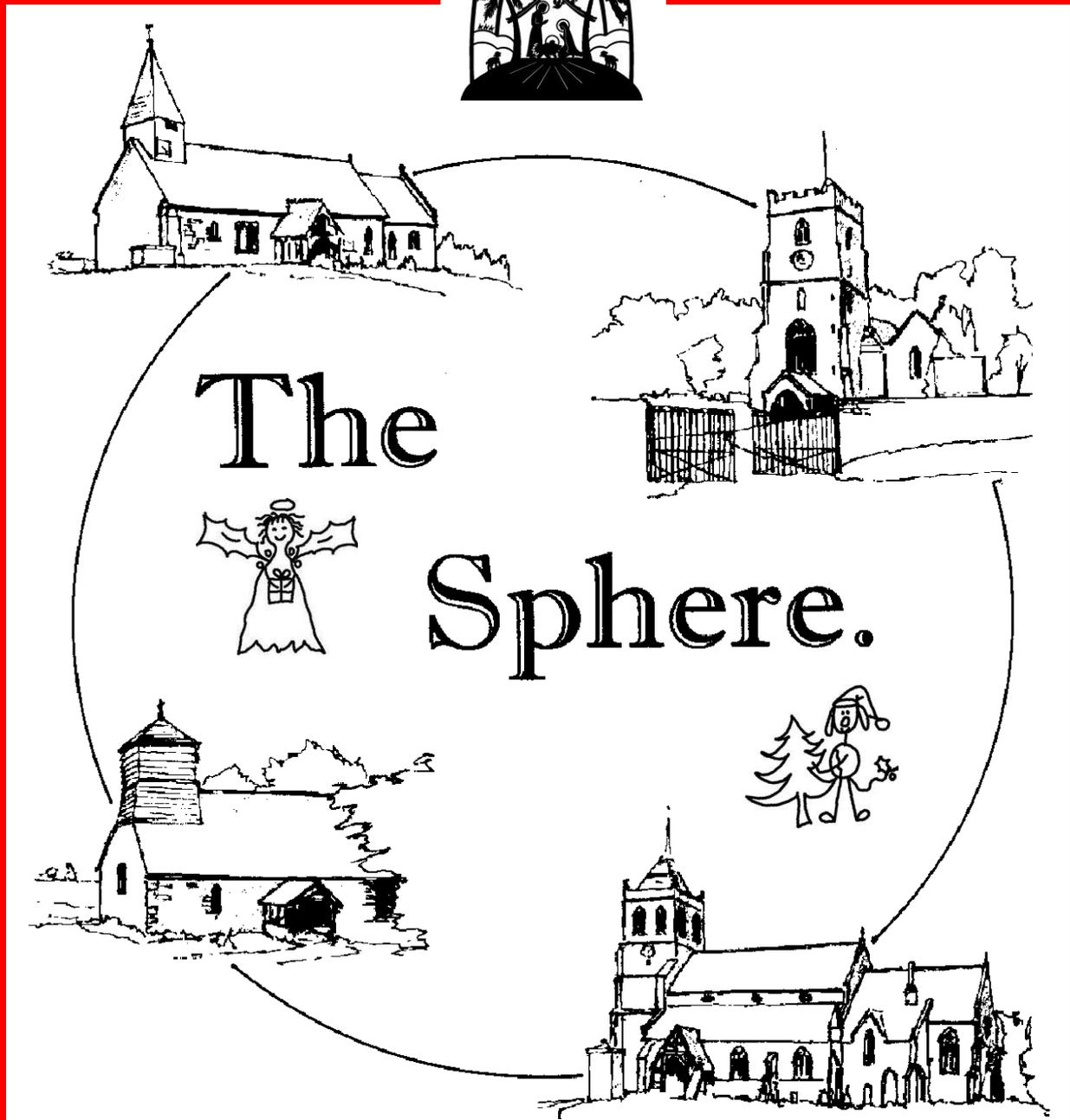


# Merry Christmas

## December 2020 & January 2021



**The Magazine for the Parishes of Alfrick with Lulsley,  
Leigh & Bransford, Leigh Sinton and Suckley**



## The Sphere Magazine: Future Plans

Everything has been different for everyone in 2020 and production of *The Sphere* has been no exception. It is edited, printed, collated and distributed by a small group of willing volunteers and the last printed edition was produced for April 2020. This was as usual done in the vestry of Alfrick Church (a process that can take up to five mornings). Collation, collection and delivery just scraped past the first lockdown deadline, after which the church had to be closed, later only to be open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays (including services) for limited hours.

Subsequent editions have been placed on websites in each parish for subscribers, where possible, to download. Back copies can be found at [www.alfrickandlulsley.org/community](http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org/community), [www.leighandbransford.org.uk](http://www.leighandbransford.org.uk) and [www.suckley.org.uk/](http://www.suckley.org.uk/)

A questionnaire was circulated via most distributors to establish whether subscribers would be willing, or indeed would prefer, to receive copies emailed to them. About 150 of our 800 subscribers preferred this option, perhaps to minimise the impact on the environment of producing hard copies. We realise however that many of our loyal subscribers do not have the facilities or the ability/inclination to follow the internet route and of course many of them much prefer to have a hard copy at hand to refer to (especially for events and advertisements).

*If you would prefer in future to receive copies by email then please send an email to: [dwfowler@waitrose.com](mailto:dwfowler@waitrose.com) with a note of your home address and if possible the name of the person who normally delivers to you (no need if you have already done so).*

Regarding advertisers, we have not been charging them since April 2020 as we have been uncertain as to how many readers would be viewing online, although this appears to have grown to something over 500 views on the websites for October 2020 plus 160 sent by email.

We have had this Christmas edition (combined December/January) printed for us by outside printers and it will also be on the local websites. However this is much more expensive than printing it ourselves although has the advantage of better reproduction of photographs (but still in grey-scale). We are looking into the possibilities of upgrading our duplicating machine and are hoping to have the next printed version produced for the Easter edition (April 2021) if necessary having it again from outside printers. Meanwhile the website and email versions will still be produced (and in the future for those who prefer to receive their *Sphere* that way). If possible we would then like to return to printed versions each month (and anticipate resuming charging our advertisers from April 2021). We would expect to return to charging all annual subscribers (including for copies by email) in July 2021 when they will have received the eleven printed editions paid for in 2020.

**Geoff and David**



**Wishing you  
A Merry Christmas and  
A Peaceful New Year  
from the  
Sphere Team**



## Services for December 2020

### December 6th (Advent 2)

10.30am Leigh CW Holy Communion  
4.00pm Becky – Zoom farewell (Clifton and Martley)  
6.00pm Alfrick – Evensong

### December 13th (Advent 3)

10.30am Crown East – BCP  
4.00pm Suckley – Christingle/lighting of tree outside

### December 20th (Advent 4)

9.00am Bransford BCP Holy Communion  
*YouTube* Lessons and Carols

(Wednesday 23rd December

10.00am Suckley Midweek Holy Communion)

### December 24th

9.00pm Crown East – CW Holy Communion\*  
([abiqaitilling@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abiqaitilling@hotmail.co.uk) 07906 309122)  
11.00pm Leigh – CW HC\*  
([jean.colley48@gmail.com](mailto:jean.colley48@gmail.com) 07850 233320)

### December 25th

9.00am Alfrick – BCP HC\* (*Judy Davies -*  
[florandonald@gmail.com](mailto:florandonald@gmail.com) 01886 884664)  
10.30am Suckley – All Age\*  
([annelewis@me.com](mailto:annelewis@me.com) 07957 388926)

*\*Due to social distancing please could you 'book' the number from your household wishing to attend these Christmas services with the named person by December 20th.*

### December 27th

No service

## Services for January/February 2021

### January 3rd

10.30am Leigh – CW Holy Communion  
6.00pm Alfrick – Words and Music

### January 10th

9.00am Alfrick – Matins  
10.30am Crown East – CW Holy Communion  
4.00pm Becky's Licensing

### January 17th

9.00am Bransford – BCP Holy Communion  
3.00pm Suckley – Evening Worship

### January 24th

9.00am Alfrick – CW Holy Communion  
10.30am Crown East – BCP Holy Communion  
6.00pm Leigh – Evensong

(Wednesday 27th January

10.00am Suckley Midweek Communion)

**January 31st** (5th Sunday) 10.30am or 4.00pm  
Suckley – Group Candlemas Service

### February 7th

10.30am Leigh – CW Holy Communion  
6.00pm Alfrick – Evensong

## From the Registers

**Baptisms:** None

**Weddings:** None

**Funerals:** Suckley; 03 November 2020:  
Joan Garbett, Hereford Crematorium



Our Church continues to be alive and active, but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed except where mentioned in the separate parish pages.

