

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

## A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St. Michael's Church and Gittisham Parish Council

February 2019

Edition 204

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So much of social media commentary around this time of year is about austerity 'Dry' January, Veganuary, Blue Monday (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January - apparently recently identified as the most depressing day of the year!).

However January for me, following my recovery from the winter bug that laid low quite a few over Christmas/New Year, passed in a bit of blur as I finally cleared my old house. This turned out to be rather a mammoth task but is now thankfully done and I am very pleased to be finally settled in Gittisham.

Challenging though it may be to let go of stuff to which one has become attached, there is something quite cathartic about a good 'clear out'. Even so, it will be a while yet before the cottage will be free of boxes! It seems fitting that yesterday, my first Sunday properly back, coincided with the celebration of Candlemas, the halfway point between Christmas and Easter and in the Northern hemisphere at least, the gradual return of the light and the promise of Spring around the corner. We all enjoyed the lighting and blessing of candles which in mediaeval times was thought to help ward off evil spirits. While this may seem like superstitious nonsense to some today, come February, most of us are in need of a little encouragement to help lighten our way through the remaining weeks of winter.

I read recently that it was said of the actor, Dirk Bogarde, that he wanted to be a star but resented being obliged to twinkle! While false or forced happiness can be deeply unhelpful, the candles of Candlemas remind us that we are all, in our different ways, called to shine light and warmth into the dark and cold places of this world, and like Christ to play our part in helping to bring relief and comfort to those in need.

In the short time I have been in Gittisham, I have been deeply impressed by the strong community spirit in the village, the enjoyment of village events and the sense of people genuinely caring and looking out for one another. Living next door to the Church, I've also been struck by the daily coming and going of people visiting the church and coming to tend the graves of loved ones.

In the weeks and months ahead, I hope that with the help of my colleagues on the PCC to be part of discerning how best St Michael's may continue to serve the community here. As part of this process I'm hoping to visit and talk with as many of you who are willing and look forward to hearing your ideas and thoughts.

The other day I was asked how long I intended to stay in Gittisham, and while I can't promise to be here as long as my much loved predecessor, the Revd Richard Saunders, it is my intention, God willing, to make my home here among you and to live alongside you as a friend and neighbour. And as a pastor to listen, to celebrate and to grieve with you and as a Christian Minister, to support and encourage you in the faith (including listening to your questions and doubts). Inevitably, being human I will sometimes disappoint you. I hope when that happens we will be able to talk about that and find ways to understand and forgive.

As a guide, my post here is as a part time semi- retired minister with my formal duties usually spread over two days a week, Wednesday and Thursdays plus Sundays. This does include sharing my time within the wider Honiton Ministry Team, so it may be helpful for you to know, that although I may not actually be in the village, I may be taking a service, visiting or attending a meeting elsewhere.

My days off are Monday (always) and Tuesday & Friday (usually) & Saturdays (sometimes). Once every 4-6 weeks I will usually take a weekend off, often in the school holidays when you may well see me with my grandchildren around the village.

Inevitably as a minister, my days/time off will vary especially during major Christian festivals and/or times of urgent pastoral need/funerals etc. Also just because it's a day off this doesn't mean that I won't socialise or turn up to village events, or engage in conversations when I'm out and around the village! If my car is outside (other than a Monday) if you want to speak to me then please do ring the doorbell or leave a note if I'm not in.

Finally I'm currently in the process of setting up office in the parish rooms and if you would like to drop in for a chat then you will usually find me there on a Thursday morning from 10 am onwards. Or if you prefer to make a time for a more confidential conversation then I can be contacted on 01404 850680.

With love and blessings  
Julia

## Dates for your diaries February

16th Coffee get-together 10.30 – 12 noon in the Parish Room everyone welcome to come along

17th Snowdrop Tea at Combe Raleigh with sale of snowdrops

21st Gittisham Community Land Trust meeting 4.00 in the Parish Room

24th Mission Community Choral Evensong Gittisham 6.30pm (choir practice 5.30) with coffee

27<sup>th</sup> Honiton Mission Community Council meeting in the Parish Room, Gittisam 7.00 for 7.30

## March

5th Tip, Tip, Toe (see separate article)

5th Gittisham PCC Meeting 7.15/7.30 in Parish Room

6th Ash Wednesday start of Lent, lunches at St. Paul's 12.00 – 1.30 Wednesdays during Lent

6th Parish Council Meeting 7.30 in Parish Room.

