



# 5ALIVE!

**February 2020**

**News from Buckland Dinham,  
Chantry, Great Elm, Mells with  
Vobster and Whatley**

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## FROM THE EDITOR

CHRISTMAS MARKED 10 YEARS since I started working on the mag with Jim Duffus, who had already done it for several years, and Tony Atkinson who was in charge of layout and advertising. On deadline day – always 12 noon on a Friday - a visit to the post office in Mells was necessary to collect articles from those with no email. Brexit was an unknown word and the words Climate Emergency didn't appear in any news headlines. When Tony stepped down, Andrew and Sharon Smith took over the admin then later when Jim and the Smiths 'retired' Pete stepped into the job.

The design of the magazine has changed over the years – coloured covers for a start - but what hasn't changed is our appreciation of all our contributors, regular or occasional, who month after month send in articles and good wishes and, of course, our advertisers too. We wouldn't be here if you weren't there!

*Lin*

Many thanks, Lin, for all your hard work in making the magazine the success it is.

And while I'm saying 'thanks', thanks also to Lin's husband, Phil, for the lovely cover photo of a catkin, one of the much awaited harbingers of Spring.

*Peter*

## FROM THE RECTORY

### FOCUS ON FARMING

The farming communities are really suffering this winter. The flood damage has ranged from farms being completely under cover to winter crops unable to germinate under the flood water. Winter crops planted have been very difficult as the conditions have been far from ideal.

This month is 'Februdairy' (a twitter led campaign) when we are invited to support our farmers by consuming and promoting British milk based products which are both produced sustainably with the best animal husbandry in the world.

Perhaps it is helpful, as we support our farmers, to reflect on the life of Caedmon (d 680). He should be the patron saint of all farmers who enjoy humming to themselves as they do the lambing this Spring. For Caedmon of Whitby was a bit like David in the Bible – he grew up as a simple herdsman out on the hills who enjoyed composing songs and poetry for himself while watching his flocks.

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## CONTACTS

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 The Rectory, Gay Street, Mells, BA11 3PT 01373 673431  
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 Benefice administrator Tracy Hughes tracyhughes523@yahoo.com

Church laymen and women Church wardens	Parish council chairs and clerks
Buckland Suzanne Westlake Dinham 07817 059651	Pauline Short 472188
Chantry Mrs D Blacker 836668 Mrs H Tovey 836384	See Whatley
Great Elm Judy Duffus 813215	Edmund Thompson 812283 Joy Book 300184
Mells with Vobster Jenny Waller 813852	John Earl 812450 Joy Book 300184
Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175	Mrs J Butcher 837259 Joy Book 300184

### Roman Catholic Services

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am Frome: Sundays at 9.30am and 5.30pm

**County Councillor** Philip Ham 01373 812152

**District Councillors** Buckland Dinham, Great Elm and Mells  
 (Ammerdown Ward) Alison Barkshire, 07432 003382,

[Cllr.Barkshire@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Barkshire@mendip.gov.uk)

Chantry and Whatley (Cranmore, Doultling and Nunney Ward)  
 Francis Hayden, 07970 839532, [Cllr.Hayden@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Hayden@mendip.gov.uk)

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Like David, Caedmon also had a keen awareness of God, and used his creative gift to express his devotion and love for his Creator. When his poems and songs became known to others, they liked them so much that soon Caedmon left his sheep in order to become a monk. This gave him time to compose many poems based on the stories in the Bible: from Creation and Genesis, to the Exodus and entry of the Jews into the promised land, to the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ and finally to the future Last Judgement, Heaven, and Hell. Sadly, only nine lines of his poetry have survived.

February is a time when we can look forward to Spring around the corner. Perhaps we too can share the parables of the bible as we reflect on the difficult winter for our farmers and on our country walks think of the farming parables like the sower and the mustard seed.

The poem called the Sower by Victor Hugo may enable us to think of our farmers.