Even though they are not able to meet with you in person the clergy are available at the end of a telephone line so please feel free to contact us:

Rev David Sherwin (Team Rector) 01886 888664 [davidwin56@aol.com](mailto:davidwin56@aol.com)

Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 [revannepotter@gmail.com](mailto:revannepotter@gmail.com)

Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897 [jenmwhittaker@icloud.com](mailto:jenmwhittaker@icloud.com)

Rev Becky Elliott 01886 812451 [revredeccaelliott@btinternet.com](mailto:revredeccaelliott@btinternet.com)

Rev Jen Denniston is currently undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984

748059 or [leighrectory@outlook.com](mailto:leighrectory@outlook.com) Please contact Alison if you would like to receive a regular weekly pew sheet by email.

For those of you with computers, iPads or other such 'modern technology' you will continue to find worship through our *YouTube* [wvrtlivestream](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvrtlivestream)

Other information can be found on *A Church Near You (ACNY)*: [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Facebook pages: [www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam](https://www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam)

## CHRISTMAS IS ...

.....A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF A VERY SPECIAL BABY CALLED JESUS WHO CAME TO REVEAL GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL HUMANKIND

.....NOT CANCELLED DUE TO COVID BUT DIFFERENT

....**CAROL SINGING** – two opportunities to join with those leading **Carols at Alfrick Village Shop – 14 December at 6.30pm** - mulled wine and mince pies.



And **Carols Round the Tree at Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall 20 December at 4.00pm** (and 5.30 pm if overbooked) – mulled wine, mince pies, Father Christmas. Bookings through Simon and Jennie Bond will need to be made so families can be accommodated socially distanced – See full details in the Leigh and Bransford section.

.... **A Festival of Light** recalling the light that came in the darkness and in **Suckley on Sunday 13 December at 4.00pm** when we will be gathering in the churchyard for a short **Christingle** service alongside turning on the tree of light in a Covid friendly way.

....**TRACTIVITY instead of Barnyard Nativity**

On **Christmas Eve from around 3.00pm to approx. 5.00pm** watch out for the stable with some of the Christmas Story characters, like Mary and Joseph, passing through the villages on a trailer pulled by a tractor. Details of the timings and route will be circulated through social media, emails and word of mouth – Sphere deadline beat the route planning!!

.....**Traditional services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day** in each of our parish churches. These are listed on the Services page. *Unfortunately we will have to offer 'first come first served' which feels very wrong, but hope you understand if there is no room in the church.*

As you go on your daily walks do look out for the stars around Leigh Sinton, the Pom Poms and baubles around Alfrick bringing some Christmas Cheer (which we all need) and the message tree in Leigh Sinton, bringing communities together. Fuller details in the Village sections.

The Church of England's theme this Christmas is '**Comfort and Joy**'... and then when I opened the M&S Christmas Food promotional booklet the first words I read were 'We're all ready for a bit of comfort and joy this Christmas...'. How apt and how true. After this year of pandemic lockdown, isolation and confusion there are so many in need of some comfort and joy this Christmas. Whatever the situation, whether we can meet with families and/or friends (in smaller groups), whether we can gather to celebrate Jesus' birth-day (which after all is what Christmas is really about) there are many in our communities who are struggling for a variety of reasons whilst for many others the last few months have been a really positive experience.

Whatever the past few months, which have brought about so much change, have given you - hard times and good times, suffering and joys - remember that the story and meaning of Jesus' birth has not changed. *God is with us.* With us in the mess as in the good, in the disappointments and the difficulties, in sorrow and in celebration.



God of comfort and joy, may we know your presence within your gentle, joyful love given to us all this Christmas and always.

*Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year.*

*Rev Anne*



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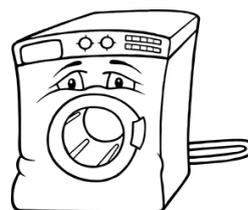
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## Our District Councillors' "View from the Hills"

What a year this has been. We hope sincerely like no other in our lifetimes. Although Malvern Hills is far less affected by the pandemic than much of the UK, MHDC is still planning for considerable increases in unemployment, homelessness and health issues as we move into 2021. As I write a possible vaccine is being heralded, but the effects of COVID will not be stilled for many months.



MHDC is, of course, continuing to supply basic services as best as possible. Rubbish will continue to be picked up. Planning services (and debates!) proceed. Daily life does go on, perhaps lacking sparkle, but hopefully with a sense of purpose. We are making steady progress with projects designed to bring a smile to residents' faces, even if they are two metres apart, such as the Splash revamp. The great asset of Malvern Theatres, nationally recognised, will play on. There will be better recreational areas and parks, both within Alfrick and Leigh ward and in Malvern.

Sarah and I believe firmly that even in grey winter, there is cause for optimism. Next year will undoubtedly pose challenges for many of our residents. MHDC will do its bit to help, but we still work best in this beautiful area simply by being good neighbours. To steal shamelessly president-elect Biden's eloquent phrase: "there's nothing we can't do, if we do it together".

### We wish you all that is good for Christmas and the New Year.

We continue to work actively on your behalf. If you need help, we can be contacted by phone, email or via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rousewhatley>

Sarah Rouse: 01886 833653; [sarahrouse72@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrouse72@gmail.com)

Peter Whatley: 01886 884126; [peter.whatley@malvern hillsdc.net](mailto:peter.whatley@malvern hillsdc.net)

*Peter Whatley*



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1 litre UHT milk	Sandwich paste	Rice pudding, tinned custard
Cracker biscuits	Peanut butter	Tinned spaghetti, e.g., Hoops, etc.
Fray Bentos meat pies etc	Jam	

Tinned meat - ham, spam, corned beef, Tinned fruit - single fruit such as oranges, grapefruit etc

**Extras:** Tomato sauce, Brown sauce, Mayonnaise, Cooking oil

Shampoo, Deodorants, Washing Powder (small), Toilet Rolls, Shower gel/soap for men, Anti-bac Spray, Shaving foam and razors, Nappies sizes 5 and 6.

**Please place your food donations, wherever they have been purchased, into the basket outside Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop from where they will regularly be taken to the Foodbank.**

*Rev Anne Potter* [revannepotter@gmail.com](mailto:revannepotter@gmail.com)

## Crazy Covid Quotations...

- When this thing is over with....I still want some of you to stay away from me
- The World Health Organisation has announced that dogs cannot catch Covid-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear WHO let the dogs out.
- Education is important, but opening the pubs is importanter



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# Leigh and Bransford

## ST EDBURGA, LEIGH

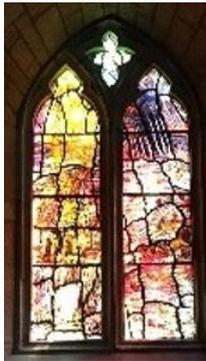
The Churches were allowed to open for private prayer in June and St.Edburga is now open between 10 am and 4 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 is available at the end of a telephone line so please feel free to make contact.

