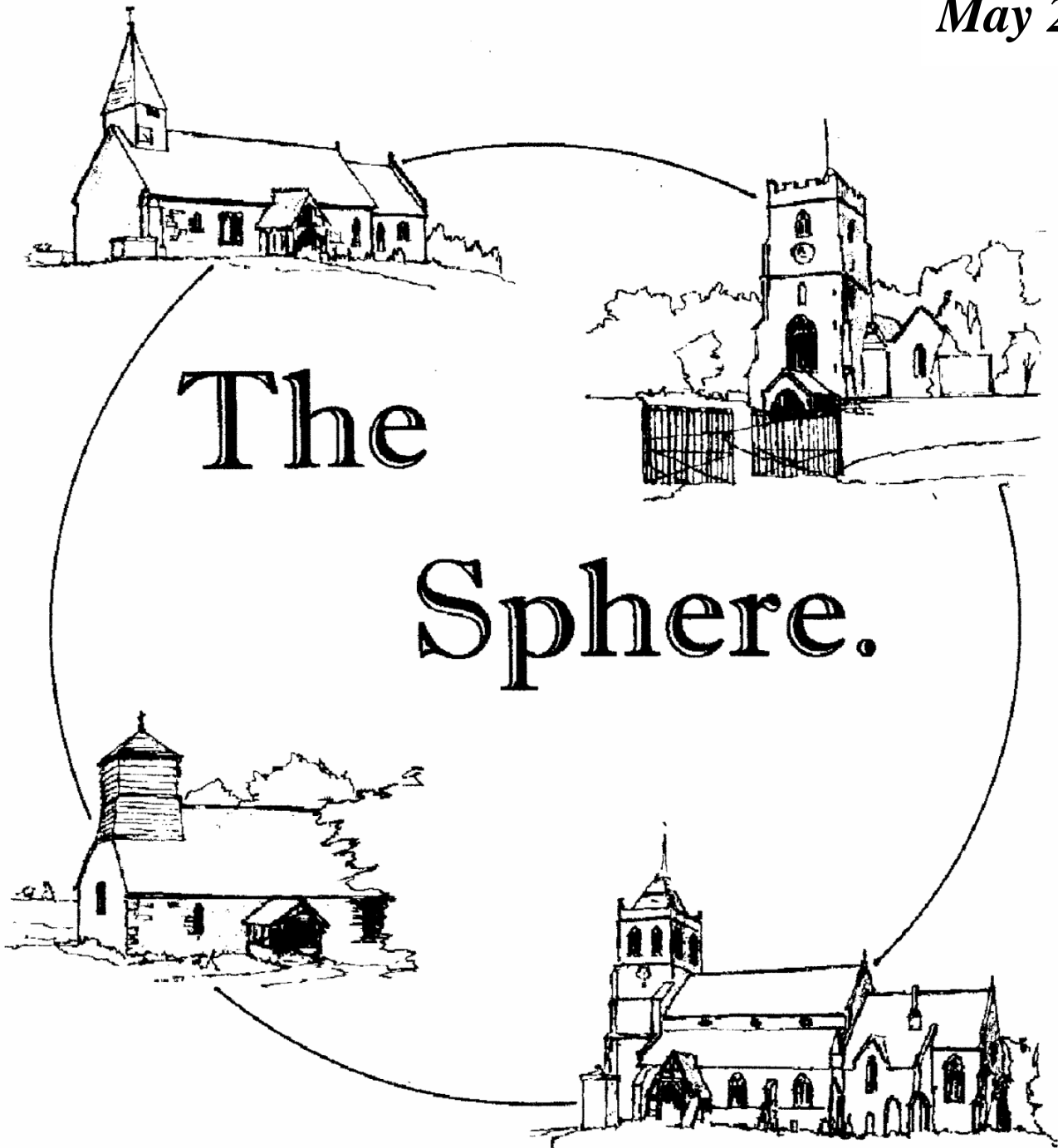


May 2020



The

Sphere.

