

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head

October 2020

editors@villagermag.online



OPEN

Mon - Thur: 11am - 11pm
 Fri - Sat: 11am - 11.30pm
 Sunday: 12pm - 11pm

LUNCH

Mon - Sat: 12pm - 2.30pm
 Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

WORKERS' POT

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October 2020

Just when we all thought that we might be getting on top of this horrible virus we are told that it is all starting again with local lockdowns and more rules and regulations for us all to digest and increased fines if we don't abide by the rules.

However, our September Serendipity event managed to go off without a hitch and hopefully helped some of our local charities as well as giving everyone a good reason to get out and around the village – congratulations to the organisers.

Both churches are planning their Harvest festivals where they will be collecting items for the Tetbury food bank. In Avening the next event to look forward to is the Halloween Haunted House hunt organised by the Friends of Avening School, and after that we come to Remembrance Sunday which will, we are sure, be very different this year. And then comes Christmas, so don't forget to tell us your plans so that we can include them in future editions.

Our congratulations go to the winners of this year's Avening Villager of the Year (full details on pages 12 and 13) and also to the organisers of the Community Café for keeping things going through the last six months..

Finally DO NOT FORGET TO SEND US YOUR STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS AT editors@villagemag.online

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Read online at www.avening-pc.gov.uk

Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Estelle St. John-Smith** for this photo of an arrangement of Autumn leaves designed by her son **Ollie** when he was 10 years old. Keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine

editors@villagemag.online

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facebook.com/ Friends of Avening School

Charity No. 1055040

Regular Activities in the Villages

Items struck through are temporarily suspended.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Line Dancing	Monday	7.30-9.30pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Community Cafe	Tuesday	9.00-11.30am	Social Club	Jenny South 01453 883456
Churchyard tidy up	Tuesday	6.00-7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Rev. Gerald 01453 883456
Cherington PC	Tuesday	6.00pm	Village Hall	Richard Smith
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30-9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	Andrew 01453 835783
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00-10.00pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.00-7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Rev. Gerald 01453 883456
Over 60s Lunch Club	1st Wednesday each month	12.30pm	Social Club	Christine 01453 833246
Avening Cinema Club	1st Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Katy 07806 614753
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Avening PC	3rd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Caroline 01285 380041
Summer Skittles	Friday	8.00pm	Social club	Derrick Ind 01453 835752
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4.00pm	Various	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

Contacts for the Villages

Avening and Cherington Priest	Revd. Gerald South	01453 883456
Avening & Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Angels	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Art Group	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Baby & Toddler group	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Church Churchwardens	Elizabeth Buchanan Elizabeth Fuller	01453 833016 01453 835067
Avening Church Flower Team	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Church Organist	Colin Chambers	01666 880026
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Ann Brick	01453 834311
Avening Cinema Club	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Community Orchard	Pheobe Carter	pklc1@hotmail.com
Avening History Project	Jean Chatelain	01453 834713
Avening Memorial Hall		07583 073604
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752

Avening Youth Club	Revd. Gerald South The Door	01453 883456 01453 756745
Cherington Village Hall	Camilla Trotter	07545 054160
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Richard Smith	Cheringtonparishcouncil @yahoo.co.uk
Cherington Church Churchwardens	John Bate-Williams Helen di Mauro	01666 503544 07796 937268
Cherington Church Flower Team	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church Organist	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Treasurer	Paul Cable	cabes50@yahoo.co.uk
Community Café	Jennie South	01453 883456
Community Café Crop Swap	Chandy Rodgers	Chandra.rodgers65@ gmail.com 07734 971211
Cotswold District Councillor	Richard Morgan	
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
South Cotswold Community Wellbeing Agent		01452 528491
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Women's Institute	Liz Knowles	01453 833803

VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

Avening Parish Council: www.avening-pc.gov.uk

Avening Church: www.aveningchurch.info

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



Environmental issues and roads have been top of my mailbox and phone this month. The roadworks at the Queen Matilda junction passed off without too much inconvenience, and hopefully that will have been the case with the other scheduled works locally in September. Unfortunately, the closure of Hampton Street in Tetbury will lead to significantly more traffic through the village, potentially including large trucks. It seems crazy that the official diversion sends vehicles out to the A46 and back through Avening via Nailsworth, with the route including a lorry restriction area on the B4014. I have asked Highways for additional safety measures during this period (8th-28th October), which could include several police speed traps. Please be extra careful especially around the school, and obviously don't speed!

The stream has had more sudden drops, which still remain a mystery! I'm getting a bit frustrated with the Environment Agency as they have all the clues, but don't seem to be able to give us an answer. Possibly related to the low flow (but not the sudden drops) is the major excavation work on the Aston Farm estate at the far end of Cherington Lake – a new channel has been cut into the rocks which will have disturbed the flat bottom of the original water course. Again, I am waiting for the EA to confirm they will investigate. Definitely related to these excavations was the burning of the brash and wet wood that had been cleared. The smoke from these huge fires polluted the air in Nags Head and Avening for almost a week, but by the time the source was known most of the rubbish had already been burned - I couldn't get a reply from the estate office. CDC were also informed, and 'promised to look into it'.

On a more positive environmental note, there was great news from Dr Phoebe Carter who has secured a significant grant to develop the rough area in the playing field into a community orchard – look out for the new Facebook page* to keep up with progress and requests for help.

A widescale tree planting programme is being developed as part of the county council's climate change strategy. The Million Trees Challenge is their aspiration to increase tree coverage in the county by 2030. Wild About Avening had a great idea to collect and plant local tree seeds – conkers, acorns, hazel nuts etc. Keep these safe and watch out for future ideas on how best to plant them out.

We're dusting off the Covid volunteer list, and Clare Bebbington will be arranging a call to establish how we can be ready for what is looking like the second wave of the virus and ever expanding lockdowns – please join if you can, and let Clare know if you would like to be involved.

What a great success the recent Serendipity event was – the weather was fantastic, and there were lots of people milling around the village listening to the 'Beatles' on the roof, Blues on the High Street, a Cèilidh at the bakery, plus crafts and stalls dotted around. I think there were some new traditions in the making!

