

CLOVERLEAF

Connecting OUR Communities



August - September 2020



Our Farm Shop and Restaurant are both open as normal with number restrictions and distancing measures in place. Table bookings are welcome on 01460 62130.

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I would like to thank our customers for their continued support and custom over the past few weeks and for their kind messages to all my staff.



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Overview

Isn't it surprising how quickly how quickly strange behaviour becomes normal? ZOOM and similar platforms are now widely accepted by young and old as the way to meet, celebrate, learn and worship ; it no longer seems odd to queue in socially distanced fashion; judging how many people are in a shop becomes second nature; and even the wider use of face coverings no longer seems unusual.

However, life is very slowly returning to some semblance of the old normal. The Churches are open with services resuming; more shops have started trading and our pubs and restaurants are welcoming customers once again – just in a slightly different way. Let's hope that this continues.

This edition of Cloverleaf is slightly shorter than usual, as the various clubs, societies and organisation have yet to restart their activities, so no reports and no need for the diary pages.

The Village Hall in Combe remains closed for the time being. It's not surprising, as planning even the smallest activity at the present time is daunting, with pages of guidelines to follow in order to meet the COVID-19 requirements. Hopefully, by the time we reach our last magazine for 2020 (Oct/Nov), everyone and everything we will be in a better place.

This issue brings news of the NEW Combe St. Nicholas Parish website, which is now up and running. A lot of time and hard work has gone in to this, so do check it out.

There's a test of your knowledge of Somerset towns with a cryptic quiz too - please give it a try.

You may have noticed the Lord's Larder collection box in The Village Shop in Combe. Further on in the magazine, charity volunteer Amy Greenhalgh gives us an insight into how it works and tells us how this community has performed!

I'm sure that Chard Museum never thought that it would be celebrating it's 50th anniversary by being closed for part of the year! Happily, it is now able to re-open and the museums interesting article tells us about a wide range of socially distanced activities which have been planned. It is a fascinating place, full of local history and well worth a visit.

Finally, thank you to Lynn Osborne, for our cover picture, which features the wonderful show of wild flowers at Underway Meade.

Lesley Cole

Editor

Bygone Days

Whilst searching for a photo of a cowshed to accompany my Grandfather's piece below, I was amused by Mr Google's results. These rustic structures are by and large things of the past. The few that remain have been converted into homes, offices, restaurants, and wedding venues. The word "cowshed" has been adopted by spas and beauty products. My Grandfather would be stunned that the cowshed has been reinvented as a place to pamper oneself!

Lindsay Rossiter

September 1967 – Open Air Milking

The rat race for progress catches up with one now and then and we find ourselves standing looking at our lovely loose boxes and cowsheds. With chains and yokes rattling, a hive of industry at milking times, we wonder if conversion must come. Must we put the frills of milking into mothballs, that little bit of individual attention the cow so enjoys, into thoughts of the "past" as we streamline the whole process. It is happening and we now talk of "cows per man" and not "man per cows".

Pneumatic drills, diggers, sledgehammers and fire have all been set upon our old buildings and no sooner were they demolished, a crane of fantastic strength and manoeuvrability was heaving precast concrete structures into position. In 48 hours, the frame and roof of the new building were in position and the crane gone. A remarkable piece of modern technique.

All this progress meant milking the cows somewhere else and with the aid of an outdoor milking bale, which they have taken to like a charm, the inconvenience has been overcome. We are now milking cows in the very field in which they graze, and what a time-saver it is! The bale, a moveable construction of tube and tin complete with six stalls, the power unit at one end, milking direct to churn being individually weighed. Three units milking while a further three cows are being made ready for a quick change-over and so on. The cows love it, including their ration of cake, and fight for position as to who enters the bale next. On a cool, dewy morning, with the sun just rising, it is so much more pleasant in the open than in a stuffy shed, but we certainly hope to be reinstalled before the wind and rain comes and the temperature drops below that 32°F.



In view of the dry and sunny weather we had in August it is disappointing to find there has been a great shortage of butterflies. Tortoiseshells, brimstones, peacocks and orange-tips were with us in the spring, but that seemed all we were to enjoy of them. Some butterflies I saw and caught when I was a boy one never sees today, and so many other insects of the countryside are getting few and far between. Stag beetles, hornets, grasshoppers, frogs and toads, all are declining and to paraphrase a well-known hymn, it is a case of "Change and decline in all around I see". Surely if the number of insects reduce, we must presumable expect a reduction in those creatures that largely exist by preying upon them.

