

THE BRIDGE- APRIL 2020

Can you keep your cool when even Jesus couldn't???

I wonder what the thing is that is on your mind: the Covid-19 outbreak (coronavirus), worry about whether you can afford to buy the groceries this week; where you will go on holiday; what you are going to have for tea?

Some thoughts consume more of our time and are obviously more serious than others. How many of us have God on the brain? How many times do we think about God in an hour, a day, a week? As Christians is our attention focused on God or on something else?

Jesus reminds us that we are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and minds and strength and our neighbours as ourselves (St Matthew 22:37-40).

And Holy week gives us an intense opportunity to focus our hearts and minds and strength on Jesus. Jesus's last week contains a vast array of events: the fight with the Bankers in the Temple (St Matthew 21:12-13); the entry into Jerusalem and Jesus's death and Resurrection. I am always heartened that our Lord lost his temper. I am sure you never lose your tempers but I have to confess that I do sometimes. What makes Jesus lose his cool is the injustice of using a place of prayer for profit. Go into most of our great ecclesiastical buildings and you will be charged unless you are just attending worship (except for Durham and Carlisle which still operate a donation entry policy). Although I am sure we can understand the economic argument (that entry charges bring in more money) I sometimes wonder How our Lord would react.

Unfortunately there is much injustice in our world and we need to focus our anger on it to fuel our action. We need to be concerned about and pray for all who do not have enough to eat, who need water, who need shelter who need education and health care. We need to be concerned about Fair trade and Climate change and alter our living to take account of these crises. We can only do this one step at a time.

So this Easter as well as enjoying your chocolate eggs and raising a glass to God's Love overwhelming death. Why not do two further really difficult things: spend a few moments in silent prayer and give a gift of hope and Resurrection to someone in our local community and someone in another community. In the Orthodox church at Easter people grace one another with decorated eggs as a sign of new life. What gifts can you give that will bring about some new life.

Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

St. Mary's, Podington and St Lawrence Church, Wymington

In the light of the current Crisis caused by Covid-19, we deeply regret that our buildings must now remain locked until further notice.

**With our Church Buildings now being closed – The team clergy will
continue to pray for us.**

If you wish to contact them their details are as follows:-

Email: chellingtonteam@gmail.com

Tel: Rev Jacqueline and Rev Peter 01234 720262

Rev Lynne 01234 881654

Also

The Church of England has released some Services and Prayers which you may wish to use during these uncertain and troubling times. Please follow the link below, or, if you are unable to do so, let Team Clergy know and they will download the PDF files and send them to you. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

The Following App is already used by the Team clergy on a daily basis and you might wish to join in the offices when you can. It is called Daily Prayer: from the C of E and follows the Common Worship form of Daily Prayer as well as the Revised Common Lectionary for the daily readings. It is produced by Church House Publishing and can be found on:

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/app/daily-prayer>

Apple App Store:

<https://apps.apple.com/app/id818491760>

Google Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer>

Wymington Chapel, High Street, NN10 9LS

Minister: Revd Ian Fall, 161, Wellingborough Road, Rushden. 01933 312919

Church Secretary: Mrs Edwina Green, 6, Pine Close, Rushden. 01933 316333

All our services and meetings are suspended for the time being while we all cope with the Coronavirus emergency.

However, we will make available notes on the Gospel passages which would be read each Sunday in our usual Sunday worship (with additional readings for each day of Holy Week from Sunday April 5th to Saturday April 11th). We can send these to anyone who would like to receive them by e-mail. If you would like to share in this with us, please send your e-mail address to west@westwymington.co.uk

During April we remember the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In his ministry he confronted all the forces that harm and destroy human life. In him the love of God broke their power and now offers new life to all who are willing to receive it.

PODINGTON CRICKET CLUB – 2020 DATES

The calendar of events for 2020 will be subject to cancellation or change. Further information will be posted in due course.

HIGHAM AND RUSHDEN U3A

Our monthly meetings for April, May and June have been cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. Please check our web site for further information and updates (www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk).

PODINGTON UNITED SERVICES CLUB

The United Club Services Club is closed until further notice. Please look at the Face book page for any updates.



