

February 2021  
No. 441

# Down Our Way

Parish News & Local Events



**"The river Gow, the day after the deluge" by Anne Smart**

## Dear Friends

By the time many of you read this message I shall already have retired and Diana and I will be in the process of packing cardboard boxes in preparation for our move from the Vicarage. This has been such a wonderful place to live and we are so fortunate to have been part of such a vibrant community. We have some very special memories, which will live on in our hearts and minds.



It has been an honour and privilege to serve at St Peter's Church, Huxley Primary School and throughout the wider community of the Parish of Hargrave and Huxley. Thank you for allowing us to be part of the happy, as well as the sad and difficult times in life, something we haven't taken for granted. We want to say a special thank you to our churchwardens and others for listening to God, just over six years ago, and bringing us here.

We want to encourage you to pray for and support practically the churchwardens at St. Peter's, Malcolm Smart and Mike Whittingham, who have been charged with caring for the parish in the vacancy and also with appointing a new vicar. Diana and I commit ourselves to praying for you everyday, as we have done since our appointment. I hope that Hargrave and Huxley are able to use the interregnum as a time of honest reflection. I hope that those with the quieter voices may be allowed to be heard and when the time comes, you may be gifted a priest who is able to sustain growth in the future; someone who will be willing to do the difficult things as well as the easy; someone who is filled with the Spirit and has a passion to introduce the faith to new generations so that St Peter's may secure a rich future as the Parish Church of Hargrave and Huxley.

As for our future, we plan to take a time of reflection as we settle into the community in Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, and to find our role as members of our local church family. We are anticipating being able to spend more time with our family and are excited to learn what plans God has for our future – for there is no 'retirement' in God's Kingdom.

May God bless you all in all your future endeavours. Diana and I will miss you so much.

***Christopher and Diana***

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL - ST PETER'S HARGRAVE**

The Sunday School normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for the month. **There will be no Sunday school in February due to coronavirus.**

## **Save the Family 2020**

There are two pieces of good news – when there hasn't been much of that about. Firstly, our tailoring of Christmas gifts has really worked. For the first time ever there were enough nice gifts for the teenage residents, as well as for the families in general. Secondly, the year end report of the charity's activities have had a wonderful response from Children in Need, who tell us how impressed they are with the mentoring programmes, improvements in residents self – esteem, and the way the children of these troubled families are finding new potential within themselves. St. Peter's Hargrave and our villages have long supported Save the Family, so a very big Thank You for your help. You are brilliant people!



**Bob Burgess, Trustee StF**



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P.T.A.



## Update on Huxley C.E. Primary School

The Board of Governors and Head Teacher are currently in discussions with Cheshire West and Chester Council to finalise the recovery plan. Currently the Governors are working with the Head and Staff to put in place the staffing and structures to be in line with the recovery plan.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Jo Copping PTA Chair

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Thursday	Friday
Huxley Primary School	Tattenhall Primary School Community Room
9:10- 9:45am — Baby Session	9:35-10:10 — Baby Session
10:00-10:35am— Mixed Session (early class)	10:25-11:00- Mixed Session (early class)
10:50-11:25am— Mixed Session (later class)	11:15-11:50am— Mixed Session (later class)

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07515 721754

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



'Developing confident children through creativity and choice within a Christian Community.'

Despite the challenges that COVID restrictions have imposed on us, Huxley CE Primary School continues to strive to ensure all children have access to a good quality education. School is open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children and I wholeheartedly thank staff for working with such commitment and selflessness in difficult circumstances.

Our unique recording of the Nativity story – which we also wrote – was enjoyed by several local care homes. It certainly brought a smile to the faces of our families. Staff and children thoroughly enjoyed putting it together. A huge thanks to Santa for reading up on COVID restrictions and bringing some joy and presents to school for the children. We didn't think he would make it!

We are very sad to accept the resignation of Mr Steve Ratledge from Chair of Governors. He has worked tirelessly to benefit the school over many, many years and his dedication and commitment cannot be questioned. He will continue on the Governing Body to ensure a smooth transition to our newly-appointed Chair – Councillor Mike Jones – who we welcome to our team. Rev Christopher Deakin is also retiring at the end of January so he too will be leaving our Governors, having provided spiritual guidance and support – as well as a lot of joy and laughter – to the children at the school during the time that he served. We will miss him but wish him health and happiness in the future. There will be a virtual service with staff and children to say thank you to both Steve and Chris on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. Please contact school if you would like to be involved with this.

We have welcomed several new Governors to our team and we are working tirelessly on an exciting new initiative to create a Flexi-schooling offer for Electively Home Educated children. This means children who are Home educated can access the benefits of formal schooling for part of the week. Please see our school website for details.

We continue to find the positives in each day and work with our children to teach them to appreciate and thank God for all the good in our lives as well as working on ways to improve our inner strength and resilience.

## Help to raise funds for the PTA whilst you shop online.

We are registered with Easyfundraising & AmazonSmile, which means you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online. These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference.

P.T.A.