*The Magazine for the Parishes of Alfrick with Lulsley,
Leigh and Bransford, Leigh Sinton and Suckley*

From Rev Anne

Until recently words such as 'lockdown', 'isolation' and 'self-distancing' were not part of everyday experiences for most of us. There are some in society though who know all about living in lockdown – the prisoner or captive; or isolation – the elderly, the bereaved, the marginalised; or kept at a social distance – through family breakdown, court injunction, geographic boundaries. Many will be coping well with the current situation, especially those of us so privileged to be living in more rural areas, on the edge of a city, where we have space to exercise and enjoy the beauty of God's created world. Maybe some of you have been able to catch up on the 'to do list', read some of those books gathering dust, watch theatre on-line, take up a new craft or an old one, do a jigsaw, spring clean, work in the garden. There are many others who will be struggling, out of routine, can't cope with confinement, unable to work and struggling financially, confined with their abuser, or simply does not do 'isolation'.

What is the difference between 'isolation' or 'solitude'? Solitude is a personal choice coming from an inner yearning and is actively sought. Isolation is usually forced from the outside. Solitude provides the opportunity to reflect and simply be, a time of enrichment to re-charge the batteries and return to the world refreshed and reinvigorated. Isolation, in contrast, narrows the walls and makes a prison, draining the will and leaving one exhausted.

We all need times in our lives to be truly alone in order to gain a new perspective and discover who we really are, but most people fear this precisely because solitude and isolation get confused. The thought of being emotionally, spiritually, and physically cut off from our family and friends is really scary.



God created us to be social beings, to be in relationship with God and all fellow humans. Whilst solitude can often give us spiritual experiences with assurances that people are waiting for us, isolation creates emotional turmoil offering no such promise. There is nothing that can replace the handshake, the hug. We read each other – eye contact, body language, what is not said as much as what is said. Isolation removes all these experiences. We may be living in isolation, apart from family and friends, but in solitude we can take comfort that we are bound together in God's love

So shall we pray....
O God, help us to trust you,
Help us to know that you are with us,
Help us to believe
that nothing can separate us from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God bless you, keep you well and stay safe.

Parish Worship

Our Church continues to be alive and active but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed. However, our worship, prayers and praise, alongside reflections and our care for each other continues. And so (until we meet again)May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen

Even though we are not able to meet with you in person the clergy are available at the end of a telephone line so please feel free to contact us:

Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 revannepotter@gmail.com

Rev Jen Denniston 01886 853280 jendenniston@gmail.com

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or leighrectory@outlook.com

For those of you with computers, iPads or other such 'modern technology' the team is continuing to find creative ways of offering worship through our YouTube: [wwrtlivestream](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwrtlivestream) as well as keeping you informed through the website: www.wwrt.churchinsight.com and A Church Near You.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

STD 01886

ALFRICK-w-LULSLEY

Website at - <http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org/parishcouncil>

VILLAGE HALL Booking on line at www.alfrickandlulsley.org or for information and advice email info@timesaversconciierge.co.uk or phone Adrian Biggs at 01905 312456

PARISH COUNCIL - 4th Thursday 7.30 pm. Clerk Mr.Geoffrey Brewin 821386

RVS THURSDAY CLUB - Alt Thursdays 2.00 pm Contact Mrs.Newitt 884784

RVS Representative Mrs J.Cooper 832444

AGE UK Contact Brenda Collins 833358

ALFRICK PLAYERS Contact Alan Soper 832354

PILATES GROUP - Village Hall Tues 5&6 pm email sallyp88@btinternet Sally Porter 821654

W.I. - 2nd Wed at 7.30 pm. President Carol Boughton 884210

ALFRICK & LULSLEY SHOW - 3rd Monday 8.00 pm Contacts Linda Fishwick 832617
and Anne Potter 832355

TENNIS CLUB - Membership. Dympna Jardine, 4 Crews Hill Court, Alfrick 830085

GARDENERS' CLUB - 3rd Thursday. Mrs.Marion Kent 832537

TABLE TENNIS – Mondays 6.00 to 9.30 pm Contact Richard Steele 821777 Sue Adams 830190

COMMUNITY CHOIR Contact Keith Bramwich www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com 07771600776

LEIGH & BRANSFORD

Website at <http://www.leighandbransford.org.uk>

MEMORIAL HALL - Booking & Keys:www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk

HALL COMMITTEE - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 3rd Tuesday in January then every other month.
AGM 3rd Tuesday in May. Chair: Jon Gamble - j_e_gamble@hotmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 4th Tues in Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov
Clerk to Council Mrs.Jackie Barker 114 Fruitlands, Malvern WR14 4XB 01684 567674
Footpath Warden Gary Mellor 288370