A couple of housekeeping quickies:

- Just because someone broke down and removed the dog fouling signs doesn't mean we're not watching!
- If your hedge protrudes over the footpath or highway, please cut it back to your boundary. Also please clear any fallen branches or shrubs that are causing obstructions – our paths and lanes are already pretty narrow!



*There are several Facebook pages dedicated to Avening, including the Café, Wild About Avening, Artisan Avening, Gardening, the Playgroup, School, and of course the PC page, which now has over 500 followers! These pages are updated more regularly than the website, and are the best way to get up to date news and updates, especially for fast moving events.

Finally, congratulations to our worthy winners of the (belated) Villager of the Year awards – full details are in a separate article.

***Tony Slater – email: chair@avening-pc.gov.uk: Web: www.avening-pc.gov.uk
For assistance contact Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk or call 07415 039234***



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Avening and Cherington Churches



Worship Continues

We have been able to maintain worship in our churchyards in recent weeks, adding a special dimension to the services. The sounds and sights of nature have inspired us and the passing traffic of walkers, cyclists, farm machinery and even a flock of lost sheep at Cherington have reminded us that worship is a part of life and relates directly to it.



At the time of writing the 'rule of 6' has recently been brought into force but church services are exempt from this provided other precautions are being taken. There will soon be Sundays when we cannot reasonably be outside and then we are obliged to wear face covering and take particular care to maintain physical distancing.

The online services continue and may be found at:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/ and www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/

For the time being our churches will be open for private prayer at these times:

Avening: Wednesdays 2.00 to 3.30 pm
Cherington: Wednesdays 9.00 to 5.00 pm

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November

At the time of writing we intend to hold a Remembrance Day service at 10.45am at Avening. The need for physical distancing suggests that this should take place in the churchyard. Further details will be in the November Villager.



Harvest Festivals at Cherington and Avening

These will be at the times listed below. We especially give our thanks to God for the food we eat and all those who are involved in providing it for us. A very fitting response is to give back to those who are finding it difficult to feed themselves and

their families, so please come with items that are suitable for the foodbank: at the time of writing there are particular shortages of:

Instant mash/tinned potatoes

Long-life sponge pudding

Rice pudding

Jars of instant coffee

Teabags (40s/80s)

Long-life juice

Chocolate treats for children

Toiletries and sanitary items

There are good supplies of beans, pasta and tinned spaghetti – so please avoid these. If you cannot be at one of the harvest services the foodbank boxes may be found: in Avening at 14 High Street; in Cherington in the church porch.

The coming months

It is becoming increasingly clear that the impact of the virus is far from over and there are going to be significant impacts on many of us over the next few weeks and months including loss of employment, reduced incomes and the stresses associated with changed circumstances and relationships. If there is anything you think the church may be able to do for you – even ‘just’ a listening ear – please don’t hesitate to contact us.

From the Parish Registers

5th September: Interment of ashes of Marie Lashbrook (Avening)

6th September: Baptism of Lilly Arden Halliday (Cherington)

Gerald South, 01453 883456 gp.south@btopenworld.com

Forthcoming services:

4 th October	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
10 th October	6.00pm	Harvest Festival	Cherington Church
11 th October	10.00 am	Harvest Festival	Avening Church
18 th October	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
25 th October	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church
1 st November	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church

Compline Service

Our Celtic type Compline services continue on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings please email derrickcompline@gmail.com. The link to the service will be sent to you with a copy of the service sheet

This is a short service, lasting only about 15 to 20 minutes; and is a chance for quiet prayer and contemplation.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN

Villager of the Year 2020

Each year the PC recognises individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the village, with the winners receiving a small prize. This year has been particularly difficult with so many people supporting friends and neighbours, often with no outside recognition. The shortlist of nominees was:

Adult – The Jim Parsons Trophy:

Clare Bebbington:

Nominated for leading the recruitment and coordination of the Covid volunteer group; collating and producing the weekly Covid newsletter; her ongoing work with the Community Café; and running the roadside library.

The Community Café Committee:

Nominated for their ongoing creativity in adapting the café format to meet community needs during lockdown; for enabling people to feel connected with their neighbours despite lockdown; and their general welfare support through the year.

Jane Rushden:

Nominated for the significant work undertaken in keeping the school fully operational during lockdown, enabling vulnerable and key worker children to attend lessons. For encouraging the children to produce artworks to brighten up the village; and for leading the school successfully to become a most valued village asset over many years of service.

Gerald and Jennie South:

Since moving to Avening Gerald and Jennie have made a significant contribution to village life. Nominated jointly to recognise their combined worth, they have been a catalyst in sparking many new community activities, voluntary endeavours, and pastoral care initiatives. Gerald has kept the church services running online during challenging times, and Jenny has organised the hugely successful garden cafes throughout the summer.

Youth Category

Benedict Garlick:

Nominated for fundraising activities towards his Borneo project, supplying self-baked dog biscuits throughout the village

Junior Category

Beatrice Hatt:

Nominated as she made all sorts of things for villagers during the lockdown to help keep people's spirits up – as featured in the Villager.

Lucy Hopkins: (Now at Stroud High)

Nominated for making cakes for the key worker and vulnerable children who were attending school during lockdown.

And the winners are.....



Clare Bebbington



Benedict Garlick



Beatrice Hatt

CONGRATULATIONS!



