



Christchurch

Forest of Dean

St Mary the Virgin

English Bicknor

Church

And

Community

News and Events

February 2020

40p

ERNEST HEAL & SONS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Established 1929



5 South Road, Broadwell, Coleford,
Glos. GL16 7BH
Telephone 01594 832159

Chippenham Funeral Home, Howells Place,
Monmouth NP25 3ED
Telephone 01600 772244



Serving the community for more than 90 years



ChimKnee

Sweeps

- Member of The Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps
- Fully Qualified Chimney Sweep
- Certificates Issued With Every Sweep
- Clean and Dust Free
- Stove Maintenance
- Bird Nest Removal
- Fully Insured

Contact Jordan

☎ 01594 832820

📞 07498 310712

✉ info@chimknee.co.uk

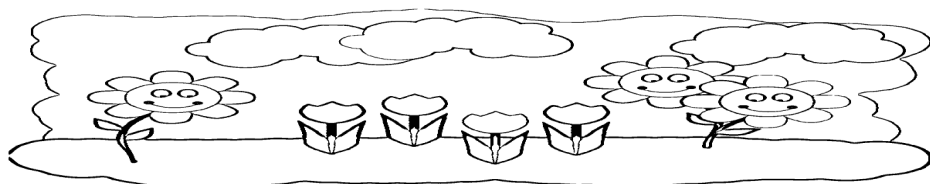
@www.chimknee.co.uk

Diary Dates: February 2020

Date	Event	Further info
Monday 3rd	English Bicknor Parish Council	7pm EBH
Tuesday 4th	Church Discussion Group	Pam and Andy's see p10
Wednesday 5th	Spike and Shoes Bell ringing practice	See p29 St Marys 6.30pm
Thursday 6th	Play Morning Holy Communion English Bicknor WI	Christchurch see p.15 EBH *11am see p11 EBH 7pm see p.28
Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th	HotPottery Even t	See p 15
Saturday 15 th	FoCC Coffee morning Retreat Day	Christchurch 10—12 am Viney Hill 10am-3.30pm See p12
Monday 17th	Random Acts of Kindness Day	See p16
Thursday 20th	Messy Church	Christchurch 10.30 am –12.30 pm See p 12
Sunday 23rd	Carvery Lunch	EBH 12.30pm-2.30 pm See p 34
Thursday 27th	Christian Meditation	Christchurch 2pm See p11
Saturday 29th	Lent Lunch St David's Day Celebration	Christchurch 7pm See p 23

Weekly events are noted on the first occasion of the month.

EBH is English Bicknor Hall



Contents

Page	Page
5 Parish Contacts	17 Climate Change
6 From the Vicarage	19 Bottle to Bricks
8 Church services	21 Benefice Map
9 February Prayers	24 Spotlight on
10 Parish records	26 Farmyard Frolics
10 Church Discussion group	27 E.B. Parish Council
11 Christian Meditation	28 E.B. W.I.
12 Messy Church	31 Quiz

Advertising Rates from February 2020

Size	Black and White	Colour
Whole page	£80	£100
½ page	£45	£60
1/3 rd page	£35	£45
1/6 th page	£18	£25

Please contact Jeff on 01594 860936 for more information about advertising.

We have space for more advertising , both in colour or black and white. If you would like your business to reach more local households please contact Jeff or Judith

Christchurch, FOD and St Mary's English Bicknor

Parish Contacts

Rector: Revd. Capt. Tony Williams, CA

Christchurch Vicarage Ross Road Christchurch Coleford GL16 7NS

01594 836751 revtonyw@hotmail.com

Ministry Team

Joan Atherley, Sue Boulter, Sandie Bradley, Maggie Fisher,
Jacqui Fudge (Reader in training), Helen Rodwell , Carol Turley (Pastoral Team Leader),
Glenda White-Miller (Reader) , Sally Whittington ,Tony Williams,

Christchurch

Church Wardens:	Linda James	01594 822935
	Trevor Harvey	01594 835897
PCC Secretary	Judith Brickwood	01594 781436
Treasurer	Barbara Davies	01594 837270

English Bicknor

Church Wardens ;	Jennie McHattie	01594 834855
	Jan Furnival	01594 541566
PCC secretary	Jan Furnival	01594 541566
Treasurer	John Furnival	01594 541566

Magazine editor	Judith Brickwood	01594 781436
-----------------	------------------	--------------

Magazine Treasurer	Jeff Carrick	01594 860936
--------------------	--------------	--------------

Articles for the magazine should be sent to the Editor at
jbrickwood444@btinternet.com no later than the **12th of the month.**

