



SHENSTONE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2020

Due to the COVID 19 virus the parish council are happy to share the following information for residents.



The Rev's Reflect. The hymns and songs for Sunday 22nd March at St.Johns, the day our two Churches services were ceased, were chosen at the end of January, way before the current crisis was on the horizon. The Bible readings were chosen by the Church of England way back in the



middle of 2019. Whenever they were chosen though they are very relevant for the situation we all now find ourselves in. Who could have imagined, when 2 Corinthians 1 verses 3-7 was set for 22nd March that the world would be in such need of consolation because of its afflictions. When Liz chose the hymn *Lord of all hopefulness*, a complete suspension of church services was not on her mind at all.

At times such as these we feel we have to dig deep into our personal strength. We all will have times to come when we might be feeling hopeless, lost, lonely or scared. If we're all following official advice, opportunities for us to meet with one another won't exist. We will all need someone, at some point in the future, to help us. We will all need someone to comfort us at some point. When we are strong, when we feel valued and cared for, we are better placed to enable others to feel exactly that same.

Relying on our own personal strengths is good but will only take us so far. Who better to strengthen us, to console us, than the Lord Himself. At times such as this the Lord draws closer to us. It might not feel like it but it's the truth. He does draw closer to us in our times of need. As we work through these next days, weeks and months let us always remember : He is:

*The Lord of all hopefulness, Our Shepherd who cares for us
Faithful and unchanging,
And let us sing out his praises, telling the world of His greatness.*

Amen

God bless you all,

The Revs: **Liz Chamberlain and Jo Thornton** If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please contact either Liz on 01543 480286 or Jo on 01543 253744, or send an email to:

vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk or revjo@hotmail.co.uk

April Services at St John's



A statement was issued by the Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu on Tuesday 17th March regarding Anglican church services. With immediate effect public worship services were put on hold until further notice. Sadly we are also currently unable to

open St John the Baptist church for private prayer on Saturdays and Sundays as we had hoped. However a short service will be available on-line (see the website).

We have had guidance regarding weddings and funerals. Please look at the website www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk

The weekly Newsletter will be available from the website, Facebook, email and as hard copies.

If you need any more information please call Rev Liz Chamberlain on **01543 480286** E: vicar@shenstoneandstonall.co.uk

April Services at Trinity

There will be **no** morning services at Trinity Methodist Church for the period of restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will also be two Circuit-wide ways of worshipping together from our homes organised by Circuit staff:



1. Each week we will produce an audio/visual act of worship that will be uploaded to the Circuit website

(<https://www.tamworthandlichfieldmethodist.org.uk/>) on a Saturday so that individuals can access this on a Sunday morning. (Birmingham District is also live-streaming an act of worship on Sunday at 10.30 on Facebook Live.)

2. Additionally, we are planning to mail out (email to those with email and post to those with no email) an alternative "worship pack" (prayers, bible reading, sermon/thoughts and music suggestions) so that people can have this for a time of devotion in their own homes. If you want to be included on this circulation, please contact **Bob Share**

And Still the Angels Sing

Above the ancient city walls
The angels they look down
Remembering still, with sadness
A young man in an angry town.
With heavy cross the burden
And heart too sad for tears
On that sweet head of glory
A crown of thorns he bears

Up hill, so steep, mid hostile crowds
He makes his tortured way
Our loving Saviour so reviled
His flock all led astray.
With nails all crudely hammered in.
Through wounded hands and feet
They hang our Lord, our Jesus Christ
Upon a cross so bleak.

To cleanse away our sins he died
No greater price was paid.
It was for this that he was born
And in that manger laid.
When angels sang on that first morn
And men with precious gifts came by
Who knew so well, it was foretold
The Lamb was born to die.

Now we can walk close to our God.
With all our sins forgiven.
He hung upon the cross and died,
To earn our place in heaven
His body sweet with promised life
And love for all to see
A sorrowing head bowed down for us,
In silent majesty.

Ella Mulligan 31.3.98

Below is a translation of a notice that can apparently be found in many French churches

“It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that He will contact you by phone. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to him. If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving.”



Spring has sprung

Spring, spring is coming soon.
Grass is green and flowers bloom.
Birds are returning from the south.
Bees are buzzing all about.
Leaves are budding everywhere.
Spring, spring is finally here.



