

Uley, Owlpen & Nympsfield December 2020

Village News

***Supporting Church, Community
& Local Business***

uleyvillagenews@gmail.com

A December letter from Jane Wood

Dear Friends,

Christmas is not Cancelled!

We are living in strange times at the moment and at the time of writing. we are in our second national Lockdown. It's difficult to know what Christmas will look like this year, but one thing we can be certain of, it will be different.

The Church of England recently launched their Christmas campaign, not quite the Magic and Sparkle of a certain well-known store but an important message to be shared in these uncertain times – 'Comfort and Joy'. For some of us, and my own parents are over 200 hundred miles away, we may have to face Christmas alone, many others will deal with the loss of loved ones and for others different types of losses over the last year.

'Comfort and Joy' holds together, the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration in this uniquely difficult year while acknowledging the need of consolation for those who are not in the mood for jubilation. The Church is asked to draw on the words from St Paul in Romans 12.15 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.' Helping us to connect the rich and joyous traditions of the past with the offer of God's consoling love in the present.

Christmas this year will be different but that doesn't mean it has to be inferior or worse; already the community in Uley are beavering away to bring joy, planning Advent windows to light up the village and doorstep carol singing – I wonder if Christmas 2020 might even be a Christmas that we look back on in future years with some good memories, a time when amongst the uncertainty and sadness, joy and comfort were also found in the kindness and generosity of neighbours and community.

Christmas is not cancelled in 2020. Christmas can never be cancelled, our beautiful churches will still be open to welcome you with joy and delight to worship together, and at the time of going to press we hope that will be both physically and digitally. Please do check our pattern of services. We hope you can all find something to join in with.

Christmas is not cancelled because we have Good News to bring in Jesus. Jesus who comes to us as the Incarnate God to be with us, in the mess, struggles and pain of our world. God giving up all the glory of heaven to become one of us.

In the lead up to Christmas, Advent, we have space and time to wait and anticipate, to prepare to welcome Immanuel, God with us, who steps into the need and mess of a broken world, for you and me and for all humankind. God who is fully divine and fully human, God who spoke all creation into being, who knows each of us and loves us, comes to be with us in our need, our weakness and in our everyday lives. The Christ child is born into the dark streets of the town of Bethlehem full of commotion and chaos - to an unmarried teenage mother, where no comfortable bed is free, no hospital, who faces disapproval but who trusting in God brings, a tiny, new baby to change the world. And Joseph, a good man standing by Mary, despite his fears about everything. The shepherds who visit, are the poorest of men, doing the dirtiest of jobs leaving their flocks to visit the Christ child, not financially the best move. The Christmas story is not one of certainty or privilege.

But God whispers to each 'Do not be afraid'. In our waiting and our uncertainty, in our fears and joys that there is more, and as the world holds its breath - God breaks in on Christmas night, with wonder to bring, hope, love, comfort and joy. And God whispers to each of us too, 'Don't be afraid.

We wait in Advent for the most precious of Christmas gifts, the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. This gift is always offered, a gift to be shared and given away to others, if we accept this gift it will be transformational. God comes to us, seeks us out and offers this gift of grace and then waits too – to see if we will accept. This is the Good News of the Christmas Gospel, that God comes to us and the world in Jesus transforming our sadness into joy. Christmas can't ever be cancelled, because at its heart it is the celebration of God with us, in all of our lives.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas full of comfort and joy.
Love and prayers,
Revd Jane

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

MR JOHN KAY, TEL: 07841 204404 E-MAIL: clerk@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AGENT

AMBER WALTERS	clare.lukes@independencetrust.co.uk	07817866354
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Other Information

The Parish Council normally meets in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm, however for the foreseeable future Council meetings are being held online using "Zoom". You are very welcome to attend online. Details of the meetings can be found on the notice boards at either end of the village or on the Uley village website at: www.uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



The **December** edition of
the Messenger is now
available to download from:

www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/#messenger

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY,
HEALTHY CHRISTMAS



This Christmas the **Friends of Uley School** have organised a special Christmas Tree, which will sit on the corner of Green Close, for village residents and passers by to enjoy.

