I got up, but I am still very weak. Even when the virus had gone, I still felt breathless doing the most basic of tasks. The worst symptom for me was losing my senses of taste and smell. Even now after three weeks I cannot stand the taste of wine, but on the upside, I have saved a small fortune.

My advice to everyone is to listen to what you are being told. Self-isolation is not easy, especially if you like people, but it is a necessity. So please stay safe and we will return soon to some normality in the future.

My special thanks to all my family, friends and everyone else who has helped me get through this. It just proves what an amazing village we live in with so many caring people.

Our kind regards to everyone in Marchington,

Stu and Gill Davies

Eyam – An Example of Sacrifice

This is Cucklet Deph – also known as Cucklet Church. It is where the people of the village of Eyam, Derbyshire, worshipped while their church was closed due to the danger of infection. Here they could take part in communal worship without standing too close to their neighbours. Bubonic Plague, which was raging in London in 1665, was brought to Eyam by fleas nesting in a roll of cloth imported from London by a local tailor.

The people of Eyam cut themselves off from the outside world to avoid spreading the plague to neighbouring town and villages. Stones were placed around the outskirts of the village to indicate that people should not go beyond that point. People from neighbouring villages left parcels of meat, grains and other items just outside the village. The stones around the village still exist and can be viewed today.



It was the local vicar, Rev William Mompesson, who persuaded people of the need to quarantine themselves. The cost to the villagers was very high, with the vicar's own wife being among the 260 who died. However, there is no doubt that many lives in the surrounding area were saved by this act of sacrifice.

We are being asked to make some sacrifices, but none quite so demanding as those of the people of Eyam so many years ago – and all without phones, email, Zoom and the other ways we can stay in touch! In these trying times, their courage is an inspiration.

After there had been no deaths for two full weeks, the church bells of Eyam were rung all day. Perhaps when there have been no deaths from Covid 19 for a fortnight, all the churches in Britain should do the same!

Rhoda

MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR'S REPORT – MAY 2020

Dear Parishioners

First of all, I hope that you are all well and keeping safe in these unprecedented times that we currently find ourselves in. As I write my report, we are into the third week of lockdown which has presented its own challenges with juggling home schooling which I know many of you will be going through as well. The Parish Council continues to function as normally as it possibly can. We are holding our Parish Council meetings remotely via conference calls but the general day to day functions and tasks are still carrying on as usual.

Let me first begin by welcoming our new Parish Clerk, Becci Ede who joined us at the end of March after Catherine Thompson stepped down. The Parish Council would like to thank Catherine for all her efforts over the last four years and wish her well for the future. The contact details for our Clerk remain the same and although this has been a bit of a strange start to a new job, Becci is settling in well and getting to grips with everything. Following Government advice, the Parish Council have closed the gym equipment and play areas at Silver Lane and Forest Side. Please do not use or allow your children to use any of the equipment until further notice.

Many of you are getting out around the Parish for your once-a-day daily exercise which is great. However, we are seeing an increase in dog fouling. Could I please ask all dog

owners to act responsibly and pick up after their dogs. The public footpaths remain open however we have had some reports of people around the Parish straying from the footpaths and walking over privately owned farmland. Could Parishioners please refrain from this and stick to the footpaths. Springtime is a very busy time for the farmers in our Parish so also please remember to close gates to prevent sheep straying onto the road and to keep your dogs under control on their leads when using the footpaths as well.

On a very positive note, Councillor Ian Morgan has been coordinating the Volunteer Buddy Scheme throughout the Parish to help those Parishioners who are self-isolating either through illness or because they fall into the vulnerable categories. Ian has done sterling work in making sure that all parts of the Parish are covered, and we have had a fantastic response not only from volunteers but also from those residents who have been able to benefit from the scheme so far. If you are not aware of who your local volunteer is, a list has been printed elsewhere in the Parish magazine or you can contact Ian Morgan and he can put you in touch with the correct person. A huge thank you to all of you who have volunteered so far!

There is also a helpful information sheet which has been produced by the Parish Council within the Magazine which shows all the important numbers you might need at this time. Although we are living through very challenging times and are experiencing something that we have never had to deal with in our lifetimes before, it is always very reassuring to see how much of our community spirit always shines through. The last few weeks have really reminded me just what a fantastic place we live in, with fantastic people that live alongside us.

Please look out for each other and stay safe. And remember that everything will be alright in the end; and if it isn't alright then it's not the end. Until next month!

Julia Hayhurst - Chair

Answers to the bird quiz on page 33



Click on the bird

MARCHINGTON AND MARCHINGTON WOODLANDS 'BUDDIES' as at April 12th

The Marchington & Marchington Woodlands Buddies System is being coordinated by Councillor Ian Morgan. The list below shows the volunteers who have been allocated areas around the Parish but there are many more willing helpers who we know are also assisting their neighbours. If you wish to know who your "Buddy" is, please contact Ian (07841 363656 ianmorgg@gmail.com) who will be able to put you in touch with the right person.

Marchington Village

Alison Meas	Andrea Pate	Caroline Knapton
Cathey Staley	Claire Nash	Gregor Buchanon
Helen & Rick Kiddle	Ian & Liz Morgan	Jane Coward
Jane & Tim Tams	Jenny Mellor	Kelly Moore
Kevin Gadsby	Leanne Holroyd	Max Kiddle
Meghan Geofferson	Mick Marrison	Pam & Alan
Paul & Jane Looker	Phil & Grace Hodges	Tomkins
Sonja Pendrey	Tom Castle	Simon Irons
Andre Penniket	Bev Nancarrow	
Diane & Tony White	Emma Langridge	
Janet & Ian Hughes	Jane & Leigh Hilton	
John Gibbs	Jules & Phil Bowler	
Lucy Scott	Mandy Lord	
Nick & Pat Adamson	Nikki Hallam	
Phil Shelton	Sally & Neil Andrew	

Forestside

Co-ordinated by Councillor Thomas Leivers

Marchington Woodlands

Co-ordinated by Councillors Darron Hayes and Paul Nixon

Birch Cross

Andrew Mann

Little Pips

As schools and nurseries are still closed, many of you are now probably well into the journey of entertaining your little ones and no doubt giving teachers and childcare providers a run for their money! However some of you may be finding it more of a challenge. It may be an anxious time, not only for you but for your child too. It's important to take a break and don't worry about having the perfect timetable; focus more on playing and engaging with your child with whatever interests them. Bake, paint, watch films and go on a walk; don't put too much pressure on yourself! If you are looking for some ideas, 'Little Pips' would like to share with you some of their favourite activities...



