



The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND LOXLEY PARISHES

Issue No: 219

Coronavirus Edition (see page 3)

May 2020

News from Charlecote Park

Back in March it very quickly became apparent that, in order to comply with the Government's social distancing and do-not-travel advice, we were going to have to close Charlecote completely to visitors. It's no exaggeration to say that staff and volunteers are desperately missing being at Charlecote - those views across the parkland whatever the weather and a friendly chat with colleagues - and we know that many of you feel the same. We have been so very grateful for all the messages of goodwill that we have received. To reassure you, the park team staff and volunteers who live locally are continuing their essential work looking after our deer herd and sheep flock, and keeping an eye on the wildlife and the rivers as always. Lambing happened in April and went well with plenty of bouncy lambs to lift the spirits, as you may have seen on social media. Our deer does are pregnant at the moment and we're monitoring them



Photo: Jana Eastwood

carefully too. There are still lots of 'Charlecote' things you can do whilst at home. Let nature guide you - do your own bird watch and see if you can spot baby birds with their parents; look at the clouds from your window and decide what the shapes look like; with so little traffic it's easier to listen for birdsong when you pop out for your daily walk round the block; or paint a picture of a flower - even a daisy in the lawn!

MG

Number Please!

It's only taken eight years but the first stage of the Hampton Lucy phone box restoration is now complete, and this photograph was taken by Alex Jones in the evening sun for those of you who are self isolating at the moment. Dave Curtis has done a great job cleaning, sanding and repainting, and stage 2 will involve fitting the windows, although



Photo: Alex Jones

Covid-19 may well cause further delays. Stage 3 will see the Village Enhancement Group's notice board installed and stage 4 will be the Grand Opening Ceremony, sometime when! Remember buttons A and B? How many of us, hoping that the last caller had forgotten to collect their spare change, pressed button B to see if any coins came out? An ex-telephone engineer told me that he often found a rag stuffed up the coin slot from where children hoped to collect coins later on after school. You may be interested to know that our phone

JD

The Grapevine

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Rev'd Dr Andy Larkin

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From Your Vicar

Dear Friends,

As I prepared to write this letter to you, I looked back to what I wrote last month. Between writing my previous message and our magazines being printed, our lives changed. Indeed, since I last wrote, so much has changed.

In the lives of our six churches, we've lost two dearly loved friends. Neither passing was related to the Coronavirus, but both were unexpected. With funerals restricted, our grief has had to take an unfamiliar path.

The Rev'd Neville Beamer has been involved in the life of our parishes for several years. As I became involved, I enjoyed getting to know him. There's much humour to be found in parish ministry, and my abiding memory of serving with Neville is set in shared laughter. I'd spoken to him several times in the days before his death, and much humour was shared. Neville had a glint in his eye. On one occasion, I found myself gently dealing with a gentleman who was somewhat tipsy and proving quite a handful. Behind that gentleman, leaning against the end of a pew, stood Neville - taking in the situation and chuckling. Neville was a man of great compassion and deep faith in Jesus Christ. So many of you have told me how much you valued his pastoral ministry and preaching. The last time I visited him at his home, as we entered the lounge, I was somewhat surprised to be confronted by a life-size cardboard cut-out of David Beckham. Enquiring as to why Mr Beckham was standing in the corner of the room, Neville told me *'there's got to be a sermon in that somewhere, and he will shortly be in a sermon'*.

Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy served as Church Warden at Charlecote. Leading a full and busy life that often took him away from home, I was only just starting to get to know Ed. We shared several fascinating discussions after services at St Leonard's. It struck me that Ed often remembered more detail from my sermon than I did! He explored ideas by asking questions - ever inquisitive and curious. A facet of life at St Leonard's are the many tourists who visit the church whom Ed was always quick to warmly welcome, even when busy with his own duties. Let us continue to hold the Beamer and Fairfax-Lucy families in our prayers and especially at this time as they wait to be able to hold services to celebrate the lives of Neville and Ed.

The closure of our church buildings is just one of many restrictions we are experiencing, but I know that many have felt it keenly. Some have questioned what purpose it serves and whether it's essential. In truth, I have no idea, but the instruction was handed down from Westminster, and so we have obeyed it. If it saves even just one life, then it will have been well worth it.

