

Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of
Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals



March 2021

Parish Contacts

Clergy

Rev Ben Rundell Evans *Priest in Charge*

Parish Office: 01747 840221 (Day off Tuesday)

Email: revben@upperstour.co.uk

Rev Mac MacCormack *Associate Priest Designate*

07470667118 (Day off Friday)

Email: revmac@upperstour.co.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers

Brian Martin 01747 840433

Mona Tyler 01985 844509

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Caroline Worthington 01747 840266

Barbara Borwell 01747 840141

***Enquiries regarding Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals
to the Parish Office***

Email: parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk

Parish website www.upperstour.co.uk

Facebook Group Parish of Upper Stour

Upper Stour Magazine Contacts

Editor: Celia Cotton 01985 844613

Deputy Editor: Sue Evans 01747 840600

Distribution Manager: Carol Affleck 01747 841359

Treasurer: Ashley Kemp 01747 840272

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the Editor at Bay Tree Cottage, Kilmington, Wiltshire BA12 6RG
tel 01985 844613 email celiabeale@globalnet.co.uk

***Contributions for the April 2021 issue should reach the Editor
by Friday 19th March 2021 at noon***

Mobile Library Times : March 2021

Mar 11, 25	Zeals	School	10.00-10.40 am
	Kilmington	Home Guard Club	11.25-11.35 am

Please note: The North/South Mobile Libraries are not currently able to operate due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The Residential Care Homes Mobile Library will continue to make deliveries.

For further information contact www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries

Message from Rev Ben

It feels as though we have been going through a continual period of Lent since Ash Wednesday 2020. Normally, the discipline of Lent as a period of penitence and self-sacrifice is made ever more meaningful by the other side of the same coin of faith – a period of Eastertide rejoicing and celebration. Traditionally from Maundy Thursday to Easter morning, there is no music, there is silence. Those three days of silence for the church, is a reminder to abide in the absence of what is most familiar. It is to sit and to contemplate ever more deeply. However of course, since Lent of 2020 we haven't been able to sing. With a slight exception to outdoors during Christmas, singing has been ruled out as a fairly obvious way of spreading Covid19. However, how do we mark the joy of an Eastertide without knowing the end of our Lenten discipline? Normally we know where the finishing lines are in life. We normally have something to aim for. Our Lenten silence, we know, is broken by Easter singing. However, this month will of course mark one year since the world has faced a variety of different levels of restrictions to keep each other safe. A year of continual moving of finish lines, because of course we are working with nature here, and nature has a habit of riding roughshod over human plans. We are after all derived from the created world, and not the other way around.

Our continual challenge, however, is learning to abide and to feel our spiritual lives, without all of the normal cultural punctuation marks. (At time of writing!) Who knows even what Easter will look like, let alone the summer?! However, we do know what today looks like. For me, today is one of those sunnier days, where daffodils are starting to poke through the ground and lawn mowers are being serviced! Bishop Andrew, Bishop of Ramsbury, wrote to the Parish Clergy of his area this Ash Wednesday, and among other things, reminded us that "Nature reminds us how a change is coming. In the West Woods, here in Marlborough, bluebell leaves are starting to spear through the cold earth which, by Easter, they will be ready to transform with colour and fragrance. In the wilderness of these days, you are a sign of hope, reconciliation and the seemingly impossible promise of life in the midst of death."

As communities, we have temporarily lost our normal cultural punctuations in life. We have lost our normal gathering spaces, our shared acknowledgements of a new season. However, as custodians of a common landscape, we all know how much our surroundings remind us of new life, in a way that it is hard to imitate. We are still at a time when our humanity is defined by our created natures. Our very fallible and earthly ways of being. Therefore, at this time, let us look to our created world around us as a reminder of what it means to truly cherish new life, and to rest in the life we have today.

