

# Out & About

*in the Offords*



June - July 2020



The beautiful blossom on  
Offord High Street.

**STAY  
ALERT**

**CONTROL  
THE VIRUS**

**SAVE  
LIVES**



- Bakery
- Hot Food
- Milkshake Machine
- Lottery
- Cash Machine - free to use
- Costa Machine
- Quality Produce
- Fresh brands such as Grasmere Sausages & Pies

**Budgens**  
*in Offord*

## **BUDGENS Offord supports GODMANCHESTER FOODBANK**

Our Foodbank is part of the national network run by Trussell Trust. It serves Huntingdon and the surrounding area including The Offords. It relies on donations of non perishable food and money to help members of the local community to deal with a sudden crisis.

Over the last year 43 tons of food were donated. This is equivalent to 10,000 meals for a family of 2 adults and 2 children.

We supported 40 families during the summer holidays when they were missing the free school meal provided in term time and provided 180 Christmas hampers to nominated families.

Please support our Foodbank by placing food donations into the basket in BUDGENS here in Offord. The Guides have decorated it with helping hands so you can't miss it in the shop doorway.

## OFFORD DARCY & OFFORD CLUNY PARISH COUNCIL MESSAGE CONCERNING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Resident

Your Parish Council is keen to ensure that all its residents are safe and supported during the weeks ahead. We would encourage everyone to offer help to those who are self-isolating, especially the over 70s. A friendly call, help with shopping or collecting prescriptions and more may be welcomed, observing current advice such as keeping a 2 metre distance and hand washing as you go.

The Offords Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TheOffords> and the Parish Council website, <https://offords-pc.gov.uk> can provide details of all support available in the Offords.

**IMPORTANT:** If you would prefer to receive regular updates via a notice through your door, please can you, or a friend, let us know your name and address by either of the following ways:

- Call your Parish Council helpline, 07597 988763. It's open 7am to 7pm. Outside these hours, please leave a message.
- Email: [clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk)

In the same way please use these trusted communication routes to request help with:

- Shopping
- Prescription collection
- Any other questions, problems or concerns

Some of the best sources of COVID-19 guidance are available on the [Public Health England](#), [Department of Health and Social Care](#), and [NHS England](#) websites.

## All Saints Church

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Dear Friends,

A new look Out & About reflecting the new times we are in. I hope you are enjoying the feel of the magazine with articles and items from so many folk and organisations in the village.

Sadly, All Saints, like other churches, is closed both for our regular Sunday morning services, but also family event services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. However, the services have gone on-line. So if you would like to share our services each Sunday you would be very welcome to do so. They can be accessed through the All Saints Facebook page ([allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com](https://allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com)) and on YouTube at 'St Mary's Buckden'. Copies of the services can be emailed to you if you wish – just let me know.

We are also supporting the excellent work of the work of the Parish Council and of Godmanchester Foodbank who are seeking to help those who are struggling to shop or feed themselves at this time. Foodbanks work on a voucher system. I am a voucher holder so if you know of anyone who needs help please do tell them to phone or email me and I will help them.

Finally, here is a prayer that you might find helpful as we go through what will continue to be a unique and often difficult time.

Best wishes

*Jes*

Rev Jes Salt, Priest in Charge,  
Buckden and the Offords

01480 819377

[jes.salt@btinternet.com](mailto:jes.salt@btinternet.com)

### *A prayer about the corona virus*



*Father God, as people and nations of the world, help us to realise our dependence upon one another. We pray for healing among the sick, wisdom among our leaders, protection and effectiveness for health workers, and responsible behaviour by each of us as individuals. Most of all, Lord, we pray that you dispel our fears, for you 'did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline' (2 Tim 1:7). For Jesus's sake. Amen*

**Services at All Saints Church** have been suspended because the church building has to remain closed but there is a hint from the government that there may be some easing of lockdown in the coming months. When things change there will be a notice on the boards in the carpark and on the All Saints website: ([allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com](http://allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com))

**The Annual Church Meeting (APCM)** due to be held on Sunday 3rd May is postponed until further notice. You may remember that all villagers were invited to attend this meeting and it was intended to include a review of the current service pattern; asking does it meet the needs of the village or is there a better way?

**The pandemic has forced a more radical change** than anyone could have expected. Jes now records a weekly online service which is easy to access and enables you to listen and participate at whatever time you choose. Many choose 11am on Sunday so that they are participating at the same time as many other local Christians. This innovation has actually increased attendance dramatically – albeit a virtual experience!

**Collection Boxes:** Thank you to all of you who have an All Saints Collection Box at home. If yours is now full of coins please take your box to Jenny Murby at 2 The Haycroft, or contact Bob Bargh 810237 or John Storey 810763. They will organise a safe collection from you.

## **Planned Fund Raising and Social Events 2020**

We aim to provide enjoyable events for all the village, whilst raising the funds that are needed to keep the church going in Offord. All events up to and including July have had to be cancelled.

The Diocese of Ely has agreed to reduce our Parish Share (a contribution to the salary of our Minister) in the short term, recognising that we are unable to fundraise and therefore only have the income that members of the congregation have pledged to continue.

**We hope that some of the following planned events will be able to go ahead subject to restrictions on gatherings .....**

**BBQ** Sunday 6th September 12noon – 3pm

**Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning** Saturday 12th September 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall

**Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning** Saturday 7th November 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall

**Christmas Tree Festival and Craft Stalls** Saturday and Sunday 28th & 29th November in All Saints Church and the Village Hall from 12noon – 4pm

**Christmas Band Concert** Friday 4th December 8pm in All Saints Church

**Carol Singing Round the Offords** Friday 11th & Sunday 13th December

## **Church Roof**

Most of you will remember that the lead which covered much of the church roof was stolen in November 2018 and getting it replaced has become more of a saga than we had imagined.

