

## January Newsletter—You are the Writers!

Sharee Jones the editor writes

I can't believe this is my seventh issue already, and it really is a pleasure to carry on the long tradition of the newsletter started back in the 1960s. The highlight has been the village coming together to clap for Key Workers and VE day celebrations, what a wonderful caring community we have.

Village life will hopefully return to its normal pace and activity next year with more to report. Please do remember that this is very much YOUR newsletter, you are the writers! So please do contribute with everything and anything, including photos!

Special thanks to [Faye Winterton](#), for keeping us up to date with school news, [Margaret Foster](#), Church Services and how we can worship safely, plus [Malcolm King](#), [Bob Manning](#) (December issue) for their cover photos.

The deadline for January newsletter is 29th December  
Contact Editor Sharee Jones email  
[Bitteswellnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Bitteswellnewsletter@gmail.com) or phone 07834 689828

*Wishing you a very happy Christmas and I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year!*

## Lutterworth and Villages Foodbank

If you wish to support the Foodbank this Christmas, please consider giving a financial donation instead of festive items as the Foodbank has already received enough. A financial gift will help to make the Foodbank's services sustainable and allow them to plan for the future, keeping the operation Covid-secure and the volunteers safe. If you would like to offer support in this way; please check the website for details on how to make a donation. [www.lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money](http://www.lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money) The Foodbank currently needs: tinned fruit, tinned spaghetti, whole UHT milk, long-life fruit juice, tinned sponge puddings, sandwich paste, tinned custard, hand sanitiser, tooth brushes, toothpaste, laundry detergent and large sized nappies. There are donation containers at Morrison's, Waitrose, Linden Drive Co-op, Age Concern and Lutterworth Churches.

If you need a food parcel either telephone 07821 802793, or send an email to [info@lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk) to find out about the procedure during Coronavirus.

## Bitteswell and Bittesby Parish Council

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is  
14th January 2021

If you wish to bring any important issues or concerns to the attention of the council. Please contact the clerk before the meeting by email: [parishclerk@bitteswell.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bitteswell.org.uk)  
For agenda details past and present go to  
[www.bitteswell.org.uk](http://www.bitteswell.org.uk)

## Current Planning Applications

1. 20/01846/FUL | Erection of 2 dwellings including highways improvements, accommodation works and part demolition of existing garage | Newstead The Green Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SG
2. 20/01801/FUL | Erection of a two storey rear/side extension | Lingfield 6 Valley Lane Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SA
3. 20/01787/TCA | Works to tree (fell) | Porganna House The Nook Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4RY
4. 20/01709/LBC | Installation of a replacement window | Dowell House Valley Lane Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SA
5. 20/01696/TCA | Works to tree | Twinings The Nook Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4RY
6. 20/01419/OUT | Outline application for the erection of dwelling (all matters reserved) | Fir Tree Lodge Ashby Lane Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4LS

## Jim & Amy Charity Taxi Service

Funded by United Charities it has been an invaluable service especially during lockdown for village residents to help travel to medical appointments and other emergencies. Contact Mrs S Carlton (552077) and Mrs M Osborne (07858154233)



## Church News

*Margret Foster writes*

What a strange year it's been! Let's hope that next year brings some relief and normality so that we can resume activities and community events. As a Parochial Church Council we would like to wish you all a very happy, but above all healthy, Christmas. Do join us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



The Parochial Church Council met recently to endeavour to plan for Christmas Services. As we are only too aware under present circumstances it's one day at a time, so we have only just received confirmation of what is possible, which could still be subject to change. Who knows?! Please check the church website and noticeboard in the churchyard.

**13th December 6pm The Village Carol Service** will take place outdoors in the churchyard, socially distanced in family groups/bubbles. The usual nativity tableau unfortunately can't be included but we are advised (again as things stand at the moment) that we can sing carols which will be accompanied by Steve the sax player, a regular worshipper at St. Mary's, Lutterworth. Please come warmly dressed (Christmas jumpers/hats would be lovely) and bring a torch to see the carol words etc.

