

# TEN VILLAGE NEWS

Magazine for the villages of  
Coddenham, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter,  
Crowfield, Earl Stonham, Gosbeck, Hemingstone,  
Mickfield, Stonham Aspal, Stonham Parva

June 2020



Welcome to our second emailed version of the Ten Village News. I hope this is helping you to feel in touch with the rest of our group of villages.

If you want to print it, print as a booklet and then it will be a similar size to the usual magazine.

If you wish me to include anything in the July Ten Village News please send it to me by 20 June.

Thank you, Liz

[lizandjohnnince@gmail.com](mailto:lizandjohnnince@gmail.com)

## **OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS REMAIN CLOSED**

but the church community continues..... please join our growing congregation for

### **WORSHIP via ZOOM**

**Morning Worship 10am Sundays and  
Tuesdays, Evening Worship 7pm on Fridays**

If you haven't joined us before and would like to, please send an email to [reader.ruthdennigan@gmail.com](mailto:reader.ruthdennigan@gmail.com) beforehand. Ruth will then send you an email with a link to click on.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please send any prayer requests to  
Philip 01449 711684 [revphilippayne@btinternet.com](mailto:revphilippayne@btinternet.com)  
or Helen 01449 761867 [h.norris1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:h.norris1@hotmail.co.uk)  
who will include them in their private prayers.

**Rev'd Philip Payne**  
**The Rectory, The Street Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AQ**  
**01449 711684, [revphilippayne@btinternet.com](mailto:revphilippayne@btinternet.com)**

### **SPRING UPDATE FROM THE RECTORY**

It is now two months since we all entered lock-down; set up for home-working, or furlough, tried home-shopping and home schooling, tried to work out how to stay in touch even when touch had to be virtual. In those two months the nation as a whole has come to appreciate just how many people are key to our everyday normal existence. We have also come to see just how much we take for granted and how many people's contributions we take for granted. The good news is that we have learned to express our gratitude in new ways as well.

The most obvious change for our parish church communities is that the doors of our buildings are locked. Although the buildings are closed, the life of the church goes on. We have regular on-line worship with the opportunity to chat after. A combination of internet and the more traditional GPO mail help us share news, prayer and much more. Village communities have drawn closer together to support each other in different ways, with church family members playing their part. To join an online service via Zoom contact [reader.ruthdennigan@gmail.com](mailto:reader.ruthdennigan@gmail.com). For an e-mailed copy of our newssheet contact [lizandjohnince@gmail.com](mailto:lizandjohnince@gmail.com).

Church buildings may be closed but as the current crisis drags on, they require attention to keep them safe. Funerals have moved to the graveside and churchyards remain open for quiet contemplation. Our village schools (Creting St Mary and Stonham Aspal) continue to care for the children in their care and are now (at the time of writing) preparing for the proposed return to school program.

Most of our planned social and fund-raising events for 2020 have been cancelled. Sadly, this is likely to remain true for the summer; we watch with interest. Looking further ahead and being hopeful for the future, couples are planning (and re-planning from 2020) wedding celebrations.

Throughout all this the Good News is that God loves us and as one expression of that love closes another opens. The church is a community of people joined in service. To all who are continuing to give vital time, talents and not least financial support: a very big thank you. Your valuable contributions are very much appreciated.

For further information or assistance please contact me at the above address.

## **FROM THE RECTORY - THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT**

And so we wait, despite the recent fanfare of change, our quarantine goes on. Our days are quiet and yet the news recounts the busyness, burdens and sacrifices of others. Meanwhile we only stand (or maybe sit) and wait. Anxious to 'get stuck in', fearing an unknown future, simply feeling useless; in times of crisis it's the waiting that tells. Above all, perhaps, waiting reminds us that we are not in control of the things that matter most; and then we fret.

Fretting solves nothing. Jesus once asked "*can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?*" (Mat 6:28). Indeed, the opposite is true. But Jesus went on to say that God knows what we need, and if we seek his kingdom then our needs will be met. Though it also needs saying that God's ideas of what we need are frequently not the same as ours – and, yes, faith and patience appear to go hand in hand.