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Puzzle Corner

			7			4	6	2
9	6	7		4				
	4	2		6	1	9		3
	7			3		2		9
2		4		7			5	
7		1	4	8		3	9	
				1		7	8	5
8	9	3			7			

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Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 - 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

Answers on page 34

Puzzlechoice.com

1		2		3			4	5		6		7
						8						
9						10						
11								12				
13		14					15	16				17
						18						
19				20		21				22		
23								24				
25							26					

Across

1. Counting device (6)
4. A forceful consequence (6)
9. Deport (5)
10. Relished (7)
11. Act of deliberate betrayal (7)
12. Movable staircases (5)
13. Easily handled or managed (6)
15. Lithe (6)
19. Device in a brass wind instrument (5)
21. Oval (7)
23. Slowly moving ice mass (7)
24. Large artery (5)
25. Throws out (6)
26. Sternutation (6)

Down

1. Turned away or aside (7)
2. Similar (5)
3. Kitchen implement (7)
5. Commissioned military officer (5)
6. Unfathomable (7)
7. Periodic rise and fall of sea level (5)
8. Deceive by mock action (5)
14. Assemble in proper sequence (7)
16. Scoundrel (7)
17. Promote (7)
18. Prolonged period of time (5)
19. Undefined (5)
20. Live (5)
22. Sum of money offered as a prize (5)

Longfields Shop, Minchinhampton

Everywhere on the High Street shops have been struggling since lockdown and this includes the charity shops. Below is a photo of the great selection of goods available at Longfields in Minchinhampton – our very own emporium of pre-loved goods! Autumn clothes are now on display and there is a wonderful choice of bric-a-brac, books, CDs and other delights – all at a very reasonable price. Please give the shop a visit and support this wonderful cause.

Longfields are also in need of new volunteers to help in a variety of ways. For more information, just enquire within the shop.



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Gloucester Cattle

A year ago marked the start of the next chapter at Court Farm, this being the introduction of a small herd of Pedigree Rare-Breed Gloucester Cattle. So let me start with why we chose this very beautiful and rare native breed. The Gloucester cow dates back to the 13th century where it could be found roaming in the Severn Vale area, not only for farming purposes (milk and beef) but as draught oxen. The Gloucester is a beautiful breed, with its mahogany coat and white stripe that starts at the



small of the back, round over the tail and udder to cover its belly. The breed's other distinctive feature is the upturned horns that start off white and finish at a black tip.

The Gloucester has links in popular culture, featuring heavily in the 'Coopers Hill Cheese rolling', as the cheese used in this is a Double Gloucester. This, alongside the single Gloucester cheese, can only be made from milk produced by Gloucester Cows.

The Smallpox vaccine was also developed with the use of a Gloucester cow.

It was the introduction of more intense farming methods that led to the demise of Gloucesters, leading to their label as one of the rarest cattle breeds out there – so much so that in the early 1970s the breed nearly became extinct, with only one herd remaining in the country. The reason for this drastic decrease in numbers is because the breed does not fit into most modern farming systems where their feed conversion ratio is low and the time to fatten an animal is long. Although the breed does produce a good quantity of rich milk, the amounts do not keep up with the commercial breeds favoured today.

So why would we want to have this breed on the farm?

If you have read my previous columns in this magazine, hopefully you will be able to tell that we are moving Court Farm into a bracket known as 'regenerative agriculture' where our farming practice not only works alongside nature (wildlife, soils, pastures etc) but enhances it.



As we are fortunate to farm the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside I have become an advocate for the Gloucester breed. The fact that Gloucester cattle are deemed 'at risk' according to the Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST), makes me only want to assist in their revival even more.

Our Gloucester Cattle Herd.

Last year our small pedigree Gloucester herd was officially named the 'Avening herd of Gloucester

Cattle'. The names of all offspring produced at the farm will begin with 'Avening' at the start of their name. So far we have started the breeding process with Artificial Insemination carried out by a technician that comes to the farm. One of the reasons for this is the RBST hold a bank of semen dating from the early 1970s to present that is still viable and able to be used. This is why we have chosen the AI route, as it allows the gene pool to be widened from bulls that are no longer alive.

So fingers crossed for Gloucester calves in the spring!

The way we plan to develop and utilise our herd is to produce beef. I understand that this may sound counterintuitive as one of our goals is to help increase the number of Gloucesters out there but as this is a breeding herd, all females will be kept on the farm to live a long and happy life, which could be up to 10-15 years spent grazing our diverse permanent pastures. This will now also include herbal pastures being planted as we speak. A proven way to help conserve the breed is to find a use for them and for us the characteristics of the Gloucester's slow growth is seen as positive in producing a quality product, rather than a negative when compared to some commercial breeds.

We are pleased to say that soon we will be producing our own slow grown pasture-fed pedigree rare-breed Gloucester beef in the form of beef boxes that will be available to order and collect direct from the farm gate.

Our Gloucesters are the perfect breed to fit in to the farm's long term 'regenerative agriculture' aim and we feel that they will play a big part at Court Farm in the future.

Sam Powell

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Avening School

Fresh Air, Forest School and Mud Kitchen Fun

The first half of the autumn term has been filled with outdoor activity and learning. Thanks to the warm weather, the children have been able to play with the brand new mud kitchens that were designed and constructed over August bank holiday weekend by a group of parent volunteers. A huge thank you to all involved in this project, from collecting the wood to the building process. A big thank you must also go to the green-fingered members of our community who met in the school garden each week during the summer holidays to ensure the gardens were tidied and cut back ready for school re-opening in September. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and has enabled us to make the most of our outdoor space when it is needed more than ever. The Owls class (y5/6) have been using the garden for some outdoor geography and the whole school have been taking part in forest school sessions, making the most of the natural resources available for learning and creating.



The outdoor fun doesn't stop at the school gates either, as the Kestrels class (y1/2) gear-up for a fun packed trip to Copsegrove Farm in Bisley at the beginning of October. The focus of the visit will be on learning about physical and human geography as well as enjoying the fresh air and natural habitat of this wonderful environment rich with diversity of nature. The Hawks (y3/4) will also be visiting Copsegrove, but with a Stone Age focus for their visit.

After-school clubs will resume in a slightly different format this term, with pupils participating in their class groups over four weekly sessions. Each club will take on a different theme from PE and mindfulness to computing and craft.

Usually at this time of year, we would be getting ready for the annual Young Voices concert that takes place in January. We are delighted to announce that this will still go ahead, just at the slightly later date of June next year. This will be a particularly special event as it will be Young Voices' 25th Anniversary. One of the highlights of our school calendar, the children (and staff!) are looking forward to being able to rehearse the songs chosen for what promises to be a very special concert next year.

