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Day	Doors Open	Booking for morning surgery	Booking for evening surgery	Doors Closed
Mon	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	16:30 – 17:30	18:30
Tues	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	16:30 – 17:30	18:30
Wed	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	No evening surgery	18:30
Thur	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	16:30 – 17:30	18:30
Fri	08:00	08:30 – 10:30	No evening surgery	18:30
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Visits **Fridays** every two weeks

**2019** – 12<sup>th</sup> April, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 20<sup>th</sup> December

**2020** – 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Abbots Bromley** Bagot Arms 11:30 - 12:30

**Police**

Emergency calls (including First Responders) 999  
 Non emergency calls 101

# PARISH NEWS

for Abbots Bromley  
 and Blithfield



Price 50p

May 2020

## MINISTERIAL LETTER FROM COLWICH

### ***Thy kingdom come ...***

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of Victory in Europe in the Second World War, although it seems very unlikely that we shall be marking it in all the ways that were originally planned. Important as V.E. day was, leaders at the time were quick to emphasise that it did not mark the end of the war: that would come some three months later, on V.J. Day. Even then, the effects of the war would continue to be felt, even in the victorious nations, for many years. Food rationing, for example, did not come to an end in the UK until 1954, whilst injury and bereavement have no simple end-date.

### ***Thy will be done ...***

I pray that the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic will be over by the time that you read this; that restrictions will have begun to be relaxed. However, the virus will still be out there, people will still get sick; some will die. A vaccine seems months away and it will be a long time before things get back to what we expect 'normal' to be. We shall need emotional and economic healing, as well as the medical kind.

### ***On earth, as it is in heaven ...***

I am writing this on Easter Day, the day above all days when Christians celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over death itself. As the Lord's Prayer reminds us, although this victory is won, we are yet to experience God's kingdom in all its fullness. In the meantime, we are called to reveal the reality of that kingdom in our own lives, relying not on our own strength and ingenuity, but on God's gift of the same power which raised Christ from the dead. Hopefully, we shall be able to gather to celebrate this gift together at Pentecost (31<sup>st</sup> May). Yet God's gift of the Holy Spirit, like Christ's victory over death, is not limited to one day a year so, using words taken from one of the letters in the New Testament, I pray, that you:

*may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. Yes, may you come to know his love - although it can never be fully known - and so be completely filled with the very nature of God (Ephesians 3.18, 19).*

Mark Davys

## MAY PARISH NEWS DISTRIBUTION DISRUPTION

At the end of March, as we were all being locked down to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the Diocese of Lichfield issued guidance that paper copies of parish magazines should not be hand-delivered as a measure against transmission of the virus. Unfortunately, the *Parish News* received this advice the day after April's distribution weekend so we were unable to forewarn our readership of changes to May's distribution.

We have attempted to distribute May's *Parish News* as much as possible by electronic means. However, I suspect we have been unable to reach a large proportion of our readership, especially those who must self-isolate and who do not have internet access. We are, to some extent, relying on word-of-mouth, the Village grape-vine, and your goodwill to help the *Parish News* reach its usual readership. If there is anyone you know who usually receives the *Parish News* and who is likely to miss out, please provide whatever help you feel you can. Thank you for support during this time.

If all goes to plan you will be able to find May's *Parish News* online at **[www.achurchnearyou.com/abbots-bromley-st-nicholas](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/abbots-bromley-st-nicholas)** This has had contact information removed in order to allay data privacy concerns.

Visit **[www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley)** for a hyperlink to the *Parish News* and to see any latest comments from St. Nicholas' Church. You can view this page without a Facebook account.

For those who require the usual hardcopy it will be available for collection from Cash Stores (Top Shop) free to subscribers or 50p per copy, providing our printers are operating and have not closed their premises. Remember to use virus transmission precautions if handling these.

Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. In the meantime, enjoy as much as you can the rainbow artwork, painted stones, and displays of appreciation for the NHS, farmers, and other services which have been supported publicly recently.

*Ed*

### THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCHYARD

In 2018 I completed 32 years' service with the Police Force.