An update on this Celebration weekend will be available in due course

Save time, do it online

Bedford Borough Council is making it much easier for local residents to save time by offering lots more online options on their website.

All the council's online options are displayed in the [‘Save time, do it online’ section on the website](#) and there's plenty to choose from:

Maybe you need to:

- pay for a council service
- book a council sports pitch
- apply for a school place
- check your bin day, or

tell the Council about a problem in your area like graffiti, fly-tipping or littering, or a pothole on your street or a cracked or missing pavement slab.

You can now do all of these things, and many more, online.

Lots of us are already doing our shopping and banking online, and these new self-serve options will mean that residents can do lots more online, at a time to suit them. The services are designed to be easy to use on phones and tablets as well as laptops and PCs.

The new online systems also mean that reports and requests from residents are sent

straight to front line teams who have been equipped with mobile devices. This means they can pick up and deal with new jobs straight away, making the process quicker and more efficient.

The Council is committed to making services easy to access and has worked hard to make its online services easy to use. Support for those who need help to get online will continue to be available from the council's Customer Services centre.

Dave Hodgson, Mayor of Bedford Borough said:

"The Council is making it easier, quicker, and more convenient for residents to report problems, request or pay for Council services online at a time that suits. We are not finished yet, there is plenty more to come in the coming months to make it easier to save time by contacting the Council online. You can still get in touch with the Council in other ways, all the same channels as you can now. The aim is to cater for everyone."

If you have any questions, please just let me know,

Beth Bowmer

Communications Lead - BB2020 Transformation Programme

Bedford Borough Council

Tel: 01234 228411



Podington Parish Council

Play Area

Cllr Webb advised that, following a recent survey, it had been advised that there was not enough rubber surface under the big swing. Cllr Webb to investigate what the legal requirements were and whether the chains could be shortened which would require a smaller rubber surface underneath. Surveyors also recommended that the carousel should be dismantled and checked annually. Cllr Webb would, again, check legal requirements. PPC to consider removing the carousel as it would not be financially viable should it require dismantling regularly.

Crime Stats

Clerk advised that, at the time of the meeting, figures were not available. Since the meeting, PPC has been advised that in the period 8th January to 29th February 2020 there was one residential burglary in the High Street, one non-residential burglary in Wymington Road, one theft of a motor vehicle on Gold Street and one theft of a vehicle on Airfield Road.

Planning

1. 20/00086/FUL Conversion of existing car port into habitable room at The Flax Barn, High Street, Podington – **no objection**
2. 20/00087/LBC as above – **no objection**
3. 20/00137/FUL Erection of a new two storey building containing welfare facilities at Specialist Plant Associates Ltd, 23 Podington Airfield, Airfield Road, Podington – **no objection**

4. APPEAL: 19/01062/LDE Siting of a mobile home for use as a dwelling at Drapers Lodge, Airfield Road, Podington - noted

VE Day

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the proposed VE Day celebrations have had to be cancelled.

New Website – www.podington-pc.gov.uk

Clerk advised that the new website had been created and published on line. The current website will cease to exist from 1st April 2020. Clerk will be attending training on how to use the new website on 18th March 2020

Alternative venue for Parish Council meetings

To ensure accessibility and continuity, Chair proposed that future Parish Council meetings be held in the function room at the Podington United Servicemen's Club (PUSC). Proposal unanimously approved.

Date of next meeting – TO BE CONFIRMED – PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE

Approved and draft minutes of Parish Council meetings are available on our website at: www.podington-pc.gov.uk or can be requested from the Clerk to the Council.

Diane Robins, Clerk

Tel: 07786 656088 / drobins.pc@gmail.com

Wymington Parish Council

Vehicle Activated Signs: Data for the period 3rd January 2020 to 3rd February 2020

Number of cars at various speeds

Green Lane			High Street		
	3.1.2020- 3.2.2020			3.1.2020- 3.2.2020	
Total Cars	80234	%	Total Cars	84805	%
<30mph	47183	58.81	<30mph	44632	52.63
31-35mph	23524	29.32	31-35mph	22016	25.96
36-40mph	7398	9.22	36-40mph	12475	14.71
>40mph	2129	2.65	>40mph	5682	6.70

Bedford Borough Council have confirmed that they have placed the new community speedwatch van in the village, on Rushden Road, however they identified no issues. They are looking at other areas within the village they could station the van in the future.

