

THE

PARISH



NEWS

News from the
Churches,
the clubs, groups,
& societies of
Ninfield & Hooe

March 2021

50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



Due to Lockdown there will be no services in either of our churches
Hopefully things may change in March

If this changes we will try and notify everyone either by email or
Facebook.

Paul is continuing to put the Sunday services on line

The Link is www.ninfield.org.uk

Opening times for Private Prayer

St Mary's, Ninfield is closed.

St Oswald's, Hooe is open daily 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Any alterations or additions to these service times will be displayed on the church notice boards, the weekly sheet and can be found on the church website along with other church details ~ www.ninfield.org.uk

APPOINTMENTS All enquiries about Baptism, Marriages, reading of Banns or any other Church matter should be made to The Church Wardens, details on the back page

PARISH NEWS Views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the writer and not of the Parish Churches or PCCs unless it so states.
This publication is produced and distributed by Members of both Parish Churches.

Dear Friends,

We recently watched a TV programme called Supermarket Secrets which showed how supermarkets are using modern technology in the Supermarket 'Wars'. It reminded me that there is now a new conversation taking place as we consider how to relate to non-humans in the shape of robots with artificial intelligence. In most supermarkets, it is possible to go through the store and on through the checkout quite legitimately without interacting with another human person. Google is experimenting with driverless cars and lorries; within a generation it is said that the latter will become commonplace for long-distance haulage. It has, of course, been possible for some time to travel on tram and rail systems that are driverless and think nothing of it. Already, where robotics is a flourishing academic discipline, we hear stories of a generation of 'sentient' robots that can learn, adapt, take decisions. This is no longer the preserve of sci-fi films and novels. These sentient robots will, we are assured, work for us, alongside us, assist us and interact with us, not only in defence and transport but in the oil and gas industries, health care, renewable energies, space exploration, to name but a few. Mind you maybe the Terminator films are maybe a prophetic warning!

For some, this explosion of artificial intelligence poses the possibility of a threat to humans, real enough that some scientists are advocating for precautionary measures. Should governments create Robotics Commissions to monitor and regulate developments so that we don't innovate irresponsibly?

While concerns mostly centre on economics, government, and ethics, there is also a spiritual dimension to what we are making and doing. If we create other things that think for themselves, and act for themselves, then we raise serious theological issues that will require careful reflection. History lends credibility to this prediction. When Galileo promoted heliocentrism in the 1600s, it famously challenged traditional Christian interpretations of certain Bible passages, which seemed to teach that the earth was the centre of the universe.

When Charles Darwin popularised the theory of natural selection in the 1800s, it challenged traditional Christian beliefs about the origins of life. The trend has continued with modern genetics.

Churches and their more traditional theologians do not have a

particularly good track record in engaging in conversations like this because it is easier to revisit old questions than to focus on new ones. Yet one might argue that any non-biological, non-human intelligence will present a greater challenge to religion and human philosophy than anything else we have so far encountered.

Despite the challenges, artificial intelligence need not necessarily undermine faith. Part of the point of religion is to recognise that I, as a contingent human person, am not God and so I do not have all the answers and will inevitably be wrong about things. This simply confirms to us that life is about trusting God and not trusting in our own understanding, which is invariably flawed and partial.

(P.S I also enjoy the Terminator films although they have done too many! Arnie obviously needs the income!)

With best wishes to you all,

Paul

Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive – and to strengthen others by the love we give.

May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive – and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family.
Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

St Mary's Parish Church

Burial of

Michael O'Reilly - 19th January 2021

*from the
Parish Records*



Thanks Robin, lovely snowy pictures this month in the churchyard

OUR SCHOOL

Here we go again.

Back in another lockdown, although I don't think that our staff notice much difference as they are all in school. We are operating our six classes as normal with approx 30% of the children being taught in school, which is above the national average of 21%, and the rest

being taught remotely at home. Each class forms a bubble with their Teacher and TA and no interaction between bubbles is allowed. That way we hope to minimise the disruption to our key worker families if someone does unfortunately get Covid.