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or [leighrectory@outlook.com](mailto:leighrectory@outlook.com)



## St Edburga, Leigh Events



Last month Jean Colley wrote in her piece for the Sphere that before the harvest service the sun had been streaming through the Denny window, throwing onto the floor the golden colours of its stained glass. This month she muses on what will be possible over the Christmas period.

So we are in lockdown again! Here at St Edburga we had just started having socially distanced services with a small choir, able to sing without mask - albeit having them on for the rest of the service.

Having missed Easter services we are really hopeful for Christmas. At least for Christmas Eve (see elsewhere how to book your places) and plan for an across the Team 'Carols & Lessons' on *YouTube*.

Our Festival of Christmas Trees cannot happen this year in its usual form, although some groups who have already made their tree will be invited to put them in church. We plan to have a tree inside and also one outside this year. I think it's called "making the best of it!"

Another loss was being unable to hold our Remembrance Service, but a beautiful poppy arrangement was put by the War Memorial. Thank you Rosemary. The church was open and we know, visited. Meanwhile an Act of

Remembrance was held outside Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall all hastily arranged with last minute changes in what was permitted to be done. Poppies adorned the shrubbery, names read, wreaths laid, the National Anthem sung, and a moving recording of 'Abide with Me' played. Representation was from British Legion, our uniformed groups and Serving forces personnel.

On a lighter note, Severn Trent has made available a large number of bird boxes to go in our churchyards. Both Leigh and Bransford have some and with the assistance of Garth, hopefully these will soon be put in place.

Our PCC officers were voted back for a further 'term of office' and I was re-elected as churchwarden at our very belated APCM in October.

COVID-19 has hit many churches and charities hard. Much less income. There is much work to be done on both the church and chapel. If you feel you can help keep your church and chapel in a good state of repair for generations to come, please contact me or our Treasurer, John Drage, direct.

Amidst this strange and unsettling time, with the uncertainty of what we will return to after this four week lockdown, who we will be able to spend Christmas with, will we complete all our preparations, we should remind ourselves of what we are celebrating - the birth of the Son of God, the Baby Jesus, born in a lowly stable.

**On behalf of our PCC may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2021. Stay Safe**

*Jean Colley*, Churchwarden.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Leigh & Bransford Community Car Scheme

This voluntary service covers all residents of Bransford, Leigh or Leigh Sinton who need transport to medical appointments at Knightwick, Cradley, Malvern or St John's Surgeries.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Leigh Guides

As we're entering another period of uncertainty we find ourselves having to resort back to virtual meetings, but we have been really lucky to have been able to meet face to face since August.



The guides had a fabulous meeting having individual BBQs, they have made their own Perspex visors and in more recent weeks have been making poppies to display in their windows and gardens for Armistice Day. The Rangers have been joining in with the guides, but were challenged to make a wreath out of egg boxes.

In half term the guides had an absolutely amazing day in a wonderful piece of woodland making pizzas, carving pumpkins, learning about leaves and being able to run around and have fun with their friends.

As we find ourselves back online we are already planning our Christmas party, our spirits won't be dampened!

Over the past few months it's been a hard job for Valda and Charley having to ensure everything is cleaned before and after, everyone is socially distanced (not always easy with children) and to create a fun and safe environment with activities fitting with our current way of life.

The leaders, unable to attend meetings at the moment, have struggled with missing everything and everyone, but we are all grateful for the hard work and time Valda and Charley have given. We hope everyone is keeping warm and safe and we hope that at some point in the coming months we can be reunited properly.

Wendy, Valda, Charley, Puffin, Panda.

# SEEDS

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or email: [anns@mikesom.plus.com](mailto:anns@mikesom.plus.com)

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## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEIGH AND BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL**

2020, as we all know, will be remembered forever as the year of the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic and the sudden sea change it brought about to our way of life. Significant world events do that – they irrevocably change (or end) our lives, our behaviours and our futures. But they also give us opportunities to learn, remember, adapt, reshape and rebuild whether that's as a nation, a business, a family, an individual or a local community. And our parish ancestors, from their experience of world events also knew that.

***We should also remember that 2020 was Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall's centenary year.***

The Hall was opened in 1920, not just as a community meeting place but also, and perhaps more importantly, as a lasting memorial to all those courageous men and women, young and old from the parish who served in the First World War (and later, those who served in subsequent conflicts). Like Covid-19, but in different ways, the Great War changed our parish ancestors' lives forever. Then, when the war ended their response was to build what is now our Memorial Hall. Their vision was to create an enduring legacy – a community building that would acknowledge the past by honouring personal sacrifice, but would also look forward to playing a part in a brighter future for parishioners – celebrating a return to greater public freedom and prosperity. What is even more remarkable, after the financial hardship all had endured, is that the Hall was built entirely from funds raised by public subscription – almost every household contributed in addition to a number of generous donations from certain individuals living in the parish.

So, as we prepare for what is expected to be a very different Christmas time for us all this year, let's take a moment to reflect on the powerful symbolism we see in the shape of our Memorial Hall. It has thrived as an enduring symbol of hope and triumph over adversity for 100 years – and is currently surviving the ongoing financial uncertainties brought about by covid-19. However we eventually manage to celebrate the meaning of Christmas this year, let's not forget the enduring gift our parish ancestors gave us 100 years ago – a gift that continues to provide a safe, warm and welcoming communal meeting space for your leisure and learning activities – whatever our 'new normal' future may hold.

Finally, lockdown permitting, we are still planning to hold what has now become our annual CAROLS ROUND THE TREE event – appropriate social distancing measures will be in place. Do come along and join us outside the Hall on SUNDAY, 20 DECEMBER from 4.00pm until 5.30pm – but you will need to book! FURTHER DETAILS about this *outdoor event* are on Rev Anne's page in this edition.

**The trustees wish each and every resident  
a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and (eventually) Covid-safe New Year!**

**Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees**

Remember to check our website [www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk](http://www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk) for the latest information about the Hall



## Leigh & Bransford Parish Council



As I sit down to write a roundup of parish council news for 2020 it is, as it has been for everyone this year, a story of plans cancelled, lives turned upside down, meetings held virtually and efforts focused on helping the community and especially those most vulnerable, through this most challenging of times. As winter approaches we will continue to post the latest updates and details on how to request assistance or volunteer to help on the parish noticeboards and website: [www.leighandbransford.org.uk](http://www.leighandbransford.org.uk) or you can call the parish response co-ordinator John Sharp on 01886 833844 or email [chair@leighandbransford.org.uk](mailto:chair@leighandbransford.org.uk) for further information.

We are very pleased that some schemes have gone ahead as planned. The project to enhance **Rectory Wood** in Bransford is now complete. On the Wednesday before the latest lockdown a small group of parishioners spent the morning planting 2,000 native bulbs in the wood, including snowdrops, daffodils, wood anemones, bluebells and wild garlic. The Parish Council is grateful to those who volunteered for the planting. The wood will look beautiful in the

spring and be a great asset for the local area for years to come.

The upgrading of **Leigh Hurst play area** has also been completed, with a range of exciting new equipment provided using S106 money from *Malvern Hills District Council*, allocated from the latest housing development in Bransford. The play corner is open for use by parents and children who are asked to observe the conditions displayed at the entrance to the play corner to ensure safe use during the ongoing pandemic.

