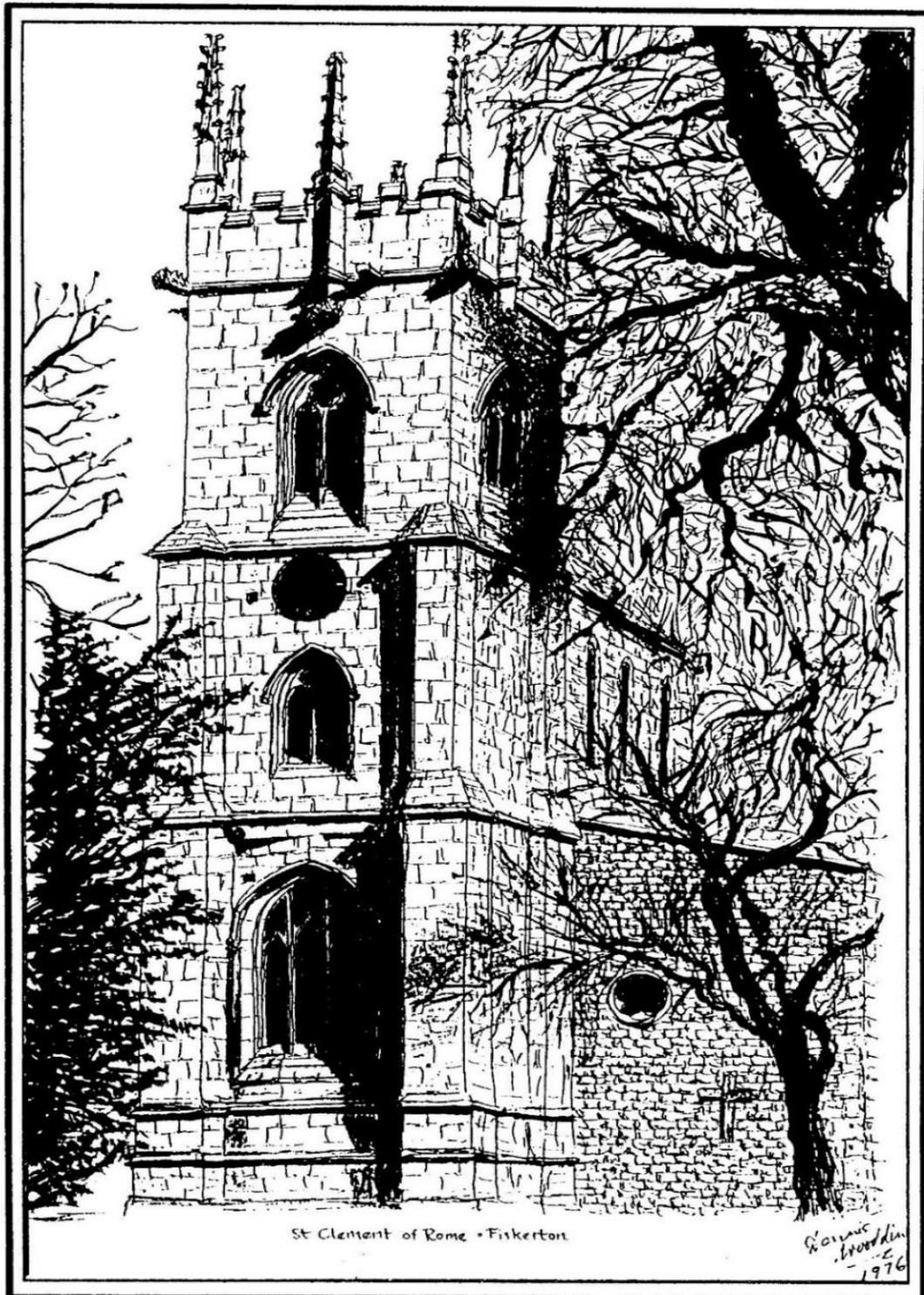


Fiskerton Parish News



February 2021

Vicar's Blog: February 2021

I said at the beginning of my January Blog that many of us would be pleased to see the back of 2020 – an ‘annus horribilis’ as the Queen once said..... and then 2021 started last week we saw the beginning of a new lockdown, Americans invading their Capitol Building and the President probably being impeached for the second time (I am writing this early in January). I guess we are watching this wondering what the rest of 2021 will bring – the overriding feeling for me is that we need to be watchful and patient. Patient about receiving a vaccine, patient about getting out and about, patient with those who provide services to us, patient with each other. In what has been a fast paced world we have become used to getting things quickly – and patience requires us to wait..... it is a gift that has become ‘counter cultural’ and that to some extent we need to re-learn. I am however mindful of those who don’t feel that they have much time to do what they have wanted to do – those who are desperate to see loved ones in nursing homes, those who have life limiting illness.....