That is working well but it is putting enormous stress on the staff who are having to effectively teach two classes at a time, one face to face and one on line. That also raises an issue with computing equipment, as normally we have a set of devices that are shared across classes when they are needed for a particular curriculum activity. Now we are no longer able to share the devices and we are also expected to provide them to children at home who are unable to access the remote learning provision. Our families have been really supportive with this and we have managed to keep going. Luckily on the 19th January we finally received our huge allocation from the Governments scheme – we got 8 Chrome books! Apparently there will be another future allocation to schools, but given past experience that could be next year!

I know just how hard it is for everyone who is at home trying to balance home schooling with work; I have two grandchildren doing just that, so experience it daily for myself. The last time I did fractions or geometry was (number redacted for personal reasons) years ago! So the sooner we can open up the education sector the better it will be for everyone. We do have one advantage, being a small village school, and that is that we know all of our children individually which will help us to quickly identify those that need additional help and those who have kept on track. That will help us to put individual plans in place without the need for summer schools and extended school days!!

Perhaps next time I'll be writing about a return to school and plans for our summer holidays.

Ever the optimist!

Editors' Note

There seem to be two themes to this month's articles, light hearted humour and "22nd Feb's upcoming news" which by the time you read this you may already know about. The problem with 'printing' in any form is that it is out of date almost as soon as it is written, but we have to have some sort of deadline or we'd keep waiting for something else! We plan to get the next one out about 20th March, but that will depend on....., As for the humour and lovely photos, they are just there to be enjoyed, so make a cup of coffee, sit down and enjoy!

This email was sent in last month, so well done all of you who write articles, please, keep up the good work, it is appreciated by many.

Thank you for this cheering monthly News.

It is always a pleasure to read and this is another uplifting instalment, well done to all. GC

If any of you have a few comments, please do send them in.

Nicki & Carol



EASTER AT ST OSWALD'S

We hope to be back in our church for the Easter Services so we would like the church to look it's normal beautiful self to celebrate Easter Sunday.

Flowers are always expensive at that time of year and there is not always an abundance even in the gardens of Hooe.

We would therefore be grateful for any donations of money or flowers. If you feel able to contribute please contact either Janet or Jack.

SMILE LINES

Definitions from church life

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

PEW SHEET: Your receipt for attending Mattins.

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Ninfield Parish Council

Clerk Jackie Scarff 07725 843505
e-mail – clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

As we are sure you are aware Ninfield Parish Council is currently undertaking a number of projects that will benefit the village.

Wild Flower Verges – this project is looking at cultivating some of our verges into wildflower verges. This will over time encourage perennial native wild flowers, and it is possible to add some annuals overtime.

Dark Night Skies - Starry skies are one of the most magical sights the countryside can offer. Light pollution not only limits our views of these skies, but also disrupts wildlife's natural patterns. It is often the case that we feel like we need to light up homes inside and out but this causes light pollution and blocks the views of the stars. Having had some training from the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty partnership we have been loaned some light meters to take readings around the village. With a couple of notable exceptions we currently have lots of great dark areas in the village from which you can see fantastic night skies. The countryside charity CPRE have lots of resources on their website including this star count activity pack <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/star-count-2021-family-activity-pack/> before venturing out you could listen to the Education Officer Rachel from the High Weald AONB tells the atmospheric story of Orion the Hunter, founded thousands of years ago in Greek mythology here High Weald Star Stories - Orion the Hunter- Youtube.

Neighbourhood Development Plan this project is progressing and you will soon receive a questionnaire designed to get an in depth understanding of residents views about the village.

If you would like any information about them please do feel free to contact the clerk clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

At the February Full Council Meeting the cllrs passed a motion to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency. We do realise that our sphere of influence is limited but we want to do everything we can to assist our community to achieve nett zero carbon emissions by 2030.

We will conduct our business with these aims in mind at all times and do whatever we can to raise awareness of these issues in the local community.

You may be aware that in March 2021 the 10 year Census will take place, Households across England and Wales will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21. For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

As you will remember we had to cancel the annual parish meeting last year because of the current health pandemic. We do not know whether we will be able to hold one this year, it will be dependent on the Govt restrictions at the time. We have pencilled a date in for if we are able to go ahead so please save Thursday 20th May 2021 in your diary.

