

FECKENHAM

APRIL 2020

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
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A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

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APRIL



Well I can hardly call this a diary!

Let us hope April showers do not add more flooding to our coronavirus problems.

No What's On either, more a magazine of what is not happening until further notice. As well as reported cancellations, **Lunch Club** and **Drop In** are cancelled until further notice. But I hope we have some helpful ideas for you, and a lot to think about.

Best wishes to you all - Editor

FOOD BANK

In the current emergency, the Food Bank will be in just as much need, and almost certainly more, in the coming weeks. The Church is still open to visitors and to act as a collection point. Ann Matthews is willing to take items to the Food Bank regularly, so please do continue to make donations.

Front Cover

A fine display of daffodils on the Droitwich Road - greeting the spring.

Photo: Ian Bellion



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01527 861247 or 07808 708428 email: angelakov2202@gmail.com

Please contact for Weddings, Baptism & Funerals

Church website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk



Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

Mass celebrations are currently suspended

Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

Local contact—Phyllis Mott, Feckenham. Tel. 01527 893898





Church Closed? – No, it’s Open for Prayer and Quiet Contemplation

In line with policy on social gatherings and the correct concern over slowing the spread of Covid-19 the decision to stop services in the Church at this particular time of the year is challenging for many.

We hadn’t intended to give up that for Lent.

However, the Church and Churchyard are still open for visiting, sitting quietly, contemplation and for prayer. There is a votive in the Church where you can light a candle, there are benches you can go and sit in the Churchyard as the days get longer and warmer and just soak in the arrival of Spring. Enjoy the moment and breathe.

Easter is a story of death and resurrection and we learn that life is full of a thousand deaths and a thousand resurrections. When we get the other side of “The Great Disruption” it is likely that much will never be the same again. What we leave, what gets resurrected what gets created anew will be something we will have a degree of choice over.

A friend sent me this, and when I’ve shared it people have found it helpful.

Stay well, stay safe. *Jeff Matthews*

LOCKDOWN

by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other across the
empty squares, keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone may hear the
sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the
housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading
fliers with her number through the
neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and
Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter
the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and
reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their
neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a
new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the
soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to
live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able to touch
across the empty square,

Sing.



Take care of yourself and stay healthy

One of the best ways to protect others is to protect yourself.



Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.



Isolate yourself from others as much as possible. Stay away from places where people gather, like bars, clubs and cinemas.



Call, chat, check

Swap phone numbers with your immediate neighbours.



Check on your neighbours and loved ones, particularly if they are elderly or vulnerable.



Help to provide them with food and other essential supplies if you can.



Alert relevant organisations if you are concerned about the wellbeing of others.



Be kind. Think of others

Please shop considerately. Don't bulk-buy essential items like toilet paper, long-life foods or baby supplies.



Use local community social media groups to share information and advice.



If you have surplus supplies of essential items, consider offering them to people in need.



Avoid wasting food – you could even sow fast growing seeds like cress or lettuce.



Get online to stay in touch

Being in self-isolation doesn't mean cutting yourself off from others.



Consider using methods like video calling on your phone or computer to speak to friends and loved ones.



For those who are not online, a telephone call is the ideal way to stay connected.



Share accurate advice and information

We live in a world of rumour and misinformation – make sure you're accessing and sharing accurate news.



Use reputable and verified news sources – if you hear something that doesn't sound right, do some research on websites you trust.



Our website is being updated regularly with all the latest news about the ongoing situation.

Get all the latest updates at:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help



worcestershire
county council

Village Shop

Jenny Mason

Rather than write about this month's excellent offers on wine and beers, we thought it would be more appropriate to advise readers about what measures we are taking during the current Coronavirus Pandemic. The overriding responsibility we have is to ensure a safe working and shopping environment for our Volunteers and Customers, many of whom may be considered to be in a high risk category due to either age or health. As at the time of writing we have introduced a ten point cleaning and hygiene regime that all our Volunteers must follow throughout each trading session. This includes both food handling and the sanitisation of the premises. We have also placed a polite and clear notice for the attention of customers on the entrance of the Shop, the content of which we expect everyone to adhere to.