As a crisis unfolds, waiting sounds so negative; as if time waiting is time wasting. Yet Isaiah, speaking to a people facing the disaster of exile, was able to say '*they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*' (Is 40:31). Words of hope indeed. God's people had to wait, and as they waited, they had to get on with life, as and where it was. As they lived, they were called to listen to God and learn. What the exiles learned as they waited on the Lord, blessed generations to come.

It's a repeat story. From Abraham longing for a son, to the disciples waiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. Time and again we see the most valuable lessons learned the hard way, in times of waiting. We see too that the blessings are an inheritance to hand on. So what of us, can we lay aside our impatience?

*"God doth not need either man's work or his own gifts; who best bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state is kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed and post o'er land and ocean without rest: they also serve who only stand and wait."* (John Milton, Sonnet 19)

## **PRIEST-IN-CHARGE, NORTH BOSMERE BENEFICE**

Revd. Philip Payne, The Rectory, The Street, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AQ.  
Tel: 01449 711684 [revphilippayne@btinternet.com](mailto:revphilippayne@btinternet.com)

## **ASSISTANT PRIEST**

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## **CHURCHWARDENS**

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DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

As I sit to write this month's article, we continue to live in incredibly challenging circumstances, with the Coronavirus restrictions continuing to impact upon our day to day lives. I'd like to start by thanking each and every one of you for playing your part and staying at home, helping to protect our NHS and saving lives.

During this important national fight against COVID-19, I have been given leave by the Government to return to the frontline of the NHS working as a doctor, but I want you to know that I am still here to help you as your local MP and continue to stand up for the best interests of Suffolk.

I am in touch with my office on a regular basis, where I am briefed fully and give regular instructions on constituency matters and how to help people locally who may be in need. My team and I are working extraordinarily long hours dealing with a hugely increased workload, helping people to access vital daily support, return home from overseas and providing advice to businesses to access Government grants.

We are very lucky indeed to live in Suffolk and I have been heartened to hear so many stories of communities coming together and individuals going out of their way to help elderly and vulnerable neighbours. It is times like these which bring out the best in people and I am proud to call Suffolk my home.

Suffolk's "Home, But Not Alone" scheme is an outstanding example of the public and voluntary sector coming together to deliver help to those who need it. The number for those in need of genuine help is 0800 876 6926 lines continue to be staffed from 9am to 5pm 7 days a week.

Many businesses have been in touch welcoming the measures put in place by the Treasury, but of course there are still some who are left behind and falling through the net. The likelihood of social distancing measures lasting for many months, or even a year, is likely to put considerable strain on our pubs and restaurants. That's why I have



written to the Chancellor to raise these concerns and I am hopeful that more can be done to help our local businesses and in particular, our pubs, cafes and restaurants in the weeks and months ahead.

As ever, I would like to close by paying tribute to my NHS colleagues, the Police and the many others on the frontline of our public services who are putting others before themselves to help in this crucial fight against Coronavirus.

If you would like my help, please visit my website [www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com) for the latest information.

## **CODDENHAM**

### **NATURE NOTES**

We may not be able to travel far at the moment but the wildlife has, reliably, been coming to us. I was told that the Swifts had arrived in Coddendam on 2nd May, five days earlier than last year. They have since been seen around Greenhill as have House Martins. A Cuckoo, in true medieval fashion, has come to announce the coming of summer. It was heard on Mill Hill on May 16th and must have moved up the plantation towards the Coddendam Centre where several people heard it including ourselves in Mary Day Close. I haven't heard it since but we must keep a wary eye out for its progeny later on.

Two walkers on the path through the bluebells on Mill Hill saw a couple of Speckled Wood butterflies.