Superhero Cressheads

Recycle your old yogurt pots and let the competition begin!



Spring Hunt

How many different signs of Spring can you spot on your walk?



Fairy Garden

You'll find us at the bottom of the garden wishing for a Coronavirus cure!



Lego

So many opportunities for learning through Lego - sorting, sequencing, number and letter formation.



Addition monsters

A fun creative way to encourage addition.



Minibeast stones

A lovely art activity that's easy to do!

Ideas to help keep the 'big kids' entertained:

1. Explore the full potential of your screens. There are so many great websites/ Youtube channels to help with home schooling. Here are some of our favourites:

Joe Wicks PE lessons (Youtube)

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk> -educational resources website

Virtual museum tours around the world

Chester Zoo go live

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/#> interactive phonics games

2. Create a family tree- find out about relatives and ancestors. Ring Grandparents to ask for their help!
3. Talent show- stage your own family talent show. What hidden skills do you have?
4. Create a time capsule- a collection of treasures and memories they can hideaway for their future self.
5. Make your own home cinema- make a poster, find blankets, create some tickets and have some treats.
6. Write letters- give children a purpose to write. Write letters to friends and relatives.

Enjoy creating those special times; children will more than likely look back at this time and remember how they felt rather than what they did, so relax and have fun! Good luck!

Marchington Village Hall News May 2020

Well this is a funny one. Looking back at my entry for the April magazine is like staring into a different world. I was urging you to buy tickets for the MADS Plays and Plonk evening on Friday 3 April. How naïve that looks now. However your redoubtable editor Kate has said keep it positive so I will, but I suspect Marchington readers in early May will equally look on this article fondly, as a work of fiction in a thoroughly dystopian world.

We had a village hall meeting on 19 March (my last contact with non-household humans) and decided to cut all our expenditure and put the hall into a state of suspended animation – not spending any money as none was likely to come in for a while.

The planned car park work is also on hold...not our decision but that of the contractors.

However, and here is the good news:

Please feel free to book the hall for a party to end all parties when this thing is out of the way!!!!

As usual, call Gill Williamson on 820407 or email marchingtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com.

Geraldine Flavell

Marchington WI Report from Members Night Meeting held in March 2020

Judith Jones, acting President for the evening, welcomed everyone to this members' meeting. She introduced her fellow acting officers, Janet Hughes (Treasurer) and Shirley Boulton (Secretary).

The Minutes from the previous meeting on 17th February 2020 were read and approved.

Janet introduced the evening's activity. Members were asked to form teams of three for a quiz. There were 5 rounds of 10 questions. The winning team were Margaret Johnson, Ann Matthews and Jenny Mellor. Prizes of Easter eggs were awarded.

Janet then talked about some of the current financial scams, people masquerading as bank staff and also Amazon delivery personnel. She gave advice on how to stay safe in these circumstances. Her insight was much appreciated by members.



Competition winners for favourite cup and saucer were: Marilyn Bentley, Margaret Johnson and Janet Hughes.

Members then enjoyed refreshments provided by Pam Wilde, June Buxton and Doreen Share. Sheila Jones thanked the members for organising the evening and providing the delicious refreshments.

Despite many members being in isolation due the Coronavirus, it had been a successful and enjoyable evening with 19 in attendance, a good turnout.

Sadly Sheila announced that all meetings would be suspended for the foreseeable future. Please note the June visit to David Austin 's Roses has been cancelled, also the May evening trip to Tutbury WI has been postponed. A new date has been arranged for 20th November 2020.

Take care and keep well.

Margaret Johnson



There was a plane with five passengers on board, Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, Angela Merkel, the Pope and a ten-year-old schoolboy. The plane is about to crash and there are only 4 parachutes.



Trump said, "I need one, I'm the smartest man in the USA and am needed to sort out the problems of the world". So, he takes one and jumps. The Pope said, "I need one as the world needs the church" he takes one and jumps. Boris said, "I'm needed to sort out Britain", so he takes one and jumps. Angela said to the

schoolboy "You can have the last parachute, I've lived my life, yours is only just starting".

The schoolboy replied, "Don't worry, there are two parachutes left. The smartest man in the USA took my school bag".

Bobotie

This delicious, sweet and spicy meat casserole is famous in South Africa. Pronounced 'ba-boor-tea', it has Dutch origins and was perfected by the Cape Malay people, whose food is a fusion of Asian and European influences.



500g beef mince

15ml vinegar

2 finely chopped onions

25ml oil

2 slices bread

250ml milk

30ml curry powder

15ml apricot jam

30ml chutney

30g chopped almonds

5ml salt

2 medium eggs

5ml pepper

30ml sugar

10ml turmeric

Bay leaves

Heat oil in a pan and brown the onion and mince (don't cook it).

Soak the bread in half the milk and add to above, with all other ingredients EXCEPT the eggs and milk.

Bake in a lightly greased oven proof dish at 180°C for 45 minutes.

Beat the eggs and milk and pour over the dish and continue cooking until browned.

Serve with Basmati rice and tomato and onion sambals.

Rice Krispie Treats

(If you don't have eggs in the house, this is a winner!)

Bring 2 cups of chopped dates, 250g margarine and 1 cup of castor sugar to the boil in a large saucepan.

Remove from the heat and add 5 - 6 cups of RICE KRISPIES and mix well.

Grease a container and sprinkle with dessicated coconut.

Press the mixture into the dish and sprinkle with more dessicated coconut.

When cool, cut into squares.

You can try adding other ingredients, like chopped cherries and nuts, to your taste.

Kate

Uttoxeter Cricket Club - Keeping cricket in conversations

It goes without saying that everyone who is part of Uttoxeter Cricket Club is immensely disappointed with the inevitable delay or possible cancellation of the 2020 cricket season. Last year was incredible both on and off the field, and members young and old were incredibly excited to see what this season had in store. However, playing a game we love is immaterial compared to everyone staying healthy.

During these challenging times, our committee is working hard to keep cricket at the forefront of people's minds. Initiatives have included sharing coaching information with junior parents for garden-based cricket training, maintaining our social media accounts with memories from previous years and entering the Virtual Cricket Cup.

