



Withington Parish Magazine

**January and February
2021**



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Editorial

Dear All,

I am pleased to welcome our new advertisers, Morris and Dodd, (a plumber - you can never find one when needed!) their advert is on page 21. For those late Christmas presents please see advert on page 7 (for ladies rain hats) all proceeds go to Weston Beggard Church.

A big Thank you to all contributors to the magazine and also to our business partners who financially support the production of the magazine throughout the year.

A new year is upon us, one that will hopefully restore some of the daily pleasures of life, so lets be positive and embrace the future albeit somewhat different than before.

So, enjoy the festive season and the opportunity of seeing friends and family once again.

My very best wishes to you for 2021.

Margaret



REMINDER - YOU CAN NOW READ THE MAGAZINE 'ONLINE'

If you are unable to obtain paper copies of the magazine please go to the Group Parish Website to read it.
You will find the magazine under the 'Newsletter' section.

<https://withingtongroupparishes.co.uk>

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE:

7TH FEBRUARY 2021

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

Distributors Wanted

Many Thanks to Sheila Cooper

The Withington Parish Magazine has had many supporters, contributors, distributors, compilers etc. in its 40 years of existence, and is on its second editor, in Margaret Thompson. Of course the magazine started with Bryan Davies as editor, and we still read and enjoy his articles to this day – lovely stories in the time of his youth, living on the Welsh coast.

When the magazine started, the population in Withington was much much smaller. Vine Tree Close was just being built (I mean the original Vine Tree Close.) Southbank was just the original prefabs, and Withies Close was not very old. Meadow Market Supermarket was where there are lots of houses now. And there weren't houses all around the Post Office.

At that time, distribution of the magazine was to each individual house, and a small annual donation towards it was requested, though not demanded.

Now that the village has grown so hugely, especially recently, distribution is managed differently. And of course there is the online version via the Group Parish Council website.

Those who live in the main Withington centre can collect their magazine from the Post Office, and when re-opened (?) the shop, and the church. The more outlying areas are still receiving magazines to their door.

It has not always been easy to find regular distributors, willing to deliver in a set area for every issue. But Sheila Cooper did the round from The Cross Keys up past the canal houses, taking in the Marsh, and over the road to the garage, workshop, the flats and up the hill to 4 more properties, about 50 magazines. She did this for 17 years, I believe, making it her dog walking exercise. Now she and her husband have moved house, to another area. We are most grateful for her long stint and wish her well in her new home.

We have been fortunate in finding someone to carry on Sheila's round but would welcome hearing from anyone who would be willing to take on a round, especially whilst we have no shop in our distribution chain.

Ruth Hewison

Tree Warden Report

National Tree Week in Withington Group of Parishes

A big well done to anyone who managed to do some planting for National Tree Week. We delivered about 350 vouchers across the three parishes, thank you very much to Cathy in Withington, Judith in Westhild and Sarah in Preston Wynne for their help.

Also, a big thank you to Radway Bridge nurseries for giving the Withington Group of Parishes a generous discount for our tree planting initiative. Please continue to support our local independent nursery.

If you have any tree queries do get in touch. Keep planting!

Ingrid Heatly withingtontreewarden@gmail.com



St. Peter's Church News

Joy to the World

As we continue in the lengthy battle against the virus that has engulfed the world the possibility for joy might seem a greater than normal challenge. With the announcement and roll out of a vaccine at last some light has been shed on the darkness we have all experienced. Even so, we are still far away from a return to normal and so perhaps, in these short days, with still so many questions and unknowns, a pause to ponder the mysteries of joy might be the tonic we need.

Joy is itself such a joyful word. There are alternatives of course - delight, rapture, exultation, bliss, cheer, jubilation, 'joie de vivre' - but none of them summon up the sensation in quite the same way as joy. Joy, our response to the acknowledgement of something bigger than ourselves, often follows the conquering of pain, of suffering, of insults. True joy nourishes our souls even when our lives are proving difficult.

Writers through the ages have been seized and inspired by joy; from William Blake, who felt that *'He who kisses the joy as it flies lives in eternity's sunshine'*, to Wordsworth who recognised the emotion's capacity to catch us unawares and leave us *'surprised by joy'* and John Keats whose great poem Endymion begins with the line *'A thing of beauty is a joy for ever'*. In searching for its source Matthew Arnold believed that *'Truth illuminates and gives joy'*, whilst George Eliot maintained that *'Joy is the best of wines'*.

