



Village

August 2020

Web



Chrishall Scarecrow Festival 2020

On 28 June Chrishall held it's first scarecrow festival in a very long time. There were 34 official entries and 2 more that nipped in at the last minute. After weeks of 'lockdown' it was lovely to see people walking around the village chatting, albeit in a socially distant manner.

The entries all had their own unique take on the traditional scarecrow and varied hugely. We saw everything from a vet (complete with operating table and poorly cat) to a parachutist, Boris Johnson, Hansel and Gretel, farmer John (complete with live piglets) and a scarecrow couple getting married.

There was a lovely atmosphere amongst participants and attendants alike and despite the odd heavy shower the event seemed to be enjoyed by all. The winner, judged by all who did the rounds, was 'Argh' (see picture) which I am sure you'd agree deserved to be rewarded for it's novel take on the theme and it's attention to detail.

Get you're thinking caps on for next year!

Viv Rogers



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Parish Walk

The annual circular walk of the parish boundary, the Parish Walk, will be held on Saturday 19 September.

This year, between Hamlet church and Strethall Church, a new route will be taken so as to avoid backtracking through Elmdon.

Further details of the walk will be available in the September edition of the Village Web magazine.



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Parish News from Anand, our Rector

Dear All

We had such a lovely time at our Chrishall Church service on 12 July. This was our first church service held after Lockdown. There were 35 of us (with capacity for 50) and the weather was lovely that day. After the service, we had a catch-up with one another. By the time you receive this Village Web, we will have held a second church service.



In August we are holding two Church services on 2 August at 10.30 am and 23 August at 10.30 am; both will be held in Chrishall Church as this church accommodates a greater number of people. Meanwhile, virtual services will continue every Sunday.

So far four church buildings have opened for private prayers. Chrishall church is open on Tuesday morning between 10.00 am-12.00 and Friday 2.00 pm -4.00 p.m. Heydon on Sunday from 9.00 am to 6.00p.m. Strethall on Sunday from 10.00 am to 3.00 p.m. and Wednesday 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and Elmdon every day 9.00 am to 6.00 pm with only limited different pews used every day.

Please follow our website for weekly news and other information. Our





prayer group members have been faithfully praying for our parish for 17 weeks now. I am very thankful to the members who are interceding for people on our behalf. If you have any specific prayer requests please feel free to send them to me so that I can distribute them for prayers. We will maintain confidentiality.

If you are going on holiday, have a safe journey and enjoy your holidays. We will keep praying for your safety. May the merciful Lord be with you in your coming and going. Yours in Christ

Anand Sodadasi

Pin Board



Exercise bike, in good condition. Available for donation of £15 to Heydon Church. Purchaser to collect. 01763 838545

A Reflection from Anand

Home schooling during the lockdown period has been one of the great challenges that parents have had to face. I am sure that parents now have new insights into how teachers in schools handle their children using many different skills including, teaching, creativity, patience and with great dedication. As I am writing this article, I am also preparing to attend the virtual leavers' assembly at Chrishall School. I have been associated with church schools over the years and every year I witness children becoming very emotional as they leave their school friends and teachers. It clearly indicates how much they miss each other.

During the lockdown period children missed their friends immensely and parents had to take on the task of teaching and sometimes even having to learn new subjects or ideas themselves. The point I am trying to make is this, education is one of the most essential parts of our life. I believe education is a movable property in the modern world. We develop skills in a particular area through education and we choose a career out of it which then might take us to different places either at home or abroad.

One of the important subjects taught in school that helps in life, maybe more than any other subject, could be Religious Education (RE) lessons where children learn to develop moral codes for life. In church schools, children have school assemblies in which the Christian faith is learnt and together with RE lessons, Christian values and the existence of other religions with their values and how they perceive God are learnt.

The God of the Bible told Moses, the lawgiver, that Hebrew parents must teach their children the 10 commandments like this, “*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up*”(Deuteronomy 6:6-7). So, the Hebrew parents had to teach their children right from their childhood to obey God first. It is believed that there are 613 commandments in the Law of Moses.