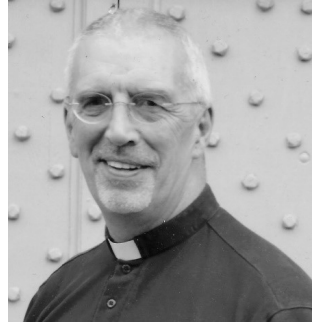
Please include your name and contact details

Money for the magazine is collected by your distributor or direct to Mr J Carrick , 5 Council Villas , English Bicknor GL16 7PA. Cheques should be made payable to Christchurch and English Bicknor Magazine. £4.00 for the year. (10 copies)

Benefice Website www.christchurchfod.org.uk

From the Vicarage:

I still find it hard to imagine that, as we shiver and get 'soggy' here in the Forest, our Australian brothers and sisters have been struggling with the challenge of decimating bush fires, scorching temperatures and strong winds.



The news coverage has been extensive, graphic and heart breaking. However, in 2019 there were a sad number of disasters across the world, many of which had a massive toll on life but seemingly got far less coverage. , A serious drought in Southern Africa, Burundi landslides, South Asia floods and the Whakaari/White Island eruption.

There are continued debates about the effects of Global warming on our climate and our world.

There are advocates for change, there are Climate Change deniers. There are those who work hard to make small changes to their lifestyle in the hope of having an impact, and there are those who refuse to make any changes whatsoever. Those who are obsessed with the future and the world their children will inherit, and those who are convinced that nature will sort it out itself.



The temptation, when we are bombarded with campaigns, pleas and appeals is to become numb to it all and, just like me, simply get on with everyday life and hope for the best.

One of things that has always struck me about the Bible is that it continually speaks of two things. One is God's love for all that he has created. The world, the people in it, the ecosystem, the animals, insects, seas, mountains and valleys are all part of the Bible story and part of the focus of the 'God Story' that it tells.

The second is that he is working 'in partnership' with all humanity to care for the world we live in. He made us, you and I, stewards of this world : people who are given the task of ensuring that all that is on earth is cared for and nurtured.

So, I am asking myself a simple question in February. How am I joining in God's work of helping creation prosper? What am I doing and what can I do to make a difference?

Tony Williams RECTOR

Psalm 104:14-21 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Church Services for February 2020

St Mary's English Bicknor

2nd Feb	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	9.30am	Holy Communion
9th Feb	3rd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Matins
16th Feb	2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion
23rd Feb	Sunday next before Lent	9.30	Matins

On Thursday mornings at 11am there is a short service of Holy Communion followed by coffee in English Bicknor Village Hall.

Christchurch, Forest of Dean

2nd Feb	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	11am	Sunday One
		6pm	Holy Communion
9th Feb	3rd Sunday before Lent	11am	Holy Communion
		6pm	Evensong
16th Feb	2nd Sunday before Lent	11am	Baptism
		6pm	Evensong
23rd Feb	Sunday next before Lent	11am	Holy Communion
		6pm	Songs of Praise

Lent Lunches

Commencing on Saturday 29th February, for six weeks, the annual Lent Lunches will be held at Christchurch. Proceeds to The Orchard Trust.

A homemade soup lunch is served between 12 noon and 1pm with good company in the weeks leading to Easter.

February Prayers

Dearest Lord ,thank you so much for this new day. Thank you for caring about me individually. Help me never to take you for granted but to always be awed by your creation and your work in me. I pray to live this and every day for you. Amen.

Dedication

My God, I am not my own but yours.
Take me for your own
and help me in all things to do your Holy will.
My God, I give myself to you
in joy and in sorrow
In sickness and in health
In success and in failure
In life and in death
In time and for eternity.
Make me and keep me your own
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3: 12-14



This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24.

From the Parish Records

Funeral of Barbara Hawkins
aged 96 at Christchurch FoD on
December 4th 2019
Followed by internment at
Christchurch



Old Friends

Those who love longest love best. A sudden blaze of kindness may by a single blast of coldness be extinguished but that fondness which a length of time has connected with many circumstances and occasions is hourly revived by accidental recollection. To those who have lived long together everything heard and everything seen recalls some pleasure communicated, some benefit conferred, some petty quarrel, or some slight endearment. Esteem of great powers, or amiable qualities newly discovered, may embroider a day or a week, but friendship of many years is interwoven with the texture of life. A friend may be often found and lost but an *old friend* can never be found and nature has provided that he cannot easily be lost. Dr Johnson (1709-84)

Church Discussion Group

The Church Discussion Group will recommence at Pam and Andy's house on Tuesdays at 7pm.

The next meetings will be on **21st January, February 4th, 11th and 18th**

The Group will be continuing with their discussion on prayer.

If you would like further details of these discussions please contact Jacqui on 01594 726144



Communion and Coffee

Thursdays 11am English Bicknor Hall

Each Thursday at 11am there is a short, simple service of Holy Communion in English Bicknor Village Hall (lasting about 30 minutes) followed by coffee and a chat (which can last longer but which I not compulsory!!!)