Our next meeting will take place by Zoom on 18th March 2021 7pm

****Little old lady seeks handsome young man****

An advert appeared in a student newspaper of a university:

“Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student – especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to initials J.A.D.” It was signed: “his mother”



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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY (February 2021)

As the roll-out of vaccines against Covid-19 continues we can at last begin to look forward to the likelihood of a return to something like normal life at some time this year, although exactly what will constitute “normal” is still about as clear as mud! A good number of our membership have had the jab and my understanding is that it has been very well organised locally, all of which is cheering news. We are, however, still not in a position to resume meetings until both the lifting of restrictions and the opening of the village hall. Until then, keep doing the sensible thing for just a little while longer...

DID YOU KNOW... this month I will return to the theme of pandemic. I am grateful to Maureen Newport for sending me this extract – one of several that her late husband, John, had researched in connection with the War Memorial in Hooe Church. It has a certain familiarity with what is happening today:-

Frank William Pocock was born in December 1886, in Hooe, Sussex. He was christened on the 20th February 1887 in the Church of St. Oswald, in the churchyard of which he was to be buried just over twenty years later. His grave is an official Commonwealth War Commission Grave.

Frank joined the Royal Sussex Regiment several years before the First World War started, but none of his military service records have survived that would confirm this. His Medal Roll Index Card (MRIC) does exist and this tells us that his initial service no. was L/7799 and this was changed to L/13651, when the war started and the army was put on a war footing.

According to this MRIC, he entered the “Asiatic Theatre of War” on 17th August 1915 and the stamp across the card, “IND.GS.AFGN.NWFF.1919”, tells us that he was based in India, on General Service, in the North-Western Front Force, fighting in Afghanistan, until some time in 1919. Though he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1911 or thereabouts there was no “Asiatic Theatre of War” until 1915 and hostilities, applicable to the First World War, started there – prior to this the Army was there to control the Afghan rebels and other Indian groups seeking independence.

Between 1918 and 1919, there were two influenza pandemics that

struck the world. The second outbreak was because of the war and the carnage of the battlefields, and was a more-deadly, mutated version of the first. It seems that Frank may have caught this second outbreak and was sent home to the Connaught Military Hospital, North Camp, Aldershot, for treatment but, while there in late 1919, he contracted bronchial pneumonia and, on 2nd December, 1919, he died.

Frank was awarded the usual medals given to those who fought in the war, the "Victory", the "1915 Star" and the "British Medal". He also received the "Indian General Service Medal", with a clasp, for the 1919 North West Frontier operation.

He is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as follows –

In memory of Private Frank William Pocock, L/13651, 1st Battallion, Royal Sussex Regiment, who died on 2nd December 1919. Remembered with honour, Hooe (St. Oswald) Churchyard.

Book Exchange:

Until we know what Boris Johnson says on 22nd February we are unable to confirm any dates as I am sure you realise, but all being well we hope to have a Book exchange on Friday 26th March and /or Friday 9th April, Confirmation of this will be in the next Parish News due out 20th March.



David Swales



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Horticultural Society

At the time of writing, I am not very hopeful that Horti plans for a 'Welcome Back' afternoon or the Spring Show in March will happen. However watch for any positive updates! Perhaps the Plant Sale might be able to take place outside on 10th April. And we hope we can celebrate our 70th Anniversary on 5th June.



In the meantime, start planning your garden, window boxes and pots for the summer. Please take a photo of a favourite Spring Plant now. When we are able to meet, we will arrange a photo display to chase the 'Covid 19 Blues' away.

Take care and we look forward to meeting up as soon as possible



NADAS

Just a quick reminder for NADAS members that we have a WhatsApp Group for them... Artisan Fartisan! Members can contact me if they'd like to join... 01424 892357! We have been keeping busy responding to challenges, the current one is a 'Springtime', to lift our spirits and think in brighter palettes of colour!

Here's a selection for you to enjoy.....

And on other pages too! Thank you Jennie



The Somme

The Somme river was known in ancient times as Samara. It presumably means ‘the summery river’ that is to say the ‘quiet river’, stemming from an adjective summery itself derived from the Celtic root (summer). The river is characterized by a very gentle gradient and a steady flow. The valley is more or less steep-sided but its bottom is flat with fens and pools. These characteristics of steady flow and flooded valley bottom arise from the river being fed by the ground water in the chalk basin in which it lies.