At the time of the theft, the Church Council was working on plans to run a water supply to the building and install a WC and facilities for preparing refreshments, so we thought we would run both projects together. Village folk have been very generous, but the scale of the roof work alone puts it outside the scope of normal fundraising and means applying for grants to cover some of the cost. Unfortunately, because of the requirements of the larger grant-making bodies, our approach proved unsuccessful, so we have had to change tack and look to replace the temporary roof covering first.

Our architects have recently completed the preparation of plans and specifications and they are now with the Diocesan authorities, who will have to give formal permission for the work to be done. Once we have a green light from them, we can commence the task of applying for grants and getting contractors to tender for the job. All this does take time and it is unlikely we shall be able to start work until next year but we'll keep everyone informed in the pages of Out and About. Should anyone want more information in the meantime, Jes or I would be happy to provide it.

Just recently, police have been in touch to say that they have arrested the gang believed to have been responsible for stealing our lead (and the lead from many other churches as well). Unfortunately, even if a conviction is secured it is most unlikely we'll ever see any compensation. But glad they've been stopped in their tracks!

John Simpkin (Church Warden)

## ***All Saints Church Offord Cluny - Contact Details***

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Priest in Charge:	Rev Jes Salt 01480 819377 <a href="mailto:j.es.salt@btinternet.com">j.es.salt@btinternet.com</a> The Vicarage, Church Street Buckden, PE19 5TL
Church Warden	John Simpkin 01480 819664 Mobile: 07904 617973 <a href="mailto:warden.offord@yahoo.com">warden.offord@yahoo.com</a>
Church Warden & Webmaster	Sue Dorrington <a href="mailto:offordallsaints@gmail.com">offordallsaints@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07724 553101
Fundraising & social events:	John Storey <a href="mailto:johnstorey35@gmail.com">johnstorey35@gmail.com</a> Stephen Eayrs <a href="mailto:stepheneayrs@btinternet.com">stepheneayrs@btinternet.com</a> Bob Bargh <a href="mailto:bargh2012@btinternet.com">bargh2012@btinternet.com</a> Helen Northrop <a href="mailto:helen.northrop1@btinternet.com">helen.northrop1@btinternet.com</a> Mandy Eayrs <a href="mailto:mandyeayrs@btinternet.com">mandyeayrs@btinternet.com</a> Elizabeth Simpkin <a href="mailto:lizsimpkin@msn.com">lizsimpkin@msn.com</a>
Church Website:	<a href="http://allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com">allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com</a>
Facebook Page:	 All Saints Offord

### **Out & About Cover Photos**

We would love to utilise the fabulous full colour glossy cover of future editions of Out & About to show off photographs from villagers. Whether they are from village events or simply photos of the village, we would love to show them off. If you have any photos suitable for us to use as cover images, please email them to [simon@easiprint.ltd](mailto:simon@easiprint.ltd) and we will choose one each month.

## ***St Neots United Reformed Church***

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As with all churches, we are currently still closed and we look forward to opening when the restrictions are lifted. There is a brief weekly service on our website below.

During the lock down, churches together in St Neots are providing services on Black Cat Radio from 9.30 to 10 am each Sunday. So far our Minister, Dr Rick Mearkle, has conducted the service along with the other St Neots church leaders taking turns to conduct the service.

Come and visit the United Reformed Church which is on the High Street in St Neots. Access without steps is at the rear of the building near to Argos . Parking is available in Tebbutts Road behind the Church.

The main service is held on a Sunday at 11am each week, and you will be sure of a warm welcome. There is a prayer lunch on the first Tuesday in a month at 12.30pm. Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea will be provided.

The Church is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10am – 12 noon, and on Thursdays from 10am – 2pm when coffee and tea, scones and biscuits are on sale. The 'Tree of Hope' is open on Thursdays and Saturdays for the sale of fairly traded goods, Christian books and greeting cards. If you have not visited recently why not come and see the newly developed church.

### **Saturday November 21st      Table Top Sale**

For all Church matters please contact the Church Secretary, Jenny Gibbs , for further information on 01480 214503.

Web Site [www.stneotsurc.co.uk](http://www.stneotsurc.co.uk)

## ***Offord Senior Citizens Club***

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What a very difficult and trying time we have all experienced due to the Corona virus. We have missed club meetings and the chance to catch up and see each other. As with other events this year, the Senior Citizens annual outing and the afternoon tea party had to be cancelled but looking back over the years, what lovely occasions we have had.



**Afternoon Tea Party**



**River Boat Outing**

**New Year's  
Dinner 2020**



We send our good wishes to all our members, hope you are keeping well and look forward to when we can meet up again.

When we are back to 'normal', our meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Village Hall, Offord Cluny, at 6.30pm. For further details, please contact Marlene Alderman on 01480 810609 or Sue Barimore on 01480 810763.

## **Offord Village Hall 300+ Club (Offord Recreation Hut)**

**Registered charity no. 302653**

### **WINNERS**

#### **MARCH**

**£20** No. 297 Sarah Leader

**£15** No. 014 Linda Arnold

**£10** No. 281 Kirsty Beatt

**£ 5** No. 071 Ian Weitzel

#### **APRIL**

**£ 20** No. 304 Caroline Dean

**£ 15** No. 066 Nigel Achurch

**£ 10** No 008 Margaret Pullen

**£ 5** No. 157 Luke Evans

The draws are still taking place even though we have lockdown by using technology. We have more members this year so we have been able to increase the number of prizes given out. Since the village hall has had to cancel many of the fundraisers we had planned this year, we really appreciate the support shown for the 300 Club and will have raised over £1000 this year.