Many years ago an inspirational poem was once shared around which many of us found uplifting. With being in the Police Force, and in view of the shift patterns, Church attendance was sporadic, which was not helped by having only one weekend off every month. The police service in later years took on local ministers who would attend stations just after briefings and sit and chat with us. No preachings were given but their door was definitely open to anyone of faith or none who needed someone to talk to. I am still in touch with friends who are still in the police. Times are difficult for them at the moment and whilst talking to them the policeman's poem was brought up.

I have included it for you to read: it has relevance for any frontline service. We do not know who the author was but my suspicions are that they were once part of the police family.

A.B.

#### ***The Final Inspection***

The policeman stood and faced his God,  
which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, policeman.  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?”

The policeman squared his shoulders and said,  
“No, Lord, I guess I ain't,  
because those of us who carry badges  
can't always be a saint.

“I've had to work most Sundays,  
and at times my talk was rough,  
and sometimes I've been violent,  
because the streets are awfully tough.

“But I never took a penny,  
that wasn't mine to keep....  
though I worked a lot of overtime  
when the bills got just too steep.

“And I never passed a cry for help,  
though at times I shook with fear,  
and sometimes, God forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

“I know I don't deserve a place  
among the people here.  
They never wanted me around  
except to calm their fear.

“If you've a place for me here,  
Lord, it needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
but if you don't....I'll understand.”

There was silence all around the throne  
where the saints had often trod.  
As the policeman waited quietly,  
for the judgment of his God.

“Step forward now, policeman,  
you've borne your burdens well.  
Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets,  
you've done your time in hell.”

Author Unknown

### NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

There are numerous events taking place at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. For full details, or to book, please contact the NMA.

Tel: 01283 792333 E-mail: [info@thenma.org.uk](mailto:info@thenma.org.uk) Web: [www.thenma.org.uk](http://www.thenma.org.uk)

**BLITHFIELD NEWS AND NOTICES**

**ST. LEONARD'S, BLITHFIELD**

As in April, because of the Covid-19 measures, all Church services are cancelled and rotas suspended until further notice.

SAVE THE DATE

~~Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 3:00pm~~

at ~~Manor Lane, Newton~~

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Please put cartridges through the front door of **Middleton House** (on the corner of Bagot Street & Goose Lane) **enclosed in a small plastic bag or cling film** please! Thank you!

**ABBOTS BROMLEY NEWS AND NOTICES**

**ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH & CHURCH HOUSE CLOSED FOR MAY**

As in April, because of the Covid-19 measures, St. Nicholas' church and Church House will be closed in May for all services, gatherings and meetings, and all Church rotas are suspended until further notice.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2020**

Each year a Christmas Tree Festival is held in Abbots Bromley to raise funds for St. Nicholas' Church. It is a wonderful community day and is attended by many people from our village as well as neighbouring villages. The church always looks fantastic as most of the organisations and businesses in the village provide a tree and they are always decorated with great skill and imagination. What makes this such a wonderful event is that everyone is always happy to participate, and they willingly give up their time to ensure that the Festival is successful year after year.

The last festival was held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019. There were over 50 trees in the church; the choir from Richard Clarke School were brilliant and entertained everyone with all their songs. They were followed by the Abbots Bromley Community Choir who also captivated everyone with their repertoire of carols and songs. The wonderful refreshments were provided by the ladies of the W.I. and the amazing sum of £700 was raised for the Church.

As Abbots Bromley W.I. have hosted the Christmas Tree Festival for the past five years, the Committee would like to offer other organisations the opportunity to arrange this year's Festival. Members of the W.I. would be more than willing to offer help both before and during the event.

Clearly, we cannot be certain what the situation will be in December but let's hope we are back to normal and the 2020 Tree Festival will, as usual, be a wonderful event leading up to the Christmas festivities.

I do hope another organisation will take up this opportunity. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Tree Festival please get in touch and I will be delighted to answer your questions.