But as we approach what is likely to be a very different kind of Christmas and the end of a year of unprecedented change and uncertainty, it is starting to feel as though hope is on the horizon. As I write, hopes for a vaccine that will allow us to return to something like the lives we took for granted before 2020 seem to grow as every day goes by. And there is hope, also, that the spirit that saw people come together as communities and rise to challenges previously unimagined will leave us stronger and more connected to each other than before – some good, at least, to come out of this bleak and difficult year.

**With all Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a better, brighter 2021 from everyone at Leigh & Bransford Parish Council**



### Leigh and District Gardeners' Club

The committee of the Leigh and District Gardeners' Club Wishes all of its members a joyful and pleasant festive season and hopes that you all keep safe and well. We look forward to restarting, hopefully, sometime in 2021 but in the meantime 'Keep those gardens in good order and enjoy the solace that they give us'.



**Yuletide felicitations to you all.**



### Christmas Isn't Cancelled!

This year we are keeping our fingers crossed and are still planning to run a *Carols Around the Tree* event on **Sunday 20 December** at the Memorial Hall. It might be a bit different, but we have a cunning plan. The most important point is that you will need to book with us in advance, by **13 December** so we can manage numbers, see our details below. We will start at 4:00pm and add a second slot later on if numbers require. Please wrap up warm and bring a torch, as we will be outside. There will be mulled wine and mince pies and a collection in aid of Malvern Hills foodbank.



As it's been a testing year and people have not been able to get together, we will be setting up a message tree in Leigh Sinton where you can share a festive message with others in the village. There will be a post box set up outside the *Martial Arts Centre* where you can post messages to be laminated and hung on the tree.

There will also be an advent star trail of 24 stars to find that will be positioned around Leigh Sinton from the **12 December** and if you fancy venturing further afield you might also be able to find some festive pebbles.

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas** Simon & Jennie Bond

Contacts: 01886 830292 [bondsimon@hotmail.com](mailto:bondsimon@hotmail.com)

## Leigh and Bransford WI

As with most WIs, Leigh & Bransford has been unable to meet in the Memorial Hall since February because of Covid 19. We have however been getting to grips with technology to 'meet up' online using *Zoom*. Our first meeting was set up by our Treasurer Denise who sent a link to members of the embroidery group and after a few technical hitches most were able to be seen and heard. We held the November WI monthly meeting via *Zoom*. We all enjoyed an informal 'catch up' chat and it was good to see familiar faces that we haven't seen for a while. We look forward to more online meetings. It is an excellent way to stay safely in touch until we can resume our normal meetings in the Memorial Hall. With this in mind we will hold our December meeting by *Zoom* when our very own expert flower arranger Pauline Phillips has been persuaded to demonstrate a Christmas arrangement on line. We are also hopeful that a number of members will take part and create Christmas table arrangements for our annual competition. The committee is also working

together to plan one or two festive surprises for our members. We also plan to hold our usual appeal to Members for donations to the *Worcester Food Bank*. Details will be sent to members when and how collections can be made so that our donations can be delivered in time for Christmas. It was with great sadness that we received news that Marilyn Harding, a long standing and much loved member, had passed away. Marilyn was a lovely lady, gentle, kind and always cheerful. She contributed a huge amount to our WI and latterly was in charge of the catering. Marilyn had been unable to attend WI for some time due to severe mobility problems, but we were all delighted when she accepted an invitation to our Christmas meeting last year. She was greeted with much warmth and affection, and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

In closing your President and Committee wish all our WI Members, and the wider community, **a happy and peaceful Christmas**, and until we can all meet again, keep safe.



### So... who saved Christmas?

After the Civil War, when Oliver Cromwell and his Puritans abolished Christmas celebrations (amongst other things), Christmas was just another working day and nobody wished each other **Happy Christmas** because it wasn't! Even the restoration of the Monarchy didn't help matters and by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the burgeoning industrial revolution was taking over. A lot of villagers had moved to the towns and cities. Industrial output was the prime consideration and it seemed that the rural **Twelve Days of Christmas** celebrations would soon be confined to history. Then, in 1843, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens was published and, although he was hoping that Christmas might return to the more joyful times that his forebears had known, what he really wanted was to turn a profit from his book. So, to publicise the book, he gave readings of his tale, sometimes for charity, but usually for a fee for himself. But so many people were touched by the story and by his 'gift of the gab', that some of the factory owners decided that perhaps they should shut their premises on

Christmas Day and give their workers the day off to be with family and friends!

As a child, Dickens' life had been bleak. He'd worked in Warren's boot-blackening factory and his own parents were never as family-minded as the Cratchits. Ironically, through this best-seller and his subsequent writings, he became as rich as his hero, Ebenezer Scrooge. All the money he made turned him into a passionate champion of the poor, campaigning for changes to the child labour laws and improvements to the conditions in the workhouses. *A Christmas Carol* really caught on, as did the Christmas celebrations that he had written about. No longer did people work on the day itself, but the return to a twelve-day party was not to be achieved until our own recent times (that is pre-Covid!) But people could, and did, spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with their families, and they could also find time to spread a little goodwill among the poorer people of the towns.

So, who saved Christmas? Why, Ebenezer Scrooge of course!



**Crazy Covid Comment: In retrospect, in 2015, not a single person answered correctly "Where do you see yourself five years from now".**



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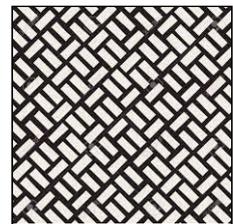
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# Suckley

## Suckley Church Flower Arranging Rota

December 2020	All for Christmas
January 2021	Betty Douds
February 2021	Ellen Gwynne
March 2021 until Lent	Jenny Taylor
April 2021	All for Easter (5 April)

**Please remember that unless you hear otherwise, the church is only open for private prayer on Saturdays and Sundays 10.00am to 5.00pm**



## Sunday 13 December: Lighting the Suckley Tree of Light after the 4.00pm Christingle Family Service in the churchyard

Brighten up the Suckley evenings by sponsoring a light on the beautiful blue cedar by the gate. At this service we remember those special to us who are no longer with us, or who are perhaps absent but in our thoughts. The beautiful blue cedar tree shines throughout the Christmas season until Epiphany. Mrs Nichols gave this beautiful *Cedrus Atlantica Glauca* to the church many years ago. Her daughter, Jean Hughes, continued to live in the village until she died a few years ago. Wouldn't they be thrilled to see it now?



Remember to fill in a form (delivered around the village and available at the back of church and at Suckley Stores) to be able to shine a light in memory of a loved one. We'd love to welcome you with mulled wine before the service - but I expect we won't be able to. If you'd like to come to the service at 4.00pm, please wrap up warm and bring a torch and a chair with you.

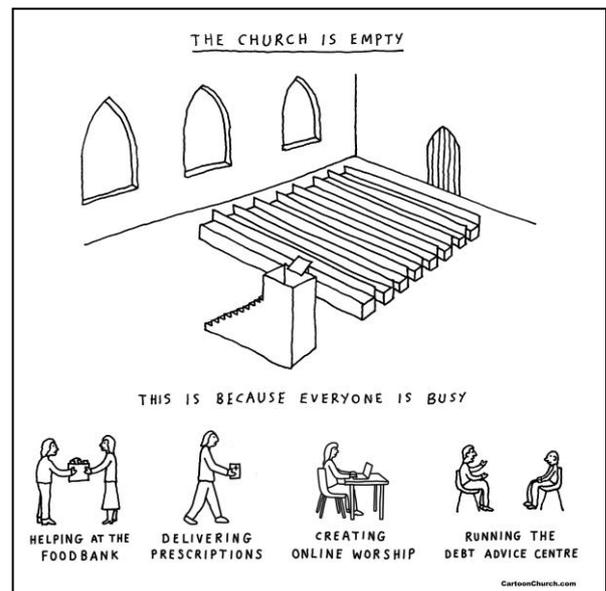
Any queries do please phone **Anne Lewis** 01886 884552 or 07957 388926

## This Christmas in Suckley

Wrap up warm and come and enjoy the fresh Suckley air and enjoy the *Tree of Light* in your own time. The church building remains a special place, even when gathering together is not possible.