It's been a difficult year for everyone, and we hope this will bring some much needed Christmas spirit to our wonderful community.

With love & best wishes, *The Friends of Uley School*

Church News from Canon Michael

Celebrating Christmas

As I write this, we are in the second lockdown and, very sadly, we have been told to close our churches for all services except for funerals.

Thankfully, permission has been given for the church buildings to be opened for private prayer and so we continue to be able to do this following Covid guidelines and on a restricted timetable:

St Giles is open on Tuesdays and Fridays 10am – 3pm

St Bartholomew's is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am – 3pm

St James in Dursley is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am

Our challenge is how we can celebrate Christmas, assuming that we can re-open our churches for services in December. The service pattern printed at the back of this magazine inevitably has to be provisional! What we have to accept this year is that the number of people who can attend church services safely following the Covid guidelines, is very small. Too small for our usually 'big' services on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. We have decided that the **Crib Service on Christmas Eve** will need to be a virtual service which we will stream on-line at 4pm and we will then post a recording that can be watched over the Christmas period. This service is still being planned but we hope to include some Christmas carols and a different telling of the traditional Christmas story. Details will be found nearer the time on the website www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

Midnight Mass would, in normal times, be at 11pm in St James in Dursley. We are currently unsure about whether we will be able to hold this service in the church or whether it will be hosted to be via Zoom. If the service is held in church it will need to be by **pre-booked tickets** due to the restrictions on the number of people allowed at a service. Further details will be made available nearer the time.

On **Christmas Morning** there will be 2 services of Family Holy Communion, both at 10am and both again by **pre-booked tickets** due to the restriction on numbers. These services will be in St Giles and St Bartholomew's in Nympsfield. The 10am Christmas morning service from St James in Dursley will be live-streamed for those who want to watch from home.

Details of how to book tickets and how to join virtual services will be published on the website. Tickets can be booked through our office by email ewelmebenefice@gmail.com or by phone 549280.

Uley 'Windows of Advent'

Before we get to Christmas, there is of course, the journey through Advent. We are all looking forward to the Advent window trail which will begin at Uley Village Stores, continue around the village and finish, on Christmas Eve, at St Giles. Just what's needed to lift the spirits at this time and prepare us for the Christmas celebrations!

'Access for All' – the re-ordering project in St Giles

As I reported last month, Prue Vernon has begun the lengthy process of applying to various grant-making bodies for funding towards the planned work in St Giles. The project has been given the slightly snappier title of 'Access for All' because that reflects our desire for this work to make it possible for anyone who wishes to come into the church, to be able to do so easily and safely and to find a welcoming and accessible building. Although we are very fortunate to already have half of the estimated £200,000 cost of the project, mainly due to a very generous bequest made some years ago, there is clearly a lot of money still to raise. We are pressing ahead in faith, despite the restrictions of the current situation, and have invited expressions of interest in the work from several contractors before we put the project out for tender. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress.

Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

Churches of St Giles, Holy Cross and St Bartholomew

The Revd Canon Michael Cozens

01453 546459
mgcozens86@btinternet.com
Parish day off - Fri
Messages listened to daily

Churchwardens
Mrs P Thomas 860047

Mrs A Hardy 860876

All bookings for the Church
and St Giles Room to
Marion Kee 860364 or
Email: maronkee@gmail.com

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ULEY SCHOOL NEEDS *You!*

Each year through fund-raising events, the Friends of Uley School (FUS) raise critical funds to support the school. Over the years these funds have been used for essential classroom supplies, play and sports equipment, IT equipment, school trips and so much more...

Without the parents, carers and wider community supporting the school and these events, none of this would be possible and we thank you for all that you have done.

