

# THE LINK

APRIL & MAY 2021



THE BENEFICE OF  
OFFWELL, FARWAY & WIDWORTHY

# OPENING THOUGHTS

## Happy Easter Hopefully

Dear Friends

April is (usually) Eastertide in the nation's and Christian calendar. And Easter has lots of different meanings: we hope that spring will truly have sprung; we hope that the weather will be kind, that we can get out, that we can take a break, meet up with family and friends – hopefully.



Whether we can, whether we do, is of course another matter. We'll see. Nevertheless, Easter happens. How are we going to celebrate it?

When you see people – even in passing, people you don't really know – do you greet them with 'Happy Easter'? What difference might it make to say those words?

One difference is their effect on us. Words, and who we are, are intimately related. Our speaking reveals something about us, a great deal about us. And as we use words to share who we are with others so those words tell us who we are. There is a sense in which all talk is autobiographical.

So, 'Happy Easter' feeds us as well as others. It puts this festival on our agenda, so to speak, on the front burner. And we begin to take to ourselves what Easter is all about.

The Church has long used a greeting which enlarges 'Happy Easter' and is a way of speaking about what 'Happy Easter' truly points to:

"The Lord is risen!" to which the reply is "He is risen indeed!" which is another way of saying 'Amen', 'I agree'.

Although there is regular discussion about fixing the date of Easter to make things more convenient for our institutional life, it's worth hanging onto the fact that the existence of this joyful festival, is due to Christianity's contribution to the history of the world. What we are celebrating – life over death - has transformed human history. 'Easter', as we allow it to embed itself in our hearts and minds, can transform us – hopefully.

*Bishop Oliver Simon*

### BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS

#### FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372  
Robin Banks 01404 871355

#### OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450  
Marion Hutchinson 01404 830055

#### WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688  
Mary Wakeley 01404 831345

### Websites:

Farway: [www.farwaydevon.org.uk](http://www.farwaydevon.org.uk)

Widworthy: [www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Offwell: [www.offwell.org](http://www.offwell.org)

[www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org)

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

**Have you visited the NEW Offwell website yet? Its regularly updated with information, helpful links and past copies of The Link.**

*Front cover photo:  
Mothering Sunday posies  
for the children at Farway  
school to give to their mums,  
made by Tara.*



# APRIL SERVICES

	OFFWELL	FARWAY	WIDWORTHY
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	12 noon Service of Reflection		
<b>4<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>EASTER DAY</b>	9:30am HC	11:15am HC	9:30am HC
<b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Easter			9:30am Family Service
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Easter	11am Family Service		9:30am HC
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> of Easter		11:15am HC	9:30am Family Service

# BIBLE READINGS

<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>Maundy Thurs- day</b>	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1- 19:42
<b>4<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>EASTER DAY</b>	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18
<b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Easter	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1 to 2:2	John 20:19-31
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Easter	Acts 3:12-29	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

## FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH



<b>April</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Conducted by Mrs. Margaret Cole
	11 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	Conducted by Revd. Dr. Stephen Mosedale
	18 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Conducted by Dr. Alan Mcilveen
	25 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam H.C.
<b>May</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11am	Conducted by Mrs. Ann Skinner
	9 <sup>th</sup>	3 pm	Conducted by Revd. Ben. Haslam
	16 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Conducted by Revd. Paul Collings
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	3pm	Conducted by Revd. Julian Albrow H.C.
	30 <sup>th</sup>		To be arranged



## Rev. Brian Green

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of Rev. Brian Green.

Back in 2006 when Frank and I were planning our booklet 'Offwell Village Tales' Brian's story was the first of the local lives that we featured.

Brian and his wife Sheila bought No. 1 The Square as a retirement home in 1986 but only took up residence in 1997. Born in East Anglia and brought up in Sussex, Brian, his elder brother and sister all attended church regularly and sang in the choir. Brian's father was a civil servant and Brian followed in his footsteps working in a Labour Exchange for four years before deciding on Theological College at the age of 21.

Ordained in Liverpool Cathedral his first curacy was at St. Philemon in Toxteth, Liverpool, and two and a half years later Brian became its vicar.

Toxteth was a grey, unappealing place in the late fifties where policemen would patrol as a 'posse'. With 14,000 parishioners the parish was surrounded on four sides by major bus routes. It was somewhere, Brian believed, where "things could happen and the people were not too different to those I saw at the Labour Exchange!"