You can find our **AmazonSmile** at:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1077597-0>

You can find our **easyfundraising** page at:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ptahuxleyceps/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ptahuxleyceps/?utm_campaign=raise-more)



## RECYCLE 4 SCHOOL CLOTHES COLLECTION

As soon as we can, we will be holding a collection, so if you are looking to make some space, please bear us in mind & bag up items ready for our collection in March. When current restrictions ease, bags can be dropped off at Holborn Hill Farm, CH3 9BL prior to the collection date.

Thank you for your support

Jo PTA Chair Tel:07789401777



### *Happy Days bringing rays of light*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the wonderful 'Living Advent Calendar'. It was a great success and we have had so many lovely comments. We hope this will become a regular feature in the Happy Days Calendar!

After the popularity of our newsletters last year, we are working hard to bring you a spring edition very soon.

We remain hopeful that we will have a Summer Fete outdoor, socially distanced event. Come what may we will do our very best to make sure we bring some fun activities for everyone in the community.

### *Hargrave, Huxley & Surroundings Calendar*

The Calendar has been extremely popular and we have almost sold out, so act quickly if you are interested in ordering one at just £10. Please email us for an order form [hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com](mailto:hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com). All proceeds will go to organising future happy days events to raise money for local good causes.

*Happy Helpers* The Happy Days team are always looking for helpers, please get in touch if you would like to become involved. We'd love to hear from you, please contact one of us: •Bridget 07748597042 •Carolyn 07730523553 •Kay 07941326256 or email: [hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com](mailto:hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

*Updates* make sure you are kept up to date with all our events. Email us at [hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com](mailto:hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com) to make sure you are on our list. Check out our website [hargravehuxleyhappydays.co.uk](http://hargravehuxleyhappydays.co.uk) or search for Hargrave & Huxley Happy Days on FB.

## Community After-School & Evening Activities



Due to COVID restrictions, some activities are on hold, however French is now operating online.

### Virtual Learning

**'Music Fun'** for all-age primary school children with Brittany Howard.  
**French Conversation** for children & adults with Dr Ann Williams  
To book a place at these classes, please contact Dr Ann Williams  
ann.williams1789@gmail.com

### COVID permitting, community after-school and evening activities will re-start the week beginning 22nd February 2021

**Monday** (Starting 22 February) **4-5 pm 'Music Fun'**- Bring your own instrument or just bring yourself! All abilities welcome. £12 per lesson. Brittany Howard University of Chester & Andrew Starmer. To book a place, contact ann.williams1789@gmail.com

**Tuesday** (Starting 23 February) **Huxley Tots 10.15-11.15am** - donation £1 per family. Fliss Johnson-Cooke. To book a place, contact felicityjohnsoncooke@gmail.com

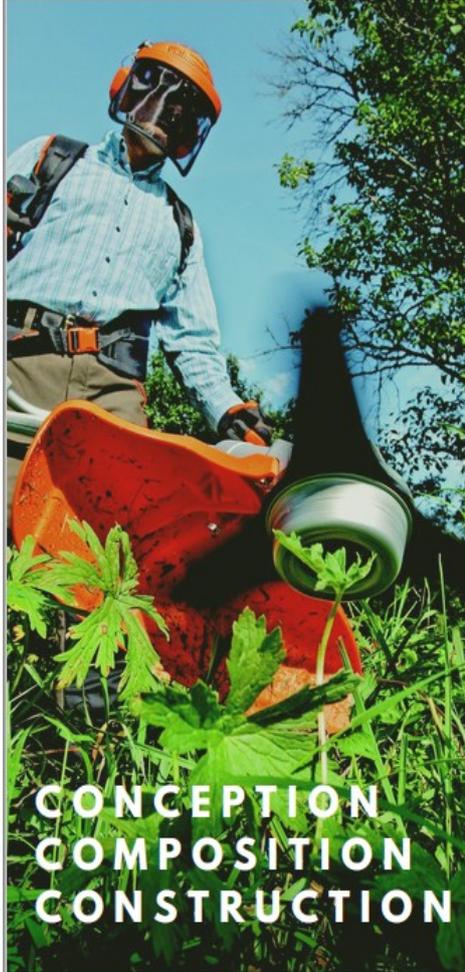
**4-5pm Boxing** 5-16 year old boys & girls, all abilities welcome £3 per session with Chris Aldcroft AW Coaching. To book a place, contact aw\_coaching1@hotmail.com 07504816986

**4-5pm French Conversation for primary school children**, all abilities welcome £8 per lesson with Dr Ann Williams. To book a place, contact ann.williams1789@gmail.com

**Wednesday** (Starting 24 February) **6-7.30pm Adult French Conversation**, all ages & abilities welcome £8 per lesson with Dr Ann Williams. To book a place, contact ann.williams1789@gmail.com

**Thursday** (Starting 25 February) **Little Beats** Pre-school Music & Movement group. Baby class and Mixed age classes. Thursday mornings with Amanda Wrigley. To book a place Tel: 07515721754

**4-5pm Dodgeball** 6-12 year old boys & girls, all abilities welcome, £3 per session with Chris Aldcroft AW Coaching. To book a place, contact aw\_coaching1@hotmail.com 07504816986



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## **Lockdown Lines**

**by Ol' Buzz**

CORONACOASTER – noun : the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you are loving the peace and quiet, doing workouts, baking banana bread, watching the afternoon film and going for walks. The next, you are crying, having gin for breakfast, missing people you don't even like, and you suddenly realise you were about to go out in your night clothes.