Will progress upset the balance of nature? I dread to think.

Kenneth C Beckingham

A Somerset Quiz

Kindly submitted by Gill Sauer, these cryptic clues will give you the names to 20 Somerset towns or villages. Some will solve them in a flash, others may ponder. You'll find the answers towards the back of the magazine.

1. Look out!
2. A way over H₂O
3. A team lost the end of the nut
4. Female relative surrounded by heavyweight
5. Burnt
6. Cloudy French green is not off
7. Elevated spanner
8. Boss of the pit
9. The capital of France meets the capital of Italy
10. Pauper's Latch
11. Boot
12. You can find water in these
13. York's church is unwell
14. Mother listens to the clock's noise
15. Overcook the pig meat
16. Victory, tin, weight
17. Quality or easy
18. Fortified vehicle + y
19. Get married more often
20. Apply aftershave or very dry sparkling wine



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In the Garden with Claire Pearce of Combe Dingle Nursery

I would love to be able to say that I am an avid taker of notes, that I know exactly when to do things each year, and that I should time it differently next year. But nature doesn't quite work like that. So maybe by luck more than judgement or that I have been gardening for more years than I have not, it all falls into place.

As with every year in the same week as pulling up spent foxgloves, leaving the leafier ones in to flower another year, I am pricking out seedlings of foxgloves, biennials and a lot of next year's perennial stock.

Now is the time to enjoy the garden and to keep it looking it's best. I seem to always need a pair of secateurs in my back pocket. I have a lot of trees and there is usually a branch that needs a trim. I like to keep the canopy just above head height. Keep dead heading roses, annuals and perennials so quick and easy and so beneficial.

Wisterias are a tangly mess this time of year. Tie in new growth needed to extend frame work and all the rest cut back to 5 leaves. Once Lavender flowers have faded, cut back into new growth, but not beyond as it will not re-grow on old wood. If your plant is too woody, it is best to be strong, rip it out and start again. Dry the flower heads and keep in the house. What could be better than a Lavender scented play room.

Lawns can struggle at this time of year. It is best to raise the mower height and know that it will recover. We rarely pick up our cuttings and I think this helps. Mowers with a mulching plug are fantastic and save a lot of hard work. I have heard a lot of people complaining this year about bare patches due to leatherjackets (crane fly larvae) . A good way to treat these are with nematodes in the spring or autumn.

Hopefully, like me you are enjoying a surfeit of home produce. Preserving is starting, Blackcurrant jam etc. and of course rhubarb Gin. Feasting on potatoes and pulling up onions. Making more space for more crops to go in, such as winter and spring cauliflowers, purple sprouting and cabbage. I say why not have Kohl Rabi and tomatoes for breakfast. I just can't wait until lunch!



Underway Meade

We continue to live in strange times and the rules about gathering outside in groups (bigger than 6 with other households, at the time of writing) are still in place so a big thank you to our local community for continuing to use Underway Meade in a responsible way. At this time of the year we would usually be planning our annual autumn quiz night, an important fund raiser, but as the village hall is still unavailable for the same reasons we will have to put this on hold for the time being.

Whilst no major new work has taken place, general maintenance has continued over the last few months, with volunteers working solo. Ian and Chris mowing the field, Gill tending the bee friendly flowers, which, despite the spell of dry weather, have provided a lovely splash of colour near the picnic area and by the pond. Steve and Bill repairing equipment and fitting out the shed. I have mowed the picnic area every couple of weeks using the recently acquired invaluable second-hand sit upon mower, kindly sourced by Phil of Axminster Garden Machinery. We also had a lightweight strimmer donated to us and this means that more members of our volunteer team will be able to strim the path edges without pulling any muscles!



We are getting ready to welcome back some sheep on the mound, probably sometime in August, so please watch out for the signs if you are a dog walker.

We also hope to make the picnic tables and climbing frame available for use again soon, observing all the necessary safety measures, but if you or your family do use the area, please bring your own hand sanitiser and wash your hands when you get home.

Stay safe and continue to enjoy using the Meade responsibly.

Lynn Osborne, Chair, Combe St. Nicholas Parochial Trust.
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Gerald Weech

Barbara, Christopher, Julie and Stuart would like to thank everyone who sent sympathy cards and letters, also for the many phone calls received during his illness and after Gerald Weech's passing.

Everyone has been so kind which the family really appreciate. Our heartfelt thanks go to our close friends and neighbours who have been a huge support during a very difficult time.

