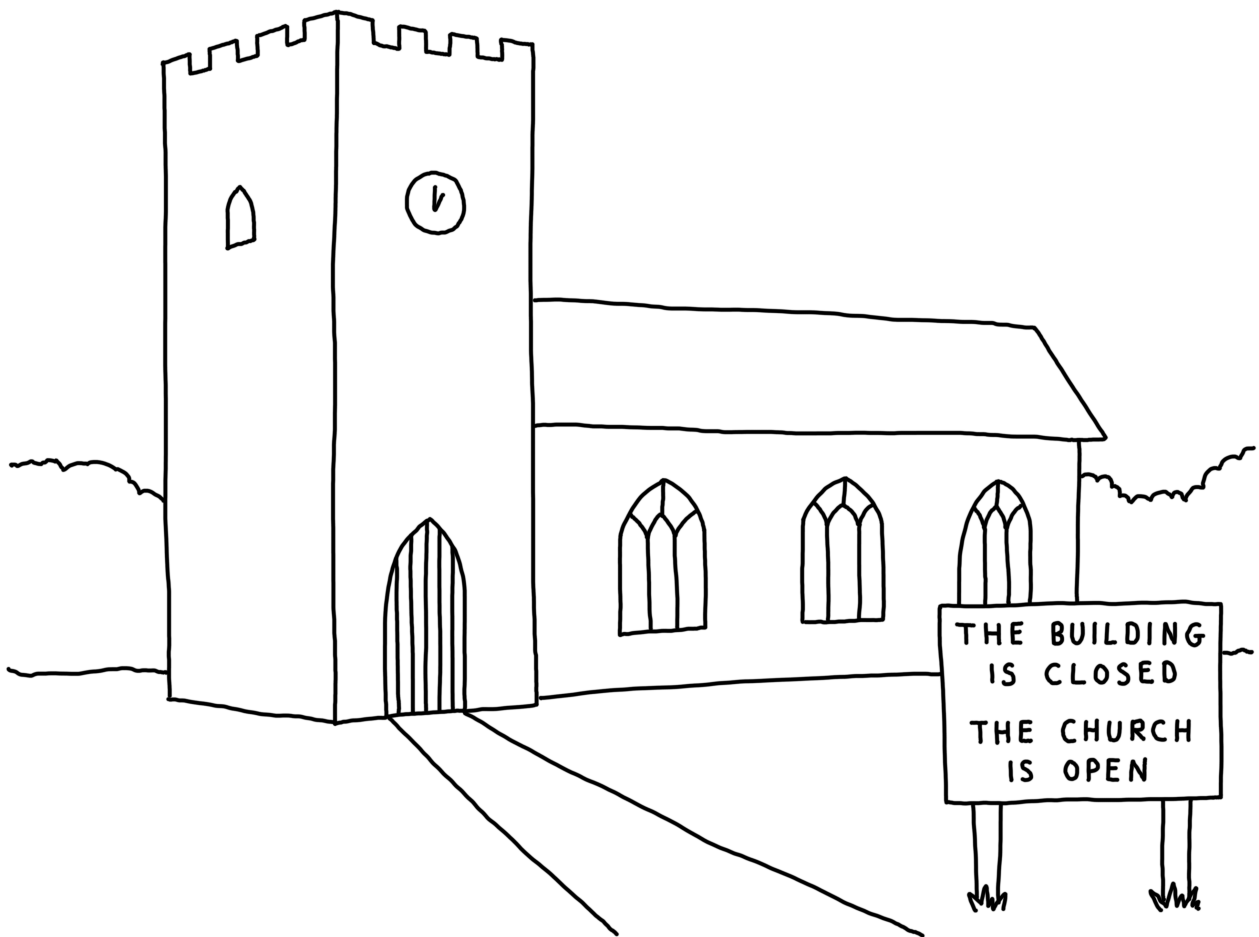


TRIO



April 2020

Contributions welcomed



CartoonChurch.com



The United Benefice of West Malling with Offham

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vicar@stmaryswestmall.org.uk / rector@stmichaelsoffham.org.uk

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mark.montgomery@stgabrielsskingshill.org.uk

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From David and Mark



These are truly extraordinary times. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in the closure of our church buildings in their entirety. No Sunday services, no Christenings or Weddings, no community events. While Funerals go ahead, they must take place at the graveside or in the Crematorium.

Our buildings are shut. But the Church is still open. Scripture makes clear that the Body of Christ is the people. We are the hands and feet, eyes and ears (1 Cor 12) of Jesus. We are “living stones” (1 Pet. 2) being built into a “spiritual house”.

A couple of weeks into our “Exile”, resources for prayer and worship have been distributed. Although the lockdown now prevents the physical distribution of this Parish Magazine or further prayer materials, we are producing electronic versions to encourage and point you to various bits of key information; especially for those who are vulnerable or already unwell.

We are also able to do things online. Both of us are producing video sermons, prayers, songs on our respective church websites so that you can worship in your home each Sunday and pray along with us day-by-day.