28th Gittisham Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7.00 in church, everyone welcome.

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## News from Hayne and Shermans Farms Jack Bartlett

Happy new year ! I'm not too sure where January went though, i can't believe Lauren and I have almost been at Sherman's a year already! It's been getting quite busy on the farm. With the new cow shed at Sherman's changing week by week we're still 6/8 weeks from the cows moving homes, we have been buying some of the new home essentials for the cows similar to a trip to Ikea for people I suppose! This includes their new mattresses to lie on which are water beds.. sounds much more comfortable than my bed !

We now have quite a few animals at Sherman's but the majority of the milking herd are still at Hayne. At the beginning of the month we ran out of feed at Hayne due to timescales being slipped. So this is meaning we are currently hauling around 10 tonnes of feed back to Hayne from Sherman's each day!...

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## Gittisham Fete 2019!

This year's fete needs an organiser! gather a group of friends and choose a date, then share the jobs: Duck race, stalls , raffle, cream teas , entertainers etc. Meet up and paint signs, number and check ducks, gather prizes and bunting , plus a few other little jobs and away you go!

If a fete seems too big a challenge then a suggestion has come for a fun day! Otherwise plans are to leave for a year but if you are keen to organise please advise Helen Hayman - 07806480246 who has all the equipment and paperwork! (before April 1st ) 07806480246, [haymanhelen@gmail.com](mailto:haymanhelen@gmail.com)

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## St. Michael's Church Bellingring Team

At a recent meeting Peter Stansell has stepped down as Captain of the Bellingrings after 9 years! he has kindly agreed to continue winding the Clock and looking after the flag and flagpole. Peter will continue to ring.

Maggie Walker has stepped up and now takes on the Tower Captain role, Bill Griffiths remains change caller and Anne Stansell is carrying on with the finances for the ringers. The Gittisham team would welcome some new members, if you would like to learn to ring – children too!! Do please contact either Maggie Walker on 07707417891 or Bill Griffiths on 07516189695. Ringing practices usually take place on a Tuesday evening and vary between Gittisham, Buckerell and Awliscombe

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## Gittisham Memories! Helen Hayman

This year the Memories Weekend will not be held as all the boxes are being sorted out. Of course anymore photos, paper cuttings or anything you think maybe of use would be most gratefully received as new and old items are always good to include in the displays.

If you have any items please pass on to Helen Hayman - Gittisham Farm – 07806480246

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## Combe Garden Centre - Manager James Trevett 01404 515600

James has kindly informed the Gazette that if you would like to bring your copy of the February Gazette to the Garden Centre this month he would be pleased to offer a packet of tomato seeds, one pack per household please. New items are coming in to the centre regularly and James and his team would be pleased to welcome you. There is plenty of parking.

**Opening times - Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 10am – 4pm**

## **PARISH COUNCIL – FEBRUARY REPORT**

Five councillors met for the February meeting.

**DCC / EDDC Report.** Phil Twiss praised DCC's Highways team for responding to the recent inclement weather. He said they had managed to keep open as many routes as possible, and in East Devon staff from the Honiton depot had been out continuously gritting and clearing roads in the area.

Phil Twiss said the most recent meeting of DCC's Adult Health Scrutiny committee had considered how the NHS Devon Partnership winter plan is working and the overall integration of services between the NHS and DCC. He said issues remain in terms of recruitment and retention of staff, particularly in the social care sector, but improvement to contracts is helping this.

Susie Bond said Blackdown House, the new EDDC headquarters, would be up and running from Monday 11th February.