When Brian did finally move to a rural parish it was in Essex where the family stayed for 20 years. "Oh Vicar" parishioners would say, "you must notice a big difference from your previous parish." "Only when I look out of the window," Brian would reply, "the outside may change but inside people are very much the same wherever you are."

The final six years of Brian's full time ministry was in Gloucestershire but he and Sheila had always enjoyed family holidays in the West Country with their three children so they bought their retirement home in Offwell eleven years before leaving the team ministry in Chepstow. In retirement there was more time for tennis and the opportunity to sit with Sheila in Church for the first time in their married life. But a clergyman never properly retires and Brian took Sunday service at St. Cuthbert's on a regular basis. He was also Deanery Treasurer in Honiton, leaving time for treasury duties at the Offwell Village Shop; the years at the Labour Exchange coming in very handy. In 2011 Brian and Sheila moved to Wiltshire to be closer to their family.

I asked Brian what he would like on his tombstone: "Well, I rather like Spike Milligan's epitaph – I told you I was ill."

*Carol Hayes*



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It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Brian Green on February 12<sup>th</sup> in the nursing home where he had been for the last two years. Happily, Sheila was permitted to be with him at the end.

When the last full time incumbent in our Benefice left, Brian, who had earlier retired from the ministry and was living in Offwell, stepped in to become our almost full time priest in Widworthy. He and Sheila contributed so much to the parish and were an inspiration and blessing to us all. We often say, "you'll remember what Brian Green used to tell us." He visited virtually everyone in the parish, discovered their needs and brought many into the church. We miss him but know that there will be great rejoicing in Heaven at his arrival!

*Mim Prins*



## MAY SERVICES

	OFFWELL	FARWAY	WIDWORTHY
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 5 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	9:30am HC		9:30am Family Service
<b>May 9<sup>th</sup></b> Rogation Sunday			9:30am Family Service
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b> 7 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	11am Family Service		9:30am HC
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Pentecost		11:15am HC	9:30am Family Service
<b>May 30<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity Sunday	<b>Benefice Service at St. Mary's, Offwell, 10:30am HC</b>		
<b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am HC		9:30am Family Service

## BIBLE READINGS

<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 5 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
<b>May 9<sup>th</sup></b> Rogation Sunday	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b> 7 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
<b>May 30<sup>th</sup></b> Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
<b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b>	1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15)	Psalm 138	2 Corinthians 4:13 to 5:1	Mark 3:20-35

The LINK is the magazine of the three Parishes of OFFWELL, FARWAY and WIDWORTHY. Views expressed here are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or the community. The next edition will be **JUNE/JULY 2021**. Submissions to be received by **10<sup>th</sup> MAY at the latest please**. Email: Melanie at [parisheslink@gmail.com](mailto:parisheslink@gmail.com)  
 Submissions, should be sent, preferably by email in text, Word, JPG, PDF or PNG format. The editor reserves the right to delay or refuse publication of articles for reasons of decorum, space or practicality. Please note - **Late submissions may not be included.**



## Saying farewell to Dawn & Mike Mulrain

The original Offwell website was a complex beast to navigate and maintain and the only person who could really do so successfully, prior to Dawn's offer of help in 2015, was Sarah Banks' father, Chris Wordley. Dawn's first post on the website was made on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Her note to me reads: *"I have just made my first post on the site – Pimms on the Pitch – it seems to look OK!"* - a rather auspicious day for Dawn as she had just heard that one of her sons had won a First at Uni.!

By the August of 2015 I'm writing the following email to Dawn: *"I don't want you to get despondent; I know there are tricky bits but as far as I'm concerned you're doing marvels."*

Dawn's commitment never wavered and she continued to do marvels for almost six years. My interest has always been in the writing, the content and the editing. If Dawn had not been prepared to take responsibility for all the technical posting (on a monthly, sometimes weekly basis) then the website would have no longer remained the relevant and informative village website it is today. The energy and commitment Dawn gave to it over the years is equalled only by the energy and commitment she gave to all her community work in Offwell and Honiton.

Now Mike and Dawn are moving on, to the village of Minety in North Wiltshire. Their gain is truly our loss.

