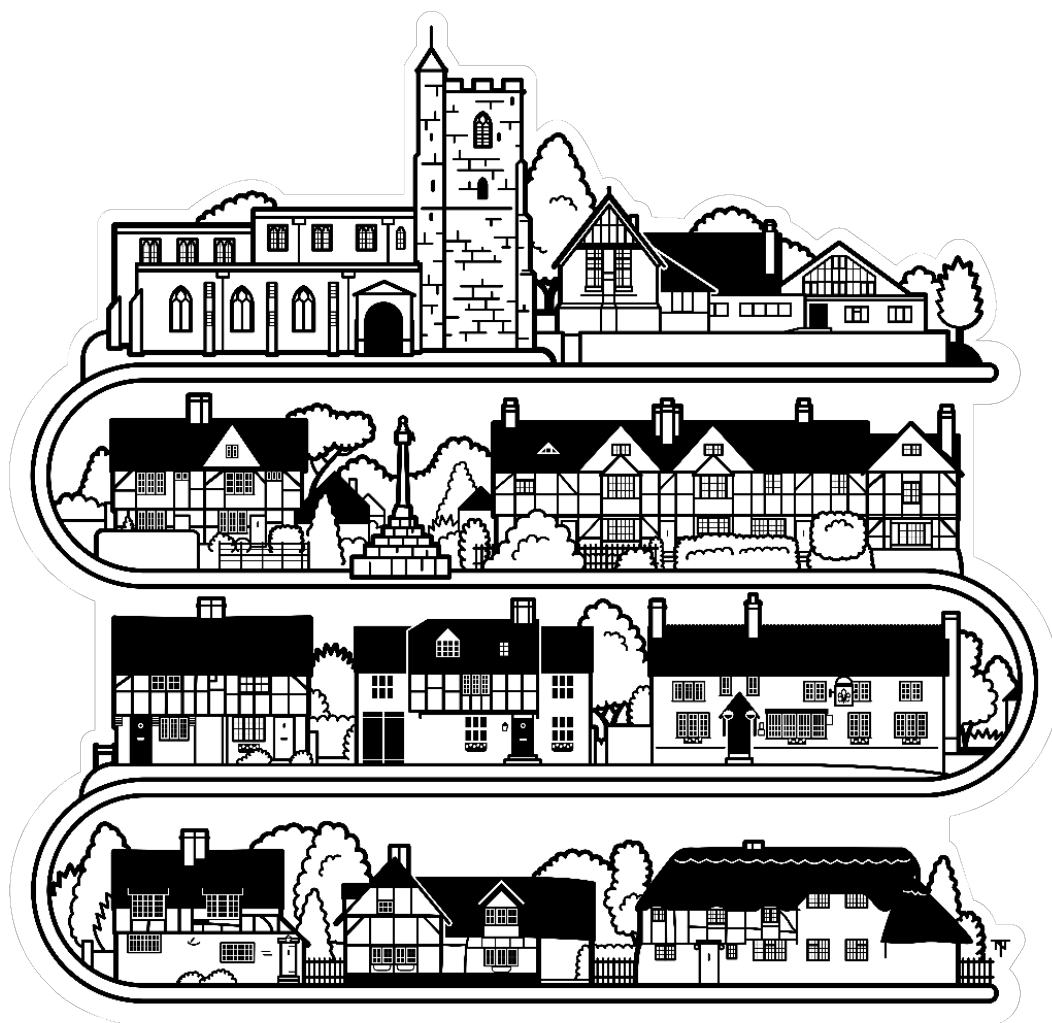


# St Andrew's Hagbourne

# **PARISH MAGAZINE**

**ALTERNATIVE ISSUE – MAY 2020**

**News, Views and Information for everyone in the Hagbournes**



**Thank you very much to the Parish Council for giving the Parish Magazine a temporary home on the Hagbourne website until we are able to safely go back to producing and distributing a printed copy.**

**[www.easthagbourne.net](http://www.easthagbourne.net)    [www.westhagbourne.org](http://www.westhagbourne.org)**

# ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAGBOURNE

The United Benefice of Blewbury, East and West Hagbourne and Upton  
together with Aston Tirrold, Aston Uphorpe, North Moreton and South Moreton.