Our bird feeders have been visited by Tits, a Robin and the odd Goldfinch who all feed tidily in turn; but the other day a thuggish gang of five Starlings attacked the fat balls destroying them and knocking down the feeder. Not the sort of behaviour we expect! But it is good to know there are still Starlings about..

*Brenda Hudson*

### **SPADEWORK**

You could, if you put your mind to it, make up a flower garden entirely from native plants, of the kind that begin to flower around now and that we normally treat as weeds. My area, for example, is rich at this time of year in greater celandine, a pale green poppy with yellow flowers. When broken it exudes an acidic orange sap that used to be used in dangerous medical processes, now discontinued. It is not related to the ordinary

celandines that come out earlier in the year. Another medical plant is the bitterly scented stinking hellebore – not stinking at all. It flourishes around here and its oily seeds, like those of the greater celandine, are spread by snails. Lurking discreetly in your borders you will also come across beautiful fumitory, sometimes called earth smoke – from an old Latin name. The roots are supposed to smell of smoke and the vegetation too has a gray smoky look. Similarly proportioned is the common vetch, a delicate climbing plant, like a low-level sweet pea best appreciated at close range. In more open ground and in gaps in walls you will find linaria (toadflax) a spindly flower with pointed leaves. It is now sold in nurseries, I see. From time to time in the inhospitable ground in front of the Club I see examples of wild salsify, a tall handsome plant with purple flowers. If you are looking for more imposing weeds try green alkanets whose dark roots were formerly used as a source of henna dye. They grow from difficult gaps in stonework and are hard to eradicate. Alkanet is in the same forget-me-not family as (white)comfrey, which is another constant in local gardens, and very attractive in springtime. Impressive, if not attractive, is bryony, a green climber based on a huge tuber often lodged in tree roots. Last year a bryony hidden in a clump of ornamental thistles (echinops) forced its way up a downspout on the Club, gaining access to the roof. Most of these plants, of course, seed prodigiously and would need to be carefully controlled, and most of them ask to be admired at close range; but we are not used to visiting our gardens on hands and knees, except when weeding. You might argue that modern gardening, with its preference for big bright flowers, is designed to fit the human measure and even to accommodate failing eyesight.

*Ian Jeffrey*

## **HISTORY RECORDER**

If Coddendam Village History Club participates in the parish website the image on its front page will probably show the High Street from Crown Corner. The Live and Let Live (now the Country Club) will be visible on the left and in the middle of the road there will be several people standing. It can be compared with the railway poster looking down towards the shop, where the image can be bought on a greetings card. The railways often featured places that were without stations; Kersey is another example, even further than Coddendam from a railway line.



Another photograph from the same era shows people outside Church Cottages. There is no sign of traffic.

For a short time in May 2020 similar images would have been possible. Now that the government has decided to allow people to travel away from their homes there is no longer any chance of standing in the road. As recent damage to the bridge illustrates, drivers also seem to regard speed restrictions as applying only to others.

Whether or not current day trippers are finding problems when they reach the tourist attractions along the Suffolk coast they do not expect problems here. It is no surprise that the daily ministerial briefings have sometimes included graphs showing the increase in traffic after a short period of keeping vehicles at home.

The positive aspect is that people in Coddtenham have made more use of the local footpaths than before. Roots that were almost buried now stand proud. The footpaths are becoming well worn. While nobody would discourage exercise this trend may soon require the wildlife group to give attention to the surface of our paths. In that case we should all be prepared to help in the maintenance of a valuable resource for the benefit of us all.

*John Pelling, 01449 760676, [johnpelling@john-lewis.com](mailto:johnpelling@john-lewis.com)*

#### **THE CODDENHAM CENTRE – COVID 19 – BULLETIN 4**

Following the latest government guidelines in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and our holding statement the morning of the 11th May, we wish to update all customers and stakeholders on any changes with regards to our services.

The Coddtenham Centre remains closed, except for essential access, subject to further Government advice.

However, we are now able to take bookings for our tennis court w.e.f 13th May, for games of tennis by members of the same household or single games with up to one person from outside the household. The court is also available for single person basket ball practice.