There are still a few shares available if you would like to join.

Contact Helen Bosworth on **811892** or Jenny Murby on **811474** for further details.

### **Paul Cherry Plumbing & Heating Services Ltd.**

Boiler Installations - Full Heating Systems Installed - Smart  
Control Upgrades - Gas Fires

Gas Cookers & Hobs - Gas Appliances Serviced & Maintained -  
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[paulcherryplumber@gmail.com](mailto:paulcherryplumber@gmail.com)

Mobile 07957167118

# DAY'S OF BUCKDEN

***Paul, Amanda and Jason would like to welcome you to our friendly shop.***

*Fine fayre on sale with local meats from Norfolk, Suffolk and Somersham. We also sell local fruit and veg in our new trial to promote village shopping (buy more under one roof) along with fresh Bonnetts bakery bread daily, a good selection of home cooked meats, pies and pasties, simple every day cheeses and luxury pork pies with real jelly!!*



***Open Monday to Friday 8:00am -5:30 pm  
Saturday 8:00am -3:00pm***

High Street, Buckden

Phone: 01480 810272

# ***Offord Gardeners' Association***

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To All Members ,

As we continue to move on in these strange and unfamiliar times I am sure you will all appreciate, due to the restrictions in place, we are not able to continue with our usual programme of events. The garden visit in June is cancelled and possibly events planned for the rest of the year as well. Our destiny is in the hands of others and I am sure we want to ensure everyone's safety before we resume meetings.

As members, it will be suggested that, as subscriptions had only just been renewed, we will carry over memberships to the following year. We only had one meeting after membership renewals.

## **Top Ten Tips for June**

Hoe veg plot regularly. Be Water wise - water plants after the sun has gone down, water newly planted trees and shrubs. Pinch out side shoots and regularly feed tomatoes. Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes. Position summer hanging baskets outside.

Mow lawns weekly. Plant out summer bedding. Stake tall and floppy plants. Continue deadheading roses and prune spring flowered Shrubs. Shade Greenhouses to keep them cool .

## **Top Tips for July**

As well as the ongoing jobs above;

Check Clematis for signs of wilt. Water tubs and new plants, being water wise. Deadhead bedding plants, repeat flowering perennials for continuous flowering. Pick Courgettes (ideal size 4inches before they become marrows). Treat Apple Scab. Clear Algae blanket weed and debris from ponds and keep them topped up. Order next year's spring bulb catalogue. Give the Lawn a summer feed, especially if not done in the spring. Harvest Apricots Peaches and Nectarines

I am sure you all have made the most of your gardens since lockdown. The OGA is still available to assist members with any gardening queries you may have. Do not hesitate to contact me and we will endeavour to find the answers for you.

Please Take Care , Keep Safe and Enjoy Your Gardening  
John 811148

## ***Feet to the Beat - The Offords Line Dance Group***

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Welcome to the second Out & About report of the Offords Line Dance Group who celebrated their third birthday in February.

Our weekly dance group last met in mid-March before the official lockdown but we were super careful with distancing from other dancers and with efficient hand washing. Izzy signed off the class by singing 'We'll Meet Again', which, of course, with the recent 75th Anniversary of VE Day, on Friday 8th May, seems even more appropriate now.

As reported in the previous edition, Line Dancing is suitable for all ages and, to demonstrate this, it has been proved that dancing can help fight off the loss of brainpower as we age and improve mobility.

We all know that we will take a short while to pick up where we left off but, with Izzy's patience and enthusiasm, she will soon get us remembering the steps and sequences – and whether to turn left or right! Or do we start on our left foot or right foot? However, many of us are practising the dances at home to the music that we know and can easily identify belongs to a certain dance.

Feet to the Beat is such a friendly group of dancers and although some of us have only known each other for just over three years it feels like we have been friends for much longer.



Jenny Griffiths - on behalf of Izzy Brogan Tel: 07709 344144

## Over 70? Our Corona Memories

We remember when Corona was a children's fizzy drink,  
In flavours Oh so lurid they could unblock any sink,  
With Cherryade and Limeade and Ice Cream Soda too  
You'd see the colours once again, next day down in the loo.  
We'd hear the lorry hooting – we recognised that sound,  
And out would run the children from every house around,  
Glass bottles with a stoneware lid and curly metal top  
We'd take some on a picnic, jam sandwiches and pop.  
The milkman came around each day, milk to keep us well,  
A bakers van came often; I remember that fresh smell,  
Chelsea buns with marzipan, Lovely bright jam tarts,  
And all of it delivered by friendly horse and carts.  
We kids were sent out every time with buckets and with pails  
To scoop up all the droppings if the horses raised their tails.  
Old clothes were saved for Rag and Bone, the man came from afar  
And we could get a goldfish if we had an old jam jar.  
We played out in the streets and fields; we didn't have a lot,  
But life was simple for us kids; glad for what we got.  
We had no flash technology, we didn't have clean faces,  
Our teeth were seldom ever cleaned, boys wore grey shorts and braces.  
We played at marbles, hopscotch - chalking on the path,  
And once a week if lucky, we got into a bath!  
It wasn't all The Good Old Days, but how we lost the way,  
People now must work so hard to get their living pay.  
Computers offered miracles, we blindly went along,  
We ate too much, we flew too much, it really is quite wrong.  
Corona's changed, it's now a beer: some buy it by the crate,  
And takeaways have taken over dinner on a plate.