The church community is still active, but in different ways. We are grateful to the church ministry team who have maintained a flow of online worship and food for thought since the beginning of lockdown. That is impressive in a spread out rural area where the ministry team is smaller than we would like (Curate Rev Becky leaves to become a Vicar in Malvern, and Curate Rev Jen is unwell). All these are available to anyone either on the Suckley Church Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/suckleychurch](http://www.facebook.com/suckleychurch) or on the WWRT YouTube channel: [www.wrrtlivestream](http://www.wrrtlivestream)

Shine a light! Archbishop Justin suggested we put a light in our windows for Mothering Sunday, then again on 4 November. Let us now SHINE A LIGHT where it can be seen in our homes this Christmas - to remind us that Jesus came at Christmas to be the Light of the World.



## Would you like a workout exercise without going to the gym?

Suckley's band of church clock winders has lost a couple of noble volunteers. They have done sterling work, and hearing the clock chiming is appreciated by many Suckley residents. So I would love to hear from anyone who might help out, some of us are over 70 and finding it more challenging than it used to be! It is quite physical winding the quarter hour chimes, the hour and the pendulum are less strenuous. It needs doing every few days, but the current winders do one calendar month each, so you would only have to do it about eight times a year.



If you think you could help please phone me, John Hammonds on 01886 884221 or email [injewcroft@gmail.com](mailto:injewcroft@gmail.com) and I will happily meet you to show you how to do the winding. Thanks.

## Suckley Village Hall News

Sadly, we have now had to close the Hall again. Since August two of our groups have been running happily in our Covid safe environment and we hope we shall be able to do so again once the current lockdown is eased.



The Committee wishes everyone **A Happy Christmas and a More Normal New Year.**

We hope that in 2021 we shall again be able to welcome our friends and supporters into our Hall to enjoy the events we run. We shall look forward to seeing you all again and, in the meantime, take care and stay safe.

**Carol Boughton**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Suckley Wombles adopt areas to litter pick during lockdown

In these difficult times of COVID-19, the regular Suckley Wombles have been unable to meet as a group to continue their litter picking work to keep our verges and countryside litter free. Instead, many of them have signed up to the MHDC *Adopt a Street Scheme*. What the Council is asking is that residents in the County sign the online pledge which includes:

- Telling the Council which area of land you would like to adopt (public land only unless you have permission from the landowner)
- A promise from you to litter pick your chosen site at least three times a year on dates of your choosing and at your own convenience
- The area you choose to litter pick can be as small or as large as you like
- You can use your black bin at home for disposing of any litter collected



In return the Council will provide individuals with:

- Free Litter picking equipment and bags.
- Guidance on health and safety.

For more information please visit <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/join-the-adopt-a-street-scheme>, or contact Catherine Armstrong (07900 421388) who can explain more about how the system is working in Suckley.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme

**01886 840 480**

The *Good Neighbour Scheme* (GNS) is for all residents in our community to access help should it be needed, especially during difficult and challenging times and circumstances.



Manned by friendly local volunteers who can be contacted Monday to Friday, they will try to help you with any issues via a network of residents who have offered their assistance with all manner of things: from collecting prescriptions, a friendly chat, changing a light bulb or perhaps walking a dog whilst convalescing; we're here to help.....

**Call 01886 840 480 or email: [suckleygns@gmail.com](mailto:suckleygns@gmail.com)**

And especially during the times we are now faced with, we all need to be 'good neighbours' so please be aware of those around you and how we may be able to help them.

Do not go hungry:-Malvern Hills' Food Bank and the School Meal Schemes are well supported at this current time and are available to all who are in need .

## Suckley Community Car Scheme

This voluntary service covers all residents of Suckley who need transport to local medical appointments, or to take or collect prescriptions to or from Knightwick Surgery. Drivers are:

Caroline Mitchell: 884070; Rosemary Harward: 832289; Jill Hammonds: 884221

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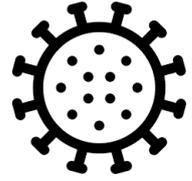
Our drivers reserve the right to refuse any request that they think to be inappropriate.



## COVID CORNER December 2020: Good news at last, but not in time for Christmas

At last there is good news to report, and some light at the end of the tunnel. The press release from Pfizer that their mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is 90% effective is *really* good news. It appears to be effective across a wide spectrum of people. What we do not know yet is how long the benefit will last. There is a chance that some people in the UK (starting with front line health care workers and the most vulnerable) may receive this vaccine before the end of the year, but for the most of us this may not take place until the spring, and the UK has not purchased enough doses for everyone. However, this is not the only mRNA vaccine being developed, and other conventional vaccines are also coming along rapidly. At the time of writing we are in second lockdown for 4 weeks, but we do not know what the rules are going to be after that in the run-up to Christmas. Although the science behind those political decisions is clear, the decisions themselves do not necessarily follow the science. An example of this was “Eat out to help out” which helped the economy while contributing to between 8 and 17% of new COVID-19 cases, which was predictable. I am still amazed to see photos of waiters wearing just face-shields which direct exhaled particles down onto the food or drink they are carrying. Looking at the excellent COVID-19 Zoe app (which I recommend all of you to download and use to report daily along with 4.3 million others in the UK) we can see a downturn in numbers of new cases which is most encouraging, and may be an early indication that regulations will be

significantly eased post lockdown. Whatever the political decisions are going to be for this Christmas, it is helpful just to think through what you are going to be doing based on the science as well as the advice from Government.



At Christmas families across generations meet together indoors for prolonged periods of time and this is the perfect opportunity for the virus to transmit. Younger family members may well be carrying the virus but be totally asymptomatic. The oldest family members are those who are most vulnerable to this virus, and if they catch it they may need hospitalisation, ventilation, or may die. This virus is SO easy to catch that it is almost certain that it would be caught in such situations if a family member were carrying the virus. We do not have tests readily available to check whether someone we are going to meet has the virus, and we cannot rely on lack of symptoms to be sure that it is safe to mix with grandparents.

There will be other Christmases to enjoy being together, but if Grandad or Grandma catch this virus this may be their last Christmas. Anne and I have decided to meet our family “virtually” over Christmas and not to meet together in person. There will be other opportunities later on when both the vaccine and better therapies will enable us to do so safely. We will then celebrate with that bottle of bubbly. It will have been worth the wait, and hopefully that wait will not be too long.

**Richard Lewis**



## Suckley BFG Call for Help

The Suckley Beer Food & Gift (BFG) Festival, usually held annually in September in and around the Suckley Church grounds, has been raising money to purchase some good quality gazebo/marquees to house the event’s revellers and bands in inclement weather. We have so far managed to raise about 52% of our target using **SPACEHIVE Crowdfunding**, but we won’t receive any of the pledges if we don’t reach our target of £961. If any locals would be kind enough to help us with this quest, we’d really appreciate it. To donate, please just type <https://www.spacehive.com/suckleybfg> into your *Google* search engines and then you will be able to pledge an amount to help the cause too. Thank you so much to all those lovely people who have pledged a sum so far – it means a lot to us and fingers crossed we get more people pitching in. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Armstrong (Suckley BFG Chair) on 07900 421388 for further information.