If you haven't visited the Shop recently this is what we are requesting:-

Before entertaining the shop, and as a duty of care to both our valued customers and team of volunteers, would you please consider whether you or a member of your household have recently been in any area where subsequent self-isolation is recommended or have any symptoms that could be related to Coronavirus (eg fever, dry cough or flu like symptoms).

If you are in any doubt, we would be most grateful if you could refrain from visiting the shop at this time.

Thank you for observing this request and for your understanding.

We will of course continue to follow all Government advice on how best to protect our staff and customers, however, current advice is changing on an almost daily basis and it is uncertain how a deteriorating situation will impact on the future operation of the Shop. The Management Board will keep the developing situation under constant review.

In the meantime, by shopping locally you will be keeping your social contact to a minimum whilst at the same time supporting one of the

Village's most important amenities. So fingers crossed and subject to the availability of our Volunteers, we will continue to support the Village by keeping our doors open, the Shop stocked with cupboard essentials and trading normally.

Alan Slater - Chairman

Flower & Garden Festival 2021

Cathy Fisher

SAVE THE DATE

15th & 16th May 2021

Very many thanks to all of you who attended the meeting in the Village Hall on 23rd February 2020 (also those who made contact in advance and were not able to attend).

After much discussion the date for next year's Festival has been confirmed as Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th May 2021. The opening times will be from 11am to 5pm on both days.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved either opening your garden or volunteering in some capacity or other.

More news to follow in the coming months.
catherine.fisher@talk21.com

Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Linda Harris

With agreement of the President, Margaret Eost, notice is being given that the Spring Fair on Saturday 4th April 2020 has been Cancelled. Although disappointing, the health and welfare of those wishing attending is obviously a priority.

Linda Harris - Secretary



Wake 2020

Marion Chute

Wake Seaside Special -

This year's Wake has been postponed from June 27th until the situation improves.

Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

There's a lovely book called "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse". You can read it in 10 or 15 minutes. But it will stay with you. It is full of wisdom.

Those whom life has made cynical (I've met a few) will dismiss it as sentimental tosh. But it isn't. It is deep wisdom. There's no religion in it. Just wisdom. Too often religion has lost wisdom and become an institution that needs protecting, or which needs to grow its power base. Because, sadly, religions are full people just like you and me.

We all like our tribes, our group, our gang, our identity... people like us. "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse" breaks all those rules. It is about difference, and replacing fear with love.

Such a way of life might appeal to us when we read it in a beautifully illustrated book like this one. It might not!

But to live life loving everyone, no matter who, no matter what, costs.

April is the month of Good Friday. That's what such liberty costs – everything. But it was the price that Jesus was willing to pay to be free, and to make it possible for us to life freely too. And here's the good bit... it works. Good Friday gives way to Easter and the insistent truth that love is stronger than hate, life is stronger than death.

My favourite page in "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse" just has these words: "I think everyone is just trying to get home," said the Mole.

"Home isn't always a place, is it?", as the story asks on another page. It's where we are no longer afraid of difference, or hateful of "them". Jesus was always at home, even though he had "nowhere to lay his head".

In the end there is only one Wisdom, and that comes from the heart of God. Like Jesus, who was always at home, and helped others, still helps others, feel at home too.

A Happy and Blessed and Wise Easter to everyone! Wyn

Church Flower Group

Margaret Perry

Easter Lilies

A reminder for anyone who wishes to have lilies arranged in Church for Easter in memory of loved ones, to please send your donation to Ann Matthews, Chestnut House, 8 The Square, B96 6HR. Cheques payable to Feckenham P.C.C.

With services suspended until further notice, we shall do a few Easter lily arrangements, and some with spring flowers so that the church is welcoming for anyone who wants to use it for private prayer time over the Easter period. The majority of the Lily funds will be kept for a more formal occasion when we can remember our loved ones.



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Watch for new date!