Combe St Nicholas Parish Oil Co-Operative

The oil co-operative enables residents of the Parish to obtain heating oil at bulk discount prices. The minimum order will be 500 litres. There will be deliveries every two months.

Cut-off date for September will be Monday 7th.

Please check subsequent issues of Cloverleaf or the Parish website (**www.combestnicholas.org.uk**) for the following months. For more information, please ring the number below. Please note there is no fee for membership or placing an order.

To place an order, please contact Kay on 01460 261234 or by email to motcombe@btinternet.com (stating contact details and amount).

ADVERTISEMENT UPDATE

**Please note that the
Accidental Vegan Café in Honiton
has closed.**

**Keep in touch with the NEW Combe village website -
visit www.combestnicholas.org.uk**

Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

The May and June Parish Council meetings were held remotely, via Zoom, and Council matters were all dealt with by information/comments shared by that medium. John Gilbert was elected Chairman, with Tony Sauer Vice-Chair.

The 'Traffic Mirror' at the junction with Court Mill Lane disappeared recently. Anyone know where it went ?! A new one has probably been reinstalled by the time you read this report. Thanks especially to Councillors Tony Sauer and Ian Whitehead for doing this.

The new Website for Combe St.Nicholas Parish will also be up and running by the time you are reading this. Thanks to Councillor Ian Croucher for setting this up, with the help of others. Thanks also to Rob Grimmond for all his work being Webmaster for the previous site. Do look on it, and let us have any information re dates, etc. for events.

Combe and Chard Support Group - Medicine pickup service. The current scheme will end on 24th July. As we are still concerned that residents, over 70 or vulnerable, should not be queuing up at Pharmacists, we have given out information about a company called PillTime, where prescriptions can be ordered through your surgery as usual, but then are sent to PillTime, rather than your usual chemist. The Medication will then be delivered through the Post direct to your home. This Company can be contacted by telephone, or online, whereas most others that are available do require email addresses. If you have a query about this please contact me, details below.

Very grateful Thanks are extended to the 5 couples who have collected and delivered the medicines for the last 4 months and to Rev.Georgina for her help at the Chard end.

The play area on The Lawns is now open, although it is not cleaned. Please use your own sanitisers, and wash hands as soon as possible. Keep safe distances, and 1 child and 1 adult per piece of equipment. New seats have been fitted to both sets of swings, due to wear and tear. Thanks to Tony Sauer for doing this.

If you would like to be considered to become a Parish Councillor or would like details, please contact me. We currently have a vacancy.

The next Parish Council meetings are due on Monday 24th August and 28th September either remotely by Zoom or in the Village Hall if restrictions are lifted.

**Anne Hunt – Parish Clerk (61296) or email combestnicholaspc@gmail.com
website : www.combestnicholas.org.uk**

Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council launches new website

Why do we need this new website? The old one worked ok, I hear you ask!

Yes, to some extent that is true but rules and regulations governing these sorts of websites are always changing, which means we have a legal duty of care to conform.

Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations 2018

Accessibility regulations for public sector bodies came into force on September 23rd 2018. These new regulations, known officially as The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 build on existing obligations to people who have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 (or the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in Northern Ireland). These regulations state that all UK service providers must consider 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people.

When do Parish Councils need to comply with the Accessibility Regulations?

If our website was published before 23rd September 2018 then we have until 23rd September 2020 to become compliant. If our website had been published after 23rd September 2018 then we would have had until 23rd September 2019 to be compliant and publish an accessibility statement.

So, to put it simply, our old website no longer conformed.

The original website was set up and run by *Rob Grimmond*, who until recently was our Parish Council Chairman until he retired and to whom we all owe a massive "*Thank You*" because trust me, it's been a lot of work and commitment for him over the years.

During Rob's time, he built up a wealth of useful pages full of good local information. Many of these features have been incorporated here into our new website, along with some new ones, all of this whilst trying to keep it looking both familiar and fresh, simple and intuitive for us all to use.

The website serves the parish of Combe St Nicholas and its main aims are:

To allow the Parish Council documents and information to be distributed and freely available for everyone to access quickly and easily

To show dates and times for upcoming Parish Council meetings and events.

To help inform all of us regarding many of the upcoming events and activities associated with our community.

So have a good old rummage around your new parish website, and hopefully you will find it informative, friendly and useful.

If you have any comments or good ideas on improving the website, please contact our website administrator and Councillor, *Ian Croucher* on 01460 64098 or email iancroucher@hotmail.com and let him know your thoughts.