*Carol Hayes*

.... And not forgetting Mike, who has been a stalwart supporter of the village since he and Dawn moved here. Mike has been a huge contributor to the work in Offwell Woods, the Flower Show and many of the village functions and events. He was also instrumental in the setting up of the Honiton Men's Shed. Mike also served on the parish council for some years.

Thank you Mike and Dawn, we will really miss you both.

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## Welcome to new villagers

Over the past (very strange) year, there have been several people who have moved into the village. We're looking forward to being able to get together and meet you to welcome you to Offwell.

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### Internet, or computer problems?

I can solve many types of these problems, with over 40 years' experience in doing just that.

Call me, **Carl, on 07703 004 435 or 831050**

Perhaps we can sort it over the phone, but if not, I will follow all social distancing measures, and sanitise anything I touch - and I've had my first Covid vaccine jab.

I have experience in solving website problems too. No charges, for almost everything.

~~~~~  
*Editors note: Carl moved to Offwell in September 2020*

### We still have a vacancy on the **Offwell Parish Council**

The Council meets on a monthly basis, currently virtually, in order to serve the best interests of our local community. Anyone wanting any further information can contact the Parish Clerk at

**[offwellparishclerk@aol.co.uk](mailto:offwellparishclerk@aol.co.uk)**

or call the current Chairman for an informal chat on: **01404 831924**

# OFFWELL



Beautiful posies were handed out to everyone by Bishop Oliver at the Mothering Sunday service. It was lovely to have Mum Nicola and daughter Isabella read one of the lessons.

A gentle reminder about the services for Easter; there will be a service of reflection on **Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 12 noon**. The Communion service on **Easter Day,**

**4<sup>th</sup> April**, will be at **9:30am** taken by Bishop Oliver.

There will be the usual **Family Services at 11:00am on 18<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May** and **Holy Communion at 9:30am on 2<sup>nd</sup> May** taken by Bishop Oliver.

**The United Benefice Service on 30<sup>th</sup> May** will be held at Offwell at 10:30. This is Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost, and it will be a Communion service taken by Bishop Oliver.

When you go into our church, don't forget to have a look at Carol's Easter display. We are very grateful to Carol; she puts in a lot of effort and research into the very interesting displays she prepares.

We continue to offer our thoughts and prayers for our organist, Charles, who is in hospital. We look forward to welcoming him back.

Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic and thanks to a dedicated team the Link continues to regularly arrive on our doorsteps. With church donations low due to restricted services and opening times a contribution towards the cost of producing the Link would be much appreciated. Donations can be paid into the Link bank account or contact Phyllis on 01404 831520 or drop off at her house.



Thank you

The Link bank account:-

**Sort code: 30-90-37**

**Account No: 28344660**



We now have two new village noticeboards alongside the Defibrillator phone box. If you have something to sell or information to share or event notices to post please make use of the village noticeboard that sits adjacent to the Parish Council board.

# OFFWELL HAY CART

Maureen and Douglas Smith moved to Offwell in 1997 where they inherited a 100 foot garden in Woodlands Close. One year later Maureen was entering her produce and roses in the Offwell Flower Show; by 2004 she had become overall winner and continued to win many top Flower Show prizes over the years that followed.



It was Maureen who came up with the idea of a flower decked Haycart to welcome visitors to the village, and it seemed only appropriate that it should sit opposite Upper Lodge where Bishop Copleston entered the driveway to his country retreat, Offwell House. The woodland and parkland alongside the driveway would generations later become the homes and gardens of Woodlands Close.

Together with friends and neighbours Maureen raised the funds required and David and Katharine Murray at Sundial Garden supplied the floral arrangements for every season. Over the years a number of villagers helped Maureen with planting and watering duties and in 2016 the Offwell Haycart won first prize in the 'Most Creative and Distinctive Planted Outdoor Space' category of the CPRE 'Our Outdoors' competition. The Haycart was also a major contributor to the Village winning the CPRE 'Best Kept Village' award for past winners in 2008 and as runner-up in 2014.

By 2019 the Haycart was in such a state of disrepair that its future was discussed at a Parish Council meeting. Councillors agreed that the Haycart had been a welcoming feature on the approach to the village and it should, if possible, be replaced. An extremely generous grant was received from the Offwell Feoffees and with a small contribution from the Parish Council a new Haycart is to be built by Mike Rowland Wheelwright from Colyton. A long established local business Mike and his son Greg are currently the only father and son master wheelwrights in the world. The company also holds the Royal Appointment as wheelwrights and coach builders, charged with maintaining the Queen's collection of carriages.

