

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM EAST HERTS SIGN UP NOW

FOR GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE FROM 1 APRIL 2021
GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS WILL BE A CHARGEABLE SERVICE
SIGN UP BY 22 MARCH BY DIRECT DEBIT AND QUALIFY FOR OUR EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!
£45 FOR THE YEAR INSTEAD OF £49

Why we have introduced this charge?

Like all councils, East Herts is facing financial challenges. We need to find ways to save money or generate income to bridge the £4 million gap in our finances. The council no longer receives money from the government known as the Revenue Support Grant to support the delivery of its services to our residents. In addition, the impact of the pandemic has worsened this financial position. We have looked at all of our services to see where we could spend less or do things differently. Waste and recycling is the single largest area where we spend millions of pounds, and the garden waste service is a large portion of that service which we do not legally have to deliver. We still believe this to be a convenient and cost effective way of disposing of your garden waste.

For more information about the garden waste service please visit

www.eastherts.gov.uk/gardenwaste

How to sign up

The quickest and easiest way to sign up is online.

Visit our website www.eastherts.gov.uk/gardenwaste and follow our step by step guide on how to subscribe.

- The '21/22 annual charge for the garden waste service is £49.
- Sign up by Direct Debit by 22 March to ensure you claim the reduced rate of £45 (this offer applies to online sign ups only).
- You can select to pay for more than one collection. Each further collection will be £49 for each additional bin for up to three brown bins.
- Please note that additional bins will also need to be ordered at a delivery cost of £35 per bin, and may take 4-6 weeks to be delivered.
- You will need to pay by debit or credit card. Please note we can't accept cash or cheque payments for the service.

By signing up by 22 March you will see no break in your collection service. Once you have subscribed you will then continue to receive garden waste collections fortnightly for 12 months until 31 March 2022, on the same day as your current brown bin collection. If you do not subscribe your brown bin collections will stop by 31 March 2021.



MARCH 2021

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCILLORS



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PARISH CLERK
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Write to : 9 Church Cottages
Gilston, Herts CM20 2RH



ERIC BUCKMASTER
07578 17030
EAST HERTS –
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
For District Councillor matters
contact:
eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk
HERTFORDSHIRE - COUNTY
COUNCILLOR
For County Councillor matters

COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Cllr Orson – Neighbourhood Planning Group
- Cllr Bryant – Neighbourhood Planning Group & Village Hall Management Committee
- Cllr Jones – Parish Paths
- Cllr Wightwick – Highways

contact:
eric.buckmaster@hertfordshire.gov.uk

USEFUL WEB SITES:

EASTWICK & GILSTON PARISH COMMUNITY WEB SITE:

eastwickandgilston.org.uk

HUNSDON EASTWICK & GILSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP WEB-SITE: hegnp.org.uk - For all regular updates and information from the group you can subscribe to the mailing list at this link: <https://tinyletter.com/gilston>.

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GILSTON AND EASTWICK VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair/ Holding Trustee: Mrs Katie Spencer 07887515608

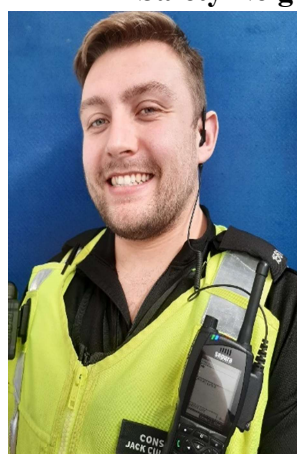
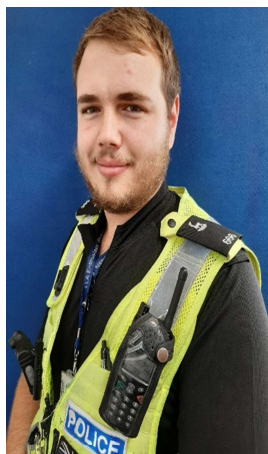
V Chair/ Holding Trustee: Mrs Keith Harvey 01279 410435

Treasurer: Mr Trevor Brown 01279 423676

For any bookings and queries about the Village Hall please contact Mrs Katie Spencer the Chair on mrskspencer@gmail.com or phone 07887515608.