But now the world is hovering, it's getting near the brink,  
If I had new 'Corona' now I think I'd take to drink!  
But we old folk, we've seen a lot, we won't let this defeat us  
We'll isolate, economise and one day dawn will greet us.  
We'll struggle on, make do and mend, be kind to one another,  
The qualities and way of life we all learnt from our Mother.  
If everybody does their bit – abiding by the rules,  
We'll weather this Corona storm – we're old, but we're not fools.  
Perhaps we can, in some small way, lead the young to see,  
That life must change for this old world, if we are to be free.  
So when you walk or when you shop, please stay two yards away,  
When people try to come too close – just calmly move away.  
Together we can make a change. Go back to former living,  
Caring for each other, less taking and more GIVING.

Marion Warden



## *The Offords WI*

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The Offords WI is unable to hold meetings at the present time. We will begin again as soon as we possibly can, although what the programme will be remains to be seen. We can't know what the future will bring, but we can talk about the past and the origins of the WI.

The Women's Institute (now known as WI), was formed in the UK in 1915. The first group opened in Anglesey, Wales, meeting in an old garden shed. There are now approximately 6,300 groups nationwide with 220,000 members.

The initial aim of the organisation was to offer rural women opportunities for advancement through education. Two wars brought food shortages, a challenge which the WI women took on, growing or gathering fruit and vegetables. They bottled, made jams and chutneys and even learnt to can foods. So important was their contribution that sugar rationing was amended for WIs. WI Markets were set up to sell produce, vegetables and other foods or essential items. With no supermarkets, this local supply of food was vital.

The focus of the WI has diversified over time, but has maintained its aim of providing education and advancement. Each year every member can vote on which Resolution the WI should pursue with the aim of starting a national campaign to change society for the better. These campaigns do in fact have a great deal of influence and success. For Instance, it was the WI who started the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign!

Above all, the WI is a sociable and pleasant way to mix and enjoy the company of others. Or has been, until now. The Offords WI has had to accept that after 100 years of our group being in existence, we are on hold. It seems unbelievable.

WIs everywhere are keeping in touch using technology in ways previously untried, or by using emails to send thoughts and photographs.

We long for the day when we can meet face to face and at that time we hope to welcome new members. The WI can be what you want it to be. It is a huge and energetic organisation and you can play a small part or get more involved. Many Members attend the Annual Conference which is held in large venues around

the country including The Royal Albert Hall. Resolutions are passed and I am told that the singing of Jerusalem is just inspirational.

The Covid19 pandemic has changed all our lives and we will have learnt something about ourselves and society as a whole. Be assured that the WI will be ready to get back into action and will do whatever it can to support the efforts of our Government. Organisations allied to the WI exist for women in many countries worldwide. Let's hope that we can all play a part in changing the world for the better.

**On a lighter note, here are the Post Covid Resolutions of some of our Members:**

I will not spend double what I need to on food.

I will not be so 'Brand Snobby'

I won't worry about how long my hair is, or what colour.

I will sometimes wash and vacuum my own car.

I will write letters again.

I will not change all my clothes every day.

I will buy flour.

I will get on with my patchwork quilt!!

I will treasure the 'minor miracles' I see each day.

I will be grateful every day for friends and family, for they are the things I need most to be happy.

For further information call Carol Temple on 01480 812879

## ***Buckden Methodist Church***

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**Minister:** Rev. Pam Siddall. Tel: 01480 819228.

**Stewards:** Angie Barnes (810102)

Bob Baxter (8100920)

Carol Swepstone (810053)

## ***The Friends of St Peter's Church, Offord Darcy***

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It was with regret that, following a government announcement and a directive from the Churches Conservation Trust, the Friends placed a notice in the porch of St Peter's informing all that the church was closed from 24 March.

The earliest parts of St Peter's, the Norman arches between the nave and the north aisle, were built between 1130 and 1150. In the intervening 900 years there have been other pandemics; for example, the Black Death in the 14th century, the plagues of the 16th and 17th centuries, Spanish Flu in the early 20th century. During the Black Death Huntingdonshire lost between 30% and 50% of its population. We know that Sir Lawrence de Pabenhams, who leased land in Offord D'Arcy and whose memorial brass dated 1400 can be seen in the church, survived this period. During the plagues of the 16th and 17th century records show Buckden church to have been active and open with the written records making no mention of the disease. It would seem likely that the churches in Offord were similar. Research carried out by FOSP members for the "What Happened Next" exhibition in 2018 found no evidence of a major outbreak of the more recent pandemic, Spanish Flu, in the Offords. In contrast Buckden's burial records show that deaths trebled during October 1918 and December 1918. Throughout all these times St Peter's has remained in our village and we look forward to the time we can open it again.

At the last Friends committee meeting, which had been scheduled for the first day social distancing had been introduced, we met in the church, all sitting suitably far apart. We hoped we might be able to reopen the church in time for our commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Offord D'Arcy War Memorial. At the time of writing that seems unlikely. Instead there is an article elsewhere in the magazine about the story of the war memorial in our village.

Here are the events we had planned for the rest of this year should we be able to hold them.

Friday 24 July 7.30 pm

The Three Musketeers (performed by This Is My Theatre)

Saturday and Sunday 12-13 Sept

National Heritage Open Days

Sunday 18 October 12pm to 4pm

Autumn Craft Fair

Wednesday 11 November 10.45am

Armistice Wreath Laying

Sunday 6 December 4pm

Carols by Candlelight Service

Posters will be on all village notice boards when we can return.