However this year with Covid-19 Restrictions our efforts have been greatly limited, and as a result we have a shortfall in the 'pot' which normally funds some very important resources.

Therefore if you are able to support us with a donation, large or small, please visit:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/uleyprimaryschool-pta

www.friendsofuleyschool.org



Thank you x



ULEY UNDER 5s PLAYGROUP

Uley Under 5s Playgroup was founded in 1965 and has continued to provide much needed-support of childcare for local families. The playgroup is celebrating a secure future with a new committee of volunteers, made up of parents and members of the community.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Clare Williams who has just stepped down as the chair of the playgroup. She has contributed her time and supported the group for 2 years - thank you Clare!!

We would also like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee. With their support we were able to offer some sessions in June and are now back to our usual four sessions a week, caring for children aged 2 – 4 years. We still have a few places left for 2020 – 21, see our website for more information www.uleyplaygroup.co.uk.

Uley Under 5s Playgroup is now looking forward to the last term of the year, it may be somewhat different from previous years due to covid-19 but we will ensure we have as much fun as possible.

HISTORY OF THE ULEY BURY WORKING PARTY

In 2008 the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Beauty Board (CAONB) approached the Bury landowners and Parish Council to discuss the best long-term future for the historic monument and the preservation of the natural grassland. The woodlands below were creeping ever uphill. English Heritage and Natural England were involved in discussions.

As a result, it was agreed that the central field would revert from crop growing to grazing thus preserving the fragile archaeology beneath. To protect the grassland old fences were replaced and new fences hidden below to enable summer grazing.

The Stroud District Council owned land at the west end (managed locally) that was gated and treated differently because of its rich flora and fauna. There is a light graze in September well after flowering. Afterwards the volunteer Working Party set up then comes in to control the saplings and brush during the winter months. Thus, we retain a tapestry of growth suited to wild flowers, birds and butterflies.

We are very grateful to those who join this group, since like painting the Severn Bridge, there is work to be done every year!

UPC.



Join the Uley Playing Field 100 Club and village lottery now! Your village needs you!

The Playing Field at Shadwell was bought by public subscription after the end of the Second World War, with money raised through the Uley and Owlpen Welcome Home Fund, launched in 1945. The aim was to establish a memorial to the thirteen members of the community who had lost their lives in the war.

The first pavilion was built in 1960-61, partly with volunteer labour. By 1999 it was in a poor state and lacked modern facilities. It was eventually demolished in November 2011, and the new one was formally opened in May 2015. It has proven to be a wonderful facility for the village used by a wide variety of local people, adults and children, engaged in a wide range of activities. However, it is also expensive to run. This is where you come in. For as little as £12 for one number for one year you can become a member of the 100 Club supporting the upkeep of the Pavilion and the playing field. And by completing a simple form you have the chance to win £15 or £10 every month.

If you would like to join and buy one or more numbers, pick up a form at the village shop or email me va.boroughs@btinternet.com. Please also email me if you are not sure whether your membership has lapsed. Thank you—your support is greatly appreciated .

Congratulations to all recent winners:

October - 1st - Henry Cornish (£15)
2nd - Mark Bailey (£10)

November - 1st - Liz Rymer (£15)
2nd - Nic Kelly-Davies (£10)

From the Parish Registers...

Recently Departed

Jennifer Rogers

Those whose Year's Mind falls in December;

Patricia Athey, Roy Dauncey, Andrew Johnson, Hilary Bay McManus, Leslie Smith, Lindsey Street, Nancy Wordsworth, Malcolm Hall, Paul Weeks

December is here, Christmas decorations are going up, lights a twinkling and, of course, a Christmas raffle. We have to maintain some traditions!

Paul and Deborah Lawrence have once again donated a lovely Christmas hamper. To be in for a chance to win it, for every multiple of £10 you spend in the shop you will get a free entry. Spend £40 and not only will you get 4 entries but a free Uley Bag too!!! HO HO HO. The draw to be held Thursday 24th December 1pm. Really sorry but for this year I can't say come along and watch the draw with a mince pie. I will let the winner know and report it in the Village News next year.