In later history, all the commandments are summed up by Jesus in two commandments, they are ‘*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*’ and ‘*Love your neighbour as yourself*’ (Matthew 22:37-40). Love reveals the heart of Christian

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theology because it is God's nature, as the Bible says "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Our love for God enables us to love others even though they are unkind and hurtful.

Cultures change, laws change, generations come and go, but these two commandments are relevant in all ages, as it was when they were first written and is now in our own lives, irrespective of age, colour, religion, ethnicity and culture. Jesus' teachings are for life. They are a moral code and a guide in understanding God and his relationship with us. May these two moral codes of Jesus be our guide.

From the author 'Mountain' in Our Daily Bread.

'Oh, help me, Lord, to take by grace divine
Yet more and more of that great love of Thine;
That day by day my heart may give to Thee
A deeper love, and grow more constantly.'

Yours in Christ **Anand Sodadasi.**

Redundancy: Key things to know



- Redundancy is a fair reason to dismiss
- Furlough has not changed normal employment law; your employer can still make you redundant even if you are furloughed
- You must have two years continuous service to qualify for a statutory redundancy payment
- If you are made redundant there are statutory minimum notice periods, depending on how long you have worked for your employer
- If you are pregnant you have extra protections

Your employer may make you redundant because the business has closed down; the area of the business where you work closes down or because

there is a reduced need for employees to do a particular type of work.

The legal rules surrounding redundancy are complex but, in general terms, the following should take place:

- Before redundancy you should have been consulted.
- You should be given notice.
- All holidays you are owed should be paid.
- The company should have considered whether there was an alternative to redundancy. Is there another job in the firm you could do?
- The process of choosing who is going to be made redundant should be fair. If the company decided to choose you on a discriminatory basis, then your redundancy is unfair, giving you grounds to complain.

If more than 20 staff are to be made redundant, the law says there should be a period of collective consultation between the employer and 'appropriate' employee representatives (usually a union).

Voluntary redundancy?

You should think carefully about how voluntary redundancy will affect any money you are entitled to. Ask your employer about the redundancy package. Sometimes employers offer incentives for taking voluntary redundancy, such as extra redundancy pay or not having to work your notice period.

Claiming benefits

You might be able to claim benefits such as Universal Credit after taking voluntary redundancy. Turn to Us is a useful website to check your benefit entitlement www.turn2us.org.uk or contact Uttlesford Citizens Advice on 01799 618840 or email bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

Planning for after redundancy

If you've worked for your employer for 2 years at the end of your notice period, you're entitled to reasonable time off to apply for jobs or training, paid at your normal hourly rate, but only for up to 40% of a week's work.

Contact your local Job Centre Plus and ask for their Rapid Response Service - You can use the service during your notice period and for up to 13 weeks after you have been made redundant.

The new 'Job Help' website set up by the Government has information to help you in your job search as well as thousands of jobs from registered employers <https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/job-search-ideas/>

If you are thinking about changing careers you may find the national careers service helpful <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

You can find details of local services which can help you get into the workplace, including adult education opportunities and specialised support for people with mental health issues on www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk

More information

GOV.UK has more info on redundancy rights and help to find work.

Citizens Advice citizensadvice.org.uk/work/leaving-a-job/

Money Saving Expert moneysavingexpert.com/family/redundancy-help/

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W: uttlesfordcab.org.uk

E: bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

Monday to Friday 9.30 to 3.30

Operation Christmas Child

After six years as Parish Co-ordinator for this scheme I have advised Samaritans Purse that I have decided to retire and will not be collecting shoe box gifts this year. Anyone in the parish prepared to pick up the baton should contact Brenda Horden, the Area Co-ordinator on 01763 221261. Details of the scheme can be found on line. I have a few easily assembled flat packed boxes that I am happy to pass on. Joy Radley 01763 838545.