We are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Even with our buildings closed, we can love God through prayer and worship at home.

If you haven't yet taken part in Online Worship, and particularly as Holy Week and Easter approaches, please do look up the church websites and use the Comments

there, or use Facebook or Twitter or Zoom (if you use them) to interact with us and with one another.

You can find the St Gabriels website here:

www.kingshillchurch.org.uk

St Mary's and St Michael's share a website, so either address takes you to the same place

www.stmaryswestmallong.org.uk

www.stmichaelsoffham.org.uk

However, for all the gadgetry and new tech skills we are learning, can we take this opportunity to remind you to do the simple things and do them well?

Thinking of how to love our neighbour as ourselves, we are both very conscious that not everyone is online. Please pick up the phone and call family, friends, neighbours. Love your neighbour in a very practical way by reaching out to them and breaking down any feelings of isolation while we're isolated.

If you're under 70, fit and healthy, please consider helping with some of the schemes we've set-up in each community to help those in need.

If you're over 70, or if you're unwell regardless of age and need things picked up, please ask for help. We have volunteers ready for you.

Love your neighbour also by staying at home. As hard as it is for us all, don't take the restrictions lightly. Limiting our movements is showing practical love to those around us, by staying safe ourselves and keeping them safe as well.

Every blessing, keep talking, see you soon.

David and Mark

News from St Mary's West Malling



If you need help or can offer help

A new Volunteer Care Network has been established in West Malling to support one another during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) shutdown.

The Parish Council, local churches and other groups and societies have all come together to create this network and offer help to anyone who may need it.

You should have had a leaflet through the door (see photo right) giving you all the details. But the idea is to have a team of local people who are healthy and under 70 and who can volunteer to support vulnerable, elderly or isolated people or those who are already unwell.

We can help with:

- ❖ Collecting and delivering groceries;
- ❖ Picking up medical prescriptions;
- ❖ Posting mail or running errands;
- ❖ Provide access to food bank supplies;
- ❖ Picking up the phone to befriend and encourage those living alone.

We don't want anyone to feel isolated and alone, even while we're all social distancing and in isolation. Please don't hesitate to get in touch to offer your help or to ask for help.

Rev David and St Mary's PCC played a key role early on by helping to provide a legal framework for the volunteering. Since we already do Pastoral Care with the housebound, the sick and the bereaved, we were able to adapt our policies to suit this purpose and invite various groups to come under the same 'umbrella' for the duration of the pandemic.

West Malling Parish Council

West Malling Volunteers

A new Volunteer Care Network is being established in West Malling to support one another during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) shutdown.

The Parish Council, local churches and other groups and societies have come together to create this network and offer help to anyone who may need it.

The schemes already set up by Malling Community Choir and by individuals in Norman and Offham Road, together with those run by the Baptist and Roman Catholic Church, will continue to operate as now. But we shall work together to share volunteers and best practice, and make sure our volunteers are protected by Insurance cover, and appropriate advice to keep both themselves and the people they help safe.

We want to set up a team of volunteers who can help vulnerable, elderly or isolated people:

- Collecting groceries
- Picking up prescriptions
- Posting mail or running errands
- Picking up the phone to befriend and encourage those living alone
- Help access to food bank supplies

If you would like help or are offering help, then please let us know...

By email to:
wmvolunteers@westmallingpc.org

By phone on: **07561 111676**

Fill in the online form at
<https://bit.ly/WMCN-Cov19>

Alternatively, fill in the form below.

We don't want anyone to feel isolated and alone, even while we're all social distancing and in isolation. Please don't hesitate to get in touch to offer your help or to ask for help.

Trudy Dean *Rev David Green*
Chairman Vicar
West Malling Parish St. Mary's Church,
Council West Malling

Complete this slip and return it to 49 Offham Road, or the Parish Office, 9 High St.

I would like to volunteer to help ☐

I would like help ☐

Name.....Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

We are grateful to St Mary's Church for offering to act as the Data Controller, and providing Safeguarding and Public Liability Insurance cover to this community effort. We will ask your permission to hold your contact details for the period of time this Network is needed, and they will only be shared with those authorised to help you.

If you would like help or can offer help, then please let us know...

By email to:

wmvolunteers@westmallingpc.org

By phone on:

07561 111676


Fill in a form on the web at

<https://bit.ly/WMCN-Cov19>

St Mary's Church has agreed to act as the Data Controller. We will ask your permission to hold your contact details for the period of time this Network is needed, and they will only be shared with those authorised to help you.



News from St Gabriel's, Kings Hill



Help on The Hill Project

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ELDERLY AND VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

DO YOU NEED HELP?

If you need to self-isolate soon (or already are) and do not have a support network (or your support network become sick), we can help.

This is a FREE, volunteer service being organised by Naomi Schilling and Be Chapman for any elderly or vulnerable residents on Kings Hill.

We are happy to help with:

- Picking up shopping
- Picking up medicine
- Posting mail
- Walking a dog
- Or simply a friendly phone call

To ensure all we are spreading is kindness, any collections and deliveries will be a doorstep service.