When Paul wrote to the church in Galatia he spoke of a number of spiritual gifts and called them ‘the fruit of the Spirit’ – one of them was patience. The basic premise was that the Holy Spirit (God’s Spirit) grows those gifts in us if we allow Him too.... Other gifts are love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness..... there are more. But what is patience – well the dictionary defines it as *‘the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious’* – how well do you do by that definition in today’s circumstances?

There have been times in my life when I have been hugely impatient. Times when I have felt like I have banged my head against a wall for month upon month to try to make progress with something – and nothing has come of it; however, later things did work out and I think I recognised that actually if I had been patient, it would have been less stressful and wearing. It made me adopt a mantra that I use often: ‘timing is everything’ – sometimes things need to line up in a different way and being patient is what is needed. Being patient though doesn’t mean that you sit around doing nothing – it means you get on, prepare, grow as a person and learn to wait until the necessary things fall into place. In my world of faith, being patient means praying, waiting, growing in God and allowing Him to work things out. It builds trust and it builds faith.

I’ m praying for all our communities at this tough time. Please know that you are being prayed for. I too long for a brighter day when we can all gather together again in our communities. Until then, go well, stay safe and look after each other.

Every blessing

Penny

SERVICES in JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Once again, I am not in a position to plan very far ahead. Our church buildings are closed for public worship until February 16th and once the Govt reviews the current lockdown, we will review the position in the light of information we receive. In the meantime, you can find us at

www.facebook.com/SLBChurches

and

Youtube SLB Churches

Our website is www.slbchurches.org

Friends of St. Clement's Church Lottery: January Winners

£25 No: 16: Mr J Kettleborough

£10 No: 44: Mary Gibson

£ 5 No: 43: Mr K Townsend

£ 5 No: 37: Mrs M Cook

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Obituary. Stuart Goulding died on 12th. December 2020.

Stuart was born at The Post Office in Fiskerton on 15th. July 1947 to Joan and Geoff. He trained as a teacher at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire.

On 17th. July he married Carol Wells, who was also born in Fiskerton and they lived in Earl Shilton in Leicestershire for 15 years before returning to live at Corn Close, Fiskerton with their 3 sons.

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Hearts for Homes:

Just before Christmas our Wellbeing Council asked the whole school to make some 'Hearts for Homes'. We drew pictures and wrote messages on hearts that were delivered to the residents of a local care home. In the hope of spreading some joy and putting a smile on faces.



Christmas Treat Boxes

At the end of last term, the Collective Active Worship Council (CAW) delivered Christmas treat boxes to members of our community. We asked the children in school and Reverend Penny to nominate people who they felt deserved a treat, after the very difficult year we have had.

The children and their families were very generous in their donations of Christmas treats for the boxes, we even had some Christmas pudding tree decorations included. The CAW council would like to say a huge thank you to the children and their parents for their kind donations.

The recipients of our Christmas treat boxes were extremely grateful, we brightened their day! The CAW Council are going to continue to think about ways we can support the community during this very difficult time.

Councillor Darcel writes.....

What a New Year! Several residents have sadly died from Covid19 and several others have caught the virus and, fortunately, recovered. They say it is the most unpleasant experience you could imagine. My next door neighbour and good friend Frank Johnson was one of the residents who died. Frank and his wife had not lived in the village long but loved being here. As a Member of the Gardening Club, the Luncheon Club, the Church and the Fiskerton Hub Walking Group of which Frank was a founder member. Frank will be greatly missed by his neighbours, Cllr Hill, Pat and myself. Other residents who have similarly suffered from Covid 19 will have left fond memories for their families and friends but the extra grief caused by the pain and nature of their suffering will take a long time to fade.

