

Meeting Point



September 2020



Meeting Point

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The community magazine for the villages of Olveston, Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton upon Severn

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From the Editor

At some point around the start of this month, young people living locally will at last return to school. It is appropriate, I think, that this edition of Meeting Point begins with a tribute to the Head Teacher at Olveston School, who has worked there for a total of 25 years, including – as it happens – all the weeks of lockdown.

We've been sent some lovely photographs for this month's magazine. There's Olveston allotments at the height of their beauty and productivity, and one of the renovated 'Duckingham Palace' being re-installed on the Port Farm duck pond. There are also a number of 'mystery' photographs, all taken very locally, and you are challenged to identify each of the locations.

This edition features the first in a series of articles about St. Mary's Church Tower, which will be undergoing extensive renovation next spring – with details of how to donate towards this project.

Marelin

This month's cover picture was provided by Old Down Cricket Club.

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol.

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the Community Website: www.olvestonandaust.com

Amanda Luke - 25 years at Olveston School

Helen Webb

Monday 20th July was meant to be a well-organised, intensive day of staff training and reflection. It was coming before a few weeks break and then it would be back to preparing for an academic year that was going to be different in so many ways.



Mrs. Luke, the head teacher at Olveston School, was expecting everyone in the Hall and ready to start work at 9am (well, OK, 9.10am) with socially distanced furniture arrangements, individual pen pots and bring your own tea and coffee. But what was this table at the front full of gift bags and cards? Why was Mr. Dunsford, the caretaker, carrying those balloons? Why was Mrs. Hill there (she's on maternity leave)? Why was someone from the Governors there (they hadn't been invited to the inset day)?

Then Mr. Dunn explained that, in a conversation before Christmas, Mrs. Luke had let slip that this was her 25th year at Olveston School. What an achievement! What celebrations had been planned! Mr. Dunn asked Mrs. Luke to imagine the hall overflowing with members of staff and colleagues who had moved on to other jobs and other roles, ex-pupils (some who were now parents themselves), governors past and present, people from the local community, representatives from South Gloucestershire Council and the Diocese of Bristol, partners from other schools near and further away ... what a crowd there would have been! All joining together to celebrate Amanda's achievements and long service, all ready to party!

Unfortunately, as with so many other things, the Covid-19 virus put paid to that. It's possible that for once Mrs. Luke was thankful for the restrictions, as she was already shocked and overwhelmed by the tributes and the messages. She was almost reduced to tears by the surprise and by the variety of gifts and the cards, the good wishes and the cupcakes (beautifully made by Mr. Dunn's mum).

Twenty-five years at the same school is quite something. She started her teaching career at Olveston as a newly qualified teacher (and reminded everyone that she was a mature student, so it was even more of an achievement) and loved the children, the school and the community so much that she never wanted to leave. Over the years she has taught most year groups and taken on more and more leadership responsibilities, as acting deputy head, then substantive deputy, then acting head and finally headteacher. She has been part of big changes at the school, including the building of the new school hall, massive changes in curriculum and teaching requirements, a number of successful OFSTED inspections and on-going financial challenges. She has inspired both children and colleagues and focused on the importance of a breadth and depth of educational experience beyond academic achievement. She has encouraged everyone to see the children as the focus of everything and this shows in the way pupils past and present talk about her.

Congratulations Mrs. Luke. Here's to the next twenty-five years!





Olveston Parish Hall

Parish Hall Management Committee

We are not sure the Hall has ever been left unused for such a long period, but the Parish Hall committee has not been idle over the past months. The whole hall has been given a new lick of paint and we have been keeping up to date with government advice during the pandemic.

We have implemented Covid-secure measures at the hall, and we are now delighted to say we are back open for business! Of course, there is guidance to follow, so please contact the booking secretary on: bookings@olvestonparishhall.co.uk to discuss your requirements and the Covid precautions that must be followed.

We look forward to seeing you back.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner
7889 727729

150 Club Winners August 2020:

£50 Angus MacDonald
£15 Paddy Gardner
£5 Bhavin Radia

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

11/07/20 Roger Riggs
18/07/20 Neil Cross
25/07/20 Simon Higgs
01/08/20 Roger Riggs

Up the Down!!

Word Search

In the August magazine Word Search, September was the missing month!



Oveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

Virtual Meetings

Whilst the Council has been unable to hold live meetings, we have held virtual meetings via Zoom. We are pleased to report that the attendance was 100%! At present we are governed by the Corona Virus Act 2020 which will extend to May 2021 thereby prohibiting live meetings. Should members of the public wish to attend via Zoom the details are to be found on the Council's website.

Local Community Grant

The application deadline has now been extended to December. We do encourage organisations in the Parish to submit applications to:
clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov

Tockington Telephone Box

The book swap is working well. Amanda posts monthly photos of the bookshelves showing the latest books available for swapping. We would however request that out of date non-fiction books together with books in poor condition are not left for swapping. Please remember the book swap is a facility for all parishioners; it was never intended as an alternative to taking books to the charity shops or indeed the tip!

Duckingham Palace

On Sunday 26th of July the newly refurbished Duckingham Palace was installed at the duck pond in Oveston. Whilst the pond is seen as being very much part of village life, it actually lies within the curtilage of Port Farm which is the property of Mrs V Pearce. It is with her kind permission that Duckingham Palace is placed there. The refurbishment was undertaken by Colin Prewett who had designed and installed the original 'Palace' some four years ago.

After painstaking work, totalling over five hundred hours, Colin and his team, ably assisted by Chris Thiery, who provided the machinery, Colin's son and two grandsons, the Palace was floated onto the pond and re-installed.



Colin pictured during the re-installation of the 'Palace'.

We extend thanks to Mrs Pearce - for ensuring that both residents of the Parish and visitors enjoy this lovely feature - and to Colin and his team for all the hard work they have put in.

Parish Hall Car Park Lighting

The lighting has now been successfully replaced. It was installed by South Glos Streetcare, assisted by Hancox Electricals. The timings and power of the lighting have been adjusted to provide an ambient atmosphere at all times.

Parish Website

We would like to remind all our Parishioners that any updated Parish news can be found on the website. www.olvostonandaust.com

The Chairman and his Council wish all Parishioners well as we slowly emerge from lockdown.

Mike Wright

Pat Thirkettle

Dr Michael Wright, to give him his exact title, is the local face behind the Church Tower Project which will be taking centre stage in the community soon.



Mike hails from a family of mill managers in Derbyshire and read Chemistry at Salford University followed by a doctorate in Organic Chemistry at Oxford. He married Pauline, a nurse, and initially they lived in Huddersfield as he began career- long employment with ICI. He changed jobs every three years on both sides of the Pennines and became familiar with heavy snow on the M62. Pauline was a midwife at Huddersfield Infirmary when their first daughter Vicky was born. They moved to Macclesfield, and their second daughter Kate and son Jonathan were born there.

In 1980 they moved to Thornbury as Mike started as Works Manager at ICI, later Astra-Zeneca, on the big Hallen site. Thornbury was an ideal place for a young family, and in all their moves they joined church fellowships for Sunday school and choral singing. In 1990 Mike moved to ICI headquarters in Westminster with a commuter flat in Pimlico, while the family remained rooted in the West Country. He travelled the world while Pauline raised their family until Jonathan went to University and Mike finished in Geneva where Pauline did the reverse commute to spend weekends with him.

Meanwhile they had moved to Old Down and became very involved with life at St Mary's Church. After retirement, Mike tutored Master's postgraduate students at Cambridge University and facilitated Commonwealth Technology Partnerships in Southern Africa.

Church projects also loomed large in retirement and he has been Chairman of the Buildings Committee for twenty years, which brings us to the Tower Project. This was explained in detail in July's Meeting Point – four pinnacles will be carved, tower walls repointed, damaged stonework replaced and new foundations created for the staircase to the bell chamber. It is hoped that there will be much community engagement. The total cost is £200,000; much has already been pledged, leaving the remaining £34,000 to be raised.

The contracting Stone Masons are Centreline, a small firm from Painswick led by Master Stone Mason Mark Hancock and his wife Gillian, a designer. The

Hancocks and their daughter, who is a teacher, will be visiting Olveston School and Tockington Manor to explain how the church was built from Bath stone hauled up rhines to Tockington and taken from there by horse and cart. They will also explain about the tower masonry and why it has four pinnacles and a pyramid roof. They will encourage the children to come up with ideas for the design of a replacement decoration on the new pinnacles.