Daffodils

There are some 88 different types of daffodil which all descended from the wild daffodil which has been growing in the Northern hemisphere since time immemorial. The species that we know here mainly spread from Spain and Portugal to northern Europe. The plant is named after the vain hunter in Greek mythology Narcissus, who was so in love with his own reflection in the water that he ultimately drowned in it

Hibernation sounds just the ticket for us humans – sleep through the winter and wake up slimmer in the spring. It's not so perfect though for our native wildlife.



Hedgehogs

Winter's rest leaves hogs hungry and thirsty when they wake up this month so leaving out a shallow bowl of water, cat biscuits or hedgehog food in your garden will help them survive.

Bats

There are 17 native species of bat in the UK and now is the time you are likely to see them in late evening, hungrily active from their winter slumber.



Dormice

These tiny, endangered rodents wait out the winter at ground level beneath leaf litter or hedgerows, emerging in spring and heading upwards to make their nests in trees and hedges.



Easter egg rolling and Easter egg hunts have become integral to the celebration of Easter today.

However, the tradition of painting hard-boiled eggs during springtime pre-dates Christianity.

In many cultures around the world, the egg is a symbol of new life, fertility and rebirth.

For Christians, the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Painting Easter eggs is an especially beloved tradition in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches where the eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross. Easter eggs are blessed by the priest at the end of the Paschal vigil and distributed to the congregants. The hard shell of the egg represents the sealed Tomb of Christ, and cracking the shell represents Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Moreover, historically Christians would abstain from eating eggs and meat during Lent, and Easter was the first chance to eat eggs after a long period of abstinence. (Orthodox Christians continue to abstain from eggs during Lent.)

Hot Cross Buns, hot cross buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns. They are of course traditionally eaten on Good Friday - the last Friday before Easter. Originally it was known as "God's Friday"



As with Easter eggs, the eating of hot cross buns marks the end of Lent because they are made with dairy products which are forbidden during this period. Some believe the hot cross bun originates from St Albans, where Brother Thomas Rocliffe, a 14th Century monk at St Albans Abbey, developed a similar recipe called an 'Alban Bun' and distributed the bun to the local poor on Good Friday, around 1360.

Did you hear about the lady whose house was infested with Easter eggs? She had to call an eggs-terminator!

COVID-19

Shenstone Parish Council are coordinating a group of volunteers to support anyone who is self-isolating or social distancing. These volunteers can collect shopping essentials, pick up prescriptions, post mail, walk the dog, or arrange to call you for a chat.



If you need assistance please call (for Shenstone): Shirley O'Mara, Parish Clerk – 01543 481947. If no answer call Simon Shaw – 07770 828701 or Deborah Day – 07463 136687

If needed, you may also contact Rev Liz Chamberlain - 01543 480286
email: vicar@shenstoneandstonnal.co.uk

For Stonnall, please contact Marianne Barber
email: mariannebarber@hotmail.com

For Little Aston, please contact Cllr David Salter – 07956 142215
email: David.salter@lichfielddc.gov.uk

In addition, the parish council Website is kept up to date with the latest available local information. www.shenston-staffs.gov.uk or simply Google Shenstone Parish Council.

Although we are all facing major challenges, it is worth reflecting on the things we should be personally grateful for - "Counting your blessings" as my father used to say.

A study by leading psychologist Martin Seligman, found that people who spent 10 minutes before bed, writing down three things that went well that day, experienced greater life satisfaction and less depression than those who didn't.

And, the gratitude we all have at this time for our overworked health service, cannot be overstated.

*"Appreciation is a wonderful thing:
it makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well"*

Voltaire

The Sanctuary

Twenty years ago, this month, at 6.30 pm on April 6th 2000, a special service of dedication was held in the Chancel of St. John the Baptist Church to mark the re-ordering of the area behind the raised platform, to form what we now know as *'The Sanctuary'*

The area had been little used for many years. Previous alterations had moved the Communion Table into the body of the Church, creating a distinct separation between the Chancel and the Nave.

When Revd. Richard Bailey came to Shenstone for interview, he went in to the Chancel to pray, and felt God was saying to him *"I want my Church back"*. At the time, Richard did not understand, but later, as our vicar, he had the same feeling when entering the Chancel area, and knew that he was being told to do something about it.