Ben

(Rev Ben Rundell-Evans)

St George's 100 Club

No draws have taken place during the recent lockdown. I hope to have all outstanding draws completed, with help from Tony Moorby, early in March; they will be reported in the April magazine. It has been a difficult year and I apologise unreservedly for the rather haphazard way everything has been carried out. Looking ahead I do hope to be able continue with draws taking place each month and promptly reported.

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 April, and I hope that everyone will be able to renew for another year. We handed over £3000 to St George's Church last year and I am sure they will continue to need our support.

Ruth Burrows 01747 840371

St Martin's Millennium Club

Winners for January & February

S Thomas	P Clayton
J Lane	R Perrott
A Etherington	N Fowler
D Hunt	K Holden
V Morse	V Rowe

The March draw will be held at
Zeals Motors on 11th March

Contact Nigel Blackmore

01747 841110

SDC Lott 842

Kilmington & Stourton Women's Institute

Because of the continuing Coronavirus restrictions, the WI is still unable to meet for the present and until further notice.

As soon as we are able to resume our meetings, members will be notified.

*For information contact:
Secretary: Bernie Isted on
01985 844933 or
Jane Parker 01985 844248*

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Green Fingers: Notes from a Fairweather Gardener

March 2021

March brings breezes loud and shrill to stir the dancing daffodil.

So says the old rhyme, and although we may not always get the breezes, we should certainly be able to see daffodils dancing this month. Like many other bulbs, the variety of daffodils is constantly increasing, so you can take your pick from singles or doubles, dwarf to giant and a range of colours from golden yellow to white, with even a few pink toned varieties available. And they will all dance in the breeze!

The sight of all those golden daffodils might inspire you to get out into the garden and start to prepare for a fruitful garden later in the year. Once the weather is a bit milder, you can start sowing all sorts of vegetables, from carrots to lettuces. You can also plant out onion and shallot bulbs. Perhaps you are in it for the long haul; if so, now is the time to prepare and plant out an asparagus bed. It will take a while to mature, but will give you pleasure for years, with the added bonus that asparagus fern makes a delicate addition to any flower arrangement.

Speaking of flower arranging, March is also the month to start sowing summer flowering bulbs. You may remember Dame Edna Everage, the startling Barry Humphries creation, who always sported sparkly spectacles and a purple rinse and carried a large bunch of gladioli to throw at her adoring public. Gladioli out of fashion for a while, but are coming back into vogue now. Plant them later this month as Gertrude Jekyll advised, in ribbons through the border to provide a contrast with smaller bushy plants. They are easy to grow, come in a wonderful array of colours, and will reward you with impressive flower spikes in the summer.

I really enjoy blueberries with my breakfast cereal, but they are both costly and very often not environmentally friendly as they come from far afield. The good news is that they can be grown here and I am tempted to try this. They can be planted now in pots of ericaceous compost. It is best to plant two different varieties close to each other and to plant them in a sunny spot so that you get the best of both worlds – plenty of fruit and colourful autumn foliage.

Daphne Knott

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News from Stourhead

Since last writing we've been treated to some beautiful scenes in the garden with a blanket of snow in January and some wonderful frosty mornings throughout February. The snowdrops have remained undeterred by the cold and put on a lovely display this year - paving the way for the rest of the spring blooms as we head towards spring.

Until government guidance changes, Stourhead remains committed to providing access to nature for all our local community. Many of you may well be using the wider parkland and estate to get your daily exercise during lockdown but we are also mindful that those with reduced mobility might not be able to access some parts of the estate. To this end the lakeside garden walk remains open between 10am and 2.30pm, but in order to keep everyone safe we ask that these slots are pre-booked via our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead.

If you prefer the wilder beauty and nature that can be found on the wider estate and are looking for some new routes to ramble - we have several walking trails available to download on our website. These take in King Alfred's Tower, Whitesheet and Park Hill Camp and might offer some inspiration for your next outdoor adventure.