The Virtual Cricket Cup is an initiative that has been launched by the Staffordshire County Cricket Board. Here virtual games take place on the Twitter platform. Clubs are drawn to play each other and are required to secure as many votes as possible to win matches. At the time of writing, Uttoxeter CC have successfully reached the quarter final stage. Please visit www.twitter.com/uttoxetercc to find out more and any support would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to find out more about our club, please get in touch with James via: info@uttoxetercc.co.uk or 07961 208 354. Finally, our thoughts are with everyone

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN MAY

May is the time when Spring is at its best. Our gardens and, indeed, the countryside, are brimming over with that lovely, fresh acid green colour that epitomises new growth and the imminent start of Summer.

To start off this article, I have asked Jane Hilton to give you all some tips and ideas about things to do in your greenhouse or polytunnel during May. Many thanks Jane.

GREENHOUSE GROWING.

All these plants below can be grown from seed:

A summer isn't complete without home grown tomatoes; they taste delicious.

Tomato seeds germinate very easily. Follow the packet instructions, cover the pot with a plastic bag and put them on a warm windowsill to speed things up. Plant them out in a greenhouse in rich organic soil, grow bags or large pots in early May. Plant them deep, burying the stem up to the first set of leaves. This will help them sprout extra roots, which will increase access to all available moisture.

Begin feeding liquid tomato feed once the flowers have formed fruits. Always keep the soil evenly moist and the greenhouse aerated, to keep the plants healthy and stop the fruit splitting. Be vigilant tying onto canes and pinching out the side shoots weekly from June.

Basil with its pungent clove smell, grown between your tomatoes, will help keep whitefly at bay. If you can't get your hand on seeds, cheat by buying supermarket plants. Divide them and push their roots into the soil. Water well and pinch out the growing tips to keep them bushy.

Cucumbers are best grown two to a grow bag. Female mini varieties are best, as they are less bitter and are less heavy for the plant to bear. Spray the ground around them (avoiding getting water on the plants) as they generally like a more humid atmosphere. Train the growing stem up a wire or cane and feed the same as tomatoes.

Peppers love heat and humidity. Grow them on staging in large pots of good compost. Don't allow them to dry out or the flowers and leaves may drop off. Keep well staked to keep them upright. When the fruit has set, again, feed the same as tomatoes. The rule of thumb is, the riper the fruit, the sweeter the taste.

Keep all these plants frost free.

WEEDING, MULCHING AND WATERING.

By mid-May, the garden is accelerating into Summer. Plants seem to grow by the hour, as do weeds. It is important to keep on top of weeds. Try to put ten minutes aside each day to weed a specific, but small area of

your garden. Move to a new area every day until the garden is as free as possible of weeds. Little and often is best. Spending several hours, just weeding can make you resentful and often leads to a lack of interest in doing it again. If you do complete the weeding of your garden, to your satisfaction, you can look at it and feel a sense of achievement. Keep your foot on the pedal though and start the process again. It will be easier the second time around. Most of the weeds will have been removed during the first weeding cycle and you will clear more ground in your ten-minute session. Using the mowing of your lawn as an analogy, you mow the lawn maybe once a week during the Summer. You accept that as part of the gardening week. Think about weeding in the same way, being part of your normal gardening routine.

During our isolation because of the Coronavirus, most people who have a garden, will probably have more time to spend in the garden during the day. Achieving a more attractive and productive garden will give you a feeling of pride and a sense of wellbeing.

If you really cannot face weeding every day, one way to minimise it is to put down weed suppressant material that allows water through, but cuts out light to weeds, thus, slowly killing the weeds. It may take a couple of years to eradicate weeds under the material, but, at least, you do not have to look

at them whilst they slowly meet their Waterloo!

Certain weeds are incredibly resistant to our methods of killing them off. Bindweed and couch grass being the most irritating of all. One of my neighbours used to form a wigwam with a few six-foot bamboo canes and stood the wigwam in an area where bindweed was particularly aggressive. Over the course of several weeks, bindweed climbed up the canes. My neighbour then sprayed weed killer over the whole wigwam, effectively wiping the bindweed out. It is a good short-term option but repeat action will be inevitable. Weeding is an essential part of gardening life, I'm afraid.

If you do not want to use conventional weedkillers, you may like to consider white vinegar. The chemical name for the compound known as vinegar is acetic acid, [CH₃COOH for the chemistry buffs amongst us]. It is a weak acid. I have tried white vinegar and it does work. You can buy 20 litres online for £12 and you can dilute it to make it go further, but it can take time and second applications are sometimes necessary. I would tend to use it for individual weeds on patios, driveways and on borders. I would not weed large areas with it. It could become very expensive in the long run. It is the only weed killer allowed now in French gardens. How long before the same is true here? The thinking is that overuse of traditional weed killers leads

to dangerous chemicals getting into the water system as the weed killers run off into rivers and brooks and storm drains, thus contaminating fresh water supplies.

Mulching is important for several reasons. It helps to retain moisture in the ground and helps to suppress weeds. Buying mulches such as compost, bark chippings and gravel can become prohibitively expensive. Setting up your own composting system to create your own mulch is a good idea, but it takes time and again can be expensive if you start buying readymade systems. Try using pallets, making three sides of a square with three pallets, leaving one side open to add material and remove the compost. Wire mesh or chicken wire can do the same job. I use the grass cuttings from mowing the lawn as a mulch at the back of the border. There is no need to put them in the brown bin, especially now, whilst the brown bins are not being emptied.

Watering is another everyday reality of gardening. Periods of rain can be a welcome relief, but by mid-summer, watering is the number one job in the garden, closely followed by weeding.

When to water? First thing in the morning or early evening are the best time. Scorching can be an issue, but, more importantly, watering when the temperature is high can lead to evaporation of water before the water can get into the soil. Water the base of the

plant where it can get to the roots more quickly. Watering leaves can often misdirect the water away from the roots. Minimise evaporation of water in the greenhouse and thus the need for constant watering by leaving the door and windows of the greenhouse open, even overnight.

If you can, collect water via guttering, into water butts. If you are struggling to buy a water butt whilst B and Q type stores are shut, use an empty brown garden waste bin as a temporary water butt. Use washing up water if there are water shortages and concentrate watering on plants that are particularly thirsty, such as bedding plants or newly planted perennials.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN MAY

Continue to water and weed.

