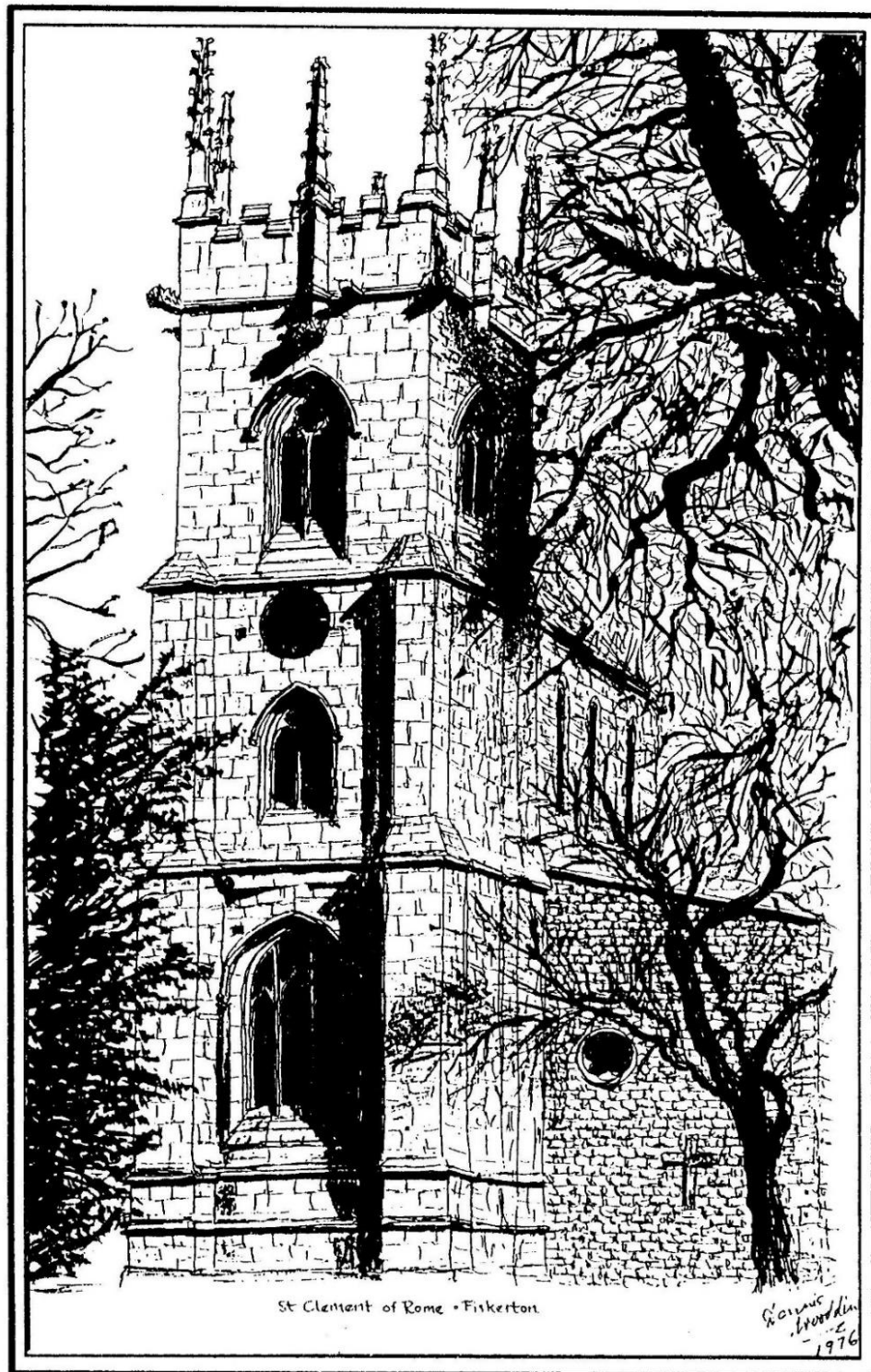


# *Fiskerton Parish News*



*April 2020*

## **Vicar's Blog:**

Unprecedented times ..... how many times have you heard that phrase in the last few days. It is however, true. It's a time when we are having to completely re-think everything, where we have to reassess what we do and why we do it and a time to look out for those who are in need – those who are alone, ill, isolated, homeless; a time when we have to support those who will be working long hours to keep things moving; those who are working in our hospitals, GP Surgeries, Carers in our Nursing Homes, Home Carers, in fact everyone and each other. The truth is, as human beings we can be great, we can rise to the biggest of challenges and that is what we now need to be. We need to bring hope and not fear, we need to use our phones to talk to people instead of staring at them, we need to be bringers of cheer, we need to look out for our neighbours and do what we can.

A colleague shared a story with me the other day. It was of an Australian sheep farmer who came over to this country to research sheep farming. He said to his British counterpart – why do you have so many walls, why is every field surrounded with a wall. The British farmer stated the obvious (to him at least).... 'to keep the sheep in'. The Australian said – 'you need wells, not walls. That story struck me very forcibly. In the Old Testament, wells were really important. When people wanted to settle in an area they did two things – dug a well and built an altar. It was a marker, a sign of life, a sign of hope. People gathered around wells for community. They gathered at the altar for worship, it was a sign of God's presence.

So folks, here is our challenge BE A WELL! Be a WELL of KINDNESS and COMPASSION; be a WELL of HUMOUR and RESOLVE; be WELL of LOVE and PEACE; be a WELL of CHATTINESS and PHONE CONTACT; be a WELL of NEIGHBOURLINESS and FRIENDSHIP; be a WELL of PEACE and HEALING; be a WELL of all the GOOD THINGS YOU CAN BE. Don't risk your own health in doing so because there you won't be a help to others. This is a long game, pace yourself. We are going to have to do things differently (and that includes church) but whilst being within the walls of a church may not be possible, being a well for each other and our communities definitely is!!