This month, on 7th March, we mark 75 years of the National Trust caring for Stourhead. We are unable to celebrate this as we might like but look forward to a time when we can welcome more visitors back to Stourhead to enjoy its beauty, history and nature. This will be a wonderful celebration in itself and is hopefully now within sight as the vaccination programme continues in earnest.

Louisa Reeves, Marketing and Communications Officer
louisa.reeves@nationaltrust.org.uk

Country Calendar: March

Melodious tones the songbirds sing

Trills and calls that it is spring

Warbles sweet over hill and dale

Those beautiful Blackbirds Thrush and Nightingale JP

Whose spirits are not lifted at the thought of spring? Hopefully it is not only reinvigorating for flora and fauna but for us also. Let us hope that the scientists have cracked it and we are now on the home straight. We will look back and reminisce on how it affected our lives and what we did with our spare time (not that I have a lot). I am embarrassed by the increase of delivery vehicles coming up the drive most days. It is rather too easy to get on the computer, purchase whatever, and it is on your doorstep literally the next day. I have to admit, that it has been known for things to arrive which I have totally forgotten I had ordered. Harry's usual retort, "another parcel" my rebut "yes, it is for you dear!".

Harry has an absolute aversion to shopping, the occasional trip to Mole Valley Farmers is his limit. If he ever went into a supermarket, I would have to go into therapy to get over the shock. The last time this rare occurrence happened, the staff in the supermarket were barraged with questions of traceability origin welfare and cost. Supermarkets were not even on the cusp of such ideals, as I am talking mid 80s!

But then there are cattle sales, especially the Pedigree Limousin Cattle Sales, the cattle breeder's mecca of therapy. One of the downsides of lockdown for cattle breeders/farmers has been the inability to attend live sales. But online sales have now become possible. So, when a prestigious Limousin breeder was selling quite a selection of their animals, Harry and many other breeders, duly logged on for a little Limousin cattle retail therapy. The noise of the market and auctioneer was so loud it felt as though you were actually there. Harry was utterly engrossed in watching the cattle come in the ring, ticking off prices and lots he might be interested in. I noticed he had ticked a couple of lot numbers. I was trying to see which ones, then I realised the noise of the auction had subsided somewhat, the drawling voice of the auctioneer clearly proclaiming for the third and final time sold, repeating the final figure, then the sound of the gavel hitting the rostrum. The husky deep northern brogue announced loudly **SOLD for 250 thousand guineas - £262,500!** I looked at my husband, asking "who would pay that much for a heifer?" Harry laughed and replied "it is for you dear". I was not taken in - very funny, it is not even in calf. "I know why" I said, "it's all George Eustace's fault" (Environment Secretary), after he advised sheep farmers on national television/media to diversify into beef production, due to sheep producers' concerns regarding possible tariffs which would have catastrophic implications. It is pure and simply supply and demand. I have to

say the Limousin cattle have broken records before, but usually bulls. This heifer is the most expensive bovine animal ever sold, and she goes into the world record books - a mere 14-month old heifer (female). Obviously the two new owners (it was bought jointly by two breeders) know something we do not. I am sure lots of Limousin breeders will be clammering for the same breeding. Surprisingly we do have some of her breeding on the sire's side!

On a more serious note, thankfully we passed our TB test. We are now able to sell our bulls, and two are already on the way to the Isle of Wight. I expect the demand for Limousin cattle will be much improved, especially bulls with a bit of luck.

Jane Parker

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The Stall outside Bagmore Farm, Silton

For the same reasons as last year, it is not anticipated that our annual Silton Village Plant Sale will take place in May this year, and probably nor our summer fund raising Coffee Morning, so it has been decided that our successful little stall outside Bagmore Farm should open again, at any rate during the week before Easter and the bank holidays in May, and possibly in between and beyond, who knows?

Last year amongst many others we were able to give donations to several local charities, such as the Mere and District Link Scheme, Gillingham Food Bank, Alabare, and maybe we will hear of others. A full list of donations to all the chosen charities last year is displayed in the porch of St. Nicholas Church, and it is very much hoped to repeat these next Christmas by fund raising in any way we can. Plants, produce, flowers, cakes, preserves, etc will be on sale, as before, all fresh and home grown/made.