Parking is easy and on the level; access into the Hall is good and is wheelchair friendly.

Transport can be arranged with notice.

Please just turn up and you will be most welcome. If you would like further information or transport please ring

Helen on 01594 860205

Christian Meditation Group

You may have read about our Benefice retreat in September which was led by Jude Carpenter, a colleague of Tony's.

She gently introduced us to short times of silence which were much appreciated by everyone who came on retreat.

Following on from the retreat , Jude offered to lead a group at Christchurch and a few of us attended sessions last year.

We are now holding a Christian meditation group every 4th Thursday of the month at 2pm in Christchurch.

The space is warm and quiet, we have a time of introduction, a time of silent meditation and a time for refreshments together afterwards.

Our next session will be on Thursday 27th February and anyone who is interested is warmly invited to attend.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Carol Turley on 01594 837207 or cjturley@hotmail.com

Messy Church at Christchurch 2020

Thursday 20th February 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday 9th April 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday 28th May 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday 23rd July 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday 29th October 10:30 – 12:30

Messy Christingle 2020 – date in December tbd



Like us on Facebook to keep updated:

@MessyChurchChristchurchEnglishBicknor

Or contact us by email for more information: messyceb@gmail.com

What is Messy Church?

It's called Messy – but you don't have to get in a mess, and we don't leave the church building in a mess!

What it is:

A two-hour session beginning with refreshments, registration and a game for those who'd like to participate.

When most people have arrived, we introduce the theme for the session - based on a Bible story, church celebration or a value.

Following this there are several practical activities (mainly craft or science based or a game).

Next we have a celebration of what we have been doing in the session, which usually includes a story, a song and a prayer.

And finally we share a 2-course meal.

We would love you to come along and find out for yourself what Messy Church is all about. If you can't stay for the full two hours that doesn't matter. Just come and say hello.

Community Organisation Contact Page

The Gloucestershire Wellbeing Trust

A support service in times of difficulty

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence please contact the Community Wellbeing Service at Forest of Dean District Council on 01594 812447 or 01594 812399.

Gloucestershire Police

Find out about local police activity and link in to the various ways you can find support and information by going online to <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/neighbourhood-policing/>

English Bicknor Chit Chat

The Facebook page contains information about the village and local events. If you are not a Facebook user and would like anything added then please email Daphne@drysladefarm.co.uk

Barnwood Trust

Information and help applying for grants from the trust is available from the Forest of Dean Office on 01594 837191

Or visit www.barnwoodtrust.org

Christchurch and English Bicknor churches website

www.christchurchfod.org.uk

If you run a community organisation and would like the details published in the magazine on this page, please contact Judith on 01594 781436

Play Mornings at Christchurch

Every Thursday morning in term time

In the church at Christchurch

9:30am* - 11:30am

For Under 5s with supervising adult(s)

Soft play equipment

Toys, books & puzzles

Carpeted space with room for little ones to use
their energy

Fairtrade coffee/tea for the adults

Suggested donation £1 per child + contributions
for refreshments

Join us for the morning or call in for coffee and
play

**Doors open earlier so adults dropping older siblings at school can come straight to Play Mornings.*

For more information contact:

Barbara Davies 01594 837270

email: PlayAtCC@gmail.com

Facebook: @PlayMorningsatChristchurch

FEBRUARY @HotPotPottery: Valentine's Special! Sat 8th & Sun 9th Feb: 10am-4pm



Come and get creative and romantic and paint a perfect pottery present for your partner - or yourself (lots of fabulous Valentine pottery pieces to paint!) and enjoy delicious Valentine themed cakes while you paint!

NB: All pieces painted will be fired and ready for collection by Monday 10th Feb in time for Valentine's Day.

Please book in advance if possible.

Price: £6.50 to per person to paint plus the price of the piece chosen from our range of pottery pieces.

Call: 07974 983908/01594 837943 or
email info@hotpotpottery.co.uk for more information or to book.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM @HotPotPottery:

Escape the Weather and Come & Get Creative in the Warm and Dry with a Pottery Painting Session or a Pottery Trial Class @HotPotPottery

Come & discover your creative side (out of the rain) @HotPotPottery this February Half Term. You can book in with us for a 2 hour Pottery Painting Session or a Pottery Trial Class Thurs - Sun 10-12 or 2-4 and larger groups (4 or more) can also pre-order Group Meals with us if they wish.

Cosy wood-burner, coffee machine on the go, children and dogs welcome!

Prices are: £6.50 per person to paint plus the price of the piece chosen from our range or £35 per person for a pottery trial class (including leaving a few favourite pieces here with us to glaze and fire). Delivery is £17 (if required) for box(es) to one UK address.

