

No. 587 - December 2020 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 16-18 to find a local business who can help.

Carols on the Green has been cancelled for this year, but "Carols On Your Doorstep" will take place. See page 10 for details

Remembrance Sunday at a Distance

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the 80th Anniversaries of Operation Dynamo (Dunkirk) and the Battle of Britain. This year's Remembrance Sunday would be marking each with respect and even our local gathering was expected to be its biggest yet, paying respect to all those who lost their lives and those who came home at the end of the war. With over thirty countries spread over three continents involved in WWII, peace was declared in Europe on 7th May 1945 and in Japan on 15th August 1945 (the USA commemorate this on 2nd September.)

Unfortunately Covid-19 arrived in 2020 and it's certainly left its mark. In the first lock down people around the UK continued to mark VE Day by having socially distanced parties in their streets remaining in their own space, sitting outside on their doorsteps and being sociable. Then the second lock down happened days before Remembrance Sunday. This meant no church services, no Remembrance Sunday at the local war memorials. To many this did not seem right. Even as I made my way to the memorial at the top of Park Hill Sunday morning I did wonder if any poppy wreaths would be there? **Would people still be paying their respects at 11am?**

The spirit of our local communities did not let us down. Poppy wreaths had been placed earlier that morning, Remembrance crosses were there too, social distancing was being adhered to by the small number of people who came and went

spending a few short minutes in silence. This was after 11am I must add. I was fortunate to see several veterans leaving the area and I called them back for a socially distanced photograph and they gladly obliged. If that hadn't happened the picture accompanying this article would have been a very lonely war memorial with some poppy wreaths and that just didn't sit right with me. **I wanted a photo that said 'they have not been forgotten' and with covid-19 still in our midst, 'they will never be forgotten'.**

Kathryn Courtney

See page 18 for this years Poppies on the Green.



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SHIRE PUBLIC INFO FOR DECEMBER

Corona Virus Info

In mid-November at time of going to press the country received promising news about the development of a coronavirus vaccine. **But the vaccine is not ready yet** and will take time to roll out so we must continue to keep following the guidelines to get infections down.

Remember – hands, face, space, and if you develop symptoms, get a test. You can book a test online, or by calling 119.

As part of a new scheme, Bristol will be one of 67 areas to receive rapid COVID-19 tests which will help to support and expand our local testing capabilities. The devices are called antigen lateral flow tests and they don't require a laboratory. We

will use them to stem the spread of the virus in vulnerable groups.

This winter we are making sure everyone has a roof over their head. We estimate there are around 75 people sleeping rough in Bristol. We have three sites operating as supported housing and we will increase emergency accommodation available, particularly for those with higher support needs.

Finally, please continue to look after each other and your own mental health. **A 24/7 mental health support line is available on: 0800 0126 549.** Reach out to these services, and each other for support and care.

Stay safe.

Get help with the EU Settlement Scheme during lockdown

Do you care for, work with or know someone from a non-UK EU country?

Due to Brexit, EU citizens must apply for the EU Settlement Scheme if they want to continue living in the UK after June 2021. **Even if they have lived in the UK most of their lives.** EU nationals who have lived continuously in the UK for five years or more should be entitled to settled status, meaning they are free to go on living in the UK indefinitely. We cannot know for certain how many people are outstanding in applying for the scheme, but we do know that without settled or pre-settled status, they will not have the same rights in the UK after Brexit UK as they do now.

We are particularly concerned about:

- Older People (only 1% of applications are from over 65s)
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (their applications may take much longer due to needing to arrange ID)
- Refugees and asylum seekers who may not be aware and have come through another EU country.

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, our Citizens Service Point is unable to help EU citizens who need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme.

If you need to apply to the scheme but need help with the application you can get support from:

ST PAULS ADVICE CENTRE

E: team@northbristoladvice.org.uk

T: 01179 515751

NORTH BRISTOL ADVICE CENTRE

E: team@northbristoladvice.org.uk

T: 01179 515751

SOUTH BRISTOL ADVICE SERVICES

E: admin@southbristoladvice.org.uk

T: 01179 851122

OFFICIAL SETTLEMENT RESOLUTION CENTRE

T: 0300 123 7379

You can find more help and information, including translated guides, on our dedicated website: bristol.gov.uk/EUsettlement

The deadline for applying is 30th June 2021.

Council Announces One City Climate strategy

Bristol's Climate Vision

"In 2030, Bristol is carbon neutral and climate resilient. We have collectively achieved a fair and inclusive transition; capturing the opportunities of new jobs and investment, improved health, wellbeing and education, and a better environment for local people. We have helped lead the way to a safer global climate."

Bristol's Environmental Sustainability Board has come together to develop a **One City Climate Strategy**. We are building on Bristol's challenges and opportunities, including the inequalities in the city, but also the existing climate action and the networks and knowledge in the city. However, in this strategy we are describing a step change. We need urgent and transformative action in response to this complex, critical global challenge. Bristol's strategy is built on a strong evidence base; setting a clear pathway to carbon neutrality for our direct emissions within Bristol. Our evidence helps us to

start the journey for reducing our wider emissions and enhancing our resilience to future climate change. The challenge is huge, and we recognise that this is just the start. As our knowledge base grows, and as the world around us changes, we will adapt and evolve to deliver the best outcomes for the city. Taking action on climate change presents a great opportunity for Bristol; supporting our One City Plan ambition to become a fair, healthy and sustainable city. A city of hope and aspiration, where everyone can share in its success.

See page 14 for more details.



Here's to a cosy Christmas at home...