If you need help either now or in the coming weeks, please contact us. We will do our best to allocate a volunteer and help you.

Please contact Naomi (07984 913 091) or Be (07801 278475 or be@khp.me) to request help or to offer to volunteer.

This project is kindly sponsored and supported by Kings Hill Properties. Therefore, please also feel free to go into their shop at 8 Liberty Square to request help.

Food Bank support on Kings Hill

Are you struggling to afford food at this time - or worried that you won't be able to do so?

Have your circumstances changed, which means you need a little extra help to put food on the table?

If so, confidentially contact Rev Mark, 01732 844194 or private message him, and we can offer a food package to help you out.

Every now and then we all need a little extra help, so don't worry about asking, there is nothing to be embarrassed about!

If you can offer donations of food please also contact Rev Mark about donating.



St Michael's Offham News and Muse



The Offham Community Network



Hello

There is a new scheme in Offham to help people who may be self-isolating (having to stay at home because of the Coronavirus) or who may just need a helping hand.

Our team of volunteers can offer help with:

- Collecting food shopping
- Getting urgent supplies and prescriptions
- Posting mail or running errands
- A friendly phone call to check you are ok

***We don't want anyone to feel alone – don't think twice
about contacting us if you feel we can be useful!***

Groups and societies active in the village have come together to create the Offham Community Network – it's a village network to give help to anyone who may need it.

The Offham Community Network is supported by St Michael's Church Offham, Offham Parish Council, The Offham Society, Offham Lunch Club, Offham May Day Committee, Offham Prayer Group and Offham Open House.

If you would like help or are offering help, please let us know...

- ***By email to: offhamcommunitynetwork@gmail.com***
- ***By phone on: 07799 870632***
- ***Alternatively, you can fill in details online:***
<https://bit.ly/OCN-Cov19> (click for link)
- ***Or just by asking a friend or carer to contact us for you***

If you would like us to help, we will ask your permission to hold your contact details for the period of time that we are lending you a hand and they will only be shared with those helping.

We will need the information over the page but can collect this over the phone or by email when you let us know you would like help.

(e) offhamcommunitynetwork@gmail.com
(m) 07799 870632

From the Parish Registers



St Mary's, West Malling

Baptisms

8th Mar Clara Reeves

15th Mar Bella & Elle Fowler

Funerals

18th Mar Dorothea James

27th Mar Terrence Dunn

31st Mar Betty Day

Interment of Ashes

16th Mar Brian Davies

St Michael's, Offham

Baptisms

1st Mar Stevie-Mai Garrett

St Gabriel's, Kings Hill

Funerals

6th Mar Fiona Parrott

Real church notices

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church.

Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

~

The Vicar would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

~

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

~

Our Year 8 children will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

~

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM.
Please use large double door at the side entrance.



In the Garden with Adam's Gardens

This article first appeared in the March 2014 edition of Trio. It is republished here while Adam takes a sabbatical from writing in Trio.

A garden takes around ten years to mature; yes, ten years. But, in that time perennials will need dividing to improve their vigour, shrubs will need pruning into shape, soil needs mulching to keep everything growing healthily, lawns need cutting and weeds need to be eradicated so as not to compete for precious water and nutrients.

Now I reckon my opening gambit may have probably got a few of you reaching for the Valium but there's no need. Gardening has to be a pleasure and that means doing what you can, when you can. I may say this needs doing and that needs to be done but, at the end of the day it's not worth fretting.

What I suggest you do is work out what you want from your garden, be it a horticultural haven that is full of flowers, a safe place for your children to play in, an area to socialise with friends and family, a wildlife sanctuary or a place to chill out and relax after a hard day at the office.

But what most of us do is a bit of all of them which (in my opinion) makes it a lot more difficult to manage. So whilst the boys are trying their best to be the next David Beckham, you are worrying if they are going to damage your prized roses with a stray shot. Maybe you're sitting back in that comfy lounge trying to clear your head of that awful train journey home when you notice the grass is knee high. Or that lovely decking area is covered in birds' mess just hours before a family barbecue.

You may be lucky and have an acre or more of garden which you can then make into different 'rooms' to use when the mood fits. I have five such gardens that I tend, and they are a joy to work in as there is always something new happening.

Try not to fall between two stools: make a decision and try to stick to it. It will save you time, effort and money in the long run. The garden should be treated like another room in your home and have a specific duty. What I mean is you wouldn't cook a Sunday roast in the bedroom, take a shower in the kitchen or have office chairs in the living room.

Yes, the garden does need to be maintained during the year but doesn't your home need a weekly Hoover, dust and wipe down? (I believe it's called housework and my wife keeps on at me to do my bit!) The bonus of the garden over the house is that it's outside.

As a professional gardener I do all I can to make the garden my clients' 'favourite room'. And as Spring is now upon us every task seems to need doing last week but don't panic: I don't want you to see the garden as another chore but a source of pleasure. So stick to your plan and tackle it a bit at a time, and enjoy your garden however you see fit.

Adam McKay