The city of Amiens was also known as Samarobriva (Gaulish: ‘bridge on the Samara’). It is attested by the early 1st century BC as the chief town of the Ambiani, an ancient Gallic tribe of the region. The modern department of Somme was named after this river.

The Somme featured prominently in several historical campaigns. In 1066, the invasion fleet of William the Conqueror assembled in the Bay of the Somme, at Saint-Valery-sur-Somme.

The river also featured in the 1346 withdrawal of Edward III of England’s army, which forded the river during the campaign, which culminated in the Battle of Crécy. The Battle of Blanchetaque was fought on 24 August 1346 between an English army under King Edward III and a French force commanded by Godemar du Fay. After landing in the Cotentin Peninsula on 12 July, the English army had burnt a path of destruction through some of the richest lands in France to within 20 miles of Paris, sacking a number of towns on the way. A chevauchée or ‘horse charge’ (depending on context) was a raiding method of medieval warfare for weakening the enemy, primarily by burning and pillaging enemy territory in order to reduce the productivity of a region, as opposed to siege warfare or wars of conquest. The use of the chevauchée declined at the end of the 14th century as the focus of warfare turned to sieges. Its legacy eventually led to the scorched earth strategies used in modern warfare.

The chevauchée could be used as a way of forcing an enemy to fight, or as a means of discrediting the enemy’s government and detaching his subjects from their loyalty. This usually caused a massive flight of refugees to fortified towns and castles, which would be untouched by the chevauchée. The English then marched north, hoping to link up with an allied Flemish army which had invaded from Flanders. They were outmanoeuvred by the French king, Philip VI, who garrisoned all of the bridges and fords over the River Somme and followed the English with his own field army. The area had previously been stripped of food stocks by the French, and the English were essentially trapped.

Hearing of a ford at Blanchetaque, 10 miles from the Channel, Edward marched for it and encountered the blocking force under du Fay. Once the ebbing tide had lowered the water level, a force of English archers marched partway across the ford and, standing in the water, engaged a force of mercenary crossbowmen. A French cavalry force then attempted to push back the longbowmen but were in turn attacked by English men-at-arms. After a *mêlée* in the river, the French were pushed back, more English troops were fed into the fight, and the French broke and fled. French casualties were reported as over half of their force, while English losses were light. Two days after Blanchetaque, the main French army under Philip was defeated at the Battle of Crécy with heavy loss of life. Edward ended the campaign by laying siege to Calais, which fell after twelve months, securing an English access point into France which they held for two hundred years.

Crossing the river also featured prominently in the campaign which led to the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The Battle of Agincourt was an English victory in the Hundred Years' War. It took place on 25 October 1415 (Saint Crispin's Day) near Azincourt, in northern France. The unexpected English victory against the numerically superior French army boosted English morale and prestige, crippled France and started a new period of English dominance in the war. King Henry V of England led his troops into battle and participated in hand-to-hand fighting. King Charles VI of France did not command the French army as he suffered from psychotic illnesses and associated mental incapacity.

The French were commanded by Constable Charles d'Albret and various prominent French noblemen of the Armagnac party. This battle is notable for the use of the English longbow in very large numbers, with the English and Welsh archers comprising nearly 80 percent of Henry's army. Immediately after the battle, Henry summoned the heralds of the two armies who had watched the battle together with principal French herald Montjoie, and they settled on the name of the battle as Azincourt, after the nearest fortified place. The name "Montjoie" was often given after a battle to the main centre of fighting, or where a victory feast was held, a "Mountain of Joy" in relief at having survived the Battle.

In 1636, a Spanish army led by Thomas Francis, Prince of Carignano, crossed the Somme defeating a French army during the Thirty Years War, as a manoeuvre threatening Paris.