Sitting in a porchway cool,  
Fades the ruddy sunlight fast,  
Twilight hastens on to rule--  
Working hours are well nigh past

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## February Services

<b>2 February Candlemas</b>	Mells	<b>1000</b>	Group Service	Rev Clive Fairclough
<b>9 February</b>	Chantry	<b>1100</b>	Holy Communion	Rev Clive Fairclough
	Great Elm	<b>0930</b>	Family Service	Rev Clive Fairclough
	Mells	<b>0800</b>	Holy Communion	Rev Clive Fairclough
	Whatley	<b>0930</b>	Matins	Hilary Daniel
<b>16 February</b>	Buckland Dinham	<b>1100</b>	Festival of Love	Rev Clive Fairclough
	Chantry	<b>1100</b>	Matins	Hazell Tovey
	Great Elm	<b>0930</b>	Holy Communion	Rev Clive Fairclough
	Mells	<b>0930</b>	Informal Service	Jenny Waller
	Whatley	<b>0800</b>	Holy Communion	Rev Clive Fairclough
<b>23 February</b>	Chantry	<b>1100</b>	Holy Communion	Rev Clive Fairclough
	Great Elm	<b>0930</b>	Matins	Hilary Daniel
	Mells	<b>0930</b>	Holy Communion	Rev Clive Fairclough
	Whatley	<b>0930</b>	Matins	Val Rawlins
<b>26 February Ash Wednesday</b>	Mells	<b>1830</b>	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes	Rev Clive Fairclough
<b>1 March First Sunday in Lent</b>	Whatley	<b>1000</b>	Group Service	Rev Clive Fairclough

**If you want to keep an eye open for any changes to services, you can check the schedule on the Mells Group website, [www.mellsgroup.church/whatson](http://www.mellsgroup.church/whatson).**

Shadows shoot across the lands;  
But one sower lingers still,  
Old, in rags, he patient stands,--  
Looking on, I feel a thrill.

Black and high his silhouette  
Dominates the furrows deep!  
Now to sow the task is set,  
Soon shall come a time to reap.

Marches he along the plain,  
To and fro, and scatters wide  
From his hands the precious grain;  
Moody, I, to see him stride.

Darkness deepens. Gone the light.  
Now his gestures to mine eyes  
Are august; and strange--his height  
Seems to touch the starry skies.

*John Fairley*

## JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

BEFORE I START WITTERING ON may I wish everyone, belatedly, a very happy New Year and hope that Christmas was enjoyable in whatever way you chose it to be. As usual nowadays, environmentally and meteorologically the weather and climate change seem to take centre stage, from the tragic bush fires in Australia, floods in many places and locally the weirdly mild winter. The gales we are threatened with as I write this are common in January but the saturated ground makes them a greater hazard as the roots lose their grip in the softened soil. An ancient plum tree and an elder have already come down in my orchard. The mild winter has bought some things into early flower while others seem to be adjusting slowly to the gradual warming trend. Walking round the churchyard just after Christmas I was delighted to find a primrose in flower. (Oops! Sorry! Misplaced participle. I was walking round, not the primrose). The point is I found another, then another till within ten paces I found eleven separate clumps

of flowering primroses. The snowdrops, too, in the eastern corner which catches the afternoon winter sun have been in flower since before Christmas as they did last year. Even in my shady garden my snowdrops are all in bloom this year whereas in earlier years I have had to do a lot of muttering and encouraging to persuade them to flower by January 21st, the date we moved here 46 years ago to find a carpet of white. This I regarded as a blessing of welcome, having struggled for 25 years to get snowdrops to survive let alone flower "back home". Every year since then I persuade a few to flower by 21st. But this year early January all is white already. I had a lovely "feedback" recently after a group service from a kind soul who had read about our poor churchyard conker tree's moth predation. She had consulted a tree expert who said the only way to help was to sweep up and destroy all the fallen leaves. As the tree is 50-60ft tall with a proportionate spread (half over the neighbouring field) I doubt if that would be possible. I had assumed the moth eggs were in the bark crevices ready to predate the new growth when hatched but apparently they are in the fallen leaves. These leaves are presently in dark, slimy heaps among the long grass so I hope the eggs may have died of damp and mould or drowned. If not, maybe I could stir up enough caring enthusiasm locally in the autumn when the leaves are fresh and dry and we could have a great "save the conker tree" and all gather leaves and have a bonfire and hot chocolate to warm ourselves. Wouldn't that be a good idea? I expect many people have found that some of the summer flowering plants have just carried on. Roses, apart from hating the constant rain, have bravely struggled on and my large pots of osteospermum which were so full of buds in November that I

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dragged them into the sheltered porch to see if they might survive have rewarded me with a riot of yellow and purple flowers.