With warnings from the government's scientific and medical advisers that social distancing will remain necessary for some time after the current lockdown is relaxed, indeed maybe until a vaccine is found, there is little prospect of St Peter's opening for business as usual in the near future.

The historic parish church has been witness to all the challenges that every generation has faced and it provides a beacon of hope in the most difficult of times. We look forward to welcoming visitors and the community back to St Peter's when it is safe to do so.

We hope you, your families and friends stay safe and well.

Liz Howes

Friends of St Peter's Church

## **Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Offord D'Arcy War Memorial**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1920 a service of dedication was held for the Offord d'Arcy War Memorial in St Peter's church. The Friends of St Peter's had planned to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this special occasion with an exhibition about the memorial and an evensong service in the church at the end of June this year. However, with the current coronavirus situation, it now seems likely that these events won't go ahead as planned. Here, then, is the story of our war memorial.

Papers held in the Cambridgeshire Records Office (CRO), Huntingdon Archives show the origins of the plan to erect a war memorial in Offord D'Arcy to the fallen of World War I. The minutes of the Annual Easter Vestry on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1919 show the unanimous intention to place a suitable memorial in the Parish Church and that collections be made at the Church Services at suitable periods for this object.

A Special Vestry was held nearly a year later at which the following motion was passed unanimously. "That this meeting of the Parishioners of Offord D'Arcy assembled in Vestry on March 8<sup>th</sup> 1920, hereby approves of the erection of a Memorial Brass and Window, (plans of which were submitted to the meeting) in the South Wall of the Parish Church of Offord D'Arcy." This was signed on April 14<sup>th</sup> 1920 by Rev Ernest V O'Connor. It is worth noting that Rev O'Connor is shown on the Roll of Honour displayed in the church as having served in the Church Army during the war.

Before work can be done on a church the Diocesan Advisory Committee has to be approached for a faculty. A faculty is required for all repairs, maintenance and changes to a church or its contents. Generally, applications for a faculty are made by the incumbent and church-wardens on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. The faculty, held in CRO, states "In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Ely - Offord D'Arcy Church Hunts - Faculty for a painted window with brass tablet and inscription as a war memorial - Granted under seal of office 17<sup>th</sup> June 1920"

The faculty shows that the estimate for the cost of the work of the window would be £124-10s, "which will be defrayed by subscriptions from the parishioners already received".

The sum raised in a relatively short time was impressive in a village of largely agricultural workers, where many of the men of working age had fought in the war, 14 died, others returned injured or shell shocked.

With the dedication taking place just ten days after the faculty was granted it would appear that the window was ordered before final approval, possibly with the faculty being fast tracked for a war memorial. It may not be a coincidence that the date of the dedication was also the Sunday when the church would have celebrated St Peter's day, which is observed on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Inside the faculty in the Records Office was a small, original water colour painting of the design for the window signed by William Glasby, the stained glass artist. The Friends paid for a facsimile of this painting together one of the faculty and both can be seen in St Peter's on open days.

Details of the dedication service were published in the St Neots Advertiser on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1920. The opening paragraph was:

*Offord D'Arcy decided to honour and perpetuate the memory of her gallant sons who lost their lives in the War by a Memorial Window in the fine old Parish Church. This was unveiled at an impressive and appropriate Service conducted by the Rector Rev. E. V. O'Connor on Sunday evening, at which the church was filled to overflowing, seats having to be provided in the aisles for many of the congregation.*

The hymns sung, the readings and the sermon were all reported, information which was to be used by the Friends many years later in 2013.

Moving forward nearly 100 years the Friends of St Peter's started to research the history of the church. It soon became clear that not only did the church hold the monument to the memory of the fallen of Offord d'Arcy but also a work of art made by the highly respected stained glass artist, William Glasby. On close inspection it could be seen that the window was showing serious signs of age; the lead was deteriorating and bowing, leading to cracked pieces of glass and ingress of dirt. The glass inside and out was dirty, hiding the beauty of the work. If the window were not to suffer irreparable damage or indeed fall out, it was apparent that it would need serious remedial action. As in 1920 funds would be needed to provide for the memorial.

In 2011, at the start of the project, the Churches Conservation Trust, which has the responsibility to maintain the fabric of St Peter's, did not have the funds to restoration our memorial. Thus, our committee determined to raise the money for the work.

In a similar way to 1920, nearly a century later the Offord community and friends rallied to our plea for help. Our supporters were very generous, local

companies contributed, the Friends were successful in an application for a grant from the War Memorials Trust and the final push came with a special Concert for Easter where everything was donated, the music and programmes, the singers' time and effort.

Listed Building Consent was obtained to allow removal of the window to the conservators, Chapel Studio Stained Glass Ltd, where it was meticulously documented, dismantled, cleaned and repaired before being reassembled with new lead. What had already appeared a wonderful window was revealed in all its glowing colours when it was re-installed in St Peter's.

The brasses, the original from 1920 and a later one added after the Second World War, were removed from the church and taken to Eura Conservation Ltd where they were restored, given a protective coating and re-installed with special film to protect them from the damp and acid of the lime washed wall.

We hadn't dared to hope that within less than a year of announcing our intention to rescue the window we would see not only the window but also the memorial brasses beneath fully restored and back in their rightful place in time for that year's Armistice commemoration. Rev O'Connor's words of 1920, "every penny has been given gladly, freely, voluntarily," held as true in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as they did then.

Having raised the money for the restoration the Friends organised a re-dedication service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The psalm and hymns from the original service were used and the congregation was both surprised and delighted by a bugler sounding the last post from the organ loft.