I have not put any services in this Newsletter, that is because today our Archbishop has advised that we should do things differently. Easter is coming but we won't be gathering for worship. However, I will go online and will record services of communion in every church that would expect to have a service on Easter Sunday (assuming I am well). At the moment I am investigating how to do that, and we will advertise it on our church noticeboards and via our website.

For those who are not online contact us by telephone and we will update you:

My number:

01522 595596

[slboffice@virginmedia.com](mailto:slboffice@virginmedia.com)

Website: [www.slbchurches.org](http://www.slbchurches.org)

Over the next few days (so perhaps by the time you receive this...) we will be making plans in as many villages as we can cover to provide phone cover for those who are isolating. We will try to disseminate this information as widely as possible via a leaflet drop.

For those who believe in the power of prayer – pray for your family and friends and neighbours. Pray for the fearful and anxious. Turn to God and remember the words that echo through the Bible 'Do not be afraid, the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go'.

Be at peace friends. Put a smile on someone's face when you can.

Much prayer, much blessing and much love. Penny

### **Friends of St. Clement's Church Lottery**

#### **March Winners**

£25 No. 44: Mrs M Gibson  
£10 No. 48: Mrs J Parker  
£ 5 No. 32: Mr & Mrs R Wall  
£ 5 No. 20: Mrs L Woodthorpe

### **FISKERTON LUNCH CLUB**

**Sadly, this is now cancelled until such time as diners are contacted to say it will be re-commencing.**

**The Ladies Breakfast:** The monthly Breakfast at the Rosie Lea Café has been suspended until further notice.

**Witham U3A:** This has been cancelled for 3 months,

**Fiskerton WI.** Monthly meetings have been suspended until further notice. Members will be contacted when it is felt safe to recommence. Please take care everyone.

#### **Fiskerton Gardening Club:**

We have had an excellent start to our garden club year with two excellent and well attended meetings, but we do not know what the Coronavirus outbreak has in store for us - but the Committee will let members know what is happening when we know ourselves.

#### **The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 20th April at 7.30 in the village hall**

**Our speaker is Robert Chapman, RHS Chelsea Gold Medalist** who will be introducing the wonderful world of Victorian Violas which give beauty and fragrance to the garden and on the patio or window boxes.