So, with help, both practical and financial, something was done about it. The floor was leveled and carpeted throughout the Sanctuary area, and the redundant Choir pews were removed. The Vicar's and Reader's desks and seats remained and the Communion Rail was brought forward.

In Richard's words "Something wonderful has happened. The area now really invites you to want pray, to be quiet, to wait upon God. People have been amazed at their encounters with God and I personally believe that people have been greatly blessed since coming in to this new area..... it provides a unique opportunity to be still, to wait upon God."

In these desperate, difficult times, despite not having regular Church services, not being allowed to open the Church for private prayer at the moment, God wants to meet His people - bodily, mentally, spiritually and to heal them. Wherever you are, He is close. Find a quiet place and sit with Him, laying your worries before Him. Lean on His strength to help you through.

Come and sit with Him in the Sanctuary when St.John's re-opens

Did you hear the bells?



The Peal attempt on the 18th February by ringers from The Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaonries Society of Change Ringers, was successful.

They rang 5056 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major that took 2 hours and 58 minutes to complete.

This was the first full peal on the bells since they were re-hung in the new frame in 2018, and was one of 11 attempted during the peal week of which 6 were successful. The other successful peals were rung at Coseley, Abbots Bromley, Lichfield Cathedral, Cannock and Brewood.

The organisers comment on the Shenstone peal was "Shenstone's peal was largely trip-free but we didn't really do justice to these lovely bells". Putting the comments aside it was one of the rare occasions when we heard all eight bells ringing from our tower. **Jane Percival**

Nancy Grew has asked us to thank everyone who helped her to raise £300 for Trinity Church funds after the recent Chinese New Year meal. Trinity is very grateful and we are sure that the diners would like to say a big thank you to Nancy and her team for her culinary expertise and all the hard work that is involved



Jack says to his friend Dave "I'm thinking of giving up golf as my eyesight is getting so poor, I can't see where the ball ends up". Dave replies that although he's older than Jack, he has perfect eyesight and is happy to help. The next week they go off to the golf course together and Jack tees off. "Did you see where it went, Dave?" "Oh yes" says Dave. "Well, where?" says Jack. "Can't remember" says Dave.

Things to do if you need to spend more time at home

It's best to have a mixture of physical and cerebral activities, so:

1. **Phone a friend** - Call someone you've been meaning to contact
2. **Write some letters** - Remember those ?
3. **Learn a new language** - I've got a few books on French, gathering dust
4. **Do some DIY** - Something small for when it's raining outside - again
5. **Bake a cake** - you must have some stuff in the cupboards
6. **Do some spring cleaning** - Yes, I know.
7. **Do a jigsaw** - Charity shops are a good source (or they used to be!)
8. **Read more** - There's all those classics you'd read if you had the time.
9. **Do some gardening** - There's always something to do out there
10. **Browse through your old Photos** - It will remind you of happy times.

Also, perhaps it's time to think about simplifying your life. You could start by de-cluttering. Look at your possessions and ask - "Do I use this?" - "How long has it been since I last used it?" - "Will I use it again?" - "Is it worth the space it takes up in my house/ wardrobe?"

Remember, the objective is to de-clutter, not to just move it into another room, so don't spend time inventing reasons to keep stuff you don't need.

Have you heard about Books at Home?

The library volunteers are offering a new service to those in the local villages who are unable to leave their homes for any number of reasons. The idea is that you let them know what sort of books you like (or don't), and they will do their best to select books you might like, and deliver them to your home. Each month they will deliver 12 books, and collect last month's selection. For more information, please email:

elaine.boyden77@gmail.com. or contact the library by phone on **480915** but please note the new opening times



St George's day is 23rd April (It's also Shakespeare's birthday)



St George is believed to have been born in Cappadocia, in modern-day Turkey, sometime during the late third century to Christian parents. While not much is known of his early life, St George's legendary status really begins after he became a soldier in the Roman Army under Emperor Diocletian.

Military employment suited George well until Diocletian began implementing a religious cleanse that saw the expulsion and execution of Roman Christians.

Depending on how the story is told, Diocletian tried to tempt St George's conversion with the promise of wealth and power before he was executed – alternate versions say the execution came after seven years of torture. But in all versions, St George's determination to keep his faith resulted in the Christian conversion of others. Following his decapitation in AD 303, George was hailed as a hero and a saint across the Christian faith, but it would be another 900 years before any dragons got involved.