In no other religion is joy as conspicuous as in Christianity. The Psalms give it ample coverage. *'Heaviness may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning'* (Ps.30); *'My soul shall be joyful in the Lord'* (Ps 35); *'They that sow in tears shall reap in joy'* (Ps.126). Isaiah 61 says simply *'My soul rejoices in the Lord'*. In St. John's Gospel we hear the words of Jesus, *'Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete'*. St. Paul, writing in the most difficult circumstances gives much needed encouragement with the words, *'in all troubles, my joy knows no bounds'*. Oh, for such depth of faith!

But for all that we look forward to in the return to days without the worries and restrictions of the virus joy still cannot be guaranteed or summoned up just when we need it. On the contrary, joy is a gift and in that sense is not dissimilar to grace, that most intangible and explicable state. Neither can be saved up for, both are utterly basic yet unfathomably deep. They may both be anticipated but can never be expected.

Joy, I believe, springs from a settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of our lives and the quiet confidence that, ultimately, everything is going to be alright.

It's impossible to define but when we have it we certainly know it. Over recent months, for so many of us, joy has been elusive. Even more so for those who have lost someone dear to them. For them joy may feel a very long way away indeed and they are held in our thoughts and prayers.

The joy that Christ came to bring is from outside this world, a joy like no other. In John 15:11 Jesus says, *'I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full'*. Along with love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control, joy is promised as one of the gifts of the spirit and, like its companion gifts, comes often in unexpected, surprising ways and places.

Undimmed by the virus we still managed to remember, if not to sing, that Christmas favourite, *'Joy to the World, the Lord is come!'*. We celebrated once more the fact that over 2,000 years ago, in Bethlehem, God decided to show us what He had been trying to tell us for centuries – that He loves us, that He takes joy in us and that He yearns for us to share that same love and joy with and for one another. Despite all we have been robbed of, Christmas once again offered us, perhaps in deeper ways than normal, the opportunity to understand, and treasure, joy a little more. As Keats wrote, *'In the deep power of joy, we see into the heart of things.'*

I wish you a blessed, joyful New Year.

Simon

Comfort and Joy



Christmas Services in Withington and Westhide, Lugwardine, Weston Beggard and Dormington

Sunday 20th December

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Withington
11 am	Holy Communion	Weston Beggard
3.30 pm	Carols and Christingles	Dormington
5 pm	Carol Service	Lugwardine

Tuesday 22nd December

6.30 pm	Carol Service	Westhide
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Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.30 pm	Crib Service	Withington
5.00 pm	Crib Service	Lugwardine
10.00 pm	Christmas Communion	Dormington
10.00 pm	Christmas Communion	Weston Beggard
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Lugwardine
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Withington

Friday 25th December Christmas Day

11 am	Christmas Day Communion	Westhide
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Lockdown stopped our filming!

In the last edition I wrote that a group of us who take action bible stories into Withington Primary School assembly once a month (Open the Book) were going to video our next 3 stories to be shown in school as we are unable to go in the flesh at present.

Unfortunately, the videoing was scheduled for a few days after lockdown started, so we had to abandon it. Hopefully we can try again in the New Year!

Ruth Hewison

St. Peter's Church News

Toilet and kitchen project

St Peter's Church

WE GOT THERE!

A big **'Thank you'** to everyone who contributed to our project as we have now reached our target of £80,000. Without the help of so many of you we would not have raised the money so quickly, especially as at least half of the money was raised in 2020 in spite of COVID-19; 11 grant awarding bodies helped us in this project as well as our local fundraising efforts – the project was launched in May 2018.

Almost as a bonus the builder has just asked, as we go to press, that the work can start in early January.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all parishioners and supporters.

Keep safe and we hope to welcome you in 2021 to the Grand Opening Celebration.