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## Rector's Reflections



### The Gift of Friendship

Do you enjoy reading? One of the books which I'm reading at the moment is a biography of Aelred of Rievaulx. Who was Aelred of Rievaulx, you may well ask? Aelred was a monk who lived in the north of England in the 12th Century; he's called Aelred of Rievaulx because he spent much of his life at the monastery of Rievaulx in North Yorkshire. The ruins of the abbey church survive to this day, and they make an impressive sight.

Aelred was a deeply spiritual man, who wrote on many topics. We know quite a lot about him from his own writings and from a biography written by Walter Daniel, who was one of Aelred's friends.

One of the books which Aelred wrote was on the topic of Spiritual Friendship. People still read this book today - not bad for a book written over 800 years ago! Why is it still read? I think in part because people are rediscovering the importance of friendship, especially between adults. Modern society can find it difficult to accept that two adults can have a deeply affectionate but entirely non-sexual relationship. Pre-modern society was less constrained in its thinking about the nature of relationships between adults. And Aelred, as a monk, had years of experience reflecting on what it meant for adults to live together in the same community, day in and day out.

I think any time of crisis, in our own lives or in the lives of our communities, reminds us once again of the importance of friendship – friendship given, and friendship received. When everything is going fine, we can often be too busy to nurture our friendships. We know that we really ought to go and meet up with so and so, but somehow it never quite happens, especially if they live in another part of the country. We drop a card at Christmas or send an email, which is of course so much better than doing nothing, but find it so hard simply to spend time with our friends. Life is busy and we can't do everything.

I wonder who we would name as our friends? Not acquaintances, not people we happen to know, but our friends. I wonder how we might nurture these friendships? Is there something we could do today to give or receive the gift of true friendship? Fr Jason

**The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close for the present. You can still contact The Revds Jason, Louise and John by telephone and email, and Dawn, the Benefice Administrator, on the office email address: [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk)**

**The Churn leaflet and Readings along with information about Benefice activities for the current week will be distributed by email. Please contact Dawn at [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk) if you would like to receive them.**

**You can contact the clergy on:**

Jason: 01235 850267 - [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk)

Louise: 07837 009730 - [revlouiseb@aol.com](mailto:revlouiseb@aol.com) John: 01235 512987 - [jphclarke@gmail.com](mailto:jphclarke@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR MAY 2020

The Intentions this month are for all who live in West Hagbourne & Moretons

		<b>Prayer Focus:</b>
1 Friday	<b>Ss, Philip &amp; James Apostles</b>	High Street SM
2 Saturday	S. Athanasius Bishop	Theologians
<b>3+Sunday</b>	<b><u>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u></b>	<i>PCC's, all in leadership &amp; our Benefice administrator.</i>
	10.30am Online Benefice Service	Hithercroft SM
4 Monday		Kirby Close SM
5 Tuesday		Papermill Lane SM
6 Wednesday		Sands Road SM
7 Thursday		Foxglove Lane WH
8 Friday		Grove Terrace WH
9 Saturday		<i>Clergy &amp; all who preach or lead .</i>
<b>10+Sunday</b>	<b><u>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u></b>	Main Street WH
	10.30am Online Benefice Service	Manor Close WH
11 Monday		Moor Lane WH
12 Tuesday		Vocations
13 Wednesday		The Square WH
14 Thursday	<b>S. Matthias Apostle</b>	York Road WH
15 Friday		<i>Treasurers and church finances.</i>
16 Saturday		Alders Farm Barns NM
<b>17+Sunday</b>	<b><u>THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Rogation</u></b>	Bear Lane NM
	10.30am Online Benefice Service	Dunsomer Hill NM
18 Monday		The Ascended Christ
19 Tuesday		Elm Road NM
20 Wednesday		High Street NM
21 Thursday	<b>Ascension Day</b>	<i>Sidesmen, Hospitality, catering and flowers.</i>
	8pm Online Ascension Day Service	Long Wittenham Rd NM
22 Friday		Queens Way NM
23 Saturday		Sires Hill NM
<b>24+Sunday</b>	<b><u>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u></b>	Wallingford Road NM
	10.30am Online Benefice Service	Anchor Lane SM
25 Monday	The Venerable Bede	Church Lane SM
26 Tuesday	S. Augustine Archbishop	<i>All the Churches in our Benefice &amp; our relationship together.</i>
27 Wednesday		
28 Thursday		
29 Friday		
30 Saturday		
<b>31+Sunday</b>	<b><u>PENTECOST</u></b>	
	10.30am Online Benefice Service	