The first records of him slaying a dragon appeared in the 12th century - in the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil - but it seems likely that the many stories connected with St George's name are fictitious.

A tale of a noble Christian soldier coming to the rescue of a princess fits perfectly with Medieval notions of chivalry and courtly love. These ideas were popularised by the legends of King Arthur and his knights, and tempted a pious King Edward III to create his own Arthurian court. So, in 1344 when Edward created his own chivalrous knightly order, the Order of the Garter, St George was named as their patron saint. It remains the most prestigious British order of chivalry today.

*And you, good yeoman,
Whose limbs were made in England, show us here
The mettle of your pasture; let us swear
That you are worth your breeding; which I doubt not;
For there is none of you so mean and base,
That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.
I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
Follow your spirit, and upon this charge
Cry 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'*



Shakespeare's Henry V on the eve of the battle of Agincourt



"Do you ever have days when everything feels
Not Very O.K. at All? "

Piglet nodded his head sagely. "Oh yes", said Piglet.
"I definitely have those days"

A.A. Milne

We all have feelings but just because your feelings aren't logical, doesn't mean they're not valid. If something feels real to you, then it's real. And just because someone else is in a worse situation than you are, it doesn't mean you're not allowed to feel sad too. There will always be someone worse off, but that doesn't mean you need to feel guilty.

So, don't try to dismiss your emotions; you can't just waft them away. Acknowledging your feelings is an important part of self-care and finding inner peace.

Dinner in the fifties

- Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti
- Curry was a surname
- A take-away was a mathematical problem
- All crisps were plain
- Rice was a milk pudding; never part of our dinner
- Cooking outside was called camping
- No one had heard of yogurt
- Prunes were medicinal
- Pineapples came in chunks in a tin
- Water came out of the tap and the idea of buying it in bottles was laughable.

Dinner in the middle ages

In the 14th century, those with money used plates made of Pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead to leach into the food, causing lead poisoning. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for several hundred years it was believed that tomatoes were poisonous.

Back in those days bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf; the family got the middle, and guests got the top or "upper crust"

What's not on in Shenstone this month?

The performance of **Handel's 'Messiah'** by The Needwood Singers on 18th. April has been cancelled. It is hoped that it will be possible to re-schedule this for a future date.

The library management team has made the difficult decision to close the coffee shop from lunchtime Wednesday 18th March, and the library will have very restricted opening hours -Tuesday's 10 till 12. This opening will enable a little bit of access to books. We hope in due course to be able to extend this to Friday mornings as well.

This is going to be really hard for many of us given that the library has forged so many friendships. Friendships don't just stop and we can look forward to reopening at the earliest possible time allowed.

Related to the above, there will be no Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions until further notice, and it is likely that the afternoon and evening reading groups will not be happening, nor the Shenstone History group.

*The Wednesday morning **Bowls club** at the village hall has closed until further notice.*

Things are pretty uncertain at the moment, so please contact the following organisations, before attending regular monthly events. For contact numbers please see the inside covers of this magazine.

- **Ladies Group**
- **Friends and Neighbours**
- **Evening WI**
- **Shenstone Strollers**
- **Shenstone Cares**
- **Friday Friends**

This month's editor was Keith Jones.

Next month's editor is Jane Low. e-mail: jane_low@yahoo.co.uk
or send material to shenstoneparishmagazine@gmail.com.

The deadline for the May Magazine is 15th April_

ST. JOHNS CHURCH of ENGLAND

www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk

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		vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk	
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	Ray Chamberlain	The Vicarage, St. John's Hill	480286
TREASURER	Paul Harris	18 Hillwood Common Road	01213084803
WARDENS	Bill Whitney	6 Milbrook Drive	480652
	Bonnie Bonilauri	bonnie.bonilauri@gmail.com	480278
ORGANIST	Contact. The Vicarage		480286
MUSIC GROUP	Ray Chamberlain	(see above)	

TRINITY METHODIST

www.tamworthandlichfieldmethodist.org.uk

MINISTER	Revd. Joanna Thornton	61 Burton Rd. Streethay	WS13 8LR	253744
		revjo@hotmail.co.uk		
ORGANIST	Pat Neville	2 Holm View Close		481195
CHURCH	Carole Share			480033
STEWARDS	Jane Low			480309
	Sandra Newcombe			07947 708081
	Rosie Grantham	7 Richard Cooper Rd		480960
	Heather Fishwick			480618

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	1 st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
at St John's	Sundays	9.30am	Early Birds (for all ages)	
	1 st & 2 nd Sundays	10.45am:	1 st All Age Worship; 2 nd Morning Worship	
	3 rd & 4 th Sundays	10.45am	Holy Communion	
	(5 th Sundays	Early Birds	and 10.45am services are usually held.)	