School's out for summer



At Chrishall Primary School and Pre-School, we end the academic year in a way that we could never have predicted. However, whilst the last few months have been very different and challenging in many ways for our children, staff and parents - what hasn't changed, is how absolutely incredible our children have been.

Home learning has been very special for our Chrishall children. Not only have they been able to complete their home school learning activities, which teachers have uploaded daily onto our school learning platform, they have been busy developing and discovering lots of their own interests, many of which have taken place in our wonderful countryside. It has been through my weekly Headteacher newsletters that have been continued throughout, that home learning has been shared and celebrated with our school community. Learning to ride a bike, gardening, cooking, camping and family walks are just some of the activities that children have loved doing. It has also been lovely to hear how children have enjoyed communicating virtually with their grandparents, especially the younger ones, who have loved sharing stories with them.

Many of our children have also been inspired to support the community and I have been so proud of how they used their citizenship skills to do this. Some have made cards to cheer up elderly neighbours, painted

pebbles, made and sold elderflower lemonade, organised a sponsored bounce and made and displayed rainbow pictures and banners. We have all become Zoom experts and when the children have been at home, I have enjoyed my weekly cohort catch-up chats with them. Back at school, we have used Zoom to host our virtual whole school assemblies. Children in their



classrooms and those at home have all come together for these. Teachers have also used Zoom to deliver lessons like phonics to children at home. Just recently, we hosted our annual 'Tales and Scales' event via Zoom. This entailed every child performing either a rehearsed musical or verse piece. Their audience watched in classrooms and at home. There have been many highlights, but one has been our year 5/6 audio production of 'Jungle Book' that the children and staff have worked hard to put together. Much of the recording for this took place both at home and at school via Zoom. The production really showcased how much effort the children had all put into their learning and we all loved listening to it in the week.

With lots of planning and preparation to ensure the safety for children and staff, we have been able to invite all our children back to school and we are proud to be ending the term having had 98% of them in school. Their behaviour has been impeccable and they have all adhered to our child friendly COVID-19 rules. For children's mental health and wellbeing, it has been great to provide some normality for them again and it's been truly magical to see them laughing and chatting with each other. I think we all have some very special memories that we will treasure of this time



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and moving forward, as a school, we will be building on this experience to shape and further develop our provision. I remain lucky and honoured to be the headteacher of such a special school and I am forever grateful for the support that the parents give. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish for choosing our school as their chosen charity. We are very grateful for the funds raised and we hope to use the money to be involved in another iSingPOP event next year.

Antisocial Distancing

I wandered lonely as a cloud
Two metres from the madding crowd*
A member of the human race
Immured in anti-viral space.

You need, they say, to stay that way
And take it with you every day,
Here and there and everywhere,
Your private cordon sanitaire.

Our fears, that this will, in some fashion,
Inevitably ration passion.
A new norm would soon be created
Where love is never consummated.

Disaster then would clearly loom -
Extinction, Armageddon, Doom.
A vaccine, though, could be the key
That sets free mortals such as we.

Better yet, could we some way,
Reset the viral DNA
And hence effectively frustrate
All its attempts to propagate.

There must be something we can do
To reinstate a way to woo.

*Social media is acknowledged for the loan of the first couplet.

Anonymous

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Balloon Race - Update

Rotary  Club of Royston

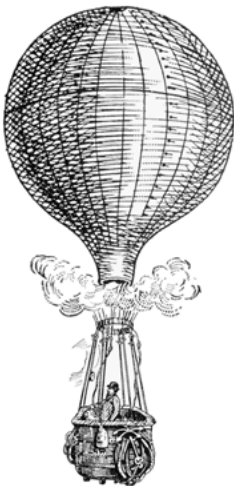
Not long to go now, and the balloons are going up! The Rotary Club of Royston's Virtual Balloon Race will be taking off on 14 September as part of an exciting new competition in aid of a well-known local charity.