Most famously, the Battle of the Somme, during World War I, lasted from July to November 1916 and resulted in more than a million casualties. Private A S Bullock in his wartime memoir recalls his first sight of it in early April 1

1918: ‘... we reached a small place called Hengest sur Somme. The train stopped and we descended. There in front of us was a muddy, sluggish and somewhat narrow stream, which has given its name to one of the most awful battles in history - the Somme’; On 1 st July 1916 after a prolonged barrage that was believed to have destroyed the German wire; the German artillery, the German trenches and bunkers and their morale started. The Germans had deeper concreted shelters, the interval between the bombardment ending and the men emerging from their trenches to walk in dressed lines towards the Germans gave them time to fill their trenches and mount machine guns and cut the ranks down like ripe corn. Many of the Somme cemeteries are actually where the wire was broken, but as the men grouped there to filter through so the Germans slaughtered them in piles. Most of these men had been volunteers, the Kitcheners Army men, to replace the pre War regular soldiers who by now had been thinned by losses and disease into just a few men here and there to stiffen the newcomers. Instead of attacking elsewhere, the generals continued sending more and more men into the mincing machine where eventually after 4 months the ground won was what the Generals had expected to gain on the very first day. Little by little even these gains were clawed back by the Germans so that by 1917 the Fronts were back where they started.

It wasn't until the Americans joined the War in 1917 and men started arriving by the hundreds of thousands that the balance looked to be swinging in favour of the Allies. By then, though, the Germans had knocked out the Russian Army from the War and were transferring hundreds of thousands of men to the Western Front in order to break through before the Americans could enter combat. This they narrowly failed to do, and in capturing vast stores of food realised just how poor their rations were and became demoralised. In the last three months of the War, the Allies gained more ground than they had ever won in TOTAL.

But it came at a high price. Not only had millions of men from all over the globe been killed, maimed or weakened by disease, then the Spanish Flu then carried off even more than warfare had. The great battles that finally stopped the German advance in the Spring Offensive of 1918 were fought around the valley of the Somme in places like Villers Bretonneux, which marked the beginning of the end of the war.

The Somme therefore has had links to Sussex from the time of William the Conqueror setting out from its estuary to cross to Pevensey in 1066, again for the English longbowmen in the Hundred Years War and in both the First and Second World Wars, as Normandy was chosen for a reverse invasion in 1944.

Kevin Regan

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update: It has been a difficult year for everyone and moving forward with a Neighbourhood Plan without the ability to hold public meetings that everyone can get involved with has been very challenging. However, a great deal of work HAS been done by Steering Group members, Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk and we have had numerous on-line workshops and planning sessions that many residents have joined in with. The aim of these sessions was to analyse in detail the current character of the Parish and its setting in the landscape and to start thinking about policy areas that will be important to all of us over the next 15 to 20 years.

Having done this ground-work we are almost ready to put out a Parish Questionnaire. With this big project we want to gather information about our current community and to find out the ways in which people want to see the Parish develop and what aspects need to be protected. This will be the cornerstone of our evidence base and important policies will be developed using this information.

Each household will receive paper copies of the questionnaire (hopefully in early March). However, there will be an on-line version with a link to it available on the Parish Council website & Social Media and we want to encourage everyone (each adult) to complete it electronically if possible, we would prefer this to a single “consensus” version for the household. If you do not have access to the internet, paper copies can be dropped off into a collection box in the Village Stores.

More details to follow and watch out for the form. There will be a prize draw for all entrants with a chance to win vouchers redeemable at local businesses.

Closing date for items for the **APRIL edition**
of the Parish News is **SATURDAY 13th MARCH** please send to
ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation’s range.

JONAH: The original ‘Jaws’ story

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Are You Legal in 2020?

Did You Know? As of January 2020 the regulations surrounding the disposal of rural sewage change. You are now NOT allowed to discharge your septic tank directly into the environment.

For further information and advice contact the experts:
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Message from Ninfield Surgery

Our waiting room renovations are still in progress and we would thank those visiting the surgery for their patience during the works. Please can we remind patients, that if you need to speak to a GP or need an appointment for a routine visit with the nurse, please contact the surgery and we will be happy to help you. We continue to offer the telephone triage system as before for GP appointments, please call at 8am or 2pm to speak to one of our receptionists.

As you may have seen in the news, the vaccine roll out is going well. We have been working through Groups 1-4 and will begin to invite patients in Groups 5, 6 & 7 soon and we will be in contact with these patients in due course. However, If you are over 70 and haven't had the vaccination and would like to have it, please can we ask you to contact the surgery on (01424) 892569 to arrange an appointment.