Because brown bins are not being emptied at the moment, use grass cuttings as a mulch and start a compost heap if you can, to effectively use garden waste.

If you have perennial plants in the garden, lift and divide where possible, to increase your stock and get better ground coverage.

Try growing seeds and bulbs. Plant tomatoes, peppers and cucumber. You can grow them outside, especially against a sunny wall or fence. Plant out courgettes if

you have them. Try growing potatoes in containers.

Put up supports for fast growing perennials before they grow too big and fall over.

Try taking cuttings of plants such as fuchsias and geraniums to increase your stock. You could pass these on to friends and family or donate to the Village Shop to sell on for extra funds for the Shop.

Continue to sow seeds for salads, so that you get a continuous supply throughout the Summer.

If you have a veg plot, plant out brassicas such as cabbages, cauliflower and broccoli. Intersperse plants like chard and beetroot in flower beds and borders to add attractive foliage appeal.

If you have a garden pond, clear out invasive weeds that cut out light and create an unhealthy pond environment.

If you have children, get them interested in gardening and growing flowering plants and vegetables. Give them a patch of the garden and show them how to germinate seeds and pot them on, then plant on their patch. Encourage them to grow cress, mustard and salad leaves from seed on a window ledge or in a verandah, greenhouse or porch. Also try beetroot, basil, coriander and fenugreek seeds, if you can get hold of them. Cut and use as micro salads to enhance lettuce and

tomato salads. Cut and come again spinach and rocket are also good, as they can be cut within three to four weeks.

Feed your lawn to keep the grass looking healthy and green. Water the lawn regularly if rain is scarce.

TOP GARDENING TIPS FOR THE LOCKDOWN IN MAY

PROBLEMS

LACK OF SPACE TO GROW VEG

If you have flower borders but no veg patch, you can grow things such as chard and cabbages in gaps in between flowering plants. They will help to support other plants and act as foliage plants, with big attractive leaves.

Grow climbing beans, peas and mange tout up climbing frames or pergolas instead of, or as well as sweet peas or other flowering climbers.

If you want to grow potatoes, but have limited space, try using pots or old buckets. New buckets only cost £1, then make a few holes in the bottom. Even bin liners with holes in the bottom will work for one season. You can use these pot alternatives for other crops, such as tomatoes, carrots, courgettes and cucumbers.

DIFFICULTY GETTING HOLD OF SEEDS AND PLANTS TO GROW AND CULTIVATE

Look in your greenhouses, sheds and kitchen drawers where you may find old packets of seeds. Even if they are out of date, they may still germinate. I found a packet of beetroot seeds last year. The sell by date was 2012, but they still germinated.

At the time of writing this article [10th and 11th April], Lidl still have plenty of seeds, geraniums for hanging baskets and vegetable seedlings. Tesco and Waitrose do too.

If you have potatoes in the fridge and they have been there for a long time, they may well have “chitted” ie: they have sprouted and are developing shoots. Plant them, they should grow and produce potatoes.

You can buy herbs like coriander, parsley and basil, growing in compost in most supermarkets. If you buy them, tear the roots apart. You could make three new plants from one plant. Plant the three root balls and the attached stems and leaves in plant pots. Firm in and water. Leave in a light and warm spot. Continue to water. Use as cut and come again after about a month. Thyme, sage and rosemary are not suitable, but plant these as they come out of the pot in one piece and they will grow well.

Several people in the Village grow plants and sell them at the end of their drives and

ask you to put money in an honesty box. Some donate plants to the Village Shop for selling on. This will continue I hope and as time goes on, more plants will come to maturity. I will have some ready within a few weeks.

LIMITED POTS TO PLANT THINGS IN AND DIFFICULTY GETTING COMPOST

For pots, try old yogurt pots, big or small, old buckets with holes in the bottom and plastic containers of all shapes and sizes. Some even come with attached lids that assist with germination. Coffee tins are also good to grow herbs in. Again, you need several holes in the base. Use plastic bottles that contained soft drinks and cut into two halves. The top half can substitute as a mini greenhouse over plants and the bottom half can be a pot.

You can use old compost in last year's pots again. Mix with new compost and plant food, if you have it, to enrich the compost. If you have a garden, steal a bit of the compost/ soil from the garden. Sieve out weeds and unwanted bits of wood using an old colander.

At time of writing this article, Poundland, Lidl and Tesco had compost. Wynn Stay just further on from Tippers in Uttoxeter had plenty left.

TEN OF THE BEST GARDEN RELATED WEBSITES

1] <https://www.gardenersworld.com>

Great as a general information site. Offers available for plants and seeds.

2] <https://www.crocus.co.uk/> - Have a vast range of plants. Demand will be high because of the time of year.

3] <https://www.dobbies.com> - Very good for seeds, whether it is flowering plants, vegetables or essentially, whatever you want.

4] <https://www.bethchatto.co.uk/> - Beth Chatto, who died quite recently, was an innovative gardener, especially in the development of dry gardens and the plants that are happy in dry conditions. She was based in the south east of England, which is the driest part of Britain. Unsurprisingly, the website is devoted to plants that can

survive in both dry conditions, but also, other extreme conditions, such as damp and shaded areas.

5] <https://hayloft.co.uk/index> - Another site where you can buy many of the hard working plants in the garden, but also, many unusual varieties.

6] <https://www.thompson-morgan.com/> - seeds galore, plus tools and compost.

7] <https://www.sarahraven.com> - plants, bulbs, flowers and seed. Can be a little more expensive, but very good quality produce.

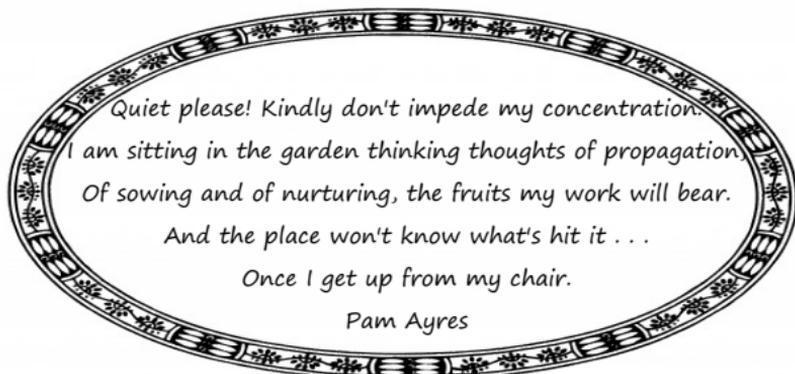
8] <https://www.dejager.co.uk> - great for summer bulbs, plus dahlias.