We will always be looking to enhance the site for our community.

Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council.

Sunday School Wood

Due to lockdown, we were not allowed to work in the wood, even singly, for a while, so it did become rather overgrown. However, we were eventually allowed back in as restrictions were eased, and we have now caught up, and it is back to looking tidy.

We have been concerned for some time that 'Brian's Patch' would be a disappointment because we had to rush the preparation, and then we had a hot dry spell after sowing the seed. However, we need not have worried, the area suddenly became a riot of colour from lots of different flowers. It looks as though this state should last for a reasonable time. (We soon need to see if we can obtain more seed).

The foxgloves from Ann Hunt gave a good display, and we will have to try and repeat it, with even more plants. Where the corn cockle self seeded and flowered, there has also been a lot of poppies, resulting in a very pleasing display, without any input on our part.

On the down side, a lot of stones, a mixture of small and large ones, have been scattered about, some of them forming a rough semi-circle around one of the trees near the picnic table. We do not know who has done this, or why. Maybe a new Stonehenge! Whoever, please do not do this, or at least remove them afterwards. If we hit this with our machinery, it could cause a lot of damage, to the machines and the operators. In addition, we regularly find lots of reasonable size sticks. These can be even more hidden than the stones, and potentially as damaging. It is great to see that people are using the area, but please clear up afterwards.

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Combe St. Nicholas Village Hall

As I write this, we are in the thick of planning for re-opening the hall with reference to Covid-19, following official guidance (all 29 pages of it, with numerous supplements!). Most village halls are not planning to reopen before the end of September at the earliest, but we would like to do so sooner if we can, albeit with restrictions on how many people can use the hall at a time.

The Covid-19 situation has made us reappraise our booking system and associated paperwork, with a view to offering more online access using the new parish website. We don't yet have online booking up and running, but we're working on it. Please see the village hall page on the new village website at **www.combestnicholas.org.uk**.

Having done a Covid-19 risk assessment, we have produced a special set of hire conditions which all hirers will have to agree to before bookings can take place, and we will be writing to all our regular bookers. Use of the hall will be somewhat different to what you are used to, with a requirement for hirers to wipe surfaces before and after their bookings, as although cleaning will be more frequent, we cannot undertake to clean between each booking, and hirers will know what equipment they have used. We will be supplying hand sanitiser, antiviral spray, cleaning wipes, bins for used wipes and tissues, paper towels, and engaged/vacant signs for the toilets (to ensure that only one person enters at a time). There will also be a special Covid-19 first aid box and instructions for the procedure to follow in the (we hope very unlikely) event that someone becomes unwell with suspected Covid-19 in the hall. While all this may seem rather daunting, we hope you will understand that it is for the personal safety of all users.

At the same time, we have faced the challenge of our Chairman, Ros Roderigo, having to give up her role because of ill health. Ros has been a wise and wonderful chairman, and her shoes will be hard to fill. The good news is that no fewer than four people have offered to take over, which is unheard of! Dave Cobbledick, our Vice Chairman, would also like to step down because of pressure of work, though he will continue to support the hall with his irreplaceable practical skills. This means that we will be able to welcome two of the volunteers onto our committee, and we hope to make a decision soon.

Sue Pargeter

Combe St Nicholas CofE V.A. School

As I write, we are coming to the end of what has been a very challenging year due to Covid 19.

As you may know, school has been open throughout for the children of key workers and we have been increasingly allowed to invite more children back. Teachers have continued to provide on-line learning and so the workload has been significant.

The best thing for us, as staff, has been seeing the children again and finding that the children who have returned have been so pleased to come back. Some children had been booked to come for just one or two days but soon asked if they could stay all week!

Most staff members have taken advantage of extra training that has been available and have accessed this from home. Also, Mrs Hodge has successfully completed her teacher training and will be joining us as a Newly Qualified Teacher in September.

It was disappointing for the Year 6 pupils to miss out on some of the events that they usually enjoy. They have waited seven years for these things and they are a rite of passage.

We have, however, done our best to recreate as many activities as possible. We crowned Elsie Hine as our May Queen (in July!), the stick dance was performed - not to mention Spring Chicken. The whole event was filmed in a socially distant way and will be on a DVD for the Year 6s, together with other activities such as a Y6 Sports Day.

In place of an end of year production, Mr Edwards, Mrs Nichols and Mrs Toyne helped the children produce a music video. It is available to be seen via our Facebook page and You Tube. It has proved extremely popular.