Churchwardens; Kevin Hewison and Margaret Soutar

Weston Beggard Church Fundraising

LADIES RAINHATS



ONLY £8.00 INC P&P

Available in Black/ Brown/ Grey

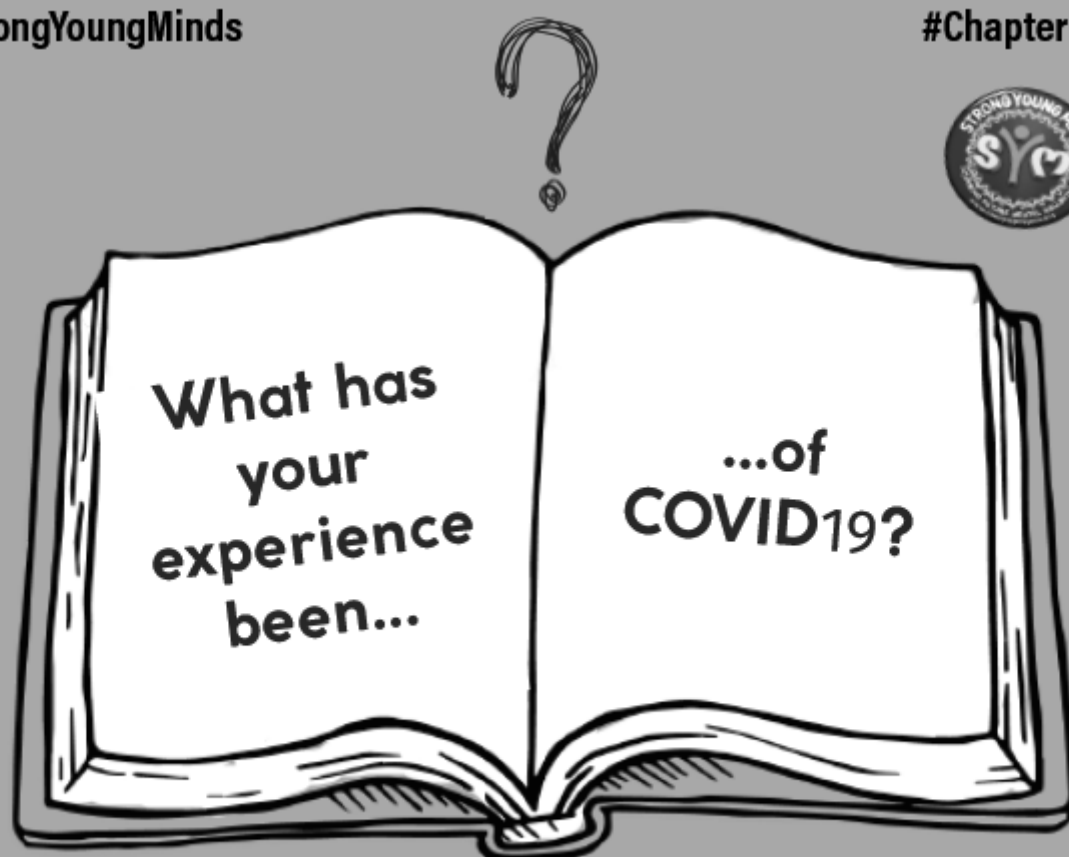
One size, adjustable, light, folds away
into its own pouch - make ideal gifts

Proceeds in aid of St. John's Church, Weston Beggard

Contact Lizzie 851424 or Gerry 632028

#StrongYoungMinds

#ChapterCovid



...what support do you wish you had more of?

The Strong Young Minds programme...

...is designed to improve the mental health & wellbeing of young people (10 - 26 yrs) in Herefordshire!

...acting as a first line of support and here to navigate young people through times of change and uncertainty...

From 1 to 1 sessions, workshops and groups as well as peer listening & support, Strong Young Minds is here to help and offer some guidance on how to adjust to this 'new normal'

Get in touch...

**www.thesymproject.org
T: 01432 269245**

**E: symproject@thecldtrust.org
Twitter: @StrongYMinds
Instagram: @strongyoungminds**

Notices

This article was taken from facebook and it is featured for the benefit of readers.

I know I'm not the sharpest tool in the box, but I thought I had a better awareness than I apparently do. This afternoon I had a phone call from TalkTalk on 07771690314. A nice man informed me that the internet would have to go off for an hour, he had all my details including my TalkTalk account number. Apparently there had been some water damage to the fibre connection at the exchange. The repair should return the service back to the advertised speed, however the router in our house was somewhat restrictive so they would send me a new router free of charge if I wanted. It was free so why not. There was a charge for postage, but that was only £3.00 and that needed a card payment. Stupid me immediately gave the man my card details. As I was giving the details I suddenly felt uneasy. I put the phone down and called the bank. Calling a bank should have been easier than it was. Eventually I managed to cancel the card and after speaking to the scam department was able to stop a payment of £470.00 going out of my account. I know I should have been more astute and realised before giving my card details to a complete stranger that there was something wrong. If I was to read this post where someone else had posted it I would immediately say, "That wouldn't happen to me". Well it did and I hope no one else is as daft as me and is taken in by these con merchants.

