



Issue 57 – Sunday 2 May 2021

St PETER'S POST
(incorporating The METHODIST MERCURY)



NEWS



Thought for the week



A church...

A Church is not a
building you go to:

It is a family you
belong to.

It's a lifestyle, not a
weekly activity.



Thank you Paul

POLLING
STATION



POLLING
STATION



POLLING
STATION

Village Hall Market Stall

Thursday May 6th from 9.00am in
the hall car park



As it voting day too, you can come and vote and stay to have a cup of coffee and biscuits outside and visit the stall. Everyone is welcome – there will be a few chairs available for those who need them. Social distancing must be observed and masks worn to help protect us all.

For the stall we could like any plants, jams, and cakes for which we will ask for donations. Let me know if you are able to bring any other items for the stall or if you are able to help.

Those putting in orders for cakes, could have your **orders by Monday May 3rd**. You can collect them from the stall if you prefer but please let me know if you intend to do this otherwise we will deliver.

You can order the following:



Pack of shortbread

Jam & cream Victoria sponge

Chocolate loaf cake

Coffee and walnut cake

Sausage rolls

Blueberry muffins

Lemon drizzle

Apple cake

Sweet scones

Cheese scones

Marmalade £2.50

Ginger cake

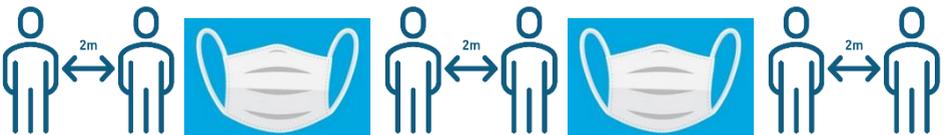
If this is a success and we keep safe then we may be able to continue through May and eventually get back to our coffee morning which we have all missed so much.

Keep safe, Jenny Cobb

Jenny Cobb 01438 869 348

cobbj1364@gmail.com

Thank you Jenny



Benington Community Funds

Benington Parish Council can financially support projects that will benefit residents and enhance where we live. In the past we have regularly contributed to the Village fireworks display, our school, the local environment, fair, and local charities. This year voluntary or charitable organisations can apply to us for project grants from £50 up to £500.

The Parish Council is funded through the Council Tax and we have small reserves available for community enhancement and we encourage residents to put forward their ideas. We will consider all types of ideas or application, although of course we may be limited by our available funds.

Please note: We are unable to grant requests relating to personal financial hardship but would be pleased to direct anyone to the different sources of funds that we know about.

We are open to all Community Fund ideas; however, they will be especially welcome from:

- Different and innovative activity that benefit the community
- Voluntary or charitable groups that provide services for other people
- Groups that support disadvantaged people to access something they could not otherwise
- Applications to purchase items that can be shared / enjoyed by many

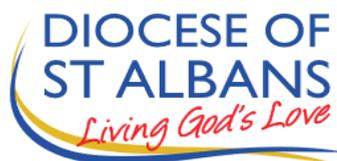
For further information please contact: **Clerk - Julie Haire**
clerk.beningtonpc@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you Dan

Diocesan Office Vacancies

Estates Administrative Assistant – full time

We are seeking an Administrative Assistant for our busy property department which manages clergy housing and investment properties in support of parish ministry. Experience of working within a property management environment would be advantageous, and good IT skills are essential. Please see job pack below for further information and details of how to apply.



[Estates Administrative Assistant Appointment Pack](#)

Closing date: **12 noon, Tuesday 4 May 2021**

BCP 8am at St Peter's

I am pleased to tell you that there will be an **8am Book of Common Prayer communion service** on **Sunday 16th May** with **Canon Mike Leverton**.

As in April, we will be using the main body of the church to allow a greater distance between each other and using a one way system of entry through the main door and exit by the priests or side door.

Sanitising gel is available on entry and exit and a face mask has to be worn at all times, except when receiving the wafer for communion.

Families in a social bubble may sit together.

Mike has taken several communion services and has perfected a technique for conducting a service which includes the sacrament that is Covid-19 compliant.

The 11am Zoom service will also be taking place as usual, the link is in the electronic newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you.