Dog Bin- the Parish Council is in the process of purchasing a larger bin for dog waste which will replace the one on Rushden Road near the Allotments.

Storm Damage- The Parish Council is aware of the damage caused by Storm Ciara to the roof of the Bus Shelter on Rushden Road (near Cambridge Street) and is in the process of obtaining quotes for repair.

Parish Precept. The Parish Council resolved to increase the precept by £1000 to £22000. This would be a 3.4% increase on a band D property. The Parish Council is responsible for the Cemetery, closed churchyard, the majority of the street lighting, grass cutting and the play area, and this has to be funded from the precept.

Parish Council contact details. The Parish Council has changed email address and you can now contact the Clerk on clerk@wymington-pc.gov.uk.

Parish Council website. The Parish Council is in the process of changing its website. The new website can be found at <https://wymington-pc.gov.uk/>. Both websites will run for a few months as data is swapped over.

Meetings: the Parish Council will be following Government guidelines, so there will be no meetings at the moment.

If you have any issues you would like to report to the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk- details below

Mandy Wilson- Clerk
Sharnbrook
Bedford MK44 1PJ

Contact clerk@wymington-pc.gov.uk
Website. www.wymington-pc.org.uk
<https://wymington-pc.gov.uk/>

Borough Councillor Update – March 2020

**Contact Borough Councillor Alison Foster by telephone on 07773371190
or email at ajfieldfoster@gmail.com**

Corona Virus

The Coronavirus is creating a unique and unprecedented situation around the globe. Here in Bedford Borough, I've attended a number of meetings, briefings and phone conversations and wanted to share some information with you which I hope will be helpful.

Your General Health:

There are four important steps you can take to reduce the spread of coronavirus:

- 1) Be alert for the most common symptoms, which are recent onset of new continuous cough and/or a high temperature. If you have symptoms of coronavirus, however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.
- 2) If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

- 3) Take steps to reduce non-essential contact with others
- 4) It is particularly important that those who are over 70, have an underlying health condition or are pregnant follow these measures as much as possible, to significantly limit face-to-face interaction with friends and family.
- 5) Be vigilant in your respiratory and hand hygiene:

Bedford Borough Council Services

The Council's website has been updated with the latest information about Coronavirus. Clearly, information will continue to be updated as the situation develops.

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-health-and-community/public-health/coronavirus/>

Refuse collection – I have asked about this as someone pointed out to me that people self-isolating at home might generate a lot more household refuse. Officers advised that Refuse Collection is a priority service and will be continued. If things got really, really tough, green bins will be the first to go. Black bin collections would be maintained as not to collect them would create another major public health problem.

Supermarkets – Resilience staff have contacted supermarkets who are implementing nationwide policies to deal with their supply chain use. Restrictions are being put in place on key items such as hand gels, pharmaceuticals, and certain grocery products with some supermarkets choosing to implement an offer of early opening for over 70s.

Over 70s – the Borough Council will be writing all known individuals aged 70 and over advising them that we are establishing a **community hub** where residents can ask for help and be matched with a volunteer from an appropriate voluntary organisations. This letter will start to be issued today and does contain a telephone contact number: **01234 718101** (which will be staffed 24/7) and an email address for those seeking help covid19help@bedford.gov.uk.

Volunteers: The Borough Council is keen to coordinate volunteer efforts across the Borough. Volunteer groups and anyone able to offer help should e-mail: covid19@bedford.gov.uk This might not just be for help with shopping, but could also be dog walking or collecting prescriptions.

Malicious offers of help – there have been reports of people knocking doors, offering help and then asking for credit cards to do the shopping. As always during a crisis, there are some who seek to take advantage of the vulnerable. Please advise the elderly not to part with credit cards and if necessary call the police.