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announcement on 23rd March, the pub is closed
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after the restrictions have been lifted

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HELP FOR YOU if you are self-isolating **From Volunteers Co-ordinated by Feckenham Facebook** **Group & Parish Council**

A group of local volunteers from the village are available to assist you with PICKING UP SHOPPING, or POSTING MAIL, picking up URGENT SUPPLIES (including medications) or just having a FRIENDLY PHONE CALL during this challenging time when many people are being advised to self-isolate if they are either vulnerable or ill.

If you would like some help then please contact JANE BULL, Clerk to Feckenham Parish Council either on **892522** or **clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com** and we will be in touch (& the help is free!). Any goods will be left on your doorstep. More updates on our local radio: swansbrook.com

NOTE: Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness – Avoid physical contact (keep at least 2m distance from others) and Wash your hands regularly

DOCTORS

If you think you may have Covid-19 you should not go to your Doctor. Isolate yourself and your family at home for 14 days. If the symptoms are severe telephone 111 for advice. In an emergency dial 999.

For other problems and routine consultations the local surgeries recommend the following action:

RIDGEWAY SURGERY - Astwood Bank (01527 892418)

Telephone the practice in the morning. The Doctors will give phone/Skype consultations and will ask you to attend the surgery if necessary. Home visits will continue but will require a phone call from the doctor first. Urgent blood tests and nursing appointments will continue - however routine reviews have been postponed. Prescriptions can be collected from the dispensary window outside the building between 12noon and 2pm ONLY.

GREY GABLE SURGERY - Inkberrow (01386 793007)

The Open Access / Walk-in morning clinic is suspended. If you need to consult with a doctor, please call the surgery and you will be triaged. Many consultations will be carried out by phone. Prescriptions can be collected from the dispensary window to the left of the main entrance. Repeat prescription slips can be dropped into the letterbox. You are asked not to enter the surgery.

THE VILLAGE SHOP

in partnership with Feckenham Parish Council

REVISED OPENING TIMES

Mon-Fri: 8am to 2.30pm

Sat: 9am to 2pm - Sun: 10am to 1pm

DELIVERIES: If you live in the Parish and are self isolating or ill you can place a **telephone order** for provisions from the shop between 0900 - 1100 hrs. This will be delivered to you via the Parish Council, through volunteer helpers, within 24 hrs
Call 01527 894475



Pete the Meat

at Astwood Bank is open and has ample supplies. Owner Pete Lawton sent this message: *"At present stock is coming in on a daily basis so there's no need for panic buying!! We'd also like to help anyone especially the over 70s who are self isolating. If you call us on **01527 892654** we'll do our best to deliver as soon as we can".*

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If you're Self Isolating but able to drive - Hillers Farm Shop will accept phone orders, pay over

the phone then collect from the car park - no need to leave the car. 01789 773057

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Following the Government instructions issued on 23rd April 2020, Feckenham Village Hall is now closed until further notice. No bookings will be taken until the end of the restrictions are announced.

THE ROSE & CROWN

Following the Government instructions issued on 23rd April 2020, The Rose & Crown regrets that the takeaway service has to cease.

The pub will now be completely closed until the restrictions have been lifted.

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION

in this fast moving situation please check the **Feckenham Village Events Facebook** page,

Visit **feckenham.com**

and listen to **Swansbrook Radio** through **swansbrook.com**



FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion

CORONAVIRUS

Following recent advice from HM Government we very much regret that The FeckenOdeon will suspend all activities with immediate effect.

Shows scheduled for 28th March and 25th April are cancelled.

If you bought tickets online or by phone your money (including any booking fees) will be refunded by TicketSource to the card you paid with. If you bought at the Shop or Rose & Crown please contact us by email to films@fecknodeon.co.uk

MEMBERS: We have written to you by email or letter. If you haven't heard from us please email us or call us using the telephone numbers to be found on your Membership card.

WE SHALL BE BACK!

Once this crisis has receded we intend to resume operations in full. We're going to continue to plan our 20th Season in the hope that we'll be up and running again by the end of September - if not sooner. Watch this space for updates!