PRESCHOOL Sherridge Road Leigh Sinton Open 8.30 to 3 pm Katie Wiggins 07854 477445

W.I. - Memorial Hall 1st Tuesdays - 7.30 pm President Mrs Angela Dancer 833737

BOWLS (Indoor) Memorial Hall - Mondays 7.30pm-9.30 pm Mrs.C.Hall 832650

Knit & Natter - Royal Oak 2-4 pm last Thursday of the month

MALVERN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE L/S www.malvernmarialarts.co.uk 833033

TAE KWON DO Weds 6.30 -7.30 pm. Julian Burton 07770 822033 833033

BOXFIT/CIRCUITS/WING CHUN/TAI CHI/QIGONG Kev 07725 161178 830175

PILATES - Tuesdays 9 - 10am Di Fox 07775 795670

BranchesDayOpportunities 10am-3pm Mon-Fri jesshibbert@hotmail.com 07572 398095 833382

SCOUT HUT 1st LEIGH SCOUTS

Explorer Scouts Thurs 7.00-9.00 pm (14-18) Stuart Diplock 880078

Scouts Fri 7.00-9.00 pm (10-14) Matthew Cooper 884277

Cubs Tues 6.45-8.15 pm (8-10) June Etheridge 01905 425793

Beavers Wed 5.30 - 6.45 pm (6-8) Joanne King 833925

1st LEIGH GUIDES Mondays 7.30-9.00 pm Mrs.Valda Cane 833115

BROWNIES - 1st Leigh - Wednesdays 6.00 - 7.15 pm Mrs Kaye James 832304

RAINBOWS - Thursdays 6.00 - 7.00 pm Ann Osborne 833480

AGE UK Contact Margaret Hamilton 833412

WREKIN SPIRITUAL CAFE 1st Wed 11am - 1pm Contact Clair McDonald 884888

LEIGH & BRANSFORD BADGERS FC - Senior Coach Bosko Medakovic 07979 725196

LEIGH & BRANSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL Head Mr Stuart Bill 832342

SUCKLEY

Website at <http://www.suckley.net>

VILLAGE HALL Keys/booking Steve Boughton 884210

PARISH COUNCIL Clerk Mrs Diana Taylor 01684 569430

SUCKLEY PLAYING FIELDS All weather pitch for football or tennis.
Bookings: Mr C Luton 884558
Two Football Pitches Mrs C Luton 884558
Skateboard Area Mr P Beaumont 884550

SUCKLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Contact Nessa Haworth 884383

LADIES KEEP FIT Tuesdays 11-12 noon Carol Boughton 884210

BELL RINGING - 1st, 2nd, 4th Weds 7.30-9.00 pm Captain Mrs Linda Taylor 884280

SUCKLEY SCHOOL Church Lane Headmistress Mrs Sheila Marshall 884283

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME 840480

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Leigh & District Branch Contact Shirley Tasker 832669
Last Friday in March, July, September and November at 2.30 pm in the Bear & Ragged Staff

WEST MERCIA CONSTABULARY Emergency 999 Other matters 0300 333 3000
PC 3381 Sarah Ransome-Williams CSO 6494 Tracey Caldwell CSO 6481 Collin Davies
Local Policing Team Kempsey/Alfrick based at Upton Police Station

Suckley

St John the Baptist Church



Our Church continues to be alive and active, but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed.

Our worship of God and our care for each other though continues. The clergy in the WWRT team, David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Jennifer Whittaker, Becky Elliott and Jen Denniston are working together as a team and so for the period of lockdown the normal weekly Leigh Group pew sheet has been adapted so that it can be distributed across all the WWRT parishes - it saves on time resources as well!

For those of you with computers, iPads or other such 'modern technology' the team will continue to find creative ways of offering worship through wwrtlivestream as well as keeping you informed:

- through the website www.wwrt.churchinsight.com
- the WWRT Facebook page www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam
- and the Suckley Facebook page www.facebook.com/suckleychurch

If you wish to contact the clergy please contact either: Rev David Sherwin (Team Rector): 01886 888664 davidwin56@aol.com

or Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355; revannepotter@gmail.com

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or leighrectory@outlook.com or Liz Edwards on lizedwards69@aol.com

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme says, "Keep alert" and "THANK YOU"!