We are all looking forward to welcoming the whole school back in September but are already making plans for how to proceed, should we be forced to close again. We pray that that won't happen.

In the meantime, the staff are all looking forward to a restful and healthy holiday.

Best wishes.

Christine Maxwell
Headteacher

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Combe rallies to help local food bank

For the local food bank, it became apparent early on in the crisis that we were facing a significant challenge in keeping the operation running, let alone increasing our capacity to meet the sudden spike in demand. But thanks to businesses like Combe Post Office, communities have created food donation points and rallied around to ensure that local families don't go hungry.

The Lords Larder is a food bank based in the Forefront Centre in Chard. Originally set up by a collection of local churches (hence the name), it is run today by a group of volunteers all keen to do their bit to address the issue of food insecurity in and around Chard.

It's quite a simple set up. Sainsburys and Tesco allow us to have a basket in store where shoppers can leave their food donations. Typically the baskets are filled up weekly, with around 120 items each time.

These donations alone aren't enough to meet the demand, so we're lucky that the charity receives financial donations from local organisations and individuals. We spend this money buying extra food in bulk.

Other than collecting from the supermarket, the main job is managing the stock (a bit like unpacking your usual supermarket shop but for 100 people at a time!) and packing the food bags.



We keep a rolling stock of packed bags in different sizes. For example, a family can collect up to six large bags, filled with a balanced range of food to last the week and often with treats for children tucked in there too. We try to accommodate specific requests, so keep a stock of baby items, gluten and dairy free products and pet food. Local agencies refer individuals and

families in need and Forefront is open daily for bags to be collected.

And then of course everything changed in March. At the start of lockdown several issues came up. Firstly, the food bank volunteers are largely retired

and many needed to self-isolate, so we had reduced manpower. Forefront needed to close, so collections were no longer possible. Supermarkets removed the donation points in the short term, so our food stocks were down and we couldn't find a supermarket that would let us buy in bulk, despite our charitable status. And on top of all of that, demand for food bags soared.

But solutions were found. The Royal British Legion sent volunteers our way, including some willing to do home deliveries. The wonderful Sally, Simon and Ian gave their time every day, filling their cars with bags and heading out to homes, often needing to come back to do multiple drops. A local wholesaler agreed to sell in bulk to us, so our food stocks didn't reach a critical low. And then we all reached out to our local communities to ask for help.

When I asked Elsbeth and Brian if they would consider having a food donation point in Combe Post Office they didn't hesitate – it was in place the next day. The generosity of customers right from the off has been incredible. I am called to come and empty the basket at least twice a week and the total of number of items that the lovely people of Combe have donated is over 1,500 and counting! Not only that, Elsbeth and Brian very kindly offered to divert donations that they receive to the food bank, and every week used this money to supply us with more much needed bulk items. We're incredibly grateful to them both.

The situation has steadied somewhat now: our team of volunteers are coming back on board, the supermarket donation points are back and Forefront has re-opened, so that collections can take place again.

But the predictions are that the financial implications of the crisis will hit people hard, so at the food bank we know that we need to keep working at full speed to meet demand.

On behalf of the charity and the people that we help, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everybody in Combe for the part they've played in helping the food bank keep afloat.

If anybody wishes to know more about the charity and what we do, or to volunteer time, help or expertise, you'll find information and contact details on our website: www.lordslarder.chardct.org.uk

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District Councillors' report

We have all had to adapt to a new way of living and working during the Coronavirus crisis. Fortunately, Jenny and Martin have worked together for many years and, although from different sides of the Council chamber, find this does not interfere with their efforts to represent Buckland St. Mary, Combe St Nicholas, Tatworth and Forton, Wambrook and Whitestaunton Parishes.

Thankfully, due to the use of Zoom and emails we have managed to attend both Parish and Council meeting and tried to make sure that your interests are heard and taken 'on board', particularly in relation to planning.

We are both on the Chard Regeneration Board and involved in a member led review of South Somerset's planning service. Jenny is on the Scrutiny Committee and Martin represents the Council on the Police Commissioners Panel.

We both have been active in promoting the Government's emergency Business grants and other emergency measures which are being coordinated through the Council.

Once again Local Government reorganisation is on the Agenda and how and by whom your local services are provided is being debated. Whether we will end up with one large authority with area offices or two Councils for Somerset is the current debate. We shall see! However, rest assured Jenny and I will be still in place for some years and will try keep you in touch with developments which might affect you!

So we have tried to make it business as usual, without face to face contacts or visits.