Bookings are essential for all activity and as usual, available online through our website. Online payment arrangements will be an additional service coming soon.

Please observe all the usual precautions, including the use of hand sanitisers or hand washing with your own water containers. Unless by special arrangement, we regret the Centre facilities, will not be available.

Please contact the Centre Manager, Gail Springett , if you have any special requirements.

While you are welcome to make use of the playing field, we regret we are still unable to provide access to play equipment and the outdoor gym.

We will continue to keep customers and stakeholders advised through these bulletins, on [www.thecoddenhamcentre.co.uk](http://www.thecoddenhamcentre.co.uk) or on

<http://www.coddenham-parish.uk>

An expanded link to our site and those newly established sites for other community stakeholders, will be available on the Parish site in the near future.

As usual, if there are any questions or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Coddenham Centre on the usual number or email address.

*Andrew MacPherson Chair - The Coddenham Centre CIO*

*Registered no. 1183244 [www.thecoddenhamcentre.co.uk](http://www.thecoddenhamcentre.co.uk)*

## **CROWFIELD**

### **CROWFIELD VILLAGE FETE CANCELLED**

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and uncertainty surrounding the future rules around social distancing and large gatherings, it has been decided that we should cancel the fete planned for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Already 'Castleton Brass' who were due to play have cancelled their booking as they have not been able to gather for practices.

Thinking about all our usual activities which we enjoy at this annual event, it is difficult to see how we could manage the situation safely.

We will return next year on 17th July 2021. A date for your diaries!!

## **EARL STONHAM**

Well, here we are in week ten of lockdown – or is it eleven? One loses track of time. With the cancellation of nearly all events we have lost the chronological framework that has helped us to maintain our bearings and know where we are. We live in strange times indeed!

Amidst all the worries about health, jobs and money and the sense of isolation that has affected many people, there have been some amazing positive features, especially:

- The dedication shown by the many people who have kept essential services functioning, often at considerable risk to themselves.
- The incredible sense of community shown by people who have gone out of their way to help others in myriad different ways.
- The amazing ingenuity shown by people, to overcome difficulties and to keep themselves entertained: schools providing lessons and giving feedback on pupils' work, keep in communication and to hold events while everyone is confined to their homes. Zoom has emerged as the preferred medium for most of this communication and a surprising number of people are achieving a high level of skill in its use.

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

There are no church services during the lockdown. Well, actually there are. The eight parishes in the benefice are holding a 10am service every Sunday via Zoom and around 50 households are joining in. These are very stimulating and uplifting events and at the end of the service there is the opportunity to break out into small groups of three or four people, should one wish to do so.

In addition to these Sunday services, we have morning prayer at 10am every Monday and evening prayer at 7pm every Friday. If you haven't been receiving emails from Ruth Dennigan with links to join in these services, email her at [reader.ruthdennigan@gmail.com](mailto:reader.ruthdennigan@gmail.com) and she will add you to her mailing list.

## **EARL STONHAM VILLAGE HALL**

There's good news from the Village Hall regarding the planned refurbishment of the main hall. Sufficient funds have been raised and contractors have been asked to quote for the work, which will probably be carried out over a period with breaks between each stage to allow events to take place in the hall.

The monthly quiz nights, like just about everything else, have had to cease for the time being. Recently a quiz via Zoom attracted 32 entries (either individuals or family teams), including several people who hadn't been coming to the quiz nights in the hall. Participants were invited to make donations to St Elizabeth Hospice, by electronic transfer to the

Village Hall bank account, but we don't know at this stage how much was raised. Further quiz nights by Zoom are planned – keep an eye on the village emails and Facebook page for details.

## **VILLAGE FACEBOOK PAGE**

Another initiative prompted by the lockdown has been the creation of a village Facebook page, called simply ESVH. It currently has 45 members and is a supplement to, not a replacement of, Deb Turner's email mailing list. It is being used to post photographs, give information about local businesses and to advertise items for sale (or offered free).