***We hope that the meeting will be able to go ahead but if it can't then the Committee will be in touch with members via the contact details they have given us.***

Keep safe and look after yourselves and others.



#### **Where Happy Children Learn**

**Is your child turning three before SEPTEMBER 2020?  
Are you looking for a caring and supportive Pre School?**

**We offer full day sessions as well as morning or afternoon sessions.  
Please come and have a look round our school and preschool classroom.**

**For more information contact us by Email: [enquiries@fiskerton.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@fiskerton.lincs.sch.uk)**

**Fiskerton Church of England Primary School, Ferry Road, Lincoln, LN3 4HU**

**FISKERTON SCHOOL Collective Act of Worship Council** would like to update you about our latest school value.

This term our value is **FORGIVENESS**. As well as learning about this in our collective worship we have learnt about this in our classrooms. 'forgive and you will be forgiven' Luke 6:37 is our quote of the term. We are making Lent boxes for the Lincoln Larder and we do this to help others who have less than we have.

The school council reports that this term we have celebrated world book day when we shared stories and dressed potatoes up. The winners of the completion were Harrison, Jasmine and Lexi. We also had a competition for 'Share a Story' and the winner was Katherine.

## **THE HODGSON TRUST**

**We are acutely aware that for many this is a really tough time in every way including financially. We can help.**

**The Hodgson Charity exists to support the people of Fiskerton who have hit hard times. If you need any help please make contact by emailing Revd Penny on [revdpg@virginmedia.com](mailto:revdpg@virginmedia.com)**

**OR**

**Ring 01522 595595**

**The help is confidential. We will need some proof that you live in Fiskerton (Council Tax Bill?) and some evidence of your need.**

**Let's look after one another!**

### **Fiskerton Village Hall needs your support**

The village hall is run by a management committee on behalf of the Parish Council. The committee meets monthly and is responsible for the day to day running of the hall, including managing bookings. Some members are retiring from positions on the committee after giving many years' service and we need new people to come forward.

There are many regular classes and groups that meet at the hall. If you attend any of these groups, please consider joining the committee in order to represent your group and to have your say on the future of the hall. To speak to someone about what being on the committee entails, please phone 07510 281232. We require members to sit on the committee and the following officers: Chairperson, Booking Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer

**At the time of writing, we will not be able to hold our AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> April at the Village Hall due to the coronavirus: a new date will be announced when we are able to go ahead.**

Most regular classes and groups are temporarily suspended. Please contact the organiser of your regular event regarding a new start date.

***Quiz night 4<sup>th</sup> April – cancelled.***

**District and Parish Councillor Chris Darcel writes.....**

If only we could see the future!

Covid 19. Who ever would have guessed that such a relatively mild infection could have had such a catastrophic worldwide personal and economic effect?

It is untrue to say the virus is mild for those who have caught the virus and died or for families who have lost a loved one but compared to my little knowledge of the 1918 epidemic I suggest we have got off lightly, and hopefully, very few who catch the virus will suffer long term effects or die. However, for large businesses of any kind the long term implications are profound and for all businesses, large, small and individuals the loss of cash flow could prove ruinous. Regardless of Government handouts. If you do not have the income to pay your rent or buy food at the end of the month what happens?

"Just in Time" makes it worse. Many businesses, manufacturing plants, schools, airlines and hospitals have adopted the "Just in Time philosophy". Even in the age of robots, manpower, bought in components, equipment, and materials have to be in the right place at exactly the minute they are needed. There is little or no spare capacity in the system. It is why major car plants are being shutdown. Long term they may survive but will their small subcontractors?

On Sunday I contacted members of the Parish Council for their views on postponing the Council meeting on Monday night. It would be inconvenient, as there are a number of issues that need resolving but health comes first. Several Parish Councillors, including myself are "at risk" individuals, as are our spouses, and several of the regular visitors to the Parish Council are in a similar position. Seeing that anyone could unknowingly be infectious and how easily the virus can hop from one individual to another we thought it safer to postpone the meeting and see just what we can achieve decision wise, by email or other means.