Best regards, Christine & Clare



Thank you Christine & Clare

Help offered



Pat's Wheels

If anyone who is self-isolating and/or has to stay at home for any period of time, I can do your shopping, collect prescriptions, post letters/parcels etc. Just phone: 07955 086070

Happy to help, *Pat (the hat!)*



A Date for Your Diary

27 May 2021

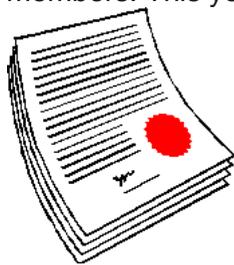
This is to let you know that the two **Church Annual Meetings for St. Peter's (the AMP and the APCM)** will be held on **Thursday 27 May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

The PCC hasn't decided yet whether to hold these meetings in the church, in the Village Hall or by Zoom video conferencing but we will let you know once we have a clearer idea of the lifting of Covid 19 Government restrictions.



The first meeting – the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** – is open to Benington Parishioners and those on the Electoral Roll from outside the parish. The purpose of the AMP is to elect Churchwarden(s).

The main meeting – the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** – will follow the normal pattern of the adoption of the financial statements, reports of church activities for the year and the election of PCC members. This year there are also a few technical resolutions to pass in order to abide by the Church Rules.



One job we need to do prior to the AMP and APCM is update the Electoral Roll. If you have attended St. Peter's services you are more than welcome to go on the Electoral Roll.

Please contact Heather Ferguson, Parish Administrator on 07407 630159 or

ubbw@hotmail.co.uk. Being on the Electoral Roll will enable you to attend and vote at both meetings.

Thanks Paul H





St Peter's church open every Thursday 9.30 to 11.00am

St Peter's Church is open for private prayer each **Thursday morning, 9:30 to 11 a.m. This will continue until further notice.**

Hand sanitiser is in place at both doors and a one-way system is in place.



BENINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 2 May 2021 at 10.30am

Our service this Sunday will be a Local Arrangement presented by Deacon Marcianne Uwimana.

The chapel continues to be safe in accordance with the Methodist Church guidelines

Future services will be announced on a weekly basis

Everyone is welcome.



The News Sheet Needs You!!

Please feel free to submit any news you think will be of interest to our village community to the Parish Office (ubbw@hotmail.co.uk).



Across

- 1** Skeleton of older motor vehicles (7)
- 8** Beat easily – recount (anag) (7)
- 9** Expected to be warm and dry (3,4)
- 10** Demanding considerable mental effort and skill (7)
- 11** California-based multinational IT company (5)
- 13** Container for cold cubes (3,6)
- 15** Poetry without regular rhythm (4,5)
- 18** Part of the body gazed at by those engaged in complacent self-absorption (5)
- 21** Black bird 'of Rheims' which was canonised as Saint Jem Crow (7)
- 22** List (7)
- 23** South American monkey (7)
- 24** Underground pipe carrying flammable substance (3,4)

Down

- 1** Spanish seaside (5)
- 2** Misbehave (3,2)
- 3** 1978 'shoot 'em up' arcade game developed by Tomohiro Nishikado (5,8)
- 4** Attack ground targets from a low-flying plane (6)
- 5** Elizabeth I (4,5,4)
- 6** Open a bottle of wine (6)
- 7** One-room accommodation (6)
- 12** Henry VIII's sixth wife (4)
- 14** Tranquil rest (4)
- 15** Tex-Mex dish of grilled meat served as a taco on a tortilla (6)
- 16** Lodge (6)
- 17** Having a dispute (6)
- 19** Here it is! (5)
- 20** Stay in bed in the morning (3-2)



BENINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



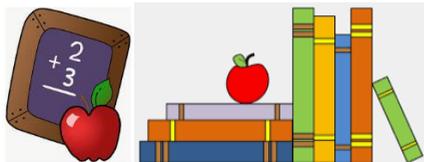
Every child
welcome at
our inclusive
school.



School places available



TEL: 01438 869254
AND ON THE WEB



School News

We came back to school on March 8th after the third lockdown! It was so lovely to be back together again and we are enjoying all the things that we missed about being together! One of the things that sustained me over the lockdown period was reading. Reading for me has always been a place to escape to when the “real world” is not such a nice place to be and never has it been so important than over the past 12 months!