It's called a Virtual Balloon Race because, of course, these won't be real balloons. Rotarian Tony Briar, from Bassingbourn, explains: "First, you buy your virtual balloon (as few or as many as you like) from the club at £3 each. You get to choose the shape, colour and helium content. Then it will be launched to race for seven days against, hopefully, thousands of others from around 20 fund-raising causes.

"It will respond just like a "real" balloon to wind, temperature and weather and you can track its progress on Google Earth. Those balloons which travel the furthest in a week will be judged the winners.

"The first prize is £500, the second an Apple iPad and there are lots of lesser prizes, each winning a £10 book token. And if the Royston club manages to sell more than 500 balloons, then the one from our area that goes the furthest will get an extra £50. We think the event will particularly appeal to youngsters and we are appealing to mums and dads to support us."

Funds raised will go to Home-Start (Royston, Buntingford & South Cambs), which has been supporting local families since 1983, working alongside parents through all kinds of tough times.



It is particularly in need of help itself at the moment as families struggle to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Balloons are now on sale and you can find out more and buy them via the Royston Rotary Club website

www.roystonrotary.com/balloonrace.htm. You can alternatively purchase activation codes on behalf of relatives or friends, so that they can join in the fun. “Go on, have a go,” says Tony. Social distancing needn’t take the fun out of fundraising.

David Blundell Royston Rotary Club

Heydon’s Social History

Not so much a Fisher of Men, more a Cattle Dealing Tea Drinker!

The Reverend Harold J Croft, Rector of Heydon with Great and Little Chishill, in the 1950’s was a man of many talents.

A newspaper clipping found by Andrew Drury, resident of Heydon, shines a light on this unique individual. The article explained that prior to entering the Ministry, the Rev. Croft had been a successful amateur boxer coached by a former lightweight world champion, was a professional tea taster and dealer, played football to professional standards at Goodison Park and worked as part of a bomb disposal squad during World War 2. It was after being wounded in this last role that he was sent to Lancashire to recover. Here he met one of the ‘supreme judges’ of cattle who taught him the art of cattle trading and who told him ‘he had an eye for a beast’.

On being discharged from active service he entered the ministry stating ‘I came from a long line of parsons’ and initially worked on the Lancashire-Yorkshire border. He continued to trade in both cattle and sheep and also gained fame for holding services in the local railway waiting station to save his parishioners from having to undertake a seven mile walk to church.

On arrival at Heydon he faced the inevitable reaction to his secondary line of business; ‘What does a parson know about anything but theology?’ was heard to be said by some of his flock. Undeterred the Rev Croft continued to deal successfully in cattle during his tenure. He is quoted in the article as saying “I am well-known now, and of course I

am unique. One or two parsons farm, but I am the only one who deals". He was probably the only one qualified as a professional tea-taster too!

Angela Bucksey

The Rev Croft was appointed as the vicar of Heydon in 1957. He was a lay preacher before the war and finally entered St Aidan's College to train as a rector after leaving his post in the Bomb Disposal Squad. His first curacy was Christchurch, Skipton and in 1951 became the Vicar of Ingleton in Yorkshire.

He retired from his post at Heydon, Great and Little Chishill as a result of ill health in 1982. He remained working in the area, taking in temporary roles as and when vacancies arose in Therfield, Kelshall and the Eversdens. He died on May 24th 1984 in Addenbrokes Hospital, aged 67. He was a High Church Anglican of the old tradition and was very much missed by all his parishioners.

Taken from the Heydon Social History Archive created and owned by Andre Drury, resident of Heydon.

Many thanks to all our contributors. The Village Web continues to seek a wide range of articles for publication. Please continue to submit your articles.

We would also welcome new people to join the Web's editorial team.

For further information contact an editorial team member or Anand Sodadasi. Contact details can be found on the Parish Contact page - the last page of the magazine.

22 August - final date for submission of articles for the September edition.

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Royston and District Community Transport

With the recent changes in government advice Community Transport is starting to get back to normal service – but not quite all the way there yet! All medical appointments still take priority but we are now able to offer social visits, hairdresser and shopping trips, provided we have drivers available; current government advice is still restricting the number of community driver volunteers so we may ask you to be flexible in your timing. On advice, we are limiting the journeys to the local area, a 15 minute maximum journey (each way). If you have alternative transport available please continue to use this.