The pub is now only serving carry-outs. You order a 'vodka vallium latte to go.'

The local beekeeper is about to open a hive. He tells you that in his professional opinion, you need to wear one of the protective veils. You don't like the look and refuse, he says you might regret that decision...

You won't let anyone tell you not to poke a fork into a power socket (don't!) because it's your right, and more people are killed by flu anyway.

You imagine that during the Blitz, a group of people say, "I'll turn my lights on if I want to – it's my right."

You discover that when asked to name your favourite child, you were meant to name one of your own. Got to cut back on these gin breakfasts.

Finding that someone you know has got "New Variant Covid", you think – 'Typical, always got to have the latest – the old one's not good enough for *Her!*'

Lastly – a genuine sign seen outside a Diner in London : 'All Americans must be accompanied by an adult'.

And the sign outside Applegates Farm Shop : 'Masks should be like knickers: Comfortable, clean, and not adjusted in public.'



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### CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you visited the Church Website? Please have a look and keep up to date with what's happening.

[www.stpetershargrave.org.uk](http://www.stpetershargrave.org.uk)

### ELECTRONIC DOWN OUR WAY

Contact Beverley Stubbs and each month the magazine will be in your email box in PDF format  
Tel: 01829 781505 or email  
[HandHDOW@gmail.com](mailto:HandHDOW@gmail.com)



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### EDITOR'S NOTE

Can all submissions for the March 2021 edition be in by **Thursday 18th February**. All submissions need to be submitted in a document as an attachment and **not typed** directly into an email.

Please note this email is **only checked** at submission time. Many thanks.

Beverley Stubbs Tel: 781505

[HandHDOW@gmail.com](mailto:HandHDOW@gmail.com)



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January Christopher retired after over 6 years as our vicar. Those six years have been six years of devoted service to our parish and our parishioners. He has overseen many of our happy occasions. Our Happy Days of course. The many marriages and baptisms – the normal occurrences in any community. And of course his sympathy and empathy at our times of illness and death.

And the flashes and bangs which occurred at some of our family services enthralled and interested our children. Oh those cardboard boxes! Perhaps less appreciated is his conscientious work as a foundation governor at Huxley C of E School. We have come to take for granted his musical skills – we have indeed been very blessed. On many occasions he has supervised as priest and organist – running from choir stall to altar to organ – quite some feat! And Diana has always been a huge support to him and to others in the parish. She has worked so hard – well beyond the work any vicar's wife should be called upon to do. We will miss them both immensely.

On behalf of the Community, our Congregation, our PCC, and indeed on our own behalf as wardens, we would like to thank Christopher and Diana for their devoted service to the parish throughout those past six years. We wish them good health and happiness as they begin their retirement by the sea. We hope they will remember their time in Hargrave and Huxley with pleasure, and maybe keep a link with us for the future.

*Malcolm/Mike*

## **FEBRUARY SERVICES AT ST PETERS, HARGRAVE**

Sadly all services during February have been suspended due to Covid-19. Please remember in your prayers all those living in locations as listed below.

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Newton – by – Tattenhall

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Those who live outside the Parish

**21<sup>st</sup> Feb.** Huxley Lane, Huxley – including the village hall

**28<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Chapel Lane and Golden Nook, Hargrave

Following Christopher's retirement, from February 1st the administration of church matters will be with the Churchwardens. Any problems that we can help with, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are always here to help.

*Malcolm 01829 781563 / 07538 440694    Mike 01829 770842*

## FEBRUARY 2021 DATES FOR DIARY

<b>18th Pg 22</b>	<b>Parish News Deadline</b>	
<b>Mondays Term Time</b>	<b>4:00pm-5:00pm Music Fun After School</b>	<b>Huxley School</b>
<b>Tuesdays Term Time</b>	<b>10:15 - 11:15am Huxley Tots</b>	<b>Huxley School</b>
<b>Tuesdays Term Time</b>	<b>4:00pm - 5:00pm Boxing After School Session</b>	<b>Huxley School</b>
<b>Tuesdays Term Time</b>	<b>4:00pm - 5:00pm French Conversation Children</b>	<b>Huxley School</b>
<b>Wednesday Term Time</b>	<b>6:00pm - 7:30pm French Conversation</b>	<b>Huxley School</b>
<b>Thursdays Term Time</b>	<b>9:10am - 11:25am Little Beats Pre-School Music</b>	<b>Huxley School Hall</b>
<b>Thursdays Term Time</b>	<b>4:00pm - 5:00pm Dodgeball</b>	<b>Huxley School</b>