

# Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairs Report Winter 2021

## Be Kind - a wish for Pucklechurch 2022

As 2021 begins to draw to a close and elements of our lives are beginning to have some nod towards normality, I thought it might be appropriate to reflect upon and thank all the people in our community that have continued to help make Pucklechurch a great place to live, work and play. It's easy to get drawn into shouting about the things we don't like but we should all take time to think about the things we can really appreciate too. I am particularly aware of, and grateful for, all the charitable and community work our residents get involved with, much of which goes under the radar. If ever there was a time that we need to be kinder to one another and ourselves it is now. Several organisations up and down the country have been running 'kindness' campaigns - in fact one organisation found that 63% of UK adults agree that when people are kind it has a positive impact on their mental health (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/kindness/kindness-matters-guide>). There have been many acts of kindness which have helped Pucklechurch to be a happier place for people and especially during the pandemic - let's make 2022 an even kinder and happier year too.

## Eagle Crescent Play Area

One of the planning conditions attached to the development of new builds at The Moorings and Cable Close required the developer to make funds available for 'off-site provision and/or enhancement of provisions for children and young people' in an area relatively close to the site. This formed part of something called a 's106 agreement' and in this respect the purpose of one element of the funding was to enhance the overall play experience at Eagle Crescent and bring new life to this playground for the benefit of the community. Parish Council has applied to access these s106 funds to enable these improvements, just as it did earlier this year with regard to money that was available to improve our allotments. As well as applying to access the funds, a detailed project management plan has been produced, as well as tender documentation.

The objectives of this project are:

- To provide a more appealing play area for youngsters to have fun, meet friends and play and be happy in their local neighbourhood.
- To make the play area more inclusive.
- To attract new participants and widen participation.
- To provide a more appealing social space to help grow a sense of community spirit and address loneliness and isolation.

Council is aware that the play area sits within a residential area, and so the project recognises that the site is not suitable for louder activities such as skateboarding, campfires or den building or those where youngsters can congregate unsupervised. New provision is being targeted for the under 9s for

daytime use where play can be supervised, and people can socialise and meet others with children. The existing play equipment will be incorporated within a redesigned and refreshed playground, but none of what is being proposed will be delivered without a programme of community engagement that will help inform the final decision-making process undertaken by the Council. If all goes to plan and our application for the funding is successful, work will be completed by October 2022.

## Website & Community News

A major undertaking for the Council was realised earlier this year when it launched its brand-new website at [www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk). The website provides not only the most up to date information about the work of the council but also links to other useful community resources and electronic copies of Pucklechurch News. There is also a dedicated NEWS tab where we endeavour to publish news items relating to, for example, road closures, consultations, and events and wherever possible we also highlight these via our Facebook page too. The range of items we publish is really varied and I would recommend regularly logging on to see what's new.

## Passionate about Pucklechurch?

Council is still looking to co-opt new councillors - could it be you? Are you looking for an opportunity to make a real difference to our community? All sorts of people become councillors with a broad spread of ages and a wide variety of backgrounds and occupations. What generally drives people is being able to influence decisions for the benefit of others and seeing their community change for the better as a result of decisions they have helped to make. We have published a short guide on our website about what's involved and how you could play a role in being a councillor today and having a say in what happens tomorrow. ([https://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk/Your\\_Councillors\\_33805.aspx](https://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk/Your_Councillors_33805.aspx)). If you are interested please contact our Clerk or contact me for a no-obligation chat about what's involved.

And finally...

It falls to me to offer Season's Greetings to you on behalf of the Council and to wish you a very Happy (and healthy) New Year!

Gail Boyle  
Chair PPC



# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



WINTER 2021

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL  
[www.pucklechurch.org](http://www.pucklechurch.org)



## St. Thomas a Becket Church, Pucklechurch

**1st Sunday in Month** - Morning Prayer 10a.m.  
2/3/4th Sunday 10a.m. Family Communion

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Sunday 19th December** 10a.m. Carol Service  
Readings and Carols

**Friday 24th December** - Christmas Eve Crib  
Service suitable for the very young and old alike

**Saturday 25th December** - Christmas Day Family  
Communion

**Sunday 26th December** - Morning Prayer

## St. James the Great, Abson

**1st Sunday in Month** - 3.30p.m. Evensong

**3rd Sunday in Month** - 9.30a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday 19th December** 3p.m. - Carol Service  
**Christmas Day 9.30a.m.** - Holy Communion

Whilst we are without a Vicar at the moment all services are continuing as usual with help from retired clergy.