Wishing you a happy & festive Christmas from all at Ocean.



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The *Shire* Community Page

Our Thanks to Dorothy Jenner

Dorothy Jenner has stepped down as Advertising Manager at Shire. Dot took on the role of Advertising Manager in 2016 and set about updating the advertising sales system.

She introduced the Classified Ads pages of the paper and created a new Family Announcements column. In 2019 she organized a drive to recruit new members to the Shire committee, running

a poster campaign and hosting a coffee morning for prospective new editors. Throughout her time at Shire she has taken a full and supportive interest in all aspects of producing and distributing our Community Newspaper.

We all want to thank Dot for her contribution to Shire, and wish her well for the future.

The Editors@Shire

Lark Ascending Concert to be Streamed Online for FREE

Plans for celebrating the centenary of the first performance of *The Lark Ascending* in Shirehampton Public Hall this December have been seriously disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions. But all is not lost as Edyta Lang, Public Hall trustee and organizer of the event, explains:

Apologies for keeping quiet on the Lark Ascending! 15th December this year will be the centenary of the world premier of The Lark Ascending (piano and violin version) at the Public Hall. And the Bristol Ensemble are still planning to organise a concert at the Hall. However, due to Covid 19 restrictions, only a limited audience will be allowed. We are now planning on broadcasting the concert on the internet on the day of this important anniversary.

And I do have some good news for you. Bristol Ensemble have recently been awarded a grant for the Lark Ascending project and other already planned events in partnership with Shirehampton Public Hall. We are very pleased that the previous and current owners of Kings Weston House are very supportive of holding some of the events. We will continue working together and hope the events



will be able to go ahead next year or after Covid-19 crisis is over.

Judy Helme has written a book, *Shirehampton Public Hall (1904-2004)*, which details the history of the Hall and its importance in the cultural history of Bristol. Ms Helme describes the friendship between Vaughan Williams and Napier Miles that led to the first performance of *The Lark Ascending* at the Hall which was a forerunner to other Bristol music venues such as The Victoria Rooms and Bristol Hippodrome.

The concert will aired online for FREE on Tuesday 15th December at 7:30pm. For more information and how to donate if you wish, please visit: www.bristolbeacon.org

Edyta Lang, Public Hall Trustee



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Dursley Road, Shirehampton,
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Registered charity no. 1101427

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY

Pilates 9:30-10:30am
Personal Fitness 6:30-7:30pm

TUESDAY (1st & 3rd of each month)

Film Night 7:30pm*

WEDNESDAY

Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am
Personal Fitness 5:15-6:15pm
Pilates 6:30-7:30pm

THURSDAY

Bingo 2:30pm
Personal Fitness 7-8pm
Table Tennis 8pm

FRIDAY

Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am

SATURDAY (2nd of each month)

Coffee Morning 10am

*Booking must be made, either by email:

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Letters to the Editor

We enjoy spreading community news especially in these strange times. We love to hear from all our readers of both the online and printed versions. Send in your stories to editor@shire.org.uk. Although, if requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, we cannot accept an anonymous letter. *Many thanks.*



A MESSAGE FROM TOM HILLMAN

Due to Covid restrictions I am unable to send Christmas Cards this year, so to all who know me: **Please have a Happy Christmas and a better year next year.**

All the best to you all,

Tom Hillman

(Thank you for your kind donation. The Editor)



HIT AND RUN IN LOWER HIGH STREET

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday the 3rd of November, I collected the groceries from my corner shop early in the morning. As always I used the official crossing with its safety central island. I waited until the traffic had passed and proceeded across the road.

A fast moving car heading towards Avonmouth struck me and left me lying in the road with foot and leg injuries.

Fortunately for me 2 young men saw my situation and lifted me to safety at the base of a nearby garden wall. They also offered to call an ambulance, but I refused. I explained that I lived just across the road and one of them helped me to my front door.

My husband immediately reported the hit and run to the police who took all the details and arranged a house call. They also informed the ambulance service. My injuries are being attended to by our local health centre.

I wish to publicly thank these two young men who placed themselves at risk on my behalf.

Mrs. Pauline Morris

CELEBRATING PONDS

Dear Editor,

I am sending you a photo of my pond as requested in the November issue. This was a "Lockdown project" for me. I started in April and since have seen Dragonflies, two Jays having a wash and three frogs who have made it their home. On the left hand side there is a French pump and under it I have very successfully been growing watercress, which we love to eat! As well as helping with Conservation, we feel that the pond has also brought a lot of interest and pleasure into our garden.

Roger P



Hello Shire,

I enjoyed your article on wildlife conservation and ponds. During the first few weeks of the lock down in spring, my Dad paid me to dig this pond in the garden and it's now absolutely teeming with life.

Charlie Golder

(Many thanks to the Pond Diggers for the photos! The Editor.)



BRADLEY CRESCENT

Hi There,

I was given this lovely old photo of Bradley Crescent looking up towards the village and was wondering if anyone knew anything about it.

It seems to be celebrating something with the bunting and one of numerous shops on the street can be seen.

Any information about it would be welcome.

Many thanks

Ed Wiffen



THE LARK AND THE DAME

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the item regarding The Lark Ascending in the November Shire. Early in 2012 the BBC made a programme about the well known work which included a performance at Shirhampton Public Hall. They also filmed at Kings Weston House because that is where, in 1920 Ralph Vaughan Williams and famous violinist Marie Hall carried out the final work to make the piece suitable for Piano and Violin performance.

(Dame) Diana Rigg, perhaps best known and remembered as a Bond Girl read words from the poem as she walked down the famous floating staircase at Kings Weston House.