Dear All

My name is Theresa, I have lived in Withington for approximately 18 years. However both work and family caring often meant I spent considerable periods of time away from my own home. Up until 2017 I happily juggled working and caring but following a close family death I decided to take early retirement.

Then Covid 19 arrived in our world and on our shores. Life changed in so many different ways. Some of us including me have lost loved ones due to Covid 19. Gone were the rituals which many of us value. Gone too were the loving gatherings of family and friends who supported us during our grieving. Venues closed and the social activities which structured our days or provided a respite from feelings of isolation and loneliness ceased.

While some people have adapted to the virtual world of Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp and online shopping I felt sure that there would be more people who did not have access to smart phones, laptops and computers or broadband technology. So this is my question to the village: Do you think there is a need within the village for a telephone social chat group? Are you someone who is in need of a social chat via a mobile or landline phone or are you someone who is willing to make a call or someone who is willing to help create such a group?

If so please contact me either by phone on 0757 622 1821 or if you are able to email on theresagavin10@gmail.com

Regards

Theresa Gavin

OBITUARY

Michael Fletcher would like to record the death of his wife, Caroline,
at home on 12th November 2020.

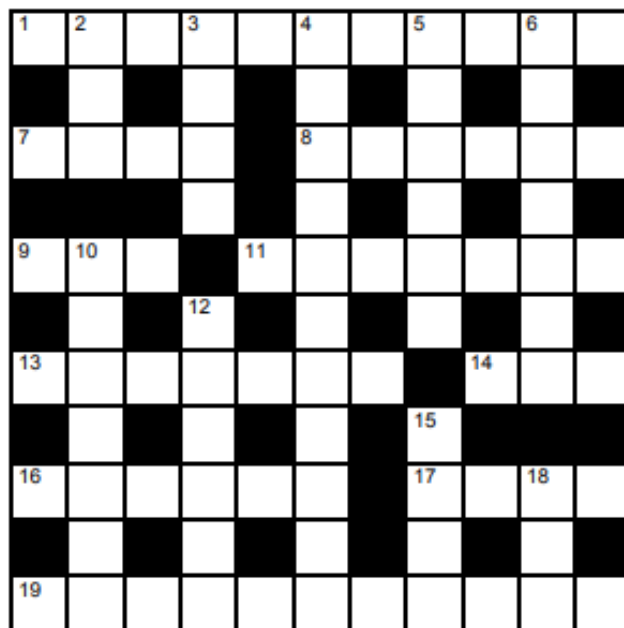
R.I.P

Crossword

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Across

- 1 Audio system output device (11)
- 7 Separate article (4)
- 8 Mistakes (6)
- 9 Bleat (3)
- 11 Live together (7)
- 13 Of local interest (7)
- 14 Attempt (3)
- 16 Hammer-like tool (6)
- 17 Mountains (4)
- 19 Painful throat infection (11)



Down

- 2 Cereal grain (3)
- 3 Dulls (4)
- 4 Old flying reptile (11)
- 5 Receiving device (6)
- 6 Before now (7)
- 10 Pear-shaped fruit (7)
- 12 Names (6)
- 15 Indonesian resort island (4)
- 18 21st letter of the Greek alphabet (3)



Withington Book Club

The Book Club is still 'resting'. However, plans are afoot to restart in February, using Zoom. In the meantime, yours truly will be on another steep learning curve to master said technology.

Let us hope for a Happy , healthy 2021.

If you would like to know more about the club ,
please ring Sue on 851710



History

Celebrating the New Year

Civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of each new year for at least four millennia. The earliest recorded festivities of new year's celebrations date back some 4,000 years to ancient Babylon.

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months (304 days) with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox. According to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C.

A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today.

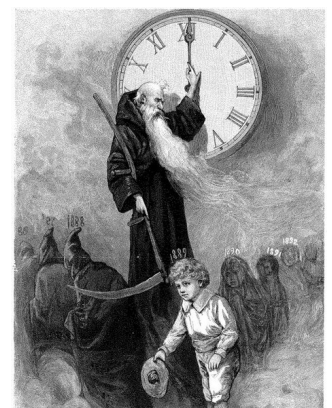


As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honour the month's namesake, Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (the anniversary of Jesus' birth) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation). Pope Gregory XIII re-established January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 and continue into the early hours of New Year's Day. Common traditions include attending parties, making resolutions for the new year, singing and watching firework displays.