Baptism and Wedding enquiries to Mrs. Elizabeth Webb tel: 0117 9372516

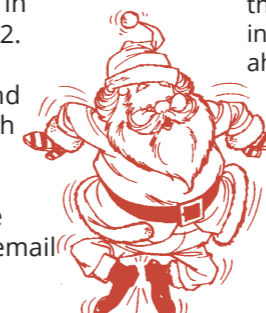
Or email [Elizabethwebb2516@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabethwebb2516@gmail.com)

Masks must be worn at all Church Services.

## Village Trips

A big thank you to everyone who supported our first two village trips. Look out for information in the next Pucklechurch News and on posters in the new year about our trips in 2022.

We will be starting again in April and we plan to organise one each month with the last one being in October. If you wish to join our group email or require more information please contact Elaine on 01179373105 or email [elaiejstone15@gmail.com](mailto:elaiejstone15@gmail.com)



## PUCKLECHURCH REVEL RETURNS IN 2022!

*Hello Pucklechurch, hope you are all well?*

**After a two-year break, we are all excited for next year's Revel events.**

We have started fundraising already and started our year off with a fantastic Harvest Auction which we held jointly with Pucklechurch Cricket Club and Pucklechurch Football Club. We were lucky to raise over £1200 between us.

A huge thank you goes to the organising committee of Kelly Carter-Brown, Sarah Hedges and Adam Hathway as well as all the lovely businesses and people who took their time to come and more importantly, donated to us.

We will be running the Harvest Auction again jointly in 2022, so please get in contact if you would like to help or donate!

We have lots of things happening over the coming weeks and months in the lead up to the finale in June 2022.

### Light up Pucklechurch

This hugely popular event is back with a twist. Along with the usual light displays this year we are also asking for villagers to make Advent Windows with a Christmas theme. There will be someone around to take a picture and we will run a Facebook poll for the winner. There will also be a small prize for the winner.

### Bob Todd Memorial Race night

Children's race night with wooden horses and moderate stakes. Dates and time to be confirmed

### Revel Jubilee Disco

On Saturday 4th June we will be holding a family night for the Revel King and Queen as well as an event in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee of 70 years on the throne.

### Revel Quiz Night

Annual Quiz night to be held at the PCA Social Club.

### Beer and Cider Festival

This will be held on June 17th and 18th on the Recreation field. Tickets are to go on sale in May.

### Revel Day

June 18th all day on Pucklechurch Recreation Field

The Theme is to be decided. The Parade will start at 11:30 with the arena events starting from midday to 6pm. We will also be incorporating the plans we had for VE day 2020 which could not go ahead due to the national lockdown

Local and business stalls welcome

If you are interested in any of these events either through volunteering for the committee, or you would like a stall for Revel or even to attend, please contact Revel on [Pucklechurch.Revel@gmail.com](mailto:Pucklechurch.Revel@gmail.com), Facebook - Pucklechurch Revel or ring 07789707278.

## GIRL GUIDING IN PUCKLECHURCH



1st Pucklechurch Guides began the autumn term having fun pitching tents in readiness for a weekend camp with Guides from six other local units, a total of almost 100 girls, and 20 leaders. The weather was mostly dry and warm with plenty of new activities to try – lighting fires with flints and cooking on them, whittling wooden woggles, geocaching, fencing, bracelet making, mosaic tile coasters, and a rousing campfire on Saturday evening. They also took part in camp duties such as helping serve meals and washing up plus traditional flag break ceremonies.

A first for all our Guides was sleeping in tents with their friends. It's hard to keep quiet and go to sleep when it's all so exciting. But it makes you tired the next day! However, the experience earned the girls their Camp Skills Badge.

Next, time to do something for others – filling shoeboxes for the annual Samaritans Purse appeal. These will be distributed to children who will receive nothing else at Christmas. A strict contents list must be adhered to in order to comply with customs and acceptability in various countries.



1st Pucklechurch Rainbows have got off to a flying start as we reopened this November! The girls have been busy making friendship bracelets, created Poppy canvases for a church Remembrance display, along with poppy hair clips for the girls to wear. We were welcomed to join the Chipping Sodbury Remembrance parade. We've been on a local walk where we collected items for the girls to make their own hedgehog

houses!

We've also made bird food and talked about helping the animals during the autumn and winter months. We are looking forward to working towards our Rainbow promise and our enrolment ceremony over the next few weeks. We do still have spaces and Izzy and I would welcome girls aged between 5-7 to come along.

