

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 380 NOVEMBER 2020

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The children at **Charlton Preschool** have had a fun and busy term learning all about themselves. We looked at different parts of the body, talked about our feelings and explored our faces in the mirror.

- ☆ The Sunshines (age 2 and under) have been doing lots of singing and extending their language skills.
- ☆ The Rainbows (age 2-3) have been making Playdough faces and talking about how unique they are.
- ☆ The Stars (age 3-4) have explored their emotions and feelings about themselves and others. They met some stick insects and talked about how they felt.

We made full body portraits and labelled them by decorating them with painted handprints. We identified the different colours and mixed the paint to make new colours.

www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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Newbottle & Charlton School Update

We have continued to support the children academically, socially and emotionally this term under our cross-curricular topics.

For our younger pupils in Oak and Ash classes the topic was '**Fire and Festivals**'. They began by looking at the Fire of London and Samuel Pepys, who wrote diaries about the event, visited the school to help the children write their own diaries. They also made bread or a special stew called pottage.

The topic for our Year 3 & 4 pupils in Elm class was '**Stones and Bones**'. They were busy making cave paintings to put in their class cave and made some Stone-age stew, learning how people foraged for food.

Children in Birch class (year 5 & 6) studied '**World Kitchen**', learning about Italian cuisine and making holiday brochures linked to Sicily before creating their own dishes later this term.

We weren't able to go to church or hold our **Harvest Community Tea** but we were very lucky with the weather and Father Matthew kindly delivered a short harvest service with each of our bubbles. Staff and pupils read out readings and prayers. As we were outside, we were also able sing one of our favourite songs - 'Let's Harvest'.

George from '**Skipping for Schools**' comes in every four years to lead some work-shops with the whole school. As a skipping school, each child has their own rope and is able to take them out at play-times. We are always impressed with the enthusiasm for skipping and how the children continue to develop their skills. Did you know that 10 minutes of skipping is equal to a 30-minute run?!



Our virtual tour should now be on our website, as we are unable to do our normal Open Morning to see what life is like at our school. We had fun making it for our virtual visitors!

Mr Smith, Interim Headteacher

CHURCH

<https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

This year is proving difficult for many, and two areas of particular concern are loneliness and job security. I know that there are wonderful acts of kindness and neighbourliness happening all the time across our parish, but if you find yourself in need, do please contact me at The Vicarage. I'm always happy to talk, even if we can't meet, and we now have a Foodbank in Charlton and King's Sutton from which I can provide you with food and toiletries. My phone number and email address are below.

Normally I use this article to advertise our forthcoming services at church. We continue to have our weekly Sunday service at 9.30am, and you are very welcome to come along. We have put in place safeguards to ensure that we are 'Covid-secure', and you are welcome to get in touch with me to discuss those arrangements if you would find that helpful.

Each season also brings its own particular services, and as autumn arrives Remembrance and Advent are coming into view.

Inevitably our plans are provisional as we wait to see what changes, if any, are made to the restrictions imposed to deal with the Coronavirus. We hope to have a simple service of Remembrance at 11am on the 11th November at the War Memorial in the cemetery, and we are making plans for Christmas services too.

To find out exactly what is happening, do look in at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Jamess-Church-Newbottle-Charlton-111784353840785/>. You will also find some online services, and some thoughts and prayers that may be of interest. Alternatively do feel free to contact me at The Vicarage on 811364 or on fathermatthew.r@icloud.com.

With my prayers and all good wishes,

Fr Matthew



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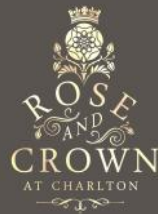
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Fancy a cuppa and a slice of cake?

Feeling fed up with the shorter, darker days and our restricted lives?

From Thursday 22 October 2020, The Rose and Crown Pub is offering Coffee or Tea and Homemade Cake every Thursday and Friday mornings from 10:30am.

To come along and join us in this safe and cosy place, please book if you can by calling the pub on 01295 811317.



Coffee or tea and cake is priced at £5 with extra cake £3 a slice, extra coffee and tea served at normal price.

We hope to see you soon!

Football success in Charlton

Local football is now six weeks into a new season. With major changes to both Charlton teams, it is the Reserve team that looks very strong on paper.