Just before midnight in Spain and several other Spanish speaking countries, people eat a dozen grapes symbolizing their hopes for the months ahead. In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success; examples include lentils in Italy and black-eyed peas in the southern United States. As pigs represent progress and prosperity in some cultures, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has come full circle, feature in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece and elsewhere. In Sweden and Norway, rice pudding with an almonds hidden inside is served on New Year's Eve; it is said that whoever finds the nut can expect 12 months of good fortune.

In the United States, the most iconic New Year's tradition is the dropping of a giant ball in Times Square, New York City, at the stroke of midnight. Millions of people around the world watch the event, which has taken place almost every year since 1907. Over time, the ball itself has ballooned from a 700lb iron and wood orb to a brightly patterned sphere 12 feet in diameter and weighing in at nearly 12,000 pounds.



Happy New Year!



CHILDREN'S CHARITY SEEKING MENTORS

Could you spare an hour or two a week?

Would you like to help children and young people in Hereford.

Children's charity Mentor Link is recruiting Volunteer Mentors to support children and young people in schools. Owing to a current shortage of mentors in Hereford, Mentor Link would like to hear from women and men who would like to support children in schools for around an hour each week. Anyone interested should be a good listener, patient and enjoy working with children and young people

The Mentors are trained to support and encourage young people who are facing issues which are impacting on their education and well-being, with a view to improving their self-esteem and engagement in learning. The charity has an excellent track record of success in achieving positive outcomes with children and young people.

The charity is hoping volunteer mentor Mark Warmington's experience will inspire men to get involved. Mark joined the charity last year as a Mentor and has supported a number of students during that time. He has commented that:

"Volunteering with Mentor Link gives me an opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life. Each of my mentees know they can speak about anything that is important to them and truly be heard. This helps build their confidence and trust in adults that they won't be judged, that their point of view is important and that they have an outlet to work through the challenges and pressures they are facing in life."

Mentor Link is a Safer Recruiter and requires two 2 character references and an Enhanced DBS clearance. They will provide Induction training, travelling expenses, on-going training, and a dedicated team of staff to support you in your role.

If you can spare an hour or two a week, and you are able to commit to a minimum of 6 months volunteering please contact Elaine Carroll on 07805 937347 or email Elaine.Carroll@mentorlink.org.uk

We welcome enquiries from schools, parents and organisations in the area who want to hear more about our services.

For further information see our website www.mentorlink.org.uk

Find us on Facebook Registered charity number 1169026

SAMARITANS

Every six seconds somebody in the UK contacts Samaritans for help. Whether it's by phone, email or letter, Samaritan volunteers are available to support anyone struggling to cope, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Most people go through difficult times, and contacting someone who won't judge about what's troubling you, no matter how large or small the issue feels, can really help.

Suicide is not inevitable, it is preventable. and we know that suicidal thoughts are often temporary and can be interrupted, so finding our contact details could make all the difference.

Samaritans Herefordshire Branch want to raise awareness of the 24/7 emotional support available, to as many people as possible in our local area during this especially difficult time.

- Phone free on 116 123
- Email jo@samaritans.org.
- Write to
Freepost RSRB-KKBY-CYJK
Chris, PO Box 9090
Stirling FK8 2SA

In May 2020 Samaritans also launched a free Self-Help app to encourage people to be kind to themselves and look after their emotional wellbeing. The app aims to provide a means of accessing support for people who may struggle to use Samaritans' listening service, or find it difficult to express how they are feeling when talking to someone. Visit selfhelp.samaritans.org to try out or download the new web-based app and find out more.

If you might be able to lend a hand in Herefordshire by displaying posters or contact cards please get in touch with

Herefordshire Samaritans Outreach

44a Berrington Street, Hereford, HR4 0BJ

Email: outreach.director@herefordshire-samaritans.org

For more information about Samaritans, including other ways to help, please go to www.Samaritans.org

Withington Group Parish Council

Withington Group Parish Council update – December 2020

Your **Withington Councillors** are now: Cllr Kevin Hewison, (Vice Chair), Cllr Alison Bainbridge, Cllr Barclay Rogers, Cllr Tom Nellist, Cllr Bob Wood, Cllr Jonathan Beech, Cllr John Baker, Cllr Martin Kirk, (Footpaths Officer, Withington) Cllr Ginnette Chadd and Cllr Keith Merrick.