**Crime.** No recorded crimes in December 2018.

**Finance.** Members agreed the finances.

**Broadband.** Carol Hall said that Voneus had been canvassing residents of Gittisham village to assess interest in the company developing a high-speed broadband service. She reported there was a positive response, which would enable Voneus to make further progress, subject to planning. Several sites have been identified for the necessary infrastructure. Councillors heard that Voneus is keen to organise a Q&A session in the village hall, and agreed that in principle this latest development was positive news.

**Defibrillator.** Councillors heard that the inclement weather had delayed the installation of the Vale defibrillator, but it is now rescheduled for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. It will be located on the wall near the parish council noticeboard.

**Village hall.** Carol Hall said she would obtain three quotes from builders to proceed with the work to refurbish the village hall, which will come from funds raised through EDDC's Community Infrastructure Levy.

**Limited residential development in Gittisham village.** David Valentine reported that the special general meeting is scheduled for 21st March to re-elect the board. He said that membership of the Community Benefit Society is now in excess of 40.

**Play and recreation.** Maggie Walker said she had carried out an informal survey as to what new equipment children and young people would like. Outdoor table tennis was a popular choice, as was a climbing wall. She agreed with Carol Hall to work up a costed proposal to present at the next meeting, before sending to EDDC. Councillors agreed that future costs and upkeep of items needed to be taken into consideration. The clerk said she would contact EDDC about their offer to carry out a survey of parish children, which is a requirement of the funding arising from planned development. This is to find out what sort of play and sports equipment they would like to see in their area. She said she would also make enquiries as to whether a shed or shelter for sport / play equipment could be included.

**Dog mess.** There was concern over the increasing amount of dog mess up Dark Lane. Maggie Walker agreed to see if she could source some appropriate signage to deter people from leaving the mess behind.

**Next meeting.** This will be on 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Parish Room

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## **Church Wardens Report Carol McCann**

We have now gone through Epiphany and Candlemass since Christmas and are on our way to Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March with two services of the Imposition of Ashes 11am at St. Paul's Honiton followed by a Lent Lunch from 12.00 – 1.30 and at 7.30pm in Combe Raleigh. Lent Lunches will be run weekly on Wednesdays throughout Lent in the Narthex at St. Paul's all are welcome to have lunch and the proceeds normally go to a nominated charity. I would like to give a special thank you to David and Sue Fallows for making the church carpark and path negotiable so we could have safe passage to our service on Sunday.

### **Forthcoming Church Services Gittisham and Mission Community 11am unless stated**

#### **February**

10th Parish Eucharist  
17th Lay-led Sung Matins  
24th No morning service  
24th Mission Community Choral  
Evensong at Gittisham  
6.30 (choir practice 5.30)

#### **March**

3rd Family Eucharist for Candlemass  
with refreshments  
10th Parish Eucharist  
17th Lay-led sung Morning Worship  
24th Parish Eucharist  
31st Mothering Sunday Family  
Service with refreshments and  
posies.

### **200 CLUB FEBRUARY 2019 RESULTS**

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|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Rob Jennison    | 2nd Ron Kallmieir | 3rd Lady Mary Ann Denham |
| 4th Michael Hawkins | 5th Mary Ward     |                          |

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**200 CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE IN MARCH** for inclusion from the April draw. Numbers are available and cost £12 per year. Subs can be paid by cash, cheque or standing order – if the latter is preferred I have a form for your bank. It is important to fill all the numbers as this is a vital source of income for our church, There are 12 monthly draws paying £40, £20, £15, £10 and £5 with 2 six monthly (March & September) of £48. If you would like to join our 200 Club do please let me know. Carol McCann 851113 07946409142 [charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk)

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### **WHAT A NIGHT!**

On behalf of the village hall committee, I would like to thank everyone who purchased food, cooked, set up, washed up, cleared up and took entry money at our Burns Night. Also thank you to everyone who joined in the fun whether just for the meal or danced the night away.

Our caller, Mary, remarked on how lovely it was to see multi-generational participation and so many smiling faces. I hope she will be available in 2020 and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Angie Hutchings

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**Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for March 2019 - Monday 25th February** If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol as early as possible (using Arial font please) If you are moving away the Gazette can be sent by email on request. With the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) all who receive this newsletter by email must sign a form to allow us to contact them and hold their personal data,