## News from Suckley Parish Council Zoom Meeting: 9 November 2020

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR:** Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting. The Fire Service was preparing to operate in the second phase of Covid which would cover three areas – delivery of PPE, acting as a standby to drive ambulances and dealing with the aftermath of a higher number of deaths if other services became overwhelmed. He acknowledged the problems with the high number of blocked drains in Suckley Parish, which was also a problem in other rural areas.

A high level meeting to address this problem was planned.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:** Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting. The District Council was now back into a Covid lockdown situation. As in the previous lockdown, community support was the key, and the Council was trying to build a community strategy. *Track & Trace* had now moved back down to a local level. The District Council was supporting school meals funding and local Food Banks. Despite the problems, the *Splash* was still being re-vamped. She was pleased to report that a resident survey revealed that the majority of residents felt that the Council was good value for money

**COMMUNITY: Remembrance Service** - Cllr P Whatley reported that a very much scaled down Remembrance Service to comply with

Covid regulations would be held at the Old Quarry Memorial site on 11 November.

**Parish Information Pack:** Cllr A Lewis reported that through the *Crowdfunding* project £423.91p had been raised. 500 folders had now been printed, and she was collating the information to go into the folders.

**PLAYING FIELD:** Cllr C Luton reported that a security gate had now been fitted across the Pavilion door. There had been an increase in the use of the Playing Field by football teams, with two teams per night on Mon/Tues/Wed and one team on a Thursday. Unfortunately people had removed posts to get onto the Playing Field, and she was considering erecting a post and rail fence to stop this happening.

**SUCKLEY CHURCH:** Cllr A Lewis reported that it was still planned to hold the *Tree of Light Festival* as usual, but with social distancing. The new space in the Church was also helping the school to set up Covid “Bubbles.”

**DIANA TAYLOR, Clerk to Suckley Parish Council**  
Tel: 01684 569430; mail: [dtaylorsuckleyclerk@gmail.com](mailto:dtaylorsuckleyclerk@gmail.com)  
*The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 11 January 2021 at 7.15pm. It will most likely be a virtual Zoom Meeting. There is always time at the beginning of the meeting for parishioners to make a short address to the Councillors for discussion in the meeting. For the Zoom link please contact the Clerk.*



## Christmas Customs

Christmas has its own customs, perhaps the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year which is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season and many people, traditionally, fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service. The English are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents. In Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. However, the English are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve. Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve before bringing it into the house.



## Virtual Carol Service

If you usually enjoy singing at a Carol Service <http://www.whychristmas.com> may be of interest this year. It is one of the largest Christmas information websites on the web and was launched 20 years ago by James Cooper – a self-confessed ‘Christmas Nut’, and Christian. The website was originally designed for schoolchildren as some of his friends who were teachers wanted a site that was child friendly and

wasn't trying to sell something. However, there is now a wide variety of fun and interesting content suitable for both adults and children. Sections include Christmas Traditions and Customs, Christmas around the World, The Christmas Story and Christmas Fun and Activities. This last section includes an online Advent calendar and an online Carol Service where you can listen to the carols and/or join in!

*Sally Churchus, Association of Church Editors*

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# Alfrick with Lulsley

St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick

**Please remember that unless you hear otherwise,  
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between 10.00am and 4.00pm**



## Church Cleaning Rota

December	2	Mrs Morpuss & Mrs Sirrell	January	6	Mrs Jeffery
	9	Mrs Fowler & Mrs Agnew		13	Mrs Cooke
	16	Mrs Hood & Mrs Skyrme		20	Mrs Crisp & Mrs Crockford
	23	Mrs Davies & Mrs Fishwick		27	Mrs Morpuss & Mrs Sirrell
	30	Mrs Mansell & Mrs Collins			

## Link to Hope Shoe Box Scheme 2020

A **big thank you** to all involved with the shoe box appeal for the elderly and families.

I know many sent a donation to the charity as they were not going out shopping which is great. The boxes were blessed and Rev Anne started them on their journey to Romania, Moldova, Ukraine or Bulgaria.

Thank you **Helen**



## Community Choir

We continue to meet online, each Tuesday evening, with a varied mix of easy music to sing along to, and with a chat afterwards. There's no need to be able to read music. Recently we had a session remembering some of those - Michael Hood, Arthur Bancroft and Ann Porter - who are no longer with us, by singing along to (and extending) a video of one of our own concerts. We also devoted a session to singing some UK Government COVID-19 guidance set to Anglican chant!



Expect some Christmas-type music in December, and also a chance to take part in various bits of online community entertainment that we're planning for the Christmas period. If we get the chance, and it's medically safe and legal, some of us will also meet to do some real carol singing! Find out more at: [www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com](http://www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com) Please get in touch if you'd like to see a rehearsal video or to join the mailing list for our weekly online sessions. Best wishes

**Keith Bramich** (07771 600 776)



## Citizens Advice

Although we are currently unable to offer our usual Friday drop-in clinic at Knightwick your local Community Liaison Volunteer Elaine Kite is still available and happy to take queries via email ([elainekite@btinternet.com](mailto:elainekite@btinternet.com)) or phone (01886 884435). Please get in touch if you have an issue that you would like to discuss. Sometimes just a chat helps to clarify things, at other times referral to a CA advisor with specialist knowledge is necessary.



**Alfrick & Lulsley Community Car Scheme:** This voluntary service covers all residents of Alfrick & Lulsley who need transport to local medical appointments, or to take or collect prescriptions to or from Knightwick Surgery.

Drivers are: Pam Lowe: 833362; Ro Morpuss: 832622; Hilary Simmons: 832611  
Please start telephoning from the left and give as much time as possible.  
Our drivers reserve the right to refuse any request that they consider inappropriate.





For more information on booking the Village Hall please visit our website at: www.alfrickandlulsley.org/hall-make-booking/ Please send your queries by email to info@timesaversconcierge.co.uk Or phone: Adrian Biggs on 01905 312456

Village Hall activities have had to cease to comply with the government's Covid 19 guidelines. We will reopen when we are given the go ahead hopefully after 2 December. The only activities that were being undertaken prior to the latest lockdown were table tennis, Pilates and Age Concern's foot clinic.

Table Tennis in the Hall:

The club has added some Wednesday evenings to the regular Mondays and Thursdays (depending on other bookings). Due to indoor team sport being limited to six by the Government guidelines, Mondays are for doubles, Wednesdays and Thursdays for singles, all starting at 6.00pm, £1.50 each per session and please bring suitable foot-wear.



The group is very enthusiastic about playing and we take the Covid precautions very seriously, e.g., only people who live together can play doubles, otherwise we only can play singles, because we endeavour to maintain social distancing. We each have our own bat and ball and sanitise the areas that are frequently touched. The doors and windows are opened during play to increase air flow. We are keen to encourage new players and would love the younger people in the village to take up the sport, perhaps at another day/time and form their own members (for minors their parents would need to be present at all times).

Sue Adams operates the booking system, so please book via her mobile 07957 616520.

Worcestershire Oval Race Club (WORC):



The club will be back in operation as soon as possible during these difficult times.

\*\*\*\*\*



Come and Sing! Christmas and New Year good wishes to all Tuesday afternoon Come and Sing singers! Here's hoping we will safely be back together again in 2021 for more merry tunes, friendship and much-missed laughter!

Janet Ashton

\*\*\*\*\*



Alfrick Players: After a year with no performances on the Alfrick stage, here's hoping that 2021 will prove to be a much happier time for all local theatre, including ours! Our plan for the year ahead is an aim to stage two productions:

In February: 84 Charing Cross Road based on the book by Helene Hanff about a 20 year correspondence between an American writer and a London bookshop. A moving period piece of the 1950's.