As we head towards half term, we look forward to our harvest celebration, which as with many events, will have to take on a slightly different form this year, and will be preparing for our remembrance commemorations at the beginning of November.

A regular feature of our autumn calendar is our annual open morning, which we usually hold in October. Due to current circumstances, we will sadly be unable to

welcome visitors into the school in person, but instead are hoping to be able to produce something virtually in the interim. If you are interested in finding out more about our wonderful school please see the school website for more details or contact the school office if you have any questions.

For further information about this busy place of learning please, see our school website: www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk

Jane Rushton
Head Teacher

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TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

STOP PRESS! THE GOODS SHED IS BACK!

Our film sessions on a Thursday are back from October 8 – and because we're limiting numbers at each showing we're actually running a matinee showing at 2 pm as well as our usual 7pm showing. The first film is "Military Wives" followed by "1917" and "Little Women"

We've been awarded the Visit England's We're Good To Go industry mark to show that we're Covid safe but obviously there will be a few changes to our normal arrangements. To begin with you need to book numbered seats online and we will be sitting at tables rather than in the raked seating. There will be the usual one way systems and hand sanitising equipment etc. There will be a bar in the railway carriage with covered waiting areas and the toilets will be available.

We have done everything we can to make you feel safe and hope to welcome you back soon (and statistically apparently in the Cotswold, because we're such a low risk area, you're more like to have a car accident on the way there than catch anything in The Shed!). Please look at our website for more details of this and other events planned for later in the autumn.

www.shed-arts.co.uk

September Serendipity

On the afternoon of 13th September we were blessed with lovely weather for Serendipity Sunday. A couple of years ago in Avening, we had a similar early autumn day for the Village Spillage. On that occasion many friends and neighbours round the village brought out tables and gazebos and displayed for sale, the results of a clear-out at home. There was a map to show where to find some useful items, even treasures, needing a new home. Mainly it was about having a catch-up and a chat with everyone passing by. It was a beautiful September morning and remains a lovely memory of a good time, not so long ago.

This year, of course, we have all had to deal with a very different and, at times, a very difficult situation. Nevertheless, in Avening, as in many places we have tried to carry on with a semblance of the neighbourly and sociable times we have enjoyed in the past.

Without mingling or contravening guidelines, there was clapping for the NHS in the spring, a commemoration of VE day and often, the heart-warming sound of Jim Hill's trombone in the distance, across the valley. Later, Rima's art sale in High Street brought a sparkle to the weekends. With autumn days not far away, Serendipity Sunday was planned as a blend of the 'Spillage' in Avening and 'Art in Action' a wonderful combination of art, crafts and music, held in Waterperry, near Oxford, for many years.

With these ideas in mind, as well as current guidelines and restrictions, the plan for Avening on 13th September was a simple, low-key event encouraging us to get out and about in our neighbourhood.

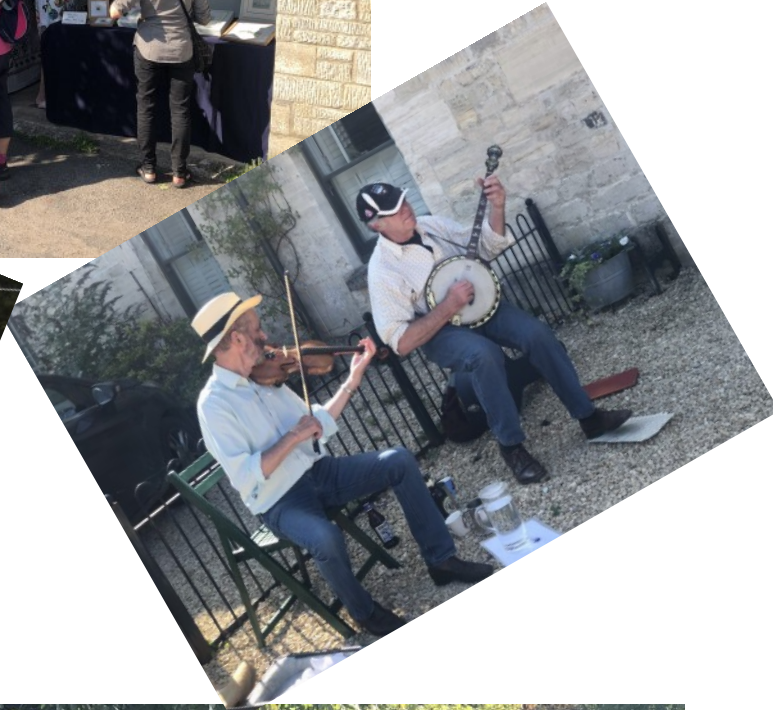
Mainly by word of mouth and individual messages, the afternoon came together in a marvellous, entertaining and enjoyable mix of music and meetings of old friends and new, up the hill, down the street and across the stream.

A key part in the proceedings was taken by several friends and neighbours with a combination of fascinating and high-quality local art, bric-a-brac and other goodies for sale. And not forgetting the very special cakes. The afternoon could not have happened without the energy, cooperation and commitment on the part of these stall-holders.

Our local musicians, always an enthusiastic and helpful group, worked their magic. On the garage roof at number eleven, High Street were Tom Fryer and the Beatless with a great sound. And, by the way, they had never performed together before this event. At the garage of number eighteen was R n B with Brian and Adrian. In the car park between the Old Bakery and Point House was Irish traditional music with George and Stephen. In the garden of Carrigoona, at the junction of Point Road and New Inn Lane, were the Avening Angels.

It was a good and memorable afternoon, nicely rounded off, for some participants, with a drink and/or a curry at the Bell.

Gill Adams



Fish in Canals



A year or two ago Jennie and I spent a few days walking from Bath to Newbury along the Kennet and Avon Canal – a very relaxing holiday. Along the way were many moored narrowboats: some were for holiday lets but along some stretches many were permanent homes for people who had chosen that less conventional way of life. On one of these boats a notice read “The only fish who move with the flow are the dead ones”. What are we to make of that? Presumably the boat resident was offering an insight into the attitude of mind that had led them to turn their back on common conventions: those who are fully alive go against the current.