I was working at the house when this happened, was lucky enough to see the filming take place and to hear Diana say that she would walk down half the staircase, not all of it.

When the filming was finished she came into the Portrait Gallery where I was working and asked me where she could find a cup of tea. I walked her down the back staircase where she admired the very old wall tiles and into the Vaulted Tea Rooms. I ordered that cup of tea, found her a seat and left her to enjoy it.

So, that was the day I met a Bond Girl at work - quite an experience.

David Hinksman



Hello there! **Would you like to improve your well-being?**

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Linda x x

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- **Kettlebells are Monday 5.15 - 6.15pm and 6.30 - 7.30pm, Wednesday from 5.15 - 6.15pm and Thursday from 6.30 - 7.30pm at the Cotswold Community Centre. Message for 1:1 technique session.**
- **Bootcamps: Monday and Wednesday 6.15-7.00am. Please message for details.**



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SCAF says 'thank you' for 14 years

Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF) held their 17th Annual General Meeting on 28th October. Special mention was made of Val Jenkins and her work as a trustee for 14 of those years. Val has decided to retire this year and the trustees thanked her for both her loyalty and staying power!

The AGM was well attended in spite of the restrictions due to the pandemic and the wet and windy weather. Despite the limitations to current community activity because of the virus, those present were determined to celebrate the work of SCAF and residents during the year 2019/2020, the year covered by the Report. The Report details the increase of groups and activity in the community such as the Shire Markets, and the Friends of Shire Library, and celebrates and thanks the many volunteers, new and old, who helped to make it all happen. It was a very good

year for Shirehampton, when we achieved much of what residents had asked for in the Shire Community Plan. The Chair reminded everyone that all group activity is only dormant through this awkward time and will be ready and raring to go as soon as we are back to a normal.

For copies of the SCAF Annual Report, please contact Ash Bearman:

Email: ash@shirecaf.org.uk

Telephone: 0117 982 9963

Avonmouth Ladies Club

As detailed last issues, due to the current Coronavirus concerns, it was decided by the committee to cancel all meetings for 2020.

In future our annual break will be in January and February instead of July/August, therefore our first club meeting back will be in 2021 on Tuesday 2nd March which will be a welcome-back bring and share supper and Quiz night.

Avonmouth Ladies Club Chairperson and Committee wish everyone a very peaceful Christmas and a hopeful and joyous 2021 - when we hope to see you all at Avonmouth community centre in March.

From the Chairwoman & Committee.

Darren Jones MP

As we look to the end of this year, I've been reflecting on how much we've achieved in Bristol as we've made our way through this pandemic. I know the second national lockdown will have been hard for so many of you, but with an increasing infection rate (at least at the time of writing), I'm hopeful that this lockdown will get the infection rate down as we move into the period where vaccines will become available.

During half term last month, I caught up with our North West Bristol Foodbank based in St. Andrew's Church Avonmouth. The preparations made for this Winter fuelled by your donations and generosity show that in our community we're never truly alone. Help and support is available, and we have enough to go around. I want to make sure that anyone having to pick between food and other expenses knows that getting help is the right thing to do. This is a time to look out for your neighbours, especially those that live alone, are now older, have lost work or are having to pitch in to help family and loved ones. So please think, do you know someone that needs an extra hand this Winter?

Our foodbanks are organising their Christmas appeal right now, so if you can donate some festive items, please do. You can view the Trussell Trust Christmas list here: www.bristolnorthwestfoodbank.org.uk/

On behalf of all of us in Bristol North West, I laid a wreath in honour of our armed forces during this year's socially distanced Remembrance Service. I would have been at the Shirehampton service this year but I now look forward to being able to remember together as a community once again next year.

I've been touched by the nominations I've received so far for the Coronavirus Community Hero Awards. I've been inspired by examples of local businesses stepping in during half term to close the free school meal gap and by the stories of bravery shown by care workers, NHS staff, mutual aid groups and neighbours. As we make our way through this second lockdown, please let me know about your stories about those that have gone above and beyond. If you haven't made a nomination yet but would like to do so, you can at www.darren-jones.co.uk/heroes

I also had the pleasure of speaking with the Shirehampton 178th Guides Group, who are now meeting virtually, for Parliament Week. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was a Cub in the adjoining Scouts building! Following this, I urged the Government to make good on their promise to close the digital gap and ensure all families have good internet access. Online connections have been a lifeline for us during the first lockdown, but as highlighted by DigiLocal's excellent laptop distribution scheme, too many in Bristol are digitally excluded. I'm committed to tackling this in Parliament.

Lastly, I'm hosting a virtual town hall for Shirehampton on December 3rd, online and by phone, so that we can catch up about the priorities for our village, Bristol and the country. I want to



Darren Jones at last years Remembrance Service, November 2019

hear from you, so please get your ticket here: www.darren-jones.co.uk/events

I'm also excited to show off the excellent constituency Christmas card competition entries we received this year, in partnership with primary schools including Shirehampton Primary School. You can view these on my Facebook page and on my website: www.darren-jones.co.uk/christmas

As usual, if you need my help or have a question, I'm running telephone surgeries and regular fortnightly catchups on Wednesdays on Facebook. Please get in touch on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk or call the office on 0117 959 6545 but please note that due to very high demand for support we are currently prioritising COVID-related and personally urgent enquires.

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR
Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

Donald Alexander – Labour: cldr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk

Matthew Melias – Conservative: cldr.matthew.melias@bristol.gov.uk

Jo Sergeant – Labour: cldr.jo.sergeant@bristol.gov.uk

Conservative Members' Services Office: 0117 922 2746

Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

Darren Jones

Phone: 01179596545 • Email: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.darren-jones.co.uk

Census 2021 is Coming!