## **FROM THE LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER**

# **EARL STONHAM.**

**It is requested that all Allotment Rents for the Year ending Michaelmas, 1888, together with arrears of previous years, be Paid at the New School Room, on Friday, March 8th, at 7.30 p. m.; after paying the necessary outgoings, it is proposed to expend the Balance in the Purchase of Coals for distribution among the Cottagers.**

**Those who Fail to Pay their Rent at the time appointed will receive no part of the Coal so distributed.**

Signed, on behalf of the Churchwardens & Overseers,

**F. RONECKLES, Treasurer.**

A. B. WOOLBY, MACHINE PRINTER, "COLUMBIAN" OFFICE, 17 FVMARKET.

There are several areas of allotment land at Broad Green and Middlewood Green in the village. Most are now let to farmers for arable cultivation but a few, at Broad Green, are still used for their original purpose envisaged when the greens were enclosed in 1832, which was to help people to feed their families on the poor wages then available. When parish councils were established in 1895 they took on responsibility for managing and letting allotments, but previously this was done by the

churchwardens and overseers of the poor, as can be seen from this poster.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the overseers owned a coal house at the corner of Forward Green, so presumably the distribution of coal to needy people was a regular activity.

Brought from the other Side		£	s	d
		34	12	00
Paid the Widd. Harvey Rent for a quarter		00	06	00
Given to the Widd. Wells in time of need		00	00	06
Paid to Jeremy Mash for a Coffin for Sarah Calvers Child		00	02	00
Paid to Wiltm Groom for Bell & grave		00	01	06
Given to y <sup>e</sup> Widd. Harvey in time of need		00	01	00
Paid to Goodly Bishop for Making a shi <sup>t</sup> and a pair of Linings for y <sup>e</sup> Boy Alderton		00	00	06
Given to John Humphrey when he came		00	05	00
Given to Old Widd. Marcell a pair of shi <sup>t</sup>		00	06	06
Said out for a shi <sup>t</sup> for y <sup>e</sup> Widd. Wells		00	03	00
Said out for a shi <sup>t</sup> for y <sup>e</sup> Boy Alderton		00	01	03
Given to Mary Dool at three several times in need		00	06	00
Said out for a shi <sup>t</sup> for the Boy Harvey		00	01	06
Paid to Wiltm Sedon for Making of Wood in Mellfild for the poor 2 Loads & 3 quarters at 3 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> of a Load		00	09	07
Paid for Carrying a Load of Wood to y <sup>e</sup> poor out of Mellfild		00	04	00
Paid to Rob Skapy by Agreement for Elizabeth Kells		00	10	00

This page, from their 1740 account book, records the overseers providing firewood for the poor. I imagine that coal would not have been readily available in the district until the opening of the Gipping Navigation at the end of that century.

*John Jones*

## PRAYER GROUP

In these difficult times members of all our churches continue to pray in their homes. Please let me know if you would like prayer for a particular need.

*Maggie Podd 07939912080*



# **GOSBECK**

## **SOUP KITCHEN UPDATE**

Well, I wrote last October saying it had been a difficult year for our team! This year has been very strange too. Alison and I have had to isolate because of our age but we also had to decide whether or not to attend at all! However, on talking to the team this was not an option and again the show must go on. Dawn and Karen agreed, along with their husbands, to continue our turns on the rota. We can now only take sandwiches, water, fruit and other edible goodies but no soup or hot drinks as everything has to be in one bag and our clients can then just take a bag so close contact is avoided.

As team leader I would like to thank all our ladies for their efforts yet again as those at home are making the sandwiches etc. Again we also thank you for the cash donations received as they have been very useful indeed in the current situation.

Your help is so greatly appreciated all year round....our team wishes you all good health in the coming months and beyond.