Pre-booking required: Call: 07974 983908/01594 837943 or
email info@hotpotpottery.co.uk for more information or to book

Kindness

Have you ever committed a random act of kindness? There's a campaign that encourages people to practice "random acts of kindness", like paying for a stranger's coffee at a café without them knowing. The idea is that kindness is only really kindness if it expects no reward – it is something you do to others without any expectation of something in return. Although, of course, it is difficult to give away kindness – it does tend to keep coming back to you.

You could say that the only way you can be sure you are really being kind, that you have no selfish motive, is to make sure that the party you are helping never know it was you who did it.

The Random Act of Kindness Day is February 17th

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Christmas Bazaar in December.

A total of £1,147.92p was raised for the upkeep of St Mary's the Virgin,

A very big thank you to Sue Cole for organising an excellent event.

A huge THANK YOU to the Christchurch Strimmers who continuously work very hard to keep our churchyard tidy. Many visitors have commented how well kept our churchyard is. This is because of a handful of very reliable hard working volunteers. THANK YOU.

If anyone else would like to join this happy band they would always be very welcome. If interested please contact Trevor Harvey 01594 835897

Grudges are like babies – the more you nurse them, the BIGGER they grow.

Climate change and how to help stop it

By Lindy Lathan

Way back in the last century we watched science fiction films of our world in 2020. There were two views:

- 1) We would all live in a clean, green, orderly world of blue skies, fresh clean air and no waste problems with sustainable energy. Maybe a bit over controlled in some versions !

Or

- 2) We would all live in an overpopulated, smog-ridden world with streets full of waste, no green areas or trees in sight, with rehydrated man-made food sachets.

We haven't reached either end of the spectrum yet but we are still damaging our beautiful world, changing our climate and causing multiple problems to our natural environment.

Recently I volunteered to be a Climate Change Ambassador for the WI and also Eco advisor to Christchurch church.

I have received so much information from the Climate Change Coalition (the WI is a founding member) that it has made me realise how big this issue is. Most of the changes we need to make are political and beyond the scope of the individual. However, there is more we can do than you may think, and it's not just about recycling or refusing single –use plastic (although that very important too).

We can change our world for the better through our wallets.

Here are seven things that can make a difference

- 1) Buy the most ethical – this is something I will look at in the next few months.
- 2) Less is more -reducing consumption can save money and the planet.
- 3) Get creative before you recycle -fixing, up-cycling, and re-using.
- 4) Shop pre-loved at flea-markets and charity shops: buy second hand books on line.
- 5) Help sustain your local community – shop from local, independent traders
- 6) Shop from co-operatives – the Co-operative Society encourages workers to have a say in how the company is run.
- 7) Look for trusted labels – labels that mean the organisation cares about the environment and workers such as Fairtrade, organic, and vegan.

Finally, check out the Ethical Consumer UK on www.ethicalconsumer.org

Over the next few months Lindy will look in more detail at some of the issues we all need to understand if we are to help sustain our planet and leave it in a better condition for our children and grandchildren. There are already many imaginative ways to help reduce plastic waste and one such initiative is described on the next page.

If you really think that the environment is less important than the economy, try holding your breath while you count your money.

Dr Guy McPher-

Bottles to Bricks



This is a photograph of a 2lt bottle stuffed full of those bits of plastic which would otherwise end up in land fill. Not a fashionable party game but a serious attempt to put non-recyclable plastic to good use. Once full, the bottles are used to create walls and other structures in both this country and overseas.

Once constructed, the walls are encased in concrete thus minimising the need for other building materials. You can find more details on

The bottles are filled with any non-recyclable clean and dry plastic, cut small if necessary, and rammed into the bottle using a wooden spoon handle or any suitable stick. A 2lt bottle should weigh about 1.5kg when full: a 500ml bottle about 500gm. The bottle pictured above took about a week to construct

Full bottles are collected at just a few sites at the moment but a team at Christchurch will arrange to collect and deliver to the site any bottles which the readers of this magazine provide. Look out for arrangements for this in the March magazine.

Please contact Judith on 01594 781436 or email jbrickwood444@btinternet.com for further details

The Christmas Kitchen Crew



Community life at its best

Phil and Daphne Gwilliam, Ann Coles, Martha Howells Andrew and Sharon Shelbourn continued the tradition of preparing a wonderful Christmas dinner in the village hall for the children and staff of both English Bicknor School and Bicknor Bears .Nursery
Thank you to the team!