Talking to the children in my class, it became clear that for many of them this was also true and when we talked about what we had read during lockdown, I was impressed by how much some of our children had read. What a wide range of authors and genres and what level of challenge some of them were setting themselves in terms of what they were choosing to read!



Now that we are back in school and the Summer term is underway, we as a staff have been looking at the profile of reading in our classrooms and the books that we love and read to the children in our classes. Staff have been moving around their reading areas, changing the books in focus and exploring ways in which we encourage all the children at Benington to learn to love books as much as we do!

One of the things we are creating is a “River of reading” where we are going to display all the books that our children will meet as they move through the school. Some of these are: The very hungry caterpillar, The Gruffalo, The tiger who came to tea, Hansel and Gretel, The true story of the three little pigs, Traction man is here, Bill’s new frock, Stig of the dump, The peppermint pig, The lion the witch and the wardrobe, Kensuke’s kingdom.

I love the fact that we are still reading books to the children at Benington that I remember reading as a child - timeless classics!

I wonder how many of these you have read?

Julia Beaven (Oak class teacher)

Thank you Julia



Children’s corner

MAYTIME

The other day someone reminded me of a song we used to sing. I wonder if you know it

‘Sing a song of Maytime, sing a song of Spring.
Flowers are in their beauty, birds are on the wing.
Blossom on the hedgerows, sunshine on the hills,
Oh the happy Maytime all my being fills.

Maytime, Maytime, God has given the Maytime.
Thank him for his gift of love, sing a song of Spring’

May starts this weekend. The gardens and banks are full of flowers and the birds are busy everywhere. So I think it’s a really good time to remember to say thank you to God don’t you?



Jesus once talked to the people about the birds and the flowers. ‘Look at the birds’, he said, ‘Do they store up food in a barn? No. God feeds them. And look at the flowers. They don’t work to make clothes for themselves and yet even a king is not dressed as beautifully as God

dresses the flowers. You are much more important than birds and flowers, so if God takes care of them he will certainly take care of you too.’

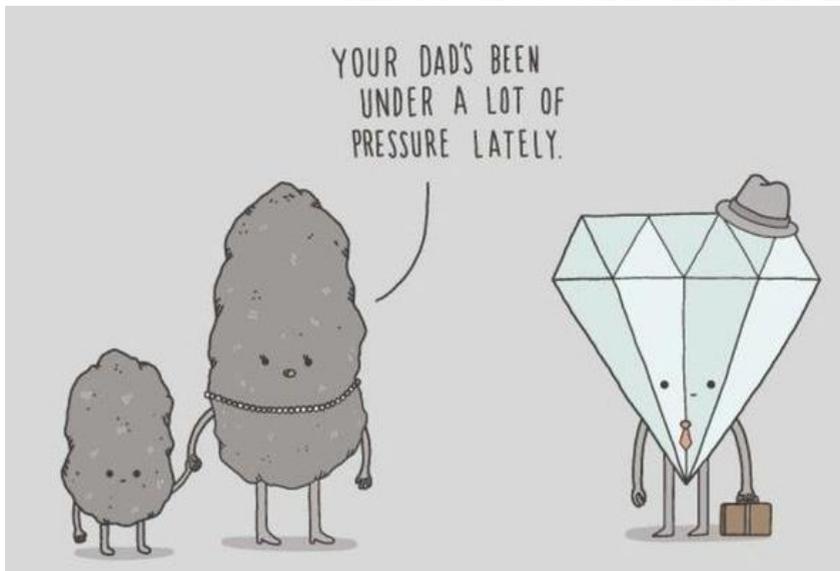


Here is something you could do over the Bank Holiday weekend. How many birds and flowers can you think of beginning with the letters down the side?