9] <https://www.hardysplants.co.uk/> - specialists in herbaceous perennials.

10] <https://www.jekkas.com> - Jekka McVicar is known as one of the country's leading authorities on herbs.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY GARDENING.

NICK ADAMSON



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ELECTRICITY supply emergencies - 0800 6783105 or call 105

SOUTH STAFFS WATER supply enquiries - 0800 389 1011

SEVERN TRENT WATER - for sewerage problems 0800 7834444

DOCTORS' SURGERIES - Dove River Practice (Sudbury) 01283 585215
Northgate Surgery (Uttoxeter) 01889 562010
Balance Street (Uttoxeter) 01889 562145

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL Burton on Trent - switchboard 01283 566333

POLICE - non-emergency - 101, or textphone 18001 101

MOBILE LIBRARY - 0300 111 8000

FLOOD INFORMATION <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE FLOOD WARNINGS BY PHONE, EMAIL OR TEXT - FLOODLINE 0345 988 1188 or register at <https://www.fws.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/register>

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MARCHINGTON VILLAGE SHOP

We thank all our customers and supporters for their good wishes over this difficult time.

Since the 'lock down' was announced on March 23rd we have made a few changes to the way the shop operates. We have been guided throughout, by our mission to provide a good service to Marchington, Marchington Woodlands, Forestside and Birch Cross, and to support all our local community through this new and changing situation.

Firstly, we have changed our opening times to be able to do orders for people who are self-isolating and to recognise that many our volunteers are no longer able to do volunteer physically in the shop. This means we are open for 'walk in' customers every weekday from 8.30 to 10.30 and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 11am. We have restricted access in our small shop, which means that customers sometimes have to wait outside, and thank you for your patience on this. We have provided hand sanitizer at the door, to be used on entry and exit and fixed a Perspex screen on the counter and in front of the till, to provide protection for our customers, staff and volunteers. We can take card payments, contactless up to £45, for any transaction, no matter how small, and can provide cashback too. Every day, once we are closed at 10.30, we are receiving and assembling orders for isolating customers, who phone us between 10.30 and 11.30 (or by email at any time) to info@marchingtonshop.co.uk. We then phone customers who are giving us card details over the phone, or paying directly by BACs into the shop account. We then arrange delivery within the hour, by other customers, or by one of the Marchington 'Buddies', set up by the Parish Council. We have prioritised this free delivery service for customers who are self-isolating and had some great feedback about how much this has meant to them. I would like to thank Tracy and Penny, our joint shop managers for their tremendous commitment and flexibility in making these changes and their patience as we have worked through what we've needed to do.

Secondly, we have massively increased our range of fresh vegetables and fruit, with deliveries to us at least twice a week. We have also increased our ordering from Bookers, the wholesaler we use in Burton. Again, thank you to the volunteers who are going to Bookers to pick up these larger orders and delivering them back

to the shop. Bookers themselves are not always able to supply the items we order, so apologies that sometimes we just can't get the stock customers want. But we have now arranged an account with another wholesaler, First Choice, thanks to our friends at the Dog & Partridge, who provided the contact and introduction.

Thirdly, we have been able to increase our deliveries of newspapers and magazines to more of our customers who have requested it, thanks to Alf and the rest of the team who have made these arrangements and for taking on the extra work so willingly. If you are concerned about paying your newspaper account, again, you can phone the shop on 01283 821248 between 10.30 and 11.30 to pay by card, or if you wish to pay by BACs into the shop bank account, we can arrange that too if you prefer, just email info@marchingtonshop.co.uk or ring the shop.

During this difficult time we are really pleased and proud that we have been able to live up to our statement "for the community by the community". And I'd like to give a 'thank you' to anyone who has helped with the shop at some point over the last few difficult weeks. Customer support has been amazing too.

For those of you who follow the shop's fortunes you will know that we depend on two additional funding streams to remain solvent, which are the Open Gardens event in June each year and the 50/50 Club. These give us an added £7,000 per year, which has been essential for the on-going viability of the shop. It is clear that the Open Gardens weekend will not take place although we are working on a virtual event, more as a morale booster than a money-spinner, so watch this space!

For this reason we are asking that you consider joining the 50/50 Club. For some of you it may be that you've always meant to do it but just didn't get around to it or one person in the family has a membership, but there is no limit to the amount of entries you have. It is just £5 per month with prizes of over £900 split between the winners each quarter.

To join you simply need to collect a pack from the shop or download a form with details on from the website www.marchingtonshop.co.uk and arrange a standing order which can be done online or by posting to your bank. Then if you either email or telephone Gill Scarlett (gill.scarlett@hotmail.com or 01283 821049) you will be entered into the next draw. If this is something you think you would like to do then please do it now to ensure we can continue to serve the communities of Marchington, The Woodlands, Forestside and Birch Cross.

Liz Morgan (Chair, Marchington Village Shop)

An Ode to Marchington

Many smiles, waves, hello and greetings of 'How are you?'

As I walk along the village footpaths and leafy lanes,

Rippling applause for the NHS and key workers echoes up and down
our lanes, breaking the stillness each Thursday evening, 8pm
prompt!

Community shop, deliveries, pub and village buddies providing much
appreciated services and -

Helping us all to stay safe, healthy and well.

Immaculate lawns and colourful gardens - what a joy to see -

Nesting birds, melodious bird song, dawn chorus, bright night sky
and sunshine -

Gambling lambs, bleating sheep, skittish calves and new life provide
us all with hope.

Thanks for the colourful rainbows, door hangings, cascade of paper
butterflies and stone painted, 'Inspire Kindness!'

Only to be seen and admired in our caring, friendly village.

Nothing will surpass the special community spirit of Marchington at
this difficult time!

Sue Grimley



Sunhats and Cheesy Feet

On Sunday 29th March, deep into the lockdown situation that we are all enduring, we had a phone call from our family in Warwick “Do you want to have a tea party in the garden this afternoon?” What? We are supposed to be observing ‘social distancing’! How can we? “No, you stay in your garden, we’ll be in ours.” Well, by the wonders of technology we managed it. We agreed a time and were instructed to get in the garden and be ready to receive a WhatsApp video call. It had been quite a nice afternoon but was rapidly deteriorating, but we donned sunhats and Tim considered a bow tie (it was getting even chillier) all ready for the event. The call came through at the set time- but we discovered that the younger generation had decided it was too cold outside, so they were tea-partying in their kitchen!