We are both available to help wherever possible and can be contacted at:-

Martin Wale- Martin.wale@southsomerset.gov.uk, (01460) 65190
Jenny Kenton- Jenny.kenton@southsomerset.gov.uk, 07921574019

Somerset Quiz Answers

1. Watchet 2. Bridgwater 3 Crewkerne, 4. Taunton, 5. Chard, 6. Dulverton, 7. Highbridge, 8. Minehead, 9. Frome, 10, Porlock, 11. Wellington, 12. Wells, 13. Ilminster, 14. Martock, .15. Burnham, 16. Wincanton, 17. Street, 18. Castle Cary, 19. Wedmore, 20. Bruton.

Community Speed Watch

Since the Wadeford Speed Watch group suspended operations last September there seems to have been no attempt from Avon and Somerset Constabulary to monitor traffic speeds through our village. We were no longer prepared to spend precious hours, in all weather, while long promised roadside support rarely materialised. Neither did the police camera bike attend more often as promised – anyone seen that in operation anywhere lately?

In the meantime, especially in the depths of lockdown, people have been commenting, both locally and nationally, of higher traffic speeds. However, we have had no indication that better police support will be forthcoming and therefore we have no plans to return to standing on grass verges trying alone to enforce those speed limits. For those who continue to roar through villages I would warn that speed watch groups have been told that they can now return to their duties, post-lockdown, complete with social distancing requirements!

Please drive safely.

Bob Vaughan

Open Days at your local Church

This year has been tough for all of us either in a small or more significant way

We would like to invite you to come along to the Church where you live, sit, take in the peace, or have a chat with us, we can offer you tea, coffee and cake, and a friendly face, plus time.

Each of us uses our Church building in different ways, some daily, some weekly for prayer or quiet reflection or maybe to attend significant occasions with family and friends, for Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals.

The Church is at the heart of the life of all four of our communities and has been for at least eleven centuries, a central point and focus place to gather for significant events in our lives, and weekly for worship and prayer. Whether you use the church or not it has a place in all our histories and of those who have gone before us. So come spend some time with us or beside us, you are welcomed.

The Dates we have set aside are Saturday August 8th when we shall be at Combe St Nicholas and Whitestaunton from 10.00-4.00, and August 22nd when we shall be at Chard and Wambrook from 10.00- 4.00

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Flower Arranging Workshops

With the current restrictions, it is still difficult to predict how activities will be handled over the next few months, but I am hopeful that it won't be too long before we can resume workshops, observing all rules and guidelines. Here's what is planned for September:

Ravishing Roses

Saturday 26 September 2020 : 10am-1pm £22

An elegant long and low design you can easily adapt for every season of the year. This arrangement made using the roses we all love will look fabulous anywhere in your home - and will definitely be the envy of your friends. It's gorgeous!

All events held at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall. For more workshops and further information contact Jackie Nicholls, Ashville Design on 01460 67795 or 07906 259 683 or email ashvilledesign@outlook.com – www.ashvilledesign.co.uk – www.facebook.com/ashvilledesign



Sarah Thacker-Pugsley enjoying a Flower Arranging Workshop



Combe St. Nicholas Football Club

I am pleased to announce that Combe FC have started training again!

Unfortunately we are not able to start playing full games yet but hopefully it is not long now. The coaches are all working in line with the FA grassroots Covid-19 guidelines and players are enjoying the opportunity to get fit and kick a ball again!

Combe's coaching sessions are free to attend and a great way to get to meet new people. If anyone local is interested in joining our ladies, men's or youth teams, please see the training nights to attend and details below:

Tuesday's 6.30pm: Ladies and Men's first and reserve teams

Wednesday 6.30pm: Men's Combe A (entry level men's senior football)

Thursday 6.30pm: Men's first and reserve teams

Youth enquires, please contact newly elected Chairman Simon Douglas through the Avishayes Combe Facebook site or via the following email: simondoug76@hotmail.com

I am sure many people know about Andrew and Nicole Denning's affiliation with the football club. They have both been extremely supportive over the years and have also helped for the past few years in organising the erection and removal of the village Christmas tree.

Their time in our community is coming to an end as they begin a new exciting chapter of their lives in Menorca later this year. On behalf of the football club and the community I wanted to say thank you for everything you have done for us and we wish you the best of luck in the future.

Luc Logan

Chairman, Combe St Nicholas Football Club

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Chard Museum



We can start celebrating our **50th Anniversary** by WELCOMING visitors back to Chard Museum.