*Hazel, Alison, Dawn, Karen, Sue, Belinda and Lisa.*

# **HEMINGSTONE**

Hemingstone continues to produce its own "Rainbow News" for the village which each household will receive. Life carries on quietly (except on a Thursday evening at 8pm when the clap for our essential workers has created a noise!) birds singing, nesting, the roads still fairly quiet, whilst walkers and cyclist still seem to enjoy our footpaths and lanes. Now we are able to travel further afield, a trip to the beach for a change of scenery is most welcome.

The Fete and HUT 100 - celebrations on hold - but there will be celebrations to look forward to when we are able to socialise, dance, cuddle and share a firm handshake again. Until then, stay safe.

## **HUT 100**

Over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 6/7 June - look out as you walk, cycle or drive through Hemingstone. The hut suitably decorated for

its 100th birthday - the village in lockdown in the hut but also the village coming out in 20's style scarecrows! Worth a look!  
Further celebrations when we can all get together!

## **V.E. DAY**

### *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Hemingstone*

A great effort was made by several households to decorate their homes and hedges with flags and bunting and anything else that was red, white and blue - all this during what, for this country and globally, the Covid – 19 pandemic - a virus so sinister that it is as though 'we' are fighting another world war but with a dangerous, invisible enemy.

Seven weeks into 'lockdown' V.E. day was approaching. All celebrations nationwide, and for Hemingstone, the celebration of the Hut's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, had to be cancelled following government restrictions.

Not to let such a momentous day in the nation's history: 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 slip by, a suggestion put forward by one of the village community to mark the anniversary was to gather at Hare and Hounds Corner on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 1pm for a staggered cycle ride along a given route passing by the Hut whilst doing so – respecting social distancing at all times (2 metres apart from anyone outside your own household) A coffee station, attended by John & Dave , offered to be available outside the Hut to provide hot and cold drinks, cakes etc to passing trade. The idea was well received.

## **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.00am** The Red Arrows, en-route 'indirectly' to London so that as many people as possible would be able to see them, did a fly past to the south of Hemingstone. As they did so, the church clock chimed -ringing out across the fields. What a day this was proposing to be.

With camera, I walked the length of Main Road & Church Lane capturing the efforts all those having put out 'red, white & blue'. There was a buzz in the air as I passed fellow walkers & cyclists, some wearing union jack tee shirts or coordinated red and blue shirts and shorts.

The weather was perfect – hot and sunny.

**1.00pm** Whilst I headed down to the Hut with camera to capture the arrival of cyclists, those involved in the ride headed to Hare and Hound Corner. The coffee station was ready, but not quite for the turn out that



arrived. Family groups with very young children, one or two of the not so young and all those in between started to appear round the bend, all staggering their positions along the lane, but all desperate to get a drink and see friends and neighbours that the lockdown restrictions had forbidden to meet up with.

What a special half hour that turned out to be. What a tonic for those who have been fully respecting the socially distancing rules - just to see 'others' albeit briefly. Hemingstone had once again shown itself to be a warm and friendly community – getting it just right and all benefitting without breaking 'the rules'.

**'We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day  
Keep smiling through, just like you always do  
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away'  
So please say hello to the folks that I know.....**

**9.00pm.** The Queen addressed the nation on TV  
*Chris*

## **MICKFIELD**



Rich Tearle (Pastor) Tel: 710101 (Church Office)  
[mickfieldec@gmail.com](mailto:mickfieldec@gmail.com) or [rich.tearle.mec@gmail.com](mailto:rich.tearle.mec@gmail.com)

For latest service info/times please see the website.

**Give Me One Good Reason!**

We've all had to adapt dramatically to the Coronavirus situation. How have you managed the changes? As a church it's been very strange. We can't meet together at all the time of writing. We now have a Sunday service online with a group Zoom meeting afterwards, and we also

produce and distribute daily 'thought for the day devotional' videos via What's App and YouTube. If you'd like to check out some of these short videos you can find them on our YouTube channel. Just visit YouTube and type Mickfield Evangelical Church.