Why have I spent so much space on Covid 19? Because we are a small village with a high percentage of at risk individuals. You are at risk not just because of old age but from many underlying health problems too. One of my daughters works for a hospital in LA. They have just admitted their first patient. A young boy. Neither he nor his family have travelled and have no idea how he caught the infection. But he is classed as having "underling health problems" and is seriously ill.

Elsewhere in the newsletter others are suggesting ways we can all help those at risk to reduce contact with others. **My suggestion would be to phone a friend!** If you are sat at home and feeling lonely a phone call from someone you know to exchange a bit of gossip, or to see if you need anything from the shop can make a world of difference.

Dog Fouling. [www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/dogfoulingpspo](http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/dogfoulingpspo) WLDC has just started a Consultation on dog fouling. The suggestion is to raise fines to £100 and fine dog walkers who walk their dogs without the necessary poo bags with them. Please let WLDC know your views.

Lastly the Airfield. There are plans to extend the solar panels to both sides of Reepham Rd. Up to the existing hedge line. Consultations are planned so please make your opinion known.

If you have any comments or queries on any of the issues above, or any other West Lindsey issue please contact me Councillor Chris Darcel by email on [chris.darcel1@gmail.com](mailto:chris.darcel1@gmail.com)

Thank you.

**St. Clement's Church would like to thank Fiskerton WI for their kind donation towards the printing of the Newsletter. It is always appreciated.**

# **Fiskerton Parish Council**

(written 18 March 2020)

## **COVID-19**

The Parish Council have been in contact with local authorities requesting what advice we should be providing to residents. Up to now we are being told people should follow the advice provided by the government and that there is no additional advice to offer at a local level. We are creating a dedicated page on the village website and will post information on the village hall notice board as it becomes available.

## **COMMUNITY GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEMES**

We have noticed many people already setting up localised groups to help vulnerable neighbours. The Council fully supports this action and ask that if you are setting up a self-help organisation you inform us that you are doing so. Hopefully it won't become necessary but depending on how the situation develops we may offer to oversee and coordinate these voluntary actions to ensure none of our residents are left without assistance.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

We would like to thank all of you who completed the recent questionnaire, it has provided us vital information on how the residents wish the village to develop in the future. We are busy analysing the results and had planned to hold a public event in April, unfortunately this has had to be cancelled. We are keen to ensure the plan is progressed despite the challenges of COVID-19 and are looking for ways to provide residents with the results and an opportunity to comment on them before we embark on making the required amendments to the plan.

## **PLAYGROUND**

Last year we received reports of some of the equipment in the village hall play area being misused, especially by children climbing onto the roof of the covered bench. An insurance company would consider this misuse of the equipment and would prevent a successful claim if someone was to fall and be injured. The Council consider this an unacceptable risk and danger and if we continue to receive reports will have no option but to remove the equipment.

## **SPEED GUN**

We advertised last year for volunteers to assist in setting up a community hand held speed gun trial. We only received 3 volunteers which is insufficient to set up a trial. If you are able to donate a few hours a week to help out then please get in touch.

## **CONTACTING US**

You can contact the Parish Council by email using **[clerk@fiskerton-lincs.org.uk](mailto:clerk@fiskerton-lincs.org.uk)**

## **FISKERTON WEST SOLAR FARM**

The effects of climate change are being felt by everyone, but the way we generate power used in our homes and businesses can help to reduce this. Solar power is a form of renewable energy that is clean, safe and produces zero emissions in operation.

Grey Street Solar Ltd is seeking to develop a solar farm at the Former Fiskerton Airfield that will export just under 50MW of electricity, enough to power for nearly 11,000 homes per year and offset approximately 13,300 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, the equivalent of taking over 5,000 cars off the road.

Significant biodiversity enhancements will be made through the provision of species rich grassland across the site and additional hedgerow planting. Particular attention will be paid to the potential visibility of the proposal from surrounding villages and also along Reephams Road. Screening planting will be provided to minimise any views into the site.