01886 840480



We're here to help on 01886 840480 and suckleygns@gmail.com on Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. It is thanks to the many new Volunteers that a lot of stay-home folk have their *Suckley PO* shopping brought to their door regularly at present. Julian and Mark now have lots of fresh fruit and veg, as well as their usual stock. If you would like an order delivered or put by to collect, please phone the GNS on **01886 840480** between 10.00am and 1.00pm Monday to Friday for delivery after 5.00pm the next day. *Knightwick butchers'* meat orders deadline is 1.00pm on Tuesdays!!

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) is available to Suckley residents, and our volunteers will try to help if someone is in need of assistance. In these present challenging times, it could be that someone would appreciate a phone call, maybe for advice, or even just a friendly chat on the phone. Several volunteers have been trained by *South Worcestershire Citizens Advice*, and all our regular volunteers have been screened by the *Disclosure and Barring Service*. So please be alert to those living nearby, and if you feel it appropriate remind them that the **Good Neighbour Scheme is here to help on 01886 840480 and suckleygns@gmail.com**

Suckley Community Car Scheme

This voluntary service covers all residents of Suckley who need transport to local medical appointments, or to take or collect prescriptions to or from Knightwick Surgery. Drivers are:

Caroline Mitchell: 884070; Rosemary Harward: 832289; Jill Hammonds: 884221;

Please start phoning from the left and give as much time as possible.

Our drivers reserve the right to refuse any request that they think to be inappropriate.



The Sphere in Lockdown

Unfortunately your trusty Sphere team is not allowed into Alfrick Church where hard copies are usually produced in the vestry. In the meantime we are therefore producing electronic copies which are being put on various local websites. Congratulations if you are reading this because it means you have managed to track them down. A few of our advertisers have approached us and we are able to include a couple of adverts, however we are offering a payment holiday to all advertisers until the resumption of normal production. Over 820 copies of the magazine are normally produced each month (except January) and we are most grateful to our regular subscribers and advertisers for their continued support.

Unfortunately, most of the events and activities that regularly appear in **The Sphere** are presently cancelled owing to the current restrictions. We look forward very much to them being resumed, together with *The Sphere* production, as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, we wish you all well and do look out for internet copies:

www.suckley.org.uk

www.alfrickandlulsley.org/community

www.leighandbransford.org.uk

Pickers Wanted

Stocks Farm is recruiting for the 2020 apple harvest from the **end of August to the middle of October** and you could help. We harvest nearly 6.4 million of dessert apples, 540 tonnes of cider apples and enough hops to brew 46 million pints of beer from our 200 acre farm. We are in beautiful countryside with rolling hills and gorgeous views in the middle of the village of Suckley, Worcestershire. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming and if you like beer, there are a couple of local pubs, and a working brewery, here on the farm!

We work hard throughout the year to grow and supply the very best apples and hops in the industry, maintaining a strong partnership with our retailers and breweries is high on our agenda. We are members of the *Assured Food Standards* and compliance with audits is all part of our daily life. Do you have the same drive and wish to receive a good salary for your hard work? We are looking for **apple pickers** for the 2020 apple harvest.

If you are on a Gap year, are a university student or if you are just looking for some part-time work, and/or want to work hard to get cash in the bank, then this will suit you. Please contact Jo Williams on jo@stocksfarm.net, or call 01886 884202 to discuss the job in more detail.



Apple Picker Requirements:

- good communication skills
- works well as part of team
- ability to work long hours with a degree of flexibility to cope with changing weather conditions
- ability to follow policies and procedures
- an eye for detail for quality fruit
- good level of physical fitness

For more information and all details on pay, hours of work and everything else you need to know about working here please call **Jo Williams on 01886 884 202 or jo@stocksfarm.net**

Closing Date: 31 July 2020

Worcester Foodbank

Before we had to shut all the churches we were encouraging folk to leave food in special boxes in the church. This week David had the following plea from Roy Walford, a member of Martley Church, who is involved in the Foodbank:

Foodbank volunteers are working hard to feed an increasing number of families in crisis but donations have drastically reduced for obvious reasons.

Below is the virus food emergency list - when you are out shopping perhaps you could pop a couple of items in your basket and then when you have a bagful either put them on Roy's doorstep 20 St Peter's Drive, Martley, put them in the box by Becky's doorstep, Clifton Rectory, or the box by Anne's doorstep, Leigh Rectory. If you are in self-isolation and can't arrange for actual groceries to be purchased and delivered to any of the collection points why not go on line and make a financial donation?