In the midst of all this we have seen an increasing interest in Christianity. Many people have been engaging with the videos on our website, on Facebook and on YouTube. ...Why not use the opportunity to have a peek and see what Christianity is all about without the (perhaps daunting) prospect of having to set foot in a church!

We want to continue to provide a means for all kinds of people to explore the Christian faith. So, over the next few weeks I will be posting 3 videos, exploring 3 very personal reasons for my own faith in Jesus.

The first is, what I call, the Monty Python reason!

You can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/jagW64zwJVY>

Sometimes people say: "give me one good reason to believe!" We'd like to present 3. And we'd love to know your thoughts. Feel free to begin a conversation and share your thoughts in the comments section on YouTube or via my email (listed above).

Stay Safe and Blessed!

*Rich T*

## **STONHAM ASPAL**

### **FLOOD LIGHTING APPEAL**

Since we installed floodlights to light the church during winter evenings, we have made disposable money boxes available for spare change as a relatively painless way of funding them. This has been very successful. However, this year, we feel that a shopping trip to try to purchase disposable cans and the difficulty of handing them out with the church closed, make this operation unwise. Also many people are using cash very little this year and so spare change may not be forthcoming. Please could we ask our congregation to find suitable containers and make a donation which will be collected at the Harvest Worship for All service, assuming that we have one. If we are still not gathering on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in October we will make other arrangements. Thank you very much in anticipation.

*David Tydeman and Alex Pratt      Churchwardens*

## **THE CHURCHYARD**

We are delighted that people are enjoying the wild flowers and quietness of our churchyard, particularly during this time of lockdown, whether they are walking through or sitting quietly on one of the benches.

However, we are concerned by the presence of drinks cans, crisp packets cigarette ends, balloons, laughing gas canisters and other items which have been left behind.

Please could we ask that you leave nothing behind so the churchyard remains a pleasant place for others to enjoy. Thank you.

## **NOTES FROM THE CART TRACK**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

The dry April has seamlessly continued into a dry May and crops are desperately needing a rain and some warm nights. The night-time frosts we have had lately are proving difficult in the vegetable garden and I am quite relieved to have no sugar beet to worry about. May and tree blossom seems to be good but with insect eating birds nesting I hope that a bit of warmth and a shower will bring more blossom in the various bits of conservation mixtures we have sown ready for the chick feeding. The wheat crop looks reasonably good in general and provided we get a couple of inches of rain to fill the grains in June it should be ok. Spring barley is poor. The dry April has caused some germinating seed to fail to emerge from cloddy seed beds. The least bad field is the one we tried out a cover crop on which will encourage us to repeat the process next year. The oil radish component of the mixture may have helped to prevent the soil becoming consolidated by the rain and lack of frost. There was certainly no problem with sowing through the residue. Spring beans being sown deeper and more robust plants have emerged well and should produce a reasonable result if weather conditions are favourable. How has lockdown and social distancing affected us? Broadly speaking, our style of arable farming has continued more or less as normal. Chemical and fertilizer deliveries have not been affected so far. We have been able to get any building materials and spare parts that are needed, although understandably delivery times are much longer and in the case of machinery dealers we have to go and collect from a box outside the stores. Dust masks to use in the grain-store have quadrupled in price and delivery before harvest is not guaranteed. Delivery drivers and store staff of the companies we work with have been helpful and careful without exception.

We have seen a large increase in exercisers and dog walkers on the farm. The sunny weather has obviously encouraged this which is very good to witness. On an average day we get 50 – 60 folks out, with at least half of these coming through the farmyard. Sam has put up some new signs showing what is supposed to be growing where and indicating which areas we are trying to leave disturbance free for conservation purposes. Thank you all for respecting these. We have had very few causes for concern. We do still have some loose dogs going into the growing crops. I don't think their owners realise that skylarks are on nests at the moment and a Labrador blundering past is not conducive to chick survival. We have several pairs close to the main footpaths. I hope that next year we will have even more.

*David Tydeman*