



Nathaniel Hone's painting of John Wesley preaching can, in theory, be seen at the National Portrait Gallery.

St Peter's Wolvercote & All Saints Wytham Midweek eNews 24th June 2020

Dear Friends

After the government announcement yesterday, we look forward to new things opening up from July 4th, and we hope and pray that all will go smoothly. It was a nice surprise to hear that we will be allowed to restart church services on Sunday 5th July, albeit severely constrained by continued social distancing rules. It is an especially nice surprise for Jane and myself, that this is happening for two Sundays before I finish work as Vicar.

At present we are waiting to hear from the diocese what this will mean in practice. We know that sadly there will be no singing! Other guidance we eagerly await. I hope to be able to say more in our Sunday mailing, but it may not be till next Wednesday that we are able to give full details.

Meanwhile our churches will again be open for private prayer this Sunday - St Peter's from 8.00-11.00 and All Saints' Wytham from 9.45 – 10.45. And again St Peter's will be open for prayer on Tuesday from 10.30-11.30am and on Wednesday from 7.00-8.00pm.

This Sunday (June 28th) is St Peter's Day, and we will be recording our service and sermon for Petertide in St Peter's church. I do hope you will be able to share our online or printed service on this special day.

With love and prayers
Charles

PRESENTATION TO CHARLES AND JANE

Charles's last Sunday at St Peter's will be on 12 July 2020 and the family are planning to leave the vicarage on 11 August 2020. We are preparing to give the family a cheque so they can choose something special for their new life in memory of their years at St. Peter's. There will be a proper goodbye event when such gatherings are allowed. We gather that our present will go towards the new patio that they are planning.

If you would like to contribute, Bill Edwards, 18 Rosamund Road, Wolvercote, OX2 8NU, St Peter's deputy Treasurer, will accept contributions towards the leaving present. He will bank cash or cheques, which should be made out to St Peter's Church Wolvercote, An on-line bank transfer can be made via CAF Bank Ltd, Name of Account: St Peter's Church, Wolvercote; Sort Code: 40-52-40; Account number: 00010376; Reference: 'Charles Draper'.

Any questions to Sarah Pepys, 7 Paddox Close, OX2 7LR, Telephone 01865 552471 or mobile 07931664034.

JOHN WESLEY.

June 24th is the 300th anniversary of John Wesley's arrival as an undergraduate at Christ Church in 1720. Of Wesley it was famously said, when he was carried to his grave in 1791, that he left behind him a good library of books, a well-worn clergyman's gown and the Methodist Church.

Wesley was elected a fellow of Lincoln College in 1726 and later ordained in our Cathedral. Thereafter, in London, he described a transformative conversion experience. In the evening of 24th May 1738 he went 'very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.' John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist Church, which has, in the words of the Revd Professor Martin Percy, Dean of Christ Church, 'given us some of the most remarkable exemplars of social activism, liberation and reconciliation movements, work with our poorest and most vulnerable, poetry, hymns – and powerful, engaged theology.'

His encouragement to the faithful is always worth repeating.

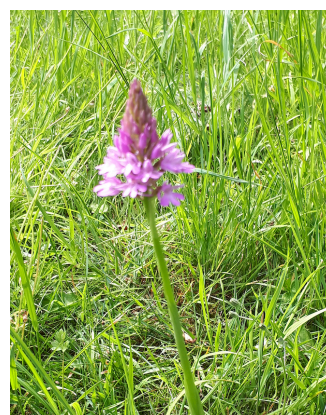
Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

COVID-19 GRASS-CUTTING CRISIS

Val Tate submitted this photograph for your interest and delight. Rather than being unceremoniously mown, grass in the community orchard was left to grow, and lo! this beautiful pyramid orchid bloomed unscythed and unscathed.

Community Orchard	1
Covid-19	0

Hurray!



PARTNERSHIP LINK - COMMON SIDE

Dear *Partnership Link* recipients,
I hope that you and yours keep well. *Pro tem*, information for this compilation will be included on an 'as and when' basis. Please send notices to me for forwarding to the Summertown and Wolvercote Church Partnership churches.

