

# Sulgrave News



## June 2020

### Regular Events

BB&C Service 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at Culworth church - 11.00am

Circle Dancing 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly at Culworth village hall 2.30pm-4.30pm

*This newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Janet Smith. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stuchbury by Sally & Andrew Elliott, Susie Mason, Pim Lockwood, Jean Bates, Rachael Hijstee, and Jan Castle. Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council. It is provided as a service to the community and those involved in its production cannot accept responsibility for omissions and errors, or necessarily agree with its contents.*



Deadline for the July Newsletter is 19th June 2020

If you have information, articles or stories for the newsletter telephone Janet on 01295 760397 or e-mail [gypsysmith7@gmail.com](mailto:gypsysmith7@gmail.com)

As always, articles can be left at Sulgrave Village Shop



## Church News

Due to the Coronavirus church services will cease until further notice. We hope to keep the church building open, but this may well change.



My name is Nicholas, but most people call me either Nick or Father Nick or Padre. I am 58 years old and was appointed to my current post in Feb 2018. Before that I was vicar of an inner city parish in Coventry and during my time there, I developed a wide social action mission with foodbank, night shelter for the homeless during the winter months, job club and mental health project.

Coming to rural Northamptonshire has been a big change and one I am enjoying. I do feel that a group of rural churches needs to develop a wide range of services in both what the church does for the wider community and types of services within the buildings itself. So far this has seen the return of “bells and incense” to Marston, BCP Evensong at Warkworth with a new early evening time spot and an extra informal service at Middleton. Just before this lockdown we were going to begin a mental health support group at Middleton and have just opened our own foodbank to support those who have lost their jobs and income because of the crisis.

I am also a Major in the Royal Army Chaplain’s Department working with the Army Cadets in Warwickshire and the Air Training Corp. I have been in Holy Orders since 2002 and before Coventry I was in Bridgwater and Clevedon in Somerset. Bridgwater was very much an inner-city type of parish and Clevedon was more middle class with a lot of people working in offices in Bristol.

Before training for the Priesthood at St Stephen House in Oxford, I worked for Royal Mail for 18 years as a manager in delivery offices and of course as a postman and for 12 years I was an officer of the CWU which is the trade union for postal workers. I was also a rep for Benenden Health Care serving 8 years on the board. I am a big Rugby fan and like cricket and I’m also a real ale drinker.

I do feel this is a hard time for all of us not being able to see our families and friends and not being in church is a big miss for me and I am sure for a lot of you. To try and keep church services going for the moment, I am using the Middleton Cheney All Saints Facebook page to live stream services on Sunday at 11am and Wednesday at 10am followed by Zoom meet afterwards. Do please like the page and like the page

for Sulgrave church too. At the moment we only have one web site which is the one for Middleton Cheney church, which I hope we will be able to add parts for the other churches in the group.

I am guessing we will not be back in church until July, but I think we will keep live streaming church services afterwards and that I believe will be the big “new thing” for the church in the future.

As a country, I feel we could go one of two ways, either we become must more self-centred and stop going to the pub or we become more open to things and become a more caring society. I hope that we will see the next development of the “big society” as we build up our community support work. My plan is to see how we can build on our Mental Health project and long standing tea and coffee morning at Middleton, right across our group of eight churches and Sulgrave is blessed to have the only church hall in the group.

Please keep safe and see you sometime soon. Yours, Father Nick



## Village Shop News Update

Shop Telephone – 01295 760066



e-mail: [svshop@hotmail.com](mailto:svshop@hotmail.com)

Our hope that life would be returning to normal by the time this newsletter came out was a tad premature and, at the time of writing, we are still in the throes of lockdown with no imminent signs of any change to the regulations. Thankfully, the new system that the Shop Management Committee has put into play has been a resounding success and has enabled the residents of Sulgrave and the surrounding villages to continue to depend on the shop for their day-to-day needs. The substitution of face-to-face shopping with the placement of orders by telephone or order-form followed by collection or delivery resulted in a big increase in applications for shop accounts and we now have eighty new account holders on our books. Despite the inevitable fall-off in casual passing trade, sales have remained strong and our supervisors and volunteers continue to be as busy as ever. For the moment, the Post Office is open only on Monday from 9.00 to midday but it is now accepting parcels again. We hope, in due course, that Post Office opening times may be extended and the Management Committee is also looking into the possibility of gradually introducing limited face-to-face shopping so long as social distancing guidelines can be adhered to - so do keep an eye on the shop notice board, Nextdoor or Facebook for the latest information

Supplies of some scarce items have improved considerably since last month and bread and cake makers will be very pleased that we now have a range of different flours (including pizza and pasta flour) in stock. Wine supplies have also picked up and some of your old favourites are back on the shelves. The Management Committee is constantly tweaking the system and the shop is now open from 9 am to midday on Sunday morning when it will also be selling freshly baked croissants. Order them in advance if you can.