Michael Mayers General Builder

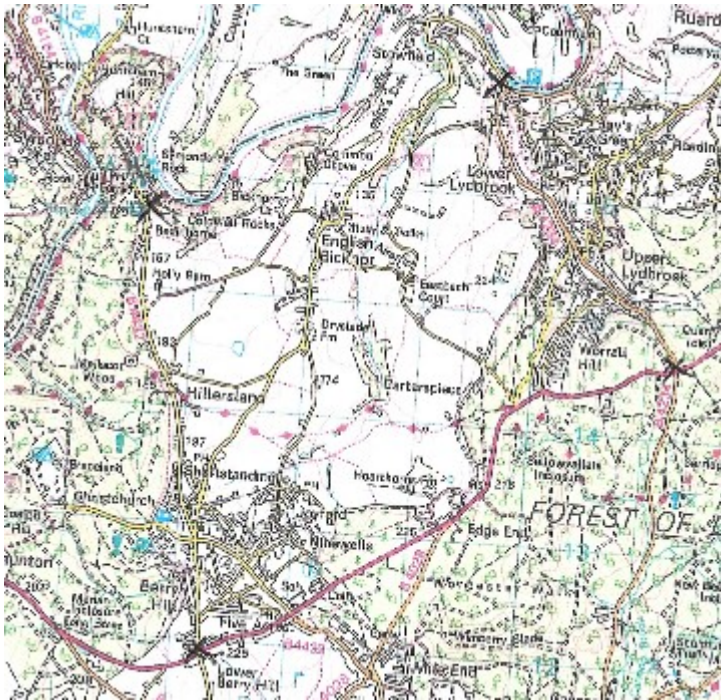
Interior/Exterior All jobs considered

Over 20 years Experience

Friendly and Reliable Service

Home; 01594 810708 Mobile 07810642784

The Benefice Map



The boundary of the Benefice of St Mary's English Bicknor and Christchurch, Forest of Dean stretches from Lower Lydbrook, up to Worrall Hill, along the main road, through the traffic lights and on to the cross roads, all the way along Grove Road and down to the other side of Hillersland and back, across the fields, to Lower Lydbrook. Within that boundary lie two primary schools, any number of businesses, a Rugby club and a secondary school. We benefit from one of the most beautiful churches in Gloucestershire, dating back to the Norman period, in English Bicknor, and a much younger building in Christchurch. Both churches are welcoming and friendly and look forward to greeting anyone who is resident, or visitor, in the area, or, indeed, beyond. Service times are listed on pages 6 and 7 and contact numbers for people associated with the benefice on p 5.



BICKNOR CAROL SINGING

Huge thanks to everyone who supported the 20th year of Tractor & Trailer Carol singing. It was a great evening and the most ever amount of £380 was collected for Great Oaks Hospice. Even the singing quality was given a boost this year as we had four people from a Forest choir on board.



Friends of Christchurch

Coffee Morning

February 15th 10 am—12 noon

Fair Trade Coffee and Tea

Homemade cakes and scones.

If you are new to the area, or even if you are not, this is an excellent place to meet new people and catch up with friends

Next Event

St Davids' Day Supper

On Saturday 29th February

In

The Pavilion, Forest Holidays

7 for 7.30 pm

A three course Welsh-inspired meal with entertainment and surprises

£15 per head

Soft drinks available but please bring anything else you might like to drink

Wear something yellow

Tickets available from Maggie 01594 837634

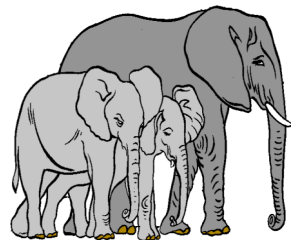
Membership of Friends of Christchurch is available for a suggested £10 annual membership fee. Please contact Maggie Fisher on 01594 837634 if you would like to join us. Membership is not compulsory to attend events.

Spotlight on Kelly MacAskill

Kelly is the current General Manager of Forest Holidays in Christchurch and with around 100 staff under her command represents a major Forest employer. Kelly manages the site and her staff with considerable skill and over the 3 years that she has been here has initiated several developments which have resulted in a warm and friendly atmosphere throughout the site.



Kelly is originally from South Africa, where both her grandfather and father were involved in the hospitality industry. Her father encouraged her to apply for an apprenticeship with a local hotel group where she learned not just customer service but also law and Human Resources. During her final year as an apprentice she worked at the Kruger National Park. National Parks are dedicated to the animals which come first, last and always. It was forbidden to leave the hotel compound without an armed guard and Kelly often woke up in the mornings to find monkeys at her window. Not everyone appreciated the animals-come-first policy. Most notably, a car manufacturer which, having set up the site with camera platforms in the trees and ready to start, was told filming must stop as a herd of elephants had arrived. Suggestions that the rangers 'shoo' the animals away was met with a firm refusal. A catastrophic storm which left a 3-foot mud residue behind, caused the hotel to close for several months and Kelly's apprenticeship came to an abrupt end.