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LOCAL POLICE: HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY Safety Neighbourhood Team



Pc Wenham

Pc Culverhouse

Pcs0 De Bruyn

Covering Parishes:

Anstey, Meesden, Hormead, Hare Street, Brent Pelham, Stocking Pelham, Furneux Pelham, Albury, Little Hadham, Much Hadham, Widford, Hunsdon, Wareside, Eastwick & Gilston

Telephone no. 01992 533327

Emergency no: 999

Non emergency call: 0845 3300 222

Telephone no: 0845 3300 222 or 01992 533 160 / 01992 533 115

E-mail: Nicola.hunt@herts.pnn.police.uk

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FAULTY ROAD SURFACE?



To help us keep Hertfordshire's roads up to scratch we need YOU to let us know when things are not right! So whether it's a pothole, pavement problem, faulty streetlight, icy road or any other highway fault, go to: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults or call: 03001234047 Customer Call Centre – Hertfordshire Highways Fault line.

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021 – 8.00PM**

WILL BE THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

(This is meeting of the electorate and not a Parish Council meeting but is hosted by them).

FOLLOWED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL'S BUSINESS MEETING.

DUE TO CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES THIS MEETING WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING AND WILL BE HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM. IF RESIDENTS WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE THE MEETING AND/OR TAKE PART IN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SECTION AT THE START OF THE MEETING PLEASE LET THE PARISH CLERK KNOW ON THE DAY SO THAT RELEVANT DETAILS CAN BE PASSED ONTO YOURSELF.

CHRISTINE LAW

PARISH CLERK

01279 411646

christine.law2@btinternet.com

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DRAFT MINUTES

Parish Council meeting of Monday 11th January 2021 at 8.03pm. Due to the current government regulations the Parish Council is unable to hold Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall. This meeting was held remotely using Zoom.

PRESENT: Cllr Baxter, Beazley, Bryant, Harvey, Jones, Orson, Wightwick

In attendance: Eric Buckmaster (District & County Councillor)(his report is Appendix 1), Christine Law (Parish Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) No members of the public were present.

BUSINESS MEETING STARTED AT 8.30pm

67) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a. PCSO Leon DeBruyn. PCSO's – He is not able to join us on our zoom meeting, but he has reported that has nothing new to report to us.

68) COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- a. Cllrs. Beazley & Wightwick declared an interest in New Homes Bonus item 77 a) Play Equipment proposal and 77 b) Notice Board for Terlings Park as they are Terlings Park Management Company directors and Terlings Park residents.

69) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- a. The minutes of the 9th of November 2020 Business Meeting were proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Baxter.

70) ACCOUNTS

- a. Clerks summary of Accounts. These were proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Beazley. (Appendix 2)

- b. Precept for 2021/2022 was discussed and it was agreed to keep this at £12,750.00. After this meeting the form was signed by Cllr Orson, Bryant & Harvey. Then Clerk sent the precept form to EHDC accounts,
- c. Stop Harlow North balance of funds were discussed and the proposal to move the funds to Hunsdon, Eastwick, Gilston Neighbourhood Planning Group funds were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Wightwick and seconded by Cllr Jones. The clerk will write to SHN with the council's outcome.
- d. Terlings Park playground – It was asked if the funding for the playground be increased by £300.00 making a total of £1,000.00. This was proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey. Carried unanimously.

71) PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED APPLICATION

- a. Places for People:
 - i. Outline planning permission with all matters reserved apart from external vehicular access for a mixed-use development of up to 8,500 homes for a part of the Gilston Area.
 - ii. Detailed planning permission for alteration to the existing Fifth Avenue bridge.
 - iii. Detailed Planning Permission for erection of a new road, pedestrian, and cycle way. All awaiting permission. No update.

The HEGNPG are in the process of formulating a response to the revised applications. that will be published on their website www.hegnp.org.uk/ together with guidance for residents making their own responses. Consultation responses to be submitted by 21st January 2021.