Diana Masters, Silton PCC Charity Committee



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The late John Rowe : Message from Val

Very many thanks to everyone for all the kind words of appreciation of John I received in letters emails and cards. It was very cheering to receive so many lovely tributes to his involvement in the life of the parish and in particular church services whether singing, reading or taking the Intercessions.

I have been very touched by the regular support I have received by phone call or knock on the door for a (distanced and mostly draughty) conversation and gifts of flowers.

John's sons and daughters have been so impressed by your messages too and were glad to know that he lived in such a loving community and had touched so many lives.

His death has been a shock to us all but I am thankful that his was a heart that had worked hard for ninety one and a half years, given many of us pleasure and that at the end he was not confined to bed with any lingering ailment. RIP

Val Rowe

Whitesheet School News

Collective Worship was held virtually on 12th February to celebrate Chinese New Year. The children shared their learning about this ancient tradition, along with their design and technology skills. It was a lovely way to end the term.

Mrs Higgins and Mrs Mullord invited parents to a virtual drop-in on 23rd February on MS Teams to share any queries. We thought it a good opportunity to see you in person, and put names to faces. Mrs Higgins returned to work on 8th February after a period of illness, she will be working remotely until after the half term break, as she has to shield for now, but can be contacted through the school office. Mrs Mullord (head of Shrewton School, another school in the Academy Trust) will be in school two days a week.

Mrs Bendall our Key Stage 2 teacher will be leaving Whitesheet at Easter; we are sad to see her go. She has decided to accept and pursue a new exciting career change, and we wish her every happiness and success in this. The school will be recruiting a fantastic new teacher for KS2 for the summer terms. We will keep you posted as to our progress with this.

The Kilminster site of the school was officially handed back to Salisbury Diocese Board of Education in early February. The site is no longer the responsibility of Whitesheet.

Mrs Emily Mullord (Head of Shrewton) Mrs Jamie Smart (School Secretary)

WORSHIP FROM MARCH 2020

Churches will remain closed for public worship and private prayer.

As we begin to approach upcoming feasts, it is important that we are still able to mark these as a community with visual acts of worship. We will therefore be having a series of recorded reflections on the following feasts so do look out for these, or please see them at www.upperstour.co.uk/services/

We also have a weekly e-newsletter and to sign up for this, please go to www.upperstour.co.uk/e-newsletter/

Mothering Sunday – 14th March 10am

Palm Sunday – 28th March 10am

Maundy Thursday – 1st April 6pm

Good Friday 2nd April 2.30pm

Easter Day – 4th April 10am

Please also see below for opportunities to meet or worship over Zoom.

- Morning Prayer -

Zoom Morning Prayer - 9am Every Thursday Morning

You will need a device with a camera and microphone, whether your phone or computer.

To join Zoom Morning Prayer

please visit www.zoom.us/join and enter the ID and passcode below.

Meeting ID: 983 7843 4987 Passcode: 994345

Or you can ring in by phone on this number, and then use the meeting ID above. 0208 080 6592

- Ways of Being with Others -

Zoom Coffee Morning! 11am Every Monday Morning

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee over Zoom. You will need a device with a camera and microphone whether your phone or computer.

To join the Zoom Coffee Morning

please visit www.zoom.us/join and enter the meeting ID and passcode below.

Meeting ID: 926 0725 7588 Passcode: 992199

- Rev Mike MacCormack -

Rev'd Mac has been a part of Upper Stour for some years now, and it is with great delight that I can announce that, following an interview with myself, Archdeacon Alan and Bishop Andrew, and with the PCC's affirmation and agreement, Bishop Andrew has offered his licence to Mac as Associate Priest of Upper Stour. Mac will be a much-valued addition to the Team and I do hope that people feel able to call on Mac as a spiritual, ministerial and priestly resource. Having previously worked with a team of clergy, please be assured that I am very comfortable for people to talk to Mac directly as the experienced and trusted minister that he is.