In his address at the dedication service the Rev O'Connor said "From very early times the artist's highest skill has found expression in colour and in metal and our Memorial is a happy combination of both".

The window and the brasses remain a memorial to the fallen of Offord D'Arcy from both World Wars. The glowing colours of the stained glass continue to delight visitors to the church and it is for these reasons we wished to commemorate this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

A second article about the stained glass artist William Glasby and the window will appear in a later issue.

Liz Howes





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We welcomed over 100 new teachers to the school in March. As we closed our doors to all but children of critical key workers on 23rd March, all the parent and carers of our children raised to the difficult challenge of home learning. They have been superb. The parents, children and teachers are in constant communication and the parents are sending in photos and examples of all the different tasks the children have been getting up to at home. As well as completing the activities suggested by teachers, parents have also been using their imaginations to keep their children busy and engaged with learning.

Activities have included research on VE Day, designing robots to help around the house in lock down, building a bird box and fitting a camera to watch the resident blue tit family. The children have also been listening to stories read by their teacher, baking, building desks, writing poems and writing and performing their own songs. The teachers have been so impressed with the work the children have been doing and so thankful for all the support they have been receiving from their families, who have also been juggling their own work. Thank you, Offord Primary School families – you are amazing.

The staff at the school are missing the daily interaction with the children. To let them know we were thinking of them we sent a little message home and a little video. I'm not sure that we are ready to go into the media industry yet, but it got an important message out there – Keep smiling in these unusual times. (<https://www.facebook.com/offordprimaryschool/videos/230872798010475/>)

As I write this, plans are being put together for a phased reopening of the school. How this is going to look and how long it is going to take is still unclear. But I know the staff at Offord can't wait until it is safe enough to have the classrooms full of chatter, learning and smiley happy children again.

Stay safe  
Mrs Ruddock

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## ***Parish Council Report***

---

In these unprecedented times the most important message from the Parish Council is to stay safe and follow the national guidance.

We are very much open for business as usual so if you have any concerns or worries about anything please get in touch. Councillors and myself are happy to help if we can and there are volunteers within the parish willing to be of assistance.

Parish Council meetings are being held remotely via the Webex platform. The Agendas go onto the noticeboards and website in the usual way and there is a link on the Agenda to allow you to sit in or take part in a meeting.

The Recreation Ground and Millennium Green remain open for daily exercise. None of the equipment, however, is available for use until further notice. An increase in dog waste has been noticed – possibly because dogs are being walked more often. Please remember to clear up after your dog so everyone can enjoy a clean space.

Grass cutting continues as usual as our contractor works alone and practices social distancing. Some areas previously cut by higher tier authorities are not currently being looked after and the Parish Council has stepped in to ensure the village standards are maintained. If you know of any areas that have been missed please let me know.

Your Parish Council is keen to ensure that all its residents are safe and supported during this time. We would encourage everyone to offer help to those who are self-isolating, especially the over 70s. A friendly call, help with shopping or collecting prescriptions and more may be welcomed, observing current advice such as keeping a 2 metre distance and hand washing as you go.

The obvious community spirit around the parish has been a pleasure to witness with residents looking out for one another and the community Facebook page is an important tool in keeping people talking and sharing information:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOffords>

The Parish Council set up the helpline because it is concerned about the wellbeing of all residents during these challenging times. Our primary focus is for those people who have few close friends and family available to help them and / or have limited access to the internet. We've some evidence that the **Simply Chat** service may be of help.

If you would simply like to chat with someone (vetted by the Parish Council) about any issues related to the Offords and challenges posed by Covid-19, please phone or email the Offord Parish Council helpline and we can set that up for you.

Many people are using phones and apps such as Zoom and WebEx to stay in contact with friends and families in this time of social distancing. We'd like to invite anyone who would be interested in setting up such tele-conferences specifically targeted at the various Offords communities (for example groups with interests such as gardening, music, or simply living in the same area or street). We're especially interested in sessions for those who can only join through a telephone (i.e. no web access or video). If you think you can help, please phone or email the Offord Parish Council helpline.

At the last Annual Parish Meeting there was a request for some form of book exchange within the Offords. The Parish Council has progressed this but hasn't yet been able to erect the three "pop up" libraries we've acquired. We've now had more requests for access to books as people haven't been able to visit libraries. We are working on how to address this within current guidelines and will report progress on The Offords Facebook page. If you do not have access online or you are in desperate need of books to read, please contact the telephone helpline. Please do continue to take photographs of you and your family, and the Offords, during lockdown. We'd love to share them in the community, and you may even win a prize at one the parties that will surely take place once we head back to normal

**If you are someone who would prefer to receive regular updates via a notice through your door, please can you, or a friend, let us know your name and address by either of the following ways:**

- **Call your Parish Council helpline, 07597 988763. It's open 7am to 7pm. Outside these hours, please leave a message.**

- **Email:** [clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk)

In the same way please use these trusted communication routes to request help with:

- Shopping
- Prescription collection
- Any other questions, problems or concerns

Some of the best sources of COVID-19 guidance are available on the [Public Health England](#), [Department of Health and Social Care](#), and [NHS England](#) websites.

Jackie Stanbridge  
Clerk to the Council

## Chairman's Report

May-June 2020

I find myself writing this report in rather strange times, at the end of the eighth week of the Coronavirus lockdown. New words and phrases such as “Social Distancing”, “Furlough”, “Self-Isolation” and “Herd Immunity” have entered the everyday lexicon. Normally during the day one would expect to find the Offords quite deserted as a fair proportion of the residents are working in Huntingdon, St Neots or further afield. But now we are all locked down, save for our allotted exercise times, the narrow pavements of the High Street making us cross the road to avoid oncoming fellow pedestrians in a kind of weird social-distancing gavotte.