I was reminded of this recently when one of our Sunday readings told the story that Jesus used to make a point. He imagined farm labourers signing on for work during the day: at the end of the day all were paid the same however long they had been working and those who had worked during the heat of the day had to wait for their money until the later comers had been paid. That turns our normal ideas and values on their head. When those who had worked all day complained, they were reminded that they had been paid the agreed wage and the employer can choose to treat the others well. Jesus was implying that the employer corresponded to God and that we, his people should not be playing “I’m better than them” games but should rather be grateful for all that we have and be pleased when others flourish. The common conventions and attitudes within society are not necessarily the most beneficial ones.

There is talk at the moment about the renewing of the economy after the devastating impact of recent months and it is being widely recognised that this is an opportunity as well as an enormous challenge. We might wonder where the areas of ‘dead fish’ within our previous economy are to be seen. We might well want to look at previous assumptions about democratic capitalism and ask whether they are valid. Some areas of employment will be encouraged and it must be decided by which criteria they are to be selected – for example, by potential monetary profit or by their true value to the lives of people, especially those who are less advantaged, and to the health of the environment. The Government will play a significant role in deciding such questions but we can also play a part as we spend money or offer support to charities and other causes: some may choose to write to their MP or air their feelings in other ways.

Revd. Gerald South

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Down Memory Lane

MY ENGLAND

Where is the England that my childhood knew?
Where are those wandering lanes, upon whose hedgerow-banks the wildflowers grew?

No cuckoo-call floats now o'er dew-sweet dawn:
No tumbling larks tumultuous song, spills from the skies above the golden corn.

Those hares that limped and trembled through the frost,
Or raced the mad March winds across the sunlit hills, are long-since lost.
Where are those hamlets, sleeping in the sun,
With ducks a-dabble on the pond across the village green where children run?

Long flown the swallows that would swoop and scream,
Above the otter-haunts, along the leafy valley and the winding stream.
Silent and empty lies the crumbling farm,
And no-one calls the cattle home for milking, to the ancient, hay-sweet barn.

No more in moon-lit, velvet, scented dark,
Does badger roam the beech-hung woods,
Where owls hunt and hoot and foxes bark.
Flown is my speckled thrush, whose sweetest hymn,
Blended with blackbirds' fluid notes,
To fill the valley as day's eyes grew dim.

All gone, those patchwork fields, where poppies blew.....
LIGHTS BLAZE, CARS ROAR, JETS SCREAM AND CONCRETE CLIMBS THE HILL
Across the England that my childhood knew.....

Gillian Bulmer-Davison

Avening Community Orchard

We have an exciting update on the Avening Community Orchard. We have secured a significant grant from the Gloucestershire County Council's Thriving Communities Fund. This will enable us to purchase more trees and tree protection; buy pruning equipment; run pruning workshops for anyone interested (as well as a workshop for the playgroup and school children); get some information boards and wildlife boxes, plus more. This is really exciting news and we hope to kick things off shortly. We will keep you posted in here and on our new Avening Community Orchard Facebook page.

Phoebe Carter

Friends of Avening School

Halloween Haunted House Hunt

This year has been quite a difficult year for many and it doesn't seem to be getting any easier. This means that the usual Halloween fun of Trick or Treating will not be possible due to Covid-19 restriction. FOAS have however come up with an event that will provide lots of Halloween Family Friendly Fun whilst maintain social distancing and being COVID compliant!!

Similar to our yearly Bear Hunt, there will be a trail around the village with lots of Haunted Houses, Ghouls and Ghosties to find along the way. Each Haunting will be based on a theme for you to guess, from either film, TV, music, theatre or book!! We may even give you a clue or two along the way if we are feeling nice!!

Each person will receive a map and a 'Trick or Treat' bag – Even the BIG KIDS among us, so no-one will miss out on the usual Halloween goodies!! Tickets are just £2 each and must be booked in advance through our webpage www.pta-events.co.uk/aveningfoas. This is to help us manage effective social distancing between family groups/bubbles during the event.

Host a Haunting

Obviously we would not be able to put on this event without the support of people around the village willing to 'Host a Haunting'. So we are looking for Souls who would like to join in with the fun, and get their creative witches and wizards hats on! The display can be any size from a single item to an entire house. During the hunt people can vote for their favourite 'Haunting'. The winning display will receive a £20 gift voucher.

To Host a Haunting we ask for a minimum donation of £5 to go towards our fundraising projects.

If you live in the village and would like to 'Host a Haunting', or even if you don't live in the village but would still like to do a display then please contact FOAS at foasavening@gmail.com.

Sponsor a Spook

For any companies that would like to promote their business whilst supporting Friends of Avening School, we welcome you to 'Sponsor a Spook'! A £10 sponsor will get your business Logo/Marketing material displayed during the hunt. We will also promote your business via our facebook page and webpage. If you would like to support us then please contact us on foasavening@gmail.com or go to www.pta-events.co.uk/aveningfoas - Sponsor a Spook!!

We really appreciate every-'bodies' support, and are looking for to seeing lots of Souls at this Spook-tacular event!

Stephenie Luff
FOAS Chair and Head Witch

Avening Community Cafe

Robert Burns got it just about right: 'The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men/Gang aft agley', he wrote in 1785 in his poem *To a Mouse*. Things 'ganging aft agley' (or at least its 2020 equivalent, going-oft-awry-thanks-to-covid), is now the first and a standing item on any Café committee meeting. Rest assured, though, no matter what is thrown at us, or how many times we have to change plans, the Café will keep calm and carry on. We'll always be there for you.