The next census is happening on 21st March 2021. So, what is the census and why does it matter? The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The census is unique. There's simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. It tells us what our needs are now, and what they're likely to be in the future. It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on. Knowing what your community's needs are helps organisations like councils plan and fund public services in your area.

Information you give informs where billions of pounds of funding is spent on things like transport, education and health. Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand us as customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops. Plus, those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history, use the information. **That's why it's so important everyone takes part.**

The census is run by the **Office for National Statistics (ONS)**. They are keen to make sure everyone has the support they need to take part in the census. Census 2021 will be **"digital first"** meaning it will be mainly online. ONS will be offering a wide range of support services to make sure the census is as accessible and inclusive as possible. These include:

- guidance and support in many languages and formats
- help in local centres with trained staff and online access

- a contact centre to give help over the phone, in a webchat, webform, email and SMS
- field staff contacting households that have not yet filled in their form
- accessible census questionnaires, for example, in Large Print
- the option to request paper questionnaires.

We are working with **Stefan Edwards, the Census Engagement Manager for Outer Bristol** to make sure our community is represented. Stefan's role is to work with local leaders, community organisations, and charities to support communities if they have any specific needs. There will also be a large team of field staff on hand to help people across England and Wales. They'll have local knowledge and be there to encourage and support people to fill in their questionnaires. We will keep you up to date with more census related news over the coming months.

FOYLE YOUNG POETS OF THE YEAR AWARD 2020

This is a competition for young poets aged between 11 and 17 years old.

This year (their 22nd), they received 15,966 entries from 118 countries. My Granddaughter, **Imogen Beaumont**, is one of the top 15 winners.

Here is Imogen's Poem:

THE SOUND OF SHAKESPEARE'S WOMEN

*If Juliet was silenced
amongst a patriarchal nightmare and
Lavinia was two hands down
with no tongue to tell their tale and
Ophelia was driven to madness
with no sense left to speak and
Cordelia was shunned by her father,
her pointless words falling on deaf ears and
Desdemona's desperate truth
was shouted down by whispered lies,
Then Will's trying to tell us something.*

Since winning this award Imogen's poem has been illustrated by award-winning Artist and Author Chris Riddell. For more information about Foyle Young Poets and the 15 winners visit www.poetrysociety.org.uk

Marilyn Gorry

CONGRATULATIONS to Imogen! (The editor.)

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- PLUS
- ✔ No working Bank Holidays Christmas or New Year.

Mama Bear's Shirehampton 112-116 Grove Leaze, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9QU
Visit the Mama Bear's careers page mamabear.co.uk/careers

Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Hello and Happy Christmas from Shire Methodist

www.shiremethodist.org • www.facebook.com/shiremethodist

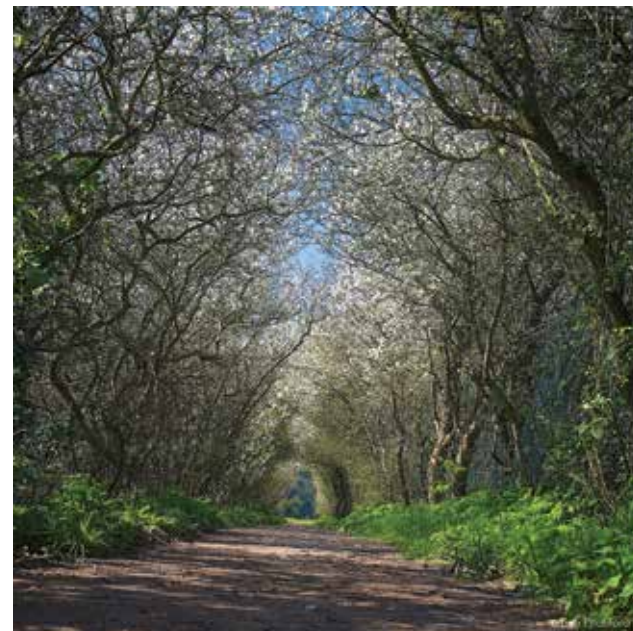
December is usually a busy time for our church, as it is for so many of us. It is the season of Advent: expectant waiting and preparation for Christmas, the birth of Jesus.

We have many traditional ways of preparing for Christmas: candle-lit services, celebratory parties, festive decorations, singing Christmas carols. This year, however, while writing our Church news in the first half of November during another lockdown and closure of our building, it is difficult to know what our preparations will look like. What we can be sure of is that our church family will be doing what we can:

- to help each other by keeping in touch by phone, letter, email, WhatsApp and online services;
- to help those who are struggling in our communities through collecting for our local Food Bank and the Methodist Centre;
- and to keep hoping and praying for a better and more peaceful world for us all.

We plan to open our building again in December when the lockdown ends and **hope that Morning Worship will be held there on most Sundays at 11am**. Please contact us to check whether it is going ahead, to avoid disappointment. We have completed a thorough Covid-19 risk assessment so that we can keep our community as safe as possible. **Revd Patrick Stonehewer** is also continuing to share weekly reflections that can be accessed via his YouTube channel or our Facebook page.

We are delighted to see further progress with our building renovations. Our hall (also known as our coffee lounge or our back room) is now painted a cheery yellow/apricot and we have a new carpet. Sadly we have not been able to open our community Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub this



year but, God willing, we will definitely have it up and running soon.

May God's peace be with you all during December.