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**Online Sunday Services** Our regular worship in the Churn Benefice continues online on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. Login or connect at 10.15am to chat before the Service and to get ready. You can join using a computer, laptop, tablet, mobile phone or landline. Please see the Churn website: [www.churnchurches.co.uk](http://www.churnchurches.co.uk) for the service access codes and full details of how to join each week.

**Bookings for Weddings and Baptisms** During the current situation provisional bookings for Weddings, Baptisms etc may be made online by contacting the church office via email – [www.churnchurches.co.uk](http://www.churnchurches.co.uk). The Benefice Administrator, Dawn Saunders, is working from home with full access to Benefice emails during her normal office hours.

**Short daily reflection and prayer** During weekdays Fr Jason is writing a short reflection and prayer. If you would like to receive this, please contact the Churn office on 01235 850267 or [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk)

**The CYGnet Youth Group** is now online. This regular Sunday evening group, usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 6.30pm to 8pm. All young people of secondary school age are welcome to come and join. Please contact the Churn office for details.



**Children's Worship** The Revd Louise is organising occasional online children's worship. Please contact her if you would like further information [revlouisb@aol.com](mailto:revlouisb@aol.com)

**Ascension Day – online Benefice Service – Thursday, 21st May 8pm**  
Please see the churn website for details of how to join.

### **Funerals in the Benefice**

23rd March at South Oxfordshire Crematorium - Muriel Stanley, aged 68, Hagbourne  
26th March at West Berkshire Crematorium – Peter Adby, aged 72, Aston Tirrold  
7th April at South Oxfordshire Crematorium – Valerie Burrows, aged 92, Blewbury  
21st April at South Oxfordshire Crematorium – Julia Knox, aged 57, Hagbourne

**VE Day 75 Commemoration** The national celebrations that were to take place from the 8th to 10th of May this year to commemorate VE Day 75 have had to be cancelled because of the terrible coronavirus emergency. When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2020 it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets and pubs to celebrate peace, to mourn their loved ones and to hope for the future, but not forgetting those still in conflict until 15th August when it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War 2. Momentous moments in our history.

**Tower Talk** The villages are very quiet at the moment and it will be lovely to hear the sound of our bells again. I know that the team are missing our weekly get together to practice and to ring for our Sunday Services but hopefully it will not be long before we are all back together perhaps ringing to mark the end of this awful pandemic.  
Birthdays of tower members: "Happy Birthday" to Helen Clayson on 8th May, to Janet Corderoy on 15th May and to Daniel Dawson on 18th May.

**Hagbourne Garden Club** has sadly had to cancel the proposed Plant Sale and Coffee morning planned for May and also our proposed Summer visits. We hope that our members and visitors are all keeping well and look forward to hopefully seeing you all back at the Pavilion in September. Meanwhile, keep safe and well and keep gardening!!

## HAMS Spam

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### “That’s the End of That One, See You All, Take Care”

Ronnie the bus driver speaks for us all.

As the empty bus pulls away, and we reflect upon the end of another HAMS show, we are so thankful for your wonderful support and kind words for “Our Day Out”. The good people of the Hagbournes and beyond came in record numbers to see our largest ever cast perform this great little musical play with a message.

We were so lucky to be able to perform as The Lockdown began only a week later. It would have been such a shame given all the work over the winter put in by the cast and crew, especially the juniors.