As it happened, other dimensions had changed as well. The grandsons (8 and 6 yrs) were actually running a very smart ‘virtual’ café with all the wares displayed on their kitchen table and sideboard - well out of the way of Gracie the dog. Flapjacks made that morning looked very enticing, so that was on offer as

well as tea, coffee, toast and jam, crisps and cheesy feet biscuits (more of which later). We did notice that there were no prices mentioned, which rather raised our suspicions. We were asked to order from the extensive menu which was recited to us in case we couldn’t read it. I ordered a cup of tea, toast and jam, which came to £3.50. Tim went for tea and a Kitkat. His bill for some reason totted up to £10! He rapidly negotiated with the boys for a piece of flapjack to be included in the price, “Ooh Grandpa, don’t know about that ...” so they had to call a short financial decision-making meeting (heads together, aprons still on). However, the request was eventually agreed, on condition that all bills were paid online immediately. All in all it was a most entertaining thirty minutes (it seemed like longer as it was really cold in the garden by this time and Tim’s bow tie had been swapped for a woolly hat) and it brought us all together on a Spring Sunday afternoon.

We could not but applaud the boys for finding yet another ingenious way to boost their pocket money. And yes, we have sent them enough to cover our vast expenditure - online of course!

Wendy and Tim

Cheesy Feet Biscuits (Nigella):

100g grated cheddar, 25g soft butter, 50g plain flour; good pinch baking powder. Preheat oven to Gas 6/200°C/180°C Fan/400°F.

Put all ingredients in a food processor and blitz until dough comes together. Form into a fat disc, wrap in clingfilm and rest in fridge for 15 mins. Roll it out on a floury surface and use 'feet' cutters to make individual biscuits. (the dough will take any amount of re-rolling and re-cutting!). Bake in the oven 10 minutes for small feet, about 15 for larger ones.

Let's get connected!

A brief note about WhatsApp and how to use it.

The setup is the complicated bit - once you've done that it's simple!

Not all mobile phones have all Applications (Apps) loaded. If WhatsApp is not loaded you can find it in 'Playstore' or 'Apps' and tap Install.

To find the WhatsApp Messenger icon:

If it's not on the front page of your phone, scroll sideways until you find a small square symbol with a white phone on a green circle named 'WhatsApp'. To get the icon onto your front page just rest your finger on the WhatsApp icon for a few seconds and gently drag onto your front page.



Tap to open.

To set up a WhatsApp group:

Go to the *CHATS* tab. Tap the row of vertical dots (this is the 'more options' symbol).

Select New Group. Search for or select a contact (or contacts) from your contacts



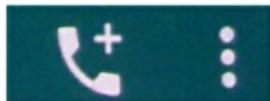
list to add to the group, then tap the green arrow. Enter a group 'subject', this will be the name of the group. (limited to 25 characters). Tap the green tick mark when you've finished setting up your group.

It is convenient to have the WhatsApp link on the front of your phone as you may want to make or answer a call in a hurry! You may have to clear your screen of other icons that you don't use so frequently.

To make a live video call:

Go to WhatsApp and select the group you want to call by tapping the group name.

Tap the symbol of a phone with a plus sign (top right corner)

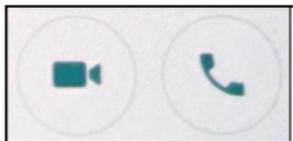


Tap the contact name you wish to call.

Tap the camera sign (the left of the two symbols shown here) and that will call the other person who will tap their answer button.

During the call you should be able to see them on the full screen and yourself in the corner.

To finish the call tap the red phone symbol



Wendy.

Further Tech Ideas



Did you know that if you have an iPad or iPhone you can do a group call? Just today I found out how to do it on FaceTime and spoke to my son in Australia, my mother in Somerset and my sister in London, all at the same time. It was great!!

Call one person and then in the box at the bottom where you close the chat, swipe up and you'll see that you can add a person by typing in just part of their name and your contact list will pop up. You then tap on the name in your contact list and ADD.

Download Zoom, this app makes it possible to have group calls with your friends and families.

Maggie



Let's all drink to the lockdown

A poem by Jan Beaumont

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
we need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again.
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So, let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this bloody virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

Spring Nature Notes

With the herald of Spring, what a ramp of birdsong we are waking up to (or being woken up by depending on which side of the fence you are on). Our main thoughts in this climate of uncertainty are, what are we going to eat, and what form of exercise are we going to perform today.

More of us are venturing out, walking in our pretty lanes greeting one another in all of our cheery social loveliness (as well as social distancing of course) and, instead of galloping past, our thoughts busily engaged, noticing the hedgerows and banks bursting into life after a long Winter. Celandine, Cow Parsley, Violets, Neon Dandelions and Daffodils, butterflies and bees, as well as promiscuous Primroses with muddled colours, created after migrating from the grasp of supervised gardening.



The newly placed bird boxes in the community orchard and cricket ground are being busily employed, with birds taking in swatches of soft furnishings of moss, leaves, cobwebs and downy feathers. Providing a comfy spot to raise the kids! Don't forget to look up to the sky to spot the first migrants to arrive. Some travel over 12 000 miles and weigh a mere 18g!

The bug hotel in the community orchard still looks a bit like an unfinished apartment block! So, if grown-ups or children would like to give nature a hand, you are invited to add bundles of sticks or canes tied with string or wool, just poke them in the gaps to provide critters a safe home. The flowers in the grass are beginning to populate too, with lots more varieties self-seeding. Do something different: stand or kneel and look at a square metre (no-one will think you are bonkers) and see how many varieties you can spy. Take a field book with you. You might get hooked!

Some of you may have noticed the newly planted trees at the village entrances. These are Rowans (*Sorbus Hupehensis*) and Cherries (*Prunus Tai Haku*). This tree was lost to cultivation in Japan around 1700 but revived from a single tree found in Sussex in 1923. There are some of the newly planted daffodils showing their glorious colours too.