But I for one find myself profoundly grateful that I live in a place like the Offords. The Millennium Green, the Ouse Valley Way and the plethora of footpaths around the river or across to Graveley give great scope for exploring the locality and what one might call the unseasonably fine weather has made walking a pleasure. Families have had a rare opportunity to be together and socialise with each other. So whilst the threat of the virus undoubtedly has its dark side, there is a positive aspect to embrace as well. From what I can see, the residents of the Offords have been very responsible towards following the guidelines laid down and all deserve great credit. Also that the neighbourliness that one associates with village life has come to the fore and people have been looking out for those less fortunate and ensuring that all are being looked after. The new Budgen's has been a real boon, offering a delivery service for those of limited mobility and a place to shop for the rest of us without having to travel.

The Parish Council itself has been meeting remotely using the “Webex” facility. I personally am not entirely convinced that the technology is quite there yet, and it is certainly not as good as a proper face to face meeting but until those times return it is a perfectly adequate substitute and is enabling us to ensure that the day-to-day business of the Council is carried out. For those wishing to attend such meetings, contact Jackie Stanbridge the Clerk at [clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk) in order to get the Webex code for joining the meeting. For those without computer/video camera facilities, if you email Jackie with an outline of the issue(s) you wish to raise, it will be dealt with at the meeting and we will furnish you with a report of the proceedings.

I hate the phrase but – Keep Safe.

Ian Weitzel

Chair of the Parish Council of Offord Cluny and Offord Darcy.

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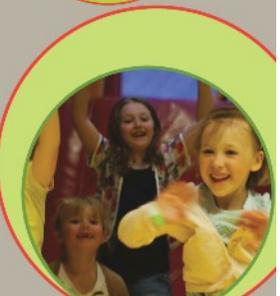
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### **Class Details:**

**Wednesday mornings at Offord Village Hall**

**11am-12pm**

These classes will be held as 6 week courses through term times, with the first course starting after the Easter holidays from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Course price: £45

These classes will be held with a maximum of 12 participants to ensure there is enough floor space and good quality teaching. Prior booking is essential; please get in contact to reserve your space.

Katrina Hyland

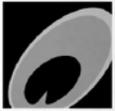
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Offord Rainbows & Brownies

Rainbows are the youngest members of the Girlguiding family, aged between 5 and 7 years. Brownies are girls aged 7 – 10 years. We meet on Tuesdays at 5.30 – 6.30 pm. The Leaders are Gemma Brown, Kate Jarman, Dani Cowell and Jennifer Shefford. Ann Weitzel is our Administrator and can be contacted on 01480 811697 or email: [ann.weitzel@btconnect.com](mailto:ann.weitzel@btconnect.com).



## 1<sup>st</sup> Offord Guides

The Guides meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 – 8:15pm. We currently have 12 Guides in our Unit aged 10 to 13 years and have spaces for new recruits.

If you are new to the village and would like to know more about being a Guide please email Ann Weitzel: [ann.weitzel@btconnect.com](mailto:ann.weitzel@btconnect.com).

## Girlguiding in the Offords

If you would like more information about joining Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please visit the Girlguiding website: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk), or contact Ann to book a trial session.



Girlguiding is designed to encourage the girls to try new things, learn about themselves and things around them, to make new friends and have fun in a safe environment.

Here in the Offords we are lucky to be able to offer opportunities to all sections: Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. We are in need of some adult help at all of our groups to enable us to keep the units open and fully functioning.

Please help us to ensure that all the sections of Guiding in the Offords continue to offer the girls fun, friendship and adventure by volunteering to join the leadership team. If you would like to know more about becoming a Leader or a regular helper please contact our administrator, Ann. You don't have to commit to every week and you don't have to wear a uniform or undertake the leader training unless you want to. If you would like to talk more about helping with Girlguiding in the Offords then please contact our District Commissioner, Ann Weitzel, [ann.weitzel@btconnect.com](mailto:ann.weitzel@btconnect.com).

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## **OFFORD VILLAGE HALL HIRE**

Offord Village Hall is available for hire for all types of functions:

Wedding Receptions, Christenings, Private parties etc.

The Hall has disabled access and facilities and comprises of:  
a large main hall with a stage, refurbished kitchen, bar,  
separate committee room and a car park.

The hall is licensed for music.

Daytime rates are priced per hour (minimum 2 hours)  
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Weekend evening rates available on request.

For further details please contact

**Helen Bosworth on 01480 811892**

**Email: [droffo144@gmail.com](mailto:droffo144@gmail.com)**



# schools

# OUT

at One Leisure

## Wondering what to do for childcare this school holiday?

Come and join the fun at One Leisure  
**'Schools Out'** is an Ofsted registered holiday club for children aged 4 - 13 years

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- Swimming • Arts and Crafts
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Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 6.00pm  
Further details can be found on our website



Schools Out is held at the following sites:

**VENUES**

Barford Road, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambs. PE19 2SA  
Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 6WU

## Tel: 01767 688713

email: [info@schoolsout-cambs.co.uk](mailto:info@schoolsout-cambs.co.uk) • [www.schoolsout-cambs.co.uk](http://www.schoolsout-cambs.co.uk)



Offord Tots is a fun, play-led activity group for babies, toddlers and pre-school children

We meet once a week on a Friday during term time at

Offord Cluny Village Hall

Between 9.15am and 11.30am

We have an exciting collection of toys for all ages, craft activities, snacks for the little ones, as well as tea and coffee for the adults, all for

£2.00 per family – all welcome

For more information please contact Nikki - [nikkivenning@hotmail.com](mailto:nikkivenning@hotmail.com)

We can also be found on Facebook so please take a look for updates and news on upcoming crafts and events

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In my last entry for Offord Village Hall in Out & About, I was encouraging everyone to join in with the many activities which are part of the normal programme for the Village Hall.