The Museum is open from Saturday August 1st. To ensure the safety of our stewards, visitors and volunteers, visitors will need to book in advance, through our website or our dedicated phone line, 07870 697956 between 10:00 and 16:00. You can book a visit on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 10:00 – 11:30; 11:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 15:30, then Saturday 10:00 – 11:30 and 11:30 – 13:00.

Book online at www.chardmuseum.co.uk/book-online You will receive a confirmation email.

With no visitors during lock-down we continued to work hard. We launched our new website as part of the 50th Anniversary. Included there is our Virtual Museum. This provides inter-active activities for all ages. The first is **Chard Remembers**. You are invited to share your pandemic experiences, memories and unique artefacts. We are keen to capture these local stories and images. These are being collected to inform future generations, create resource boxes and future displays and exhibits.

The second is **My Home is My Museum**. This is, specifically for youngsters between the ages of 4 and 14. So if you are off school we would love you to create your own exhibition or gallery of objects or artworks that inspire, or mean a lot to you! Get creative and tell us your stories and show us your important objects! You can do this by making a video or creating your Shoebox Museum.

Read full details about My Home is My Museum at
www.chardmuseum.co.uk/virtual-museum

Another project the Museum has launched is to unearth and share the **Myths and Hidden Stories of the local area**. For example, have you heard the stories like Judge Jefferies held assizes in Chard after the Monmouth Rebellion, or Choughs Hotel in the High street is the most haunted building in Chard, and the Royal Observer Corp had a nuclear bunker to the west of the town. If you have heard similar types of story, or have more detailed knowledge of similar stories then email us at research@chardmuseum.co.uk We will research our archives to confirm, or not such claims. Our first story will be the tale of the National Westminster Bank vaults. Were parts of the Crown Jewels really hidden there during World War 2. True or False?

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Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2000-2009	10 Yr Ave 2010-2019
May	17	29	89	63
June	81	118	54	72
Sub total	98	147	143	135
Jan-April	471	358	384	382
TOTAL	569	505	527	517

All measurements in millimetres 25mm = 1" = 45 gallons/sq yard

May was a very dry month, with most of the rain (16mm) falling on just one day. By contrast, June had only 7 dry days, and the most rain to fall in one day was 13mm.

Tony Cole (61896)

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Rector's Letter

The 'new normal'.

As we slowly come out of lockdown into our 'new normal', it seems that there are many people who are frantic to return not just to life as it was before lockdown, but an even more exaggerated version of that. Many of us were guilty of filling up our time during lockdown by filling every minute of our time, filling up virtual space – with meetings, discussions, work ...or taking on new tasks and pastimes.

It seems 'good' that we should want to return to normal, after experiencing abnormal, isolating circumstances. 'Keep calm and carry on'.

But we follow a God who is the 'Maker of all things visible and invisible' and who makes 'all things new'. There is no small print after those statements in which God tells us that the methods or the results of that making are necessarily going to be to our liking. There's a lot of love going on at the moment, as huge numbers of people reach out to take care of each other. But there's an awful lot of fear too. If we make decisions or take actions on the basis of love, the outcome will be very different than if we are driven by fear (however well-hidden).

In a time when there is so much fear and suffering on a global scale, it's understandable that we might reach for the familiar, and want to go back to exactly how we were living before lockdown. But supposing we acknowledge and hold the fear? Supposing we are open to seeing what it has to teach us. Suppose instead of trying to keep things as normal as possible, we look and listen for the Holy Spirit in what is going on, and what it is trying to tell us.

Supposing it is the will of God at this moment that we stop doing and instead spend more time just 'being'. Perhaps there we might learn what the Spirit is urging us to see what is extra-ordinary in these extraordinary times? Perhaps we are being asked to do less rather than more. Is God challenging us to keep things as they are in the face of adversity, or sending us the message that we should be still, listen, take stock: see what is being created and know our part in it? Perhaps this is a time to check our values and the way we are living; to see the good things we take for granted and learn to appreciate them deeply; to examine those places in our consciousness where we are afraid, and what they show us about not trusting in God completely.

Are we being asked to explore our commitment to the world and each other to see where we may have gone awry, and how we can take better care of each other and the planet? Maybe, amid the confusion, there are gifts of time and space in which to come to a deeper awareness of our old ways of doing things, not least doing church, that are now past their sell-by date and need to be

lovingly let go. What is the new thing that is waiting to be born out of these unprecedented times, in which you are being summoned to participate in faith? Perhaps this is a time to be more discriminating about all that we do to fill up our time and to use the space instead to be receptive to the God's will for us, not our own. Suppose at this moment, we are being asked to journey into a new way of doing things, a new way of living and a new way to be with God? Wouldn't that be a wonderful 'new normal'?