HOW MANY CAN YOU THINK OF?		
	Birds	Flowers
S		
P		
R		
I		
N		
G		

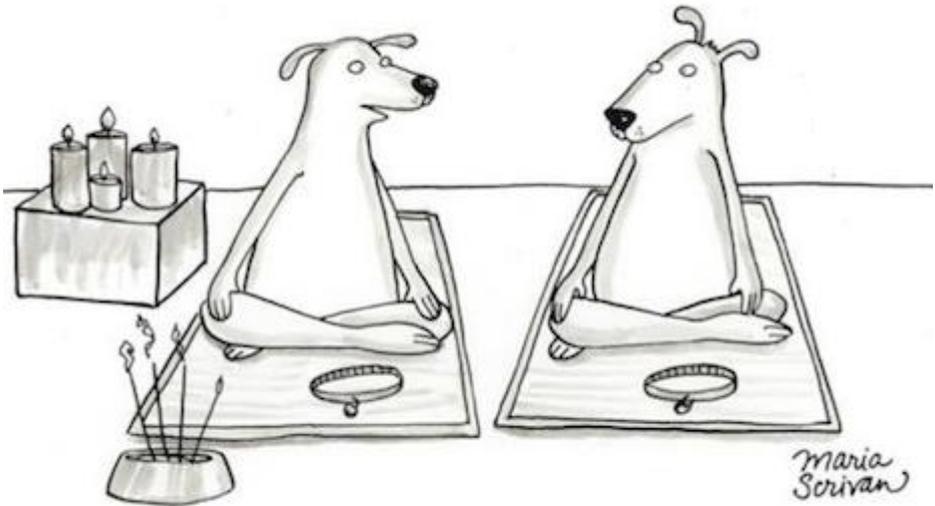
Thank you Shirley and Anne

Funnies



A bit of black tarmac and
a bit of green tarmac go
to the pub. A bit of red
tarmac walks in and the
black tarmac turns to the
green tarmac and says
"Oi, mate, watch out for
him, he's a cyclepath!"

YOUHAVETOLAUGH.COM



"The key to meditation is learning to stay."

Tail enders...

A vicar was visiting one of his parishioners, and after a general chat he said 'tell me, Annie, do you ever think about the hereafter? She immediately replied ' Oh yes, vicar almost every day I go upstairs and think 'now what have I come up hereafter?'

Thank you Jennifer

Hymns, Readings and Prayers

SUNDAY 2 MAY: EASTER 5

Hymn for the week



Jenny Cobb has offered this hymn for this coming Sunday. It's number 518 from Hymns Old and New:

Thy hand, O God, has guided

Jenny says:

“A year of lockdown has reminded us that a Church can exist without a building. What makes us a Church is our shared hope, our shared faith and our shared love for God, for our neighbour and for each other.

I've chosen a hymn today that describes our Church as part of a greater body; the worldwide community of God's people.

The hymn speaks of past struggles to 'guard the nation's life', and our present conflicts in society. The hymn then looks to the future when all are guided by God's hand.”

If you would like to listen and maybe sing along, just click on the blue link below or copy and paste it into your internet browser (eg Google).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lal3cRtXqRw>

Thank you Jenny



Reading for the week



Reading: John 15:1-8

A surprising number of Jesus' stories and illustrations involve wine and vineyards, and all the evidence is that Jesus wasn't averse to the odd cup of wine himself.

In this reading, Jesus draws a picture of himself as a vine with us as the branches. As branches, we cannot survive without the vine, as we need to draw sustenance from the plant. As branches of the vine, we are part of Christ, and this is what makes us a Church.

In our service this coming Sunday we'll look more deeply into what it means to be branches of the vine, and we'll look at the role of God as the vineyard-keeper, pruning the branches so that we provide much fruit.

Do join us if you're free.

Paul Cobb



Prayers for the week

COLLECT

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Please join us in saying the Collect at
12 noon every day.**

Zoom on Sunday at 11

I know that many say the Collect at 11am on a Sunday in the knowledge that their friends are doing the same thing. You may like to join me on Sunday for an informal Zoom meeting to sing Barbara's hymn, hear the reading and say the prayers together.

