

Oh No It Isn't ... Panto on hold till 2022

It is with regret that Ashover Village Pantomime will not take place in January 2021 due to Covid-19. Please look forward to Cinderella Panto in 2022. You shall go to the ball - but not just yet.

KEEP SAFE, We will be back!
Thinking of you all, Rosemary Early

Moving On

Our newspaper and TV screens have shown pictures of empty town centres and full beaches, especially during the scorching days of this year's summer. Our countryside has also been fuller than usual with car parks in the Peak District filling up even in mid week. Our local paths have been busy and now we can walk in socially distanced groups Ashover's Tuesday morning walkers have started up again.

Bassett Rooms

We are all hankering to get back to some activities in the Bassett Rooms and hopefully this will be possible very soon once the risk assessment has been completed. Each group will need to complete their own risk assessment, keep a list of participants for contact information and may need to adapt their activities to keep safe.

The bookings manager for the Bassett Rooms will email all groups once the conditions for use are known but hopefully we shall soon have calendars filling up again.

Tearfund's Big Quiz Night

For the last couple of years teams in Ashover have competed in Tearfund's the Big Quiz Night on a Saturday in November in the Bassett Rooms. This year Tearfund are organising this for Saturday 14th November - it will still go ahead but in a different way due to the pandemic. We know it will be on-line and more details will be available next month.

Meanwhile - at last - something to put in your diary!

Church Home Group Zooms Away

We have been meeting 'virtually' every Thursday evening via Zoom since lockdown began. Initially we completed our Lent Studies and have continued since by considering 'Questions Jesus Asked.' We have also enjoyed a quiz evening and since the easing of lockdown restrictions we have split into smaller groups to meet once a month in the gardens of people's homes. We mix the groups up each time so we see different people.

We have settled well into using Zoom and appreciate our fellowship in this limited way, but look forward to when we can meet in people's homes again!

David Russell

Back to School Time

We wish everyone a safe and happy return to school. Well done all parents and children who have been home-schooling over so many past months and well done all those school staff who have been backing them up while keeping the schools open for the children of essential workers - Thank You!

You can view this **amber news** on the **amber churches** website and there are free printed copies in churches and local shops. If you would like a copy delivered, please let us know and we will try to oblige. Send news for inclusion in next month's issue to info@amberchurches.org.



amber news

For the amber churches of
Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington
working and playing together, with God, for people
September 2020

Church Services in September

Sunday 6th September

9.15 am	Brackenfield	Morning Worship
10.45 am	Ashover	Holy Communion

Sunday 13th September

9.15 am	Wessington	Morning Worship
10.45 am	Ashover	Family Holy Communion
10.45 am	Handley	Morning Worship

Sunday 20th September

10.45 am	Ashover	Holy Communion
3.00 pm	Brackenfield	Harvest Festival

Sunday 27th September

10.45 am	Ashover	Holy Communion
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(Please use a face covering inside church buildings.)

Saying Goodbye

It is nearly time to say Goodbye to our Rector Ralph Lawrence and his wife Sue. Ralph will be retiring at the end of September after 16 years serving the four parishes of Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington. The Ministry Team and church wardens are stepping into the breach until another rector is appointed; they are beginning to realise just how much Ralph has had to do to look after our churches and communities.

Bishop David Hawtin said at Ralph's induction service that Ralph was quiet and humble, "which he has proved to be in his time with us. We have found him to be conscientious, faithful, determined and devoted in his calling to serve us all" commented one couple while someone else felt drawn to "mention Ralph's very kind, sensitive, meaningful and memorable funeral services. I haven't been to any, anywhere, that have meant as much to me as those he has held."

We all have our memories and reasons to be grateful for Ralph's considerate and gentle ways. In these times we will not be able to have a large scale farewell event but this does not mean we are any the less appreciative of his service to us.

Thank you, Ralph and Sue.



Contact Information

Rector: The Revd Ralph Lawrence 01246 590246
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Holy Trinity Brackenfield Warden: Nigel Rogers 01773 836137
St Mark's Church Handley Warden: Fran Roberts 01246 865389
Christ Church Wessington Warden: Rita Buckley 01773 835 633

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The Rector Writes ...

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago Sue and I were going through some old stuff, what to keep and what to throw away. It wasn't a job either of us enjoyed but it was necessary, so as not to clutter our new home with bits and pieces that we no longer require.