Kelly came to the UK with her parents in the early 2000's and shortly afterwards took a job running ski lodges in France and Austria. Once the winter season was over she worked for the same company in Portugal and Spain. Her several years with these lodges led to a job with a small but ambitious self-catering cabin company in Yorkshire.

When the company diversified Kelly managed their new venture on Fistril beach in Newquay. Fistril has some of the most consistent waves in the UK and soon Kelly, who had learnt to ski and snowboard in the Alps, was on the water learning to ride the waves.

She discovered that standing up on a surf board is not quite the same as standing on a snow board and is a more challenging and sometimes frustrating skill to learn. However, she succeeded and as we all do in life, pushed the limits of her ability. Sometimes she would paddle out to find herself some distance from the shore only to discover that the waves were more challenging than she had realised. It is no wonder that surfing is an extreme sport.

Walking the Forest may be calmer than her previous sports but Kelly loves taking her two rescue boxer dogs on daily walks, interspersed with lengthy hikes around the wider Forest and in the Brecon Beacons. She now knows the Forest so well that even experienced, Forest-born staff will ask for her recommendations.

Born and brought up surrounded by the instability of South African politics, Kelly says that South Africa is a great holiday destination pointing out the glorious weather which encourages outdoor life. Kelly would like to develop a café-culture at Forest Holidays, but agrees that the weather is against this. Often in muddy clothes, always with a welcoming smile and eager to encourage 'locals' to use the facilities, Kelly embraces the relaxed Forest style which enables her to work in an industry she enjoys and balance that with her love of the outdoors

Farmyard Frolics & Rural Snippets

After many years of being TB free, our luck ran out at our annual test in December. Seven cows were tested as positive reactors. All have gone for slaughter and were young animals tragically all due to calve in Feb / March. To say we are gutted is an understatement and now have to face at least two more stressful tests in February and April. We have thrown the tantrum over the system, shed the tears at the loss of such lovely cows and now have to just get on with it !



I don't think Daph will let me live this one down. I got her to send for some new winter wellies, which were recommended by Robin Fyffe.



I was so pleased, when three days later DPD arrived with a delivery – my boots - well it had to be as it was written on the box.

I thanked the driver and told him that they had arrived in time for my shooting tomorrow.



I should have thought something was not right due to the size of the box but excitedly opened it, only to find it was full of toiletries and Boots on the outside was the name of the company. What a Plonker !!

English Bicknor Parish Council

Press Release

Meeting held on 2nd December 2019

Parking at English Bicknor School

The Parish Council continue to pursue various options to find a solution to inconsiderate parking on the bends near the school. The Parish Council are very pleased with a letter which the school has forwarded to all parents, and hope that this will help improve the situation. Meanwhile, an offer has been made by the Dean Archaeological Group to carry out a dig on the Glebe for free, subject to criteria received from the County Archaeologist. Regarding the possibility of zig-zag markings on the highway, the suggestion from County Highways is that these markings be put on Balls Hill, which Councillors feel will not help ease the situation, and in fact could make it worse.

Flashing speed sign

All the paperwork has now been completed for the purchase of a flashing speed sign for Hillersland, to be bought from County Cllr T. Hale's budget.. Three locations have been identified and nearby residents notified. The speed sign will also produce data of all vehicle speeds, which can be produced as evidence to the police and County Highways.

Defibrillator

The Parish Council has now been made aware of the steps to be taken when 999 or 112 is called due to a medical emergency. The defibrillator should only be taken from the box if the ambulance service advises, in which case they will give the security code to open the box. The Parish Council have also become aware that the running costs of the defibrillator are greater than originally advised. The pads on the defibrillator – although never used – had to be replaced at a cost of £50 as the ones in the machine were out of date, as were the spare pads which the Parish Council had been given. The battery for the machine has a 4 year life, so will need replacing in 2020 at a cost of £280. The Parish Council discussed taking up a maintenance contract, which the clerk will investigate.

Highway matters

County Highways have cleared silt from the edges of Redhouse Lane, but unfortunately there is still a considerable amount of silt in the middle of the lane. Some vegetation which was overhanging Junction Hill has been cleared, but there are still areas where vegetation needs cutting back further. Highways are currently costing the price of putting a new pipe across the field at the bottom of Church Hill to prevent flooding. Several drains overflowed during the severe storms in November, so County Highways have been asked to investigate blocked drains along Ross Road. Councillors continue to be concerned at the amount of dead wood in trees and hedges at Chapel Hill and near Sterts Farm, and have asked County Highways to re-visit and re-assess the site.

Bus service to Lydney Stagecoach have advised that the old 23 service picked up no more than 2 people each day at Lydney hospital, while they are carrying far more new customers on the new route from Whitecroft. Lydney Dial-a-Ride is providing an alternative link to the hospital (service 777).