Borough Health Services

Borough Health Services recommend that handwashing with soap is better than gels, as the virus contains fatty parts, which don't like soap. Hospitals are being made ready to admit people in large numbers and as a result all non-urgent surgery

will cease fairly soon. The current pandemic will end eventually, either with a cure, or when everyone builds up immunity. One other important point: Only take information from reliable sources, such as Public Health England – there are a lot of armchair experts putting misleading information into the public domain. Follow, guidance from the national health authorities. With everything, the situation is fluid, so watch out for updates.

Also, please share this information locally.

Please look out for each other and I am sure we can come through this. As always I am available on my email address or phone as above.

Schools

Given the school closures I have been informed that all children of key workers and vulnerable children have a place at school and with an early years provider. Schools and council officers have worked incredibly hard to achieve this. Officers are working with transport colleagues to support eligible pupils and ensure access the provision.

Schools are communicating with parents regularly so all should be aware of the arrangements. Arrangements may change over the coming days/weeks and this will be communicated directly to parents from Schools.

Large development on Odell Road in Harrold – further update

Further to last month's report the Secretary of State chose not to contest the statutory challenge by the developer, Catesby Estates, to the Planning Inspector's decision to refuse the planning application for 90 houses on the Odell Road. This will now be referred back to the Planning Inspectorate for another public hearing. The Borough should be in a much stronger position now given the Local Plan 2012-30 is now adopted and it will again defend it's position that this is not a suitable site for such a large number of houses. We do not yet know when this will be heard but I will keep you updated.

East West Rail

The public meetings arranged by Richard Fuller MP about East West Rail on 2nd April at 7.15 in Clapham Village Hall and 15th April at Tempsford Stuart Memorial Hall have now been as a result of the current situation with Coronavirus. I will, of course, let you know when a new date has been arranged. Anybody who has been in touch with Richard's office to reserve a place at the meetings is being contacted to confirm the above. If you need to contact Richard please do email him at richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk.

Average Speed Cameras (ASCs) - Wymington

I was pleased to note that on Wednesday 4th March the Borough Executive agreed to allocate the sum of £200k for average speed cameras. I have been asking for ASCs for the Rushden Road for some years and have again raised my request with the Portfolio holder. I have been assured the village is still on the list. I will keep pushing for these to be delivered in Wymington and other villages in my Ward where they are desperately needed.

Climate Change Fund

The Bedford Borough Council's Climate Change Fund is now open. Community groups, charities, schools, parish councils and others are invited to apply for grant funding.

The Fund will provide 50% match funding from £5,000 up to £20,000 for community projects that will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions within Bedford Borough. It has previously helped deliver a variety of projects across 40 different sites, supporting communities to reduce their carbon emissions. Including schools, village halls, community centre, churches, and a theatre.

Temporary Accommodation for Homeless People

The Council has approved the purchase of a block of 12 flats at 20/22 St Cuthbert's Street, Bedford for use as temporary accommodation for homeless persons. This is to contribute to a target of acquiring 50 units to reduce the reliance on variable quality leasehold premises and short term nightlight lets. This will also reduce the cost of providing temporary accommodation whilst fulfilling the Council's statutory obligations and the Council's own targets.

Rough Sleepers

There has been a reduction in the number of known rough sleepers in Bedford over the last 24 months. The Council has also committed to providing additional emergency beds for rough sleepers every night until 31st March, not just when it is freezing, and the Council is providing wrap around support to try to encourage take up of support and accommodation. If anyone knows anyone who is sleeping rough please contact the Council's Housing Options Team at any time on 01234 267422.

Ward Fund

The Ward Fund, for local and community groups and facilities will restart in April for the coming year. If you have a community based project that might be eligible to benefit from the Ward Fund please let me know.

As ever if you have any issues you wish to speak to me about, please do get in touch.

Articles for future editions of the "Bridge"

We cannot be sure at the moment when it will be possible to print or deliver copies of the "Bridge" again. If we can do so we will let you know.

In the meantime please send any articles you would like us to include (particularly any you think would be helpful to all our neighbours) to the usual addresses:

Peter West at west@westwymington.co.uk, phone 01933 315724

or Pauline Cameron at paulineecameon1@gmail.com, phone 01933 359533