Rev'd Mac's Daily Reflections

Since March, Mac has been offering a thought via email to begin and end the day (9am and 6pm). If you would like to join Mac's mailing list for these daily reflections, then do please get in touch with him on revmikemac@gmail.com

Broadcasted Opportunities to Worship

If you would like to follow along with worship, or would like some time to reflect, then these Radio and TV suggestions are a good way to feel connected with other people worshipping at this time. It is a great opportunity to feel connected in prayer with people throughout the world while our churches are united in being made up of people who are worshipping at home.

All these are also available on BBC Sounds.

Songs of Praise

BBC 1 every Sunday Afternoon

Sunday Morning Worship

8.10am BBC Radio 4 every Sunday Morning

The Daily Service

9.45am BBC Radio 4 LW Monday to Saturday

Thought for the Day

7.45am BBC Radio 4 Monday to Saturday

Choral Evensong

3pm BBC Radio 3 every Sunday and 3.30pm every Wednesday

From the Registers

Funerals

4th February at Semington Crematorium, **John Rowe**



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OPEN SPRING GARDENS in ZEALS

1st, 2nd, 3rd May

Considering the risks, rules and regulations to control the Covid virus we shall have to postpone the Open Gardens in Zeals until next year. We hope by then the restrictions will have eased and can look forward to an even more glorious event.

Breast Cancer Unit Appeal



In March 2019, Yeovil Hospital Charity launched an appeal to raise the funds needed to build a £2 million dedicated Breast Cancer Unit. So far we have secured over £1,636,719, but building will only start when we have enough money.

During the pandemic, our fundraising events have had to be postponed or cancelled, making fundraising quite challenging. With that in mind, to help the appeal raise the much needed funds, **we are asking people if they might like to look in their jewellery boxes for any unwanted jewellery, broken pieces of jewellery and watches, which they may like to donate.** If you would like to support the appeal through donating any unwanted or broken jewellery, please contact Maggie Hague, Breast Cancer Appeal Volunteer, on 01963 250108.

For more information about the appeal, please go to Community and Events Fundraiser, on 01935 383020.

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News from Parish Councils

Bourton

The parish council meetings continue to work well via Zoom. However, a report from The National Association of Local Councils has stated that the government have not extended the legislation regarding remote meetings beyond 7th May. The 2021/22 Precept Request of £22136.35 has been agreed and was submitted to Dorset Council in January. Belinda Rideout, our Ward Councillor, submits concise monthly reports and these can be viewed on the village website.

At the February PC meeting it was agreed to renew the defibrillator contract with SWAST (South West Ambulance Service Trust). This will mean that the defib machine will continue to be maintained and that further training sessions will be available (post COVID) in the future.

A new parish map showing all the public rights of way has been purchased and is now in place in the noticeboard opposite the war memorial. The Dorset Explorer Map can be viewed at [DorsetExplorer \(geowessex.com\)](http://DorsetExplorer.geowessex.com) and here you can view public rights of way, highways records, Tree Preservation Orders, and many other details.

Following reports from members of the public regarding the state of Kites Nest Lane and safety issues due to mud on the surface, contact was made with our new Community Highways Officer, Rico Dimarino and soon after he arranged for a sweeper to clean the surface, which is now much improved.

There are still issues regarding dog fouling within our parish, despite there being numerous dog waste bins in place throughout the village, with another one due to be installed on Church Track. You can report dog fouling to Dorset Council via an online form www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/environment-health/dog-warden-service Each authority follows the procedure and guidance written under the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and, if caught, a person not clearing up after their dog could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 which could go up to £1,000 if it goes to magistrates court.

I am currently in the process of developing a Facebook Page for the parish council with the intention that it can publish all documents that are relevant to the council, information from Dorset Council and information on our parish councillors etc. Further details will follow when this is up and running.