Your **Westhide** Councillors are: Cllr Ralph Barber (Chairman), Cllr Judith Howe, Cllr Julie Williams (Footpaths Officer, Westhide)

Your **Preston Wynne** Councillors are: Cllr Simon Dent, Cllr Sue Rudd, Cllr Ed Simcock (Mrs Simcock is Footpaths Officer, Preston Wynne)

To be put in contact with any of the above Councillors, please contact the clerk first at: wGPCclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Withington Group Parish Council (WGPC) are still disinfecting the play area once a week as Herefordshire Council advises, we do ask parents to take responsibility for their children to sanitize their hands before and after playing on the equipment – its always better to be safe than sorry. We also wanted to point out that WGPC do not manage any of the other play areas in the village.

The Withington Group Parish Council have held meetings throughout the year and full minutes for these meetings are available on our website <https://withingtongroupparishes.co.uk/> however, due to the Corona Virus epidemic Parish Council meetings are currently being held on line through Zoom. If you want to watch a PC meeting live on line, you just need to contact the clerk to gain the access code to the meeting – details are on the agenda.

Please can we remind people to ensure that their hedges are cut back to allow people to walk along pavements and road edges. They should be cut prior to the bird nesting from 1st March.

Footpaths Officer: Please don't forget that we need your assistance in reporting problems on the footpaths throughout the Parishes, should you find broken styles or blocked footpaths, please can you let the Parish Council clerk or your footpath officer know and they can try and get the problem dealt with?

Dates for future meetings; any member of the public can come to a Parish Council meeting, and there is a space early on every agenda for members of the public to ask a question or to raise a matter for the Council's consideration. The Parish Council meetings are all listed on the web site. If you want to know more about any of these meetings topics, do please look at our website and see the agenda, which are posted at least three days before each meeting...and during Covid 19 we are still meeting, just on line through Zoom and you can also join us there.

Thank you.

Mrs Sophie Glover,

wGPCclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01432 617306

Withington Group Parish Council

Road Safety on A4103

The Parish Council is concerned about the speed of traffic on the A4103 and the spate of accidents around Radway Garden Centre, Radway Road junction and the Railway under bridge by the White House.

A group of Parish Councillors is looking into the issues of speeding and road safety, with a view to make recommendations to Herefordshire Council. We already have some accident data over the last 3 years and a Herefordshire Council road safety engineer addressed the Parish Council at their November meeting.

If you have views or suggestions on this issue, then please email this group of councillors through Kevin; kevinhewison@btopenworld.com

Kevin Hewison
Vice-Chair. Withington Group Parish Council

Withington War Memorial Restoration

Good news, at last we have some money, Withington Group Parish Council have made a provision of £4,000 in the 2021/22 budget towards the restoration of the Withington War Memorial.

The memorial is now a grade 2 listed building, this is good as it will preserve the memorial for posterity. However it also means that we have to follow a strict set of rules during the restoration process.

The procedure we have to follow starts with a topographical survey of the existing site, this is important as the site is built on a slope. The lack of proper foundations caused the collapse of the original structure.

This will be followed by a consultation with the Historic Buildings Officer who will dictate the features and materials to be used in the restoration enabling architectural drawings to be produced. At this stage we can apply to the Council Planning Department for Listed Building Consent, approval of which will allow us to obtain quotations, and ultimately, we will be appealing for additional money to proceed with the restoration

Councillor John Baker



PRESTON WYNNE NEWS JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021

Hello Everyone,

A very happy New Year to you all and if this arrives before Christmas we hope you have a good one and if too late for that then we hope that you had a great time with the relaxation of the Covid rules for those 5 Days of Christmas – cue for song don't you think, oh no wait, that needs 12 days of Christmas, someone needs to rewrite it for this year (in fact I did compose a version for you, then deleted it as I was worried it might be considered in bad taste, don't tell anyone but it went something like this ON THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS my true love etc. 5 SPECIAL DAYS, 4 facial masks, 3 bars of soap, 2 metre ruler and a promise of covid vaccine! But as I say, I deleted it)

Wonderful news about the vaccine isn't it which will be starting to roll out during this week in which we write. At last we have light at the end of a very long and dark covid tunnel. However don't relax yet keep being vigilant and careful, we really don't want to be shot by the last bullet of the war.