We are monitoring the situation on a day-by-day basis, by the time you read this the situation may have changed again. If you need Community Transport please ring the office as normal and we will advise you on what we can offer (01763 245228, 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday – Friday). Our wheelchair accessible vehicle is available and we can now offer some bus outings for social groups, but will need to keep within the 1mPlus guide for seating, limiting the number we can carry. Buses are cleaned between use, hand sanitizers are fitted and passengers and driver are required to wear masks. Even with the new relaxing of guidance, for everyone's safety we still ask clients:

- Not to travel if you have any Covid-19 symptoms,
- To wash your hands before travelling
- To sit in the back behind the passenger seat and wear a mask, we can provide one if necessary.
- Unless absolutely necessary, the passenger is to travel unaccompanied
- Our drivers will also wear a mask
- Car surfaces will be cleaned between journeys
- Drivers will offer physical help only if necessary, and will try to maintain social distance whenever possible

Please follow these guidelines.

Ron Comben

RDCT Newsletter editor



Parish Contacts – *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

Rector: Reverend Dr Anand Sodadasi (*free day – Monday*)

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Church Office – Parish Administrator: Andrea Quigley

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End,

Chrishall, Royston, Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.parishoffice@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Mrs Shailaja Sodadasi Email: shailajanand@hotmail.co.uk

Licensed Lay Preacher: Jon Wayper Tel: 01799 732045

Email: jwayper@hotmail.com

Parish Church Warden: Viv Rogers Tel: 837185 Email: vj8@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Church Deputy Warden:

Mel Chandler Tel: 838289 Email: mel.chandler81@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Judith Brett Email: iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com

District Wardens:

Chrishall – David Wilkinson 837303

Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick 837353

Heydon – Alex Duffus 836903

Strethall – Anne Tozer 838890

Elmdon – John Holford 838286

Hamlet – Kate Chambers 838754

Lt Chishill - Peter Lyster 838238

Children's and Youth Work: Contact office – 837272 or Anand 838703

Treasurer: Laurence Brett Tel: 838167 Email: laurencebrett@icloud.com

Donations: Barclays Bank – Sort: 20-73-26 Account: 40898023
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Tower Bell Ringing: For all towers please contact the church office 837272

Chrishall Primary School: Head Teacher Tracey Bratley Tel: 838592

Village Web Magazine Editorial Team:

Editor: Tim Handyside - iwp.webeditor@gmail.com

Advertising : Angela Bucksey - clerk.heydonpc@gmail.com

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Marcus West 838294

Mel Chandler 838289



The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Published by the Parish of The Icknield Way Villages
on behalf of the eight churches in our community

Join us Online for an Evening all about Our Bats!

On Friday 11th September at 7.00pm



Sit in the comfort of your own home and join Bat Expert Phil Parker from the 'Bats in Churches Project' give you an insight into All Things Bats

Featuring film and photos of the Heydon Church Bats our Zoom session will explain how and why they love living in Heydon Church and Churchyard

Watch as our Bats leave the roost and fly the Chancel

Join in our Bat Art competition and win a prize!



Go Bats on ZOOM from your own armchair this September !

Register for this free session NOW by emailing clerk.heydonpc@gmail.com

Session sponsored and organized by The Bats in Churches Project Team – working with Churches (and Bats!) throughout East Anglia



Hold the Date!

**For the
Annual Village Tea Party
in the Churchyard at
Heydon**



**Saturday 12 September
from 2.30pm**

All Welcome

**All current regulations will be observed but fun
guaranteed**



Distributed free by volunteers to all the homes in the Parish of the Icknield Way Villages - Chrishall, Elmdon with Wenden Lofts, Duddenhoe End, Great Chishill, Little Chishill, Heydon and Strethall.