- b. Grassland, Pye Corner – Widening of access – 3/19/0849/FUL – has gone to appeal and awaiting decision.
- c. 1 Gilston Park House 3 applications for this property –
 - i. Kitchen hood exhaust replacement requiring a new hole in outside wall. Existing hole for the old hood exhaust to be permanently closed and in-filled with materials matching wall stone colour. Granted 26.11.2020.
 - ii. Install two external Victorian style wrought iron lanterns on the porch, requiring two 2-centimetre holes in outside wall (4.2 metre above ground level). Granted 17.12.2020.
- d. 95 Pye Corner, Gilston. First floor rear extension, enlargement of first floor side window and change first floor rear window to obscured glass. Refused 17.12.2020.
- e. 7 Roseley Cottages, Eastwick. Variation on condition 2 (approved plans) 3/19/0585/FUL. Awaiting decision.
- f. Play Equipment – Terlings Park. Awaiting decision.
- g. Land in Gilston Lane – Between Church cottages and Black Cottage. This was discussed in full and the council raised no objections subject to the Officers report/condition of 2006 being upheld.

72) UPDATE ON ITEMS WITH EAST HERTS/HERTFORDSHIRE CC FOR ACTION

- a. Cllr Orson reported that progress has been made following his letter of 15 July 2020 raising formal complaints on several matters to Richard Cassidy EHC Chief Executive
 - i. A follow up zoom meeting with Sara Saunders Head of Service to discuss outstanding planning issues is being scheduled and will be reported at our next meeting.
 - ii. £40,000 S106 money for Village Hall improvements that had been reallocated elsewhere by EHC has been reinstated.

73) PARISH PATHS

- a. Cllr Jones reported that due to the bad weather he has been able to survey the footpaths. The footpath benches have been installed – Cock Robin Lane/Eastwick Lane.
- b. Footpath E2 Oak tree in need on some attention and will be looked at in the spring. Also looking at the two moats in Eastwick. Finally, footpaths have been well used this year.
- c. Fiddlers Brook bridge by footpath E29 the fence needs repair. To be looked at further.
- d. The footpath at the northern end of Cock Robin Lane E2 is impassable as sugar beet has been lifted but farm machinery will not be able to work on land until the ground has sufficiently dried out.
- e. Trees – Little Park - Concerns have been raised again about the trees that face onto Gilston Lane from this property. The Clerk will write to the owner again asking for a progress report.

74) GILSTON PARK ESTATE MANAGEMENT

- a. Knight Frank's report on estate management matters is attached (appendix 3)

75) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- a. Cllr Bryant reported that HEGNPG had held a Zoom webinar earlier this evening to present their views on Places for People's current planning application revisions and to take residents questions. This had been attended by over 70 residents.
- b. Cllr Orson thanked Cllr Bryant and Cllr Frank O'Shea from Hunsdon Parish Council for their work in preparation for the Neighbourhood Plan examination.

76) HIGHWAYS

- a. Cllr Wightwick made apologies that he had been unable to prepare a Highways update report for this meeting and would give a full update at our next meeting.
- b. Cllr Harvey requested an update from Cllr Buckmaster on funding for a speed and traffic volume assessment in support of a 20mph speed limit through Eastwick Village. Cllr Buckmaster advised that he had not identified a solution for funding so far and that he would report back at our next meeting..

77) NEW HOMES BONUS

- a. Play Equipment proposal for Terlings Park. Cllr Wightwick reported that a planning application has been submitted to the planning department and now awaiting their decision.
- b. Community Notice Board – Terlings Park - Cllr Wightwick presented proposals for installation of a community notice board within Terlings Park at a previous meeting and is now confirming whether planning consent is required. Cllr Buckmaster informed the meeting that he has a budget that might be available to help fund the noticeboard and invited Cllr Wightwick to make an application.

78) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Cllr Bryant reported that 4 quotes have been received for improvement of the kitchen.

79) ADOPTION OF WHAT3WORDS

- a. Cllr Orson propose that the Parish Council adopt use of what3words for reporting locations for incidence of fly-tipping, footpath maintenance and assets such as defibrillators. Just over 80% of services including emergency services in the UK now use what3words. This was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Beazley.

80) CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Email from Kirsty Elliot of Terlings Park asking if the map on the front of the Parish Magazine Terlings Park could have identified. To be assessed by the Magazine Editor.
- b. Email from Kirsty Elliott of Terlings Park regarding the recent flooding in Burnt Mill Lane, Terlings Park and surrounding areas. The issues raised were possible mitigations for flooding in this area and the implications for Places for People's proposals for the future uses of Burnt Mill Lane. It was noted that this area is designated as Flood Plain. The future use of Burnt Mill Lane as major route to the station and the impact of flooding on route access will be raised with the PC's/HEGNPG other comments on the current Places for People OPA consultation.

81) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- a. None.

82) ITEMS COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA

- a. Post COVID-19 Celebrations.

83) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a. Date of next meeting – Monday 8th March 2021 – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (this is a meeting of the electorate and not a Parish Council meeting but is facilitated by the Parish Council) followed by the Parish Council Business Meeting. At present this will be a Zoom meeting.

TO READ ALL THE APPENDIXES PLEASE GO TO THE WEB SITE: eastwickandgilston.org.uk

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Nature Notes by the late Cynthia Howe, long-time nature lover and resident of Gilston.

March - Surprising Behaviour By No-tail The Pigeon.

I have sometimes mentioned No-Tail the pigeon, usually when writing about other happenings but now there is a surprising change in his life.

He has been here for a number of years looking back through the blog, I seem to have first written about No-Tail 6 years ago and his mate has been with him almost as long, he is never far from the garden and always nests within its confines. He can usually be found perching on one of the trees, resting or feeding on one of the lawns or feeding at one of the food stations.

He has always been with the same mate, clearly the tail is not part of the attraction with pigeons as he has none, as his name suggests. With No-Tail he not only looks different, but his gait is much more swaying than a normal pigeon and there is a subtle difference in the way he flies.

Each year No-Tail builds the nest, and his compliant mate dutifully lays the eggs, sadly they rarely have squabs because the squirrels usually find the nest and eat the eggs. They build another nest, lay more eggs and still the squirrels often find it. A few years back they did successfully breed but when the youngster grew up he was driven away.

In the surrounding countryside we often see huge flocks of pigeons, but the garden is kept quite clear of these by No-Tail. He is very territorial about his garden and other pigeon/s who visit are sent on their way without ceremony. Apart from when he drove away Broken Wing, this has until now been the only time we have seen an aggressive side to No-Tail.

Recently there was a new pigeon in the garden, he/she was a very dirty and scruffy looking pigeon, who skulked about under the edges of bushes. The newcomer tended to stay away from No-Tail and his mate and they for their part ignored him. The newcomer kept as much as he/she could to him/her self, hanging around on the fringes, never pushing in, eating after No-Tail and his mate had finished. Over the weeks the newcomer looked less dirty and better groomed, definitely a lot less dishevelled.

I noticed that although he never joined No-Tail and his partner, he/she was gradually creeping nearer to them. They continued to ignore the newcomer.

One morning I looked out and was surprised to see all three pigeons feeding together. More surprises were to come though. Over the next few days the three continued to not only feed together, but also to roost at night near to each other on the same branch, they also perched together in the daytime.

Three days ago I looked out and saw only No-Tail and the newcomer feeding together, as I watched I saw No-Tail's partner fly down to join them. She was quickly set upon by No-tail, who drove her away to the far side of the lawn. Each time she tried to join them, No-Tail chased her away.

He would fly across to her landing on her back, she would extricate herself and move away, but each time she tried to move nearer the same happened. Eventually she flew right away out of the garden. Each time she tried to return, this behaviour continued, throughout Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, then she learned to keep away from the other two. The rolls are switched she now feeds alone when the other two are not around and perches night and day on a tree branch across the road.

No-Tail was so faithful to her for so many years, they were always together, feeding, grooming, billing and cooing, roosting and perching together, where one was so was the other and yet now they are as far apart as they had previously been close.

Benefice of High Wych and Gilston with Eastwick

Church website: stjameshighwych.org.uk

Facebook: [eastwick and gilston church's](#)

For all recorded church services go to the Facebook page above.