The Historical Society has been busy: Jennifer Bone is writing the history of the tower, Peter Floyd will be describing the replacement of the spire that was struck by lightning in 1604 and Audrey Shepherd has written an illustrated guide to the church which will be available at the door. The detailed survey of the church yard will provide useful information for family history hunters.

Mike's CV states his interests are opera, art, walking and wine. I'm not sure how much time he has for them these days, except maybe the last one!

Bean Pickle

Tessa Floyd

Bean pickle is a family favourite. This recipe was given to me by a family friend twenty years ago.

Ingredients

2lb finely sliced or chopped runner beans

1¹/₂ lbs sliced onions

1 pint vinegar

2 lb soft brown sugar

Mix the following together to a paste with some of the vinegar -

1 heaped tbsp dry mustard

1 heaped tbsp cornflour

1 heaped tbsp turmeric

Method

Boil beans in well salted water for a short time and drain.

Simmer the onions in some of the vinegar then add the paste, sugar, beans and the rest of the vinegar and simmer until all ingredients are nice and tender.

Put in suitable jars and leave to mature for a few months.

Almondsbury Surgery 'Seasonal Flu' Clinics



Unfortunately, we will be unable to offer the usual Saturday morning clinic this year due to Covid19. We feel that managing social distancing during a mass 'walk in' clinic will be very hard to manage. We are planning bookable appointments during the week commencing Monday 14th September 2020 at The Old School Hall, Almondsbury. These clinics will be for adults only, registered with Almondsbury Surgery and who are entitled to free vaccination because they fall into a clinical risk group.

The clinical risk groups include: Age 65+, pregnant women in any trimester and under 65s at risk with a chronic disease as listed below:

Coronary Heart Disease

Diabetes

Asthma (requiring inhaled or systemic steroids, or causing hospital admission in last year)

Chronic Renal Disease

Chronic Liver Disease

Chronic Respiratory Disease

Immunosuppression

Stroke or TIA

Registered Carers

There has been a suggestion that the flu vaccination programme will be extended for 2020 to include those aged 50 – 64 (who do not already fall into an at-risk category). We are awaiting guidance on this and will offer these vaccinations once further information has been received. It is expected that this may be November or December.

We will contact eligible patients towards the end of August to arrange an appointment. If you are unsure of your entitlement, please telephone the surgery from mid-September when staff will be able to advise you. Tel: 01454 613161

For general information, please check our website at www.almondsburysurgery.nhs.uk.

Volunteer Action during the Pandemic



Thornbury Volunteer Centre feels that there should be a permanent record of what volunteer action has done to help the local community throughout this crisis. We are gathering the experiences of individuals and organisations in their own words and then publishing them on our website and in our Annual Report later in the year.

If you have either played a part in helping your local community or are a representative of an organisation which has been vital to helping we would ask you to tell us what you have done, and are still doing, and what impact this has made on you, your organisation or both. We would be very grateful if you could drop us an email at: mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk. This may be a sentence, a paragraph or something more substantial.

Monday Movies in Olveston

Trevor Anderson

Greetings to all readers from the Movie Club Team in Olveston. Hope you are all well.

We are working on a plan to re-open our Movie Club at St Mary's Olveston on **Monday October 19th** – so many things to consider and think about! The team is making good progress and every little decision we make is one step closer to welcoming you back.



We hope to be able to share all the safety measures we've put in place in mid-September, plus details of the programme. We'll give you details of the changes in next month's magazine.

Our best wishes to you and stay well.

News from St. John's, Aust

Trevor Cook



Our Harvest festival will be held on Sunday, 13th September, at 10am. We would love to see you there and celebrate together the bringing in of a safe harvest.

It's not necessary, but should you wish to bring an offering of non-perishable foodstuffs, we will donate whatever we receive to the food bank.

St. John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday, 27th September at 10.45am, immediately after the Sunday service. If you are on the Church's Electoral Role you are invited to participate and, if not, you are welcome to come along and listen to what has happened in the church this last 12 months and our plans for the future

Veg Bank

Sue Farr

There are seasonal, locally grown vegetables in the porch of St. Mary's, which are there for the **whole** Community to help themselves to for the next few weeks. Please come and help yourself anytime, but the church is open on Wednesdays and Sundays should you wish to put a donation in the wall safe.

Tockington Harvest Fayre

It is with deep regret that Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church has announced that it will not be holding its annual Harvest Fayre on Tockington Green this September, due to current Covid-related restrictions.

