

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

*See Dawn's message on front page*

We hope to soon hold Sunday services, possibly weekly, at St. Marys. following the guidelines.  
(All Saints is closed for major electrical work)

### **St. Mary's church open times**

St Mary's will be open for private prayer on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 10.00am to 4.00pm (subject to variation) and limited to 2 people in the church at any time.

### **Village Story Writing**

This has been great fun and a somewhat unique diversion during the current lockdown. We started in April with ten writers, each adding their bit of nuanced suspense to the overall effort.

Everyone wrote a paragraph, following on from the preceding one. When we had our ten paragraphs, there was the tricky task of 'how to finish the story'. I really did think it was going to be a problem, but no, we had **eight alternatives!** So, we 'voted' and the favoured options were from Nick Astbury and myself; one plausible, one fantastical.

There were strong contenders from Judie Harrison and Jimmy Hartley also. However, it wasn't about 'winners'; every alternative was worthy of bringing our opus to a resolution. Have a read of the story and see which one you prefer. The story will also be available on the Shotesham website.

So, I have to say a big thank you to Pat Harris for suggesting we undertake this unusual venture. Also, of course to all our writers including; Diana Fisher, Ken Munro, Sue Astbury, Phil Walmsley & Brenda Unwin, Sam Birkentals and Lesley Munro.

### ***Ken Holbeck***

*This month's contact is sponsored by Mike and Bernie Fenn, who recently celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary and 37 happy years living in Shotesham.*



## **SHOTESHAM CONTACT**

**July 2020**

### **Message from Dawn**

You will have heard that churches have the go-ahead to open for worship (with limited numbers and other restrictions in place) with effect from the 4th July. The Bishop of Norwich has advised clergy not to rush into opening. Decisions must be made according to local context and depending on whether we have the necessary resources (not least human resources!) to make this possible. A firm decision has not yet been made locally about which of the churches within the Tas Valley Team will hold services but we will keep you informed via email and other means as soon as we have further details.

However, we are delighted to report that St Mary's Shotesham will be open (on a limited basis) for private prayer - see inside for further details. We have had to remove or cover items that would normally be handled (Bibles, hymn books etc), available seating is indicated in line with current social distancing requirements and hand sanitiser is available. I am extremely grateful to members of the PCC – and others - for their hard work in making this possible. For the time being, Shotesham All Saints will remain closed while the electrics and heating undergo upgrading and maintenance.

There is more encouraging news! As of 27<sup>th</sup> June the Tas Valley Team Ministry has been joined by a new curate, Coryn Stanforth. She will be living at the rectory in Newton Flotman and will be with us for three years. During this time, Coryn, who has just finished her academic training at theological college, will receive further training and the practical experience she needs in order to move on to her first post as incumbent.

Current restrictions prevent us from having a social gathering to welcome Coryn in the way that we would have liked. However, we plan to rectify that as soon as it becomes possible to do so! In the meantime, I'm sure Coryn will be warmly received by all of us and made to feel at home here. I'm looking forward to working with Coryn and I know that we will be enriched by both her friendship and her ministry.

Please ring me if you have any questions - or if you need clarification on anything etc.

With every blessing **Dawn**

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## Parish Council

Broadband across the village. We are looking to see if there is any way the council can help to improve the broadband speeds in the village for the homes that are getting a poor service. Can you help by letting us know where you are, and what kind of average download speed you get? We will hold this information anonymously. We hope to map the coverage all over Shotesham. Let the Jeff know on - [clerk.shotesham@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.shotesham@outlook.com) The council has been using Zoom for their meetings over this last few months. While this has been adequate for business and planning, and we are very grateful to have this facility, it is -as I'm sure many people have discovered- more difficult to have a full discussion.

The agendas and minutes, once they have been verified, are still posted on the village website -[shotesham.com](http://shotesham.com) We continue to have virtual meetings weekly with Bob Harris from the PCC and Ken Munro from the SVA. We are particularly grateful to Ken Munro for his excellent updating of the website, which includes lots of information on services available to us all at this time. Thanks also to Emma Muntingh for her regular email updates

David at The Globe very generously allowed us to direct drivers to use the parking at the pub while it is closed. The parking around the church became overused, and it was good to be able to offer an alternative. Happily The Globe will be re-opening on the 4th of July and though there will initially be no food David is hoping to expand the possibility of having a drink outside, as well as in the dining area inside. It will serve as a good meeting place for those in the village who would like to support the pub.

We have seen a huge increase in number of walkers who have come to the village, adding to the locals who make full use of our wonderful footpath network throughout the year.

The local farmers have been very helpful in keeping them as clear as they are able and we would like to thank them for that.

Shortly we will be doing some renovations on the two red telephone boxes. The one containing the defibrillator needs quite extensive work on the door and the one at the Grove- the Phone Books - needs 2 small panels replaced. There is a wonderful selection of books -all free - looked after and changed regularly by Kathy and Laura. Please make full use of it.

We continue to have 2 postboxes available to us -on the common and by the bowling green-but we don't know how long these will be supported. If you can, please try to use them, since if they are being monitored we need to show they are being used.

## Shotesham Village Association

SVA 'news'! Whilst the country slowly 'unlocks' from lockdown restrictions, the SVA will continue to keep an eye out for the opportunity to put some kind of event in place in order to celebrate our new found freedom when it comes.

Of course the likelihood is that some people will still, at least mentally, be in shelter mode even when relaxations come along. But thankfully we have a big open space at our disposal, so an impromptu socially distanced Party on the Playing Field may still be a possibility at some time later. And we'll be keeping an eye on what else we may be able to get up and running in due course.

The SVA will also be planning to hold the AGM as soon as the guidelines allow, so keep fingers crossed and watch this space for details as they become possible.

## Bowls in shotesham

If you travel from Shotesham on the Brooke road you will notice Shotesham Bowls Club on your left just after the last of the houses of The Grove.

It has been there since the Queen was a Lass but until recently it has shyly hid behind a tall hedge.

Now it is on full view through a picket fence. We have heard people say "I did not know we have a bowl club in Shotesham."

Yes indeed we have a club and it is a great asset to the village and everyone is welcome to join for just £30 per year. Whether you are a seasoned player or one who has never held a bowls wood before, if you join this year your subs will cover next year too. Buy one get one free!

Because of the present circumstances which you know only too well, we are not playing any league matches at the moment but by arrangement with our ubiquitous hard working groundsman Raz Woollacott who lives next door you are welcome to come and look round, or join, or just have a free roll up to see how you get on.

What is more, Raz will guide you and lend you woods if you have never played before; just wear flat shoes if you do not have bowls ones.

Do give Raz a call on 550122 or email. [razwoollacott@gmail.com](mailto:razwoollacott@gmail.com) he would be so pleased to welcome you at a "Social Distance" of course.

**John Torbitt** Hon Treasurer