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2021

Our churches were opened for services from the 4th July 2020.



The Church of England has provided recommendation so that attendees in our churches can be safe and protected from the virus. There are their recommendations and we will adhere to them.

- All attendees are to stay 2 metres apart except for family groups.
 - A list of attendees will be taken at the door.
 - Hand sanitiser will be readily available for regular use.
- There will be no singing, no hymn books or service booklets. But we will have music.
 - Communion will be of one kind and Rev's Su Tarran will direct us.
- There will be provision for a collection, but in a hygienic manner. Advice will be given.

• The services will still be streamed. To gain access to the streamed services, go into Google Search or Facebook, in the search box type Gilston and Eastwick Churches, click onto one of the posts until you find the picture of Wendy at Messy Church. On the left of the screen is the word VIDEOEs, you have arrived. Service sheets and hymns will be posted online as well. Enjoy. Once you are in you can look at last Sundays Service as well.

• If you would like to join Virtual Evening Prayer Services on either Tuesday or Friday evenings at 6.30pm email her on bagnallsj@outlook.com she will send you through a Webex invitation (and joining instructions if required).

• For Private prayer at St Mary's or St Botolph's please contact Sarah Bagnall. St James will be open on Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday from 2pm to 4pm for private prayer.

7 th March	3 rd Sunday of Lent		8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
			9.30am	Family Service	St James, High Wych
14 th March	4 th Sunday of Lent		9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
	MOTHERING SUNDAY		11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Gilston
21 st March	5 th Sunday of Lent		9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
28 th March	PALM SUNDAY		9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
			11.15am	Holy Communion	St Botolph's, Eastwick
				Holy Communion	St James, High Wych

PRIEST IN CHARGE: VACANT – PLEASE CONTACT THE READERS OR CHURCH WARDENS.

READERS: Joy Galliers-Burrige, Readers, 41 Hart Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HL

01279 444870

Roger Burrige, Readers, 41 Hart Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HL 01279 444870

Judith Denton, Path Cottage, High Wych Lane, CM21 0JP

01279 723714

LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP: Jan Bellingham

01279 724247

HIGH WYCH PARISH

CHURCH WARDENS:

Brenda Castree

01279 724544

Sam Clark

07717542524

GILSTON WITH EASTWICK PARISH

CHURCH WARDENS: Sarah Bagnall

01279 441644

Michael Shaw

01279 726792

SECRETARY: Mrs Christine Law
TREASURER: Mrs Judith Denton
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:
Sarah Bagnall

01279 411646

01279 723714

01279 441644

March Letter 2021

Dear Friends,

As you drive into our villages some things are still the same. The sign by High Wych allotments telling you if you're driving too fast, relatives still tending graves in the churchyards and the bin men still dutifully collecting our refuse. Other things have changed. No lights on in our pubs. Village hall car parks on a Saturday night empty of cars to take party revellers home. The school playground is eerily quiet.

I have just read Professor Tom Wright's book called "God and the Pandemic" where he makes comparisons with the pandemic and the Second World War. Speaking about 1930s Germany, Pastor Martin Neimoller said: *First they came for the Jews; but I did nothing because I am not a Jew. Then they came for the socialists, but I did nothing because I am not a socialist. Then they came for the Catholics, but I did nothing because I'm not a Catholic. Finally, they came for me, but by then there was no one left to help me.*

So in some way it may have been with the British and American reaction to the coronavirus. First it hit the Chinese, but we aren't Chinese and China is a long way away and strange things (like eating pangolins) happen there. Then it hit Iran, but we didn't worry because Iran, too, is far away, and anyway it's such a very different place. Then it struck Italy, but we thought, Well, the Italians are sociable, tactile people, of course it will spread there, but we'll be alright. And then it arrived in London and New York...And suddenly there was no safe space on the planet. Then there is that inevitable question of "Where is God in all this?"