The “kids” were all brilliant and overcame last minute hitches and illnesses to perform way beyond any expectations that we might have had when we started the adventure back in July.

The challenge for HAMS now (as ever) is “Follow That!” but at least the Lockdown gives members a chance to take stock. With new members, young and old, and expanding backstage crew, the future looks bright for HAMS, but if you have some thoughts or ideas to give us then please drop us a line.

We’ll be in touch over the summer via this HAMS Spam and elsewhere. Stay well!

**See @HAMSdrama on Facebook or [www.thehams.co.uk](http://www.thehams.co.uk)  
email: [info@thehams.co.uk](mailto:info@thehams.co.uk)**



## HAMS Spam II

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### Muriel Stanley – HAMS Founder Member

It was with great sadness that HAMS members received the news in April that Muriel Stanley had finally lost her brave fight against illness. Muriel, along with husband John, was a founder member of HAMS, and they both brought so much joy and considerable talent to the group. Muriel was in the cast of nearly all HAMS productions from “Under Milk Wood” in 2010 to “Our Town” in 2019 and was part of the unforgettable live sound effects team in our “Vintage Hitchcock” radio play in 2016. Muriel was also secretary on the HAMS committee for the last two years, remaining at her post even through her illness.

Muriel is greatly missed, and our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with her family.

**Jigsaw Puzzles** If you enjoy jigsaw puzzles several museums have put online some puzzles for everyone to enjoy. The Wallingford Museum have online jigsaws of local scenes past and present and The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford have online jigsaws of exhibits in the museum and also a tab to click for puzzles for children to enjoy.

**Village Rambles** The monthly village Rambles are cancelled until further notice. This is on the advice from the Ramblers head office – they state that all led walks, training sessions, footpath clearing etc... will stop for the present time. Village Rambles will start again as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Congratulations** to Mary Napper who has just achieved 25 years of service at Didcot Library – you have now got time to read all those books Mary now that the library is shut down for the time being!

**Many Thanks** to all those in East and West Hagbourne who are volunteering in various ways to help out those in social isolation and also many thanks to Steve and all the helpers at the Community Shop who have been working tirelessly to help out and deliver items.

**Garden Visits Online** The National Garden Scheme have produced some lovely online tours around various gardens that would have been open for visits this year but for the virus keeping us all at home. Visit [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) and there is a wide choice of gardens to view plus some websites of small nurseries that the NGS is supporting, where you can order plants and bulbs to be delivered.

**Oxfordshire Artweeks** which usually takes place in May each year is now taking place virtually from **2nd to 25th May**. You can visit online artists galleries on the website where there will be thousands of pictures of the pieces created by Oxfordshire painters, potters, silversmiths, textile and glass artists, furniture-makers and more. Visitors to the website will be able to enjoy video footage of artists at work and to explore “walk-through” exhibitions. Join us for a social media celebration, using the [www.oxfordshireartweeks.org](http://www.oxfordshireartweeks.org) to brighten up long days in self-isolation and social distancing.

**Hagbourne Summer Fete** which was planned for 20th June will not be taking place this summer along with so many of our annual events having to be cancelled.

### **LOCAL BUS SERVICES**

**The 94/94S Bus** Our weekday bus service between Didcot, East and West Hagbourne, Upton and Blewbury is continuing running to the school holiday timetable – please see the timetable on the East Hagbourne website. Many thanks to our bus drivers for keeping the service going.

**The DVTG Community Bus Service to Wallingford** Our weekly minibus service to Wallingford on a Friday morning has had to be cancelled. There is no social distancing on a minibus! We look forward to restoring the service when it is again possible and safe to do so as we know it is much appreciated. Good wishes to all our customers and our bus drivers at this difficult time.