### **ABBOTS BROMLEY W.I.**

In the present situation it is obvious that the normal monthly meetings cannot be held until restrictions are lifted. Nevertheless, the members are still in contact through electronic means and cheering each other up with emails and numerous jokes from a variety of sources.

They are getting to grips with technology and have also conquered 'Zoom' video conferencing software. Val Slater the president, has organised two meetings and one planned for next week.

It has been a good opportunity for catching up on jobs put by for a rainy day and for new ventures.

Some people are making much needed gowns for the NHS and others are producing small red knitted 'hearts'. The latter items are given to bereaved families hospital.

The members look forward to when the regular meetings can begin once more.

### **NOSTALGIA EVENT 2020 CANCELLED**

Sadly, and with regret, the Nostalgia Team are unable to hold our annual event because of the present conditions. This will not stop us researching for more information and photos so please keep sharing your memories etc. with us.

We will, however, continue to post photographs on our Facebook page and also display photos in the window of Cash Stores (Top Shop).

If you have any theme in particular you would like to see on [www.facebook.com/AbbotsBromleyNostalgia](http://www.facebook.com/AbbotsBromleyNostalgia) or on display in the shop window please let us know. The display in the window at the moment is village shops of the past.

A big thank you to Mark and Gill for allowing us to use their shop window.

Keep well, Elaine, Jean, Tom and Chris

### **EVERGREENS**

Greetings to all our members from the Committee. We do so hope you are all keeping safe and well in these strange times in which we find ourselves.

As you are aware we originally contacted you all to cancel our meetings in April and May. Now we are halfway through April, it is difficult to assess just when things will start to return to normal, although we are certain they eventually will. We have decided now to hold no meeting in June either, but we do hope that by the beginning of June things will be somewhat clearer and we will be able to return to what is left of our 2020 calendar. Unfortunately, this means that we will have to cancel the River Trip booked for July as we will not be in a position to collect names and payment. We do hope you understand; we intend to contact the Princess Line to see whether or not we can move our booking to the same time in 2021.

When we do find ourselves emerging from the current situation, we would be happy to see new members join and each year the Committee try very hard to produce an interesting and varied programme. The meetings are held in Church House and we try to arrange a couple of outings with 2 or 3 pickup points in the village, so it's all very handy and convenient. Should you or someone you know be interested in becoming a member or would like further information about Evergreens, please contact Jackie Brown, Chairperson (840226), Val Jones (840592), Brenda Adams (840207), or any other member of the Committee.

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE, Sandra Cottrell, Secretary

### **A message from the St. Nicholas Welcome Team**

Abbots Bromley is a friendly lively busy village and we would like to help new residents settle in and take part.

Have you a new neighbour recently moved to the Village?

How about dropping in a copy of our *Parish News* magazine to make them feel welcome or please ring Anthea on 840624 or Maureen on 840936 and we would be happy to assist.

**A.B. VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB DRAW**

The following are the winners of March's 200 club draws.

Month	No.	Name	Amount
April	150	S. Phillipson	£25
"	180	J. Needham	£25
"	67	D. Cotton	£25
"	78	B. Joyner	£50

**ABBOTS BROMLEY PRODUCE GUILD**

We are planning to hold our Annual Show on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September this year in Church House. To give you plenty of time for the Photography Section, the class entries are as follows:

- Class 1. Water, Water, Everywhere
- Class 2. Wild Flowers
- Class 3. A Person in Uniform
- Class 4. Horses or Ponies

The photographs must have been taken in the last two years.

If you have any queries about the above or the show, please contact Kath Cadman on 840606.

**Please note** that the **Plant Sale** due to take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10:00am in Church House has been **cancelled**.

**MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE SUSPENDED**

The mobile library service is currently suspended, and all Staffordshire libraries closed, until further notice because of the spread of Covid-19. The visit dates for '20/'21 have not yet been released, but will be added to the rear cover of the *Parish News* as soon as they are available.

**ABBOTS BROMLEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**Victory in Europe 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945**

Readers will be aware that the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May is a National Commemoration of V.E. day, marking the end of World War II.