List: *tinned potatoes; UHT 1 ltr fruit juice; 1 ltr UHT milk; cracker biscuits; tinned meat - ham, spam, corned beef, Fray Bentos meat pies etc; tinned fruit - single fruit such as oranges, grapefruit etc; Smash; cooking sauces for rice and pasta; sandwich paste; peanut butter; jam; sponge puddings; coffee (small jars); rice pudding; tinned custard; tinned spaghetti, e.g., Hoops, etc.*

Suckley Village Hall: CLOSED FOR THE DURATION

Suckley Parish Council

Unfortunately, and because of the Coronavirus lockdown, the Parish Council Meeting scheduled to be held on 11 May, and the Annual Parish Meeting on 18 May, both in the Village Hall, have had to be cancelled.

DIANA TAYLOR, Clerk to Suckley Parish Council: 9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern WR14 1NL

Telephone: 01684 569430; email: dtaylor@suckleyclerk@gmail.com

Eclipse Home Care

Coronavirus Recruitment Campaign

In response to the CV19 crisis hospitals are now trying to free up beds to cope with the expected surge, including preparing for at-home care for elderly and vulnerable patients. *Eclipse Home Care* has a contract with WCC to provide domiciliary care to people 7 days after they have left hospital.

To cope with the increased demand for domiciliary care *Eclipse* are now undertaking an URGENT county wide recruitment campaign for care workers.

They have immediate vacancies for 80 carers in Worcester alone, and need to recruit 20 new carers a week over the next 12 weeks.

Brief Job Description

Daily tasks will involve a variety of jobs, such as preparing meals, assisting with personal care (washing and dressing) whilst providing essential company. You will have real responsibility, be out and about in the community helping a variety of clients, and every day will be different. All you need is a caring heart and a car.

Target Audience

Due to the nature of the job and additional demands the target market is:

- 25 – 60 years old e.g. Marvellous Mums and Empty Nesters
- Fit & Healthy
- Car Owner
- Have previous experience of care (paid or unpaid)
- Able to work shifts from morning – evening (preferred hours contract)
- May have lost job/reduced income due to the CV19 crises
- Would like to contribute to the local CV19 Response whilst getting paid

Key Messages

- New job or income top up during Coronavirus crisis – immediate start
- Flexible hours, good rates of pay, 'award winning' training
- Full protective personal equipment provided
- Support the NHS by getting the Worcestershire Hospitals emptied for the anticipated surge
- Help vulnerable people in your community to live independently
- Excellent operational support from a local professional team leader
- Work for a well-respected local company

Call to action – apply on line at www.eclipsehomecare.co.uk/apply/ or ring Shelley on 07890 250 839.

Community Choir

During the current world crisis, the Community Choir is being issued with bits of homework most weeks, by email - things which we can learn at home and perform when it's safe to get back together for rehearsals. The emails also pass on other bits of information from choir members about other online musical things.

Most Tuesday evenings we also have online video discussions instead of choir practices. It's still quite fun! If you'd like to join us, even if just for the lockdown period, please get in touch on 07771 600776 or via www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com and ask to be put on the list!

Keep safe and well.



Keith Bramich



Suckley Post Office

Another week passes
We have lost count of which one
But all that matters are
Our smiles for the sun.

The weather has played fair
Amidst all this pain
As Suckley villagers queue patiently
Blessed with no rain.

Our shop welcomes you all
Each day like before
But the thing is, you are all so happy
When you come through our door.

This virus is tedious
A pain we all suffer
And even now
The going could get rougher.

But Suckley Parish Council
and Suckley GNS
Have been a rock for the Post Office
To find a path through all this stress.

So when you clap next Thursday at 8
Give a clap for your Suckley
Your Parish Council
Your GNS.

Without them all
There would be no support
For the isolated, the vulnerable
Our help would fall short.

Suckley PO is so proud of this village
Our Council
Our GNS
Our volunteers.

So on Easter Sunday
Just raise a glass
Clink a big thank you
And a resounding "Cheers".