Over the past few months the Garden Coffee Breaks have been a glorious feature of Tuesday mornings in the village; over the course of the summer Jennie South has 'sifted and sorted,' enabling 24 different hosts to invite over 120 people at least once – something like 100 garden coffee breaks in all. Huge thanks to you all – the village has come to life on Tuesday mornings as everyone wandered to and fro to their destination. The feedback suggests they have all enjoyed meeting new people and

viewing familiar places from a different perspective. But as autumn approached and the weather became less reliable, the formal coffee mornings have come to an end. Friendships made or renewed continue, however, and if you are getting together for a chat over a cuppa do get in touch if you'd like to buy a cake from the Café's baking bank to add the 'Café' flavour.

As The Villager went to press, Pete Barton was dusting off his picker in readiness for a community litter-pick on 29th September (bring your own mug) – and the Café put up its first pop-up at the Social Club to see whether takeaway coffee and cakes might tempt people to come down and say hello. We'll keep you posted....(which reminds me, don't forget the Post Office van is at the Club on Tuesday mornings too). The plant and produce swap outside 14 High Street closes in October after seven months of sharing seeds, seedlings, plants, produce and preserves. Seeds swapped in March ended up in preserves swapped in September. Elizabeth Buchanan has been a superstar and nearly £650 in donations were raised for our two Café charities, the Mark Townsend Trust and the Stroud Women's Refuge. And the books are back! After a short pause while building work was underway, the Roadside Library outside 6 Old Hill has returned just in time for longer evenings indoors.

The Social Club itself remains closed so



we're being creative with a bunch of alternative Covid-safe activities in October. On 6th October we'll host our first Cafe Curry Night at The Bell where Glyn, Andy and their team have done all that's required to make the pub Covid-secure. On 13th Wendy Jennings will lead the first Café Ramble and at half-term we'll be hoisting up the gazebo for an outside 'pop-up' Café for everyone who shows up for the Community Orchard clear-up at the playing field. We're also chuffed that The Bell is opening its doors for coffee on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in October – no need to book, just drop in.

We will also be supporting one of our favourite local charities, Longfield, during their Big Bake Week. On 20th October Café bakers Sandra Hetterley, Mandy Slater, Christine Howell and Clare Bebbington will be making cupcakes, Viennese whirls, butterfly cakes and chocolate treats and delivering them to anyone who fancies a sugar-fuelled pick-me-up that day (how about buying a box as a surprise for a friend or neighbour?). There will be four cakes in each box and we're suggesting a minimum donation of £2 per box. All proceeds will go to Longfield, which does such wonderful work providing hospice care and support. Clare will be taking orders on ccbebbbs@gmail.com or 07403006106. (Note from the Editors – see item on Longfield on page 17).

Keep your eye open too for the Café's newsletter, *The Buzz* which will be launched on 13th October and will be published on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month for as long as we can't meet in person. We want to try to capture all those conversations that used to create the Tuesday morning 'buzz' at the Café and to help people stay connected. So if you're proud of something, have news to share, an event to publicise, or something to contribute, do get in touch with Clare, details above.

We'd love to hear from you if you have any ideas about what else we can do. We were thrilled to learn we'd won one of Cotswold District Council's Thriving Community Grants for the work we're doing and hope to do. Looking forward to seeing you in October....somewhere, sometime, somehow!

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Have Briefcase, Will Travel



I left you in the last story crossing the South Africa/Botswana border on my way to a meeting with the deputy Interior Minister of Botswana. On reaching the customs post we parked up as Alan had to leave his mobile which at the time was like a brick because he did not have a licence to use it in Botswana and our passports had to be stamped.

While he was gone I got my camera out to photograph the customs post which was a breeze block constructed building with a corrugated iron roof, a bit like a cow shed.

After taking several pictures which sadly have gone missing I heard several clicks behind me, so I turned to find two Botswana National guard soldiers with AK 47 automatic rifles pointing at me. One of them advanced on me and pointed his gun within 6 inches of my face and said: “you are taking pictures of a military building”. My first thought was “it`s only a cow shed” but thought better of making that comment. Luckily, my colleague then returned and saved the situation by explaining we were visiting a government minister; the change was remarkable with lots of saluting and apologies and so we drove to Gaborone City.

On arriving at the outskirts we noticed many new housing blocks, all of which were for government employees which was part of the reason for our visit. The city has a ring road around it; the city being the hub of a wheel and the roads coming out being the spokes, creating many small roundabouts. The first one we came to had a police jeep on it with a heavy machine gun on the bonnet so we turned onto the ring road, but thereafter every roundabout either had a police or army jeep with a mounted weapon on it and Alan started to get concerned about a possible political coup. On reaching our hotel, The Gaborone Sun, we were greeted by the amazing sight of half a dozen armoured cars and soldiers everywhere. Standing in the entrance was an African soldier who was immense and I could see he was an RSM. His uniform was immaculate and the creases in his combat trousers were so sharp if he bent his knees he would have lacerated them. He questioned why we were going into the hotel and he got our standard explanation of ministerial visit. Indicating us to park our car on one side of the hotel, we had to pass the entrance of the hotel where a heavy machine gun was mounted. By now both of us were frankly puzzled so we parked the car. Coming down the side of the hotel was a squad of soldiers that were dressed like our guard’s division but with peak caps – all very smart. At this point my curiosity got the better of me as an army captain came around the corner with a very heavily armed sergeant.

Taking the opportunity to find out what was going on I asked the officer what was happening, and his answer stopped Alan in his tracks; purely by chance we were staying in the same hotel as the meeting of the OAU, the Organisation of African Unity, so every African president was in our hotel – or to put in another way, Alan

said, “we are either in the safest hotel in Africa or the most dangerous”.

Making our way to reception we found an army of young men dressed in dark blue or black pin stripe suits rushing around with bits of paper in their hands. It turned out these were all presidential aides, and making our way to our rooms down a long corridor we found many rooms had a large man in a suit sitting outside; as we approached each one he stood up and wished us a good day but I had noticed the side arm located on each one, as these were presidential bodyguards.

We decided to take lunch by the swimming pool located in the centre of the hotel garden where a large marquee had been erected with the sides rolled up and this was where the OAU meeting was been held. We sat down at a table by the pool just as the meeting was breaking for lunch and to my amazement walking out of the marquee towards us were Daniel Moi, President of Kenya, Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe and Dr Hastings Banda, President of Malawi. I suppose I could claim to have had lunch with all of these influential presidents as they were no more than ten yards away from me!