It is hoped the new Haycart will be ready in time for summer planting and will continue to welcome future visitors to Offwell for many years to come.





# OFFWELL



The **OFFWELL FLOWER SHOW** moves to **September 11<sup>th</sup> in 2021**. We're in good company because, for the first time ever in its 108-year history, **Chelsea Flower Show** will not be held in the Spring, but in the Autumn.

The 2021 Chelsea Flower Show will now take place from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The Royal Horticultural Society, the show organisers, will still hold it at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea.

The hope is that by September, millions more people will be vaccinated, so that mass outdoor events will be able to happen safely. 140,000 people are predicted to attend this year's Chelsea, over the six days.

Sue Biggs, RHS director general, says: "We believe many designers and nurseries will look forward to working with different plants that would not be available or at their best in May. We will do our utmost to deliver a beautiful, uplifting and different RHS Chelsea safely in September 2021."

Everything's crossed that we can go ahead with the **Offwell Flower Show**



You'll find the **Schedule** here in **The Link**

So plenty of time for you to think

About what to bake or brew or grow

Or make or snap, get ready, set, go!

The date for your diary for you to remember

Is Saturday the **11<sup>th</sup> of September**

**Fish and Chips are frying in the village hall car park from 6:00-7:30pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April & 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

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Profit proceeds go to the children's new Play Park. Check the 'Sports and Social Club' Facebook page for up to date info.

Would you like to

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# FARWAY



St. Michael's church relies on gifts and fundraising events to maintain the building and churchyard, carry out repairs and restoration and pay towards clergy and our share to the Diocese of Exeter. Our income has been substantially reduced during the past year because of lockdown when, sadly, our doors have been closed and no fundraising has taken place.

We are now registered with the **Parish Giving Scheme** with the hope that more regular gifts can be received. The scheme is run by the Church of England and allows donations to be collected securely by Direct Debit, with Gift Aid claimed where applicable and passed directly to our Parish account each month. Donations can be given weekly, monthly or yearly. If you would like more information or an application form please contact:

Liz Lee (treasurer of our PCC) Tel: 871202 [churchapproach@outlook.com](mailto:churchapproach@outlook.com) or

Tara Huffman (Churchwarden) Tel: 871372 [tarahuffman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tarahuffman@hotmail.co.uk)

We would be most grateful for donations on a regular basis from anyone who has an interest in St. Michael's church of Farway and lives in our valley as we rely on your generous donations to secure our church's future. Thank you.

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For support during these difficult times Pat Beard is co-ordinating help within the village. Contact Pat on: Tel: 01404 871445, Email: [patriciabeard@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:patriciabeard@tiscali.co.uk)

**See the facing page for details of the Flower Show**

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**FARWAY -**

**Flower Show on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July** provisional date, to be confirmed

We're hoping to have a **BBQ in AUGUST** (again, to be confirmed)

*Christ, risen Lord, be with us and give us your peace this Eastertime*



Tara Huffman



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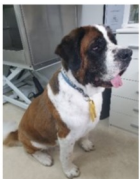
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# Offwell C of E Primary School

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Tel: 01404 831417



Even though we have been open throughout the most recent Lockdown, Offwell School is delighted to announce that we are all back in class!

Starting Monday 8 March every class from Nursery to Year 6 welcomed back their children. It was not quite as much of a surprise as the first time as we have been using the Google online Classroom to hold twice daily meetings with our children – so we have had daily chats and updates regularly. Nothing replaces the personal contact with the children we teach – once again we are able to interact positively to sort out any irritating little misunderstandings about maths or English.

The playgrounds are ringing with the ‘joyful shrieks’ (the headteacher’s comment) of some very happy children. They have clearly relished being able to see and talk to their friends again. They are enjoying the work and being challenged. We are enjoying hearing their stories and learning what has been going on.

For the remaining nearly 4 weeks until the Easter holidays each class is undertaking some specific work:

Week 1) a journey into the school’s historic past, or as far back in the past as is appropriate for each class’s age. The aim is to see how our school has survived huge events in the past, but also to see how it has evolved (so how we can adapt for the future...). Ash have visited the church, Willow have looked around the school spotting masonry of interest, Beech are walking the historical points of the village and Oak have been researching using local records and leaflets. We are all, teachers and children, learning a lot.

Week 2) a review of the recent past (2020- now), a review of global news, thinking of the most recent events relative to them and their age; finding out what they recall, how they feel/felt, making sure they understand the difference between fake news and full facts, but with a positive outlook; for older children, understanding they are eye-witnesses to history of the future- -others will write about this past year, but their accounts are first-hand history.

Week 3) will give the children the chance to look ahead, to ask what their predictions and plans for the future might be for 2030, to think what they would like to do to make life better for themselves and others and do some life-mapping, or dream, draw and plan for the school of the future...

As always, we aim for our children to -

13 **Be Well, Live Well and Learn Well.**



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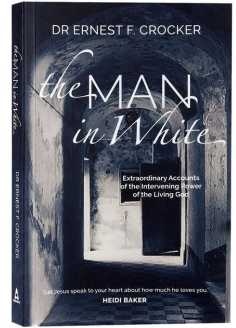
# BOOK REVIEW

## *the MAN in White*

**By Ernest F Crocker, Authentic, £9.99**

An inspirational and encouraging read as we grapple with the effects of the Covid pandemic in our lives and the world. Ernest Crocker is a medical doctor, a Christian and follower of Jesus. He writes because he feels that there is an insatiable hunger in most of us for a relationship with God. This may be expressed in terms of faith, hope and sometimes exasperation, sometimes as arguments against the very existence of God. Many of us know about Jesus, but there are few who are able relate to him personally as a loving saviour. As a witness to many interventions of God during his own life, here he brings together an inspiring selection of testimonies from around the world, starting with Earnest Shackleton, of people who have seen God do extraordinary things in and through their lives. They include professionals, academics, a train robber, a surgeon facing decapitation for his faith, and those who have escaped the ravages of war. These powerful stories inspire and challenge us to see that God is real and delights in being involved in our lives today.

Ernest F Crocker trained at the University of New South Wales, and is an experienced nuclear medicine physician, and the first to practise ultrasound in Australia.



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# Offwell School & Woodland



Everybody in Offwell School loves going down to the woods. They enjoy exploring the different areas, experiencing the freedom and appreciating the peace and quiet (even though sometimes they may disturb it a little bit)! Each visit provides something fresh to see and do and it is a vital part of the unique learning we provide at our school. Since our return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March classes are planning a number of visits. Mr Thomas and Willow Class (ages 5 to 7) have been down twice already. The first week they were looking for different textures: prickly, soft, smooth for example by touching leaves, stones, moss and sticks. After that, they found four different sounds: plop, rustling, sticks against rocks, sticks knocking against

another stick and crunching. Having done the research they then walked through the woods looking for the textures and listening for the sounds. For their second visit, Willow made their way to the log cabin where they sat on circular wood blocks and drew what they could see with some pictures of the pond including crocodiles! Everyone enjoyed themselves and looked forward to washing their wellies in the stream with only one welly parting company from its owner!



Miss Phillips will soon be taking Oak Class to the woods. Mrs Legg's son, Sam, is going to be helping with some orienteering sessions. The class are very excited as, for most of them, this will be a completely new experience. Orienteering forms part of the PE curriculum and these promise to be lively and enjoyable sessions which will be enhanced by the variety of terrain in the woods.



We also have wildlife (and we don't mean the children) at the school. Mrs. Legg found this slow worm in one of our passageways – it was carefully removed to safety having been inspected by the children with interest and a certain level of awe.

By the time you read this, Offwell Woods should be beginning to provide the annual display of bluebells, for which it is locally famous. Bluebells are one of the joys of late Spring and are unique to the Atlantic seaboard of Europe. Botanist Sarah Raven in her book 'Wild Flowers' states that:

"If we didn't have bluebell woods we would travel the world to see them." We are so lucky to have this sensual feast on our doorstep.



Another plant that you will come across in profusion is Ransoms, or Wild Garlic. Like bluebells, they provide spectacular carpets of flowers in the damp areas of the woods, producing a lush oniony smell of garlic which seems to hang in the air. Although all parts of wild garlic are edible the plant often grows amongst other woodland perennial plants, with similar leaves, like Lily-of-the-Valley, which is highly poisonous.