We hope to make the churchyard suitably Christmassy, so let's all try to be Christmassy too! The Service will only last for just over half an hour but it will be great to gather together as a village and wider community.

**24th December The Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion at 9pm** is usually quite popular. We would like to include a few singers who will be socially distanced in the choir stalls. As yet the congregation is unable to sing during indoor Services. Family members could be grouped together obviously.

If you are interested in being involved with singing during the Service please make contact.

## Christmas Services

13th December 6pm Village Carol Service  
20th December 11am Holy Communion  
24th December 9pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion

A Christmas Day Service will take place at St. Mary's Church, Lutterworth. Please consult the website/Parish Office

The Benefice Communion Service is held the first Sunday in the month at St. Mary's Church, Lutterworth

Please observe social distance rules and wear a face mask as appropriate.

## Mobile Covid Testing Unit

A temporary coronavirus mobile testing unit has opened at Lutterworth Sports Centre Car Park. Drive through only, tests by appointment only. It will operate between 10am—4pm 7 days a week. Testing is only available for those either with symptoms—a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of taste—or those who have been asked to get a tested by a doctor, public health professional or by their local council. To book a test visit: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119

## Notice from Lutterworth Lions

It is with great sadness that we have had to cancel the Christmas card post this year due to Covid. We are really sorry.

*Note latest Royal Mail postal dates:*

*Friday 18th December 2nd Class & 2nd Class signed for  
Monday 21st December 1st Class & 1st Class signed for  
Wednesday 23rd December, Special Delivery Guaranteed*

## Support your local pub

The Olde Royal Oak and Man at Arms are closed due to Tier 3 restrictions, please check their websites and Facebook pages to see how they have adapted their services, and food offering [www.theolderroyaloakbitteswell.co.uk](http://www.theolderroyaloakbitteswell.co.uk)  
[www.king-henrys-taverns.co.uk](http://www.king-henrys-taverns.co.uk)

## On behalf of Powell & Welch Almshouses Charity

*Marion Reid writes*

Christmas "thank yous" and Best wishes to **Bob Manning** for putting up the Christmas Lights in front of the Almshouses where they can be enjoyed by the whole village and people passing through. They will bring cheer to our days while we prepare to stick it out and stay well!

## Advent at School

*Forwarded by Faye Winterton with kind permission*

*Written by Marie Sandford and Hayley Cupit (Executive Head and Head Teacher of St. Mary's School)*

As we head into the last three weeks of term, despite the restrictions facing us, we are determined to normalise this special period of Advent, leading up to Christmas. We have already made numerous plans to ensure Christmas in school is truly a memorable time. Children will be busy making Christmas hats, calendars, Christmas cards and will be practising their Christmas Nativities and Carol concerts.

Reception class and years One and Two will be dressing up as usual as sheep, kings, angels and trees and we will be capturing this magic on camera for all of the parents at home. Music is at the heart of St. Mary's and even though we are unable to sing together this year, we have been creative in our delivery of the Christmas Story.

All year groups will be singing, whether it be outside following safety guidance or singing solos in church. We will be recording the performance for the parents to enjoy. Children will be having fun in their Christmas party bubbles and we will be able to wear our festive jumpers and play games. As we enjoy this Advent time we will be thinking of others in our community.

The School Council has decided that we will make hearts to send to the elderly in the local care homes and we would like to encourage all of the children to support the local food banks. As we head towards the holiday, we wish you a peaceful time at home after a uniquely difficult year, and hope that you can celebrate in your own way, remembering those who can't be with loved ones this year.

Thank you to staff, governors, children and parents for working together to make this term successful through all of the challenges facing us. "....therefore encourage one another and build one another up..." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) has truly helped us this term.

Merry Christmas  
to you all!