Little did we know our lives were about to change beyond recognition due to something we could not see, hear or touch. We are now actively encouraged to stay away from each other and as a result there are no clubs or classes taking place in the hall.

The weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> May would have been the TOPS production and the hall would have been full of staging, scenery, props and rows of chairs. There would be the anticipation of fun and laughter with a large audience enjoying themselves.

Sadly, everything is now on hold, the Hall is empty and silent and will remain so until we are given the all clear from central government that we are allowed to reopen the Village Hall once again. Nonetheless the hall is being maintained in readiness for that day, whenever it comes. Routine maintenance jobs are undertaken, also all the little jobs that need doing from time to time keeping everything ship shape. The water boiler has been descaled, the cooker professionally cleaned, the floor washed and the windows cleaned. This is thanks to not only our caretaker but a few trustee volunteers working in isolation to keep it in tip top condition.

Until we are allowed to safely open, with the correct safety measures in place, we remain closed. Sadly our programme of fundraising events is also postponed.

On a positive note I received a note through my door from someone I had never met called Sarah offering to do my shopping or collect my prescriptions should the need arise. The Thursday ritual of clapping for carers is a chance for neighbours to reassuringly see each other, albeit from a safe distance. The sky seems bluer, the birds sing more sweetly and we notice the beauty of the spring blossom and baby ducklings on the pond. Or is it just that we are grateful that we are able to appreciate the everyday things we once took for granted.

The hall will remain closed until further notice and all activities on hold until we get the all clear to open once again.

Helen Ellis  
Secretary Offord Village Hall

## ***Village Groups & Organisations***

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<b>Applepips Out of School Club</b>	<b>Joanne Corbishley</b>	<b>01480 811977</b>
<b>Archery</b>	<b>Marc Bax</b>	<b>381172</b>
<b>Bowls Club</b>	<b>Carolyn Bargh</b>	<b>810237</b>
<b>Brownies</b>	<b>Ann Weitzel</b>	<b>811697</b>
<b>Church Events</b>	<b>John Storey</b>	<b>810763</b>
	<b>Bob Bargh</b>	<b>810237</b>
<b>Church Rooms hire</b>	<b>Denise Heath</b>	<b>810008 &amp; 07956 570592</b>
<b>Community Police</b>	<b>c/o St Neots</b>	<b>456111</b>
	<b>Police Stn</b>	<b>0345 456 4564</b>
<b>Cubs/Beavers</b>	<b>Andy Ottley</b>	<b>07704 857636</b>
		<b>info@paxtonscouts.org.uk</b>
<b>District Councillor</b>	<b>Sarah Conboy</b>	<b>414900</b>
<b>District Councillor</b>	<b>Mike Grice</b>	<b>383213</b>
<b>District Councillor</b>	<b>Sarah Wilson</b>	<b>412747</b>
<b>Friends of St Peter's</b>	<b>Liz Howes</b>	<b>812899</b>
<b>Guides</b>	<b>Ann Weitzel</b>	<b>811697</b>
	<b>juliehilljohnson@gmail.com</b>	<b>01480 812549</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	<b>Peter Riley</b>	<b>811839</b>
<b>Offord Cluny &amp; Offord</b>		
<b>Darcy Parish Council</b>	<b>Ian Weitzel</b>	<b>811697</b>
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	<b>Jackie Stanbridge</b>	<b>07597 988763</b>
<b>Offord Gardeners' Assn</b>	<b>Janet Bedingfield</b>	<b>810091</b>
<b>Offord Sch, Headteacher</b>	<b>Kate Ruddock</b>	<b>810308</b>
<b>Chair of Governors</b>	<b>Liz Simpkin</b>	<b>07976 792463</b>
<b>Offord PTA</b>	<b>Claire Faux</b>	<b>810308</b>
<b>Offord Pre-School</b>	<b>Joanne Corbishley</b>	<b>01480 811977</b>
<b>Offord Tots</b>	<b>Nikki Mitchell</b>	<b>07872 986326</b>
<b>PCSO</b>	<b>Richard Braddick</b>	<b>07921 094801</b>
<b>Rainbows</b>	<b>Ann Weitzel</b>	<b>811697</b>
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	<b>Marlene Alderman</b>	<b>810609</b>
<b>The Offord PlayersS</b>	<b>John Kirby</b>	<b>810049</b>
<b>Thursday Club</b>	<b>Doreen Rowbury</b>	<b>811025</b>
<b>Village Hall hire</b>	<b>Helen Bosworth</b>	<b>811892</b>
<b>Village Hall 300+ Club</b>	<b>Helen Bosworth</b>	<b>811892</b>
<b>Women's Guild</b>	<b>Talvia Gatward</b>	<b>811148</b>
<b>Women's Institute</b>	<b>Carol Temple</b>	<b>812879</b>

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The views expressed in this publication may not necessarily reflect those of the Editor.

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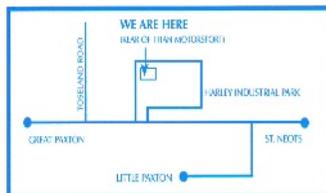


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