Our buildings may be locked, but our churches are still very much alive. Many of you receive our email bulletin the Benefice Burble, which keeps us up to date with the opportunities to join together in worship and prayer. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email me at rectory@barford.org.uk. Thus far, we have been able to offer Compline (*Night Prayer*) regularly through the week and a Sunday service. Compline has been offered as both a pre-recorded service and a live stream (*using the Zoom computer software*). Our Sunday worship has been pre-recorded. We have tried to involve as many people as possible in the production and leading of our worship. If you'd like to take part, please do let me know. As I return from my post-Easter break, I will be looking at what pattern of worship would be most helpful going forward. During both Holy and Easter weeks, Rev'd Rachel Saum kindly offered resources to aid us in deepening our personal prayer lives. Rachel was in the process of leaving us to begin a college course in Devon. Her house move has been postponed, and so we benefit from her continued ministry.

In his letter to the Hebrews, Saint Paul writes *'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever'*. It's a truth that strikes me as being of particular significance at this time. One of the hardest aspects of our current situation is the lack of certainty over the future. We don't know when the 'lockdown' will end. We don't know what will happen after that. We don't know when we will be able to return to normality. Jolted from our regular routines, this can so quickly become a breeding ground for anxiety. At such times, our faith in Jesus Christ offers us stability. Nothing of God has moved or changed. Nothing of God will move or change. All that we know of God remains true and always will. Perhaps most notably at this time, there is great peace to be found in Christ through prayer.

Friends, know that you are held in my prayers.

Wishing you Christ's peace,

Andy

Rev'd Andy Larkin, Vicar



News from the Parishes

*A summary of online services, church activities and support is available online with the **Barford Burble** by e-mail. Register to join the group by contacting Barford Group of Churches at rectory@barford.org.uk*



Grapevine and the Coronavirus

I am sure that you will appreciate that it is not possible to deliver printed copies of *The Grapevine* house-to-house under this pandemic lockdown. This month it is therefore published in digital form by e-mail and by posting on the Hampton Lucy, Charlecote and Loxley village websites. Next month - who knows? [grapevine 46@btinternet.com](mailto:grapevine46@btinternet.com) **AJW**

Community Support in Hampton Lucy

The two designated people who have volunteered to pick up essential prescriptions from Hastings House Medical Centre are Alex Jones, alexjones1711@icloud.com or 07943 809408, and Scott McKenna, Scott111162@icloud.com or 07718 496132. **A massive thanks is due to them both for offering to take this on.** In addition, there are a further fifteen volunteers who have generously offered to help out with shopping for those who are self-isolating, and the Boars Head has kindly offered to deliver food supplies, wine, beer from the tap, etc. Valefresco Ltd will deliver fresh mixed salad boxes, great value at £10 for 12 items - contact Simon on 01386 45867 or e-mail: simon@valefresco.com Karl at Charlecote Mill can supply flour in smaller quantities although he is very over-subscribed so please contact him first to check availability on charlecotemill@live.co.uk telephone 01789 842072.

This is a great community response!

JD

WCC Hospital Support for Single Parent Families

If you are a single parent needing hospital treatment or are admitted to hospital, emergency cover is available from Warwickshire County Council. In such situations, they will help individuals to locate family members or friends etc. who may be able to help. If that is unsuccessful and there are no other options, they will step in and provide care. Such situations sometimes occur in more normal circumstances than at present when a single parent needs to go to hospital and has no support network to call on - WCC would do the same then. If anyone has a specific concern, do get in touch. Tel: 01926 742577 or e-mail: johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk (John Coleman, Assistant Director - Children & Families, Warwickshire County Council.) **AJW**

Update from the Hampton Lucy Village Hall Management Committee

Sadly, due to advice from the Government relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing at this time, we have had to cancel the Annual Plant Sale. We look forward to holding the event again next year. It is also extremely unlikely that our annual Jazz Picnic at the beginning of July will go ahead but we are hoping to arrange a similar event later in the Summer, when hopefully restrictions will have been lifted.

On a positive note, the committee wishes to update you on new developments. The village hall has a new website address: www.hamptonlucyvillagehall.co.uk There is now a room booking system on this website and we would encourage existing hall users and new users to use this online whenever possible. We are also in the process of having WiFi installed in the hall. The greenhouses in the garden area behind the hall are now complete and will be used again for the plant sale next year.

The fundraising team have been busy applying for grants and have had some success receiving grants from the WE Dunn Trust, The Warwickshire Associations of Local Councils, and the John Lucy Trust totalling over £5000. We have also received gifts from the Youth Club, The Women's Institute, personal donations totalling over £3000 and the gift of a kitchen worth £8000. The above has enabled us to upgrade the heating, fit a smart meter and we are in the process of installing broadband.

We do need a lot more support to reach our appeal target of £75,000. We have unsuccessfully applied for grants from Biffa, ACRE, Warwickshire County Council and Tesco but we have just submitted a substantial application to Severn Trent and have several others in the pipeline.