I do hope that if the birds are encouraged by the mild weather to start nesting early we don't get a spell of bitter weather later in the spring so that the first round of chicks fail to survive. Life is hard enough for the insect eaters as it is with the delicate balance of timing insect hatching in the fluctuating temperatures.

I had a lovely joyful Christmas gift again this year to hear my resident thrush singing his first song outside my back door on Christmas morning and he has sung every morning since then.

Strangely I had the same lovely surprise on the previous Christmas morning. I couldn't wish for a more beautiful and uplifting Christmas gift.

Oh, dear. I seem to have gone backwards – started with New Year, ended with Christmas.

Welcome spring when it comes, anyway.

See you in March

Hazell

## ROUND AND ABOUT

Please see Great Elm for a Church Architecture History Talk by George Chedburn RIBA on 27th February to which everyone is invited. We look forward to seeing you and your friends.

Please see Buckland Dinham News for Walking on Saturdays –Dates for February to December 2020 .

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# BUCKLAND DINHAM

## PARISH COUNCIL

We have a new councillor but we now urgently need to find another!

At the meeting in January the council team were delighted to appoint Sue Palmer to join them as a councillor. Thank you Sue for volunteering and a very big welcome from us all!

However, sadly, Bob Tucker also left the team just before Christmas, so another willing replacement is needed urgently to make the numbers up to the seven we must have. If you are interested in joining or just want to find out more, please talk to our new chair, John Reckless, or any of the other established councillors, Alan King, Ian Blair, Jonathan Swift or Viv Street. It's a great opportunity to do something new and make a contribution to your village. Please think about it!

The next meeting will be held in the village hall at 7.30 on Thursday February 27th.

*Pauline Short, Parish Clerk*

## BUCKLAND DINHAM WI

The January meeting of Buckland Dinham WI took the form of an American Tea at the home of the President, Jill Wright. Members had brought a delicious selection of food. There was a brief business meeting with a reminder to sow seeds for the plant sale on May 9th.

There was a list of the National Resolutions in the December issue of WI Life with the voting form to be filled in and given to Christine Dyer by the next meeting. Everyone had enjoyed the Christmas meal at the Artisan in Frome.

The craft days recommence on January 25th and will continue on the last Saturday of each month from 10.00am till 3.00pm. These are open meetings, you do not have to be a member of the WI or live in the village. Cost is £5.00 for a full day or £2.50 for a half day, tea and coffee included. For details contact Sandy Carter 01373 455046



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The next WI meeting is on February 4th when Mary Henderson will give a talk about Prison Libraries.

For any other information about the WI please ring President Jill Wright 01373 813641 or Secretary Christine Dyer on 03330112682. *Jenny Holmes*

### BUCKLAND DINHAM PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

The association's AGM will take place at the Village Hall on March 4th at 7.00pm. The Committee members would be pleased to welcome members of the community.

*Kay Kearsey, Committee Member*

### BUCKLAND HISTORY GROUP

After the fascinating albeit dark presentation by David Lassman on Frome's criminal past we move on to a very different topic for our March meeting when Sue Simpson from Frome Family History Group will be detailing the best ways of researching your ancestors. The meeting, which will be in Buckland Village Hall as usual, is on Thursday, March 5th. It starts at 7.30, admission in £3.00

### CHURCH NEWS

I hope all our readers had a Happy Christmas. The village celebrations started on December 7th with the Christmas Lights Fayre in the Village Hall and Garden which once again was enjoyed by all. After the lights were switched on, carols were sung around the Christmas tree, the various stalls in the hall were busy and the food and drinks consumed with relish. The Church raffle this year was shared between two



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hampers and won by Sara Corbett and me! The Food bank in Frome was also grateful for the many items donated. A very big thank you to all who worked so hard to make this another successful evening.