The long-awaited upgrading of the shop interior is now almost complete. We have a brand-new central counter and storage fridge and the old, rather temperamental freezer has been replaced with a new split unit incorporating a chiller and frozen food display. Clive's wonderful trolley has been brought in to serve as a vegetable stand (see the photo on the Nextdoor site) and, all in all, the shop is looking extremely smart. Fingers crossed that everyone will soon be able to see the improvements for themselves. The new display freezer is well stocked with all manner of frozen foods ranging from king scallops to ice lollies and we currently have a range of ready-meals and other frozen products on special offer.

These newsletters regularly praise the volunteers for the effort they put into keeping the shop running. In these difficult times, they, and our hard-working shop supervisors, are especially deserving of our gratitude for ensuring that everything continues to operate smoothly. The Management Committee has been holding Zoom meetings every week to monitor the operation of the shop and constant adjustments are being made to improve the service. Many volunteers freely give up their time to collect supplies, accept and pack orders, manage the accounts, oversee stocks, update the information on social media, keep the shop clean and make deliveries to the vulnerable members of the community. Just remember when you next collect your order that a great deal of work, most of it unpaid, has gone on behind the scenes to provide this facility.

No big barbecues yet we fear but at least we can all savour a glass of wine in our gardens and, one hopes, enjoy some lovely June weather.

Digby and Alison

The fish & chip van will be visiting Sulgrave on the following dates between 5.30pm and 7.00pm outside the village shop

June 6<sup>th</sup>

July 4<sup>th</sup>

August 1<sup>st</sup>

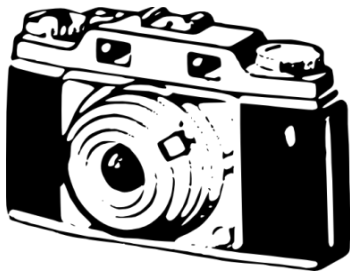
August 29<sup>th</sup>

September 26<sup>th</sup>

October 24<sup>th</sup>

November 21<sup>st</sup>

December 19<sup>th</sup>



We now meet twice a month by video and at our most recent meeting we had an enjoyable evening with contributions from three of our members who took us on a photographic trip around the world.

First Finland, way up into the arctic north in both late summer and early spring in search of the Northern Lights. There was quite a contrast, from lakes and forest scenes in late summer to snow covered landscapes in spring. It is quite difficult to photograph snow scenes and even more challenging to capture the Northern Lights, both patience and a tripod is needed to get a memorable photograph.

Next we had a trip around the USA, including cityscapes from the Empire State Building, street shots in San Francisco and landscapes in Colorado. Camera angles, close-up work and long lenses needed to capture some stunning images.

Finally the session finished off with some really nice images from Japan, showing the skilful and delicate traditional buildings intermixed with the modern architecture and some insight into the Japanese way of life. Some great composition techniques were shared, examples with leading lines drawing the eye into the scene, or creating symmetry to give balance to the photograph and using alternate point of focus to add interest.

Seeing all these different images was a great opportunity for us all to discover more about composition and photographic techniques.

We closed the evening with a discussion on future topics and our current challenge, "Shadows" a photographic representation of light and dark, the results to be shared at the next video meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 8.00pm, when we will also be demonstrating editing techniques and some of the software available to help us achieve that special photograph.

If you are interested in sharing your photographs, perhaps learning a little bit more about technique, come and join us.

Contact me on [grahamroberts53@hotmail.com](mailto:grahamroberts53@hotmail.com)



## THE STAR INN



We hope you are all keeping well

As most of you are aware, we are closed completely. This is to enable us to support and furlough our staff through these tough times. Unfortunately, our takeaway service did not provide the income to enable us to sustain wages in these difficult times. We are grateful to those who supported us whilst the service was available.

However, we are working extremely hard on our never-ending list of improvements and redecoration inside the pub. The garden is also being worked on particularly our Vine & Outside Bar Area.