In May: The Noble Spaniard by W. Somerset Maugham, a comedy about a family's relationships and misunderstandings while on vacation in France.

All dependent on any rules that might be around at the time, of course, but let's hope for the best and keep fingers crossed!

The Bosbury Films: Regrettably, the second lockdown put paid to showing the films of past productions at the end of November. If circumstances make it possible, there might be a chance to put these on sometime in the New Year.

Alan Soper

\*\*\*\*\*

Alfrick Thursday Club

Alfrick Thursday Club wishes all its members a very Happy and Safe Christmas. We have not been able to meet for most of this past year, but look forward to getting together again as soon as possible. Let us hope that the New Year will bring us new opportunities and new hope and we will be able to share simple pleasures; a cup of tea, cake and a chat. Keep warm, keep safe and keep in touch with each other.



# Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop

What a different build-up to Christmas it is this year, but we in the shop are keeping the Christmas spirit alive with lovely decorations bringing some sparkle and light amidst the gloom! Jean has found some very appealing food gifts this year as well as smellies to suit everyone's taste. Our kitchen volunteers are cooking up some great ideas for festive treats from the kitchen and I'm expecting the smell of mince pies to soon be wafting through the shop. The coffee machine will be gurgling away as often as possible for those who like a real coffee to takeaway, but the kettle can easily be switched on for those who prefer instant! The Post Office will be extending its opening hours to Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 12 noon during the three December weekends to help you with your Christmas posting and banking needs.

At the close of this exceptionally difficult year we'd all like to thank our lovely customers who queue patiently in all weathers and show their appreciation for our shop which tries its best to serve the needs of everyone. It's been particularly heart-warming to welcome new villagers, some of whom have already become volunteers!

We believe our shop operates extremely safely in this current climate but, if you cannot come in person, we can still take orders over the phone. (01886 832862)

It would be great to see as many people as is safely and legally possible for some traditional Carol singing outside the shop on **Monday, 14 December at 6.30pm**. We've overcome many obstacles this year so far, so I'm sure we'll find a way to get the community together for a bit of Christmas cheer if at all possible. As



always, please keep an eye on our *Facebook* page, *Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop*, for updates. (The collection will be for *Maggs Day Centre* supporting rough sleepers, as usual).



Up for a fresh coffee, sandwich and cake for a walk with the dog!

Yet again, we'd like to thank you for your kind response to the *Food Bank* collection....it will be especially important to keep those donations coming over the Christmas season, I'm sure.

This community shop and Post Office wouldn't exist if it were not for the fantastic joint effort of our amazing volunteers and Jean, our manager who all bring their own unique skills and talents (but mostly their willingness to learn and "muck in" as necessary) to make it work. This year has sadly seen the loss of our café manager and many other changes which have meant an enormous amount of extra work for many, but it has been done willingly to "keep the show on the road". We're very grateful for the services of some great, young, temporary volunteers, the lockdown residents living with their parents again, but also to Hannah, our regular young volunteer who cheerfully worked many shifts and still managed to gain fantastic GCSE results despite all the challenges! Our shop is the community's meeting place and without it, we'd all be much poorer. Thank you .....you've helped many of us to keep positive and connected through these difficult times. We look forward to welcoming customers, wrapped up warm, throughout the coming winter months, when it will be even more important to keep in touch and seek out a bit of company. Wishing you a Happy Christmas, however you spend it, and of course, the biggest wishes for a much more hopeful 2021.

**Vicky Gatley**, shop volunteer

## Recent Activities on Alfrick Parish Council Land



You may have noticed activity around the perimeter of the playing field at Alfrick. Following on from contractors clearing ditches and cutting hedges, about twelve

volunteers spent an afternoon planting a hedge around two sides of the field. Because this is a community project, the plants were supplied free of charge by *The Woodland Trust* and include around a dozen different native species such as hazel, blackthorn, silver birch, crab apple and willow. It is widely recognised that hedges support up to 80% of our woodland birds, 50% of our mammals and 30% of our butterflies. They enable wildlife to move through the countryside, protect soils from wind erosion and provide shelter for people and livestock, habitats for pollinators and assist drainage. The planting is not complete, but the lockdown has put a stop to the work. We hope to be able to complete planting by the end of the year.

The parish council recently contracted an arboriculturist to carry out an inspection of the

trees for which it is responsible, namely those around the playing field and those in the spinney. We've received a report which indicates that most of the trees are in good health and little needs to be done now.

Because we have been concentrating on the playing field there has been only one working party in the spinney during which we made a start on laying a path using wood mulch kindly provided by Nick Denley. The broken fencing between spinney and meadow has been replaced and a gate included to get equipment into the spinney should the need arise.

We are also mindful that the Pound at Alfrick Pound needs a lot more attention; that work came to an abrupt end because of the rain last winter followed by the March lockdown. We don't usually work during the summer months because of the possible impact on wildlife. Covid-19 permitting, there will be further working parties through the winter. Because of the fast-moving Covid-19 situation they will probably have to be arranged at short notice so please contact Derek or Carol on 01886 884372 if you'd like to join us. Many thanks to all who have become involved

**Derek Bradley**, Alfrick and Lulsley Tree Warden



## Swallow Report 2020

This proved to be another bad year with the lowest number of adults and chicks recorded since the study started in 1998! At all the sites in Alfrick and the edge of Leigh only 25 adults were monitored and just 79 chicks ringed. Overall there were 110 chicks as some were unable to be handled. The percentage of returning birds oddly went up slightly from 37 to 40% with 14 arriving back, but the breeding success was also down. The total number of pairs nesting was down to 18 and this is the third year that this has happened.

The majority of ringed returning swallows were first handled last year (7) with the oldest from 2014 making this bird a seven year old! Just one in 2015, none from 2016, two from 2017 and three from 2018, but one was a chick ringed 1.6 km from the centre of Alfrick which then nested in Sandlin. This was a female and unusual as most ringed chicks are rarely caught again with

many failing to make the long migration. The swallow needs to attempt at least two broods through the summer and very



occasionally three to produce enough replacements for the huge loss the chicks suffer, on a par with other birds such as blue tit and mallards.

There are 14 sites that are visited, but at 5 of them no birds nested even though swallows were seen visiting and even starting nests. At another place the nest remained hidden among the buildings. At the main site in Sandlin the reduction showed up there too with only 5 pairs whereas in 2017 there were 8 pairs in the many stables. It was here that two pairs came back to repeat last year's pairing and oddly each pair had consecutive ring numbers showing each pair was caught at the same time.

**Garth Lowe**



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Cut a small hole in the top of the orange and push a white candle in.

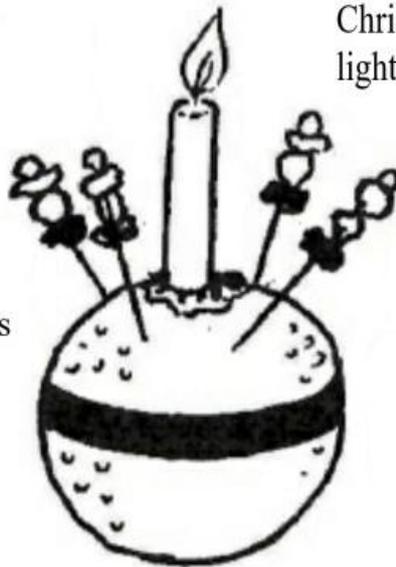
Take four cocktail sticks and push some dried fruits or sweets onto them.

