

Marston Moreteyne Parish Council

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

May 2021

PARISH COUNCIL – VICE CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Firstly, we would like to give our thanks to our Parish Clerk, Hazel Trustam who has been in that role for 20 years. During that time, she has worked diligently sometimes through very trying times ‘

The Annual Parish Meeting was held virtually on Monday 26th April and was attended by various organisations, for which we thank them not only for participating but for all their work during the year. I am sure that all organisations in the village could do with volunteers so if you find that you have the welfare of the village at heart, I am sure that any organisation would welcome your help. It was sad to hear that the Royal British Legion is no longer an active branch due to a lack of members to fill the necessary positions on the committee. If you would be willing to join this august organisation or any others then please let the Parish Clerk know and she will forward your particulars to the relevant organisation.

The consultation on the East West Rail continues until the 9th June. The Parish Council will be commenting on the proposal but if you wish to have your say details can be found at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation>.

I am sure you will have noticed that Marston in Bloom has been busy removing some of the planters beyond repair around the village. This is the first stage of the rejuvenating scheme. The Working Party are always on the lookout for volunteers so again please contact the parish clerk if you are interested in joining the team.

It is hoped that by the end of May the new contemplation area at the cemetery will be completed. A new bench and flower area is planned. Approximately 150 feet of new hedging is also proposed to mark out the different areas within the cemetery. Due to the dry conditions in April, this work has been postponed until the autumn. The parish council is also considering a plan to remember all of those within the parish who were lost to coronavirus, which, of course, included Sir Tom Moore.

The Parish Council is working hard, together with Central Bedfordshire Council and Barratts, to enable the handover and subsequently the opening of the new Community Hall.

In lieu of laying a floral tribute to remember HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Parish Council has supported the wishes of the Royal Family by donating £50.00 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution as Prince Philip was a keen sailor.

Parish Council Meetings

Given the cessation of legislation to hold remote meetings from 7th May, the parish council is working towards the ability to hold future meetings face-to-face. The next scheduled meetings are not due to be held until Tuesday 22nd June. More details on this will be placed in the June newsletter.

Allotment News for May

Despite the poor growing conditions during April, we are now in the best month for the veg plot with the soil warming up it is the perfect point at which many crops will thrive if sown directly in the ground. Certain tap rooted veg such as carrots and radishes are not the best at being transplanted from modules as root disturbance can affect healthy growth. Beetroot is an exception and can be started off indoors, however as it likes colder soil to germinate you might as well sow them directly in the soil.

Some of the best veg you can sow directly in the ground right now are Purple-sprouting Broccoli, Radishes, Beetroot and Swiss Chard. Be sure your ground has been well cultivated and improved with good compost or fertiliser such as Growmore and sow thinly to avoid the need for a lot of thinning out as they grow.

Peas and beans can be planted out either from plants already started in root trainers or seeds placed directly in the ground. Remember to protect the young plants from the cold winds and any predators that love to munch on the tender shoots by covering with a fleece cloche.

The risk of late frosts is unfortunately still likely this year so delay the planting out of tender plants such as runner beans till the end of May as this will reduce the loss of these plants. Keep checking your potatoes and if the leaves are poking out of the ground cover them with soil to prevent frost damage.

Lastly good luck and keep watering.



Parish Councillor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. Parish councils are the democratic bodies with the closest links to their communities and are the first tier of Local Government.

Marston Moreteyne Parish Council responds to planning applications, maintains play areas and the skate park, undertakes verge and amenity land grass cutting and maintains the war memorial. The work of a Parish Council is often challenging but also rewarding. The Council also works closely with voluntary groups in the community.

If you feel you could contribute to life in the village and are interested in becoming a councillor please contact the Parish Clerk on 01234 743598 or email: h.trustam@btinternet.com for more information and an application form.

20th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 8th May 2021 was the 20th anniversary of the Parish Clerk, Hazel Trustam, working for the Parish Council.

I made a presentation to Hazel who was accompanied by her husband and with a couple of councillors in attendance, in the open air.

Hazel received a framed certificate - Long Service Award, a specially printed card in which was a collage of the good wishes sent in by individual councillors and a wooden carving of a badger for her home garden.

All the gifts were funded personally by Councillors.



Cllr Hugh Roberts

Chairman Marston Moreteyne Parish Council



Crumbling around our ears?

I wonder what you see as 'church'. I suspect for most people it means the building, which in Marston is a glorious and ancient place of worship which has served our community for centuries. If you haven't ventured in recently, please do. It is open every day between 10.00 and 3.00 and offers a peaceful and beautiful place to step aside from life's busyness or anxieties. Currently, we can also offer you a delightful display of the work of our Art Group. Do come and take a look. You are always welcome.



Just like us as we age, sadly some things don't work quite as well as they used to. Our church floor is currently up at the back because some over-enthusiastic woodworm have taken their toll, and our bell tower needs some urgent repairs. So does this mean the church is crumbling around our ears?

Well, no! For us at St Mary's, the word 'church' means the people not just the building.

And this 'church' is certainly not crumbling. As St Mary's has begun to welcome people back to services in church, we have been so happy to see everyone returning. Having kept in touch throughout lockdown with calls, texts, mailings, and garden visits, as well as practical help, our church community is stronger than ever. As St Paul said to one of the first Christian churches; 'In Christ you are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.' (Ephesians 2)

We may have some floor missing, we may have restricted access to the tower, but companionship and support is certainly not missing and our church community is not restricted. Come and join us. We'd love to see you.

For up-to-date information about all our services, in church and online, sign up to our digital newsletter via: linktr.ee/stmarysmarston

If you would like to speak to someone or for more information please contact Revd Kate McFarlane: 07816 790447 or email curate@stmarysmarston.org



the Baptist Church that will we trust, one day meet again at the Marston Moreteyne VC School - Forest End site

Dear Village,

We are longing for the day when we will be able to meet again for an actual service in Forest End School. Hopefully, that day is approaching, as we continue to follow the roadmap out of lockdown. But, whilst we patiently wait, we at Vale Community Church would like to share a blessing with you:

"Dear Lord, we ask that you would bless the people of Marston Moretaine. That you would speak words of comfort that is available now and the hope that you offer in the face of any threat or emergency that we individually may face. Will you quicken the hearts of all living in Marston Moretaine, to hear and respond to your voice, and that we all would experience your reaching out in love to us! Amen"

When we have the good news that the church will be able to meet again face to face, we will post notices on our Facebook page and Website. This will not be for a couple of months 😞, but the day will come!!

Our Minister Steve Gaunt, the leadership team and resources are available to you at any time:

Website: www.valecc.org.uk

for all you need to know about Vale Community Church

YouTube channel: [valecommunitychurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvXvXvXvXvXvXvXvXvXvXvX)

For online services – Sundays 10.30am – but these can be accessed at any time.

Each morning a devotional thought is available for anyone from our Facebook page: [valecommunitychurch](https://www.facebook.com/valecommunitychurch)

The devotional contains a scripture, a prayer, and a blessing. We also pray in rotation for a road in the village and a church family. Please join in as you feel able.

Stay well, stay safe and may the presence of God dwell in your homes, lives and over our village.