At present I have the privilege of working in one of the vaccination centres in Harlow. From the window I can see the queue snaking round the car park and wonderful volunteer stewards supporting and encouraging in the freezing weather. It reminds me that the last time I stood in such a queue was at Heathrow Airport clutching my passport. Here the queue is a for a passport that mercifully you cannot buy with money and where humanity reaches out to give hopefully a passport to life beginning with the most vulnerable. I am intrigued by the diversity of the queue. There are those with portable oxygen and indeed those who may have benefitted from the same followed by folk in their eighties sporting track suit and trainers who have run a couple of miles to reach their appointment. Others hide their faces from the advancing needle whilst a few want to watch the vaccine drawn up in case you are injecting them with some unknown substance. Jokers screech before being jabbed - unhelpful to the person behind who confides they have been awake all night worried about the anticipated event. The computer temporarily crashes and the slow forward momentum of the queue halts. A man frustratingly remarks "Jesus Christ! Is this the queue?" No one replies and no one answers back; after all it's not as if we are queuing at Primark for the January Sales! This is a queue in which you obey the rules where we are aware there are many out there that would take our hallowed place. And I think "Jesus why don't you surprise him and the whole queue and answer him and say out loud "What bothers you my friend? You look upset - come and tell me all about it."

Then a 95 year-old gentleman trips over his walking stick as he hurries forward and falls smashing his face and knee on the ground. No social distancing now - humanity reaches forth to offer tissues for his bleeding nose - someone removes their coat to pillow his head. The angry man stares at the ground. Having mentioned your name on arrival, he does not realise that you are also in the queue and that you stand alongside each one of us sharing our day - loving us and wanting you to be part of our day even when we show no acknowledgement.

Finally to refer back to that question "Where is God in all this" I conclude with the end of a poem written by Malcolm Guite.

And where is Jesus this strange Eastertide?
He slips away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursdays we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sick room floors and catching traces
Of that corona which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

Janet Bellingham
Church Warden



Lent in a Bag

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday – Feb 17th. This year as we are unable to mix as usual we have prepared “Lent in a Bag.”

Throughout the forty days of Lent we remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. Each week we will be taking time to reflect upon what might sustain us when we find ourselves in a “wilderness.” Perhaps not literally, but in terms of facing empty, bleak or difficult times in our own lives. Perhaps something that happens at work, school or at home and we know that somehow we will have to get through it. We will have to “walk through the wilderness.”

“Lent in a Bag” helps us to consider what we need to journey through that wilderness as pilgrims together. Inside the material bag will be bags numbered 1-5 for each of the five weeks of Lent containing an item to meditate on and consider the comments and questions for that week. We have spare bags that we will tie on the grill on the front of the church porch at St. James’ High Wych. They are free, you don’t need to sign up – just untie and take it home with you. If anyone at Gilston or Eastwick would like one please either ring Sarah Bagnall on 07876211406 or contact via the Gilston and Eastwick Facebook page. A few will also be left in the porch at St.Mary’s, Gilston to just take.

Janet Bellingham
Church Warden

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

At this difficult time, we are fortunate to live in such a lovely area where we can take exercise close to home in attractive and interesting surroundings. One of the local delights is the number of thatched buildings.

Thatch was once the roofing choice of the poor as it was locally sourced, inexpensive and sustainable; now it seems that only the better-off can afford the necessary regular servicing and replacement. Most roofs are thatched with long wheat straw and many are topped out with a decorative straw feature on the apex. These are called straw finials.

Pheasants and foxes are still among the favourites for this tradition that goes back centuries. These finials may once have been installed to keep away birds or even witches, while some may have been the trademark of the individual thatcher. Today, they are more likely chosen by the customer from an online catalogue. They seem to be more abundant and varied than ever.

I have spotted some fine examples around The Hundred Parishes such as the two running hares on a cottage at Ashdon. In Finchingfield and Radwinter you may find families of ducks and there is a large thatched cow on the barn of the Red Cow pub at Chrishall.

You may see a hare on Dick Turpin's Cottage at Hempstead or a galloping horse at Great Bardfield. High Roding has a delightful cat stretching up the chimney stack and a fox chases a hare in Brent Pelham. An eagle has landed in Aythorpe Roding and there is a flying pig in Ugley.