This has been a particularly hard decision to make, as the Fayre has been so successful in bringing many people from the local villages together to enjoy an afternoon on the Green. This would have been our 51st Fayre and our greatest worry has always been the weather – but there have been only two Fayres where rain spoiled the day! This time we cannot take any risks that would endanger the health of our community.

Thank you for all the support you have given in the past and we plan to see you all at next year's Fayre.

Friends of St. Mary's

Following the Government's gradual relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions we are pleased to say that we have been able to safely recommence our monthly lottery draws. When the draws were suspended, we promised that when things returned to some semblance of normality we would hold a series of draws for the months we missed. We have now started this process and draws have been held for the months of April, May and June (see below). Draws for subsequent months will be undertaken very soon.

Thank you for your patience!

Winners in April 2020 Draw

Amount	Number	Name
£150	311	Mr & Mrs A Maunder, Newquay
£75	238	Mrs P Vincent, Olveston
£25	228	Miss J Davies, Olveston
£25	454	Mrs P Macleod, Olveston
£25	200	Dr D Shaw, Olveston
£20	353	Mr B Rogers, Winterbourne Down
£20	531	Mr & Mrs M Scott, Olveston
£20	616	Mrs S Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£10	442	Mrs J Skinner, Sneyd Park
£10	177	Mrs D Hedges, Pilning
£10	274	Mr & Mrs J Croome, Exmouth
£10	545	Mrs S Chick, Olveston

Winners in May 2020 Draw

Amount	Number	Name
£150	566	Mrs M Shurmer, Olveston
£75	487	Mrs C Phillpott, Tockington
£25	363	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£25	570	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£25	484	Mrs R Arkell, Olveston
£20	374	Mr P Savage, Olveston
£20	443	Mrs J Skinner, Sneyd Park
£20	331	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£10	461	Mr & Mrs R Smith, Olveston
£10	218	Mrs P Dash, Olveston
£10	514	Mr C Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£10	251	Mr & Mrs R Williams, Olveston

Winners in June 2020 Draw

Amount	Number	Name
£150	490	Mr I Lyons, Cowhill
£75	606	Mrs E Marsh, Tockington
£25	363	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£25	313	Mr & Mrs R Birtle, Olveston
£25	324	Mrs M James, Olveston
£20	372	Dr M Wright, Olveston
£20	513	Mrs M Bailey, Lower Hazel
£20	346	Mrs J Spratt, Tockington
£10	250	Mr & Mrs R Williams, Olveston
£10	556	Mrs S Chick, Olveston
£10	392	Ms A Chick, London
£10	491	Mrs J Lyons, Ingst

As always, if you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890.

Thornbury Food Bank

We have a good stock of some items such as baked beans, porridge oats, tins of soup, tomatoes, pasta sauce and all kinds of pasta. But stock is running low for the following items:

Tinned potatoes

Packets of mashed potato

Noodles

Brown and tomato sauce

Long life fruit juice

Pot noodles

Squash

Sponge puddings

Angel delight

Jam

Marmalade

UHT milk (1 litre)

Chocolates/sweets

Washing capsules including non-bio

Washing up liquid

Disposable razors

Shaving gel

Male and female deodorant

Thank you for your on-going support. Donations can be placed in the basket in Thornbury Tesco or left in the porch of St. Mary's, Olveston, on Fridays between 10.30am and 4pm.

Apologies

Editor

.....to Nick Fear, whose name was not given as the author of last month's detailed and thoughtful article on local memories of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War. I'm sorry, it won't happen again.

Olveston Allotments 2020 *Marlene Baker*

This is where many of our parishioners have been 'exercising' during lockdown, and these photographs capture the evidence. Having a plot in recent circumstances has been a bonus, giving a purpose and a release in fresh air, with the end result of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Anyone wishing to know more about our allotments can call me on 619289. At present there are no vacant plots, but you can have your name put on the waiting list.





Above, gladioli and verbena bonariensis in the foreground, with lovely views towards Elberton in the background.

Left, neat raised beds with fruit bushes and rhubarb. You can just make out the tower of St. Mary's in the distance.



Above, a handsome scarecrow guards this neat plot. The grass paths have obviously been recently mown. Below, tall sunflowers march alongside the plot. Birds will enjoy feasting on the seeds when they are ready.