Hopefully, things are changing. My wife, Pat, was “jabbed” at the Showground on Saturday. It was the first day of inoculations and at 4pm, everything was flowing smoothly. Some 40 people an hour were being inoculated. **Someone needs a big pat on the back for setting up the operation and for recruiting all the staff and organising the supplies.** It was a great relief to see my wife “jabbed” but it does not mean life is back to normal. Not a bit of it. Social distancing and wearing a mask must be the safest policy. As a farmers boy I witnessed “Foot and Mouth”, “Swine Fever” and “Fowl Pest” attack livestock and I can remember being surprised at how far the bugs could jump. As a non-expert observer, it would seem not visiting friends, shops or going to work or school is still the best way of staying safe. **It may not be fun but Zoom can help.** My seven year old twin grand children had a Zoom birthday party on Sunday and 20 family members celebrated the event. It was great fun watching the candles being blown out, the cutting of the cakes, admiring the presents and singing Happy Birthday.

“February Fill dyke” no longer applies. Just about any month in the year can see flooding way and above that which has occurred within living memory. In October, 2019, river levels at Five Mile Bridge were close to topping the bank and just this last week water levels have been nearly as high. It is lucky the repairs to the river bank were completed last November or we could have been in trouble. Residents south of Ferry Rd or the 5m contour line could do with a second tier of preventative protection now. In 1993 the drainage authorities had time to build a small bund around the southern perimeter of the village, but next time, if there was say a breach in the river bank, that time might not be available.

Planning Matters. As you know Cllr Hill is on the WLDC Planning Committee and this means she has to be guided by Planning Laws and Regulations and must be impartial and have an open mind when making a decision. If you are either for against an application I can make representations on your behalf. My success rate has not been good but I do try and my sympathy is for the residents who might see their enjoyment of their property spoilt by a development rather than for the developer. Cllr Hill is obliged to be unbiased.

Thank You. Cllr Hill and I would like to thank all the residents we see sticking to the Covid 19 rules when out exercising in the village. Without this restraint it is likely far more residents would have been affected.

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 on 01522 750411 or by email on chris.darcel1@gmail.com or simply knock on my door at No 3 Holmfield or phone Councillor Cherie Hill on 01522 751245 or cheriehill@btinternet.com.

FISKERTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – FEBRUARY 2021

Update from the Parish Council's meeting held on 11th January 2021:

FINANCE

Payments were made in Nov and Dec 2020 of £3933.37 including VAT.
Receipts came in over the same period of £1399.59

January accounts are to be paid of £1075.60 including VAT.

A final precept demand for 2021 – 22 will be placed upon WLDC of £23,970.00 – this being a 2% increase on the previous financial year.

With the receipt of the External Auditor's report for 2019 -20; the audit process for that year is now completed.

COMMUNICATION:

We have a brand-new website, which is hosted by Lincolnshire County Council. It can be accessed via <https://fiskerton.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/> We are still in the process of completing the transfer of information from the old to the new website so, in the immediate future, you will still be able to access some Parish Council information on both sites. *Please note that any parish council information from January 2021 will only be available on the new website.*

Many Lincolnshire Parish Councils have been helped in setting up their websites by a local volunteer with relevant knowledge and experience. In acknowledgement of his help, many parish councils are making a donation to a cause of the volunteer's choosing – therefore; we will be donating £50 to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

A new noticeboard is to be purchased to replace the existing one by the village hall car park entrance.

VILLAGE HALL

We are paying for some repairs to be carried out on the village hall roof whilst grant funding continues to be pursued for the larger body of work.

Village Hall wall repairs – an order has been placed to repair the wall on both sides of the car park entrance.

STREETLIGHTS

Following a resident's complaint that streetlights were being turned off too early, County Councillor Fleetwood has advised that lights go off around midnight; and that the twice yearly clock changes; and power cuts/lightening can affect the sensors; although these do adjust in due course to the correct switch off time.

Michelle Vail

Parish Clerk

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

Wishing you all a Safe & Back to Normal New Year ASAP.

Covid-19 vaccination update:

As you will be aware, the NHS coronavirus vaccination programme is now underway. The excitement around this and media reporting has understandably created many queries from people who want to know when they will be vaccinated. This is the start of the biggest immunisation programme in history, so will take some time to roll out. The County Council are working with NHS colleagues to plan the roll out of this programme, focused on specific eligible groups in the first instance. This is based on Government guidance and the best available evidence, in order to prioritise the prevention of Covid-19 mortality and the protection of health and social care staff and systems. As soon as more details are available you will be notified, but in the meantime we would like to reassure you that you will be contacted when it's the right time to come forward, so please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine before then. Please act on your invitation when it comes, and make sure you attend your appointments when you arrange them. You will need your NHS number to access the vaccination. This can be found on letters from the hospital or GP as well as on prescriptions. If you don't have it to hand, please phone your GP surgery. The County Council would also urge you to continue to abide by all the social distancing and hand hygiene guidance to save lives.