# East Hagbourne Community Shop

find us on the East Hagbourne website:  
[www.easthagbourne.net](http://www.easthagbourne.net)  
and follow us on Facebook

## ***Shop locally and safely!***

***Thanks to Steve and our great team of volunteers both the Shop and the Post Office have served the local villages well in a difficult time. We've been delighted to welcome more customers than usual. Customers have followed our "one customer in the Shop at a time" request and those queueing outside have followed the social distancing advice. To avoid handling cash the majority of customers are choosing to pay by card.***

Many new customers have been surprised at our wide range of products. As well as our frozen gourmet pies (vegan, vegetarian and meat), pizzas and some other ready meals in our tall freezer we have also had frozen chicken drumsticks and pork chops. Most of the time we have stocks of flour and eggs. Our stock is constantly changing so every time you support our Shop please have a good look round to see what is new.

The response to our plea for new younger volunteers was amazing so it has been no problem to staff the Shop during the reduced opening hours adopted since the lockdown.

Both the Shop and the PO will close at 4.00 p.m. on Monday and Thursday and at 1.00 p.m. on Tues, Weds and Fri. On Saturday the opening times are unchanged (9.00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.).

Our Marcopolo bread and bakery delivery has been ***overwhelmingly*** successful. There have been so many orders that each Saturday since the lockdown Kay Hardie and Mark Granger have set up tables ***in front*** of the Shop to display the bread and bakery for general sale. Customers have collected their orders from this outside stall. Again most have paid by card.

Because of the volume of orders the deadline for them has been brought forward to 4 p.m. on Wednesday. This gives Kay longer to process the orders and it also gives Marcopolo longer to prepare our Saturday bread and bakery. Kay will be pleased to receive orders either via the hard copy list in the Shop (the Shop closes at 1 pm Wednesday) or by email to:

**[easthagbourneshop@btopenworld.com](mailto:easthagbourneshop@btopenworld.com)**

***We are offering a delivery service for essential supplies. Phone Steve between 9:00 and 12:00, Monday–Friday, on the Post Office number 01235 811815 and give him your order. The order will then be delivered in the afternoon and your cash payment collected.***

## HAGBOURNE FUN RUN & WALK 2020 – CANCELLED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

After careful consideration, the Fun Run Committee has taken the sad decision to cancel the event scheduled for 8th May 2020. We are fortunate in having both a GP and an Emergency Controller on our team, so we are confident that cancellation is the right thing in the present circumstances, to protect both participants and the valiant band of volunteers.

Many thanks to those who had already volunteered to help with the organising and the catering. And to those of you who have begun training, keep it up! – being fit makes you less vulnerable.

We know that this is a much-loved community event, so we may think about arranging something later in the year, but for now we can only hope that you all stay well. If things do not go well for you or someone you know in the Hagbournes, remember that the Fun Run provides money for .....

### **THE E & W HAGBOURNE VILLAGE FUND - "to assist villagers quickly in times of need"**

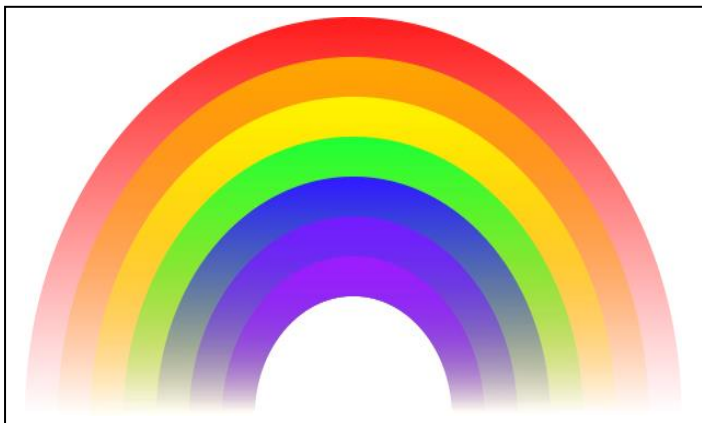
If you read your Parish Magazine from cover to cover [and of course you all do!] you may have seen previous information about this fund – a modest pot of money which was set up "to provide a contingency fund of money for the villagers of East and West Hagbourne ..... to assist villagers quickly in times of need." The current situation with the COVID19 virus would seem to be just such a time when people may find themselves in difficulty.