On December 15th our candlelight Carol Service was taken by Father Clive in a beautifully decorated Church. The large Christmas tree, decorated by Judy Annan and family, and 12 smaller trees decorated by various clubs and villagers was a great success and we are very grateful to Alice Phippen for her suggestion and help in organising this.

We are also very lucky to have Peggy, Doreen and Ros who over the year have decorated the church with beautiful flower arrangements and to Madeline and Margaret for flowers on the War Memorial. A lovely service with readings and singing by children, a film show and finishing with sherry and mince pies made us all forget that the heating wasn't working.

So we started the New Year with the first of the Festival Services, as these notes are written two days before this takes place, we will be commenting on it next month. It is likely we shall always be a month behind with these notes.

Have just been informed that the heating will be on for the first Festival Service so can I take this opportunity to thank Suzanne for all the time and effort she has given to make this possible.

*Jill Wright*

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**FEBRUARY 16th Festival of Love.** 11.00am. This service is open to all, especially anyone who had their wedding ceremony in St. Michael's. As is it only two days after Valentine's Day it's a perfect way to celebrate. Everyone loves something – partner, children, parents, pets, friends, countryside, so many things, and to share in God's house, would be very special indeed.

### **COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday February 15th,** 10.00am to 12.00. Are you new to the village? This is a lovely way to meet your neighbours, enjoy a cup of coffee, delicious homemade cakes and all for a donation of £3.00. If you are one of our "regulars" and know of someone who has recently come to live in Buckland, please do ask them to join you.

*Maintenance February:* Peter and Sara

*Flowers:* As usual Peggy would love to hear from anyone willing to help.

*Sidesperson:* 16th February Pauline Short

### **WALKING ON SATURDAYS – DATES FOR FEBRUARY TO DECEMBER 2020**

The dates for Walking on Saturdays between February and November this year are now set as follows:- February 15th, March 14th, April 11th, May 16th, June 13th, August 15th,

September 19th, October 17th, November 14th. There are no walks scheduled for July and December this year

Although based in Buckland, the group always welcomes new members from wherever they live! There is no charge and you do not need to commit to walking every month. So, if you fancy a leisurely two hour easy walk covering around three to four miles somewhere fairly local on a Saturday afternoon, please get in touch.

To join in, or just to find out more, call me, Pauline, on 01373 472188 by Friday on the week of the walk

### **POPPY APPEAL**

Thank you to all those who gave to the door to door Poppy Appeal collection in Buckland Dinham this year. We collected an amazing £225.27.

*Susie Hicks and Judy Annan*

## **CHANTRY**

### **CHANTRY CHURCH**

The Christmas Services were very well attended and we hope were enjoyed by all. The first was the Toy and Carol Service which was led by the Rev. Clive Fairclough. The lessons were beautifully read and shared by Finn O'Kane and Lola O'Kane with a little help from her mother. During the service a vast number of gifts was presented at the altar and placed under our magnificent tree. The morning ended with all enjoying coffee and mince pies. All the gifts, which filled my boot and back seat, were taken next day to the Salvation Army depot at Shepton Mallet. They were extremely

appreciative and assured us that they will be shared out among those families with less than most of us.

The Christmas Eve Mass, which was also led by Rev. Clive, was held in candlelight. The church looked lovely with lots of greenery and baubles decorating the windowsills, the candles flickering and the tree lit up in all its glory. The service was followed with more mince pies and mulled wine. We would like to thank all who helped to decorate the tree and the church and Jan and Andrew for the mulled wine. We hope you all have a happy and healthy 2020.

### **WHATLEY COMMON GOOD TRUST (INCLUDES CHANTRY)**

See article in Whatley section

### **WACCA**

Please see Whatley entry for a report on the New Year's Eve walk.

## **GREAT ELM**

### **MESSAGE FROM CHURCH WARDEN**

Thanks to the families who kept the church clean throughout last year. In the hope that we can continue in the same way, I suggest for 2020: February: Peachey family; March: Fellows family; April: Judy Duffus & Carol Lee; May: Naylor family.

Cleaning takes two people about an hour every month. Please let Judy know if you are unable to continue - and perhaps there are others in the village who would like to take a turn.