Our Council Services:

- Our Core Services - Adult Social Care and Children's Services - are operating as usual, but in slightly different ways.
Our Day Centres are open, but for priority groups only and visits for priority clients. Staff will continue to make visits – but will wear PPE and have the necessary safeguards in place.
- Support Services are also still available for victims of Domestic Abuse.
- As I'm sure you've seen in the news, all Primary and Secondary Schools in the County have closed to all pupils except children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. These groups will still be entitled to Free School Meals, if transport to school is essential, then this can be booked through our website. Those children no longer at school will move to remote learning until at least the middle of February. Any children who can't access laptops or tablets for online learning should contact their school who will ensure they are provided.
- In the Community, our fire crews are ready and standing by to respond to incidents and support other services in the County where needed. We will continue to do 'safe and well' checks for our most vulnerable residents and will make safety visits to commercial premises which we think are necessary.
- Our Household Waste Recycling Centres are open as usual – just remember you have to book a timeslot via our website. If you have a van or a larger trailer, we are also continuing to process permit applications.
- Our 15 core libraries across the County will be open for click and collect services only and online provision, and our mobile services will provide that much needed lifeline of books and magazines to our shielding residents, to reassure those who have current loans – these will be extended until February.
- Just as during the previous lockdowns, our highways crews will still be out maintaining and improving our roads as normal, including gritting roads and repairing potholes. And, where it is safe to do so, work will continue on our major development project and road building schemes around the County.

Our Work with Partners:

- The return of shielding for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV), our Public Health and Emergency Planning Teams are continuing to work with Partners at the Resilience Forum to help get residents the support they need. A shielding letter will be sent out to those residents in the CEV category. I would urge all who receive one to follow the instructions and

register their information on the National Shielding Support System so they can access priority shopping slots and other help available. If residents need support doing this, please remember our Covid-19 Helpline: 01522 782189, which is available 7 days a week.

- Unpaid carers providing vital support for a family member can also access support and details are available on our website or on the above number.
- Our staff are also working hard supporting the delivery of the Covid-19 Vaccine, and the roll out of further testing in our area.
- We know with another Lockdown, many residents' businesses will have been affected, Business Lincolnshire can help support businesses to operate within government guidance or to access financial support or grants if needed.

LNER Train Services:

Network Rail planned engineering works taking place along our route to deliver the East Coast Upgrade in January and February. There will be significant disruption for an extended nine-day period with very limited train services running between Peterborough and Grantham from Saturday 16 to Sunday 24 January 2021. During this period, we are advising customers not to travel north of Peterborough. In addition, there will be engineering works taking place over the weekend of Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 January and again from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 February. During these weekends we are advising customers not to travel to or from London as there will be no trains in or out of London King's Cross Station or to or from London St Pancras via Finsbury Park. These works are the latest part of the East Coast Upgrade, the ongoing £1.2bn Network Rail investment into the East Coast Main Line that will improve capacity, create faster journeys and increase reliability on long-distance train services.

The Energy Super Savers Challenge – Part of Big Energy Saving Winter:

This year, the Big Energy Saving Winter campaign is running the exciting Energy Super Savers challenge which launched in December until **31st January 2021**.

We are asking people to help their friends, family or neighbours save money and keep their homes warm this winter by pledging to become an Energy Super Saver. After someone pledges to become an Energy Super Saver using [this form](#), they will be sent all the tools they need to make a big difference and help others to switch their energy supplier or tariff.

Sign up now with a chance to win and help someone save money on their Energy Bills!

<https://bigenergysavingwinter.org.uk/help-others-save/>

Keep promoting and maintaining the: "Hands, Face, Space" guidance.

Thank you

Ian Cllr. Ian Fleetwood

Bardney and Cherry Willingham division.

Tel: 07921 161113 or Email: cllri.fleetwood@lincolnshire.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER DETAILS:

The Newsletter and Adverts also run on the Parish Website site so that people can log in, read the Newsletter and find advertisers' details. The Link is <http://fiskerton-lincs.org.uk/the-village/parish-newsletters>

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.

Items for the March edition must be in BEFORE Thursday February 18th.

Items can be posted to Mrs L Forman, Applegarth, Ferry Rd. Fiskerton, Lincoln LN3 4HU or

Tel. 01526 398316 or Email: fiskertonnewsletter@btinternet.com

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