In the absence of our usual fund-raising events would like to invite small groups to engage in sponsored challenges such as bike rides, 5k runs, bake-offs etc, nominating Hampton Lucy Village Hall as their preferred charity. We have a PayPal Giving Account as follows: <https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3130222> Please use this to make donations and to pass on funds raised for Hampton Lucy Village Hall and please do 'add gift aid' when you make your donation.

Finally, with many on furlough in the village, we would welcome volunteers who have relevant decorating, carpentry and DIY skills who may be prepared to join a working party to give the hall a refresh in advance of re-opening for business in the summer. We realise this cannot start until the end of lockdown, but we do anticipate a period between then and a return to normal working which could allow such a working party to make some headway. If you are interested in helping, please contact eddie.hoare@icloud.com **EH/HL**

For the Love of Scrubs

Sue Northcote-Green in Hampton Lucy is busy making hospital scrubs for the NHS. The official name of this group of volunteers is ***For the Love of Scrubs*** and the Area Coordinator has asked if there are others in our community who would be willing to help. As you can imagine, this work is urgent in order to help to protect our NHS staff from Clovid-19. They are looking for experienced volunteer dressmakers to cut out and make up scrubs outfits for use in Warwick Hospital. If you are interested, please contact Sue by email: sueng60@icloud.com You will need access to a sewing machine, ideally one with an over-lock facility to close all seams. Some machines have special attachments for this process but Sue can advise. At the time of publication, four volunteers have already stepped forward but more are needed. Are you willing and able?

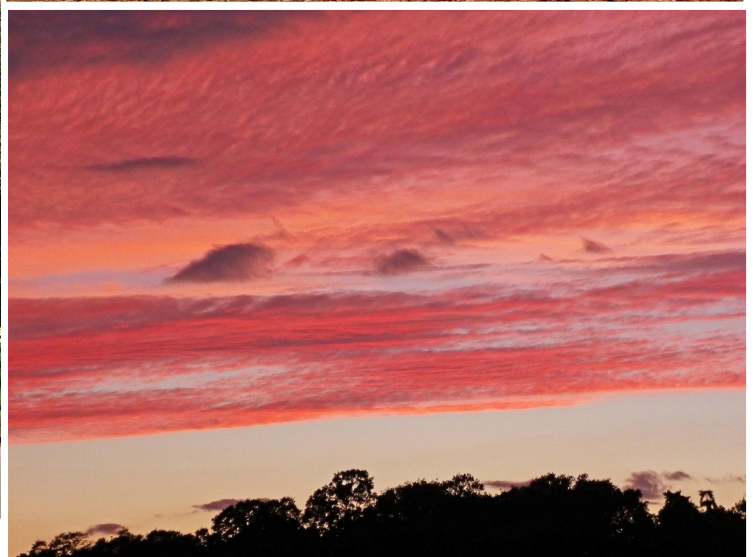
JD

Things Will Get Better!

I am sure that you, like me, are feeling the frustration of this imposed but essential lock-down. Covid-19 has taken over our lives, has threatened our way of life, compromised so many businesses and is swamping the news channels to the exclusion of almost everything else. However, in Captain Tom's words, '*...things will get better and this will pass...*' so here are some of my own local pictures, some old and some new, which need no caption but remind us that the world will go on and that Spring promises new life and new colour in place of a wet and grey winter. And *thank you* to whoever

created the beautiful rainbow on the John Lucy Bridge in Hampton Lucy!

AJW



The Notice Board

The Hampton Lucy website:
hamptonlucy.wordpress.com

The Charlecote website:
www.charlecotevillagehall.weebly.com

The Loxley website:
loxleyvillage.com

Advice from Warwickshire County Council (Trading Standards)

Many charities are coming together to support people affected by COVID-19. Unfortunately, fraudsters are taking advantage of the pandemic by creating fake fundraising platforms and bogus crowd-funding, falsely claiming that donations will support research into a vaccine or help people who are ill or self-isolating.

At this time of national emergency, The Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator are urging people to 'give safely'.

The regulators encourage people to support registered charities, including the National Emergencies Trust (NET) national coronavirus fundraising appeal, launched to raise funds for local charities responding to the pandemic, visit: <https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/>

Thousands of other registered charities are also dealing with the pandemic or continuing to do important work throughout the country to support vulnerable people and communities.