We were planning a number of events including toasts in our pubs, national bell ringing, V.E. dance, afternoon tea with the choir and a commemoration service at the war memorial on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. You will understand that due to instructions from the government about Covid-19 these events can no longer take place. It is a poignant reminder that again, in the words of the Prime Minister, we are at war with the virus, a war that we will win.

**It was at 3:00pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 that Winston Churchill made the national broadcast on the wireless about Victory in Europe.**

I am sure that people will want to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V.E. day in their own way at home, remembering the sacrifices that people made during WW II on our behalf.

Sid Slater, Royal British Legion Abbots Bromley Branch

**HOME-MADE JAMS AND MARMALADE**

I still have plenty of home-made jams from last season and marmalade from this year. If anyone wishes to purchase some, please give me a call. All the money raised from the sale of these goes towards the upkeep of our beautiful parish church of St. Nicholas. I hope to be able to make more jams this summer – provided I can obtain the fruit!

Anthea Blower Tel: 840624

**ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH JUST GIVING PAGE**

Following advice from Lichfield Diocese, Rev'd Davis has set up a fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abbotsbromleychurch](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abbotsbromleychurch) at which you could make a donation. Remember, if you pay income tax you can apply Gift Aid effectively to increase your donation by 25% through tax recovery from HMRC.

## **ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Coping with Covid-19**

The Parish Council would like to help any residents who require support during this uncertain and worrying period.

If you are self-isolating and unable to get out to buy groceries, go for a walk or pick up prescriptions or if you are an NHS worker struggling to get to the shops then do get in touch with the Parish Clerk and we, or one of the volunteers who have come forward, will do what we can to help.

Many of the pubs and cafes in the village are offering take-away meals and the Cash Stores (Top Shop) is offering free delivery of supplies to those that are vulnerable so do give them a call 01283 840210.

Please check that your neighbours are ok. If you haven't seen them for a while pick up the phone and give them a call to see if they need any supplies or direct them to the Parish Clerk.

### **Parish Council Grants**

There is an opportunity for local organisations and charities to apply to the Parish Council for a small grant. This could be to help fund some new equipment, improve facilities or generally help the organisation to keep operating, particularly during these difficult times of Covid-19.

If you would like to apply for a grant then please submit your request in writing to the Parish Clerk at [parish.council@abbotsbromley.com](mailto:parish.council@abbotsbromley.com) or to the address below before Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Please include as much information as possible about the organisation, what the grant is required for, when the money will be spent and any supporting quotations.

All grant applications will be considered by the Parish Council and you will be notified if you have been successful. You will then be invited to a future Parish Council meeting to receive the grant. Applicants can only be accepted from non-profit making organisations.

#### **The Parish Clerk,**

Marsh Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley, Staffs. WS15 3EJ  
Email: [parish.council@abbotsbromley.com](mailto:parish.council@abbotsbromley.com)

## **ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH COLLECTION**

Because of the current health situation, St. Nicholas' church has to remain locked for an indefinite period. During the current health emergency we are blessed with our Ministry Team on hand for any compassionate needs including dealing with families going through bereavement.

Sadly the Church, although closed, has to be maintained financially and because we are unable to receive gifts from our regular givers either by the 'planned giving' envelope scheme or on the collection plates at services income has dropped considerably. A gift could be made by setting up a direct debit or standing order with our bank for as long as the current emergency lasts. We understand that families are under a lot of pressure at this difficult time but if anyone could assist by setting this in motion we would be very grateful. Please contact Mrs. Gill Grundy on 840208 for details. Remember, if you pay income tax you can apply Gift Aid effectively to increase your donation by 25% through tax recovery from HMRC. Just ask Gill for the relevant form.

## **IN MEMORY OF MAVIS WILSON**

The family of Mavis Wilson would like to announce that she passed away peacefully on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, and was cremated following a quiet ceremony with close family on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you for all the support we have received at this time, it is much appreciated.