Square Management Committee

GRAVEL HEROES

Early on the morning of Saturday, 29th February a large lorry drove along the gravel road down the side of The Square. As it drove it tipped out its cargo - many tonnes of gravel. The road had become rutted and threadbare with weeds breaking through the surface. This load is intended to restore the road to its former glory. As soon as the lorry had done its tipping figures emerged into the early morning gloom, each one armed with a shovel or rake. They set to work to redistribute the mountains of stone and to level the surface... and they set to work with such a will that the job was done before most villagers had finished their early morning cuppas. The Square Committee is most grateful to the gallant band (pictured below) for responding to appeals for help made on Facebook and in these pages. In the coming weeks it is planned to roll the surface to make it firmer to drive on.

FUN OR NO FUN?

The Square Committee's annual Fun on the Square event was planned for 18th July and would have been themed around "Dad's Army"... If it does take place it'll be a very much simpler event - watch this space!



The Gravel Crew (Picture: Maxine Melson)

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



NORTHERN LIGHTNESS...

A last glimmer of light before the approaching gloom took the form of a performance by the Manchester folk band and storytellers "Harp & a Monkey" on 15th March. A small but perfectly formed audience enjoyed an evening of warmth and mirth - and some very good music. It's clear that many more people would have liked to attend - the band have a new tour planned and it's possible they may return once the present emergency is over.

CANCELLATIONS

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak most activities at the Hall have been cancelled or suspended by their organisers.

Please contact the organisers of individual activities for further information.

It's expected that the Nursery will continue sessions for the children of key workers.

DRAW

The Village Hall's **Improvement Fund Draw for March** was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 2nd March.

Winners:

February:	100 Minky Waters	£25
	20 Q & Jen Cary	£15
	107 Enid Whitehead	£10

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at

www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

WE'RE HERE....

The current virus crisis is like nothing Feckenham has faced before. Many of the things that hold our community together have been closed or suspended. We're urged to distance ourselves socially and some of us are in quarantine.

Swansbrook Radio is one of the few things that will be continuing - and we aim to be positive with the emphasis on things we can do, ways of keeping in touch and things we can still enjoy - while always keeping safe and healthy.

There's a special programme on air now with information about services and assistance during this trying time. We'll be updating this with revised information as and when we get it - as will our website which has a page of local info complete with contact details aimed at those who can't get out during the emergency.

If you have any information you think would be helpful please email us at radio@swansbrook.com - we'll broadcast it and pass it on to other local organisations.

MORE MORE AND THRICE MORE...

Colin James' programme of oldies you may (or may not) have loved is doubling its output - there's a new programme every week packed full of Colin's insights into the history of pop.

Ian Bellion's Happy Hour, crammed with things you never knew you needed to know, continues to appear weekly and is approaching its 200th show - and Chris Fletcher's classical selection for April is now available to listen to - guaranteed to sooth in these troubled times.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. **Most programmes are now available for you to play ON DEMAND - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.**

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As I write this on March 14th 2020 world and UK news is focused – as it has been for a couple of weeks now – on Covid-19 (Coronavirus). With the UK lagging behind mainland Europe in infections, we will inevitably see a rapid increase in cases here, taking us into scary and unknown territory for us all. Covid-19 is having a major impact on individuals but also the glue that binds us together in terms of social gatherings such as sport, music and education where we face the prospect of schools being closed. We are living in worrying times. Whether Feckenham Cricket Club will be impacted is insignificant within the bigger picture but something that I and the club committee need to keep under constant review. With top-level soccer in England having decided on at least a 3-week break, we are waiting to see what advice is provided by the English Cricket Board (ECB).

Alongside this, we do however need to keep preparing for the start of the season, which for us would be a first-team match against Cookley at Mill Lane on Saturday April 18th. Covid-19 aside, this is by no means certain due to the persistent wet winter which is only just starting to abate. Part of the square received its first cut a week ago but the field is still too soft for use of the roller, an essential part of wicket preparation. Storms Ciara and Dennis created problems for us. The worst was that one of our two mobile practice net cages was blown over and terminally damaged. These nets receive a lot of use, particularly by junior players and so getting a replacement (at £1,200) is a priority. Fortunately, Sport England launched a grant scheme to help clubs impacted by storms and flooding and we have received enough to buy another net as well as for steps to improve drainage.