Church News Services: January 24th H.C 11.15 am February 28th H.C 11.15 am

There is a Service of Hope and Light scheduled for 20th December in Preston Wynne Church. The Final Draw for 2020 of the 100 Club is due to take place at this Service. SUBS ARE NOW DUE PLEASE FOR 2021 . There will be 3 draws during the year, the first in April, second in August and third at Christmas. A sub of just £10 will give you 3 chances to win £50, £25 or £12.50, at very good odds. Please contact Tricia on 820650 to secure your number.

If you have not seen a copy of it yet do try and get hold of the booklet put together by Andrew Marson depicting the restoration project of HOLY TRINITY CHURCH , Preston Wynne. It is beautifully illustrated and makes a very interesting read. When you read this you will get drawn into the history of the village and the Church as well as appreciating all the effort and hard work involved with this fantastic achievement.

W.I News As previously reported Preston Wynne member Margaret Simcock, is now County Chairman and she doing an amazing job during these difficult times. Margaret has been busy organising meetings and activities via zoom, including a carol concert going out on 14th December involving readers from all over the county and special thanks to the Marson family for their musical contributions and in particular to Fabiano who has put together a lovely pre-recorded programme of the musical items to intersperse with these live readings, Margaret already has over 80 people from around the county who wish to zoom in on this, so it is obviously fulfilling a need for a little taste of Christmas in which people can feel involved.

Hall News Tilly's pop-up shop has now been re-located to inside the Hall with the onset of the colder weather. This takes place once a fortnight on a Saturday morning. Hopefully normal service will be resumed as soon as possible as far as usage of the Hall is concerned otherwise.

Finally, congratulations to Rachel Evans on her recent engagement to be married, lovely positive news looking forward which is what we all need right now.

That's about it for now, just think – next time we write it will be nearly SPRING!!

Love, Hilary and Tricia

Westhide

News from Westhide

Christmas will be entirely different this year but I think we are all getting used to doing normal things in a new way!

Just as we had our Harvest celebration in the Churchyard we plan to do the same with the Carol service. Normally it's in the evening but to make it easier to social distance and keep warm the time has been changed to 3pm Tuesday 22nd December.

Christmas morning family communion is at 11am. We will start outside to sing a carol, don our masks and go into church for the main service and then sing another carol outside at the end. I couldn't imagine a Christmas day without singing a carol.

Throughout this COVID-19 year we have had various gate displays and Advent was too good an opportunity to miss. In a nod to Advent calendars each house has put up a display on their nominated day. Some of these displays are visible from the road and others not. However, the photos will gradually find their way onto the notice board by the lych gate. Just another way to keep us in touch with one another and have a bit of fun.

The wine at Oldbury has stopped bubbling but is having to wait until we are allowed into each other's houses to be bottled. I have emphasised that this isn't an excuse to drink it from the demijohn but you know our organist!!

January will no doubt bring its own challenges but we can look out for snowdrops and enjoy the gradually lengthening days. Time to get out the seed catalogue, clean out the shed and start the gardening year again.

In the meantime, keep well, safe and sane.

Judith

More news from Westhide.

Westhide have enjoyed a virtual Advent calendar in December. Our local support WhatsApp group have posted a different Christmas picture every day of festive decorations on a gate, or in a front window. Individual households 'bagged' a day each.

We expect to have fun at our Carol service on the 22nd December – this year to be held in the churchyard with lanterns rather than inside with candles. We quite possibly won't notice the difference in temperature – it may even be warmer outside than in!

We wish everyone a safe and healthy Happy New Year with fingers crossed for a return to near normal in the coming months.

Roll on the vaccine.

Debbie





Donkey nannies.

Donkey nannies are donkeys that help look after new born lambs and they are mostly found in Italy where they bring the babies from high pastures to the plains.

New-born lambs are unable to make this journey on their own and instead of walking, they ride in the pouches of a specially made saddle on the back of a donkey or a mule nanny. They are then returned to their mothers to feed. Farmers use donkeys as nannies as they are very patient animals. They are also territorial, meaning they protect the new born lambs from predators.

Kleenex tissues were originally intended for gas masks.

When there was a cotton shortage during World War I, Kimberly-Clark developed a thin, flat cotton substitute that the army tried to use as a filter in gas masks. The war ended before scientists perfected the material for gas masks, so the company redeveloped the tissue to be smoother and softer and marketed it as facial tissue instead.

The current American flag was designed by high school student Bob Heft in 1958.

