

## Church News

Margaret Foster Writes

**Firstly, a very happy and healthy 2021 to you all from everyone at St. Mary's, Bitteswell.**



When we went into lockdown in March 2020 we were hopeful that by Christmas the

situation that we found ourselves in would be resolved, but unfortunately that was not the case. Throughout the year Services were held on line, with great success, then, in addition, the congregation could attend church but not sing. As things stand at the present time this is still the case. We are grateful to Charlie, Tom and all the team for their creativity in sustaining our worship throughout 2020, and many thanks to everyone who has taken part 'remotely' in Services.

Christmas Services had to be tailored to fit regulations but the first outdoor Carol Service had to be cancelled due to dreadful weather condition; driving rain and a biting wind. The second attempt was more successful although the rain started part way through and stopped just as the Service ended! Mulled wine and fruit punch helped and it was good to give the vocal chords an airing. Thanks to Charlie for organising everything, gathering Readers on the night, the sound system and music (with the help of Chris and Marianne's electrical supply). The churchyard looked very festive with lights in the trees, lanterns and candles along the paths and a tree in the niche. Very many thanks to Maggie and Mark for all their hard work with this which lifted the spirits of those attending and passers by. There was a good socially distanced crowd in attendance.

Christmas Eve Communion was enhanced by a small group of 'live' singers accompanied by Colin on the organ. A very welcome end to our 2020 worship. Times are still very difficult and uncertain but be assured that all the readers of our Village newsletter are held

**Morning Services will be held at 11am on: 10th, 17th and 24th January**

## Bitteswell and Bittesby Parish Council

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

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. 20/01943/PCD | Discharge of Condition 15 (external lighting) of 19/00648/VAC | Land Off Ashby Lane Bitteswell Leicestershire
2. 20/01928/FUL | Erection of a single storey rear extension | Albany Ashby Lane Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SQ
3. 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
4. 20/01801/FUL | Erection of a two storey rear/side extension | Lingfield 6 Valley Lane Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SA
5. 20/00979/HAZ | Application for Hazardous Substances Consent for the proposed Gasrec Biomethane Refuelling Station at Magna Park, Lutterworth. | Gasrec Biomethane Refuelling Station Argosy Way Magna Park Lutterworth LE17 4XN

## 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)

## BITTESWELL NEWSLETTER



**January 2021**

Funded by  
The United Charities of Bitteswell



Photos by Malcolm King

## Every Penny Collected Counts

Charlotte Cowie writes

For last 9 years I have been responsible for the collection of the Children's Society boxes that many villagers use to give loose change to charity, but I am finding it hard to keep going due to my full time work commitments, so I am looking for someone to take on this very worthwhile role.

It's been in place in Bitteswell for decades. Each person keeps a box in which they put spare change over the year and then we have a Box Opening Day, usually in the back of the church in Autumn, where volunteers count up the change and serve coffee. It's a lovely social occasion but of course was not possible in 2020 due to the pandemic.

I wanted to suggest that those who have full boxes count them up themselves and send them to the charity as it doesn't seem as though we will be able to have a box opening soon. Alternatively if they want to keep the box and keep filling it if it's not yet full (fewer people seem to have change now that we use contactless payment so much more) then hopefully later in 2021 a Box Opening can be arranged.

Also the final paying in of the 2019 money was delayed due to covid. I am due to make the final payment this week and the total was £693.63, so you can see that all the pennies add up in the end.

If you can help get in touch with me by email ([cc@charlottecowie.co.uk](mailto:cc@charlottecowie.co.uk)) or by mobile 07775704315.



For information on Covid Vaccinations go to [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccination)

## Memory Lane

Bitteswell was recorded in the Domesday book of 1086 as "Betmeswelle" from which the current name was likely derived over time. From 1940 to 1987 the village was also host to the Royal Air Force station "RAF Bitteswell", next to which a Hawker Siddeley factory built and maintained, among others, Vulcan bombers.

The airfield is now Magna Park which many roads have names relating to aircraft e.g. Wellington Parkway, Buccaneer Way, Hunter Boulevard and Vulcan Way.

## Become a Newshound!

Bitteswell Newsletter is looking for Newshounds! Any age to help collect and share the news of the village or topics of interest, could be any thing from nature, history of the village to events (hopefully soon) to achievements, charity involvements and so on. Contact Sharee, the editor to find out more 07834 689828 or email: [Bitteswellnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Bitteswellnewsletter@gmail.com)



## 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

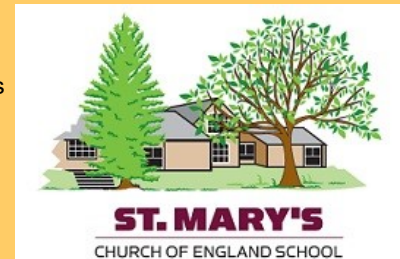
## Support your local pub

The Olde Royal Oak and Man at Arms have are closed due to Tier 4 restrictions, please check their websites and Facebook pages to see how they have adapted their services, and food offering [www.theoldroyaloakbitteswell.co.uk](http://www.theoldroyaloakbitteswell.co.uk) [www.king-henrys-taverns.co.uk](http://www.king-henrys-taverns.co.uk)

## Bitteswell School News

Faye Winterton writes:

Unfortunately it is with uncertainty that the new school year begins for St Mays given the current situation we are faced with and I am sure by the time you read this it could all have changed again!



However I was reminded by Alex, my 10 year old son, today that I needed to have a positive growth mindset about this! Growth mindset is a significant part of the children's education at St Mary's whereby they learn to be positive about their best attributes and have determination in areas that they find more difficult by taking on these challenges with enthusiasm, determination and kindness to others. The school has been awarded the Route2Resilience accreditation which fosters the attitude of being the best version of yourself and making the most of all that is available to you to help you learn, develop and grow. Together with the school ethos of "... therefore encourage one another and build one another up..." (1 Thessalonians 5.11) I am sure whatever is thrown at St Mary's this year, whether the children are taught within the classroom or on line again I know the teaching staff, children and the families of St Mary's will succeed by continuing to work together to support each other during these testing and uncertain times.

I am always inspired by learning from the children who sometimes have an alternative view which challenges the status quo. This ability to think independently is a credit to the teaching the children receive at our fantastic school.

Thank you for the inspiration for this article Alex!

St Mary's wish you all a positive, happy, healthy and safe 2021.

## February Newsletter

The deadline for February newsletter is Wednesday 27th January. Contact Editor Sharee Jones email [Bitteswellnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Bitteswellnewsletter@gmail.com) or phone 07834 689828