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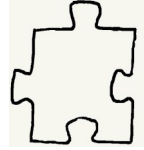
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**Sam in Exeter**

# Lets get Puzzling, Baking + Making

## The Puzzle Boom during Covid-19

Covid-19 restrictions on socialising created a sales bonanza for the **Jigsaw** industry as consumers went in search of escapism and entertainment at relatively little cost. UK sales of jigsaws reached £100 million in 2020, up 38% on the previous year, and for Dorset based JHG Puzzles its sales quadrupled. Nostalgia was favourite: animals, birds and chocolate box cottages. The most sought after challenge was 1,000 pieces but demand for harder ones has increased with one German toy maker launching a 40,000 piece Disney set. With the finished image measuring 6.8m by 1.9m, you would need plenty of space to tackle it.



One of the most popular puzzles of all time is the **Rubik's Cube** and you can read about it's strong connections with Widworthy on page 20.

*Editor: a fun recipe for your sweet-toothed readers to try after Lent.....*

**Mars Bar Cake** *This quick and easy cake is a favourite in many families. We are not saying that it is good for you!*

**Ingredients:** 3 Mars bars; 150g butter; 150g rice crispies; 150g chocolate

**Method:**

- ◇ In a pan, slowly melt the Mars bars and butter together.
- ◇ Remove from the heat and add the rice crispies, a little at a time, until they are covered with the mixture.
- ◇ Spread mixture onto a baking sheet and place in the fridge until hard.
- ◇ Melt the chocolate and cover the mixture with it.
- ◇ Return to the fridge for a further half an hour then cut into pieces.

Your little bits of leftover wool could help the big knit.

The Big Knit is a partnership of Age UK and innocent drinks. They've been working together since 2003, asking the country's crafters to knit little hats for the tops of innocent smoothie bottles. Every hat knitted raises 25p to help Age UK provide much-needed services and support to older people. For details and patterns go to: [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)



# WIDWORTHY



## News from Widworthy Parish Council

It has been all change on the Parish Council over the last year. We now have a full complement of 5 Councillors, led by our Chairman Andrew Pearsall. In September we welcomed Samantha Coombs, Rupert Joy and Diane Preston. This month we have also been joined by Ian Morison. We would like to thank our previous Councillors – Gary Knight, Sally Lake and Trudy Pearsall for all the work they put in – it was really appreciated. We have had the horror of meetings over Zoom which, given the broadband in the area, has had its traumatic moments, hopefully very soon we will be able to meet in the Village Hall.

One thing the Council are trying to work on is improving communications around the Village. We hope to erect a number of **noticeboards**, for use by all, at strategic points where most people can access them. We are also hoping to do a regular article in The Link parish magazine, in addition to our website and Facebook page. We are working in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee and hope to improve the yard at the Village Hall to store salt bags and tarmac for use around the Village.

If anyone has a particular interest in the trees, we are looking for someone to take on the role of **Tree Warden**. Nothing too onerous, just generally keeping an eye on trees in the Parish as you walk round and reporting back on any which may be sick or hazardous so they could be dealt with.

The **Rubik's Cube** celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020. It is widely acknowledged to be not only the world's most popular puzzle of all time but also the best-selling one. It was originally created by Hungarian Professor Erno Rubik, to help his architectural students understand design, but the people of Widworthy think of Tom Kremer when Rubik's Cube is mentioned.

Tom, a Hungarian Jew, first arrived in Britain in 1953. His first job was as a football coach but he later became a teacher at a special needs school and began creating educational games. This was the beginning of a very successful career as a toy and game creator. In 1979 Tom and Alison Kremer bought Widworthy Barton, the same year Tom first spotted the Rubik's Cube at an International Toy Fair in Nuremberg, Germany. Tom was fluent in Hungarian, respected in the toy trade and a skilled negotiator. He was able to deal within the confines of Communism as well as the idiosyncrasies of Western firms, and he succeeded in bringing the Rubik's Cube to the international market in 1980. It was an instant success but the craze ended in the early 80's. Tom believed it to be a classic toy, destined to be around for ever, and he brokered a deal to acquire the intellectual rights. His toy company relaunched the Cube in 1986 selling millions world-wide each year and the rest is history.