Everyone at Shire Methodist



St Bernard's Catholic Church News

Here we are again, but with a little more experience of how to manage our Lockdown. St Bernards has moved back to opening the church on a Sunday from 9 – 10am, for prayer only, no Mass. But of course this may change again in December.

We were at least able to celebrate 'All Saints', just before lockdown. We remembered all the amazing women and men who have inspired us with their faith and unending acts of kindness and care. With that in mind, and in preparation for Christmas, you may like to know about 'Operation Christmas Child 2020'. Since 1990, more than 113 million children in 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple showbox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

Here is the link for more information: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child.

A Big Thank you to St Bernard's School & Church for donating 244.7kg of food to the Bristol North West Foodbank. More people than ever are relying on Food banks, so we'll continue to support them. www.northbristol.foodbank.org.uk

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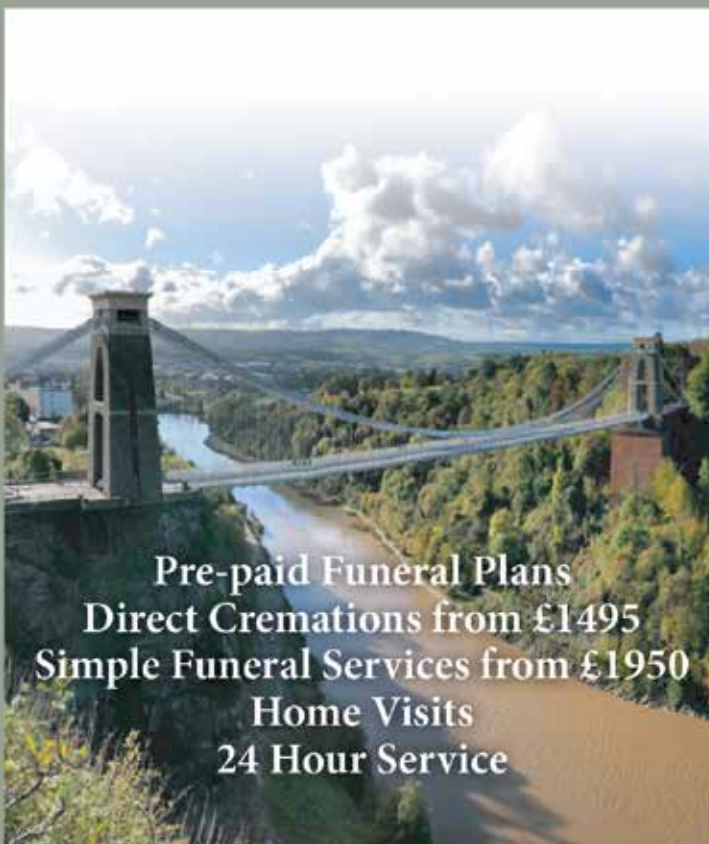
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Louise Constable
Partner



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Shirehampton Baptist Church News

Some words have become very familiar these last nine months: pandemic, lockdown, isolate, Zoom and uncertainty. Unfortunately the latter has caused many of the Christmas events we enjoy in Shire to be cancelled.

We in Shire Baptist will miss the Christmas songs and party we enjoy at **Mainly Music**. Last year we held a lovely **Christingle Service** in the Cotswold Community Hall but sadly not this year.

However we trust that during December we will be able to return to our 11am service in our building but also on Zoom and will continue to have a service on Zoom at 4:30pm on the same day. We will not be holding our 4:45pm service at the Cotswold Community Hall in December but will give further details January.

The Church remains open for private prayer, or you may want prayer for yourself or another person. Do come, we will be glad to help. We will be delivering the **Good News Paper** to your homes.

It contains some interesting articles and ideas. This paper is written and published by Christian journalists seeking to show that Christianity is still very relevant for us in the 21st century. Do read it - you will find it speaks in our modern day language

Sunday November 29th is the start of Advent when in the four weeks before Christmas we prepare and remember the birth of Jesus Christ and His final return. Many churches including ours observe the old tradition of candles around a wreath and one in the middle. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays prior to Christmas. They symbolize Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace. The fifth we light on Christmas Morning to represents light and purity. Jesus came as light into a dark world and that light has never gone out.

It will be strange not having **Carols on the Green** this Christmas Eve but some favourite carols are printed in this edition of **Shire Newspaper**. Why not sing them with some **neighbours, or family**. They may be familiar to you and it is worth pondering over the meaning of the message the verses contain-that Jesus came to earth to reconcile us to God and to one another.

This has been a strange and cruel year in that many have suffered in one way or another. We owe a great debt to all who have sought to help us and hope that next Christmas we can enjoy all we have missed this year though we trust that *this* Christmas will bring Peace on Earth and Good Will to all Men,

Christmas Greetings from all at Shirehampton Baptist, Station Road.

St Mary's News

Hi Folks! Well here we are, already into Winter and the leaves are all gone off the trees and everything looks rather bare - a bit like St Mary's at the moment.

When it was Harvest-time we had a wonderful display of Quilts all in lovely Autumn colours inside the church, expertly made by a member of our congregation, Christine Porter. When the time came to take them down, St Mary's looked very bare, like the winter trees we have now! Our Poppy Trail proved a welcome sight during the Remembrance Sunday weekend, which gave some focus for contemplation whilst we were unable to hold our usual Remembrance Sunday service and parade to the War Memorial.

As I write these notes we are all in Lockdown 2. This unfortunately resulted in the closure of the church once more, with many of our plans having to be cancelled - i.e. our Annual Memorial Service, the Remembrance Sunday Service, our Christmas Fayre which was to be held in the Churchyard, and our Advent Sunday service with the lighting of our Tree of Light. Regrettably, this means we will have no Tree of Light at church this year.