The information for this meeting is:

Topic: Sunday at 11

Time: May 2, 2021 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89177977571>

Meeting ID: 891 7797 7571



If you need some help getting started with Zoom, click this link for a useful YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsy2Ph6kSf8&list=PLKpRxBfeD1kEM_I1Ild3N_XI77fKDzSXe

Prayers

Heavenly Father, thank you for the skills you have given people to enable us to meet like this from our own homes. We are like branches of your vine, connected together by your love and glory. Be with us today as we meet in your name and, thanks to your Son, share the promise of being eternally part of your tree of life.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

A prayer from Christian Aid

As many parts of the world struggle bravely and desperately with the ravages of the Covid virus, we pray for medical workers everywhere where resources and protective equipment are always in short supply, not only now but always.

May these extraordinary times lead to deep and necessary changes in how our world works, resulting in a genuine effort to address the profound injustice of life expectancy being determined by geography, to awaken us all to the reality of how connected we all are and to work together to create the community and world we all want to be part of.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Lord, thank you for the candidates wanting to be the new priest in our benefice. Help them to show their true selves to our panel and be with, and give guidance to, those on the panel that they may find and select someone who will support and nurture the benefice for years to come.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Be with those who are struggling with life: those who are sick, those who are lonely and isolated, those who are frightened of the future, those who don't understand what is going on. Support all who are trying to provide words and acts of comfort where needed and give them and those struggling the strength they need to carry on.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our friends and families who have died and whose anniversaries we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

A prayer from Harold Woolveridge

Slow me down Lord. Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of the mind.

Steady my hurried pace with the vision of eternal reach of time.

Give me amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Help me to know the magical restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations, of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat to an old friend, or to make a new one.

Teach me to pat a stray dog, to watch a spider build a web, to smile at a child, or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day that the race is not to the swift – that there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Teach me to look upwards into the branches of the towering tree and to know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow towards the start of my greater destiny.

Merciful Father **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

Paul Phillips

A prayer during vacancy

God our Father, at this time of change, send your Holy Spirit to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer, that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER REQUESTS

Named requests for prayer will be included on the notice sheet for at least one month. If you would like a name to be included for our intercessions, please contact the Parish Office ubbw@hotmail.co.uk or 07407 630159 or Maggie Hawkins (359500) for Walkern or Rita Plumb (869731) for Benington. (Names from the prayer board in St Mary's Church will also be included in the intercessions in that church.) Prayer is regularly offered for all the sick and needy in our community.

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Those who live in our villages: This week we pray for all who live Totts Lane, Walkern and Three Stiles, Benington.

We pray for those in our parishes or friends and family members who are housebound, unwell, receiving treatment or recovering from operations:
Lorraine Reeves.

We also remember those who have died and their families and friends.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENINGTON & WALKERN: CONTACT NUMBERS

MEMBERS OF ECUMENICAL MINISTRY TEAM

Methodist: Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562), Mr Brian Burgess (237748),
Mrs Brenda Davies (227293);

URC: Revd John Walker (01462-895481), Mrs Mary Miller (861289),
Mrs Olga Ginn (861754);

Roman Catholic: Mrs Rita Healy (861098);

St Peter and St Mary: Revd Norman Plumb (869731),
Mr Paul Cobb, *Reader* (869348), Mr Laurie Hawkins, *Reader* (359500),
Mr Steve Mason, *Reader* (360847),
Mrs Jenny Cobb (869348), Mrs Rita Plumb (869731).

TO ARRANGE BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS, CONTACT:

Church clergy: United Reformed Church: Revd John Walker (01462 895481)

Benington Methodist Church: Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562)

St Mary's and St Peter's: Benefice Administrator ubbw@hotmail.co.uk

FOR OTHER PASTORAL HELP, CONTACT:

Benington Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Rita Plumb (869731)
Walkern Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)

St Peter's, Benington Churchwardens:

Mrs Christine Brown (869468) & Mrs Clare Wood (869674)

St Mary's, Walkern Churchwardens:

Mrs Beverley Harlow (225365) & Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Benington Methodist Steward: Mr Brian Burgess (237748)

Walkern URC Secretary: Mrs Olga Ginn (861754)

Anglican Benefice Administrator: Heather Ferguson (07407 630159):

Tuesdays 2.00pm–5.00pm & Thursdays 2.00pm–5.00pm or ubbw@hotmail.co.uk