Holloways.co.uk

EXCEPTIONAL FURNITURE FOR HOME, GARDEN & CONSERVATORY

All available ONLINE for swift,
safe, free local delivery
www.holloways.co.uk

Call our friendly team for advice on
materials, colours, finishes and design
Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm

01886 884665

Holloways, Lower Court, Suckley, WR6 5DE
next to Suckley Church

Straplines

- Children have clearly started to develop when they stop asking where they came from and are not keen to tell you where they are going.
- Have you noticed that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks its neck out?
- Suburbia is a place where they often cut down beautiful trees and then name streets after them.
- Tears shed for self can be tears of weakness, but tears shed for others are a sign of strength. *(Billy Graham)*
- The fact that we are all different is the one thing we have in common.



Suckley Post Office village store & so much more



@suckleypoandmore

www.suckleypoandmore.uk

WR6 5DU Tel 01886 884 201

Post Office for experienced advice & service

PO counter open Mon-Sat 09:00-13:00

Village store for everyday supplies & more

Shop open Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00, Sat 09:00-13:00

Are you self-isolating in Suckley?

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme can **deliver** our groceries straight to your door.

Includes Knightwick Butchers meat, fresh milk, bread, fruit and veg.

Phone **01886 884 480** weekdays between 10:00 & 13:00

for delivery next day (Monday-Friday).

Alfrick with Lulsley

St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick



Coronavirus and our Church Services

The Churches are in lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. No church services will be held, but other means of worship are being provided via:

https://wwrt.churchinsight.com/Groups/305350/Alfrick_and_Lulsley.aspx

or Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam

The team will continue to find creative ways of offering worship through *YouTube*: wwwrtlivestream as well as keeping you informed through the website www.wwrt.churchinsight.com

The format of the pew sheets has been changed and gives more details of all that the West Worcestershire Rural Team (WWRT) is doing. Contact Alison Khan on leighrectory@outlook.com or phone her on 07984 748059 if you want to be put on the email distribution list.

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Keep safe and well.



Keith Bramich

Alfrick & Lulsley Community Car Scheme: This voluntary service covers all residents of Alfrick & Lulsley who need transport to local medical appointments, or to take or collect prescriptions to or from Knightwick Surgery.

Drivers are: Pam Lowe: 833362; Ro Morpuss: 832622; Hilary Simmons: 832611

Please start telephoning from the left and give as much time as possible.

Our drivers reserve the right to refuse any request that they consider inappropriate.





CLOSED FOR THE DURATION

For more information on booking the Village Hall please visit our website at: www.alfrickandlulsley.org/hall-make-booking/
Please send your queries by email to info@timesaversconciierge.co.uk

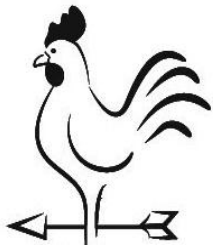
Elaine Kite is the **Citizens Advice** Community Liaison Volunteer for Alfrick, contact 01886 884435, or email: elainekite@btinternet.com Elaine can discuss your enquiry, clarify your concerns and refer on to CAB for specific advice. So do please get in touch.

Alfrick & Lulsley Community Shop & Café

The Shop and Post Office continue to be open every day, supplying fresh, local bread, cakes, eggs, meat and vegetables as well as all the usual household grocery, drinks and other needs whenever possible. We've been very well stocked through these difficult weeks thanks to the Herculean efforts of our manager and our amazing volunteers. The shop is operating very safely, with customers being served and shopped for by the volunteers, who take the order by phone or in person at the door, and payment being made either by card over the phone or through a window by the till. Only Post Office customers are allowed into the shop one at a time.



- Home Delivery is also offered to those in need.
- Opening hours are as follows for the foreseeable future:
- Shop: Monday - Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Saturday and Sunday 10.00am to 12noon
- Post Office: Monday – Friday 1.15pm to 4.00pm



We are indebted to a wonderful group of volunteers and customers who are demonstrating such a strong community spirit when we need it most. If you need to place an order, please phone the shop on 01886 832862 during opening hours. With our best wishes for your good health. **The shop team, Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop**

Free Fleeces



If any local spinners would like an alpaca fleece with which to occupy themselves in these unprecedented times, please let me know, and I will be happy to deliver a bag to your doorstep. Pastimes are being revisited more than ever!
The fleeces have not been touched since shearing in 2019 and I was waiting for a slot to take them to the mill, but have cancelled this visit in the circumstances. I usually knit myself as alpaca fibre is considered one of the finest in the world.
I also have some "guard" hair taken from the underside and the legs, which is suitable for felting.
Sheila Pugh Telephone: 01886 822155

Time for a Smile

A country conference centre which was much used by church groups had as its motto, "There are no problems here, only opportunities." A minister booked it for a weekend retreat with a group from his church. The day arrived and they all signed in and were shown to their rooms. A few minutes later the minister returned to the reception desk and said he had a problem. The receptionist responded with a smile and said, "Sir we don't have problems here, only opportunities." The minister said, "Call it what you like, but there's already a woman in my room."