*Judy Duffus*

### **CHURCH ARCHITECTURE HISTORY TALK OPEN TO ALL**

The Friends of Great Elm, currently a loose association of local people, welcomes everyone from the five parishes and beyond to a fund raising event for the church. Great Elm church's conservation architect, George Chedburn RIBA, will give an illustrated talk on Great Elm's Grade 1 listed church architecture.

He will outline his approach to conserving 230 churches in Somerset to make them more fitting to the needs of their current communities.

A senior partner of Chedburn Codd, Building Conservation and Design, George is a panel member of the Bath & Wells Board of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and a resident of Great Elm.

Donations on the night welcomed in support of the church.

Sandwiches and refreshments provided but feel free to BYOB beer and wine.

No need to book but an indication of intent welcomed. Contact: Lynn Baxter on [lynn@lynnbaxterartist.co.uk](mailto:lynn@lynnbaxterartist.co.uk) Tel: 01373 812366

*St Mary Magdalene Church, Great Elm*

*Thursday, February 27th, 7.00pm for 7.30pm*

# MELLS WITH VOBSTER

## MELLS CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

The New Year has started well at Mells School. Our youngest children are learning about pioneers in space, such as Neil Armstrong, Helen Sharman and Margaret Hamilton, which they are very excited about. Our older children have a topic called 'Wizz, Pop, Bang!' which is a science based enquiry inspired by a couple of books about young scientists – Itch by Simon Mayo and Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty. The children have started by learning about volcanoes and light.

We have also been thinking about New Year's Resolutions. These are a few examples from the children:

'I would like to try new foods' (Lilly)

'To use more recyclable products and use less single use plastic' (Isla)

'Do more chores at home, eat healthier, be fitter and help the world' (Archie)

'I would like to make more friends and litter pick in the playground' (Alfie)

'I would like to be kind at school and put my hand up more in class' (Lily)

'I would like to get better at maths' (Beau)



Wenlock Class have also been learning about the Holy Trinity and what it means to them. They have designed stained glass windows to illustrate their thoughts. These are a few.

So far this term, we have had a tennis coach in, the Y1/2 children have been swimming, the Y3/4 children have continued to progress with their brass instrument lessons and they have had Forest School at All Hallows. Events coming up include a

swimming gala, gymnastics competition, willow building (we are creating a willow tunnel around our forest school area) and STEAM week (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) where the focus will be rocket building and cooking. We encourage children to develop a love of books and reading, and they love it when we have visitors into school to hear them read. If there is anyone in our community who would be interested in coming into school to hear readers or help out in any way, you are welcome to contact us. To find out more about our latest events, take a look at our website, [beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk](http://beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk), which has been recently developed following our federation with Beckington Church of England First School. Happy New Year!

*Claire Chantler, headteacher*

## MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

### Notes of November and December 2019 meetings

District Councillor's report: Some of the areas MDC are looking into at present are transport, power generation, house insulation, agriculture and land use. The Woodland Trust is offering free for community land and the PC will see if there are



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any possible sites. Cllr Barkshire wondered if consideration could be given to electric car charging points being installed in Mellis.

Approval of two new Mellis Charity Nominative Trustees: The PC gave their approval of the two people who were proposed for the role of trustee by the charity, Dr Guy Worsdal and Mrs Lise Lambton.

Old Telephone Exchange: No overnight occupation was noted on a recent visit by Enforcement. If evidence to the contrary can be recorded e.g. lights on late at night, vehicles parked all night, Enforcement will re-investigate. The Enforcement Officer currently responsible for the exchange has now left and it is unknown whether a replacement has been found. To be followed up in January.

Overgrown trees in Longfield: Clerk is still trying to establish who owns this land. Aster has submitted a map to show it is not their land. MDC have been contacted but have not responded.

Western Skip Hire Sweeper: The company has recently acquired a road sweeper and has offered to undertake sweeping around the village. Mr Martin will be invited to the January meeting to discuss the proposal. Conduit Road would benefit greatly from being regularly swept as it is frequently muddy.