# WIDWORTHY - ST. CUTHBERT'S



This is the second year that we will be unable to have any of our usual major fundraising events and with the church closed for a long stretch over the first lock-down, our finances are at a low ebb. It costs close to £10,000 a year in Parish Share, insurance, electricity and incidentals just to keep the church standing whether open or closed and that is before any costly repairs needed to maintain an ancient building. There has been a place of worship on the hill where the church stands since very early in the Christian era and the present church is there for everyone in the Parish, whether they be regular members, only attend on the major feast days, want it for weddings, funerals and baptisms or to sit quietly and alone in its special numinous peace to think and reflect. We are looking into setting up a parish giving scheme but if anyone feels they would like to make a donation in the interim, please contact one of the churchwardens, Mary Wakeley or Mim Prins. We also would love to see you on Sundays.

We are thrilled that we are able to open for weddings again and the first will be on May 29<sup>th</sup> for Tim and Kerstin and on July 24<sup>th</sup> for Jake and Gemma, and we wish them all the best in their future lives.

We begin April with the joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on **Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> when the Revd Nigel Freathy will be celebrating the service of Holy Communion at 9:30am.** We have a Family Service on **April 11<sup>th</sup>** and Holy Communion on **April 18<sup>th</sup>** and the **Rt Revd Dr Oliver Simon** is taking both services. **The Revd Nigel Freathy** will be back with us on Sunday **April 25<sup>th</sup>** for our Family Service.



**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** is a lay led Family Service.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** is **Rogation Sunday** and weather permitting, **The Revd Nigel Freathy** will be taking the service outside in the churchyard.

On **May 16<sup>th</sup>** we have a service of Holy Communion which will be celebrated by **the Rt Revd Dr Oliver Simon.**

**Pentecost, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>** commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early apostles and the service will be taken by **the Revd Nigel Freathy.**

**May 30<sup>th</sup>** there will be a **Benefice Service at Offwell.** Details for this service are on page 5.

The procession through Wilmington for Beating the Bounds, probably in the early 1900's. Led by John Henry Copleston who was Offwell Rector between 1880 and 1918.



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# SPRING IN THE GARDEN

Finally, we have some light at the end of the tunnel. The numbers of covid cases is going down, the vaccine is being rolled out with tremendous speed and spring is here. It is time to get out there, engage with nature and watch as everything slowly begins to turn green once again.



So, where do we start in the garden, so much choice! Spring pruning, it's time to encourage new growth, more flowers and foliage, and make way for healthy plants. Spring pruning also ensures your shrubs do not end up in a tangled mess.

Ensure you have a good pair of secateurs, a pruning saw and some loppers, then, you are ready to really get stuck in.

Herbaceous plants that weren't cut back in autumn such as Asters, Sedums and Sea Hollies can be cut back now. Remove the seed heads, stems and dead leaves. Leaving the cutting of these back now has not

only provided a home for insects through the winter but also offered protection for the plant, allowing new growth to shoot. Dogwood, Willow and Cotinus can be cut back hard now, leaving just a couple of inches from the ground, just above a node. This will encourage lots of growth and give loads of colour next winter. You can keep the woody stems for staking too.

Remove all brown growth from ornamental grasses and leave the green shoots behind. Mediterranean shrubs such as lavender can be cut back in autumn or spring however waiting until the spring can help to protect new shoots from the frosts over winter. Cistus and Rosemary do well for a spring prune too.



Buddleia should also be cut back hard now to encourage lots of new growth from the base and an abundance of flowers. Trim back the top growth to about half it's height. Cut back woody stems to about 30cm in height and where possible prune to just above a bud or shoot. (If you want your plant to be taller then leave stems a little longer) Thin out any entwined branches to prevent rubbing and so disease and remove twiggy like growth from the base. Cut down to 4 or 5 main stems, loosen the earth around the base and apply a good mulch. Don't worry that you are being too harsh, Buddleia respond well and will quickly regrow. If you would like your Buddleia to flower later, cut back in May, this will also help the butterflies.

Don't forget, where possible, to compost seed heads in an open compost heap in case the insects are still using them.

Some quick do's and don'ts...try and prune at a downwards angle to encourage water to run off, pruning straight can cause fungal infections. Make sure you prune out any dead wood, leaving this can sometimes encourage canker and this can spread to other parts of the plant. Finally, clean, disinfect and sharpen your tools, this will not only keep your plants healthy but keep you tools in good order for years to come.

There is so much to look forward to at this time of the year in the garden. Let's hope for some lovely weather and a great growing season.



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