Eve Wynn, Clerk

Kilminster

The Parish Council has written to the National Trust asking them to reconsider their decision and to allow us to move the playing field hedge back to allow for the creation of a parking area for the residents of Brookside. We are hoping that a response will be received prior to our next meeting on Wednesday 24 March.

/ ...continued on page 18

This will be the last meeting of the current Council as elections are going ahead on 6 May. We very much hope that the Covid-19 restrictions will have been relaxed sufficiently for us to hold a normal Annual Parish Council meeting as well as the Annual Parish Meeting in May – exact date to be confirmed. Assuming that is the case, our new venue will be the Home Guard Club as Whitesheet School is no longer available to hire. Anyone wishing to attend our next meeting can of course do so, please just email the Clerk or the Chairman and a link will be sent to you.

Ruth Burrows, Clerk

Stourton with Gasper

Due to Covid, we will have to take a different approach to the Parish Litter Pick this year. The Council will provide litter pickers with gloves and high-vis vests. These will be available to collect from Stourhead Farm Shop, or the porch of Gasper Mill from 26th February. The council will not collect the rubbish as a separate collection. Please dispose of in your household waste.

Could volunteers please go to the Parish Council <http://www.stourton.org.uk/> and select one or more sections of road to take charge of and let Cllr Nick Hoare know nick@stourhead.com or call/text 07435 970471. Please leave any large or dangerous (eg needles) items in place let Cllr Hoare know where they are. Always be aware of traffic danger. If you take on the B3092, only work where the verge is wide.

Wiltshire Age UK is offering free training to help you make better use of technology and stay connected in this digital world. To find out more please call them on 01380 710296. (see also page 5)

We believe restrictions will be lifted to allow the Council elections to Wiltshire Council and Parish Councils to go ahead on May 6th 2021. We have 7 councillors on the Stourton with Gasper Parish Council; find out a little about them from our website <http://www.stourton.org.uk/>. The Annual Parish Meeting is the opportunity for parishioners to join the councillors and other local groups. This will be on 19th May 2021 and we would encourage all sections of the community to come along and join us for this evening. Our next PC meeting will be on 3 March at 6 pm. the Everyone is welcome to attend PC meetings as usual. These have been held online recently due to Covid restrictions, details are on our website.

Fran Hill, Clerk

Zeals

It has not been possible to hold an open meeting of the Parish Council for some time now, although councillors have gathered as an official body outside, with social distancing observed and masks worn, at two recently held site meetings.

/... continued on page 19

Details can be seen on Wiltshire's planning website concerning a single storey rear extension at 4 Hambleton Villas, and the proposed conversion of an agricultural building into a single storey dwelling at Lower Zeals Farm.

Letters have been sent offering tenancy renewals from the start of April to those currently occupying plots at the Allotment Gardens that front New Road on the eastern side of the village. Rental charges are £10 for a small plot, and £20 for a much larger allotment. Sometimes tenancies are given up, meaning that offers can then be made to those on our waiting list. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk, preferably email or call.

Dog fouling and the dropping of plastic bags with excrement seems to have become more of a problem recently according to reports received. I regret to have to say this again: if you walk dogs, please clean up and dispose of any mess responsibly.

We continue to contact Wiltshire Council in an effort to ensure that our roads and footways are in a good state of repair and that flooding risks are kept under control. Recently we have, once again, highlighted to the appropriate agency at Wiltshire Council the road surface problems along Bells Lane again and Chapel Lane's continued flooding issues.

The Westfield Playground remains open at present, in accordance with guidelines, but please note that it is not possible to clean or sanitise the equipment.