Mr A. J. (Robin) Johnson The Parish Council were saddened to hear of the death of Mr Johnson, who served as a Parish Councillor between 1987 and 1996. During that time he was vice-chairman of the Parish Council for 5 years, before being elected as chairman in 1993, a role he stepped down from a year later due to ill-health, though he continued to serve as a Parish Councillor until 1996.

Parish Council meetings in 2020 As usual, Parish Council meetings in 2020 will be held bi-monthly at 7pm on the first Monday evening of the month, starting in February. Dates for 2020 have been confirmed as February 3rd; April 6th; June 1st; August 3rd; October 5th and December 7th, with the Parish Assembly being held on Monday 11th May.

English Bicknor WI news

As always December was a busy month. Our December meeting was a delicious bring and share with a light-hearted Christmas quiz organised by one of our members.

Also, during December, it was the annual WI Christmas concert at Cheltenham Town Hall.

At the January meeting we held a successful fund-raising silent auction when members could bid for donated items.

We have many events to look forward to - including our weekly local walks which take place every Tuesday at 10am and our craft afternoons which are held once a month on Monday afternoons.

On the remaining Mondays many of us are enjoying lively walking netball sessions in the hall of Five Acres High School.

On Friday 24th January at 10am we will held a charity fundraising coffee / board games morning. The cost will be £2 to include coffee and cake. Anyone in the community who enjoys games or who would just like a coffee and a chat is very welcome to join us.

Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month in the village hall. For further details please contact Christine Televantos on 01594 832007

Mole Problem? They can make a terrible mess and ruin a lawn.

I can help.

Humane trapping by Member of the Guild of British Mole Catchers

Phone 07470 203046 or 01594 837243

Reasonable rates

No mole—no fee policy



Spike & Shoes

Mixed Circuits

Wednesday nights

6.30pm-7.30pm

At Berry Hill RFC

All abilities welcome and catered for.

£1.00 donation

All proceeds to

Berry Hill Xmas Lights



The **Forest Foodbank** is currently short of the following items:-

TEA BAGS,
TINNED POTATOES, TINNED FISH, TINNED
TOMATOES, LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE.

The Food Bank continues to be grateful for all
your contributions which should be left in the
usual places

(Christchurch, St Mary's and various other outlets)

Thank you

CONGRATULATIONS

Bell Ringing Cup

Jan and Jon Furnivall were awarded the prestigious Centenary Cup from Gloucester and Bristol Association of Bell Ringers, Forest Branch,

The cup recognises service to bell ringing in the Forest Branch,
for making people welcome,
for teaching new ringers
for keeping the bells up together
and being a reasonable tower captain.

Congratulations to Jon and Jan.

If you would like to join our bell ringing team, practice is every
Wednesday at St Mary's 6.30 to 8.00pm.,
Come along and give it ago.

A quiz for a dreary afternoon

1. Who wrote the novel "Three Men in a Boat"?
2. Of which metal is the Statue of Liberty made?
3. What is Pinochle?
4. Which UK airport was previously known as Elmdon?
5. From which plant is Linseed Oil obtained?
6. What nationality was Edvard Munch the artist who painted "The Scream"?
7. Who followed Graham Taylor as the England football team manager?
8. What name is given to the front of a saddle?
9. In which modern day country did the Battle of Tobruk take place in 1941?
10. Who was the Norse God of the Sea?
11. What name is given to the surface winds found in the Tropics?
12. What is the highest military honour that can be awarded in the USA?

Answers on p34

A prayer for every month?

Dear Lord,

So far today I'm doing alright. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over-indulgent.

However, I'm getting out of bed in a few minutes and I will need a lot more help after that.

Amen



With Jesus **on the road** **to Jerusalem** **People he met and stories he told.**

MARCH 3 Pancakes and Praise. Starting the Journey

MARCH 10 Martha and Mary (Bishop Bob)

MARCH 17 A Controversial healing (Canon Jude Carpenter)

MARCH 24 Don't act your age! (Jo Weatherall)

MARCH 31 A Thankful Leper. (Archdeacon Hilary)

APRIL 7 The widow's penny! (Chris Maclay)

7.00—9.00 Tuesday evenings in Lent

Plus:

APRIL 9 Maundy Thursday:

Remembering The last supper!