The 1st Team, with plenty of new faces, could only put out a weakened team in their first league game and were outclassed by a decent Kings Sutton team. But with players returning, we stormed our next match with a 6-2 win against Deddington and followed that up with an entertaining 5-4 win against Bloxham and an even better performance against Bodicote a week later, winning 4-0. This leaves the 1st Team second in the Premier Division with a top of the table clash due next.

Our Reserve Team had a better result in their first league game in division 3, drawing 1-1 with AS Hanwell. Another draw, 2-2, against Bodicote Reserves the following week with their first win a week later 4-1 against Wroxton Reserves. Their latest performance was by far their best with a 12-1 win against Broughton & Nth Newington Reserves. This leaves them top of the division on goal difference.



Nature Notes

Mid October is about the time when we might expect to get the first frost here; it would be earlier further North and later down in the soft South. The dahlias are on borrowed time and all gardeners need to get their geraniums and other tender plants under cover. We've written before about all the seasons being early but so far we haven't had any really cold weather and many trees have hardly started to lose their leaves. A journey down the M40 through the Chilterns, usually a technicolour adventure during autumn, revealed the autumn colours only just beginning to show and nowhere near their full glory.

We think the holly berries are very early, though: we have more holly berries than we have ever had before, and even berries on trees which have never berried before, and they are looking remarkably ripe and red already. It used to be said that heavy crops of berries presaged a very hard winter, but of course that is nonsense: a tree can't know what the weather is going to do several months ahead. But when the growing season has been propitious with plenty of sunshine and plenty of water the tree has had plenty of food to create berries. There have been huge crops of apples, pears and damsons too, and some of our pears have been enormous, too big for one person to eat at one time.

Oak trees have produced acorns this year, presumably because it has been a good growing season. The lane leading to Newbottle is covered with acorns, sweet chestnuts and conkers. Oak trees don't necessarily produce acorns every year: in medieval times pigs were taken into woods or wood-pasture in the autumn to feed up on acorns or beech-mast before being slaughtered and salted down. (Apparently acorn-fed bacon has a very distinctive taste). A good acorn year was a bonus for pig-keepers. This custom was known as 'pannage' and still takes place in the New Forest. The pigs are released into the forest from mid-September to eat fallen acorns, beechmast, chestnuts and whatever else they can find. They play a vital role in a good acorn year because the acorns are poisonous to the New Forest ponies and cattle. The pigs will all be 'ringed' as this stops them digging but doesn't stop them hoovering up nuts.

It's also been a very good year for mushrooms and other fungi. A neighbour collected some very large Giant Puffballs in their field; we've had fairy rings on our lawn; we spied some enormous horse mushrooms on the edge of a car park nearby, and there were some exciting bracket fungi appearing at the base of the hedge by the Church path. We're not very good at identifying fungi so no proper names, I'm afraid.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



KATHARINE HOUSE CHRISTMAS SHOP 2020

Our online Christmas shop is up and running with a selection of this year's Christmas cards, knitted novelties and our eBay shop has lots of wonderful gifts for sale. Head to www.khh.org.uk/christmas-shop to find yours.

MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE ADVENT CALENDAR - CHRISTMAS 2020

When you buy your advent calendar this year, did you know you could also support Katharine House? We have been lucky enough to be included in the Meaningful Chocolate Company's Fairtrade advent calendar this year; when you purchase your advent calendar, a donation comes straight to the hospice. Why not get yours today at www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/products/hospice-advent-calendar

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS – 1-31 DECEMBER 2020

This year we are putting together a series of festive events to bring the community together and spread some Christmas cheer this December! Prepare yourself for Christmas Jumpers, Festive Challenges, a Virtual Balloon Race, Christmas Concert and not forgetting the annual RCB Tractor Run! Join us as we celebrate making every moment matter this Christmas. www.khh.org.uk/Christmas2020

SANTA FUN RUN – 13 DECEMBER 2020

This year our Santa Fun Run is going to have to look slightly different due to the current social distancing guidelines, but we are working hard to ensure we can host a fun, festive, event for everyone to get involved with. Head to www.khh.org.uk/santa20 to register your interest and keep up to date with this year's event.

LIGHTS OF LOVE – 15 DECEMBER 2020

Our lights of love service will go live, streamed from the hospice to your home this December. We will have a ceremony lead by James our Chaplain as well as some music and readings. You can make your dedication to a loved at www.khh.org.uk/lights20

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