Photographs by Derek Baker



ST MARY'S CHURCH TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT

St Mary's Church Tower Restoration Project

The tower can be seen, and its bells and clock chimes heard, from all around the parish. On cold, dark evenings it is warmly lit. For hundreds of years it has been a landmark and focal point at the centre of the village of Olveston.

Yes, but it has to be rescued from its present perilous state, with its carved pinnacles dropping stones onto the roof, its leaking walls needing to be repointed and its spiral access stair needing foundations!

Major funders have already contributed very generously, £166,000 towards the cost of its restoration estimated at £200,000 – leaving only £34,000 still to be found. Large charities are overwhelmed by the Covid pandemic needs. Nor shall we be able to welcome you all to a Grand Launch Party. However, we really do need to engage every part of our wonderful village in this important community heritage project.

After Mike Wright's introduction to the Appeal in the July MP issue, we hope that you will enjoy short articles on the project each month by different authors, and that you will contribute towards making sure the scaffolding goes up next spring when we will all be able to see that the work has really begun.

Troubled Times and a Tower Catastrophe 1605

Jennifer Bone

Then and now

Some years ago, when Edward Addis was a bell ringer at St Mary's, he chanced upon a chip of metal on the belfry floor. Intrigued, he took it to work and analysed it. It contained a very high lead content, where bell metal and lead had fused in great heat.

From time to time, all historic parish churches need repair and renovation, to keep them in working order. Church towers can be very expensive to put right, as St Mary's is well aware at the moment. Four hundred years ago, the tower in Olveston was topped by a steeple. At that time, a major disaster, so dramatic that it came to national notice, occurred. Ted Addis's chip of metal is the link between then and now.

Troubled times

When it happened, the people of Olveston might well have said, 'Oh no, not now!' The first decade of the seventeenth century was proving fraught. Foremost in the parishioners' minds would probably have been the bad weather then occurring, the harsh winters, wild gales and severe storms up the Severn, which damaged harvests. Shortage of food and fodder caused a chill of fear.

Then the Queen died. Elizabeth I had reigned for a long time and only those over fifty could have had much recollection of a different monarch. Furthermore, her successor, James VI of Scotland, and now James I of England, was unknown except to a few. (See picture on the right.) What would be his agenda? The lobbying began even before he reached London.



Elizabeth's reign had brought religious and social stability and the two were closely linked. Church wardens and others carried many of the responsibilities which are now the province of local government, such as road maintenance and alleviating destitution. Parish structures mattered.

Stability did not mean lack of controversy and James walked into the middle of it. He had a Roman Catholic mother but had been brought up in Scotland by radical protestants. The Catholics hoped he would allow them to practise their faith freely. There was also by now a deep divide within the Church of England between those who wanted to sustain Elizabeth's approach, and a much more radical protestant group, now referred to as puritans, who wished for substantial changes in customs, worship, and style of church buildings.



In November 1605, the whole country had a colossal shock when a Catholic-led plan to blow up Westminster as James opened Parliament on 5th November was averted in the nick of time. (See picture of the Gunpowder Plotters on previous page.) Had it succeeded it would have wiped out at a stroke the country's ruling elite. The news would have reached Olveston very speedily, and while the details continued to trickle through, disaster struck locally.

Clanging, flames, and a crash

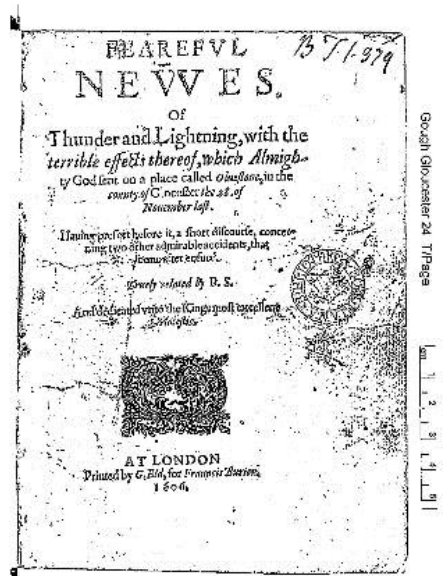
It happened on 28 November. There are two accounts: in the first the Vicar of Almondsbury noted that a bad storm had blown up in which *"the tower of Olveston Church was rent, the steeple covered in lead was set on fire under the bowl of the weathercock, and the steeple consumed, the lead and 5 sweet bells molten, the chancel burnt, and the body of the church hardly saved"*.