Pat Gillespie and I thank you for your support buying our produce during last year. We will be selling plants etc again in Hall Road, to raise funds for more bulbs to be planted in The Woodlands and Forest side in the Autumn

Fact When the soil is dry and it rains, the smell it gives off reminiscent of your childhood is called 'petrichor' and lovely it is too.

Janey Hilton



Link to the answers on page 10

The Dog and Partridge- the pub with plenty!

The usual artwork advertising upcoming events in the village is nowhere to be seen this month, given the current circumstances. But that doesn't mean that there isn't anything going on at the Dog and Partridge!

A takeaway service launched at the start of the lockdown has proven to be a huge success and Becky, Richard the chef, and me working hard at keeping things interesting. The takeaway menu can be seen on our website www.dogandpartridgemarchington.co.uk and daily updates of other food and drinks offers are sent out to those on our mailing list. To join send a message to info@dogandpartridgemarchington.co.uk.

Steak night has been re- introduced on Wednesdays and homemade pizzas are now on offer on Saturday nights! The idea being that not only are we providing a service, but trying to cheer up bored, confined people by offering variety over the coming months.

The Sunday lunch service got off to a fantastic start and if this continues, we are happy to run all afternoon Sundays. That way we can restrict pickups to quarter of an hour intervals to avoid close contact with others. We just ask that people be as punctual to their time slot as they can. Please note we have extended the order deadline time to 10pm on Saturdays. Kindly remember to bring your own plate! Current opening times for food are Wednesday- Friday 5 to 8.30pm, Saturday 12 to 2pm and 5.30 till 8.00pm and Sundays 12- 3pm.

We are also doing weekly games and prizes inspired by staying at home and digging out the old tunes. Now hold those thoughts, commit them to e-mail and tell us the top 10 songs you are currently listening to in lock down or list your all-time favourites. Send them over to us at Dog & Partridge Towers and each Monday we will pick a winner. There are food and drink prizes to be won! Email info@dogandpartridgemarchington.co.uk

Over the next few months you'll also be able to enjoy cask ales at home courtesy of the Dog & Partridge. Our takeaway service is available daily from 12 noon until 9pm in the evening.

We have on offer a couple of cask ales, bottled beers and wine for pick up.

We have managed to obtain 36 brand new milk containers capable of holding up to 4 pints of draught beer. At £2.50 a pint what's not to like? We ask you to please phone ahead on 01283-820394 to arrange collection.

We look forward to seeing you or hearing from you soon! Cheers, Paul.



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Woodlands WI at Easter Time

What do you do when the WI you belong to can't meet in person? Do you do anything? Yes, of course you do! You organise a meeting through emails and that is just what Woodlands WI did last Thursday April 9th.

The minutes from March were sent out, read and agreed upon for Helen the President to sign. Any news from Staffs Federation, the National WI was written about. In fact, both sections of the WI have suspended events until June but have found ways of holding Committee meetings via Zoom. Who said the WI was old fashioned and out of date! Liz had no finance news- thank goodness we didn't have to buy any raffle tickets!

The programme for 2020/ 2021 was the big news of the meeting as this year due to restrictions it hadn't been printed, so couldn't be handed out at the April meeting. But each member has had a copy emailed to them, so we all know what is happening at future meetings. To give you a flavour, June is a 'Good Time Get together,' July is

'Fantastic Cocktails' and August 'A Trip out to Elford Gardens'. Lots to look forward to this coming year.

In the meantime, members told each other what they had been doing in the past month. Gardening featured heavily for many people, me included. Some were more adventurous and had started new hobbies: knitting, crocheting, learning how to use Zoom and Tai Chi to name a few. I've seen some great crafted door hangings round Marchington Village and gardens have never been so weed-free! Some had to resort to those jobs that you leave for a rainy day. What about tidying the knicker drawer? Jet washing the patio? More baking? And of course, the obligatory eating of chocolate, especially Easter eggs. For others, work carried on, from home instead of the office or for others the normal office at home which involved lambing and farming. A **big Thank You** to Julie D. who has hand crafted Easter cards and sent one out to each member- they are beautiful, thank you so much!

We are all keeping busy in different ways and perhaps also taking the time to just sit in the sunshine and enjoy the spring flowers and birdsong. Life is all about opportunities and we have been given a great one to enjoy ourselves at a slower pace than normal and I'm thoroughly enjoying it.

I hope you all take the chance to enjoy the opportunity we've been given before we meet for our normal WI on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Woodlands Village hall. Let's hope all those Easter Eggs, hot cross buns and baking we've eaten, mean we will still



fit into our summer clothes. I think it might be diet time- especially for me.

I look forward to catching up with you all next month and finding out what has been happening to Woodlands WI members in April.

Grace Hodges

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apart From the
Competition

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My face masks have finally arrived!

PRO
ELECTRICAL
SERVICES

We understand that wine sales have been going well in the village shop!

Marchington Woodlands Village Hall Update

Arrangements were all in place for the Spring Supper on Saturday 14 March. Although mass gatherings were still allowed and social distancing had not been introduced at that point, it was pretty clear from the daily stream of COVID-19 news items that the government would be taking more drastic measures to protect everyone and especially the most vulnerable.

The question had to be asked – should we think about cancelling? We had to bear in mind that a number of attendees were aged over 70 and there were also a number with “pre-existing health issues”.

After consultations between Committee members and final checks on soap and handwash supplies (did we have sufficient to meet demand throughout the evening?), the event went ahead as planned.

There was no music or other entertainment. Those who attended the Spring Supper came along for the meal (first and second helpings!) and the camaraderie. It was a lovely occasion for simply chatting to friends, neighbours and fellow Woodlanders. The Committee is grateful to everyone who bought tickets and supported the village hall and would like to thank Jean Gallimore for the wonderful food.

A raffle was held during the evening that raised £175.10. Proceeds were donated to Midlands Air Ambulance. The charity operates and funds three air ambulances and two critical care cars serving the communities of six Midlands counties, including Staffordshire. Fortunately for us in this area, one of the lifesaving helicopters is stationed just a few miles away at Tatenhill.

On the subject of emergency services, I should give a mention to Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes, which provided a speaker at Woodlands WI's January meeting. Their volunteer riders are front-line in this current crisis, facing protection issues themselves as they move Corona Virus samples around the country and vital PPE equipment between hospitals.

Although supporting and enhancing our NHS, neither charity receives government funding.

But, back to the village hall....