Advice for the public on giving safely to registered charities is:

- Check the charity's name and registration number at <https://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information> most charities with an annual income of £5,000 or more must be registered
- Make sure the charity is genuine before giving any personal or financial information or a donation
- Be wary of emails and texts, even if they appear to come from genuine charities. Do not follow links or download attachments in suspicious emails.
- Contact or find out more online about the charity that you're seeking to donate to or work with to find out more about their spending. Visit their website by typing their genuine web address into your Internet browser. For more safe giving advice visit:

<https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/more-from-us/resources/safer-giving-advice>

Carers4Carers

Carers4Carers is a peer-led group for unpaid family carers who meet to support each other. We also support carers whose loved ones are in residential care and continue to offer support when caring comes to a conclusion. Taking place on the fourth Friday of each month, we meet at Kinton Village Hall, Mill Street, Kinton, CV35 0LB, 10:30 - 12 noon. We always start with time for coffee and chat and then, if a speaker or workshop is scheduled, this will usually begin at about 11:00. Come when you can and stay for as long as you are able. With advanced notice, we are also able to look after your loved one in our Companionship Group. In line with Government guidelines with regard to the outbreak of Coronavirus, it is with regret that we have had to **cancel** our monthly meetings until further notice.

In the meantime, please take a look at our website:

www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk email: kcarers4carers@gmail.com or call 07947 893504 for more information about our work and to request a copy of our newsletter. For online support you might also like to take a look at the Carers UK forum at www.carersuk.org/forum and the local Carers Trust forum at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/870251836784890/>

LM

Vegan and Vegetarian Home Deliveries

If you are vegan, or just like vegan food, then lockdown must be difficult. However, **Rootz**, based in Leamington, deliver locally. Last Friday's menu included South Indian vegetable and coconut curry, rice, pakoras, salad and smoked flatbread. Visit the website at <https://www.facebook.com/FreshRootZ1> 'phone 07477 405444 or e-mail freshrootz@yahoo.com £25 and free delivery.

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Reverend Neville Beamer



We have a policy of not publishing obituaries in *The Grapevine*. However, as there are no restrictions on print space this month and I have received three requests to publish thanks for the late Rev'd Neville's life and ministry in our communities, I am sure that you will accept an exception.

AJW

I met Neville when I joined the ministry team at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, almost 9 years ago. From the outset he supported me tirelessly. He understood people, read faces and atmospheres with extraordinary skill and sought to bring out the best in people, always seeking out those on the margins. He was faithful and faith-filled, hard-working and self-effacing, encouraging and thoughtful, wise and of good counsel right to the end.

What will I remember Neville for? Him kicking me under the table with a grin on his face in dull meetings by way of enabling me to show he knew what I was thinking; sitting next to him in services and a hand would appear in front of me with a palm full of sweets, often during a long sermon; encouraging notes passed, especially one which is from a torn envelope and I use as a bookmark in my bible, which he wrote to me during the first Communion service I took in Charlecote; Saturday night phone calls, checking I was all set for Sunday, or Sunday evening phone calls to check how my day had been. The first Saturday night following Neville's death I was suddenly aware, with great sadness, that there would be no more of these conversations; that realisation has been the most painful thing of all for me.

Neville always said the final words of a service with great gusto and conviction. I can imagine him repeating them to each of us today. With raised voice, broad smile and some accompanying gesture with his arm, he would exhort us to... *'go in peace to love and serve the Lord.'*

Rev'd Rachel Saum

We, like many people who knew him, were shocked when we heard the news of Rev'd Neville Beamer's sudden and completely unexpected death on 18 March. It still seems very unreal. Neville was a loyal friend and a great encourager. He passionately believed God still speaks to people today and his love for Jesus shone through all he did. He was filled with God's Spirit of love and compassion and was always willing to go the extra mile.

He was a lovely man who was loved by many, both within the church community and outside it. He is sorely missed.

Chris & Alex Farr

Rev'd Neville Beamer first came to our six parishes to support Rev'd David Jessett in the role of Associate Minister. He was already retired so was supposed to spend only a limited number of hours in the benefice, most of those being for Sunday services.

He soon became known in all the parishes and was a great support to many. He was a man who believed truly that God was present amongst us and that his love was always there to support and guide us. He was a 'people' person and would go out of his way to talk to individuals as a friend or as a pastoral carer. He never begrudged spending time with and for people. After David's retirement, he gave much time and thought to supporting us through a difficult period going far beyond his allocated hours.

We have lost a wonderful friend, a tireless priest but above all a true Christian. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sheila and all his family.

Ann & Allan Fawcett

Our correspondents this month (a small but perfectly formed group!)

JD - John Dunkerton; EH - Edie Hoare; MG - Mary Gleave; LM - Lisa Maloney; HL - Helen Leeson;
AJW - Jeremy Whyman