As part of our community engagement programme we will provide further details on the proposals and ways local residents can have a say on the scheme

You can register your interest at [PlanningConsultations@thesiriusgroup.com](mailto:PlanningConsultations@thesiriusgroup.com) or 0113 264 9960

## **Cllr. Ian Fleetwood's brief: The latest on, what's happening in the public sector in Lincolnshire.**

### **Budget 2020 2021 highlights:**

Additional money will be invested in highways maintenance and flooding, with £14m of efficiency savings helping balance the budget.

Cllr Martin Hill, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, said: "We know that road repairs and flooding are a priority for many residents.

"So, despite the continued reduction in our main government grant, we'll be spending around £4m on extra highways gangs, who'll carry out additional maintenance across the county, including pothole repairs. "In addition, more than £2m will go towards extra drainage repairs and new flood-response equipment for Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue." £350,000 has been set aside for a 'green masterplan', with the council aiming to become carbon neutral by 2050 – or sooner if that's practicable."

There will be a 1.5% increase in general council tax, with a further 2% increase specifically for adult social care, giving an overall rise of 3.5%. That means Lincolnshire will continue to have one of the lowest council tax rates in the country.

This year, the council again faces significantly greater costs as a result of continued growth in demand for adult care services. Cllr Hill added: "Although it's an improving picture for council finances, there are still challenges ahead, particularly with regard to the ever-growing demand for adult care.

"The government has provided an additional £14m towards adults and children's social care this year, but we urgently need to see a long-term plan for dealing with an ageing population.

"It's vital this uncertainty over future funding is addressed so we can be sure that residents will continue to receive the best possible care.

"We'll also continue to push for fairer funding for Lincolnshire. It's long been recognised that rural areas like ours receive less than their fair share of Government money. It's time for that to be put right." <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3597/lcc-budget-speech-2020-pdf>

**Highway's Issues:** I have recently held a meeting with Highways Department, where I learnt that a new Area Highways Officer, Joe Phillips, has taken over the area. I have been assured that all issues will be carried forward, and also that "FixMyStreet" will be giving a better level of feedback to people posting areas of concern or need of attention. Simple issues are easily reported via this facility, but for more complex issues please contact me so that I can try to get a solution. [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)

### **Are you eligible for tax-free childcare?**

You can get up to £500 every three months for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. For every £8 you pay in, the government will automatically add £2, up to the value of £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children). To find out more, please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/how-to-use-tax-free-childcare/>

### **Healthwatch Lincolnshire seeks new Director/Trustees:**

Healthwatch Lincolnshire helps to improve local health services across Lincolnshire. They are now looking to recruit new Director/Trustees with a range of business skills to help realise their vision, growth plans and future sustainability. For more information or to have an informal chat please contact HWLincs Chief Executive Officer Sarah Fletcher by email [sarah@hwlincs.co.uk](mailto:sarah@hwlincs.co.uk) or telephone HWLincs main office on 01205 820892

**Thank you,**

**Ian Cllr. Ian Fleetwood**

**Bardney and Cherry Willingham division.**

**Email: [cllri.fleetwood@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllri.fleetwood@lincolnshire.gov.uk)**

**Fiskerton Newsletter:** Fiskerton Newsletter is provided by St. Clement's Church. It communicates local news and information and is not a vehicle for personal opinion. Items are accepted for review and evaluated for length, appropriateness and space in the current issue. The Editor, sometimes in consultation with the PCC, has the final decision on publication.

**NOTE: Items for the May edition MUST be with the Editor BEFORE**

**Saturday APRIL 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Items can be posted to Mrs L Forman, Applegarth, Ferry Rd. Fiskerton, Lincoln LN3 4HU or Tel. 01526 398316 or Email: [fiskertonnewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:fiskertonnewsletter@btinternet.com)

*Items arriving after this date cannot be guaranteed to be included .*

**During the difficult times of the Corvid 19 outbreak, Fiskerton Church plans to continue publishing a Newsletter each month. So please, if you have items, do carry on sending them - in the usual way.**