The second account is much longer. Written by someone who signed himself P.S., he was present in Olveston, and was clearly of Puritan persuasion. There was no loss of life, but P.S. notes disapprovingly that the parishioners seemed to be more concerned about the loss of the bells than thankful that in God's good providence no one was killed.

But his principal purpose was to support the puritan cause, arguing that the event underlined the wrath of God at the gunpowder plot, and urging the king to align himself with the true protestants. The paper found favour in national puritan circles and was published in London as *"Fearful Newes of thunder and lightning, with the terrible effects thereof, which Almighty God sent on a place called Olveston"*.

The challenge of reconstruction

All in all, 1606 onwards was not the best time to be undertaking massive repairs, and the decade's local disasters were not yet at an end. About fourteen months after the destruction at St. Mary's, another huge storm did incalculable damage on both sides of the estuary, as far as Cardiff in Wales and from Somerset to north of Gloucester in England. The main concern in Olveston would have been the land towards Aust, where there was traumatic loss of livestock, buildings and human life. The havoc continued for some time.



Nevertheless, the evidence suggests that, at St Mary's, the debris was cleared and the church and tower repaired within a remarkably short space of time. The obvious question, therefore, is 'who paid?' It may be that the bells were not immediately re-installed. That could be a clue. To follow it up, please see Peter Floyd's contribution next month.

How to donate

David Prothero

Funding of £166,000 has already been pledged by local, regional and national conservation trusts but a further £34,000 is still required to meet the total cost of the project. We are keen to move forward soon to protect the Tower and ensure we don't lose the pledges already made. Any donations would be very much appreciated. If you would like to help, donations can be made in one of the following ways:

By bank transfer to the St Mary's Church bank account, the details of which are: Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account Number: 00029936, using the reference "Tower Project"

By cheque made payable to "St Mary's PCC Olveston", and sent to David Prothero, Treasurer, St Mary's Church Olveston, Rose Cottage, Buckover, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 8DX.

If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please e-mail me at diprothero@talk21.com.

Thank you.

Amazing young carers take a much-needed summer break

Local charity, Carers Support Centre, is determined that young carers get a break this summer. Despite social distancing restrictions, they are delivering a range of exciting virtual events for young carers, in partnership with brilliant local businesses and charities. These hands-on workshops give young carers the chance to take some much-needed time away from their caring role and do something creative, sociable, and fun.

From a model-making workshop with Aardman, to online cookery classes with Coexist Community Kitchen, to art and music workshops with Create, to virtual theatre with Acta, and online dance classes with Funkymoves, there is an exciting range of activities for young carers to choose from this summer.

Events like this mean everything to young carers. They give them time and headspace to relax, make friends and just be kids for a while. These activities also allow them to see others in similar situations, reminding them that there

are other children like them, facing the same challenges. Accessing these activities is crucial for young carers' wellbeing.



Local young carers attending community theatre Acta's virtual theatre workshops (see photo above) had this to say:

"Really exciting, great fun. The acting was great." Harley

"Again, it was chaotic but great fun." Oscar

"Amazing, glad I could join from the beginning today." Paul

"I enjoyed it even better than yesterday. I didn't want to do it but I am so glad I did. It has made me so happy. I am so glad I did it again." Aimee

Caring is a huge responsibility and the coronavirus has increased the burden on young carers. A recent survey by Carers Trust reveals significant increases in the time young people are spending on caring. 58% of young carers are spending an extra 10 hours a week on their caring responsibilities. 8% are spending over 90 hours a week altogether. 40% of young carers say their mental health is worse since coronavirus, 67% are more worried about the future and 69% are feeling less connected to others.

Respite for young carers has never been more important. If you know a young person who looks after someone at home, please visit the Carers Support Centre website to learn more about their services and how to make a young carer referral: www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk

Hedgehog Housing Crisis Averted

Martin Gibson

St Mary's Church, with the aid of a master carpenter, has taken steps to help with the survival of this endangered species. Local inhabitant, Ted Addis, now aged 90, no less, has just completed a hedgehog house which has been installed in the graveyard. The hedgehog house was made at the request of St Mary's Greenforce. This small committee tries to engage everyone in ways of protecting the planet and everything that lives in it, with a special emphasis on Olveston Parish.