Fixtures are largely organised now, this being a complicated job with three senior and four junior teams. It looks like we have also managed to squeeze in the Feckenham First School's annual Sports Day in July.

In the shed/workshop, one of the three gang mower cylinders has been reground and the other two will follow as quickly as possible. Other equipment has been fettled or repaired

over the winter. Wooden boards have been purchased for use in making another four boundary fences to replace those damaged during last season. Over the weekend of March 28/29, players, club members and their children are scheduled to take part in the annual pre-season CricketForce weekend, which involved sprucing up the ground ready for the season. Much of this work in fact involves repainting the 70+ boundary fences – a mammoth job. The results however are always well worth it, the gleaming white perimeter looking magnificent on a sunny spring or summer's day.

The club recently met with a representative of the Worcester Cricket Board (WCB), to review our plans to refurbish and (slightly) enlarge the clubhouse, which is in a poor state structurally and falls well short of current standards. The next step is for the WCB to take our project to the national cricket governing body, the ECB, to gain support and financial assistance.

Assuming that the cricket season does in fact take place this year, these are our early "home" fixtures:

FIXTURES AT MILL LANE

The first confirmed senior Worcester County League matches for April and May, along with junior and county games are as follows:

- Sat Apr 18th – 1st team v Cookley 1st XI 1pm
- Sat Apr 25th – 2nd team v Barnt Green CC 3rd XI
- Sun Apr 26th – Under 11s v Worcester (league) 10am
- Thu Apr 30th – Under 11 Pairs v Worcester (friendly) at 6pm
- Sat May 2nd – 1st team v Burghill, Tillington & Weobley 1st XI 1pm
- Tue May 5th - Worcestershire Over-60s v Somerset 1pm
- Sat May 9th – 2nd team v Old Hill 3rd XI 1pm
- Sun May 10th – Under 11s v Himley (league) 10am
- Wed May 13th – Under 11 Pairs v Alvechurch at 6pm
- Sat May 16th - 1st team v Hagley 1st XI 1pm
- Sun May 17th - 1st team v Exhall & Wixford (Village Knock-Out Cup) 1pm
- Mon May 18th – Under 10s v Hagley 6pm
- Sat May 23rd - 2nd team v Bromsgrove 4th XI 1pm
- Sun May 24th – Under 13s v Barnt Green (league) 10am
- Sat May 30th - 1st team v Droitwich Spa 1st XI 1pm

If you are interested in playing or scoring for Feckenham Cricket Club at any level, please contact Nick Reddish on 07802 212125.

Finally, I and the club hope that all our members and friends - and indeed the whole village - stay fit and well over the coming weeks and months.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club Rob Cole

Like everyone else, Gardening Club have cancelled their April and May meetings, and also their Plant Sale in May.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527 821156.

Feckenham W.I. INSPIRING WOMEN

Glenda Smith

Members met on Thursday 12th March. After business was dealt with, our speaker for the evening Mr Paddy Hannigan gave a talk entitled Children in the Mills: life & times of children in the Industrial revolution. We were taken from the days of making cloth in the early 1700's when a child worked 13 hours in a mill & had the life expectancy of 17. Extreme cruelty & dangerous conditions were the norm but finally by the late 1800's conditions had improved & children were able to receive some education. It was in 1833 when the Factory Act was passed to improve conditions for children working in factories. Mr Hannigan was an enthusiastic speaker who certainly knew his subject. A stark illustration of Blake's "Jerusalem". Ann thanked him for his interesting talk & social time followed.

We are sorry to say our meetings are now being cancelled until further notice due to the Coronavirus. It is not a decision taken lightly but it is felt in the circumstances it is the right One. Stay safe everyone.

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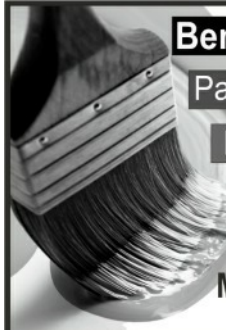
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