We can vouch for the excellent way the changes the Surgery has made are working for the benefit of both doctor and patient. We had to call for an appointment, a doctor phoned back, and as we used the mobile phone, the call switched to a video call, diagnosis given, prescription prepared, so the visit to the surgery was only to collect medication.

This saved time for both doctor and us, kept all of us safer as no visit to the building.

One small benefit to come out of the pandemic! Carol



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Message from Sami.

A short note...is that a semi-quaver?!

There's not a lot to say really: - at time of writing, mid February, we are all waiting with bated breath for the announcements due on the 22nd that will give us an idea as to the route out of Lockdown. There are misleading headlines in the national press, coming from misquotes and spun suggestions, which don't help the general mood at all; people aren't daft, everyone knows that this time has to be the last time we are all sent into Lockdown, and any easing of restrictions must be very slow and very balanced. If all goes to a sensible plan - we may all be having a much needed get together some time later in the year; any thoughts, ideas and plans will be discussed in March sometime...but for now just keep everything crossed!

February Fitness gathered pace, and lots of people joined the classes on Dancercise 4 You! - on Facebook, live streaming. It is hoped that the Memorial Hall will be open from May - and maybe we can restart the Movement 2 Music on Monday mornings, plus Tap, Dancercise, Ballroom and Burlesque- as soon as there is a clear, final date, the posters will be up!!

It's unlikely, at present, that I'll be doing the 'Evening with..Sami UN-Guarded..' show at the Memorial Hall, on 22nd May -not enough time for definite publicity, and social distancing precludes a big audience capacity - once again, watch this space and any necessary postponement, with a rescheduled date, will be published as soon as.

So- keep on keeping on; keep going- that's all we can do - with as much positivity as possible, and every confident hope that the vaccination roll out will continue to be fast and effective...!

Take care, stay safe and see you on a dog walk at some point!

Please email samanthaguard@btinternet.com, call 893699 or txt 07970650321, for information on Dance Classes, Carnival, Shows and Events, Thank You!

CHICKEN TRAYBAKE

4 Chicken thighs

New Potatoes

Carrots

Lemon (optional)

Chicken stock cube (I use Stock Pots)

½ glass white wine

¾ glass of water

Mixed herbs (fresh or dried)

Salt/Pepper

Half or quarter the potatoes (depending on size), cut carrots to the same size.

Quarter the lemon (if using)

Lay all ingredients in a tin. (I use a large roasting tin) with the wine, water, stock cube and herbs. Season well. Mix it all up and make sure the chicken is skin side up.

Oven 180°C. after ½ hour, stir round and baste the chicken. I usually find it takes about an hour to cook but I would imagine it depends on the oven.

If you turn up the oven to 200°C for the last 10 minutes it crisps up the skin.

Serve out. I thicken the juice with Bisto granules to make a sauce.

Enjoy

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Sunday morning worship, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of a formal Sung Eucharist, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

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How cold was that snowy week we had recently...!

This cartoon certainly reflects the night time activities for some of us ...!!!



SMILE LINES

Bend

I got a package envelope in the mail the other day that had written on the front, 'Photographs: Do Not Bend.

Underneath the postman had written: "Oh yes they do."

Bishop

A little girl told her mother, "We went to a confirmation service at the cathedral and I saw the bishop. Now I know what a crook looks like!"



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Worms Eye View

“If from fleas you would be free, on the first of March let your windows be closed”

Now I wonder who started that saying and how long ago it was quoted. I don't imagine I will ever know.

The usually happy day, Mothering Sunday, this year on the 14th has doubts to what celebrations will be possible. I am writing this very early in February and rules in place now could be eased by then. It would be lovely for us all to meet up again and also go to church. It is believed that the name Mothering Sunday came from an old ecclesiastical rule that representatives from each parish should visit their cathedral the ‘Mother Church’ on this day.

Another special day is Palm Sunday (March 20th). This used to be marked by parties going out into the woods to gather pussy-willow. However it apparently became custom for merry making and well as picking the pussy-willow and often became out of hand

A special pudding for Palm Sunday was a rich buttery recipe known as Pond Pudding and was traditionally cooked in a pudding cloth, not a basin. It sounds lovely but I cannot recall having ever eaten it, but perhaps I should try to make it, a late New Years resolution.