Applications have to be made (briefly) in writing: they are considered on their merits by the Village Fund Committee (basically the Fun Run Committee members) who decide whether funds should be awarded and how much. Decisions can be made very quickly. **Please be assured that all personal applications are treated in complete confidence.** The current VF chairman is Trevor Chambers: you can contact him on 01235 814892 if you know of anyone resident in the two villages who is in need.

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**The East Hagbourne Scarecrow Trail** will sadly have to be cancelled this Spring. It might be possible later in the year but if the present situation of "staying at home" does not change then the trail will not be able to take place. Some people have some good ideas so keep hold of those thoughts and we will all look forward to the day when we can all safely share the Scarecrow Trail again.

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### **Hope, Peace**

A warm blow,  
In the sky I see a rainbow.  
Hope, peace,  
Giving a good release.  
We laugh, we cry,  
We see our rainbow in the sky.  
We are rich, not poor.  
A warm blow,  
In the sky I see our rainbow.

*Poem by Hagbourne's Roger the Poet.*



## Comments from the Parish Council Chairman

It is amazing how everything has changed since my previous comments in the Parish Magazine. The resilience of the village is being well tested and hopefully it is meeting the challenges of lockdown and the threat of COVID-19.

Our Parish Council meetings will take place as scheduled but will be online, using the Zoom platform, following changes in the law to permit this. As always, members of the public are welcome to join the meeting and can get the details of how to do so from the Parish Clerk. As the Annual Parish Meeting really should be face-to-face and we are permitted to hold it later in the year, we will announce a date when it is clear when this could be done safely.

**Community Support Group** The 40+ volunteers coordinated by our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, Charles Sweeney, have been doing a sterling job offering assistance of various kinds to the vulnerable and others needing assistance in the village. The main need is for shopping and getting prescriptions. In case you no longer have the flyer that was posted to everyone in the village, if you wish any help you can contact the support group by email to **easthagbourne-covid19@gmail.com** or by calling the dedicated phone number **07568 395228**. For people who have emergency needs for financial support, Hagbourne Parish Charities can help. You can contact them through the support group or directly by emailing **hagbourne.charities@gmail.com** or calling **07572 401769**. Another source of financial support is the The East and West Hagbourne Village Fund (<https://easthagbourne.net/directory/village-fund>) who have money to assist villagers quickly in times of need and can be contacted through Trevor Chambers on **01235 814892**.

**Other village support during the Coronavirus crisis** In addition to the Community Support Group, the Post Office and Village community shop are doing an incredible job in keeping well-stocked and providing a safe environment for supplying many shopping needs. One of the big success stories has been the bread deliveries on Saturday mornings where the number of orders is now over 50 and the team of Kay Hardie, Mark Grainger, Chris Beverley and Robert Ainger have an early start to bag and organize the bread distribution outside the shop for collection during Saturday morning. And we should also commend our postmaster, Steve Smith, who has much added work after the closure of the main post office in Didcot.

Another well used initiative has been the take-away service from the Fleur de Lys pub where food is available on several days and drinks including fresh beer in plastic containers is available most days. To get a weekly update on menus and opening hours, you can email Darren on **takeaway.fleurdelys@gmail.com**.

**SODC Plan** No news here although we are assuming that the plan is still under scrutiny by the inspector, and that we will hear more about this in the autumn irrespective of the coronavirus situation.

**Mactaggart and Mickel development by the Village Hall** The meeting that a subset of the Parish Council had with the case officer, Penny Silverwood, the Planning consultant and representatives of Mactaggart and Mickel took place as a telecon, but still worked well. The two other parties seemed to appreciate our engagement and were sympathetic to our requests. I should say that the main and maybe only really outstanding issue has to do with drainage where we are anxious that a full investigation is carried out with respect to the overall village drainage infrastructure to avoid any added possibility of flooding even in the more commonly occurring extreme events. Mactaggart and Mickel are now preparing a revised version of their plan (P19/S0357/RM) that we anticipate will be submitted in the next week or so.