It started as a school project and the design only earned him a B- grade. The design had 50 stars even though Alaska and Hawaii were not states. Heft thought the two would earn statehood soon and showed the government his design. After President Dwight D. Eisenhower called to say his design was approved, Heft's teacher changed his grade to an A.

Kiddies Corner

Recipe: Chocolate brownies

Nothing beats freshly baked brownies, chewy and gooey in the centre - delicious!.

What you'll need:

175g smooth dark chocolate

175g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing

250g golden caster sugar

3 large eggs, beaten

100g plain flour

25g cocoa

Prep time: 15 minutes plus cooling

Cooking time: 30-35 minutes

Makes: 16

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C, fan 160°C, gas mark 4. Grease and line 32x22x5cm baking tin/tray.
2. Put the chocolate and butter in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water for about 5 minutes or melt in a microwave for 2 minutes on full power.
3. Put the sugar and eggs in a bowl and whisk until light and pale.
4. Sift in the flour and cocoa. Add the melted chocolate mixture and fold the ingredients together.
5. Pour into the prepared baking tin/tray and bake for 30-35 minutes. Allow to cool in the tin before cutting into 16 squares.

RIDDLES

1. What is as big as you but does not weigh anything?
2. You can hold it without using your arms?
3. What can you catch but never throw?
4. If you drop me I am sure to crack, but give me a smile I'll always smile back?
5. What goes up and down the stairs without moving?
6. You can't keep this until you have given this?
7. Who is that with a neck and no head, two arms and no hands?

Answers - 1. Your shadow, 2. Your breath, 3. Cold, 4. Mirror, 5. Carpet, 6. A promise, 7. A shirt

KidsToday.in

Contact Names and Telephone Numbers

<u>Byworth Trust Clerk:</u>	Margaret Soutar	850448
<u>Police:</u>	Safer Neighbourhood Team PC Bart McDonagh	101
<u>St. Peters Church:</u>	Rector	Simon Tarlton 01432 507986
	Church Warden	Kevin Hewison 850074
	PCC Secretary	Margaret Soutar 850448
	Bell Ringing	Kevin Hewison 850074
<u>Village Hall:</u>	Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Booking Secretary	Rob Soutar 850448
<u>WG Parish Council:</u>	Clerk	Sophie Glover 270499
	Chairman	Ralph Barber 853086
	Vice-Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
<u>Whitestone Chapel</u>	Ian Porter	01981 540388
<u>Withington Football Club:</u>	Ray Rice	850669
<u>Withington Post Office:</u>		850356
<u>Withington Primary School:</u>		850289
<u>Withington Parish Magazine:</u> Editor	Margaret Thompson	850182

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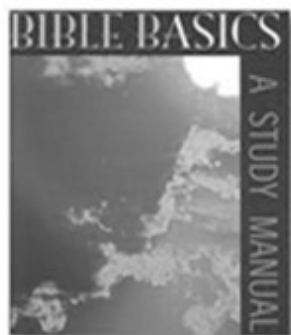
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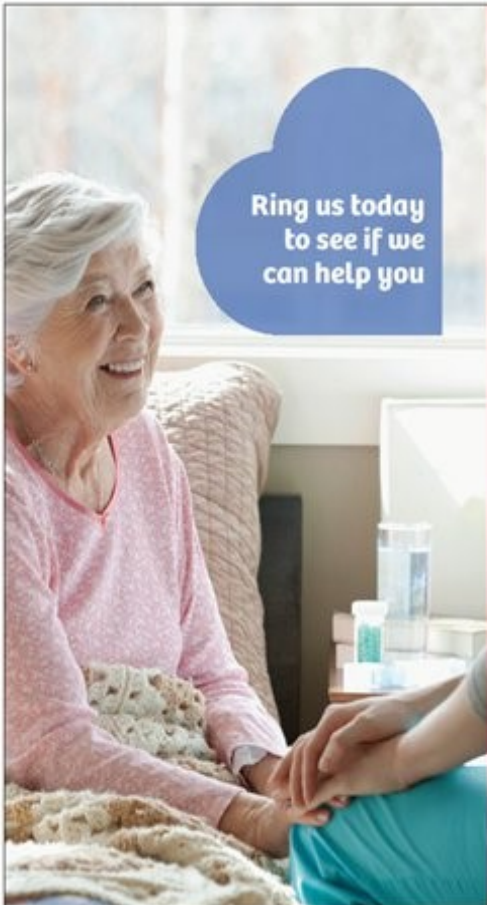
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