SUNDAY				
at Trinity	10.30am	Sunday Service		

FOR FURTHER DETAILS and OTHER SERVICES see Inside Pages

MONDAY

Ladies Group (3rd)	7.30pm	St. Johns Church Lounge	Ann Aston	480388
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TUESDAY

Friends and Neighbours (2nd)	2.30 pm	Wesley Hall	Cynthia Stokes	480032
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WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Après Sunday	10.30am	Trinity	Revd. Jo Thornton	253744
Bell Ringers	7.30 pm	Church Tower	Vic Holland	480054

FRIDAY

Men's Group	7.30 pm	as advertised	Jim Pole	480545
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House Groups	Various weekly or monthly, afternoon or evening venues			
	Tuesday evening			483138

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Greysbrooke County Primary School	Head Teacher	480321
Shenstone <i>Cares</i> Coordinator	Sue Lea	483548
St John's Hall Booking Secretary	Church Administrator	480286
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Mrs P Rock	481504
Wesley Hall Booking Secretary	Colin Fishwick	480618
Cooper Room Booking Secretary	Mrs P Rock	481504
Village News Correspondent	Sue Heseltine	480548

MONDAY

2nd Mon	Nat. Women's Reg.	8.00 pm	Various Venues	Lynne Young	480420
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TUESDAY

4th Tues	Pop in Lunch	<i>suspended at present</i>			
Last Tues	Afternoon book group	2.30 pm	Library	Bob Share	480033

WEDNESDAY

	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30 am	St John's Hall	Amy Bull	07947 359786
	Shenstone Strollers	9.30 am	Various	Peter Gravestock	01543 897529
	Brownies	6.15 pm	Wesley Hall	Angela Hingey-Bancroft	481610
	Guides	7.15 pm	Wesley Hall	Sarah Hardie	07946 777170
2nd Wed	Evening W.I.	7.45 pm	Cooper Room	Gina Whorton	480884
Alternate	Child Clinic	1.30 pm	Surgery		480840
	Indoor Bowls	10am	Village Hall	Keith Jones	481022

THURSDAY

	Rainbow Guides			Rosemary Lawrence	483437
	Cubs	6.30 pm	Wesley Hall	Brian Devonshire	481590
	Scouts	7.30 pm	Wesley Hall	Brian Devonshire	481590
	Badminton (50+)	7.30pm	Village Hall	Terry White	480261
1st & 3rd	Quilters	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Joy Shorey	481297
2nd	Happy Crafters	1.30- 3.30 pm	Library	Joy Shorey	481297
2nd	Evening book group	7.30 pm	Library	Ivor Sanderson	07597 958189

FRIDAY

	Friday Friends	10.30am	Church Hall	Rita Hancock	480560
	Beavers	5.45pm	Wesley Hall	Brian Devonshire	481590

Shenstone Community Library www.shenstonecommunitylibrary.org tel. 480915

Tues 9.00am - 5.00pm, Wed/Thurs 9.00am - 1.00 pm Friday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
 Saturday 9.30am - 1.00pm. (Baby Bounce and Rhyme 10.30am Tues & alternate Fridays)
Coffee Shop: 9.30am - 1.00pm Tuesday to Saturday

Shenstone Parish Council (Shenstone Ward)

Council website: www.shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

John Branch: 480928 Stuart Jones: 480480 Neil Perry: 480502 David Thompson: 480953
 Lesley Edgley 481861 Darryl Godden 07494 684331 Chair: David Salter: 0121 308 4421
 Parish Clerk: Shirley O'Mara: 481947 Council Office 25C Main Street, Shenstone
 (open Tues & Thurs 8.00am - 5.00pm; Wed 8.00am - 7.00pm)

MAGAZINE

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