As we are unable to have our usual **Prayer Cards** place on the Tree of Light, **we have an online Memorial page on our website instead**. This contains the names of long lost loved ones and we can include further names if you e-mail them to **Eleanor Beddoes on office@stmarysshire.org**.

We usually have lots of events and services to announce during the Advent season, but I'm sure you will appreciate that we are unable to give any clear direction at the moment since we are very much in the hands of regulations set out at the time. We will update our notice board and website with information of services nearer the time and will also post updates on our Facebook page.

We hope to be able to provide online access for our **Christingle Service on Sunday 13th December** and also our **Carol Service on Sunday 20th December**. Details of any online resources and services we can provide will be shared via our notice board, website and Facebook.

There will be no Crib Service on Christmas Eve, but **we will have to see whether Midnight Mass at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve and the 10:30am Christmas Day Holy Communion Service can go ahead**, depending on whether public worship is allowed at that time.

Unfortunately, our little Crib scene together with Mary & Joseph and the Sheep which is passed around to different houses for a one night stay, has also had to be cancelled. Also, we will be unable to place Christmas Cards at the back of the



church in separate boxes in order to avoid cross-contamination, so any cards will have to be put through letter boxes or sent by Royal Mail.

I am sorry if this time all our news and events are 'ifs and maybes', but Lockdown 2 has unfortunately tied our hands.

St Mary's wishes you all a Happy Christmas and we pray that 2021 will bring health, security and a sense of calm to all. Thank you to all who have helped the church in any way in the past year, or who have helped others in the community during the anxiety of covid-19.

'Bye for now - Happy Christmas to you all!

C.M.E.


And a message from Revd Helen....

Hi Everyone,

I would like to say a huge thank you to the people of our community for their incredible generosity, kindness and graciousness to one another during this time. You have shown what true community spirit looks like in time of crisis, whether you are working in the health centre, schools, shops or are a valued member of our village, we are so thankful for you.

I do pray that we would each know peace this Christmastime, and healing for those who are sick.

With much love, Revd Helen



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CAROLS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Shire is SO SORRY to have to cancel Carols on the Green. But we thought perhaps we could all sing a few carols together at 7:30 on Christmas Eve if we all come out on our doorsteps together then. Here are the carols chosen by our vicars and pastors. Maybe some of you have instruments to accompany us and we can bring candles or lanterns and wish all of Shirehampton a

Happy Christmas

1. Once in Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's City
Stood a lowly cattle-shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for a bed.
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day like us He grew:
He was little, weak and helpless;
Tears and smiles like us He knew.
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heaven above;
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.



Carols on the Green 2019

2. O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and Triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb!
Very God

Begotten, not created

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exaltation,
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above:
'Glory to God
In the Highest'

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

3. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on Earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With Angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hark! The herald angels sing

Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing

Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
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Hark! The herald angels sing
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The trail will run from 12th – 27th December, with lights on from 5.30 – 8.30 each day.

There are also 2 adults bikes, £150 Love2Shop vouchers, and other active travel goodies up for grabs!

Light Up Your Home

If you light up your home this December you could win a bike! Just add Christmas lights to your house, garden, or window to win. Every house will then be added to the trail map for others to visit and enjoy.

Join the Trail

Sign up to receive the 4 Villages Light Trail Map. Visit as few or as many homes as you like, just enjoy being outdoors and sharing the seasonal good spirit.

Play light bingo as you make your way around! Spot different symbols in the lights, like stars and reindeer, and cross them off on your bingo card. More fantastic prizes to be won for taking part!

To join the fun go to severnnet.org/rideandstride/4villageslighttrail/

For more details email rideandstride@severnnet.org.

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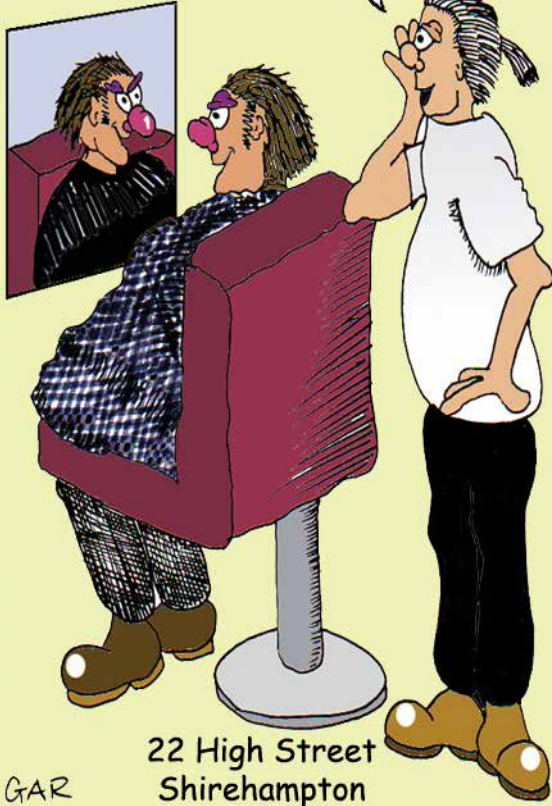
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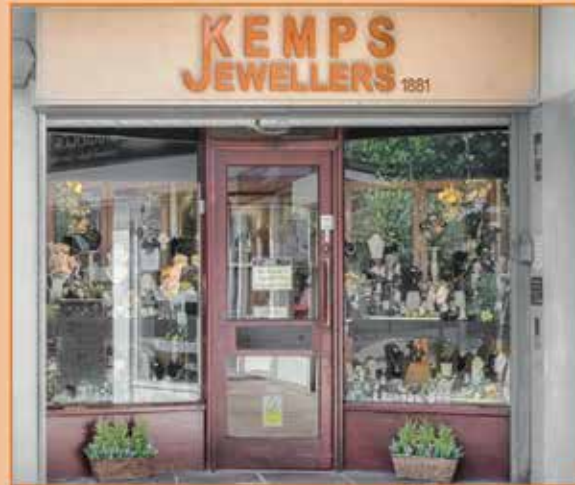
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 THE GREEN PAGES