The 16th-century Thatchers pub at Hatfield Heath is appropriately situated on a road that was once part of the route for horse-drawn cartage of wheat from Suffolk to London.

Do keep looking up!

Ken McDonald, Secretary.



A Message from Central Surgery: Central Surgery is open for business but, like all NHS services, is under severe pressure as it cares for an increasing number of patients with Covid-19 and other seasonal illnesses. At this time your G.P. will be prioritising urgent cases. This means that when a patient contacts the Surgery, he or she will have an initial conversation with a receptionist in order to determine how urgent their health needs are.

If you are calling with a health issue that is non-urgent you may have to wait longer than usual for your problem or concern to be dealt with.

Please make sure that you do get in touch with the surgery if:

- Your issue or concern is urgent.
- You have a long-term condition that has become worse.
- You are worried about symptoms that may indicate cancer.

You can also call 111 for urgent concerns or 999 for emergencies

Both of our local Pharmacies can also assist with minor complaints.

For further up-to-date information please visit: <https://www.centralsurgerysawbo.nhs.uk/> and/or <https://www.facebook.com/centralsurgerysawbridgeworth>

If you are aged 70 or over and you still have not had your Covid vaccination please book your appointment in one of the following ways. You will need to have your NHS number to hand:

1. Go to the NHS covid vaccination website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> **or**
2. Call **119** and ask for an appointment **or**
3. Call the Surgery on **01279 603180**

Vaccine information: A number of patients have been calling for a range of different information about vaccinations. There is a new COVID-19 vaccination information link at: <https://www.healthierfuture.org.uk/covid> . The aim of these pages is to try and answer your questions. The main messages are of course that people are being called forward by the NHS when their vaccination time comes, there are different options available to try and get as many people vaccinated as soon as possible, and that everything possible is being done to make sure the delivery is safe and secure for each community.

One really useful feature is the FAQ section.

Medication for the Long Easter Weekend: Easter 2021 falls on Sunday 4th April. Please ensure that you have ordered enough of your regular medication to last you over the long weekend. Remember to put your prescription in, or order On-Line, in plenty of time to collect your Medication before the Easter Break. Please only order the medication if you do not have enough to last you over the long weekend; please do not over-order. It takes **three full working days** to process a prescription:

Surgery & Pharmacy Opening Times – Easter 2021: We expect opening times to be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Surgery</u>	<u>Bell Pharmacy</u>	<u>Village Pharmacy</u>
<u>Thursday 1st April</u>	Normal Surgery Hours from 08:30	Normal Opening 09:00 – 18:30	Normal Opening 09:00 – 18:30
<u>Good Friday 2nd April</u>	Closed	Closed	Closed
<u>Saturday 3rd April</u>	Closed	Normal Opening 09:00 – 13:00	Normal Opening 09:00 – 17:00
<u>Sunday 4th April</u>	Closed	Open 10:00 – 12 noon	Closed
<u>Monday 5th April</u>	Closed	Closed	Closed
<u>Tuesday 6th April</u>	Normal Surgery Hours from 08:30	Normal Opening 09:00 – 18:30	Normal Opening 09:00 – 18:30

Hours of opening for the Pharmacies will be posted on the doors of both Pharmacies as well as information regarding the nearest Pharmacy that is open. For Out of Hours NHS help please call 111.

'Ask for ANI' Codework Scheme for Domestic Abuse: Bell Pharmacy will be operating the Ask for ANI Codework Scheme. If someone asks for "Ani" at the pharmacy, they will be given the chance to go to a private space to talk, to see if they need help from police or other services such as domestic abuse helplines. The name is an acronym for "action needed immediately".

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codework-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

New Central Surgery Website: Patients who have been online recently will have noticed that Central Surgery has a new website. It is much more user friendly and has a great deal more information than the previous website. As before, the opening page has the eConsult layer (which can be dropped down by using the down arrow at the top right-hand corner). There is also an alert overlay with useful information, particularly about Coronavirus at this time. Once you have read this you can close this layer at the top right-hand corner.



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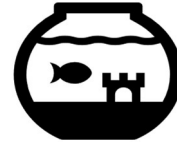
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