On to our weather predictions and there are many. It is said that the “Wood anemone never opens its petals unless the wind blows” hence its common name “wind flower. Another is “when rooks build low it's a sign of a wet summer to come”. I am sure you will agree with me that I hope they build high this year: we have had enough rain to last us for ages.

Glow worms turn now “When the glow worm lights her lamp, the air is always damp” The healthy glow-worms prefer damp locations and being warm too. Some folk know glow worm as glass worms or shine worms. Actually these are not worms but beetles. The brightest light comes from the pale looking females, glow worm larvae also produce light which comes in flashes and they can light up for hours, and are visible up to 16 ½ feet away. Although these sayings are interesting I shall stick to my old favourite “Red sky in the morning shepherds warning, Red at night shepherds delight”.

Enjoy March and listen out for the Cuckoo towards the end of the month, with less traffic it means we can hear bird song more clearly. Happy listening

Anne

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Jackie Scarff 07548 528754

Email hooepc2@btinternet.com

Such great news! The snowdrops are flowering in our gardens and the daffodils are in bud! A reminder that spring is just around the corner. So thoughts are turning to those jobs we will soon be able to carry out in the gardens. Already we are hearing of frantic preparation.

Seeds ordered and planted, seedling appearing. Tools are being sharpened, cleaned and replaced where necessary (my husband is the proud owner of a brand new wheel barrow; you would have thought he had won the lottery!)

The Hooe Allotments are already beginning to buzz with activity! There is a great camaraderie and much enjoyment from working there separately, but also together. There are just two allotments left to rent – so if you feel you would like to join the allotment family or learn more why not contact Gary Durman who will be very happy to talk to you. It really doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner – allotment holders are extremely generous with their time and very willing to share their knowledge.

If a whole allotment seems too daunting pop along and get Gary to tell you how you could get involved with the community allotment.

Those who tend their own gardens and those who tend allotments all have the same enjoyment from what they do. As we go forward into spring our seedlings and cuttings will be growing, far more than we will be able to use ourselves. So we would like to alert you to the 'Hooe Plant Share' scheme. We don't waste we share! If you have excess plants or need some let us know so that we can spread the word

As I write this we are anticipating ESCC contractors will start work next week on Top Road to try to alleviate the problems of flooding. Hopefully their remedial work will prove successful.

The very cold weather we have been experiencing lately has resulted in damage to our roads – the freeze has broken up the road surface and dangerous potholes have been appearing where potholes have never appeared before. So –the Parish Council is putting out a request. If YOU come across a dangerous pothole please let us know so that the Council can report it promptly before an accident occurs. If you could take a photo and send that to us that would be really useful, but the main information we need is the location. Please contact Jackie our Clerk, or Gary who looks after roads for the Council

The County Council and Police Commissioner Elections are scheduled for 6 th May and so the Parish Council is anxious to ensure the village hall is Covid secure and deep cleaned ready to be used as a Polling Station on that day. Much is needed to be done before it is ready to open but the Council believes it is important to retain a Polling Station in the village for us all to use. If the elections do take place as planned we aim to be ready!

Regretfully the hall does remain closed at present.

At the start of the first lockdown the Council drew up a list of those residents who had were willing to help others in the parish should help be required. Help is still at hand, remember – should you need assistance please contact me as the coordinator or any member of the Council.

Social distanced exercise is encouraged and we have noticed that residents are taking the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful part of Sussex.

A big thank you to those who walk our footpaths and report any problems to us; to those who take their daily exercise on our roads and stop to have a friendly conversation with residents living alone; to those who spray dog

dirt with bright yellow paint and accost thoughtless dog owners who allow their dog to foul; who take their daily exercise with a bag and a picker and pick up litter as they go. (The Doodles have an almost unlimited supply of bags should you require some)

It is pleasing that, in this difficult time the whole community is pulling together.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 8 th March at 7.00pm by Zoom. If you would like to attend please ask Jackie for the link. But – if you have questions, need to raise an issue, or need to speak to a Parish Councillor please do not wait until the meeting, we are at the end of the telephone