After the raffle was drawn, people gradually drifted away into the Woodlands night and the village hall door was effectively closed until further notice.

In these exceptional circumstances, the Village Hall Committee will carry out administrative duties, keep a check on the facility to make sure that everything stays in good working order and, if at all possible, complete some maintenance and update jobs. It is also a great opportunity for you to let us have your thoughts and ideas about the hall generally (email address: mwvh@btinternet.com).

Finally, you can be sure that we shall be ready to open the hall door when social gathering restrictions are finally lifted.

Karen Perrins

Thinking of Future Social Events

Woodlands Village Hall may be closed at the moment but there will come a time in the not-too-distant-future (we hope) when it will be ready for business again.

So, if you are thinking about organising that future event, a post COVID-19 celebratory bash for example, please get in touch with our Bookings Secretary, Joyce Salmon, to get any information you may need about hiring the Woodlands Village Hall as the venue. Booking information and hall details are also available via Marchington Parish Council website:

<https://marchingtonparishcouncil.org/marchington-woodlands-village-hall/>).



St John's Church Marchington Woodlands

Electoral Roll

Mrs Marjorie	Badham	30/03/2020	nr
Miss Laura Elizabeth	Beech	10/03/2019	nr
Mrs Linda	Beech	10/03/2019	r
Mr Richard C	Beech	10/03/2019	r
Mr John Graham	Bostock	10/03/2019	r
Mrs Patricia Anne	Bostock	10/03/2019	r
Mrs Helen	Cleaver	10/03/2019	r
Mr Michael Anthony	Cleaver	10/03/2019	r
Mrs Margaret Joan	Davies	10/03/2019	r
Lord Bruce	Grocott	10/03/2019	r
Lady Sally	Grocott	10/03/2019	r
Mrs Helena Isis	Hilton	10/03/2019	nr
Mrs Brenda Joan	Parkes	10/03/2019	nr
Mr Robert Harry	Parkes	10/03/2019	nr
Mr Lynton Robert	Parkes	10/03/2019	nr
Ms Sancha Brenda	Parkes	10/03/2019	nr
Mrs Bernice Mary	Swann	10/03/2019	nr
Mr George Victor	Read	10/03/2019	nr
Mrs Rosa Agnes	Read	10/03/2019	nr
Mr Graham	Salt	10/03/2019	nr
Mrs Patricia	Salt	10/03/2019	nr
Mr Thomas Victor	Sale	10/03/2019	nr
Mrs Hilda	White	10/03/2019	nr
Mr John Michael	White	10/03/2019	nr
Miss Christabel Laura	Wilson	10/03/2019	r
Mrs Isabel Ruth	Wilson	10/03/2019	r
Mr Christopher Stephen	Wilson	10/03/2019	r
Master Johnathan Edward	Wilson	10/03/2019	r
Master Phillip Stephen	Wilson	10/03/2019	r
Mrs Zoe	Wilson	10/03/2019	r



Contacts for St John's Church, Marchington Woodlands

Priest in charge: Rev Margaret Sherwin, Rector, Tel: 01889 560234

Vicar :- We are still sadly in interregnum but we are lucky that the Area team and especially Maggie Hatchard look after us and include us in all they do.

Licensed Reader: Maggie Hatchard, 1 Church Close, Marchington,
Tel. 01283 820207

Church Wardens: Graham Salt, Cherry Tree Cottage, Greaves Lane, Draycott in the Clay, tel.01283 821587
gsalt799@btinternet.com;

Victor Read, Loxlie Garth, Bramshall Road,
Uttoxeter, Staffs, tel.01889 560860;

Verger: John Bostock, The School House, Marchington Woodlands, tel. 01889 562404.

Electoral Roll: See page 41

St John's PCC Members:

John & Pat Bostock, Graham & Pat Salt, Victor Read, Anna Cadamy,
Mike Cleaver,
Isabel Wilson (01889 569411 chrisalwilson@aol.co.uk) and



St John's Church Marchington Woodlands in Lockdown

Hello everyone, We hope this finds you. We also hope it finds you safe, well and cared for.

At the end you will find email addresses and phone numbers for PCC members who you can call upon if you need help advice or just a chat because you are lonely. I think the Woodlands is already good at caring for one another but it is now more important than ever. Also included here are the links for the church websites. These will have services and prayers to follow while we cannot meet at our usual services. If you know someone who is not connected to the net, then please try to include them by phone contact and ensure they are aware of us praying for them and with them.

If you are receiving this second hand please allow your contact to share your email with us so that we can continue to keep you all informed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbt8OhdF-B4> Easter Service from Maggie

<http://www.marchingtonwoodlandschurch.co.uk/> St. Johns website

<https://marchingtonparishcouncil.org/marchington-woodlands-village-hall/>
Woodlands Village Hall

<https://www.achurchnearthyou.com/church/4564/> includes Uttoxeter and Diocese and Arch Bishops

www.bbc.co.uk/orderofservice for the Sunday services on BBC One television

100 club winners:

Mr and Mrs White; Chris Hanson; Stuart Cadamy and Richard Beech

MARCHINGTON PARISH COMMUNITY SUPPORT COVID-19

MESSAGE FROM MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEDICAL SUPPORT
NHS 111

EMERGENCY
Dial 999

POLICE
Dial 101

Pastoral Support

St Peters Church Marchington
Maggie Hatchard 07884 448402

St Johns Church
Marchington Woodlands
Isobel Wilson 01889 569411

CARELINE
01335 210353

Telephone befriending service
SAMARITANS 116 123

Food and Other Items

Marchington Shop

New opening hours
8.30 to 10.30 Monday to Friday
and
9am to 11am Saturday & Sunday.
ONE customer in the shop at any
one time, please.

Order for delivery in the village,
Forestside and the Woodlands in
the mornings 10.30 to 11.30 am
01283 821248

Food and Meals Delivery Services

Dog and Partridge 01283 820394
Takeaway & home delivery

Ede Family butchers
07818 433925
Takeaway and home delivery

JS Meats delivery 01283 821123
Collection and home delivery

The Barn Indian Resturant
Stubby Lane, Marchington
01283 204431
Takeaway & home deliveries

BUDDY SYSTEM

You should have received a leaflet from your designated 'Buddy' for your own area. These people are volunteers who are willing to help YOU. If you have not received a leaflet with the name and number of your buddy please call Ian Morgan 07841 363656