Many thanks, best wishes - Jenny

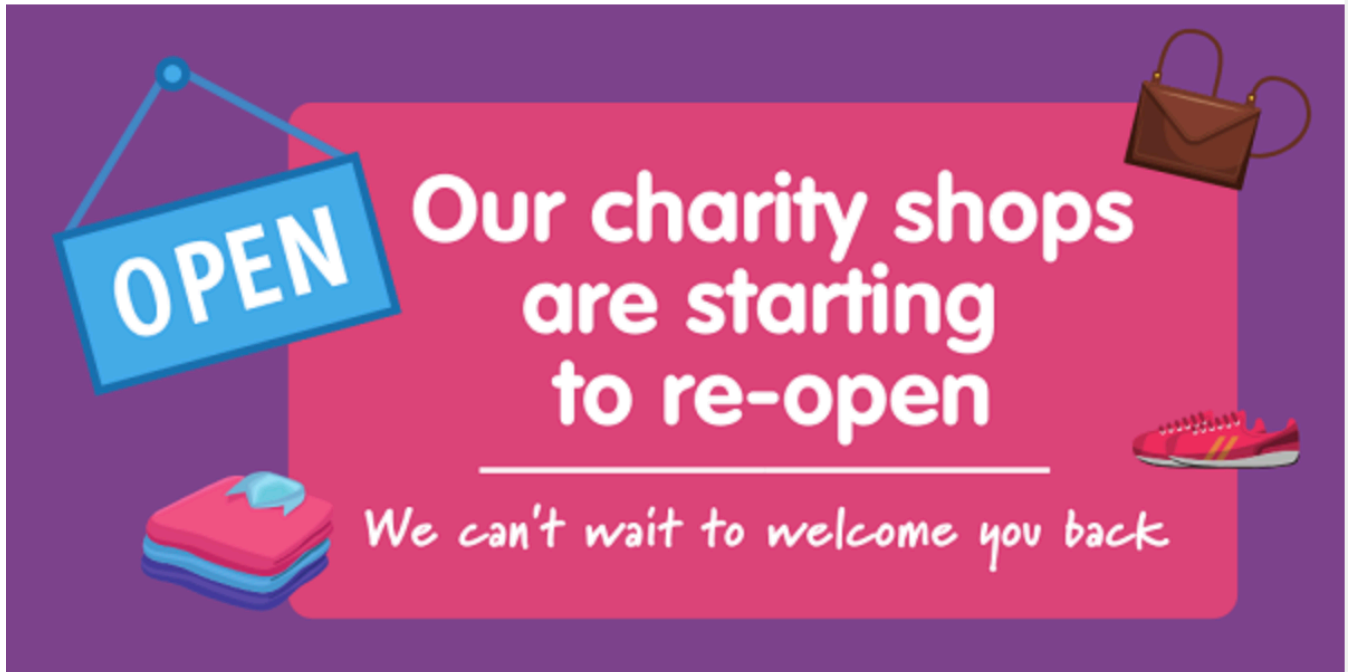
FAIRTRADE SHOP REOPENS!

I am very pleased to remind you that St Michael's FairTrade shop has reopened. I regret that the logo has no apostrophe but I would not want you for such a reason to be deterred from clicking on it to access its website and to catch up on all the exciting new opportunities!





As all the wonderful charity outlets around us gradually reopen, let's make the best use of them, donate, buy - and try to ensure that our post-Covid-19 approach to recycling is several notches up on our pre-Covid-19 state.



NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S OUR LINK CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY & KURUMAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Covid-19 - The latest news of its effects on our people

Our God is still caring and protect us. We must thank Him for that. The North West Province has been low because the mines were still under level 4. In level 3, they are opened and high risk for us. 1000 is already infected in Rustenburg and if they come home it will be a disaster. Mine workers are from Eastern Cape and Kwa Zulu Natal. If Taung people come home, I do think that infection is going to spread during level 3. The President and all church leaders met and agreed to open churches for services. Archbishop Thabo addressed the nation and said we must wait till end July. The situation will be assessed again. Today St Chad's parish council met to discuss some preparations and way forward because pledges are problem because the priests cannot get their salaries. Fr Kubeka is now in Taung after level 3. We are so happy because his wife now has a teaching post in Taung. She is working at Kgosikeyhe in Taung. During level 4 the mission was broken into three times and the Jacket of Fr's wife and 2 pairs of Fr's Takkies were stolen and they broke the window glass. We phone church members whose numbers we have. We only hope that very soon everything will be back to normal.

May God protect and bless you.
Tumie

This article is reprinted from the 'This is Oxfordshire' website. It appeared on 23rd June.

WOLVERCOTE SHOP SET TO BE KNOCKED DOWN

The fear of losing their corner shop to a housing development has led villagers to complain to Oxford City Council.

The former Londis shop on First Turn, Wolvercote, could be demolished to make way for a row of three terraced homes if a planning application to the council is approved. Though the shop closed in September 2018, residents have written to say they are worried about the prospect of losing their nearest store forever.

The building's owner has said that 'the business and post office were not financially viable', leading to the plan to redevelop it into homes. The shop, also known as First Turn Stores in the past, is in the centre of Upper Wolvercote, opposite Wolvercote Primary School and near St Peter's Church.

In the floors above the shop and post office was a five-bedroom house of multiple occupation.



A planning application by Naresh Kotak said there had been attempts to convert the existing building to be used as a house, or for mixed use in a different format to the current shop, but these had proved too complicated to get off the ground, because the existing building had been extended many times. In the new planning application, Mr Kotak's planning consultants at JPPC said: "The closure was a last resort as the businesses had been suffering financially for a number of years." JPPC also said there were nearby shops in Lower Wolvercote and a Marks and Spencer shop in the garage at the Wolvercote Roundabout. The statement added that Mr Kotak had noticed takings for the First Turn Stores were down since the M&S has opened. The statement also referred to a council planning policy which said the loss of local shops was allowed if there was no-one willing to take them over.

Despite the reasons given for the shop's closure, residents of the village are worried that if it is demolished they will lose their nearest food and essentials shop. Dorothy Johnston of Wyndham Way wrote to the council: "A local shop on this site has been an important community asset, given the distance and pedestrian difficulties of other outlets. This is particularly true for the elderly and those without transport."

The Revd Charles Draper of St Peter's Church also expressed concern. He said: "The permanent loss of a local shop will be a serious loss to the community, especially to those who are vulnerable, elderly or without their own means of transport." He also said anyone who moved into the houses, if approved, should be made aware that the church bells are 'rung regularly as they have been for over 200 years'.

Lib Dem city councillor for Wolvercote, Liz Wade also wrote to the council planning office with concerns about how overbearing the new houses could be to homes at Cyprus Terrace and would look out of place with historic buildings in the village.