The City Climate Strategy

Here it is December. We're just coming out of our second Lockdown. It's getting colder, Christmas is coming, but there are still restrictions – the virus is still out there. And so is Climate Change ... though that's probably the last thing we want to think about.

Back in mid-November while we were still struggling to get Covid under control, Bristol City Council published its Climate Strategy, because one thing we do know for certain is that Climate Change is ongoing and will seriously impact our city over the coming years. The City Climate Strategy looks at ten key areas where action is needed **now** if Bristol is to become 'carbon neutral and climate resilient' by 2030.

We know that global warming is caused by Greenhouse Gas emissions and that those emissions are caused by burning fossil fuels – coal and oil. The **only** way to prevent climate change causing catastrophic damage to human society is to **stop burning fossil fuels**.

We know that 34% of each person's 'carbon footprint' comes from transport – from the fossil fuel, whether petrol or diesel, that we all burn when

we use our cars. And so the first key area the Climate Strategy looks at is transport. We are asked to switch to '**significantly more walking and cycling and to use zero carbon public transport**'. In the near future we will have to convert to zero carbon fuels like electricity for our cars – but for now we know how much we enjoyed the cleaner, quieter air during lockdown, the daily walks and fewer car journeys. We know this is a change we can make.

We each have a role to play in making the necessary changes: "Community climate action is a key part of the transformation to a carbon neutral world and all citizens have the opportunity to make this happen". So next time I'll write about another of the key areas where action is needed to make Bristol climate resilient so that we all can begin to see what we can do.

Renée Slater



You can read the whole document for yourself on the BCC website at: **One City Climate Strategy: A strategy for a carbon neutral, climate resilient Bristol by 2030.**

Nature Notes

Just some of the wild flowers that graced Lamplighters Field this Summer. A little memory as we enter the Winter months.

There was a great bit of good fortune a few mornings ago as I looked out of the window to check on the gold finches. A group of long tailed tits were skittering to and fro, both in the front garden, and in and out of the tree where the finches were feeding. It's always a huge pleasure to see these little charmers!

This long warm Autumn has caused young hedgehogs to still be out and about, and a friend and neighbour just the other day had cause to take one to the rescue centre across the river. I believe

it had an injury to one of its legs, so I hope they will be able to heal it.

The lapwings have returned to our part of the river, with their usual stunning fly passes. It's usually when there is a howling wind blowing, adding to the spectacle. The vivid flashes of their black and white plumage is mesmerising.

A tawny owl could be heard calling from the Ham Green side of the river a few nights ago. It often sits in our bank side trees too, and that is a very special treat!

And to finish, we were treated to a super visit from three, yes three, Jenny wrens early one morning a week ago. They were hunting through our large shrubs just outside the window. I was able to gaze on them for quite a while. That was special.

Happy nature watching everyone, Bobbie.



©Bobbie Perkins

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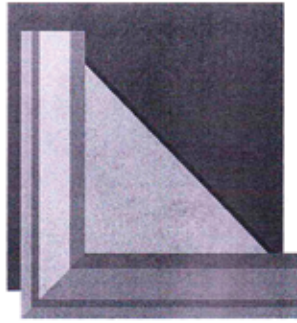
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Poppies On The Green Defies Covid-19

It has been a bit of a roller coaster for 'Poppies On The Green' this year with Covid-19 presenting obstacles to our plans. There were no 'painting poppies' sessions this year. Our planned display was smaller but equally stunning and behind the scene disasters were faced head on for us to succeed in getting the display up on The Green on 7th November.



This was some achievement in itself as lock down came into force a couple days before. But we wanted to provide a focus for our local communities whose church services and Remembrance Sunday events

had been cancelled. We didn't want to forget the sacrifices made for the many by the few.

We have two silhouette soldiers representing World War I and WWII. Their names are Reg and Les and they are the great-great-uncle and grandfather to Sally who made the soldiers for our display. They lived in the cottages just above The Green. Reg sadly died of his wounds in Flanders aged 22 years old. Les fought in Burma and was a Member of the Burma Star. He died in 1985. I think he would be proud of his granddaughters art work.

Feedback has been very positive and this is a small selection: "Can always rely on Shire! Beautiful job." "Looks amazing". "Looks wonderful. Well done to all who helped". "You've done Shirehampton proud." "A

beautiful tribute." "Such wonderful people helping to show our respect & thank you to our fallen heroes." "A moving display, a lot of work must have gone into this."