Lent Lunches 2020: We were only able to hold one lunch before lockdown, but we had 14 people enjoying soup, bread and cheese. We also had a successful bring and buy and therefore our total profit was £40 which went to **Fare Trade**. Many thanks to all who offered to make soup, help on the day and give donations
Helen Cook



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Puns for Educated Minds

- When cannibals ate a missionary, they had a taste for religion.
- If you jumped off a bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
- A vulture boards an aircraft carrying two dead racoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "Sorry sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."
- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank proving once again that you can't have your kayak and eat it.
- There was a person who sent ten puns to friends hoping at least one would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.



Leigh and Bransford



ST.EDBURGA, LEIGH

The Churches are in lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. No church services will be held, but other means of worship are being provided via wwrt.churchinsight.com or Facebook page: worcesterwestruralteam

The format of the pewsheets has been changed and gives more details of all that the wwrt team are doing. Contact Alison Khan on leighrectory@outlook.com or phone her on 07984 748059 if you want to be put on the email distribution list.

Leigh and District Royal British Legion

A Tribute to Cecil Dee Who has sadly passed away.



I have known Cecil most of my adult life so on behalf of the R.B.L. I'm writing this tribute to him. Cecil was never called up due to his very bad eyesight but what he did for our branch of R.B.L. was outstanding. In his better days he and his wife Pat used to walk the roads and lanes of Bransford for the Poppy Appeal from house to house. He was also involved with Bill Collins in the planting of shrubs and plants in the New Remembrance Garden at the village hall. He attended County and Group 3 Meetings and kept us in touch with what was happening in the county. He was always a great supporter of mine when I took part in the Standard Bearing Competitions many years ago, and always ready to do anything for anybody. A man of great local knowledge and would always find an answer to your question. He was a stalwart of the branch and Bransford will miss him and so will our branch. Our thoughts are with Pat and his family.

Ken Jones President Leigh & District Royal British Legion.

Peter Leigh Evans Died 18th March at St Richards Wild Wood Worcester. Cremation 14th April 2020. Kate Smith. The Old Rectory, Leigh

LEIGH AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB

As I am sure you are all aware, in this current situation the garden club meetings are on hold until further notice. This includes the visits planned over the summer.

In an attempt to keep the spirit of the garden club going we have established a Facebook page, Leigh and District Gardeners' club. Members can access this to ask questions or discuss garden queries with each other or share any photos of your garden and local environment.

Alternatively please email us at kents2@hotmail.com and we will re-post for you.

Best wishes and keep safe, Marian Kent 01886 832537

Citizens Advice - Community Liaison

Lillian Somervaille is your **Citizens Advice** Community Liaison Volunteer for Leigh, Bransford and Leigh Sinton. You can contact her by phone (**01886 833526**) or email (lillian@aubretiacottage.org.uk)

CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19
IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEIGH AND BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL

1. BOOKINGS It will, of course, come as no surprise to anyone that the Hall Trustees took the early decision to close the Hall for at least 12 weeks from Monday, 23 March. This means that due the current situation we are not accepting any new bookings which would be due to take place in the 12 week period from **Monday 23 March to Sunday 14 June 2020**. We have contacted all our hirers who already had bookings scheduled to take place between those dates and, according to their instructions, have either rescheduled them or if they chose to cancel, refunded any advance payments made in full. Bookings for events on or after Monday, 15th June may still be made online via our website at: www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk but are obviously accepted on the understanding that they are subject to the current restrictions on public gatherings being lifted. If, due to restrictions still being in place after 15th June, your booking has to be postponed and rescheduled (subject to availability) we will apply any payment made in full to your new hire date - or in the event that you need to cancel, we will make a full refund.

2. CENTENARY EVENTS Sadly we had to cancel our first centenary celebration AFTERNOON TEA event on the afternoon of Sunday, 5th April and, due to the uncertainties have also reluctantly postponed the CLASSIC CAR AND BIKE EVENT due to take place on SUNDAY 12 JULY. New dates for these events will be arranged and announced in a future edition of the Sphere and on our website.