Hedgehogs forage, as their name suggests, in hedgerows (and fields) and the 'hog' part of their name derives from their facial similarity to a pig's snout. The spines which cover the backs of their bodies are soft on birth (mummy must be thankful for that!) and provide protection from predators once fully grown. Their food is worms, small insects, berries, seeds and mushrooms and they occupy territory as large as 20 hectares, covering perhaps ½ mile each night.

So, what is 'home' to a hedgehog? It is usually a shallow burrow, sometimes an abandoned rabbit

warren. Into this they bring leaves and straw. Such a home can be used by mothers with their young or, when the winter is cold, as a hibernating hideaway.

If there are hedgehogs in the graveyard, they will now have sanctuary.

Where is it?

Many of us probably feel we know more about our local area now – after all that walking, cycling, and possibly driving, around during the long weeks of lockdown.

Inspired by our cover photograph challenge in the July edition of Meeting Point, we have been sent some intriguing photographs from the area. Our simple question is – where are these five places? All are within about 3 miles of Olveston. No prizes, it's just for fun. Answers next month.





Photos from R. Lloyd and others.

Yours Faithfully

*Revd. Simon Edwards
Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church*

A little while ago I visited my mum, who lives in the house I grew up in, which is the house that my grandparents bought in the 1950s. Whilst there I noticed this drainpipe; time had taken its toll and the drainpipe needed a new coat of paint. However, as I looked, I could see layers of paint going back at least forty years. I remember the drainpipes, gutters, and fascias being black and I can remember them being red in the 1980s. But now looking at the layers I can see that at some point it was painted blue, grey, yellow, and even a kind of peachy colour! I vaguely remember seeing photos of the house with yellow paint (before my time in the 1970s!) but the layers taught me something new. These layers reveal history, and you might think I am a bit odd when I write this, but I think there is something beautiful about them.



In these last few months, many people have struggled with lockdown, with isolation, and the lack of human contact. It has reminded me that we have lots of layers, and we each face challenges in our lives. We might struggle with mental health, we might struggle without being busy, we might struggle with fear of what the future will look like for us, we might struggle with all sort of things. But we don't have to feel embarrassed or hide those things away – because God says we, with all our layers, are beautiful!

In 1 Corinthians 3:16 Paul asks, 'don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?' God loves us as we are. In years to come, we will look back at this strange time as one more layer, and I pray we will be able to see God among us, helping us to be who we are created to be – layers and all. Layers are beautiful! So are yours and mine, and God is in them all!

Church News

Details are believed correct at the time of printing. Please use contact details provided for further information.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Services:

Each Sunday: 10am Holy Communion

Each Wednesday: 10am Holy Communion.

Services will be taken by Rev Steve Oram, except on the 6th and 13th when they will be taken by Rev David Bone and Paul Harrod.

NB. Harvest Festival will be on 11th October at 11am.

Contact: Rev Steve Oram: 07830 151622

email: steve.oram@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev David Moss: 01454 415190, email: mossds@gmail.com

Verger: Mrs June Robbins: 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Sep 13	10am	Harvest Festival	Trevor Cook
Sep 27	10am 10.45	Holy Communion AGM	Rev Ann Parker & Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook: 01454 618442

Rev Ann Parker: 01291 329569

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens
632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Sep 13	4pm	Harvest Festival	T Black & Rev D Moss
Sep 27	9am	Holy Communion followed by AGM in the Church 9.30am	Rev D Moss

Contact: Mrs Tracey Black: 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Sep 13	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
Sep 27	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Mrs Judith Heybyrne: 01454 616725

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services will hopefully soon be resumed.

Contact: Rev Simon Edwards: 01454 418176

email: simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE HOUSE OF PRAYER, PILNING STREET

Meetings on Sundays at 10.30am and Wednesdays now at 2.30pm but no meetings on Mondays.

Contact: Mike and Barbara Matthews: 07512 917229 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services each Sunday at 6.30pm. Speakers to be arranged

Contacts: Jenny Parfitt: jennyparfitt@ymail.com & Sue Tett:

stett56@hotmail.co.uk

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Contact: Danny Bamfield: 01454 419324 email: danny@thebamfields.co.uk

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Contact: 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Contact: 01454 412223 www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Brian Hawkins: hawkinsb863@gmail.com 01454 854867

Contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: www.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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