***Continued on next page...***

### ***Comments from the Parish Council Chairman continued...***

**Parish meetings** The next two Parish Council meetings will be held on-line starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd April and Thursday 14th May. As my surgeries are 1-1 so can't be held now, I have cancelled them but am very willing to talk on telephone or online with any parishioner. You can get details of how to do this by phoning 07891 551851 or emailing the Parish Clerk (easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com).

Let me remind you that this is not a formal or even approved article from the Parish Council but is rather a few words from me. Thus, anything in this article should not be construed as coming from or endorsed by the Parish Council. Iain Duff

**East Hagbourne Parish Council Newsletter** For the latest Parish Council Newsletter please see the Parish Council tab on this East Hagbourne website.

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**Thank you from the Knitwits** A big thank you to all who are knitting squares for us during this time of "staying at home". We will be sewing the squares together into colourful, warm blankets to send to Knit for Peace when it is safe to do so. Knit for Peace is an initiative of the Charities Advisory Trust, the following explains how they work:

"Here at Knit for Peace we believe that knitting (and crochet) is good for people. As well as being fun and therapeutic, knitting brings people together and gives a way of helping others in need, providing benefits both to the knitter and the recipient. Based on our experience of developing Knit for Peace over the last few years, we have learned that knitting is extremely important as an activity that can be carried out right into extreme old age and helps improve long-term health, both mental and physical.

Our policy is to encourage people to give, whether it is time or money. So, we set about finding outlets. We now distribute regularly to over 200 outlets, including hospitals, women's refuges, refugee drop-in centres, prisons, community groups, and hospices as well as to developing countries and refugee camps, or those living in the rubble in Syria. We send the knitting (and crochet) to where it is needed. We also pass on donations of yarn and needles to enable people on low incomes to knit. The operation has grown organically, and we estimate we have over 22,000 knitters. Send your knitting to us and we will make sure that it goes to a good home."

If you would like to knit some squares please use double knit yarn, size 4mm needles (old size 8) and cast on 32 stitches and knit 56 rows in garter stitch i.e. knit stitch every row – this should give a 6" square – you may need to adjust stitches depending on your tension and wool. THANK YOU.



## Astronomy Notes



### **The Crab nebula in the constellation of Taurus (The Bull)**

The expanding remnant of a Super Nova. A star that exploded in 1054 and was visible in the daylight sky for several weeks. In 1840, when William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, observed this object through a large telescope, he produced a drawing that looked like a crab! This image was taken using various filters etc. from Starfields observatory in East Hagbourne. At least we are getting a few clear nights and I am able to get out in the observatory during these difficult times. Hope you are all enjoying the starry nights.

John Napper – Starfields – 818853      napperjohn@gmail.com  
[www.flickr.com/photos/67647466@N08/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/67647466@N08/)

### **A Birthday on the Covid Frontline – Friday 24th April**

*Nigel Beeton works in Radiology in a hospital in the East of England. During this time of the coronavirus crisis, he is writing a weekly diary of his life at the hospital.*

There was a group of my staff just standing in the waiting area outside one of the CT scanning rooms the other day. I opened my mouth to speak but one of them caught my eye and put his gloved finger in front of his visor in the universally understood bid to be silent, understood despite the fact that his lips were separated from his finger by the visor and a face mask. They don't often shush their boss, so I very obediently closed my mouth again.      ***Continued on next page . . .***

## A Birthday on the Covid Frontline *continued . . .*

The door to the room opened, and an elderly patient appeared, accompanied by another radiographer. "Happy Birthday Mabel!" everyone chorused (I have changed her name to protect her confidentiality.)

Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you!  
Happy Birthday, dear Mabel,  
Happy Birthday to you!

Even I joined in. I'm not sure if my singing voice is up to much, but my sentiments were genuine. I hoped she'd have a good birthday. We all rounded off the melody with a round of applause, latex gloves make a strange popping noise if you clap while wearing them.