*Charlie Thomas and Izzy McCarthy*

## GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Over the summer months, the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have continued to help residents with a number of tasks. We've helped with some garden 'blitzes' - spending a couple of hours weeding and generally tidying up gardens. We've also continued to provide telephone company to several people and helped others with simple household tasks such as putting out bins and recycling, picking up prescriptions, shopping and helping resolve technical issues with computers and printers. It's been a busy and productive few months since restrictions have been lifted and we would like to thank all our volunteers for giving up their time, being at the end of the phone or email and helping out. This scheme would not be able to run without the goodwill of people within our community.

If you think you or someone you know would benefit

from our help with such things as putting out bins, simple household tasks or company, please contact us. Remember that if your regular helpers have to self-isolate or become unwell we may be able to help whilst they are unable to do so. If this is the case, please contact us to see if we have volunteers who can help you.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, please get in touch. You decide how much time you give and what types of tasks you'd like to help with, and everything we do is local.

You can contact us on 07961 939574 or by emailing [goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org](mailto:goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org). If you leave a message on the phone or email we'll reply within 24 - 48 hours.

You can also find more details are on our website at [http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good\\_neighbours.htm](http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm)

## Emersons Green Library

### Opening Hours over Christmas:

Emersons Green library's last staffed day before Christmas is Friday 24th December, closing at 1pm.

There will be no staffed hours between 25th – 29th December but for details of how to renew or reserve over the Seasonal period or for seasonal Open Access hours see [www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries)

Thursday 30th December: open 10am – 5.30pm

Friday 31st December: open 10am – 5pm

No staffed hours 1st – 3rd January then the usual staffed opening hours resume.

### Seasonal Children's Activities

We have FREE Christmas activity packs for children to collect and do at home. Just pop along to any of the libraries on a staffed day between 4th – 24th December to collect yours!

### Library Extension

To see the plans of extension and add your comments visit <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/EmersonsGreenLibrary>.

### Digital Champion

Our Digital Champion is back to help with your IT queries. To book a FREE one hour session please ask in the library or email [emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk)

If you are lucky enough to get a new laptop, tablet or smartphone for Christmas why not try our FREE e-books, e-audiobooks, E-newspapers, e-magazines and e-comics? More details at [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk) (library card number & PIN required).

## Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to [editor@pucklechurch.org](mailto:editor@pucklechurch.org) or drop them off at 34 Hawthorn Close. Please include your name and telephone number in case we have questions about your article. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We cannot be responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication.

### Copy Deadlines:

**10th February for March Edition (Spring)**

**10th May for June Edition (Summer)**

**10th August for September Edition (Autumn)**

**10th November for December Edition (Winter)**

**10th February for March Edition (Spring)**

## GARDENER'S CLUB



We had a great turn out for our first club meeting, the AGM, followed by an amusing gardening story told by George Alway.

This was followed with the monthly competition, "A vase of cut flowers from your garden" which was won by Rosemary Cummins.

The November meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November had to be changed at the last minute when our guest speaker, Fiona Warin, had to cancel. A quick call to George saved the evening. George demonstrated how to make a spring tub, which he layered with tulips, daffodils and crocuses, and afterwards gave as a raffle prize. The competition of 'Hedgerow leaves & berries' was won by Elisabeth Heal.

Our December meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th December, when Karen Beasley will show us how to make a seasonal basket, and quiz. This will be followed by our Christmas cheese & wine supper and will end our meetings for 2021.

Our New Year meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022, when Sally Oates will talk about 'Plants to encourage wildlife in the garden'

St Aldams Farm, Kemps Garden Centre & Elmwood Nursery offer members 10% discount on plants when membership card is presented

Contacts: Jean Powell 01454528066 Val Seaman 01179372095 or Ann Smith 01179372030

Club News 2021 contact: [sallie61@me.com](mailto:sallie61@me.com)

## VOTO

For those of you who are new to the village, VOTO is a group for single people over the age of 50. It has been running for over 10 years and we have enjoyed numerous events. These have included days out, holidays in this country and abroad, meals in pubs and restaurants, walks, visits to places like the Old Vic and Thornbury Castle, get togethers in the social club with fish and chips and American lunches and suppers and tenpin bowling.

We are changing things in the new year, and we have formed a new committee. There will be a one-off joining fee of £5. For more informative contact

Elaine on 01179373105 or email [elainejstone15@gmail.com](mailto:elainejstone15@gmail.com)