After lunch our initial meeting with the deputy internal minister seemed rather tame but it proved to be successful and we had to finalise arrangements the following morning

More to follow in next magazine.

David Bendall

Avening Walks



We are planning to arrange various walks around our village during the Autumn. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

The first walk will take about an hour – a gentle start. The decision on the route will depend on the weather. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing. A refreshment stop will be included.

We aim to meet on the second Tuesday of the month – 13 October for our first walk – and to start outside the Social Club at 10.30 am. A maximum of 6 per group.

We would love to hear from you, and if you have a favourite walk you would like to share, please let us know and we can incorporate it in our schedule. We would also appreciate a few extra guides to help out at times too. We hope to include a variety of walks in length and difficulty over the next few months.

Wendy Jennings

Contact details : Phone : 01453 832881

email : wendyjennings2010@gmail.com



Avening Playgroup

First of all, we would like to welcome all the children who are starting at playgroup this term. We hope that they and their families enjoy their time with us. Also, a very big welcome back to all the children who were with us before lockdown. It is so lovely to have you back again.



So far, this term, we have been around all the different areas at playgroup so that the children know where to find everything and where to put things when we tidy up. We have also been discussing new ways of doing things with regard to COVID-19 and establishing a routine that now involves regular cleaning, more handwashing and fewer resources out at one time. Something we all are having to adapt to.

We have been looking at ourselves and discussing what we look like, what colour our eyes and hair are as well counting how many fingers and ears we have. We have drawn step by step pictures of ourselves and have had fun drawing around our hands. They have also taken it in turns to have their height measured. We have all had lots of fun singing and doing the actions to 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. The children have chosen to do a lot of mark-making outside using the chalks as well as the paint brushes and water. They have used the pots to make drums and have really



concentrated hard whilst using the laces to make patterns

We would like to thank everyone who attended the AGM on September 15th and also a big thank you to those members of the committee who have volunteered to remain on the committee for another year.



Due to the situation with COVID-19 this year, we have been unable to do much fundraising and one purchase we need to make for the children is a new climbing frame and slide as the one we have is old and worn. We are therefore asking for donations towards this. If you would like to make a contribution towards the cost of this we would be very grateful. We welcome any amount – every little bit helps. If you are able to help please contact Naomi on aveningplaygroup.chair@gmail.com

If you have a child who will be three years old during the coming school year and you would like them to join our playgroup, please contact us on 01453 832695 or email us at aveningplaygroup@gmail.com.

Angie Heslop

Fred Vening



We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Fred Vening, who for many years was the Avening Archivist. It was Fred who spent many hours researching into the lives of every man mentioned on the War Memorials in Avening, Nags Head and Cherington, and then wrote the story of each one, to be published in the Villager over several years – one each month. It was a mammoth task, and one for which we are all very grateful. They can now be read on the history pages of the Avening PC website and are a fitting memorial to him. In 2014 he was awarded Villager of the Year in recognition of his hard work on the archives. The other photo shows him taking part in the event commemorating the start of WW1.

We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Judith and the family.

Rest in Peace, Fred



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Avening W.I.

90 Years of Avening Women's Institute

The first record of an Avening WI Committee meeting is October 4th 1930 at Brookside House and an extract from the rules at that time states:

'The main purpose of the Institute is to improve and develop conditions of rural life by providing a centre for educational and social intercourse and activities.'

We are still doing our best to further this purpose by currently organising small group activities and sharing news, information, recipes and interesting facts. The photo shows a walk from Avening organised by our treasurer, Pat. We are certainly blessed with many lovely paths and beautiful countryside in the area.



I wonder what the members of 1930 would make of our Zoom committee meetings in 2020! We are missing the social interactions (and the cake!) and we look forward to having a birthday celebration when we can all get back together. Shirley has been busy researching events from the last decade and we are working to produce a booklet to bring back many happy memories of our activities.

Helen Haiselden



Avening Youth Club

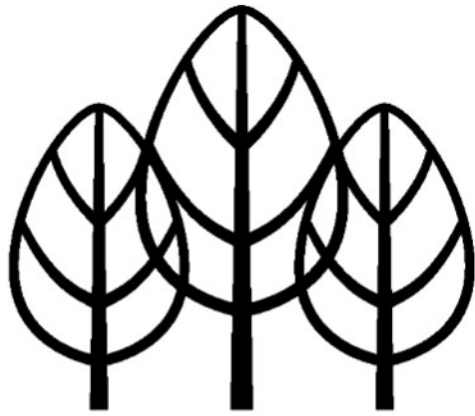


We have been talking to Isak and he will be contacting Youth Club members and their parents to see if they would like to restart the Youth Club in a limited form. Hopefully we will be able to get something up and running later this month if you are happy to do that.

You can chat with Isak directly via their website or ring The Door – details below – to let him know your thoughts, or contact Rev Gerald.

The Door can be contacted via their website, www.thedoor.org.uk, or @TheDoorStroud or via Facebook. Also visit the Avening Youth Club site.

Want more information? Contact Rev Gerald South on 883456 or Isak at The Door on 01453 756745.



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**The online version
of the Villager on
the Avening
website now has
all photos in
glorious colour!**



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The Great Exhibition

This year's title:

'LOCKDOWN'

This is to remind you of the 'Great Exhibition' of Artwork, Projects and Accomplishments that have been achieved during 'Lockdown'.

The three day Exhibition will be held in Avening Church when people once again are free to gather together and enjoy the occasion, chat with their friends and look at the displays.

We do not know precisely when it will be held - but please don't forget. Keep Creating!



Photographs, Drawings, Paintings, and Sculptures

And in a separate category: **Time for:** something new, something you have made - a project or a new skill.

Age Groups:

Children under 14 years of age:

Categories: My Family and Other Animals

Sport

Landscape.

Adults - from 14 years and older:

Categories: Humour

Sport

Capturing a Moment

Portrait of a Person or Place.