Ash Bearman and I organise and manage 'Poppies On The Green'. We have been painting poppies and are also part of the team of volunteers who made this year's display possible. We would like to say thank you to Sally-Ann Knowlson who made our fabulous silhouette soldiers, Tracy Zehtabi of Chatty Crafts who arranged the High Street shop displays with the art work provided by the local children from Shirehampton Primary School, St. Bernard's Primary School and Kings Weston School. Our poppy painters Robin Sykes, Sherralee Parton, Amy Parton, Val Lloyd, Juliet Le Feuvre, Kim Tudor, Tracy Zehtabi, Victoria Crane. Material donations from D&D Locksmiths, Shirehampton Cricket Club, Avonmouth Sea Cadets, Shire Christmas Illuminations, Ocean Estate Agents, Colin Godfrey and Daphne Llewellyn. And of course local shops and business - including those who missed out due to lock down - for displaying the children's art work. A list appears on our Facebook page. Not forgetting Barbara Franco and Ruth Morris who provided additional display support and Cllr. Don Alexander. Storage: The Public Hall and Break charity shop.

Ash Bearman from SCAF, which supports 'Poppies On The Green' said "We were determined to get



the poppies display on The Green. With no church service or memorial we wanted to make sure that those who gave their lives and those that returned had not been forgotten and will always be remembered. This couldn't have happened without all the people that took part, past and present, in making 'Poppies On The Green' a success this year."

The display remained on The Green until 16th November and we also did some online fund raising for the Royal British Legion.

For more information and photos go to www.facebook.com/poppiesonthegreen

Kathryn Courtney.



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

If you would like to know more about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 0117 9082713.



When the fixture books are issued in March each year there is nothing that brings a feeling of excitement and expectation like the sight of a special game --- a day out somewhere different and new.

Between 2009 and 2018 there were five such games --- all great and memorable days out.

In 2009 the destination was Windsor Great Park and a very enjoyable game played with green parakeets flying around the green and the sun shining on the six rinks in play. The welcome was something to be remembered and at the end of the game the hospitality something never to be forgotten. Excellent food, welcome drink and a rendition of the club song all in the magnificent York Club close to the green. It is run by estate employees and used by all sporting organisations on the estate as and when needed. It was so good that some City and Port Bowlers were reluctant to leave!!

The following season saw a very different special day out - this one was at the seaside - Sidmouth for lunch and then Seaton to bowl on the green with almost a sea view, and to meet some old friends.

In 2013 there was a very special day out --- one that the club had waited for and eventually had an invitation to play ---- once again in Windsor but this time at the Royal Household Bowling Club. No green parakeets this time but instead lots of aeroplanes taking off from Heathrow. On a rather sandy green the bowling was a little challenging but equally enjoyable. The mid-game cup of tea and biscuits was served on the green surround. Her Majesty did not make an appearance during the game but she is Patron of the club, takes an



Royal Household - 2013

interest in the game and does come to watch on occasions --- it is only a short distance from Windsor Castle to the green. There was no club song at the end of this game but the hospitality was excellent and memorable. Host Captain Graham Crisp spoke to make the welcome even warmer and presented a special Royal Household whiskey glass to visiting Captain David Hinksman. The club does have its own unique brand of whiskey.

The story of special days out will be concluded in the next edition --- don't miss it.

Early in November the club learned with much sadness that long time bowler and past President John Brailey had passed away. John had not been able to bowl in recent seasons but was still a frequent visitor to the green and maintained a keen interest in the game and especially in the club and its fortunes. Shortly before his passing John and his wife Marion - also a long time bowler with the club - celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. John will be missed by all who knew him and he will always be remembered for his remarkable ability to tell a whole series of stories and make people smile.



John Brailey, who has recently passed away, is in the middle holding an almost empty glass. Phil Cormack is to the left and Ken McCulloch to the right.

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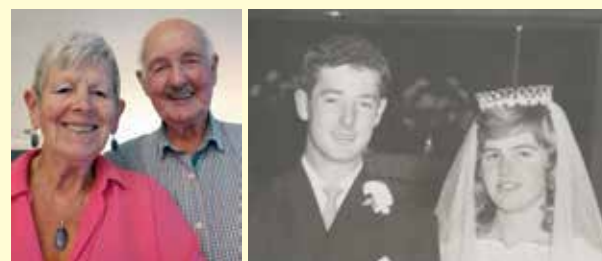
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All Change at Kings Weston House

With the departure of Norman Routledge from Kings Weston House at the end of August this year, we, in Shirehampton, were apprehensive about who would replace him, since he had done such a sterling job during his tenancy.

We were informed that **Mr. John Barbey**, an American from Pennsylvania, would be moving into the Loggia at Kings Weston on September 1 and the Shire were keen to meet and write an article on the new owner. **Renee Slater and Fiona Grinham from the Shire** managed to secure a meeting with Mr. Barbey on November 3 at Kings Weston House which proved to be both highly entertaining AND reassuring.

Mr. Barbey has many West Country connections, being an architectural historian for the past 30 years, and is finding more and more relations here whom he is very keen to meet. He is thrilled to be living in this part of the country and intends to continue to make Kings Weston House a venue for events in the future, after his initial settling-in period. He will be assisted by **Mr. Joshua Garcia**

and family who will reside in Kings Weston House once the renovations are completed.

Mr. Barbey is very aware of the excellent work already done by **Kings Weston Action Group (KWAG)** and will fully endorse their future activities to enhance the beauty of Kings Weston House and its surroundings.

Mr. Barbey has assured us that there will be a big celebration once he has restored the House to his satisfaction and hopefully an end to the present Covid crisis. This will surely be a party to eagerly anticipate in 2021!!

We believe that Kings Weston House will undoubtedly continue to be a source of pleasure to dog walkers, coffee drinkers and visitors alike within the wonderful ambience of our very own Shirehampton Stately Home.



The New Neighbours (Left to Right. Josh Daughter Kaylee Wife Katty & John Barbey)

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