There is a great selection of Christmas gifts and yummy goods on sale. Plus, all the ingredients needed to make your Christmas cakes, puddings and mince pies.

As in previous years for December only, the Post Office will remain open through the lunch hour from Monday 7th until Wednesday 23rd inclusive to help with the Christmas rush. Ladies, thank you.

Also, time to check with the Post Office the last dates for sending your cards and parcels both for the UK and abroad. They recommend that to have the best chance of the same evening pick up to get to the Post Office by 4pm Mon – Friday, Wednesday 3.30pm. Note that Saturday's post is collected at 10.50am. Please be aware due to Covid-19 there are fewer international flights which will have the knock-on effect of delays to parcels being delivered, another good reason to post early.

When queuing outside in the changeable weather there are umbrellas provided under the porch. Please sanitize your hands before use and return them to the storage container when you enter the shop.

Back to the Christmas spirit, I'd like to thank Sophie and Alastair Knight from Wresden Farm who have kindly donated the shop's Christmas Tree decorated by Angela and Steve Hadrell.

Thursday 24th Shop open 8-2 Post Office 9-12.30

Christmas Day:- Shop and Post Office closed .

Boxing Day:- Shop open 8am until 1pm, Post Office closed

Monday 28th Shop open 9-12

New Year's Eve Shop open 8-2 Post Office 9-12.30

New Year's Day:- Shop open 9am until 12pm, Post Office closed

Wishing you All

A Very Merry Christmas

RUN BY VOLUNTEERS

Pami Davis

www.uleycommunitystores.co.uk

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Adverse Weather & Driving Advice

In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. This is because your tyres have less grip on the road. In wet weather

- you should keep well back from the vehicle in front. This will increase your ability to see and plan ahead
- if the steering becomes unresponsive, it probably means that water is preventing the tyres from gripping the road. Ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually
- the rain and spray from vehicles may make it difficult to see and be seen
- be aware of the dangers of spilt diesel that will make the surface very slippery.
- take extra care around pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders.

In winter check the local weather forecast for warnings of icy or snowy weather. DO NOT drive in these conditions unless your journey is essential. If it is, take great care and allow more time for your journey. Take an emergency kit of de-icer and ice scraper, torch, warm clothing and boots, first aid kit, jump leads and a shovel, together with a warm drink and emergency food in case you get stuck or your vehicle breaks down.

Before you set off

- you MUST be able to see, so clear all snow and ice from all your windows
- you MUST ensure that lights are clean and number plates are clearly visible and legible
- make sure the mirrors are clear and the windows are demisted thoroughly
- remove all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users
- check your planned route is clear of delays and that no further snowfalls or severe weather are predicted.

Dog fouling

It remains a legal requirement for all those in charge of a dog (other than those with a registered assistance dog) to clean up after their dog has fouled. This order applies to anywhere in the District to which the public has a right of access. Anyone witnessed not cleaning up could receive a

fixed penalty notice of £75 or a maximum £1000 fine should the matter proceed to Court. Stroud District Council provides around 500 specific dog waste bins around the District, but dog walkers can also use any litter bin or their own general household waste bin to dispose of their dog waste. You can also be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 for littering if you fail to dispose of bags of collected fouling in the correct manner.

ULEY WI DIARY

October/November

By the time this appears in December's edition of Village News, if the present restrictions have the desired effect, lock-down may be about to be eased and we can plan to celebrate with family and friends – even if we need to continue with precautions. I do hope that will be possible as it has been such a tough year for so many and we need to celebrate Christmas in the company of those we care about. Regrettably though, our 72 Uley WI members will not be able to sit down together to enjoy the usual pre-Christmas feast in the Village Hall as we have done every year for as long as I can remember! But we will 'Zoom' together for the occasion, sporting plenty of sparkly festive bling. Our Committee is hoping that as many members as possible will join in for a bit of festive fun and it will be so lovely just to see one another again.