Superfast Broadband to Mellis: Following a presentation by Truespeed it was agreed that the PC would support facilitating Truespeed coming to the village and will now look into ways of progressing the project. Truespeed plan to up their marketing early in the new year. The Estate support the installation.

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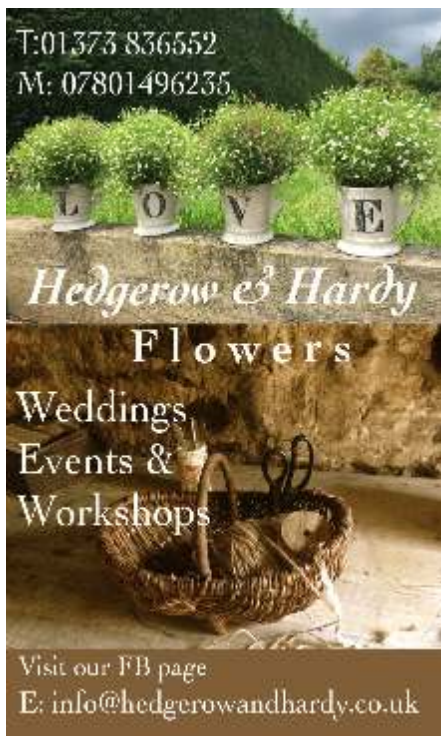
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Footpath FR10/15 DEFRA Conservation Walk Notice - Vobster: Defra has responded that their records show that there is no longer a live access agreement for this footpath. Therefore Defra no longer has any involvement with this arrangement. In these cases the landowner is required to make it clear the access has ended and remove sign etc.

Pot holes – The Talbot: The pooling of water is due to the camber on the road rather than pot holes. Unless major works are undertaken to change the slope, there is little that can be done to improve the situation.

Planning - Mendip decisions:

2017/2418/TCA: Fell tulip tree causing structural damage to building – Selwood House, Selwood Street: TPO required (objection).

Red Barn Farm works – Egford area: The works are due to finish soon so the road condition should improve.

Communication: Ways of conveying parish council matters to residents will be looked at e.g. via Mells Matters, magazine, website. The website needs updating and has a lot of duplicate information which also appears on the Mells Village website. Clerk will look into streamlining the website.

Whatley Quarry: Steve West reported that a new community fund will be available in the new year (£9,200 annually) to which, subject to meeting the required criteria (not known yet), all local parishes would be able to make an application. At the recent Quarry Liaison meeting it was reported that the stone left in the quarry is diminishing and they are beginning to look at new resources. It is in the early stages and no strategy has been formed yet but there will be early public engagement and consultation is expected in the first half of next year.

Date of Next Meeting: February 11th at 7.15pm

*Joy Book, Clerk to Mells Parish Council, [mellsparishcouncil.org.uk](http://mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)*

## **CO-OPTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR**

Mells Parish Council has a vacancy for the co-option of one councillor and would like to hear from parishioners who would like to join the council. Co-option will take place on April 14th at The Barn, Mells.

In the event that more interests are expressed than vacant positions, you will be invited to make a short presentation to the council and selection will be made via a voting process.

If you would like further details, discuss eligibility or request an application form, contact the clerk:- Miss Joy Book, 07704 584953 , email: [parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com](mailto:parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com)

Closing Date for application forms: Friday 3rd April 2020

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# WHATLEY

## WHATLEY COMMON GOOD TRUST

For residents of Whatley and Chantry, this is your occasional reminder of the existence of the Whatley Common Good Trust. Those of you who have lived in Whatley or Chantry for some time will probably be aware of this trust and its activities, as it's been in existence since 2002. However, the trustees thought that it might be useful for more recent arrivals – and for those who may have forgotten what it's all about – to have some up-to-date information about the trust.

Its funds are held to benefit the inhabitants of the two villages, and are available to fund worthwhile projects which achieve this aim. More applications would be very welcome!

It was set up (together with a similar fund for the benefit of Mells) by Hanson Quarry Products in 2002, following that company's successful application to quarry through the lane linking Chantry and Mells. Hanson gave a sum of just over £152,000 to the original trustees to spend on anything which was in the interests of, and would bring direct benefit to, the area within Whatley parish, or all or some of its inhabitants.