When the job was done we both let out a sigh of relief.

Later and content in the knowledge that a job that needed doing was complete I spied upon a white butterfly, regarded by many a gardener as a nuisance, on account that as a caterpillar it has a penchant for cabbage leaves. But, at that moment, and since I cannot claim to be a gardener, I could only see a creature of beauty perching effortlessly on a plant which swayed in the breeze.

The sight of that delicate creature was quite a contrast to the dreary interior of the rectory loft. There seemed to be nothing in common. But then I thought perhaps there is.

The butterfly hadn't always been a creature of beauty. It had begun life as a caterpillar, turned into a chrysalis and emerged from that latent state to become a new creature. In a word that insect had metamorphosed. It had undergone an irreversible change.

Change for the butterfly had been a choreographed affair, nature having meticulously orchestrated the event with precision timing. A miracle of the natural world, and one we often take for granted. But it is not only insects that change, people change too.

As you probably already know I shall be retiring at the end of September. "Time flies when you are having fun" and our time in Ashover has certainly flown by. Ministry provides many opportunities and one has been the people we have met. Together we have changed. To put it bluntly we have all grown older, if not wiser. But there is more to change than the obvious signs.

St. Paul also had something to say about change. In his letter to the Christians in Corinth he spoke about people becoming new creatures. He said: "If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old has gone; the new has come!" What he meant by this is that as we become creatures with faith a change begins to occur in us. And that change grows the more we trust God for his reconciling love wrought through his Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sue and I will be leaving the benefice in October.

With every good wish,

Ralph

From the Registers

ASHOVER

Wedding

Rebekah Hill & Peter Ford.

Service at Ashover on 4th September at 12.30pm

ACMs and Wardens

The Annual Church Meetings for all four churches, delayed from April, have now taken place and wardens and PCC members have been chosen.

John Phillips and Nev Stanley continue as church wardens at Ashover, Nigel Rogers and Jane Steeper at Brackenfield, Fran Roberts at Handley and Rita Buckley at Wessington.

Wessington Church Go to Market

Things are getting started again at Wessington: the Church held their first service since lockdown on 30th August and a P.C.C will be held on the 3rd September.

Christ Church had been feeling the pinch financially, especially as the well dressing had to be cancelled this year, so we took up Barry Lewis's kind offer of a stall at the Wessington Farmer's market recently. Quantities of jam were made and we arrived with these and a folding gazebo. Our valiant struggles to erect the gazebo were watched with such sympathy (and amusement) that Barry Lewis suggested we apply for a grant from the Community Activity fund of

Derbyshire County Council for an easy to put up, pop-up gazebo. The grant has been gratefully received and new gazebo purchased!

We raised £275 at the market and a sale of plants at a church member's

house added to that making £850.

The next Farmer's Market will be on 19th September from 9 am to 2 pm and will be held in the orchard at Amber Valley Wines, Wessington. For details see www.ambervalleywines.co.uk.



Rita Buckley

Bellringing News

It is with great sadness that we are reporting that one of our ringers, Brenda Johnson, died on 17th August after becoming seriously ill earlier in the summer. Brenda was instrumental in maintaining a presence in the belfry in 2011 after the previous leader left the area, and she continued to be one of our most loyal members. We shall all miss her, not only as a ringer, but also as a good friend, and our sympathy goes out to Gordon and the rest of her family.

On a brighter note, we have resumed Sunday ringing in a limited way, within the strict rules dictated by the Covid crisis. We have received positive comments from some members of the public and appreciate that very much. We look forward to the time when we can once more ring unfettered by the present limitations and also be able to resume our weekday practices.

Jim Heading

Services with a Difference

Services have now been held in all four churches with social distancing rules observed and masks being worn. Though singing is not allowed we hum along to some beautiful recorded hymns. It is good to be back! For those still having to isolate a sheet of bible readings and thoughts are circulated weekly among church members by email. For a copy email info@amberchurches.org



Harvest Time

Harvest services come round soon but this year will be different. One suggestion is for everyone to send in a photograph/s of their stunning garden produce or of something in nature which has made them stop and stare in admiration. Anyone can send a photo to info@amberchurches.org and we will publish it or include it in a display in a church. Let's celebrate nature's beauty and harvest together.