3. SECURING OUR FUTURE VIABILITY AS A COMMUNITY VENUE The trustees wish to assure all our residents and friends from further afield that the Hall, which is a regulated charity, will re-open as soon as restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so. Thanks to all your previous hire business and subscription support to the “Friends of Leigh and Bransford Hall” (our monthly cash prize draw scheme), over the past few years, we have been able to set aside sufficient financial reserves to survive a period of extended closure due to major national disasters like the current coronavirus pandemic. We will be ready and waiting to welcome you, your club, your organization and your event and its guests back as soon as we possibly can. Our Hall is a vital community asset and we are dedicated to keeping it a viable and sustainable resource for everyone in the years to come.

4. FUND RAISING – FRIENDS OF LEIGH & BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL Finally, on the subject of fund raising – because of the current lockdown we have put different arrangements in place to enable us to continue making the usual monthly cash prize draws for the “*Friends of Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall*”. All winners will be notified in the usual way. As the current subscription year comes to an end in July we very much hope that those of you who pay by annual standing order will continue to support us for a further 12 months. Renewals are still just £10 per ticket per annum. Due to the current situation however, we may not be able to make our annual door collection from those of you who choose to pay by cash – so we are asking whether you would be willing to set up a standing order to cover your annual subscription of £10 per ticket. It’s really simple to do and **Patrick Mills**, who leads for us on the scheme, is more than willing to help and advise on how to do this if you need help and to give you our banking details. We are also keen to welcome new members – it costs just £10 a year per ticket. Half of all the money we collect through the annual subscriptions is used to help improve the Hall’s facilities and the other half is returned over the course of the year in the form of a monthly prize money draw. In the current subscription year we will have raised over £1,700 of which over £850 was given out as prize money to subscribers. If you would like more information about how to support the Hall by joining our monthly prize-draw fund-raiser, or to set up a standing order please contact Patrick by email at patrickmills567@gmail.com If you don’t have an email account you can phone him instead on **01886 832025**

5. CONTACT US You can still contact us by email at: info@leighandbransfordhall.co.uk with any queries or questions you may have. We try to answer all emails with 72 hours. We will also post updates and further information on our website, please visit us at: www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk

Thank you all for your continuing support and please, stay safe!

The Trustees of the Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall April 2020

Leigh & Bransford Parish Council

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing restrictions, there will be no annual parish council or parish meeting this year. The March parish council meeting was held virtually, and this looks set to continue until restrictions are lifted. Planning applications are being considered by email circulation. Although the council is not meeting in person, in other respects we very much continue with business as usual. Please get in touch if there is anything you would like to report or have raised at forthcoming virtual meetings – the next will be held on Tuesday 26th May. Contact the clerk at clerk@leighandbransford.org.uk or 01684 567674. There is also lots of useful local information and links to the parish coronavirus community response helpline on our website www.leighandbransford.org.uk

Thank you to all the parish residents who have volunteered to help in the community and everyone who has stayed at home, helping to keep everyone safe. Unfortunately, one consequence of the quieter roads has been an increase on speeding, especially by motor bikes, on some of our main roads. This has been reported to the police and they have agreed to monitor the trouble spots.

After a short pause at the start of the lockdown we are pleased that WCC have agreed to allow the parish Lengthsman to resume his duties. Please let us know about any problems with drainage or with overgrown vegetation obscuring signs or visibility splays or encroaching on footways.

Play areas in the parish are still closed as requested by Malvern Hills District Council but will open again as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Parish council scheduled meeting dates 2020 (subject to change – please see noticeboards and website for arrangements) 26 May, 28 July, 22 September & 24 November at 7.00pm

Parish Worship

Our Church continues to be alive and active but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed.

However, our worship, prayers and praise, alongside reflections and our care for each other continues. And so (until we meet again)May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen

Even though we are not able to meet with you in person the clergy are available at the end of a telephone line so please feel free to contact us:

Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 revannepotter@gmail.com

Rev Jen Denniston 01886 853280 jendenniston@gmail.com

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or leighrectory@outlook.com

For those of you with computers, iPads or other such ‘modern technology’ the team are continuing to find creative ways of offering worship through our YouTube: wwrtlivestream as well as keeping you informed through the website: www.wwrt.churchinsight.com and A Church Near You.