Dates: to be announced. For more information contact George Buchanan (01453 833016) or email: buchanan.pg@gmail.com

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Avening Parish Council



The Parish Council met via Zoom on the 16 September 2020. The meeting was open to all residents of the Parish. The minutes will be published soon, but some of the key points were:

Community Support

Winter is fast approaching and with Covid 19 cases on the rise please follow the governments rule of 6 to help keep everyone safe. Hands, Face, Space!

Please check on vulnerable neighbours! The Covid support group will be meeting again soon to be ready for the forecast second wave.

Villager of the Year

Villager of the year has been decided by a vote by councillors. Cllr Slater will make the announcement. Well done to all those nominated and congratulations to the winners!

Overhanging Bushes

If you notice that your garden vegetation is encroaching on footpaths and highways, please cut it back.

Areas around the village are becoming impassable to pedestrians. Trying to pass someone at a safe distance can be dangerous if overgrown vegetation forces you to step into the road.

Preventing Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is a disease that attacks ash trees quickly and there is currently no prevention or treatment available. To prevent ash dieback from spreading, Gloucestershire Highways need to cut down the diseased trees to stop the spread. We have already reported trees along the Tetbury road that are badly affected.

Ash trees are common in Gloucestershire and it is estimated between 27,000 to 32,000 trees will require attention over the coming years.

Community Orchard

On a good note! Local resident Dr Phoebe Carter has acquired a grant to plant a community orchard in part of the playing field that is little used. This will be a beautiful asset for Avening. The Parish Council fully supports Phoebe's work on this project. Thank You Phoebe!

Dog Fouling

If you have taken the "No Dog Fouling" signs from the playground, can we have them back please?

Planning Applications & Tree Works

20/0952/FUL – 18 Sandford Leaze – Rear elevation flat roof dormer. No objections

Decision Notices

20/02512/FUL/20/02513/LBC – Norn House, 12 Nags Head Lane – Removal of existing utility room extension and replace with utility room and cloakroom. Approved.

20/02511/LBC Norn House, 12 Nags Head Lane – Removal of wall separating kitchen and breakfast room - Refused.

20/02392/TCONR - Old Post Office, Point Road – Fell previously coppiced Horn Beam -

Approved

20/002696/TCONR – Field Cottage, 9 Mays Lane - Reduce Horse Chestnut - Approved

20/02679/TCONR 1 Pound Hill – Fell Cypress and Soboria trees to allow more light – Approved

20/01824/FUL Conversion of barn into one dwelling - Longtree Barn Tetbury Road Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8LT - Application Permitted

Potholes

Report potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514 514

The next meeting will be on October 21st via Zoom.



TONY'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

THE BELL, AVENING

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

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CONTACT

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Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 21st October	Café Baking for Longfield	See item p27	
Wednesday 21st October	Avening Parish Council Meeting	Zoom	7.30pm
31st October	FOAS Haunted House	Around Avening	12 – 8pm
Monday 26th – Friday 39th October	Avening School Half Term		



Church Floodlighting

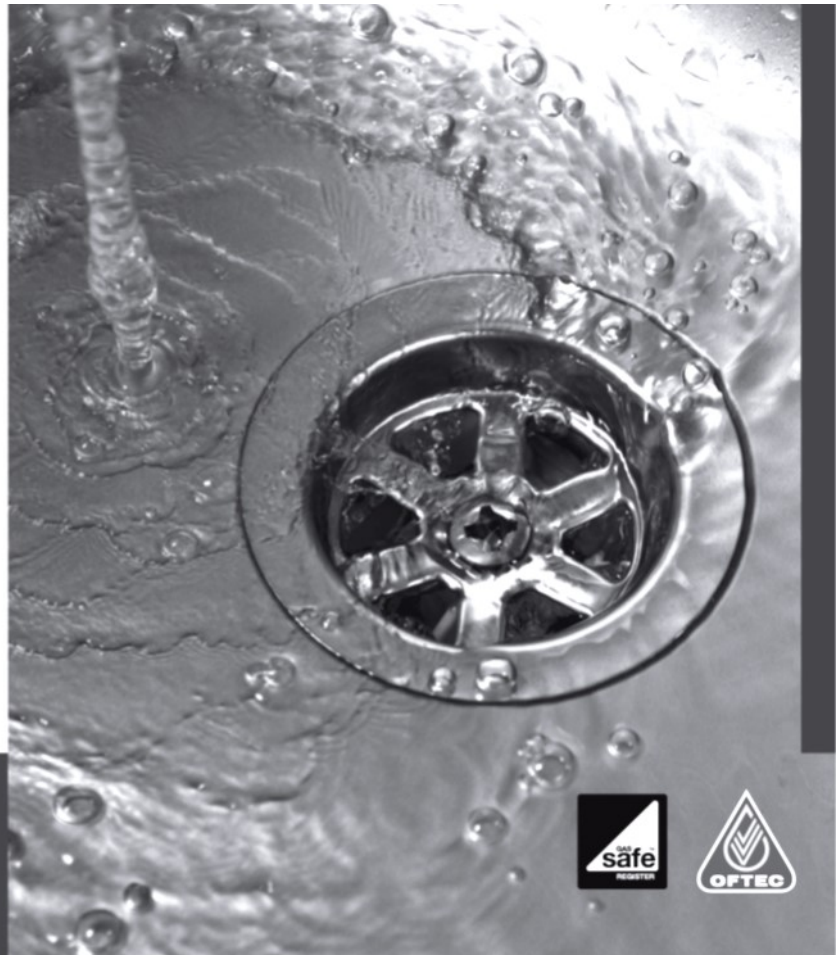
The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit. If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Paul Brown 01453 835983**. The cost is £10 for 2 hours.



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The team at Auto Bodytech want to say thank you to all the incredible emergency services, health and social care workers, for all your efforts to keep us safe and secure at this difficult time!

We are currently carrying out support and repairs to emergency vehicles but now expanding this to all key workers*, and anybody that may need vehicle repairs.

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