The trust has funded many local projects ranging from village outings to the installation of benches and the planting of daffodils. It regularly helps with the cost of maintenance of the playing field in Whatley, and with the cost of the activities put on by the Whatley and Chantry Community Association.

It has supported several

projects at Mells School and at Mells Nursery, and at both Whatley and Chantry churches. The funds currently stand at just over £77,000. Upcoming applications include one to fund the cost of tree-planting at the Jubilee Copse at Whatley Parish field, and (subject to planning permission) help towards the installation of a shipping container at the field as a temporary shelter for community activities.

The trust normally has five trustees, three elected by parish electors and two appointed by the Parish Council. The trustees meet as often as necessary, and meetings are open to anyone who'd like to attend. The application process is deliberately kept simple and accessible, and there are no rigid rules about what can and cannot be funded.

The trustees are very keen to hear from anyone who might have ideas for projects which might benefit the area, or the people of Whatley and Chantry, and which might be eligible for funding from the trust.

If you would like an application form, or

guidance about the application process, please contact the secretary, Vivienne Pay at Stoney Lane Cottage, Chantry, BA11 3LH, 01373-836571, or [viviennepay@gmail.com](mailto:viviennepay@gmail.com).

We are also interested in hearing from people who may be willing to become trustees as and when any vacancy **arises**; as usual with voluntary organisations, it isn't always easy to find volunteers!



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## **ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

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*February*

*1st J Butcher; 8th M Scott; 15th K Gay; 22nd M Ransome; 29th White family*

**THE CAROL SERVICE ON 22 DECEMBER** had a good turnout in the beautifully decorated church, and St George's was pleasingly full for the service on Christmas Day, with people from the other villages in the five parishes joining us. Rev Clive Fairclough engaged the children at the altar with his charming Russian doll crib figures leading to much audience participation, and visitor, David Butcher kindly played the organ to provide the music for the carols, there was also some impressive harmony singing - thanks to all who helped to make it such a perfect Christmas service.

## **IDEAS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH**

Last year the Whatley PCC agreed to conduct a village survey and this was sent out with the September Parish Magazine. There was a 37% response and unanimous support was given for keeping the church open, for the addition of a lavatory and kitchen and to make wider use of the building. Thoughts and ideas on the wider use were also given. A village meeting was then held to consider the possible additional uses and to discuss the implications. George Chedburn (church architect) attended and explained the physical changes what could be made. This was followed by a more detailed review of the how the 'facilities' could be included was held and George Chedburn has agreed to sketch options and implications with costs by Easter. The PCC will then agree its 'preferred option' and start consultations with the DAC. In the longer term it is planned to make space available within the church to allow a variety of additional uses. Further bulletins will be made as we progress.

## **A PLANNING APPLICATION**

has been submitted for permission to place a large metal container in the corner of the parish field near the boules pitch, for use as a shelter and possible meeting place for the village. It will have a door and windows and possibly a stove and be clad in timber planks to ensure a better fit with the surroundings. If anyone would like more information please contact Chris White, [chris@southwestmarquees.co.uk](mailto:chris@southwestmarquees.co.uk) .

## **WACCA – Whatley & Chantry Community Association**

New Year's Eve Walk – there was a terrific turnout for this event with around 3 to 40 people and too many dogs to count setting off from the parish field and walking for between two and two and a half hours around the south side of the quarry, along the path to the bottom of Stoney Lane, left up the lane towards Nunney and back along Nunney Brook to Whatley. Chris White had already lit the fire and the walkers were rewarded with mulled wine, mince pies and toasted marshmallows – a lovely and energetic occasion for both the villages, thanks to Chris for organising it.

**THE BOOK GROUP** met to discuss *The Salt Path* on January 14th. Most readers felt the story of a catastrophe-struck, newly homeless couple taking to the southwest coast path to walk and wild camp to be inspiring and engaging and it triggered lively discussion and reflection.

The next book is *The Winter Ghosts* by *Kate Mosse*, meeting in Chantry at 7.30pm on March 11th. Please contact Pippa for details – robinandpippa@hotmail.com .

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