Mavis arrived in Abbots Bromley in 1948 and taught at the Richard Clarke school where past students will have known her as Miss Rhodes. She married in 1955, moved into the house and shop on Bagot Street and settled into being wife, mother of 4, and playing an active part in the village community. She was Parish Councillor and a School Governor, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She moved to Swan Lane after Vic retired and lived there until she moved to Hawkesyard nursing home in 2016.

There will be a memorial service for the interment of her ashes when circumstances allow to which everyone will be welcome.



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## HELPERS NEEDED ON CHURCH ROTAS

St. Nicholas' Church needs helpers, for the smooth running of services, to add their names to the following rotas: sides, ministry, readers, intercessors, chalice, coffee, and flowers. Help and instruction is available for willing volunteers. For further information, please contact Gill Grundy on 840208.

Church Cleaning Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Gill Grundy on 840208 if you can help.



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### **FOOD BANK**

It is not clear what arrangements are in place for the Food Bank collection at St. Nicholas' church while the building is closed. It is suggested you contact Cash Stores (Top Shop) on 01283 840210 to see if they are still taking donations.

### **REFUSE COLLECTION DATES**

The 2020 refuse collection schedule for your property, showing types of waste collected and on what dates, can be found online at:

[www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/collection-dates](http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/collection-dates)

For those without internet access, refuse collection dates for **Abbots Bromley village** will be as follows. Details for out-lying properties may vary by day and type (e.g. *Grey* and *paper* on the *Thursday* of the recycling week below).

<b>Waste for Incinerating</b> (to generate electricity)	<b>Waste for Recycling</b>
<i>Grey</i> bin - non-recyclable, food	<i>Blue</i> bin - plastic, tins, glass jars <i>Brown</i> bin - garden waste (no food) <i>Blue bag</i> - paper
Wednesday 29 April Wednesday 13 May Wednesday 27 May	Wednesday 06 May Wednesday 20 May Wednesday 03 June

**The Brown bin (garden waste) collection has been reinstated** subject to further review of the Covid-19 situation.

### **DIARY FOR MAY**

All of May Stay Home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Sun 7 Jun 3:00pm Tea in a Tipi for St. Leonard's, POSTPONED TO 2021  
Sun 12 Jul Open Gardens Afternoon, Abbots Bromley CANCELLED

**For latest arrangements please contact your group's representative.**

### **ROTAS FOR MAY**

All church services and rotas are suspended for May.

### **UNITED BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY**

All Benefice Church Services are cancelled for May. The following is a list of potentially useful online resources.

St. Nicholas' Church's Facebook Page (a Facebook account or login is not required to read the posts):

<https://www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley>

St. Nicholas' Church's "A Church Near You" Page:

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/abbots-bromley-st-nicholas>

St. Leonard's Church's "A Church Near You" Page:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4114/>

Church of England's latest guidance in relation to Covid-19

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

Not available

### **CONTACT PARISH NEWS**

Please see earlier copies of the *Parish News* for our contact details.

Deadlines / Dates for June's magazine are:

<b>Copy:</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>
Print:	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
Courier by:	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May

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01283 820791 (evenings)  
**Mark:** 07887 915587

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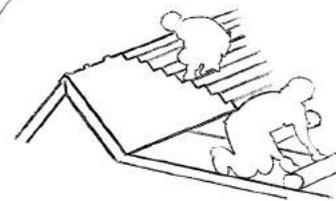
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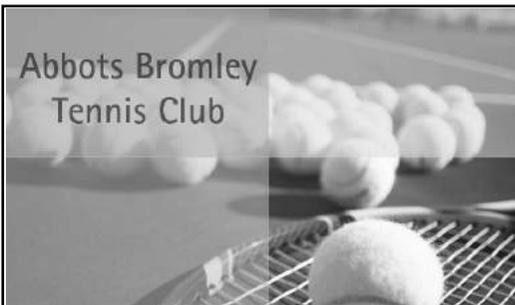
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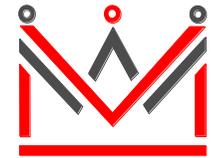
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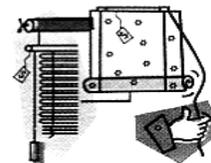
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