Push these cocktail sticks into the orange around the candle

The sweets  
represent the  
fruits of  
the seasons

The candle represents  
Christ, the  
light of the world

The red ribbon  
represents Christ's  
blood shed on the  
cross to save us  
from our sins



The four cocktail sticks  
Represent the four seasons

The orange  
represents  
the world

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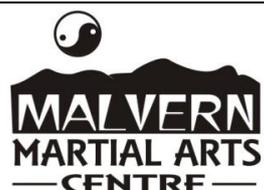


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# VILLAGE INFORMATION

STD 01886

## ALFRICK-w-LULSLEY

Website at - <http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org/parishcouncil>

VILLAGE HALL Booking on line at [www.alfrickandlulsley.org](http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org) or for information and advice email [info@timesaversconciierge.co.uk](mailto:info@timesaversconciierge.co.uk) or phone Adrian Biggs at 01905 312456

PARISH COUNCIL - 4th Thursday 7.30 pm.	Clerk Mr.Geoffrey Brewin	821386
RVS THURSDAY CLUB - Alt Thursdays 2.00 pm	Contact Mrs.Newitt	884784
RVS Representative	Mrs J.Cooper	832444
AGE UK	Contact Brenda Collins	833358
ALFRICK PLAYERS	Contact Alan Soper	832354
PILATES GROUP - Village Hall Tues 5&6 pm email sallyp88@btinternet	Sally Porter	821654
W.I. - 2nd Wed at 7.30 pm.	President Carol Boughton	884210
ALFRICK & LULSLEY SHOW - 3rd Monday 8.00 pm	Contacts Linda Fishwick and Anne Potter	832617 832355
TENNIS CLUB - Membership.	Dympna Jardine, 4 Crews Hill Court, Alfrick	830085
GARDENERS' CLUB - 3rd Thursday.	Mrs.Marion Kent	832537
TABLE TENNIS – Mondays 6.00 to 9.30 pm	Contact Richard Steele 821777 Sue Adams	830190
COMMUNITY CHOIR Contact Keith Bramwich	<a href="http://www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com">www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com</a>	07771600776

## LEIGH & BRANSFORD

Website at <http://www.leighandbransford.org.uk>

MEMORIAL HALL - Booking & Keys:	<a href="http://www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk">www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk</a>	
HALL COMMITTEE - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 3rd Tuesday in January then every other month.		
AGM 3rd Tuesday in May. Chair: Jon Gamble - j_e_gamble@hotmail.com		
PARISH COUNCIL - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 4th Tues in Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov		
Clerk to Council Mrs.Jackie Barker 114 Fruitlands, Malvern WR14 4XB	01684 567674	
Footpath Warden	Gary Mellor	288370
PRESCHOOL Sherridge Road Leigh Sinton Open 8.30 to 3 pm	Katie Wiggins	07854 477445
W.I. - Memorial Hall 1st Tuesdays - 7.30 pm	President Mrs Angela Dancer	833737
BOWLS (Indoor) Memorial Hall - Mondays 7.30pm-9.30 pm	Mrs.C.Hall	832650
Knit & Natter - Royal Oak 2-4 pm last Thursday of the month		
MALVERN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE L/S	<a href="http://www.malvernmarialarts.co.uk">www.malvernmarialarts.co.uk</a>	833033
TAE KWON DO Weds 6.30 -7.30 pm.	Julian Burton	07770 822033 833033
BOXFIT/CIRCUITS/WING CHUN/TAI CHI/QIGONG Kev	07725 161178	830175
PILATES - Tuesdays 9 - 10am	Di Fox	07775 795670
BranchesDayOpportunities 10am–3pm Mon-Fri	<a href="mailto:jesshibbert@hotmail.com">jesshibbert@hotmail.com</a>	07572 398095 833382
SCOUT HUT 1st LEIGH SCOUTS		
Explorer Scouts Thurs 7.00-9.00 pm (14-18)	Stuart Diplock	880078
Scouts Fri 7.00-9.00 pm (10-14)	Matthew Cooper	884277
Cubs Tues 6.45-8.15 pm (8-10)	June Etheridge	01905 425793
Beavers Wed 5.30 - 6.45 pm (6-8)	Joanne King	833925
1st LEIGH GUIDES Mondays 7.30-9.00 pm	Mrs.Valda Cane	833115
BROWNIES - 1st Leigh - Wednesdays 6.00 - 7.15 pm	Mrs Kaye James	832304
RAINBOWS - Thursdays 6.00 - 7.00 pm	Ann Osborne	833480
AGE UK	Contact Margaret Hamilton	833412
WREKIN SPIRITUAL CAFE 1st Wed 11am - 1pm	Contact Clair McDonald	884888
LEIGH & BRANSFORD BADGERS FC - Senior Coach Bosko Medakovic	07979 725196	
LEIGH & BRANSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL	Head Mr Stuart Bill	832342

## SUCKLEY

Website at <http://www.suckley.net>

VILLAGE HALL Keys/booking	Steve Boughton	884210
PARISH COUNCIL	Clerk Mrs Diana Taylor	01684 569430
SUCKLEY PLAYING FIELDS All weather pitch for football or tennis.		
Bookings:	Mr C Luton	884558
Two Football Pitches	Mrs C Luton	884558
Skateboard Area	Mr P Beaumont	884550
SUCKLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	Contact Nessa Haworth	884383
LADIES KEEP FIT Tuesdays 11-12 noon	Carol Boughton	884210
BELL RINGING - 1st, 2nd, 4th Weds 7.30-9.00 pm Captain	Mrs Linda Taylor	884280
SUCKLEY SCHOOL Church Lane	Headmistress Mrs Sheila Marshall	884283
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME		840480
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Leigh & District Branch	Contact Shirley Tasker	832669
Last Friday in March, July, September and November at 2.30 pm in the Bear & Ragged Staff		
WEST MERCIA CONSTABULARY	Emergency 999	Other matters 0300 333 3000
PC 3381 Sarah Ransome-Williams	CSO 6494 Tracey Caldwell	CSO 6481 Collin Davies
Local Policing Team Kempsey/Alfrick based at Upton Police Station		

# Suckley Post Office village store & so much more

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Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00

Sat 09:00-13:00

Thu 09:00-18:00 (Nov 12-Dec 17)



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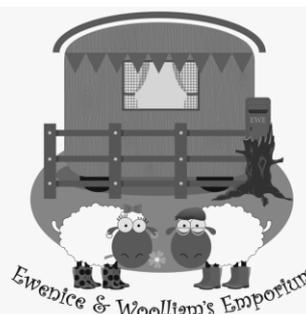
**COVID-Safe** traffic light system for stay-safe shopping

**Post Office** for experienced advice & service

- Late mail collection (16:50) for your parcels and letters

**Village store** for everyday supplies & more

- Local bread, meat, pies, craft beers, cider & gin



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## Café

Unfortunately  
closed for the  
duration  
Looking forward  
to seeing you  
soon



Facebook: Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop

Do phone for home delivery if you are self-isolating



## Shop open:

Mon to Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm

Sat & Sun 9.00am – 12noon

Bank Holidays 9.00am – 1.00pm

Telephone 01886 832862

## Post Office Local

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(Last post 3.30pm)

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Christmas, 10.00am to 12 noon

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# Leigh Sinton Post Office & Stores

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Post Office – **Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm**

Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Contact **DAV** or **TRACEY** on **01886 832201**



**Bromyard**

## New Year's Eve Concert

We are hoping to be able to provide a live broadcast direct from Berlin with the world famous Berlin Philharmoniker Orchestra.

Look out for booking details and all social distancing rules.

Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming you back for a diverse range of entertainment from far and wide. Until then if you want to keep in touch we are sending regular emails to our subscribers.

Want to join? Just go to our website and a joining slip will open for you.