Dear Mabel loved it. She was clearly surprised and taken aback by the sight of half a dozen staff in PPE singing 'Happy Birthday' to her, but the experience had transformed an alien world of CT scanners and PPE into a familiar one of birthday wishes and a well-known song. "Oh, thank you everyone, you're all so kind; my family can't be with me today. Usually they come for my birthday."

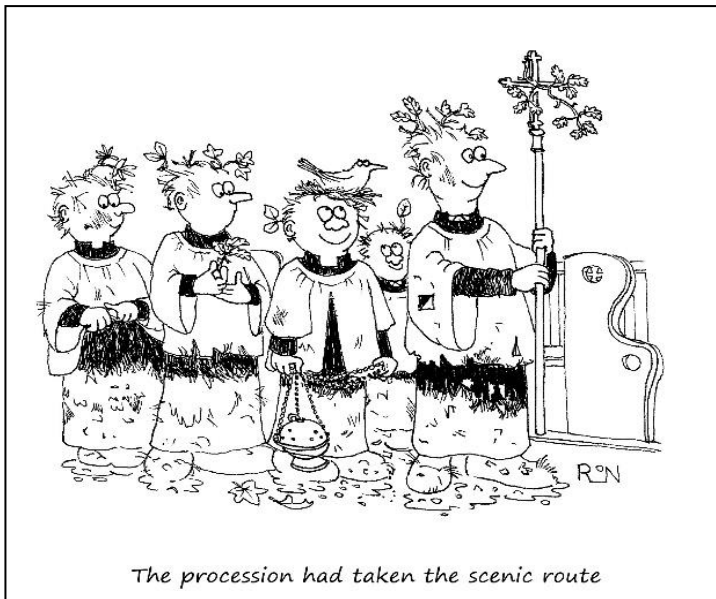
Mabel, in her eighties, was self-isolating due to her age, but still living independently at home. We check dates of birth as part of ensuring that we are doing the right thing for the right patient, and so my colleague had clocked that today was her birthday. Having got to know her well enough during the setting up stage to be happy that she wouldn't mind, he conspired with his colleagues while watching the scanner do its stuff.

The coronavirus may be keeping us separated from one another, but it is spurring us all on to make greater efforts to be connected to one another, to show our humanity towards one another. Someone bought us lunch today. It appeared in pots by our gate, and we sat down and enjoyed a meal of restaurant quality food. Our friends had supported a local restaurant which, in its hour of need has branched out into 'meals on wheels', and shown us such love and concern that a tear was brought to my eye. I hope and pray that the coronavirus will soon fade into history. But I pray equally fervently that its legacy of connected humanity will last for many, many years to come. Nigel Beeton.

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**Online Children's Worship** Coming again soon - The Revd Louise will lead "**Growing with Jesus**" via ZOOM on **Wednesday 6th May at 4pm**, a short service for children with music, story, action and prayer. Children are encouraged to show a growing **PLANT(S)**, a large picture of a **FLOWER**, or for older children, the plan of a **SECRET GARDEN**. Please tell families about this and email/text Revd Louise for inclusion on the link to ZOOM on: [revlouise@aol.com](mailto:revlouise@aol.com)





*The procession had taken the scenic route*

**17th May - Rogation Sunday**  
**Rogation means an asking of God for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead.** It is an important date in the Church calendar for rural communities and appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather. The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarva. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and

epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the 8th Century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point, beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly, parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. There was a tradition in the Hagbournes for a Service to be held on the parish boundaries accompanied by the Blewbury Brass Band and a tasty picnic. Sadly we cannot mark any of these traditions at the moment because of the present pandemic.

## **JUNE 2020 PARISH MAGAZINE**

We hope that as many of our readers as possible will be able to see the Parish Magazine on our temporary home. We apologise to our advertisers that it is not possible to include the advertisements at present but will resume our usual format as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please let us have any copy for the June parish magazine by 20th May to **magtemp5@gmail.com**

Thank you. Keep safe and well. Janet Corderoy, Joy Napper and the parish magazine committee.