Pam Doodles

Vice Chairman, Hooe Parish Council

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

SIDESMEN: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew

Well here we are and its nearly a year,
Since we said goodbye to the things we hold dear.
A call on a friend for tea and a moan,
Never knowing this time was on loan.
Seeing our grandchildren for hugs and smiles,
A walk in the woods unhindered for miles.
Trips to the shops taken for granted,
Choosing our plants which in spring would be planted.
Having to learn zoom and Skype,
When some of us can hardly type.
Drs and Nurses, heroes of time,
Teachers and police with a mountain to climb.
All key workers doing their job
Sometimes earning a measly bob.
A word for the farmers who keep us fed.
While most of us are still in bed.
When descending for a walk on their land
Give his crops a helping hand.
Stick to the path that is the right of way.
Or come this spring he will have no hay.
Pick up your litter and take it home.
Or risk the loss of right to roam.
Lambing is the time of year,
When the shepherd and his sheep live in fear.
Read the signs and take heed,
Keep your dogs on a lead.
So now lets look forward together and chime.
Be gone now covid---- the thief of our time.

H.J.

What do you give a man who has everything?

Antibiotics.!

Ninfield Methodist Church

Minister: Reverend Patricia M. Williams BA (Hons)
15 Holmesdale Road, Bexhill TN39 3QE.. Tel: 01424 733137;
email: revpmwilliams@yahoo.co.uk
website: ninfield.hbrmethodistcircuit.online

Very Best wishes to you all. Isn't it lovely to be experiencing longer days, some amazing sunrises, snowdrops and new lambs in the fields (seen at Magham Down).

All this on February 14th . Some of us have also had our vaccinations, which is good news, especially as this will enable us to make positive progress against the Covid 19 virus. 'Thanks to all.'

Initially, we were hoping to re-open our Church for services on March 14th for Mothering Sunday and then Palm Sunday on March 28th . Currently it seems more likely that we may re-commence services on Palm Sunday – March 28th @ 10.30am but we will circulate details to our readers once we have more information, following government announcements on February 22nd .

We are really looking forward to Easter Sunday which is on April 4th when we have a service planned @ 10.30am with our minister the Reverend Tricia Williams. It will also be good to re-start some of the activities in our Hall as soon as this is allowed.

Every week our Methodist Circuit continues to stream a Sunday service via Zoom.

Please contact Paul (892192) if you would like connection details.
Take care as we all look forward to Easter and Spring.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 14 verses 15-24

Jesus was at a dinner when one guest said how good it would be to be at God's feast for His people at the end of time.

So Jesus told a story -

A man once gave a great feast.



He sent his servant to invite his guests.



When everything was ready, he sent his servant to tell his guests.



But they all made excuses.



One said, 'I've bought some land and I need to see it. Sorry!'



The next said, 'I've bought some oxen and I need to try them out. Sorry!'



And another said, 'I got married so I'm not coming!'



The master was very angry.



He told his servant to go to every street in the town and fetch everyone who was poor or disabled.



His servant did that and there was still room.



He told his servant to search outside the town and fill the house.



The master of the feast said, 'None of those I invited but who wouldn't come will get even the leftovers!'



Directory of Groups & Clubs

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NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB: Secretary: Mrs Val Smith, Bexhill 843436

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

NINFIELD CRAFTING & KNITTING: Jane Dommersen 862428

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY:

Secretary Jennie Harmer 892357 jennieharmer@aol.co.uk

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:

Show Organiser: Rose Franks, Little Gates, Potmans Lane, 892422

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Membership Sec. Corinne Gibbons 892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS

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NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 892778

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

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Explorer Scout Leader: John Hornby 07783471115

Scout Leader: Glen Harrison 07936552785 ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

Cub Scout leader: Tracey Harrison 07970 359724 ninfieldcubs@gmail.com

Beaver Scout Leader Sandra Creasey 07908 558721 ninfieldkaa@googlemail.com

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Julia Hurrell 07508 080608

DANCE & DRAMA CLUB: Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Simon Patisson 845087

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE LINE DANCE GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE SPORTS CLUB Chairman: Tim Bryant, 2 Saddlers Cottage, Hooe

HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Gary Durman, 893007

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Pam Doodles, Catslide, Hooe 892329

SENLAC BELLS

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Clerk to the Council Jackie Scarff (07548 528754 hooepc2@btinternet.com

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