G. Edgar, Clerk (e.mail address: kgedgar1@outlook.com)



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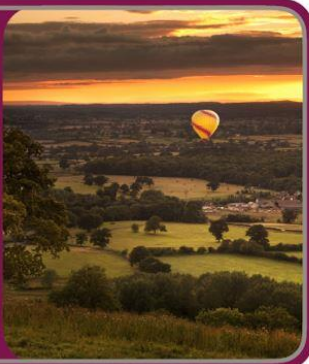
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The Almshouse Association

Zeals is incredibly lucky in having five almshouses. Built in Tudor revival style, for single occupancy, four were built in 1865 by William Chafyn-Grove of Zeals House. The fifth was built three years ago out of the building behind the Almshouses, which were originally the outside loos! The almshouses are run and looked after by local Trustees, all volunteers who give freely of their time. This is a unique feature of the almshouse charity and has been consistent throughout the ages.

The first almshouse foundation was started in medieval times when religious orders cared for the poor. The oldest, which is still in existence, is thought to be St Oswald, Worcester, built in 990AD by the Bishop of Worcester. The Brothers administered to the sick, poor and old, burying the dead and offering shelter to travellers. They were originally called Hospitals or Bedes

By the 1500s there were about 800 medieval hospitals throughout the country. Henry VIII through the dissolution of the monasteries destroyed most of the existing almshouses, which were given to favourites of the King, sold for private houses or were stripped of anything of value and left in ruins.

During the late sixteenth century many of the craft guilds again founded hospitals for care of the elderly. Today links with City livery companies are very strong, having many of their own Almshouses. One of the most famous names was Dick Whittington Lord Mayor of London of The Mercer's company. Benefactors came from all walks of life: Archbishops, Kings, Queens, clergy, aristocracy, local landowners etc.

Through the years, particularly during the Georgian and Victorian ages, housing became a huge social problem. Workhouses were dreadful places to live and this inspired forward thinking people to endow almshouses, usually in their local area in groups of 4-12 dwellings. At least 30% of Almshouses were built during this period.

Many of the almshouses are of huge historic interest, incorporating chapels, where services are still held. Some have clock towers, coats of arms, sundials, and many are listed, like the ones in Zeals, which are grade 2. Zeals is so fortunate in having such a beautiful building that is home to five local residents.

Wakefield

Thank you to David Corbin

David Corbin has for the last ten years been secretary to the Almshouses in Zeals. He has given much time, trouble, energy and care to the Almshouses and it is impossible to thank him properly for everything he has done and achieved. Zeals Almshouses will always be indebted to him.

He has decided that now is a good time to hand over to a new secretary, but happily he will remain as a Trustee. It should be remembered that all trustees are volunteers, and we all offer huge thanks to David for all his achievements, dedication and time given to the Almshouses.

Lyndi d'Ambrumenil

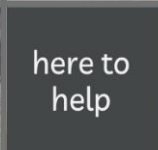
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Sleepers sign up for an uncomfortable night to help the homeless

Local charity Alabaré is calling on people across the UK to take part in its Big Sleep at Home event on 5th March. The charity says that the ongoing pandemic, and the economic and mental health repercussions, are putting thousands more people at risk of homelessness.



All the funds raised from the sponsored event, will help provide accommodation and support for those who find themselves in crisis and without a home. Big Sleepers will give up their bed for one night, and sleep in an uncomfortable place in their home, garden or other venue (permitted by the Covid restrictions). This year's event

replaces the charity annual Big Sleep at Salisbury Cathedral which cannot take place due to the current Covid restrictions.

**For more information, and to register for free, go to www.alabare.co.uk.
Or call Claire Sime on 07500 113971**



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Census

The Census date given last month was incorrect.

The correct date for the 2021 Census is

21st March 2021

The census informs decisions about the things that matter to your community. You must complete the census by law. Census data helps inform funding decisions on public services in your area. Whether it is planning new schools, doctors' surgeries or bike lanes, the information you share has an impact on the lives of everyone living in England and Wales. Full details are in the February edition of this magazine.

Further details at www.census.gov.uk

**Contributions for the April 2021 edition by
Friday 19th March 2021 please**