2020
Lent Reflections
Christchurch Forest of Dean

Seek me, Find me

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart

Sat 15 Feb
10am-3.30pm

A gentle retreat day with
Celtic worship, Quiet Reflection
and creative opportunities

Please email tracy@vineyhilladventure.org to book your place
Lunch is provided. There is no cost but donations are welcome



The Christian
Adventure Centre | Viney Hill

From Tim Gwilliam, District Councillor

I am setting up regular monthly surgeries in Berry Hill and will look to do the same in English Bicknor. The surgeries will be to discuss issues affecting The Berry Hill Ward of the FODDC and the Berry Hill Ward of West Dean Parish Council.. Tim Gwilliam

The first of these surgeries was on January 18th in The Hut at 10.30am . When this magazine went to press there were no details of other meetings but look out for local posters. Mr Gwilliam also hopes to set up similar meetings in English Bicknor for although English Bicknor has a separate Parish Council to Berry Hill, it is part of the FODDC.

English Bicknor Village Hall

Invites you to a

Carvery Lunch

Sunday 23rd February 2020

12.30—2.00 pm

£12.00-Two Courses

Bookings only due to limited numbers

Daph 860259 Kate 861343

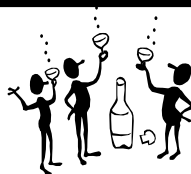
Quiz answers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Jerome j Jerome | 7. Terry Venables |
| 2. Copper. | 8. Pommel |
| 3. A type of card game | 9. Libya |
| 4. Birmingham International | 10. Aegir |
| 5. Flax | 11. Trade Winds |
| 6. Norwegian | 12. Congressional Medal of Honour |



Need a Venue ?

Why not hire



***English Bicknor
Village Hall***

Come and see the improvements to our Venue

Saturday 14th March 2020

10.00 to 12.00

Lighting Sound system & PA

State of the art Projection

Parties, Weddings & Meetings

Seats up to 100 people

Fully Equipped Kitchen, Licenced Bar

Contact Jackie Bradley

01594860985

jackiebrad2@aol.com



Annual Cancer Research

Big Breakfast

At

Forest Hills

Saturday March 6th

More details in Next months magazine



SELF-CATERING APARTMENTS for 2

**Two nights min. Start any day. Long lets. Pet Friendly.
Great views, easy walk to The New Inn, Forest at your door**

Claire & Darren Scales

Hillersland, Coleford GL16 7NY

01600 773220 info@rocklodge.co.uk www.rocklodge.co.uk

Look After Your Feet

AND THEY 'LL LOOK AFTER YOU

Foot Care Service that brings the clinic to you

Patricia Stott MCFHP MAFHP **Home Visits Tel: 01594 860606**

Registered member of the Professionals British Association of Foot Health

S. Hall

Garden—Agricultural—Forestry Equipment

SPARES and REPAIRS **Welding and Fabrication work undertaken**

FERNDAL MARSH LANE ELWOOD COLEFORD GL16 7NA

Tel: 01594 833063 Email forestdrift@outlook.com

L.Band C.B.TAYLOR

General Builders

Specialists in Wet Rooms and associated Disabled Works

Woodside, Bromley Road, Ellwood, Coleford GL16 7LZ

Call Dean on 01594832384

Lydcare

PRACTICAL HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED

**We provide the following services within
most areas of the Forest of Dean**

Community Transport and Outings



**Lunch clubs at English Bicknor
(Tuesday) and The Pludds
(Friday)**

**Art Club at
Pludds Village Hall**



Benefit Advice

**Signposting: if we can't help we know
who can**

All our services are run by volunteers.

For more information about any of our services, or
to volunteer (you will be very welcome!) please
call our office on **01594 860143**

Richard Jackson

PLUMBING & HEATING

*Specialist in Oil Boilers
Servicing, Commissioning & Tank Installation*

Domestic & Restoration • Site & New Builds • Solar Heating

24HR Call Out

Mobile: 0772 333 2519 • Tel: 01594 810929

rjplumbing@hotmail.co.uk

Friendly Foot Healthcare Professional

FROM NAIL-CUTTING TO VERRUCCAS Home Visits

Member of the College of Foot Health Professionals and the British Association of Foot Health

Martine Smith Tel: 07760731595 or 01594 834537

R.G. & R.B. WILLIAMS

A U C T I O N E E R S L I M I T E D

Ross Auction Centre • Overross • Ross-on-Wye • Herefordshire • HR9 7QQ • Tel: (01989) 762225 Fax: (01989) 566082

With Compliments

LIVESTOCK • FURNITURE • FINE ART • COMMERCIAL VEHICLES • AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

FIVE ACRES

VEHICLE HIRE



**Small, Medium and Large Vans/Cars,
Lutons with tail-lift, tipper trucks,
9, 12 and 17 seat Minibuses**

**Small, Medium and Large Vans/Cars, Lutons with
tail lift, 9, 12 and 17 seat Minibuses**

**We are European Vehicle Hire and long term hire spe-
cialists**

**Call Richard or Gareth for advice and to make a
reservation on
01594 833517**