Our church services will begin again on Sunday 2nd August. We are doing all that we can to ensure that they will safe and comfortable for our return. During August we hope to have all our usual Sunday morning services, but there will be no midweek services for the time being. Regrettably, we will also not be able to hold services at Ham as it would not be possible to maintain the required social distancing in such a small space. Georgina and I will review the situation at the end of August depending on new guidance from the Diocese and the government. We both look forward to seeing you as we meet again for worship.

Rev'd Ann

Church Services Return

Services are beginning in Church from **Sunday August 2nd**, we will be taking precautions to make it as safe as possible for you to return to worship, with social distancing and gel available.

There will not be any Holy Communion on the Wednesday in August, but we will restart in September. There have been no Weddings, Baptisms or Funerals in the past three months.

We have decided not to hold our evening services at Ham this year, but we may be able to find a suitable location for the Harvest in September; watch this space.

Also the work on Ham Church roof is beginning at the end of July, so far we have raised £4380 of the £6200 needed so there is still time to give a little gift to cover a tile on the restored roof, keeping it looking good for the future.



Amanda McCabe

Ham Church, Raisey Lane

Church Services across the Benefice

AUGUST	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
August 2nd Trinity 8	10:30am Family Service	9:15am BCP Holy Communion		8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Morning Prayer
August 9th Trinity 9	10.30am Holy Communion CW	9.15am Service Cancelled	6.00pm Evensong BCP	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion
August 16th Trinity 10	10.30am Service of the Word at the Parish Church	6.00pm BCP Evensong	9.15am CW Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am CW Holy Communion
August 23rd Trinity 11	10.30am Holy Communion			8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion
August 30th Trinity 12	BENEFICE SERVICE ON ZOOM			

**BCP Communion:
will restart in SEPTEMBER
on the third Wednesday of each month at Combe at 10.00am**

Church Services across the Benefice

SEPTEMBER	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
September 6th Trinity 13	10.30am Family Service	9.15am BCP Holy Communion		8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am Morning Worship
September 13th Trinity 14	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am CW Holy Communion	6.00pm BCP Evensong	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion
September 20th Trinity 15	10..0am Together at Methodist Church for Harvest Festival (to be confirmed)	6.00pm BCP Sung Evensong	9.15am CW Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Service of the Word
September 27th Trinity 16	10.30am Holy Communion			8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am HC Harvest Festival

Wambrook Flowers & Cleaners

Flowers

<i>Aug 2 & 9</i>	<i>Penny Luther</i>
<i>Aug 16 & 23</i>	<i>Sue Wallace</i>
<i>Aug 30 & Sept 6</i>	<i>Sue Eames</i>
<i>Sept 13 & 20</i>	<i>Sue Logan</i>
<i>Sept 27 & Oct 4</i>	<i>Jacqueline Cosby</i>

Cleaning

<i>Nicola Nicholls</i>
<i>Elena Eames</i>
<i>Marie Cordwell</i>
<i>Hilary Dixon</i>
<i>Elspeth Hunt</i>

Cloverleaf Parishes Information

Clergy contact details:

Rector: Rev'd Ann Kember

The Vicarage, Forton Road, Chard TA20 2HJ

Tel: 01460 351521 Email: annkember58@gmail.com

Associate Rev'd Georgina Vye,

Vicar: The Vicarage, 57 Caraway Close, Chard, TA20 1HP

01460 66159 or 07950 989916 Email: g.vye@btinternet.com

Cloverleaf Churchwardens

St Nicholas, Combe: Bobbie Boud (67901), Penny Croucher (64098)

St Mary's, Wambrook: Graeme Pidgeon (07807 284738)

Visit the Wambrook website www.wambrookparishchurch.com

COMBE ST NICHOLAS METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10.30am

Minister: Rev Anna Flindell (01460 261766)

Steward: Arnold Coleman (64892)

Copy date for October/November issue of Cloverleaf

*Items for Cloverleaf should be e-mailed to **csnparishmag@btinternet.com** or delivered to **The Village Shop & Post Office, Combe** NO LATER THAN 12noon on **TUESDAY 15th September**. Please note: long articles may have to be edited and inclusion cannot always be guaranteed.*

Distributors: October/November Magazines will be in Combe Church ready for collection on Friday pm 25th September.

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