Our car park will also become a new Bar Area, some of which will be temporarily under cover. Fortunately, when the time is right and the Government advises us to do so, we will be one of the lucky pubs that will be allowed to reopen, due to our outside space.

We are working hard on the new normal and getting ready for a reopening date. It is important to us that our family, staff & customers feel safe returning to The Star Inn.

We look forward to the day we can welcome you back and have our fingers firmly crossed for a dry British summer.



All the best

Steve, Niki, Millie & The Star Team



Anthony, of SPARKLE WINDOW COMPANY is now back cleaning windows in Sulgrave and surrounding villages.

He will be back with existing customers as soon as possible and thanks them all for their patience in these difficult times.

If anyone else would like him to call or have a quote please call 024 7659 0183 or 07944 926673



Ted and Jean Baigent would like to thank the Parish Council, and all those featured, for circulating the list of volunteer supporters at the start of the lock down in March.

Fortunately we haven't yet needed to ask for help, but it is so reassuring to know that there are lots of people just a phone call away.

So lucky to live in a village like Sulgrave in these strange and difficult times.

Thank you all.





Ryan and myself would like to give Sulgrave a huge Thank You for the great support you have given our business during these hard times. When COVID-19 started we thought we would wait until it's all over and sit tight, but a simple Easter Afternoon Tea idea turned into something special and this totally overwhelmed us.

This got me thinking about a new service called "Dine to Door", where we deliver exciting, homemade and fresh food to people's front doors.

Tapas certainly was a huge success with an increased social media following resulting in our name becoming well known in surrounding villages. It's something we will continue to do on top of our Wedding food, canapés, and bar Services.

We thought we would share what we have planned for June.

6 - 7 June - Boozy Afternoon Tea and a Launch of our Grazing and Ploughman's Boxes.

12 - 13 June Mexican Dine to Door Special. Menus to be confirmed.

20 - 21 June Father's Day Dine to Door Special. Menu to be confirmed.

We are working on updating our website, with an online shop, aiming to take orders 10 days prior to each event, along with the menu release with a new payment system. To make things easier for us and the customer. We are always happy to hear about ideas and welcome feedback. We are happy to provide special deliveries for any special occasion you may have coming up. If we can help celebrate something during these uncertain times then we will do our best to accommodate you.

Please check for updates on [www.websters-events.co.uk](http://www.websters-events.co.uk) or Social media @Webstersevents.

Or email [danny@websters-events.co.uk](mailto:danny@websters-events.co.uk).

Thanks again.  
Danny and Ryan.

# SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Reports

### Parish Footpaths

I took up the appointment as the Parish Footpath Warden at the end of 2019 together with Guy Churchill and over the last few months the parish footpaths and bridle ways have been walked to find out if that they are in a suitable condition and reasonably well maintained. This has been all the more important during these times as the COVID 19 lockdown has brought many more walkers, runners and cyclists onto our footpaths as they are providing one of the only means of exercise available.

Most of our footpaths are reasonably accessible, some pass through fields with farm animals and so it is important to keep to the marked footpath and, if accompanied by dogs they should be securely on a lead, owners should clean up after their dogs. Bag and take the waste home to be disposed of as livestock can be seriously affected if they ingest dog faeces.

Footpath AY 9, which passes from the Morton Road (Gated Lane) to the Weston Road is one exception as it is not in a good condition where it traverses the old railway line. Unfortunately the footpath is trampled by horses and off road motor bikes and little can be done in the present circumstances to restore the path in the near future. This will be raised with the County Council Rights of Way Officer to see if some preventative measures can be put in place or the footpath re-directed. From experience it is unlikely however, that this will be remedied in the near future.

Footpath AY 8, from Helmdon Road towards Stuchbury has been partly ploughed over but we expect it will be restored after the seeded crop has established.

When the current lockdown circumstances are eased it is intended to introduce "village walks" where those that wish to can enjoy the countryside through the network of footpaths around the village

If you have any questions or wish to contact me please email on :-

[Grahamroberts53@hotmail.com](mailto:Grahamroberts53@hotmail.com)



### Allotments

A lot of hard work has been done to clear some of the plots and re-edge them ready for the growing season. All but one plot is taken and, therefore, we continue to be able to cover the cost of the water bill and insurance.

# SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

You are invited to  
THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

In  
Sulgrave Church Hall



*We look forward to seeing you there*

# JUNE 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 Events	7 See
8	9	10	11	12 Events	13 See 5.30pm	14
15	16	17	18 LINE FOR	19	20 Events	21 See
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 .....					

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