Our Zoom meetings with guest speakers continue to be a source of interest and entertainment, although it is frustrating that the technology remains a barrier for some members. We are impatient for the time when we can meet face-to-face once more. The Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes (GFWI) has worked tirelessly since the first lock-down in March began with Janice Cole, the Federation Chairman sending lots of upbeat messages, sharing ideas across the various WIs and organising regular Zoom speakers for all WI members to attend. I recently saw one conducted by Sarah Slater, a guide at Hampton Court Palace and it was superb. Once we can all get out and about again, it would be great to have a Uley WI outing there and I think Sarah herself might give us a personally guided tour. What a treat that would be.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy festive season from all of us in Uley WI.

Ann Warrender


Uley Community Stores
& *Post Office*



Like us on
Facebook @UleyStores



www.uleycommunitystores.co.uk

Telephone 01453 861592

enquiries@uleycommunitystores.co.uk

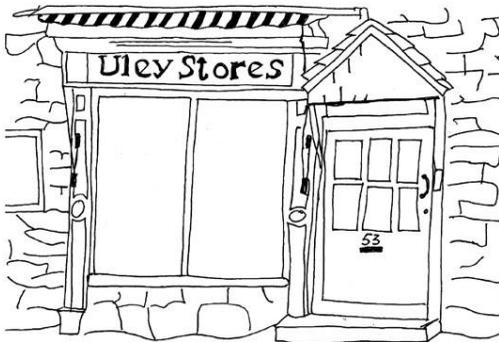
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- Special orders

Local info

Local produce

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day



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at Uley Stores!!**

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needed. Get in
touch or drop in.



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FESTIVE FUN

Join us each day of advent to enjoy the festive windows around the village. Simply download a map (or pop into the shop), take a walk and mark it off - or follow the journey on social media.



#UleyAdvent

 [uley_windows_of_advent/](https://www.instagram.com/uley_windows_of_advent/)

 [uley_windows_of_advent](https://www.facebook.com/uley_windows_of_advent)

The Ewelme Benefice

Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

Churches of St Giles, Holy Cross and St Bartholomew
The Revd Canon Michael Cozens - 01453 546459 mgcozens86@btinternet.com
Churchwardens Ann Hardy 860876, Pauline Thomas 01453 860047
www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

December 2020 Services

Sunday 6th December St Giles	2nd Sunday of Advent 10.00am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 13th December St Giles	3rd Sunday of Advent 10.00am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 20th December Holy Cross, Owlpen	4th Sunday of Advent 10.00am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
Thursday 24th December Ewelme Benefice St James, Dursley	Christmas Eve 4.00pm Benefice Crib Service (<i>posted on-line</i>) ** 11.00pm Midnight Mass (<i>either via Zoom or by pre-booked tickets</i>) **
Friday 25th December St Giles St Bartholomew's	Christmas Day 10.00am Family Holy Communion (CW) <i>Pre-booked tickets</i> 10.00am Family Holy Communion (CW) <i>required for services</i>
Sunday 27th December St James, Dursley	St John the Evangelist 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion (CW) **

Services marked ** will be either live-streamed or posted on-line

Church opening times

St Giles
Tuesdays & Fridays 10am – 3pm
St Bartholomew's
Wednesdays & Saturdays 10am – 3pm

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
by arrangement.
Please contact Canon Michael

Parish Administration -

Please contact the Parish Office:
ewelmebenefice@gmail.com
01453 549280

The office is open on reduced hours at the present time but emails will be answered and messages picked up

Church Activities

All the above services depend on the lifting of the current lockdown and permission being given for worship in church to resume.

Please be aware that all of this could be subject to change.

Up to date information can be found on our website www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk